



# Integrating Windows Defender with Wazuh SIEM

Created by: Jean Chrysostome NDAYISABYE

## Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving threat landscape, organizations require comprehensive visibility into endpoint security activities to maintain robust cybersecurity postures. While Windows Defender provides excellent built-in protection against malware, viruses, and other security threats, its defensive capabilities are significantly enhanced when integrated with centralized Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) solutions.

This comprehensive guide demonstrates the integration of Windows Defender with Wazuh, an open-source SIEM platform, enabling security teams to centrally monitor, analyze, and respond to endpoint security events. By forwarding Windows Defender logs to Wazuh, organizations can achieve unified security monitoring, correlate events across multiple endpoints, and implement automated incident response workflows.

## Objectives

The primary objectives of this integration are:

### Security Monitoring Enhancement

- Centralize Windows Defender security events from multiple endpoints
- Enable real-time monitoring of malware detection and remediation activities
- Provide comprehensive visibility into endpoint security posture

### Incident Response Improvement

- Accelerate threat detection and response times
- Enable correlation of security events across the enterprise
- Facilitate forensic analysis and investigation workflows

### Compliance and Reporting

- Generate compliance reports for security frameworks
- Maintain audit trails of security events and responses
- Support regulatory requirements for security monitoring

### Operational Efficiency

- Reduce manual monitoring overhead
- Automate alert generation and notification processes
- Enable proactive threat hunting capabilities

## Prerequisites

Before implementing this integration, ensure the following requirements are met:

### Infrastructure Requirements

- **Wazuh Server:** Properly configured and operational Wazuh manager
- **Windows Endpoints:** Windows 10/11 machines with Windows Defender enabled
- **Network Connectivity:** Reliable network connection between endpoints and Wazuh server
- **Wazuh Agent:** Installed and configured on target Windows machines

### Software Versions

- Wazuh Manager: Version 4.0 or later recommended
- Windows Defender: Current version with real-time protection enabled
- Wazuh Agent: Compatible version with Wazuh Manager

## 1.Enable Windows Defender logs on a Windows machine.

In today's threat landscape, having visibility into endpoint activity is a key requirement for maintaining a secure environment. **Windows Defender**, a built-in antivirus tool in Windows operating systems, provides real-time protection against malware, viruses, and other security threats. While Defender effectively handles local detection and response, its true potential is unlocked when integrated with a centralized security monitoring solution.

### Step 1.1: Access Event Viewer

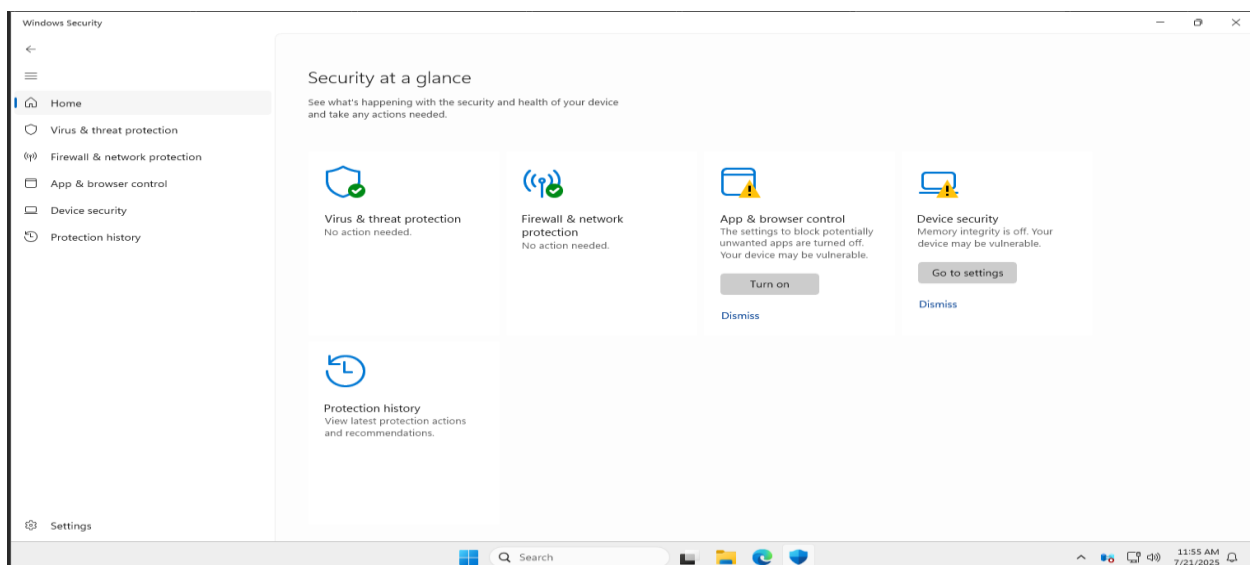
1. Press Windows Key + R to open the Run dialog
2. Type eventvwr.msc and press Enter
3. If prompted by UAC, click "Yes" to run as administrator

