Detecting Cyber-Physical Attacks in the Smart Grid and the Internet of Things

Ramiz Salama[1*], Fadi Al-Turjman[2,3]

[1]Department of Computer Engineering, AI and Robotics Institute, Research Center for AI and IoT, Near East University Nicosia, Mersin 10, Turkey

[2]Artificial Intelligence, Software, and Information Systems Engineering Departments, AI and Robotics Institute, Near East University, Nicosia, Mersin10, Turkey

[3]Research Center for AI and IoT, Faculty of Engineering, University of Kyrenia, Kyrenia, Mersin10, Turkey

*Corresponding author Email: ramiz.salama@neu.edu.tr

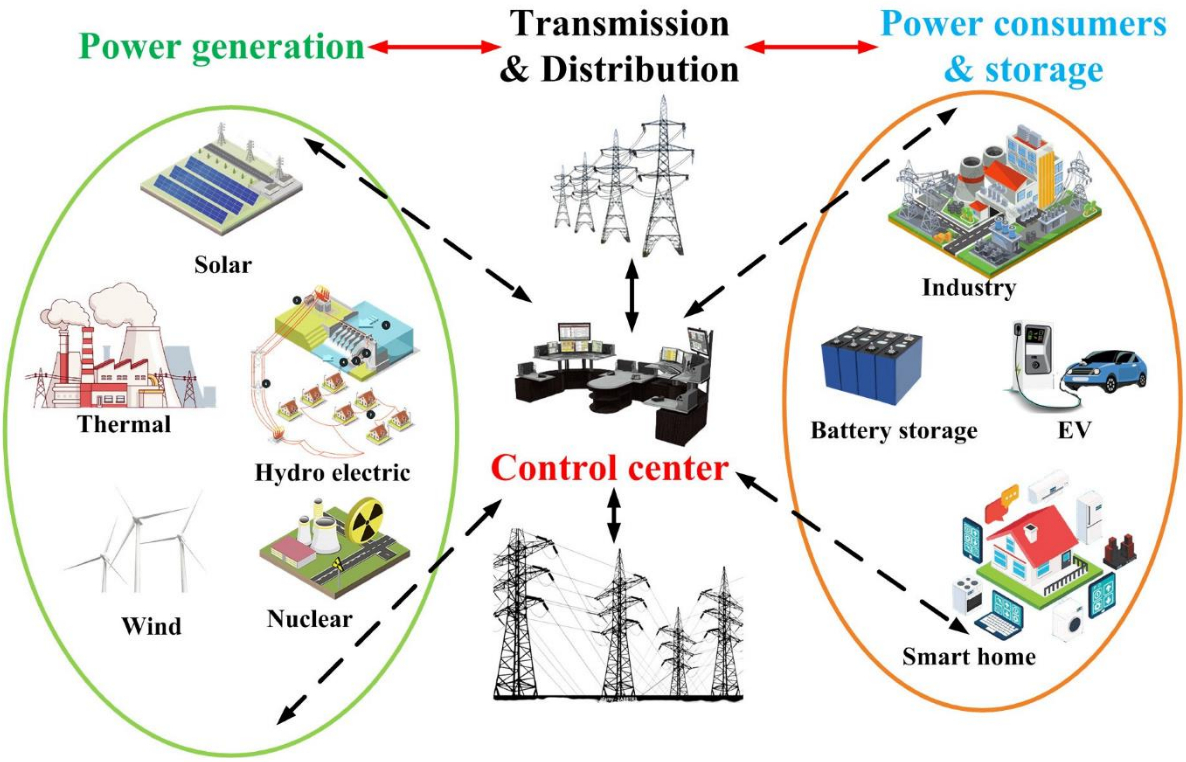
Abstract

The increasing use of Smart Grid deployments and the Internet of Things (IoT) has brought attention to the risks and weaknesses related to cyber-physical attacks on critical infrastructure. The detection of cyber-physical dangers in the context of smart grids and the internet of things is thoroughly examined in this study. The study highlights the links between physical and cyber components while examining the particular difficulties presented by the integration of many technologies. Numerous attack vectors are analyzed, such as physical system modifications, communication network vulnerabilities, and malware transmission. The use of anomaly detection, intrusion detection systems, and machine learning techniques in detection methodologies is thoroughly examined and contrasted. Advanced analytics is incorporated into the proposed architecture to improve the resilience of techniques for identifying cyber-physical threats.The study also discusses reaction tactics, the necessity of reliable and adaptable systems, and the consequences of false positives. The findings help ongoing efforts to secure critical infrastructure by providing practitioners, researchers, and policymakers with valuable insights for protecting IoT ecosystems and Smart Grids against new and emerging cyber threats.

Keywords: Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Grid, Cyber-Physical Attacks, Attack Vectors, and Critical Infrastructure Security.

