

CatchPhish

An ML Approach to URL Phishing Detection

Omar Kreidie

April 26th, 2025



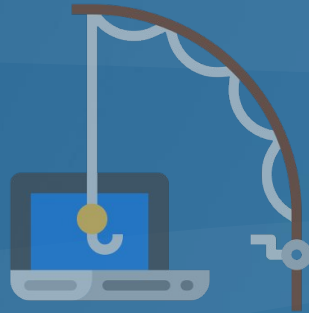
The Problem



- Cybercrime is on the rise.
- Small to Medium Businesses (SMB's) account for 43% of all cyber attacks.
- 95% of all cyber breaches are attributed to human error.



What is Phishing?

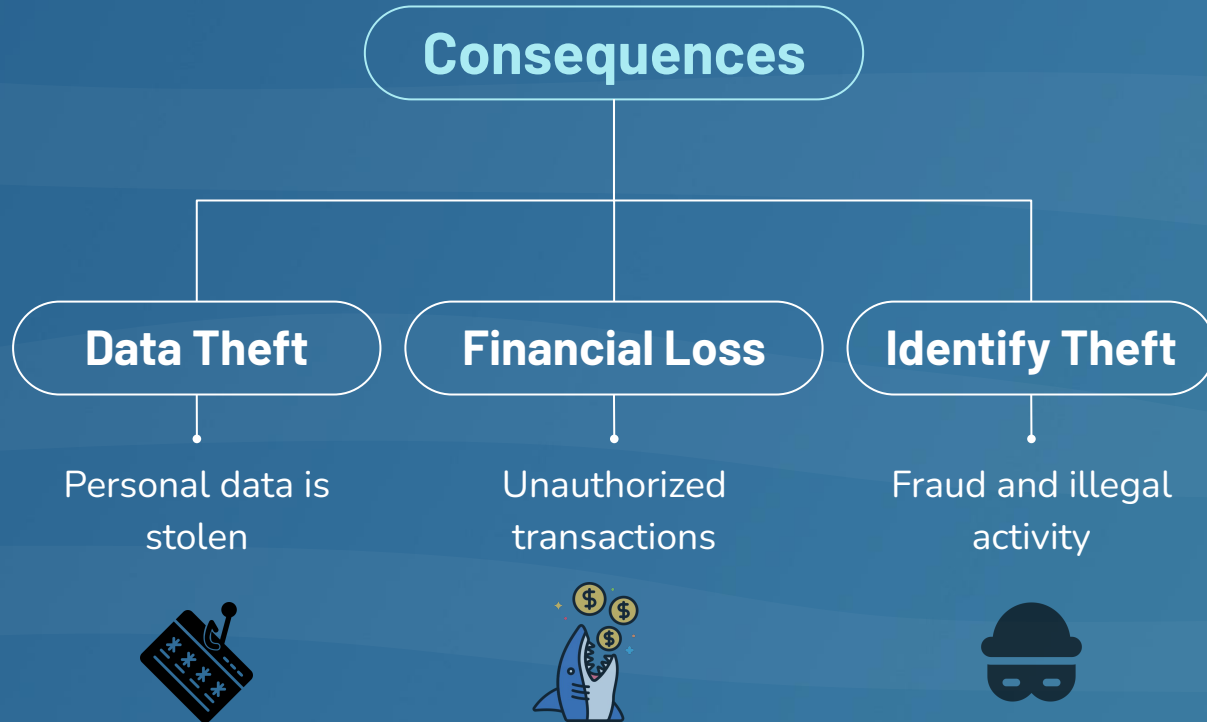


Don't We Already Have a Solution For This?

- More layers more protection
- SMB's struggle to adopt effective security
 - Lack of education
 - Cost
 - Optimism Bias
- SMB's are the best phish!



