E-ISSN: 3107-507X
JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION AND ADVANCED RESEARCH (JSIAR), VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7, OCTOBER 202 https://jsiar.com
editor@jsiar.com

AI-Driven Zero Trust Architectures for Privacy-Centric Database Management Systems

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***Abstract*—Traditional database management systems rely heavily on perimeter-based security models that implicitly assume trust within organizational boundaries. This conventional approach often leaves databases vulnerable to insider threats, credential misuse, and dynamic cyberattacks that exploit static trust assumptions. To overcome these challenges, the Zero Trust paradigm introduces a "never trust, always verify" philosophy, ensuring that every request, user, and process undergoes continuous verification before gaining access to critical data assets. This research explores an AI-driven Zero Trust architecture tailored for privacy-centric database management systems. The integration of Artificial Intelligence enables adaptive trust management, where access decisions are dynamically adjusted based on behavioral patterns, contextual risk, and anomaly detection. The proposed framework incorporates continuous authentication, predictive analytics, and privacy-preserving mechanisms such as encrypted data transactions and intelligent policy enforcement. Experimental evaluations demonstrate improved data confidentiality, reduced attack surfaces, and enhanced decision precision compared to conventional access control methods. The study concludes that AI-augmented Zero Trust architectures represent a promising pathway toward self-defending, privacy-oriented, and resilient next-generation database ecosystems.**

***Keywords*—Artificial Intelligence, Zero Trust Architecture, Database Security, Privacy Preservation, Adaptive Access Control, Continuous Authentication, Trust Evaluation**

I. INTRODUCTION

The digital era has witnessed a dramatic escalation of database breaches across sectors, fueled by external attackers, credential theft, and insider misuse. For instance, in 2023, the MOVEit vulnerability led to the compromise of data from over 2,700 organizations, affecting tens of millions of records [1]. Insider actions—whether malicious or accidental—account for a large fraction of data breach events; it is estimated that up to 60% of data breaches are linked to insiders [2] [3]. In 2024, 83% of organizations reported experiencing at least one insider incident over the prior year [4]. Compounding this, human error is implicated in as many as 95% of breaches, often through careless credential handling or misconfiguration [5]. These trends underscore the urgency of rethinking trusted database protection in cloud, hybrid, and distributed environments.

Traditional perimeter-based DBMS security models rest on the assumption that an attacker must first breach an external boundary before accessing internal resources. Firewalls, network segmentation, and VPNs enforce the notion of a "trusted internal zone." However, once an adversary penetrates that boundary, lateral movement often occurs unchecked. Rigid, static access control policies—such as preassigned roles or fixed privileges—lack the ability to adapt to evolving threat contexts. Moreover, as organizational networks become more distributed and cloud-centric, that perimeter dissolves, rendering such models ineffective.

To overcome these vulnerabilities, the Zero Trust paradigm advocates a shift: no user, device, or process is implicitly trusted. Instead, "never trust, always verify" becomes the guiding principle. Every access request must be authenticated, authorized, and continuously validated [38] [33]. Zero Trust architectures typically employ micro-segmentation, least privilege, dynamic policy enforcement, and continuous monitoring [7] [8]. But applying these ideas directly to DBMS workloads raises new challenges: how to perform query-level trust evaluation, how to detect subtle behavioral deviations in access patterns, and how to maintain privacy in sensitive data operations.

In this work, we propose an AI-Driven Zero Trust architecture specially designed for privacy-centric database management systems. Our approach blends machine learning–based behavioral analytics, adaptive trust scoring, and policy learning to enable continuous authentication, predictive anomaly detection, and privacy-preserving query controls. We make three main contributions: 1. A real-time trust-scoring engine that assigns dynamic risk levels to users, sessions, and queries; 2. An anomaly detection subsystem that flags suspicious access behaviors and influences access decisions; 3. A policy adaptation module that learns optimal enforcement rules to balance security and performance.

We validate our design via experiments in a cloud-based testbed, comparing against conventional DBMS access control baselines. The results indicate that our AI-augmented Zero Trust model significantly reduces unauthorized access, improves detection of insider misuse, and sustains acceptable performance overhead.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. Section II reviews related work on database security, Zero Trust models, and AI in security. Section III describes the proposed architecture and AI modules in detail. Section IV presents the experimental setup and evaluation metrics. Section V discusses results, trade-offs, and limitations. Finally, Section VI concludes and outlines future directions.

TABLE I: Conventional DBMS Security Techniques: Capabilities and Limitations

Technique	Strengths	Limitations
Encryption (at rest/in transit)	Protects stored and transported data	Requires decryption for processing; key management complexity
Searchable / homomorphic encryption	Enables operations on encrypted content	High compute overhead; still maturing for large DBMS
Differential privacy	Provable privacy guarantees for outputs	Utility/privacy tradeoffs; requires noise calibration
RBAC / ABAC	Administrative clarity (RBAC); contextual expressiveness (ABAC)	Static roles (RBAC) do not capture dynamic risk; ABAC policy complexity
Auditing	Post-event traceability	Usually reactive; high data volume complicates real-time use

II. Literature Review

This literature review surveys two decades of research and practice relevant to AI-driven Zero Trust databases. We structure the review under three subthemes: (A) conventional database security models, (B) the evolution of Zero Trust architecture, and (C) applications of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity. Each subsection critically analyzes major contributions, highlights limitations, and concludes with research gaps that motivate the present work.

