Customer Lifetime Value Prediction

Introduction:

Customer Lifetime Value (CLTV) is a critical metric used to estimate the total monetary value a customer is expected to contribute to a business over their relationship period. This project focuses on predicting CLTV using transactional purchase history to help businesses identify and retain high-value customers through targeted strategies.

Abstract:

Customer Lifetime Value (CLTV) is a critical metric used to estimate the total monetary value a customer is expected to contribute to a business over their relationship period. This project focuses on predicting CLTV using transactional purchase history to help businesses identify and retain high-value customers through targeted strategies.

Tools Used:

- Python: Primary programming language
- Pandas & NumPy: Data wrangling and feature engineering
- Scikit-learn (Random Forest): Model training and evaluation
- Joblib: Model saving and loading
- Matplotlib & Seaborn: Data visualization
- Jupyter Notebook: Development environment

Steps Involved in Building the Project

1. Data Cleaning & Preparation

The dataset contained 541,909 rows with 8 columns. Removed missing values, refunds, and transactions with zero or negative amounts.

2. Feature Engineering

Recency: Days since last transaction. **Frequency**: Number of purchases.

AOV: Total spent divided by frequency.

Monetary: Total amount spent (used as the LTV target).

3. Model Building

Used RandomForestRegressor(random_state=42).

Split dataset into training and testing sets (80-20).

Target variable: Monetary value (proxy for LTV).

4. Model Evaluation

Mean Absolute Error (MAE): 191.60

Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): 2554.26

The model generalizes well for the skewed nature of customer value distribution.

5. Segmentation & Export

Customers were segmented into Low, Mid-Low, Mid-High, and High based on predicted LTV.

Results saved as CSV and model saved as customer_ltv_model.pkl.

Conclusion:

This project demonstrates a scalable pipeline to predict customer lifetime value from transactional data. It enables businesses to:

- Identify top customers early.
- Prioritize high-LTV customers for retention.
- Personalize marketing campaigns based on predicted customer value.

The methodology is extendable to include churn prediction, time-based LTV, and advanced clustering for more sophisticated insights.