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DECEMBER 3-6, 2018  
EXCEL LONDON / UNITED KINGDOM

# DeepPhish Simulating Malicious AI

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 #BHEU / @BLACKHATEVENTS

# About Me

- Industrial Engineer
- PhD in Machine Learning
- Passionate about open-source
- Scikit-Learn contributor
- Organizer of Data Science Meetups

## Who I've worked with

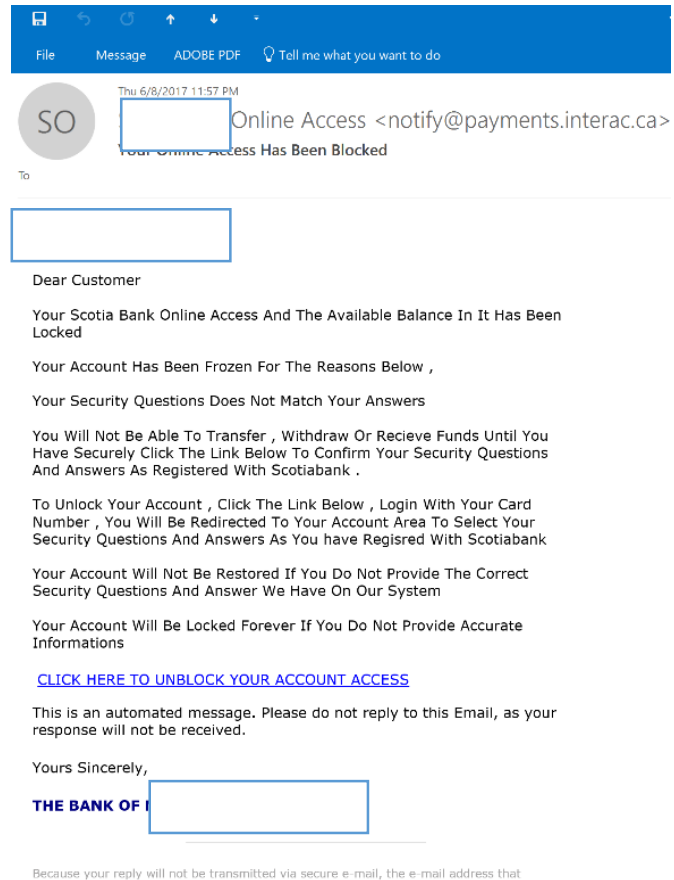




# Agenda

- Phishing URL Detection using Machine Learning
- Malicious Cert Detection using Deep Learning
- DeepPhish: Simulating Malicious AI
- Demo 🙄

# Typical Phishing Example



The screenshot shows an email interface with a blue header bar containing navigation icons and the text "File Message ADOBE PDF Tell me what you want to do". The email is from "SO" (Scotia Online) with the subject "Online Access <notify@payments.interac.ca>". The body of the email contains the following text:

Dear Customer

Your Scotia Bank Online Access And The Available Balance In It Has Been Locked

Your Account Has Been Frozen For The Reasons Below ,

Your Security Questions Does Not Match Your Answers

You Will Not Be Able To Transfer , Withdraw Or Recieve Funds Until You Have Securely Click The Link Below To Confirm Your Security Questions And Answers As Registered With Scotiabank .

To Unlock Your Account , Click The Link Below , Login With Your Card Number , You Will Be Redirected To Your Account Area To Select Your Security Questions And Answers As You have Regisred With Scotiabank

Your Account Will Not Be Restored If You Do Not Provide The Correct Security Questions And Answer We Have On Our System

Your Account Will Be Locked Forever If You Do Not Provide Accurate Informations

[CLICK HERE TO UNBLOCK YOUR ACCOUNT ACCESS](#)

This is an automated message. Please do not reply to this Email, as your response will not be received.

Yours Sincerely,

THE BANK OF I

Because your reply will not be transmitted via secure e-mail, the e-mail address that

Your Account Will Be Locked Forever If You Do Not Provide Accurate Informations

[CLICK HERE TO UNBLOCK YOUR ACCOUNT ACCESS](#)

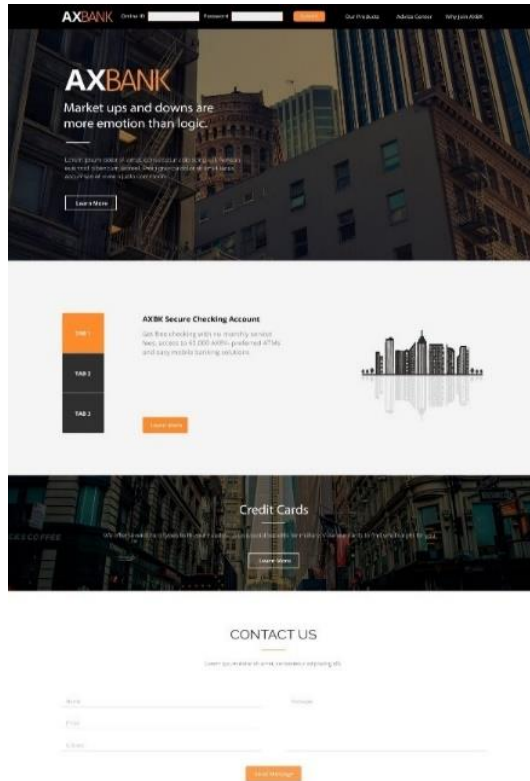
This is an automated message. Please do not reply to this Email, as your response will not be received.



