**Journal of Information Systems Engineering and Management**
2025, 10(26s)
e-ISSN: 2468-4376
https://www.jisem-journal.com/

**Research Article**

# Federated Learning and Biometric Identification for Continuous User Authentication Using Hybrid Neural Models

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**ARTICLE INFO**

Received: 24 Dec 2024

Revised: 18 Feb 2025

Accepted: 27 Feb 2025

## ABSTRACT

Continuous user authentication is one way to improve security, especially in environments where traditional password-based systems have outlived their effectiveness. A promising solution for user identification will be behavioral biometrics, which map internal patterns – such as keystrokes and mouse movements. Centralized storage of biometric data presents privacy issues. Toward this goal, we propose a federated learning approach for user identification and authentication that integrates a hybrid CNN-RNN model to efficiently capture spatio-temporal patterns of user behavior. While RNN captures sequence information, CNN focuses on feature extraction. This can be leveraged within Federated Learning so that biometric data remains on the user's device, significantly reducing privacy risks. Experimental results show that the method proposed in this work is highly accurate for user identification with very low exposure to his data, highlighting the benefits of Federated Learning, i.e. effective improvement in both security and privacy.

**Keywords:** Federated Learning, Behavioral Biometrics, Authentication, CNN, RNN.

## INTRODUCTION

Securing user accounts and thus their sensitive information is very important in this digital age. Passwords or security questions commonly used for authentication purposes fail in most cases to prevent unauthorized access or identity theft. This inadequacy is visible in the skyrocketing number of cyber-attacks and data breaches as conventional systems are mostly attacked and breached. Continuous authentication of users was thus developed as a need of the hour. While this method verifies identity only once, at login time, continuous authentication checks user identities at various points in the session using patterns of behavior. Even if an unauthorized user steals someone else's credentials or session, those users will be detected and blocked in real time during that session [1]. However, continuous user authentication has several serious problems. Its weakest point is the storage of biometric data within a centralized point, which raises serious privacy and security issues. Users are increasingly reluctant to provide sensitive personal data, especially data that uniquely identifies them, such as fingerprint scans or facial recognition. The consolidation of such data presents an attractive target for cybercriminals, as once breached, identity theft and misuse can occur on a large scale. In addition, traditional biometric systems often require the collection of a processing huge amounts of information becomes costly and logistically exhausting [2]. To mitigate these issues, we propose a federated learning approach for continuous user identification and authentication using behavioral biometrics. Federated learning is a decentralized machine learning paradigm that enables collaborative training of models across multiple devices while maintaining data localization.

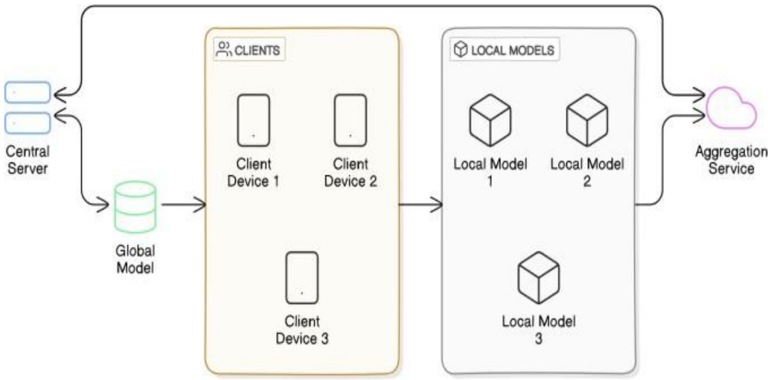


Figure 1: Federated Learning

Figure 1 represents the architecture of a federated learning system. It starts with a central server that holds the global model. This global model is sent to multiple client devices, each of which trains a local model using its private data. These client devices can be smartphones, IoT devices, or other edge devices. Once the training is complete, the locally updated models are sent back to an aggregation service. The aggregation service collects and combines the local models into a new global model, ensuring that the learning process improves overall model performance without requiring raw data to leave the client devices [3]. This setup ensures privacy by keeping user data decentralized. The global model is then updated and redistributed to clients for further rounds of training. This iterative process continues until the model converges. Federated learning is used in applications like personalized recommendations and healthcare data analysis. The architecture aims to balance data privacy and model accuracy while minimizing communication costs.

