

# Quantitative Cyber-Security

Colorado State University

Yashwant K Malaiya

CS559

L25: Presentations



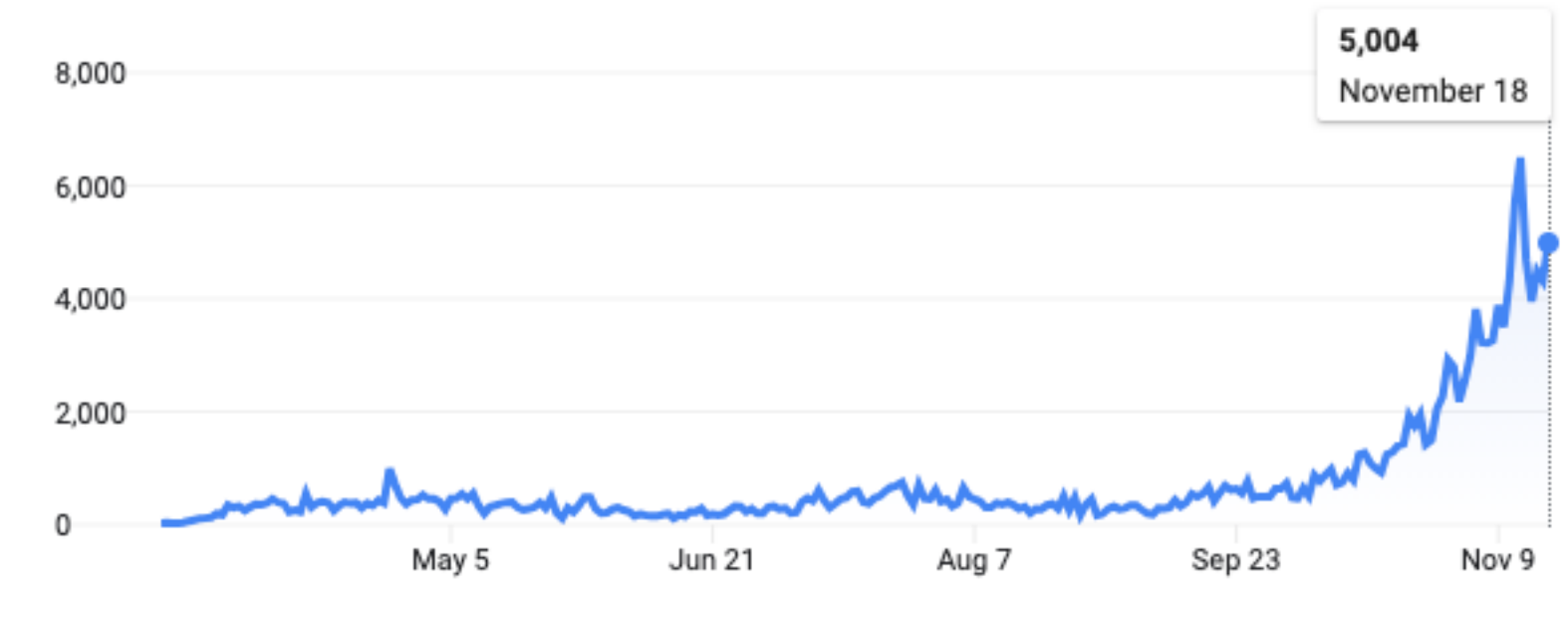
CSU Cybersecurity Center  
Computer Science Dept

# Presentations

- Each presentation is limited to 10 minutes and two minutes are allowed for discussions. I suggest using no more than 20 slides. You should **practice and time** your presentation.
- These sessions will be live using MS Teams. **Everyone is required to participate, ask questions and take notes.** Distance students who are working full time need to provide a video with link sent to [cs559@cs.colostate.edu](mailto:cs559@cs.colostate.edu) at least **24 hours** before the presentation (to allow us to ensure it works properly).
- **This is a research oriented project. Please mention significant recent work and cite researchers, and identify current trends challenges.**
- Students with closely related presentations should coordinate among themselves to minimize overlap.
- Everyone: fill the **peer-review form**, and submit through canvas on

# Personal

- Please be very cautious. New Covid-19 cases in Colorado.



# Presentations/Final Report

Th Nov 19, 2020

1. Al Amin, Md. **Quantitative Modeling of Economics of Ransomware**
2. Neumann, Don. **Quantitative Modeling of Economics of Ransomware**
3. Haynes, Katherine, **Combining Adversarial Synthesized Data and DeepNeural Networks to Improve Phishing Detection**
4. Houlton, Sarah, **Cyber Crime and Criminals: Their Methods and Motivations**
5. Jepsen, Waylon, **Motivation and Methods of North Korea's Cyber Criminals**
6. Rodriguez, Luis, **A Quantitative Examination of Phishing**

# Project

**Final report (8-12 pages, submit using Canvas/[Turnitin](#) ):** It needs to be publication quality. It should include

- the title, name of the author(s), name of the class and professor,
  - an abstract,
  - description of what is **your contribution** and what is new in your report,
  - introduction (modification, background and related work, objectives and methods),
  - description of assumptions/schemes/models/problem-formulation,
  - comparison/discussion/derivation etc. of the results,
  - conclusions (findings and suggestions for improvements) and
  - references.
  - Report must include appropriate figures and must have some **hard data (tables/plots/screen-shots/algorithms etc.)**.
- Evaluation: **significance and originality, thoroughness of research, depth of understanding displayed and presentation.**

# We will continue

- Have a great Thanksgiving.
- Continue working on your project.
- Schedule for the rest of the presentations will be shared soon.

# Quantitative Modeling of Economics of Ransomware

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MD AL AMIN and Don Neumann

CS559 Fall20



Colorado State University

# Topic Introduction

- Ransomware attacks are increasing every year
- Multiple attack vectors - phishing, social engineering, hacking
- Phishing and social engineering hard to identify
- High data recovery cost
- Ransom payment does not guarantee recovery
- Cyber insurance is an emerging trend
- Government, regulatory, criminal sanctions

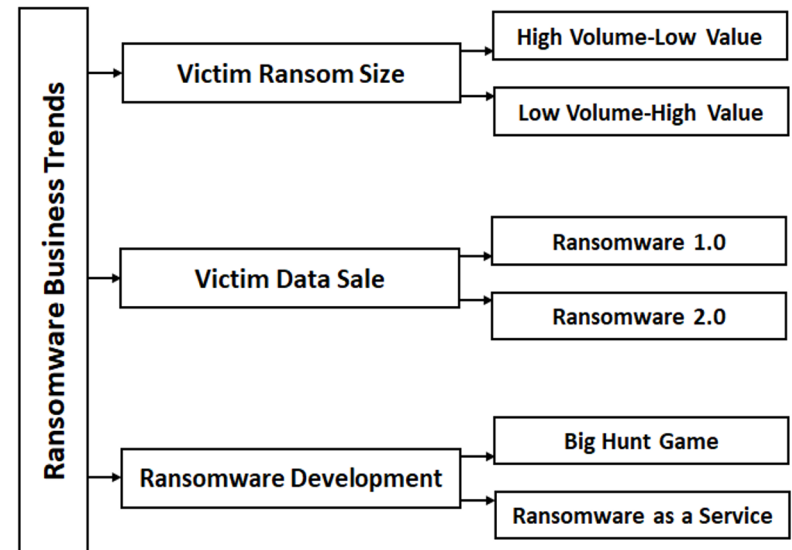


# Related Work

- Victim focus on backups, attacker focus on attack/ransom demand (Laszka et. al [2])
- Economics and price discrimination tactics (Hernandez-Castro et. al [4])
- Attacker reputation, whether to pay ransom demand (Caporusso & Zarifis et. al [11] [12])
- Defensive measures against ransomware 2.0 and data value (Li et. al [13])
- Impact of bitcoin (Paquet-Clouston & Conti et. al [6] [16])
- User awareness based preventative measures (Luo & White et. al [14] [15])

# Ransomware Business Trends

- HVLV - Random, low ransom [17]
- LVHV - Targeted, high ransom [17]
- Ransomware 1.0 - Encrypts victims data [13]
- Ransomware 2.0 - Copies victims data [13]
- Big Hunt Game - Targeted, sophisticated [17]
- RaaS - Affiliate networks [21]



# Two Phase-Three Player Hide and Seek (TPHS)

- Introducing third party influence
- Insurance company, government, volunteer organizations
- Modeling victim cost and risk minimization
- Modeling attacker effort and effect

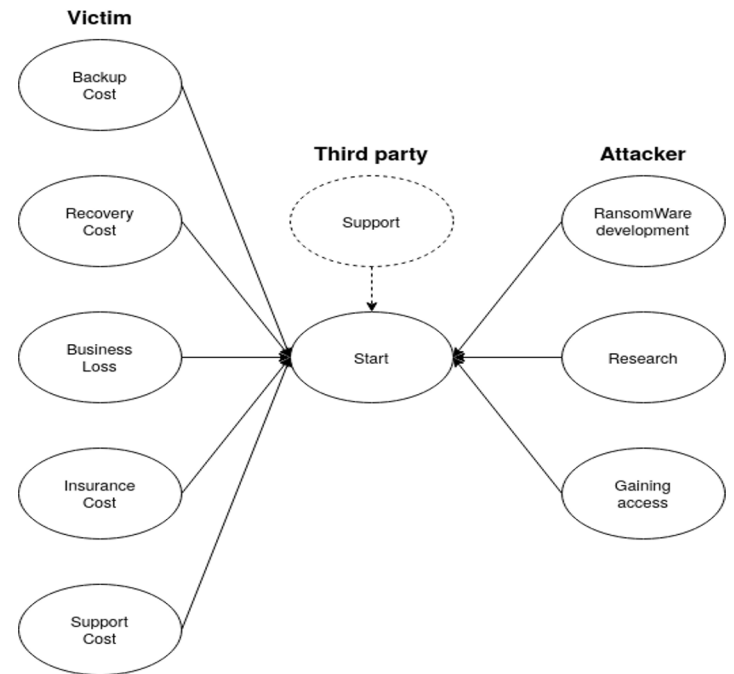
# TPHS Game model

- Players: Victim, Attacker, Third Party (TP)
- Stages: Hide Phase, Seek Phase
- Game mode: With TP, without TP
- Hide Phase: Preparation
- Seek Phase: Performance
- Attacker target: maximize expected payoff
- Victim target: minimize expected cost
- TP target: support victim to minimize expected cost

