

ProvloT: Detecting Stealthy Attacks in IoT through Federated Edge-Cloud Security

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STELLAR
CYBER®



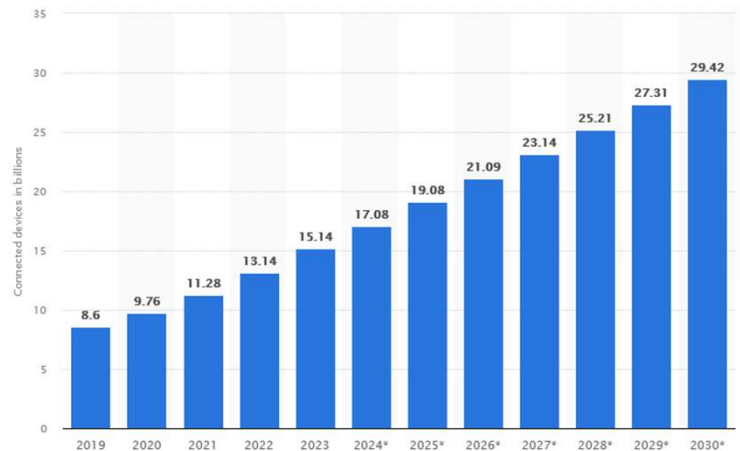
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22nd International Conference on Applied Cryptography and Network Security 2024

Motivation



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Number of IoT connected devices worldwide 2019-2023, with forecasts to 2030

Published by [Lionel Sujay Vailshery](#), Jul 27, 2023



Help Net Security
July 4, 2023

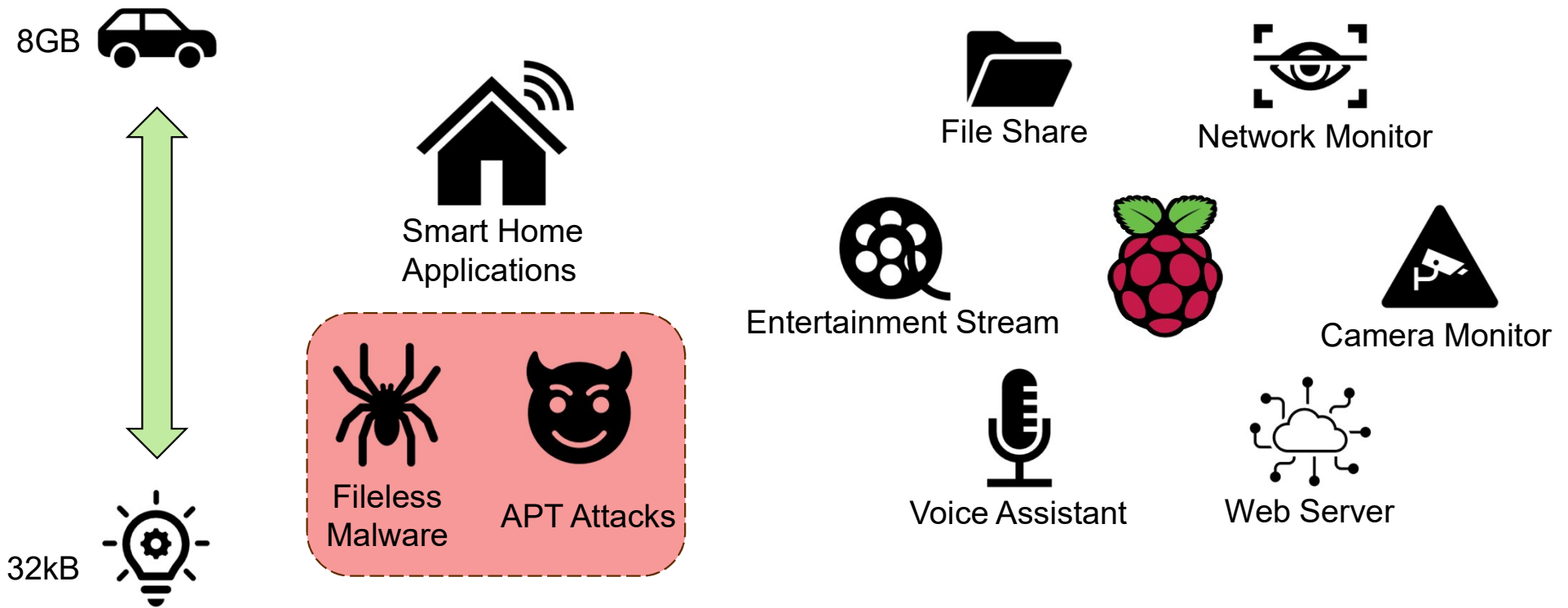
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Fileless attacks increase 1,400%

Aggregated honeypot data, over a six-month period, showed that more than 50% of the **attacks** focused on defense evasion, according to Aqua Security.



Scope



Fileless Malware

Memory of Running
Process



Monitored File System

Fileless attacks are **invisible** to static IDS
[Dang '19]



