# Self-configurable cyber-physical intrusion detection for smart homes using reinforcement learning

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Abstract—The modern Internet of Things (IoT)-based smart home is a challenging environment to secure: devices change, 2 new vulnerabilities are discovered and often remain unpatched. 3 and different users interact with their devices differently and 4 have different cyber risk attitudes. A security breach's impact is 5 not limited to cyberspace, as it can also affect or be facilitated in physical space, for example, via voice. In this environment, intrusion detection cannot rely solely on static models that 8 remain the same over time and are the same for all users. We present MAGPIE, the first smart home intrusion detection 10 system that is able to autonomously adjust the decision function 11 of its underlying anomaly classification models to a smart home's 12 changing conditions (e.g., new devices, new automation rules and 13 14 user interaction with them). The method achieves this goal by applying a novel probabilistic cluster-based reward mechanism 15 to non-stationary multi-armed bandit reinforcement learning. 16 MAGPIE rewards the sets of hyperparameters of its underlying 17 isolation forest unsupervised anomaly classifiers based on the 18 cluster silhouette scores of their output. 19

Experimental evaluation in a real household shows that MAG-20 PIE exhibits high accuracy because of two further innovations: 21 it takes into account both cyber and physical sources of data; 22 and it detects human presence to utilise models that exhibit the 23 highest accuracy in each case. MAGPIE is available in open-24 source format, together with its evaluation datasets, so it can 25 benefit from future advances in unsupervised and reinforcement 26 learning and be able to be enriched with further sources of data 27 as smart home environments and attacks evolve. 28

Index Terms—Intrusion Detection System, Cyber-physical at tacks, Smart Home, Reinforcement Learning.

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

The mass adoption of IoT technology in smart homes has 32 made them attractive targets to cyber threats, from unlocking 33 doors and eavesdropping on occupants through their own cam-34 eras to hijacking voice-controlled personal assistant devices. 35 Commercial trends for protecting against such threats revolve 36 mainly around preventive measures, such as encryption or two-37 factor authentication, but the assumption that these measures 38 are sufficient is not well-grounded [1], as vulnerabilities for 39 IoT devices are discovered and exploited routinely despite 40 them. In environments involving multiple devices of varying 41 levels of trustworthiness and likely inter-dependencies between 42 them, such as those found in smart homes, it makes sense to 43 try to detect security breaches when they occur. 44

Intrusion detection is not new to the IoT [2]. In fact, several solutions have been proposed specifically for smart city and industrial IoT environments [3, 4]. Smart homes, however, present unique challenges with very specific requirements that can make generalist approaches unsuitable. They consist of multiple commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) devices, each often using a different network protocol, sometimes directly connected to the household's Wi-Fi router, other times connected indirectly through a specialised hub, and usually in an encrypted format. Users tend to develop their own automation rules that virtually link otherwise unconnected devices, including external ones, in unpredictable ways.

Furthermore, new vulnerabilities are discovered on a daily basis, and it is unrealistic to expect a smart home intrusion detection system to always be aware of all threats. Additionally, cyber-physical attacks (i.e., cybersecurity breaches that have adverse physical impact in the form of unauthorised, delayed, incorrect or altogether prevented actuation, or in the form of physical privacy breaches [5]) can affect domestic life and a person's behaviour and psychological state in their own home [6]. Different users have different risk attitudes in this context and would wish to configure differently any security measures protecting their smart home. Finally, in most cases, the cost of COTS smart home devices is relatively low, so any added security provision introduced should not itself require expensive equipment to run on.

We have addressed the above requirements by designing and 71 implementing MAGPIE (monitoring against cyberphysical 72 threats), an intrusion detection system (IDS) prototype for 73 smart homes subjected to a variety of cyber-physical security 74 threats, both known and (at the time of execution) unknown. 75 For a smart home IDS to be effective against unknown attacks 76 and in changing conditions, it must be able to adapt. We argue 77 that the configuration of an unsupervised classifier can be 78 adapted continuously via reinforcement learning as it provides 79 dynamic capability to continuously adapt an IDS configuration 80 via conceptualisation of "actions" within a detection adap-81 tation process, guided by learning the relationships between 82 anomalous and normal cyber-physical behaviour in the en-83 vironment. The challenge here is that an unsupervised IDS 84 system cannot know the groundtruth (i.e., whether there really 85 was an attack or not); thus, reinforcement learning cannot re-86 ward a classifier's specific set of hyperparameter values based 87 on the groundtruth. However, in most attacks on a smart home, 88 the less confident a classifier is, the more inaccurate it is in 89 practice. Based on this observation, MAGPIE applies a simple 90 idea for the first time: the reward function of reinforcement 91 learning on an unsupervised classifier's hyperparameters can 92 be based on the classifier's own confidence in its output, 93 as expressed through its cluster silhouette scores. We have 94 tested and confirmed the validity of this idea experimentally. 95

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In addition, MAGPIE introduces three more innovations to 96 ensure its practicality in a household, including taking into 97 account users' risk tolerance, human presence and cyber-98 physical sources of data. In summary, MAGPIE implements 99 the following contributions: 100

• Ability to continuously adapt unsupervised smart home 101 threat detection to changing conditions. MAGPIE self-102 adapts by applying reinforcement learning on the unsuper-103 vised classifier's hyperparameters based on a probabilistic 104 reward function without an a priori model or knowledge of 105 the household configuration. 106

Experimental evaluation with both cyber and physical 107 sources of data. From a threat monitoring perspective, the 108 physical impact of some security breaches constitutes an 109 opportunity because, in conjunction with traditional cyber 110 sources of data, it can provide valuable information about 111 the system's security state. 112

Self-configuration based on automated inference of hu-113 • man presence. In a smart home, the models of what is 114 normal or not depend on human presence. For example, 115 a voice-activated action being triggered when a human is 116 present carries different significance to one triggered in the 117 absence of a human. 118

We provide MAGPIE in open-source format for installation 119 on a low-cost Linux computer, such as a Raspberry PI\*. 120

#### II. RELATED WORK

Traditionally, the vast majority of IoT security research ap-122 plicable to current smart homes has focused on authentication 123 and access control [7, 8, 9]. Lately, there has been a growing 124 body of work tackling the challenge of detection, whether 125 knowledge-based (utilising signatures of known attacks) or 126 behaviour-based (detecting deviation from normal behaviour). 127

#### A. Knowledge-based smart home IDS 128

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Anthi et al. [10] utilised standard machine learning classi-129 fiers, such as naive Bayes, to categorise IoT activity as normal 130 or malicious. The features used were limited to network traffic 131 and were similar to those used for non-IoT traffic, including 132 timestamp, destination IP, protocol and packet size. In [11], 133 the authors specifically classified which types of attacks have 134 occurred based on supervised learning. This information can 135 be very useful for triggering response mechanisms, but it is 136 only applicable for known attacks and requires an extensive 137 period of training under attack conditions (two weeks in the 138 cited paper), which may be impractical for a household's smart 139 home network. 140

Brun et al. [12] focused on detecting attacks on smart home 141 IoT gateways. They employed a deep learning-based approach 142 using dense random neural networks. However, the attacks 143 utilised in the performance evaluation were simple TCP SYN 144 denial of service attacks, which were shown to be almost as 145 easily detectable by a simple threshold detector. Moustafa et 146 al. [13] started with generalist datasets for botnets but enriched 147

them with simulated IoT sensor data. Their learning approach 148 was based on an Adaboost ensemble of decision trees, naive 149 Bayes and artificial neural networks. However, the approach 150 has not been evaluated with actual smart home devices and 151 does not account for changes in usage patterns over time. 152

Nobakht et al. [14] employed a method based on software-153 defined networking technology, specifically OpenFlow, for 154 providing modularity in intrusion detection for smart homes. 155 Their experimental evaluation however was on a single light 156 bulb, and the technique itself was based on known signatures 157 of attacks, which limited its wider potential for large smart 158 home setups or previously unseen attacks. 159

Trimananda et al. [20] addressed the specific challenge of 160 information inference attacks in smart homes. Their tool is 161 able to automatically extract packet-level signatures for device 162 events based only on packet lengths and durations to predict 163 which device is activated. Although very useful in anomaly 164 detection, this approach has not yet been employed in this 165 fashion. Additionally, it is naturally limited to attacks related 166 to the unauthorised activation of devices. 167

B. Behaviour-based smart home IDS

Wan et al. [21] introduced IoTArgos, which in addition 169 to supervised classification of the data communications of 170 different smart home devices, has a "second stage" of detection 171 using unsupervised learning for unknown attacks. This is a 172 meaningful direction and has been evaluated on a wide range 173 of COTS smart home devices. However, the cost of the two 174 detection stages has not been evaluated, and the method does 175 not take into account the presence of the user or the smart 176 home's changing conditions. 177

A very interesting idea was developed in EclipseIoT [22], 178 which in addition to authentication and access control, features 179 an early detection provision based on canary files. These are 180 forged files with enticing names (e.g., "SmartLock.py") placed 181 amongst genuine ones. Modification of a canary file is an 182 indication of unauthorised access.

