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# PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF ARTIFICIAL IMMUNE SYSTEM ALGORITHMS FOR INTRUSION DETECTION USING NSL-KDD AND CICIDS 2017 DATASETS

\*<sup>1</sup>Akinwande O.T & <sup>2</sup>Abdullahi M.B.

Department of Computer Science, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria

\*Email of Corresponding Author: oladayoakinwande@yahoo.com

## ABSTRACT

*Artificial Immune System (AIS) algorithms are used to build models for classification and some clustering problems if there is availability of an effective dataset. A dataset that contains benign and common attack network flows that mimics the real time can only help to train and test an intrusion detection system. In this paper, classification models for anomaly-based intrusion detection are built using AIS algorithms namely AIRS1, Immunos1 and ClonalG. These algorithms were tested with NSL-KDD and CICIDS 2017 datasets, which have common updated set of malicious attacks such as DDoS, XSS, SQL Injection and Botnet. Our experiments show that AIS algorithms performs better in detecting new attacks than other classifiers. The outcome of this research has improved intrusion detection system by testing for attack diversity.*

**Keywords:** Artificial Immune System, Anomaly, Feature Selection, Intrusion Detection, Network Security, Classification Algorithms.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The advances in computer networks and related applications not only have made it easier to access information anywhere anytime but have also made potential threats to the global information network infrastructure to be on the rise. This security challenge has necessitated for a special attack and misuse detection system, which intrusion detection system (IDS) is a good solution. Intrusion detection system, therefore, provide a well-established mechanism to protect infrastructure of network system by gathering and analyzing information from various areas within a host or a network to identify possible security breaches [1]. Intrusion detection systems are built on the assumption that abnormal activities (anomaly) are obvious and noticeable.

A variety of machine learning techniques have been applied to anomaly detection and building of intrusion detection systems, which include neural networks [2], Statistical learning algorithms [3] and Artificial immune systems algorithms [4]. Artificial Immune System (AIS) is a relatively new research area, which has been studied and applied to intrusion detection system. AIS is a class of algorithms that is inspired by the principles and functioning of the biological immune system. These algorithms [5] exploit the characteristics of the biological immune system in terms of learning and memory as means of solving complex problems.

Different AIS techniques are been used in the development of anomaly intrusion detection system [6]. They could be adaptive, innate and lightweight. Such techniques include negative selection algorithm (NSA), clonal selection algorithm (CLONALG), artificial immune recognition system (AIRS) and dendritic cell algorithm (DCA) [7]. AIS can be considered as a strong candidate for anomaly detection as it discriminate between self and non-self-data. It can be applied for small and medium domains of anomaly detection. It has also been applied to various problem domain such as

document classification, fraud detection, network and host-based intrusion [8].

The researches that conduct performance comparison among AIS algorithms are limited especially in the use of different IDS datasets with large dimensionality and up-to-date attacks. [9] used DARPA dataset for intrusion detection system evaluation which has the same attack category as KDD Cup 99. Their evaluation confirmed that DOS and R2L attacks are very difficult to observe for an anomaly by an anomaly detector. The reason is that both attacks have a very low variance in the dataset. This drawback will not be able to know whether a design model is capable of detecting such attacks.

[10] aimed at improving the detection accuracy of IDS by using negative selection algorithms and KDD Cup 99 as their test dataset. The IDS makes use of rough set as its optimised feature selection which produced a significant increase in accuracy and true negatives (TN). Both KDD Cup 99 and DARPA 2000 have been widely used by researchers in IDS [11] but may not be representative of the performance with more recent attacks or with other attacks against different types of machine, routers and firewalls [9].

[12], listed evaluation criteria necessary for a dataset and these are discussed in [13]. They are; complete network configuration, complete traffic, labelled dataset, complete interaction, complete capture, common available protocols, attack diversity, heterogeneity, feature set and metadata. Although, NSL-KDD didn't meet all this criteria but being one of the widely used IDS dataset as at now which has also improved over its original version, we consider its large dimensionality and its acceptability for baseline comparison with CICIDS 2017 datasets.

