

# **Configuration Manual**

MSc Research Project MSc. Cybersecurity

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# **MSc Project Submission Sheet**

# **School of Computing**

Student Name:	Yamah Hanson Shonibare		
Student ID:	21106941		
Programme:	MSc. Cybersecurity	<b>Year:</b> 2022	
Module:	Research Project		
Lecturer: Submission Due	Jawad Salahuddin		
Date: Project Title:	December 15, 2022 Detecting Spear-phishing Attacks using Machine Learning		

I hereby certify that the information contained in this (my submission) is information pertaining to research I conducted for this project. All information other than my own contribution will be fully referenced and listed in the relevant bibliography section at the rear of the project.

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# **Configuration Manual**

# Yamah Hanson Shonibare 21106941

# 1 Introduction

The hardware requirements and software setups, procedures for gathering, organizing, and preprocessing data, as well as the whole project implementation, are all covered in detail in this configuration. The project's goal was to use machine learning to detect spear-phishing attacks.

The technical specifications and procedures listed below lead to the project's outcomes.

# System Configuration



**Figure 1: System Configuration** 

This project was carried out using a PC with a 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 processor, 16GB of RAM, and a 1TB hard drive running macOS Monterey.

# **Environment Setup**

The software setup needed to run the project includes:

- 1. Anaconda IDE
- 2. Jupyter Notebook
- 3. Python

For the implementation of this project, Python was chosen as the programming language. And Jupyter Notebook in Anaconda was also used in all phases of this project including data preprocessing, model training, testing, and assessment.

# Python

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The latest version of python was downloaded and installed from the official website<sup>1</sup>

# Figure 2: Python download

# 1.1 Anaconda Individual Edition

As Anaconda already has the Jupyter Notebook pre-installed, the next step is to download Anaconda from its official website. The minimal system requirements and instructions for downloading and installing Anaconda can be found on the anaconda distribution and installation page<sup>2</sup>.

Home	
<ul> <li>Anaconda Distribution</li> </ul>	Installation
Installation Installing on Windows	Review the system requirements listed below before installing Anaconda Distribution. If you don't want the hundreds of packages included with Anaconda, install Miniconda, a mini version of Anaconda that includes just conda, its dependencies, and Python.
Installing on macOS	() Тір
Installing on Linux	Looking for Python 3.5 or 3.6? See our <u>FAQ</u> .
Installing on AWS Graviton2 (arm64)	
Installing on Linux-s390x (IBM Z) Installing on Linux POWER Installing in silent mode Installing for multiple users Verifying your installation	System requirements         License: Free use and redistribution under the terms of the EULA for Anaconda Distribution.         Operating system: Windows 8 or newer, 64-bit macOS 10.13+, or Linux, including Ubuntu, RedHat, CentOS 7+, and others.         If your operating system is older than what is currently supported, you can find older versions of the Anaconda installers in our archive that might work for you. See Using Anaconda on older operating systems for version recommendations.         System architecture: Windows- 64-bit x86; MacOS- 64-bit x86 & Mt; Linux- 64-bit x86, 64-bit aarch64 (AWS Graviton2), 64-bit Power8/Power9, s390x (Linux on IBM Z & LinuxONE).         Minimum 5 GB disk space to download and install.
Anaconda installer file hashes Updating from older versions	On Windows, macOS, and Linux, it is best to install Anaconda for the local user, which does not require administrator permissions and is the most robust type of installation. However, with administrator permissions, you can install Anaconda system wide.

