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**SCHOOL COMPUTING AND IMFORMATICS TECHNOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**MCS 7103**

**MACHINE LEARNING**

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**EDA Report on PhiUSIIL Phishing URL Dataset**

**Summary**

The PhiUSIIL Phishing URL dataset contains 235,795 URL records with 54 features. These URLs are categorized into two classes:

1. Phishing URLs
2. Legitimate URLs

The features in the dataset include characteristics such as URL length, domain details. The dataset aims to classify URLs as either phishing or legitimate based on these features

**Questions Before Data Wrangling**

1. **What data do I need to predict whether a URL is phishing or legitimate?**
   * **Answer**: To predict whether a URL is phishing or legitimate, I need data that includes both phishing URLs and legitimate URLs. The dataset must have clearly labeled examples of both classes to enable supervised learning. Additionally, relevant features such as URL structure, domain patterns, and statistical attributes will help in prediction.

**Data Wrangling**

During the data wrangling process, I checked the dataset for missing values. Fortunately, there were no missing values in the dataset.

To better understand the structure and nature of the data, I performed an analysis using the following functions:

* **info()**: This provided a summary of the data types and the presence of null values, confirming no missing values.
* **describe()**: This gave a statistical overview of the features.

**Class Distribution**: The dataset is well-balanced with a near-equal number of phishing URLs (label 1) and legitimate URLs (label 0).

**Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)**

**Univariate Analysis**

To gain initial insights into the dataset, I performed a univariate analysis, focusing on individual feature distributions. I plotted histograms for the continuous features such as URL length, domain length, and other numeric characteristics.

* **URL Length**: Phishing URLs were observed to be generally longer compared to legitimate URLs. This observation aligns with known phishing strategies, where attackers often use longer URLs to obscure malicious content or make the URL appear more legitimate.
* **Domain Structure**: Phishing URLs tend to have longer domains, often with multiple subdomains. These features were also more common in phishing URLs, contributing to a heightened suspicion. Attackers commonly use complex domain structures to imitate legitimate websites or hide the true nature of the domain.

**Conclusion**

The PhiUSIIL Phishing URL dataset provides a comprehensive set of features for analyzing and predicting phishing URLs. The data is clean, well-balanced, and offers a range of URL characteristics for building a robust classification model. Initial EDA shows that phishing URLs tend to be longer and have more complex domain structures, which are typical of phishing attempts.