

### **School of Computer Science and Engineering**

# Phishing Website Detection using Machine Learning Algorithms

J component Report

CSE3013 Artificial Intelligence

Slot: C1+TC1

# Divyanshu Gupta(19BCE2093)

B. Tech Computer Science and Engineering

Under Guidance of:
Arun Kumar G
Associate Professor, SCOPE
VIT

#### **Abstract**

#### <u>Aim</u>

To detect phishing URLs as well as narrow down to best machine learning algorithm by comparing accuracy rate, false positive and false negative rate of each algorithm.

#### **Objective**

- To overcome the drawbacks of blacklist and heuristics-based method
- Focus on machine learning techniques.

#### **Motivation**

- Phishing becomes a main area of concern for security researchers because it is not difficult to create the fake website which looks so close to legitimate website. Main aim of the attacker is to steal banks account credentials.
- Phishing attacks are becoming successful because lack of user awareness.
- The general method to detect phishing websites by updating blacklisted URLs, Internet Protocol (IP) to the antivirus database which is also known as "blacklist" method.
- To overcome the drawbacks of blacklist and heuristics-based method, many security researchers now focused on machine learning techniques.
- Using this technique, algorithm will analyze various blacklisted and legitimate URLs and their features to accurately detect the phishing websites including zero- hour phishing websites.

#### Introduction

In this digital day and electronic world, Internet plays a vital role in day-to-day activities like communication, business, transactions, personal needs, marketing, e-commerce etc. Internet is a multifaceted facility which helps in completing many tasks readily and conveniently within few seconds. Almost everything is presently accessible over web in this period of progression of advances. Thus, increasing usage of internet leads to cybercrime and other malware activities. The information divulged in online leaves digital imprint and if it happens to drop into the wrong hands, it will result in data theft, identity theft and monetary loss. Cybercrime includes many kinds of security issues over the internet and one of the most threatening problems is Phishing. Phishing is a fraudulent technique achieved by phishing web page. Phishing uses e-mails and websites, which are intended to look like from trusted organization, to hoodwink clients into unveiling their own or money related data. The threatening party then use these data for criminal purposes, such as, identity or data theft and extortion. Clients are deceived into revealing their data either by giving touchy data through a web shape or downloading and introducing unfriendly codes, which seek clients' PCs or checking clients' online actions to get data. Luring Internet users by making them click on rogue links that seem trustworthy is an easy task because of widespread credulity and unawareness. It is important to prevent user's confidential data from unauthorized access. The procedure for the most part includes sending messages that then cause the beneficiary to either visit a deceitful site and enter their data or to visit an authentic site through a phishing intermediary attack or using spoofed website, which then gathers the details of user leads to several loss. The Phishing problem needs to be mitigated by anti-Phishing approaches. This research provides a solution that helps in detecting and preventing Phishing attacks using the features of phishing URLs and an automated real-time detection of phishing websites by machine learning approach.

#### Advantages and Disadvantages of the previous used methods

Blacklists: Blacklists hold URLs (or parts thereof) that refer to sites that are considered malicious. Whenever a browser loads a page, it queries the blacklist to determine whether the currently visited URL is on this list. If so, appropriate countermeasures can be taken. Otherwise, the page is considered legitimate. The blacklist can be stored locally at the client or hosted at a central server.

#### Advantages:

Obviously, an important factor for the effectiveness of a blacklist is its coverage. The coverage indicates how many phishing pages on the Internet are included in the list. Another factor is the quality of the list. The quality indicates how many non-phishing sites are incorrectly included into the list. For each incorrect entry, the user experiences a false warning when she visits a legitimate site, undermining her trust in the usefulness and correctness of the solution.

Finally, the last factor that determines the effectiveness of a blacklist-based solution is the time it takes until a phishing site is included. This is because many phishing pages are short-lived and most of the damage is done in the time span between going online and vanishing. Even when a blacklist contains many entries, it is not effective when it takes too long until new information is included or reaches the clients.

