

Creating a URL Phishing Detector

by Aggrey Timbwa, Richard Macharia, Pamela Jepkorir Chebii, Cynthia Njambi, Omara Waldea

What is Phishing?

Deceptive Tactics

Fraudsters use email, social media, and other online channels to trick users into revealing sensitive information.

Real-World Examples

Emails impersonating banks, government agencies, and trusted brands are common phishing techniques.



Understanding Phishing Attacks

1 Business Risks

3

- > Financial losses
- reputational damage.

- Cybercrime
 Sophistication
 - > Advanced tactics
 - > Social engineering.

- Protection Necessity
 - > Tools to identify phishing URLs for realtime detection.





Business Objectives



High-Accuracy Detection



User-Friendly Deployment



Real-Time Classification



Expected Impact Globally

Financial Security

Reduce financial losses due to phishing scams.

User Trust

➤ Build confidence in online interactions.

Benefits to Stakeholders

➤ Business Users

Helps secure business operations by preventing phishing scams, protecting financial data, and ensuring safe online transactions. Example is banking services.

➤ Individual Users (General Public)

Provides an easy way to avoid phishing attacks and safeguard personal information while browsing the internet.

> Cybersecurity Teams

Supports proactive threat prevention by identifying phishing URLs and integrating into existing security measures.



Preparing a Training Dataset

1 — Data Collection

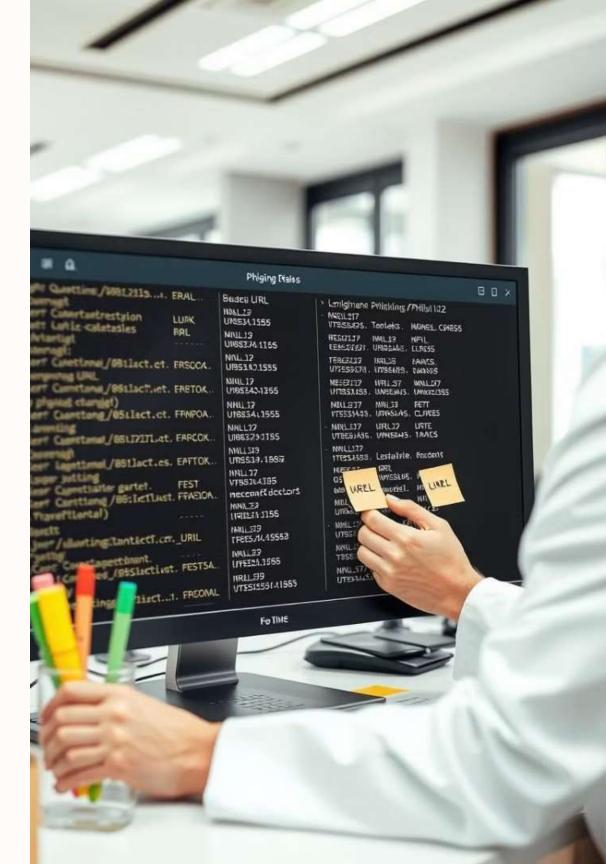
➤ Gather diverse labelled URLs from Mendely Dataset .

