

## Microsoft Sentinel SOC Lab

Windows Security Events with Azure Arc, AMA and DCR

### What this lab does

This lab connects a Windows machine to Azure using Azure Arc, installs Azure Monitor Agent, collects Windows Security event logs via a Data Collection Rule, and sends those logs into a Log Analytics workspace that is connected to Microsoft Sentinel.

Once logs are flowing, we validate key event IDs and build an analytics rule that detects multiple failed logons, then confirms incidents appear in Microsoft Defender.

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### Tools and services used

- Windows 10 Pro virtual machine on VirtualBox
- Azure Arc enabled machine
- Azure Monitor Agent extension
- Log Analytics workspace
- Microsoft Sentinel
- Data Collection Rule
- KQL queries
- Sentinel analytics scheduled rule

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### Key event IDs used in this lab

- **4625** Login failure
- **4624** Login success
- **4688** Process creation

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### Step 1: Enable Windows auditing

#### Goal

Make sure the Windows machine actually produces useful security logs.

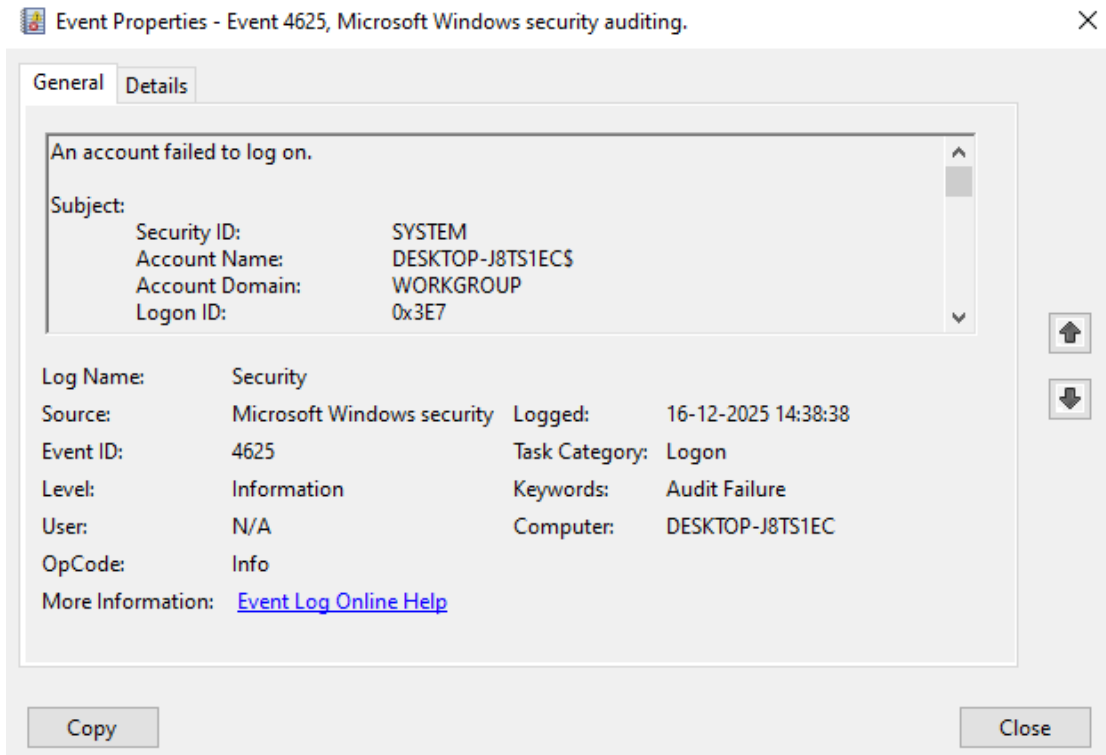
#### What I changed

I enabled Advanced Audit Policy settings so Windows logs authentication and process activity properly.

