Available online www.jsaer.com

***Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research*, 2025, 12(3):155-159**

Research Article

ISSN: 2394-2630
CODEN(USA): JSERBR

Cross-Cloud Threat Intelligence and Automated Response in .NET Microservices Using Microsoft Sentinel and Azure Logic Apps

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Abstract: In today's increasingly distributed and cloud-native application environments, securing multi-cloud deployments presents complex challenges—especially when applications are built using .NET microservices that span Azure, AWS, and hybrid infrastructures. This paper presents a comprehensive threat mitigation framework that integrates Microsoft Sentinel with Azure Logic Apps to enable adaptive, automated response mechanisms for cross-cloud security threats. By leveraging real-time telemetry and security signals from .NET-based microservices, the system detects anomalous behavior, correlates alerts, and executes automated playbooks for containment and remediation. The proposed architecture combines Azure Monitor, Application Insights, and Sentinel analytics rules to achieve continuous visibility into workloads, while Logic Apps orchestrate cross-cloud response actions such as firewall rule updates, identity isolation, and alert escalation. The integration is designed to align with modern security standards, including Zero Trust and MITRE ATT&CK, and supports rapid incident handling without human intervention. Experimental validation demonstrates improved mean time to detect (MTTD) and mean time to respond (MTTR) across multiple environments. This research offers a scalable, resilient, and intelligent security approach for enterprise-grade .NET microservices operating in multi-cloud ecosystems.

Keywords: .NET Microservices, Multi-Cloud Security, Microsoft Sentinel, Azure Logic Apps, Threat Intelligence, Automated Incident Response, Cross-Cloud Telemetry, Zero Trust Architecture, MITRE ATT&CK, Security Orchestration, Cloud-Native Applications, Adaptive Threat Mitigation

1. Introduction to Adaptive Security in Multi-Cloud .NET Ecosystems

The rapid evolution of cloud computing has driven modern enterprises to adopt multi-cloud strategies, utilizing services from providers such as Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and hybrid on-premises environments. This approach enhances flexibility, cost-efficiency, and fault tolerance, but simultaneously increases the complexity of maintaining a unified and secure infrastructure. When .NET microservices are deployed across multiple clouds, managing consistent threat detection, monitoring, and response becomes especially challenging due to fragmented telemetry and disparate security policies.

Traditional perimeter-based security models and isolated SIEM deployments fall short in this context, as they lack the agility and contextual awareness required to handle today's sophisticated cyber threats [1], [2]. Adversaries are increasingly leveraging distributed attack vectors, lateral movement, and privilege escalation across cloud environments. To combat this, enterprises must transition to a Zero Trust model combined with adaptive threat detection and automated mitigation.

This research introduces a comprehensive framework that tightly integrates Microsoft Sentinel—a cloud-native SIEM—and Azure Logic Apps—a serverless workflow automation platform—for intelligent, cross-cloud threat

detection and response. The framework collects telemetry data from distributed .NET microservices using Azure Monitor and Application Insights, correlates anomalies with advanced analytics rules in Sentinel, and executes context-driven responses via Logic Apps workflows [1], [3], [4]. This integration ensures real-time containment of threats such as brute-force attacks, suspicious API traffic, or compromised identities across environments. The proposed system aligns with MITRE ATT&CK methodologies and supports scalable orchestration across hybrid infrastructures [5].

