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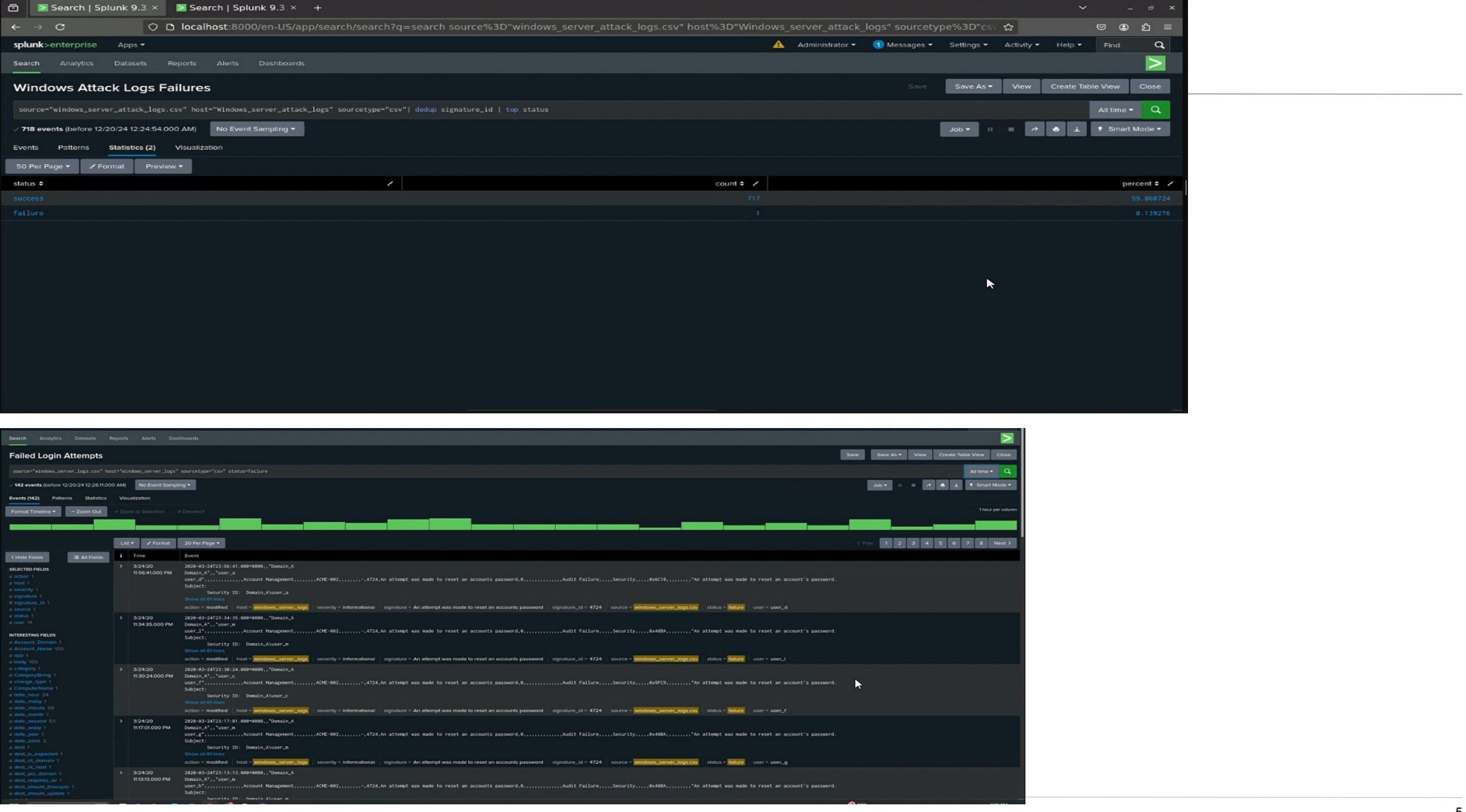
Monitoring Environment **Attack Analysis**

