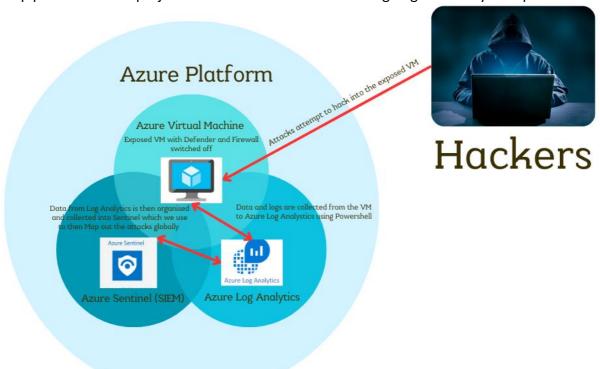
# SIEM Tools Project - Azure Sentinel Global Map of Attacks

I've been eager to enhance my knowledge and experience in Azure Sentinel, given its increasing demand and adoption in the UK cybersecurity landscape. However unfortunately, Microsoft and most online IT educational platforms that I use offer very limited training resources or labs for Sentinel as Splunk seems to be the more dominant SIEM tool used within cybersecurity.

So, I therefore took advantage of Microsoft's free 1-month subscription offer and decided to configure Azure Sentinel to simulate real-world scenarios, I connected it to a live VM (virtual machine) functioning as a honeypot/decoy system. This setup allowed me to actively monitor and analyse live cyberattacks, specifically focusing on RDP brute force attacks originating from various global locations. To then enhance this further, I used a custom PowerShell script to fetch geolocation data about the attackers through their IP addresses and was able to visualise it on the Azure Sentinel Map, providing valuable threat intelligence.

This project was both intriguing and challenging as working with Azure proved to be particularly interesting but also frustrating. The Azure platform has undergone significant modifications this year alone, which meant that much of the information I found on forums and other online sources was outdated and irrelevant.

I have created a simple diagram explaining the scenario below and also outlined a step-bystep process for this project. For obvious reasons this isn't going to be very in depth.

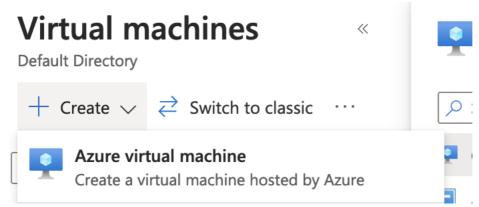


Once I had signed up for the free month subscription, I was granted access to all of the software that Azure offers. For this project we only needed the following 3.

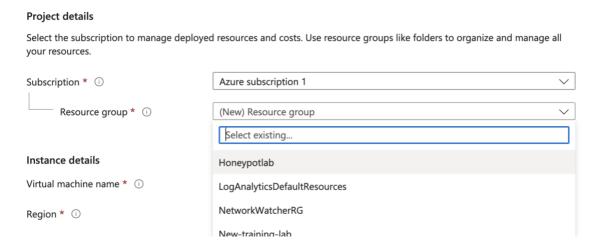
- Virtual Machine
- Sentinel
- Log Analytics

#### Part 1 – Setting up the Virtual Machine (VM)

After clicking on Virtual Machines within the Azure platform the next task was to create the new VM. Create > Azure virtual machine



From there we arrive to the following, where we need to choose the subscription type, name of the VM but also its location. As you can see, I named this "Honeypot"



In regards with location I decided to use the "East US 2", the reason being is that although I'm in the UK this VM is going to be exposed to the whole world to entice attacks and my thinking process was that the US is the most attacked nation on the planet and therefore most likely to produce better results

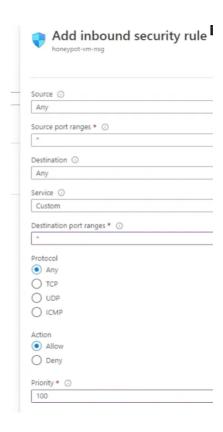
Resource group (move): Honeypotlab

Status : Running

Location : East US 2

Subscription (move) : Azure subscription 1

For the security rules I wanted to allow all port ranges and also kept "priority" level down to a minimum



I also changed the Windows Defender Firewall settings as seen below, although I don't in anyway recommend doing this the objective of this project was to entice as many attacks as possible. Obviously normally the idea is to prevent attacks and therefore both these settings would be usually left "On".