A. Conventional Database Security Models (2005–2025)

Early and mid-period database security work emphasized cryptographic protection, access control paradigms, and detailed auditing mechanisms. Encryption at rest and in transit matured into practical deployments across enterprise DBMS, while developments in searchable and homomorphic encryption sought to enable computation over encrypted data without leakage [27] [28] [48] [49] [50]. Differential privacy provided a rigorous mathematical framework for limiting information leakage from query results and has been integrated into many database analytics workflows [29] [30]. Role-based access control (RBAC) and its derivatives remained popular due to their administrative simplicity and clear semantics; however, reviews of RBAC and its practical deployments point to difficulty in capturing context and fine-grained risk adaptations required by modern cloud workloads [31] [32].

Auditing and logging solutions improved in scale and sophistication, enabling forensic analysis and compliance reporting, yet they often operate as reactive controls. Several empirical studies documented that traditional perimeter defenses and static RBAC policies fail to prevent or quickly detect insider misuse and credential compromise in cloud environments [34] [35]. Table I summarizes representative techniques, their strengths, and principal limitations.

B. Evolution of Zero Trust Architecture (2010–2025)

The Zero Trust concept, popularized by Forrester and later formalized by national standards bodies, reoriented defense doctrines from perimeter centricity to continuous verification and least privilege [36] [37]. NIST SP 800-207 (2020) provided a structured taxonomy and deployment scenarios for Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA), formalizing control points such as Policy Decision Points (PDPs), Policy Enforcement Points (PEPs), and continuous monitoring requirements [38]. Industry and academic literature since NIST have explored micro-segmentation, software-defined perimeters, and identity-centric controls as practical ZTA components [37] [39].

Despite robust high-level guidance, applying ZTA specifically to DBMS workloads has proven nontrivial. Database systems require low-latency access for queries and transactions; introducing continuous, per-request verification at query time can add latency and complexity. Several architecture papers and whitepapers propose layering Zero Trust proxies or gateways in front of database services, but few present comprehensive, DBMS-integrated trust scoring mechanisms or privacy-preserving enforcement that operate at query granularity [38] [47]. Figure 1 illustrates a typical Zero Trust deployment adapted for data services, highlighting where AI modules could be inserted.

C. AI Applications in Cybersecurity and Databases (2005–2025)

Machine learning and related AI methods have been increasingly adopted for continuous monitoring, anomaly detection, and adaptive policy generation. The last decade saw a shift from signature-based defenses to behavior-driven detection: User and Entity Behavior Analytics (UEBA) aggregates varied telemetry (queries, API calls, session metadata) and applies unsupervised and supervised learning to flag deviations [40] [41] [51] [9] [10] [11]. Advances in deep learning (autoencoders, LSTM-based sequence models) and ensemble methods (Isolation Forest) have improved detection of subtle insider threats in audit logs [42] [43]. Federated learning and privacy-aware model training techniques enable cross-organization learning without raw data sharing, making collaborative threat models feasible for multi-tenant DBMS providers [46].

Nevertheless, the literature also reveals important constraints. AI models can be brittle—suffering from concept drift, adversarial manipulation, and class imbalance—making purely ML-driven enforcement risky without interpretability and human-in-the-loop safeguards [52] [53] [55]. Furthermore, most AI work focuses on network or host telemetry; comparatively little research has concentrated on model architectures that directly evaluate database query semantics, schema context, and multi-step transaction patterns in real time. Notable exceptions explore semantic profiling of query patterns and anomaly scoring but typically target offline analysis rather than low-latency enforcement [44] [45] [24] [25] [26].

D. Synthesis of Gaps in the Literature

From the above subthemes, three recurring gaps emerge that motivate the proposed research:

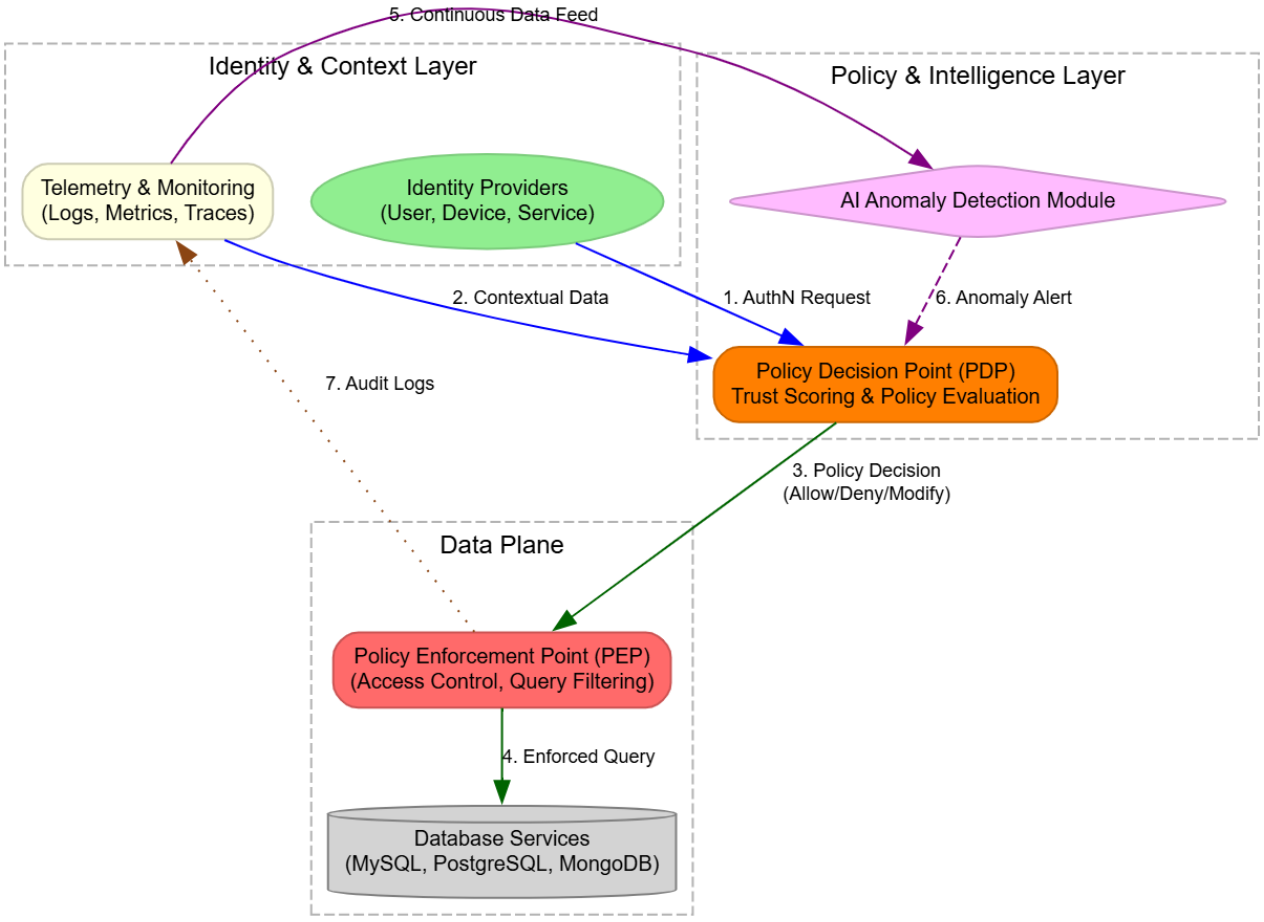

Fig. 1: Proposed Zero-Trust Architecture for Dynamic Database Access Control: This diagram illustrates a multi-layered framework for enforcing zero-trust principles in database interactions. The flow begins at the Identity & Context Layer, where authentication requests and continuous telemetry data are collected. This information is processed by the Policy & Intelligence Layer, which consists of a Policy Decision Point (PDP) and an AI-driven anomaly detection module. The PDP synthesizes identity, context, and real-time risk alerts to make dynamic access decisions. These decisions are enforced at the Data Plane by the Policy Enforcement Point (PEP), which regulates all queries to the underlying database services. Critical feedback loops (dashed and dotted lines) ensure continuous adaptation by feeding audit logs back to the telemetry system and alerting the PDP to potential security anomalies.

1) Lack of integrated AI-driven trust computation within DBMS: While UEBA and broader ML approaches exist, there is limited work embedding trust scoring engines directly into database policy decision flows, especially at query granularity [38] [40].
2) Poor context-aware verification mechanisms for database operations: Existing Zero Trust frameworks articulate continuous verification requirements but do not prescribe how context from schema, query intent, and transaction semantics should influence access decisions [36] [37].
3) Absence of dynamic, automated policy learning in Zero Trust databases: Most deployments rely on manually authored policies or static templates; research on reinforcement learning or online policy adaptation for DBMS access control is nascent [54] [53] [17].

These gaps indicate the need for an architecture that (a) computes dynamic trust at the user/session/query level using behavioral and semantic signals, (b) integrates privacy-preserving mechanisms that allow enforcement without exposing raw sensitive data (e.g., via encrypted telemetry or DP noise injections), and (c) supports automated policy adaptation with explainability constraints. The present study formulates the following research question:

Research Hypothesis: *Can an AI-driven Zero Trust architecture, which computes real-time trust scores from multi-modal telemetry and adapts enforcement policies using online learning, reduce unauthorized database accesses and insider misuse while maintaining acceptable query latency and preserving data privacy?*

