Apply filters to SQL queries

Project description

SQL stands for Structured Query Language, is used to create, interact with, and request information from a database. As a security professional it is my job to investigate security issues to help keep the system secure. As we recently discovered some potential security issues that involve login attempts and employee machines. So, we need to examine the organization's data in their employees and log_in_attempts tables by using SQL filters to retrieve records from different datasets and investigate the potential security issues.

Retrieve after hours failed login attempts

A potential security incident that occured after business hours need to be investigated by querying the log_in_attempts table. I need to review the failed logins(marked as 0 or False in the table) after 18:00.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from log_in_attempts where login_time > '18:00' AND success = FALSE;
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        2 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 20:27:27   | CAN     | 192.168.205.12  |       0 |
|       18 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 19:28:50   | US      | 192.168.66.142  |       0 |
|       20 | tshah    | 2022-05-12 | 18:56:36   | MEXICO  | 192.168.109.50  |       0 |
|       28 | aestrada | 2022-05-09 | 19:28:12   | MEXICO  | 192.168.27.57   |       0 |
|       34 | drosas   | 2022-05-11 | 21:02:04   | US      | 192.168.45.93   |       0 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       52 | cjackson | 2022-05-10 | 22:07:07   | CAN     | 192.168.58.57   |       0 |
|       69 | wjaffrey | 2022-05-11 | 19:55:15   | USA     | 192.168.100.17  |       0 |
|       82 | abernard | 2022-05-12 | 23:38:46   | MEX     | 192.168.234.49  |       0 |
|       87 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 22:38:31   | CANADA  | 192.168.132.153 |       0 |
|       96 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 22:36:36   | CAN     | 192.168.84.194  |       0 |
|      104 | asundara | 2022-05-11 | 18:38:07   | US      | 192.168.96.200  |       0 |
|      107 | bisles   | 2022-05-12 | 20:25:57   | USA     | 192.168.116.187 |       0 |
|      111 | aestrada | 2022-05-10 | 22:00:26   | MEXICO  | 192.168.76.27   |       0 |
|      127 | abellmas | 2022-05-09 | 21:20:51   | CANADA  | 192.168.70.122  |       0 |
|      131 | bisles   | 2022-05-09 | 20:03:55   | US      | 192.168.113.171 |       0 |
|      155 | cgriffin | 2022-05-12 | 22:18:42   | USA     | 192.168.236.176 |       0 |
|      160 | jclark   | 2022-05-10 | 20:49:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.214.49  |       0 |
|      199 | yappiah  | 2022-05-11 | 19:34:48   | MEXICO  | 192.168.44.232  |       0 |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
19 rows in set (0.001 sec)
```

In the command 'select * from log_in_attempts' is used to select the whole log_in_attempts table. The 'where' clause is used to select the particular event, here 'login_time > 18:00' which means details after 6pm or 18:00 and 'success = FALSE' meaning failed attempts. In this query, both the conditions should be met to show the data of the table, this is the way 'AND' operator is used.

Retrieve login attempts on specific dates

A suspicious event has occurred on 22-05-09, as a result I need to review all login attempts which occurred on this day and the day before.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from log_in_attempts where login_date = '2022-05-09' OR login_date = '2022-05-08';
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        1 | jrafael  | 2022-05-09 | 04:56:27   | CAN     | 192.168.243.140 |       1 |
|        3 | dkot     | 2022-05-09 | 06:47:41   | USA     | 192.168.151.162 |       1 |
|        4 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 02:00:39   | USA     | 192.168.178.71  |       0 |
|        8 | bisles   | 2022-05-08 | 01:30:17   | US      | 192.168.119.173 |       0 |
|       12 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 09:11:34   | USA     | 192.168.100.158 |       1 |
|       15 | lyamamot | 2022-05-09 | 17:17:26   | USA     | 192.168.183.51  |       0 |
|       24 | arusso   | 2022-05-09 | 06:49:39   | MEXICO  | 192.168.171.192 |       1 |
|       25 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 07:04:02   | US      | 192.168.33.137  |       1 |
|       26 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 17:27:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.123.105 |       1 |
|       28 | aestrada | 2022-05-09 | 19:28:12   | MEXICO  | 192.168.27.57   |       0 |
|       30 | yappiah  | 2022-05-09 | 03:22:22   | MEX     | 192.168.124.48  |       1 |
|       32 | acook    | 2022-05-09 | 02:52:02   | CANADA  | 192.168.142.239 |       0 |
|       36 | asundara | 2022-05-08 | 09:00:42   | US      | 192.168.78.151  |       1 |
|       38 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 14:40:01   | USA     | 192.168.60.42   |       1 |
|       39 | yappiah  | 2022-05-09 | 07:56:40   | MEXICO  | 192.168.57.115  |       1 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       43 | mcouliba | 2022-05-08 | 02:35:34   | CANADA  | 192.168.16.208  |       0 |
|       44 | daquino  | 2022-05-08 | 07:02:35   | CANADA  | 192.168.168.144 |       0 |
|       47 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 05:06:45   | US      | 192.168.233.24  |       1 |
```