Customize settings for each type of network

You can modify the firewall settings for each type of network that you use.

Private network settings

Turn on Windows Defender Firewall

Block all incoming connections, including those in the list of allowed apps

Notify me when Windows Defender Firewall blocks a new app

Turn off Windows Defender Firewall (not recommended)

Public network settings

Turn on Windows Defender Firewall

Block all incoming connections, including those in the list of allowed apps

Notify me when Windows Defender Firewall blocks a new app

Turn off Windows Defender Firewall (not recommended)

## Part 2 – Creating a Log Analytics Workspace

Again, fairly straightforward, I used the same resource group as I did in the VM section. Provided a name and also kept the region/location the same.

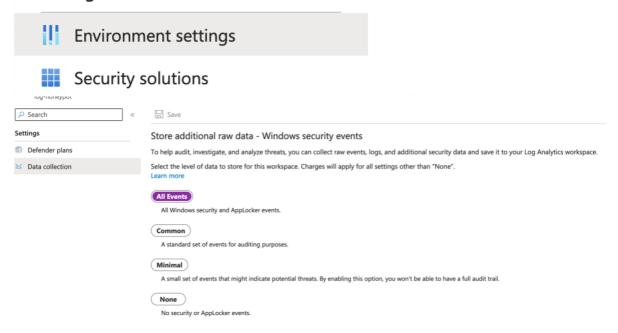
# **Create Log Analytics workspace** Basics Tags Review + Create 1 A Log Analytics workspace is the basic management unit of Azure Monitor Logs. There are specific considerations you should take when creating a new Log Analytics workspace. Learn more With Azure Monitor Logs you can easily store, retain, and query data collected from your monitored resources in Azure and other environments for valuable insights. A Log Analytics workspace is the logical storage unit where your log data is collected and stored. **Project details** Select the subscription to manage deployed resources and costs. Use resource groups like folders to organize and manage all your resources. Azure subscription 1 Subscription \* ① Resource group \* ① Create new Instance details Name \* ① Region \* ① East US 2 Microsoft.LogAnalyticsOMS | Overview 🗷 ■ Delete Cancel Redeploy Download Refresh Refresh Search ••• Deployment is in progress Inputs Outputs Template Resource group : Honeypotlab Deployment details Resource

Once done we now have to go into "Microsoft Defender for Cloud". This is so we can enable the ability to gather logs from the VM into the Log Analytics Workspace. This used to be called "Security Center" but this was one of the recent changes which changed the whole process of linking the two together.

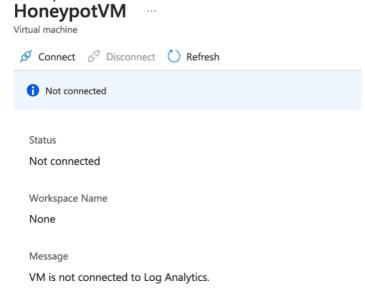


From there we go to "Environment settings > Data collection" and I made sure that "All Events" was enabled to make sure that all the raw data and logs were collected.

# Management



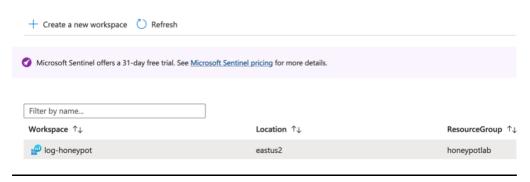
Now we can connect Log Analytics to the VM by clicking on the "Connect" button below. This usually takes a few minutes to go through. Whilst that's going through, we can make a start on part 3.