#### Disadvantages:

The overall technique to identify phishing sites by refreshing boycotted URLs, Internet Protocol (IP) to the antivirus information base which is otherwise called "boycott" strategy. To dodge boycotts, assailants utilizes innovative procedures to trick clients by adjusting the URL to seem real through muddling and numerous other basic methods including: quick motion, in which intermediaries are naturally produced to have the page; algorithmic age of new URLs; and so forth. Significant disadvantage of this strategy is that it can't recognize Zero-hour phishing attack.

#### **Test Data and Statistics**

For our study, a large number of phishing pages were necessary. We concatenated three databases from Kaggle and merged it into one. The information collected by this method is freely available and the amount of reported phishing sites is very large.

Table: (a) Domains that host phishing sites. (b) Popular phishing targets.

(a)

No domain (numerical)	3,864
.com	1,286
.biz	1,164
.net	469
.info	432
.ws	309
.jp	307
.bz	256
.nz	228
.org	156
.de	111
.ru	106
.us	105

(b)

1,301
940
807
581
514
471
273
182
5,069

#### LITERATURE SURVEY

In **Phishing E-mail Detection Based on Structural Properties** [1], the proposed approach explains to find phishing through appropriate identification and usage of structural properties of email. The experiment is done by SVM and classification technique to classify phishing e-mails. The technique used in this classification method is not large enough and it uses only one approach to identify phishing e-mails, which is low in efficiency and scalability. This is purely based on structural properties of e-mail and it has to extend more structural or content properties to reduce error results.

In **Discovering Phishing Target Based on Semantic Link Network [2]**, the paper proposes a novel approach to discover phishing website by calculating association relation among webpages that include malicious webpages and its associated webpages to measure the combination of link

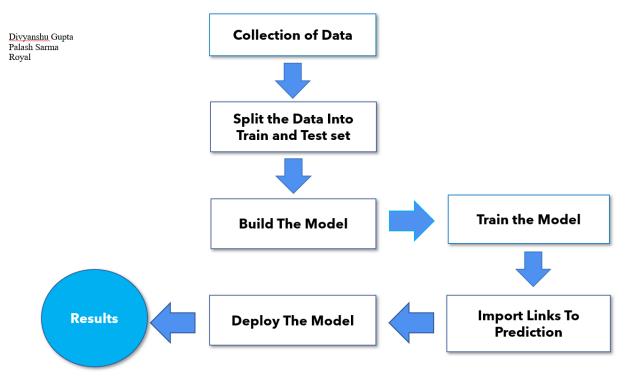
relation, search relation, and text relation. The semantic link network proposes a strategy based on four convergent situations to identify the suspicious webpage as phishing. The demerits in this approach are more kind of association has to be done, similarities between visual, layout and domain have to be related. This method is considered as a time-consuming approach and also various sub-relations in the combined association relations be studied.

In **Evolving Fuzzy Neural Network for Phishing Emails Detection [3]**, deals with zero-day phishing email. It differentiates phishing email and ham email in online mode. It is adopted on feature fetching, rank fetching and grouping similar features of email. The technique is based on binary value 0 or 1 to produce the result for all features used in this method, where 1 denotes a phishing feature and 0 for non-phishing. This technique does not have more dynamic system, so it is less in performance to produce accurate results.

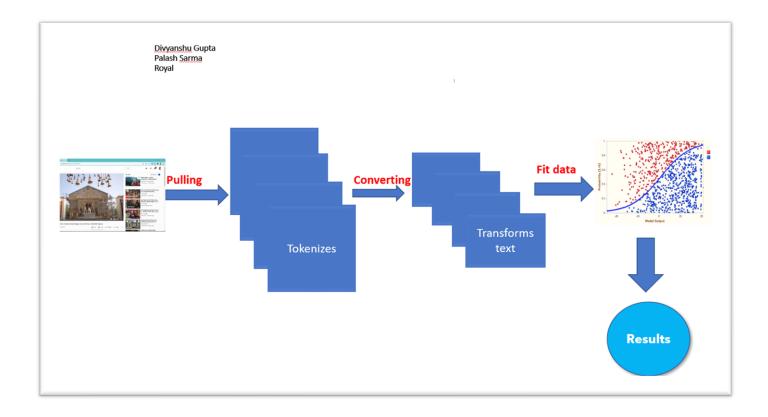
In Intelligent Phishing Website Detection and Prevention System by Using Link Guard Algorithm [4], proposed a system using link guard algorithm which works for hyperlinks. The algorithm performs certain tests like comparison of the DNS of actual and visual links, checks dotted decimal of IP address, checks encoded links and pattern matching. The drawbacks of this system is, it produce the false positive results if any genuine site has IP address instead of domain name, and it considers some phishing site as normal one if the user does not visit the original site. This results in false negative conclusions.

