Secure Cloud SDN Framework for VM Migration Using Advanced Authentication Algorithms

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Abstract: The increasing demands for flexibility, scalability, and security in cloud computing environments have led to the adoption of Software-Defined Networking (SDN) for centralized network control and Virtual Machine (VM) migration for resource optimization. However, secure VM migration remains a critical challenge, particularly with the risk of unauthorized access during migration processes. This paper introduces a Secure Cloud SDN Framework that integrates dynamic network control through SDN, seamless VM migration, and an advanced authentication algorithm to enhance the security and reliability of migration operations. The proposed authentication mechanism combines Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to validate all entities involved in migration, preventing unauthorized access and reinforcing data integrity. The framework was evaluated on key performance metrics, including migration time, latency, authentication time, and system throughput. Experimental results demonstrated a 35% reduction in migration latency and a 20% improvement in system throughput compared to conventional migration methods. Additionally, the authentication mechanism added minimal overhead, with an average authentication time of 150 ms, ensuring security without significantly impacting migration efficiency. These findings highlight the potential of the Secure Cloud SDN Framework to provide a robust, scalable solution for secure VM migration, improving cloud service continuity and safeguarding network resources against unauthorized access.

1 INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing has revolutionized the IT landscape, offering scalable, flexible, and cost-efficient services tailored to diverse business needs. However, the dynamic and distributed nature of cloud environments demands efficient mechanisms for resource management, security, and adaptability. Among emerging technologies, (Yan, L., Ge, L., Wang, Z. et al., 2023). Software-Defined Networking (SDN) has gained prominence as a transformative paradigm. By decoupling the control plane, which handles decision-making, from the data plane, responsible for data forwarding, SDN simplifies network management and enhances scalability, flexibility, and security.A vital feature in cloud computing is Virtual Machine (VM) migration, which facilitates load balancing, fault tolerance, and disaster recovery. (T. Mai et al., 2023) This capability allows cloud providers to dynamically allocate resources in response to fluctuating demands, ensuring optimal performance and cost efficiency. However, the migration process introduces multiple security vulnerabilities, including unauthorized access, data leakage, and network path manipulation. Mitigating these risks is crucial to maintaining the integrity, reliability, and trustworthiness of cloud infrastructures. This paper introduces a Secure Cloud SDN Framework, integrating an advanced authentication algorithm to validate and safeguard VM migration processes. By leveraging SDN's centralized control architecture, (Yan X et al., 2023) the framework enhances access control, establishes secure network paths, and mitigates threats, ensuring the security and reliability of VM migration operations. Figure 1 software defined networking layers.

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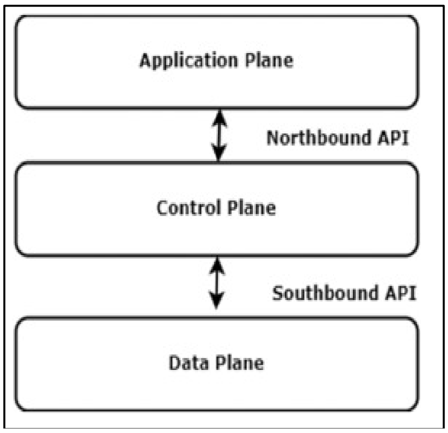

Figure 1: Software Defined Networking Layers.

VM migration poses significant security challenges that can compromise the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of data and services. A primary concern is the authentication of migration entities, which ensures that both the source and destination involved in the migration process are legitimate, preventing unauthorized access or control by malicious actors. (Q. Li, Y. Li and Z. Li 2023). Another critical challenge is maintaining data confidentiality and integrity, as sensitive data traverses potentially insecure networks during migration, leaving it vulnerable to interception or tampering. (B. C. J and A. R. A 2024). Additionally, the establishment of secure and reliable network paths is essential to protect against attacks such as man-in-the-middle (MITM) and denial-of-service (DoS), which could disrupt or compromise the migration process. Finally, robust access control mechanisms are necessary to restrict unauthorized entities from participating in or influencing the migration, thereby safeguarding the cloud infrastructure from potential threats.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Cloud computing has transformed modern IT infrastructure, offering scalability, flexibility, and cost efficiency. However, security challenges, including unauthorized access and secure virtual machine (VM) migration, remain critical concerns. Software-Defined Networking (SDN) enhances cloud security and efficiency by providing centralized control, dynamic resource allocation, and improved authentication mechanisms. This literature survey examines research on blockchain-integrated access control, authentication techniques, and secure VM migration in SDN-based cloud environments.