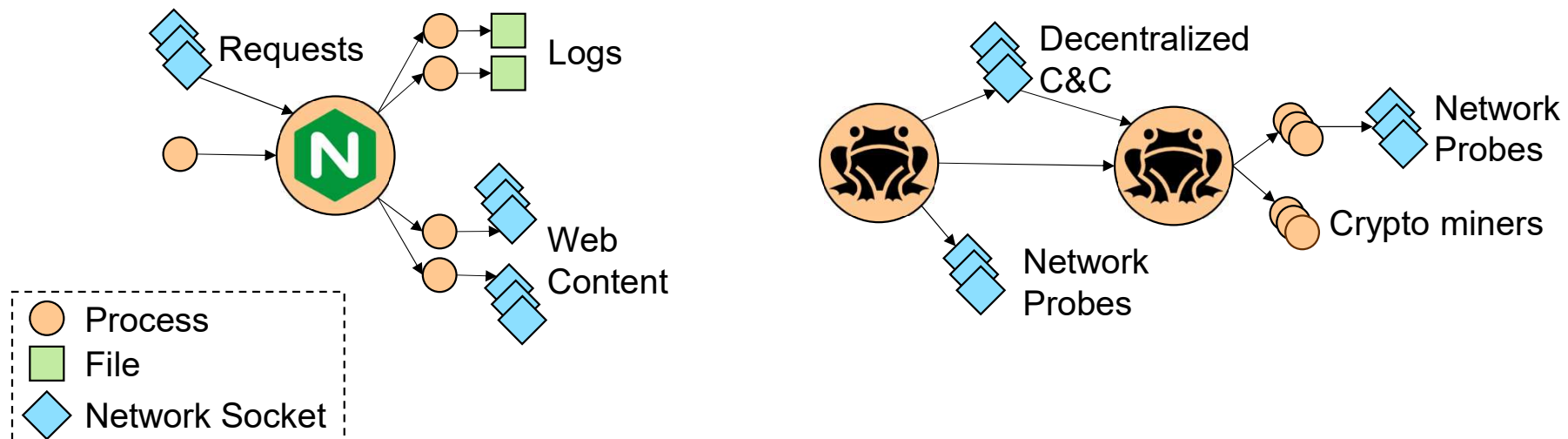
The FritzFrog botnet has
claimed **over 20,000 victims**
[FritzFrog]

Exploits Log4j and weak SSH passwords
to impersonate vulnerable webserver



Provenance Graphs

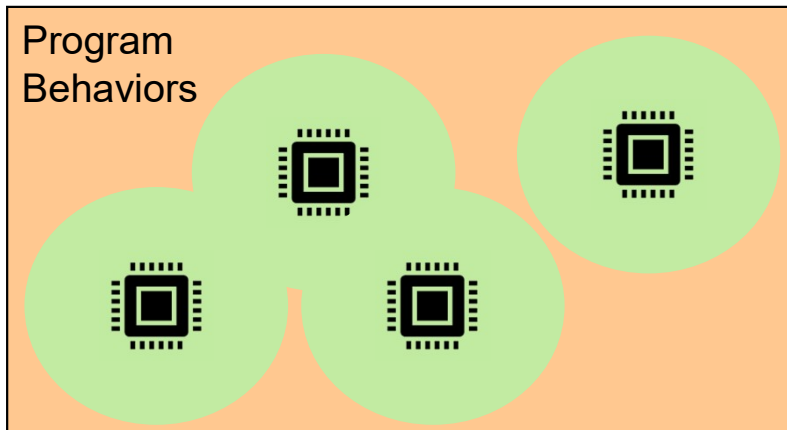
- Use dynamic **runtime behavior** to detect fileless malware [Hassan '19]
- System provenance causally connects system resources



Why hasn't system provenance been adopted in IoT?

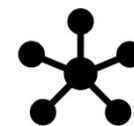
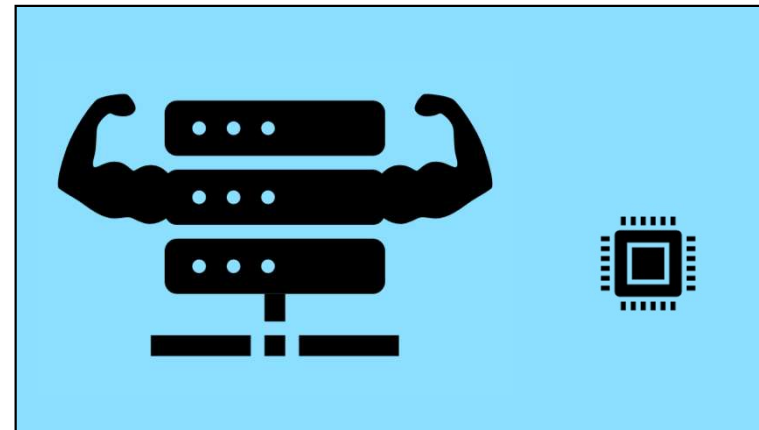
Challenges to system provenance in IoT

Exposure Limitation



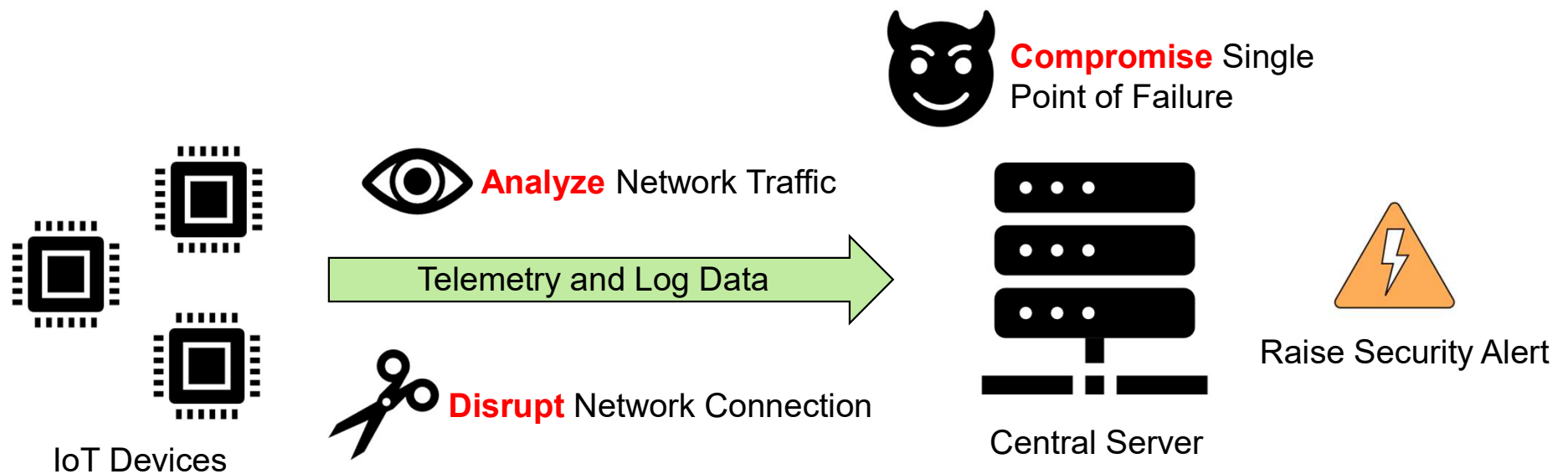
Each device has **limited exposure** to program behaviors