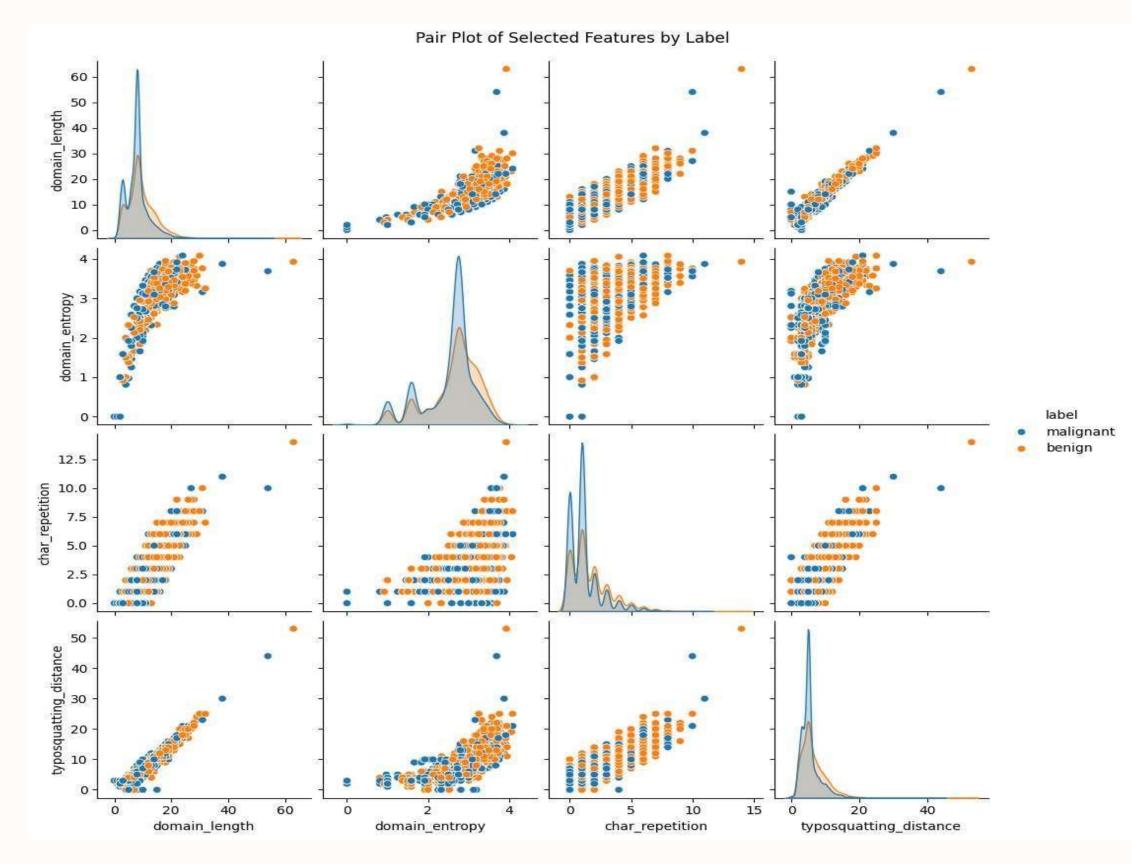
2 — Data Preprocessing

Clean dataset by removing duplicates and invalid entries.

Feature Extraction and Engineering

Extract relevant URL attributes like domain age, URL length.