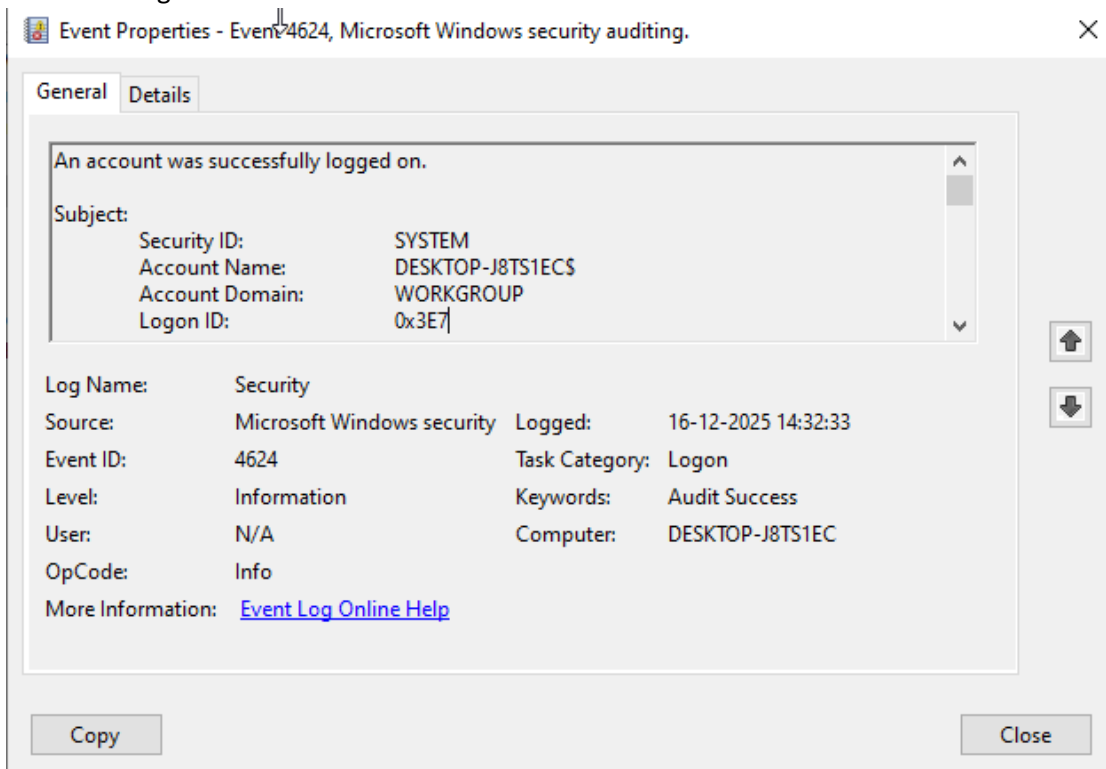
#### Screenshots

Local Windows event validation:

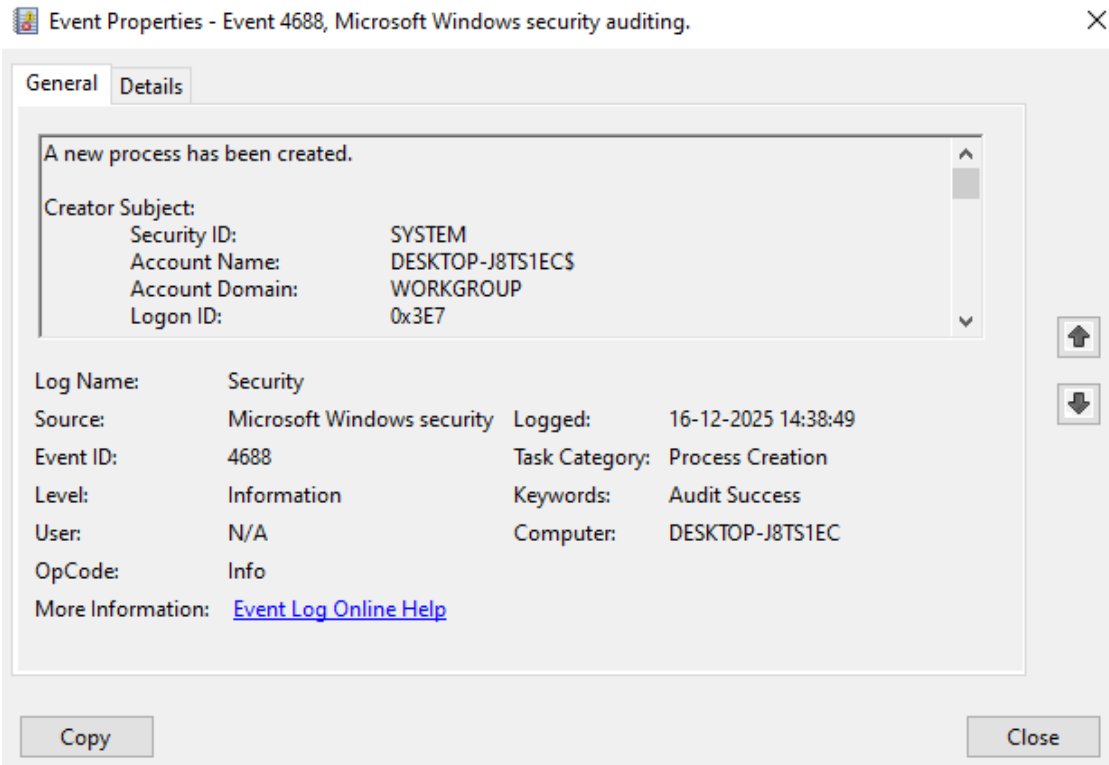
- Failed logon event 4625



- Successful logon event 4624

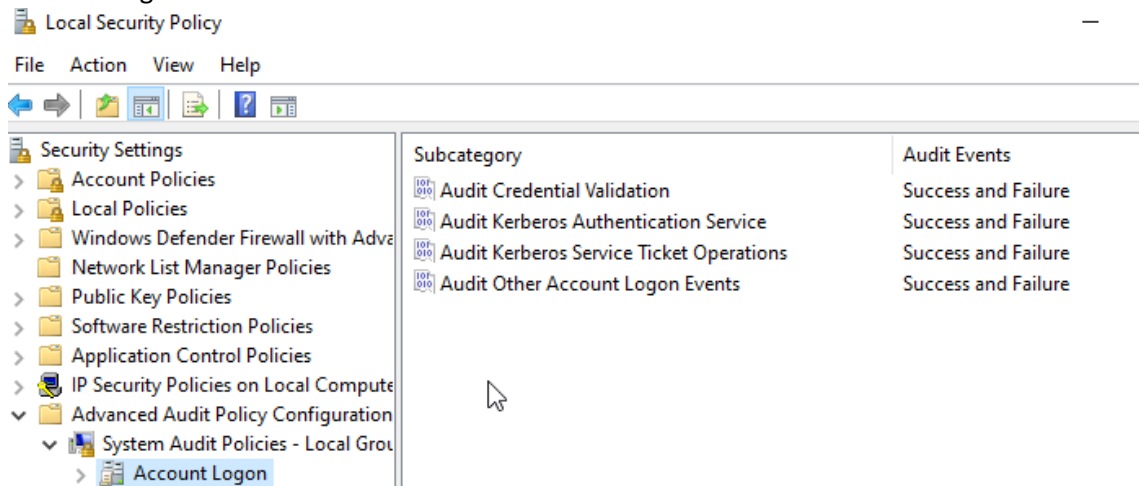


- Process creation event 4688

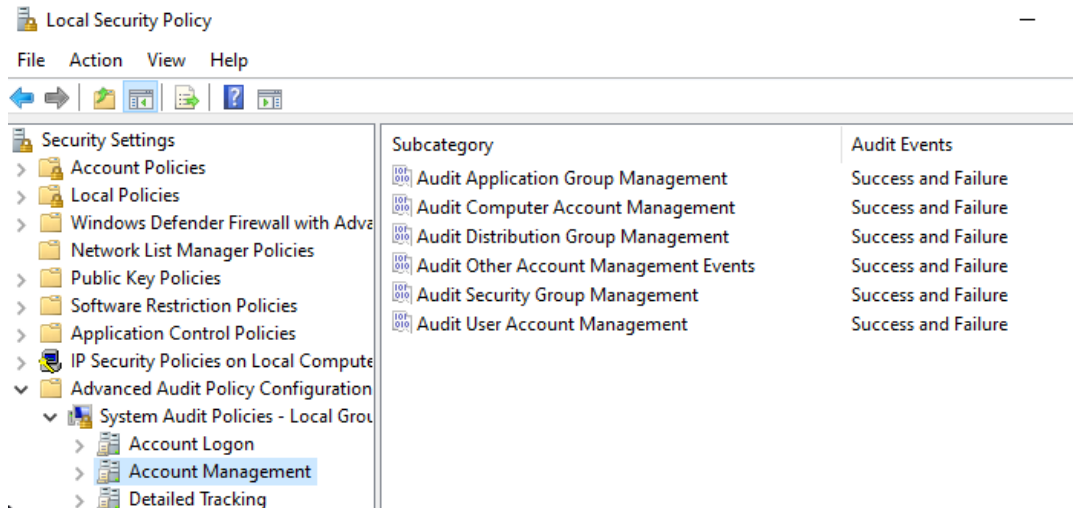


Advanced audit policy settings:

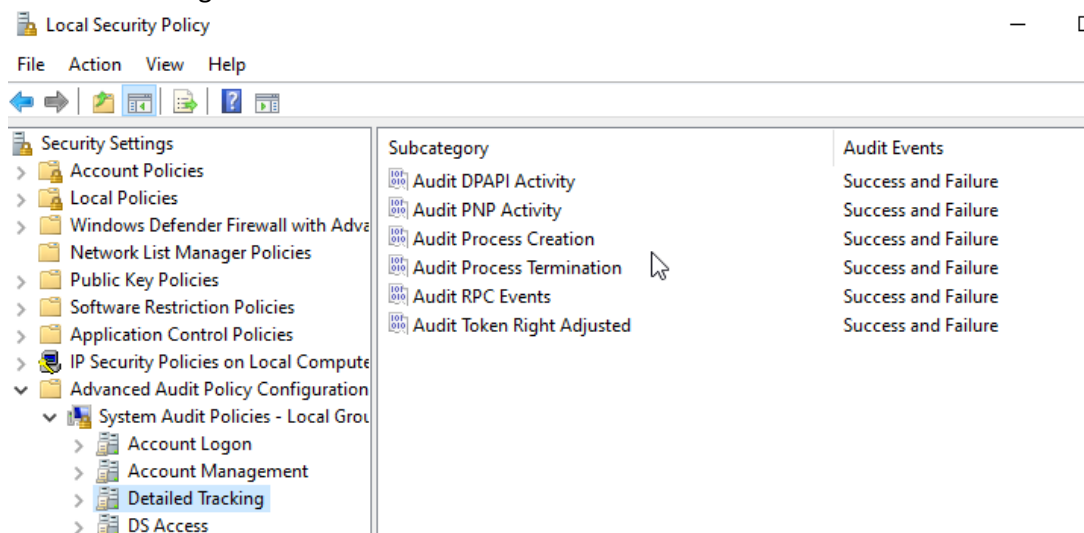
- Account Logon



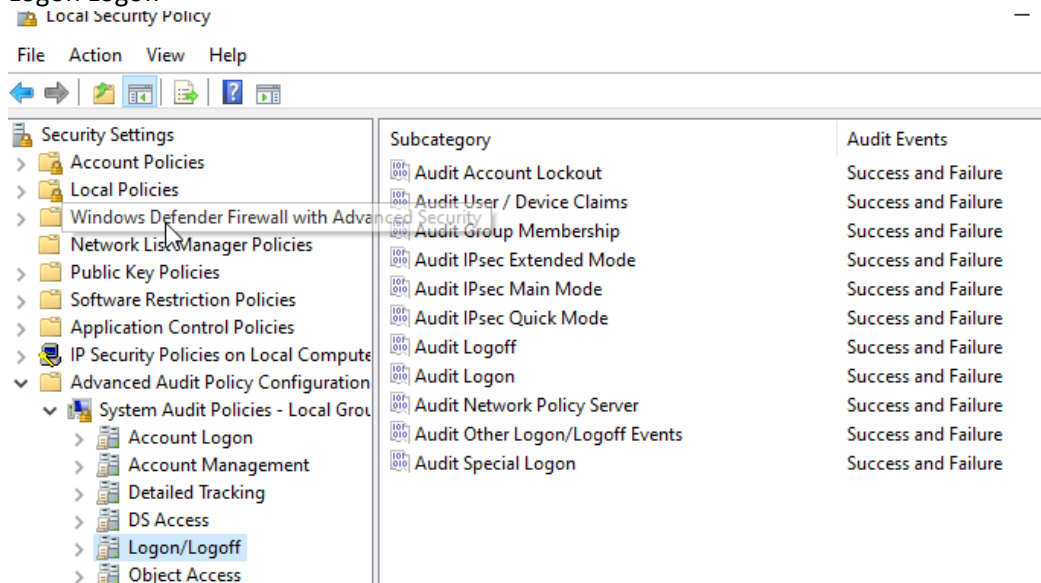
- Account Management



- Detailed Tracking



- Logon Logoff



## Step 2: Create Azure resources

### Goal

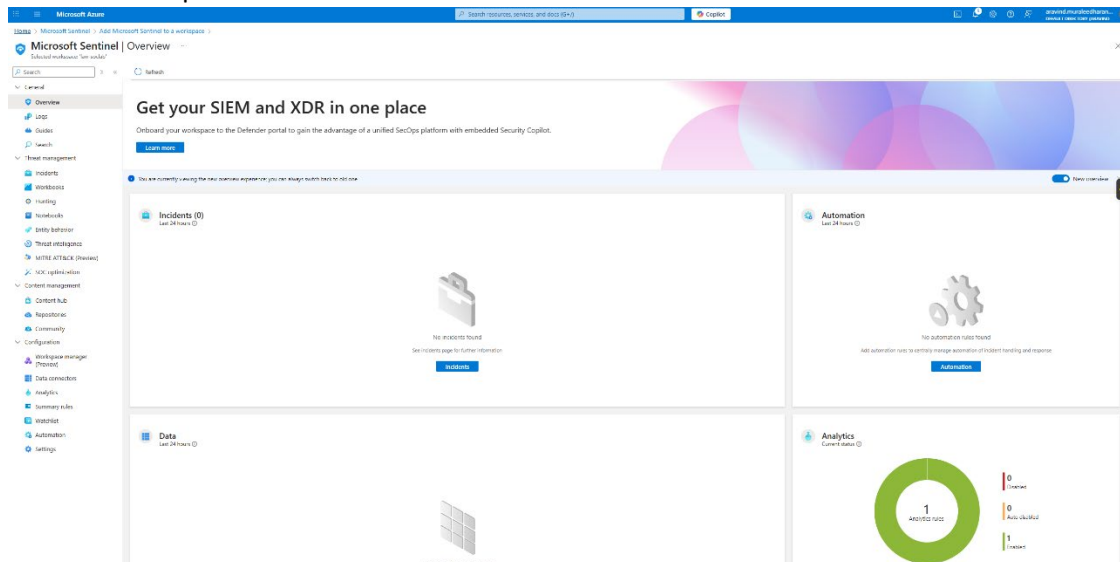
Set up the workspace and the container resources we need for Sentinel.

### What I created

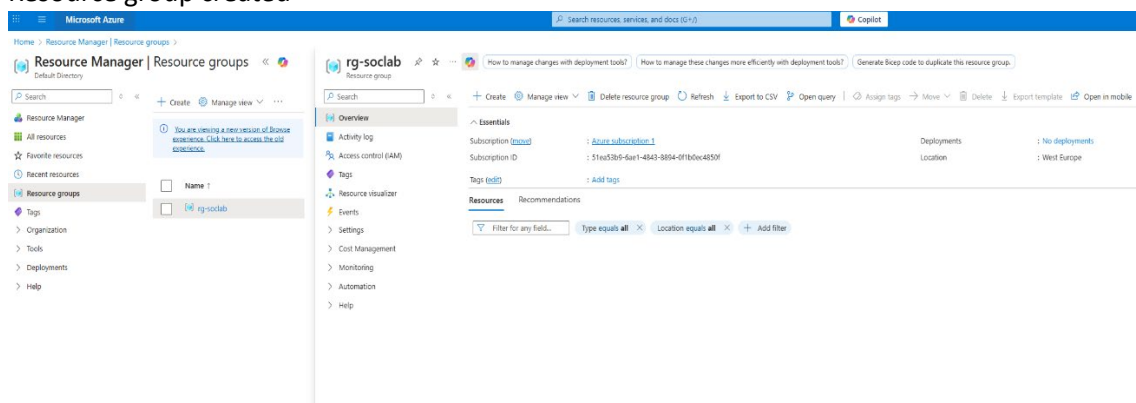
- Resource group: rg-soclab
- Log Analytics workspace: law-soclab
- Microsoft Sentinel enabled on law-soclab

