



Cybersecurity Techniques for Enhancing the Security of Internet of Things (IoT)-Based Systems

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| ARTICLE INFORMATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ABSTRACT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p><b>Submitted:</b> June 20, 2025<br/><b>Accepted:</b> May 15, 2026<br/><b>Published:</b> July 13, 2026<br/><b>Volume:</b> 1<br/><b>Issue:</b> 1</p> <hr/> <p><b>KEYWORDS</b></p> <p>Malware, data breaches, device hijacking, cybersecurity techniques</p> | <p>The rapid expansion of Internet of Things (IoT)-based systems across critical sectors has significantly improved connectivity, automation, and operational efficiency while simultaneously introducing complex cybersecurity challenges. The increasing number of interconnected devices, heterogeneous communication protocols, and resource-constrained architectures have created vulnerabilities that are frequently exploited through malware, distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, unauthorized access, data breaches, and device hijacking. This review examines contemporary cybersecurity techniques designed to strengthen the security and resilience of IoT-based systems. It explores key security mechanisms, including encryption, authentication and authorization protocols, blockchain technology, intrusion detection and prevention systems, artificial intelligence and machine learning-based threat detection, secure firmware updates, network segmentation, and zero-trust security models. The review further discusses the major security challenges associated with IoT environments, such as scalability, interoperability, privacy protection, and limited computational resources. Evidence from recent studies indicates that a layered and adaptive cybersecurity framework integrating conventional security controls with intelligent threat detection provides more effective protection than isolated security solutions. The study concludes that strengthening IoT security requires continuous risk assessment, secure-by-design principles, regulatory compliance, and the adoption of emerging technologies capable of responding to evolving cyber threats. These findings provide valuable insights for researchers, cybersecurity professionals, policymakers, and system developers seeking to improve the security, reliability, and resilience of IoT-based infrastructures.</p> |