Resource Limitation



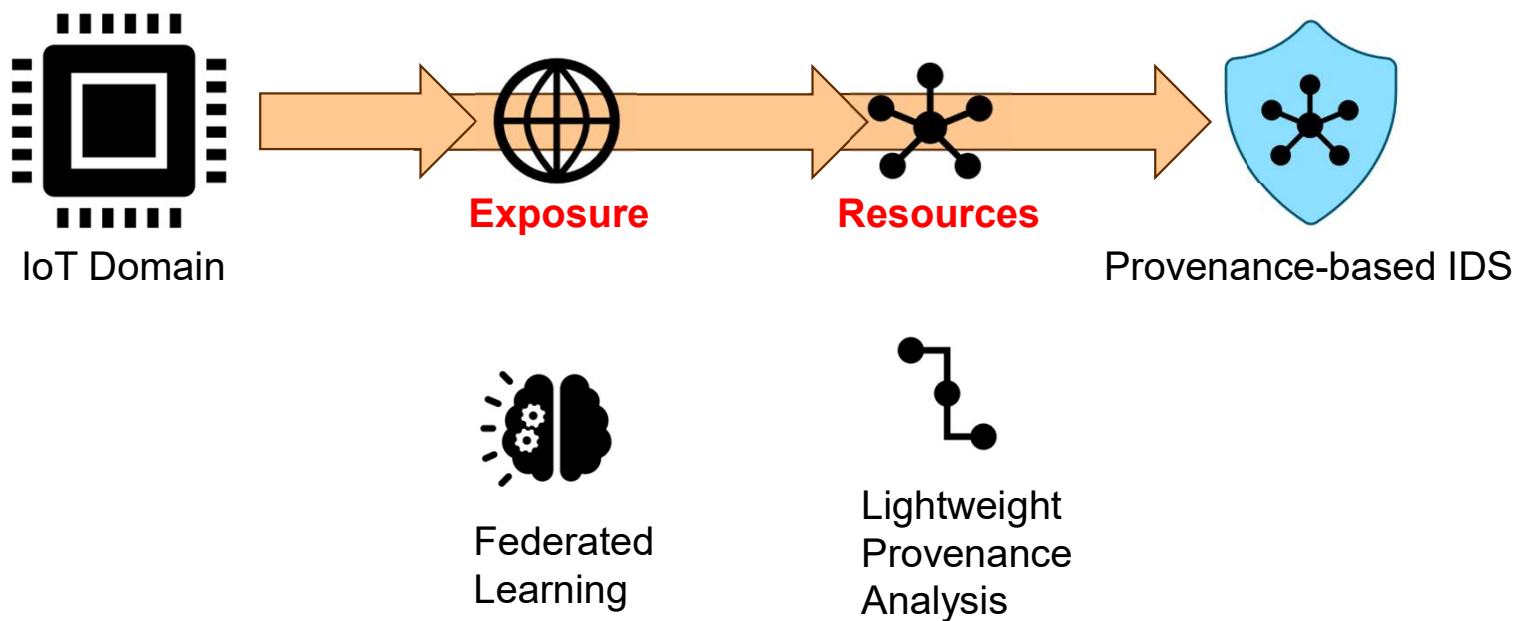
GNN-based graph analysis is **resource-intensive**

Traditional Method of Addressing IoT Limitations

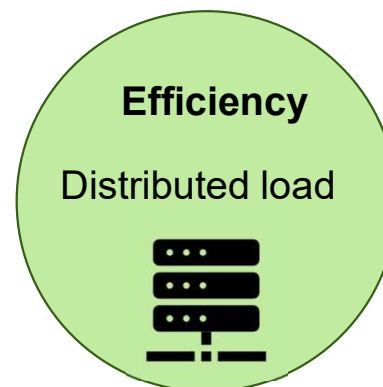
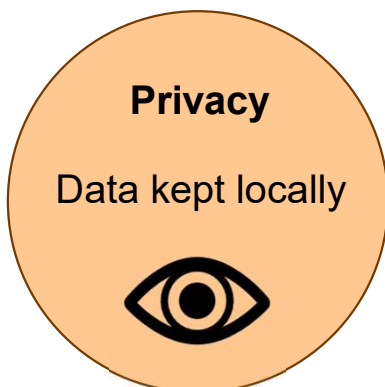
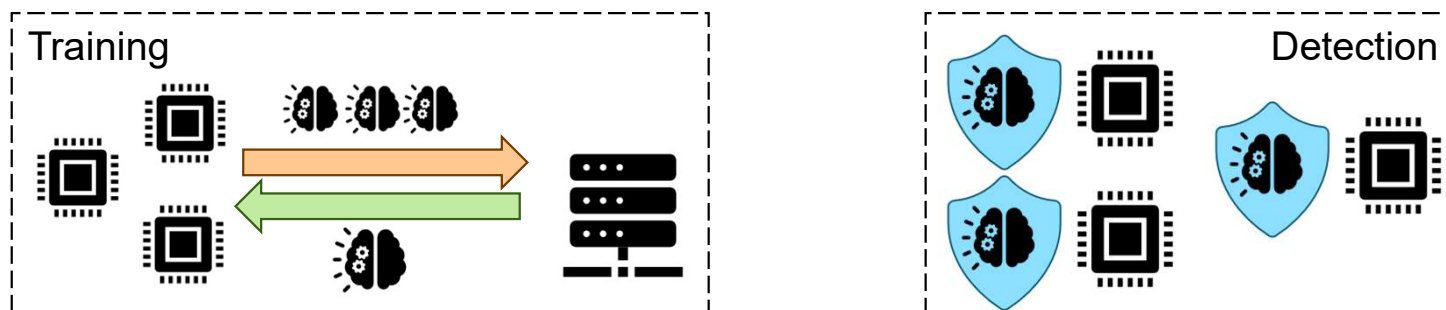