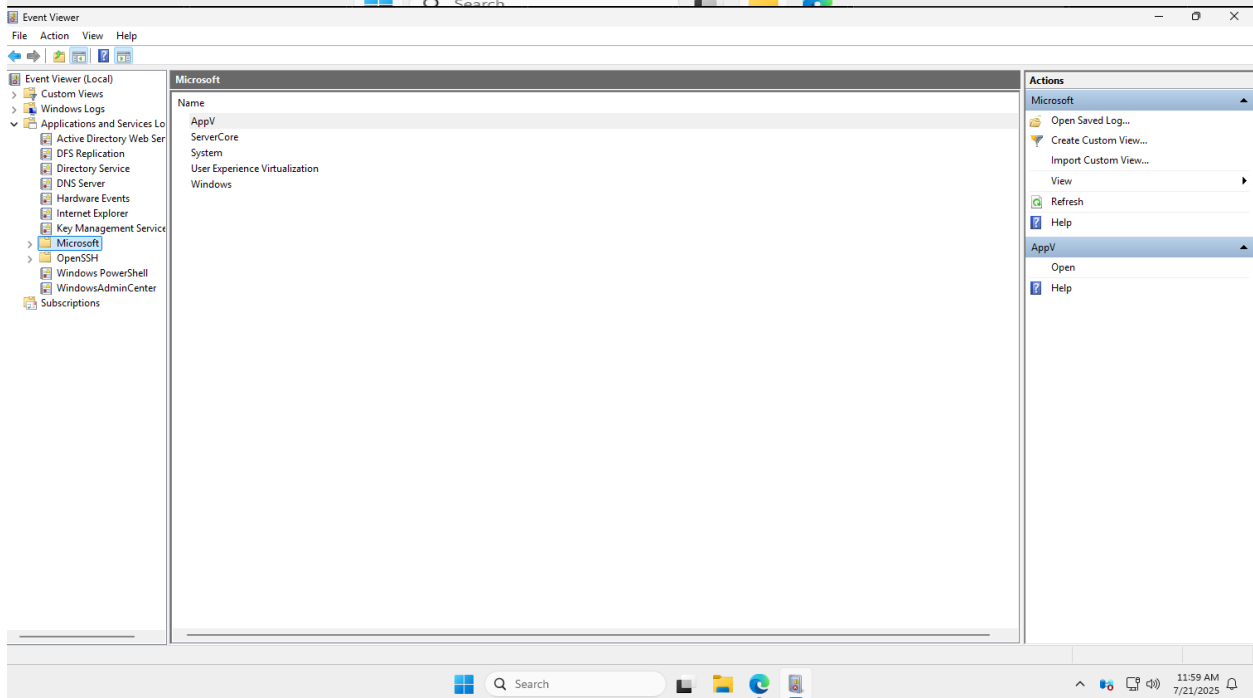
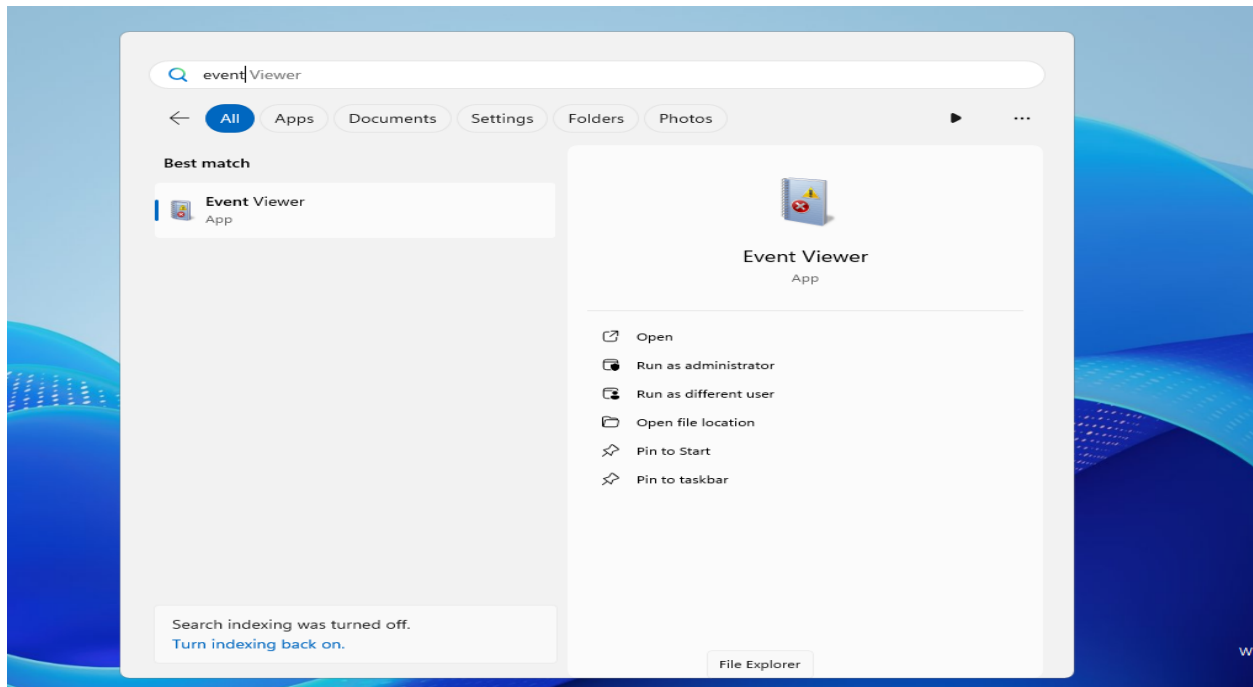
### Step 1.2: Navigate to Windows Defender Logs

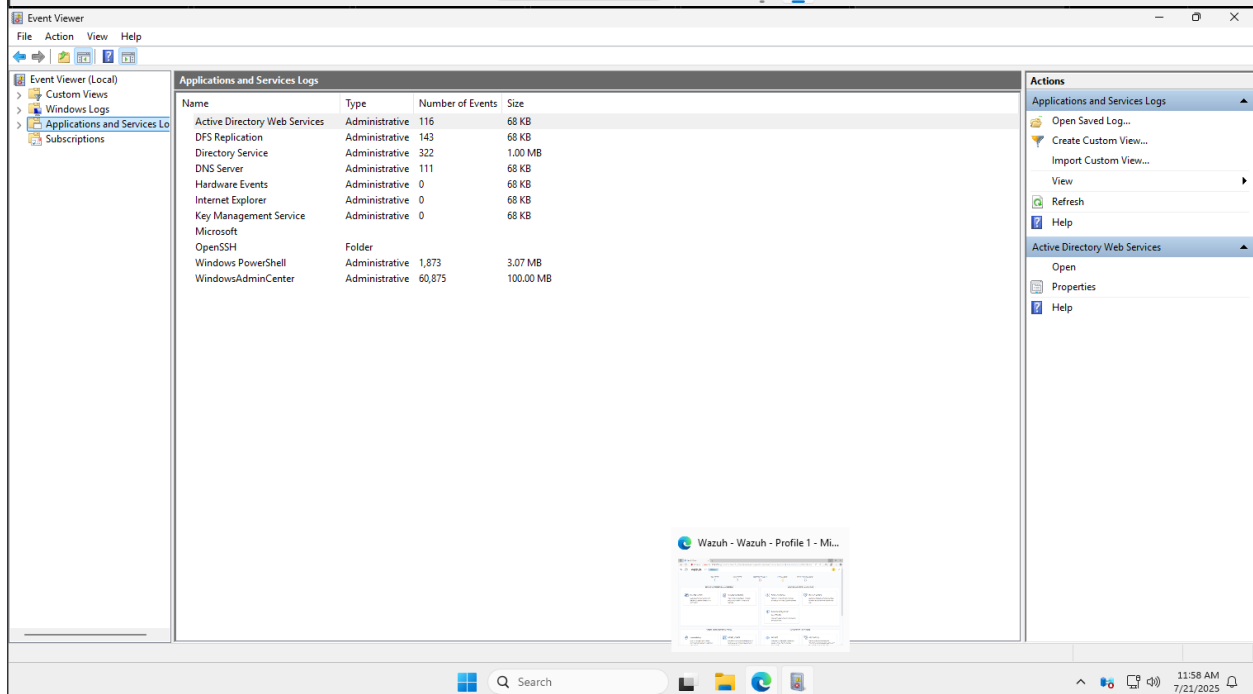
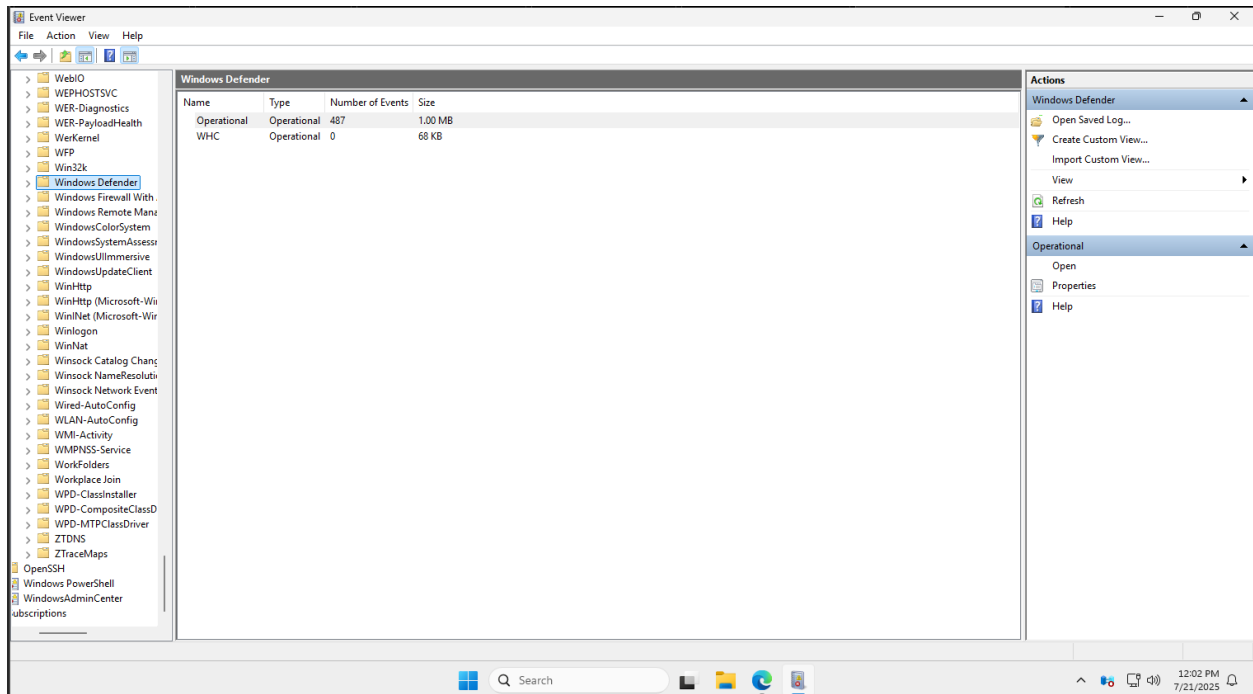
1. In Event Viewer, expand "Applications and Services Logs"
2. Navigate to: Microsoft → Windows → Windows Defender
3. Right-click on "Operational" and select "Properties"
4. Ensure "Enable logging" is checked
5. Set maximum log size (recommended: 20MB minimum)
6. Click "OK" to save settings