Reference: [8]

# Hide Phase - Attacker Preparation

- Ransomware development
- Research
- Gaining access
  
- Expected ransom demand
- Ransom negotiation
- Victim data sensitivity
- Victim security measures



# Hide Phase - Victim Preparation

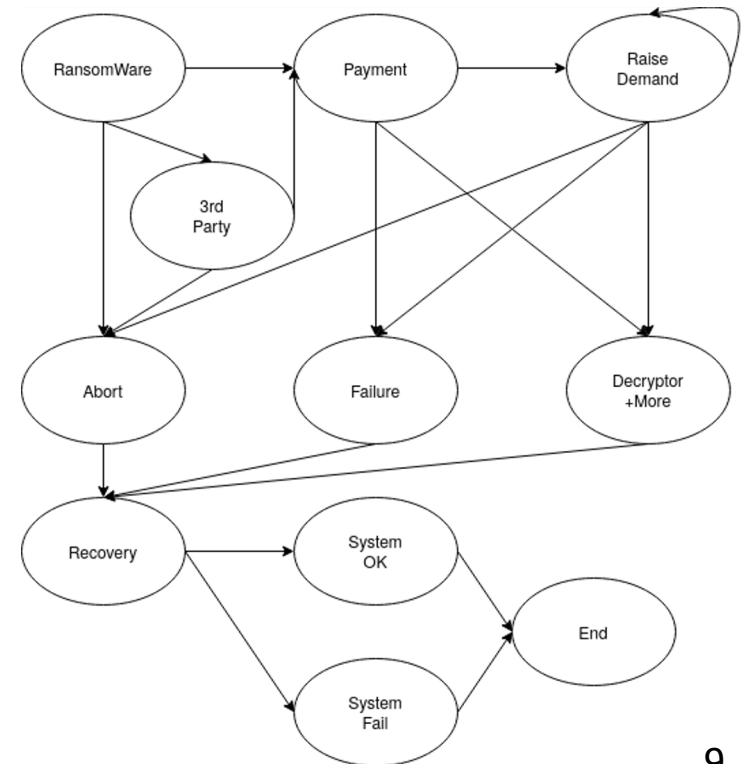
- $\text{Backup\_Cost} = \text{Onsite storage cost} + \text{Offsite storage cost} + \text{Human cost}$
- $\text{Recovery\_Cost} = \text{Data recollection cost} + \text{Backup recovery cost} + \text{Decryption tool cost}$
- $\text{Business\_Loss} = \text{Revenue loss} + \text{Compensation cost} + \text{Fines} + \text{Reputation loss}$
- $\text{Insurance\_Cost} = \text{Premium Cost} + \text{Loss coverage} + \text{Ransom payment}$
- $\text{Support\_Cost} = \text{Law enforcement cost} + \text{Lawyer cost} + \text{Investigation cost}$

# Hide Phase - TP Preparation

- Insurance company - Considers victim data sensitivity, security measures, employee awareness, risk management, business continuity
- Government - Security and risk recommendations, sanctions, cooperation with international community
- Volunteer orgs - Ransomware research and public awareness

# Game Model - Seek Phase

- Markov Chain (Ransomware is Start)
- Payment
- Raise Demand
- Third Party
- Decryptor +More
- Failure
- Abort
- Recovery
- System Fail / OK



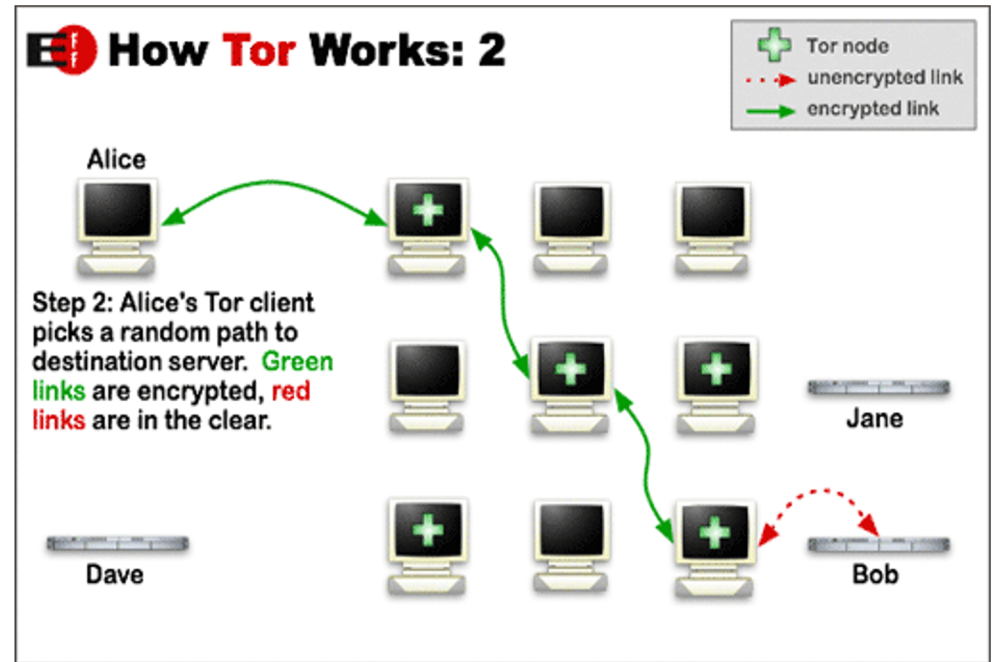


# Considerations

- Ransomware payment - no guarantee, demand raise, data sold, infected again
- System restore - May be compromised, air-gapped or offline backup necessary
- Decryption and recollection - time and resource consuming
- Compensation service - clients and business associates
- Legality - Government, regulatory, and criminal sanctions
- Legality - Client and business associate lawsuits

# Difficult to catch

- Anonymous communication: ToR
- Cryptocurrency like Bitcoin



Reference: <https://2019.www.torproject.org/about/overview.html.en>

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# Thank you



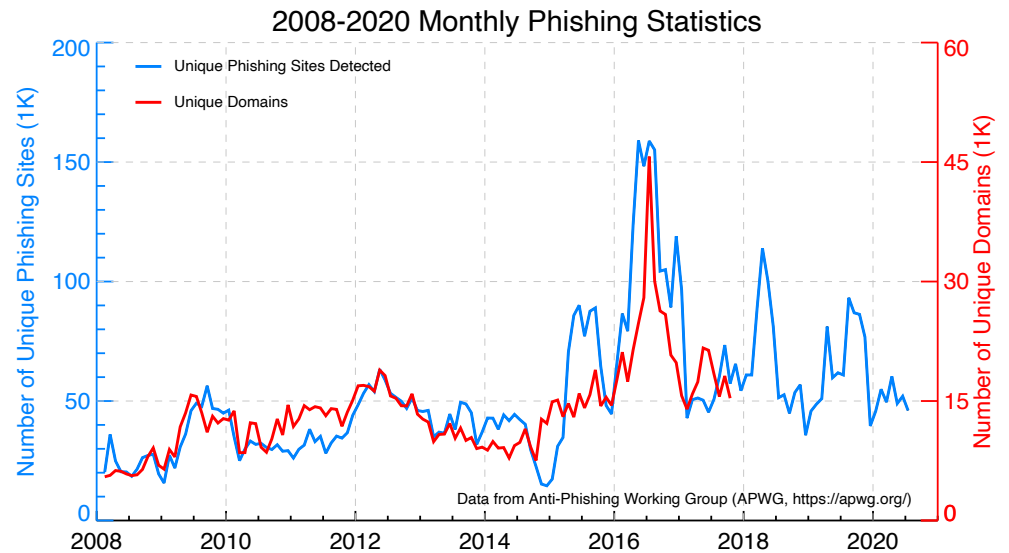
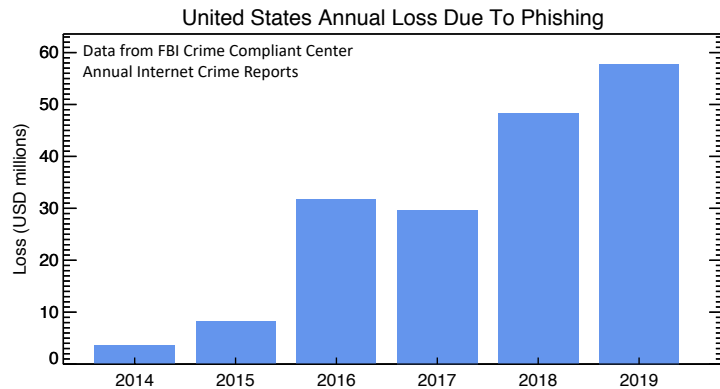
Colorado State University

# Combining Adversarial Synthesized Data and Deep Neural Networks to Improve Website Phishing Detection

Katherine Haynes  
CS 559  
November 19, 2020

# Website Phishing

- Fraudulent replication of trusted websites
  - Acquire sensitive personal information
  - Top internet crime by victim count in 2019 [9]



# Machine Learning

- Flexible
- Predictive
- Able to use variety of information
  - URL statistics
  - Domain information
  - Website content
- Numerous classification methods
  - Decision Tree (DT)
  - Gradient Boosting (GB)
  - k-Nearest Neighbor (k-NN)
  - Majority Voting (MV)
  - Naïve Bayes (NB)
  - Random Forest (RF)
  - Support Vector Machine (SVM)

What about Neural Networks?

# Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)

- Prior to 2019, ANNs criticized
  - Significant time involvement
  - Difficult to understand
- Surge in research in past 2 years
  - Adaptive strategy to design network structure [15]
  - Fuzzy-based approach [16]
  - Dynamical parameter tuning [27]
  - Optimal feature selection [36, 37, 19]



# Machine Learning Weaknesses

- Reliance on pre-classified data
- Continual data gathering and training
- Adversarial phishing
  - Attackers exploit trained classifier
  - Manipulations able to bypass trained model

## Recent approach: Synthetic Data

- Developed by Shirazi et al. (2019) [24]
- Mimic new phishing websites
  - Combine clustering and autoencoder
  - Augment training
  - Aid classifier robustness to adversarial attacks

# Project Goal

Extend experiments in [21] to deep ANNs

- Feature, architecture, and parameter search
- Repeat experiments
- Compare results

# ANNs with Synthetic Data [1/7]

- Data
  - “Original”: Created by Tan in 2018 [26]
    - 47 features
    - 5,000 phishing and 5,000 legitimate websites
  - “Synthetic”: Created by Shirazi in 2019 [24]
    - Uses adversarial sample generation (autoencoder)
    - 10,000 phishing and 10,000 legitimate websites
  - 80% Training, 20% Testing
- ANN Models
  - Scikit-Learn and Tensorflow in Python
  - Guided search using Hyperopt [5, 6] on Google Colab
  - Searched 100 models, saved top 40

# ANNs With Synthetic Data [2/7]

- Experiments
  - Data

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Training Data</b>	<b>Testing Data</b>
– Model	<b>TOTO</b>	Original	Original
	<b>TOTS</b>	Original	Synthetic
	<b>TOSTO</b>	Original & Synthetic	Original
	<b>TOSTS</b>	Original & Synthetic	Synthetic

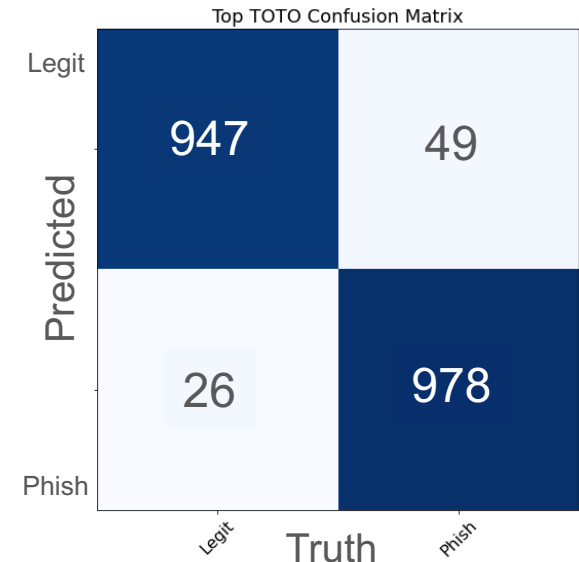
<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>M1</b>	Model Search on Original Training Data
<b>M2</b>	Model Search on Synthetic Training Data

# ANNs With Synthetic Data [3/7]

## Base Results (TOTO) on Original Dataset (M1)

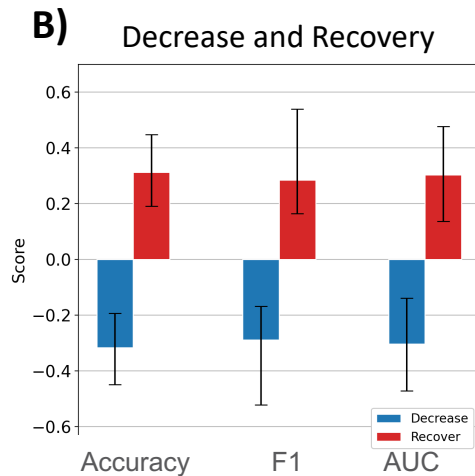
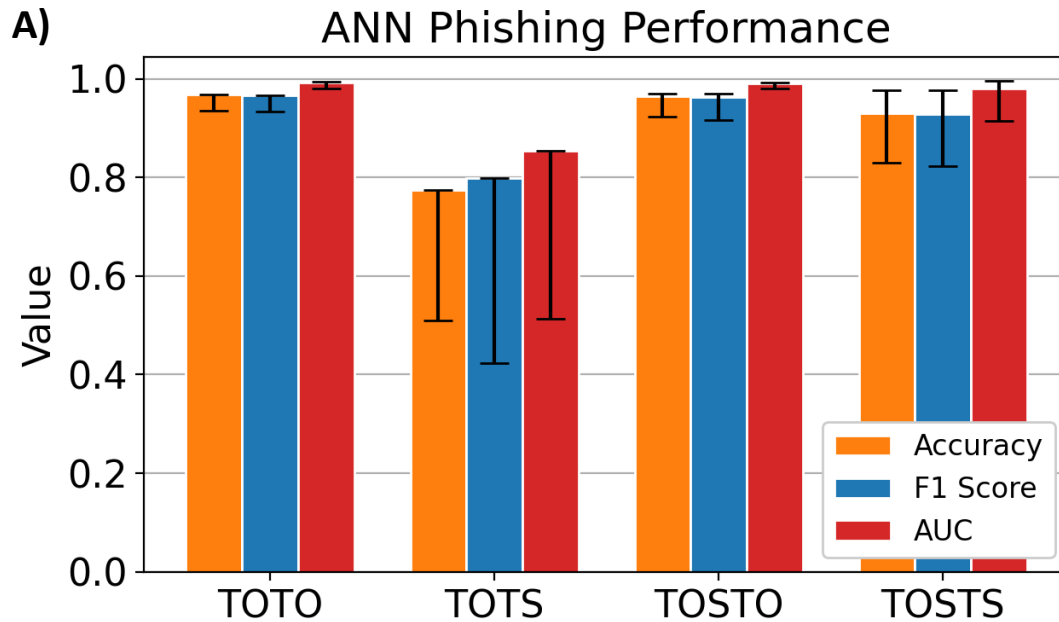
- Top 40 ANN models achieved accuracy > 91%

	Test Acc	NLayers	NEpochs	NFeatures	Optimizer
1	0.974902	4	60	11	Adam
2	0.974010	4	40	39	Nadam
3	0.973974	4	60	39	Adam
4	0.969792	4	120	44	Adam
5	0.969301	4	120	22	Adam
6	0.968098	5	60	45	Adam
7	0.965552	4	40	39	Nadam
8	0.965282	3	150	12	Adam
9	0.964462	4	40	32	Adam
10	0.964227	8	60	13	Adam

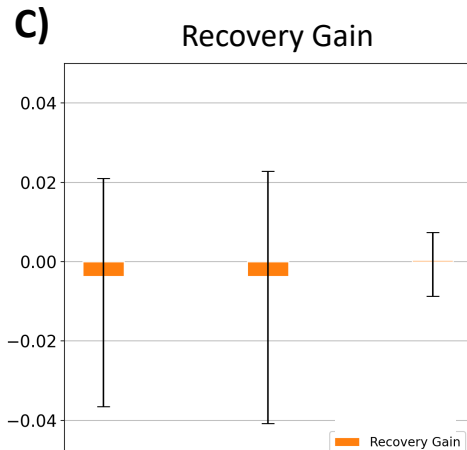


- Majority of samples correctly predicted
- False positive rate higher than false negative
  - Higher tendency to predict legitimate websites as phishing

# ANNs With Synthetic Data [4/7]



Decrease = TOTS - TOTO  
Recovery = TOSTO - TOTS



Recovery Gain =  
Decrease + Recovery

## Adversarial Phishing

### Detection (M1)

- Lower performance in presence of adversarial phishing websites (TOTS)
  - Large range of drop
- All ANNs recover within 0.035 when synthetic data included during training
- Performance predicting adversarial phishing websites improves substantially when synthetic data is included during training
  - From ~0.78 to ~0.93

# ANNs With Synthetic Data [5/7]

## Adversarial Phishing Detection F1 Score By Classifier Type

Model	TOTO	TOTS	TOSTO	TOSTS	Decr	Recov
ANN	<b>0.974</b>	<b>0.799</b>	<b>0.964</b>	<b>0.929</b>	<b>0.289</b>	<b>0.285</b>
GNB	0.84	0.37	0.65	0.82	0.48	0.47
GB	0.98	0.36	0.96	0.92	0.48	0.47
MV	0.96	0.39	0.93	0.92	0.57	0.54
SVML	0.93	0.45	0.93	0.91	0.47	0.37
SVMG	0.93	0.45	0.93	0.91	0.62	0.58

