

Can you spot three fake websites? [Refer Online Security Blogs, Public Awareness Sites, Academic Resources etc., and cite the source].

Compare the three fake websites to three real websites and highlight the features and similarities that identify each fake website as fraudulent.

There are many websites that are frequently imitated for the purpose of a phishing scam in order to get information or money out of an unsuspecting victim. A few of these sites are Amazon, PayPal, DMV, and USPS. One of the biggest giveaways for a website being a scam is the domain name/URL being similar to the site it is trying to copy but ultimately different therefore not being the original or real site. Although a fake site may use a copy of the real site's logo or merchandise and even website design, it tends to be lower quality images that may even be slightly fuzzy compared to the real site (Toohil, 2025). While the appearance of a padlock beside the URL used to almost guarantee that it meant a website was legit, that is unfortunately no longer the case because fake websites have started acquiring SSL certificates to more convincingly fool their victims (Toohil, 2025). One last difference between real and fake websites, particularly with retail sites, is the use of amazing deals on fake sites that would be unrealistic on real sites in order to entice more victims (Guardio Research Team Insights & Guidance, 2022).

References

- Arad, R. (2024, September 11). *5 Examples of Fake Websites (and How to Spot Them)*. Retrieved from Memcyco: <https://www.memcyco.com/5-recent-examples-of-fake-websites/>
- Guardio Research Team Insights & Guidance. (2022, March 8). *How To Identify Fake Websites: Your Comprehensive GUide*. Retrieved from Guardio: <https://guard.io/blog/how-to-identify-fake-websites>
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