Project Summary
& Future
Mitigations

Monitoring Environment

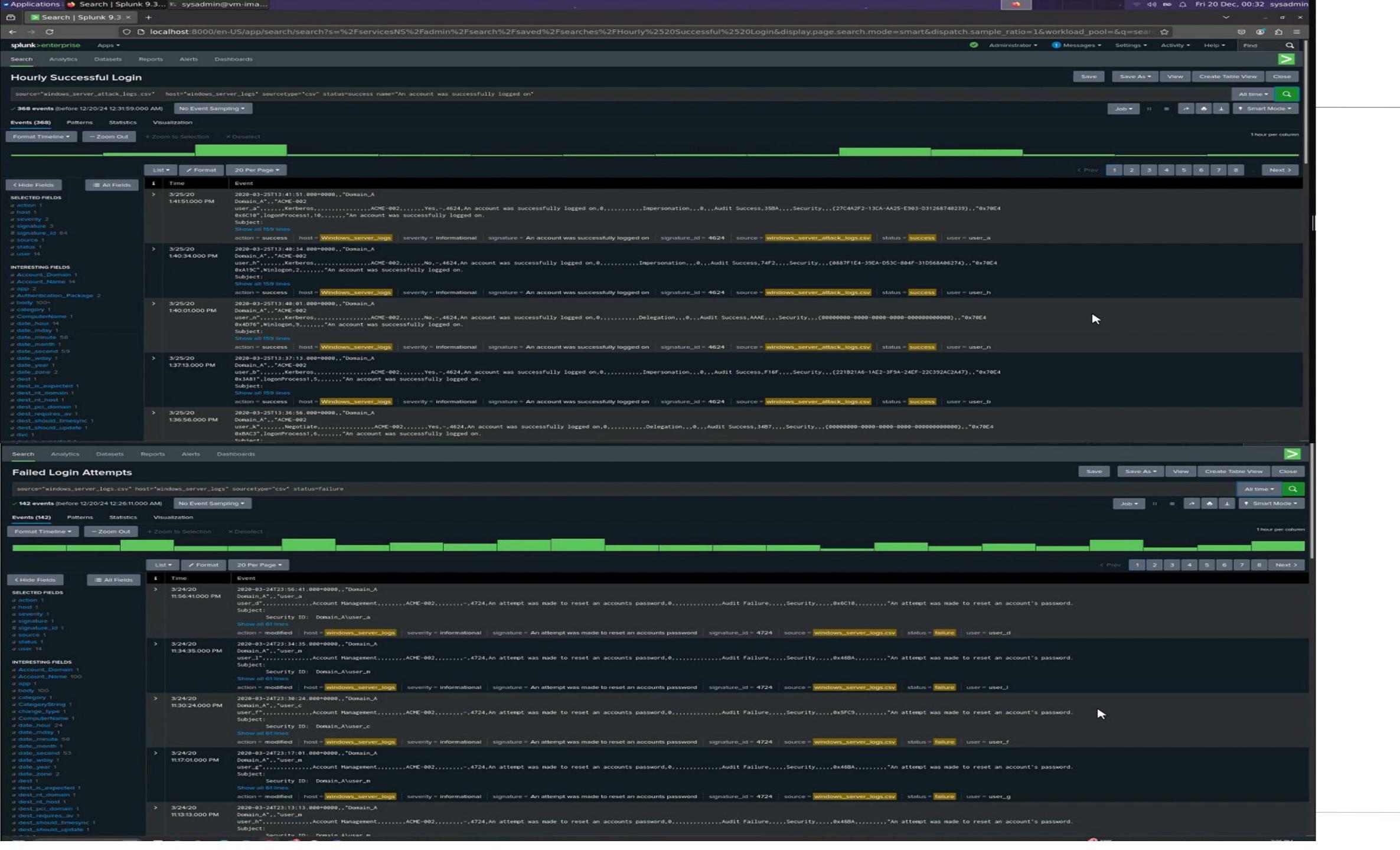
Scenario

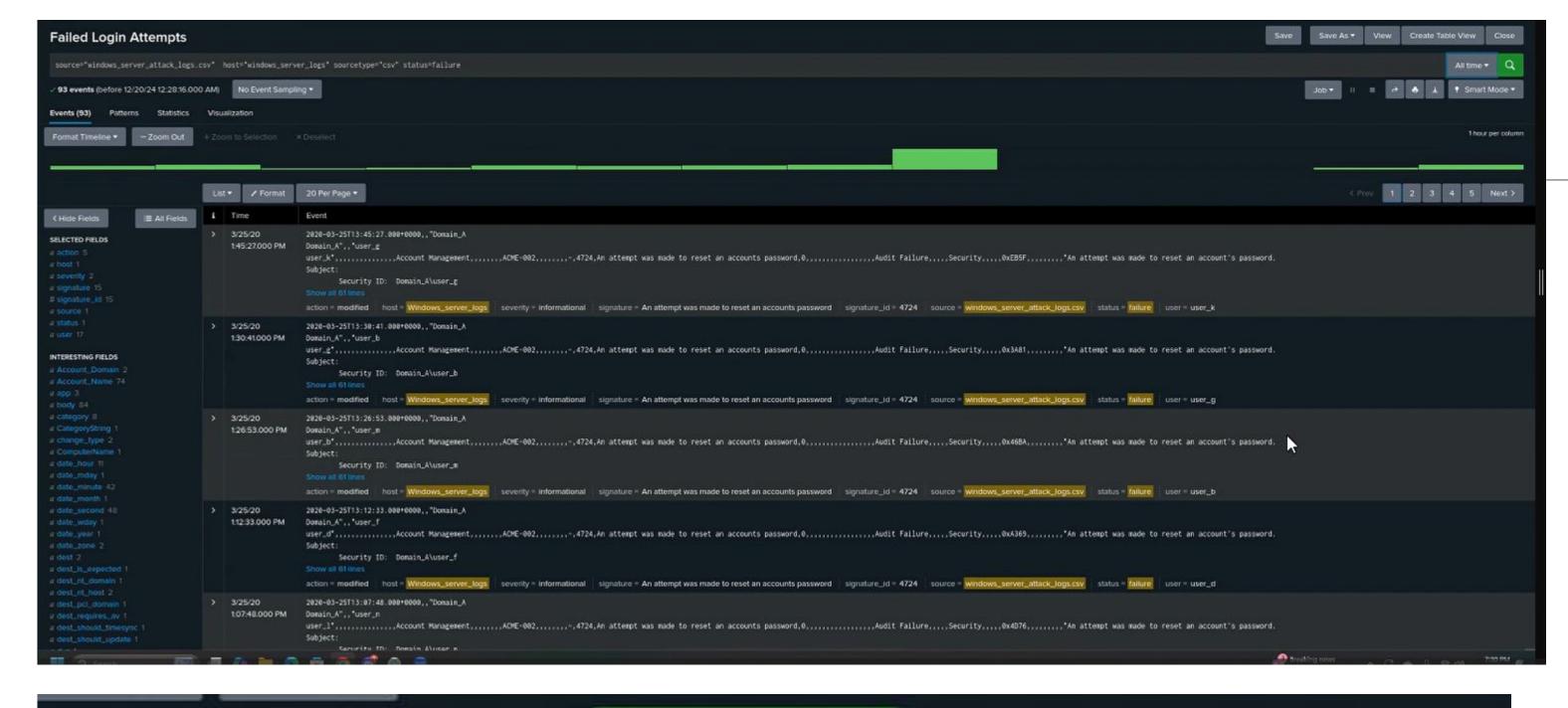
• We gathered the details of successful and failed login attempts from our users from our organization and located Attacks of the date of when they happened and the time that it happened. We pinpointed the attack through viewing the log in attempts of certain users and seeing which user had the most suspicious activity. we never obtained the users actual name but came down to a conclusion of two users that caused the attack which were Identified as Users A and K. We also located the countries of which these attacks were coming from which was mainly from Ukraine. We installed Alerts into the system to let us know when attempts Failed, when accounts were deleted, when Logins from foreign Countries occurred and when Accounts were logged into.

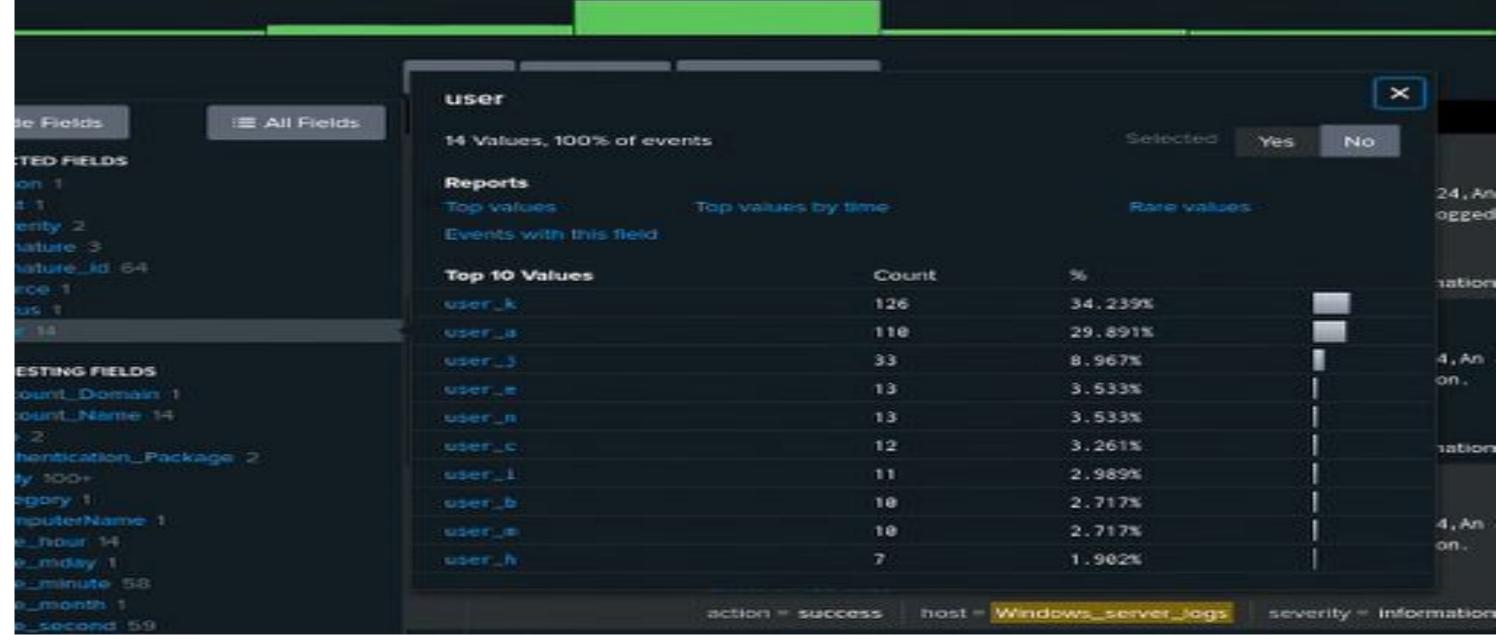


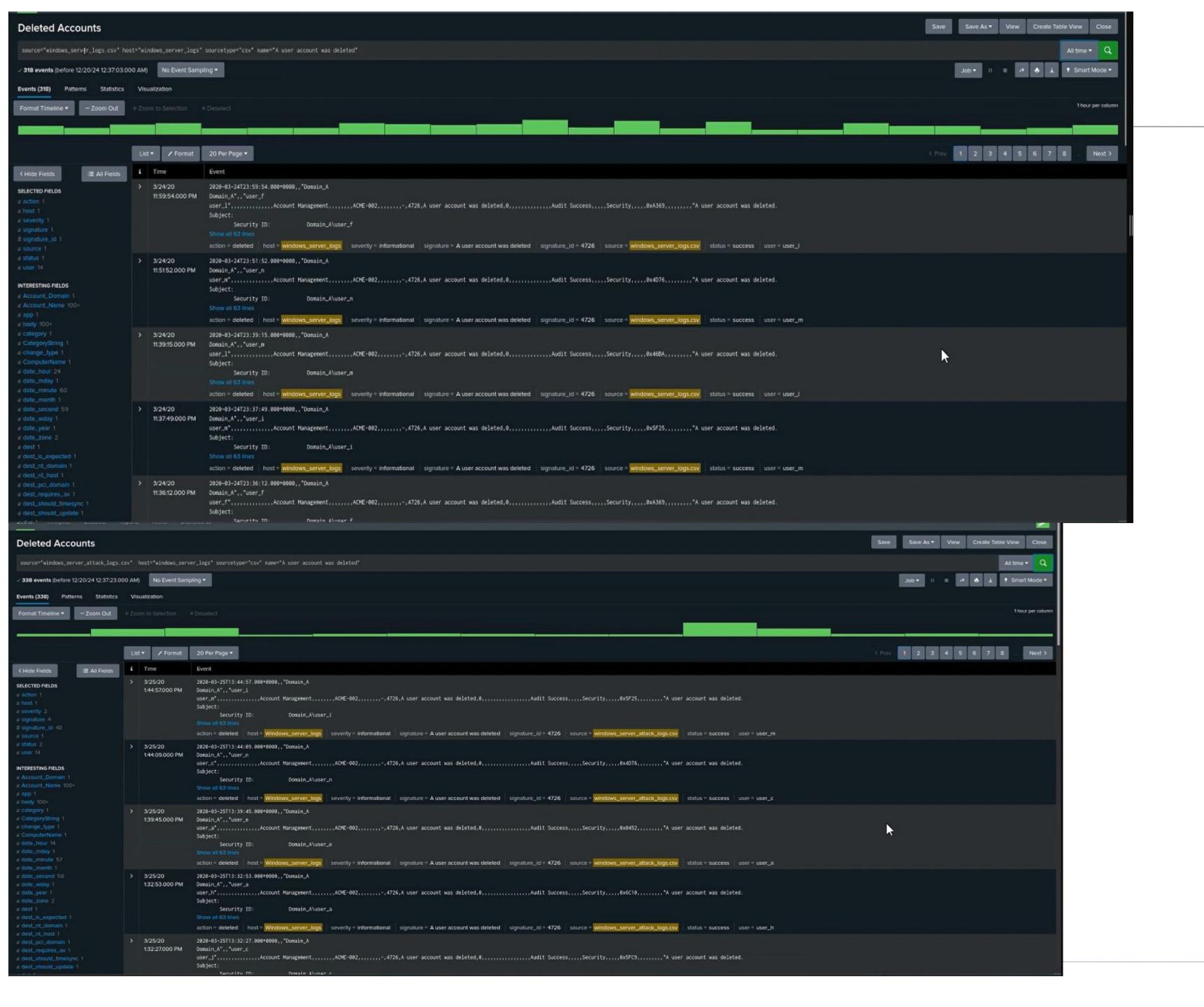
4)) 📾 🛕 Fri 20 Dec, 00:24 sysadmin

Applications: March | Splunk 9.3... F sysadmin@vm-ima...