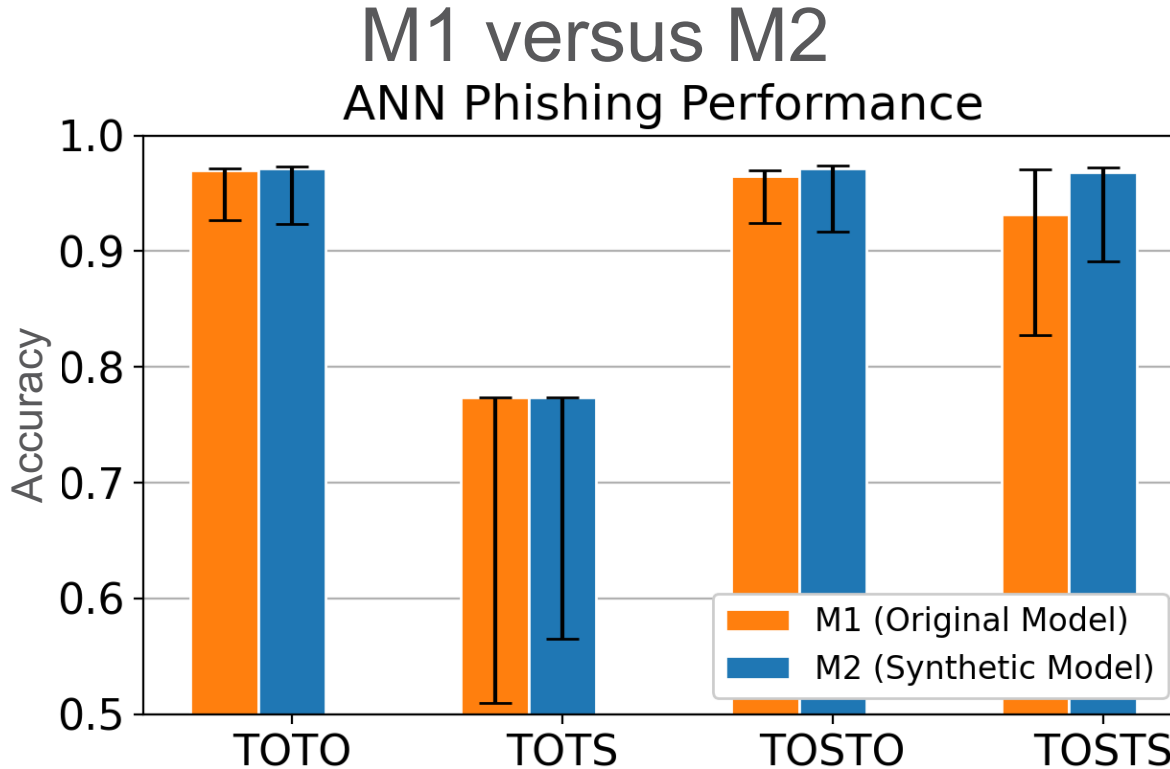
How do deep neural networks compare to other classifiers?

- Similar performance to top classifier on TOTO (GB)
- Outperform other classifiers in presence of adversarial phishing (TOTS)
- Recover better than other classifiers (TOSTO and TOSTS)

Can we do any better predicting adversarial phishing websites?

# ANNs With Synthetic Data [6/7]

## Adversarial Phishing Detection Accuracy



Developing optimal models using adversarial synthetic data:

- Improves performance
- Makes more robust models



# ANNs With Synthetic Data [7/7]

## Conclusions

- Deep ANNs predict phishing using feature data with ~96% accuracy
  - Perform as well as other common classifiers
- Model performance worsens in presence of adversarial phishing
  - Recovery is possible training on synthetic phishing data
  - Degradation is less than other common classifiers
    - ANNs may be more robust
- Model architecture guidance may help build higher performing ANNs
  - Optimizing model setup with the aid of synthetic data designed to simulate adversarial phishing websites yields higher-performing ANNs that may be less susceptible to adversarial attacks

## Future Work

- Expand synthetic data to different types of adversarial attacks
- Try GANs to develop adversarial phishing websites

# References [1/2]



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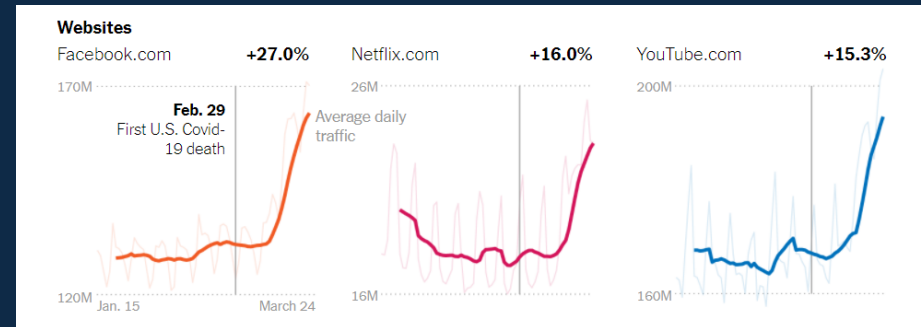
# CYBERCRIME AND CYBERCRIMINALS: THEIR METHODS AND MOTIVATIONS

*Sarah Houlton*

*shoulton@rams.colostate.edu*

# Introduction

- The prevalence of cyber attacks is rising as more and more of our information gets stored on the web.
- Online banking, shopping, working, and social interaction has gained popularity over time, especially as the pandemic worsens
- Bigger online presence means bigger cybercrime threat
- To mitigate risk, we should focus on the attackers rather than the victims
  - Better defenses
  - Smaller sample size



Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/07/technology/coronavirus-internet-use.html>

# Attacker Categories

- Black Hat Hackers
  - Motivated by hate, anger, or power
  - No issue causing harm to others
  - Cyber criminals
- Grey Hat Hackers
  - Generally reformed black hat hackers
  - Now working legitimately as security experts
- White Hat Hackers
  - Work as security experts
  - Work within the law
  - “Do no harm”

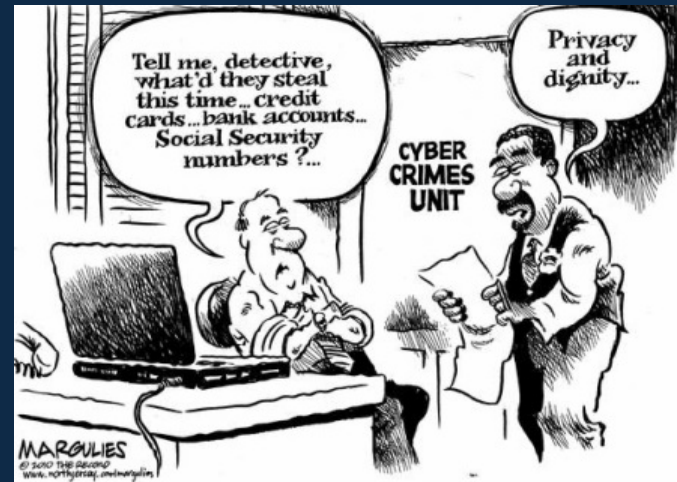


# Attacker Classes

- Elite
  - Highest level – longevity or well-known exploit
- Script Kiddies
  - Youngest and most inexperienced, using tools created by the elite
- Virus Writers
  - Script writers who exploit known vulnerabilities
- Cyber Terrorists
  - Use stenography/cryptography to swap secrets online and commit terrorism
- Disgruntled employees/ ex-employees
  - Feel scorned and work against a company to undermine or steal secrets
- Hacktivists
  - Tend to deface websites, launch DOS attacks, or release secrets to satisfy moral obligation (Anonymous)
- Suicide Hackers
  - Want to take down critical infrastructure, don't care about going to jail
- Hacker Taggers
  - Deface websites to leave a calling card to gain notoriety
- Spy hackers
  - Hired to get through the defenses of a competitor to steal information
- State-sponsored Hackers
  - Hired by the state to attack other governments

# Attacker Motivations

- Revenge
    - Disgruntled employees, hacktivists
  - Exposure
    - Hacker Taggers
  - Hacktivism
    - Hacktivists
  - Ego
    - Hacker Taggers
  - Monetary Gain
    - Spy hackers, state-sponsored hackers
  - Entertainment
    - Hacker Taggers
  - Personality Disorder
  - Extortion and Exploitation
    - Cyber terrorists,
- disgruntled employees
  - Blackmail
    - Disgruntled employees
  - Sabotage
    - Suicide hackers, cyber terrorists, disgruntled employees
  - Espionage
    - Spy hackers, state-sponsored hackers



Source:  
<http://kinyohga.weebly.com/internet-safety-blog/cyber-crimes>



# How do attackers start cybercrime

- Largely based off Will Gragido's book, Blackhatonomics
- Cost of entry into cybercrime
  - Laptop: \$199.99 from [www.pcxchange.com](http://www.pcxchange.com)
  - Wireless connection: free by using [www.wififreespot.com/tex.html](http://www.wififreespot.com/tex.html)
  - ZeuS Builder, a crimeware tool for building and configuring a ZeuS bot: \$7,000
  - Anonymous proxy service: \$102.96 from [http://provpnaccounts.com/Buy\\_VPN\\_Account-118-articles](http://provpnaccounts.com/Buy_VPN_Account-118-articles)
  - \$7302.95 for a decent kit
  - A kit like this can result in a return on investment of \$6,000,000
- Skills needed
  - Social Engineering
    - People are generally trusting
    - 8/10 researchers were able to enter a Fortune 500 company and get on the network with a story
    - UK study: 70% of people gave their computer password to an interviewer in exchange for chocolate
      - 80% offered personal info (mother's maiden name, birthday, etc.)
- Consequences
  - Cybercrime is hard to prosecute
    - Few cybercrime experts in the law enforcement field
    - The law regarding cybercrime is still new and relatively hard to prosecute
    - Cybercriminals are unlikely to be caught, unlikely to be prosecuted, and unlikely to serve full sentences

# Future of this project











- Outlining the type of attacks
  - Based on the types of attacks, what is the likely motivation
  - What types of attacks do each category of hacker tend to use
- Categorizing a recent attack
  - Finding a recent attack from the news and attempting to assign possible categorization and motivations based on the type of attack and other details

**Cyber's Most Wanted**  
Select the images of suspects to display more information.

Search for  Search for... Filter by Year

Sort by: Newest

Results: 26 Items

 IRANIAN DDoS ATTACKS	 EVGENIY MIKHAILOVICH BOGACHEV	 JOSHUA SAMUEL AARON	 NICOLAE POPESCU	 FIRAS DARDAR
 AHMED AL AGHA	 ALEXSEY BELAN	 VIET QUOC NGUYEN	 PETERIS SAHUROVS	 SHAILESHKUMAR P. JAIN

Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/cyber>

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# MOTIVATION AND METHODS OF NORTH KOREA'S CYBER CRIMINALS.