# Figure 3: Anaconda Documentation

Upon the completion of installation, Jupyter Notebook can be launched from within Anaconda by clicking the Jupyter Notebook icon and the Anaconda Navigator symbol, respectively. Below is a snapshot of the process.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.python.org/downloads/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/navigator/install/



# Figure 4: Launch Anaconda Navigator

Figure 5: Launch Jupyter Notebook

# 2 Data Collection

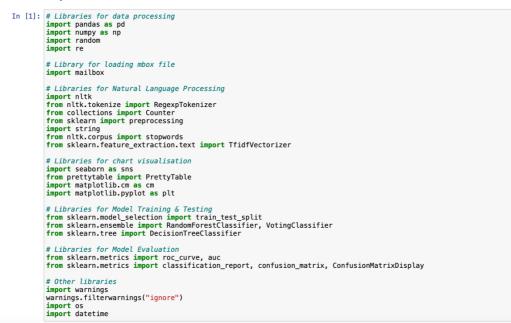
The dataset utilized in this study was put together and created by the CALO (Cognitive Assistant that Learns and Organizes) Project which contains emails that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) initially made publicly accessible online as part of an investigation<sup>3</sup>.

# 3 Pre-processing

To prepare the data for modeling, it is crucial to pre-process it after downloading the dataset. As a result, three key pre-processing procedures were completed. These actions were all carried out in the "spearphishing.ipynb" file of the same Jupyter notebook. The first step would be to import the required packages as depicted in Figure 6 in order to execute the code. As seen in Figure 7 below, several packages that have not yet been installed on the Anaconda environment can be installed using the "!pip install module name>" command from within Jupyter Notebook:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~enron/

Import Libraries



## Figure 6: Import Modules/ Dependencies

### Installing Modules

In [ ]: !pip install opencv

**Email File** 

## Figure 7: Pip Install Modules

### **Data Organization and Exploration**

The dataset is programmatically loaded from the mbox file saved in the PC and subsequently, the emails saved in a CSV file are loaded into the environment (and the first five (5) emails are displayed) for testing, training, and validation as shown in figures 8 and 9 below.



Figure 8: Load Email Files

### **Data Processing / Exploration**

Load Emails from CSV

```
In [4]: data = pd.read_csv('dataset/dataset.csv')
```

#### First 5 rows of the dataset

In [5]:	data.head	4()						
Out[5]:	Unname	d: 0	Message-ID	Date	From	То	Subject	X- From
	0	0	<18782981.1075855378110.JavaMail.evans@thyme>	2001- 05-14 23:39:00	frozenset({'phillip.allen@enron.com'})	frozenset({'tim.belden@enron.com'})	NaN	Phillip K Allen
	1	1	<15464986.1075855378456.JavaMail.evans@thyme>	2001- 05-04 20:51:00	frozenset({'phillip.allen@enron.com'})	frozenset({'john.lavorato@enron.com'})	Re:	Phillip K Allen
	2	2	<24216240.1075855687451.JavaMail.evans@thyme>	2000- 10-18 10:00:00	frozenset({'phillip.allen@enron.com'})	frozenset({'leah.arsdall@enron.com'})	Re: test	Phillip K Allen
	3	3	<13505866.1075863688222.JavaMail.evans@thyme>	2000- 10-23 13:13:00	frozenset({'phillip.allen@enron.com'})	frozenset({'randall.gay@enron.com'})	NaN	Phillip K Allen
	4	4	<30922949.1075863688243.JavaMail.evans@thyme>	2000- 08-31 12:07:00	frozenset({'phillip.allen@enron.com'})	frozenset({'greg.piper@enron.com'})	Re: Hello	Phillip K Allen
	5 rows × 52	co	lumns					

# Figure 9: Data Processing/Exploration

The next step is to check the shape of the dataset to ascertain the total number of emails within the dataset. The number of spear-phishing emails and the number of normal emails was also determined as shown in figures 10 and 11 below.



# Figure 10: Shape of the Dataset

#### Number of Normal vs Spearphising Emails



### Visualise Number of Normal vs Spearphising Emails

```
In [8]: sns.countplot(data=data, x="labeled")
```

Out[8]: <matplotlib.axes.\_subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7fdd3d9db2b0>

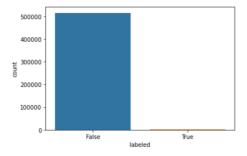


Figure 11: Visualization of Normal and Spear-phishing emails

Subsequently, the columns representing all of the features within the dataset are selected (Figure 12) and the dataset is selected for its varying type of data types as well as the number of null rows and the number of non-null rows as shown in Figures 13 and 14 below. Figure 15 showed columns that were empty were dropped.