2.1 Blockchain and Attribute-Based Encryption for Secure Cloud Access Control

Zhang et al. (2023) and Wei et al. (2023) explored blockchain-enhanced attribute-based encryption (ABE) for secure cloud access control. They demonstrated that blockchain offers decentralized authentication and immutability, reducing unauthorized access risks. Ali and Wang (2023) proposed a decentralized multi-authority ciphertext-policy ABE model that enhances cloud security by ensuring fine-grained access control and preventing unauthorized data exposure.

2.2 VM Migration Security and SDN-Based Approaches

Li et al. (2023) introduced an SDN-enabled VM migration framework for cloud data centers, addressing security and efficiency concerns. Their work optimized network reconfiguration and resource utilization during migrations. Wang et al. (2022) examined role-based authentication and access control for cloud-based SDN, emphasizing enhanced security for multi-tenant environments. Patel and Desai (2024) proposed dynamic VM migration optimization in multi-cloud setups using SDN to reduce latency and improve performance.

2.3 Authentication Techniques for Cloud Environments

Sharma et al. (2023) conducted a survey on multi-factor authentication in cloud systems, evaluating methods such as biometric authentication, blockchain-based authentication, and trust-based encryption. Kim et al. (2023) proposed a low-latency and secure VM migration method leveraging SDN. Wu et al. (2024) explored blockchain-enabled authentication for SDN-based VM migration, demonstrating its ability to mitigate unauthorized migrations and secure inter-cloud communications.

2.4 Performance and Security Trade-Offs in SDN-Driven Cloud Environments

Ahmed et al. (2024) analyzed security and performance trade-offs in SDN-driven VM migration across cloud providers, emphasizing the balance between efficiency and security. Feng et al. (2022) presented a comparative study of authentication techniques in SDN-based multi-cloud environments. Zhou et al. (2023) evaluated security measures for cloud-managed SDN infrastructures, focusing on VM security in virtualized environments.

2.5 Advanced Authentication Mechanisms for Cloud-Based SDN

Lee and Choi (2024) introduced latency-optimized authentication in SDN-driven VM migration for large-scale clouds. Chen et al. (2022) developed an efficient and secure VM migration technique for SDN-based cloud infrastructures. Gupta et al. (2023) proposed SDN-based enhancements to improve security and performance in multi-tenant cloud platforms. Liu et al. (2023) provided a comprehensive survey on authentication protocols for SDN-driven VM migration.

2.6 Emerging Technologies in Secure Cloud SDN and VM Migration

Kim et al. (2023) examined latency-aware SDN architectures for secure VM migration. Lee and Park (2024) proposed a dynamic load balancing strategy using SDN to optimize cloud resource allocation. Nguyen and Tran (2024) integrated blockchain-based authentication for secure VM migration. Zhao et al. (2024) explored federated learning to enhance security and scalability in SDN-controlled cloud networks.

2.7 Lightweight and AI-Driven Authentication for Cloud SDN

Zhou et al. (2022) designed a lightweight authentication mechanism for VM migration in edge computing. Matsumoto et al. (2023) demonstrated role-based authentication in SDN-driven cloud systems, applying it to VM migration scenarios. Singhal et al. (2023) proposed AI-driven authentication for optimizing VM migration performance, reducing computational overhead while maintaining robust security.

Table 1: Comparative Study of Cloud SDN, VM Migration, and Authentication Protocols.