1. Introduction

An era of unparalleled connectedness and efficiency in the management of vital infrastructure has been brought about by the growing integration of Smart Grids and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. But there are also new difficulties brought about by this connectedness, especially in the field of cybersecurity.The hazards of cyber-physical attacks, which could jeopardize the integrity and performance of Smart Grids and Internet of Things devices, are growing along with these systems. In order to offer a thorough grasp of the related vulnerabilities and suggest efficient detection techniques, this paper explores the vital topic of identifying cyber-physical attacks in the context of Smart Grids and IoT. Because of the intricate interdependencies created by the convergence of physical and cyber components in Smart Grids and IoT, these systems are vulnerable to a wide variety of attacks. In order to clarify the complex nature of the new threats, this study investigates a number of attack channels, such as malware dissemination, communication network vulnerabilities, and physical component manipulation. Developing strong detection systems that can quickly identify and reduce possible dangers requires an understanding of these attack routes. With an emphasis on the use of machine learning algorithms, anomaly detection, and intrusion detection systems, the study critically examines current detection techniques. The goal of the paper is to aid in the creation of an efficient framework for identifying cyber-physical threats in Smart Grids and IoT environments by assessing the advantages and disadvantages of these methods [1–3]. The study also discusses the consequences of false positives, highlighting the necessity of precise and trustworthy detection systems to prevent needless interruptions and guarantee the uninterrupted operation of vital infrastructure. The study also addresses response tactics and promotes resilient and adaptable systems that may change to meet new cyberthreats. In conclusion, this study aims to improve knowledge of cyber-physical threats in the context of IoT and Smart Grids by highlighting the significance of resilient and adaptive security measures to protect these vital systems from new cyberthreats and providing insights into efficient detection techniques [4-6].



Fiq.1 . Overview of a microgrid.

2. Amount of Prior Publications

The identification of cyber-physical hazards in the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart grid domains has been extensively studied in the past. There have been several dissertations, conference proceedings, articles, and technical documents produced as a result of the recent surge in interest in cybersecurity, smart grids, and linked gadgets. Researchers and experts have examined cyber-physical assault detection from a variety of perspectives, such as intrusion detection systems (IDS), anomaly detection techniques, machine learning techniques, data analytics, securely communicated protocols, and system designs. They have examined a number of attack scenarios, vulnerabilities, and defences unique to the smart grid and IoT ecosystems [7–10]. A number of conferences and publications focus on computer security, smart grid security, and IoT security to provide a platform for scholars to share their findings and achievements. Additionally, a significant amount of research in this field has been published in journals such as the Journal of Network and Computer Applications, IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, and IEEE Transactions on Reliable and Safe Computing. In the context of the Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Grid, identifying cyber-physical hazards necessitates a comprehensive approach that combines physical system monitoring and cybersecurity.

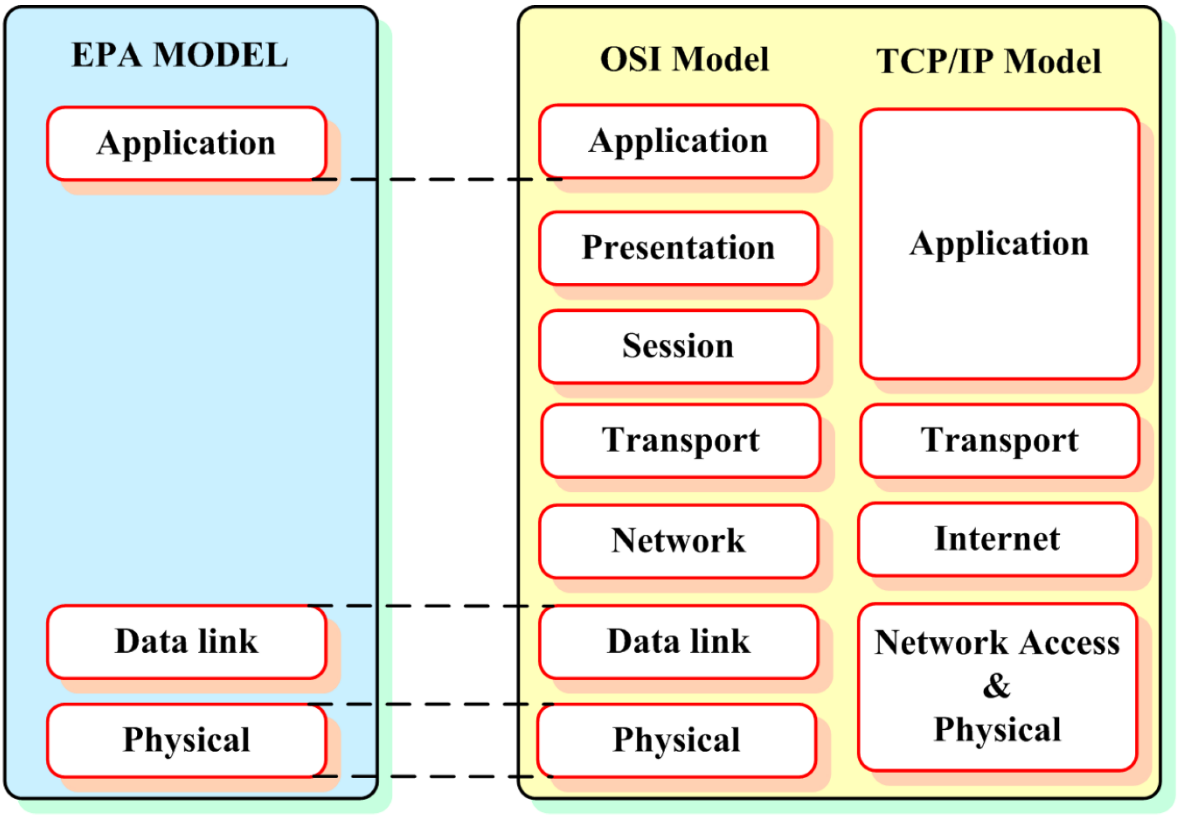


Figure 2. Communication models for microgrid communication.