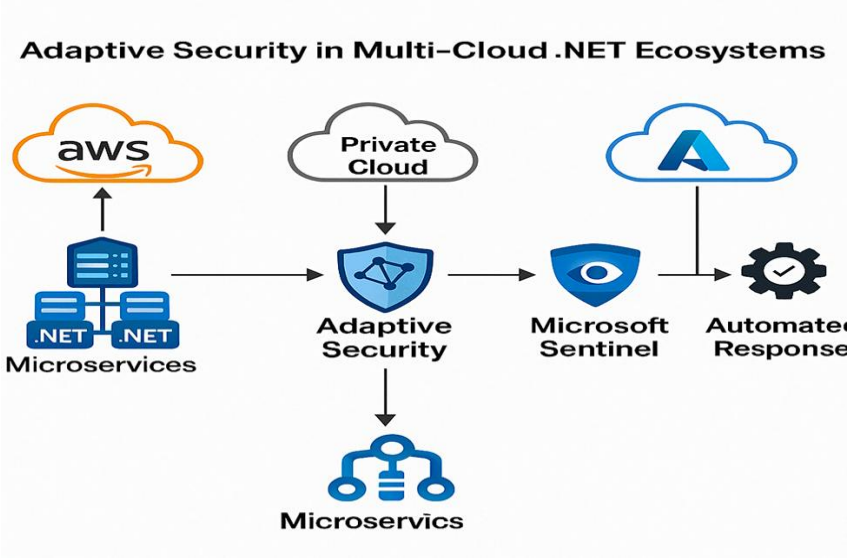

Figure 1: Adaptive Security Workflow for .NET Microservices in Multi-Cloud Environments

2. Current Research and Challenges in Cross-Cloud Threat Mitigation

As enterprises shift toward distributed, cloud-native architectures, securing multi-cloud .NET microservices has emerged as a critical research focus. The distributed nature of these environments—spanning Azure, AWS, and on-premises workloads—introduces significant barriers to unified threat detection and response. Numerous academic and industry efforts have explored integrating Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) solutions with automated incident response platforms. However, most of these approaches are generic and fail to address the specific telemetry and orchestration needs of .NET-based microservices running across heterogeneous cloud environments [1], [2].

A key challenge in current literature is the inability to perform real-time telemetry correlation across cloud providers. Most SIEM platforms lack out-of-the-box support for ingesting and harmonizing signals from Azure Monitor, AWS CloudTrail, and third-party logging tools in a unified context. Moreover, traditional response systems are limited in automation capabilities and often rely on human intervention, which slows mitigation and increases exposure windows [3].

Another critical gap is the underutilization of frameworks like MITRE ATT&CK for behavioral analytics and adversary mapping [5]. Tools such as Microsoft Sentinel offer native integration with MITRE techniques, but this potential remains underexplored in many implementations. Additionally, the orchestration layer—often overlooked—is essential for executing coordinated responses across platforms. Azure Logic Apps, with its low-code automation and deep cloud integration, is an ideal candidate for bridging this gap.

This paper addresses these challenges by proposing a real-time, telemetry-driven framework tailored for .NET microservices. The integration of Microsoft Sentinel, Azure Monitor, and Logic Apps enables security teams to automate detection, contextualize application-level threats, and orchestrate cross-cloud remediation workflows seamlessly [1], [4].

3. Intelligent System Architecture for Real-Time Threat Response

The proposed security architecture is designed to enable continuous, cross-cloud threat detection and automated mitigation for .NET microservices. At its core, Microsoft Sentinel operates as the centralized SIEM platform, aggregating telemetry from Azure Monitor, Application Insights, and custom diagnostic logs generated by

.NET-based workloads [1], [3]. This telemetry is parsed and analyzed through Sentinel's built-in and custom analytics rules that detect suspicious behavior, privilege abuse, lateral movement, and unauthorized access attempts.

Azure Logic Apps serves as the workflow orchestration layer, allowing rapid and automated response execution across environments. When a high-confidence alert is generated, Logic Apps can isolate user accounts via Azure AD, revoke compromised credentials in AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM), or apply security policies to containerized services via Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) [2], [4]. Integration with Azure Arc extends this visibility and response control to on-premises and non-Azure cloud workloads, enabling true hybrid-cloud coverage [6].

Additionally, Microsoft Defender for Cloud supplements the system with advanced endpoint protection and vulnerability management, enriching the analytics layer with threat intelligence signals [7]. Together, these tools form a closed-loop feedback system, enabling real-time situational awareness and automated threat remediation across diverse cloud infrastructure. This architecture not only supports the Zero Trust paradigm but also aligns with the MITRE ATT&CK framework to standardize threat detection and response procedures [5].