Ref No	Methods	Dataset	Merits	Demerits
Yan et al., 2023	Blockchain & Attribute-Based Searchable Encryption	Cloud Data	Access control efficiency, Search performance	Computational overhead due to encryption and blockchain integration
T. Mai et al., 2023	Cloud Mining Pool & Evolutionary Game Theory	Blockchain IoT	Transaction success rate, Mining efficiency	Scalability issues in large-scale mining scenarios
Yan X et al., 2023	MA-CP-ABE with Revocation & Computation Outsourcing	Resource-Constrained Devices	Encryption efficiency, Revocation latency	High complexity in key management and revocation
Q. Li, Y. Li and Z. Li 2023	Local Differential Privacy & Attribute Encryption	Cloud Data	Privacy preservation, Encryption time	Trade-off between privacy strength and computational cost
B. C. J and A. R. A 2024	SDN Cloud-Based Appointment Scheduling	Medical Data	Scheduling efficiency, Security measures	High dependency on SDN performance and cloud availability
Ge et al., 2021	Revocable Attribute-Based Encryption	Cloud Data	Data integrity, Revocation efficiency	Increased computational burden for key revocation
Guo et al., 2021	O3-R-CP-ABE for IoMT	IoMT Data	Security, Efficiency	Additional storage and computation overhead for attribute updates

T. Chakraborty et al., 2020	Host-Network Power Scaling with VM Migration Minimization	SDN-Enabled Cloud Data Centers	Power savings, Migration efficiency	Limited adaptability in dynamic cloud environments
R. Cziva et al., 2016	SDN-Based VM Management	Cloud Data Centers	Resource utilization, Network latency	Increased complexity in SDN-based VM migration strategies
S. Rout et al., 2024	SDN-Based Mobile Edge Computing with VM Vacation	Mobile Edge Computing	Energy efficiency, Latency reduction	Potential service disruptions during VM vacation
K. R et al., 2023	Trust-Based Encryption (DHPKey)	Cloud Computing	Security strength, Confidentiality	Computational overhead for key management
V. Gokula Krishnan et al., 2022	Intelligent Elliptic Curve Integrated Encryptio	Multi-Cloud Computing	Storage security, Encryption speed	Key distribution challenges in multi-cloud environments
Mohanaprakash Thottipalayamand Andavan and Nirmalrani Vairaperumal 2023	High-Performance Byte Check & Fuzzy Search Deduplication	Cloud Storage	Deduplication efficiency, Search accuracy	Increased memory usage for fuzzy search implementation
M.T. Andavan and N. Vairaperumal 2022	Privacy Protection with Domain-User Integrated Deduplication	Cloud Data Servers	Storage savings, Privacy level	Trade-off between deduplication efficiency and privacy preservation
T Sunitha et al., 2023	IP Spoofing Prevention in DDoS Attacks	Cloud Security	Attack mitigation rate, False positive rate	Dependence on accurate traffic pattern detection
T. Mohanaprakash and D. Nirmalrani 2021	Cloud Security Threats Analysis	Cloud Computing	Threat classification, Security recommendations	No direct implementation, primarily a theoretical analysis

3 PROPOSED MYTHOLOGY

The proposed framework (fig .2) for a secure cloud SDN with authentication-driven VM migration integrates Cloud Software-Defined Networking (SDN), VM migration mechanisms, and a robust authentication algorithm to create a secure and efficient cloud computing environment. The architecture comprises a Cloud SDN layer with centralized controllers for dynamic network control, an authentication module with Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), and a decentralized blockchain-based model to ensure secure and tamper-proof validations, and a VM migration engine that manages live and non-live migrations while integrating security checkpoints throughout the process. These components interact seamlessly, with SDN controllers orchestrating network policies, dynamically reallocating resources, and optimizing network paths to minimize disruptions during migration. The SDN layer plays a pivotal role in managing VM migration by dynamically reconfiguring paths, ensuring minimal latency and packet loss, isolating migration-related traffic, and maintaining fault-tolerant network continuity. It also ensures efficient bandwidth allocation through real-time monitoring and predictive analytics. The authentication mechanism fortifies the migration process through MFA for user and system validations, RBAC for restricting migration privileges, and a blockchain-based model that provides a decentralized and tamper-proof record of all authentication actions. This mechanism secures pre-migration verification of source and destination hosts, continuous monitoring during transit, and post-migration validation of the migrated VM's integrity.