3. The goal is to identify and prevent any breaches on the infrastructure of connected Smart Grid and IoT devices.

Below is a summary of the methodology used to detect cyber-physical attacks:

• *Risk assessment:* Conduct a threat assessment to determine important assets, potential attack routes, and likely outcomes for successful cyber-physical attacks. This helps prioritize resources and directs attention toward the most urgent issues. Threat assessment is the process of comprehending potential threats and attack vectors that could be employed against Smart Grid and Internet of Things devices. This method includes assessing known vulnerabilities, collecting threat information, and calculating the potential impact of attacks on the built environment.

• *Security Patch Administration and Upgrades:* To address known vulnerabilities, frequently upgrade and repair IoT and Smart Grid devices. Put in place a robust patch management approach to guarantee timely updates and lower the risk of exploitation.

• *Security Monitoring and Tracking:* Document and analyze system events and actions using logging technology and security auditing procedures. This aids in the research and detection of potential cyber-physical hazards.

• *Authentication and Access Control:* To prevent unauthorized access to IoT and intelligent grid devices, establish strong authentication protocols. Use access control policies to restrict and monitor access to critical systems.

• *Secure Communication:* Use encryption technology and safe communications protocols to protect data transfers between Smart Grid segments and IoT devices. This ensures the transmitted data's confidentiality and integrity.

• Physical attributes like temperature, voltage levels, and other relevant metrics like power consumption should be tracked via sensor networks. If there are any irregularities, these measures can identify potential cyber-physical risks.

• *Data Analytics:* Use data analytics methods to look for any odd patterns or deviations from normal behavior in the sensor data. This can help detect cyber-physical attacks that change the physical characteristics of the Smart Grid infrastructure.

• *Anomaly Detection:* Employ algorithms to find physical system anomalies that differ from typical behavior. Machine learning and statistical analysis can be used to identify unusual trends and potential cyber-physical risks.

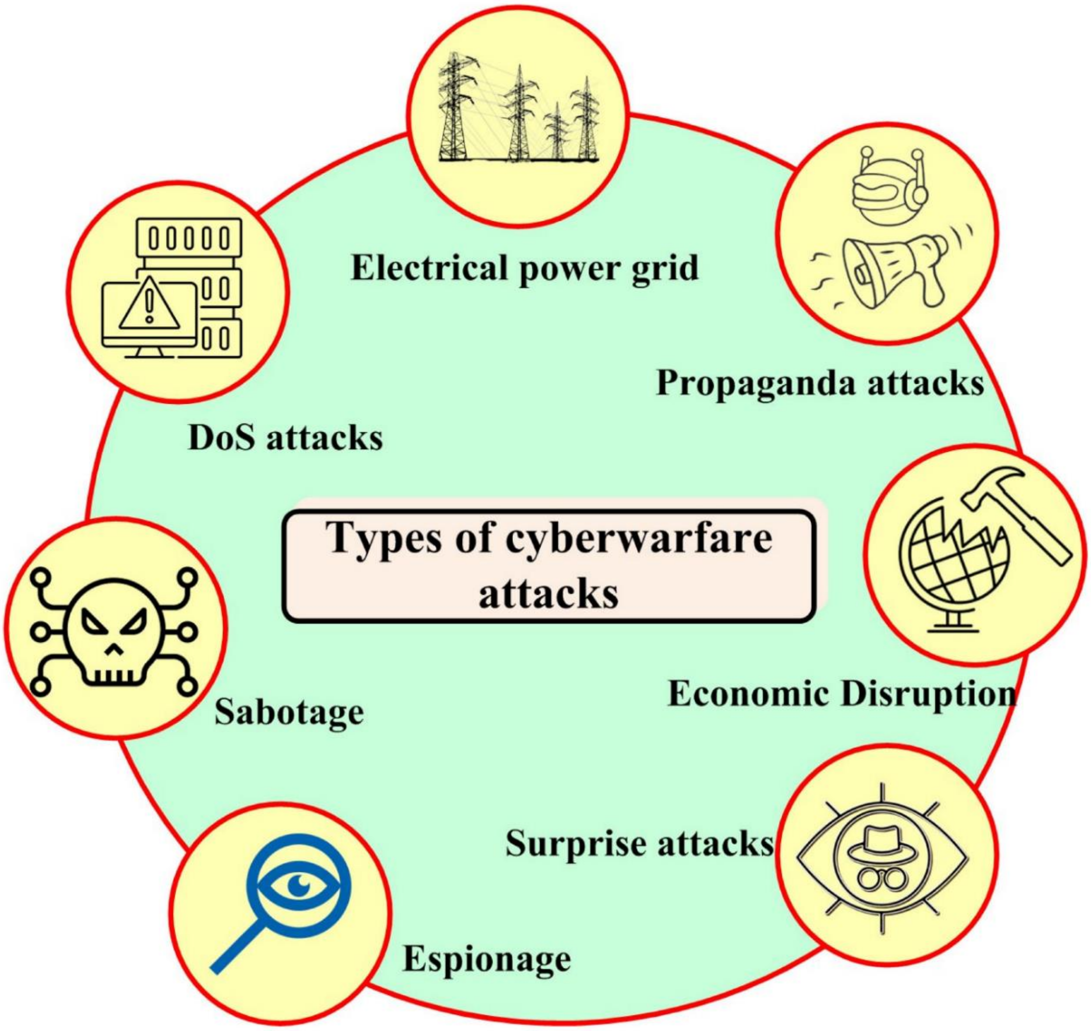


Figure 3. Different attack methodologies used for cyber warfare.