#### Columns / Features in the Dataset

In [9]:	# Columns/features in data data.columns
Out[9]:	<pre>Index(['Unnamed: 0', 'Message-ID', 'Date', 'From', 'To', 'Subject', 'X-From',</pre>

### Figure 12: Columns/Features in the Dataset

#### **Data Information**

In [10]: # Data information showing the data type, number of non-null rows and names for each column
data.info()

### Figure 13: Data Information

Check for Null Rows
In [11]: # Number of null rows in each column.
# This will help identify columns with many null values which can be dropped
data.isnull().sum()

### Figure 14: Checking for Null and Non-Null Row

#### **Drop Columns with Null Rows**



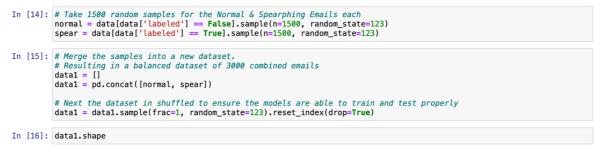
### Figure 15: Dropping of Null Rows

### **Data Preparation**

Data for this project was prepared by taking 1500 random samples of spear-phishing emails and 1500 normal emails resulting in a balanced dataset of 3000 emails to form a new dataset (data1). The dataset is shuffled to ensure randomness when picked for training and testing (Figure 16). Figure 17 shows a visual representation of the balanced data set and Figure 18 showed the removal columns that would not be used.

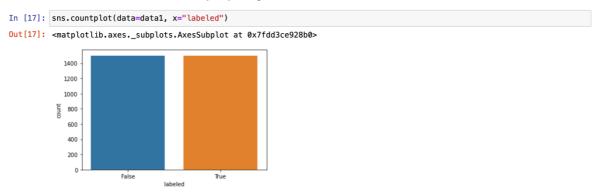
### **Data Preparation**

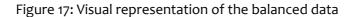
Data Balancing













# Figure 18: Removal of unwanted Columns

As a part of the data processing, encoding is carried out which involves turning the columns from non-numeric to numeric numbers so that they can be read by the machine learning model. If the columns are not in numbers it will result in an error. The new dataset is subsequently pre-processed by removing punctuations and repeating characters and the processPost is applied to the subject and content of the new dataset. The subject and content of the emails were tokenized and scanned for stopwords which were taken out to ensure they are machine readable. After that, a list of the top 15 words in the emails was selected and a visual display was presented using a rainbow color format.

#### **Encode Columns**

In [20]:	<pre># Column encoding is important so the data is machine readable encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['Message-ID']) data1['Message-ID'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['Date']) data1['Date'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['From']) data1['From'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['X-From']) data1['X-From'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['X-Origin']) data1['X-Origin'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(     data1['X-FileName'].astype('str')) data1['X-FileName'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['user']) data1['user'] = encode</pre>
	<pre>encode = preprocessing.LabelEncoder().fit_transform(data1['labeled']) data1['labeled'] = encode data1</pre>

# Figure 19: Encoding of Columns

```
In [21]: # Preprocess data on Descripcion
english_punctuations = string.punctuation
punctuations_list = english_punctuations
def remove_punctuations(text):
    translator = str.maketrans(', ', punctuations_list)
    return text.translate(translator)
In [22]: # Remove_repeating_char
def remove_repeating_char(text):
    return re.sub(r'(.)\1+', r'\1', text)
In [23]: # ProcessPost for applying all functions
def processPost(text):
    text = re.sub('@[^\s]+', '', text)
    text = re.sub('@[^\s]+', '', text)
    text = re.sub('(\www.\[^\s]+)|(https?://[^\s]+))', '', text)
    text = re.sub(r'#([^\s]+'), r'\1', text)
    text = remove_punctuations(text)
    text = remove_punctuations(text)
    text = remove_punctuations(text)
    text = return text
```