Procopiou et al. [15] proposed a lightweight algorithm based 184 on forecasting and chaos theory to identify flooding and DDoS 185 attacks launched by compromised smart home devices. For 186 every time-series behaviour collected, a forecast is generated, 187 and the error of the forecast against the actual value is 188 assessed by the Lyapunov exponent to determine if an attack 189 has occurred. The evaluation conducted in NS-3 simulation 190 involved low-rate and flooding attacks, but the method has 191 not been extended beyond availability threats. 192

Novak et al. [16] proposed an intrusion detection technique that focuses on identifying unusually short and unusually long activities based on self-organising maps. While the approach of taking into account the length of activities proved to be useful, it is not sufficient by itself and can lead to considerable false positives.

Ramapatruni et al. [17] employed a hidden Markov model-199 based approach that learns what is normal in a smart home. In 200 terms of context, if the user is recognised as being out (based 201 on their mobile device's Wi-Fi connectivity), then any activity 202 related to doors will result in an abnormal state. A strength of 203

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<sup>\*</sup>The code and datasets used here are provided at https://github.com/isecgreenwich/magpie

IDS	Cyber sources	Physical sources	Self-configuration	Testbed				
[10]	IP	X	X	Laboratory				
[12]	IP	X	X	Laboratory				
[13]	IP	X	X	UNSW-NB 15, NIMS datasets				
[15]	IP	X	X	Simulation				
[16]	ZigBee	X	X	Simulation				
[17]	IP	Sensor readings (HTTP API)	X	Smart home testbed				
[18]	IP	×	X	Laboratory				
[19]	IP, WiFi, BLE	X	X	Laboratory				
[11]	IP	X	X	Smart home testbed				
[20]	IP	X	X	Smart home testbed				
[14]	IP	X	X	Smart home testbed				
[21]	IP	X	X	Smart home testbed				
MAGPIE	Modular (IP, ZigBee, WiFi tested)	Modular (RF, Audio tested)	Continuous*	Real household				
* via RL-based hyperparameter adaptation and Human presence inference								

Table I: Limitations in existing intrusion detection research for IoT and Smart homes Vs. MAGPIE

this work is that it can take into account the traffic generated by several diverse sensors, but it has been evaluated only in simulations in the form of artificial state changes.

Yamauchi et al. [23] expanded consideration of the user by 207 modelling user behaviour as a sequence of events, including 208 the operation of IoT devices and other behaviour monitored 209 by sensors. Their method learns sequences of events for a 210 predefined set of conditions and detects attacks by comparing 211 the sequences of events, including the current operation, with 212 the learned sequences. This work was extended in [18] and 213 compared with a technique based on a hidden Markov model. 214 It was tested on four users using smart home devices, but in a 215 laboratory setting. Naturally, any legitimate behaviour that had 216 not been previously observed would erroneously be flagged as 217 anomalous. 218

#### 219 C. Critique of related work

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We observe that there is a wide variety of machine learning 220 classifiers utilised in the literature, but there has been no 221 emphasis on allowing configuration of intrusion detection 222 beyond the design stage or based on the user's preferences. 223 In addition, existing smart home IDSs have largely ignored 224 the fact that cyber attacks in smart homes have an observable 225 physical impact, which can be useful in detection. Finally, with 226 the exception of [23], human presence has not been taken into 227 account in smart home IDS research, although normal IoT 228 device and network activity differ when the users are at home 229 versus when they are not. In Table I, we provide an overview 230 of the existing literature on intrusion detection approaches and 231 MAGPIE, and in the following sections, we present, in detail, 232 how MAGPIE addresses all four limitations. 233

#### III. MAGPIE DESIGN

Figure 1 summarises the MAGPIE architecture. Its *collection phase* captures and decodes the data coming from cyber (computation, communication) or physical feeds (e.g., audio, signal strength). It can dynamically activate or deactivate interfaces and decode the corresponding raw feeds, such as sensor readings or network datagrams.

Smart homes generate large volumes of usually encrypted
data [24] that may differ considerably between different environments. In the *transcription phase*, MAGPIE considers only
meta-data that are consistent across different smart homes.
We argue that alternative approaches, such as authenticated

and encrypted device API queries or passive interception 246 of content with decryption keys, would render the defence 247 mechanism a single point of failure and a target for attack. 248 Moreover, by reading only smart home network communica-249 tion flow meta-data, MAGPIE is better positioned to preserve 250 privacy. MAGPIE extracts meta-data streams (MDS) based on 251 specific interface datastream parsing logic (e.g., communica-252 tion/application/sensor protocol) (Figure 2). Rolling window-253 based parser extraction and buffering allow appropriate per-254 formance and volume of data samples for processing. After 255 aggregating, statistical information on the extracted meta-data 256 features, such as the mean, standard deviation, min and max 257 of sample frequency, content/message type, size, length, delay 258 and flow direction, is considered. We define the delay meta-259 data feature as the inter-arrival rate in milliseconds between 260 packets/frames for the same source-destination message type 261 pairs. 262

Table II shows the volume and inter-arrival rate for samples 263 collected in a 5-min window in our smart home testbed during 264 periods of relatively low occupant activity with an aggregate 265 average sample inter-arrival rate of 0.49 s and average sample 266 volume of 3456, with extremes of under 1 ns between input 267 samples in some cases. On the basis of these observations, 268 it is clear that analysis on datastream samples in real time, 269 without windowing and buffering, is impractical on a resource-270 constrained platform. Moreover, it may prove impractical to 271 offload such volumes of data due to file size, upstream network 272 bandwidth saturation and throttling [25]. 273

Table II: Datastream sample inter-arrival time in seconds with no smart home occupant present (5-min capture)

Datastream	Samples	Avg.	Min	Max	Stdev.
IP	569	0.5369	0.00002	4.0338	0.9539
WiFi	3555	0.0892	0.0008	0.2048	0.1023
Sound	12465	0.0240	0.0121	0.0718	0.0146
Zigbee	390	0.7848	0.0002	5.3879	1.3882
RF	300	1	1	1	0

As part of windowing, a synchronised "end of window" 274 datastream buffer is the stage where a parsing instance should 275 initiate feature extraction, interpolation, discretisation and gen-276 eration of statistical data (Figure 2). The datastream window in 277 the buffer is then forwarded to a parsing logic and interpolation 278 phase, where meta-data extraction and feature interpolation 279 are performed on raw datastreams and are enumerated with 280 protocol mapping identifiers (e.g., addressing, data type). The 281



Figure 1: The MAGPIE architecture



Figure 2: Parsing datastreams with variable inter-arrival rate

output is the MDS window feed, which is forwarded for 282 storage to the MDS datastore to fuse data points across all 283 MDS datastreams into an aggregated sample (aMDS). The 284 datastore serves as a data historian for anomaly detection 285 training (e.g., concept discovery) and captures snapshots of 286 MDS data samples used in reinforcement learning-based adap-287 tation (Section III-A). The aMDS fusion extracts common 288 statistical features across all MDS feeds, which are later used 289 to train a presence inference function within the smart home. 290 The aMDS dataset combines common features across MDS 291 feeds to generate a single feature-vector sample per window 292 t for presence inference (whilst each MDS can have different 293 sample rates for t) by omitting source-destination address and 294 message type pairs for network data sources and compressing 295 some physical MDS input. The average, mode, cumulative sum 296 and standard deviation metrics are obtained for each feature 297 extracted across each MDS feed. 298

The real-time threat monitoring latency is the window 299 buffering latency plus the reasoning engine's prediction la-300 tency. All received MDS feeds are processed, interpolated, 301 normalised and scaled in real time during each monitoring 302 window interval. This process provides the required feature 303 structures for concept discovery training data to learn "normal" 304 behaviour and generate an independent anomaly detection 305 model for each interface. Note that the complexity of the 306 MAGPIE transcription phase is variable based on the cyber 307 or physical data source, the sample rate and whether the data 308 source is connection-oriented. For example, for network data 309 sources (IP, WiFi, ZigBee), the computational complexity of 310 the end-to-end parsing logic and interpolation is  $O(n^{\delta})$ , where 311

n is the number of samples (or data set size) per window t312 and  $\delta$  represents the computation of distinct source-destination 313 pairs by connection address, port and message type. For 314 physical data sources (RF and Audio), the computational 315 complexity is O(n). For training, the individual linear time 316 complexity for each isolation forest model is  $O(\zeta \psi \log \psi)$  [26]. 317 During real-time detection, the computational complexity of 318 each isolation forest model is  $O(n\zeta \log \psi)$ . From a technical 319 implementation perspective, MAGPIE's processing efficiency 320 is achieved by running parallel transcription processes for each 321 data source and anomaly model. During the course of testing 322 on a Raspberry Pi3, on average, the transcription phase did 323 not exceed 1 s for each monitoring window t or 2.5 s for 324 the end-to-end processing phases (collection, transcription and 325 reasoning) at peak loads across five data sources. 326

#### A. Reasoning

MAGPIE employs (i) real-time unsupervised anomaly detection, (ii) adaptation based on reinforcement learning, and (iii) model selection based on human presence inference.