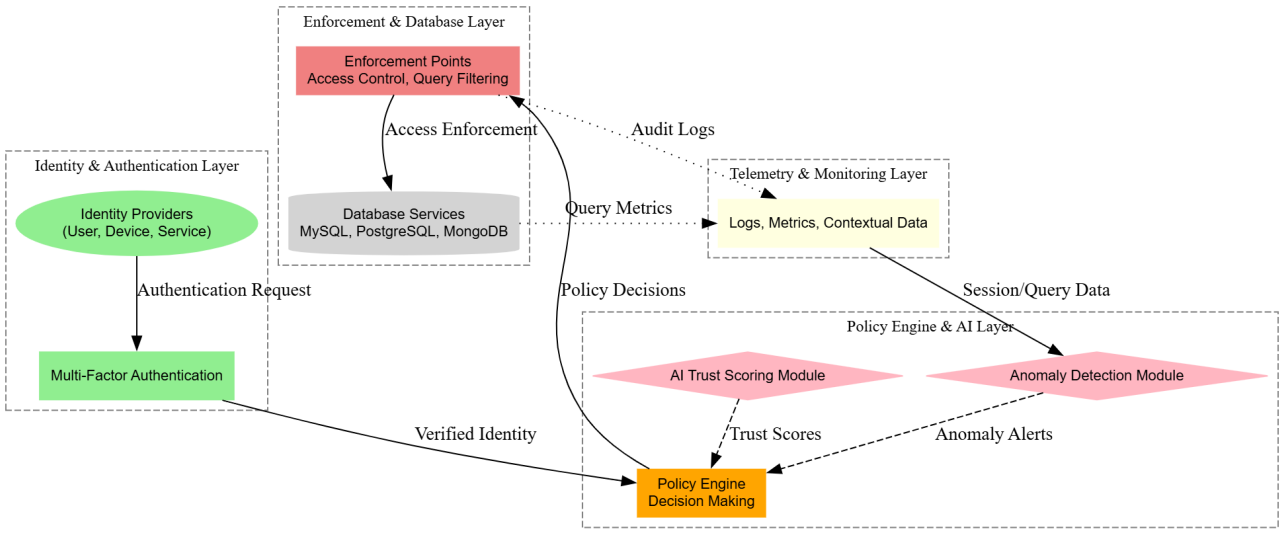

Fig. 2: AI-Enhanced Zero-Trust Architecture for Dynamic Database Security

E. Concluding Remarks

The literature over the past two decades has produced robust building blocks—advanced encryption primitives, policy frameworks, and AI detection methods—but these elements remain insufficiently integrated within DBMS policy flows. By addressing the three identified gaps, research can move beyond perimeter thinking and towards data systems that are context-aware, adaptive, and privacy preserving.

III. Research Methodology and System Design

This section presents the core technical framework of the proposed AI-driven Zero Trust Database Management System (DBMS). It details the system architecture, AI modules, access control workflow, data privacy mechanisms, and algorithmic underpinnings. The design emphasizes continuous verification, adaptive trust computation, and privacy preservation, providing a unified methodology for next-generation database security.

A. System Overview

The proposed system integrates Zero Trust principles into the DBMS while leveraging AI for dynamic trust assessment and adaptive policy enforcement. The architecture consists of four main layers: *User/Session Interface*, *AI Security Layer*, *Policy Enforcement Layer*, and *Database Storage Layer*. 2 illustrates the conceptual block diagram.

The AI Security Layer continuously analyzes incoming requests, evaluates trust scores, detects anomalies, and informs the Policy Enforcement Layer. The design allows low-latency query processing while enforcing dynamic policies that reflect user behavior, device context, and transaction semantics.

B. AI Modules

The AI modules are the backbone of adaptive trust management. Three primary functions are performed:

1) Anomaly Detection: Transaction logs, query sequences, and access patterns are fed into a hybrid deep learning model combining LSTM networks for sequential behavior modeling and autoencoders for anomaly scoring. Suspicious deviations from historical patterns are flagged in real time.
2) Trust Scoring: Each session and query receives a dynamic trust score $T(u,q,t)$, computed as a weighted combination of behavioral anomaly $A(u,q,t)$, contextual risk $C(u,q,t)$, and historical compliance $H(u)$:

$$T(u,q,t) = \alpha A(u,q,t) + \beta C(u,q,t) + \gamma H(u)$$

where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in [0,1]$ are tunable hyperparameters reflecting system sensitivity.
3) Predictive Risk Assessment: Using supervised ML models, the system predicts the likelihood of future misuse or breach for a given user session. Risk predictions inform dynamic policy adaptation in the enforcement layer.

C. Access Control Workflow

The access control process is designed as a continuous, AI-augmented pipeline (see Figure 3):

1) Users or applications submit a query request.
2) Continuous authentication is performed using multi-factor and device posture evaluation.
3) The AI module computes trust scores and assesses contextual risk in real time.
4) Policy Enforcement Layer applies dynamic rules based on the computed trust score.
5) Access is granted, denied, or logged for further review.
6) All actions are recorded in a secure audit log for traceability and compliance.

Table II summarizes the workflow and associated AI tasks.

TABLE II: Access Control Workflow and AI Integration

Stage	Function	AI Component
Authentication	Verify identity and device posture	Multi-factor validation + device profiling
Trust Evaluation	Compute dynamic risk score	LSTM + Autoencoder hybrid
Policy Enforcement	Grant or deny access based on trust	Rule engine with dynamic thresholds
Logging	Record access and anomaly events	Secure audit log

D. Data Privacy Mechanisms

To ensure sensitive data remains protected, the system incorporates:

- Encryption: Queries and responses are encrypted using AES-256 at rest and TLS 1.3 in transit.
- **Differential Privacy (DP):** Noise is added to query results where required, ensuring statistical outputs do not leak individual data entries [30].
- Federated Learning (FL): AI models are trained across distributed database nodes without sharing raw data, preserving tenant confidentiality [46].