**91%**  
of cybercrimes  
and attacks  
**start with a  
phishing email**

# Why Phishing Detection is Hard?

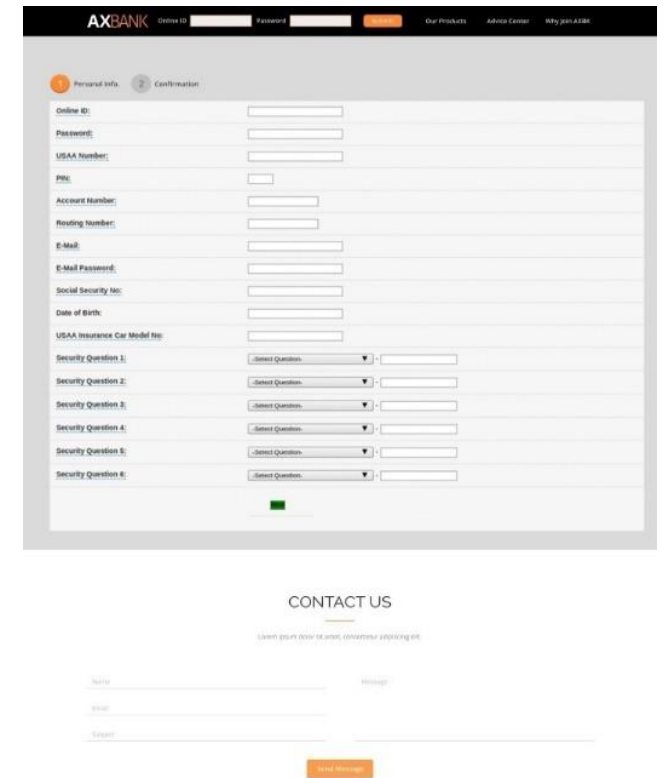
Original Website



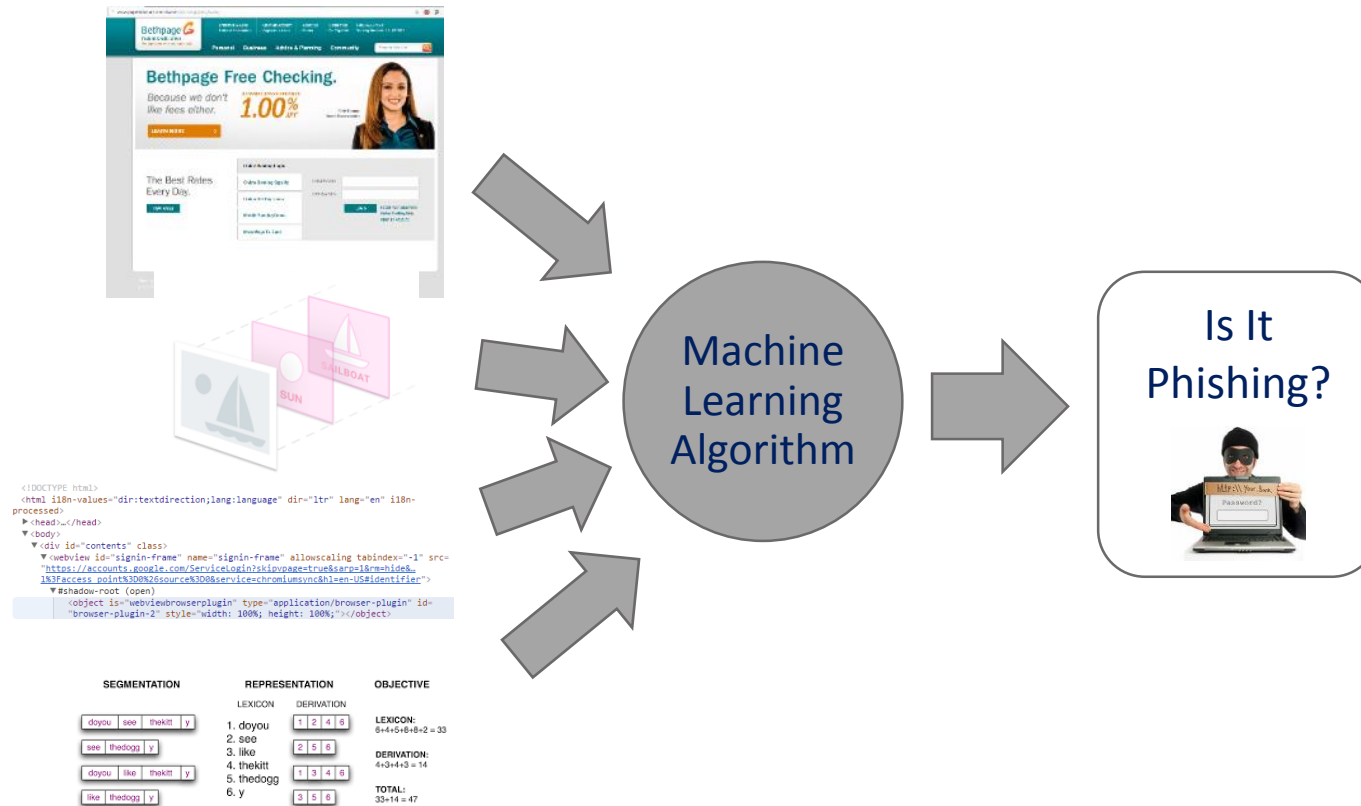
Only Using Images



Subtle Changes



# Ideal Phishing Detection System





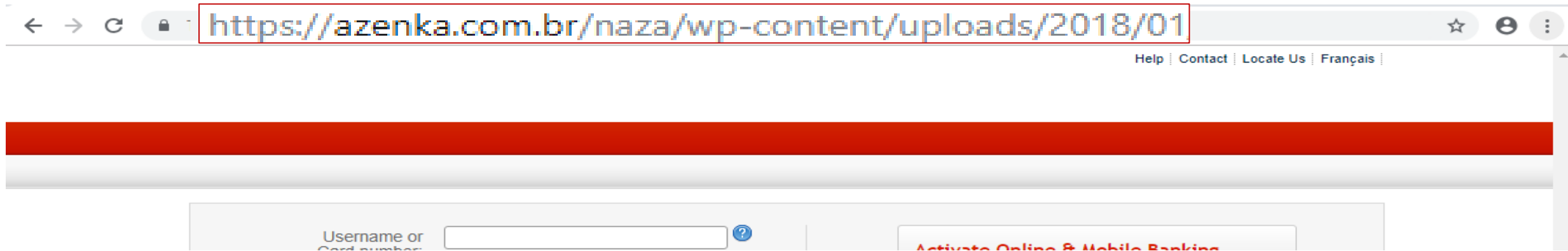
# Ideal Phishing Detection System

## Issues with full content analysis:

- Time consuming
- Impractical to process millions of websites per day
- Hard to implement for small devices



# There is always the need for an URL



# Database of URLs

1,000,000 Phishing URLs from Phish Tank

<http://moviesjingle.com/auto/163.com/index.php>

[http://paypal.com.update.account.toughbook.cl/8a30e847925afc5975161aeabe8930f1/?cmd=\\_home\&dispatch=d09b78f5812945a73610edf38](http://paypal.com.update.account.toughbook.cl/8a30e847925afc5975161aeabe8930f1/?cmd=_home\&dispatch=d09b78f5812945a73610edf38)

[http://msystemtech.ru/components/com\\\_users/Italy/zz/Login.php?run=\\\_login-submit\&session=68bbd43c854147324d77872062349924](http://msystemtech.ru/components/com\_users/Italy/zz/Login.php?run=\_login-submit\&session=68bbd43c854147324d77872062349924)

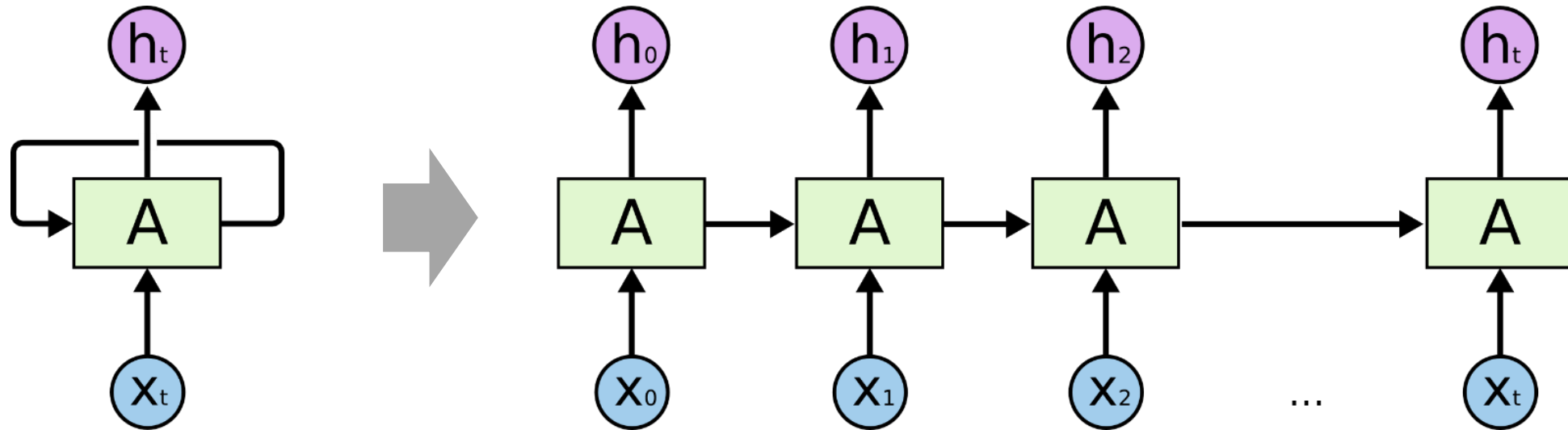
1,000,000 Legitimate URLs from Common Crawl