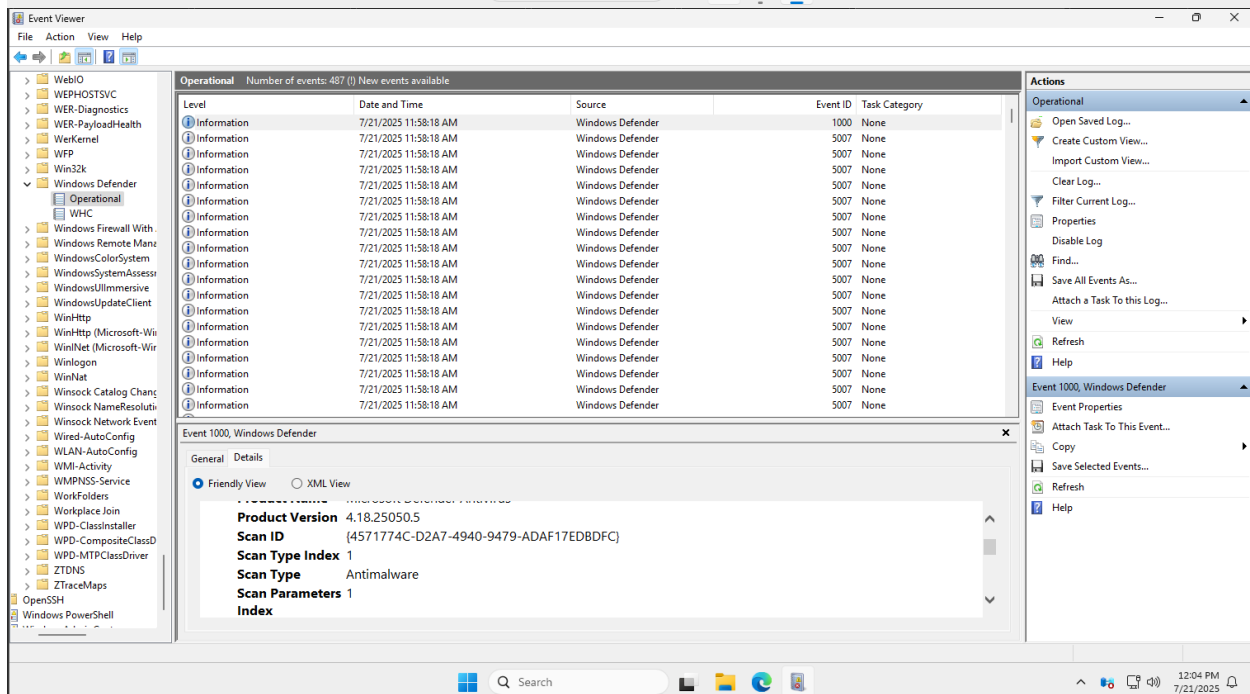
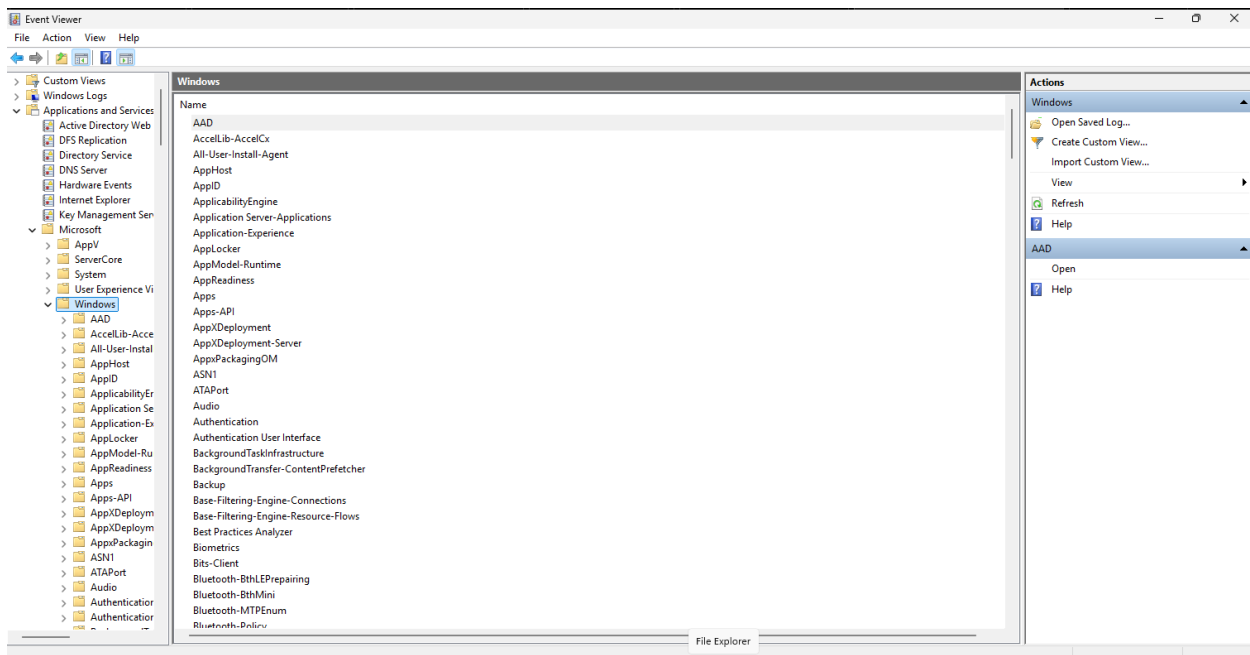
**Technical Note:** The Windows Defender Operational log path is:

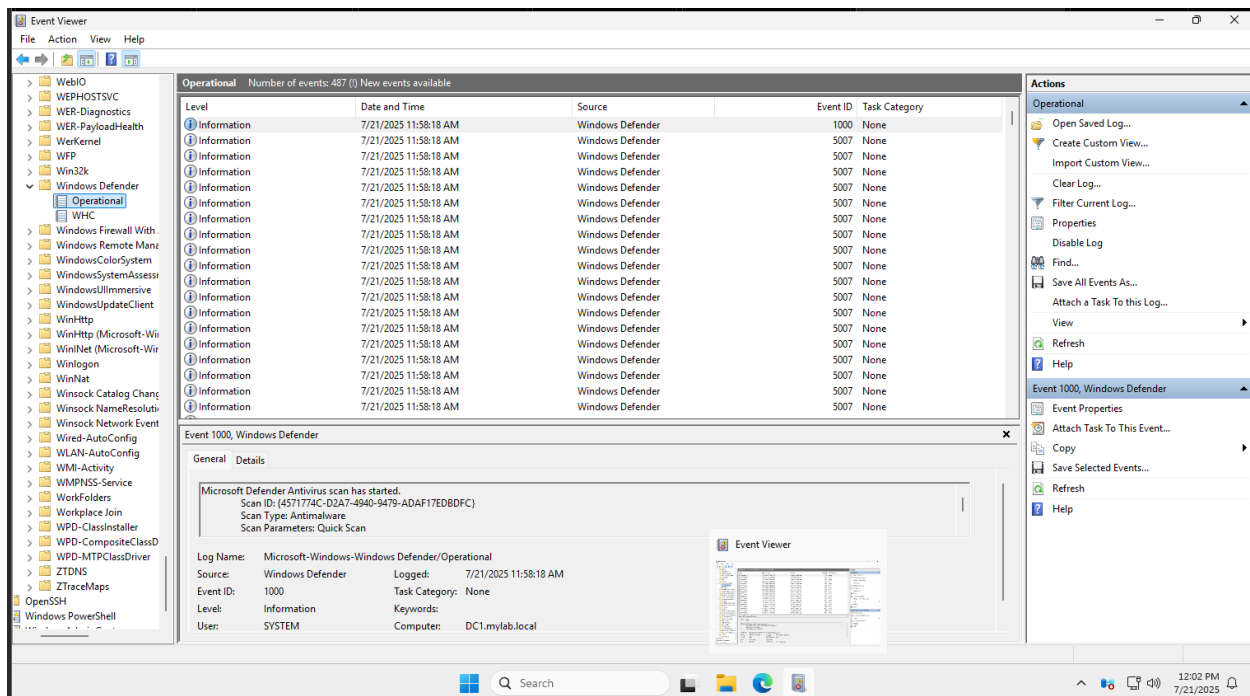
Microsoft-Windows-Windows Defender/Operational











## 2: Configure Wazuh Agent

### Step 2.1: Modify Agent Configuration

1. Access the Wazuh server terminal
2. Navigate to the agent configuration directory:

```
cd /var/ossec/etc/shared/
```

3. Open the agent configuration file:

```
sudo nano agent.conf
```

### Step 2.2: Add Windows Defender Log Collection

Add the following configuration block to the agent.conf file:

```
<localfile>
  <location>Microsoft-Windows-Windows Defender/Operational</location>
  <log_format>eventchannel</log_format>
</localfile>
```

### Configuration Explanation:

- **<location>**: Specifies the Windows Event Log channel to monitor
- **<log\_format>**: Defines the format as Windows Event Channel for proper parsing
- This configuration enables the Wazuh agent to collect all Windows Defender operational events

### Step 2.3: Apply Configuration Changes

1. Save the configuration file
2. Restart the Wazuh manager to apply changes:

```
sudo systemctl restart wazuh-manager
```

3. Verify the service is running:

```
sudo systemctl status wazuh-manager
```

## Phase 3: Update Windows Endpoint

### Step 3.1: Restart Wazuh Agent

On the Windows machine:

1. Open Services management console (services.msc)
2. Locate "Wazuh Agent" service
3. Right-click and select "Restart"
4. Verify the service status shows "Running"

### Step 3.2: Verify Agent Connectivity

1. Check agent status in Wazuh dashboard
2. Verify last keep-alive timestamp is recent
3. Review agent logs for any connection issue



```

root@chrysostome:~# ls
bin          boot  dev  home  lib64          lost+found  mnt  proc  run  sbin.usr-is-merged  srv  tmp  var
bin.usr-is-merged  cdrom  etc  lib  lib.usr-is-merged  media      opt  root  sbin  snap              sys  usr
root@chrysostome:~# cd /var/ossec/etc
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc# ls
client.keys  internal_options.conf  local_internal_options.conf  ossec.conf  rules  sslmanager.cert
decoders     lists                  localtime                  rootcheck   shared  sslmanager.key
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc# cd shared
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared# ls
agent-template.conf  ar.conf  default
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared# cd default
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared/default# ls
agent.conf          cis_rhel5_linux_rcl.txt  cis_sles12_linux_rcl.txt  merged.mg          win_applications_rcl.txt
cis_apache2224_rcl.txt  cis_rhel6_linux_rcl.txt  cis_win2012r2_domain1_rcl.txt  rootkit_files.txt  win_audit_rcl.txt
cis_debian_linux_rcl.txt  cis_rhel7_linux_rcl.txt  cis_win2012r2_domain2_rcl.txt  rootkit_trojans.txt  win_malware_rcl.txt
cis_mysql5-6_community_rcl.txt  cis_rhel_linux_rcl.txt  cis_win2012r2_member1_rcl.txt  system_audit_rcl.txt
cis_mysql5-6_enterprise_rcl.txt  cis_sles11_linux_rcl.txt  cis_win2012r2_member2_rcl.txt  system_audit_ssh.txt
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared/default# _

```

## 2. Configure Wazuh to collect Windows Security logs related to Defender events.

After open “agent.conf” file we have to add configuration here.

Add this configuration here.

```

<localfile>

<location>Microsoft-Windows-Windows Defender/Operational</location>

<log_format>eventchannel</log_format>

</localfile>

```

```

GNU nano 7.2                                agent.conf *
<agent_config>

  <!-- Shared agent configuration here -->
  <localfile>
    <location>Microsoft-windows-windows Defender/operational</location>
    <log_format>eventchannel</log_format>
  </localfile>_
</agent_config>

```

Then save this configuration and run restart wazuh manager and also you can check its status.

```

root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared/default# sudo systemctl restart wazuh-manager
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared/default# sudo systemctl status wazuh-manager
● wazuh-manager.service - Wazuh manager
   Loaded: loaded (/usr/lib/systemd/system/wazuh-manager.service; enabled; preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2025-07-21 10:30:26 UTC; 19s ago
     Process: 18077 ExecStart=/usr/bin/env /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-control start (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
    Tasks: 119 (limit=4548)
  Memory: 393.7M (peak: 397.9M)
     CPU: 27.254s
    CGroup: /system.slice/wazuh-manager.service
            └─18156 /var/ossec/framework/python/bin/python3 /var/ossec/api/scripts/wazuh-apid.py
              └─18158 /var/ossec/framework/python/bin/python3 /var/ossec/api/scripts/wazuh-apid.py
                └─18161 /var/ossec/framework/python/bin/python3 /var/ossec/api/scripts/wazuh-apid.py
                  └─18164 /var/ossec/framework/python/bin/python3 /var/ossec/api/scripts/wazuh-apid.py
                    └─18210 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-authd
                      └─18231 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-db
                        └─18255 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-execd
                          └─18269 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-analysisd
                            └─18285 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-syscheckd
                              └─18299 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-remoted
                                └─18374 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-logcollector
                                  └─18400 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-monitord
                                    └─18432 /var/ossec/bin/wazuh-modulesd

Jul 21 10:30:18 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-db...
Jul 21 10:30:19 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-execd...
Jul 21 10:30:20 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-analysisd...
Jul 21 10:30:20 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-syscheckd...
Jul 21 10:30:21 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-remoted...
Jul 21 10:30:22 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-logcollector...
Jul 21 10:30:23 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-monitord...
Jul 21 10:30:24 chrysostome env[18077]: Started wazuh-modulesd...
Jul 21 10:30:26 chrysostome env[18077]: Completed.
Jul 21 10:30:26 chrysostome systemd[1]: Started wazuh-manager.service - Wazuh manager.
root@chrysostome:/var/ossec/etc/shared/default# _