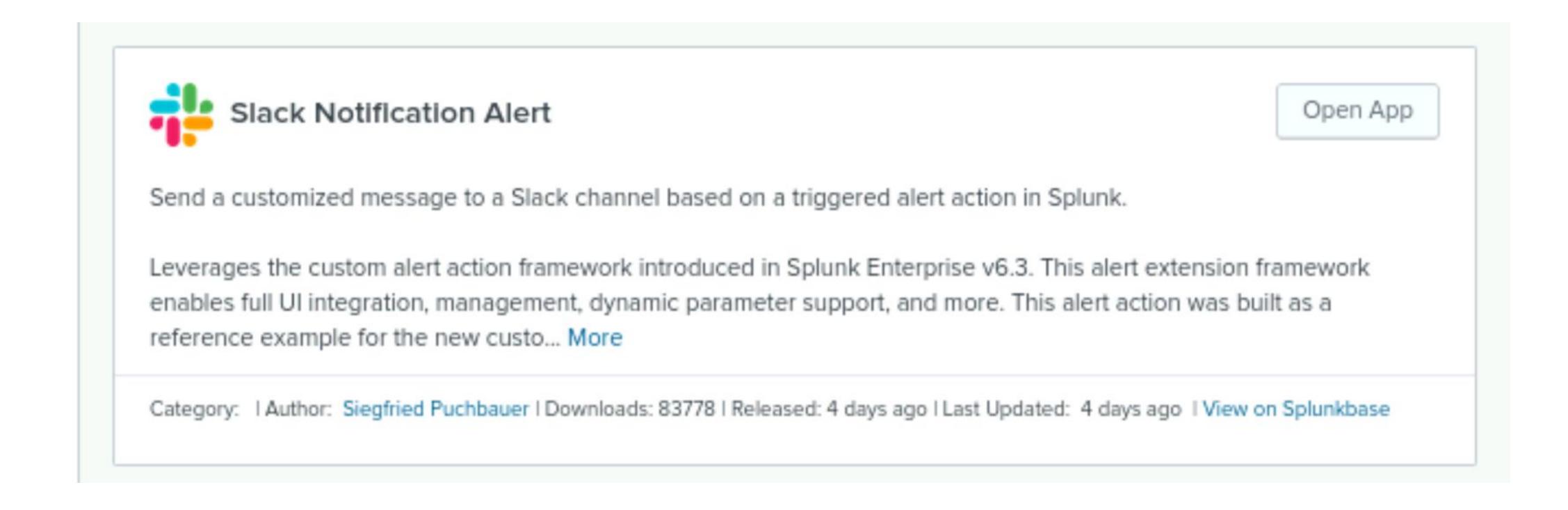




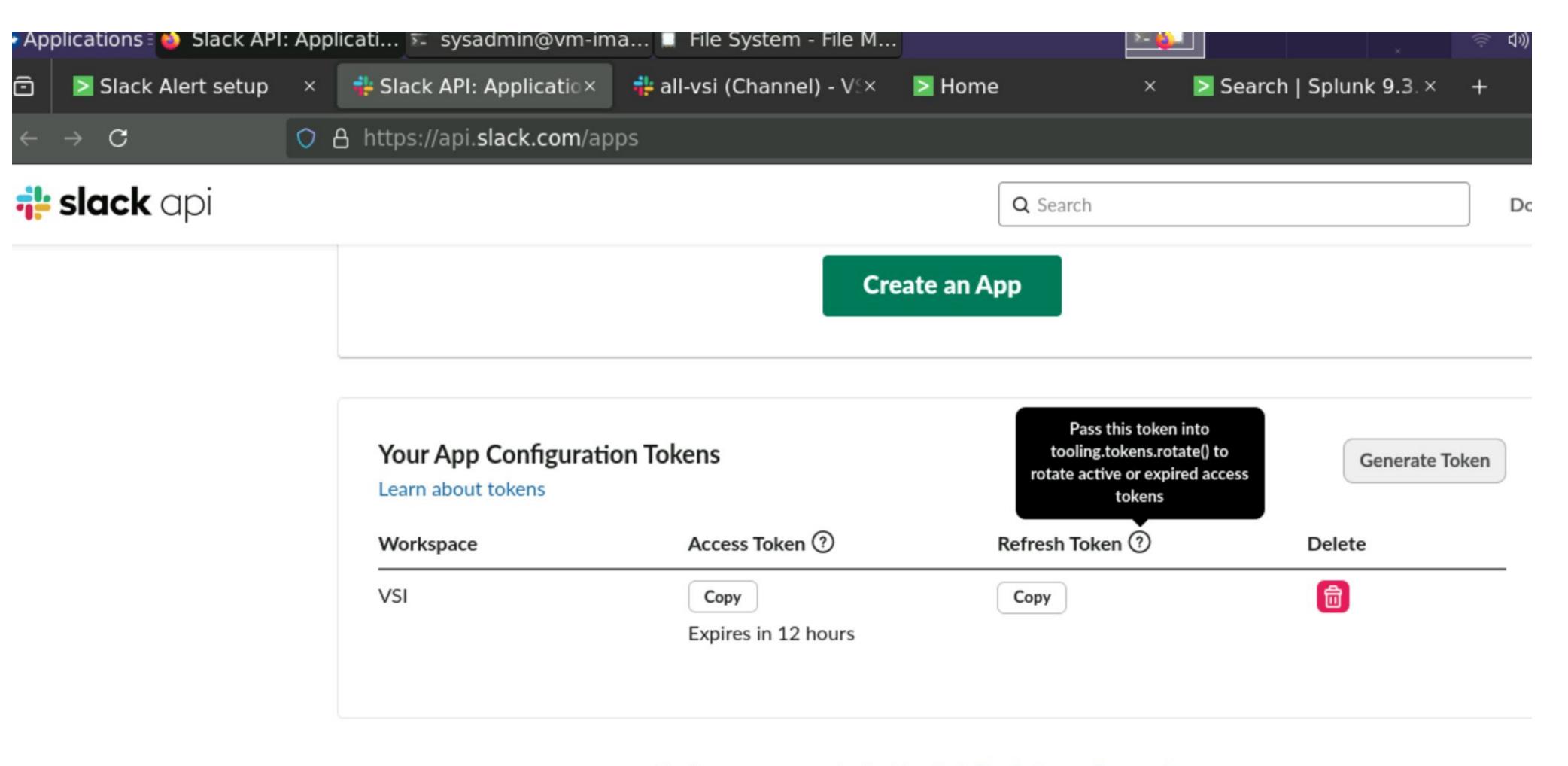


Slack Notification Alerts "Add-On" App

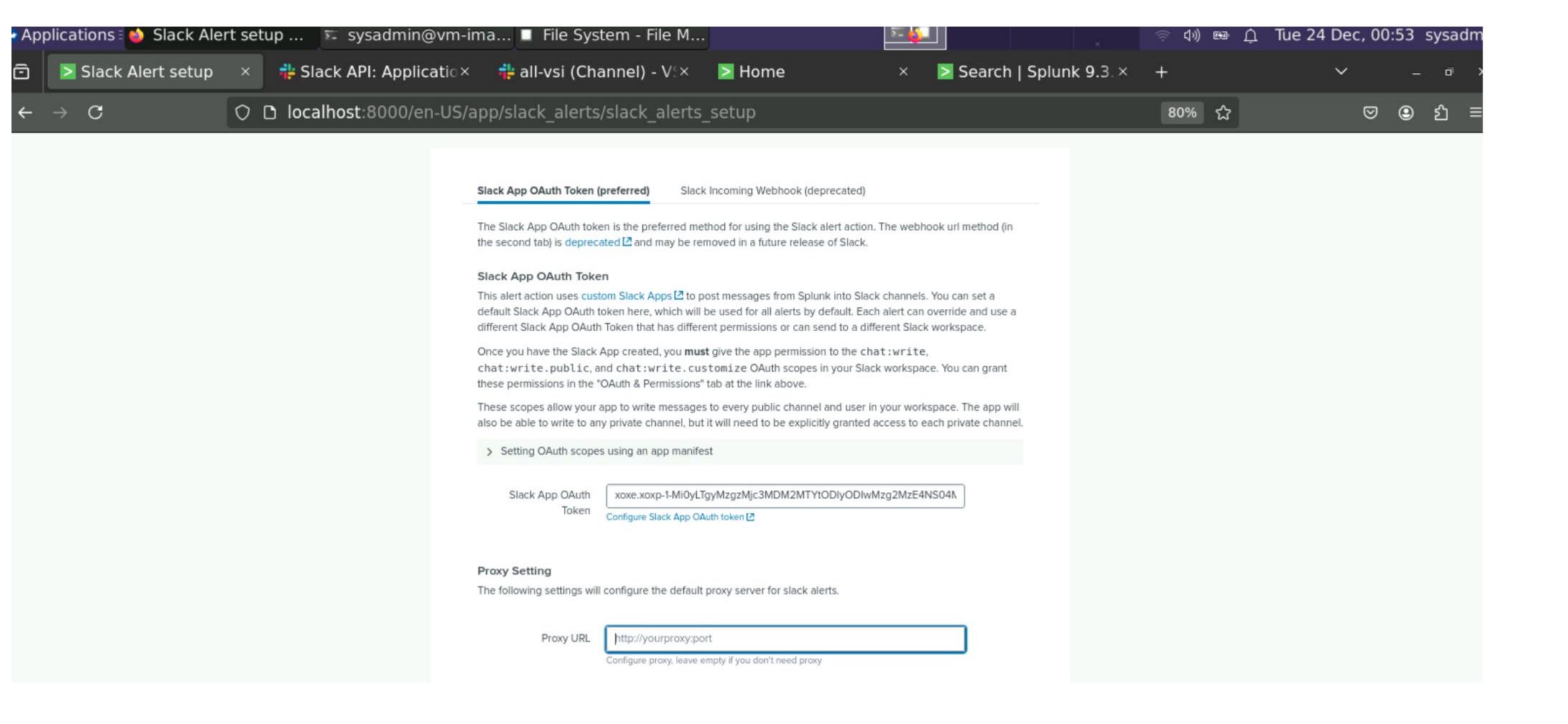
We have chosen Slack Notification Alerts as our add-on app. This app enables alerts to be sent to Slack via message. Alerts must be set up to go to the created bot and the chosen alert will be sent to a chosen channel in Slack.

