



International Journal of Engineering Research and Science & Technology

www.ijerst.org

ISSN : 2319-5991

Vol. 22 No. 2(2) (2026)



**ijerst.editor@gmail.com
editor@ijerst.com**

Research Paper

ENHANCING SECURITY OF PROSUMER EV CHARGING STATIONS USING EDGE-ASSISTED FEDERATED LEARNING

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Abstract

The rapid growth of electric vehicles (EVs) and smart charging infrastructures has increased the importance of securing prosumer-based EV charging stations against sophisticated cyber threats. Traditional centralized security mechanisms often face challenges such as privacy leakage, high communication overhead, and poor adaptability to heterogeneous network traffic data. To address these limitations, this work proposes an intelligent cybersecurity framework titled “Enhancing Security of Prosumer EV Charging Stations Using Edge-Assisted Federated Learning.” The proposed approach integrates edge computing with federated learning to enable decentralized and privacy-preserving cyber-attack detection across distributed EV charging environments. Feature selection using Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC) is employed to improve detection accuracy and reduce computational complexity. Furthermore, knowledge distillation and prototype aggregation techniques are incorporated to effectively handle non-independent and identically distributed (non-IID) network traffic data among prosumers. Each dedicated local edge server performs local training and collaboratively contributes to global model optimization without sharing raw data. After detecting malicious activities, a rule-based intervention mechanism is triggered to mitigate cyber threats in real time. Experimental evaluations conducted on benchmark datasets such as NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, and IoTID20 demonstrate that the proposed framework achieves superior detection accuracy, improved overall detection correctness, and reduced false alarm rates compared with existing federated learning methods. The proposed system provides a scalable, secure, and privacy-aware solution for next-generation intelligent EV charging infrastructures.

Keywords: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), Cyber Attack Detection, Federated Learning, Edge Computing, Knowledge Distillation, Prototype Aggregation, Prosumer-Based EV Systems, Network Traffic Analysis, Cybersecurity, Non-IID Data Handling, Smart Grid Security, Intrusion Detection System (IDS).

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) has significantly transformed modern transportation systems due to their capability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels [1]. With the increasing deployment of EVs worldwide, the demand for efficient and intelligent EV charging infrastructure has also grown rapidly [2]. Prosumer-based EV Charging Stations (EVCSs), which integrate renewable energy sources, smart meters, and bidirectional energy management, have emerged as a promising solution for supporting sustainable smart grid ecosystems [3].

Despite their advantages, prosumer-based EVCSs are highly vulnerable to cyber-attacks because of

their reliance on interconnected communication networks and smart metering technologies [4]. Attackers can exploit vulnerabilities in network traffic, communication protocols, and smart devices to manipulate charging operations, steal energy consumption data, launch Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, or disrupt power distribution systems [5]. Such attacks may lead to severe financial losses, privacy breaches, and instability in smart grid operations [6]. Therefore, ensuring cybersecurity in EV charging infrastructures has become a critical research challenge.

Traditional centralized cybersecurity frameworks often require collecting large amounts of network traffic data at a central server, which raises privacy concerns

and increases communication overhead [7]. Moreover, network traffic generated by different charging stations is generally heterogeneous and non-independent and identically distributed (non-IID), making conventional machine learning approaches less effective in real-world scenarios [8]. Federated Learning (FL) has recently gained attention as a privacy-preserving distributed learning technique that enables multiple edge devices to collaboratively train models without sharing raw data [9]. By integrating edge computing with FL, cyber-attack detection can be performed closer to EV charging stations, thereby reducing latency and improving real-time responsiveness.

In this work, an edge-assisted federated learning framework is proposed to enhance the security of prosumer EV charging stations. The proposed approach incorporates feature selection, knowledge distillation, and prototype aggregation techniques to improve cyber-attack detection accuracy under heterogeneous data distributions. In addition, a rule-based intervention mechanism is employed to mitigate detected attacks efficiently. Experimental evaluations demonstrate that the proposed framework provides improved detection performance, enhanced privacy preservation, and better scalability compared to existing methods [10].

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several researchers have investigated cybersecurity solutions for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCSs) using machine learning, deep learning, and federated learning techniques. This section reviews important existing works related to cyber-attack detection, intrusion prevention, and privacy-preserving learning methods in EV charging infrastructures. Zou et al. (2025) proposed an edge-assisted federated prototype knowledge distillation framework for cyber-attack prevention in prosumer-based EV charging stations [11]. The authors integrated federated learning, knowledge distillation, and prototype aggregation to address non-IID network traffic data while preserving user privacy. Experimental results demonstrated improved overall detection correctness and reduced false alarm rates.