## RELATED WORKS

User authentication has evolved through the years from a simple method of relying on passwords to the sophisticated feature it is today. It verifies based on physical or behavioral characteristics unique to an individual. Biometric authentication provides users with better security and convenience. The set biometric systems fall under two broad categories: biologically and behaviorally driven. Biologically driven biometrics includes fingerprint recognition, facial recognition, and iris scanning. These base their verification on the physical features of individuals. Although these are widely implemented methods, these are also to be limited by certain issues. For example, these are easily prone to spoofing, high cost of implementation, and violate the privacy of users [4]. On the other hand, behavioral biometrics uses the patterns of user behavior such as typing dynamics, mouse movement, or gait analysis. The behavioural biometric platforms are continuously monitoring and tracking interactions by the users and authenticate users based on their unique behavioral patterns. Recent studies have opened up a massive amounting potential in employing machine learning algorithms for adapting behavioural biometrics accuracy with ever-changing user behaviors.

It is towards such challenge as has been developed the Federated Learning that emerged as the harbinger of hope in privacy-preserving machine learning [5]. Federated Learning is that methodology through which several devices can cooperatively learn a model on their data without ever having to transfer their data to the central server. The decentralized methodology thus eliminates the potential for intrusion of personal information and minimizes the privacy breach. Many works applied Federated Learning in various security scenarios and demonstrated the usage of secure data sharing and privacy preserving machine learning. However, the specific biometric authentication-based application is very under-researched. Our proposed method designs a hybrid CNN-RNN model under the Federated Learning framework, with one exploiting the strength of existing biometric systems. This can capture the spatial features of the data from user behavior. The RNN catches the temporal dynamics associated with sequential interactions. The architecture can improve the robustness of accuracy in user identification while preserving data privacy. This enables our approach to differ from previous methods in that sensitive behavioural biometric data will be kept on the user's device thus enhancing user trust as well as compliance with privacy regulations [6]. Overall, our contributions fall in the body of research in Federated Learning and biometric systems while providing a novel solution over traditional authentication methods that outweigh their contribution by making use of the unique strengths of behavioral biometrics.

Existing System is the State-of-the-art practice user authentication and identification systems depend very much on both traditional as well as deep learning methodologies. Traditionally, they used statistical models, Support Vector Machines, and Decision Trees to classify and authenticate users. Such approaches are very efficient for narrow domains but can't account for intricate sequential patterns of behaviour over time that may provide assurance to continuous as well as authentic authentication. CNN-Based Approaches Recently, user authentication also used CNNs. CNNSs did show a potential to extract spatial features from behavioural biometric data such as keystroke dynamics and mouse movements [7]. Such features are inherently user-specific. The drawbacks of CNN-based systems lie in the fact that they operate only by focusing their attention on the extraction of spatial features. Given that behavioral biometric data is inherently sequential, the accounting of temporal dependencies and transitions within user behavior are as important to accurate identification as is the feature extraction process. Although CNNs bring a multitude of other advantages in feature extraction, the current realization of CNNs fails to respect the nature of the data being analyzed due to its sequential dependency [8]. This may cause inconsistencies in CNN-based of research in Federated Learning and biometric systems while providing a novel solution over traditional authentication methods that outweigh their contribution by making use of the unique strengths of behavioral biometrics.

## PROPOSED METHODOLOGIES

Our proposed system architecture is designed to enable continuous user authentication through a Federated Learning framework but using a hybrid model of CNN and RNN. The architecture comprises a multitude of user devices that collect behavioral biometric data, a central server to aggregate the models, and the machine learning model itself. The method enables every user device to locally train the model using its data, thereby allowing the system to learn the different set of behavioral patterns without compromising user privacy. Application of Hybrid CNN-RNN Model The hybrid CNN-RNN model applied in this system efficiently captures the spatial as well as the temporal features of behavioral biometric data [9]. The CNN block is appropriate for feature extraction from the raw input data, with the contents of both typing patterns and mouse movements.