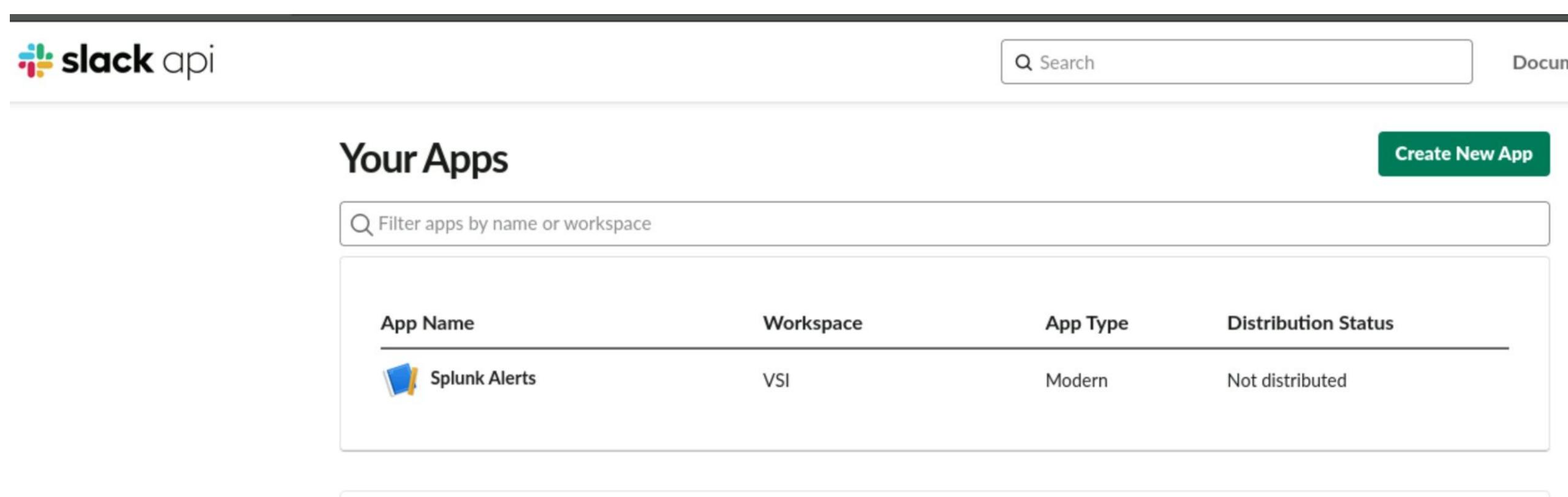


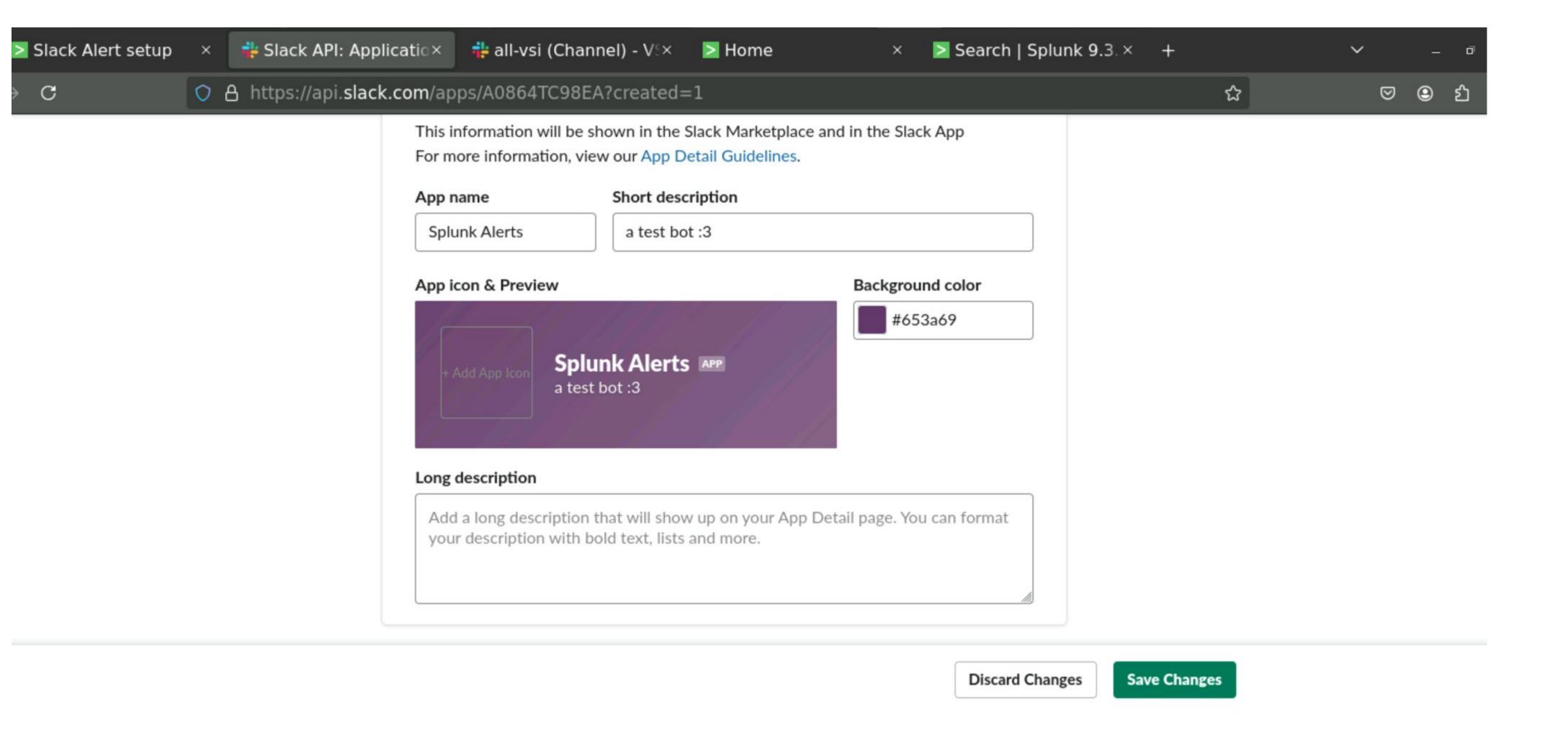
This app is very versatile and can be used as a way to communicate to many people in a department at once. Setting up this app could reach the SOC analyst team at the same time and could prove useful when VSI is getting attacked.

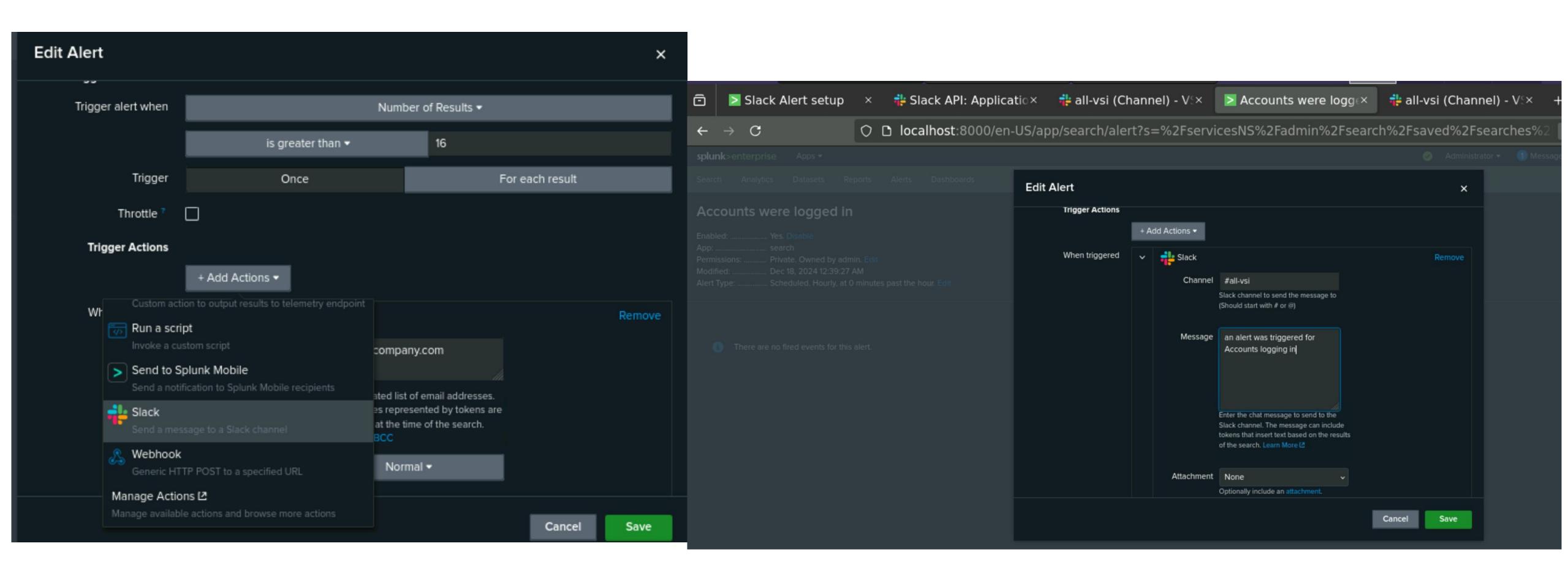


Don't see an app you're looking for? Sign in to another workspace.