[Nguyen '19, Cossan '21, Reiger '23]

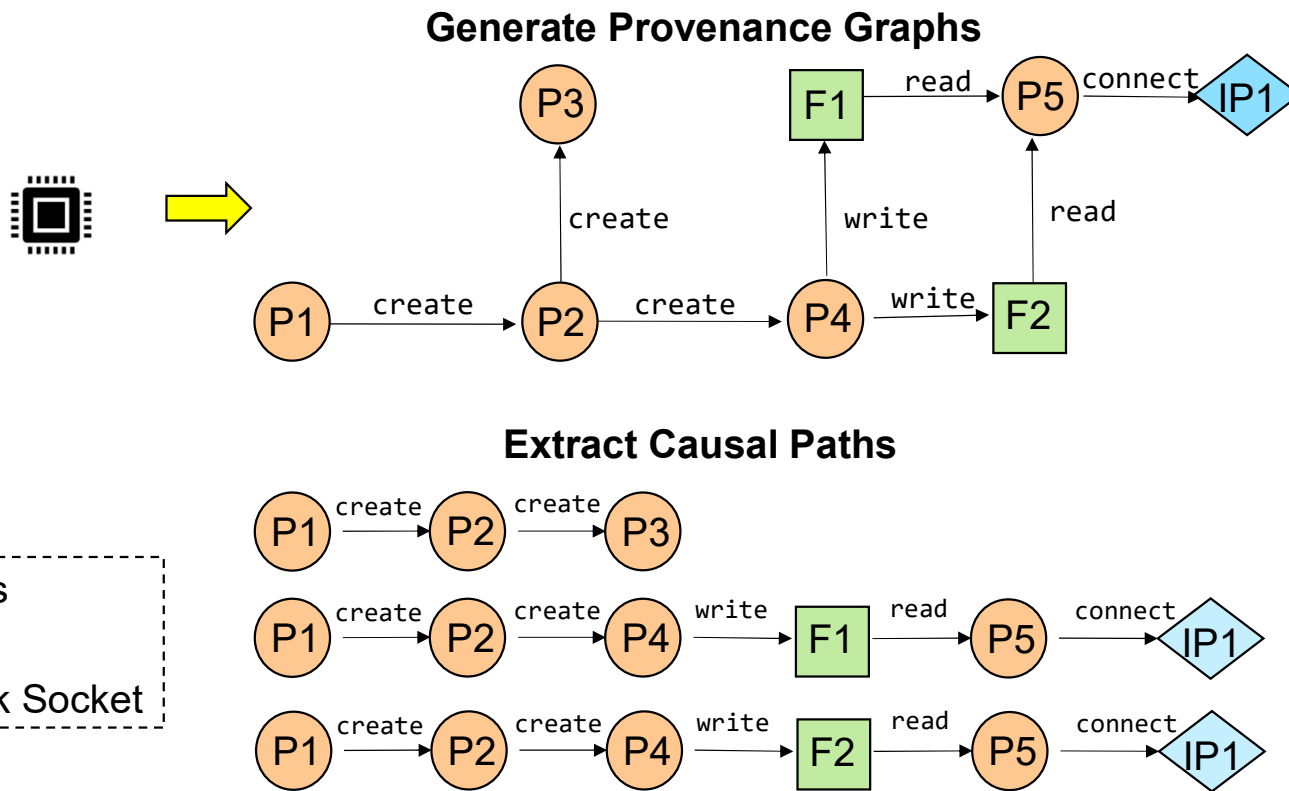
ProvIoT - Design



ProvIoT – Federated Learning



ProvloT – Data Preparation (Path Extraction)

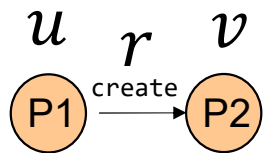


ProvIoT – Data Preparation (Regularity Filtering)

Calculate Regularity Score

[Hassan '19, Wang '20]

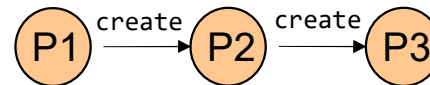
$$R(e = (u, v, r)) = \frac{|Freq(u, v, r)|}{|Freq(u, *, r)|}$$



