

Pass The Salt 2024

Fighting Phishing by Introducing WikiPhish

A new public dataset based on Wikipedia for legit URLs

Gabriel Loiseau

Hornet Security



WikiPhish Paper



WikiPhish: A Diverse Wikipedia-Based Dataset for Phishing Website Detection

Data/Toolset paper

Gabriel Loiseau
Hornet Security
Hem, France

gabriel.loiseau@hornetsecurity.com

Maxime Meyer
Hornet Security
Hem, France

maxime.meyer@hornetsecurity.com

Valentin Lefils
Hornet Security
Hem, France

valentin.lefils@hornetsecurity.com

Damien Riquet
Hornet Security
Hem, France

damien.riquet@hornetsecurity.com

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3626232.3653283>



WikiPhish Team



Gabriel Loiseau
Research Scientist



Valentin Lefils
Data Scientist



Maxime Meyer
Head of Research



Damien Riquet
Lead Research
Engineer

Outline

- Background
- The WikiPhish Dataset
- Importance of Legitimate URL Diversity
- Training and Evaluating Classifiers
- Conclusion

Background: phishing detection using machine learning

2023 CRIME TYPES

By Complaint Count			
Crime Type	Complaints	Crime Type	Complaints
Phishing/Spoofing	298,878	Other	8,808
Personal Data Breach	55,851	Advanced Fee	8,045
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	50,523	Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	4,168
Extortion	48,223	Overpayment	4,144
Investment	39,570	Data Breach	3,727
Tech Support	37,560	Ransomware	2,825
BEC	21,489	Crimes Against Children	2,361
Identity Theft	19,778	Threats of Violence	1,697
Confidence/Romance	17,823	IPR/Copyright and Counterfeit	1,498
Employment	15,443	SIM Swap	1,075
Government Impersonation	14,190	Malware	659
Credit Card/Check Fraud	13,718	Botnet	540
Harassment/Stalking	9,587		
Real Estate	9,521		

Background: phishing detection using machine learning

2023 CRIME TYPES

By Complaint Count

Crime Type	Complaints	Crime Type	Complaints
Phishing/Spoofing	298,878	Other	8,808
Personal Data Breach	55,851	Advanced Fee	8,045
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	50,523	Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	4,168

☰ "phishing detection" machine learning 🔍

📄 Scholar About 869 results (0.04 sec) YEAR ▾ ☰

✕ Since 2024

Employment	15,443	SIM Swap	1,075
Government Impersonation	14,190	Malware	659
Credit Card/Check Fraud	13,718	Botnet	540
Harassment/Stalking	9,587		
Real Estate	9,521		

The Dataset

- WikiPhish is a new open-access dataset for phishing website classification
- 110,606 URLs, HTML web pages, and screenshots
- Benign samples: **Wikipedia references**
- Phishing samples: OpenPhish, and PhishTank

WikiPhish Advantages

Diversity

Wide variety
of benign
and phishing
samples

Up-to-date
samples

Recent
phishing
campaigns
and benign
documents

Transparency

Reproducible
and
updatable

Data Collection Challenges

Data Collection Challenges

- Evolving ecosystem due to concept drift
 - Phishing detection is truly adversarial

Data Collection Challenges

- Evolving ecosystem due to concept drift
 - Phishing detection is truly adversarial
- Phishing websites are often short-lived
 - Phishers quickly remove their websites
 - URLs are quickly blocked by providers

Data Collection Challenges

- Evolving ecosystem due to concept drift
 - Phishing detection is truly adversarial
- Phishing websites are often short-lived
 - Phishers quickly remove their websites
 - URLs are quickly blocked by providers
- Collecting relevant legitimate documents is difficult
 - New frameworks, development practices

Limitation of Existing Datasets

Limitation of Existing Datasets

- Many datasets are limited to URLs, omitting HTML and visual content
 - Limited features for machine learning

Limitation of Existing Datasets

- Many datasets are limited to URLs, omitting HTML and visual content
 - Limited features for machine learning
- Few datasets serve as benchmarks for phishing detection
 - Studies are conducted using their own dataset

Limitation of Existing Datasets

- Many datasets are limited to URLs, omitting HTML and visual content
 - Limited features for machine learning
- Few datasets serve as benchmarks for phishing detection
 - Studies are conducted using their own dataset
- Standardization is limited, making comparison difficult
 - Dataset sizes, collection protocol, and time periods are different
 - Resulting machine learning models are hardly comparable

