

# Defensive Security Project by: The Dream Team

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# Monitoring Environment



# Scenario

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- SOC analysts at Virtual Space Industries (VSI) which designs virtual-reality programs for businesses
- VSI hear rumors the a competitor, JobeCorp, may launch cyberattacks to disrupt VSI's businesses
- As SOC analysts, we were tasked with using Splunk to monitor against potential attacks on VSI's systems and applications
- VSI products that we were tasked with monitoring include an administrative webpage, an Apache web server, and a Window's OS
- We reviewed logs from the Windows Server and the Apache Server

# Logs Analyzed

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1

## Windows Logs

This server contains intellectual property of VSI's next-generation virtual reality programs

2

## Apache Logs

This server is used for VSI's main public-facing website, [vsi-company.com](https://vsi-company.com)

# Windows Logs

# Reports—Windows

Designed the following Reports:

Report Name	Report Description
Signatures and associated signature IDs	To view reports that show the ID number associated with the specific signature for Windows activity.
Severity Levels Count and Percentage	To allow VSI to quickly understand the severity levels of the Windows logs being viewed.
Comparison Between Success and Failure	This report will allow VSI to monitor if there is a suspicious level of failed activities on their server.

# Images of Reports—Windows

Signature and Signature ID

All time

✓ 15 events (before 3/7/23 1:13:19.000 AM)

Job

||

20 per page

i	_time	host	sourcetype	name	signature	signature_id
>	3/24/20 11:59:54.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	A user account was deleted	A user account was deleted	4726
>	3/24/20 11:59:53.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	A user account was created	A user account was created	4720
>	3/24/20 11:59:31.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	A computer account was deleted	A computer account was deleted	4743
>	3/24/20 11:57:54.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	An account was successfully logged on	An account was successfully logged on	4624
>	3/24/20 11:57:51.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	Special privileges assigned to new logon	Special privileges assigned to new logon	4672
>	3/24/20 11:56:41.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	An attempt was made to reset an accounts password	An attempt was made to reset an accounts password	4724
>	3/24/20 11:56:40.000 PM	windows_server_logs	csv	System security access was granted to an account	System security access was granted to an account	4717
>	3/24/20 11:54:46.000	windows_server_logs	csv	A privileged service was called	A privileged service was called	4673

Severity Count and Percent

All time

✓ 4,761 events (before 3/7/23 1:41:26.000 AM)

