

# Malware Detection using Optimized Random Forest Classifier within Mobile Devices

Dr.S.Masood Ahamed<sup>1</sup>, Dr.V.N.Sharma<sup>2</sup>

Department of CSE, GuruNanak Institutions Technical Campus, Hyderabad

**Abstract:** Mobile devices are apace growing with their quality as a half of world infrastructure battery-powered communication system. As mobile devices become ubiquitous, used for a wide form of application areas like personal communication, data storage, accessing online data, making payment, etc. The tremendous growth of smartphone usage makes it a target for malicious attackers to propagate malware attacks. Increased demand for mobile devices is due to the large convenience of applications which will be downloaded and put in simply on these devices. It is difficult for the overall users to differentiate between the set of permissions that area unit probably harmful and people that don't seem to be. This paper proposes to solve these issues by increased machine learning based mostly malware detection framework mistreatment improvement algorithms. New classifier is developed by integrating GA and PSO with Random Forest algorithmic rule. The Outcome from this paper could be a new MSGP Malware Detection System consisting of MSGP-MDS Classifier. This reveals that classification of Android APK files mistreatment PSO plays a essential role in realizing higher accuracy with the minimum computation resource demand..

**Keywords:** Android, good ware, machine learning, malware, malware detection, optimization technique

## INTRODUCTION

. The adoption of smart phone is apace increasing that is directly connected to the improved process power and alternative utility functions. Smartphone's offer numerous capabilities of ancient personal computers and in addition offer a giant choice of property choices like IEEE 802.11, Bluetooth, GSM, GPRS, UMTS, EDGE, 3G, 4G, HSDPA, HSPA (plus) and LTE. As part of utilizing mobile devices, certain sensitive information such as contact lists, passwords and credit card numbers are keep on these mobile devices. Additionally to a pre-installed mobile operative system like Blackberry OS, Symbian OS, iOS, Android and Windows Mobile, most Smartphone's additionally support Wi-Fi property, (Sujithra and Padmavathi, 2012) in order that users can access the net to transfer and run various third-party applications. Although these capabilities offer for helpful service to the users, where wide vary of devices exchange information with one another therefore open up serious security and privacy issues. The tremendous growth of smartphone usage makes it a target for malicious attackers to propagate malware and perform other malicious attacks.

- Malware, as a malicious application that can be put in on mobile devices, with the intention of

breaching device security policy with respect to confidentiality, integrity and availability of information. The malware comes in different forms like an epidemic, Trojan horse, spyware, adware or trapdoor etc. Malware has proven to be a serious downside for the mobile platform as a result of malicious applications are often distributed to those devices through associate application market. Users will download/upload the APK files from third party servers and can install into their mobile devices. Most of the applications from trusted sources area unit not malware, but the third party server providing malware in changed APK. So before the applications area unit being put in in the good phones they'll be detected whether or not they area unit malware or goodware (ESET Labs, 2013). To mitigate these security threats, various mobile specific Detection Systems have been recently planned. The presence of a malware in android applications will be detected by mistreatment anybody of those 3 techniques. They are:

- Attack or invasion detection
- Misuse detection (signature-based)
- Anomaly detection (behavior-based)

Among these three techniques, the anomaly or behavior based detects the malware with the use of the permissions. Anomaly detection refers to detecting patterns in a given dataset that don't adjust to a longtime traditional behavior. The proposed methodology monitors numerous permissions based mostly options obtained from the automaton applications and analyze these options by mistreatment machine learning classifiers to discover whether or not the application is goodware or malware. Further the planned methodology exploits improvement techniques in classification of traditional and malware applications with high detection rate. Machine learning is a branch of computer science that focuses on the event of algorithms that allow devices to reason and choose supported information. Machine learning algorithms can ordinarily be divided into 3 totally different types: supervised learning, unsupervised learning and semi-supervised learning (Fedler et al., 2013). Android applications will be properly labeled , so supervised machine learning ways for detection of automaton malware applications is planned. Each application should declare what permissions it needs before put in. The mechanism warns the user about permissions associate app requested before put in and hopes the user makes the right selection. Extract permission features from the application files and use call tree supervised machine learning classifiers (RF, CART and J48) to detect malicious applications (Wei et al., 2012).