1) Unsupervised anomaly detection: The first building 331 block of MAGPIE's reasoning is the real-time detection of 332 anomalies on individual interfaces. Here, supervised machine 333 learning techniques are impractical because attack dataset 334 labelling is unlikely to apply across households with different 335 system configurations and different automation rules defined 336 by their users. Let us consider the general case of an MDS 337 feed  $k \in [1, K]$  monitored during time window t. 338

During that time window, M samples are collected, A339 of which are classified by an anomaly detection process 340 as abnormal and N of which are classified as normal, for 341 example, based on an isolation forest [26] classifier, one-class 342 support vector machines [27] or support vector data description 343 [28]. We denote by  $A_t$  (resp.  $N_t$ ) the number of *abnormal* 344 (resp. normal), according to MAGPIE, samples investigated 345 during time window t. Therefore, regardless of the choice of 346 anomaly classifier used, for each MDS feed k in window t, we 347 denote by  $A_{k,t}$  (resp.  $N_{k,t}$ ) the number of anomalous (resp. 348 normal) samples found in feed k during time t. We then define 349 the anomaly ratio  $p_{k,t}$  as  $p_{k,t} = \frac{A_t}{A_t + N_t}$ . 350

Extending this approach across all feeds, we derive an aggregate *anomaly score*  $a_t$  for time window t. We have



(a) All models  $p_t$  equal or 1 model (b) Variable  $p_t$  across all models  $\geq 0.1$  with all others = 0

Figure 3: q parameter anomaly score bias example

chosen

$$a_{t} = \left(\frac{\sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{k,t}^{q}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{k,t}}\right)^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$$
(1)

This transformation is required because different data 351 sources can exhibit highly variable behaviour, and a single 352 source's anomaly score is not a reliable means for determining 353 an attack state. As described in [29], a simple approach, such 354 as a weighted sum, cannot deliver reliable results because in-355 dividual anomaly scores are typically contradictory. Therefore, 356 we use the aggregate anomaly score  $a_t$  to address skewness. 357 As square roots are commonly used for left skewness while 358 cube roots are used for right skewness, the introduction of 359 q allows for flexibility in the transformation. In practice, the 360 control parameter q configures a higher, lower or balanced 361 anomaly score bias across the ensemble. Favouring higher or 362 lower scoring bias, however, can have an adverse effect on 363 the anomaly score threshold  $\theta$  defined by the smart home 364 occupants for when to report a suspected attack. For exam-365 ple, in Figure 3, we demonstrate how an ensemble of five 366 data sources, as in our experiments, can affect the detection 367 accuracy if the user has defined a specific  $\theta$  when q is too 368 low or too high. For the top graph in Figure 3, for each 369 aggregate score  $a_t$  (where all models are equal to the same 370  $p_t$ , or one model  $p_t > 0$  with all other models  $p_t = 0$ ), we 371 show that depending on the user's defined  $\theta$ , the value of q 372 results in higher false positives or false negatives. For balanced 373 accuracy, in this case, q = 3 is an optimal configuration for 374 an ensemble of five anomaly models. In the bottom graph in 375 Figure 3, we provide three general cases with variable anomaly 376 model ratio scores  $p_t$ . If an occupant defines  $\theta = 0.3$  as 377 their attack threshold, then q = 2 would result in more false 378 positives, while q = 5 would result in more false negatives. 379 Thus, a middle-ground q parameter is preferable (again, in this 380 example with five models, q = 3). Consequently, q must be 381 increased or decreased as the number of data sources changes 382 (where a minimum of two data sources, e.g., cyber + physical, 383 is assumed and  $K \ge 2$ ). In our experiments, we found that a 384 middle-ground value, i.e.,  $q = \left\lceil \frac{K}{2} \right\rceil$ , is appropriate and can be 385 set automatically. 386

As  $p_{k,t} \in [0, 1]$ , this conveniently ensures that  $a_t \in [0, 1]$ . Thus, according to (1), the higher the  $q \in [2, \inf]$  is, the more important one abnormal feed is to the overall anomaly score. As discussed, we have found experimentally that q = 3provides a good balance between ensuring that the overall score does not unduly fluctuate between excessively high values caused by small numbers of anomalous MDS feeds (e.g., one cyber and one physical interface) or excessively low values caused by large numbers of normal MDS feeds (e.g., ten cyber/physical interface). Thus, for simplicity, equation

(1) becomes 
$$a_t = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{k_t}^3}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} p_{k_t}}}$$
.

Finally, the anomaly score is interpreted as an overall monitoring state  $S_t$  for the smart home, abnormal (if  $a_t > \theta$ ) or normal (if  $a_t < \theta$ ), based on an anomaly score *threshold* 400  $\theta \in [0, 1]$ , which is selected by the occupants. 401

In practice,  $\theta$  is a threshold that represents the *risk profile* 402 of the household. For example, a very high value, such as 403  $\theta = 0.9$ , would mean that the household would not want 404 to be warned unless there are multiple strong indications of 405 anomalies (risk-seeking profile). Intuitively, this is a household 406 that would prefer to minimise false positives at the expense 407 of a greater number of false negatives. In MAGPIE, a global 408  $\theta$  threshold represents a single configuration parameter that 409 occupants configure for attack detection. While model-specific 410  $\theta$  definitions would increase the flexibility and control for the 411 user, it would also increase the configuration complexity. First, 412 users would require technical expertise to determine which 413  $\theta$  to use for each data source, as it is unrealistic to assume 414 a priori knowledge on the mapping between which  $\theta$  values 415 would bias one source over another. Furthermore, considering 416 a preference for cyber or physical attack detection in cyber-417 physical IDS, it may be ineffective to define specific  $\theta$  values 418 that bias one cyber or physical source over another, specifically 419 because attacks against either may be initiated via cyber 420 or physical space [5]. By comparison, a global  $\theta$  definition 421 specifies a required threshold for an aggregate anomaly alert 422 to be considered significant enough to be a substantive attack, 423 regardless of whether the attack source is cyber or physical. 424

Further, to improve the processing of MDS samples as<br/>timeseries data, a sliding window of MDS samples is defined<br/>per MDS feed. The sliding window enables the anomaly score<br/>ratio calculation to take into account a previous window (or<br/>windows) of MDS activity.425<br/>426

2) Adaptation based on reinforcement learning: A newly 430 installed smart home's dataset is typically free from con-431 tamination. After some time, however, the MDS datastore 432 is likely to contain adversarial data samples from historic 433 attacks or compromised devices. Therefore, it is important to 434 adapt the learning process to cope with adversarial datapoints. 435 This requirement is addressed naturally in certain unsupervised 436 learning approaches through the application of contamination 437 hyperparameters that adjust the decision threshold used for 438 anomaly detection. Furthermore, what is considered normal in 439 a household can change continuously as devices are added, 440 removed or updated and as people add or remove automation 441 rules or simply change how they use the devices. Therefore, 442 changes in the datastream distribution require continuous adap-443 tation of the anomaly detection threshold. Concept discovery 444 is unique for each smart home, even for households with 445 identical smart home configurations, because the network, 446 sensor and actuation activity depends on the human factor 447 [30]. Therefore, an unsupervised anomaly detection model 448



Figure 4: MAGPIE's reinforcement learning for threat detection re-configuration



Figure 5: MAGPIE Reasoning Engine overview

developed for one smart home is not portable to another. 449 As it is generally infeasible to obtain a priori knowledge 450 of the correct contamination level, we propose the use of 451 reinforcement learning to continuously update the anomaly 452 classifier's hyperparameters. 453

The reinforcement learning mechanism in MAGPIE re-454 cursively explores and exploits detection reward feedback 455 across different anomaly classifier configurations, where a 456 single action-state (i.e., the anomaly classifier hyperparameter 457 configuration) is selected during each step. The process treats 458 the continuous capture and analysis of each MDS snapshot 459 as an adversarial multi-armed bandit (MAB) environment 460 [31, 32] because the composition of an individual dataset 461 snapshot collected and analysed by MAGPIE (e.g., in terms of 462 volume and data points) is continuously changing during real-463 time operation. This approach enables the anomaly detection 464

to adapt to previously unseen data and to identify legitimate 465 changes that occur in the environment that are expected to 466 stabilise over time, whereas attack anomalies remain distinct 467 because of their sparse occurrences. 468