<https://www.sanfordhealth.org/ChildrensHealth/Article/73980>

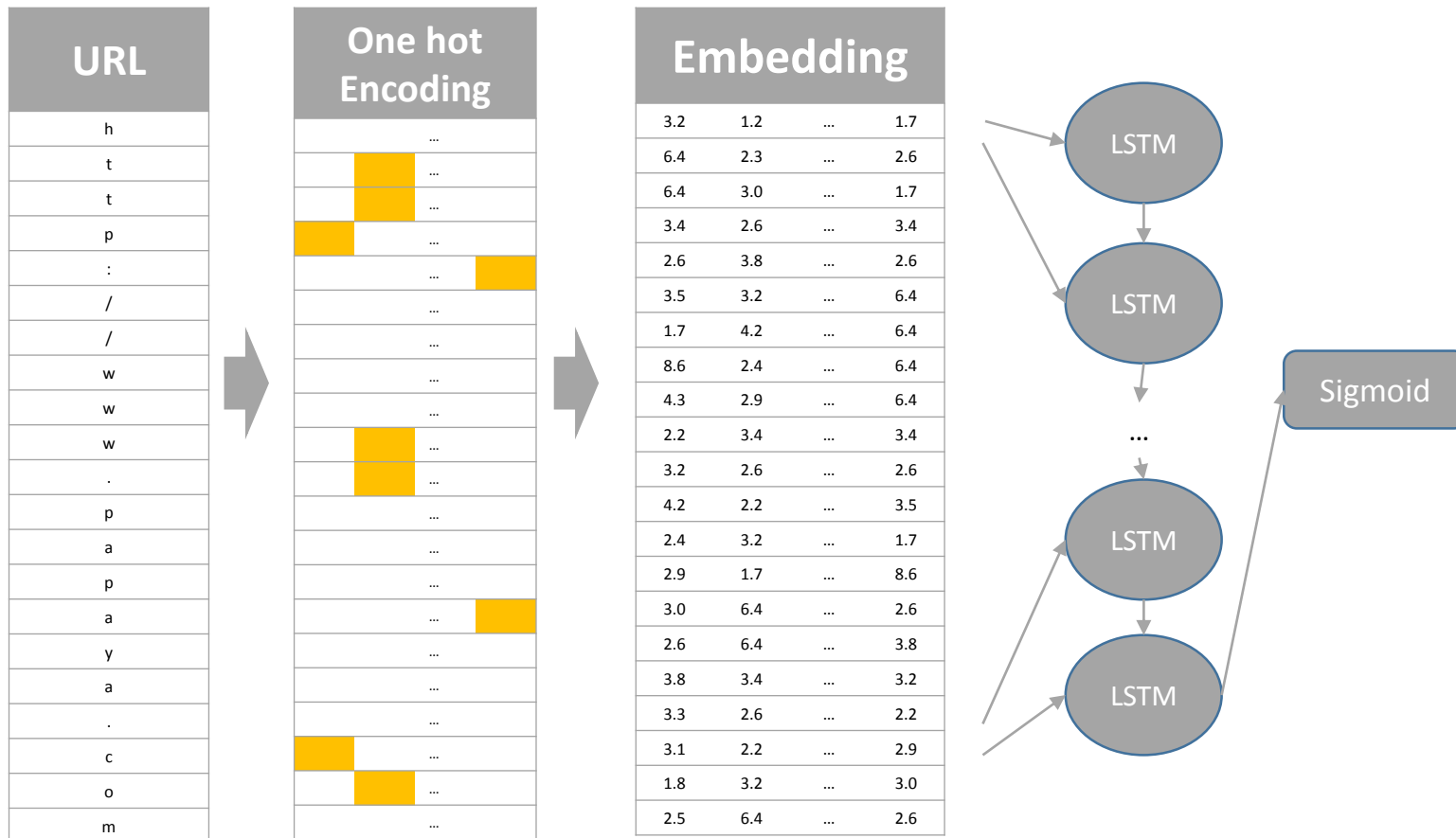
[http://www.grahamleader.com/ci\\\_25029538/these-are-5-worst-super-bowl-halftime-shows\&defid=1634182](http://www.grahamleader.com/ci\_25029538/these-are-5-worst-super-bowl-halftime-shows\&defid=1634182)

<http://www.carolinaguesthouse.co.uk/onlinebooking/?industrytype=1\&startdate=2013-09-05\&nights=2\&location\&productid=25d47a24-6b74>

# Recurrent Neural Networks RNN

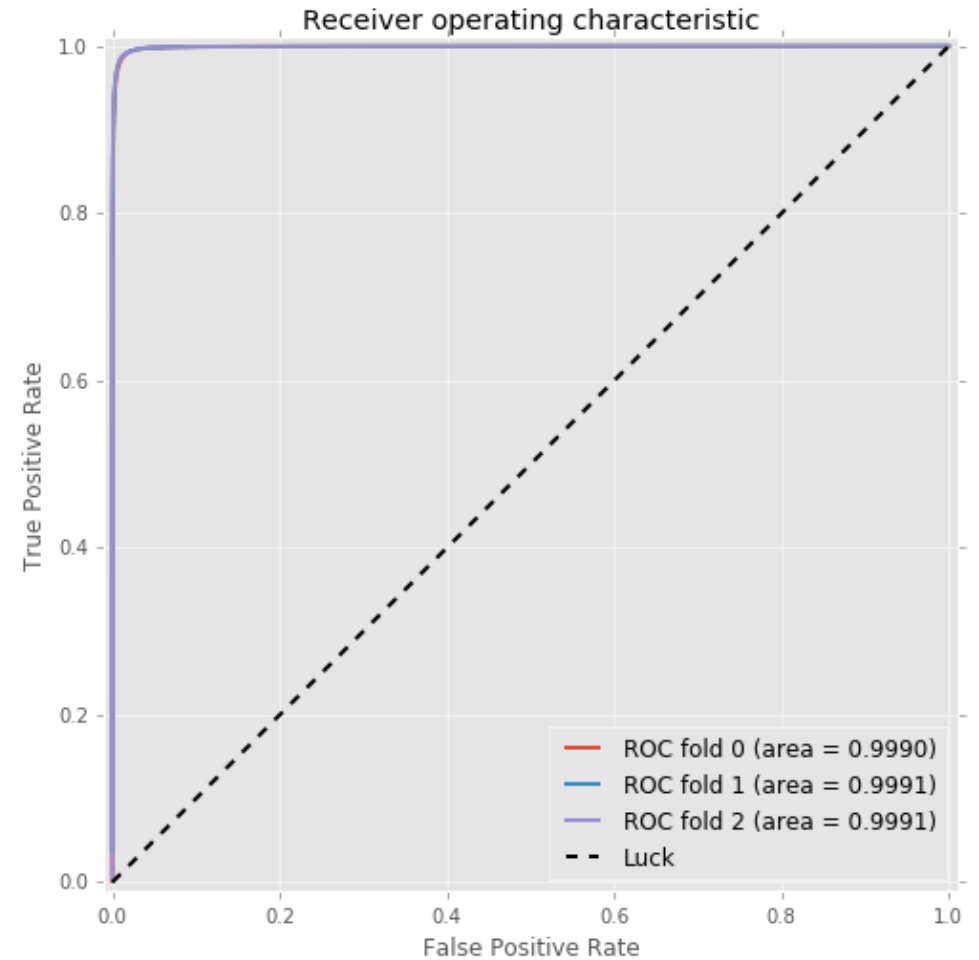


# Recurrent Neural Networks RNN



# URL Classification Results

3-Fold CV	Accuracy	Recall	Precision
<b>Average</b>	98.76%	98.93%	98.60%
<b>Deviation</b>	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%





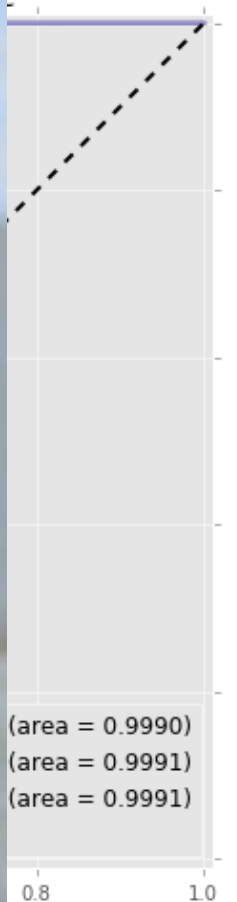
URL Clas

**98% PHISHING DETECTION**

3-Fold CV

Average

Deviation



# Detecting Malicious URLs Is Not Enough!!



SHARE



SHARE  
750



TWEET



COMMENT



EMAIL

LILY HAY-NEWMAN SECURITY 12.05.17 02:32 PM

# PHISHING SCHEMES ARE USING ENCRYPTED SITES TO SEEM LEGIT



GETTY IMAGES

GET WIRED  
UNLIMITED  
ACCESS +  
A FREE YUBIKEY



## MOST POPULAR



SCIENCE  
The Peculiar Math That  
Could Underlie the Laws of  
Nature  
NATALIE WOLCHOVER