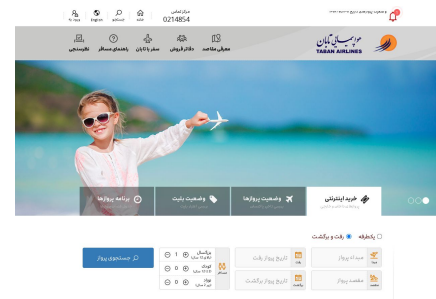
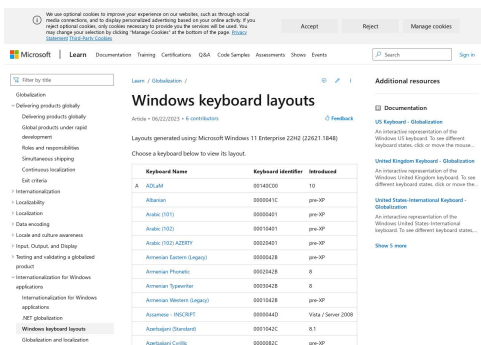
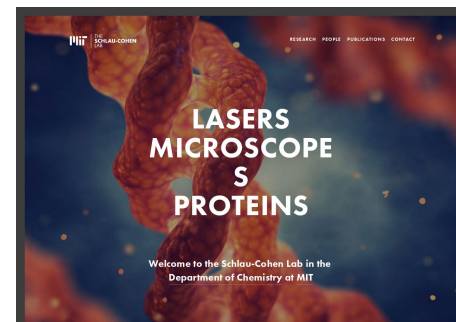
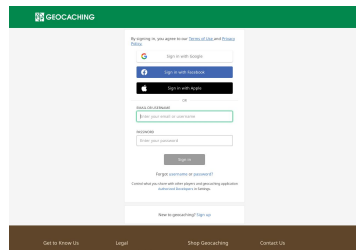
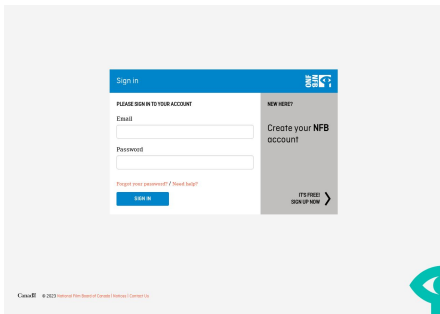
WikiPhish Collection (benign)

- Extract URLs from random Wikipedia page references
- Add login page by appending “/login” or “/signin” subpath
- Includes lesser-known and "out-of-distribution" websites.

References [edit]

1. ^ Jansson, K.; von Solms, R. (2011-11-09). "Phishing for phishing awareness" [↗](#). *Behaviour & Information Technology*. **32** (6): 584–593. doi:10.1080/0144929X.2011.632650 [↗](#). ISSN 0144-929X [↗](#). S2CID 5472217 [↗](#).
2. ^ Ramzan, Zulfikar (2010). "Phishing attacks and countermeasures" [↗](#). In Stamp, Mark; Stavroulakis, Peter (eds.). *Handbook of Information and Communication Security*. Springer. ISBN 978-3-642-04117-4.
3. ^ "Internet Crime Report 2020" [↗](#) (PDF). *FBI Internet Crime Complaint Centre*. U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Retrieved 21 March 2021.
4. ^ Ollmann, Gunter. "The Phishing Guide: Understanding and Preventing Phishing Attacks" [↗](#). *Technical Info*. Archived [↗](#) from the original on 2011-01-31. Retrieved 2006-07-10.
5. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Wright, A; Aaron, S; Bates, DW (October 2016). "The Big Phish: Cyberattacks Against U.S. Healthcare Systems" [↗](#). *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. **31** (10): 1115–8. doi:10.1007/s11606-016-3741-z [↗](#). PMC 5023604 [↗](#). PMID 27177913 [↗](#).
6. ^ Stonebraker, Steve (January 2022). "AOL Underground" [↗](#). *aolunderground.com* (Podcast). Anchor.fm.
7. ^ Mitchell, Anthony (July 12, 2005). "A Leet Primer" [↗](#). TechNewsWorld. Archived [↗](#) from the original on April 17, 2019. Retrieved 2021-03-21.
8. ^ "Phishing" [↗](#). *Language Log*, September 22, 2004. Archived from the original [↗](#) on 2006-08-30. Retrieved 2021-03-21.
9. ^ Jøsang, Audun; et al. (2007). "Security Usability Principles for Vulnerability Analysis and Risk Assessment" [↗](#). *Proceedings of the Annual Computer Security Applications Conference 2007 (ACSAC'07)*. Archived [↗](#) from the original on 2021-03-21. Retrieved 2020-11-11.
10. ^ Lin, Tian; Capecci, Daniel E.; Ellis, Donovan M.; Rocha, Harold A.; Dommaraju, Sandeep; Oliveira, Daniela S.; Ebner, Natalie C. (September 2019). "Susceptibility to Spear-Phishing Emails: Effects of Internet User Demographics and Email Content" [↗](#). *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*. **26** (5): 32. doi:10.1145/3336141 [↗](#). ISSN 1073-0516 [↗](#). PMC 7274040 [↗](#). PMID 32508486 [↗](#).