1. Introduction

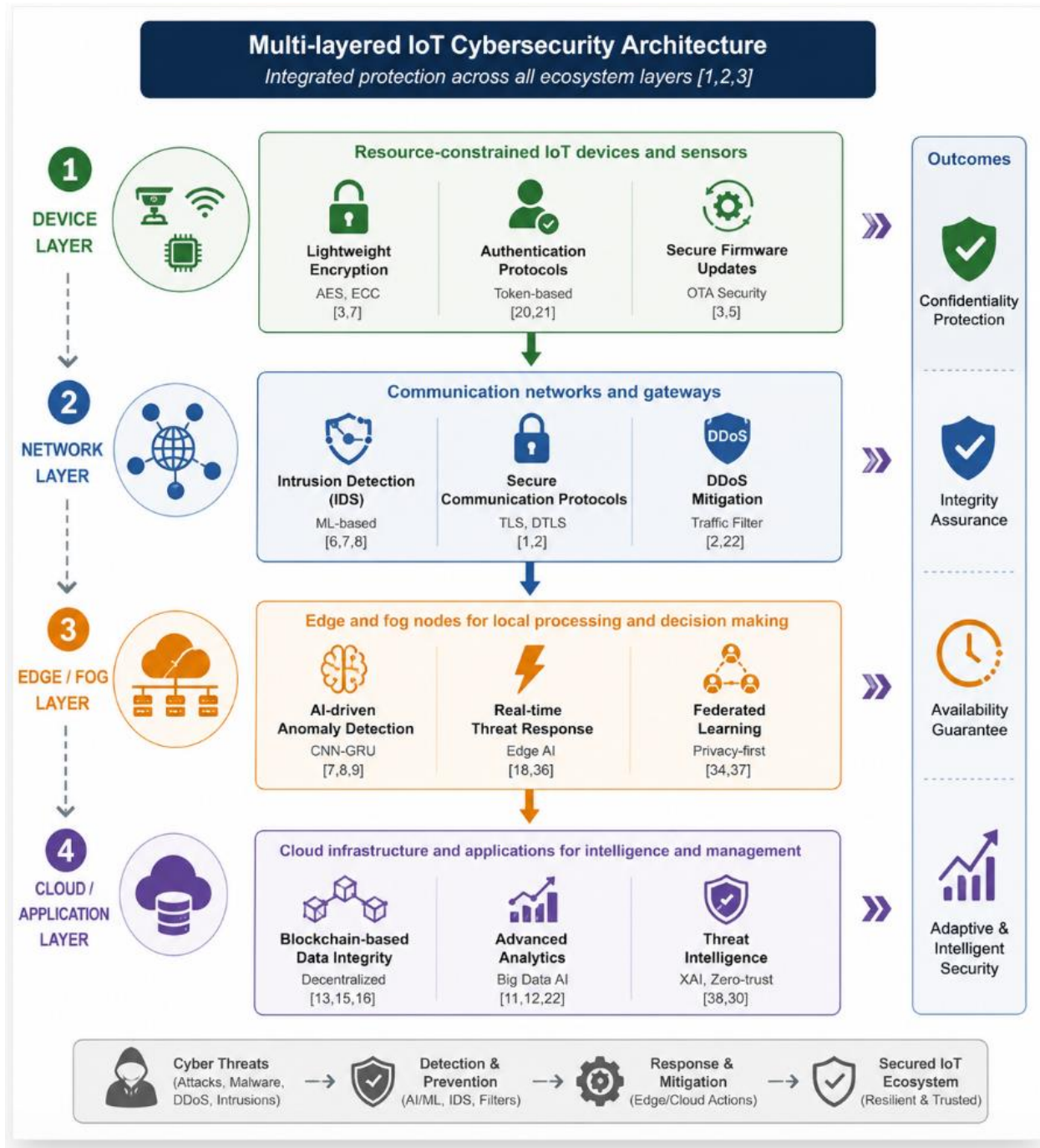
1.1 The Letter

The rapid expansion of the Internet of Things (IoT) has revolutionized modern digital ecosystems by enabling seamless connectivity among billions of devices across healthcare, smart cities, industrial automation, agriculture, transportation, and smart manufacturing. This unprecedented growth has significantly improved automation, operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making. However, the increasing number of interconnected devices has also expanded the cyberattack surface, exposing IoT systems to numerous security and privacy threats. The heterogeneous, distributed, and resource-constrained nature of IoT devices makes them particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks such as malware, eavesdropping, spoofing, data manipulation, distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, and unauthorized access [1,2]. Moreover, the limited computational capability, memory, and energy resources of many IoT devices restrict the implementation of conventional cryptographic and security mechanisms, making the protection of data confidentiality, integrity, and availability a critical challenge for modern IoT deployments [3–5].

To address these challenges, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) have emerged as key enabling technologies for intelligent cybersecurity. Machine learning-based intrusion detection systems (IDS) continuously analyze network traffic, identify anomalous behavioral patterns, and automatically adapt to evolving attack strategies, thereby significantly improving threat detection and response capabilities [6,7]. Recent advances in deep learning have further enhanced intrusion detection performance. Hybrid architectures combining Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs) have achieved detection accuracies exceeding 99%, demonstrating the effectiveness of integrating spatial and temporal feature learning for sophisticated cyberattack detection [8]. Furthermore, Rahman et al. [9] introduced a fusion-based hybrid meta-learning framework integrated with explainable artificial intelligence (XAI), significantly improving predictive threat detection and decision transparency in intelligent surveillance environments. Rahman et al. [10] further demonstrated that AI-driven predictive analytics strengthen cybersecurity resilience through integrated business intelligence frameworks, while Alam et al. [11] proposed a hybrid big data and large language model (LLM) framework for intelligent threat intelligence and automated knowledge discovery. Similarly, Hossain et al. [12] developed self-adaptive AI systems capable of continuous learning and autonomous optimization, enabling large-scale cybersecurity operations through intelligent real-time responses. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that integrating AI-driven learning mechanisms into IoT security architectures substantially improves threat detection, adaptive defense, and automated incident response.

Blockchain technology has also emerged as a fundamental component of secure IoT infrastructures by providing decentralized trust management, immutable audit trails, and tamper-resistant data storage. Unlike centralized architectures, blockchain eliminates single points of failure while ensuring transparency, traceability, and secure information sharing across distributed IoT networks [13,14]. Rabbani et al. [15] demonstrated the effectiveness of blockchain-enabled traceability systems for securing distributed communication environments, while Hassan et al. [16] showed that blockchain integration significantly enhances cybersecurity and data integrity in management information systems. Similarly, Bauskar et al. [17] proposed a blockchain-enabled big data governance framework that improves privacy protection, regulatory compliance, and secure data management in large-scale distributed systems. Complementing blockchain technologies, edge and fog computing enable localized processing of security-sensitive data, reducing communication latency and supporting real-time intrusion detection without relying exclusively on centralized cloud infrastructures [18,19]. Habib et al. [20] further emphasized the importance of secure communication protocols, intelligent monitoring, and adaptive protection mechanisms for IoT-enabled smart home automation systems, highlighting the critical role of edge-layer security in resource-constrained environments.