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the performance of AIRS1, ClonalG and Immunos1 algorithms on Network Socket Layer-Knowledge Data Discovery (NSL-KDD) dataset and Canadian Institute of Cybersecurity Intrusion Detection System (CICIDS

2017) dataset in terms of classification accuracy for anomaly-based intrusion detection system. The reasons for preferring these algorithms in this work are; the 3 selected algorithms are designed as supervised algorithms for classification problem domain [14] and the capability of detection has been imitated in artificial immune systems for intrusion detection, which is the basic principle of AIRS1, Immunos1 and ClonalG [15][7]. This paper is organized as follows. The section 2 discussed some research work in intrusion detection system. In section 3, the description of the experiments and the methods are explained. Section 4 presented the results obtained. Conclusion and future work is given in section 5.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

IMMUNOS1 algorithm is an artificial immune system based algorithm which assumes no data reduction, thus the clone population prepared is maintained and is used to classify unknown data instances. The artificial immune network algorithms includes the base version and the extension for optimization problems called the optimization artificial immune network algorithm [9].

The clonal selection algorithm (CLONALG) is actuated from the clonal selection theory. Clonal selection theory is a scientific theory in immunology that explains the functions of cells (lymphocytes) of the immune system in response to specific antigens attacking the body. The theory states that the antibodies select the antigens based on the selection which further produces its clones for antibody production. The mutation occurs to allow the variations in cloned cells [9][7]. The selection of antibodies for cloning is inspired by Darwinian natural selection theory of evolution. Clonal Selection algorithm is a self-organized. It is applied to optimization, classification and pattern recognition problem.

In AIRS, clonal expansion and affinity maturation are used to encourage the generation of potential memory cells which are later used for classification. Hypothetically, AIRS has four stages to learning which are initialization, memory cell identification, resource competition and finally; refinement of established memory cells. The original AIRS1 algorithm uses a user defined *mutate rate* parameter to determine the degree to mutate a produced clone, and simply replaced attribute values with randomly generated values within the attributes normalised range. AIRS2 introduced the concept of somatic hyper mutation where the amount of mutation a clone receives is proportional to its affinity to the antigen in question [7]. In this study, only the AIRS1 will be used for our experiment.

During detection, anything that deviates from the normal profile is classified as anomalous and an alarm is launched. It is on this principle intrusion detection systems are built. There are various approaches for anomaly based IDS. They are statistically based intrusion detection, rule based detection and signature based detection. According to [6], anomaly-based detection discriminates between normal and anomalous data based on the knowledge of the normal data. Normal data is created when the system first generate profiles of

normality by either training or statistical analysis. The main problem is defining the boundary between acceptable and anomalous behaviour. The concept of normality is needed in order to provide an appropriate solution in network anomaly detection [16]. Therefore, the anomaly detector approaches must be able to distinguish between the anomaly and normal data.

[17] built predictive models for intrusion detection using machine classification algorithms namely logistic regression, Gaussian Naives Bayes, support vector machine (SVM) and random forest using NSL-KDD dataset. The experimental results show that Random Forest Classifier out performed all other methods in identifying whether the data traffic is a normal or an attack.

[15] have used clonal Selection algorithms as classifier. The result of their experiment was compared with other classifier such as J48, Naïve Bayes, SVM, and MLP based on accuracy using the KDD CUP-99 dataset. Clonal selection algorithm performs better than other classifier.

[18] analysed ClonalG and Immunos1 on the subset of the NSL-KDD dataset, which contained more of anomalous records, compares to normal records. The ClonalG perform better in detecting anomalous packets over the compared classifiers, which are naïve bayes and immunos1. There is a slight difference in the performance of ClonalG and Immnos1 in their work. ClonalG has 78.66% accuracy while Immunos1 has 77.93% accuracy.

AIS algorithms has also been used on some other benchmark dataset [19][20], which are not intrusion dataset. The same has been compared with non-AIS based data mining algorithm such ZeroR, J48, naïve bayes and the AIS algorithms especially AIRS, which demonstrated a superior performance[22].

[14] described the analysis and comparison of different datasets using different AIS based classification algorithms. They further compare different datasets through the different AIS and non-AIS based algorithms to select the best suitable algorithm for the corresponding dataset. Breast cancer, Ecoli, Hepatitis, Pima Indian and Heartstatlog dataset were used in their study. AIRS1 perform much better than ClonalG and Immnos1 in accuracy, specificity and sensitivity using all the dataset. Based on accuracy, AIRS1 achieved 97.42% in Breast cancer, 82.44% in Ecoli, 81.94% in Hepatitis, 72% in Prima Indian and 76.29% in Heartstatlog.