Splunk BOT 8:17 AM Failed login attempts to wimpy: 15000; user="fred" and reason="userinitiated" and client_ip=10.160.255.175" Splunk BOT 10:17 AM Failed login attempts to wimpy: 15000; user="appsummit" and reason="userinitiated" and client_ip=10.160.255.69" Splunk BOT 12:26 PM Login failed by haxor on splunk.local.dev from IP 127.0.0.1! Splunk Alert: Login failure on Splunk instance Clone Splunk BOT 1:29 PM * Login failed by hiphip on splunk.local.dev from IP 127.0.0.1! Splunk Alert: Login failure on Splunk instance Clone

(Example of Splunk sending Alerts)

Logs Analyzed

1

Windows Logs

- User account activities (deleted, created, successful login, user locked out, etc.)
- Success and failure activities

2

Apache Logs

- Different HTTP methods
- Domains that referred/directed traffic to VSI's website
- HTTP response codes
- Activity from different countries

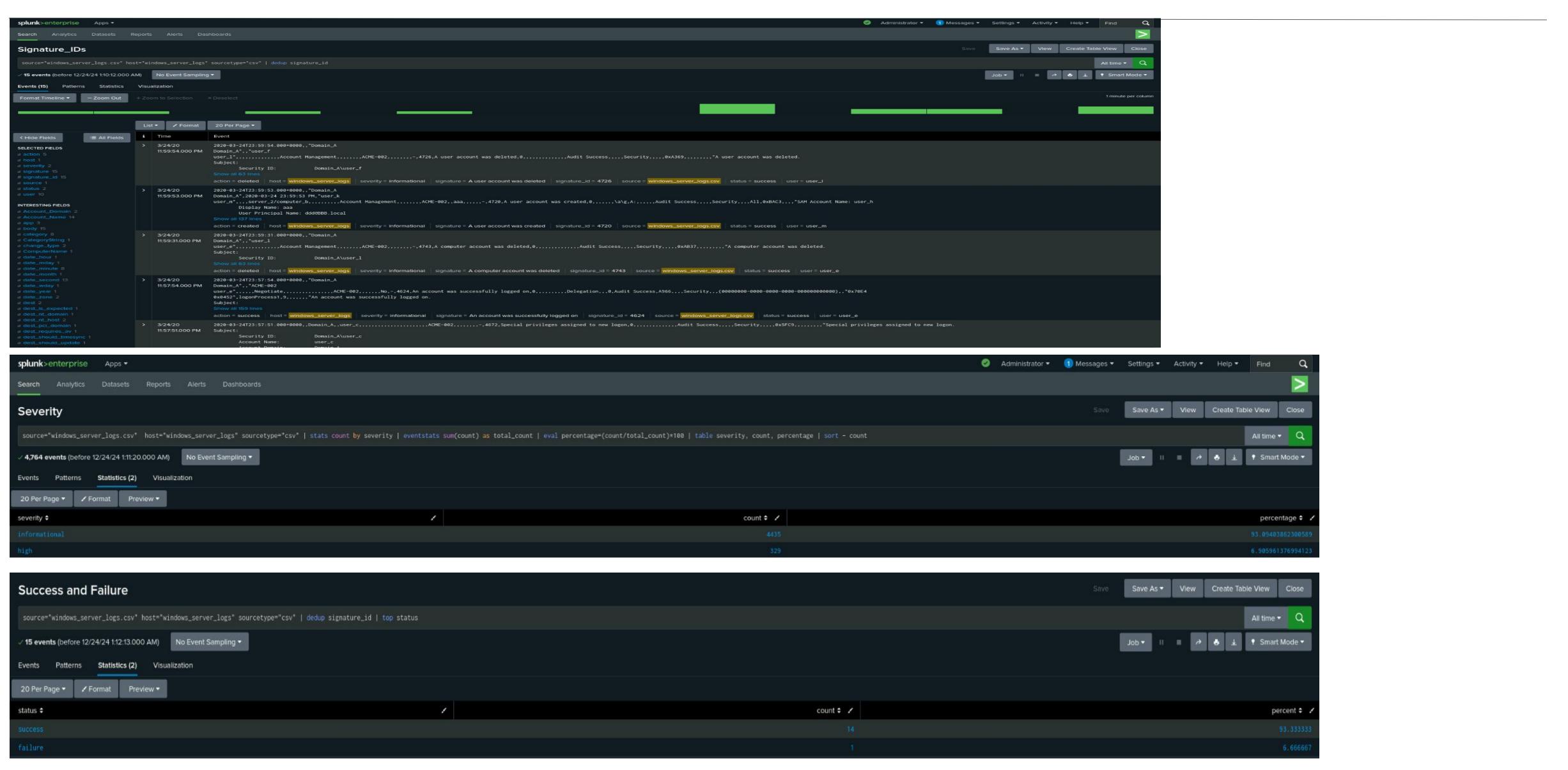
Windows Logs

Reports—Windows

Designed the following reports:

Report Name	Report Description	
Signature IDs	Shows the ID number associated with the specific signature f Windows activity	
Severity	Will show us the severity levels of the Window logs.	
Success and Failure	Will report on and show us any suspicious levels of failed activity on the server.	

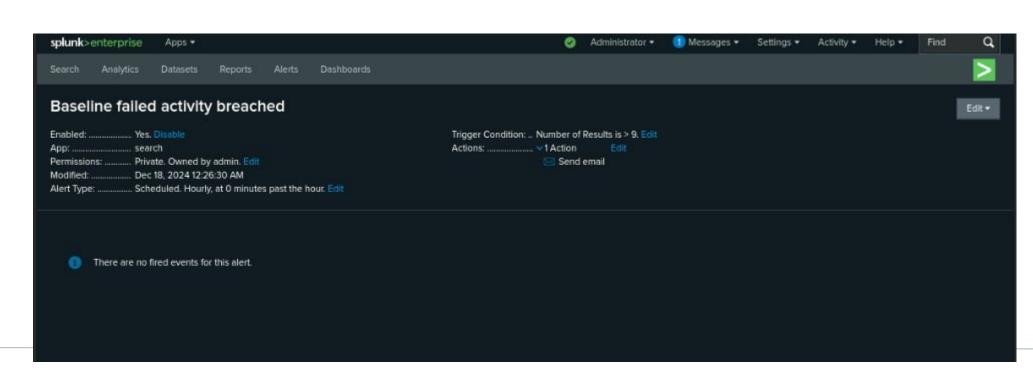
Images of Reports—Windows

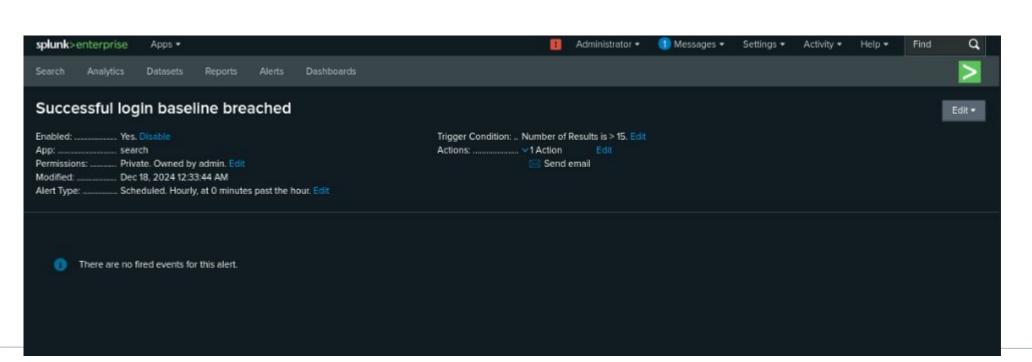


Alerts-Windows

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
Baseline failed activity breached	Threshold of hourly level of failed has been reacherd	6	9
Successful login baseline breached	Threshold of hourly level of successful login has been reacherd	12	15