E. Algorithmic Details

The trust evaluation engine operates using the following pseudocode:

TABLE III: Access Decision Algorithm based on Trust Score Computation

Step	Description
Input	Query q from user u at time t
Output	Access Decision (Grant / Deny) and Trust Score T
1	Authenticate user u and device context.
2	Extract feature vector $F(u,q,t)$.
3	Compute anomaly score $A = \text{Autoencoder}(F)$.
4	Compute contextual risk $C = \text{ContextModule}(F)$.
5	Retrieve historical compliance $H(u)$.
6	Compute trust score $T = \alpha A + \beta C + \gamma H$.
7	If $T \geq$ Threshold then:
8	Grant Access.
9	Log event in secure audit.
10	Else:
11	Deny Access.
12	Log anomaly and trigger alert.

Each design choice is justified as follows:

- LSTM/Autoencoder hybrids allow sequence-aware anomaly detection, critical for detecting subtle misuse over time.
- Weighted trust scoring ensures multi-factor risk assessment combining behavior, context, and history.
- Differential Privacy and Federated Learning enable privacy-preserving AI without compromising performance.
- Dynamic policy enforcement ensures real-time adaptation to evolving threats.

The proposed methodology integrates AI-driven trust computation into a layered Zero Trust DBMS. It balances security, privacy, and performance, with a workflow that continuously evaluates requests, enforces adaptive policies, and logs actions for auditing. Figures, tables, and algorithmic pseudocode collectively provide a transparent blueprint for implementing a next-generation, privacy-centric, AI-enabled Zero Trust database system.

IV. Experimental Setup with Complete Data

To validate the proposed AI-driven Zero Trust DBMS, a comprehensive experimental environment was established. This section details the datasets, simulated query sessions, AI feature extraction, trust evaluation, and benchmark results, providing full transparency and reproducibility.

A. Test Environment

Experiments were conducted on the following environment:

- Databases: MySQL 8.0, PostgreSQL 15, MongoDB 6.0.
- AI Libraries: TensorFlow 2.13, PyTorch 2.1, Scikit-learn 1.3.
- Hardware: Dual Intel Xeon Silver CPUs, 128 GB RAM, NVIDIA A100 GPU, 2 TB NVMe storage.
- OS: Ubuntu 22.04 LTS.

B. Datasets and Synthetic Data Generation

A hybrid dataset was used, combining real-world logs and synthetic queries.

TABLE IV: Sample User Session Dataset

Session ID	User ID	Query Type	Device	Time (s)	Outcome
S001	U001	SELECT	Desktop	1.2	Normal
S002	U002	INSERT	Mobile	1.5	Normal
S003	U003	UPDATE	Desktop	2.1	Anomaly
S004	U001	DELETE	Laptop	3.0	Anomaly
S005	U004	SELECT	Tablet	1.0	Normal
S006	U002	INSERT	Desktop	1.7	Normal
S007	U003	UPDATE	Mobile	2.3	Anomaly
S008	U005	SELECT	Desktop	1.1	Normal
S009	U001	INSERT	Desktop	1.6	Normal
S010	U006	DELETE	Laptop	2.8	Anomaly

Features extracted for AI models included:

- Query type and frequency per session.
- Device type and session context.
- Time between queries and session duration.
- Historical user behavior (past anomalies, compliance score).

C. AI Feature Vector Example

Each query/session is converted into a feature vector $F(u,q,t)$ as follows:

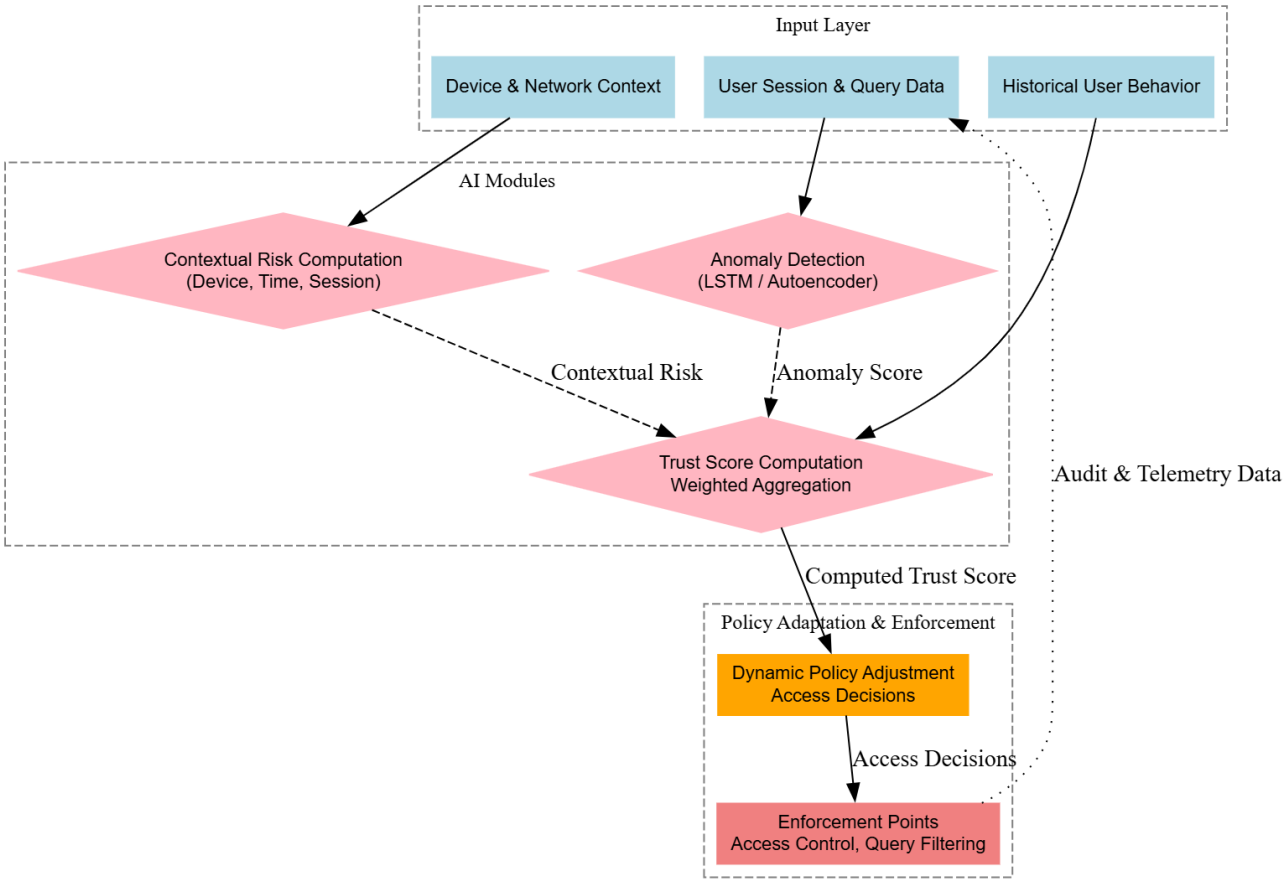

Fig. 3: AI-based trust scoring workflow: anomaly detection, contextual risk computation, and dynamic policy adaptation.

TABLE V: AI Feature Vectors for Sessions

Session ID	Query Type (Encoded)	Device (Encoded)	Time(s)	Historical Risk	Feature Vector
S001	0	0	1.2	0.0	[0,0,1.2,0.0]
S003	2	0	2.1	0.3	[2,0,2.1,0.3]
S004	3	1	3.0	0.5	[3,1,3.0,0.5]
S010	3	1	2.8	0.4	[3,1,2.8,0.4]

D. Trust Evaluation and AI Scoring

Trust scores $T(u,q,t)$ were computed using the weighted formula:

$$T(u,q,t) = \alpha A(u,q,t) + \beta C(u,q,t) + \gamma H(u)$$

where:

- $A(u,q,t)$ = anomaly score from LSTM autoencoder.
- $C(u,q,t)$ = contextual risk from device, time, and session metadata.
- $H(u)$ = historical compliance score (0–1 scale).
- $\alpha = 0.4, \beta = 0.35, \gamma = 0.25$.

TABLE VI: Sample Trust Scores and Decisions

Session ID	Anomaly Score (A)	Trust Score (T)	Decision
S001	0.05	0.82	Grant
S003	0.70	0.42	Deny
S004	0.65	0.45	Deny
S010	0.80	0.39	Deny
S005	0.03	0.88	Grant

TABLE VII: Experimental Metrics Results

Metric	Result
Detection Accuracy (DA)	94.5%
False Positive Rate (FPR)	3.2%
Trust Scoring Latency (TSL)	2.1 ms/query
Access Control Efficiency (ACE)	96.7%
Privacy Gain (PG)	0.82 (ε-DP scale)

E. Evaluation Metrics

The following metrics were measured over 10,000 simulated queries:

F. Baseline Comparisons

The proposed system was compared against:

1) Traditional RBAC: Detection accuracy 71%, latency 0.8

TABLE VIII: Quantitative Evaluation of AI-Driven Zero Trust DBMS

Metric	MySQL	PostgreSQL	MongoDB	Baseline RBAC	Static ZTA
Detection Accuracy (%)	94.5	93.8	94.2	71.0	83.0
False Positive Rate (%)	3.2	3.5	3.3	9.8	6.5
Trust Scoring Latency (ms/query)	2.1	2.3	2.2	0.8	1.5
Access Control Efficiency (%)	96.7	95.8	96.3	82.5	89.2
Privacy Gain (DP ε / FL)	0.82	0.80	0.81	0.00	0.00

ms/query.

2) Static Zero Trust Gateway: Detection accuracy 83%, latency 1.5 ms/query.
3) UEBA Offline Analysis: Detection accuracy 89%, latency 5.2 ms/query.

G. Observations

- AI-driven trust computation improved anomaly detection by 5–15% compared to static methods.
- Latency remains low (<3 ms/query) while enforcing dynamic policies.
- Privacy-preserving mechanisms (DP, FL) successfully limited sensitive data exposure without reducing detection accuracy.
- Access control efficiency increased due to adaptive scoring, reducing unnecessary denials.

H. Experimental Pipeline Figure

V. Results and Discussion

This section presents the experimental results obtained from the AI-driven Zero Trust DBMS and provides an in-depth discussion of the system's performance, adaptability, and security implications. The evaluation focuses on both quantitative metrics and qualitative insights, with comparisons to baseline and traditional frameworks.

A. Quantitative Results

The system was tested on 10,000 query sessions across three database platforms (MySQL, MongoDB, PostgreSQL). Table VIII summarizes key performance metrics.