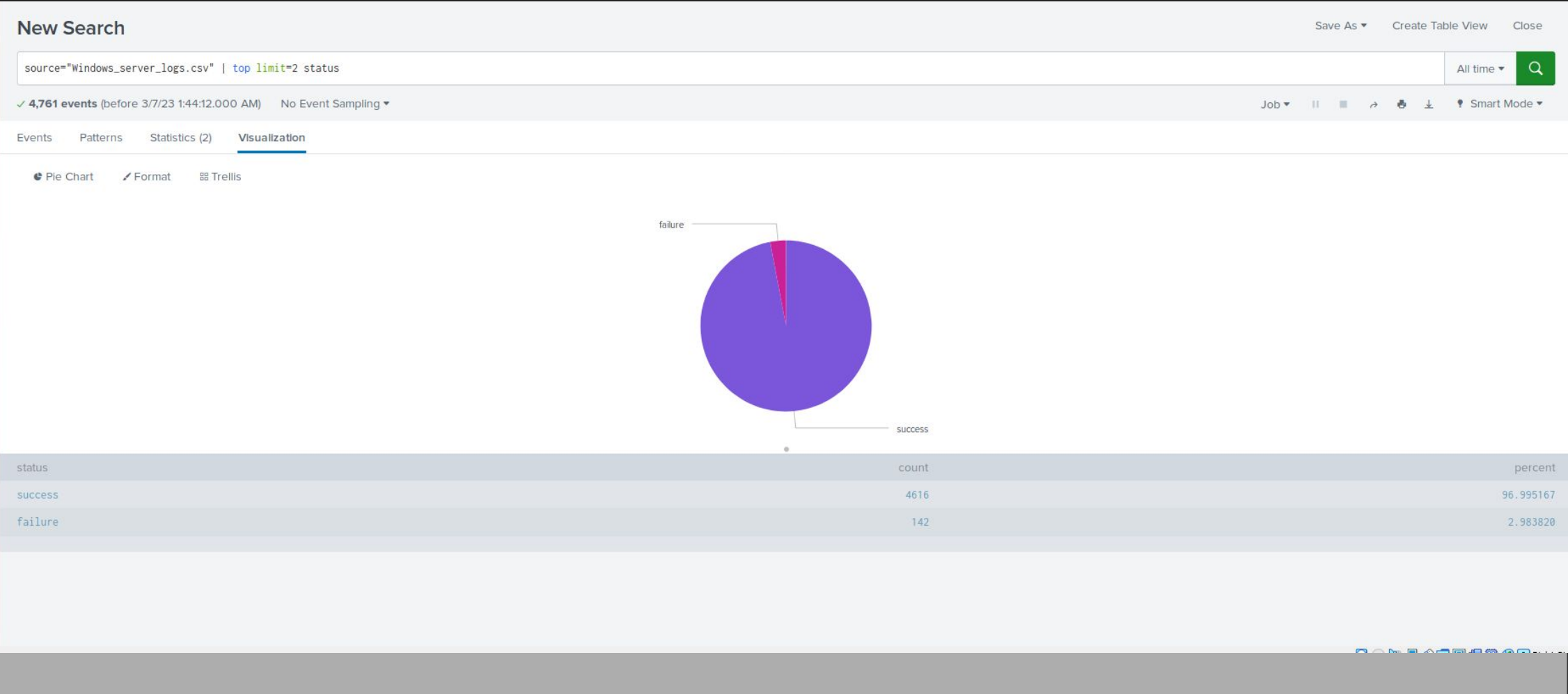
Job

||

2 results

20 per page

severity	count	percent
informational	4429	93.085338
high	329	6.914670





# Alerts—Windows

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
Failed Windows Activity	Number of failed Windows activities by hour.	11	20

**JUSTIFICATION:** We took the average count by hour and made that figure our baseline. We then found the standard deviation of the counts and did the average plus two times the standard deviation to get our threshold.

# Alerts—Windows

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
An Account Was Successfully Logged On	Alerts when an inordinate amount of logins occur in an hour.	27	39

**JUSTIFICATION:** We took the average count by hour and made that figure our baseline. We then found the standard deviation of the counts and did the average plus two times the standard deviation to get our threshold.