# Figure 20: Pre-processing of Data



# Figure 21: Application of the pre-processed data in Content

```
In [26]: data1["Subject"] = data1["Subject"].astype(str)
data1["Subject"] = data1["Subject"].apply(lambda x: processPost(x))
In [27]: data1["Subject"]
```

# Figure 22: Application of the pre-processed data in Subject

In [28]:	# Getting Tokenization					
	<pre>tokenizer = RegexpTokenizer(r'\w+') data1["content"] = data1["content"].apply(tokenizer.tokenize)</pre>					
	<pre>data1["content"].head()</pre>					
	Figure 23: Tokenization					
In [29]:	# Stop words of english					
	<pre>nltk.download('stopwords') stopwords_list = stopwords.words('english')</pre>					
	stopwords_list					
	<pre>[nltk_data] Downloading package stopwords to /Users/remi/nltk_data [nltk_data] Package stopwords is already up-to-date!</pre>					
	Figure 24: Stopwords using NLTK					
	len(stopwords_list)					
Out[30]:	179					
In [31]:	<pre>data1["content"] = data1["content"].apply(     lambda x: [item for item in x if item not in stopwords_list])</pre>					
	<pre>data1["content"].head()</pre>					
	Figure 25: Length of Stopwords					
In [32]:	# Description of text information					
	all_words_content = [word for tokens in data1["content"] for word in tokens] sentence_lengths = [len(tokens) for tokens in data1["content"]]					
	<pre>VOCAB = sorted(list(set(all_words_content)))</pre>					
	<pre>print("%s words total, with a vocabulary size of %s" %</pre>					
	1289642 words total, with a vocabulary size of 67635 Max sentence length is 20215					
In [33]:	# Top 15 words in email text					

counter = Counter(all\_words\_content)

counter.most\_common(15)

Figure 26: List of top 15 words in the email text

```
In [34]: counted_words = Counter(all_words_content)
words = []
counts = []
for letter, count in counted_words.most_common(15):
    words.append(letter)
    counts.append(count)
In [35]: colors = cm.rainbow(np.linspace(0, 1, 10))
#rcParams['figure.figsize'] = 20, 10
plt.title('Top words in Content')
plt.xlabel('Count')
plt.ylabel('Words')
plt.barh(words, counts, color=colors)
```

# Figure 27: Visual display of top words in the content

```
In [36]: # Getting Tokenization
```

```
tokenizer = RegexpTokenizer(r'\w+')
data1["Subject"] = data1["Subject"].apply(tokenizer.tokenize)
data1["Subject"].head()
```

# Figure 28: Tokenization of data in the subject

counter.most\_common(15)

# Figure 29: List of top 15 words in the subject

```
In [40]: counted_words = Counter(all_words_subject)
words = []
counts = []
for letter, count in counted_words.most_common(15):
words.append(letter)
counts.append(count)
In [41]: colors = cm.rainbow(np.linspace(0, 1, 10))
#rcParams['figure.figsize'] = 20, 10
plt.title('Top words in Subject')
plt.xlabel('Count')
plt.ylabel('Words')
plt.barh(words, counts, color=colors)
```

Figure 30: Visual display of the top words in the subject

# **Feature Extraction**

Next, we carried out feature extraction on the new dataset through the application of vectorization on the subject and content of emails. This involves the reduction of redundant data by checking the number of times a word appears in an email against the number of emails it appears in. Words that appear often within and across several emails are given less weight in comparison to words that are not common in emails. Here the top 500 most weighted words within the email content and body are extracted and compared with contents within the rest of the emails. To increase the speed of learning and the accuracy of the model, the email and subject column contents are dropped after they have been vectorized and the vectorized features are subsequently concatenated with the new dataset.