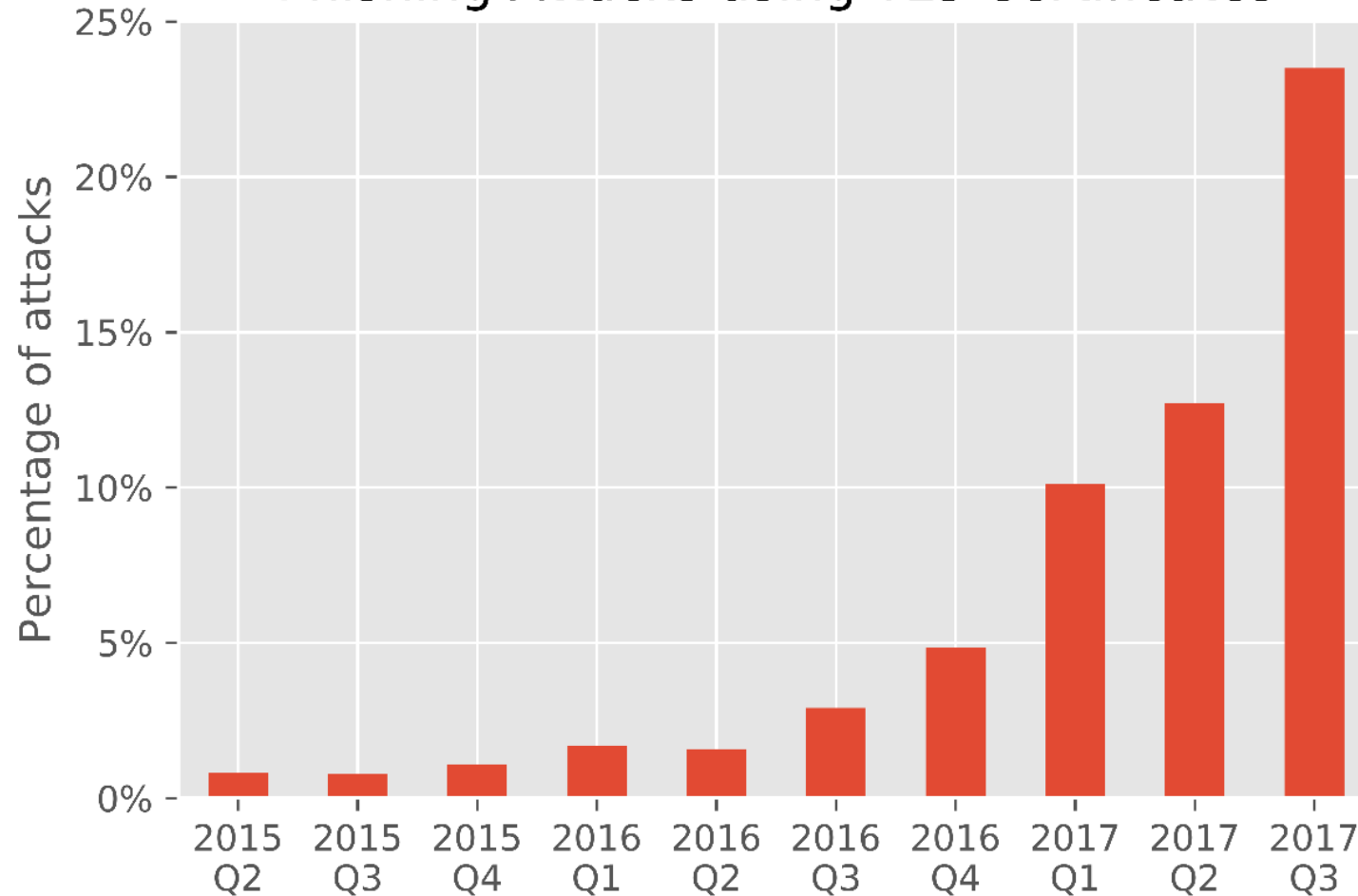


CULTURE  
A Deadly Hunt for Hidden  
Treasure Spawns an Online  
Mystery  
DAVID KUSHNER



CULTURE  
MoviePass Raises Prices,  
Limits First-Run  
Availability as Pressures...  
BRIAN BARRETT

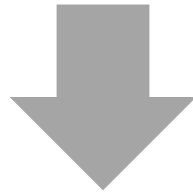
## Phishing Attacks using TLS Certificates



# What is a Web Certificate?



<http://ultrabank.com>



 **Secure** | <https://ultrabank.com>

Forrester survey asked users: “Some websites receive the following browser user interface security indicator in the browser. What do you think the security indicator is intended to tell users?”

 Secure | <https://ultrabank.com>

The website is safe: 82%

The website is encrypted: 75%

The website is trustworthy: 66%

The website is private: 32%



Forrester survey asked u  
user interface security ir  
security indicator is inter



following browser  
ou think the



The w

The w

The w

The w



# Hunting Malicious TLS Certificates with Deep Neural Networks

# Database of TLS Certificates

1,000,000 Legitimate Certificates from Common Crawl

CN = \*.stackexchange.com, O = Stack Exchange, Inc., L = New York, S = NY, C = US