In **Said Afroz, Rachel Greenstadt** – **Phishzoo Approach** [5], the algorithm detects current phishing sites by matching their content with genuine site. This will match images, contents and the structure of website with trusted one in order to avoid phishing. Drawbacks of this algorithm is, it requires matching image site, and it is less robust for detecting phishing attacks.

# **Proposed Methods**



# Methodology



## **Detailed Description of Methodology**

#### MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHMS

#### Logistic regression

Logistic regression is a statistical analysis method used to predict a data value based on prior observations of a data set. A logistic regression model predicts a dependent data variable by analyzing the relationship between one or more existing independent variables. It is used in statistical software to understand the relationship between the dependent variable and one or more independent variables by estimating probabilities using a logistic regression equation.

#### • Random Forest Algorithm

Random forest algorithm is one of the most powerful algorithms in machine learning technology and it is based on concept of decision tree algorithm. Random forest algorithm creates the forest with number of decision trees. High number of trees gives high detection accuracy. Creation of trees are based on bootstrap method. In bootstrap method features and samples of dataset are randomly selected with replacement to construct single tree. Among randomly selected features, random forest algorithm will choose best splitter for the classification and like decision tree algorithm; Random forest algorithm also uses gini index and information gain methods to find the best splitter. This process will get continue until random forest creates n number of trees. Each tree in forest predicts the target value and then algorithm will calculate the votes for each predicted target. Finally, random forest algorithm considers high voted predicted target as a final prediction.

#### • Multinomial Naive Bayes

Multinomial Naive Bayes algorithm is a probabilistic learning method that is mostly used in Natural Language Processing (NLP). The algorithm is based on the Bayes theorem and predicts the tag of a text such as a piece of email or newspaper article. It calculates the probability of each tag for a given sample and then gives the tag with the highest probability as output. The multinomial Naive Bayes classifier is suitable for classification with discrete features (e.g., word counts for text classification). The multinomial distribution normally requires integer feature counts.

**Modules** 

**DATASET** 

We combined various datasets from Kaggle and concatenate them into one. The final file name after concatenation is phishing\_classifier\_url.csv. The dataset furthermore contains 2 attributes which are:

URL: this contains a list of many URLs which are either phishing sites or are not phishing sites.

LABEL: this comprises of a binary entry i.e. bad or good.

**Data collection** 

Collecting data for training the ML model is the basic step in the machine learning pipeline. The predictions made by ML systems can only be as good as the data on which they have been trained. Following are some of the

problems that can arise in data collection:

Inaccurate data. The collected data could be unrelated to the problem statement.

Missing data. Sub-data could be missing. That could take the form of empty values in columns or missing images

for some class of prediction.

Data imbalance. Some classes or categories in the data may have a disproportionately high or low number of

corresponding samples. As a result, they risk being under-represented in the model.

Data bias. Depending on how the data, subjects and labels themselves are chosen, the model could propagate

inherent biases on gender, politics, age or region, for example. Data bias is difficult to detect and remove

**Train-Test Split Evaluation** 

The train-test split is a technique for evaluating the performance of a machine learning algorithm.

It can be used for classification or regression problems and can be used for any supervised learning algorithm.

The procedure involves taking a dataset and dividing it into two subsets. The first subset is used to fit the model and is referred to as the training dataset. The second subset is not used to train the model; instead, the input element of the dataset is provided to the model, then predictions are made and compared to the expected values. This

second dataset is referred to as the test dataset.