WikiPhish Collection (benign screenshots)



WikiPhish Collection (phishing)

- We monitor the public phishing databases OpenPhish and PhishTank from January 11, 2023, to October 22, 2023
- We collect every page as soon as they are listed, and only add them to the dataset if they are further validated by moderators

OpenPhish

PhishTank

WikiPhish Collection (preprocessing)

- We limit the number of items per Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN) to 10 to limit redundancy and enhance diversity

Legitimate	Occurrences	Phishing	Occurrences
web.archive.org	10,398	storageapi.fleek.co	402
geohack.toolforge.org	9,236	ipfs.io	167
books.google.com	5,309	ipfs.fleek.co	63
scholar.google.com	4,522	s3.amazonaws.com	52
www.wikidata.org	3,857	tinyurl.com	45
doi.org	3,177	storageapi-stg.fleek.co	45
www.jstor.org	2,935	go-citien.duckdns.org	39
www.worldcat.org	2,584	dev.awit.ae	37
pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	2,234	v.ht	32
www.imdb.com	1,958	s.id	30
...
Total before filtering	268,333		29,222
Total after filtering	87,563		23,043

Importance of Legitimate URL Diversity

- Comparison with collection strategies of two other datasets (Apruzzese et al. 2022, Ariyadasa et al. 2021)
 - Top, middle, and bottom part of **Alexa**
 - Keywords used in Google search engine: “**Google Queries**”

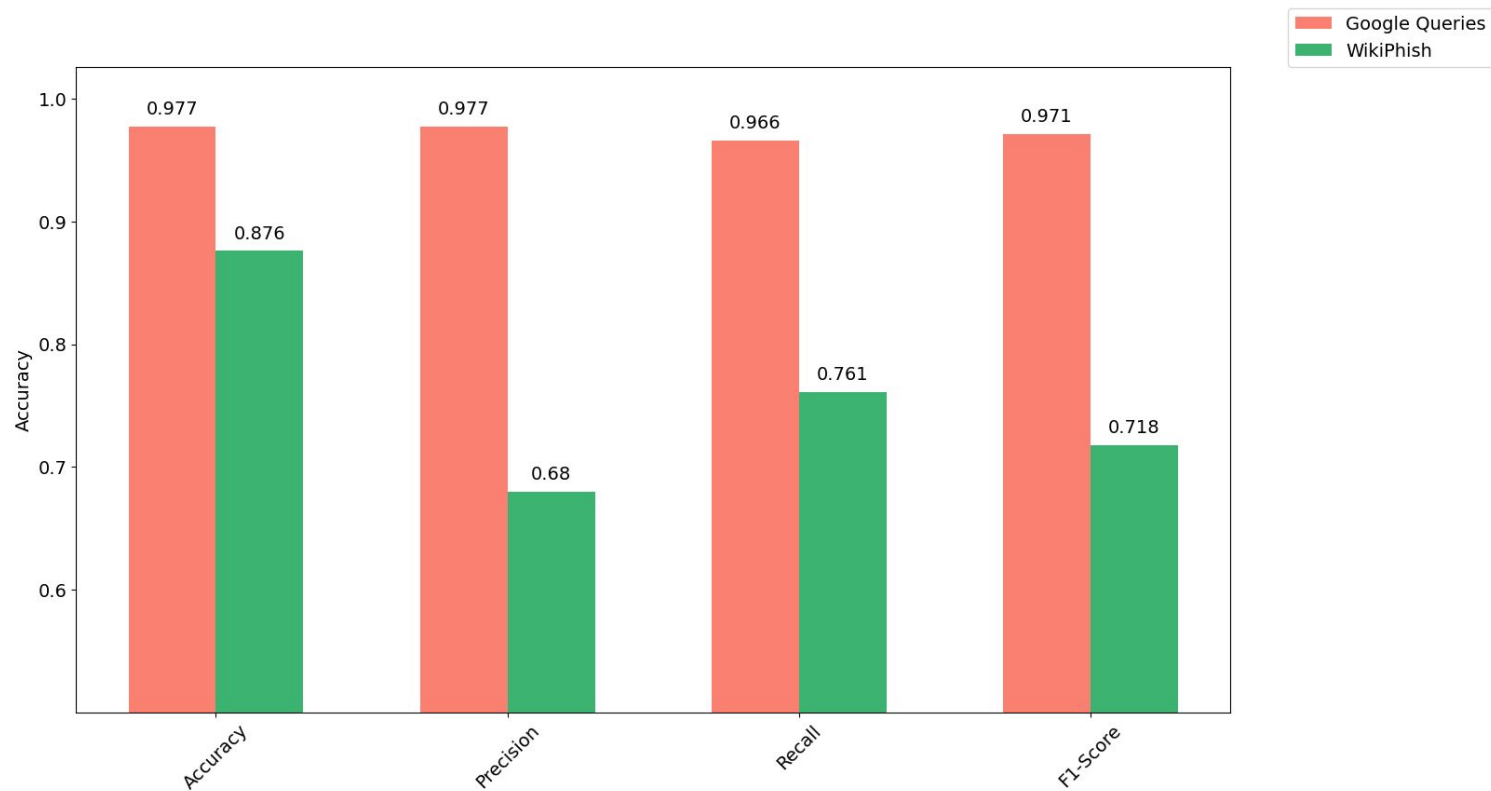
Feature Index	Description
1	URL subdomains count
2	URL length
3	Count of dot (.) symbols in URL
4	Count of at (@) symbols in URL
5	Count of hyphens (-) symbols in URL
6	Count of underscore (_) symbols in URL
7	Count of slash (/) symbols in URL
8	Count of www in URL