```

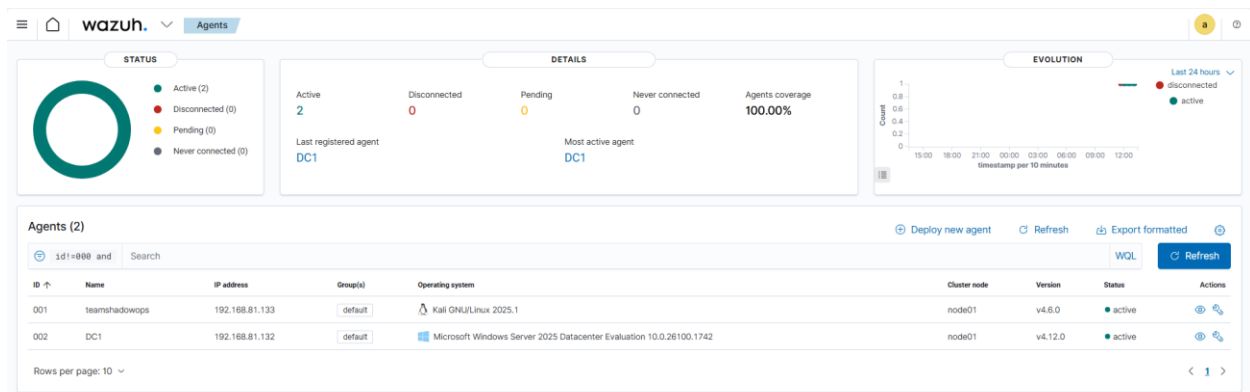
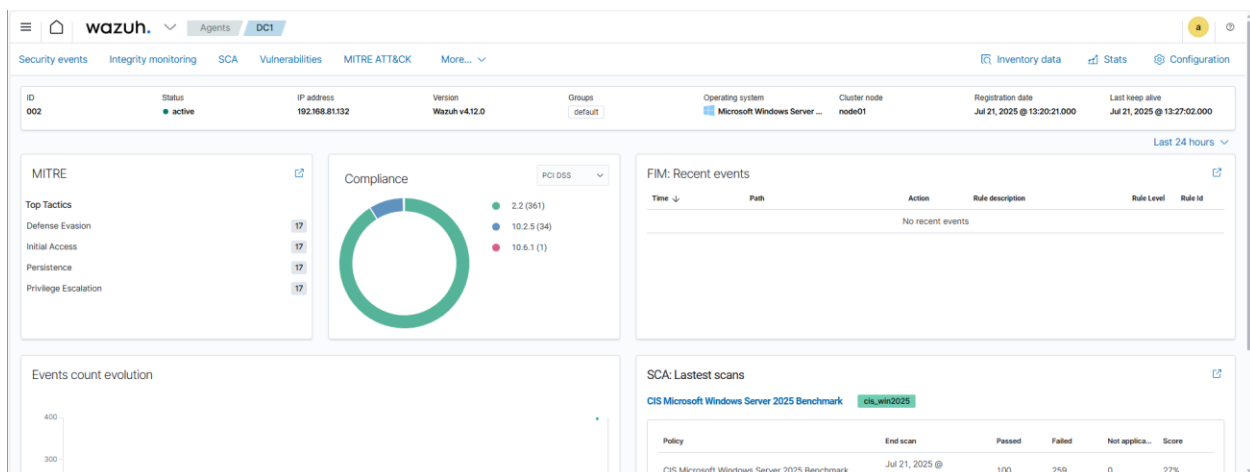
Now go to “Windows10” and restart “Wazuh-agent”.

```

PS C:\Users\Administrator> & "C:\Program Files (x86)\ossec-agent\wazuh-agent.exe" install-service
2025/07/21 13:20:01 wazuh-agent: INFO: Found (WazuhSvc) service is not running.
2025/07/21 13:20:01 wazuh-agent: INFO: Successfully removed (WazuhSvc) from the service database.
2025/07/21 13:20:01 wazuh-agent: INFO: Successfully added to the service database.
PS C:\Users\Administrator> & "C:\Program Files (x86)\ossec-agent\wazuh-agent.exe" start
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: (1410): Reading authentication keys file.
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: Using notify time: 10 and max time to reconnect: 60
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: Started (pid: 1676).
2025/07/21 13:20:20 rootcheck: INFO: Started (pid: 1676).
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6002): Monitoring registry entry: 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Classes\batfile', with options 'size | permissions | owner | group | mtime | hash_md5 | hash_shal | hash_sha256 | reg_value_type'
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-modulesd:agent-upgrade: INFO: (8153): Module Agent Upgrade started.
2025/07/21 13:20:20 2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6002): Monitoring registry entry: 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Classes\cmdfile', with options 'size | permissions | owner | group | mtime | hash_md5 | hash_shal | hash_sha256 | reg_value_type'
wazuh-agent: INFO: Windows version is 6.0 or newer. (Microsoft Windows Server 2025 Datacenter Evaluation [Ver: 10.0.26100.1742] - Wazuh v4.12.0).
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: Requesting a key from server: 192.168.81.161
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: 2025/07/21 13:20:20 2025/07/21 13:20:20 sca: INFO: Module started.
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: (1951): Analyzing event log: 'Application'.
(6002): Monitoring registry entry: 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Classes\comfile', with options 'size | permissions | owner | group | mtime | hash_md5 | hash_shal | hash_sha256 | reg_value_type'
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-modulesd:syscollector: 2025/07/21 13:20:20 2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: 2025/07/21 13:20:20 2025/07/21 13:20:20 INFO: Module started.
wazuh-modulesd:ciscat: (1951): Analyzing event log: 'Security'.
wazuh-modulesd:osquery: INFO: Module disabled. Exiting...
INFO: Module disabled. Exiting...sca: INFO: 2025/07/21 13:20:20 2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: 2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: No authentication password provided
(6002): Monitoring registry entry: 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Classes\exefile', with options 'size | permissions | owner | group | mtime | hash_md5 | hash_shal | hash_sha256 | reg_value_type'
wazuh-modulesd:syscollector: INFO:
Loaded policy 'C:\Program Files (x86)\ossec-agent\ruleset\sca\cis_win2022.yml'2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO:
wazuh-agent: INFO: (1951): Analyzing event log: 'System'.
Starting evaluation.
2025/07/21 13:20:20 sca: INFO: Loaded policy 'C:\Program Files (x86)\ossec-agent\ruleset\sca\cis_win2025.yml'2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: (1950): Analyzing file: 'active-response\active-responses.log'.
(6002): Monitoring registry entry: 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Classes\piffile', with options 'size | permissions | owner | group | mtime | hash_md5 | hash_shal | hash_sha256 | reg_value_type'
2025/07/21 13:20:20 wazuh-agent: INFO: Using agent name as: DC1

