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 that identify them as fraudulent.

Note: Don't generate or click on unwanted/fake websites on your web browsers. Use examples from your sources to demonstrate what specific characteristics make these websites fake.

Note: The word count should be in between 100 -125 words.

You can find the information on Online Security Blogs, Public Awareness Sites, Academic Resources etc.

Online Security Blogs like: Krebs on Security, The Hacker News, SecurityWeek

Public Awareness Websites: StaySafeOnline, OnGuardOnline, US-CERT

You can find information and on Google search.

You can showcase the real & fake websites from images or text and talk about the differences.

Randomly you can check in the articles or blogs or googling on this topic or Archives like Youtube, Public Forums etc.,. Please don't click on any links or browsing websites which you feel suspicious or fake.

By following below guidelines, we can tell whether a website is real or fake.

• The site uses HTTP rather than HTTPS.
• The site has a combination of typos and poor design.
• The web address looks altered or off.
• The site says you have a security issue.
• The site floods you with pop-ups or links to click.
• The site offers hard-to-get items at an outrageous discount.
• The site promises access to hot shows, movies, and sporting events.
• The site promotes prizes, coupons, or a quiz.
• Fake online stores and discount pages

Analyze the source of the website link whether it is HTTP or HTTPS and Check the domain name and URL. Always take a closer look at the link and content if you feel suspicious. Search

for reviews and reference online. Below is the example how a real and fake Facebook website looks like for your reference.

Real website: https://www.facebook.com
Fake website: https://www.faceb00k.com

Response -

Three Real Websites -

The three real websites I chose to analyse for this assignment are:

YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/
NBC News - https://www.nbcnews.com/
Best Buy - https://www.bestbuy.com/

   These real websites are deemed real by the user since they contain the required information for the URL to take the user to the correct information posted on the site. This true website address allows for the user to be trustworthy to view and believe the information that he is reading online. If the details of the website are checked by the user then the company information such as the contact email and phone number could be verified online. The site does not offer any outrageous information or question of the user. All three of the websites searched show https:// format listed in the link. There are not a great deal of pop up advertisements. All of these websites show attributes as to being real websites.

The NBC news website shows news stories about life events in our world. No news information that is shown is outrageous to the user. There are no outlandish requests to the user with respect to providing any information.

The Best Buy website through aspects such as Sale listings or the Deal of the Day banner which is a valid section for items listed for sale on their website. The user is not asked to provide any personal information that is not related to their individual purchase. No real pop up advertisements were viewable on their website.

The YouTube website shows YouTube TV programming choices with or without advertisements. These operations are related only to viewing parameters of the user. No information is requested that would be questionable to the viewing preferences and activities of the user.

Three Fake Websites -

The three fake websites (these websites are fake so they were not clicked on to maintain the integrity of my device and personal data) include:

NBC News - NBC.com.co
National Geographic -nationalgeographic.com.co
Alex Jones - AlexJones.xyz

   The three fake websites including NBC, National Geographic and Alex Jones do not contain the thumbnail picture of the company logo in the Google search computer screen. If selected by the user (but was not to remain safe online), the URL would not have populated a website due to the lack of validity of the URL. It cannot be assumed that if these URL addresses for these websites were selected that the link to any information would generate correctly. This misinformation would be due to lack of connection to the actual real websites. The only information that was generated was the information that the scammer would want the user to see related to their own expectations. Validity of website data can also be found by checking that there is a padlock showing in front the URL once the destination website has been located is indeed listed in the task bar with the URL address. The Alex Jones fake website could indeed be attempting to impersonate this famous Individual through using his familiar name reference. The Alex Jones website looks odd in nature with the reference to XYZ in the URL address.

                                        Works Cited -

How To Identify Fake Websites: 11 Warning Signs To Know
National Cybersecurity Alliance