**Train Dataset**: Used to fit the machine learning model.

**Test Dataset:** Used to evaluate the fit machine learning model.

The objective is to estimate the performance of the machine learning model on new data: data not used to train the model. This is how we expect to use the model in practice. Namely, to fit it on available data with known inputs and outputs, then make predictions on new examples in the future where we do not have the expected output or target values.

## **Model Building**

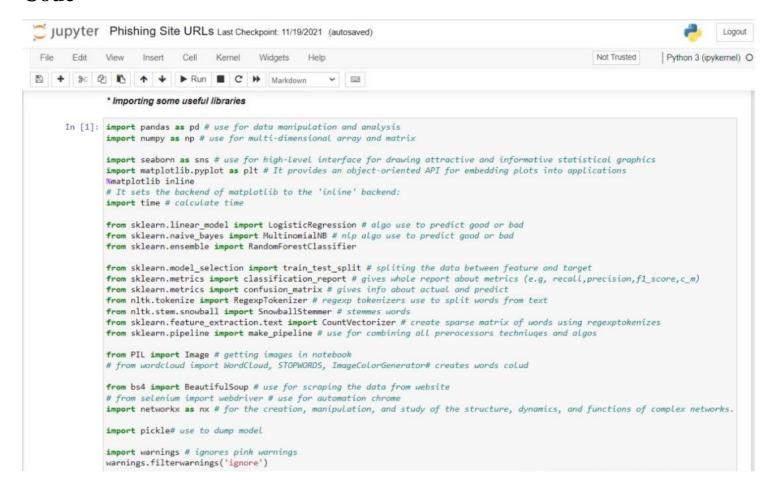
We finally now use the prepared data for model building. Depending on the data type (qualitative or quantitative) of the target variable (commonly referred to as the Y variable) we are either going to be building a classification model. We will be using logistic regression, MultinomialNB and Random Forest.

## **Model training**

It consists of the sample output data and the corresponding sets of input data that have an influence on the output. The training model is used to run the input data through the algorithm to correlate the processed output against the sample output. The result from this correlation is used to modify the model.

Deployment is the method by which you integrate a machine learning model into an existing production environment to make practical business decisions based on data. It is one of the last stages in the machine learning life cycle and can be one of the most cumbersome.