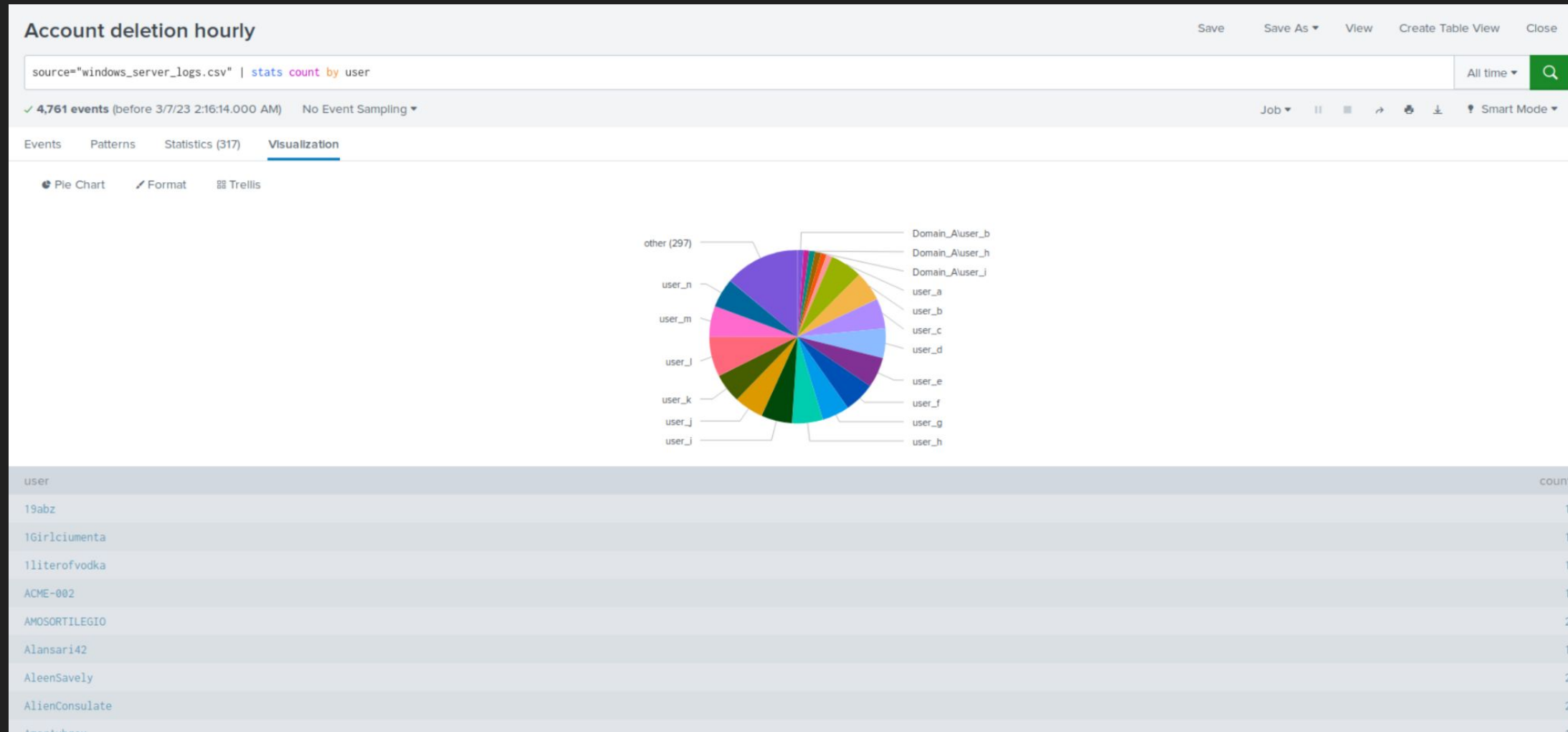