Feature Index	Alexa	Google Queries	WikiPhish
1	1	4 ± 1	5 ± 1
2	36	219 ± 5	280 ± 10
3	4	13 ± 3	16 ± 5
4	1	2 ± 1	5 ± 1
5	4	30 ± 2	34 ± 2
6	1	19 ± 2	23 ± 2
7	1	14 ± 1	18 ± 1
8	2	3 ± 1	4 ± 1
Average gain from Alexa		×7	×10

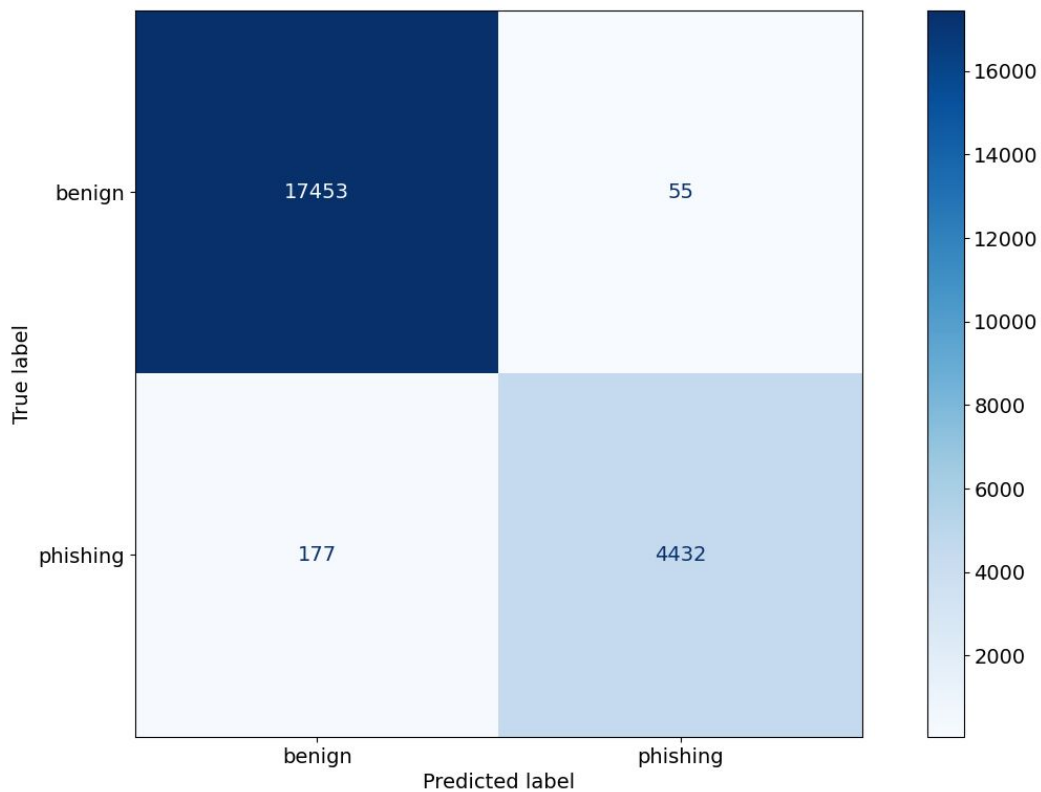
Training and Evaluating Classifiers

- Training and evaluation of a Random Forest model
- 8 URL features, and 11 HTML features
 - 1) Train on older datasets, evaluate on WikiPhish
 - 2) Train and evaluate on WikiPhish

Train on older datasets, evaluate on WikiPhish



Train and evaluate on WikiPhish



Conclusion

- WikiPhish is a new dataset for phishing website detection
- It emphasizes diversity, up-to-date samples, and transparency
- It provides a valuable benchmark for research and development of new phishing detectors

Thank you!