```

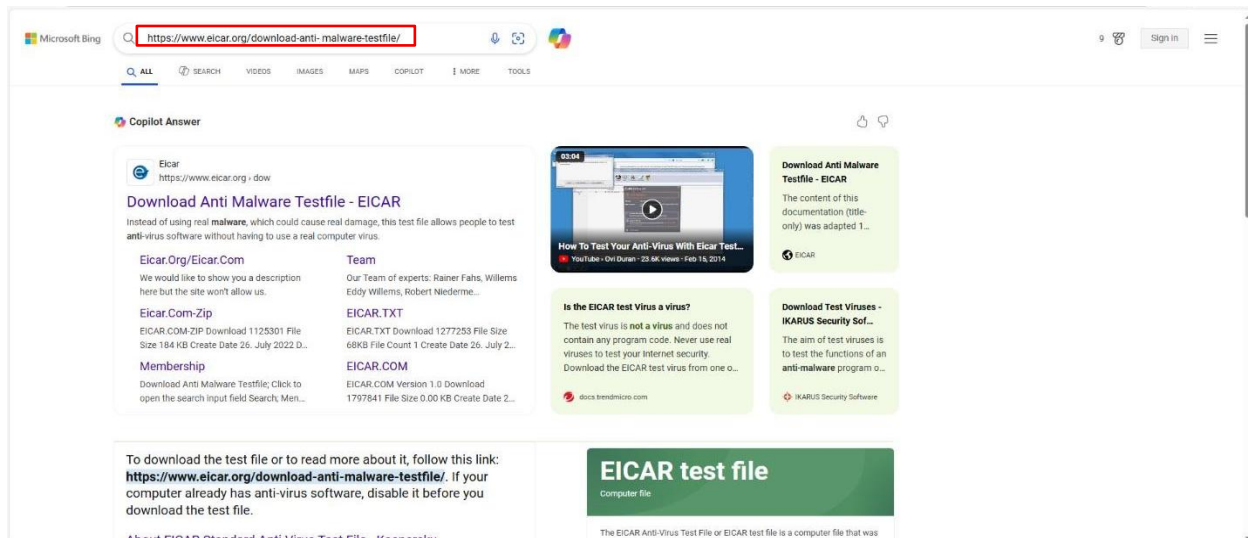
```
md5 | hash_sha1 | hash_sha256 | attributes | scheduled'.
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6003): Monitoring path: 'c:\windows\system32\windowspowershell\v1.0', with options 'size | permissions | owner | group | mti
me | inode | hash_md5 | hash_sha1 | hash_sha256 | attributes | scheduled'.
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'file' entry 'c:\programdata\microsoft\windows\start menu\programs\startup\desktop.ini'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6207): Ignore 'file' sregex '.log$|.htm$|.jpg$|.png$|.chm$|.pdf$|.evtx$'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Security\Policy\Secrets'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Security\SAM\Domains\Account\Users'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpsSvc\Parameters\AppCs'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpsSvc\Parameters\PortKeywords\DHCP'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpsSvc\Parameters\PortKeywords\IPTLSIn'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpsSvc\Parameters\PortKeywords\IPTLSOut'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpsSvc\Parameters\PortKeywords\RPC-EPMa
p'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\WpsSvc\Parameters\PortKeywords\Teredo'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\PolicyAgent\Parameters\Cache'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnceEx'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6206): Ignore 'registry' entry 'HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\ADOMPPackage\Final'
2025/07/21 13:20:25 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6207): Ignore 'sregex' entry 'Enum$'
2025/07/21 13:20:26 wazuh-agent: INFO: Started (pid: 1676)
2025/07/21 13:20:26 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6009): Starting daemon...
2025/07/21 13:20:26 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6010): File integrity monitoring scan frequency: 43200 seconds
2025/07/21 13:20:26 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6009): File integrity monitoring scan started.
2025/07/21 13:20:32 wazuh-modulesd:syscollector: INFO: Evaluation finished.
2025/07/21 13:20:41 wazuh-agent: INFO: (1410): Reading authentication keys file.
2025/07/21 13:20:41 wazuh-agent: INFO: Using AES as encryption method.
2025/07/21 13:20:41 wazuh-agent: INFO: Trying to connect to server ([192.168.81.161]:1514/tcp).
2025/07/21 13:20:41 wazuh-agent: INFO: (4102): Connected to the server ([192.168.81.161]:1514/tcp).
2025/07/21 13:20:41 rootcheck: INFO: Starting rootcheck scan.
2025/07/21 13:20:41 wazuh-agent: INFO: Agent is now online. Process unlocked, continuing...
2025/07/21 13:20:41 wazuh-agent: INFO: Agent is now online. Process unlocked, continuing...
2025/07/21 13:20:42 wazuh-agent: INFO: Agent is now online. Process unlocked, continuing...
2025/07/21 13:20:44 wazuh-agent: ERROR: (1207): Syscheck remote configuration in 'shared/agent.conf' is corrupted.
2025/07/21 13:20:44 wazuh-agent: INFO: Agent is now online. Process unlocked, continuing...
2025/07/21 13:20:44 sca: INFO: Evaluation finished for policy 'C:\Program Files (x86)\ossec-agent\ruleset\sca\cis_win2025.yml'
2025/07/21 13:20:45 sca: INFO: Security Configuration Assessment scan finished. Duration: 24 seconds.
2025/07/21 13:20:45 wazuh-agent: INFO: Agent is now online. Process unlocked, continuing...
2025/07/21 13:20:46 rootcheck: INFO: Ending rootcheck scan.
2025/07/21 13:21:02 wazuh-agent: INFO: (6009): File integrity monitoring scan ended.
```



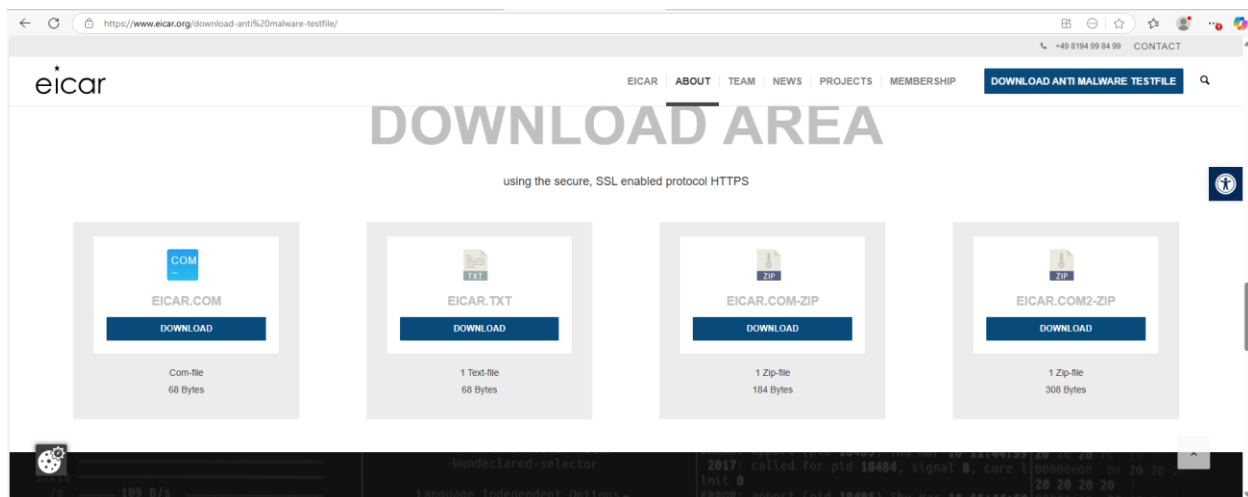
After restarting the Wazuh agent, I temporarily disabled Windows Defender's real-time Protection to allow the download of a malicious test file onto my Windows 11 machine. I then proceeded to access the Wazuh dashboard to monitor and analyze the generated alerts.