Waylon Jepsen

# CYBER CRIME

## Unaffiliated Groups

- Hacktivists
- Free acting agents

## Nation State Sponsored

- NSA
- Russia
- North Korea



## ORIGINS

- In 2009 there was the formation of the Reconnaissance General Bureau by North Korea
- .The Bureau has 8 known departments one of which is Bureau 121 which is responsible for all cyber military campaigns.



## FOURTH OF JULY INCIDENT

- The first suspected cyber attack conducted by North Korea was on July 4th, 2009
- Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack
- hit an estimated 35 governmental and commercial websites from South Korea and the United States
- botnet is used to target the IP addresses of the victims >15,000 machines
- Master Boot Record wiped and written with 512 bytes "Memory of Independence Day"
- Utilized MyDoom to infect machines.



## TEN DAYS OF RAIN

- In March of 2011, exactly 20 months after the Fourth of July Incident
- DDos attack was launched from North Korea
- highly specific targets
- pre-configured attack time of ten days
- Cryptographic diversity
- 14 overlapping targets to 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Unclear motivation
- Speculation of North Korean Testing tools





ATTACK  
AGAINST  
SOUTH  
KOREAN  
NONGHYUP  
BANK

- result of undisclosed in March 2010 infecting machines
- Of the infected machines pertaining to valuable assets, one was the laptop of an IBM employee who did IT at work at the bank
- The infected laptop gathered classified information about target IP's and system passwords until it was utilized along with other bots to perform a DDos on the banks servers resulting in the destruction of 273 out of the 583 total servers by wiping their Master Boot Records
- The attack prevented the bank from carrying out its services for its 30 million customers until systems were recovered
- Identical IP addresses from 4<sup>th</sup> of July attack



## DARK SEOUL

- March 20, 2013 at 2pm local time South Korean broadcasting companies and financial institutions were the victim of an aggressive cyber attack
- The Trojan used in this attack was compiled on January 26, 2013, and that the tool used to wipe the master boot records was compiled on January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Similar wiping tool used in the past 3 incidents.
- Spear phishing campaign downloaded the Trojan
- The attack rendered many ATMs across Seoul to be unusable



## OPERATION TROY

- Title of persistent previous connected attacks
- Operation Troy appeared to have started back in 2009 where spyware had been traced back too.
- The operation was all based on the same code and sequentially attempted to target and infiltrate South Korean targets.
- The operation was called Troy because of the frequent use of the word Troy in the compile path strings.
- Different versions of the Troy Trojan were found to have Dynamic Linked Library(dll) files and when analyzed, produced almost identical signatures.



## KIMSUKY OPERATIO N

- In June 2013 detection of spyware was reported by security company Kaspersky labs.
- The victims are the Sejong Institute, a nonprofit private organization leading in security research and international economy; the Korea Institute For Defense Analyses (KIDA); Ministry of Unification; and Hyundai Merchant Marine.
- The attackers utilized Metasploit Framework's open source Win7Elevate allowing them to open a remote command prompt with elevated privileges
- Then the attackers injected the malicious code into explorer.exe
- The executable injected then decrypts the spying library and saves it to disk.
- The infected machines communicate information via the Bulgarian web-based free email server (mail.bg)
- Master emails associated with names "kimsukyng" and "Kim



COMPROMISE  
OF THE  
SEOUL  
SUBWAY  
SYSTEM

- March of 2014 to August of 2014 threat actors compromised servers
- 5.2 million passengers a day
- Two servers were compromised
- Attack signatures matched Dark Seoul ‘
- Point of infiltration still a mystery



OPERATION  
BLOCKBUSTE  
R

- November 24, 2014 "Guardians of Peace" (GOP) hacked Sony Pictures Entertainment
- Cost more than \$15 Million USD
- Torrent links were published leaking the films Annie, Mr. Turner and To Write Love on Her Arms collectively downloaded over 100,000 times
- On December 5th SPE received a demand from the GOP not to release the film The Interview
- The FBI indicted North Korea



## HACK ON KOREA HYDRO & NUCLEAR POWER

- December 2014, South Korea's nuclear power plant was hacked
- The hack was conducted by a group calling themselves “Who am I = No Nuclear Power”
- Personal employee information as well as technical information about the operation was released
- Workers were spear phished with emails containing the Kimsuky malware
- It was suspected that the goal of this attack was to create civil unrest



COMPROMISE  
OF SOUTH  
KOREAN  
MINISTRY OF  
NATIONAL  
DEFENSE

- In August 2016 over 200GB of data was extracted from the defense ministry networks
- Included was stolen information of the US-South Korean military plans in case of a war with North Korea
- There is currently no available technical analysis of this attack.





## BANGLADESH BANK HEISTS

- 2016, North Korean Cyber Criminals stole \$81 Million Dollars from the Bangladesh International bank
- The attack likely started in 2015 with spear phishing emails.
- 3 separate employees opened the spear phishing emails and at least one maybe more was infected
- Three types of malware:
  - a backdoor into the bank network,
  - an encrypted channel to pull stuff out of the back door,
  - scan and navigate across the banks network
- Exploited Society of Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)



COMPROMISE OF  
CRYPTOCURRENCY  
EXCHANGES IN  
SOUTH KOREA

- April of 2017, attacks were launched targeting multiple cyptocurrency exchanges in South Korea with the purpose of stealing money
- It was reported by security company that personal information of over 31,000 users was stolen including emails and phone numbers
- The perpetrators then contacted users directly over the phone to conduct social engineering to gain access to the users' funds



# WANNACRY

- May of 2017, a Malware dubbed WannaCry began infecting over 200,000 machines from 150 different countries
- Fake Ransomware
- Eternal Blue which
- Shadow Brokers
- Kill Switch
- Marcus Hutchins found and registered the first kill switch.
- The DOJ indicted North Korean hackers, for WannaCry



TAIWAN FAR EASTERN  
INTERNATIONAL (TFEI)  
BANK HEIST

- October 2017 North Korea's Lazarus group stole \$60 Million dollars from the Taiwan Far Eastern International Bank
- SWIFT
- Most of the funds had been recovered and two suspects had been arrested in Shri Lanka
- Spear phishing
- Security researchers at fire eye conclude the North Korean Lazarus group is behind this attack



ATTACK OF  
U.S.  
ELECTRIC  
COMPANIE  
S

- October 2017, security company FireEye disclosed a report detailing phishing attacks targeting U.S. Electric Companies
- While no industrial controllers were actually compromised, the attacks raised some serious concerns about the security of Cyber physical Systems where physical resources can be manipulated
- The attack was concluded to be conducted by North Korean sponsored actors the Lazarus group

## APT 37 & APT 38

- Advanced Persistent Threat(APT) 37 also known as ScarCruft, Group123 and Reaper is North Korean attack group with primary targets of South Korean, Japan, Vietnam and, the middle East
- APT 38 The Lazarus group is also known as Zinc(by Microsoft), hidden cobra, and whois. The Lazarus group has been tied to almost all swift bank attack heists in the world. They have attempted to steal \$1.2 Billion and have been successful in stealing \$122 Million. The Lazarus group is known to primarily target financial institutions and have a variety of custom malware families. These malware families include backdoors, tunelers, data miners, and wipers.
- APT 38 has conducted attacks in over 16 organizations and and 11 different countries