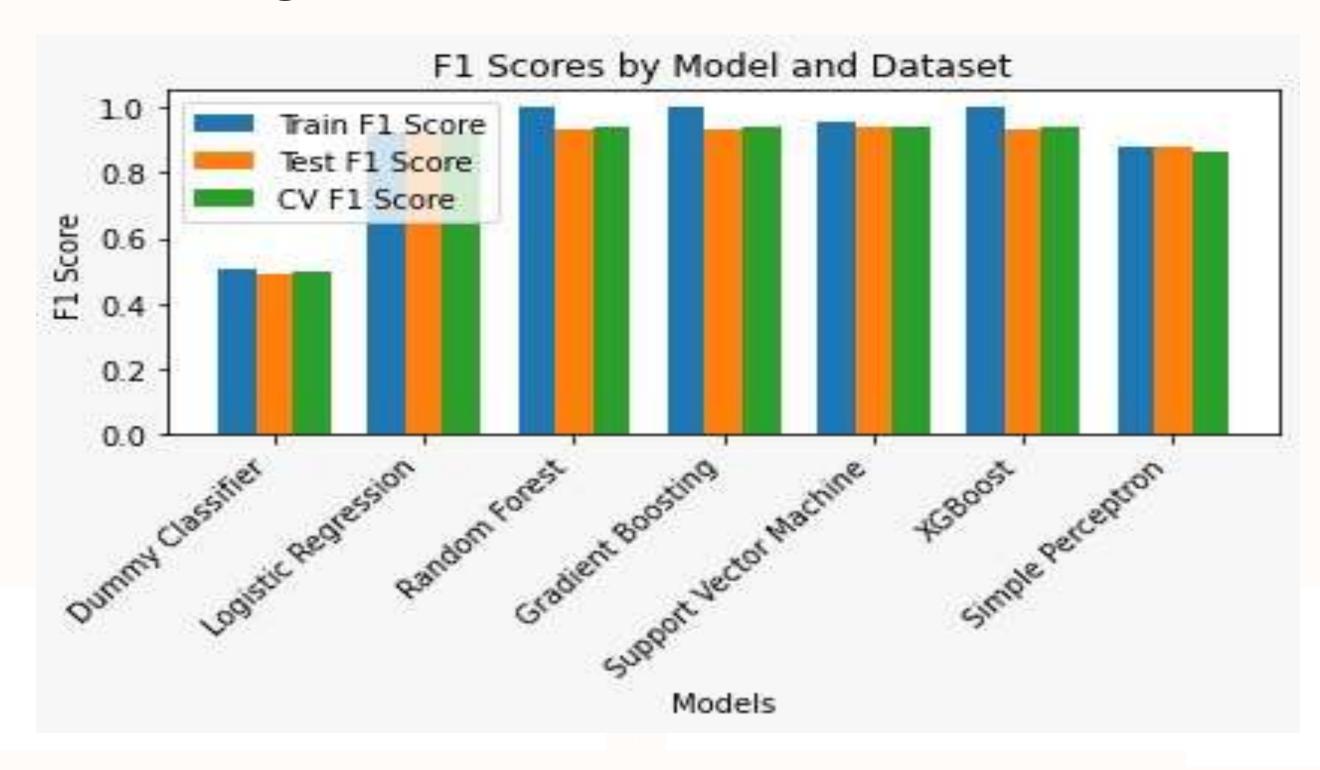


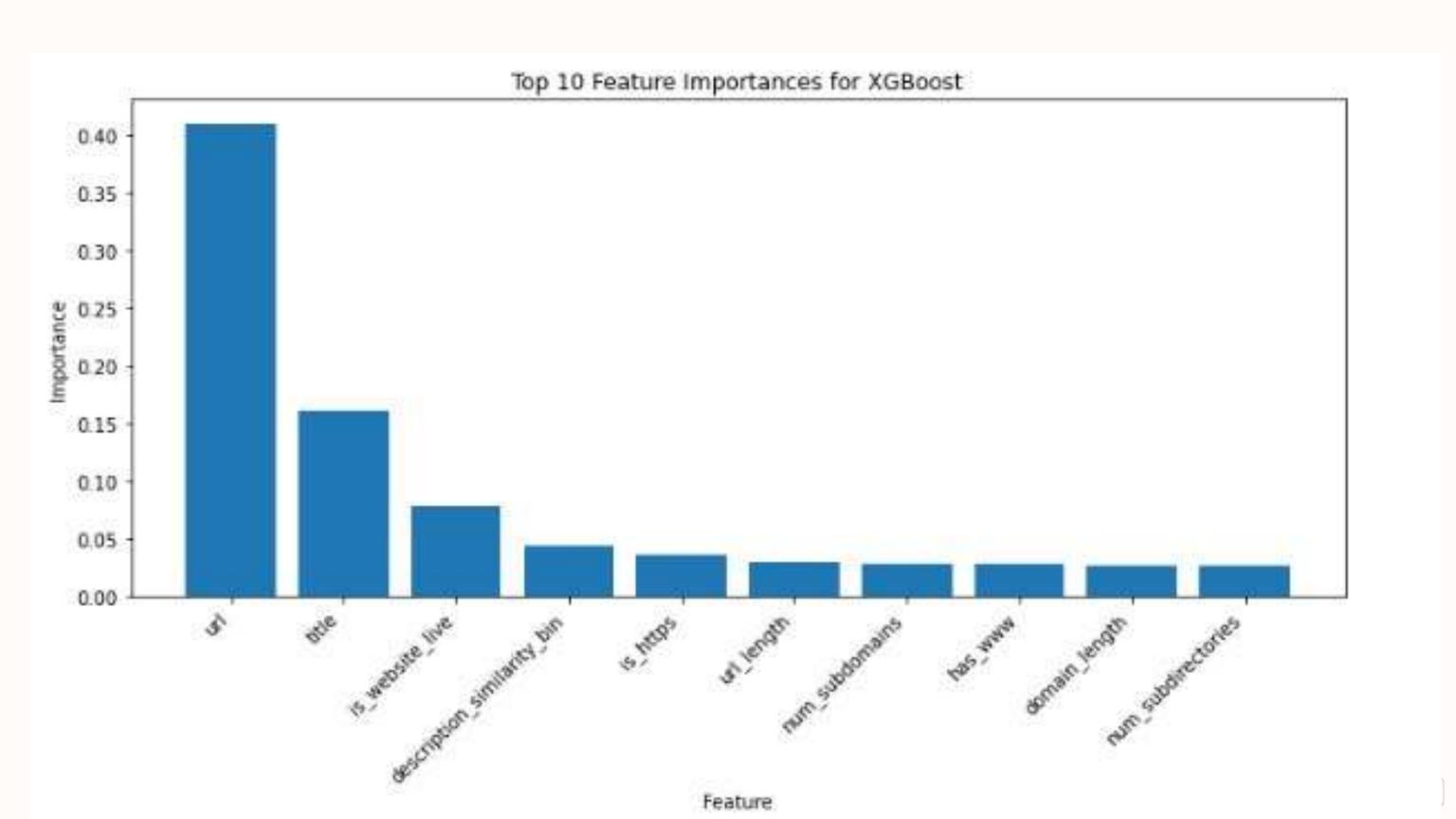
VISUALIZATION

- Distinct Distributions:
 Some features show clear
 differences between benign
 and malignant labels.
