

## 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
- 

### Key event IDs used in this lab

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

### Step 1: Enable Windows auditing

#### Goal

Make sure the Windows machine actually produces useful security logs.

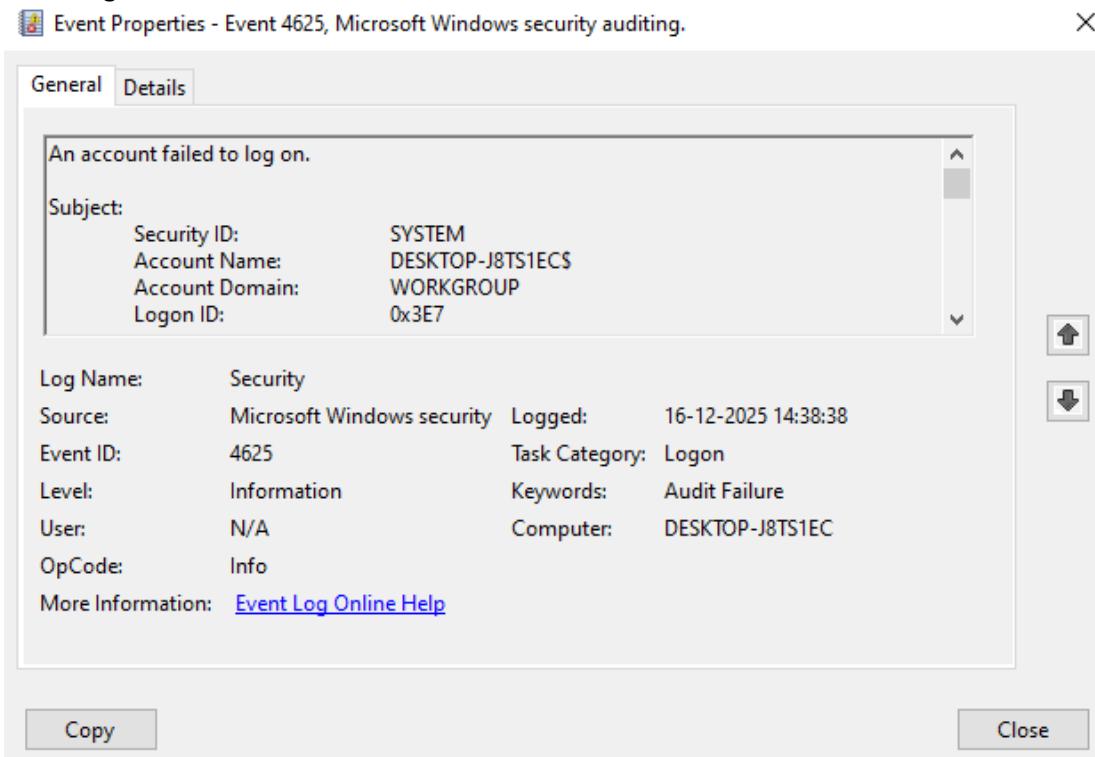
