

# A Survey of Cybersecurity AI Assistants

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## Abstract

This paper examines the transformative role of AI-powered assistants in cybersecurity, with a focus on their capabilities, limitations, and potential to reshape security practices. It begins by outlining the historical challenges of traditional cybersecurity methods, which struggle to keep pace with evolving, sophisticated cyber threats. The study highlights the advanced threat detection, prediction, and response capabilities of AI systems, alongside their applications in areas such as vulnerability management, incident response, and social engineering defense. The paper also discusses AI's strengths, including real-time data analysis, predictive insights, and adaptability, while addressing concerns related to transparency, ethical issues, and regulatory frameworks. The findings emphasize the need for ongoing research and development to enhance the efficiency, trustworthiness, and ethical deployment of AI in cybersecurity.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, AI Assistants, Threat Detection, Incident Response, Vulnerability Management, Predictive Analytics, Machine Learning, Cyber Threats, Data Analytics, Automation, Social Engineering Defense, Ethics in AI, Regulatory Frameworks, Adversarial Attacks, Data Privacy, Explainable AI, Real-time Analysis, Cybersecurity Strategies, Intelligent Cyber Security Assistant (ICSA)

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# 1. Introduction

As technology evolves at an unprecedented pace, the sophistication of cyber threats grows increasingly complex, emphasizing the critical role of artificial intelligence (AI) in cybersecurity. Traditional cybersecurity methods, which rely on manual processes and signature-based detection, struggle to keep up with the dynamic nature of modern attacks. As organizational boundaries blur and the concept of a secure perimeter becomes obsolete, there is a growing need for innovative solutions to address these challenges. AI assistants, equipped with machine learning and advanced data analytics, have emerged as essential tools for improving threat detection, response, and overall security measures. These intelligent systems not only enhance security effectiveness but also enable human teams to focus on higher-level strategic decision-making in the face of evolving threats.

This survey explores the transformative role of AI assistants in cybersecurity, highlighting their ability to overcome the limitations of traditional approaches. It examines AI's capabilities in key areas such as threat detection, incident response, vulnerability management, and threat intelligence. By providing insights into the integration of AI-driven solutions, this survey aims to equip security professionals with the knowledge to leverage AI effectively in safeguarding digital assets against increasingly sophisticated cyber risks.

## 2. AI in Cybersecurity: An Overview

To understand AI's role in cybersecurity, we must consider the historical context that has led to its current prominence. Traditional cybersecurity measures struggle to keep pace with the complexity and rapid evolution of cyber threats. These legacy approaches, reliant on manual processes and signature-based detection, lack the adaptability needed in today's dynamic landscape, especially as organizational boundaries blur. The increasing volume of security data and the demand for predictive capabilities have rendered conventional methods inadequate. Advanced data analytics and machine learning are essential to addressing these challenges.

### 2.1 Historical Context

Traditional cybersecurity solutions have struggled to keep pace with the escalating complexity and rapid spread of modern cyber threats. These legacy approaches are primarily labor-intensive and heavily reliant on signature-based detection, which limits their adaptability in a landscape characterized by increasingly complex, dynamic, and fast-propagating attacks[[Sayan17](#)]. As

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organizational boundaries have blurred, the notion of establishing a secure perimeter has become impractical, especially when potential threats may come from trusted insiders with legitimate access to critical systems. In this environment, the sheer volume of security data requiring analysis, combined with the need for predictive capabilities, has rendered conventional methods inadequate. Addressing these challenges requires advanced data analytics and machine learning, which are the cornerstones of the proposed Intelligent Cyber Security Assistant (ICSA) architecture[Sayan17]. This system is designed to use machine learning models and sophisticated tools to anticipate and detect attacks, assess vulnerabilities, and recommend effective responses, enhancing proactive defense and resilience against evolving threats.