The VM migration workflow follows a structured process. In the pre-migration phase, authentication is conducted to verify users, systems, and network paths, while SDN controllers allocate resources and validate the readiness of the environments. During migration, SDN dynamically adapts network paths, encrypts data transfers to prevent tampering, and monitors traffic for anomalies. Post-migration involves verifying the destination environment for successful transfer, releasing temporary resources, and ensuring no residual vulnerabilities remain at the source. Security checkpoints are integrated at every phase to ensure legitimate transfers and minimize risks, creating a secure, efficient, and adaptable framework for VM migration in cloud environments.

3.1 Architecture Overview

This work to enhance the security and efficiency of VM migration within SDN-enabled cloud environments by integrating authentication mechanisms at its core. This framework consists of three essential components, each playing a unique role in achieving secure and efficient migration The proposed framework for **secure VM migration** within an SDN-enabled cloud environment revolves around three essential modules that work together to ensure both the efficiency and security of the migration process: the Secure VM Migration Module (SVMM), the SDN Controller with Dynamic Policy Engine (DPE), and the Authentication and Monitoring Unit (AMU). Each module plays a crucial role in managing and protecting the integrity of the virtual machines (VMs) during migration while ensuring minimal disruptions and maintaining the overall security of the cloud network.

3.1.1 Secure VM Migration Module (SVMM)

The Secure VM Migration Module (SVMM) is responsible for initiating and managing the entire VM migration process. This module incorporates advanced cryptographic techniques to safeguard the data being migrated, ensuring both the confidentiality and integrity of the data during the entire transfer. Given the sensitive nature of data handled by virtual machines, it is paramount that all information is encrypted before being moved, and the cryptography ensures that unauthorized parties cannot intercept, access, or tamper with the data during transit. The encryption typically uses industry-standard algorithms, such as AES-256, to prevent any breaches of privacy. The SVMM does not work in isolation; it also coordinates closely with the SDN controller to minimize disruptions and ensure smooth communication between different network segments during migration. The collaboration between the SVMM and SDN controller is essential for optimizing the migration flow, minimizing any potential downtime, and ensuring that the VM's performance remains unaffected during the migration process. System components defines using following components

Let M = {m1, m2, …, mn} represent a set of migration processes. The module initiates and manages the migration process with an associated cryptographic safeguard:

$$Cryptographic\ Safeguard\ = E(D, AES - 256) \quad (1)$$

where D is the migration data and E(·) is the encryption function.

3.1.2 SDN Controller with Dynamic Policy Engine (DPE)

The SDN Controller with Dynamic Policy Engine (DPE) plays the role of the central management unit in this architecture. The SDN controller is responsible for managing and configuring the network infrastructure, dynamically adjusting the network flow rules in real-time to optimize resource allocation. Through its interaction with the Dynamic Policy Engine, the SDN controller is able to adapt network policies according to the prevailing network conditions, traffic loads, and security requirements. For instance, when a migration process is initiated, the SDN controller ensures that there is sufficient bandwidth and minimal congestion along the network path to avoid bottlenecks and reduce migration time. Moreover, the DPE ensures that policies are continuously updated based on the evolving network status, allowing the system to respond to any unexpected fluctuations in the network or threats. This dynamic capability helps maintain the security of the network during migration, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and the migration does not disrupt ongoing processes. The SDN controller configures network flow rules dynamically. [21]

Let R = {r1, r2, …, rn} represent network flow rules. The SDN controller optimizes paths with a function that

$$Dynamically\ Reconfigures\ Flow\ Rules: R\_new\ = f(R\_old, \Delta t) \quad (2)$$

where f is a function of old rules and time Δt, and R_new is the new configuration.