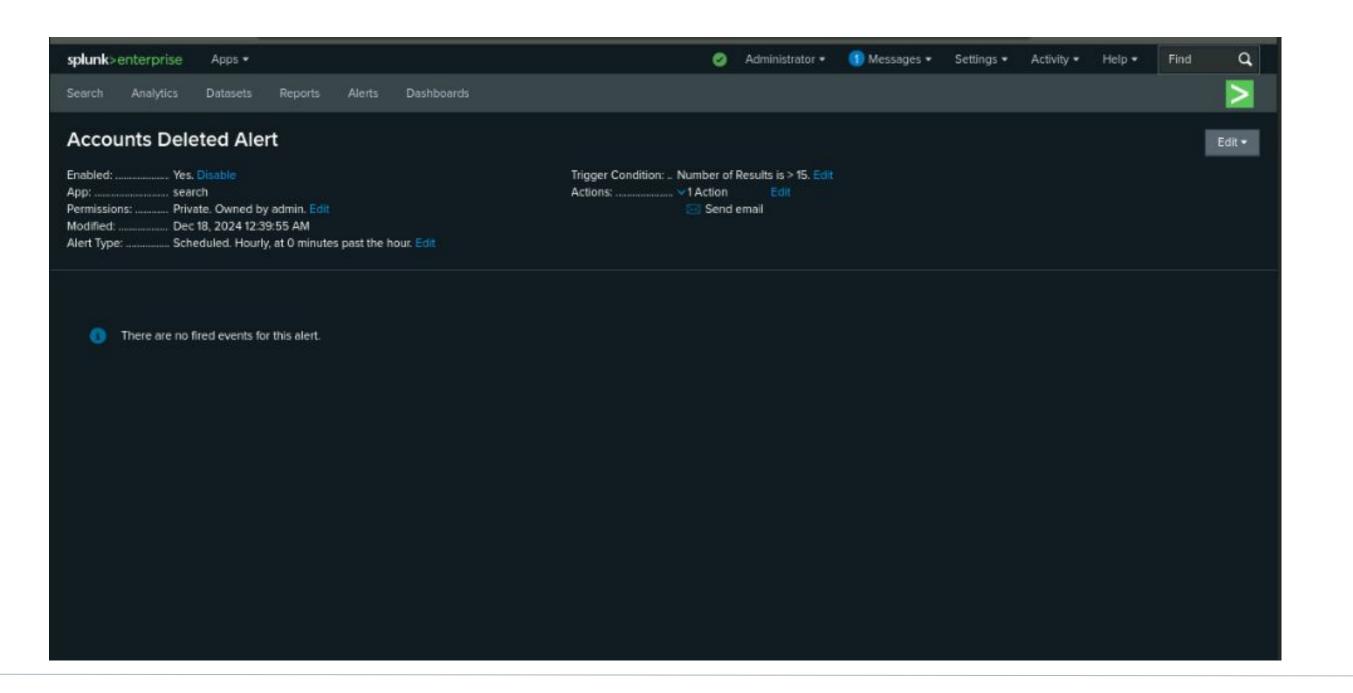




Alerts-Windows

Designed the following alerts:

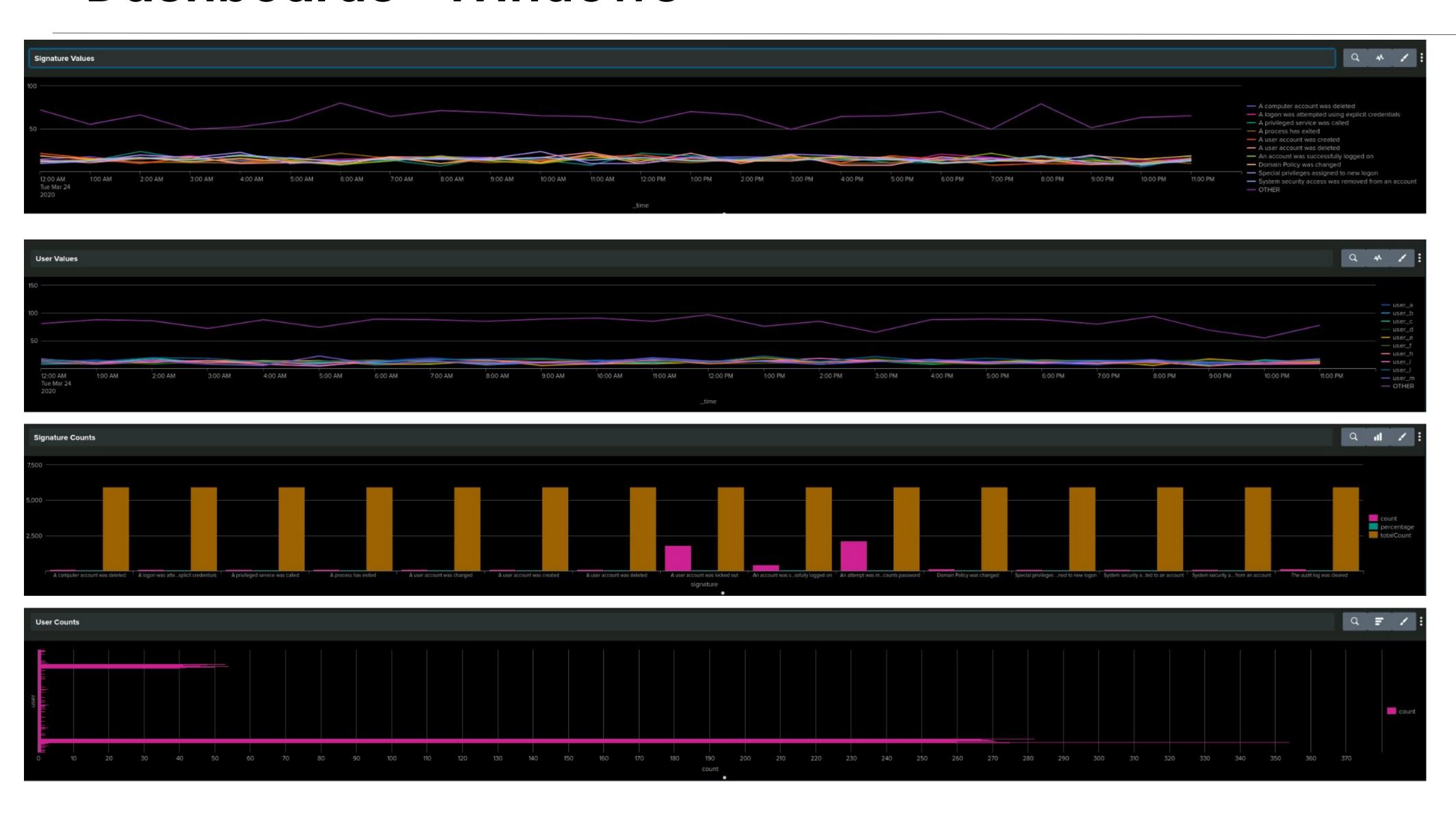
Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
Accounts Deleted	Hourly count of user accounts deleted	13	15



Alerts—Windows

JUSTIFICATION: These thresholds were set based on the baselines analyzed, to avoid an influx of unnecessary alerts for normal activity

Dashboards—Windows



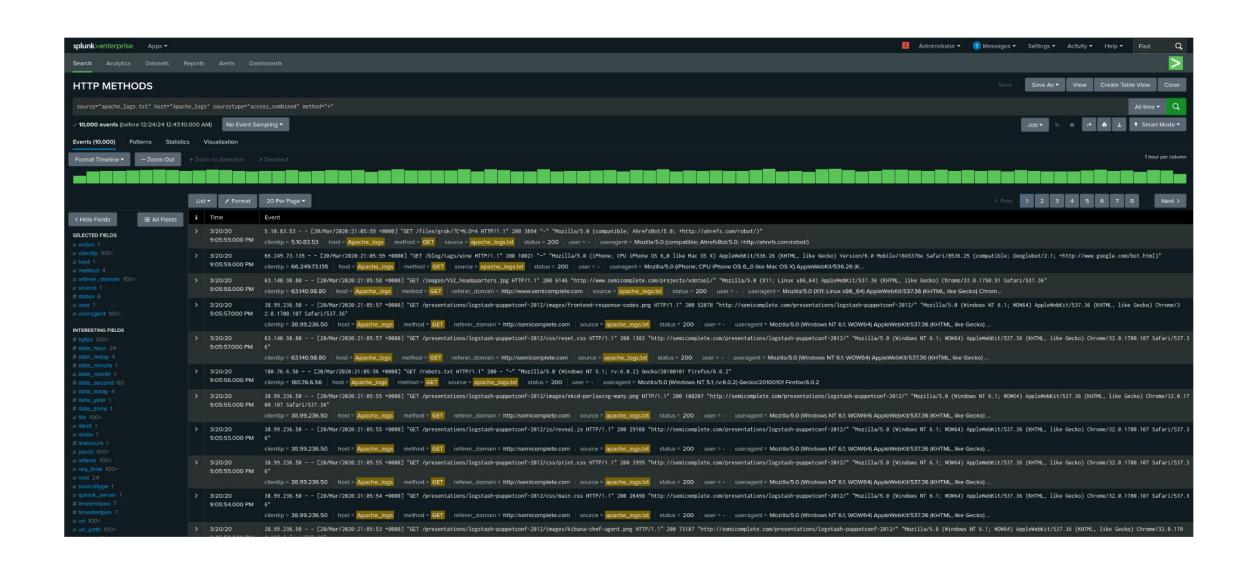
Apache Logs

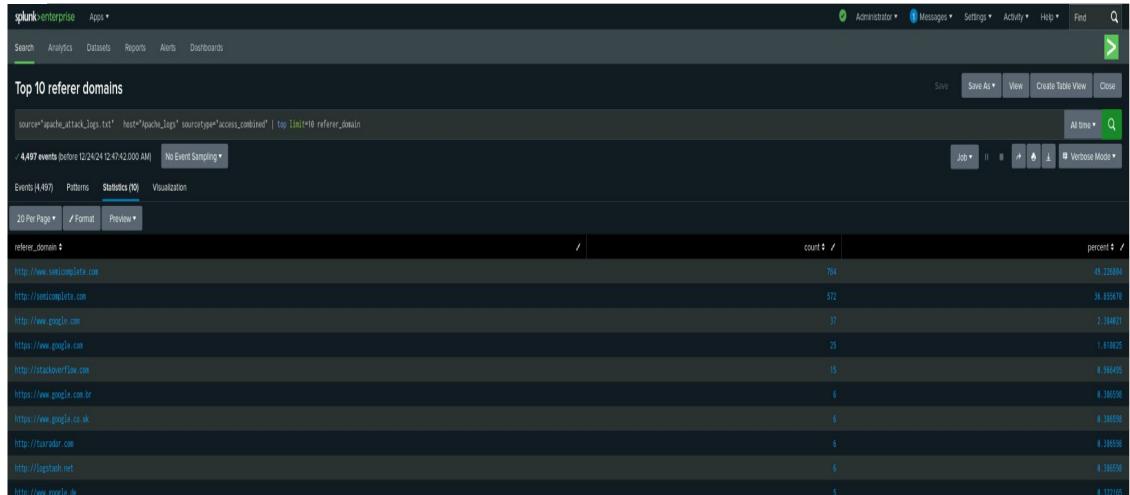
Reports—Apache

Designed the following reports:

Report Name	Report Description	
HTTP METHODS	Provides insight into the type of HTTP activity being requested against VSI's web server.	
HTTP POST	Report to help provide insight into any suspicious levels of HTTP responses	
Top 10 Referrer Domains	Will help in assisting VSI with identifying any suspicious referrers	

Images of Reports—Apache



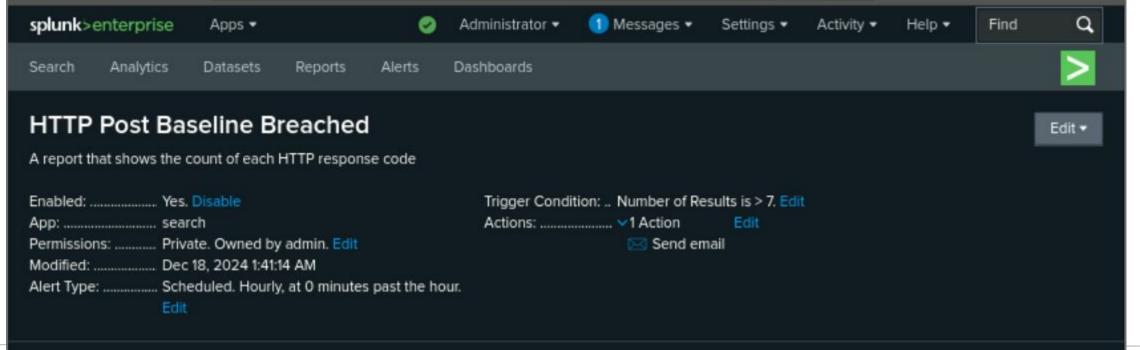




Alerts—Apache

Designed the following alerts:

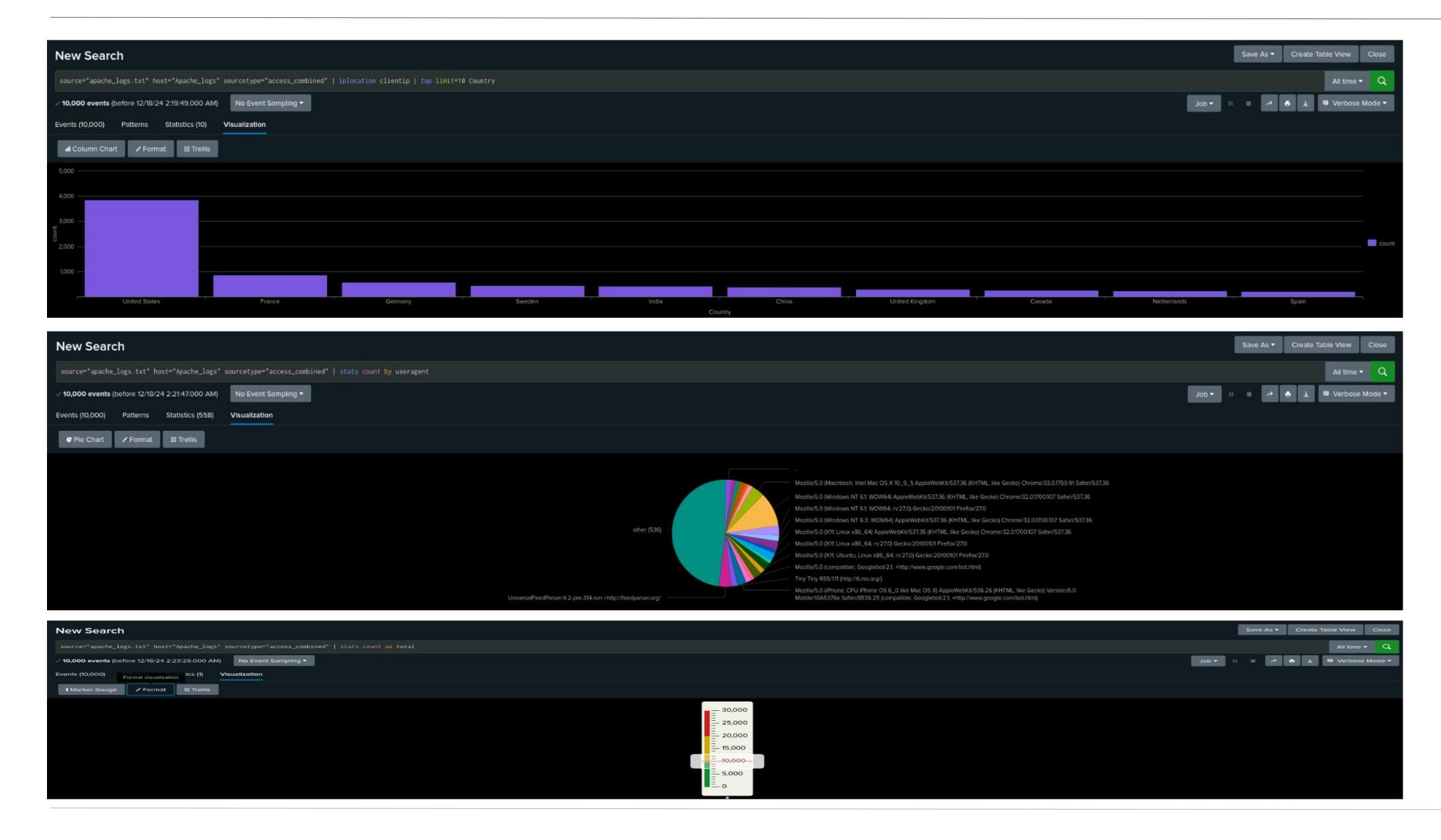
Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
HTTP Post Baseline Breached	Monitors the hourly count of the HTTP POST method	2	7
IP Outside of USA Baseline	Monitors hourly activity from countries other than USA	80	100
splunk>enterprise Apps ▼	1 Messages ▼ Settings ▼ Activity ▼ Help ▼ Find Q		



Dashboards—Apache



Dashboards—Apache Cont.



Attack Analysis

Attack Summary—Windows

- The Windows attack system showed a significant rise in high severity levels after the attack, compared to the mostly informational levels seen earlier.
 There were also more successful events recorded than failures. The alert analysis noted an unusual number of failed activities.
- Failed Logins: On March 25, 2020, at 8 AM, there were 35 failed login attempts, which exceeded the threshold. No changes are suggested.
- Successful Logins: There was an unusual spike in successful logins, with 196 events happening within one hour. Most of these involved the user "user_J" at 11 AM on March 25, 2020. Which exceeded the threshold and no changes were made.

Attack Summary—Windows

Summarize your findings from your alerts when analyzing the attack logs. Were the thresholds correct?

Alert Analysis:

• The analysis revealed a suspicious volume of failed activities, indicating potential unauthorized access attempts or misconfigurations.

Deleted Account:

The threshold for alerts was set to trigger when the number of deleted accounts exceeded.

Signatures:

- "A user account was locked out":
 - This signature indicates that an account was repeatedly accessed with incorrect credentials, leading to it being locked out.
 - The events for this signature occurred between 1:40 AM and 2:40 AM.
 - The peak count of these events reached 785, suggesting a significant number of lockout attempts during this period.
- "An attempt was made to reset an account's password":
 - This signature points to attempts made to reset the password of an account, which could be a sign of an attack aimed at gaining unauthorized access.
 - These events were recorded between 9:10 AM and 11:00 AM.
 - The peak count of these events was 397, indicating a notable volume of password reset attempts.

Attack Summary—Windows

Summarize your findings from your dashboards when analyzing the attack logs.

Suspicious Activity Analysis:

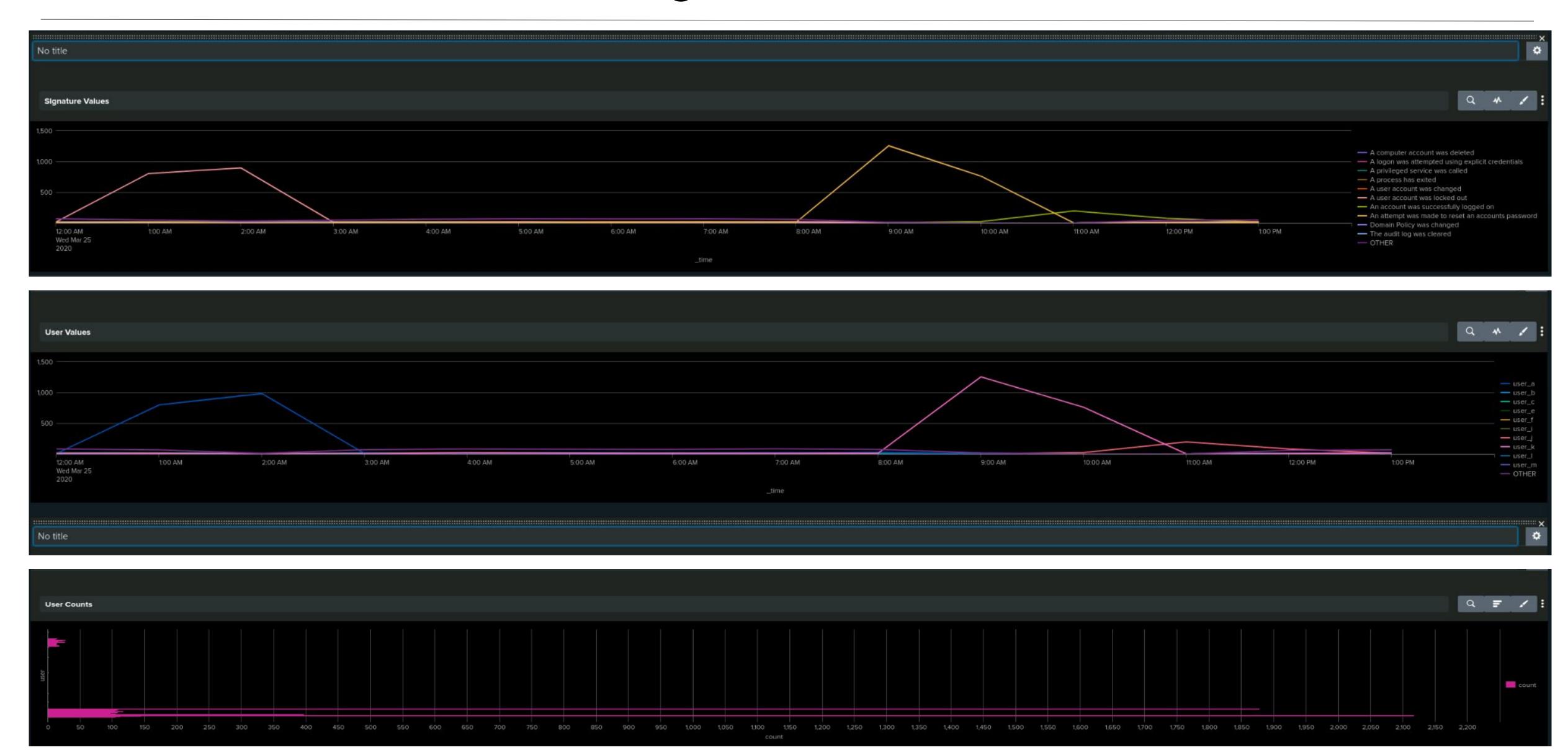
Two users, User_A and User_K, exhibited suspicious activity.

- **User_A:** Activity was noted between 1:40 am and 2:40 am, with a peak count of 785 users.
- **User_K:** Activity was noted between 9:10 am and 11:00 am, with a peak count of 397 users.

Suspicious signatures observed included:

- 1. "A user account was locked out" peaking at a count of 785 between 1:40 am and 2:40 am.
- 2. "An attempt was made to reset an account's password" peaking at a count of 397 between 9:10 am and 11:00 am.

Screenshots of Attack Logs



Attack Summary—Apache

Summarize your findings from your reports when analyzing the attack logs. Upon reviewing the reports, we identified malicious activities where attackers utilized HTTP POST and GET methods to brute force the VSI logon page.

- We observed significant fluctuations in HTTP response codes, particularly "404" (Not Found) and "200" (OK). These variations are indicative of unauthorized attempts to access resources.
- Our analysis highlighted high volumes of suspicious activities originating from international locations, with a notable concentration from Ukraine.
- Alerts were triggered for POST method activities between 8 PM and 9 PM, showing approximately 1,296 events. This is a substantial increase from the typical event count in the 100s, strongly suggesting that these activities are indeed suspicious and likely perpetrated by attackers.

Attack Summary—Apache

Summarize your findings from your alerts when analyzing the attack logs. Were the thresholds correct?

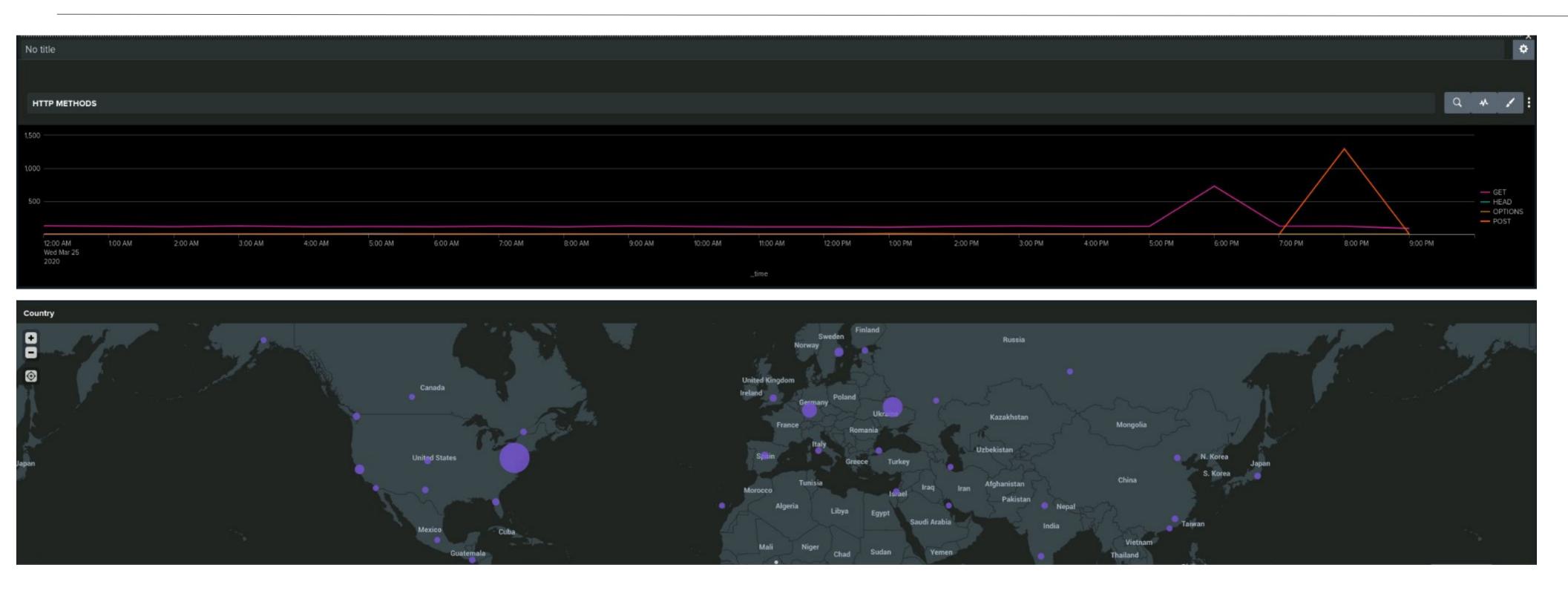
- On March 25th, we observed a suspicious volume of international activity between 8 PM and 9 PM. This activity fell within our defined thresholds, and an alert would have been triggered accordingly.
- Additionally, there was a significant volume of HTTP POST activity during the same period, peaking at 1,296 events. Our established thresholds were accurate, and an alert would have been triggered for this as well.

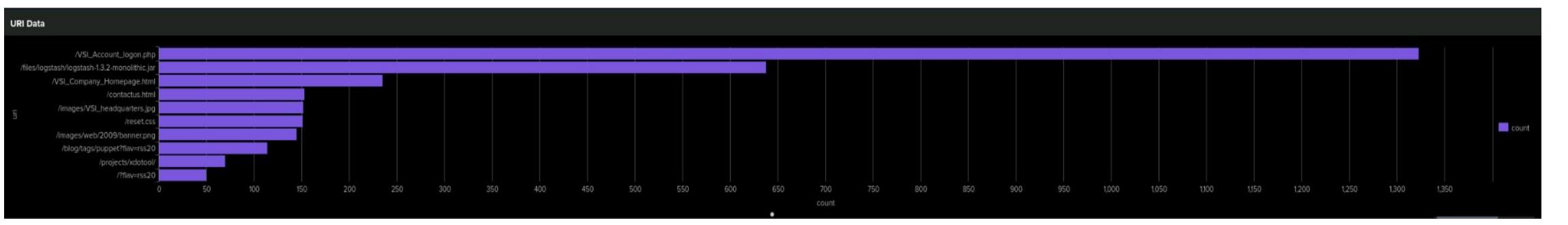
Attack Summary—Apache

Summarize your findings from your dashboards when analyzing the attack logs.

- Our Time Chart of HTTP methods revealed suspicious volumes of GET and POST methods.
 - The GET attack went from 5pm to 7pm and peaked with a count of 729.
 - The POST attack went from 7pm to 9pm and peaked with a count of 1,296.
- Our Cluster Map revealed suspicious activity from a couple cities.
 - Kiev (439), Kharkiv (433), D.C. (714), and NYC(549)
- Our URI Data flagged VSI_Account_logon.php as having suspiciously high volume.

Screenshots of Attack Logs





Summary and Future Mitigations

Project 3 Summary

What were your overall findings from the attack that took place?

The attackers in the Windows logs were attempting to perform mass Password Reset Attacks and logging into multiple accounts to reset their passwords.

The attackers in the Apache logs were from Ukraine and were attempting to log into accounts using Brute Force attacks.

Project 3 Summary

To protect VSI from future attacks, what future mitigations would you recommend?

- Multi-factor authentication MFA mitigates security risks by requiring a second login. This ensures that even if one login is compromised, the unauthorized user may not have access to the second login, especially if they are on a new device.
- Block all HTTP traffic from suspicious countries This mitigates attackers from other countries VSI may not have business to access their accounts, although with the use of VPNs this may not mitigate it completely.
- Account Lockouts This mitigates Brute Force attacks by locking out the user completely until they get help, it prevents attackers from entering passwords multiple times in a short duration.