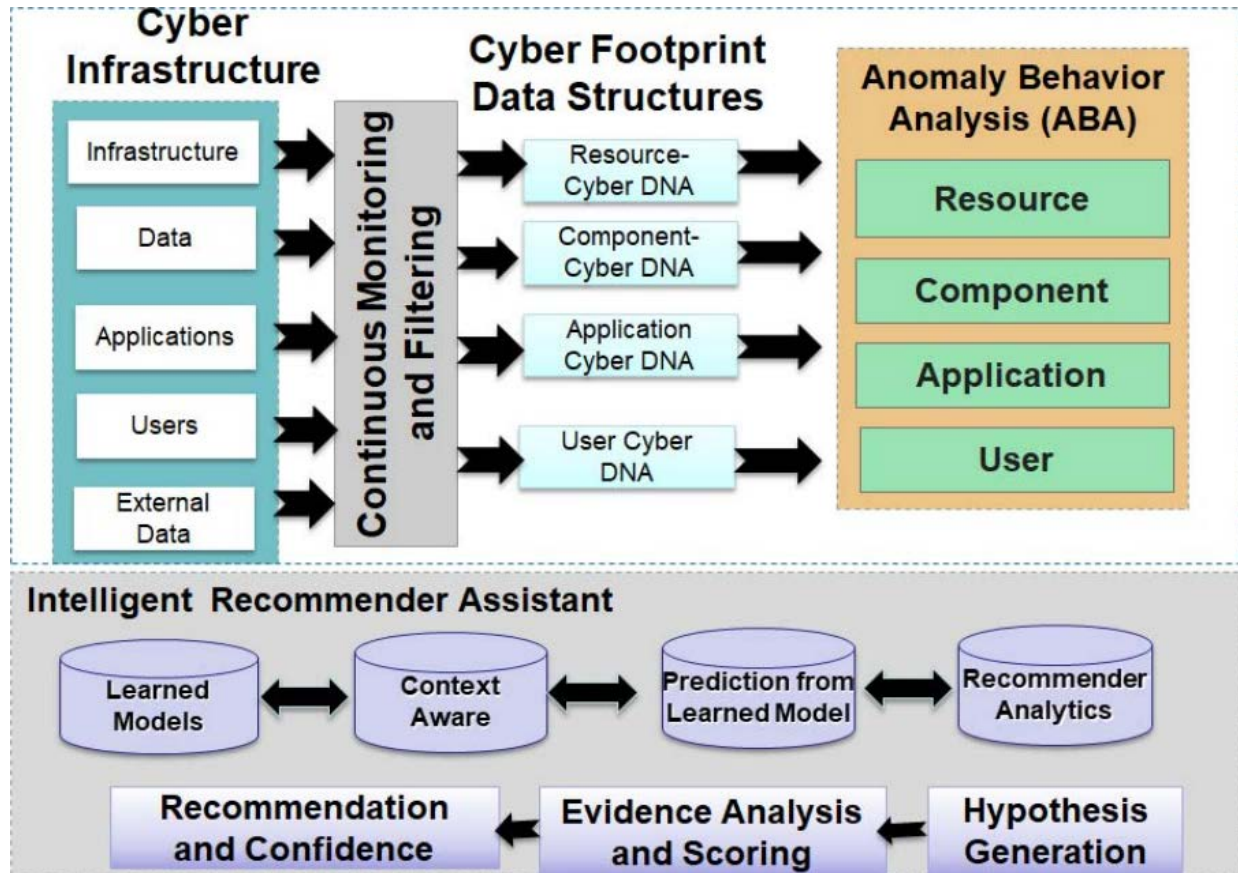


Figure 1. Intelligent Cyber Security Assistant Architecture [Sayan17]

### 2.2 Defining Cybersecurity AI Assistants

Cybersecurity AI assistants are sophisticated tools designed to enhance threat detection, prediction, and response capabilities across digital landscapes. By analyzing behavioral anomalies, these systems achieve high detection accuracy with minimal false alarms, identifying potential intrusions and attacks with precision. Through advanced data mining and statistical analysis, AI assistants can forecast an attacker's next moves and evaluate the potential impacts of successful breaches. Additionally, innovative structures, like Cyber Footprint data models, enable real-time detection of vulnerabilities and intrusions, detailing their origins and types. Given the speed and complexity of modern cyberattacks, AI assistants support automated and

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semi-automated responses, facilitating rapid intelligence gathering and execution. Their continuous monitoring capabilities are powered by autonomous agents that vigilantly oversee critical cybersecurity parameters. By fusing multiple layers of anomaly analysis, from application to network level, these assistants further minimize false alarms while maintaining high detection sensitivity. As intelligent recommender systems, they empower human security teams with machine learning insights and data analytics, guiding them in safeguarding high-value targets through proactive and efficient cyber defense.