### Screenshots

- Sentinel workspace selected



- Resource group created



- Workspace overview page

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure portal interface for a Log Analytics workspace named 'law-soclab'. The top navigation bar includes the Microsoft Azure logo, a search bar, and a 'Copilot' button. Below the navigation bar, there are links for 'Home', 'Microsoft Log Analytics OMS', and 'Overview'. A search bar is present, and a 'Delete' button is visible. A notification banner states: 'Azure Monitor will enforce TLS versions 1.2 and above starting March 1, 2026. To avoid data loss and service disruption please upgrade to AMA and ensure your OS supports TLS 1.2 or higher. Learn More About TLS Learn More About Agents.' The main content area is divided into 'Essentials' and 'Get Started' sections. The 'Essentials' section displays metadata for the workspace: Resource group (rg-soclab), Status (Active), Location (West Europe), Subscription (Azure subscription 1), Subscription ID (51ea5309-6ae1-4843-8894-0f1b0e4850f), and Tags (Add tags). The 'Get Started' section provides instructions on how to use Log Analytics and includes three numbered steps: 1. Connect a data source, 2. Configure monitoring solutions, and 3. Monitor workspace health. A 'Useful links' section at the bottom right provides links to the documentation site and community.

### Step 3: Onboard the Windows VM to Azure Arc

#### Goal

Get the VM visible in Azure as an Arc machine so we can manage extensions and monitoring.

#### What I did

I used the Arc onboarding method for “Any environment” and connected the machine. After a reinstall and cleanup, the connection succeeded and the machine appeared as Connected in Azure Arc.

#### Success checks

- Machine appears under Azure Arc
- Status shows Connected
- Agent version is visible
- Extensions can be installed

### Step 4: Install Azure Monitor Agent extension

#### Goal

Azure Monitor Agent is required for Data Collection Rules and modern log ingestion.

#### What I did

I installed the Azure Monitor Windows Agent extension on the Arc machine and confirmed it shows as Succeeded.

## Screenshot

The top screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure portal interface for a machine named 'DESKTOP-J8TS1EC'. The left sidebar shows the 'Azure Arc | Machines' section. The main content area displays the machine's overview, including its resource group (rg-socslab), location (West Europe), and various system properties like computer name, FQDN, operating system, and agent version. Below the overview, there are sections for 'Capabilities' (Updates, Logs, Monitoring insights, Policies) and 'Recommendations' (Change tracking and inventory, Security, SQL Server Configuration).

The bottom screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure portal interface for a data collection rule named 'dcr-socslab-windows'. The left sidebar shows the 'Data collection rules' section. The main content area displays the rule's overview, including its resource group (rg-socslab), location (West Europe), and configuration options for data collection. Below the overview, there is a section for 'Collect, Scope and Route your Resource Monitoring Data'.

## Step 5: Create a Data Collection Rule

### Goal

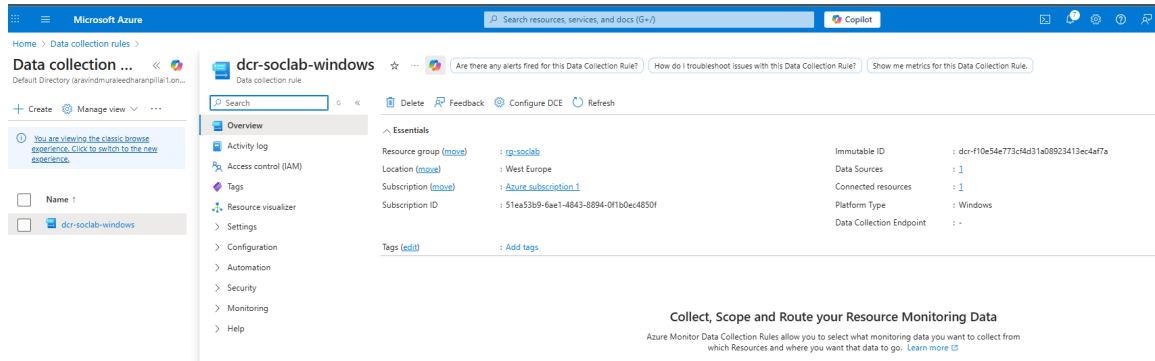
Collect Security event logs from the Arc machine and send them into the Log Analytics workspace.