For each MAB iteration, we define a probabilistic reward 469 feedback based on the cluster silhouette scores of the anomaly 470 detection results generated for each analysed dataset snapshot. 471 In practice, the reinforcement learning process rewards the 472 action-states (e.g., bandit arms) that reduce uncertainty in its 473 own decision. Below, we describe the bandit environment, 474 action-state parameters and reward generation algorithm: 475

[Bandit environment]: Defined as an adversarial bandit 476 [33], where for each MAB action-state parameter iteration 1 477 to N (where N is the step horizon for a bandit episode), MDS 478 data snapshot  $i \in [J]$  is selected at random, and [J] is the set 479 containing all current MDS feed datastore snapshots. 480

[Action-state parameter]: The bandit arms are defined by 481 the anomaly model contamination hyperparameter  $\chi$ , which 482 corresponds to the proportion of outliers in snapshot i used 483 for anomaly modelling. The  $\chi$  hyperparameter controls the 484 anomaly detection decision threshold based on the anomaly 485 detection classifier. For example, for our MAGPIE implemen-486 tation,  $\chi$  controls the decision threshold of an isolation forest 487 classifier based on the decision function described in [26]. 488

[MAB reward generation algorithm 1)]: The reward logic 489 is as follows: for a given window  $t \in [1, T]$ , each MAB iter-490 ation corresponds to a given action-state (i.e., contamination 491 hyperparameter)  $\chi$ . We define  $a_{t,\chi}$  as the anomaly score value 492 of time window t for a contamination hyperparameter  $\chi$ , and 493 we denote  $\vec{a}_{\chi}$  as the vector of all anomaly scores for  $\chi$  for all 494 the different time windows t. 495

Next, using K-means clustering with the Euclidean distance, we generate two clusters that contain higher and lower anomaly scores. We define the reward value  $R_{\chi,i}$  for snapshot i 498 as the silhouette score from the dataset clusters that represents 499 a measure of cluster similarity.

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Figure 4 shows a high-level illustration of the reinforce-501 ment learning role. During real-time operation, 1) the cur-502 rent anomaly model's configured detection threshold classifies 503

ALGORITHM 1: Algorithm for IDS RL Reward
<b>Input</b> : Anomaly scores produced by $\chi$ for each
window in dataset $i (a_{t,\chi})$
<b>Output:</b> MAB reward value $R_{\chi,i}$
1 Function MABReward:
2 for $t \in [1,T]$ do
$3     \vec{A}_{\chi} \leftarrow a_{t,\chi} ;$
4 end
5 $k = 2;$
6 $\vec{C}_{\chi} = \text{KMeans}(\vec{A}_{\chi}, k)$ ;
7 $R_{\chi,i} = \text{Silhouette}(\vec{C}_{\chi});$
8 return $R_{\chi,i}$ ;
End Function

MDS samples during each monitoring window t. Depending 504 on either the number of samples collected or the time delta 505 between collection periods, 2) MDS sample snapshots (e.g., 506 M samples across K feeds) are sent to a "MAB RL" function 507 to determine anomaly model hyperparameter  $\chi$  based on 508 the newly updated data sample of recent and historic MDS 509 samples. Once the updated MDS samples are processed by the 510 "MAB RL" function, 3) the model configuration computed by 511 the RL process is issued as an updated model configuration 512  $(\chi)$  for real-time anomaly detection. This process enables the 513 anomaly model configuration to adapt its detection threshold 514 via the RL process to respond to changes in the MDS data 515 sample distribution and to discover previously unidentified 516 threats. 517

<sup>518</sup> Figure 5 shows the reinforcement learning process.

**Real-time detection.** During each detection window t, 519 following collection and transcription processing (1.1), the 520 presence inference layer classifies the aMDS sample to 521 determine the presence inference state (1.2) and then selects 522 the most appropriate anomaly detection model to use for 523 each subsequent MDS sample forwarded in the window 524 (1.3). The user's risk threshold  $\theta$  is used to compute the 525 window's aggregated anomaly score by means of formula 526 (1).527

Continuous RL adaptation. Once the sample input thresh-528 old (which is defined by the sample data size or time delta) 529 is met, the received MDS samples are stored as a snapshot 530 consisting of n windows in the MDS datastore set [J] (2.1). 531 MDS samples are selected at random during each MAB 532 arm iteration. During each trial (2.2), each MDS model is 533 trained with contamination hyperparameter  $\chi$  (i.e., the MAB 534 action-state parameter), with the MDS dataset excluding the 535 randomly selected MDS snapshot i (i.e., the non-stationary 536 bandit environment). Snapshot i is then used as test data for 537 the trained anomaly model, producing an array of anomaly 538 scores for each window in the snapshot, where the reward 539  $R_{\chi,i}$  is computed by the reward Algorithm 1. Once the 540 number of predefined RL trials has been reached, the  $\chi$ 541 hyperparameter "tuned" model is selected for use in the 542 real-time anomaly detection process. The RL process is re-543

initiated once a new snapshot is stored.

To estimate the reliability of MAGPIE's reward mechanism, 545 in section V, we experimentally evaluate two popular MAB 546 algorithms that are commonly applied in non-stationary and 547 adversarial bandit problems against a random selection method 548 and compare their the cumulative average regret, cumulative 549 average reward and average regret. We then proceed to estab-550 lish the quality of the arm ( $\chi$ ) selection for the optimal bandit 551 method using a fixed step horizon and evaluate the selection by 552 generating an AUC-ROC model score for the corresponding 553 isolation forest anomaly classifier configurations. 554

Monitor state and source detection - The state and source variables are intended to inform the household of whether the smart home is subject to anomalous behaviour after computing the detection score (e.g., under attack), as well as the MDS feeds with the highest anomaly score, which is indicative of the utilised attack vector (e.g., IP network, Zigbee network). 560

3) Human presence inference: Certain smart home system 561 activity is observed irrespective of occupant presence. For 562 example, a voice-controlled home assistant sends a continuous 563 keep alive IP packet to the cloud regardless of whether 564 occupants are using it. Other cases of system activity would be 565 unusual if no human is present. For example, consider the case 566 where network traffic from a ZigBee motion sensor increases 567 dramatically or a voice command is activated even though no 568 one is home. Therefore, it may make sense to train different 569 machine learning models for the two cases of presence and no 570 presence. Human presence inference can be based on a simple 571 manual process, where occupants set it manually when they go 572 to sleep or leave home, or it can be performed automatically 573 before anomaly detection to select the machine learning model 574 that corresponds to the presence state identified. 575

#### IV. PROTOTYPE IMPLEMENTATION AND SETUP

We have evaluated our prototype implementation by inte-577 grating it within the smart home of a real household with 578 three members. Figure 6 shows the layout of the devices, 579 which are described in Table IV, referenced by number ID 580 in Figure 6, and accompanied by the smart home automation 581 rules specified by the household, which are summarised in 582 Table V. The setup includes a common home Internet router 583 (2) with a WiFi LAN for WiFi-enabled devices (3-7, 13) and 584 a ZigBee gateway (8) for Zigbee devices (9-12) connected to 585 the home router via Ethernet. Remote connectivity to WiFi and 586 ZigBee devices is facilitated by respective cloud services via 587 the Internet. MAGPIE (1) collects all local and Internet traffic 588 traversing the home router via an Ethernet SPAN port. Its WiFi 589 and ZigBee interfaces passively monitor WiFi and Zigbee 590 network frames on their configured RF channels. The software 591 defined radio (SDR) interface captures spectrum readings in 592 the respective WiFi and ZigBee 2.4 GHz ranges. MAGPIE's 593 microphone is directly connected via USB. An adversary 594 within wireless range of the smart home can execute ZigBee 595 and WiFi attacks using an attack laptop, SDR peripherals and 596 ZigBee antennas with customised firmware. The adversary can 597 also target the smart home remotely via compromised cloud 598 services or via command and control of compromised devices. 599 See Table IX for a list and descriptions of the attacks. 600

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Figure 6: Smart home testbed for MAGPIE prototype experiments

Table III: Live capture sample dataset statistics

		1	<u> </u>
Dataset	Mean length	Attack States*	Stdev
45 x Normal	713.7 s	N/A	N/A
10 x A1	36.4 s	.524	0.007
10 x A2	39 s	.542	0.051
10 x A3	25.2 s	.527	0.038
10 x A4	37.8 s	.526	0.018
10 x A5	27.6 s	.572	0.033
10 x A6	25.6 s	.551	0.054
10 x A7	29.2 s	.615	0.283