The RNN block, in turn, considers the sequential nature of information so that it is more appropriate for capturing time dependent properties of user's behavior. Integrating these two architectures would help improve the model's performance in user identification based on its behavioral biometrics [10]. Data Collection and Preprocessing Behavioral biometric data are collected through user interactions with the system [11]. We have identified and focused on two major types of data: typing patterns, and mouse movements. Typing patterns capture measures such as key press duration, inter key intervals, and typing speed, while mouse movements in metrics such as mouse trajectory, click frequency and movement speed. Fig. No: 2 Proposed System Architecture Our collected data undergoes preprocessing. The process of preprocessing includes noise reduction, normalization, and feature extraction. For instance, durations of key presses and inter key intervals change according to the style of human typing. We normalize them to resolve such variation. We even filter our data points to remove anomalous ones that might adversely affect model training by applying outlier detection methods [12]. The preprocessed data is then transformed into a format suitable for input into the CNN-RNN hybrid model.

Federated Learning Paradigm, The Federated Learning paradigm is a core part of our methodology and is utilized to preserve the privacy of users' machine learning models through distributed training on the central server. In this manner, only model updates are transmitted to the central server, with the behavioral biometric data maintained on the device of the user [13]. Instead of transmitting the raw data, every user device trains its local model on the data present and communicates model updates representing the learned parameters. The central server aggregates updates from multiple devices by using techniques such as federated averaging, combining the locally trained model parameters of all participating devices to benefit the global model from diverse behavioral data across users. Users will gain trust because their data remain decentralized, adhering to the privacy regulations because sensitive behavioral data is never presented to the central server [14].

### *3.1 Proposed System Architecture*

The architecture of the Federated Learning-based authentication system is designed to provide a secure, scalable, and efficient way of performing user verification while maintaining user privacy. The key components of the architecture are: Federated Learning Server: The Federated Learning server acts as the central hub for coordinating model training across multiple devices. It aggregates model updates from local devices and updates the global model based on the aggregated information. This server does not store sensitive user data; instead, it only stores the global model parameters, which are updated periodically, based on the contributions of the devices [15]. Local Devices (Clients): The local devices (e.g., smart phones, laptops, or IoT devices) play a key role in the Federated Learning process. These devices are responsible for collecting and processing local user data (such as biometric data) and training the machine learning model locally on the device.

Once the local training is complete, the device sends only the model updates (not the raw data) to the central server. Model Training and Aggregation: In this architecture, the Federated Learning model is trained using local data on the devices, and the model updates are sent back to the central server. The server then aggregates these updates to create a global model that is shared with all participating devices. This aggregation method ensures that no individual device has access to the complete data set, thus maintaining privacy. Authentication Methods: The system will support various authentication methods, including biometric features such as fingerprint recognition, facial recognition, voice authentication, and behavioral biometrics. These features are processed locally on the devices, and the Federated Learning model is trained to recognize the patterns unique to each user. User Interface: The user interface (UI) of the authentication system will be designed to be intuitive and easy to use, allowing users to securely authenticate themselves using a combination of biometric features or other authentication methods [10]. The UI will also allow users to manage their authentication settings, ensuring that their devices remain secure while preserving privacy [16]. Each device contributes to model updates in parallel, and the global model is updated efficiently, allowing the system to scale with increasing numbers of users. This architecture ensures that the system operates in a decentralized, secure, and privacy-preserving manner while providing reliable authentication for users. It also enables continuous learning from new data, ensuring that the system remains up-to- date and effective in adapting to new authentication challenges.