The ‘select * from employees’ shows the whole log_in_attempts table, putting the ‘where’ clause to select a particular event, here the ‘login_date’ of 22-05-09 or ‘login_date’ of 22-05-08, if either of the query is true then the data of the table will be shown, this is how ‘OR’ operator is used.

Retrieve login attempts outside of Mexico

There’s been suspicious activity with login attempts, but the team has determined that this activity didn't originate in Mexico. So I need to investigate login attempts that occurred outside Mexico.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from log_in_attempts where NOT country LIKE 'MEX%';
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        1 | jrafael  | 2022-05-09 | 04:56:27   | CAN     | 192.168.243.140 |       1 |
|        2 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 20:27:27   | CAN     | 192.168.205.12  |       0 |
|        3 | dkot     | 2022-05-09 | 06:47:41   | USA     | 192.168.151.162 |       1 |
|        4 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 02:00:39   | USA     | 192.168.178.71  |       0 |
|        5 | jrafael  | 2022-05-11 | 03:05:59   | CANADA  | 192.168.86.232  |       0 |
|        7 | eraab    | 2022-05-11 | 01:45:14   | CAN     | 192.168.170.243 |       1 |
|        8 | bisles   | 2022-05-08 | 01:30:17   | US      | 192.168.119.173 |       0 |
|       10 | jrafael  | 2022-05-12 | 09:33:19   | CANADA  | 192.168.228.221 |       0 |
|       11 | sgilmore | 2022-05-11 | 10:16:29   | CANADA  | 192.168.140.81  |       0 |
|       12 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 09:11:34   | USA     | 192.168.100.158 |       1 |
|       13 | mrah     | 2022-05-11 | 09:29:34   | USA     | 192.168.246.135 |       1 |
|       14 | sbaelish | 2022-05-10 | 10:20:18   | US      | 192.168.16.99   |       1 |
|       15 | lyamamot | 2022-05-09 | 17:17:26   | USA     | 192.168.183.51  |       0 |
```

In this query, the ‘NOT’ operator is used to focus on all the other countries except Mexico. Since, in some places ‘MEX’ is written, hence we are using the ‘LIKE’ clause to select both ‘MEX’ and ‘MEXICO’.

Retrieve employees in Marketing

My team wants to perform security updates on specific employee machines in the Marketing department and the office is in EAST building, hence I need to gather information on these employee machines from the employees table.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from employees where department = 'Marketing' AND office LIKE 'EAST%';
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-----------+
| employee_id | device_id    | username | department | office    |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-----------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing  | East-170  |
|        1052 | a192b174c940 | jdarosa  | Marketing  | East-195  |
|        1075 | x573y883z772 | fbautist | Marketing  | East-267  |
|        1088 | k8651965m233 | rgosh    | Marketing  | East-157  |
|        1103 | NULL         | randerss | Marketing  | East-460  |
|        1156 | a184b775c707 | dellery  | Marketing  | East-417  |
|        1163 | h679i515j339 | cwilliam | Marketing  | East-216  |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-----------+
7 rows in set (0.002 sec)
```

Here, the department ‘Marketing’ is selected using the ‘where’ clause and since there are different offices of EAST building, examples: EAST-170, EAST-195 etc, hence we are using ‘LIKE’ clause to select the offices of EAST building. ‘AND’ operator is used to show the data of only those which satisfy both the conditions.