Frequency DB

Select Low Regularity Paths

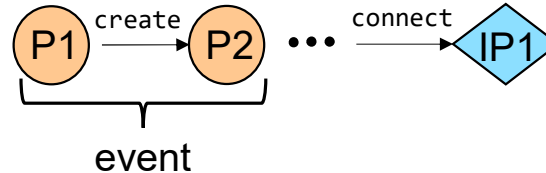
Regularity



0.7 



0.5 

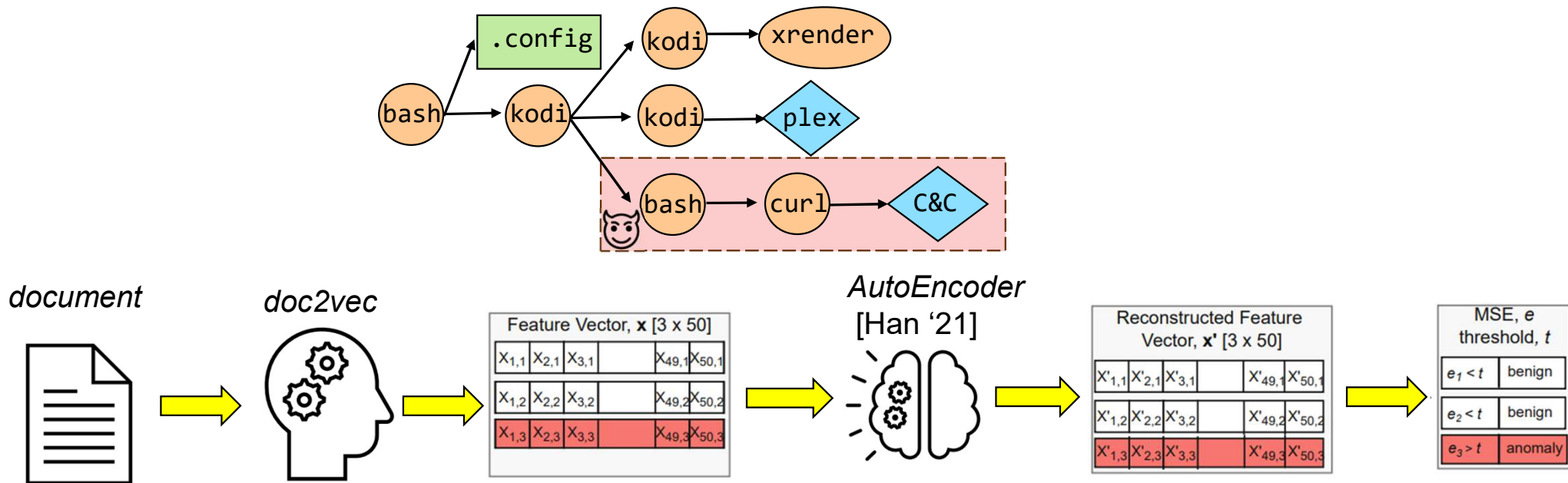


0.3 

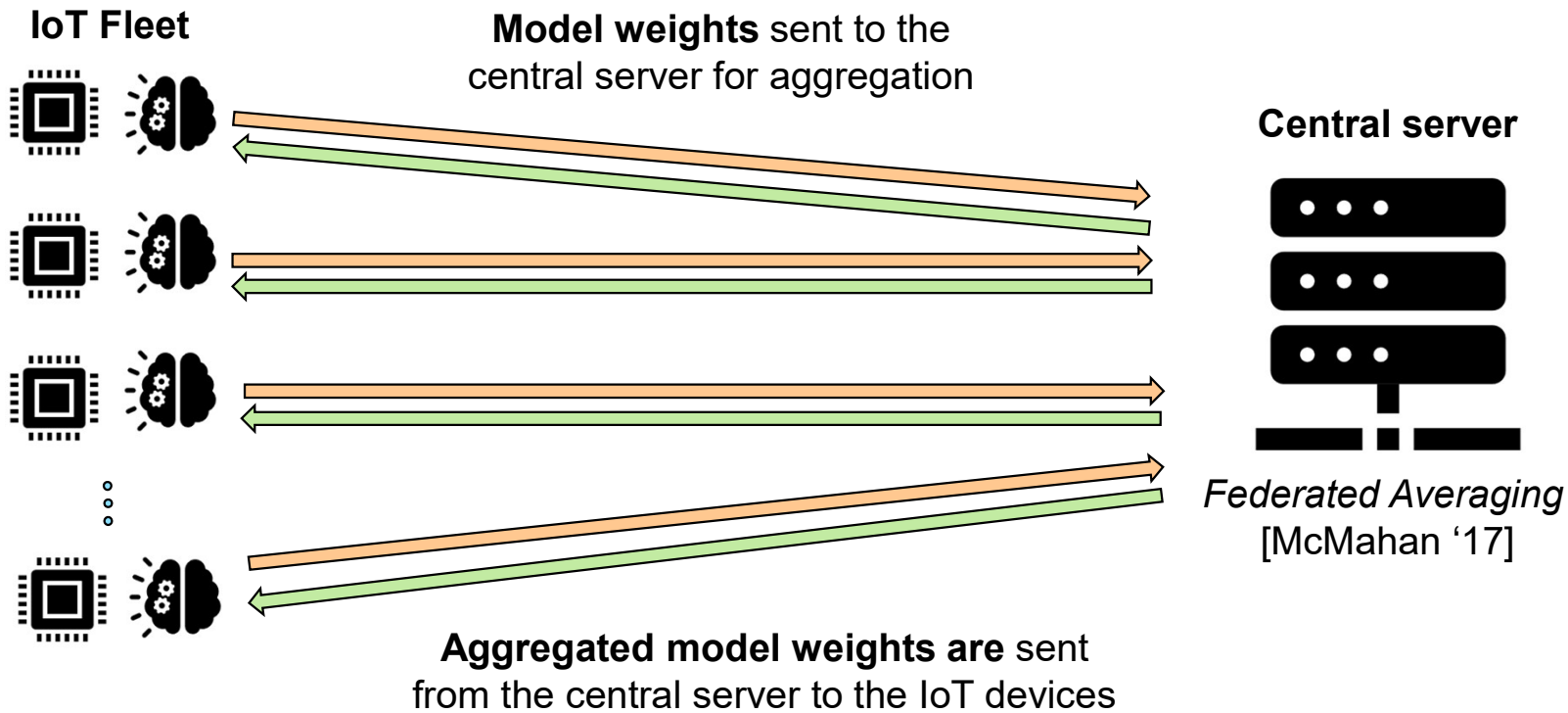
document



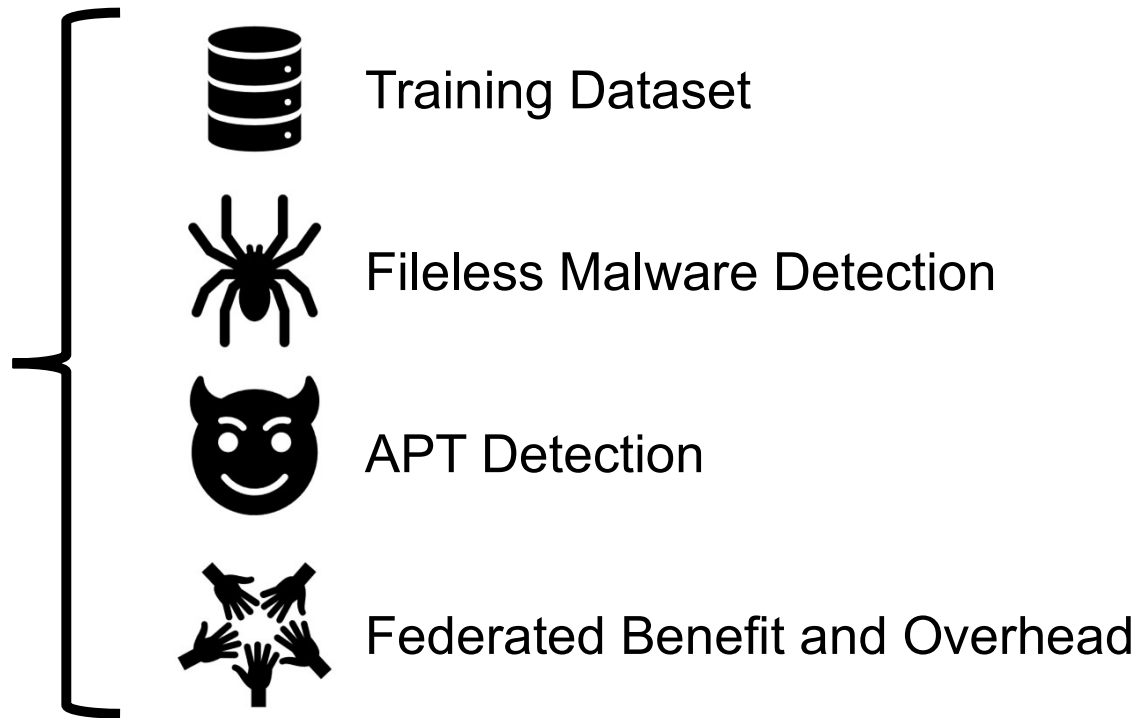
ProvloT – Anomaly Detection Pipeline



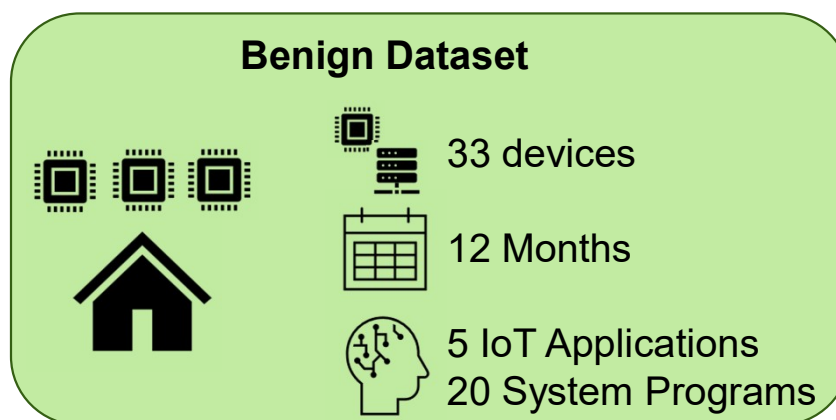