### What I configured

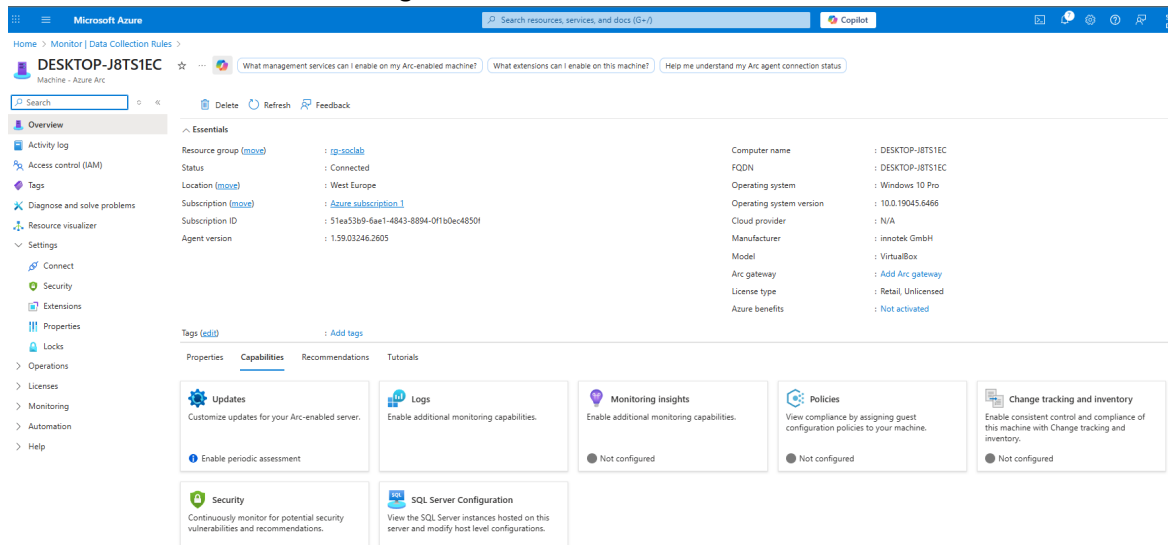
- Data source: Windows Event Logs
- Log name: Security
- Events: Audit Success and Audit Failure
- Destination: Azure Monitor Logs, connected to law-socslab
- Resource scope: the Arc machine

## Screenshots

- Data Collection Rule created



## DCR resource association showing the machine attached



## Step 6: Validate data ingestion with KQL

### Goal

Confirm logs are arriving in the workspace and Sentinel can query them.

### Heartbeat check

This confirms the machine is reporting.

### Heartbeat

*/ where Computer contains "DESKTOP"*

*/ sort by TimeGenerated desc*



## Screenshot

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Sentinel interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with navigation options like Overview, Logs, Guides, Search, Threat management, Content management, and Configuration. The main pane displays a query titled 'New Query 1' with the following KQL code:

```
1 Heartbeat
2 | where Computer contains "DESKTOP"
3 | sort by TimeGenerated desc
```

The results table shows the following data:

TimeGenerated (UTC)	SourceComputerId	ComputerIP	Computer	Category	OSType	OSName	OSMajorVersion	OSMinorVersion
22/12/2023, 1:32:08.633 pm	67c12792-09e1-4c2d-84e1-268050751c08	117.211.32.18	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	Azure Monitor Agent	Windows	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro	10	0
22/12/2023, 1:31:08.607 pm	67c12792-09e1-4c2d-84e1-268050751c08	117.211.32.18	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	Azure Monitor Agent	Windows	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro	10	0
22/12/2023, 1:29:08.576 pm	67c12792-09e1-4c2d-84e1-268050751c08	117.211.32.18	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	Azure Monitor Agent	Windows	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro	10	0
22/12/2023, 1:28:08.548 pm	67c12792-09e1-4c2d-84e1-268050751c08	117.211.32.18	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	Azure Monitor Agent	Windows	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro	10	0
22/12/2023, 1:27:08.542 pm	67c12792-09e1-4c2d-84e1-268050751c08	117.211.32.18	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	Azure Monitor Agent	Windows	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro	10	0
22/12/2023, 1:26:08.536 pm	67c12792-09e1-4c2d-84e1-268050751c08	117.211.32.18	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	Azure Monitor Agent	Windows	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro	10	0

## Windows Event table check

This confirms Windows events are flowing.

### Event

| where TimeGenerated > ago(30m)

| sort by TimeGenerated desc

## Screenshot

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Sentinel interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with navigation options like Overview, Logs, Guides, Search, Threat management, Content management, and Configuration. The main pane displays a query titled 'New Query 1' with the following KQL code:

```
1 Event
2 | where Computer contains "DESKTOP"
3 | sort by TimeGenerated desc
```

The results table shows the following data:

TimeGenerated (UTC)	Source	EventLog	Computer	EventLevel	EventLevelName	ParameterId
22/12/2023, 1:20:48.180 pm	Microsoft-Windows-Distribute...	System	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	3	Warning	<Param>=application
22/12/2023, 1:20:48.180 pm	Microsoft-Windows-Distribute...	System	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	3	Warning	<Param>=application
22/12/2023, 1:20:48.180 pm	Microsoft-Windows-Distribute...	System	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	3	Warning	<Param>=application
22/12/2023, 1:20:47.353 pm	Microsoft-Windows-Kernel-Ge...	System	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	4	Information	<Param>=47</Param>
22/12/2023, 1:18:51.351 pm	Microsoft-Windows-Security-SPP	Application	DESKTOP-J8TS1EC	2	Error	<Param>=hw=0x8000