CN = slack.com, O = Slack Technologies, Inc., L = San Francisco, S = CA, C = US

CN = \*.trello.com, O = Trello Inc., L = New York, S = New York, C = US

5,000 Phishing Certificates

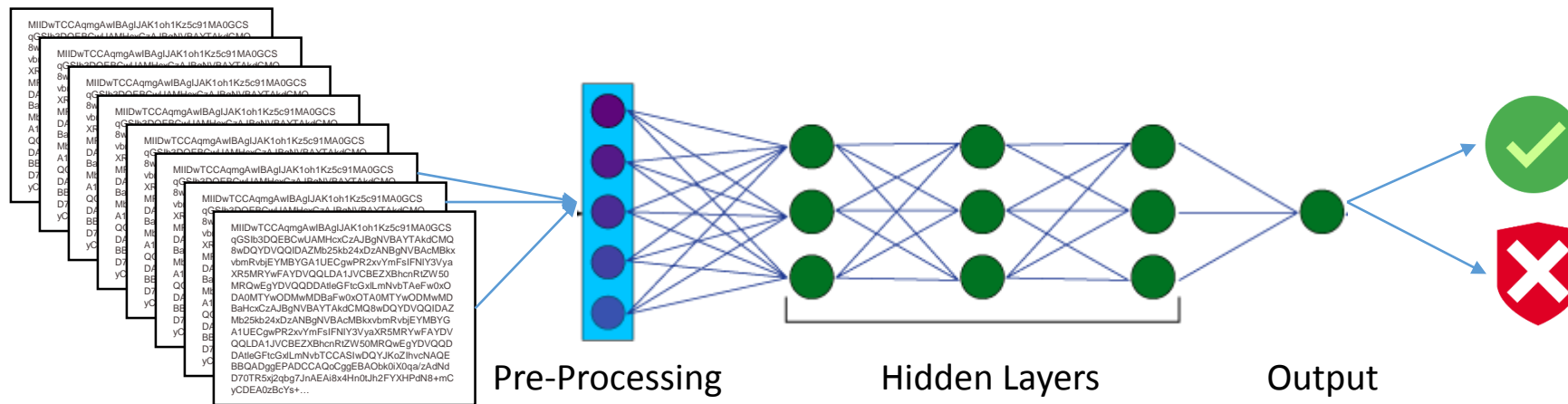
CN = localhost, L = Springfield

CN = localhost.localdomain

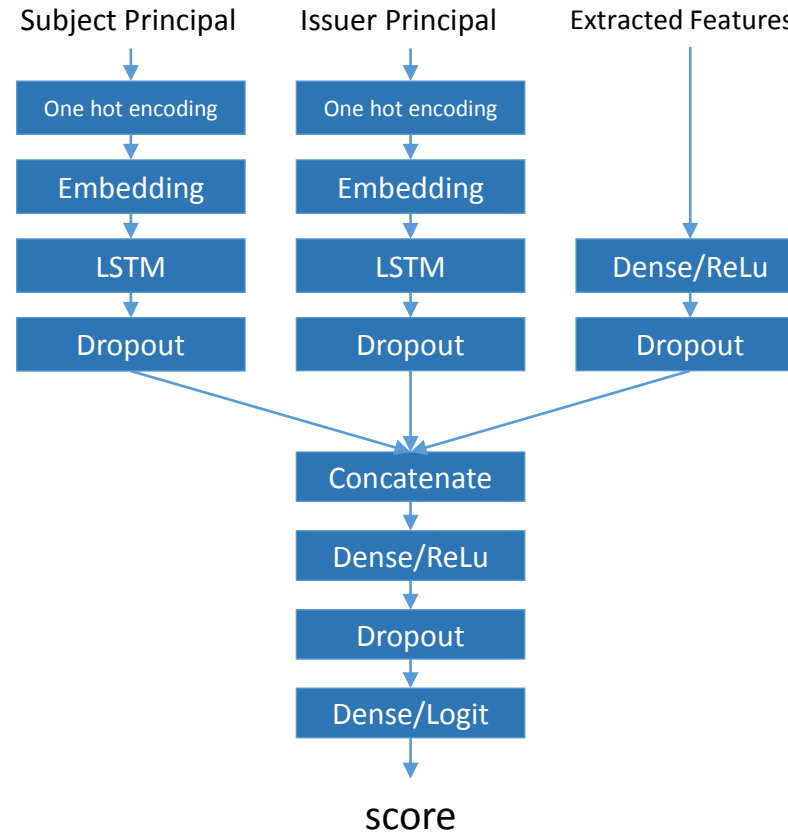
CN = example.com, L = Springfield



# Deep Learning Algorithm

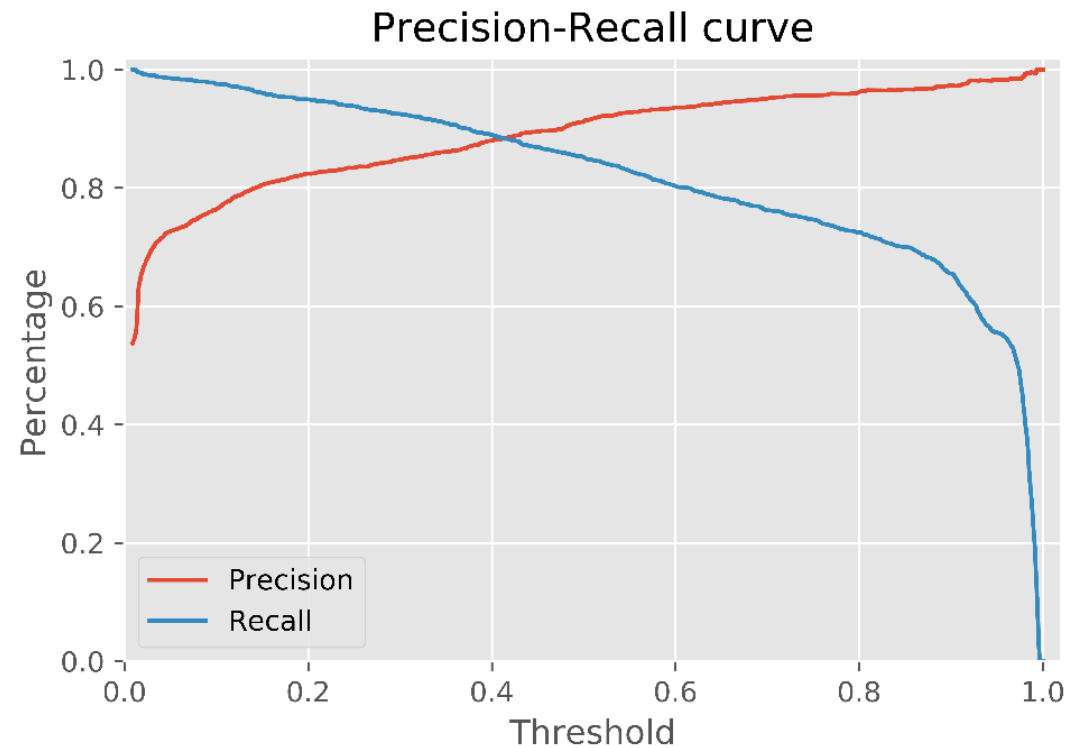


# Deep Learning Algorithm



# Malicious Cert Classification Results

5-Fold CV	Accuracy	Recall	Precision
<b>Average</b>	86.41%	83.20%	88.86%
<b>Deviation</b>	1.22%	3.29%	1.04%



EVERY  
ACTION  
HAS A

FRAUDSTER  
REACTION


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Forbes CommunityVoice | Connecting expert communities to the Forbes audience. | What is This?

## How AI Can Be Applied To Cyberattacks

**Ivan Novikov** | CommunityVoice | Forbes Technology Council | Mar 22, 2018, 08:00am | 1,806 views | #CyberSecurity

POST WRITTEN BY  
**Ivan Novikov**  
CEO of Wallarm, a YCombinator-backed AI security startup.






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Artificial Intelligence


# AI cyberattacks will be almost impossible for humans to stop

As cyberattacks become more refined, they will start mimicking our online traits. This will lead to a battle of the machines



By **MIKE LYNCH**  
Thursday 28 December 2017



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**FEATURE**

## 6 ways hackers will use machine learning to launch attacks

Machine learning algorithms will improve security solutions, helping human analysts triage threats and close vulnerabilities quicker. But they are also going to help threat actors launch bigger, more complex attacks.



By **Doug Drinkwater**  
CSO | JAN 22, 2018 3:00 AM PT

Si le parece difícil establecer una red, imagine hacerlo en Marte. [Comience el juego >](#) 



**SIZZLIN SUMMER ONE**

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-  How AI can help you stay ahead of cybersecurity threats
-  The future of AI and endpoint security
- VIDEO**  
 Who can benefit from Zero Trust Security?

# DeepPhish Simulating Malicious AI

# The Experiment: Simulating Malicious AI

1

Identify individual threat actors

2

Run them through our own AI detection system

3

Improve their attacks using AI

# Uncovering Threat Actors

- **Objective:** We want to understand effective patterns of each attacker to improve them through a AI model
- As we can not know attackers directly, we must learn from them through their attacks
- Database with 1.1M confirm phishing URLs collected from Phishtank



# Threat Actor 1

naylorantiques.com



**406 URLs**

[http://naylorantiques.com/components/com\\_contact/views/contact/tmpl/62](http://naylorantiques.com/components/com_contact/views/contact/tmpl/62)

<http://naylorantiques.com/docs/Auto/Atendimento/5BBROPI6S3>

[http://naylorantiques.com/AtualizacaoSegura/pictures/XG61YYMT\\_FXWOPWR8\\_5P2O7T2U\\_P9HNDPQR/](http://naylorantiques.com/AtualizacaoSegura/pictures/XG61YYMT_FXWOPWR8_5P2O7T2U_P9HNDPQR/)

<http://naylorantiques.com/zifn3p72bsifn9hx9ldecd8jzl2f0xlwf8f>

<http://www.naylorantiques.com/JavaScript/charset=iso-8859-1/http-equiv/margin-bottom>

Visual Check

## Keywords

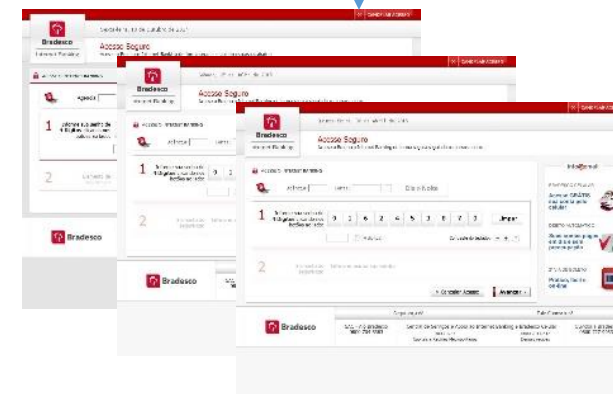
atendimento, jsf, identificacao, ponents, views, TV, mail, SHOW, COMPLETO, VILLA, MIX, ufi, pnref, story, try2ilr, Autentico