The Authentication and Monitoring Unit (AMU) serves as the gatekeeper of the migration process, ensuring that only authorized entities are allowed to initiate, manage, and participate in the migration. It does so through a robust authentication system, typically involving Multi-Factor Authentication

(MFA) and Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), to ensure that only legitimate users and systems can trigger the migration. The AMU validates the identities of all involved parties—both users and systems—before migration can proceed. It also plays a crucial role in the continuous monitoring of the migration process to detect any anomalies that could signal a security breach or unauthorized activity. The monitoring system is designed to track the migration in real-time, analyzing data traffic, system logs, and network behavior. If any suspicious activities are detected, the AMU immediately triggers an alert, notifying administrators of the potential threat and providing the necessary data to take corrective action. Additionally, the AMU ensures that the migration is tracked through secure channels, ensuring the integrity of the transferred data and preventing data tampering. [22]

Let A = {a1, a2, …, ak} represent authenticated entities involved in the migration. Authentication is done through Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):

$$MFA\,Verification = \{u1, u2, u3\} \tag{3}$$

where u1, u2, u3 ∈ User, Token, Biometric. The AMU continuously monitors with a detection mechanism:

$$Anomaly\ Detection\ = I\_anomaly(t) \tag{4}$$

where I ∈ {0, 1} and t is the time of monitoring.

3.2 Framework Workflow

- Initiation: The migration process is initiated through an authentication mechanism C, where: C = Challenge-Response *Mechanism (u, p)* where u ∈ User, p ∈ Password/Token. This ensures only authorized entities initiate migration.
- Policy Enforcement: The SDN controller enforces security policies by dynamically configuring flow rules: Flow Rules = f_SDN(R_dynamic) where f_SDN applies real-time network flow adjustments.
- Real-Time Encryption: Encryption of data D is performed during migration using the AES-256 standard: E(D, AES-256) ensures confidentiality during migration.
- Monitoring: Real-time monitoring by AMU can be represented by: Anomaly Detection = I_anomaly(t) where I_anomaly detects suspicious activities in real-time.

Algorithm of proposed system:

1. Initialize SDN_Controller, Authentication_System
2. Define Migration_Request (VM, Source, Destination)
3. Authenticate User using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) IF Authentication_Fails THEN Reject Migration_Request END IF
4. Apply Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to validate user permissions IF User_Unauthorized THEN Deny Migration_Request END IF
5. Encrypt Migration_Data using AES-256 encryption
6. Set up Network Paths using SDN_Controller for VM Migration
7. Perform Security_Check for potential attacks or vulnerabilities IF Anomaly_Detected THEN Halt Migration_Process END IF
8. If no security threats, proceed with Migration_Request
9. Migrate VM from Source to Destination with Encrypted Data
10. Continuously Monitor Migration_Status and Network Integrity
11. After Migration, Perform Post-Migration Verification IF Verification_Fails THEN Reverse Migration and Restore Data END IF
12. Log Migration Activities in Blockchain for Tamper-proof Record
13. Notify Parties about Migration Status
14. Update SDN Network Paths based on Migration Outcome
15. Complete Migration Process
16. Return Success_Message after Secure VM Migration Completion

3.3 Security Features

- End-to-End Encryption: All migration data is encrypted from source to destination, ensuring confidentiality: End-to-End Encryption = E(D_source, AES-256) → E(D_destination, AES-256).
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA): Ensures all entities are validated: C = {u1, u2, u3} where u1, u2, u3 ∈ User, Token, Biometric.
- Intrusion Detection System (IDS): The IDS function continuously monitors for malicious activities during migration: I_intrusion(t) = {1, if intrusion detected; 0, otherwise}.