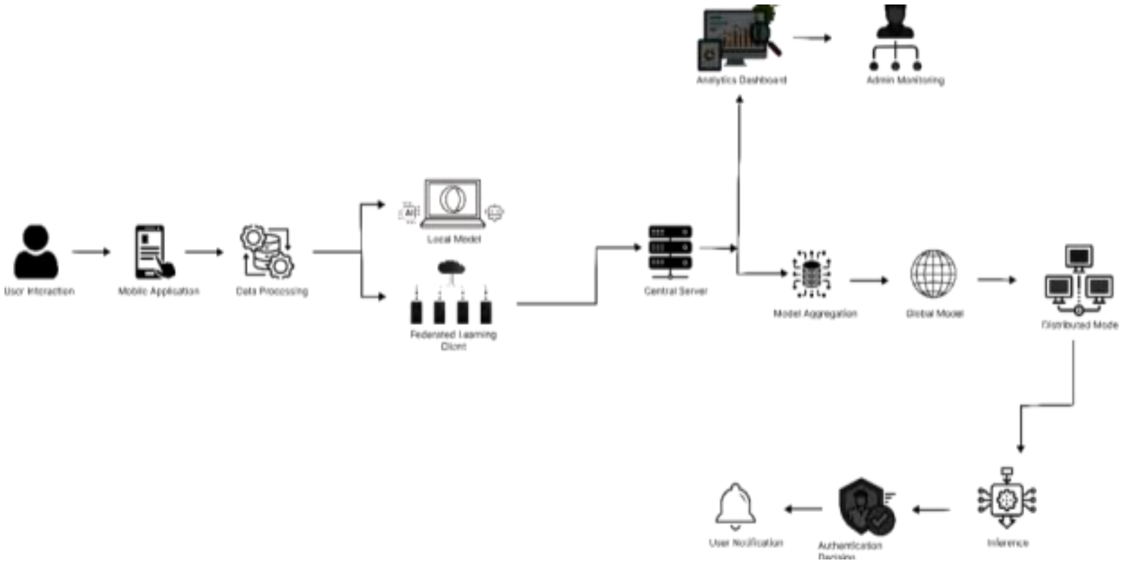


Figure 2: Proposed Architecture System

Figure 2 illustrates a federated learning system architecture, a decentralized approach to machine learning that enables collaborative model training among multiple clients (e.g., mobile devices, edge servers) while keeping their data localized. In this system, clients train local models on their own data. These locally trained models are then sent to a central server. The server aggregates the received model updates to create a global model that captures the collective knowledge from all participating clients. This aggregated global model is then distributed back to the clients, where it is used for further local training and inference tasks. This iterative process of local training, model updates, aggregation, and distribution continues, allowing the global model to evolve and improve over time. Federated learning offers several advantages, including enhanced data privacy as client data remains on the device, improved communication efficiency by transmitting only model updates, and improved scalability due to its decentralized nature.

## PERFORMANCE METRICS

A performance matrix for a Federated Learning (FL) approach to authentication provides a holistic view of the system's performance by examining accuracy, efficiency, scalability, and security. Accuracy metrics are critical to ensuring reliable authentication and include the True Positive Rate (TPR) for legitimate users correctly authenticated, the False Positive Rate (FPR) for unauthorized users mistakenly granted access, and the False Negative Rate (FNR) for legitimate users denied access. Other key indicators like Precision, Recall, and F1 Score offer deeper insights into the system's robustness, while the Equal Error Rate (EER) provides a consolidated measure of system reliability. The classifiers listed include both traditional machine learning and deep learning models, each suited for specific types of tasks. Logistic Regression (LR) is a simple linear model commonly used for binary or multi-class classification tasks. Random Forest (RF) and Decision Tree (DT) are tree-based models; RF is an ensemble method that improves accuracy by combining multiple trees, while DT is a standalone tree structure. Multinomial Naïve Bayes (MNB) is a probabilistic model ideal for categorical data classification. Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) is an optimization algorithm that works well for large-scale datasets, often used with linear models. K Nearest Neighbors (KNNs) is a distance- based classifier that predicts based on the majority class of its nearest neighbors. Ada Boost (AB) is an ensemble learning technique that boosts the performance of weak classifiers by combining them iteratively. In the realm of deep learning, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) are specialized for image and spatial data processing, while Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) excel in handling sequential data like text, speech, or time series. Together, these models cover a broad spectrum of applications, from basic classification tasks to complex pattern recognition in unstructured data.