In this framework, the automaton applications on android market area unit downloaded and decompressed into the contents of automaton applications. The proposed technique is based mostly

on the characteristic analysis of automaton manifest files and is effective for police investigation malware. The AndroidManifest.xml and classes.dex files are solely selected as a result of these 2 files contain the necessary permissions options. Android malware applications will be detected by mistreatment machine learning approaches. To address the matter, extract android permission options from the application files and use call tree classifiers (RF, CART, J48) to detect malware in malicious applications. Current techniques in malware classification do not provides a good classification result when it deals with the new and distinctive varieties of malware. For this reason, the proposed methodology is increased with the usage of improvement techniques such as Genetic algorithmic rule and Particle swam improvement algorithmic rule to optimize the malware system (Garcia et al., 2006). The contribution of the paper includes the enhancement of the optimized Random Forest Classifier. This reveals that classification of Android APK files plays a essential role in realizing a higher detection rate with the minimum computation resource demand.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Android malware applications have been apace rising and there area unit many approaches to discover these malware applications. Various approaches have been planned by totally different authors for police investigation malware in automaton mobile devices supported their permissions. Some of them are mentioned below.

**Table 1:** Summarizes the significant literatures reviewed for malware detection system

Year	Author	Techniques used	Metrics
2014	Chit La Pyae Myo Hein	Permission based malware protection for Android applications (SOM) Behavior based malware detection	True positive ratio, false positive ratio, Total accuracy
2013	Abela, Kevin Joshua L. Angeles, Don Kristopher E, Delas Alas, Jan Raynier P, Tolentino, Robert Joseph, Gomez, Miguel Alberto N.	(Naïve Bayes algorithm, decision tree algorithms)	True positive Rate, false positive rate, ROC area.
2013	Zarni Aung, Win Zaw	Permission based malware detection.(J48, CART, random forest)	True positive, false positive, true negative, false negative, true positive rate, false positive rate, overall accuracy.
2013	Borja Sanz, Igor Santos, Carlos Laorden, Xabier Ugarte-Pedrero, Pablo Garcia	Permission based malware detection (Machine-learning classifier, k-fold cross validation)	Accuracy, false positive rate, true positive rate.
2010	Bringas, Gonzalo Alvarez. Liang Xie, Xinwen Zhang, Jean-Pierre Seifert, Sencun Zhu	Permission based malware detection (Hidden Markov Model)	Accuracy, false positive.

to categorize totally different golem applications in the market and to differentiate whether or not the applying is goodware or malware exploitation behavior based mostly analysis. Detection of malware using totally different techniques and metrics is listed in Table one.

### PERMISSION BASED MALWARE DETECTION SYSTEM

In this proposed methodology, Machine Learning Classifiers and Optimization techniques are used to analyze and classify the malware applications by comparison the permissions extracted from the applications that are labeled within the dataset. In summary, our main findings are extraction of options from the manifest file of golem applications based mostly on the permissions. Selection and Reduction of extracting options are done. Machine learning classifiers are used for the classification and detection of malicious applications. The detection rate of the classifiers is improved by optimization techniques (Rastogi et al., 2013).

**Feature extraction:** Feature extraction: Features are the attributes used for process the permission characteristics of associated degree application. For any downloaded Android application, retrieve the features from the corresponding application package

file. Analyze the Manifest file of an application and establish real permissions needed by the application. The values of selected options are kept as a feature vector, which is diagrammatic as a sequence of bits (0's or 1's). A feature set can be specific as a feature vector, which includes all the permissions that are requested from the user. This framework uses a feature extraction tool written by python script file to extract android permission options (Damopoulos *et al.*, 2011). Permissions are requested by associated degree application throughout the installation method to grant access to varied options and functionalities on a tool. Currently there are 124 distinctive permissions that are classified into eleven prime level teams. These permissions are displayed before any application is put in and will even be viewed post installation. The downfall is that users cannot be expected to know all 124 permissions or the associated risks with some specific permissions associated degree also it's not possible for users to understand that permissions are literally required by an application.

- Every application should have associated degree golem Manifest.xml in its root directory. The manifest presents essential information concerning the application to the golem system. The features in every



A sample Dataset generated from features of a malware application.