# ANALYSIS

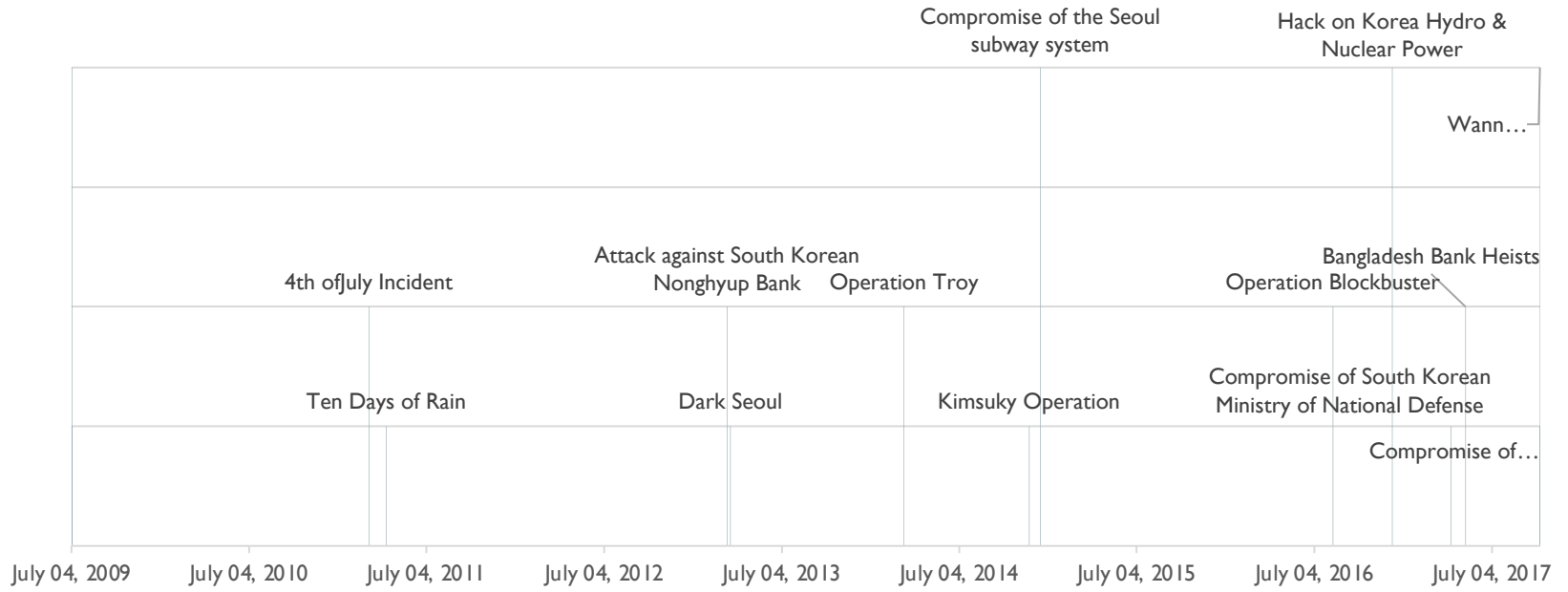
## Lazarus Group

- Bangladesh bank Heist
- Operation Block Buster
- Attack of U.S. electric companies
- Taiwan Far Eastern International(TFEI) Bank heist

## Operation Troy

- Dark Seoul
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- 10 days of rain
- Attack against South Korean Nonghyup Bank

## Timeline of cyber attacks

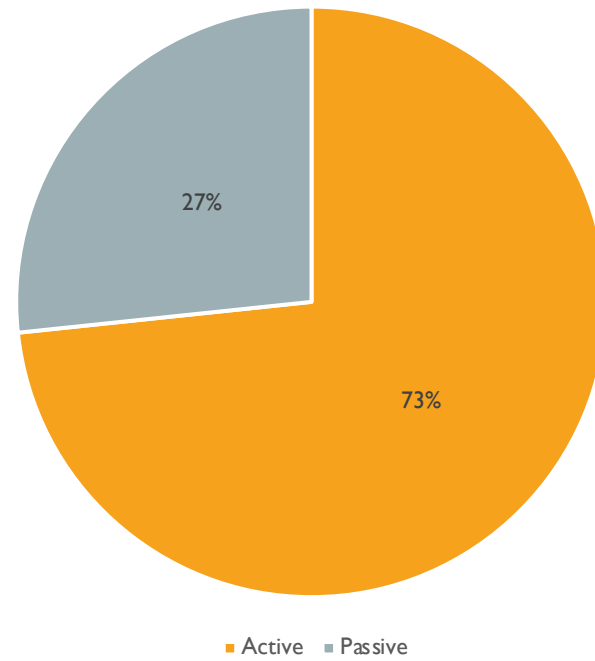


# TIMELINE OF NORTH KOREAN CYBER ATTACKS



# ATTACK TYPE

Types of cyber attacks



# Phishing during a Storm: A Quantitative Examination of Phishing during a Crisis

Luis Rodriguez

# Contents

1. Introduction
2. Current Phishing Trends
3. Prevention Models
4. Conclusion



<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTRMrbs9hWhXEg3OY3ts7drEmWCZpdJtvvWdg&usqp=CAU>

# Phishing – What is it?

Social Engineering attack revolving around deceiving a victim into giving personal data/money. [1][2]

## Types

- Email Phishing
- Spear-phishing
- Mass Phishing (campaigns)
- Whaling



# Phishing (cont.)

DONATION OF \$3,500,000.00 FOR CHARITY Spam x

""@gov.ua via smtp.colostate.edu Fri, Oct 23, 8:35 PM

to Recipients

**This message seems dangerous**

Similar messages were used to steal people's personal information. Avoid clicking links, downloading attachments, or replying with personal information.

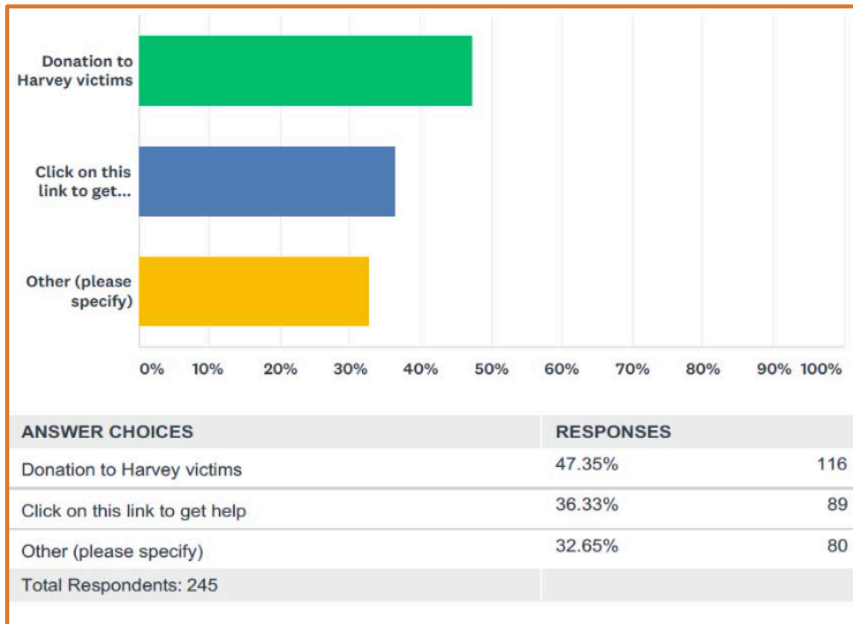
Looks safe

EMAIL ACCOUNT WAS SELECTED FOR A DONATION OF \$3,500,000.00 FOR CHARITY. PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES JACKSON WITH THIS EMAIL [jacksonjrc34@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonjrc34@gmail.com) TO CLAIM YOUR DONATION:

# Phishing in a Crisis

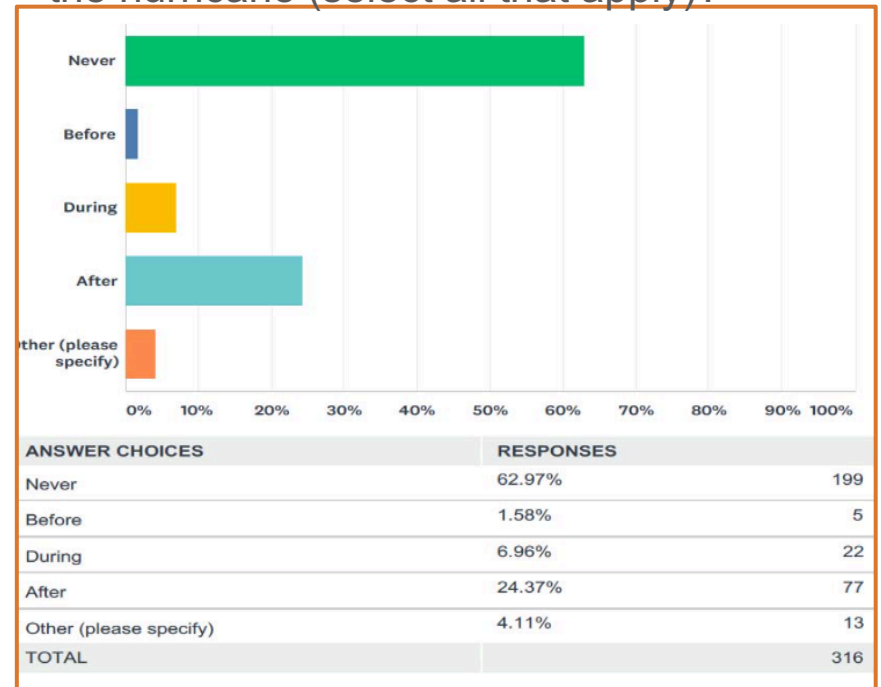


- “Ambulance” phishing
  - Exploiting disaster/pandemic victims with promise of relief
- Hurricane Harvey study indicate increases in phishing attempts after a natural disaster [3]
  - 10.72% of respondents were badly affected by disaster
  - Only 6.3% of respondents clicked links they wouldn’t have in normal circumstances
- A set of nine questions given to University of Houston students, faculty, and staff after hurricane
- Multitude of emails based around FEMA support



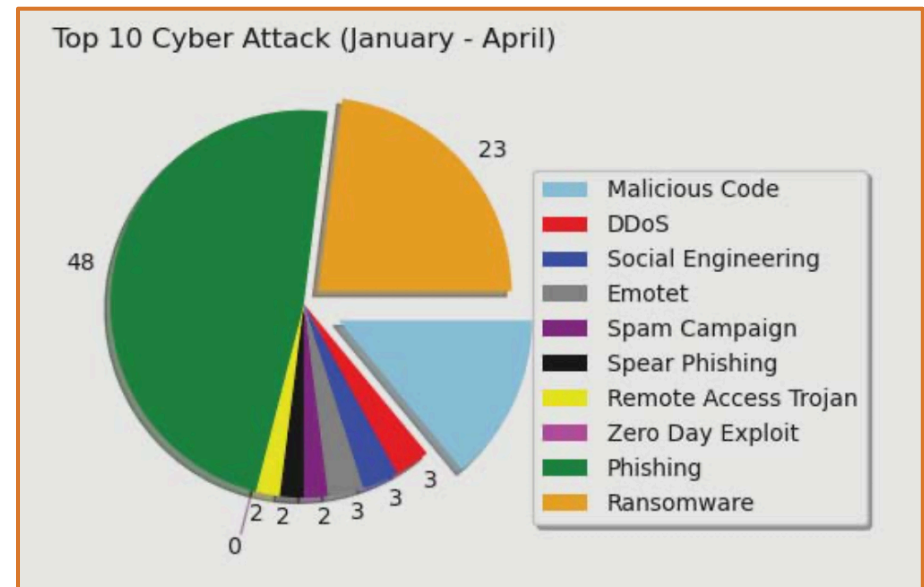
Q9) Were there new examples of attacks that you haven't seen before?