Figure 1 illustrates the proposed multi-layer cybersecurity architecture for IoT-based systems, which integrates complementary security mechanisms across four interconnected layers. At the device layer, lightweight encryption, authentication protocols, and secure firmware update mechanisms protect resource-constrained IoT devices [3,21]. The network layer incorporates intrusion detection systems and secure communication protocols to monitor traffic, identify malicious activities, and mitigate network-based attacks, including DDoS incidents [2,22]. The edge and fog layer provided AI-driven anomaly detection, real-time threat analysis, and intelligent response mechanisms with minimal latency, enabling rapid mitigation of emerging cyber threats [18,23]. Finally, the cloud and application layer integrated blockchain-enabled data integrity, advanced analytics, and long-term threat intelligence to support scalable security management and predictive cyber defense [13,14,24]. Unlike conventional single-layer security models that address isolated vulnerabilities, this integrated architecture combines lightweight cryptography, machine learning, edge intelligence, and decentralized data governance to provide comprehensive end-to-end protection for modern IoT ecosystems. Recent studies employing transformer-based intrusion detection models and continual learning frameworks further validate the effectiveness of adaptive, AI-driven security architectures for detecting sophisticated and continuously evolving cyber threats [25,26].



**Figure 1.** Proposed Multi-Layer Cybersecurity Framework for IoT-Based Systems

Despite significant progress, several challenges continue to limit the widespread deployment of advanced IoT cybersecurity solutions. Ensuring scalability across billions of heterogeneous devices remains a major concern because current AI and blockchain frameworks often require computational resources beyond the capabilities of resource-constrained IoT devices [11,12,27]. The diversity of communication protocols, hardware platforms, and vendor-specific implementations also creates interoperability challenges that hinder the development of unified security frameworks [28,29]. Furthermore, AI-based security models depend heavily on large, representative datasets and remain susceptible to adversarial attacks that can manipulate model behavior and reduce detection accuracy [30,31]. Blockchain consensus mechanisms, particularly Proof-of-Work (PoW), impose considerable computational and energy overhead, limiting their applicability in lightweight IoT environments, while more efficient consensus protocols have yet to achieve widespread standardization [13,32]. In addition, many proposed cybersecurity frameworks have been evaluated primarily through simulation studies rather than real-world deployments, limiting their demonstrated effectiveness under practical operational conditions [33,34]. Recent studies suggest that DataOps-based

governance frameworks can improve system integration, automation, and lifecycle management [35], whereas bio-cognitive AI systems provide promising mechanisms for adaptive, resource-aware cybersecurity in constrained IoT environments [36].

Future research should focus on developing intelligent, scalable, and trustworthy cybersecurity frameworks capable of addressing these limitations. Federated learning represents a promising direction by enabling distributed model training without exposing sensitive local data, thereby improving privacy, scalability, and collaborative threat intelligence across heterogeneous IoT networks [4,37]. The integration of explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) will enhance model transparency, interpretability, and user trust while supporting regulatory compliance and security auditing [30,38]. Hybrid frameworks that combine blockchain, edge intelligence, and AI-driven analytics can simultaneously improve data integrity, reduce communication latency, and enable decentralized decision-making across distributed IoT infrastructures [13,18]. Zero-trust security architectures, which continuously authenticate users and devices regardless of network location, provide another effective strategy for mitigating insider threats and unauthorized access [1,2]. Moreover, emerging technologies such as 6G communications and semantic networking will enable ultra-low-latency, intelligent, and context-aware cybersecurity services for next-generation IoT ecosystems [39]. The successful application of AI-driven analytics across healthcare, precision medicine, socio-economic forecasting, and scientific knowledge discovery further demonstrates the potential of adaptive, multidimensional learning frameworks for strengthening future IoT cybersecurity systems [40–44].

Overall, protecting IoT-based systems requires a comprehensive and adaptive cybersecurity framework that simultaneously addresses vulnerabilities across the device, network, edge, and cloud layers. The integration of machine learning-based intrusion detection, blockchain-enabled trust management, edge intelligence, and advanced cloud analytics provides a robust foundation for securing increasingly complex IoT ecosystems. Although challenges related to scalability, interoperability, energy efficiency, explainability, and real-world deployment remain, emerging technologies such as federated learning, explainable AI, zero-trust security, and 6G-enabled networking offer promising pathways toward intelligent, resilient, and future-proof IoT cybersecurity infrastructures [45–52].

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