- Class Separation: Features like domain length and typosquatting distance aid in distinguishing classes.
- Significant Features:

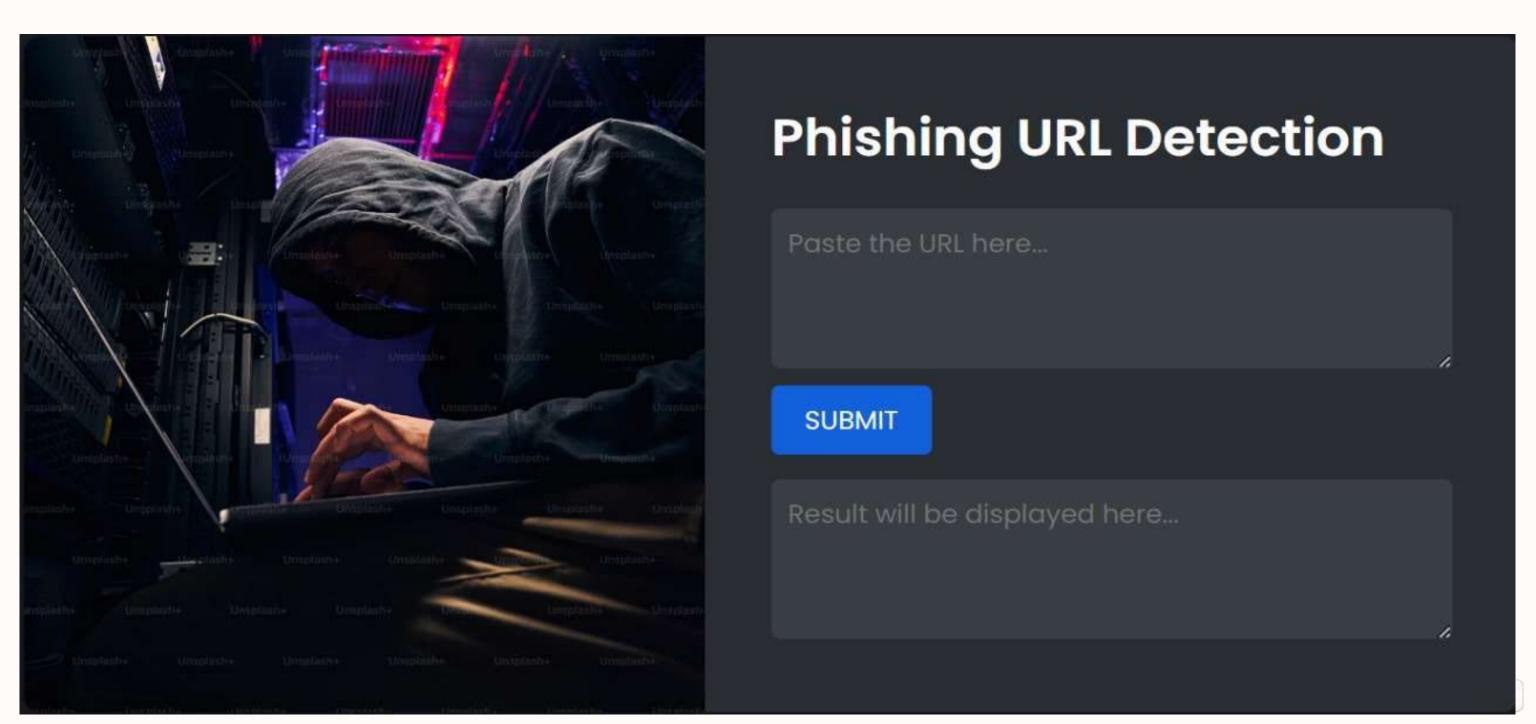
 Domain length, entropy, and character repetition stand out for classification.