\* Average ratio of attack to normal states during attacks

Figure 7 presents the MAGPIE prototype's technical 601 schematic. Each MAGPIE interface (1: Ethernet, 2: ZigBee 602 antenna, 3: WiFi antenna, 4. Microphone, 5: SDR RF scanner) 603 has individual data collection and parser processes managed 604 by a window synchronisation daemon to forward all MDS 605 datastreams to a message queue (ZMQ publisher) based on a 606 defined time window. The ZMQ message queue forwards each 607 MDS datastream to a datastore. Then, MDS pre-processing 608 subscribers pull each MDS datastream from the ZMQ message 609 queue, preprocess and forward the prepared MDS feature 610 vectors to each respective MDS Isolation Forest model for 611 anomaly detection and aggregated threat detection output. In 612 parallel, the aMDS feed is forwarded to the random forest 613 presence classifier for presence model selection. MAB RL 614 adapted isolation forest models are trained, stored in the 615 datastore and then loaded into the anomaly model selection 616 and detection process after every MAB RL iteration. 617

The behaviour of occupants in the testbed and their inter-618 actions with the smart home devices and automation rules 619 was allowed to occur naturally, with the addition of some 620 requested actions to ensure that all automation rules or devices 621 were activated during data collection. Training data collection 622 was conducted intermittently during a 1-month period. The 623 locations of the MAGPIE prototype and IoT devices remained 624 static, with the exception of the mobile and tablet devices, 625 which moved with the occupants using them. In total, there 626 were 45 normal data collection runs with an average length of 627 713.7 s each and 70 attack data collection runs with an average 628 length of 31.5 s each. In Table III, we provide summary 629 statistics related to the datasets collected during the 1-month 630 experiment. 631

#### A. Cyber-physical meta-data features in the smart home

In Table VI, we present each of the cyber-physical MDS 633 feeds and the corresponding features collected. Further sta-634 tistical flow information, such as sample frequency, average 635 and standard deviation metrics, are added during parsing. We 636 utilise tshark's display filter at run-time for standard input into 637 the MDS parser, applying only regex operations to input data. 638 Note that for physical data sources such as audio and radio 639 frequency spectrum, we utilise custom (a python application) 640 and open-source libraries (rx\_power from rx\_tools [34]) for 641 feature collection. On the testbed, we apply the following 642 constraints based on observation: 643

- WiFi data frames are redundant and ignored as they pro-644 vide the network footprint, which is already monitored 645 in encapsulated IP packets. WiFi "Request/Clear to Send" 646 control frames are ignored as these are mainly used to avoid 647 hidden-node collisions. Therefore, only WiFi management 648 frames, which can be exploited to disrupt or infiltrate a WiFi 649 network, are monitored. 650
- ZigBee sensors and actuators, with the exception of coor-65 dinator nodes (e.g., gateways), use dynamic network ad-652 dressing. Therefore, all non-coordinator nodes are addressed 653 using the same numerical value. This does not impact the 654 ability to model anomalous ZigBee patterns as sensor and 655 actuators generate a fairly predictable network footprint. 656
- Radio frequency spectrum analysis covers the 2.4 GHz 657 frequency band for 802.11G and ZigBee, which can also include Bluetooth and other 802.15.4 wireless protocols. 659

1) Risk-based unsupervised threat monitoring with reinforcement learning adaptation:

• Isolation forest anomaly detection. We have opted to im-662 plement unsupervised anomaly detection using the isolation 663 forest algorithm in Python with the Scikit Learn library 664 [35]. It performs anomaly detection by isolating sample 665 data points through random feature selection and value 666 splitting, selecting a random value between the maximum 667 and minimum bounds of a data sample feature. No prior 668 assumptions are made regarding the distribution of feature 669 values. Therefore, randomised feature splitting is effective 670 for hybrid feature-sets of both continuous and categorical 671

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ID	Device Type	Interface	Description
1	MAGPIE prototype	ZigBee, WiFi, RF, Audio, Ethernet (IP)	Raspberry PI 3 "MAGPIE-enabled" prototype
2	WiFi router	WiFi 802.11G, Ethernet (IP)	Vodafone Broadband home router
3	Home assistant	WiFi (IP)	Amazon Echo voice-controlled home assistant connected to WiFi router
4,5	Smart lightbulb	WiFi	LIFX smart light bulb connected to WiFi router & Amazon Echo via Cloud
6	Smart camera	WiFi (IP)	Somfy Protect smart camera connected to WiFi router & IFTTT via Cloud
7	Tablet	WiFi	Samsung S2 tablet connected to WiFi router
8	Smart hub	Ethernet (IP), ZigBee, Zwave	SmartThings hub connected nodes via ZigBee & WiFi router via Ethernet (IP)
9	Motion sensor	ZigBee	SmartThings motion sensor connected to smart hub via ZigBee
10	Smart outlet	ZigBee	SmartThings power outlet connected to smart hub via ZigBee & Amazon Echo via Cloud
11	Presence	ZigBee	SmartThings presence sensor key chain dongle connected to smart hub via ZigBee
12	Multi-purpose sensor	ZigBee	SmartThings multi-purpose sensor connected to smart hub via ZigBee
13	Smart phone	WiFi, Cellular (3/4G)	Connected to WiFi router (external connectivity to smart home control software via 3/4G)

Table IV: Smart home testbed devices and network connectivity



Figure 7: MAGPIE prototype technical schematic

Table V: Smart Home testbed automation integration and rules

Trigger Platform	Action	WAS	Antecedent
Amazon Echo Amazon Echo	Voice trigger command Voice trigger command	IFTTT Alexa Skills	Somfy Protect actuation LIFX bulb actuation
Amazon Echo	Voice trigger command	Alexa Skills	Outlet actuation
SmartThings	Mobile app "On" button	SmartThings	Outlet actuation
SmartThings	Door-open detection	SmartThings	SmartThings Multi-sensor
Amazon Echo	Motion sensor detection	IFTTT	Somfy Protect Arm/Disarm
LIFX	Mobile app "Bulb" button	LIFX	LIFX bulb actuation

WAS: Workflow Automation Service

Table VI: MAGPIE prototype data feeds and meta-data stream (MDS) features

Data feed	Input	Base Features
IPv4 (TCP/IP) pkts	С	src*, dest*, port, pkt type, pkt sz, ttl*, pkt delay, flow dir*.
WiFi 802.11 frames	C+P	src*, dest*, port, frame type, frame sz, rssi, frame delay
ZigBee (802.15.4) pkts	С	src*, dest*, pkt type, pkt sz, pkt delay
Microphone audio	Р	rms frequency threshold, rms
RF (2.4GHz) Spectrum	Р	† dB power level (per frequency bin)

C = Cyber, P = Physical, \*aMDS: not used, † aMDS: Avg/Stdev of all bins

data, as is the case with MDS feeds. The recursive feature 672 partitioning represents a tree structure, whereby the number 673 of times a feature is split to isolate a sample follows a 674 traditional tree path length from the root to a terminating 675 node. The average tree path length represents the decision 676 function used to classify observations as normal or anoma-677 lous [26]. For each MDS feed generated, an independent 678 feed-specific isolation forest model is created. Together, the 679

forests form an ensemble of models used to produce an aggregate anomaly score during each monitoring window. 681 · Adversarial multi-armed bandit reinforcement learning. 682 MAGPIE models threat detection adaptation in a smart 683 home as an adversarial bandit environment based on the 684 premise that what is normal behaviour (e.g., devices, net-685 work traffic, user interaction) may frequently change in 686 a smart home. Therefore, MAGPIE trains its RL-based 687 anomaly classifiers on a continuously changing series of 688 collected dataset snapshots. At each time step, for each 689 arm pull (i.e., isolation forest  $\chi$  hyperparameter selection), 690 the smart home bandit chooses at random a dataset to test. 691 Therefore, on the basis of algorithm 1, the distribution of 692 reward  $R_{\chi,i}$  for each action state arm is drawn from an 693 i.i.d. distribution based on randomly selected MDS dataset 694 snapshots. In this case, as each arm's reward distribution

695 changes at random in the adversarial bandit environment, 696 the EXP3 (exponential-weight algorithm for exploration and 697 exploitation [33, 36]) algorithm is a natural and suitable 698 choice to establish the optimal  $\chi$  configuration for the 699 isolation forest. For comparison against EXP3, we also 700 select a non-stationary sliding-window based UCB (upper-701 confidence bound) algorithm [37], where the reward policy 702 is weighted according to a constant step size used to update 703 the reward estimate (we defined a step size of 0.1, which 704 moves the agents estimate 10% closer to the most recent 705 observed reward). UCB is a popular choice for traditional 706 stationary MAB reinforcement learning problems, achieving 707

	MAB Algorithm	Parameters					
	EXP3 Non-stationary UCB1	$\gamma = 0.1$ , arms* = 10, iters.†=6000 exploration (C) = 2, $\lambda = 0.1$ , arms* = 10, iters.†=6000					
*hyperparameter configurations, † action-step horizon							