[4] described an intrusion detection approach modeled on the basis of two bio-inspired concepts namely, negative selection and clonal selection. Their intrusion detection system model incorporates a knowledge base constructed by ClonalG using negative selection and uses ClonalG for recognition of the malicious activities in the system. Their proposed model is hoped to perform efficiently in real-time environments.

## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

Our work is to design an anomaly-based intrusion detection system with different AIS Classifiers. The process used is described as follow.

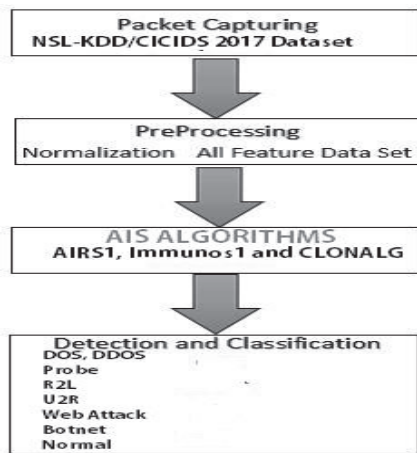


Figure 1: Research Process Framework

### (a) Dataset Description

In our work of anomaly and intrusion detection over the network, data are gathered in form of packet capture (pcap). For this work, we used NSL-KDD and CICIDS dataset. The extracted packet capture (pcap) are now converted to common separated value (CSVs) files which are imported into the Explorer view of the WEKA tool for further processing.

NSL-KDD data set is a publically available data set which is offline network data based on KDD 99 data set [22]. CICIDS dataset can also be accessed from the UNBCSX archive based on request [23].

NSL-KDD data set is a new version of the KDD '99 data set. It is a network traffic data set. NSL-KDD train and test sets have a reasonable number of records which makes it affordable to run experiments on the complete set without the need to randomly select a small portion. This advantage has make evaluation results of different research work to be consistent and comparable. NSL-KDD data set consists of 41 features. Not all these 41 features are equally important. Some of these features may decrease the performance and accuracy of the Intrusion Detection System. The NSL-KDD has some advantages over the original KDD data set:

- (i) Redundant records are not present in the train set which will make the classification problem not to be biased if more frequent records are present.
- (ii) It gives better detection rates on the frequent records as there is no duplicate records in the proposed test sets.

The NSL-KDD also has its own deficiencies. The huge redundant records in the dataset in the datasets makes the learning algorithms to be biased towards the frequent records and this prevent the dataset to learn from unfrequently records, which are usually more harmful to network such as User2Root. Table 1 presented the attacks, which NSL-KDD simulated.

The CICIDS 2017 dataset consists of labelled network flows, including full packet payloads in packet capture (pcap) format, the corresponding profiles and the labelled flows in common separated values (CSVs) format[23]. In computer network administration, the packet capture consists of an application programming interface (API) for capturing network traffic. CICIDS

2017 dataset contains benign and the most up-to-date common attacks, which resembles the true real-world data (PCAPs). The datasets consist of 85 attributes for each of the attack categories and instances for each of the attack categories are much more than the NSL-KDD. The CICIDS dataset has attack diversity by including most common attacks such as web based, brute force, Dos, DDos, infiltration, Heartbleed, Bot, and scan [24]. It is because of these large log files of packets that have been extracted into CSV formats that feature selection techniques used in this study will be discussed in the data preprocessing section.

Table 1. Attack Types for NSL-KDD

DOS	Probe	R2L	U2R
back	ipsep	ftp-attack	bufferoverflow
land	nmap	Guess_password	loadmodule
neptune	portseep	lmp	perl
pod	satant	multilp	rootkit
smurf		phf	
teardrop		spy	
		warezclient	
		warezmaster	

### (b) Data Preprocessing

Pre-processing is carried out in order to convert raw network traffic profiles into quality traffic profiles and used in future as data source for developing the IDS. The quality traffic profiles consist of normal and attack profiles are given as input to the intelligent misuse intrusion detection subsystem to detect known attacks. NSL-KDD and CICIDS 2017 dataset has been considered as the data source for evaluating the performance of our IDS.