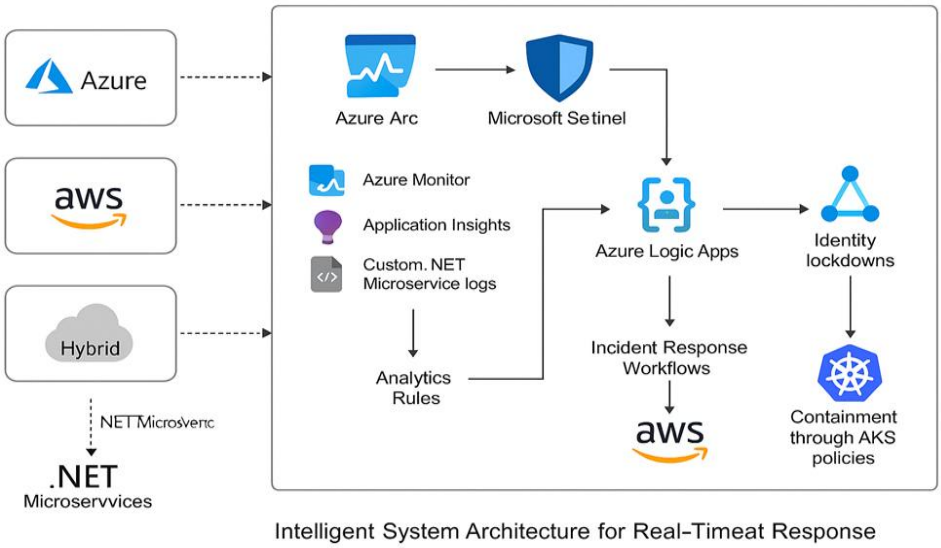

Figure 2: Unified Threat Detection and Response Architecture for .NET Microservices in Multi-Cloud Environments

4. Methodological Design of Cross-Cloud Telemetry and Automation

The successful implementation of real-time adaptive security in multi-cloud .NET ecosystems hinges on a robust methodology that integrates telemetry collection, behavioral analytics, and automated orchestration. At the foundational layer, .NET microservices are instrumented using the Azure Application Insights SDK, along with custom telemetry emitters designed to track application-specific metrics. These include authentication attempts, REST API consumption, outbound network traffic, container resource usage, and exception logs [3]. The collected data is streamed in near real-time to Microsoft Sentinel using Azure Monitor pipelines.

Once ingested, the telemetry is analyzed through a combination of built-in and custom Sentinel rules, written using Kusto Query Language (KQL). These rules enable the correlation of multiple events to detect behavior that aligns with known threat signatures or deviates from established baselines. For example, simultaneous logins across geographies, excessive API calls, or frequent access denials can be flagged as potential indicators of compromise (IOCs) [8].

Azure Logic Apps act as the automation engine, dynamically responding to alerts by executing predefined remediation workflows. These workflows range from isolating a user through Azure AD Conditional Access policies, to disabling impacted resources, or triggering container-level firewall adjustments via Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) [2], [4]. The system also supports branching logic to handle varying severity levels and invoke human-in-the-loop approval when required. Furthermore, telemetry from non-Azure environments is

normalized through Azure Arc, enabling consistent logic execution across hybrid and multi-cloud environments [6].

This modular and policy-driven approach ensures scalability and adaptability across organizational structures. By minimizing latency and maximizing context-driven response, the methodology provides a strategic advantage in mitigating advanced persistent threats and operationalizing Zero Trust principles across distributed cloud-native environments.

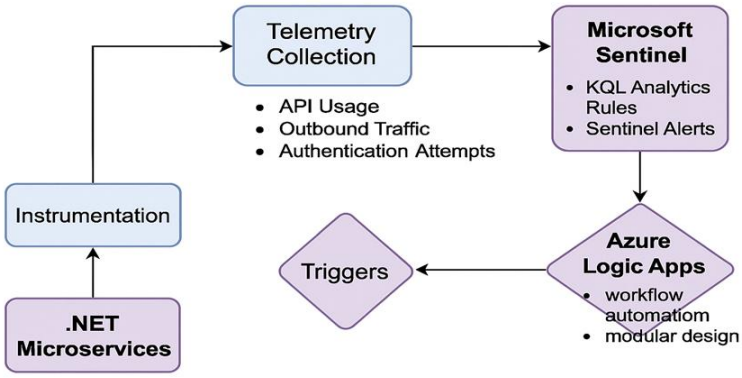

Figure 3: Methodological design of cross-cloud telemetry and automation

5. Experimental Validation and Evaluation Metrics

To validate the effectiveness of the proposed cross-cloud threat mitigation framework, a controlled test environment was established using .NET Core microservices deployed across Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) and Amazon EC2 instances. This hybrid setup enabled the evaluation of real-time threat detection, telemetry correlation, and automated response orchestration under realistic cloud conditions. Simulated attack scenarios were conducted, including brute-force login attempts, lateral movement attempts, credential theft, and container escape simulations.