Model Training and Evaluation



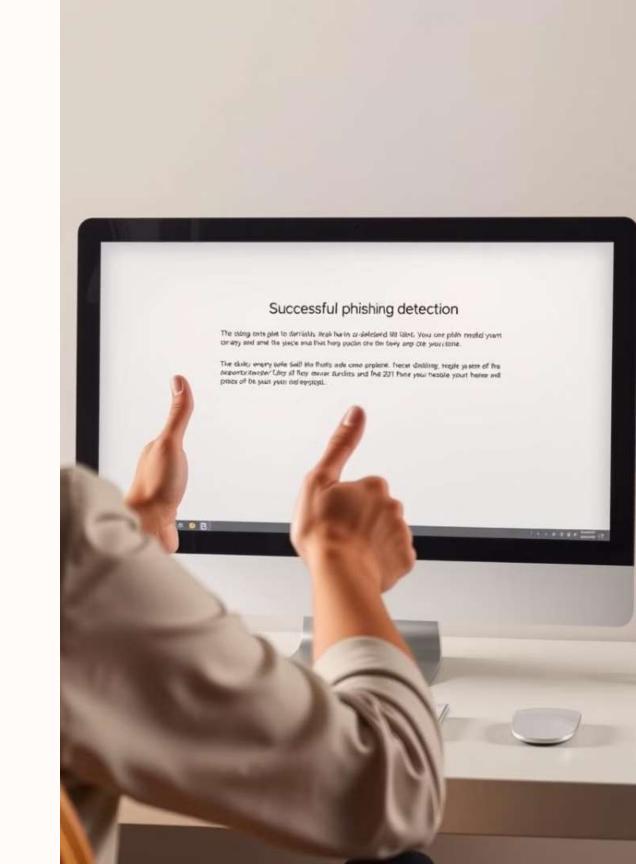


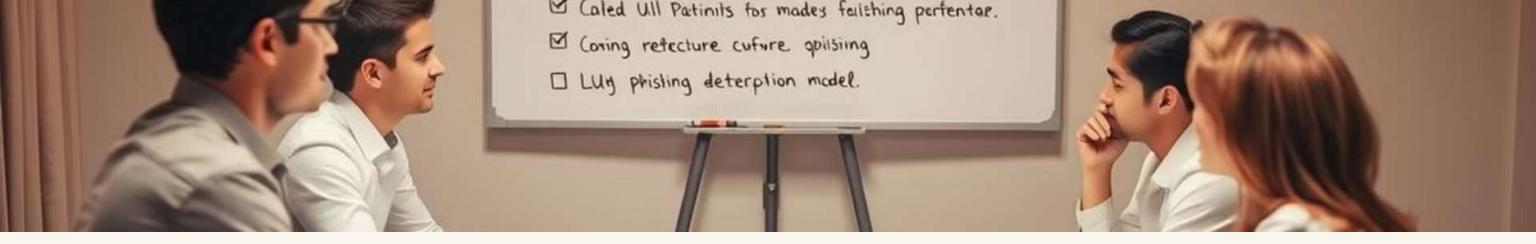
Deploying the Detector



Conclusion

- ➤ High-Accuracy Phishing Detection.
- ➤ Balanced F1-Score
- ➤ User-Friendly Web Deployment
- ➤ Real-Time Classification
- ➤ Identify Important Features





Recommendations

- Implement Continuous Model Retraining
- > Train the Model Using More URLs
- Consider Deployment as a Browser Extension
- ➤ User Feedback

Q&A





Thank You