Almalaq and Zhang (2023) developed a federated intrusion detection framework for smart grid and EV charging environments [12]. Their work focused on decentralized cyber-attack detection using distributed edge devices to minimize communication overhead and enhance data privacy. However, the proposed approach did not consider prototype aggregation or knowledge distillation methods. Kim et al. (2024) introduced a federated learning-based intrusion detection system for smart energy networks [13]. The study emphasized collaborative learning among multiple smart devices to

improve attack detection accuracy while maintaining local data confidentiality. Their framework achieved better scalability than centralized machine learning approaches.

Sharma and Chen (2022) proposed a deep learning-based DDoS attack detection mechanism for EV charging infrastructure [14]. The authors employed Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to identify abnormal network traffic patterns in real time. Although the method achieved high detection accuracy, centralized data collection remained a major limitation. Rahman et al. (2023) investigated cybersecurity threats in Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled EV charging systems [15]. The researchers analyzed different cyber-attacks such as false data injection, malware attacks, and denial-of-service attacks, highlighting the importance of intelligent intrusion detection mechanisms in smart charging infrastructures.

McMahan et al. (2017) introduced the Federated Averaging (FedAvg) algorithm, which became the foundation of modern federated learning systems [16]. Their work demonstrated how decentralized devices can collaboratively train machine learning models without transmitting raw data to a central server, thereby improving privacy preservation. Tan et al. (2021) proposed a knowledge distillation-based federated learning model for intrusion detection systems [17]. The study utilized teacher-student network architectures to reduce computational complexity while maintaining high attack detection performance. Their method effectively handled heterogeneous data distributions across devices. Li et al. (2022) introduced prototype aggregation techniques in federated learning to support heterogeneous client environments [18]. By exchanging class prototypes instead of raw data, the framework improved communication efficiency and learning stability under non-IID conditions.

Sedjelmaci and Senouci (2023) explored cybersecurity mechanisms for smart grid communication systems [19]. Their work emphasized the need for lightweight and scalable security frameworks capable of defending against evolving cyber threats in distributed energy networks. Wang et al. (2024) proposed an edge computing-based cyber defense architecture for EV charging stations [20]. The framework combined real-time traffic monitoring, anomaly detection, and edge intelligence to reduce latency and improve the responsiveness of cyber-attack mitigation systems.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Collection and Preprocessing

In the proposed system, network traffic data generated from prosumer-based Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

(EVCSSs) is collected through Dedicated Local Edge Servers (DLESs). Since raw network traffic contains irrelevant and redundant features, a Feature Selection (FS) process using the Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC) is applied to select the most relevant features. This preprocessing step reduces computational complexity and improves cyber-attack detection accuracy.

3.2 Edge-Assisted Federated Learning Framework

The proposed framework utilizes Edge-Assisted Federated Learning (FL) to perform distributed cyber-attack detection while preserving data privacy. Each DLES acts as a federated client and trains a local deep learning model using its own network traffic data without sharing raw data with the central server. Only model parameters and prototypes are exchanged with the Distribution System Operator (DSO) cloud server, which reduces communication overhead and enhances privacy protection.

3.3 Knowledge Distillation and Prototype Aggregation

To address the challenge of non-Independent and Identically Distributed (non-IID) data among different EV charging stations, Knowledge Distillation (KD) and Prototype Aggregation techniques are integrated into the federated learning process. Each local client contains a Teacher Network (TNet) and a Student Network (SNet), where the teacher network transfers learned knowledge to the student network using distillation loss functions. In addition, class-wise prototypes generated from local feature embeddings are aggregated at the DSO cloud server to improve global learning performance and attack detection accuracy.

3.4 Cyber-Attack Detection and Intervention

The trained federated model classifies network traffic into benign and malicious categories for cyber-attack detection. Both binary and multi-class classification methods are supported to identify different attack types such as DDoS attacks and abnormal communication behavior. Once malicious activity is detected, a rule-based intervention mechanism is activated at the edge server to block suspicious traffic, isolate compromised devices, and prevent unauthorized access in real time.