By using this method, businesses can enhance their ability to identify and address cyber-physical risks targeting Smart Grid and IoT devices. The combination of physical system monitoring and cybersecurity measures allows for a comprehensive approach to protect critical infrastructure while maintaining the resilience of the Smart Grid ecosystem. Finding cyber-physical dangers in the Smart Grid and IoT is one of the most crucial tasks in ensuring the security and reliability of vital infrastructure. Reducing the impact of cyber-physical attacks and maintaining the Smart Grid system's dependability can be greatly aided by effective detection strategies and tactics.

Enhanced Security: Potential vulnerabilities and attempts at cyber-physical assault can be identified through the deployment of a comprehensive detection method. This enables operators and system administrators to take the initiative to improve security and implement the necessary defences [11–13].

Productivity of Incident Response: Effective detection reduces the impact of cyber-physical hazards by enabling quick response to incidents. Incident response teams may quickly isolate vulnerable pieces, look into potential attack pathways, and go back to business after early discovery.

Detection and mitigation: Detection techniques assist in taking preventative measures by identifying potential points of attack and vulnerabilities in the Smart Grid and IoT systems. Through proactive resolution and patching of security flaws, this understanding can reduce the likelihood of successful attacks.

Early Threat Identification: Unusual activity and deviations from normal patterns can be identified with the help of detection techniques like anomaly detection algorithms and intrusion detection systems (IDS). Early detection can assist trigger responses and mitigation steps before an assault can cause significant harm.

Knowledge Acquisition: The data acquired through detection processes can provide crucial information about novel attack techniques and trends. This information could be

Several cutting-edge uses of the Internet of Things and "smart grid" for cyber-physical assault detection

1. Identification of Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs):

- Given the complexity of these attacks, create innovative techniques to identify and counteract advanced persistent threats that target Smart Grids and Internet of Things devices.

2. Insider Threat Detection:

Taking into account the particular difficulties presented by insider threats in Smart Grid and IoT systems, investigate creative methods to detect and lessen cyber-physical attacks coming from within the company.

3. Behavioral Anomalies in IoT Devices:

Examine how to spot unusual patterns of behavior in IoT devices that are linked to Smart Grids. Use machine learning techniques to find departures from standard operating procedures.

4. Real-Time Intrusion Detection in Smart Grid Communication Networks:

Taking into account the dynamic nature of these networks and the requirement for prompt reaction to possible cyber-physical threats, develop real-time intrusion detection algorithms for the communication networks in Smart Grids.

5. Integrity Assurance for Smart Meters:

- Provide creative ways to guarantee the accuracy of data gathered by Smart Meters inside the Smart Grid, avoiding tampering or manipulation that can result in readings that are off or cause interruptions in operation.

6. Safe Firmware Upgrades for Internet of Things Devices:

- Take care of the security issues related to firmware upgrades in Internet of Things (IoT) devices that are linked to smart grids, guaranteeing the updates' integrity and guarding against possible abuse throughout the update procedure.

7. Identification of Energy Theft:

- Investigate cutting-edge methods for identifying theft or illegal energy use in the Smart Grid by using anomaly detection and data analytics to spot odd trends suggestive of fraud.

8. Resilient IoT Edge Computing Security:

Examine methods to improve edge computing security in Smart Grid IoT devices, taking into account the decentralized processing architecture and edge computing's possible weaknesses.

9. Protecting Grid-Based Smart Home Devices:

- Given the growing integration of residential IoT devices into the grid infrastructure, create security mechanisms to defend smart grids from cyber-physical attacks coming from compromised smart home devices.

10. Predictive Maintenance Using Machine Learning:

- By proactively identifying potential vulnerabilities or weaknesses in Smart Grid components, machine learning algorithms can be used to forecast and avoid cyber-physical attacks, allowing for timely maintenance and security updates.

11. Quantum-Safe Cryptography for Smart Grids:

Examine the application of quantum-safe cryptographic algorithms to guarantee the data integrity and long-term security of communication protocols in IoT networks and Smart Grids.

12. Using Blockchain to Secure Smart Grids:

- Examine how blockchain technology can improve the security of data transfers and device-to-device communication in the Smart Grid by offering a decentralized, impenetrable foundation for upholding integrity and trust [36] – [40].

These innovative use cases seek to solve new issues and further the field of study in the identification of cyber-physical threats in IoT and Smart Grid settings [14–16].