### 2.3 Key Areas of Application

Cybersecurity AI assistants serve in a variety of critical roles to bolster an organization's defenses and streamline security operations. In threat detection and response, these AI-powered tools continuously analyze network traffic, user behavior, and other security data to identify and mitigate cyber threats in real-time. For vulnerability management, AI assistants can detect and prioritize system vulnerabilities, equipping security teams to address risks more strategically[Dreyling21]. In incident response, AI assistants automate essential tasks-such as data collection, analysis, reporting, and coordination-making responses faster and more effective[Shchavinsky23]. They also play a key role in malware analysis, where they detect and assess even sophisticated malware, including polymorphic strains. Through security automation, AI assistants handle tasks like patch management, configuration oversight, and enforcing security policies, reducing human workload. In the realm of threat intelligence, they gather, analyze, and share critical threat insights, helping organizations stay ahead of emerging threats. Lastly, in social engineering defense, AI tools help detect and neutralize attacks like phishing and impersonation, reinforcing the human element of security[Familoni24].

## 3. Current Technologies and Tools

Building on these foundational roles, we can now delve into the specific current technologies and tools that enhance AI's capabilities in cybersecurity.

### 3.1 AI-Powered Threat Detection

AI-powered threat detection leverages advanced deep learning models and data analytics to monitor and analyze network activity, enabling effective identification of sophisticated cyber threats. For example, a method such as the Cu-ConvLSTM2D model uses a convolutional long short-term memory approach optimized with CUDA(Compute Unified Device Architecture) to protect Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) systems from a range of adversarial attacks, including reconnaissance, man-in-the-middle, denial-of-service, and botnets[Bibi23]. Through this deep learning architecture, AI assistants can analyze complex datasets, like the Kitsune Surveillance Network Intrusion and N\_BaIoT, achieving high accuracy in detecting these threats while maintaining speed efficiency. In parallel, systems like AI@NTDS, an AI-powered network threat detection system, use a multi-layered model to monitor network behavior by extracting attacker behavioral features and applying machine learning algorithms, such as LightGBM, to detect network threats with an accuracy rate of up to 99% [Wang22]. These tools incorporate extensive data from sources like Cowrie Honeypots, analyzed in line with frameworks such as MITRE ATT&CK, to validate the credibility of threat information. AI-driven anomaly detection further

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extends to cloud security, where AI and ML detect deviations in network patterns, forecast vulnerabilities, and automate responses, rapidly mitigating detected risks. The integration of techniques like anomaly detection, predictive analytics, and natural language processing for threat intelligence is pivotal in making AI-powered systems scalable and adaptable to diverse security environments.

### **3.2 Automation in Incident Response**

AI-driven automation in incident response is transforming cloud security by enabling faster, more adaptive threat management. AI systems are designed to learn from data, which enhances their ability to detect and adapt to emerging risks beyond traditional rule-based approaches. This adaptability is vital for proactive threat identification, where AI can predict and mitigate potential risks before they escalate. Through automation, routine responses to security incidents are streamlined, allowing human resources to focus on strategic tasks and thereby improving overall efficiency. Automated processes in incident response enable rapid detection, investigation, and containment of cyber threats, which accelerates and fortifies organizational resilience. As AI continues to evolve within cloud security, it holds promising potential for preemptive risk management, seamlessly integrating adaptive threat detection and predictive analytics into core security operations.