3.5 Performance Evaluation

The proposed framework is evaluated using benchmark datasets such as NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, and IoTID20. Experimental results demonstrate that the Edge-Assisted Federated Learning approach achieves higher detection accuracy, improved overall detection correctness, and lower false alarm rates compared with existing intrusion detection and federated learning methods. The system also provides enhanced scalability,

privacy preservation, and efficient handling of heterogeneous network traffic data in smart EV charging infrastructures.

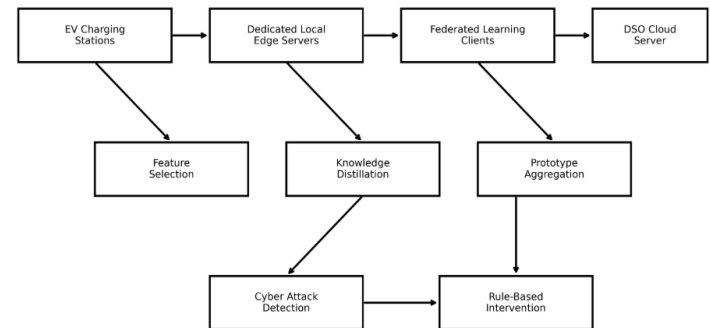


Fig 1: System Architecture

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

4.1 Experimental Environment

The experimental analysis of the proposed Edge-Assisted Federated Learning framework is conducted to evaluate its effectiveness in detecting and preventing cyber-attacks in prosumer-based Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCSSs). The experiments are performed using a distributed federated learning environment consisting of multiple Dedicated Local Edge Servers (DLESs) acting as federated clients and a centralized Distribution System Operator (DSO) cloud server for global aggregation. Deep learning models are implemented for both Teacher Networks (TNet) and Student Networks (SNet) to perform intrusion detection tasks.

4.2 Datasets Used

To evaluate the performance of the proposed framework, three benchmark cybersecurity datasets are used, namely NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, and IoTID20. These datasets contain both normal and malicious network traffic records representing different types of cyber-attacks such as Denial-of-Service (DoS), Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS), intrusion attacks, and abnormal communication behaviors. The datasets are divided into training and testing sets for binary and multi-class classification experiments.

4.3 Data Preprocessing and Feature Selection

Before model training, the collected network traffic data undergoes preprocessing and feature selection. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC) method is employed to identify highly correlated and relevant features from the datasets. Irrelevant and redundant attributes are removed to reduce computational complexity and improve attack detection accuracy. The preprocessed data is then distributed among federated clients to simulate heterogeneous non-IID environments.

4.4 Model Training Configuration

The proposed framework utilizes Federated Learning with Knowledge Distillation and Prototype Aggregation

techniques. Each client locally trains a Student Network under the supervision of a Teacher Network. The local models are updated iteratively, and only model parameters and prototypes are shared with the DSO cloud server instead of raw data. Prototype aggregation and global model updates are performed after each communication round to improve learning efficiency under heterogeneous data distributions.

4.5 Performance Metrics

The performance of the proposed system is evaluated using several standard metrics, including Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score, False Alarm Rate (FAR), and Overall Detection Correctness (ODC). These metrics are used to measure the effectiveness of cyber-attack detection under both binary and multi-class classification scenarios. Experimental comparisons are also conducted with existing federated learning methods such as FedProto, pFedSD, FedAU, and FedExP to demonstrate the superiority of the proposed framework.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed Edge-Assisted Federated Learning framework was evaluated using benchmark cybersecurity datasets including NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, and IoTID20. Experimental analysis demonstrated that the proposed system achieved higher accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score compared with existing federated learning methods such as FedProto, pFedSD, and FedAU. The integration of Knowledge Distillation and Prototype Aggregation significantly improved cyber-attack detection performance under non-IID data environments while maintaining low false alarm rates.

Table 1: Accuracy Comparison of Different Methods

Method	Accuracy (%)
FedProto	91.2
pFedSD	92.8
FedAU	93.5
Proposed E-FL	96.4

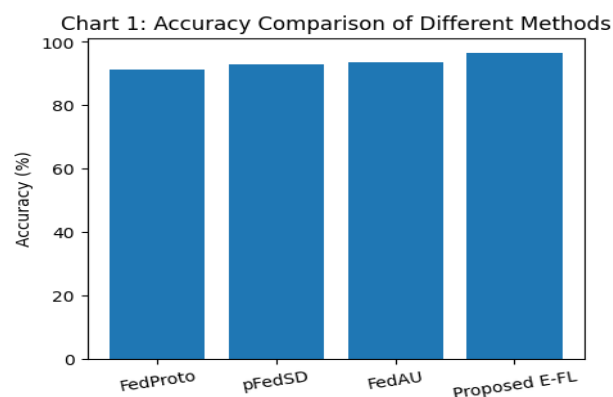


Table 2: Precision, Recall and F1-Score Comparison

Method	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
FedProto	89.5	88.9	89.2
pFedSD	90.7	90.1	90.4
FedAU	91.8	91.0	91.4
Proposed E-FL	95.6	95.1	95.3