**Feature selection:** Feature selection methods are used for reducing the dimension size of a dataset by removing the features (attributes) which are not beneficial to be used in the analysis. Efficient feature selection methods introduce performance gains by reducing the dataset size and the time spent in classification analysis. These adverse effects are even more crucial when applying on mobile devices, since they are often restricted by processing and storage-capabilities, as well as battery power. Information Gain is selected among feature-selection algorithms (Silva *et al.*, 2013). It is the method of determining the rank of appropriate feature through the entropy difference between the cases of accurate classification through features. The feature selection is done based on the gain ratio. The features with a higher gain ratio, yield higher optimality to the resultant generation. The features are selected based on the Gain value by referring whether they are greater than 0 and only the features which are greater than 0 is included in the minimized dataset or selected features. According to this Gain value the features are reduced from the original feature set (Bahrololum *et al.*, 2009). Entropy should be calculated for each and every feature by the formula given below:

$$\text{Entropy} = \sum -p_i \log_2 p_i$$

Where  $p_i$  is the probability of class  $i$ .

After the entropy are calculated the gain of a feature is to be calculated as

$$\text{Gain}(S, A) = \text{Entropy}(S) - \sum |SV| \text{Entropy}(SV)$$

$V \in \text{Values}(A) | S|$

[Attribute A on a collection of samples S].

The Feature Selection steps given in Algorithm:

**Algorithm for feature selection:**

- The entropy and info\_split are calculate for each feacher in the dataset.
- The gain ratio is obtained using the entropy and info\_split.
- The features with the higher gain ratio are selected and collected into new dataset.

1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, goodwill A sample Dataset generated after performing feature selection.

**Feature reduction:** Number of training samples

needed to design a classifier grows with the dimension of the features. A way to reduce the dimension of the features without losing any essential information is needed. The main idea is to define  $k$  centroids, one for each cluster. The simple K-means algorithm chooses the centroid randomly from the applications set. The K-means clustering partitions a data set by minimizing a sum of-squares cost function. The selected features are collected in the signature database and divided into training data and test data and used by the standard machine learning techniques to detect android malware applications. K-means clustering uses to group the feature set in clusters. Choosing K-means clustering provides advantages like:

- At least a local minimum of the criterion function is guaranteed and thereby the convergence of cluster on large data sets is accelerated.
- It is a data driven method with relatively few assumptions about the distributions of the underlying data.

**Algorithm:**

1. Place  $K$  points in the space represented by the objects that are being clustered.
2. These points represent initial group centroids.
3. Assign each object to the group that has the closest centroid.
4. When all objects have been assigned, recalculate the positions of the  $K$  centroids.
5. Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until the centroids no longer move. This produces a separation of the objects into groups from which the metric to be minimized can be calculated.

Following provides the pseudocode of clustering:

```

X: A set of  $N$  data
    vectors Data
    set
 $C_j$ : Initialized  $k$  cluster
    centroids
    Number of
    clusters,
C: The cluster centroids of  $k$ -
    clustering random initial
    centroids
 $P = \{p(i) | i = 1, \dots, N\}$  is the cluster label of  $X$ 
KMEANS( $X, C_1$ )  $\rightarrow$ 
    ( $C, P$ )
    REPEAT
         $C_{\text{previous}} \leftarrow C_j$ 
    FOR all  $i \in [1, N]$  DO
    
```

```

Generate new optimal partitions
p(i) ← arg min d
(xi, cj); l ≤ j ≤ k
FOR all j ∈ [1, k] DO
Generate optimal centroids
cj ← Average of xi, whose p(i) = j
UNTIL C = Cprevious
    
```

### MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH

Decision tree classifiers are tree based classifiers for instances represented as feature vectors. They recursively partition a dataset of records and use a depth first greedy method or breadth first approach. Nodes are used for test features, there is one branch for each value of the feature and leaves specify the category until all the data items belong to a particular class. Decision Trees base the classification of instances by sorting feature vectors. Three machine learning classification algorithms were applied to the data sets: Random Forest (RF), Classification and Regression Trees (CART) and J48 (Kumar and Kumar, 2014).

**The random forest algorithm:** Random forests are an ensemble learning method for classification, regression and other tasks, that operate by constructing a multitude of decision trees at training time and outputting the class that is the mode of the classes (classification) or mean prediction (regression) of the individual trees. Random Forests (RF) are a combination of tree predictors such that each tree depends on the values of a random vector sampled independently and with the same distribution of all trees in the forest. The generalization error of a forest of tree classifiers depends on the strength of the individual trees in the forest and the correlation between them. Each tree is independently constructed using a bootstrap sample of data.