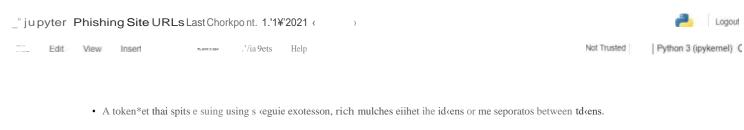
## Code



URL Label

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#### Creating Model

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#### MultinomialNB

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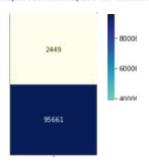
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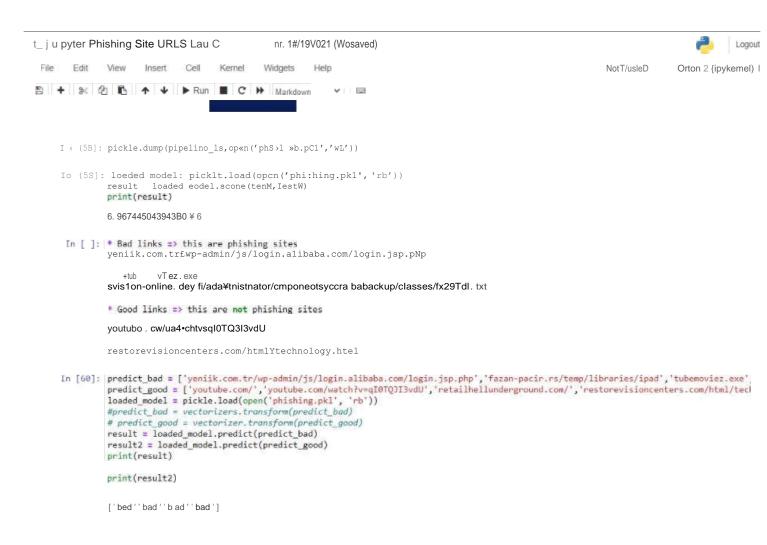
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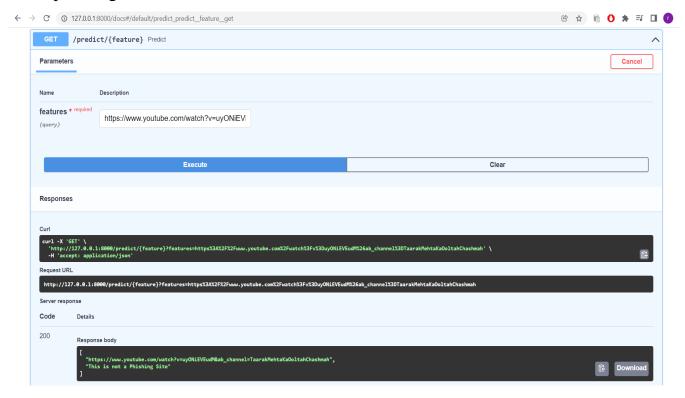
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In [57]: print('Training Accuracy :',pipeline_ls.score(trainX,trainY))
    print('Testing Accuracy :',pipeline_ls.score(testX,testY))
            con_mat = pd.DataFrame(confusion_matrix(pipeline_ls.predict(testX), testY),
                          columns = ['Predicted:Bad', 'Predicted:Good'],
index = ['Actual:Bad', 'Actual:Good'])
           print('\nCLASSIFICATION REPORT\n')
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            plt.figure(figsize= (6,4))
            sns.heatmap(con_mat, annot = True,fmt='d',cmap="YlGnBu")
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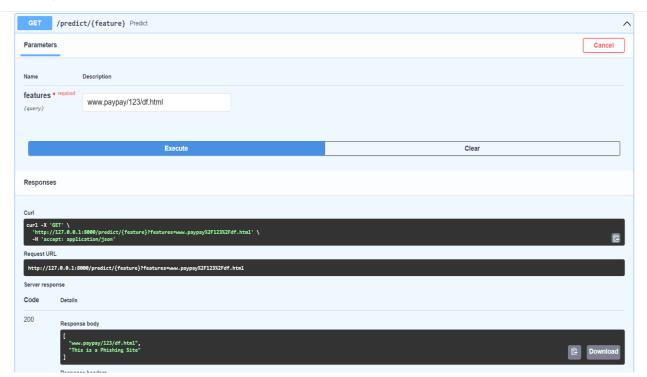


# **Implementation**

## Not a phishing site



## Phishing site



## RESULT AND ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED METHOD

We used the same legitimate URL "google.com" on each algorithm and found the following accuracy:

## 1. Random Forest Classifier:

Accuracy: 70%

#### 2. Logistic regression classifier:

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#### 3. MultinomialNB classifier:

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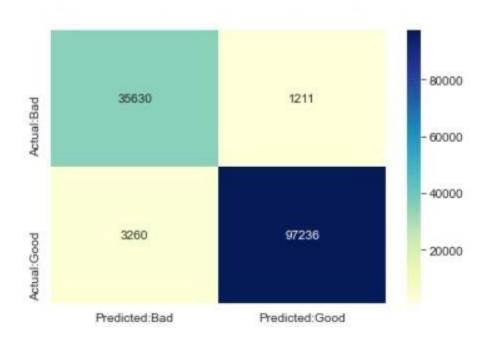


Table below shows the results of classifiers used for the classification process in python. From the table it is shown that the classifier **Logistic Regression** produce the best result.

Classifier	Accuracy
Random Forest	70%
Logistic regression	96.36%
MultinomialNB	95.78%

#### **CONCLUSION**

This project intends to upgrade recognition technique to recognize phishing sites utilizing machine learning innovation. From our experiment we found logistic regression has the highest accuracy rate as 96.3% as compared to random forest and logistic regression classifier. Likewise result shows that classifiers give better execution when we utilized more information as preparing information. Hence the users can get rid of phishing sites and be safe by avoiding them using this technique. The final confusion matrix after optimizing the logistic regression and completing the pipelining work is given below.



# **Future Scope**

Incorporating large datasets

Designing web interface, by using html and css

Increasing model accuracy by using bagging and boosting techniques

#### REFERENCES

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