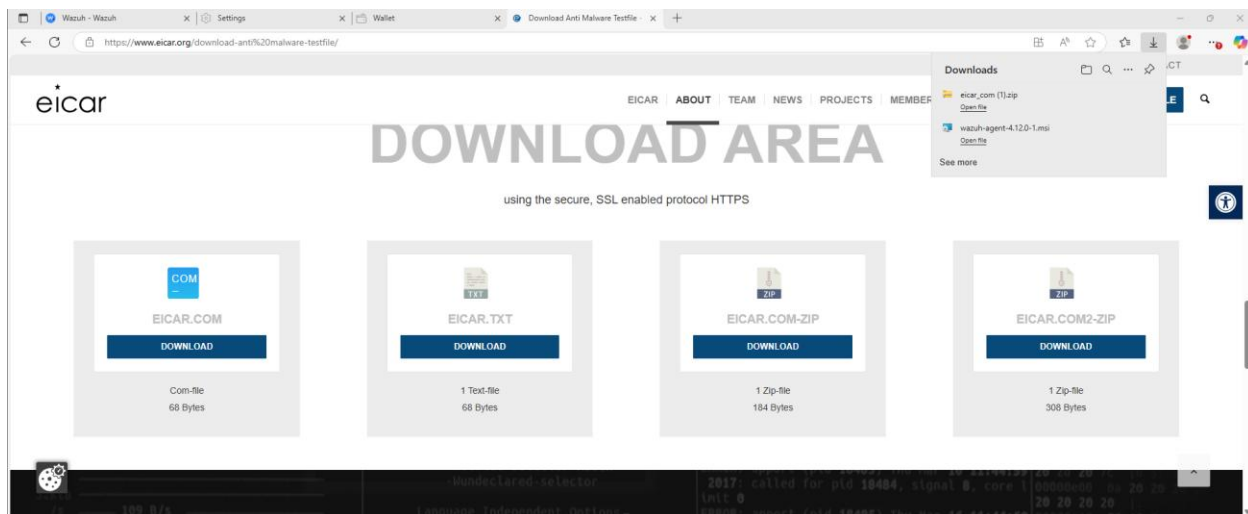
Downloading Malware files form:

<https://www.eicar.org/download-anti-malware-testfile>

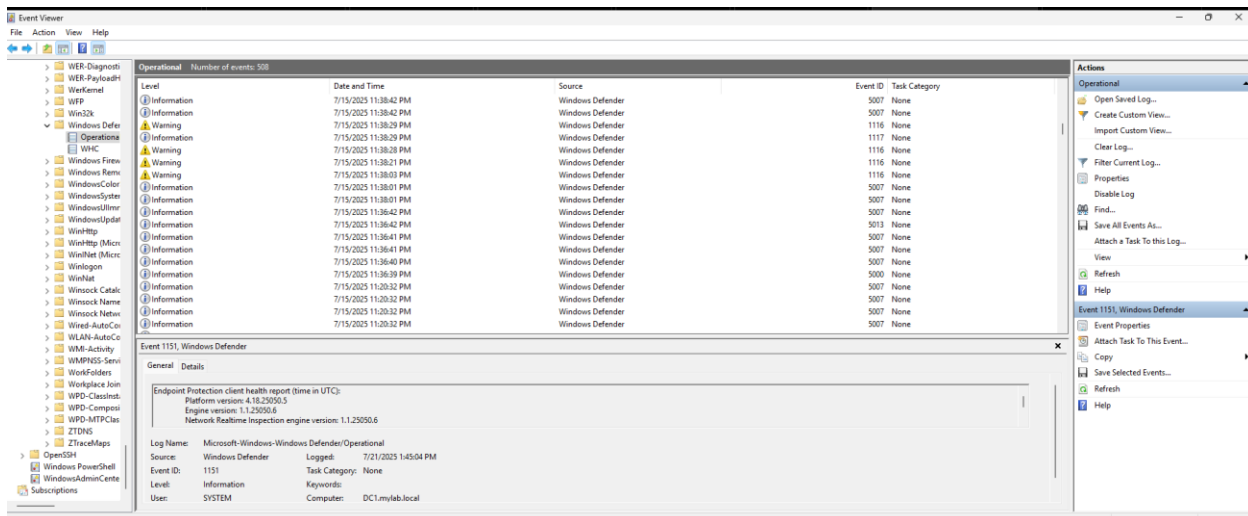


Download any file but I downloaded eicar.zip file

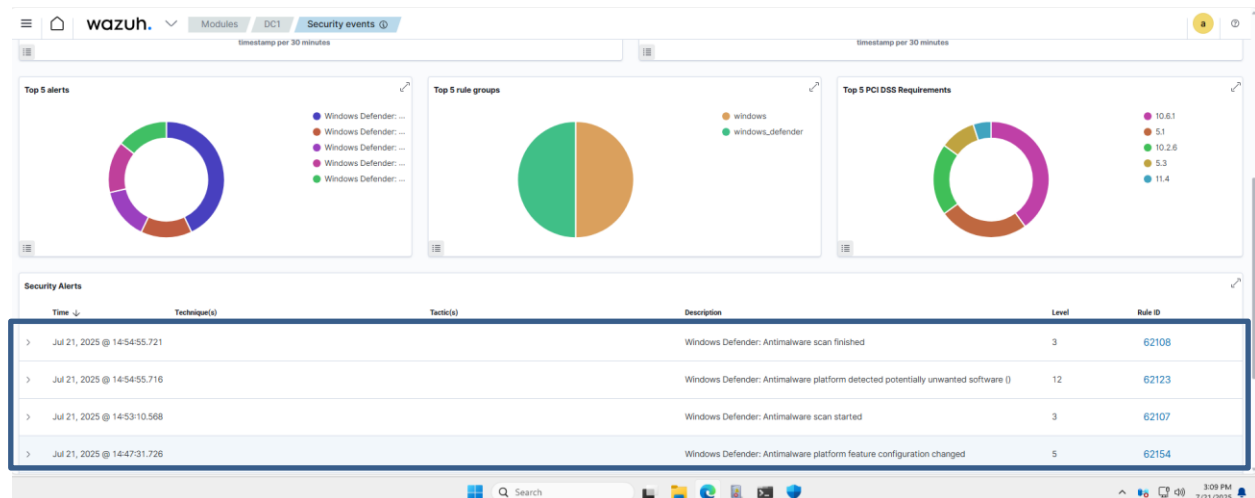




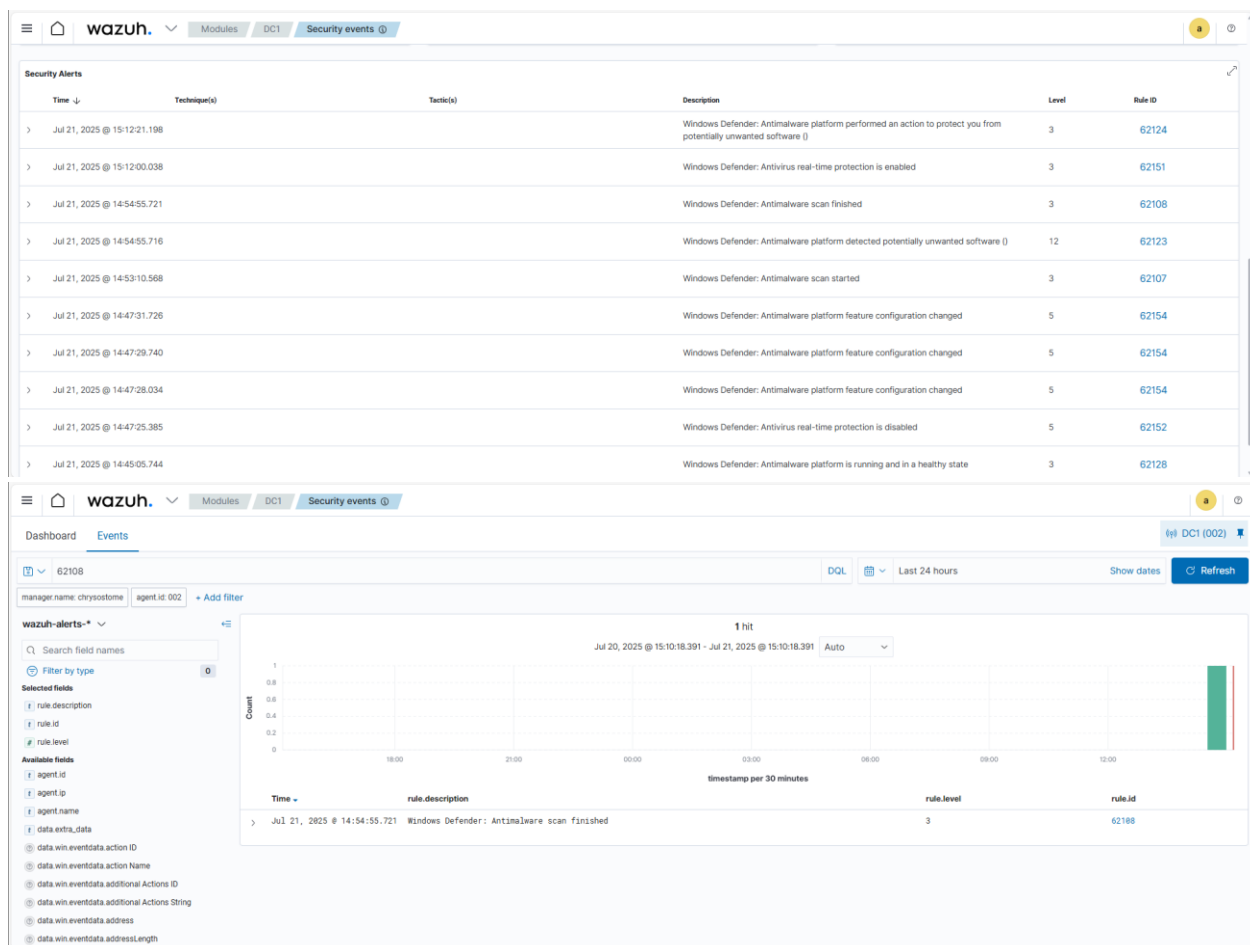
You can see the warning from Microsoft defender here.



### 3. Observe the detection is forwarded to the Wazuh dashboard.



Here you can see the alert from Microsoft defender in Events Section



And we can do some analysis basing on the details we have

Windows Defender: Antimalware platform performed an action to protect you from potentially unwanted software (I)

| Table  | JSON                                   | Rule |
|--|--|------|
| @timestamp                                   | 2025-07-21T13:12:21.198Z               |      |
| .id  | msdLZgBjdGJHMOROQ                      |      |
| agent.id                                     | 002                                    |      |
| agent.ip                                     | 192.168.81.132                         |      |
| agent.name                                   | DC1                                    |      |
| data.win.eventdata.action ID                 | 2                                      |      |
| data.win.eventdata.action Name               | Quarantine                             |      |
| data.win.eventdata.additional Actions ID     | 0                                      |      |
| data.win.eventdata.additional Actions String | No additional actions required         |      |
| data.win.eventdata.category ID               | 42                                     |      |
| data.win.eventdata.category Name             | Virus                                  |      |
| data.win.eventdata.detection ID              | {08274EEB-03C9-48BE-8EBF-41BF6CDDF70E} |      |
| data.win.eventdata.detection Time            | 2025-07-21T12:54:54.297Z               |      |
| data.win.eventdata.detection User            | MYLAB\Administrator                    |      |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| data.win.eventdata.category Name        | Virus   |
| data.win.eventdata.detection ID         | {08274EEB-03C9-48BE-8EBF-41BF6CDDF70E}  |
| data.win.eventdata.detection Time       | 2025-07-21T12:54:54.297Z  |
| data.win.eventdata.detection User       | MYLAB\Administrator   |
| data.win.eventdata.engine Version       | AM: 1.1.25050.6, NIS: 1.1.25050.6   |
| data.win.eventdata.error Code           | 0x00000000  |
| data.win.eventdata.error Description    | The operation completed successfully.   |
| data.win.eventdata.execution ID         | 0   |
| data.win.eventdata.execution Name       | Unknown   |
| data.win.eventdata.fwLink               | <a href="https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&amp;name=Virus.DOS/EICAR_Test_File&amp;threatid=2147519003&amp;enterprise=0">https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=37020&amp;name=Virus.DOS/EICAR_Test_File&amp;threatid=2147519003&amp;enterprise=0</a> |
| data.win.eventdata.origin ID            | 1   |
| data.win.eventdata.origin Name          | Local machine   |
| data.win.eventdata.path                 | file_C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\bypass.txt  |
| data.win.eventdata.post Clean Status    | 0   |
| data.win.eventdata.pre Execution Status | 0   |
| data.win.eventdata.process Name         | Unknown   |
| data.win.eventdata.product Name         | Microsoft Defender Antivirus  |
| data.win.eventdata.product Version      | 4.18.25050.5  |

## Key Event Types

- **Event ID 1116:** Malware detection and quarantine
- **Event ID 1117:** Protective action taken
- **Event ID 1118:** Real-time protection state changes
- **Event ID 5001:** Real-time protection disabled
- **Event ID 5010:** Scanning engine configuration changes

## Conclusions

### Implementation Success Metrics

The successful integration of Windows Defender with Wazuh provides significant security advantages:

### Enhanced Threat Detection

- **Centralized Visibility:** Unified view of endpoint security across the organization
- **Real-time Monitoring:** Immediate notification of security threats and responses
- **Historical Analysis:** Comprehensive threat pattern analysis and trend

identification

### Operational Benefits

- **Reduced Response Time:** Faster incident detection and response capabilities
- **Automated Workflows:** Streamlined security incident handling processes
- **Resource Optimization:** More efficient allocation of security resources

### Strategic Advantages

- **Scalable Architecture:** Easy expansion to additional endpoints and security tools
- **Compliance Support:** Enhanced ability to meet regulatory requirements
- **Risk Reduction:** Improved overall security posture and risk management

This comprehensive integration of Windows Defender with Wazuh establishes a robust foundation for endpoint security monitoring and incident response. The centralized visibility and automated alerting capabilities significantly enhance the organization's ability to detect, analyze, and respond to security threats while maintaining operational efficiency and regulatory compliance.

By following this guide and implementing the recommended best practices, organizations can achieve a mature, scalable security monitoring solution that adapts to evolving threat landscapes and business requirements.