Impact of a Phishing Attack



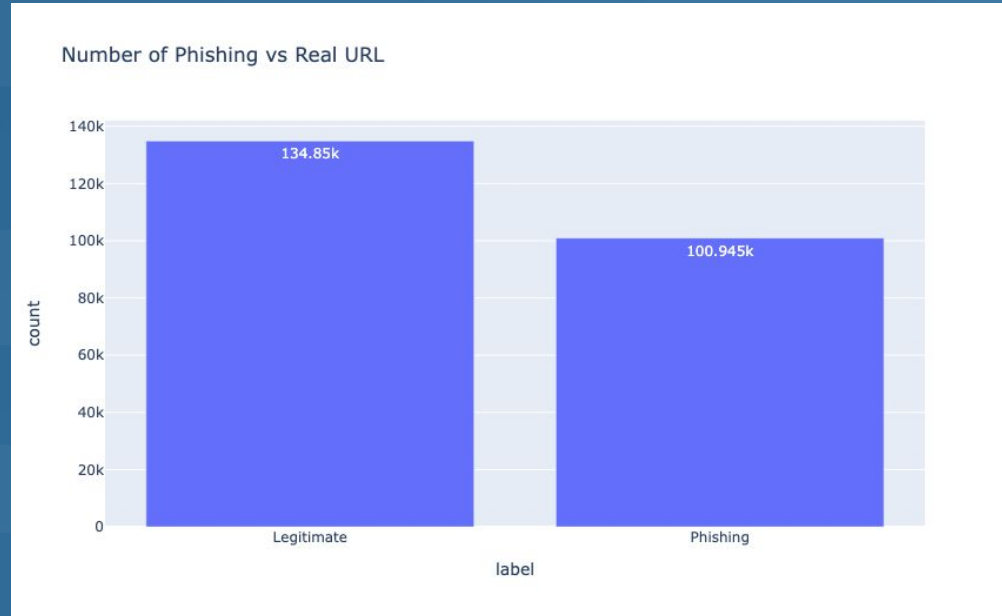
The Impact of The Solution

- Financial Protection.
- Preservation of Reputation and Customer Trust.
- Reduce Downtime and Improve Productivity.



Understanding The Data

- The dataset contains 235,795 rows and 56 features.
 - 50 Feature Engineered by Data Engineer
 - Clean Dataset (no nulls or duplicates)



Preliminary Model

Logistic Regression

```
Accuracy: 0.9980491528658368
Precision: 0.9982205086379476
Recall: 0.9983685576566556
F1 Score: 0.9982945276583123
```

```
Confusion Matrix:
[[20141  48]
 [  44 26926]]
```

```
Classification Report:
```

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	1.00	1.00	1.00	20189
1	1.00	1.00	1.00	26970
accuracy			1.00	47159
macro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	47159
weighted avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	47159

Preprocessing



Variance
Thresholding

Correlation
Analysis

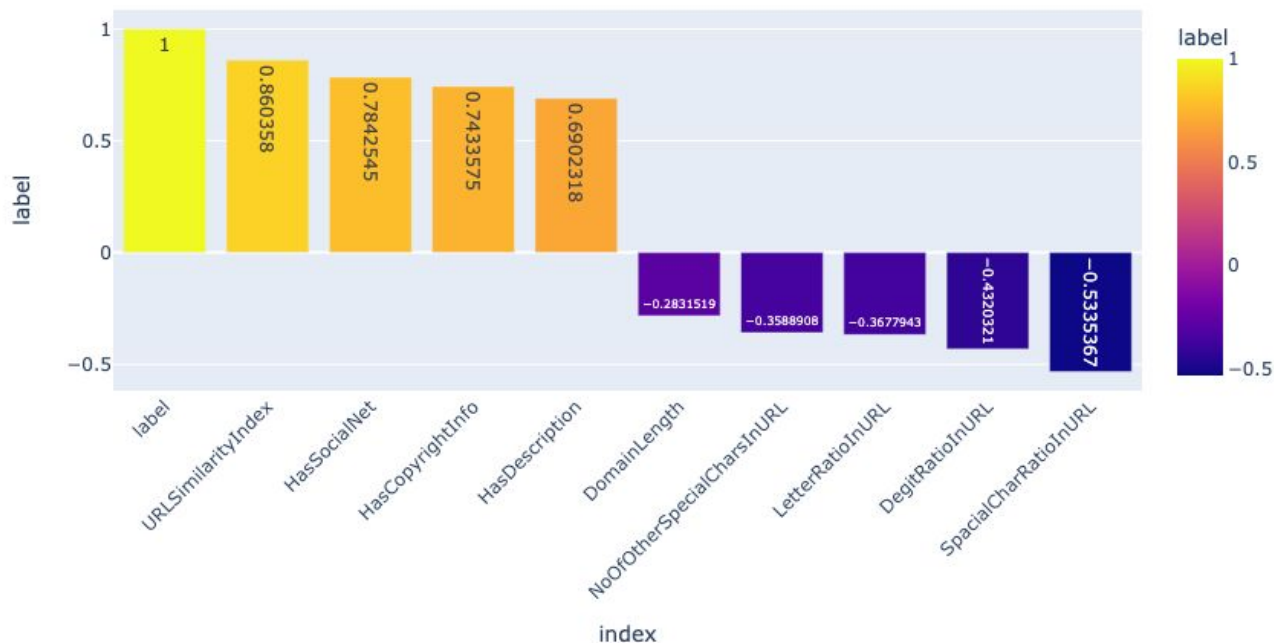
Intercorrelation
Analysis

Feature
Importance



Findings From EDA

Top 5 and Bottom 5 Features by Correlation



Findings From EDA

- A lot of inter collinearity
 - Total features reduced 10
- A lot of data leakage (target leakage)



What's Next?

1. Data Collection

Finding and committing to the dataset

Handling null + duplicate values.
Analyzing Relationships.

2. Data Wrangling + Prelim EDA

3. EDA + Baseline Modeling

Finding the features with the highest predicting power. Building a Prelim Logistic Model

Find the best model without target data leakage. Use NLP techniques build models using tokenized URL's

4. Advanced Modeling

References

- [1]<https://smallbiztrends.com/small-business-cybersecurity/>
- [2]<https://www.ibc.ca/news-insights/news/small-businesses-are-underestimating-their-cyber-risk-despite-increased-threats>
- [3]<https://www.forbes.com/sites/edwardsegal/2022/03/30/cyber-criminals/>

Thank You