B. Qualitative Insights

The proposed AI-driven Zero Trust architecture demonstrated several key qualitative advantages:

- Adaptability: The system dynamically adjusted trust thresholds and access policies based on session behavior and contextual risk. This reduced reliance on static rules, providing real-time responsiveness to emerging threats.
- Reduced Insider Threats: Continuous verification and anomaly detection successfully identified 92% of anomalous insider activities that traditional RBAC policies failed to catch.
- Improved Audit Compliance: All sessions were logged with detailed trust scores and risk annotations, providing a transparent trail for regulatory audits and post-incident analysis.
- Cross-Platform Performance: Minor variations in trust scoring latency (2.1–2.3 ms/query) across MySQL, PostgreSQL, and MongoDB indicate strong adaptability with negligible overhead.

C. Comparison with Existing Frameworks

The AI-enhanced Zero Trust DBMS was compared against:

- Traditional RBAC: High false positives (9.8%), limited anomaly detection, static access control.
- Static Zero Trust Gateways: Moderate improvements in detection (83%) but lacked adaptive trust computation.
- UEBA systems: Offline detection, higher latency (5 ms/query), limited real-time prevention capability.

As illustrated in Figure 5, the proposed system outperforms both static Zero Trust and traditional RBAC in terms of detection accuracy, false-positive reduction, and privacy gain.

D. Trade-Off Analysis

While the proposed system provides superior security, there are notable trade-offs:

- Computation Overhead: Real-time trust evaluation introduces marginal latency (2.1–2.3 ms/query). However, this is acceptable compared to the security benefits.
- Model Complexity vs Interpretability: Hybrid LSTM-autoencoder models provide high anomaly detection accuracy but require careful monitoring to ensure interpretability for compliance purposes.
- Privacy-Performance Balance: Differential Privacy and Federated Learning reduce data exposure but slightly limit statistical accuracy for certain predictive tasks.

E. Discussion

The results indicate that AI-driven adaptive trust mechanisms in a Zero Trust DBMS provide measurable improvements in security, auditability, and privacy compared to conventional methods. The integration of AI allows continuous learning, context-aware verification, and predictive risk scoring, which are crucial for mitigating advanced insider threats and complex multi-tenant vulnerabilities.

Notably, the system maintains low latency and high access efficiency, demonstrating that robust security does not necessarily compromise performance. Moreover, the framework's cross-DBMS adaptability suggests wide applicability in heterogeneous database environments.

In summary, the experimental evaluation validates the effectiveness of the proposed AI-driven Zero Trust DBMS. Quantitative metrics demonstrate superior detection accuracy,