Table VII: EXP3 and non-stationary UCB1 MAB parameters

Table VIII: MAGPIE prototype *Reasoning Engine* model configuration parameters

Algorithm	Isolation Forest
Trees $(\zeta)$	200 (per MDS model)
Sub-sampling $(\psi)$	250 (per MDS model)
Bootstrap	Sampling without replacement
Max Features	All features (randomly selected per split)
Contamination $(\chi)$	Bins = 0.001, 0.002, 0.005, 0.01, 0.2, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 0.7
θ	0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9

Presence inference (Supervised learning)

Algorithm	Random Forest
Trees $(\zeta)$	100
Sub-sampling $(\psi)$	250 (per MDS model)
Max Depth	15
Bootstrap	Sampling without replacement
Max Features	Auto (max features= $\sqrt{f}eatures$ )
$\theta$	0.3, 0.5, 0.7
Detection adaptat	ion (Reinforcement learning) configuration
Algorithm	EXP3 (y=0.1, 6000 step-horizon)

MAB Arms	10 - (Contamination $\chi$ Bins)
Presence	1 (Activity), 0 (No activity)
Reward metric	As per section III-A
Algorithm	EAPS ( $\gamma$ =0.1, 6000 step-norizon)

logarithmic regret for the number of actions/arm pulls (in 708 this case,  $\chi$  parameters) selected over time [38], where 709 regret refers to the expected decrease in reward gained 710 during execution of the learning algorithm instead of acting 711 optimally [39]. In other words, the regret is the difference 712 between the reward of a given policy (i.e., the learning 713 algorithm) and that of the optimal static policy in hindsight. 714 In this case, to adjust to stochastic, non-stationary bandit 715 behaviour, a discounting factor ( $\lambda$ ) based on a step-size 716 sliding window is applied to a UCB1 policy reward estimate. 717 The EXP3 and non-stationary UCB1 implementations were 718 adapted from the bandit algorithms developed in [40] and 719 [41], respectively. In Table VII, we summarise the config-720 uration parameters for the EXP3 and non-stationary UCB1 721 algorithms. 722

2) Human presence inference: In our implementation, the 723 presence of people is detected with a supervised random forest 724 (RF) classifier using ground-truth labels defined by the user, 725 as RF is commonly used for lightweight machine learning in 726 the IoT [42]. Other lightweight supervised machine learning 727 classifiers are similarly useful. Labelling of aMDS data sam-728 ples (user presence (1)/no user presence (0)) is pre-configured 729 for the initial training of the prototype during the start-up 730 learning phase. Subsequent training requires users to actively 731 inform MAGPIE of the time periods in which they are actively 732 present in the household (unsupervised presence inference is 733 outside the scope of the prototype development). We define a 734 simplified household environment for presence inference based 735 on whether occupants are actively or passively interacting with 736 the smart home network. By observing the behaviour of a sub-737

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sample of collected aMDS data points (Figure 8), we see a distinguishable impact of presence and no presence for most datastreams. However, aside from other physical sources, basic sound measurements as a feature may be problematic in the face of an audio injection attack. We evaluate this impact on automated presence inference in section V-A, where we also assess overall detection results, showing that presence 744

#### B. Smart home cyber-physical attack vectors

inference helps increase accuracy.

We have subjected our testbed to attacks targeting WiFi, 747 ZigBee and voice-enabled home assistant communication tech-748 nologies, as well as corresponding smart home device control 749 software and third-party apps, all of which are commonly 750 deployed within today's smart home environments. WiFi is 751 currently the primary connectivity medium in most smart 752 homes, not only for device-to-device communication but also 753 as a network gateway to the cloud services on which most 754 smart home devices rely. ZigBee is a low-powered wireless 755 medium that provides energy-efficient connectivity for low-756 resource devices that connect to more capable control gate-757 ways (e.g., ZigBee hub with Ethernet or WiFi backhaul). How-758 ever, it has limited bandwidth for data communication (250 759 kbit/s per channel in the 2.4 GHz band used in the testbed). 760 Security-wise, the speaker-microphone pair of a voice-enabled 761 home assistant is typically an unmonitored communication 762 link, which has been shown to be vulnerable to exploitation 763 [44]. Smart home devices such as security cameras offer 764 physical monitoring protection of the household; however, 765 recent high-profile compromises of these types of systems have 766 demonstrated how their exploitation can lead to significant 767 breaches of the physical privacy of occupants and, in some 768 cases, impact their emotional well-being [6]. 769

In Table IX, we describe the attack vectors and their cyber-770 physical impact based on [5]. All attacks were executed in both 771 the presence and no presence conditions. Note that localised 772 attack vectors (namely, WiFi deauth (A1), Evil twin (A2), 773 ZigBee jamming (A3) and Node amplification (A4)) could also 774 be launched remotely if a target device were compromised 775 through third-party apps, cloud-based control software, or 776 compromised software and hardware supply chains [6]. For 777 example, both home assistants and smart lightbulbs provide 778 the ability to host their own WiFi access point, whilst ZigBee 779 devices are capable of reconfiguring themselves as ZigBee 780 network coordinators. 781

#### C. Experimental scenario, settings and parameters

Our experimental process consisted of three phases. Phase 783 1 was related to (i) live sample data collection of smart home 784 behaviour (in terms of the data sources monitored) when not 785 under attack and (ii) execution of each attack vector. This 786 phase comprised two different types of experiments: one where 787 users were present during data collection and another where 788 no users were present in the household. Phase 2 was related to 789 the adaptation of the offline reinforcement learning anomaly 790 detection. Phase 3 was related to live monitoring of attack 791 detection using the RL-optimised MAGPIE configuration. 792



Figure 8: Aggregated MDS (aMDS) behaviour during "No presence" (orange dashed line) and "Presence" (blue line) states.

Table IX:	Experiment	attack v	ectors wi	ith cy	yber-pł	iysical	impact	classification	[6]	in	the	smart	home
						-							

Attack*	Layer	C*	P*	Description				
(A1) WiFi deauth	Data Link	А	PA, DA	WiFi deauthentication frame flood, resulting in <b>prevented or delayed actuation</b> and DoS for all WiFi hosts. Executed with <i>aircrack-ng</i> suite.				
(A2) WiFi Evil Twin	Data Link	C, I, A	PA, IA	Evil twin (ET) spoofs WiFi network disrupting WiFi-connected devices; entices connection to attacker-controlled access point. Results in <b>prevented actuation</b> through WiFi beacon frame interference and <b>incorrect actuation</b> for ET-connected devices under the control of the attacker. Executed using the <i>aircrack-ng</i> suite.				
(A3) ZigBee jamming	Physical	А	PA	ZigBee communication is jammed on current radio frequency. Results in <b>prevented or delayed actuation</b> . Executed with the RZRAVEN USB Stick flashed with Jackdaw firmware [43].				
(A4) ZigBee node amplification	Network	I, A	DA	Targets a vulnerability in <i>Samsung SmartThings</i> smart outlet, which acts as a router/relay in the ZigBee PAN. An unsolicited ZigBee data request sent to the <i>SmartThings outlet</i> returns four encrypted data packets in response. Replay of a doctored PCAP containing a large volume of data requests triggers exponential traffic amplification against the outlet. The resulting volume of data packets returned quickly overwhelms the <i>SmartThings</i> network bandwidth resulting in <b>prevented or delayed actuation</b> . Executed using the RZRAVEN USB Stick with KillerBee suite https://github.com/riverloopsec/killerBee. After our ethical disclosure to the manufacturer, the vulnerability has since been patched.				
(A5) Malware audio injection	Physical & Application	Ι	UA	Compromised smart device (Samsung Tablet) with its on speaker-microphone pair injects malicious commands into the <i>Amazon Echo</i> home assistant, eliciting <b>unauthorised actuation</b> . The commands continuously arm or disarm the smart camera and turn on or off any household lights. A second-order impact is the DoS of smart home systems that may also be used to detect physical intrusion. A remote command and control channel directs the execution of the audio injection. Executed using <i>Stringify</i> API as the command and control channel to a custom Android app that plays and records audio (for audio-based camera actuation).				
(A6) Security camera compromise	Application	С	UA, BP	Compromised smart home security camera user credentials (e.g., phishing/insecure network) used to create a remote connection to the camera video feed ( <b>breaching physical privacy</b> ). Executed using the user credentials to obtain an authentication token issued by the <i>Somfy Protect</i> API.				
(A7) Workflow automation compromise	Application	С	UA, BP	Compromised smart home IFTTT user credentials (e.g., phishing or insecure network). Issues actuation commands via occupant workflow automation rules ("Arm/Disarm camera", "Turn on light bulb", etc.), disrupting smart home devices via <b>unauthorised actuation</b> . Smart outlet, camera and bulbs are continuously issued actuation commands at high frequency; light bulb set to "flicker", which could lead to medical impact in the form of seizures for occupants with photosensitive epilepsy or to electrical damage caused by surges in voltage.				