#### The pseudocode of the classifier RF:

- Selected the number of trees to grow and number no larger than number of variables.
- For i = 1 to n tree
- Draw a bootstrap sample from the data call those not in the bootstrap sample the “out-of-bag” data.
- Grow a “random” tree, where at each node, the best split is chosen among mtry randomly selected variables. The tree is grow to maximum size and not pruned back
- Use the tree to predict out-of-bag data
- In the end, use the prediction on out-of-bag data to from majority votes.
- Prediction of test data is done by majority votes from prediction from the ensemble of trees.

$o_i = \{o_{i1}, \dots, o_{iV}\} = \{r_i, p_{i1}, \dots, p_{i(V-1)}\}$

- For all V-1 predictors, order its values (separate into categories) partition the sorted predictor variable at every delta in the sorted values (or by excluding any category) partition the associated response variable in the same way and compute its resulting variance (over two groups)
- Choose the partition which minimizes the response variance over all predictors and thresholds.
- Split the data into 2 pieces on this threshold and repeat steps 1 and 2 on both until some stopping rule is satisfied or each partition contains only 1 data point

**J48:** The j48 Classification algorithm is inductively learned to construct a model from the pre-classified data set. Each data item is defined by values of the characteristics or features. Classification may be viewed as a mapping from a set of features to a particular class. J48 creates an instance of this class by allocating memory for building and storing a decision tree classifier (Hall *et al.*, 2013).

#### The pseudocode of the classifier J48:

1. Create a root node N
2. If T belongs to the same category C, then return N as a leaf node and mark it as class C
3. If attribute list is empty or the remainder sample of T is less than a given value, then return N as a leaf node and mark it as the category which appears most frequently in attribute list, for each attribution, calculate its information gain ratio
4. Suppose test attribute is the testing attribute of N, then test attribute-the attribute which has the highest information gain ratio in attribution list;
5. If testing attribute is continuous, then find its division threshold
6. For each new leaf node grow by node N
  - {
  - (a) Suppose T is the sample subset corresponding to the leaf node.
  - (b) If T has only a decision category, then mark the leaf node as this category,
  - (c) Else continue to implement J45\_Tree (T', T'\_Attribute list)
  - }
7. Calculate the classification error rate of each node and then prune the tree.

Basic Steps in the Algorithm:

gain in information is calculated that would

result from a test on the attribute.

- Then the best attribute is found on the basis of the present selection criterion and that attribute selected for branching.

### ENHANCED CLASSIFICATION USING OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM

Current techniques in malware classification do not provides a good classification result once it deals with the new and distinctive kinds of malware. For this reason, the usage of optimization techniques, namely Genetic rule and Particle optimisation rule is used to optimize the malware system. This new malware classification system also has a capability to coach and learn by itself, so that it will predict this and forthcoming trend of malware attack. One of the most goals is to detect and classify the distinctive malware that includes a relationship throughout the execution. The other goal is to search out distinctive malware that performs constant behavior, but providing completely different syntax illustration. A framework is proposed by combining GA and PSO with the enforced machine learning classifiers.

**Proposed methodology-1 genetic algorithm with RF classifier:** Proposed methodology-1 genetic rule with RF categoryifier: GA is belongs to the larger class of organic process rule (EA). GA includes the survival of the fittest idea into a search rule that provides a technique of looking out, which will not ought to explore each attainable resolution within the possible region to get an honest result. GA also usually used for a learning approach to solve procedure analysis drawback. By tradition, solutions are diagrammatical in binary as strings of 0s and 1s, but different encodings square measure conjointly attainable. In each generation, the fitness of every individual within the population is evaluated. The fitness is usually the worth of the target perform within the optimisation drawback being resolved. The fittest individuals square measure stochastically designated from the current population and every individual's order is changed to create a brand new generation. The new generation of candidate solutions is then used in ensuing iteration of the algorithm. Commonly, the algorithm terminates once either a most variety of generations have been created, or a satisfactory fitness level has been reached for the population (Yusoff and Jantan, 2011).