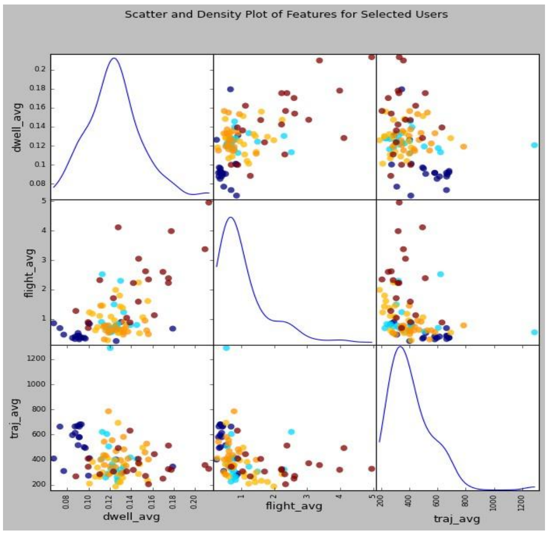


Figure 3: Scatter and Density Plot Matrix of Keystroke and Mouse Dynamics Features for Selected Users

The matrix visualizes the pairwise relationships between average dwell time (dwell_avg), average flight time (flight_avg), and average trajectory length (traj_avg). Scatter plots (off-diagonal) depict individual data points colored by user, while kernel density estimations (diagonal) illustrate the distribution of each feature.

To better understand the relationships between the extracted features and their potential for user differentiation, a scatter and density plot matrix was created, as depicted in Figure. 3. In this figure, the interactions of dwell_avg, flight_avg, and traj_avg for a few users are shown with each user marked by a different color.

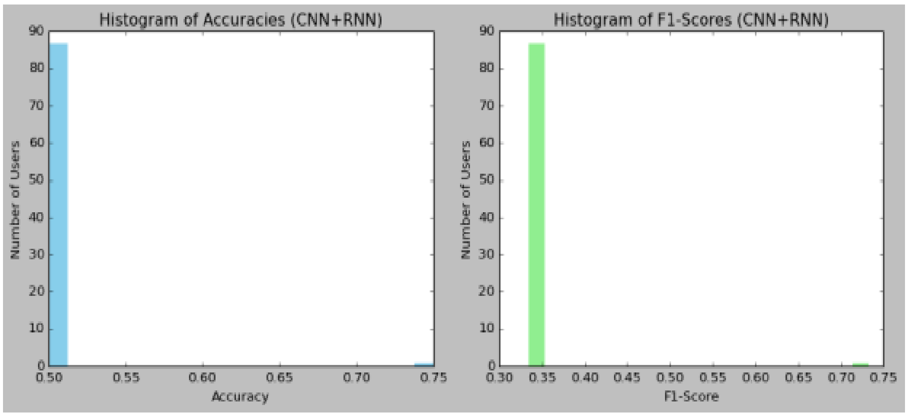


Figure 4: Distribution of accuracies and F1-scores achieved by the CNN+RNN model

The scatter plots indicate very few, if any, strong linear correlations between the pairs of features. In a second example, while the correlation is weakly positive at best for dwell_avg to flight_avg, some users-in this case represented in dark blue-have values overall that are not only much worse but are for both features rather generally lower, indicating that where some users were consistent with good typing patterns that were also associated with shortish dwell times (and corresponding good flight times) this is hardly a common outcome. More interestingly, non-linearly related dwell_avg- traj_avg and flight_avg-traj_avg will expose diverse aspects of the characteristics of users that these two features could capture in an insightful form. The along-the- diagonal density plots, again, gives one an indication about the data distribution for that particular feature of which there is indeed unimodal skewed right hand peak for 0.1s dwell average. flight_avg also has a unimodal distribution but peaks at 1 second with a much longer tail indicating broader dispersion of flight times among the users. traj_avg has a distribution peaking approximately at 400 units, meaning some common range of movement trajectories within which the mouse was moved by the user.