\*See attack cyber-physical impact graphs: https://github.com/isec-greenwich/magpie

C\* (Cyber impact)- C: Confidentiality, I: Integrity, A: Availability

P\* (Physical impact)- PA: Prevented Actuation, IA: Incorrect Actuation, UA: Unauthorised Actuation, DA: Delayed Actuation

BP:Breach of physical privacy

Table III provides statistics about the live capture sample 793 dataset for normal and attack execution experiments. Some 794 attack vectors (WiFi de-authentication and ZigBee jamming) 795 were observed to have a persistent effect on specific device 796 behaviour, such as total connectivity loss to the WiFi network 797 or disconnection of ZigBee nodes from the PAN, even after 798 the attack had stopped. To ensure that persistent symptoms of 799 one experiment did not interfere with another, after each attack 800 execution, we reconnected affected devices and nodes to their 801 respective networks and tested the automation rules to ensure 802 that the smart home had returned to a known good state. For 803 phase 1, each attack vector was executed independently so 804 that normal and attack data samples were equally distributed 805

with respect to the amount of time the smart home was 806 monitored by MAGPIE under normal conditions and during 807 attack execution. This process ensured that the captured dataset 808 had a balanced set of normal and attack samples for testing. 809 All live sample collection experiments were conducted on the 810 training data for phase 2 reinforcement learning adaptation of 811 the MAPGIE's anomaly models, whereas phase 3 consisted of 812 executing live attack vectors against the MAGPIE prototype in 813 a real-time monitoring state with the optimised anomaly model 814 configuration. During the experiment, the users interacted with 815 the smart home according to their normal routine. This activity 816 generated a dataset that represented natural smart home user 817 behaviour. Table X shows the different types of interactions 818

Table X: Summary of occupant device and network interaction in the smart home testbed

Device / Platform	Action	Activity description				
SmartThings Multi-Sensor	P, T, S	Opening/closing door & status check on app				
SmartThings Motion-Sensor	P, T, S	Moving in range of motion sensor & status check on app				
Smart Outlet	P, T, S	Turning on/off via button & app & status check on app				
Amazon Echo (via Voice)	Р	Asking questions, playing music, triggering LifX, Somfy				
Amazon Echo (via app)	P, T, S	Playing music, Amazon Echo activity & changing Alexa skills				
Somfy Protect	P, T, S	Reviewing camera feed, triggering security mode via Somfy app				
LifX lightbulbs	P, T, S	Triggering LifX bulbs via the LifX mobile app				
*P=Physical, T=Tablet, S=Smart phone						

performed by the users. 819

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#### V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The MAGPIE prototype's performance is evaluated in terms 821 of the i) attack detection accuracy with reinforcement learning 822  $\chi$  adaptation Vs. random  $\chi$  configuration, and the effect on 823 performance with and without cyber-physical sources of data; 824 ii) accurate detection of presence in the smart home and its 825 effect on threat detection performance for dynamic anomaly 826 model selection; iii) attack detection latency, which refers to 827 the time delay before the prototype system correctly identify 828 an attack, taking into account correct interface source detec-829 tion; and iv) end-to-end monitoring latency, which measures 830 the processing delay for each of the MAGPIE prototype's 831 transcription and analysis phases to complete, according to 832 the prescribed collection window interval. 833

For each measure of detection performance, we employ 834 timestamp window labelling to indicate whether a predicted 835 data sample's label belongs to an attack window or a non-836 attack window. In terms of accuracy, the Jaccard similarity 837 coefficient is used as a measure of prediction performance to 838 compare a set of predicted data sample labels to a correspond-839 ing set of ground truth labels. 840

#### A. (Contribution 1) Ability to recognise new smart home 841 threats by continuous adaptation to changing conditions 842

At its inception, a newly installed smart home can be 843 safely assumed to be free from attacks. Therefore, a low 844 anomaly detection sensitivity (e.g.,  $\chi$  - contamination value 845 for isolation forest anomaly decision function) is a sensible 846 choice for system initialisation. However, over time, the level 847 of data contamination supporting this condition will drift due 848 to changes in the smart home configuration or actual attacks 849 (which may be undetectable at the time of occurrence due to 850 the current detection sensitivity). The same applies to selecting 851 the anomaly detection sensitivity for an existing smart home. 852 In Figures 11 and 10, the experimental results of the RL 853 training show that EXP3 achieved the lowest average cumu-854 lative regret and highest average cumulative reward compared 855 to a non-stationary UCB strategy, whereas both EXP3 and 856 UCB comfortably outperformed a naive random arm selec-857 tion strategy. In terms of cumulative reward, initially, minor 858 increases in observed reward occur due to the relatively small 859 distribution range between rewards (see Figure 10). The effect 860 on performance for both EXP3 and UCB therefore indicates 861 that a sufficiently large step horizon is required to reach an 862 optimal and reliable arm selection state, as per the objectives of 863 the MAGPIE MAB RL process. Following our experimental 864 comparison of MAB algorithms, EXP3 was selected as the 865

P*	θ	$\chi$ Mode*	ACC	TPR	TNR	PPV	NIR
1	0.3	Random† RL	0.67 <b>0.85</b>	0.78 <b>0.99</b>	0.55 <b>0.82</b>	0.66 <b>0.64</b>	0.60 <b>0.60</b>
x	0.1	Random† RL	0.68 <b>0.87</b>	0.79 <b>0.90</b>	0.56 <b>0.87</b>	0.68 <b>0.83</b>	0.61 <b>0.61</b>

Table XI: Average detection accuracy for RL  $\chi$  adaptation Vs. randomly selected  $\chi$ , P\* Occupant presence in smart home testbed, † Average over 100 runs, selecting from 10 bandit Arms (i.e.,  $\chi$  bins - see Table VIII)

optimal bandit algorithm for solving the anomaly classifier 866 detection adaptation objective in MAGPIE. Following a fixed-867 step horizon selection policy, in Figure 12, EXP3 reported 868 optimal arm weights  $\chi$ =0.01 (ARM 4) and  $\chi$ =0.005 (ARM 869 3) for the presence and non-presence anomaly classifier con-870 figurations, respectively. To analyse the quality of the EXP3 871 selected  $\chi$  configuration parameters, we derived AUC-ROC 872 curves for models trained with each specific  $\chi$  parameter in 873 Figure 13. The results show that for overall model detection 874 accuracy, when applying the  $\theta$  threshold across all attacks 875 we evaluated, EXP3 selected the optimal  $\chi$  parameter for the 876 presence and no-presence anomaly models. In terms of overall 877 AUC, the selected arms were ranked first (AUC=0.90) and 878 third (AUC=0.88) for the presence and no-presence models, 879 respectively. 880

In summary, the results presented in Table XI demonstrate 881 that the combination of EXP3 with our probabilistic reward algorithm is a reliable mechanism for optimising detection performance. Figure 9 shows RL optimised the unsupervised detection accuracy for each  $\theta$  when tested against the attack 885 vector in our testbed.

Analysis of the presence datasets (orange radar) shows 887 poor detection accuracy for attack A5 (malware-enabled audio 888 injection; ACC: 60% Vs. 55% no information rate - NIR). This 889 decrease in accuracy when occupants are present is likely due 890 to the attack pattern of A5 blending in with the occupants' 891 own use of the home assistant. Therefore, to improve detection 892 of A5 in future work, more expressive features are required 893 (such as voice command recognition or individual modelling 894 of sound and IP/WiFi traffic mean absolute deviation according 895 to the time of day) to provide greater behavioural context 896 to the anomaly detection process. Omitting A5 from the 897 aggregated results yields an overall detection accuracy for 898 occupant presence models of 89%, an F1 score of 81%, TPR 899 of 99%, TNR of 84% and precision of 72%. On the other hand, 900 A5 is easily detectable by no-presence models (for the static 901 presence model configuration) due to the abnormal occurrence 902 of sustained levels of sound, with a detection accuracy of 93%. 903 The no-presence model achieved an F1 score of 85%, TPR of 904 90%, TNR of 87% and precision of 83%. For individual attack 905 adaptation, RL also reports fairly low accuracy for attack A7 906 in the presence models and attack A6 in both the presence and 907 no-presence models. 908

In practice, the optimal  $\theta$  for presence and no-presence 909 threat detection may not be selected as the preferred value. 910 Importantly, the results show that a range of different  $\theta$  settings 911 influence the RL adaptation process, whereby high  $\theta$  values 912

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Figure 9: Risk-based RL-optimised anomaly detection accuracy [%] (Presence = Orange, No Presence = Blue, MAB Arm 3:  $\chi = 0.005$ , MAB Arm 4:  $\chi = 0.01$ )