A typical genetic algorithm needs a genetic illustration of {the resolution|the answer} domain and a fitness perform to judge the solution domain is as following:

Evaluate each individuals fitness  
Determine population's average fitness  
Repeat

- In case the instances belong to the same class the tree represents a leaf so the leaf is returned by labelling with the same class.
- The potential information is calculated for every attribute, given by a test on the attribute. Then the

Select best ranking individuals to reproduce

Mate pairs at random Apply crossover operator  
Apply mutation operator Evaluate each individual's fitness Determine population's average fitness  
Select ntree, the number of trees to grow and mtry, a number no larger than a number of variables

For  $i = 1$  to  $n$  tree:

Draw a bootstrap sample from the data.

Call those in the bootstrap sample the “out-of-bag” data.

Grow a “random” tree, where at each node, the best split is chosen among mtry randomly selected variables. The tree has grown to maximum size and not pruned back. Use the tree to to predict out-of-bag data.

In the end, use the predictions on out of bag data to form majority votes. Prediction of test data is done by majority votes from predictions from the ensemble of trees.

### Proposed methodology-2 particle swarm optimization with RF classifier:

Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) is a computational method that optimizes a problem by iteratively trying to improve a candidate solution with regard to a given measure of quality (Senthilkumar and Kannan, 2014). PSO optimizes a problem by having a population of candidate solutions, here dubbed particles and moving these particles around in the search-space according to simple mathematical formulae over the particle's position and velocity. Each particle's movement is influenced by its local best known position, but is also guided toward the best known positions in the search-space, which are updated as better positions are found by other particles. PSO achieve its optimal solution by starting with a group of random solution and then searching repeatedly (Ahandani and Baghmisheh, 2013). This is expected to move the swarm toward the best solutions.

For each particle Initialize particle

Do  
 For each particle:  
 Calculate the fitness value  
 If the fitness value is better than the best fitness value (pBest) in history  
     Set current value as the new pBest  
 End  
 For each particle:  
     Find in the particle neighborhood, the particle with the best fitness  
     Calculate particle velocity according to the velocity equation  
     Apply the velocity Constriction  
     Update particle position according to the position equation  
     Apply the position constriction  
 Select ntree, the number of trees to grow and mtry, a number no larger than a number of variables.  
 For i = 1 to ntree:  
     Draw a bootstrap sample from the data. Call those in the bootstrap sample the “out-of-bag” data.  
     Grow a “random” tree, where at each node, the best split is chosen among mtry randomly selected variables. The tree has grown to maximum size and not pruned back.  
     Use the tree to predict out-of-bag data.  
 In the end, use the predictions on out of bag data to form majority votes.  
 Prediction of test data is done by majority votes from predictions from the ensemble of trees.

**EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

To evaluate the projected framework, collected 1000 as well as traditional applications from robot market and malicious applications from the net website. The dataset used during the analysis were composed of robot apps collected in this system. These apps were already classified into benign and malicious samples. Out of over 136,000 available apps from Google's official Play Store and out of over forty,000 malicious samples identified by Virus Total, representing 192  
 Table 3: Experimental results classifiers

Algorithm	TP rate	FP rate	Precision	Recall	Correctly identified instances (%)	Incorrectly identified instances (%)
J48	0.83	0.17	0.87	0.79	83.3	16.7
CART	0.79	0.21	0.86	0.69	79	21
Random forest	0.87	0.13	0.91	0.81	86.8	13.2

Table 4: Experimental results optimized classifiers

Algorithm	Correctly identified	Incorrectly identified
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malware families, randomly designated two hundred distinct apps. In detail, selected a hundred and fifty benign apps and fifty malicious apps.

In order to perform the evaluation of the projected mechanism and comparison between the assorted detection algorithms and have choice schemes here used the subsequent commonplace metrics: actuality Positive Rate (TPR) live, which is the proportion of positive instances classified correctly; False Positive Rate (FPR), which is the proportion of negative instances misclassified; and also the Total Accuracy, which measures the proportion of fully properly classified instances, either positive or negative. The performance of the proposed swarm optimized technique over the machine learning techniques relatively thought-about were evaluated in terms of the below parameters such as Detection time, True positive rate, False positive rate and Detection accuracy (Ham and Choi, 2013):

**True Positive Rate (TPR):** Percentage of correctly identified goodware applications:

$$TPR = (TP/TP+FN)$$

**False Positive Rate (FPR):** Percentage of wrongly identified malware applications:

$$FPR = (FP/TN+FP)$$

**Precision value:** It is the number of correctly classified positive examples with respect to the number of examples that exist in the system as positive.