## Part 3 - Setting up Azure Sentinel

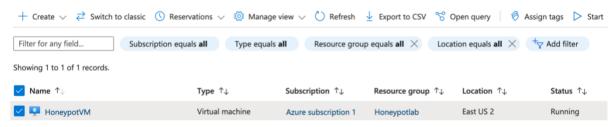
This section is very quick, once we find "Azure Sentinel" in the search bar above. Simply find the Log Workspace that we created earlier in the section below, click on it and then click "Add" to add that to the Sentinel platform

## Add Microsoft Sentinel to a workspace



## Part 4 – Logging into the new VM via RDP (remote desktop)

To log into the new VM I first needed the IP, so I went back to "Virtual Machines" within Azure and found the IP as seen below



Operating system : Windows (Windows 10 Pro)

Size : Standard B1s (1 vcpu, 1 GiB memory)

Public IP address : 20.110.229.69

Virtual network/subnet: HoneypotVM-vnet/default

DNS name : Not configured

Health state : -

Using this IP, I was able to log into the VM. I accidently used the wrong username first time round hence why the log in initially failed, however once In I was able to make my way to

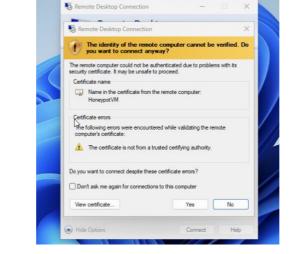
"Event Viewer"

WINDOWS-IHCQ5PP\craig

The logon attempt failed

Remember me

More choices

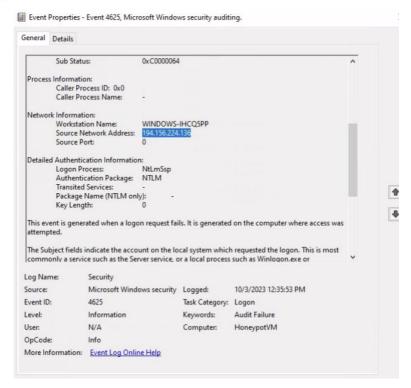


Now the objective of this project is to have our Virtual Machine attacked whilst registering this information and having it marked on our global map on Sentinel. In order to do this, we first need the EventID for "failed logins". We will be using this in the Powershell script to provide all the important information and data from each failed attempt. The Failed Login EventID is 4625

PM Micros... 4624 Logon PM Micros... 4625 Logon

Here we can see my initial failed attempt registered within Event Viewer. The EventID is as shown above and below as 4625. Furthermore, you can also see some important data being collected, workstation name and IP address. The IP highlighted is the one I used in this failed login attempt. Now unfortunately Event Viewer doesn't provide longitude or latitude data of where the IP originated from however lots of third-party sites offer this type of service.

In this case I used <a href="https://app.ipgeolocation.io/">https://app.ipgeolocation.io/</a>

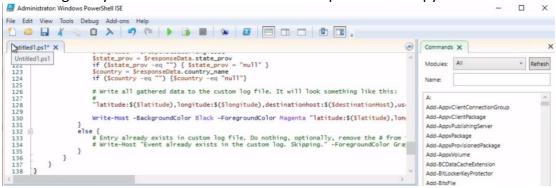


I copied the IP above and inserted it into <a href="https://app.ipgeolocation.io/">https://app.ipgeolocation.io/</a>. You can see the information that was gathered just from that 1 IP address listed below

Here we have the city, country and also the longitude/latitude.



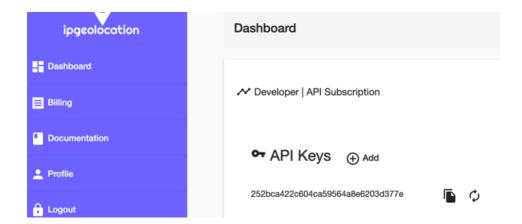
Now that we have the EventID and understand how the geolocation works, we can open up Powershell ISE. I found a script online which allows us gather this information and export this to Log Analytics. We need to create a new script and then copy it as I've done below.