### **3.3 Vulnerability Management and Risk Assessment**

AI and ML are advancing vulnerability management and risk assessment in cloud security by enhancing detection and predictive capabilities. Through anomaly detection, AI algorithms continuously analyze usage patterns, monitoring user behavior, network traffic, and resource utilization to identify deviations that may indicate vulnerabilities or security risks. Predictive analytics in AI allows security models to assess historical data and emerging trends, proactively identifying potential risks within the cloud environment, enabling organizations to mitigate issues before they materialize[[Anandharaj24](#)]. Additionally, automated responses can promptly address detected threats, allowing AI systems to block malicious traffic, isolate compromised assets, and update security policies with minimal delay, freeing security teams to focus on strategic priorities. Using natural language processing (NLP), AI systems extract insights from threat reports and incident data, keeping security analysts informed on developing threats and vulnerabilities. To enhance transparency, explainable AI (XAI) techniques provide insight into the logic behind AI decisions, supporting security teams in recognizing potential biases and understanding AI-driven vulnerability assessments[[Mallikarjunaradhya23](#)]. Together, these AI-driven approaches improve the accuracy, speed, and efficiency of security responses, enhancing an organization's overall security posture in the evolving cloud landscape.

### **3.4 Use Cases in Different Sectors**

AI-powered cybersecurity solutions have demonstrated significant value across various sectors. In financial services, AI is instrumental in detecting and preventing fraud, managing security risks, and justifying security investments. It enables automation of security tasks, analysis of large volumes of security data, and the enhancement of adaptive cyber defenses. Similarly, the healthcare industry, a prime target for cyberattacks, leverages AI systems to detect and respond

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to security threats, protect sensitive patient data, and ensure data integrity. In the government and defense sectors, AI plays a crucial role in enhancing defensive capabilities and safeguarding critical infrastructure. Governments and defense agencies utilize AI for threat detection, incident response, and developing adaptive cyber defenses to counter evolving cyber threats. The integration of AI into cybersecurity strategies remains a central focus for these sectors, ensuring they remain resilient against increasingly sophisticated attacks.

## 4. Capabilities and Limitations of AI Assistants

As artificial intelligence (AI) technology continues to evolve and permeate various sectors, its application in cybersecurity stands out as a transformative force. AI assistants, equipped with advanced algorithms and machine learning capabilities, offer organizations unprecedented advantages in threat detection and response.

### 4.1 Strengths in Cybersecurity

AI-powered systems bring significant strengths to cybersecurity, enhancing both efficiency and effectiveness in threat management. With real-time analysis capabilities, AI can rapidly process and analyze large volumes of data, enabling swift threat detection and response. Its advanced threat detection capabilities outperform traditional rule-based approaches, allowing organizations to create adaptive and dynamic threat mitigation strategies that leverage the advantages of big data[Roshanaei24]. Predictive modeling further strengthens defenses by providing insights into system vulnerabilities and infrastructure weaknesses, enabling organizations to anticipate risks and foster robust cybersecurity ecosystems[Maddireddy22]. Additionally, efficient data handling allows AI to automate the prioritization of alerts and reduce false positives, lightening the load on security analysts. AI's adaptability is another crucial advantage, as machine learning models continuously learn from new threats and evolve alongside adversarial techniques to maintain robust defense strategies. Furthermore, the application of AI and deep learning techniques optimizes feature extraction and improves static controls, enhancing detection efficacy. Scalability rounds out these strengths, enabling AI-driven solutions to handle the expansive data needs of organizations of any size without a proportional increase in human resources. Together, these capabilities make AI an invaluable asset in the ongoing fight against evolving cyber threats.

### 4.2 Limitations and Challenges

The integration of AI into cybersecurity comes with several critical limitations and challenges. A primary issue is the lack of transparency and explainability in many AI systems, often operating as "black boxes" that make it difficult for users to understand decision-making processes, leading to challenges in accountability and trust. Data quality and bias also pose challenges; AI models are highly dependent on the quality of their training data, and biased or incomplete data can result in inaccurate threat detection and unintended harm. Moreover, AI systems are vulnerable to adversarial attacks where attackers manipulate or deceive models to bypass security defenses, necessitating robust protective measures and regular testing. There are also ethical and regulatory considerations as the deployment of AI in cybersecurity raises questions about data privacy, fairness, and the need for international standards and regulatory frameworks. Furthermore,

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organizations should adopt a balanced approach that combines the strengths of AI with human intelligence, addressing ethical and regulatory considerations while remaining vigilant against potential misuse of AI[Banik23]. Additionally, while AI-enhanced cybersecurity solutions can outperform traditional methods in certain scenarios, as demonstrated by case studies and empirical data, integration complexities with other emerging technologies and substantial computational demands further complicate AI deployment[Balantrapu22]. Addressing these limitations is crucial for building more resilient, trustworthy AI-driven cybersecurity systems that can adapt to an evolving threat landscape.