## Confirm Security events are present

### Event

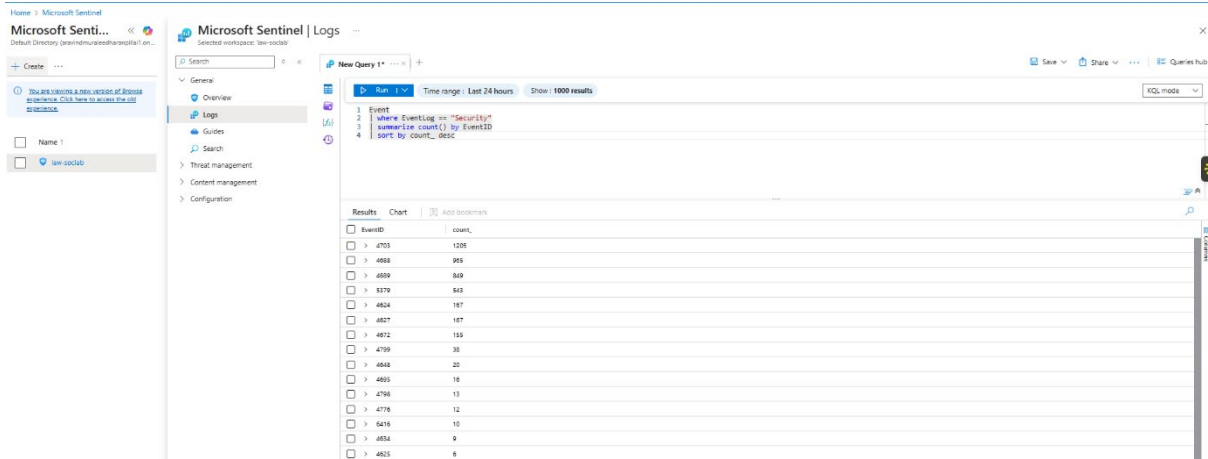
| where EventLog == "Security"

| where TimeGenerated > ago(24h)

| summarize count() by EventID

| sort by count\_desc

## Screenshot



### Query specific failed logons (4625)

*Event*

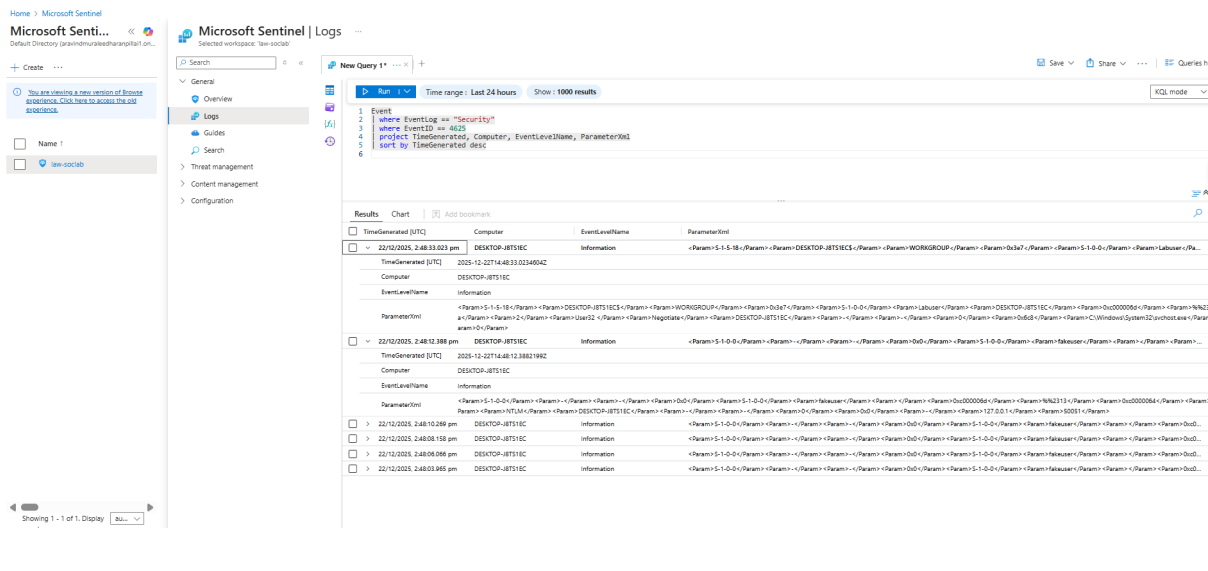
| where EventLog == "Security"

/ where EventID == 4625

| project TimeGenerated, Computer, EventLevelName, ParameterXml

```
| sort by TimeGenerated desc
```

## Screenshot



### Step 7: Create the analytics rule in Microsoft Defender

## Goal

Detect brute force style activity by identifying multiple failed logons within a short time window.

## Rule logic used

This triggers when there are 5 or more failed logons on a host within 10 minutes.