Once done I saved the script as log\_export.ps1. Now we can clearly see from the script that a logfile named "failed\_rdp.log" will be exported and filed in the directory "C:\ProgramData\" This is the text file that we will be using in the Log Analytics Workspace

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell ISE
File Edit View Tools Debug Add-ons Help
log_export.ps1* X
       # Get API key from here: https://ipgeolocation.io/
$API_KEY = "252bca422c604ca59564a8e6203d377e|"
$LOGFILE_NAME = "failed_rdp.log"
$LOGFILE_PATH = "C:\ProgramData\$($LOGFILE_NAME)"
     \# This filter will be used to filter failed RDP events from Windows Event Viewer _{\boxdot} $XMLFilter = @'
       <QueryList>
          11
                  </Select>
  12
           </Query>
       </QueryList>
  14
  16
           This function creates a bunch of sample log files that will be used to train the
```

Furthermore, you can see my API Key listed directly above. This is where all the failed IP's will go through in order to grab that important geographical information which will later be used in Sentinel. In order for this to work you will need to provide your own API Key, you can acquire this by signing up to ipgeolocation and I believe they provide you with a free API for up to 30 days.



Heading over to the "failed\_rdp.log" we can clearly see that I have already had a number of attempted RDP brute force attacks. We can also see my failed attempts at the bottom of the screen where I was testing the script.



Once the script is complete, tested and saved we can then move back into our normal system and on the Azure platform, from there we head to Log Analytics.

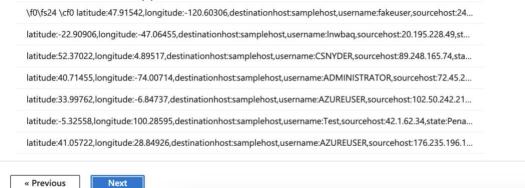
#### Part 5 – Creating Custom Logs

This was by far the most stressful stage of the whole project, initially the process has always been very simple from what I made out however with some of the huge changes that Microsoft made with the recent "update", something ever so simple now is invariably more complicated.

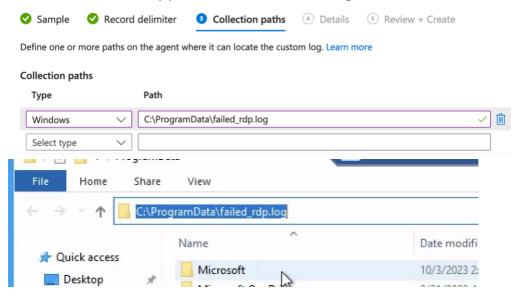
From Log Analytics we go to "Create a custom log" and it is here where we insert the file name of the log that our Powershell script exports our data to within our VM. Scroll up to Part 4 for confirmation.



# This is how our data appears as seen below. Click next

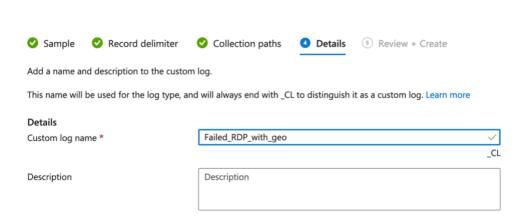


## Make sure the directory path to the file is correct. Again see Part 4. Click next

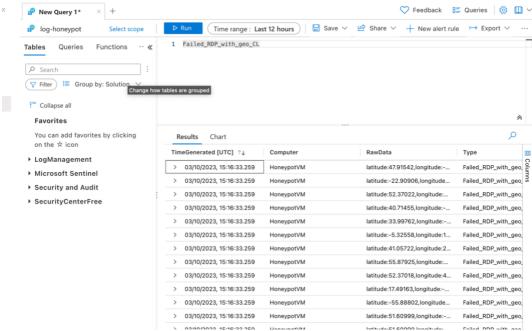


Provide a name for the Custom log as I have done below and then click "Review + Create"

## Create a custom log



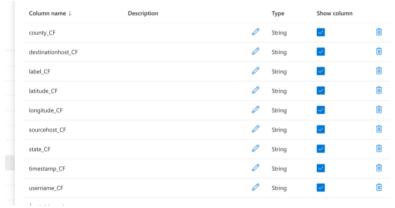