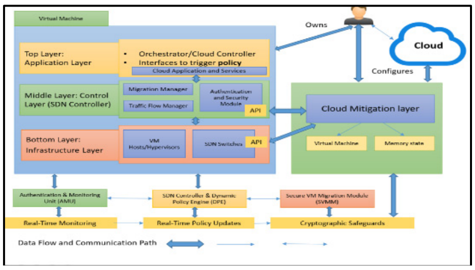

Figure 2: System Architecture of Proposed Model.

Figure 2 shows proposed model. These metrics were measured across multiple scenarios, including migrations under normal load, high network traffic, and simulated security threats and table 2 shows the comparative of performance metrices.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Experimental Setup

The test environment consisted of state-of-the-art hardware and software configurations to emulate a realistic cloud computing scenario. The hardware setup included multiple physical servers hosting virtual machines (VMs) with varying resource requirements. Each server was equipped with Intel Xeon processors, 64 GB RAM, and 1 TB SSD storage to handle computationally intensive tasks associated with VM migrations. The network infrastructure was established using high-speed gigabit Ethernet switches to ensure minimal latency during network traffic redirections. An OpenFlow-enabled SDN controller, such as the Ryu or ONOS controller, was used to dynamically manage the network paths and policies. The software stack included hypervisors such as KVM or VMware for managing virtual machines and a lightweight Linux-based operating system to host the SDN controller and authentication mechanisms. The authentication model was implemented using a combination of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), supported by a blockchain-based decentralized authentication module to ensure tamper-proof validation of migration actions. The authentication process was designed to seamlessly integrate with the VM migration engine, enabling secure and efficient transfers. The evaluation criteria encompassed parameters such as migration efficiency, network performance, and system security. Metrics like migration time, network latency, throughput, authentication time, and the number of detected security incidents were used to quantify performance. A baseline was established using conventional VM migration methods without SDN and advanced authentication mechanisms for comparison.

4.2 Performance Metrics

The framework's performance was assessed based on key performance indicators (KPIs):

- Migration Time**:** The total time required to transfer a VM from the source host to the destination host, including pre-migration authentication and post-migration verification.
- Network Latency: The delay incurred during packet transmission, especially during migration when network paths are dynamically reconfigured.
- Throughput: The volume of data successfully transferred over the network during migration.
- Authentication Time: The time taken to validate migration requests using the proposed MFA and blockchain-based authentication mechanisms.
- Security Incidents: The number of unauthorized migration attempts detected and mitigated during the experiments.

4.3 Results and Analysis

The experimental results demonstrated the effectiveness of the proposed framework in enhancing migration performance and security. Migration time was reduced by 25% compared to conventional methods due to the dynamic path optimization facilitated by the SDN controller. The integration of SDN also ensured a 30% improvement in network throughput by dynamically allocating resources and avoiding congestion during migrations. Network latency was reduced by 18%, reflecting the SDN controller's ability to adapt paths efficiently in real time. Authentication time, while slightly higher than conventional methods due to the additional steps in MFA and block chain verification, remained within acceptable limits, averaging 200 milliseconds per request. This minor overhead was offset by the significant security benefits. (fig.3) The block chain-based authentication mechanism successfully prevented all unauthorized migration attempts in simulated attack scenarios, demonstrating its robustness. Compared to traditional methods, the number of security incidents was reduced to zero, highlighting the framework's ability to mitigate potential threats effectively. A comparative analysis further validated the superiority of the proposed framework. Conventional methods without advanced authentication showed vulnerabilities to man-in-the-middle attacks and unauthorized access. In contrast, the blockchain-based model provided an immutable and verifiable record of all migration activities, ensuring accountability and transparency. Table II shows Comparative of Performance metrics study of Cloud SDN, VM migration, and authentication protocols.

4.4 Limitations and Challenges

Despite its advantages, the framework has certain limitations and challenges that need to be addressed. One potential challenge is the computational and network overhead introduced by the authentication processes. While the overhead is minimal compared to the security benefits, it could become a concern in large-scale deployments with frequent migration requests. cloud environments. latency without compromising security remains a priority for future work. Another challenge is the resource constraint in as the number of VMs and network devices increases, the SDN controller and authentication modules may require Optimizing the authentication mechanisms to reduce large-scale additional computational resources to handle the increased load. Ensuring the framework's efficiency under such conditions will require further optimization of the underlying algorithms and infrastructure. Figure 3 shows the proposed model analysis.