### Redundancy Removal

Both dataset are developed in a simulated network environment .The collected traffic features are found to exhibit redundancy in both normal and attack profiles [13]. The detection model, if developed with these features as such is likely to be biased towards redundant instances. Hence, the instances need to be processed for redundancy removal which helps in reducing the number of duplicated instances. In this work, removal of redundant instances is carried out only on CICIDS 2017 dataset using the (Remove Duplicates) feature of the Weka preprocessing tool. The NSL-KDD don't have a redundant record as this is one of the improvement it has over the KDD CUP-99 dataset.

### Normalization using the Min-Max Scaling

A suitable normalization technique is necessary to reduce the domination of features with higher values over features with lesser values so that the detection model would not be biased towards features having higher values [25] In this work, normalization is carried out to transform values of all features into a common specific range by using the Min-Max scaling technique. The formula for the normalization is giving below:

$$z_i = \frac{x_i - \min(x)}{\max(x) - \min(x)}$$

### (c) Feature Selection

Part of this study was to compare the performance of classifiers based on the features selected. By omitting attributes that do not contribute to the efficacy as well as efficiency of the algorithm, there was reduction in the dimensionality of our data set and this improved the processing performance. A more efficient search strategies and evaluation criteria are needed for feature selection with dataset of large dimensionality [26]; correlation-based feature selection is effective to handle large-dimensional data with class information [26]. Feature selection is closely connected to data mining and other data processing techniques [25] which will be explained in detail in the experiment section of this work. CFS also employ the use of best-first search algorithm as its strategies to select the best feature set that will improve classification accuracy. The pseudo code for the algorithm is giving in figure 2. The choice of correlation-based feature selection for this work is because of large dimensionality of NSL-KDD and CICIDS 2017 dataset.

To accomplish the goal of this paper, feature selections were carried out on the dataset. The Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) is used in this paper. Experiments are performed on a Windows 8.1 Machine (Intel Pentium 2.4GHZ, 6 GB RAM). WEKA tool is used to run CFS on the dataset. The models for the intrusion detection system were built using each of the algorithms; ClonalG, AIRS1 and Immunos1. These models were used for predicting the labels of the test data. Feature selection could lead to further improvements in detection rate and complexity. Correlation-based feature selection evaluates the worth of a subset of attributes by considering the individual predictive ability of each feature along with the degree of redundancy between them.

For the NSL-KDD dataset, the features selected by the CFS are Flag, src\_bytes,dst\_bytes, logged\_in, srv\_error\_rate, diff\_srv\_rate and class. The selected features have the highest correlation among other features in the dataset. In the case of the CICIDS dataset, the features selected varied from one attack category to the other. In DOS/DDOS attack, timestamp and init\_win\_bytes\_forward features are chosen. This is also to say that for the simulated DOS/DDOS attack, the selected features has the highest correlation. For botnet, DestinationPort, Bwd\_Packet\_Length\_Mean, Bwd\_Packet\_length\_std and min\_seg\_size\_forward. Web attack make use of fwd\_Packet\_length\_Mean, Fwd\_IAT\_Min and Init\_win\_bytes\_backward(refer to Table 5).

CFS uses a best-first search algorithm to evaluate the merit of feature subsets. Best-first search explores a graph by expanding the most promising node chosen according to a specified rule. The heuristic by which CFS measures the usefulness of individual features for predicting the class label along with the level of inter-correlation among them. The hypothesis on which the heuristic is based can be stated: Good feature subsets contain features highly correlated (predictive of) with the class, yet uncorrelated with (not predictive of) each other. The Heuristic “merit” for subset  $S$  is mathematically expressed as:

$$Merit_s = \frac{\overline{kr_{ca}}}{\sqrt{k + k(k-1)\overline{r_{aa}}}}$$

Where  $k$  is the number of attributes

$\overline{r_{ca}}$  is the average class-attribute correlation

$\overline{r_{aa}}$  is the average attribute-attribute correlation

where MS is the heuristic “merit” of a feature subset  $S$  containing  $k$  features, of how predictive of the class a set of features are; the denominator of how much redundancy there is among the features.

1. Begin with the OPEN list containing the start state, the CLOSED list empty, and BEST start state.
2. Let  $s = \arg \max e(x)$  (get the state from OPEN with the highest evaluation).
3. Remove  $s$  from OPEN and add to CLOSED.
4. If  $e(s) \geq e(\text{BEST})$ , then BEST =  $s$ .
5. For each child  $t$  of  $s$  that is not in the OPEN or CLOSED list, evaluate and add to OPEN.
6. If BEST changed in the last set of expansions, goto 2.
7. Return BEST.