Check in database

## 106 domains

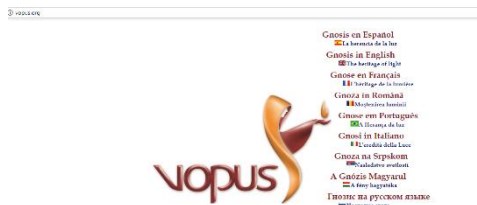
naylorantiques.com, netshelldemos.com, debbiebright.co.z, waldronfamilyppractice.co.uk, avea-vacances.com, psncodes2013.com, uni5.net, 67.228.96.204, classificadosmaster.com.br, ibjff.org

Visual Check



# Threat Actor 2

Vopus.org



**13 URLs**

- <http://www.vopus.org/es/images/cursos/thumbs/tdcanadatr ust>
- <http://www.vopus.org/ru/media/tdcanadatrust/index.html>
- <http://vopus.org/common/index.htm>
- <http://www.vopus.org/es/images/cursos/thumbs/tdcanadatr ust/index.html>
- <http://vopus.org/descargas/otros/tdcanadatrust/index.html>

Visual Check

**Keywords**

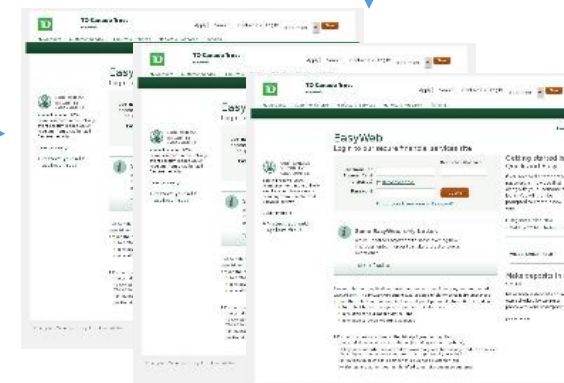
tdcanadatrust/index.html

Check in  
database

**19 domains**

friooptimo.com, kramerelementary.org, kalblue.com, vopus.org, artwood.co.kr, stephenpizzuti.com, heatherthinks.com, corvusseo.com, natikor.by, optioglobal.com, backfire.se, fncl.ma, greenant.de, mersintenisakademisi.com, cavtel.net

Visual Check



# The Experiment: Simulating Malicious AI

1

Identify individual threat actors

2

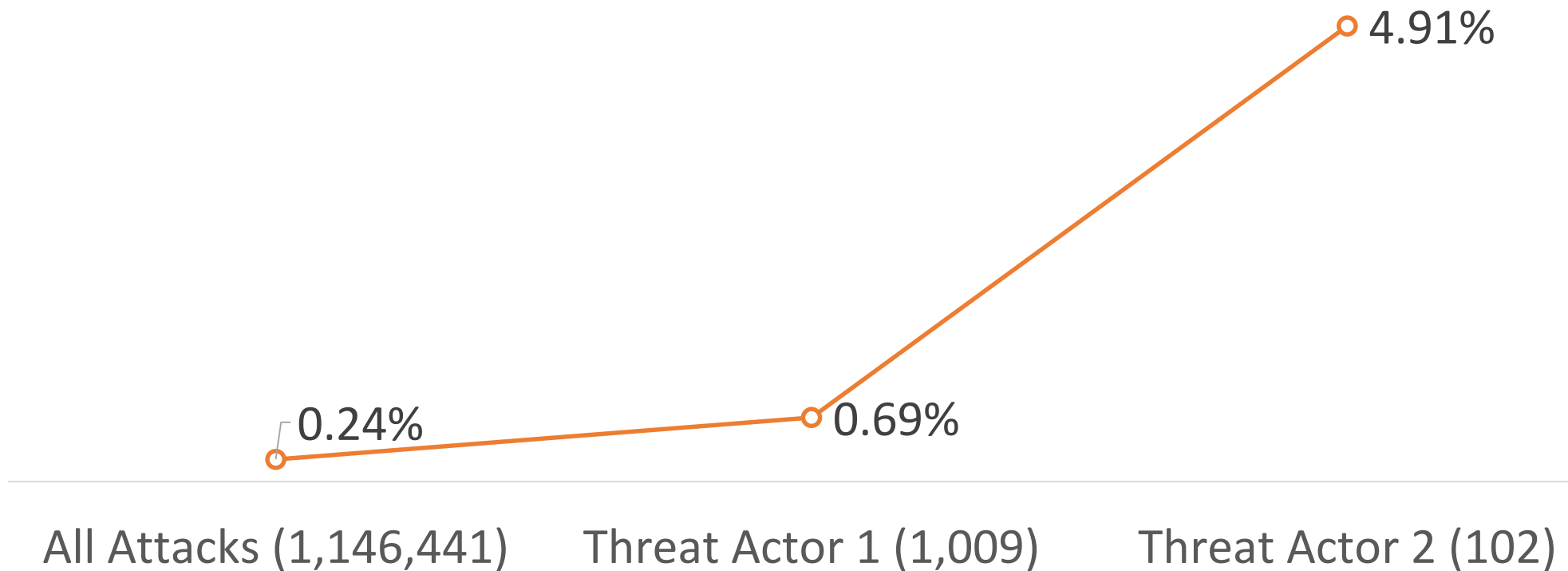
Run them through our own AI detection system

3

Improve their attacks using AI

DEMO!!!