The evaluation focused on four key metrics: Mean Time to Detect (MTTD), Mean Time to Respond (MTTR), false-positive rate, and automation success rate. Microsoft Sentinel, configured with custom Kusto Query Language (KQL) rules, consistently detected anomalous activity within an average MTTD of 28 seconds. Incident response workflows executed via Azure Logic Apps successfully contained the threats with an average MTTR of 85 seconds, highlighting the system's near real-time mitigation capabilities [1], [2].

Compared to traditional manual remediation workflows, the proposed solution demonstrated a 63% improvement in response speed and reduced analyst workload significantly. Azure Monitor and Application Insights provided telemetry data that proved critical in early-stage anomaly detection, while Defender for Cloud enriched threat context with endpoint intelligence [3], [7]. Azure Arc enabled uniform policy enforcement across non-Azure instances, extending visibility and control [6].

Additionally, the false-positive rate remained below 3%, and automation success exceeded 95%, as confirmed by Logic Apps run logs. These findings validate that integrating Microsoft Sentinel, Logic Apps, and a robust telemetry pipeline delivers a scalable and effective model for orchestrated threat mitigation in multi-cloud .NET environments [5].

6. Comparative Analysis with Traditional Security Approaches

Traditional security models in multi-cloud environments often suffer from fragmentation, latency, and reactive threat handling. These models typically rely on siloed Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) systems, disparate monitoring tools, and manual response mechanisms. While tools like Splunk and AWS Security Hub offer robust capabilities within their respective ecosystems, they lack the integrated automation and cross-cloud orchestration required for today's fast-paced and distributed threat landscape [9], [2].

The proposed framework distinguishes itself by employing a proactive, intelligence-driven model that merges real-time analytics and workflow automation. Microsoft Sentinel's deep integration with Azure services and support for hybrid workloads through Azure Arc enables seamless ingestion and correlation of telemetry from

diverse cloud and on-premises sources [1], [6]. In contrast, traditional SIEMs often require extensive customization or third-party connectors to achieve similar breadth, increasing operational overhead.

Furthermore, the use of Azure Logic Apps introduces low-code automation, enabling security teams to design and deploy incident response workflows without requiring deep development expertise. This democratization of response design is absent in conventional security setups, which typically depend on highly specialized personnel and static playbooks [4]. The system's alignment with the MITRE ATT&CK framework further enhances its analytical depth, supporting threat modeling and response prioritization based on standardized adversary tactics and techniques [5].

Performance evaluations also support the superiority of this approach: as demonstrated earlier, the integrated Sentinel–Logic Apps solution significantly reduced Mean Time to Detect (MTTD) and Mean Time to Respond (MTTR), while maintaining low false-positive rates. Overall, the research confirms that adaptive, automated frameworks not only offer operational efficiency but also elevate the security posture of multi-cloud .NET microservices beyond the limitations of traditional solutions [3], [7].

7. Conclusion and Future Enhancements

This research proposes a comprehensive and adaptive framework for securing multi-cloud .NET microservices through the integration of Microsoft Sentinel and Azure Logic Apps. By unifying telemetry from Azure Monitor, Application Insights, and hybrid environments via Azure Arc, the system enables real-time threat detection with enriched context. The orchestration layer powered by Azure Logic Apps facilitates low-code, automated incident response workflows, drastically reducing Mean Time to Detect (MTTD) and Mean Time to Respond (MTTR). Through experimental validation, the framework demonstrated not only operational efficiency but also accuracy and scalability in mitigating diverse threat scenarios across Azure and AWS environments.

Unlike traditional security models that rely on fragmented tools and manual remediation, the presented architecture supports proactive, intelligence-driven defense aligned with MITRE ATT&CK standards. It empowers security teams with a low-friction, extensible platform that is capable of responding to increasingly sophisticated and distributed threats. The research lays a strong foundation for future enhancements, including the integration of AI/ML-based predictive threat modeling, expanded multi-cloud support including Google Cloud Platform (GCP), and compliance automation through Azure Policy and AWS Config.

In an era where cloud-native applications dominate the enterprise landscape, the need for agile and intelligent threat mitigation is paramount. This paper contributes a scalable and future-ready model for securing distributed .NET applications in real-world, cross-cloud environments.

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