### **Feature Extraction**

#### **Define Vectorizer**

**Applying Vectorizer on Email Contents** 

```
In [43]: # Applying vectorizer on email contents.
# This extract the top 500 most weighted words within & across the email contents.
unigram = vectorizer.fit_transform(data1['content'].astype('str'))
unigram = unigram.toarray()
vocab = vectorizer.get_feature_names()
unigram_content = pd.DataFrame(np.round(unigram, 1), columns=vocab)
unigram_content[unigram_content > 0] = 1
unigram_content.head()
```

### Figure 31: Vectorizer Defined and applied to Email Contents

#### **Applying Vectorizer on Email Subject**

```
In [44]: # Applying vectorizer on email subject.
# This extract the top 500 most weighted words within & across the email subject.
unigram = vectorizer.fit_transform(data1['Subject'].astype('str'))
unigram = unigram.toarray()
vocab = vectorizer.get_feature_names()
unigram_subject = pd.DataFrame(np.round(unigram, 1), columns=vocab)
unigram_subject[unigram_subject > 0] = 1
unigram_subject.head()
```

# Figure 32: Applying Vectorizer on Email Subjects

### **Final Data Preprocessing**

#### **Drop Email Content & Subject columns**

```
In [45]: # As the vectorizer has extracted the main words from the content & subjec.
# We have no need for those columns so they are dropped from the dataset
data1 = data1.drop(columns=['content', 'Subject'])
data1 = data1.reset_index()
del data1['index']
data1
```

# Figure 33: Dropping off the Email Content and Subject Columns

#### **Concatenate Extracted Features**

```
In [46]: # Now the vectorized features are included in the dataset
# to replace the email content & subject which were dropped
final_df = pd.concat([data1, unigram_content, unigram_subject], axis=1)
final_df
# Resulting in a dataset with 3000 rows and 1008 columns
```

### Figure 34: Concatenation of Extracted Features

# Modelling

Machine learning is a powerful tool for analyzing data and extracting patterns and anomalies. However, these algorithms need usable data in order to draw valid conclusions

# Modelling Assign independent & dependent variables In [47]: target\_names = ['Normal', 'Spearphising'] In [48]: X = final\_df.drop(columns=['labeled']) y = final\_df['labeled'] Spliting dataset into training and testing In [49]: X\_train, X\_test, y\_train, y\_test = train\_test\_split(X, y, random\_state = 123, test\_size=0.35)

Figure 35: Dependent and independent variables are assigned

# **Experiment 1 – Random Forest Modelling**

Experiment 1 involved comparing the engagement levels 0, 1, 2 and 3. The frames depicting these states were extracted from the pre-processed folder and stored into a new train and test folder.

#### **Random Forest Modelling**

#### Training

```
In [50]: #Define the random forest model
         Ran_For = RandomForestClassifier(random_state = 123)
         #Train the random forest model using training data
         Ran_For = Ran_For.fit(X_train, y_train)
         Ran For
```

### Figure 36: Training of Dataset

#### Testing

```
In [51]: #Test the random forest model using the testing data
y_pred1 = Ran_For.predict(X_test)
rn = Ran_For.score(X_test, y_test)
print('Accuracy = {:.2f}%'.format(rn * 100))
                       Accuracy = 95.33%
```

Figure 37: Testing of Dataset

1050

#### Classification Report

weighted avg

In [52]: classification = classification\_report(y\_test, y\_pred1, digits=4, target\_names = target\_names)

print(classification)					
	precision	recall	f1-score	support	
Normal Spearphising	0.9522 0.9545	0.9540 0.9527	0.9531 0.9536	522 528	
accuracy macro avg	0.9533	0.9533	0.9533 0.9533	1050 1050	