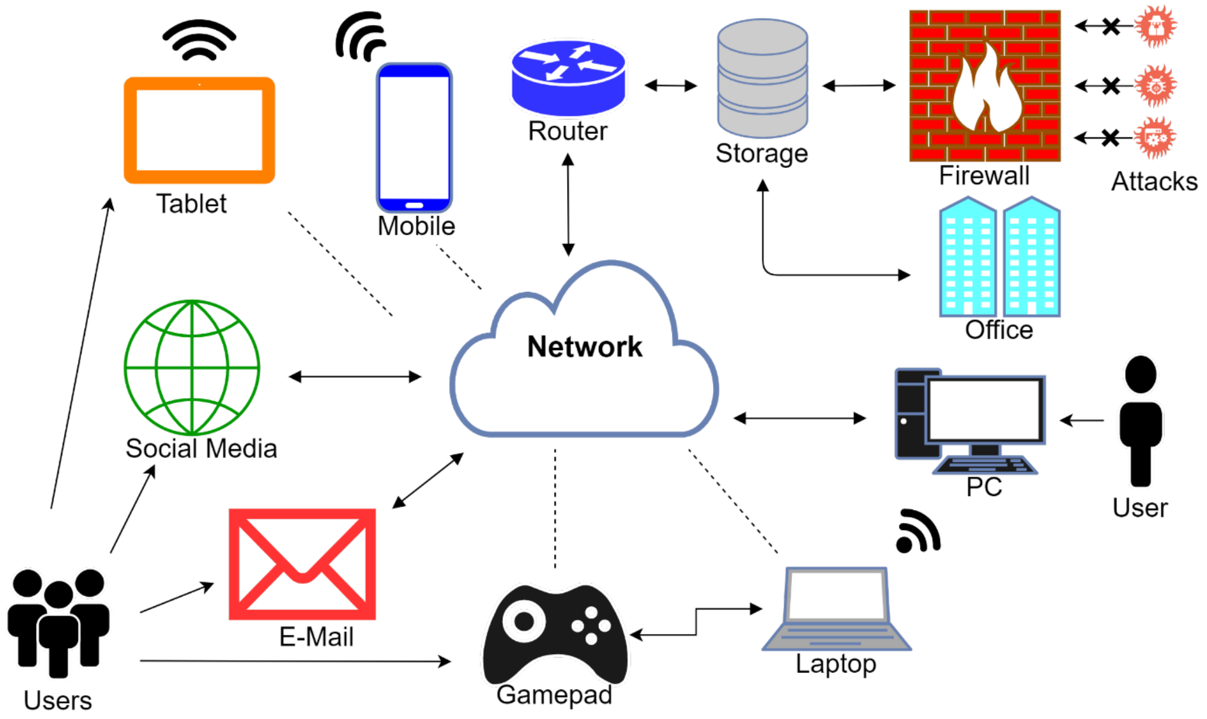


Figure 4. General representation of an IoT system.

4. Cyber-Physical Attack Identification for Internet of Things and "Smart Grid" Real-World Applications

Because of the increasing complexity and interconnectedness of Smart Grids and Internet of Things (IoT) systems, cyber-physical attack detection is essential. These systems are becoming more and more susceptible to complex cyber-physical attacks that have the potential to impair security, interfere with services, and result in bodily harm. Cyber-physical assault detection is used in the following real-world applications [17-20]:

1. Intelligent Grid

- Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) for Power Systems: Smart grids employ sophisticated IDS to identify irregularities in power fluctuations and data communications. In order to identify attacks or attempts at manipulation early on, these systems track and examine communication between devices (such as smart meters, sensors, and control systems).

For instance, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems, which are essential for grid management, can employ machine learning to identify unusual traffic patterns.

As an illustration, hackers breached the SCADA system during the 2015 Ukraine power grid attack, resulting in power outages. More reliable cyber-physical detection systems were created in response to spot harmful activity early on.

Monitoring of Synchrophasor Data: In smart grids, phasor measurement units (PMUs) offer real-time grid-wide voltage, current, and frequency monitoring. PMU data is analyzed by attack detection algorithms to find anomalies that can point to a cyber-physical attack, like bogus data injection. · As an illustration, the North American SynchroPhasor Initiative develops techniques and standards for identifying cyberthreats to the US power grid using PMU data.

- False Data Injection Attack Detection: Cyber-physical detection algorithms are used by smart grids to detect fraudulent data modifications in control systems. These algorithms can stop intruders from tampering with grid operations by looking for irregularities in sensor data.

For instance, with China's expanding smart grid infrastructure, experts have been working on real-time detection models for fake data injection assaults.

2. The Internet of Things

- IoT-Enabled Smart Homes: Cyber-physical attacks can target IoT equipment in smart homes, including lighting, security systems, and thermostats. Attack detection systems keep an eye on user behavior patterns and device interactions to spot questionable activity like command execution or illegal access.

o As an illustration, a number of smart home security systems (such as Google Nest and Amazon Ring) now have attack detection tools that notify homeowners of any suspicious activities, such as illegal access attempts or unusual device behavior.

- Autonomous cars and connected vehicles: Detecting cyber-physical threats is essential to avoiding attacks on IoT-enabled vehicles. These systems have the ability to track communications within vehicles (between sensors, GPS, etc.) and identify any irregularities that might point to system manipulation or an assault.

For instance, in order to protect vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications against cyberattacks that may otherwise result in car hijacking or system failure, Tesla and other autonomous vehicle manufacturers are putting intrusion detection systems (IDS) and anomaly detection algorithms into place.

- Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) in Smart Manufacturing: IoT devices are used by industrial control systems (ICS) in smart factories to automate and track production. By spotting odd trends in sensor data, machine performance, or network traffic, attack detection systems protect IIoT settings from cyber-physical threats.

As an illustration, the Stuxnet worm targeted ICS in nuclear plants in 2010. Since then, IIoT systems in industries including manufacturing, transportation, and oil and gas have been protected by strong cyber-physical attack detection systems.

• Smart Cities: The infrastructure of smart cities, such as environmental monitoring, public utilities, and traffic control systems, heavily relies on IoT devices. Cyber-physical attack detection systems keep an eye on how these devices behave and look for any irregularities that could point to a cyber-physical attack. As an illustration, Barcelona's traffic management and smart lighting systems use anomaly detection algorithms to make sure that fraudulent commands—like turning off streetlights or altering traffic lights—are identified and countered instantly.

3. ***Internet of Medical Things (IoMT)***

• Security of Medical Devices: As IoT devices (such as insulin pumps and pacemakers) proliferate in the healthcare industry, cyber-physical attack detection systems make sure that patient information and device operation are protected. Attack detection systems keep an eye on the communications and behavior of medical devices in order to identify any unusual activity or illegal access. As an illustration, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released instructions for manufacturers to incorporate strong cyber-physical attack detection systems in medical devices in response to cybersecurity concerns [41][42].