We will have to wait for a few minutes for the custom log to finalise. Once done if we head down to logs and run the query below for a custom log then we should start seeing our results being pulled from that log file on our VM.



Now originally we used to be able to click on the arrow in the box highlighted above and from there manually select the custom columns that we wish to use but because of all these recent changes/updates we are now no longer able to do it that way. As you can see from the image above, its the "RawData" column that we want to create custom fields from. Below we can see that within this "RawData" we have the fields, latitude, longitude, destinationhost, username, sourcehost and also country and state fields. These are the additional fields that we need to add in our custom log so that Sentinel can grab that GeoData and plot that on our Map. Otherwise its just 1 long string of random information.

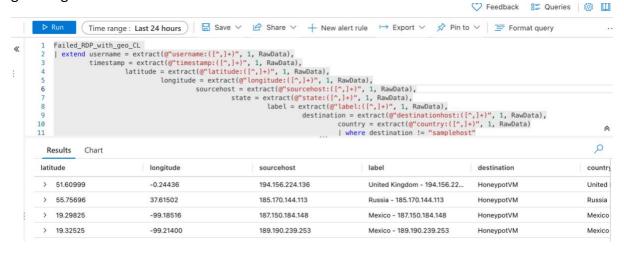
latitude:41.05722,longitude:28.84926,destinationhost:samplehost,username:AZUREUSER,sourcehost:176.235.196.1...

To get around this I tried manually adding the custom fields via "Edit Schema" on the logs section however I was unsuccessful as the query although allowed me to add the fields, was unable to grab the necessary data from the section above and organise it in a way that Sentinel could understand.



So I scrapped that and decided to go straight from the query. I added the query below which you can clearly see extracts the key fields I noted above from the "RawData" column. You can clearly see 9 new custom fields being taken just from the "RawData" section I showed above.

And now when I click "Run" you can see the longitude, latitude, country etc fields below grabbing the correct data.



<u>Part – 6 Testing the extracts from the query and setting up the workbook for Sentinel Mapping.</u>

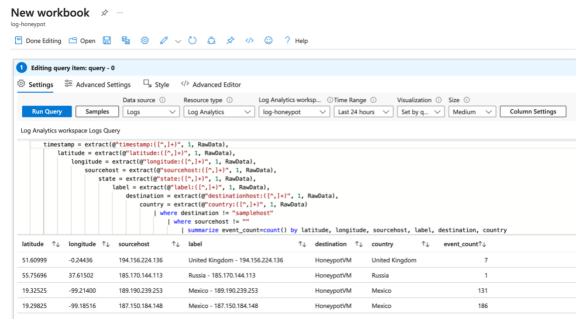
Now just to check that all is working as it should be, we can go back and purposely attempt a few failed logins to our VM to see if it is registering correctly in our query.

Once confirmed we can now head over to Sentinel > Workbooks > Create New Workbook

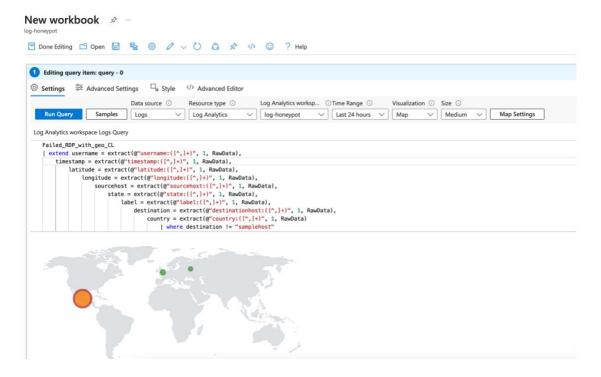
Now automatically Sentinel provides you with a few widgets to display your data, we want to remove these and then go to Add > Add a query



Here we want to paste I have done below the same query as I used in the log query earlier above. Run the query to make sure that the data is coming in correctly as seen below with the correct fields shown.

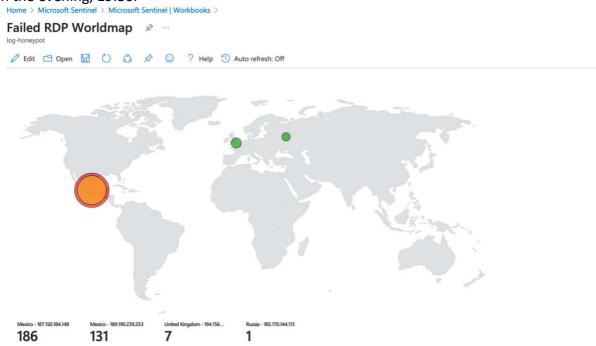


I then changed the visualization section above to "Map" as we want this Geodata to be presented to us on a global scale so we can pinpoint where these attacks are coming from.