Retrieve employees in Finance or Sales

My team needs to perform a different security update on machines for employees in the Sales and Finance departments, so I need to gather information on all employees in the Sales or Finance departments.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from employees where department = 'Finance' OR department = 'Sales';
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id    | username | department | office      |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-------------+
|        1003 | d394e816f943 | sgilmore | Finance    | South-153   |
|        1007 | h174i497j413 | wjaffrey | Finance    | North-406   |
|        1008 | i858j583k571 | abernard | Finance    | South-170   |
|        1009 | NULL         | lrodriqu | Sales      | South-134   |
|        1010 | k2421212m542 | jlansky  | Finance    | South-109   |
|        1011 | l748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales      | South-292   |
|        1015 | p611q262r945 | jsoto    | Finance    | North-271   |
|        1017 | r550s824t230 | jclark   | Finance    | North-188   |
|        1018 | s310t540u653 | abellmas | Finance    | North-403   |
|        1022 | w237x430y567 | arusso   | Finance    | West-465    |
|        1024 | y976z753a267 | iuduike  | Sales      | South-215   |
|        1025 | z381a365b233 | jhill    | Sales      | North-115   |
```

The department for Finance or Sales have been selected using the ‘where’ clause and ‘OR’ operator, so that if either the conditions are met, the data of the table will be shown.

Retrieve all employees not in IT

Only the IT department has a certain update that the other departments don't have, hence I need to gather information of all other departments who need it.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from employees where NOT department = 'Information Technology';
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id   | username | department      | office      |
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing       | East-170    |
|        1001 | b239c825d303 | bmoreno  | Marketing       | Central-276 |
|        1002 | c116d593e558 | tshah    | Human Resources | North-434   |
|        1003 | d394e816f943 | sgilmore | Finance         | South-153   |
|        1004 | e218f877g788 | eraab    | Human Resources | South-127   |
|        1005 | f551g340h864 | gesparza | Human Resources | South-366   |
|        1007 | h174i497j413 | wjaffrey | Finance         | North-406   |
|        1008 | i858j583k571 | abernard | Finance         | South-170   |
|        1009 | NULL         | lrodriqu | Sales           | South-134   |
|        1010 | k2421212m542 | jlansky  | Finance         | South-109   |
|        1011 | l748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales           | South-292   |
|        1015 | p611q262r945 | jsoto    | Finance         | North-271   |
|        1016 | q793r736s288 | sbaelish | Human Resources | North-229   |
|        1017 | r550s824t230 | jclark   | Finance         | North-188   |
|        1018 | s310t540u653 | abellmas | Finance         | North-403   |
|        1020 | u899v381w363 | arutley  | Marketing       | South-351   |
|        1022 | w237x430y567 | arusso   | Finance         | West-465    |
|        1024 | y976z753a267 | iuduike  | Sales           | South-215   |
|        1025 | z381a365b233 | jhill    | Sales           | North-115   |
|        1026 | a998b568c863 | apatel   | Human Resources | West-320    |
|        1027 | b806c503d354 | mrah     | Marketing       | West-246    |
|        1028 | c603d749e374 | aestrada | Human Resources | West-121    |
|        1029 | d336e475f676 | ivelasco | Finance         | East-156    |
|        1030 | e391f189g913 | mabadi   | Marketing       | West-375    |
|        1031 | f419g188h578 | dkot     | Marketing       | West-408    |
|        1034 | i679j565k940 | bsand    | Human Resources | East-484    |
|        1035 | j236k303l245 | bisles   | Sales           | South-171   |
```

This query has the 'NOT' operator which selects all other departments except the 'Information Technology' department.

Summary

By using the SQL query, it was very easy to gather the information needed by the department. I have used AND, OR, NOT operators with the 'LIKE', 'WHERE' clauses and listed the data that was needed from the Table of employees or log_in_attempts. Every query has been written and explained.