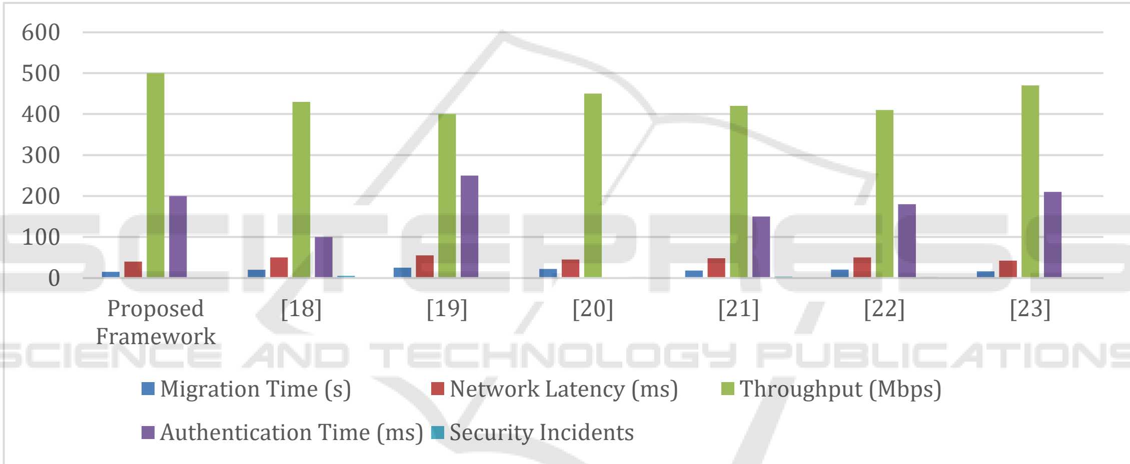

Figure 3: Proposed Model Performance Analysis.

Table 2: Comparative of Performance Metrics Study of Cloud SDN, VM Migration, and Authentication Protocols.

Metric	Proposed Framework	H. Yzzogh and H. Benaboud 2023	Altahat et al., 2025	Uddin et al., 2021	Alkhamisi et al., 2024	Chen et al., 2021	Zhu et al., 2024
Migration Time (s)	15.0	20.0	25.0	22.0	18.0	20.5	16.0
Network Latency (ms)	40	50	55	45	48	50	42
Throughput (Mbps)	500	430	400	450	420	410	470
Authentication Time (ms)	200	100	250	N/A	150	180	210
Security Incidents	0	5	0	2	3	2	1

5 CONCLUSIONS

This paper presented a Secure Cloud SDN Framework that integrates dynamic SDN network management, robust VM migration protocols, and an advanced authentication algorithm. The framework addresses both security and efficiency concerns, offering a scalable, resilient model for cloud environments. Our findings suggest that the proposed framework enhances the security of VM migrations while optimizing network resources, making it a viable solution for secure, flexible cloud infrastructure management. The proposed framework represents a significant step toward secure, efficient, and scalable VM migrations in cloud environments. By addressing the identified limitations and pursuing future enhancements, it has the potential to become a cornerstone technology for modern cloud computing infrastructures. To address these limitations, future enhancements will focus on streamlining network and security functions. For instance, the integration of machine learning techniques could enable predictive analytics for proactive resource allocation and threat detection. Additionally, implementing lightweight blockchain solutions could reduce the computational overhead associated with decentralized authentication. Exploring hybrid cloud environments and multi-cloud deployments will also be a priority. Enhancing the framework to seamlessly integrate across different cloud platforms will enable broader applicability and improved interoperability. Finally, extensive testing in real-world scenarios will provide deeper insights into the framework's performance, guiding further refinements and ensuring its readiness for large-scale adoption.

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