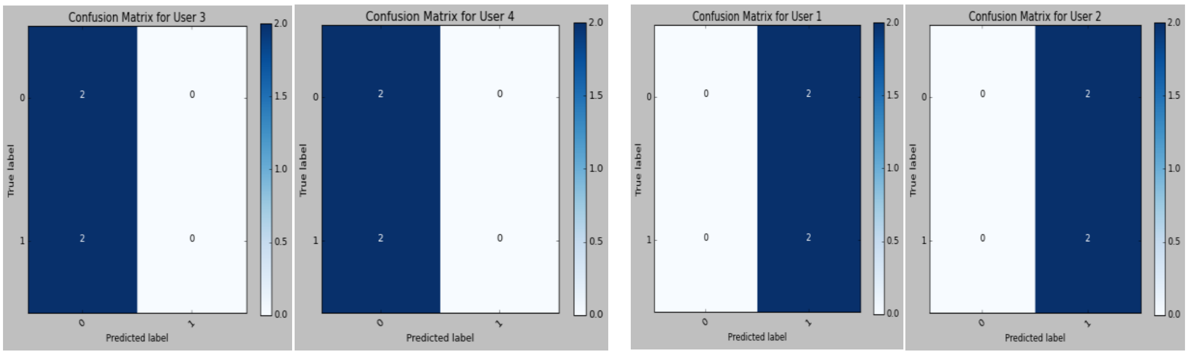


Figure 5: Confusion Matrix of first 4 users

This means features are largely independent of several aspects of the user behavior. Efficiency is another critical dimension, as FL systems often involve multiple edge devices with varying computational capacities. Metrics such as training time, communication overhead, and resource consumption help determine the feasibility of deploying the model in real-world settings. Scalability is evaluated by examining how well the model adapts to increasing numbers of devices and users without significant degradation in performance. The convergence rate is also essential, indicating how quickly the distributed model achieves an optimal state despite decentralized data and limited synchronization opportunities. This form of independence turns out to be useful for authentication purposes, suggesting that a linear combination of all these features should provide a robust and discriminative representation of a user's identity better than individual features. This would give the belief that such features can be used to discriminate between users, since different users have different characteristic values for dwell time, flight time, and trajectory length, as indicated by the density plots of the three distributions.

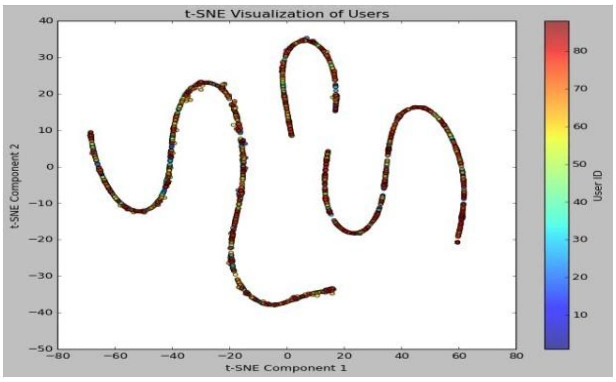


Figure 6: T-SNE Visualization of Users

User Clustering: The plot of t-SNE indicates the users have well-defined separated clusters; hence, different patterns are present for keystroke and mouse dynamics for users.

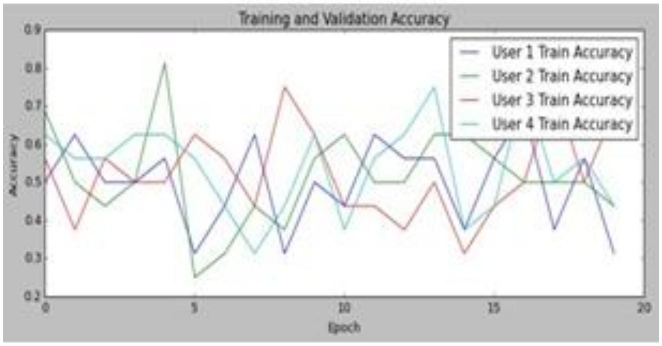
Table 1: Performance Comparison of top 5 users

| *UserID* | *Accuracy* | *F1-Score* | *Precision* | *Recall* | *True Positives* | *True Negatives* | *False Positives* | *False Negatives* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1* | *0.5* | *0.333* | *0.25* | *0.5* | *2* | *0* | *2* | *0* |
| *2* | *0.5* | *0.333* | *0.25* | *0.5* | *2* | *0* | *2* | *0* |
| *3* | *0.5* | *0.333* | *0.25* | *0.5* | *0* | *2* | *0* | *2* |
| *4* | *0.5* | *0.333* | *0.25* | *0.5* | *0* | *2* | *0* | *2* |
| *5* | *0.5* | *0.333* | *0.25* | *0.5* | *0* | *2* | *0* | *2* |

**Separability:** The distance between two clusters shows that users can, in fact, be distinguished with generated features. Effectiveness of Features: The visualization of features such as dwell_avg, flight_avg, and traj_avg is somewhat capturing the differences of users.