### Event

*| where EventLog == "Security"*

*| where EventID == 4625*

*| summarize FailedLogons = count() by Computer, bin(TimeGenerated, 10m)*

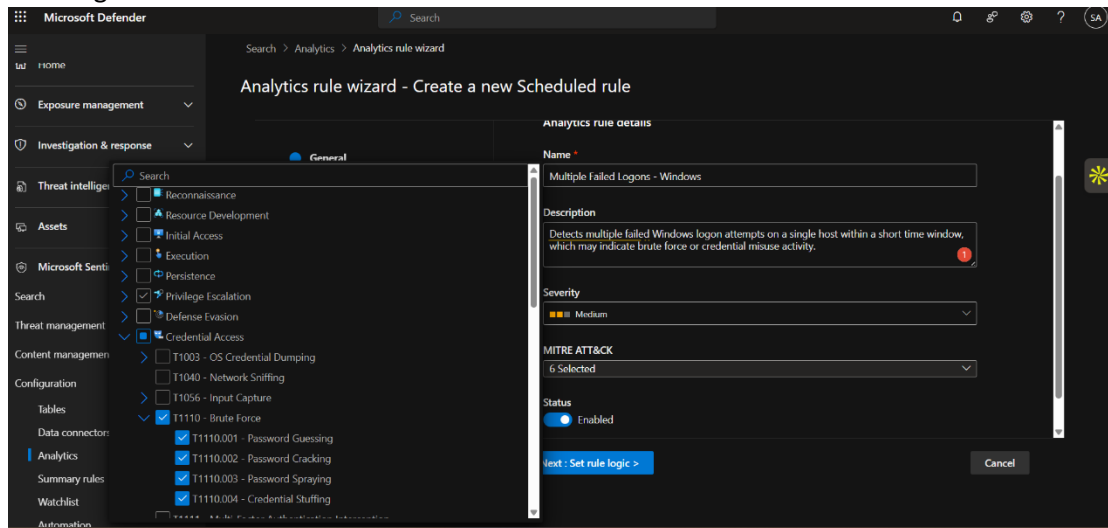
*| where FailedLogons >= 5*

## Recommended rule settings

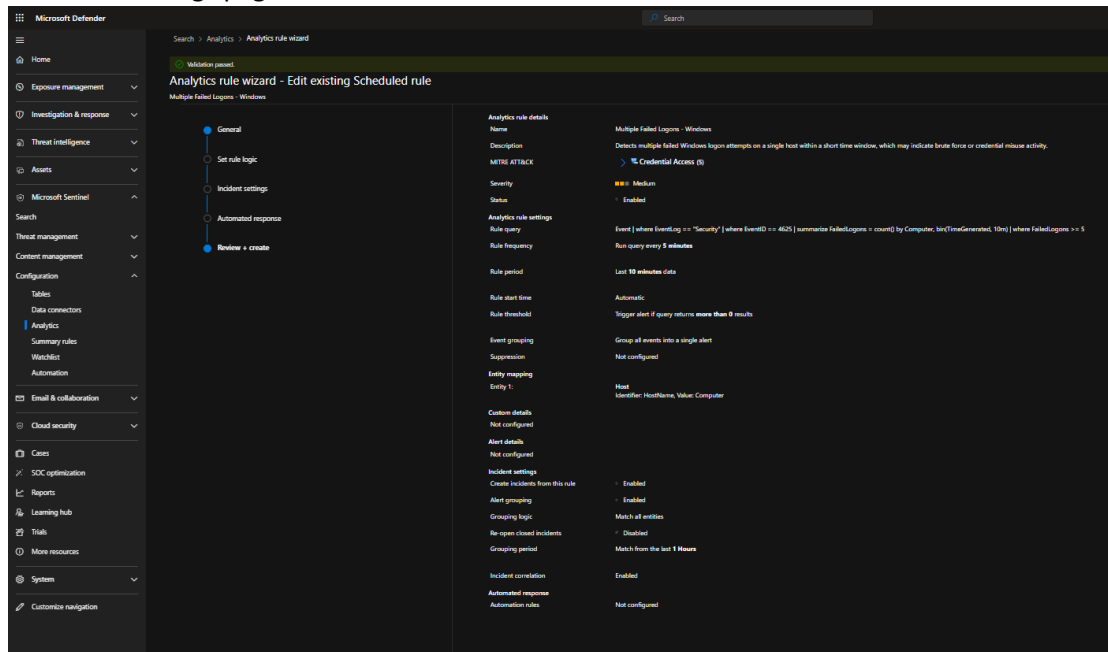
- Run frequency: every 5 minutes
- Lookup data from: last 10 minutes
- Entity mapping: Host using Computer
- Create incidents: Enabled
- Grouping: group related alerts into a single incident (optional, but useful)

## Screenshots

- Creating rule



- Final rule settings page



## Step 8: Confirm incidents appear

### Where to find incidents in Defender

Microsoft Defender portal → Investigation and response → Incidents

If the list is empty, that's normal until the rule runs and the condition is met. Trigger it by intentionally generating a few failed logons on the VM.

### Final result

At the end of this lab, I had:

- A Windows VM generating security logs
- Azure Arc connection working
- Azure Monitor Agent installed
- Data Collection Rule collecting Security logs
- Logs visible in the Event table
- A detection rule for failed logon bursts
- Incidents view available in Defender