$$Precision\ value = (TP/TP+FP)$$

	instances (%)	instances (%)
Random forest	86.8%	13.2%
Genetic algorithm with RF	87%	13%
Particle swarm optimization with RF	88.4%	12.6%



Fig. 2: An example of decompile APK file

**Recall:** Recall in information retrieval is the fraction of the documents that are relevant to the query that are successfully retrieved:

$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$$

**Overall accuracy (ACC):** Percentage of correctly identified applications

$$\text{ACC} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$$

True Positive (TP) is the number of properly known goodware applications, False Positive (FN) is the number of incorrectly known goodware applications, True Negative (TN) is that the variety of properly known malware applications and False Positive (FN) is the number of incorrectly known goodware applications.

Table 3 provides the comparison of parameters between J48, CART and Random Forest. The given parameters are True positive rate, false positive rate, Precision worth in (%) and Recall worth in (%) and Accuracy in (%).

Table 4 provides the comparison of Random Forest, Genetic Algorithm and particle swarm improvement exploitation the parameters such as properly known instances (Accuracy) accountable for and incorrectly known instances accountable for. Figure 3 offers the comparison, that random

forest has high correctly known instances of concerning eighty six.8% than compared to J48 whose properly known instance is eighty three.3%

and CART of properly known instance seventy nine. Again to increase this accuracy, optimization techniques are used.

Figure 4 offers the comparison, that particle swarm optimization has high properly known instances of concerning eighty eight.4% than compared to genetic algorithmic program of properly known instance is eighty seven and random forest of properly known instance eighty six.8%.

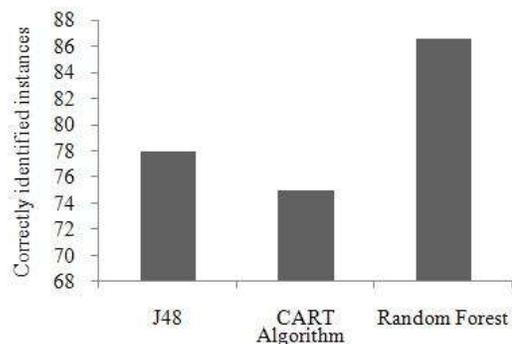


Fig. 3: Experimental results-classifiers

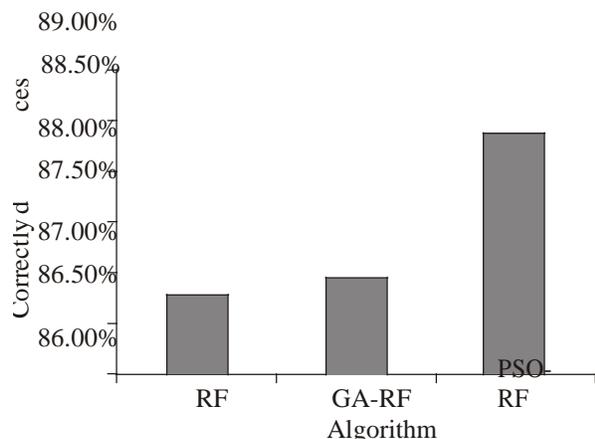


Fig. 4: Experimental results-optimized classifiers

### CONCLUSION

A framework for detection of humanoid malware applications mistreatment machine-learning techniques has been planned by extracting permission options from many downloaded applications from android markets. The results were further optimized by improvement techniques to find the humanoid applications whether or not it is goodware or a malware application. This paper proposed the usage of improvement algorithms such as Genetic rule (GA) AND Particle Swarm improvement (PSO) as an approach to optimize Random forest call Tree in malware classification. New classifier is developed by combining GA and PSO with RF\_DT named as MSGP Malware System (MSGP-MS) Classifier. Using real-world malware and benign applications, experiments were conducted on Android mobile devices. Experimental results obtained from MSGP-MS Classifier with RF are compared and pictured in tables and graphs. MSGP-MS Classifier shows an accuracy increase from RF Classifier. The outcome of this paper could be a new MSGP Malware organization consisting of MSGP-MS Classifier. This reveals that classification of Android APK files mistreatment PSO plays a vital role in realizing higher accuracy with minimum computation resource demand.

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