# Threat Actors Effectiveness



# The Experiment: Simulating Malicious AI

1

Identify individual threat actors

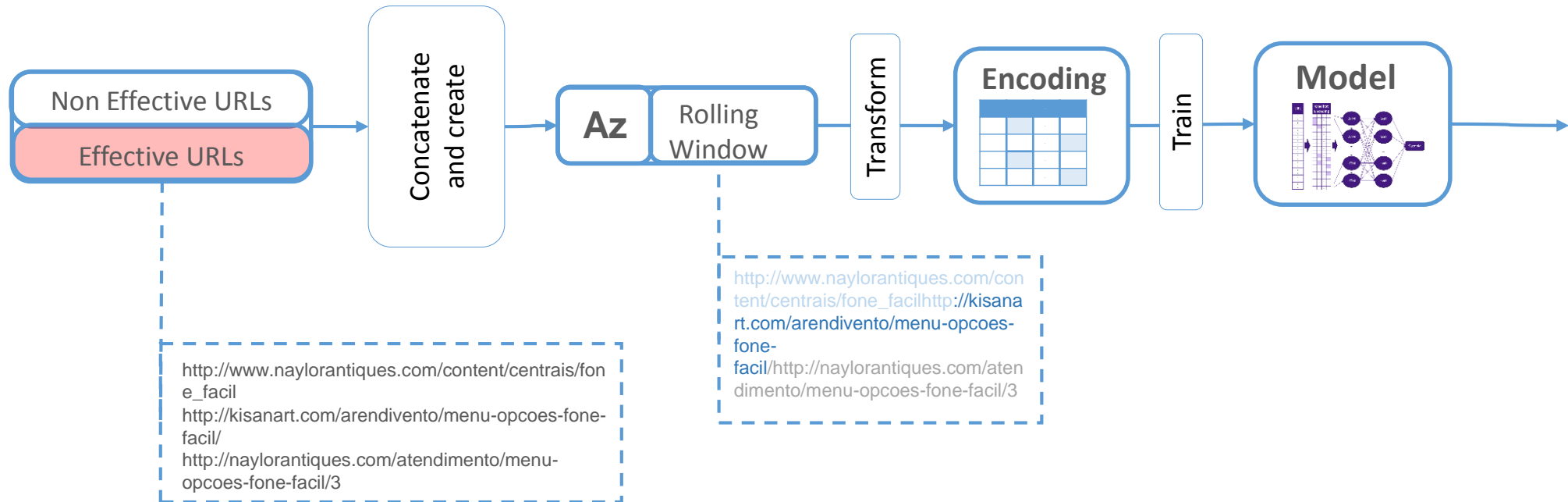
2

Run them through our own AI detection system

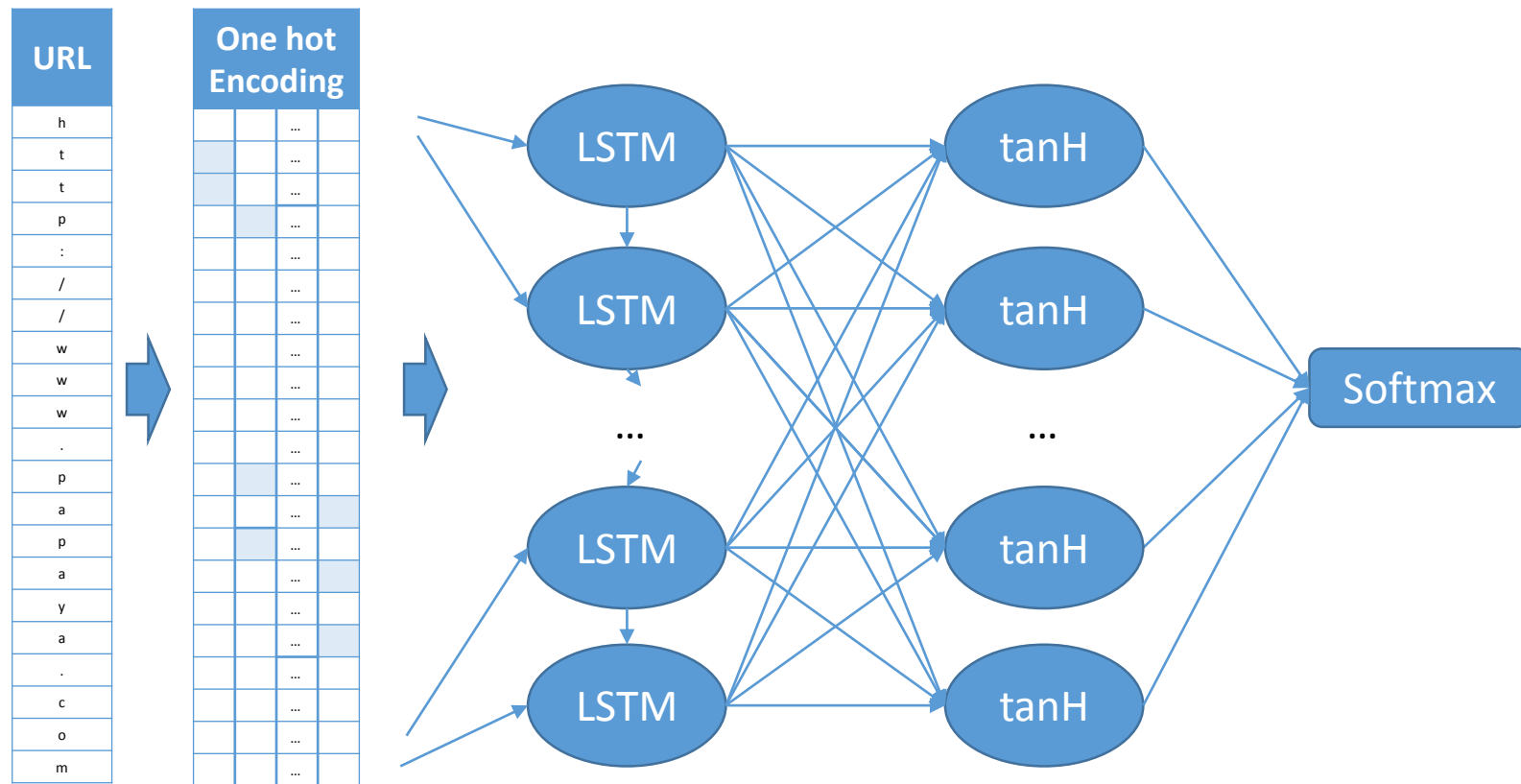
3

Improve their attacks using AI

# DeepPhish Algorithm - Training

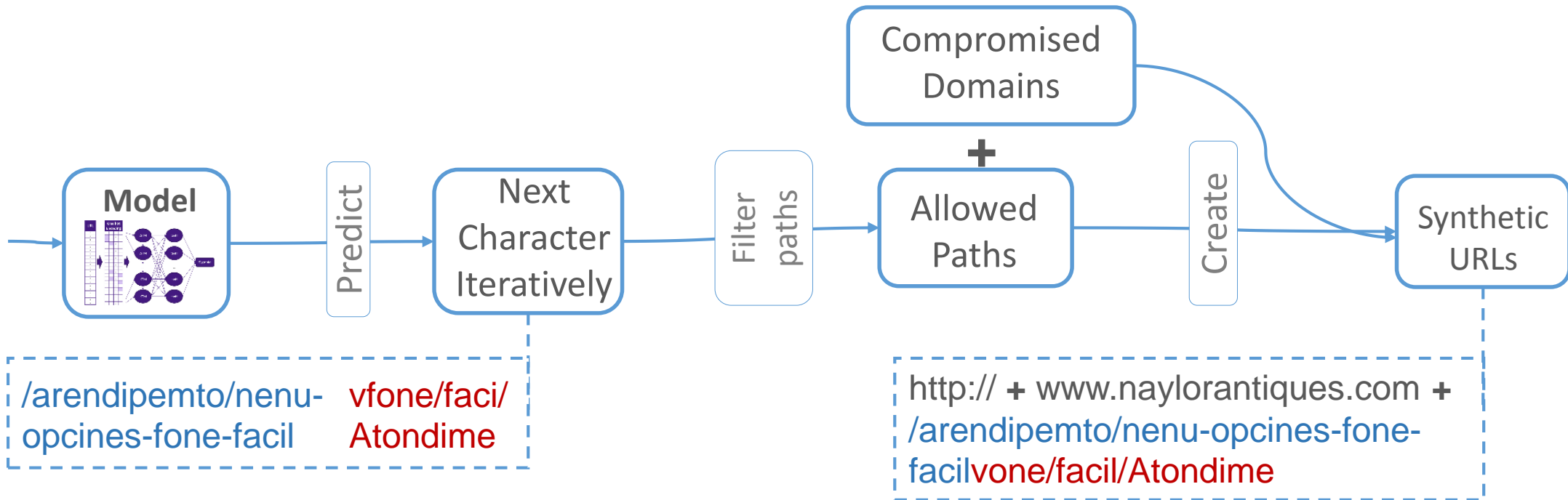


# DeepPhish LSTM Network

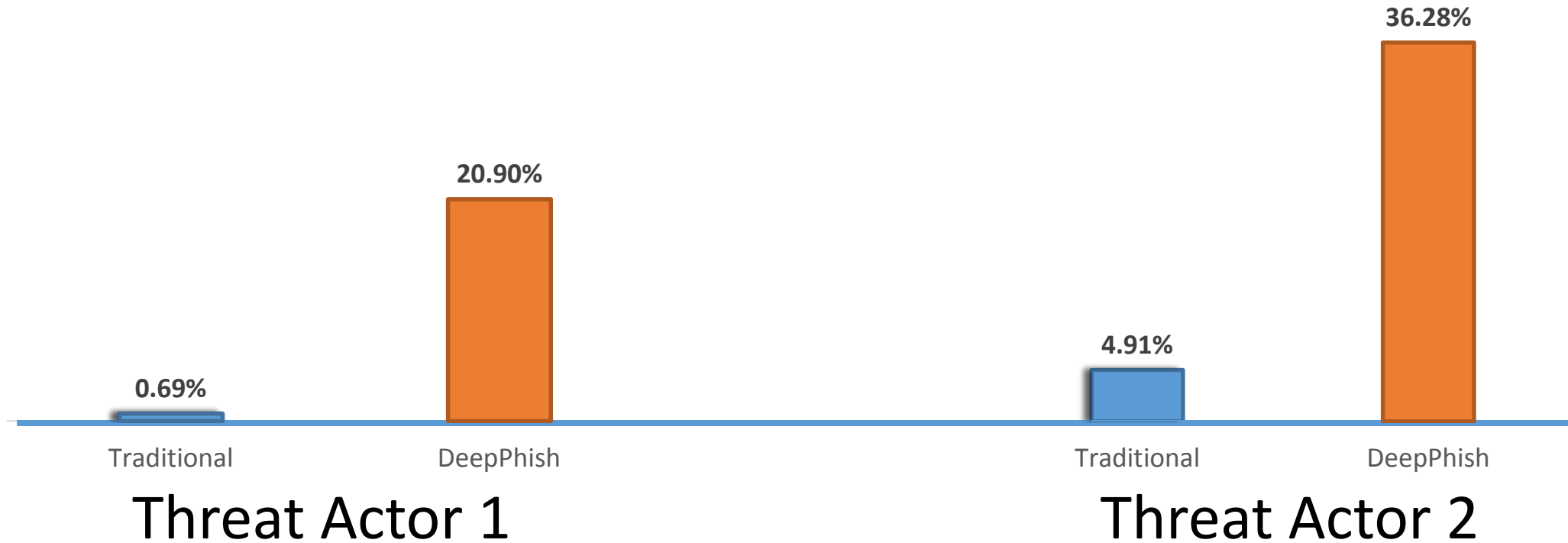




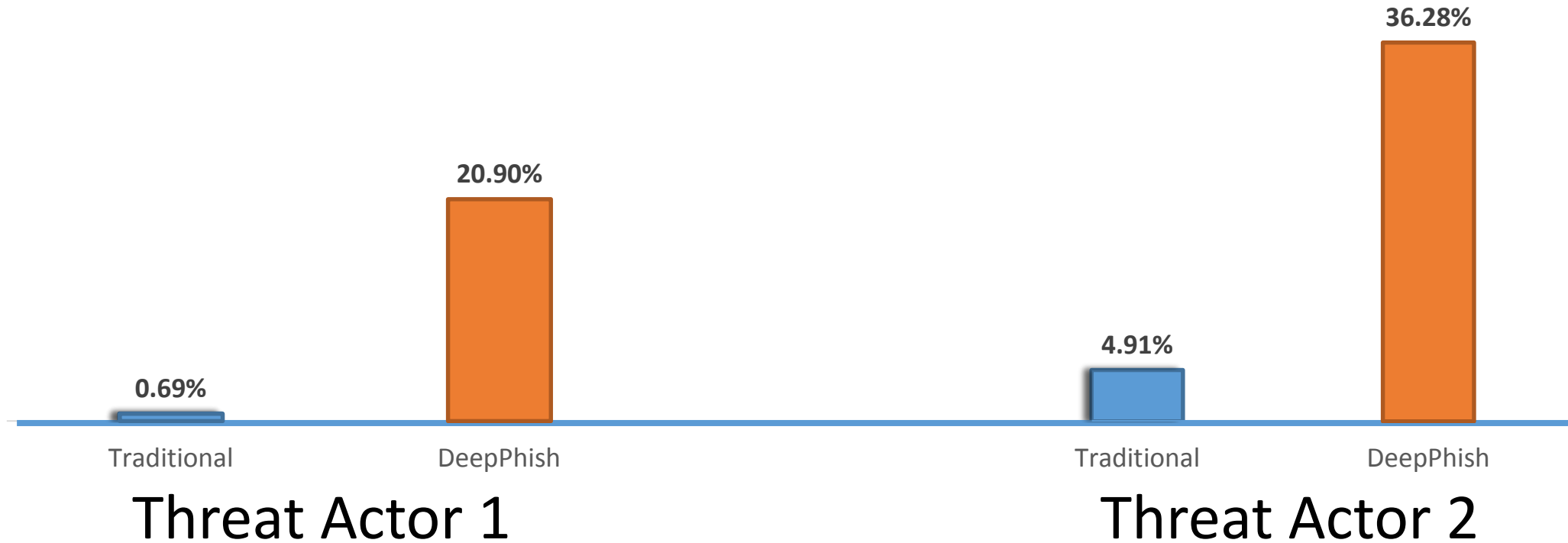
# DeepPhish Algorithm - Prediction



# Traditional Attacks vs. AI-Driven Attacks



# Traditional Attacks vs. AI-Driven Attacks



## What's Next??



## What's Next??

AI powered Attacks are real, as we probed with Deep Phish experiment.

We need to enhance our own AI detection systems to account for the possibility of attackers using AI.

# DeepPhish: Simulating Malicious AI

Alejandro Correa Bahnsen, Iván Torroledo  
Cyber Threat Intelligence  
Email: {alejandro.correa, ivan.torroledo}@cyxtera.com

**Abstract**—In this work we describe how threat actors use AI algorithms to bypass AI phishing detection systems. We analyzed more than a million phishing URLs to understand different strategies that threat actors use to create phishing attacks. Assuming the role of an attacker, we simulate how different threat actors may leverage Deep Neural Networks to increase their effectiveness rate. Using Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) we created DeepPhish, an algorithm that learns to detect phishing attacks. By training the DeepPhish algorithm on different threat actors, they were able to increase the effectiveness from 0.69% to 20.9%, and 4.91% to 36.28%, respectively.

**Keywords**—Malicious AI; phishing detection; cyber threat intelligence; current neural networks; long-short term memory network; adversarial learning.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are becoming increasingly important in the field of cybersecurity. In this paper, we describe how threat actors use AI algorithms to bypass AI phishing detection systems. We analyzed more than a million phishing URLs to understand different strategies that threat actors use to create phishing attacks. Assuming the role of an attacker, we simulate how different threat actors may leverage Deep Neural Networks to increase their effectiveness rate. Using Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) we created DeepPhish, an algorithm that learns to detect phishing attacks. By training the DeepPhish algorithm on different threat actors, they were able to increase the effectiveness from 0.69% to 20.9%, and 4.91% to 36.28%, respectively.

# Classifying Phishing URLs Using Recurrent Neural Networks

Alejandro Correa Bahnsen<sup>†</sup>, Eduard Barba<sup>‡</sup>, Javier Vargas<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Easy