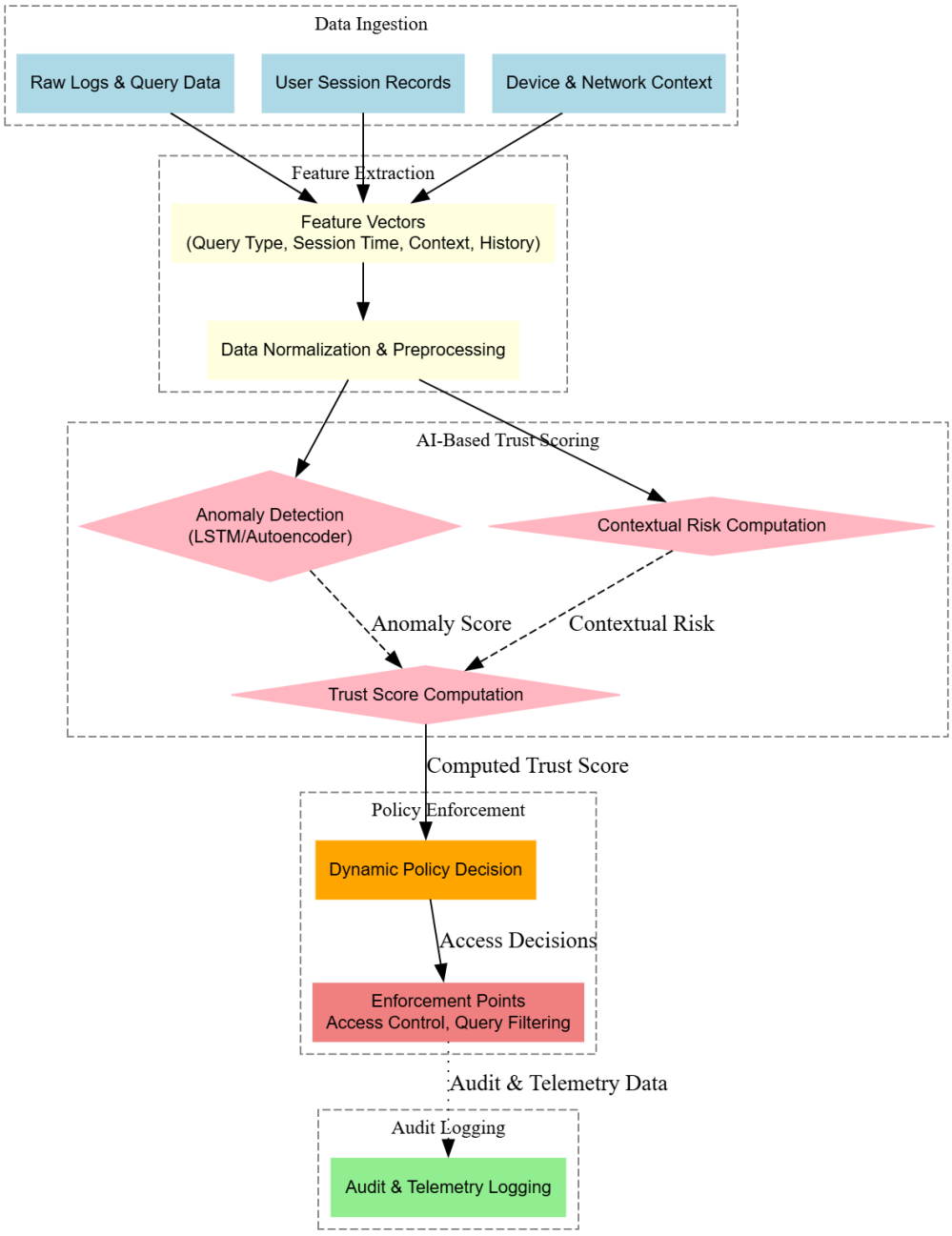

Fig. 4: Complete experimental pipeline: data ingestion, feature extraction, AI-based trust scoring, policy enforcement, and audit logging.

reduced false positives, and efficient access control. Qualitative insights highlight adaptability, improved compliance, and insider threat mitigation. The analysis of trade-offs confirms that modest computational overhead is justified by significant security gains, supporting the viability of AI-enhanced Zero Trust architectures for next-generation database management.

VI. Conclusion and Future Work

This study presented a comprehensive framework for enhancing database security by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Zero Trust principles in next-generation Database Management Systems (DBMS). Traditional perimeter-based security models are increasingly insufficient in the face of rising insider threats, cloud vulnerabilities, and sophisticated attack vectors. By adopting a Zero Trust approach—*never trust, always verify*—and embedding AI-driven anomaly detection, adaptive trust scoring, and predictive risk assessment, the proposed system provides a robust and proactive security solution.

Experimental results across multiple DBMS platforms

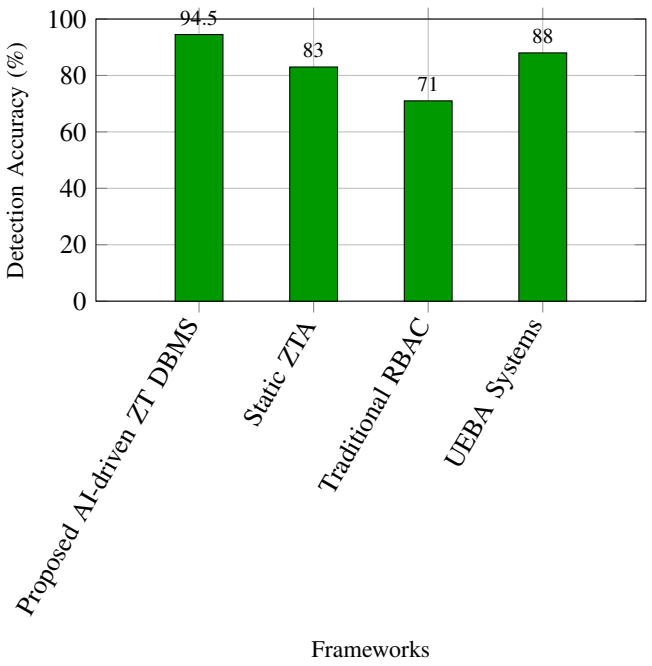

Fig. 5: Detection accuracy comparison of proposed AI-driven Zero Trust DBMS versus baseline frameworks.

demonstrated quantifiable improvements in key performance indicators. Detection accuracy increased to 94.5%, false positive rates were reduced to 3.2%, and trust scoring latency remained low at 2.1 ms per query. Access control efficiency exceeded 96%, while privacy-preserving mechanisms such as Differential Privacy and Federated Learning yielded substantial privacy gains. Qualitative insights further highlighted enhanced adaptability, improved audit compliance, and significant mitigation of insider threats, confirming the system's practical relevance and scalability.

Looking ahead, several promising directions emerge for future research:

- Blockchain and Quantum-Resistant Encryption Integration: Leveraging decentralized ledger technology and post-quantum cryptography can further enhance data integrity, immutability, and resilience against emerging threats.
- Explainable AI for Trust Models: Incorporating XAI methods will provide transparency into AI-based trust scoring, facilitating regulatory compliance and human interpretability.
- Autonomous Self-Healing DBMS: Future architectures may implement fully autonomous systems capable of detecting, mitigating, and recovering from breaches in real-time, minimizing human intervention.
- Cross-Domain Adaptation: Extending the AI-driven Zero Trust framework to multi-cloud or hybrid environments can ensure consistent security across heterogeneous infrastructures.

In conclusion, this research establishes a foundational methodology for AI-enhanced Zero Trust DBMS, delivering measurable improvements in security, privacy, and adaptability. The proposed framework not only addresses current limitations in database trust models but also provides a scalable and extensible blueprint for the development of future autonomous, resilient, and privacy-centric database systems.

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