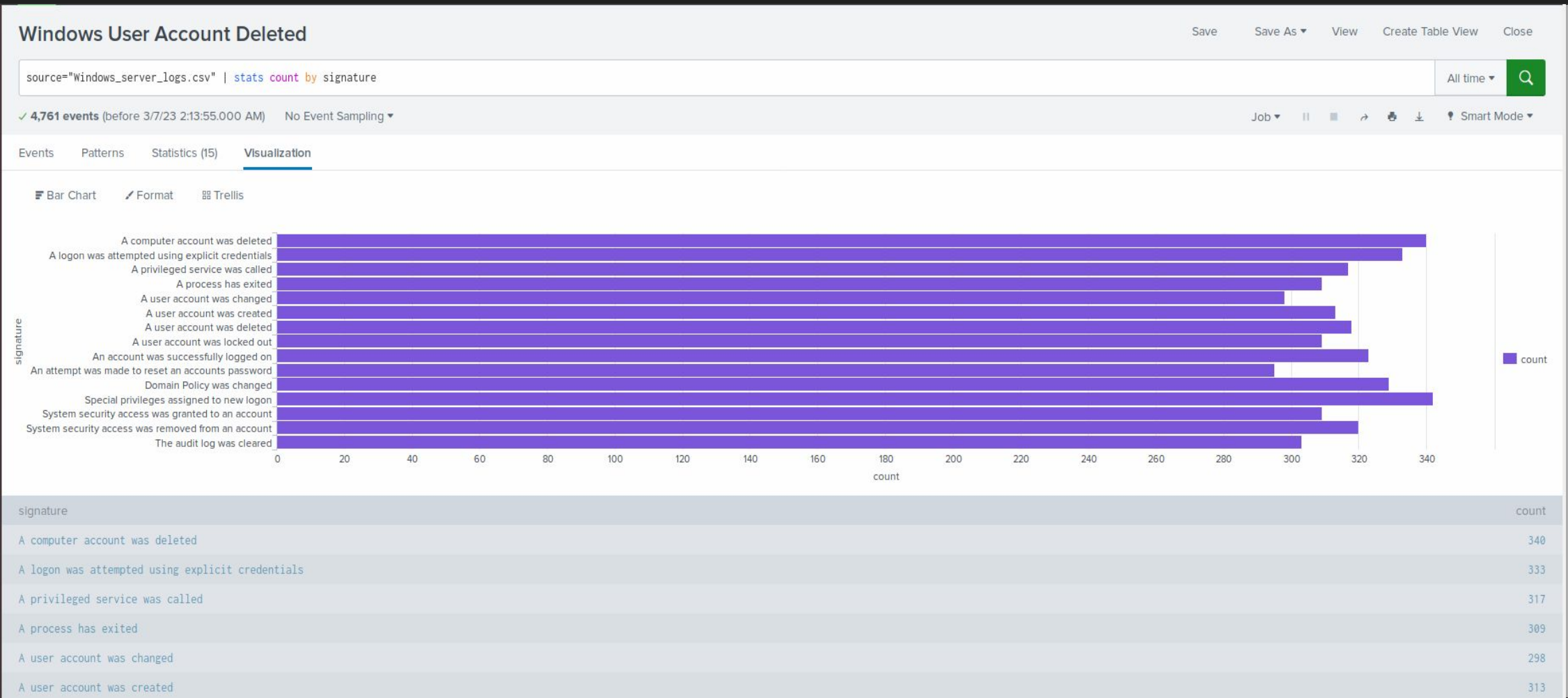
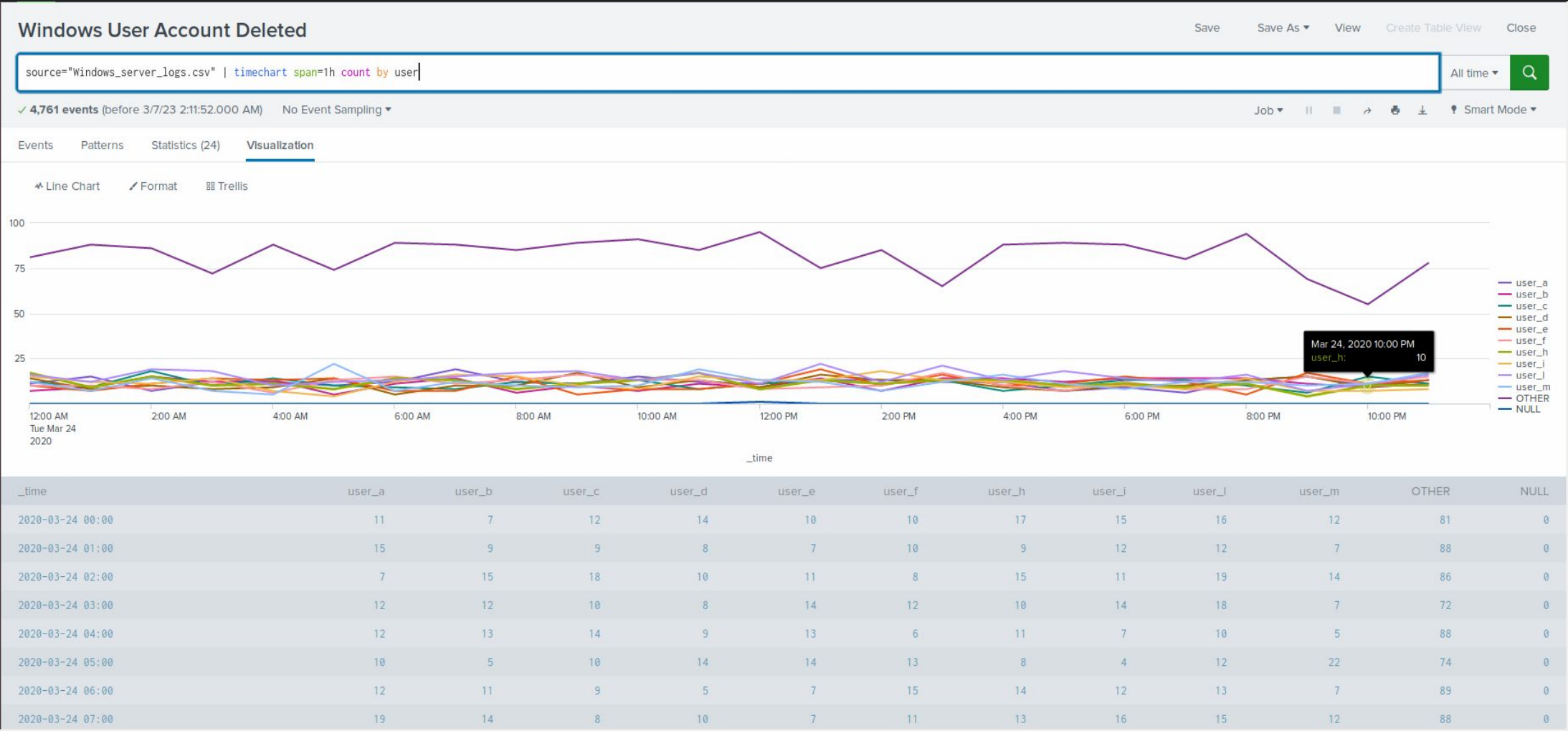