There are a couple of adjustments that need to be made in "Map Settings" to make sure that we have selected the right data to be pulled from the correct fields and once done that should be it.

As you can see already we have some attacks being registered and plotted on our Map. If we see further down we can note the number of attacks coming through and from which country and IP. This screen shot below was taken immediately after I finished setting this up in the evening, 19:30.



Here via Powershell on the VM we can clearly see the attempted usernames being used by our attackers. A lot of these are spanish which makes sense as the majority of attacks I received have so far come from Mexico within the first hour.

**Username: Cuentas** 

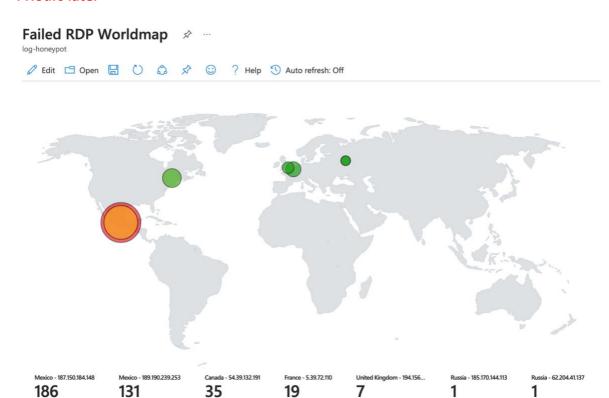
Username: \\
Username: admin
Username: usuario

Username: Administrator

Username: de Username: Invitado

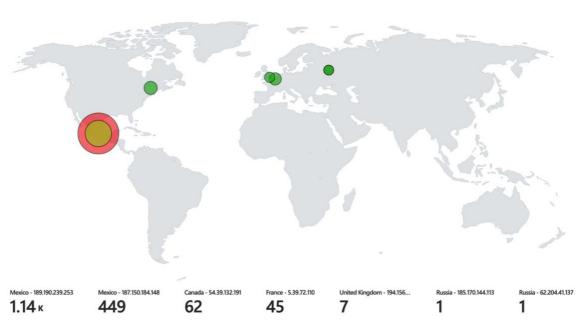
```
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:de, sourcehost:187.1
48, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:58
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:de, sourcehost:187.150.18
ate:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:57
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:\\, sourcehost:187.150.18
ate:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:56
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:admin.sourcehost:187.150
; state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:55
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:usuario, sourcehost:187.1
48.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:55
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:Administrator, sourcehost:
184.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:53
:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:, sourcehost:187.150.184.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:32
ttitude:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:Invitado, sourcehost:187.
0.184.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:32
ttitude:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:Invitado, sourcehost:187.
0.184.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:30
ttitude:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:Administrador, sourcehost:87.
0.184.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:30
ttitude:19.29825, longitude:-99.18516, destinationhost:HoneypotVM, username:Administrador, sourcehost:87.150.184.148, state:Mexico City, label:Mexico - 187.150.184.148, timestamp:2023-10-03 17:22:29
ttitude:19.
```

# **4 Hours later**



## 13 hours later





# 22 hours later





# 34 hours later