## 5. Ethical Considerations and Risks

As AI technologies advance, it's important to consider the ethical challenges they bring. While AI has great potential, it also raises risks, such as bias, privacy issues, and the need for strong laws to regulate its use. These concerns impact human rights, social fairness, and the balance of power in society. To ensure AI benefits everyone, we must address these risks and make sure AI systems are fair, transparent, and accountable. This section looks at key ethical issues in AI, including bias in models, privacy concerns, and the importance of laws to ensure fairness and responsibility in AI development. By tackling these challenges, we can make sure AI serves society in a just and ethical way.

### 5.1 Bias and Fairness in AI Models

The deployment of biased AI systems can perpetuate existing inequalities, reinforce discrimination against marginalized groups, and undermine ethical principles. These biases not only raise serious ethical concerns but also risk limiting individual freedoms and reinforcing societal power dynamics, thereby undermining human agency and autonomy. To address these challenges, it is essential to establish ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks that promote fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI development and deployment[Ferrara24]. Such measures are critical to ensuring that AI systems operate equitably and uphold societal values.

### 5.2 Privacy and Data Protection Concerns

Efforts to mitigate bias in AI models, such as data pre-processing techniques like data augmentation, can inadvertently raise privacy concerns, especially regarding the collection and use of sensitive information from historically marginalized groups[Ferrara24]. Ethical considerations also arise from the risk of over- or underrepresentation of certain populations in training datasets, which can either perpetuate existing biases or introduce new ones. Balancing the need for diverse, representative data with the protection of individual privacy is essential to ensure ethical AI development and maintain public trust.

### 5.3 Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

Developing robust legal and regulatory frameworks is essential to ensure accountability for the discriminatory outcomes of biased AI systems, holding developers, organizations, and governments responsible for their impact. Continuous research and innovation in bias mitigation

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strategies are necessary to tackle these challenges effectively and to promote the equitable use of AI technologies[Ferrara24]. Future efforts must address the complexities of fairness and equity, adapting to the diverse social and cultural contexts in which AI operates, to ensure these systems benefit all individuals and communities.

## 6. Future Trends and Developments

The future of cybersecurity is being shaped by advancements in AI and other emerging technologies. As cyber threats become more complex, AI and machine learning are transforming how organizations detect, respond to, and prevent attacks. These technologies improve threat detection, automate responses, and help protect digital systems. AI is also combining with other technologies like IoT, blockchain, and quantum computing to strengthen cybersecurity. This section looks at how these trends are improving security measures and changing the cybersecurity workforce, making it easier for organizations to handle evolving cyber threats and maintain stronger defenses.

### 6.1 Advances in Machine Learning and AI for Cybersecurity

The integration of AI and ML has revolutionized cybersecurity by enhancing threat detection, response, and mitigation capabilities. AI-driven systems leverage supervised and unsupervised learning algorithms to analyze vast datasets, uncovering patterns of malicious activity and enabling proactive threat detection. Behavioral analytics further bolster security by establishing baselines for typical user behavior and flagging deviations, which can signal compromised accounts or insider threats.

ML's effectiveness in anomaly detection allows it to identify irregularities in network traffic or system activity, uncovering potential threats that traditional signature-based methods might miss. Additionally, AI enhances threat intelligence by aggregating data from sources such as threat feeds and the dark web, providing insights into emerging vulnerabilities and attack strategies[Khan24].