0.9533 0.9533 0.9533

Figure 38: Classification Report of Dataset

```
Confusion Matrix
```

# Figure 39: Random Forest Confusion matrix

### ROC Curve

```
In [54]: ran_prob = [0 for _ in range(len(y_test))]
rf_fpr, rf_tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test, y_pred1)
rp_fpr, rp_tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test, ran_prob)
rf_roc_auc = auc(rf_fpr, rf_tpr)
plt.figure()
plt.subplots(figsize = (9,6))
plt.subplots(figsize = (9,6))
plt.plot(rp_fpr, rp_tpr, linestyle='--', color = 'Red', label = 'Random Probability (area = %0.4f)' %rp_roc_auc)
plt.plot(rf_fpr, rf_tpr, color = 'Blue', lw = 1, label = 'Random Forest ROC curve (area = %0.4f)' %rf_roc_auc)
plt.xlim([0.0, 1.0])
plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')
plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
plt.ylabel('Curve')
plt.show()
```

<Figure size 432x288 with 0 Axes>

### Figure 40: Random Forest Roc Curve

Experiment II - Ensemble Learning using Voting Classifier

#### **Ensemble Learning using Voting Classifier**

#### Training

### Figure 41: Training of Dataset

#### Testing

```
In [59]: y_pred2 = eclf.predict(X_test)
el_acc = eclf.score(X_test, y_test)
print('Accuracy = {:.2f}%'.format(el_acc * 100))
Accuracy = 94.38%
```

Figure 42: Testing of Dataset

### **Classification Report**

In [69]: classification = classification\_report(y\_test, y\_pred2, digits=4, target\_names = target\_names)

print(classification)

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Normal Spearphising	0.9217 0.9681	0.9693 0.9186	0.9449 0.9427	522 528
accuracy macro avg weighted avg	0.9449 0.9450	0.9440 0.9438	0.9438 0.9438 0.9438	1050 1050 1050

### Figure 43: Classification Report

#### Evaluation

# Figure 44: Ensemble Learning Confusion Matrix

#### ROC Curve

```
In [61]: ran_prob = [0 for _ in range(len(y_test))]
el_fpr, el_tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test, y_pred2)
rp_fpr, rp_tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_test, ran_prob)
el_roc_auc = auc(el_fpr, el_tpr)
rp_roc_auc = auc(r_fpr, rp_tpr)
plt.figure()
plt.subplots(figsize = (9,6))
plt.plot(rp_fpr, rp_tpr, linestyle='--', color = 'Red', label = 'Random Probability (area = %0.4f)' %rp_roc_auc)
plt.plot(el_fpr, el_tpr, color = 'Green', lw = 1, label = 'Ensemble Classifier ROC curve (area = %0.4f)' %el_roc_auc
plt.xlam([0.0, 1.0])
plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')
plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
plt.legend(loc = "bottom right")
plt.show()
```

<Figure size 432x288 with 0 Axes>

### Figure 45: Ensemble Learning Roc Curve

#### ROC Curve

```
In [62]: plt.figure()
    plt.subplots(figsize = (9,6))
    plt.subplots(figsize = (9,6))
    plt.plot(rp_fpr, rp_tpr, linestyle='--', color = 'Red', label = 'Random Probability (area = %0.4f)' %rp_roc_auc)
    plt.plot(rf_fpr, rf_tpr, color = 'Green', lw = 1, label = 'Random Forest Classifier ROC curve (area = %0.4f)' %rf_ro
    plt.plot(el_fpr, el_tpr, color = 'Blue', lw = 1, label = 'Ensemble Classifier ROC curve (area = %0.4f)' %el_roc_auc)
    plt.ylim([0.0, 1.0])
    plt.xlim([0.0, 1.0])
    plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')
    plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
    plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
    plt.title('ROC CURVE')
    plt.legend(loc = "bottom right")
    plt.show()
```

<Figure size 432x288 with 0 Axes>

Figure 46: Roc Curve for Random Forest Classifier and Ensemble Learning