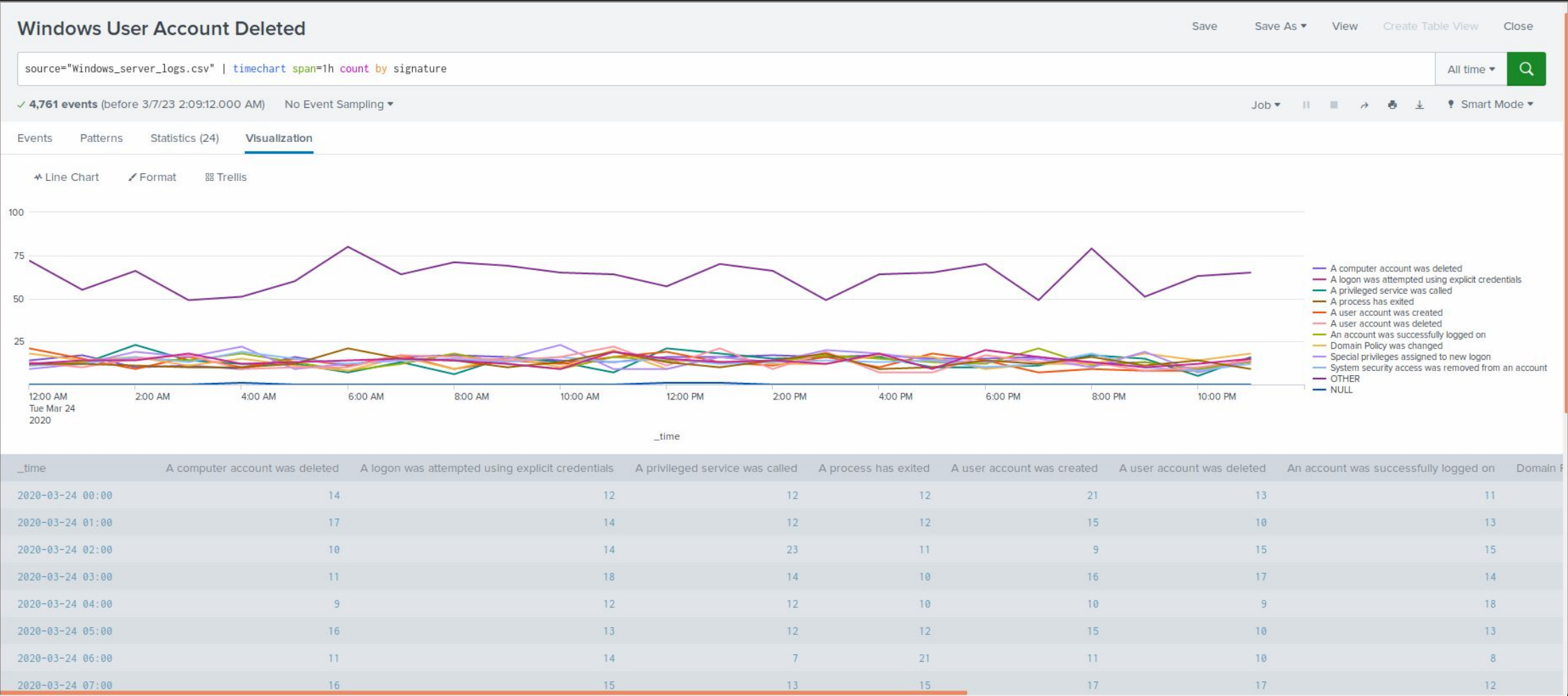
# Alerts—Windows