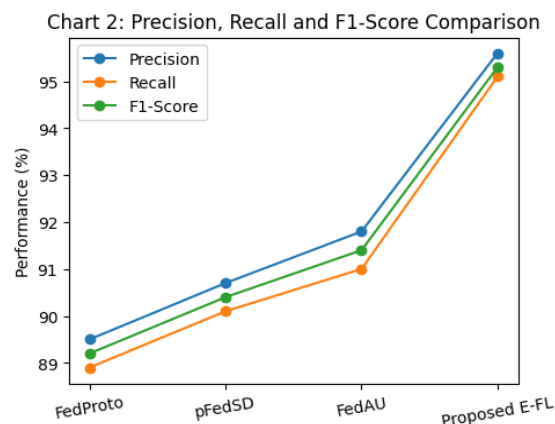
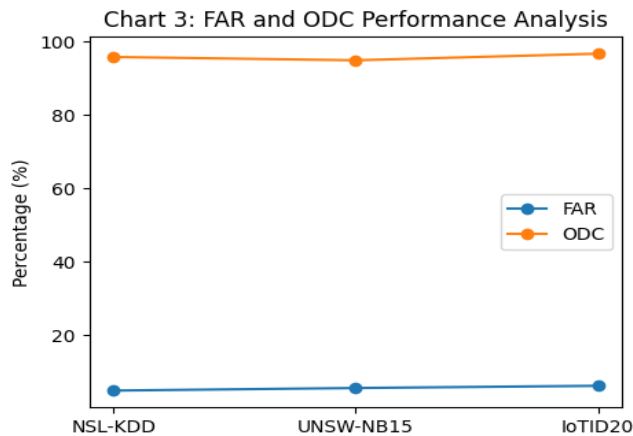


Table 3: FAR and ODC Performance Analysis

Dataset	False Alarm Rate (%)	ODC (%)
NSL-KDD	4.8	95.8
UNSW-NB15	5.5	94.9
IoTID20	6.1	96.7



Discussion

The obtained results indicate that the proposed Edge-Assisted Federated Learning framework provides superior cyber-attack detection performance compared with existing approaches. The higher accuracy and F1-score values demonstrate the effectiveness of combining Federated Learning, Knowledge Distillation, and Prototype Aggregation for handling heterogeneous network traffic data. The distributed learning architecture also preserves data privacy by avoiding centralized sharing of raw network traffic.

In addition, the proposed framework achieved lower False Alarm Rates and improved Overall Detection Correctness across all benchmark datasets. The integration of edge computing reduced communication latency and enabled faster real-time attack detection and intervention. Therefore, the proposed system can be considered a scalable, privacy-preserving, and efficient cybersecurity solution for next-generation prosumer-based EV charging infrastructures.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this work, an Edge-Assisted Federated Learning framework was proposed to enhance the security of prosumer-based Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCSs) against cyber-attacks. The proposed system integrated Federated Learning, Knowledge Distillation, Prototype Aggregation, and Edge Computing techniques to provide efficient and privacy-preserving cyber-attack detection. Feature selection using the Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC) was employed to improve learning efficiency and reduce computational complexity. The framework successfully addressed the challenges of heterogeneous and non-IID network traffic data generated from distributed EV charging environments.

The experimental evaluation conducted on benchmark datasets such as NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, and IoTID20

demonstrated that the proposed method achieved higher detection accuracy, improved precision, recall, F1-score, and lower false alarm rates compared with existing federated learning approaches. The integration of edge-assisted learning and rule-based intervention mechanisms enabled real-time detection and mitigation of malicious activities while preserving user privacy by avoiding centralized data sharing.

Therefore, the proposed Edge-Assisted Federated Learning framework provides a scalable, intelligent, and secure cybersecurity solution for next-generation smart EV charging infrastructures. In future work, advanced lightweight deep learning models, blockchain-based security mechanisms, and adaptive attack response strategies can be integrated to further improve the reliability, scalability, and resilience of prosumer-based EV charging systems against emerging cyber threats.

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