Automated response systems powered by AI facilitate real-time actions, such as isolating compromised systems, blocking suspicious accounts, and executing response protocols, thereby minimizing the impact of attacks. These advancements empower organizations to better safeguard their digital environments and maintain a strong, adaptive security posture[Khan24].

The figure 2 suggests that the AI in Cybersecurity market is projected to undergo substantial growth in the next decade, highlighting the rising adoption and critical role of AI-powered solutions in addressing the increasing complexity of cyber threats. As organizations face an ever-evolving threat landscape, the integration of AI technologies into cybersecurity strategies is anticipated to grow, enabling them to strengthen their security measures and respond more efficiently to emerging challenges.



### AI IN CYBER SECURITY MARKET

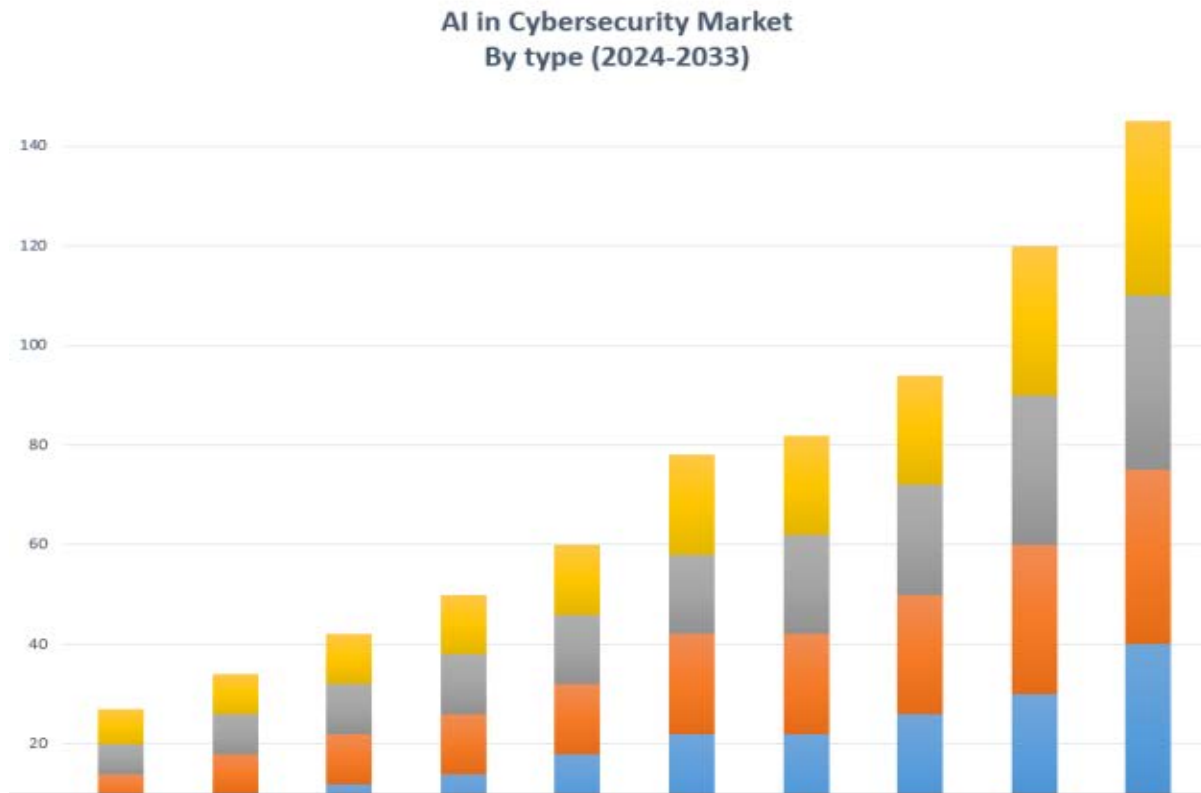


Figure 2. AI in cyber security market (2024-2033) [Khan24]

## 6.2 Integration with Other Emerging Technologies

The convergence of AI with other emerging technologies is shaping the future of cybersecurity by enhancing protection mechanisms and operational efficiency. In IoT and blockchain applications, AI aids in managing the growing number of connected devices by tracking device behavior, detecting anomalies, and automating responses to threats. Blockchain's decentralized and immutable features further support AI systems in sharing threat intelligence and fostering collaboration against cyberattacks[Khan24].