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
User Accounts Deleted	Alerts when an inordinate amount of user accounts are deleted in an hour.	27	44

**JUSTIFICATION:** We took the average count by hour and made that figure our baseline. We then found the standard deviation of the counts and did the average plus two times the standard deviation to get our threshold.

# Dashboards—Windows





# Dashboards—Windows



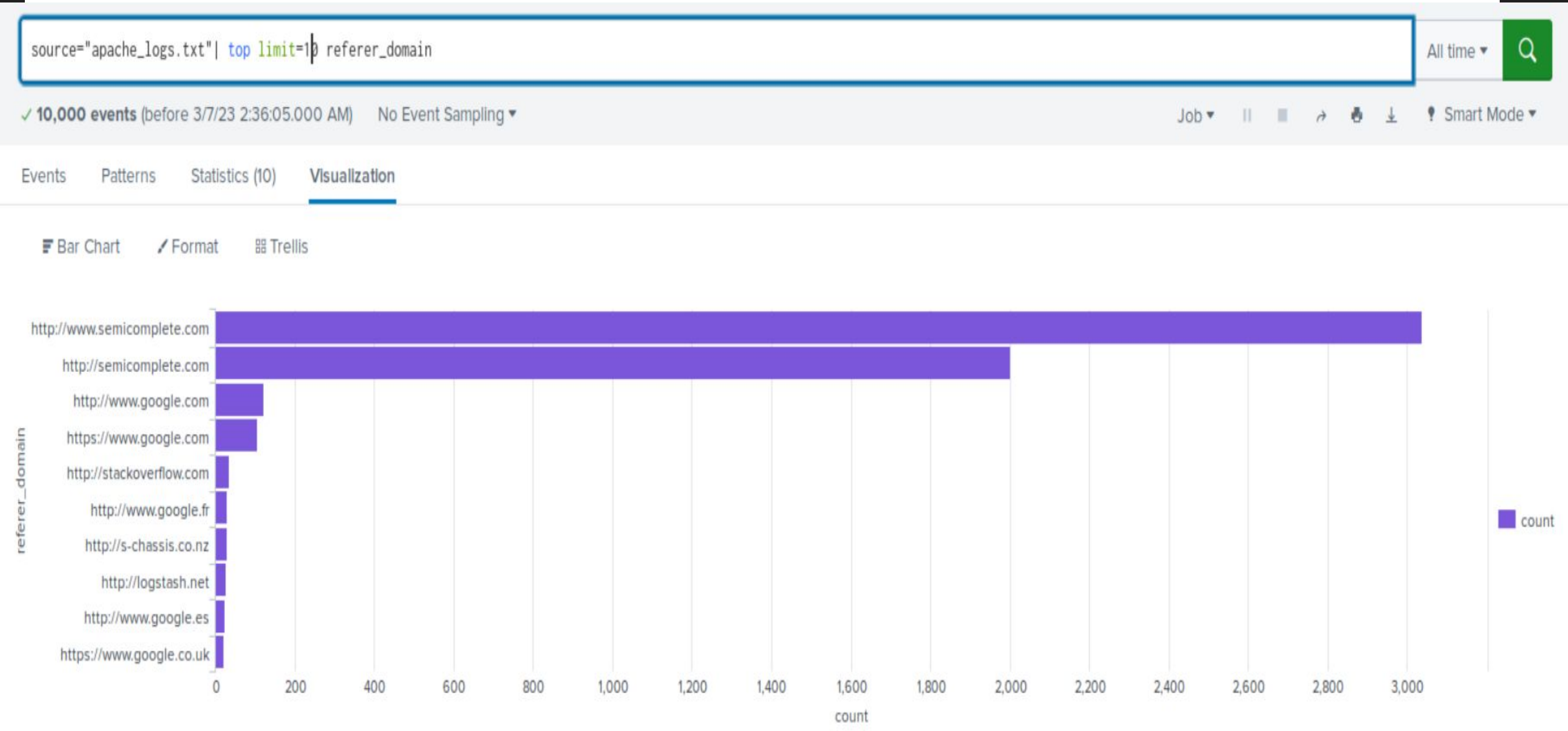
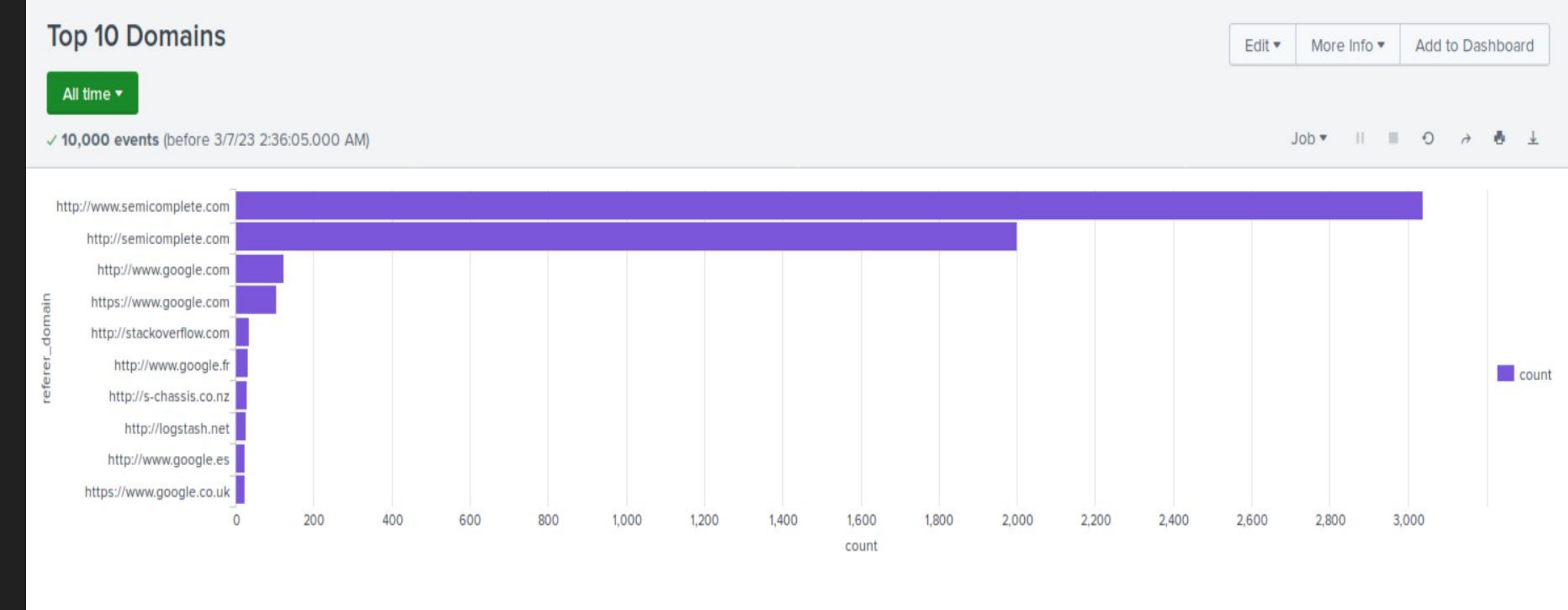
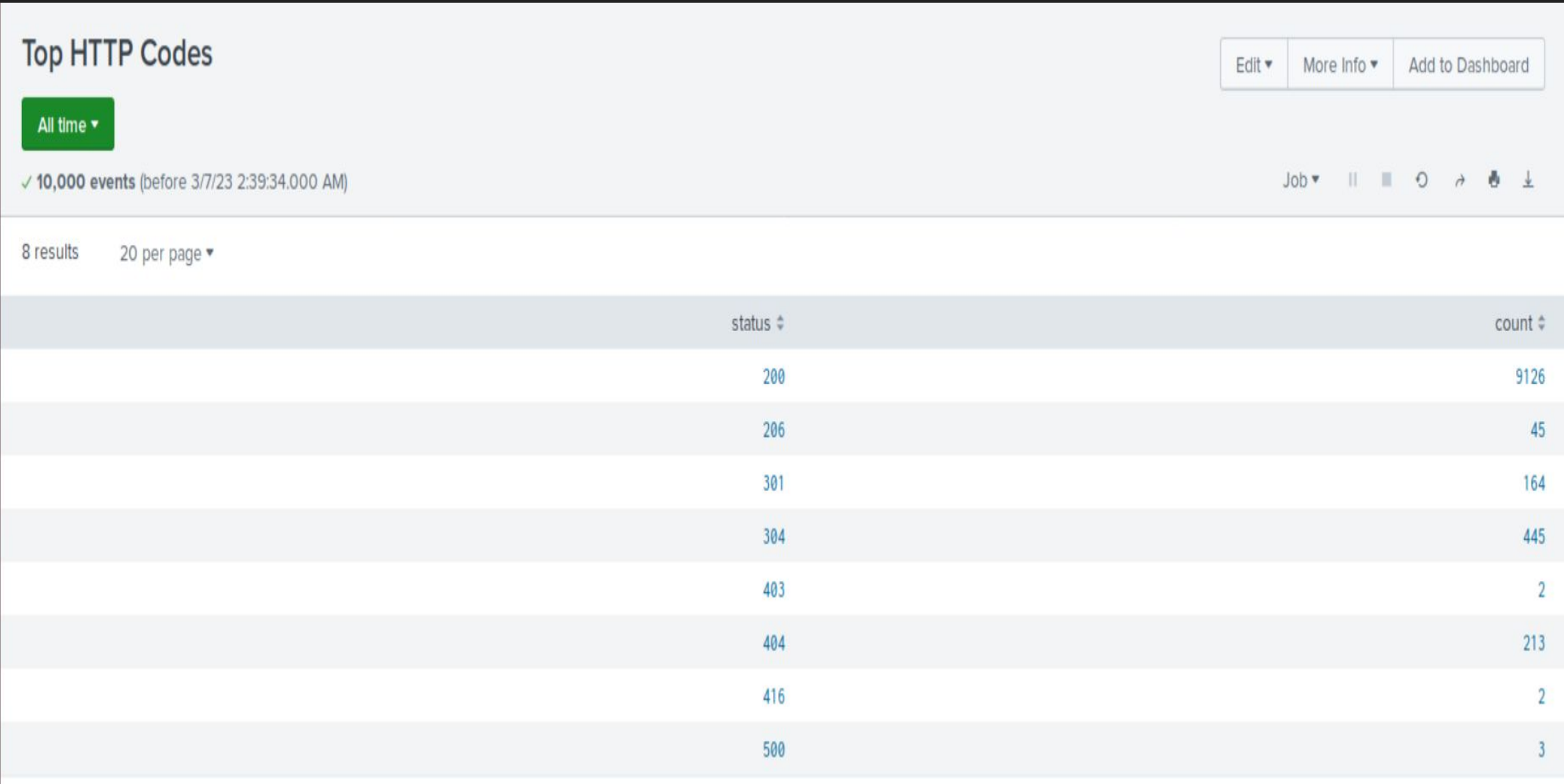
# Apache Logs