ProvIoT – Model Synchronization



Evaluation



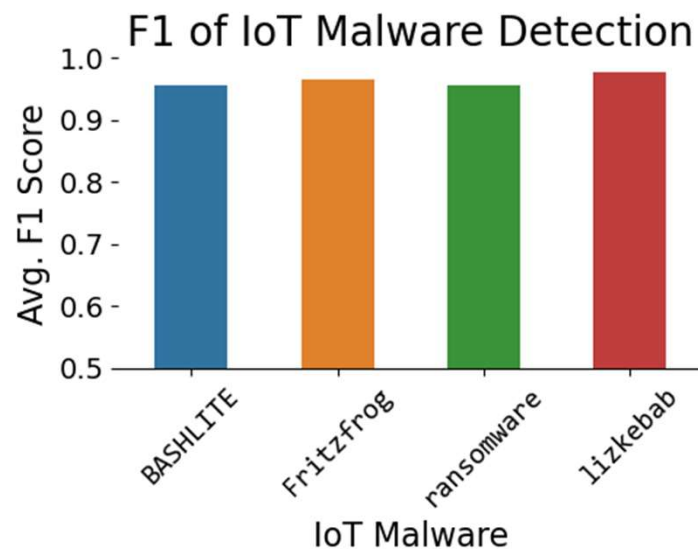
Training Data: syscall traces



IoT Applications: google, kodi, motion, samba, zeek

System Programs: bash, cat, cp, cron, dash, dbus-daemon, dd, firefox, grep, java, ls, nginx, perl, ps, python, rm, service, sh, smbd, sshd