#### What I changed

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

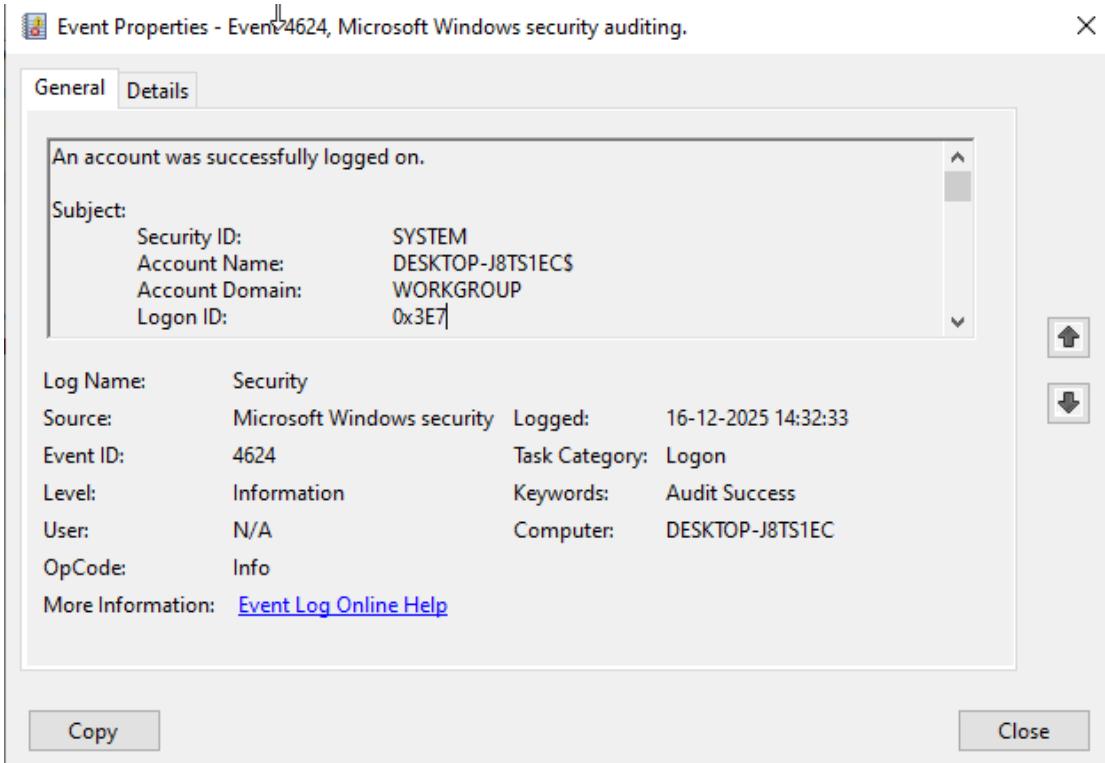
#### Screenshots

Local Windows event validation:

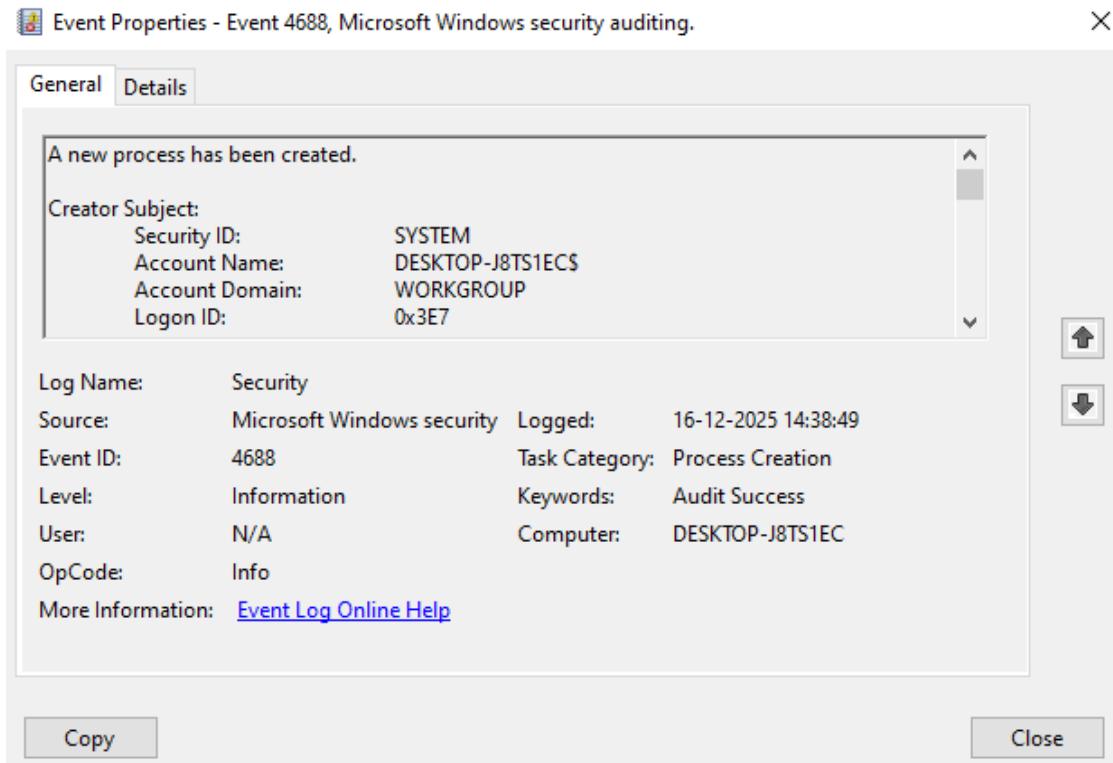
- Failed logon event 4625



- Successful logon event 4624



- Process creation event 4688



Advanced audit policy settings:

- Account Logon

The screenshot shows the 'Local Security Policy' snap-in under 'Account Logon' settings. The left pane shows a tree view with 'Account Policies', 'Local Policies', 'Windows Defender Firewall with Adv...', 'Network List Manager Policies', 'Public Key Policies', 'Software Restriction Policies', 'Application Control Policies', 'IP Security Policies on Local Computer', 'Advanced Audit Policy Configuration', and 'System Audit Policies - Local Group'. The 'Account Logon' node is expanded. The right pane displays audit categories and their audit events:

Subcategory	Audit Events
[101] Audit Credential Validation	Success and Failure
[101] Audit Kerberos Authentication Service	Success and Failure
[101] Audit Kerberos Service Ticket Operations	Success and Failure
[101] Audit Other Account Logon Events	Success and Failure

- Account Management

The screenshot shows the Windows Local Security Policy snap-in. The left pane displays a tree view of security settings, including Account Policies, Local Policies, Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security, Network List Manager Policies, Public Key Policies, Software Restriction Policies, Application Control Policies, IP Security Policies on Local Computer, and Advanced Audit Policy Configuration. Under Advanced Audit Policy Configuration, there is a node for System Audit Policies - Local Group, which further branches into Account Logon, Account Management, Detailed Tracking, and DS Access. The right pane lists audit subcategories and their corresponding audit events and success/failure status.

Subcategory	Audit Events
[001] Audit Application Group Management	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Computer Account Management	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Distribution Group Management	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Other Account Management Events	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Security Group Management	Success and Failure
[001] Audit User Account Management	Success and Failure

- Detailed Tracking

The screenshot shows the Windows Local Security Policy snap-in. The left pane displays a tree view of security settings, including Account Policies, Local Policies, Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security, Network List Manager Policies, Public Key Policies, Software Restriction Policies, Application Control Policies, IP Security Policies on Local Computer, and Advanced Audit Policy Configuration. Under Advanced Audit Policy Configuration, there is a node for System Audit Policies - Local Group, which further branches into Account Logon, Account Management, Detailed Tracking, and DS Access. The right pane lists audit subcategories and their corresponding audit events and success/failure status.

Subcategory	Audit Events
[001] Audit DPAPI Activity	Success and Failure
[001] Audit PNP Activity	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Process Creation	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Process Termination	Success and Failure
[001] Audit RPC Events	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Token Right Adjusted	Success and Failure

- Logon Logoff

The screenshot shows the Windows Local Security Policy snap-in. The left pane displays a tree view of security settings, including Account Policies, Local Policies, Windows Defender Firewall with Advanced Security, Network List Manager Policies, Public Key Policies, Software Restriction Policies, Application Control Policies, IP Security Policies on Local Computer, and Advanced Audit Policy Configuration. Under Advanced Audit Policy Configuration, there is a node for System Audit Policies - Local Group, which further branches into Account Logon, Account Management, Detailed Tracking, DS Access, Logon/Logoff, and Object Access. The right pane lists audit subcategories and their corresponding audit events and success/failure status.

Subcategory	Audit Events
[001] Audit Account Lockout	Success and Failure
[001] Audit User / Device Claims	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Group Membership	Success and Failure
[001] Audit IPsec Extended Mode	Success and Failure
[001] Audit IPsec Main Mode	Success and Failure
[001] Audit IPsec Quick Mode	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Logoff	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Logon	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Network Policy Server	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Other Logon/Logoff Events	Success and Failure
[001] Audit Special Logon	Success and Failure