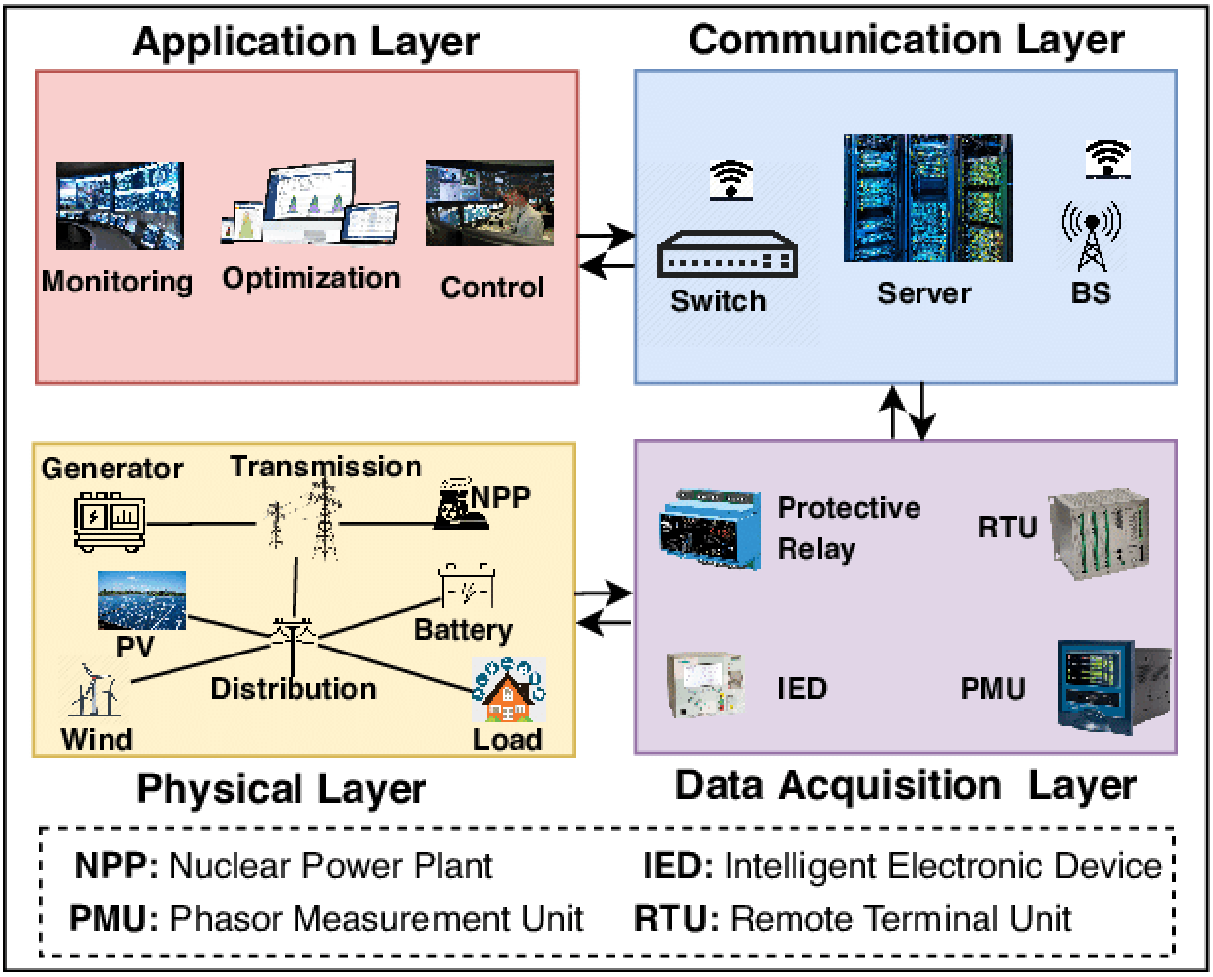


Figure 5. Architecture of the cyber-physical systems of smart grid

These instances highlight how crucial it is to identify cyber-physical threats in systems with intricately entwined digital and physical components. As IoT ecosystems and smart grids grow, protecting them is essential to the security and dependability of vital infrastructure [43][44].

5. Cyber-Physical Attack Identification's Future Scope for the Internet of Things and "Smart Grid"

With the growing dependence on interconnected digital and physical systems, the future of cyber-physical attack detection for the Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Grid is extensive and crucial. The need to identify and stop cyber-physical threats will only increase as smart grids and Internet of Things devices become increasingly essential to energy management, industrial automation, and smart cities. Below are key trends and areas of future development in this space [21-30]:

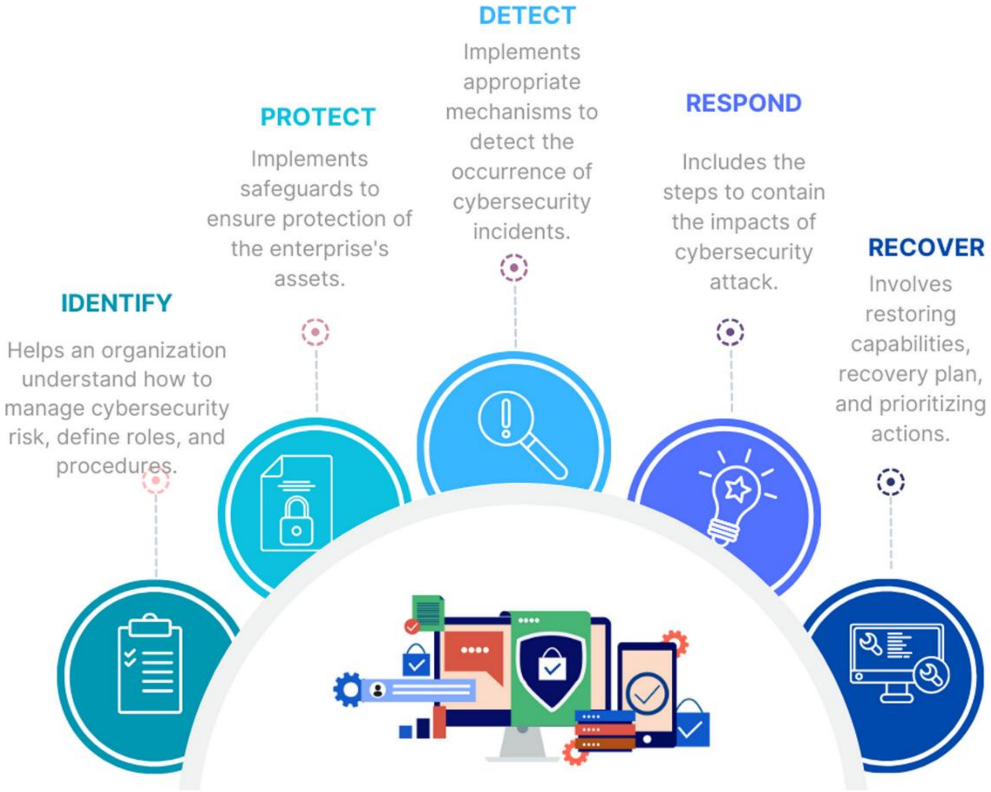

DETECT
Implements appropriate mechanisms to detect the occurrence of cybersecurity incidents.
PROTECT
Implements safeguards to ensure protection of the enterprise's assets.
RESPOND
Includes the steps to contain the impacts of cybersecurity attack.
RECOVER
Involves restoring capabilities, recovery plan, and prioritizing actions.
IDENTIFY
Helps an organization understand how to manage cybersecurity risk, define roles, and procedures.

Figure 6. Functions of the NIST cybersecurity framework

1. Detecting Attacks using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) AI/ML-based detection systems are able to evaluate large volumes of data in real-time and spot irregularities that point to cyber-physical attacks. By learning the typical behaviors of smart grid and IoT devices and spotting minute deviations, AI and ML will enhance detection capabilities in the future [45][46].

- Self-learning systems: In order to increase their resilience to changing threats, future solutions will concentrate on systems that can learn and adjust to new kinds of cyber-physical attacks.

2. Blockchain for Decentralized and Secure Systems

- By offering safe, unchangeable transaction records, blockchain can improve data integrity in IoT networks and smart grids. Decentralized security frameworks may be used in future solutions to stop hackers from interfering with smart grid control systems and Internet of Things devices.
- By automating reactions to identified cyber-physical dangers, smart contracts could facilitate quicker and more efficient mitigation techniques.

3. 5G and Beyond: Enhanced Threat Surface

As 5G and beyond are adopted, more devices will be connected to the smart grid and IoT ecosystems. More functionality and control are made possible by this, but the attack surface is also increased. The increased latency, bandwidth, and security issues that come with extremely rapid, pervasive communication must be addressed by future detection systems.

- By distributing processing closer to potential attack sites, edge computing and 5G will improve real-time threat detection.

4. Quantum-Resistant Cryptography:

As quantum computing becomes more practical, the smart grid and Internet of Things devices will need to be secured using quantum-resistant cryptographic techniques. These techniques will be developed and put into use in the future to make sure that quantum-enabled attackers cannot intercept or alter communications or control signals.

5. Using Simulation and Digital Twins to Predict Attacks

- Digital twin technology makes it possible to create virtual versions of real systems, such IoT devices and smart grid infrastructure. In order to replicate different attack scenarios and enable proactive vulnerability discovery, future developments will incorporate attack detection systems into these digital twins.
- Before such attacks take place in the real world, these models can assist in creating more robust defenses by forecasting their effects.

6. Behavioral Analytics and Anomaly Detection Future attack detection frameworks will heavily rely on behavioral-based security. By keeping an eye on how users, devices, and systems behave, abnormalities that point to the possibility of cyber-physical attacks can be found.AI and advanced behavioral analytics will assist systems in distinguishing between malicious attacks and benign anomalies.

7. Architecture with Zero Trust

- The key to protecting smart grids and IoT networks will be shifting toward a zero-trust model, which holds that no entity—internal or external—can be trusted by default. Future attack detection systems will need to instantly confirm each device's and system component's legitimacy and identification.
- To identify compromised nodes or unauthorized access, this can be supplemented with ongoing device monitoring and verification [47].

8. Multi-Modal Detection Systems and Advanced Sensor Fusion

- Sensor fusion, which integrates data from several sensors (such as network traffic, physical activity, and system performance) to create a comprehensive picture of the system's state, is probably going to be a feature of future detection systems. Multi-modal detection techniques will improve situational awareness and instantly detect physical and cyberthreats.

• Protecting intricate, interwoven systems like smart grids will require combining physical sensors—which identify physical dangers like sabotage—and cyber sensors, which identify digital breaches.

9. Federated and Collaborative Detection Models

• It will be crucial to have cooperative defenses that let various IoT devices or smart grid components exchange attack data. These models will enable stronger and more resilient defenses by utilizing dispersed knowledge across numerous devices and systems.