**Figure 2:** Best-Search Algorithm

## 4.0 RESULTS

This section presents the classification performance of AIRS1, ClonalG and Immnos1 on the dataset used. 10-fold cross validation is applied on both dataset. 10-fold cross validation process divides the dataset into 10 part, nine parts was used as training data and one part was used for testing. The following results were identified for the algorithms using accuracy, precision and recall.

**Table 2:** CLONALG Classification of CICIDS 2017 Dataset

S/N	Attack	Accuracy %	Time(s)	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	RMSE
1.	DDOS	75.55	21	0.71	0.76	0.73	0.49
2.	Botnet	98.97	33	1.0	0.99	0.5	0.09
3.	Web attack	100	26	1.0	0.99	0.5	0.08

Table 2 shows Accuracy, Time taken, Precision, Recall, F-Measure and RMSE of the ClonalG in identifying intrusion. Based on the results shown in the Table 2, it can be identified that ClonalG achieved 100% accuracy in web attack for CICIDS 2017 dataset. Whereas ClonalG has the lowest accuracy on DDOS, Botnet attack has a good detection accuracy with ClonalG.

**Table 3:** Immunos1 Classification of CICIDS 2017 Dataset

S/N	Attack	Accuracy %	Time(s)	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	RMSE
1.	DDOS	66.68	0.33	1	0.35	0.59	0.43
2.	Botnet	65.67	0.12	1	0.64	0.67	0.59
3.	Web attack	63.3	0.22	1	0.63	0.77	0.43

Table 3 shows Accuracy, Time taken, Precision, Recall, F-Measure and RMSE of the Immunos1 in identifying intrusion. Based on the results shown in the Table 3, it can be identified that Immunos1 doesn't show good accuracy performance on all the attacks.

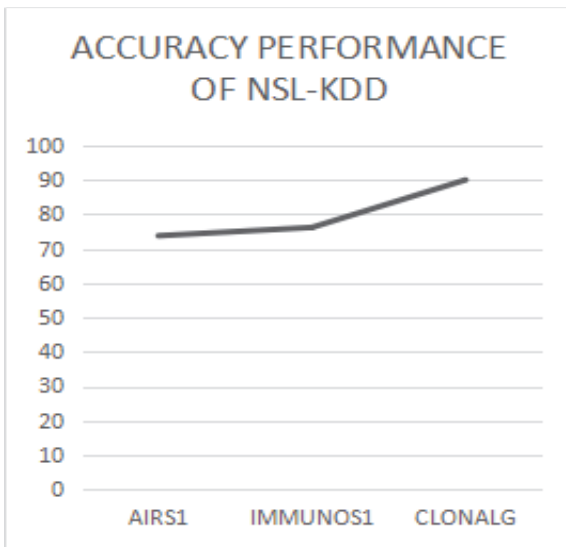
**Table 4:** AIRS1 Classification of CICIDS 2017 Dataset

S/N	Attack	Accuracy %	Time(s)	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	RMSE
1.	DDOS	97.73	1.3	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.15
2.	Botnet	97.78	260	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.18
3.	Web attack	97.90	58	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.12

Table 4 shows Accuracy, Time taken, Precision, Recall, F-Measure and RMSE of the AIRS1 in identifying intrusion. Based on the results shown in the Table 3, it can be identified that AIRS1 show best accuracy performance on all the attacks.

The accuracy performance of AIRS1, Immunos1 and ClonalG has been compared to each other on DDos, botnet and web attack. The comparison for CICIDS 2017 dataset has been shown in Figure 3. Figure 1 also shows the comparison of AIRS1, Immunos1 and ClonalG1 accuracy performance on NSL-KDD dataset. Table 5. Features Selected for each attack of CICIDS 2017 Dataset using CFS