Q4) When did you get any spam regarding the hurricane (select all that apply)?



# Phishing in a Crisis (cont.)

- Mandal and Khan display susceptibility increases from the transition to online [6]
  - 1.2 billion students, faculty and staff member have come online
  - Dependent on conferencing and remote access applications
    - “Zoom-bombing” [7]
- The most prominent attack in the first four month of 2020 were phishing [4]





## Singapore Specialist : Corona Virus Safety Measures



DT

Tuesday, 28 January 2020 at 03:51

[Show Details](#)

Dear Sir,

Go through the attached document on safety measures regarding the spreading of corona virus. This little measure can save you.

Use the link below to download

[Safety Measures.pdf](#)

Symptoms Common symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. I

Regards

Dr [redacted]  
Specialist wuhan-virus-advisory

Отвечить Ответить всем Переслать Больше

От CDC-INFO <cdchan-00426@cdc.gov>

Тема **2019-nCoV: Coronavirus outbreak in your city (Emergency)** 04.02.2020, 22:26

Кому

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network  
February 4, 2020  
CDCHAN-00426

Dear [redacted]

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to closely monitor an outbreak of a 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China that began in December 2019. CDC has established an Incident Management System to coordinate a domestic and international public health response.

Updated list of new cases around your city are available at (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/newcases-cities.html>)

You are immediately advised to go through the cases above to avoid potential hazards.

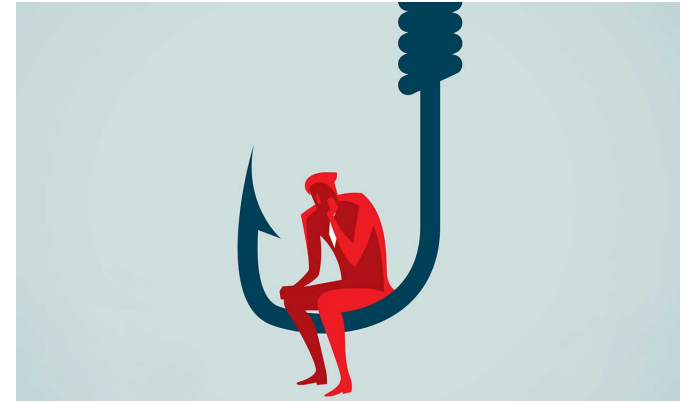
Sincerely,  
CDC-INFO National Contact Center  
National Center for Health Marketing  
Division of eHealth Marketing  
Centers for Disease control and Prevention

# Phishing Trends

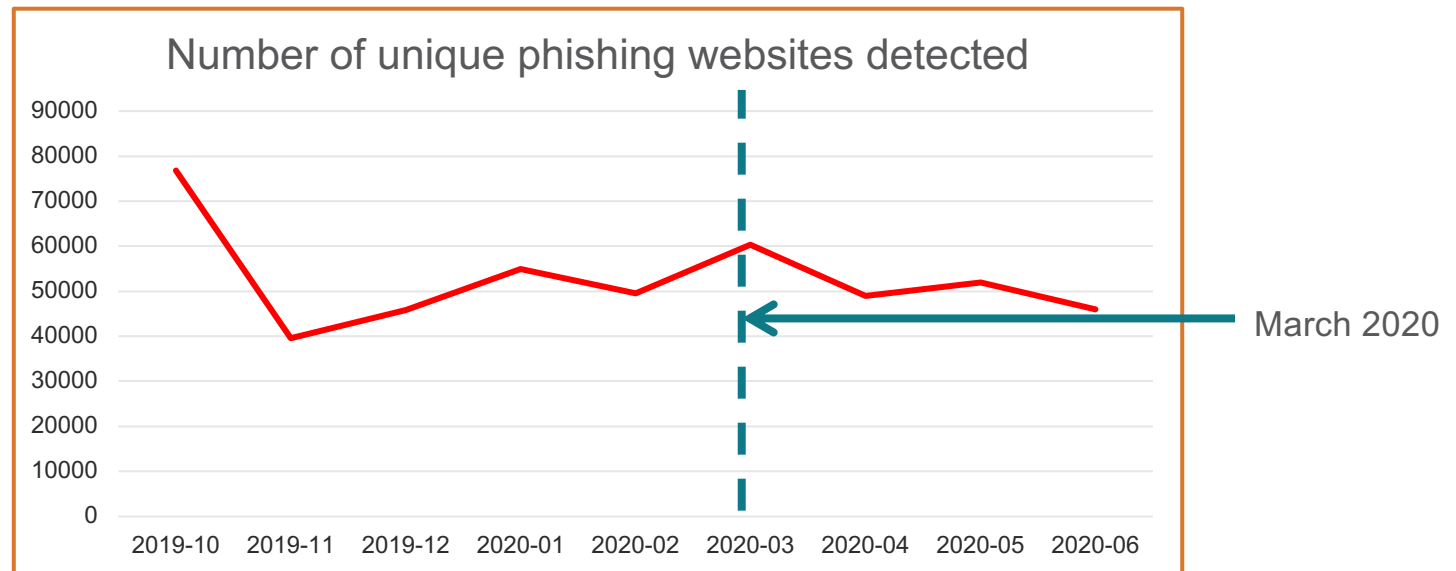
Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) gathers data every year on phishing trends

## Spikes in data

- COVID-related unique phishing emails around March 8 [2][4]
- Number of unique phishing sites around March 2020