IoT Malware Detection Result



Accurate

Detection rates >95%

Dynamic

Detects fileless
malware behavior

General

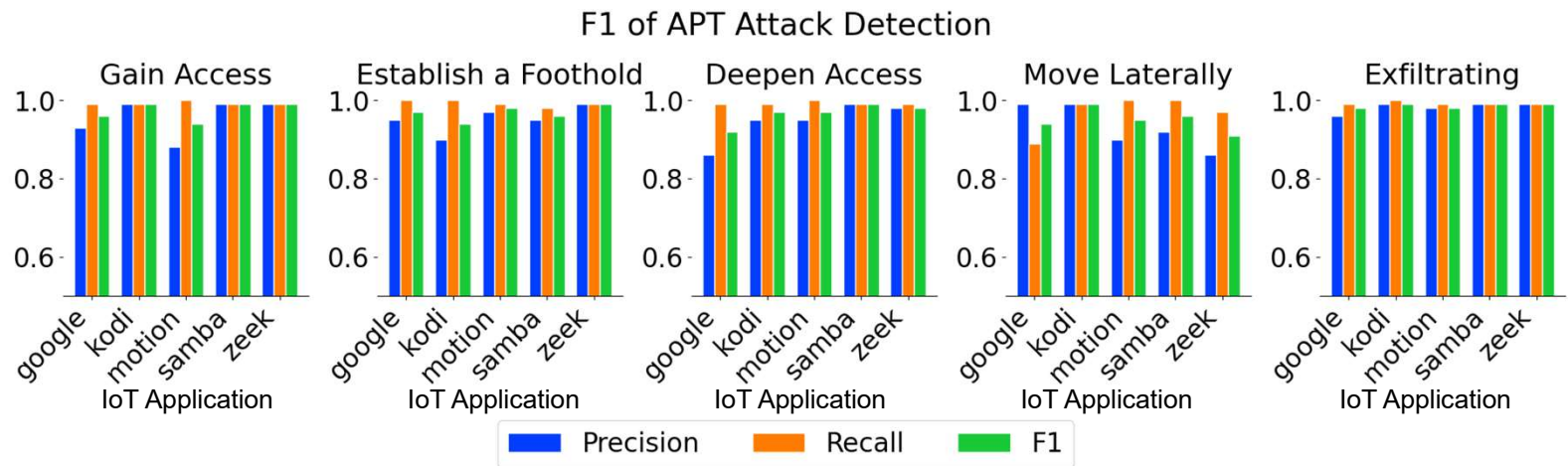
Evaluated across 20
system programs



APT Attack Detection Result

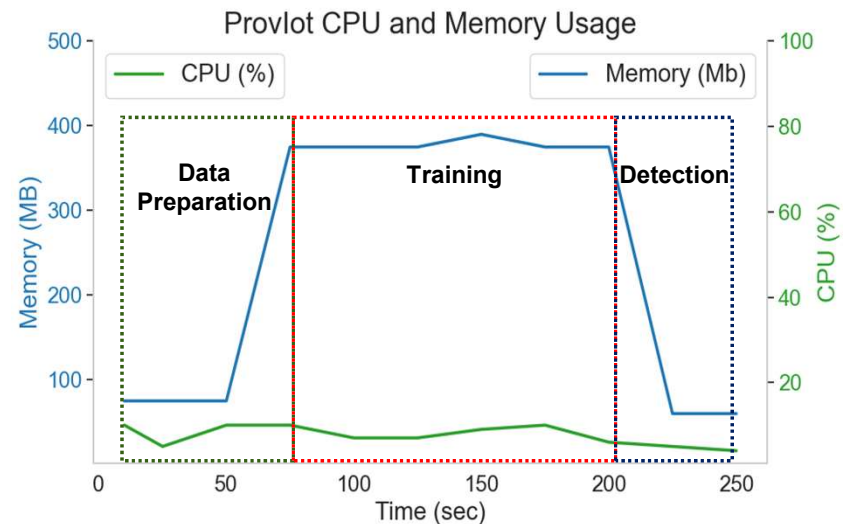
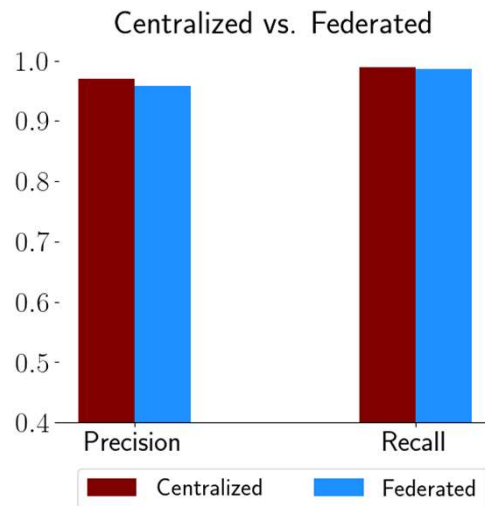
APT Attacks
Attack compliant
with the MITRE
ATT&CK
framework

MITRE
ATT&CK
[Mukherjee '23]