## Step 2: Create Azure resources

### Goal

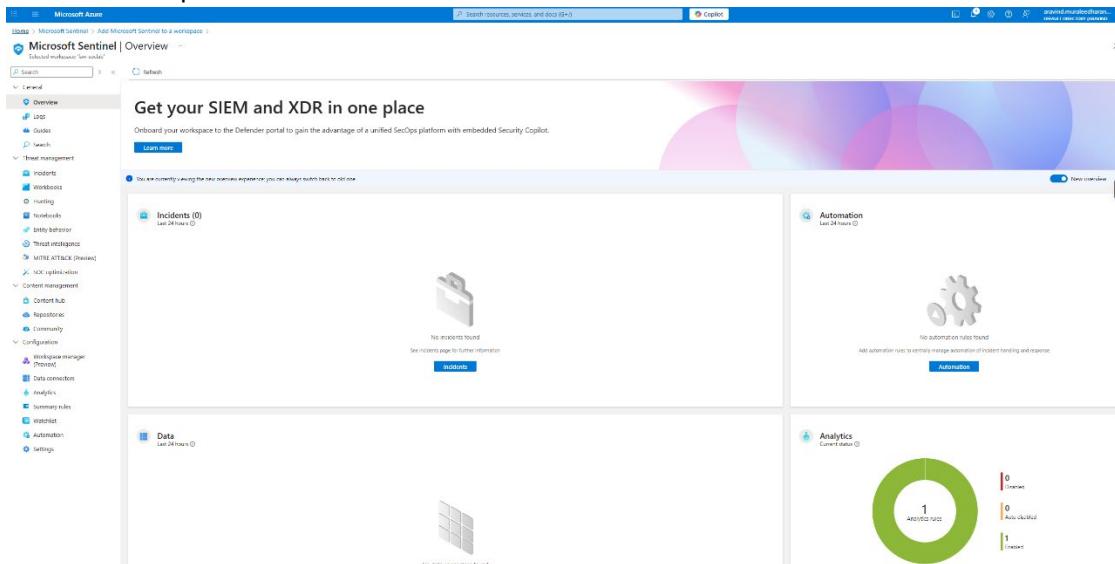
Set up the workspace and the container resources we need for Sentinel.

### What I created

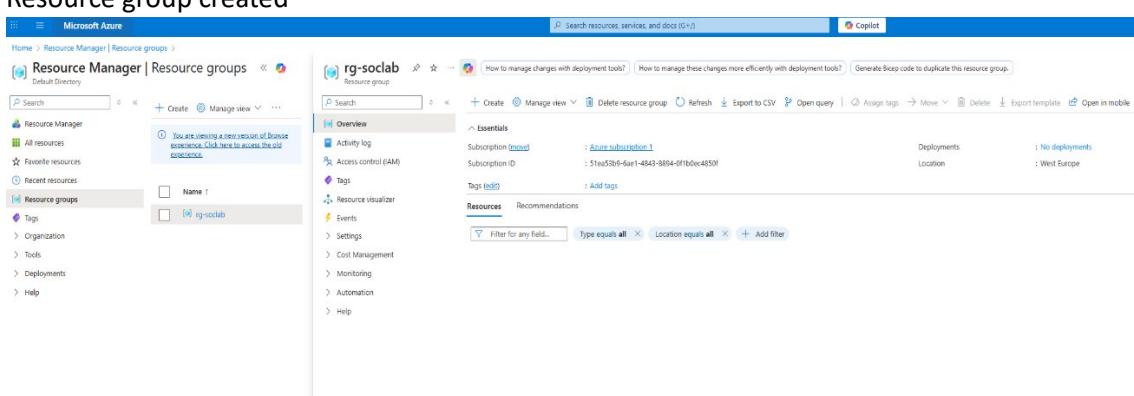
- Resource group: rg-soclab
- Log Analytics workspace: law-soclab
- Microsoft Sentinel enabled on law-soclab

### Screenshots

- Sentinel workspace selected



- Resource group created



- **Workspace overview page**

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Log Analytics workspace Overview page. Key details include:

- Resource group:** rg-soclab
- Status:** Active
- Location:** West Europe
- Subscription:** Azure subscription 1
- Tags:** Add tags
- Get started with Log Analytics:** Log Analytics collects data from various sources and uses a powerful query language to give insight into application and resource operations.
- Connect a data source:** Options for connecting Azure virtual machines (VMs) and Windows and Linux Agents management.
- Configure monitoring solutions:** Add monitoring solutions to provide insights for applications and services.
- Monitor workspace health:** Create alerts to detect issues in the workspace.
- Useful links:** 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

## 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-social
- Resource scope: the Arc machine

## Screenshots

- Data Collection Rule created

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure portal interface for a Data Collection Rule named "dcr-soclab-windows". The page includes a search bar, a Copilot button, and several informational cards at the top. Below these are sections for Overview, Activity log, Access control (IAM), Tags, Resource visualizer, Configuration, Automation, Security, Monitoring, and Help. The "Essentials" section on the right provides detailed information about the rule, such as its immutable ID, data sources, connected resources, platform type, and data collection endpoint.