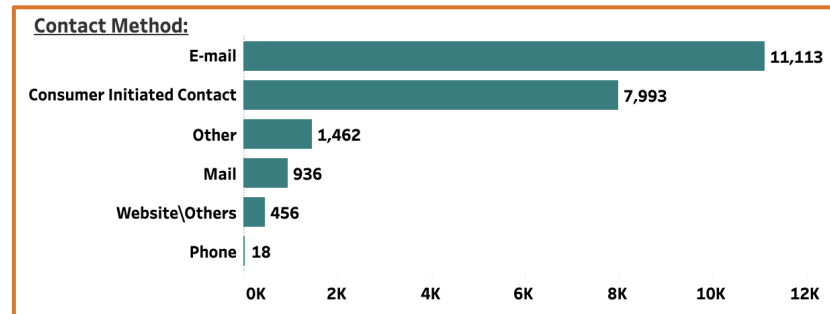


# Phishing Trends (cont.)

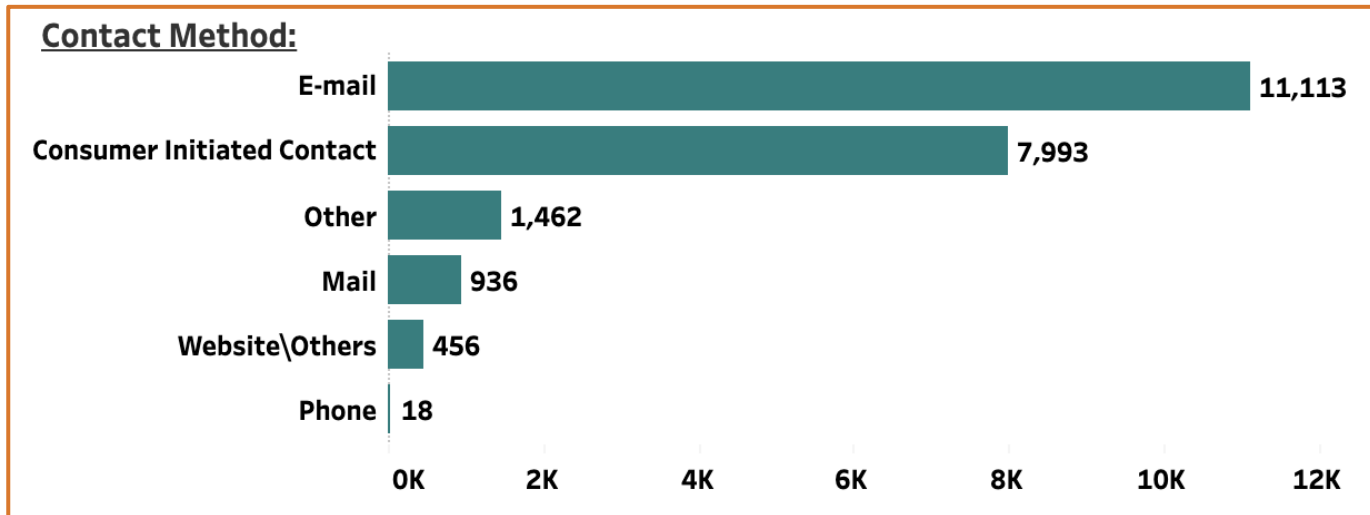


# Phishing Trends (cont.)

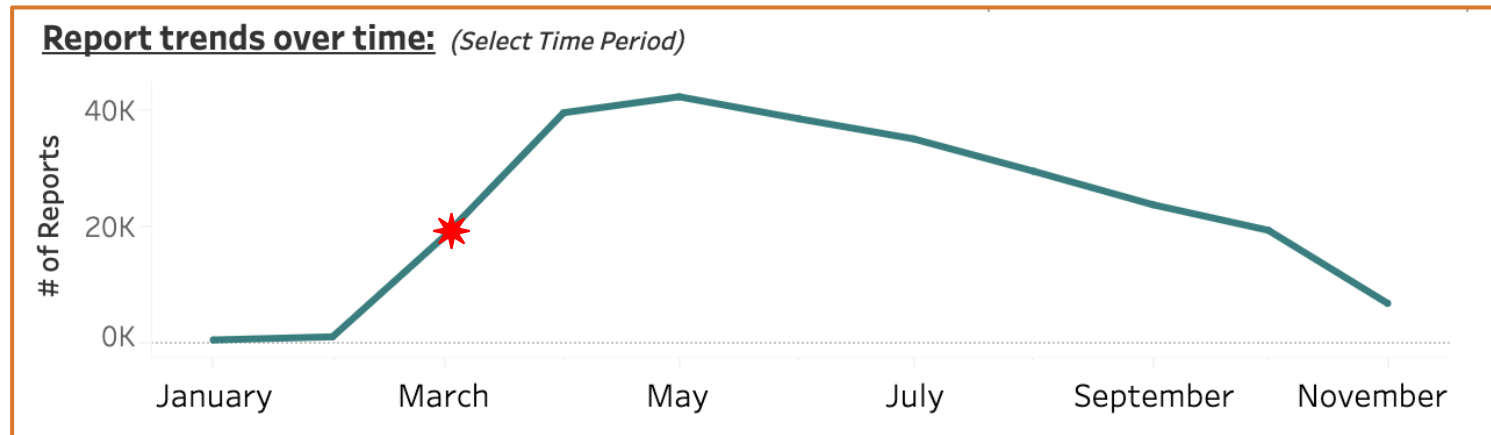
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report on COVID-19 and Stimulus related scam
  - **50.5%** of successful pandemic scams initially contacted by email
  - **\$182.92M** in total reported losses
- Large number of COVID-19 and stimulus relief related incidents [4][5]



# Phishing Trends (cont.)



# Phishing Trends (cont.)



# Anti-Phishing Models

- Lightweight
- Client-side preferred
- Handle URLs and/or HTML webpages

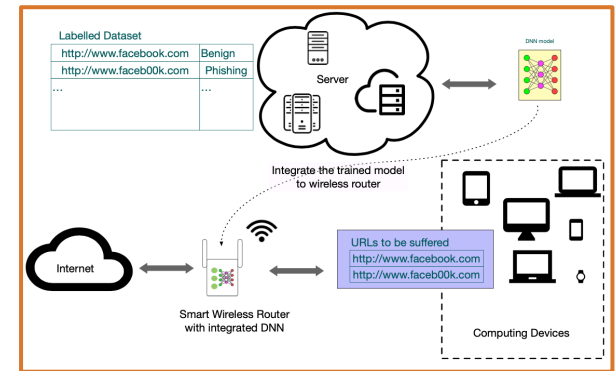
# Wei et al.'s Phishing Sensor

## Results

- 86.630% accuracy from DNN model
- ~108 ms in execution times for DNN inference

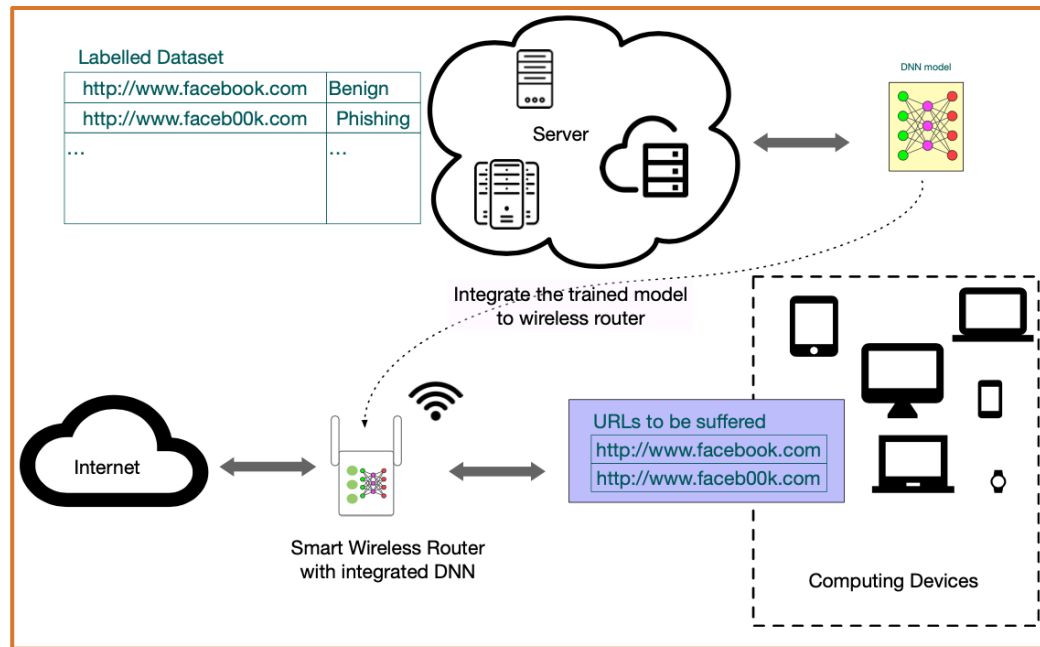
## Details

- Embeddable to smart routers and resource constrained devices





# Wei et al.'s Phishing Sensor (cont.)



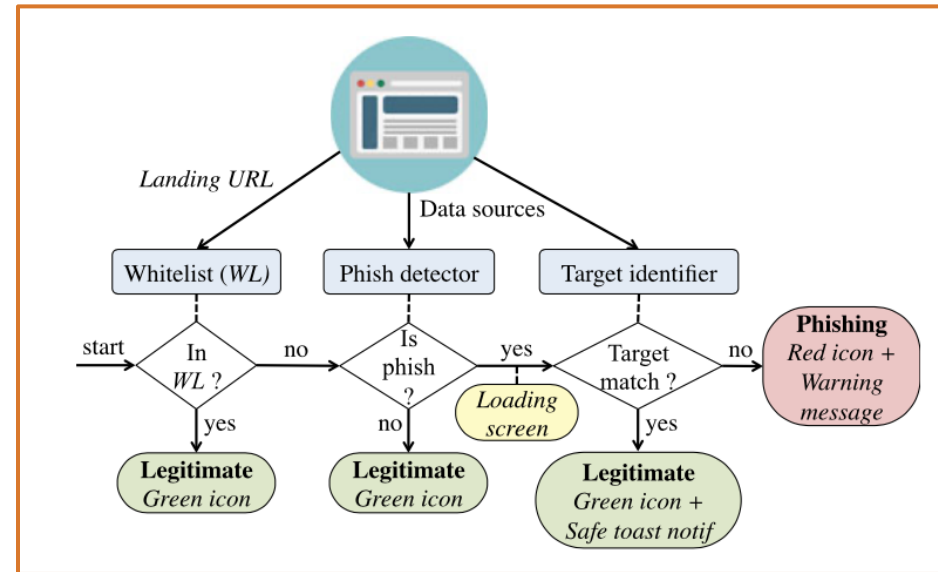
# Off-the-Hook

## Results

- 90-97% accuracy
- Consists of detector & target identifier

## Details

- Lightweight, client-based
  - Can run on simple Raspberry Pi devices
  - Advertised as browser extension



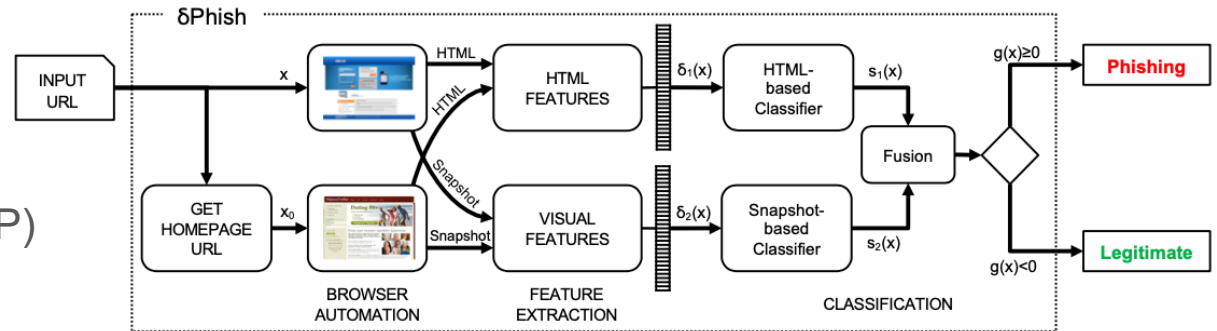
# DeltaPhish

## Results

- HTML: 97% accuracy (TP)
  - 0.5% FP
- Snapshot: ~80%
  - 1% FP

## Details

- HTML and visual based classification
- Implemented on modern personal computer specs



# Conclusion

- Light weight, client-side-only models needed
- Education for most vulnerable groups
  - Help lower success rate
- Invest in security in wake of increased attacks



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# Thank you



Colorado State University

# Questions? THANK YOU