Federated Benefit and Overhead



Performance

Competitive federated performance

Cost

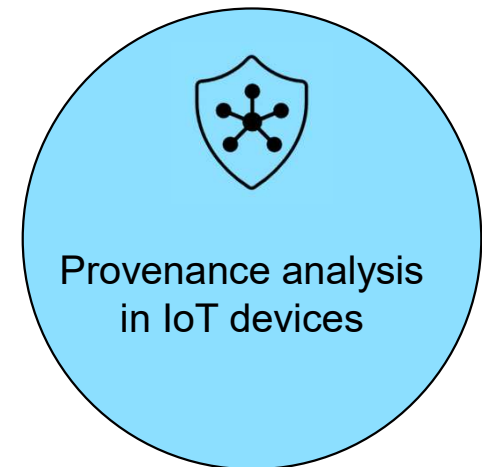
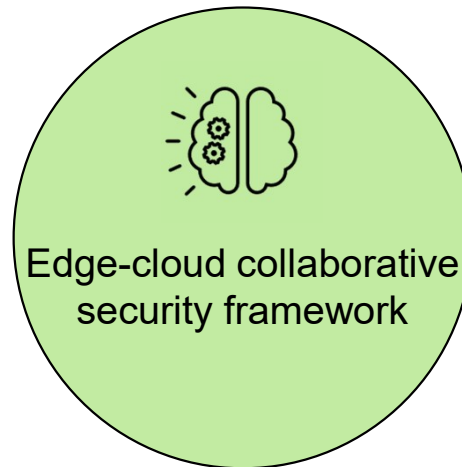
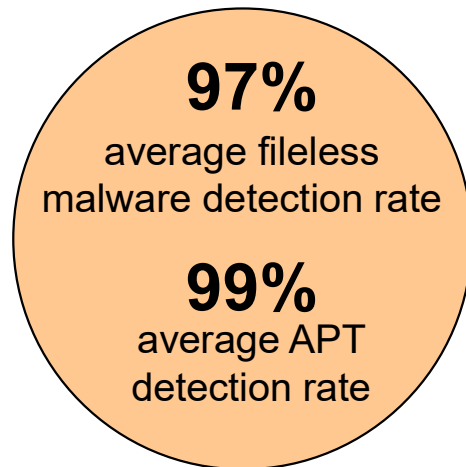
Low data preparation and detection overhead

Flexibility

Adaptive training schedule

Conclusion

ProvloT detects fileless malware in IoT devices **without relying on a central detection server**



THANK YOU

Please forward any questions, comments and future collaboration opportunities to kunal.mukherjee@utdallas.edu



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Backup – Dataset

	Avg. # of causal paths	Avg. # of total vertices / edges	Avg. # of forward vertices / edges	Avg. # of backward vertices / edges
IoT Application				
google	571,052.33	159.0 / 314.0	95.67 / 216.0	63.33 / 98.0
kodi	29,946.89	210.33 / 273.78	149.33 / 176.89	61.0 / 96.89
motion	9,113.0	179.0 / 504.0	5.0 / 4.0	174.0 / 500.0
samba	85,347.0	2,537.0 / 2,857.0	76.4 / 120.8	2,460.6 / 736.2
zeek	494,160.0	2,149.5 / 3,724.5	1,032.5 / 1,124.5	1,117.0 / 2,600.0
average	237,923.84	1,046.97 / 1,534.66	271.78 / 328.44	775.19 / 1,206.22
System Program				
bash	166,355.43	454.25 / 510.76	10.57 / 9.31	443.68 / 501.45
cat	184,346.43	310.51 / 210.9	9.0 / 6.99	301.51 / 203.91
cp	175,636.86	193.42 / 212.7	179.09 / 184.69	14.33 / 28.01
cron	214,827.71	327.16 / 241.85	10.27 / 9.96	316.89 / 231.89
dash	153,808.57	371.87 / 381.97	211.61 / 206.44	160.26 / 175.53
dbus-daemon	156,713.0	20.16 / 20.04	9.02 / 6.42	11.14 / 13.62
dd	213,601.29	995.5 / 1,003.6	551.68 / 501.81	443.82 / 501.79
firefox	176,843.86	194.22 / 504.56	15.84 / 18.78	178.38 / 485.78
grep	212,413.86	191.51 / 502.32	13.51 / 16.43	178.0 / 485.89
java	169,180.71	133.94 / 222.4	17.44 / 19.63	116.5 / 202.77
ls	179,185.86	213.62 / 356.47	10.25 / 9.3	203.37 / 347.17
nginx	258,367.17	514.27 / 514.13	500.76 / 501.26	13.51 / 12.87
perl	809.0	25.01 / 23.22	11.95 / 12.05	13.06 / 11.17
ps	181,846.43	834.01 / 998.14	369.21 / 501.77	464.8 / 496.37
python	161,755.57	365.71 / 348.31	11.51 / 8.14	354.2 / 340.17
rm	174,590.43	452.89 / 440.38	15.06 / 18.5	437.83 / 421.88
service	231.43	18.32 / 21.24	15.32 / 18.55	3.0 / 2.69
sh	208,367.43	445.01 / 851.27	4.16 / 357.78	440.85 / 493.49
smbd	201,559.57	355.37 / 371.15	9.69 / 3.39	345.68 / 367.76
sshd	182,601.57	233.04 / 234.15	9.35 / 6.6	223.69 / 227.55
average	168,652.11	332.49 / 398.48	99.26 / 120.89	233.23 / 277.59

	Avg. # of causal paths	Avg. # of total vertices / edges	Avg. # of forward vertices / edges	Avg. # of backward vertices / edges
IoT Malware				
BASHLITE	110.5	21.0 / 21.0	4.0 / 3.0	17.0 / 18.0
FritzFrog	46,253.8	751.0 / 747.4	248.6 / 246.8	502.4 / 500.6
lizkebab	293.2	29.0 / 33.0	6.0 / 4.0	23.0 / 29.0
randomware	250.4	28.0 / 44.0	8.0 / 12.0	20.0 / 32.0
average	11,726.98	207.25 / 211.35	66.65 / 66.45	140.6 / 144.9
APT Kill Chain Scenario				
Gain Access (S1)	2,789.6	510.6 / 554.8	495.2 / 537.6	15.4 / 17.2
Establish a Foothold (S2)	46,763.75	470.25 / 550.12	398.38 / 429.5	71.88 / 120.62
Deepen Access (S3)	1,192.4	171.0 / 202.6	164.0 / 195.0	7.0 / 7.6
Move Laterally (S4)	27,314.33	97.5 / 116.0	70.17 / 84.83	27.33 / 31.17
Look, Learn and Remain (S5)	20,521.75	928.12 / 983.5	897.38 / 929.62	30.75 / 53.88
average	19,716.37	435.49 / 481.40	405.03 / 435.31	30.47 / 46.09

IoT Malware Detection Result