With the advent of quantum computing, AI is pivotal in developing quantum-safe cryptography to counter the vulnerabilities posed to existing encryption methods. This integration will be critical in securing sensitive data against quantum-powered threats. AI-driven automation is also transforming security operations through Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) platforms, which enable faster threat triage and coordinated responses, reducing costs and increasing efficiency[Khan24]. Additionally, AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants are becoming integral to security operations, providing real-time support, responding to inquiries, and assisting analysts in executing incident response protocols. By merging AI with these cutting-edge technologies, organizations can bolster their cybersecurity frameworks, enhance threat detection and mitigation, and adapt to evolving cyber threats effectively.

### 6.3 AI and the Future Cybersecurity Workforce

The integration of AI with emerging technologies is set to revolutionize the cybersecurity workforce by enhancing capabilities, improving efficiency, and reshaping roles. AI systems' ability to continuously learn and adapt will be crucial for maintaining effective defenses against ever-evolving cyber threats. These systems will require mechanisms for dynamic learning, enabling real-time adjustments to new vulnerabilities and attack techniques.

Human-AI collaboration will play a central role in this transformation. By combining AI's analytical power with human expertise and intuition, organizations can foster a culture of continuous improvement, achieving a more comprehensive understanding of complex threats[Khan24]. Additionally, AI-powered automation and predictive analytics will enable the analysis of vast data volumes to uncover patterns and forecast potential vulnerabilities, helping organizations prioritize efforts and allocate resources effectively.

The integration of AI with technologies like IoT, blockchain, and quantum computing will further enhance the workforce's ability to address sophisticated cyber threats. AI will manage IoT network security, develop quantum-resistant encryption methods, and streamline operations through automation. Tools like AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants will also provide real-time support, aiding incident response and boosting productivity across security teams[Khan24].

By embracing these advancements, the future cybersecurity workforce will be better equipped to protect digital assets, mitigate risks, and adapt to the growing complexity of the cyber threat landscape, creating a more secure digital environment.

## 7. Conclusion

This survey underscores the transformative role of AI assistants in cybersecurity, particularly in enhancing threat detection, prediction, and response capabilities. Their ability to process vast amounts of data rapidly, improve real-time analysis, and reduce false positives positions them as powerful tools in combating modern cyber threats. However, challenges such as limited transparency, data quality concerns, and vulnerabilities to adversarial attacks persist, highlighting both the promise and constraints of AI in cybersecurity. Moving forward, future research should focus on addressing ethical considerations, developing regulatory frameworks, and enhancing the interpretability of AI systems. Technological advancements will also be crucial to strengthen AI's resilience against evolving threats and ensure adaptive capabilities. A collaborative approach, combining human expertise with AI's advanced capabilities, will be essential to overcoming these challenges. As AI assistants continue to reshape cybersecurity practices, overcoming these hurdles will be vital in ensuring their effectiveness in proactively defending against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

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## 8. List of Acronyms

## A Survey of Cybersecurity AI Assistants

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CUDA	Compute Unified Device Architecture
ICSA	Intelligent Cyber Security Assistant
AI@NTDS	AI-powered Network Threat Detection System
Cu-ConvLSTM2D	Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory Model
LightGBM	Light Gradient Boosting Machine
N-BaIoT	Network Behavior Analysis for IoT
MITRE ATT&CK	MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge
CSPM	Cloud Security Posture Management
ML	Machine Learning
NLP	Natural Language Processing
XAI	Explainable Artificial Intelligence
IoT	Internet of Things
IIoT	Industrial Internet of Things
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
APT	Advanced Persistent Threat
SOC	Security Operations Center
SOAR	Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response
SIEM	Security Information and Event Management
IDS	Intrusion Detection System
IPS	Intrusion Prevention System
VPN	Virtual Private Network
CVSS	Common Vulnerability Scoring System
TTP	Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures
CISO	Chief Information Security Officer
RAT	Remote Access Trojan

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