• More secure and distributed learning for threat detection across many IoT networks may be made possible via federated learning, in which devices learn from one another without exchanging raw data.

10. Efforts to standardize and regulate

• Future government rules and industry standards aimed at safeguarding smart grids and IoT systems are expected to be strengthened due to growing interconnectedness and associated hazards. Solutions for detecting attacks must adhere to changing regulatory requirements as well as security standards unique to a certain business.

• More interoperability across detection systems will be pushed for by global standards, guaranteeing uniformity and cooperation in the fight against cyber-physical threats.

11. Automated Recovery and Resilience Engineering

• In addition to detecting attacks, future detection systems will initiate automatic recovery procedures. Resilience engineering will concentrate on creating redundancy, guaranteeing that even if some components are compromised, the system as a whole continues to function with the least amount of disturbance. Resilient systems will be built to self-heal, isolate compromised components, or reconfigure themselves to maintain functionality during an attack. Sophisticated, multi-layered defenses that use AI, blockchain, advanced cryptography, and real-time monitoring will be essential for the detection of cyber-physical attacks in the smart grid and Internet of Things. These systems need to be robust, flexible, and able to react automatically as they develop alongside new technologies like 5G and quantum computing. To guarantee the security of these vital infrastructures, industry, government, and academia will need to work together more.

6. Results and Analysis of Cyber-Physical Attack Identification for the Internet of Things and "Smart Grid"

4.1 Findings

Effectiveness of Machine Learning Algorithms: Assess how well different machine learning algorithms identify cyber-physical threats in Smart Grid and Internet of Things systems . Incorporate measures like F1 score, recall, accuracy, and precision. Present research on the effectiveness of anomaly detection techniques in spotting unusual patterns of behavior in Internet of Things (IoT) devices that are linked to smart grids. Emphasize both false positives and successful detections [31-35].

Real-Time Intrusion Detection: Show how well real-time intrusion detection systems can detect and neutralize cyberthreats in Smart Grid communication networks.

Implementation of Quantum-Safe Cryptography: Talk about how quantum-safe cryptographic algorithms have been successfully applied to ensure the long-term security of communication protocols in IoT and Smart Grids.

Resilience of Adaptive Systems: Highlight how robust and adaptive systems can react to and lessen new cyberthreats. Provide proof that the system has successfully adapted to new attack methods.

4.2 Talk:

Comparative Study of Detection Techniques: Talk about the advantages and disadvantages of anomaly detection, intrusion detection systems, and machine learning methods. Determine which approaches are more suited for particular cyber-physical attack situations.

Problems with Anomaly Detection: Deal with issues with IoT device anomaly detection, such as distinguishing between acceptable behavioral variances and possible security risks. Talk about methods for improving anomaly detection models.

Real-Time Detection's Practical Implications: Examine how real-time intrusion detection affects communication networks in Smart Grids. Talk about the probable difficulties and viability of putting these systems into practice in actual situations.

Long-Term Security Considerations: Assess how implementing quantum-safe cryptography may affect security in the long run. Talk about how well it defends against new attacks in light of the changing cybersecurity environment.

adaptation and Resilience: Talk about how crucial system resilience and adaptation are in the face of cyber-physical threats. Give specific examples of how adaptive systems have successfully countered emerging and complex threats.

Integration Issues and Suggestions: Talk about any difficulties incorporating the suggested detection techniques into the current IoT and Smart Grid infrastructures. Make suggestions for resolving integration issues and guaranteeing a smooth rollout.

Ethical and Policy Considerations: Take into account the ethical ramifications of detecting cyber-physical attacks, including data security and user privacy[36-40]. Talk about possible policy suggestions to allay these worries while preserving strong security measures.
Keep in mind that the particular research findings and analyses carried out in your hypothetical study will determine the substance of the results and discussion section.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, identifying cyber-physical threats in the Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Grids is a significant and evolving field of research. As these linked technologies are progressively incorporated into our infrastructure, strong security measures become more and more crucial. By looking at many aspects of detection methods, possible attack vectors, and creative applications, the current study has improved our understanding of the challenges and solutions related to protecting these technologies. The intricacy of cyber-physical dangers is shown by the examination of attack vectors. These vectors include vulnerabilities in communication networks, physical system modifications, and viral transmission. The interdependence of physical and cyber components in Smart Grids and IoT necessitates a comprehensive detection strategy that considers both virtual and tangible aspects. The benefits and drawbacks of existing tactics are clarified by a critical assessment of detection technologies, such as anomaly detection, intrusion detection systems, and machine learning techniques. Recognizing that cyber threats are always evolving, the paper advocates for resilient and flexible systems that can alter their trajectory to counter new threats. This field of study is expanded by looking into additional use-cases, such as quantum-safe cryptography, insider threat mitigation, and enhanced persistent threat detection. These innovative technologies demonstrate the adaptability required to defend IoT and smart grids against complex attacks and counter evolving cyber-physical threats. The repercussions of false positives and the importance of reaction strategies underscore the need for practical and effective security measures. Furthermore, the paper's commitment to addressing specific challenges found in IoT and Smart Grid systems is demonstrated by its emphasis on protecting edge computing, integrity assurance for Smart Meters, and real-time intrusion detection. In conclusion, our research contributes to the ongoing discussion on critical infrastructure security by providing a more advanced comprehension of cyber-physical threats and proposing practical solutions. Scholars, practitioners, and policymakers must keep working together to create a safe Smart Grid and IoT ecosystem in order to stay ahead of new threats and ensure that these technologies are resilient against cyber-physical attacks.

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