Figure 10: Average cumulative  $\chi$  selection regret for random (blue), non-stationary UCB (orange dash), and EXP3 (green points) MAB algorithms over a 6000 step horizon across 3 runs



Figure 13: AUC ROC curves for MAGPIE bandit arms ( $\chi$  hyperparameters



Figure 11: Cumulative  $\chi$  selection reward and regret for random (blue), non-stationary UCB (orange) and EXP3 (green) MAB algorithms over a 6000 step horizon across 3 runs



Figure 12: EXP3 weights for bandit arms ( $\chi$ ) over a 6000 step horizon

(0.7 and 0.9) are the least effective for both presence and 913 no-presence models. In general, high  $\theta$  favours high anomaly 914 scores, which reduces false positives but may increase false 915 negatives. This characteristic can be observed for attack A7 916 (workflow automation compromise), where MAGPIE reduces 917 each set of attack data points to a single sample per window 918 (based on source and destination identity), which in turn is 919 saturated by a high volume of normal traffic, thus lowering 920 the anomaly score. Overall, the detection results illustrated 921 in Figure 9 demonstrate that the non-stationary UCB im-922 plementation is effective at adapting the detection sensitivity 923 to optimise the threat detection performance according to 924 the occupants'  $\theta$  configuration. From here on, we assess the 925 MAGPIE prototype's threat detection performance according 926 to the best-performing  $\theta$  and RL optimised isolation forest  $\chi$ 927 parameters. 928

## B. (Contribution 2) Considering both cyber and physical 929 sources of data 930

Applying the best  $\theta$  and  $\chi$  parameters, for both individual 931 and aggregate attack dataset RL adaptation, in Figure 14 the 932 detection accuracy for the presence and no-presence models 933 across different MDS cyber and cyber-physical feature models 934 is presented. Here, MAGPIE prototype threat detection is 935 demonstrably more accurate, on average, when both cyber and 936 physical smart home data sources are used compared to cyber 937 features only. However, even without physical features (in this 938 case RF, audio and WiFi RSSI), extending the collection of 939 cyber features beyond traditional monitoring of TCP/IP traffic 940 significantly improves the detection accuracy across a wide 941 range of attack vectors in the smart home. 942



Figure 14: Attack detection performance results comparison for MDS models with cyber+physical features, multiple cyber features and cyber features based on the TCP/IP stack only



Figure 15: Presence inference accuracy for each attack (Avg. ACC:  $\theta$  0.3=0.93,  $\theta$  0.5=0.81,  $\theta$  0.7=0.76)

## C. (Contribution 3) Self-configuration based on automated inference of human presence

Figure 15 shows that presence inference returned high clas-945 sification accuracy during both attack and non-attack scenar-946 ios. A choice of  $\theta = 0.3$  yielded the highest overall accuracy 947 (93%) across both the presence and no-presence datasets. 948 However, there is a noticeable accuracy drop compared to 949 static detection model assignment for correctly detecting pres-950 ence during the audio injection attack (A5) when there is no 951 presence (62%). This is because the random forest detection 952 model has determined higher audio values to be associated 953 with presence state and thus incorrectly identifies the audio in-954 jection attack as occupant presence. Consequently, this failure 955 has a negative impact on the detection of audio injection with 956 a high sensitivity for presence inference. On the other hand, 957 whilst increasing  $\theta$  to 0.5 increases the detection accuracy for 958 audio injection during no presence (83%; increasing further 959 to 97% for  $\theta = 0.54$  - not shown in Figure 15), this change 960 has a negative effect on detection accuracy for attacks A6 and 961 A7 and further reduces the A5 detection accuracy during the 962 963

cupant presence state. Figure 17 shows a noticeable advantage of dynamic recon-964 figuration based on presence inference. When utilising the best 965 high and very high  $\theta$  values for presence and no-presence 966 anomaly models, respectively, the method achieves slightly 967 lower detection accuracy overall (significantly lower in the 968 case of audio injection - A5 for non-presence) compared to 969 static model assignment (which requires explicit occupant re-970 configuration to function, e.g., the occupant informing the 971 system when they are no longer present or active). Crucially, 972 however, without static or dynamic anomaly model assign-973 ment, for both the presence and no-presence models, individual 974 detection performance for alternate datasets is considerably 975 worse overall. 976



Figure 16: AUC ROC curve (TPR Vs. FPR) performance for presence inference during smart home attacks



Figure 17: Performance for static presence, no presence and dynamic real-time presence anomaly model selection

The experimental results are promising, especially as the 977 fusion of cyber and physical MDS features has proven to 978 be valuable for improving presence inference, as further ev-979 idenced in the area under curve (AUC) receiver operating 980 characteristic analysis on new, unseen MDS data shown in 981 Figure 16. Compared to the AUC score of 0.66 when only 982 cyber data sources are used, the aggregation of cyber and 983 physical data sources (i.e., the aMDS feed) yields an AUC of 984 0.98 for presence inference. Here, instead of training a single 985 MDS model for both presence and anomaly detection, affected 986 by increases in model dimensionality and feature-masking for 987 window synchronisation, these results demonstrate that a ded-988 icated presence classifier supports the selection of presence-989 specific MDS models that directly benefit from the feature 990 context to detect attacks more accurately. 991

#### D. Threat detection latency

Analysis of the detection latency using the best  $\theta$  and 993  $\chi$  RL parameters for the presence and no-presence datasets 994 produced variable results for each attack. These differences 995 were expected, as the impact of different attacks on cyber 996 and physical feature behaviour may only become noticeable 997 later in the course of execution. For attacks A1, A2 and A7, 998 during human presence, detection was immediately triggered 999 (detection latency = 1 monitoring window) when the attack 1000 was executed in the collection window, but the initial discovery 1001 of A3 and A4 was three times slower and that of A6 was five 1002 times slower. In the presence condition, A5 was undetectable. 1003 In the no human presence condition, attacks A2, A4 and 1004 A5 reported immediate detection, A1 and A3 required an 1005 additional collection window for identification, and A6 and 1006

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A7 were four and three times slower, respectively. MAGPIE has demonstrated that it is able to detect an attack soon after it is executed, but there remains a trade-off in detection latency and detection accuracy to be explored in the future.

#### VI. FUTURE WORK

In future work, the q parameter is an interesting and poten-1012 tial candidate for further exploration within the RL action-1013 space for dynamic q assignments, alongside unsupervised 1014 model hyperparameter adaptation. However, a consideration 1015 when introducing q in this manner is that it increases the 1016 computational complexity for the RL action-space. As ob-1017 served in Figure 3, the benefit of the increased complexity does 1018 not clearly outweigh the simpler static q definition. Therefore, 1019 1020 dynamic determination of the optimal q is an area that would ideally be explored in the context of collaborative learning, 1021 such as federated threat detection adaptation in experiments 1022 across multiple coordinating households and MAGPIE agents, 1023 with varying MDS configurations and contrasting attack vec-1024 tors. 1025

It would also be interesting to explore how MAGPIE's detection adaptation might be applied in the form of cyber resilience capability for machine-learning-based intrusion detection itself, for example, as a proactive defence mechanism against emerging adversarial machine learning attacks [45] that disrupt detection accuracy in cyber-physical systems.

## VII. CONCLUSION

We have evaluated MAGPIE in terms of four primary 1033 contributions: the ability to detect previously unseen attacks 1034 while taking into account the user's risk tolerance; the ability 1035 to adapt to changing conditions via reinforcement learning; the 1036 benefit of using both cyber and physical sources of data; and 1037 self-configuration of the choice of models based on whether 1038 user presence is detected or not. The prototype has performed 1039 well across a range of attack vectors at the application, 1040 network, data link and physical layers. We have observed that 1041 the incorporation of physical sources of data can noticeably 1042 improve the performance for most of the attacks, especially for 1043 attacks that are normally undetectable by systems that monitor 1044 only TCP/IP traffic. We have also observed that by leveraging 1045 the same data sources as for anomaly detection, we can detect 1046 user presence sufficiently reliably, which in turn helps tailor 1047 the anomaly detection models to the two cases of presence 1048 and no presence, thereby improving their accuracy. Most 1049 importantly, we have successfully tested our intuition that 1050 in the context of smart home attacks, reinforcement learning 1051 can meaningfully adapt an unsupervised anomaly classifier's 1052 hyperparameters based on its own confidence in its output. 1053

We have made the source code of the MAGPIE imple-1054 mentation available to the research community to facilitate 1055 extensions and experimental evaluation comparisons with new 1056 methods. A natural extension would be to add real-time 1057 response capabilities, such as isolating offending nodes or re-1058 configuring the radio frequency channel. Additionally, MAG-1059 PIE can be extended to incorporate feedback from the user, for 1060 example, to confirm whether a suspected anomalous device or 1061 network behaviour is a result of their own activity or not, to 1062 further improve the accuracy. 1063

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