<sup>‡</sup>MindLab Research Group, Universidad de Sevilla

Email: acorrea@easysol.net, econtrerasb@unal.edu.co,

**Abstract**—As the technical skills and costs associated with the deployment of phishing attacks decrease, we are witnessing an unprecedented level of scams that push the need for new methods to proactively detect phishing threats. In this paper, we explored the use of URLs as input for machine learning models applied for phishing site prediction. In this way, we compared a feature-engineering approach followed by a random forest classifier against a novel method based on recurrent neural networks. We determined that the recurrent neural network approach provides an accuracy rate of 98.7% even without the need of manual feature creation, beating by 5% the random forest method. This means it is a scalable and fast-acting phishing detection system that does not require full content analysis.

**Keywords**—Phishing detection; Cybercrime; Feature engineering; Recurrent neural networks; Long short term memory network

## I. INTRODUCTION

# Hunting Malicious TLS Certificates with Deep Neural Networks

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Alejandro Correa Bahnsen  
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## ABSTRACT

Encryption is widely used across the internet to secure communications and ensure that information cannot be intercepted and read by a third party. However, encryption also allows cybercriminals to hide their messages and carry out successful malware attacks while avoiding detection. Further aiding criminals is the fact that web browsers display a green lock symbol in the URL bar when a connection to a website is encrypted. This symbol gives a false sense of security to users, who are in turn more likely to fall victim to phishing attacks. The risk of encrypted traffic means that information security researchers must explore new techniques to detect, classify, and take countermeasures against malicious traffic. So far there exists no approach for TLS detection in the wild. In this paper, we propose a method for identifying malicious use of web certificates using deep neural networks. Our system uses the content of TLS certificates to successfully identify legitimate certificates as well as malicious patterns used by attackers. The results show that our system is capable of identifying malware certificates with an accuracy of 94.87% and phishing certificates with an accuracy of 88.64%.

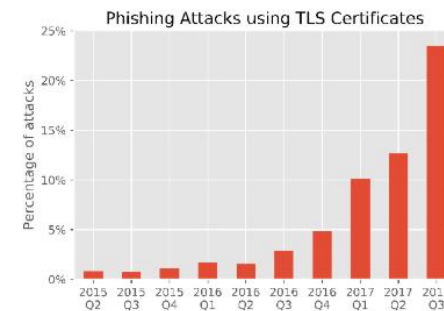


Figure 1: Evolution of phishing attacks using TLS [16].

Secure | <https://ultrabank.com>



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