Lastly, real-world usability factors such as latency, ease of integration with existing systems, and the model's ability to handle diverse, non-IID (non-independent and identically distributed) data are crucial. A comprehensive performance matrix combining these metrics ensures the FL approach to authentication is practical, secure, and efficient in a variety of deployment scenarios.

Accuracy vs Loss visualization



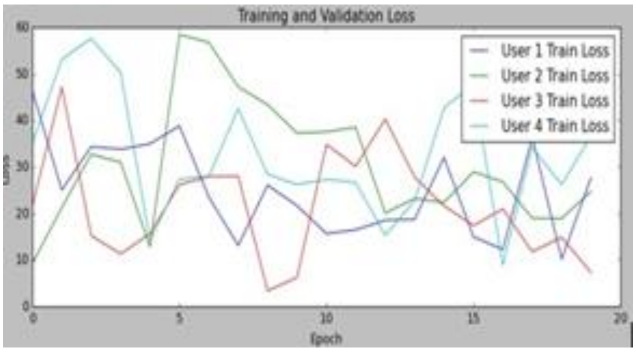


Figure 7: Accuracy vs Loss

Figure 7 illustrates the training accuracy trends over 20 epochs for four different users: User 1, User 2, User 3, and User 4. The x-axis represents the number of epochs, while the y-axis shows the training accuracy, ranging from 0.2 to 0.9. Each user's accuracy is denoted by a separate line: blue for User 1, green for User 2, red for User 3, and cyan for User 4. The accuracy for all users fluctuates significantly across epochs, indicating an unstable or noisy training process. User 1 (blue line) demonstrates relatively consistent accuracy, hovering between 0.5 and 0.7. User 2 (green line) exhibits similar behavior but with more pronounced drops and spikes. User 3 (red line) shows highly erratic behavior, with sharp increases and decreases, reaching peaks above 0.8 but also dropping close to 0.3. User 4 (cyan line) achieves relatively higher peaks, often approaching 0.8 in the later epochs, suggesting a better overall performance at certain points compared to the other users. The variability across users suggests possible differences in data quality, model parameters, or the training process itself. The fluctuating trends highlight potential issues such as overfitting, underfitting, or inconsistencies in the data distribution across users. Further investigation into these factors could help stabilize and improve the training process.

## CONCLUSION

The proposed Federated Learning-based authentication system presents a groundbreaking approach to securing user authentication while preserving privacy. By leveraging the decentralized nature of Federated Learning, this system ensures that sensitive data remains on users' devices, reducing the risk of data breaches and increasing privacy protection. The integration of advanced privacy-preserving techniques, such as differential privacy and secure aggregation protocols, enhances the security and integrity of the model training process. This system offers a scalable, efficient, and secure solution for authentication, empowering users and organizations to implement robust privacy-preserving authentication mechanisms. Furthermore, by avoiding the need to store or share personal data, the system aligns with contemporary privacy regulations, making it a highly relevant solution in today’s data-conscious world. This system will enable secure, efficient, and privacy-preserving authentication that aligns with modern-day demands for data privacy and regulatory compliance. Its decentralized nature and strong security measures make promising solution for organizations and users seeking a trustworthy authentication method. This system also offers a unique advantage in the context of compliance with emerging data protection regulations such as GDPR and CCPA. Since the system processes data locally on user devices, it aligns with the principles of data minimization and user consent. The implementation of differential privacy and secure aggregation techniques ensures that sensitive user data remains protected while still allowing the model to be trained and optimized. This makes the Federated Learning- based authentication system an ideal solution for industry that must adhere to strict privacy regulations, such as healthcare, banking, and e-commerce, while also addressing the growing concerns over data privacy in the digital age. The success of this system lies in its ability to balance privacy, security, and usability, making it a viable alternative to traditional centralized authentication systems. As data privacy concerns continue to grow, this Federated Learning-based solution can play a pivotal role in reshaping the way authentication mechanisms are developed and deployed, paving the way for a more secure and privacy-conscious digital future.

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