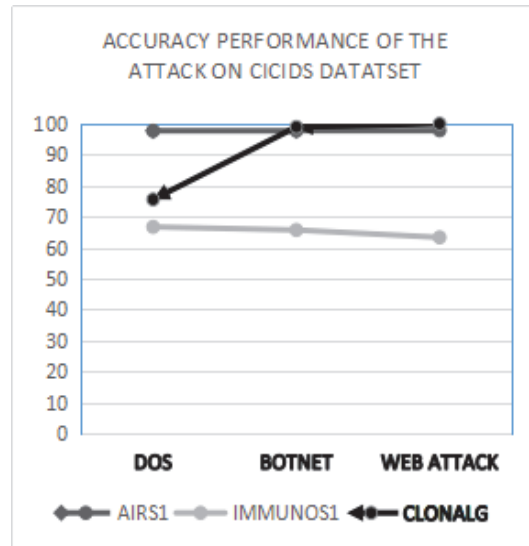
S/N	DDOS	Web Attack	Bot net
1.	1 Flow ID	2 Source IP	1 Flow ID
2.	7 Timestamp	1 Flow ID	5 Destination Port
3.	3 Source Port	74 Init_Win_bytes_back	4 Destination IP



**Figure 3:** Accuracy Graph for NSL-KDD dataset

**Table 6:** NSL-KDD Dataset Classification using Correlation-based Feature Selection CSF

S/N	ALGORITHMS	Accuracy %	Time (s)	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	RSME
1.	CLONALG	89.93	24	0.92	0.9	0.91	0.2
2.	IMMUNOS 1	76.12	0.2	0.66	0.9	0.91	0.4
3.	AIRS 1	73.71	284	0.72	0.6	0.69	0.3



**Figure 4:** Comparison of Accuracy of the 3 Algorithms using the CICIDS 2017

We found that the level of detecting classification accuracy, sensitivity, F-measure and specificity varied in each dataset but the highest results are seen in the case of AIRS1 algorithm. AIRS1 performed best among all the other AIS algorithms in all the attack for CICIDS 2017 dataset. We compared our results with proven classifiers that have performed well on intrusion detection system. We choose ZeroR and J48 classifiers to compare with these AIS algorithms. In our comparison of AIS algorithms with ZeroR and J48 classifier, ZeroR and J48 classifier build their models faster than any of the AIS algorithms but perform poorly in accuracy on CICIDS 2017 dataset. Among the AIS algorithms, ClonalG has the highest number of accuracy using the NSL-KDD dataset for intrusion detection classification while AIRS1 has the highest number of accuracy using the CICIDS 2017 dataset for intrusion detection. Table 2 shows the classification performance using CLONALG and Table 3 show classification performance using Immunos1.

In the use of CICIDS dataset, the more features you select, the more time taken to build the models especially for the AIS algorithms. Limited and best feature set also affects the accuracy of AIS algorithms.

Web infiltration and Port scan attacks simulated in the CICIDS 2017 dataset was not evaluated in this study. This is because; the behavior of the 3 AIS algorithms considered in this study won't yield optimal solution in a reasonable processing time. Further preprocessing we be needed to be carried so as to get a better classification performance and detection for web infiltration and port scan attacks to be tested for our proposed model.

### 5.0 CONCLUSION

Developing a reliable intrusion detection system that can detect common and up-to-date attacks is one of the fundamental concerns of researchers and IDS developer. In this study, effectiveness of 2 different intrusion detection dataset using AIS techniques was comparatively evaluated and the results were present-

ted. We also investigated which among of AIRS1, ClonalG and Immunos1 gives a better classification accuracy on common updated intrusion attacks over the network.

Experimental results suggested that, in the detection of updated malicious attacks, the proposed AIS techniques perform better than other classifiers and AIRS1 performs best on all the dataset in all the cases. In the future, we plan to include dendritic cell algorithms (DCA) and negative Selection Algorithms to evaluate the effectiveness of our AIS classification model on NSL-KDD and CICIDS 2017 dataset.

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#### BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS

##### AKINWANDE O.T.



**Akinwande, O.T** obtained his B.Tech in Computer Science from Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. He is currently a Master Student of

Computer Science, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.

##### ABDULLAHI M.B.

**Abdullahi, M.B.** received his B.Tech (Honors) in Mathematics/Computer Science from Federal University of Technology, Minna-Nigeria and Ph.D. in Computer Science and Technology from Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, P.R. China. His current research interests include trust, security and privacy issues in data management for wireless sensor and ad hoc networks, Cloud computing, Big data technology and information and communication security. He is a member of Computer Professionals (Registration Council) of Nigeria (CPN) and Nigeria Computer Society (NCS).