### DCR resource association showing the machine attached

This screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure portal interface for monitoring a specific machine, "DESKTOP-J8TS1EC". It displays the machine's details under the "Essentials" tab, including its computer name, FQDN, operating system, and version. Below this, there are tabs for Properties, Capabilities, Recommendations, and Tutorials. Under the Capabilities tab, there are several sections: Updates, Logs, Monitoring insights, Policies, and Change tracking and inventory. Each section has a brief description and a status indicator (e.g., Not configured).

## 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 Log search interface. The query is:

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

The results table shows 1000 results for Heartbeat events over the last 24 hours. The columns include TimeGenerated (UTC), SourceComputerId, ComputerIP, Computer, Category, OSType, OSName, OSMajorVersion, and OSMinorVersion. All events are from DESKTOP-JBT51EC, Azure Monitor Agent, Windows, Microsoft Windows 10 Pro, version 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 Log search interface. The query is:

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

The results table shows 999 items for a system restart event. The columns include TimeGenerated (UTC), Source, EventLog, Computer, EventLevel, EventLevelName, and ParameterXml. The event details show a restart initiated by DESKTOP-JBT51EC\Labuser for user DESKTOP-JBT51EC\Labuser due to Other (Unplanned) reason.

## Confirm Security events are present

### Event

*/ where EventLog == "Security"*

*/ where TimeGenerated > ago(24h)*

*/ summarize count() by EventID*

*/ sort by count\_desc*

## Screenshot

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Sentinel Log Analytics interface. On the left, there's a navigation sidebar with options like 'Create', 'General', 'Overview', 'Logs' (which is selected), 'Guides', 'Search', 'Threat management', 'Content management', and 'Configuration'. A message at the top says 'You are creating a new version of the log source. Click here to access the old version.' Below the sidebar is a search bar and a 'New Query' button. The main area has tabs for 'Results' (selected) and 'Chart'. A query editor at the top shows the following KQL code:

```
Event
| where EventCategory == "Security"
| summarize count() by EventID
| sort by count_ desc
```

The results table below shows the count of events for various EventIDs:

EventID	count_
> 4703	1205
> 4683	955
> 4659	849
> 5370	543
> 4824	167
> 4827	167
> 4872	155
> 4799	36
> 4648	20
> 4955	18
> 4798	13
> 4776	12
> 5416	10
> 4654	9
> 4625	6

## **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

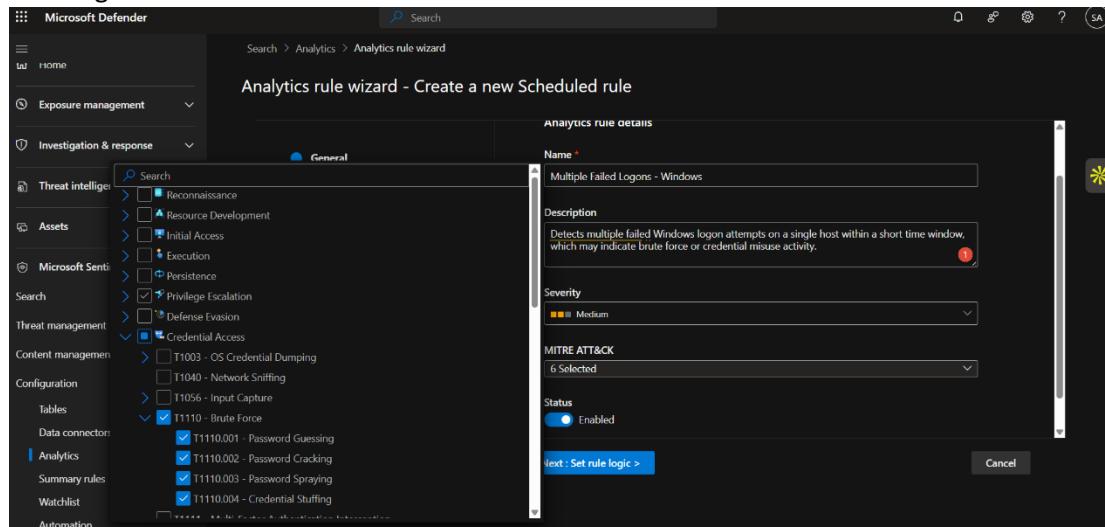
```
| where EventLog == "Security"
| where EventID == 4625
| summarize FailedLogons = count() by Computer, bin(TimeGenerated, 10m)
| where FailedLogons >= 5
```

## 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