# Reports—Apache

Designed the following reports:

Report Name	Report Description
HTTP Method	This will provide insight into the type of HTTP activity being requested against VSI's web server
Top 10 Domains	This will assist VSI with identifying suspicious referrers
Top HTTP Codes	This will provide insight into any suspicious levels of HTTP responses

# Images of Reports—Apache





# Alerts—Apache

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
Exceeded threshold for hourly activity from any country besides the US	Alert emails <a href="mailto:SOC@VSI-company.com">SOC@VSI-company.com</a> when threshold reached	128	200

**JUSTIFICATION:** Rough second standard deviation calculation to determine the threshold

Exceeded threshold for hourly activity from any country besides the United States.

Enabled: ..... Yes. [Disable](#)

App: ..... search

Permissions: ..... Private. Owned by admin. [Edit](#)

Modified: ..... Mar 7, 2023 2:52:12 AM

Alert Type: ..... Scheduled. Hourly, at 0 minutes past the hour. [Edit](#)

Trigger Condition: .. Number of Results is > 200. [Edit](#)

Actions: ..... [1 Action](#) [Edit](#)

[✉](#) Send email

# Alerts—Apache

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
Abnormal amount of hourly HTTP POST requests	This alert will notify a VSI SOC Analyst if there are an abnormal amount of HTTP POST requests in an hour	5	10

**JUSTIFICATION: Rough second standard deviation calculation to determine the threshold**

HTTP POST by Hour

Enabled: ..... Yes. [Disable](#)


Permissions: ..... Private. Owned by admin. [Edit](#)

Modified: ..... Mar 7, 2023 2:56:18 AM

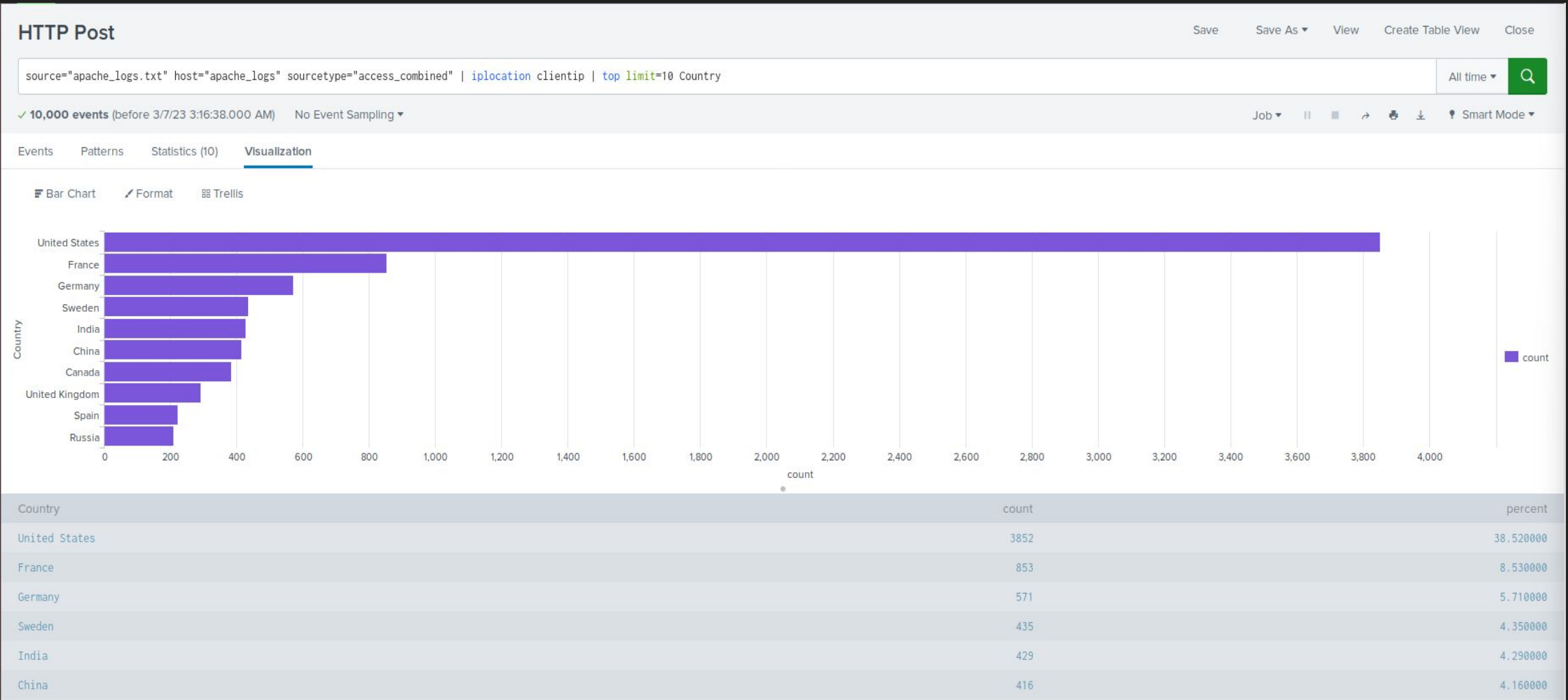
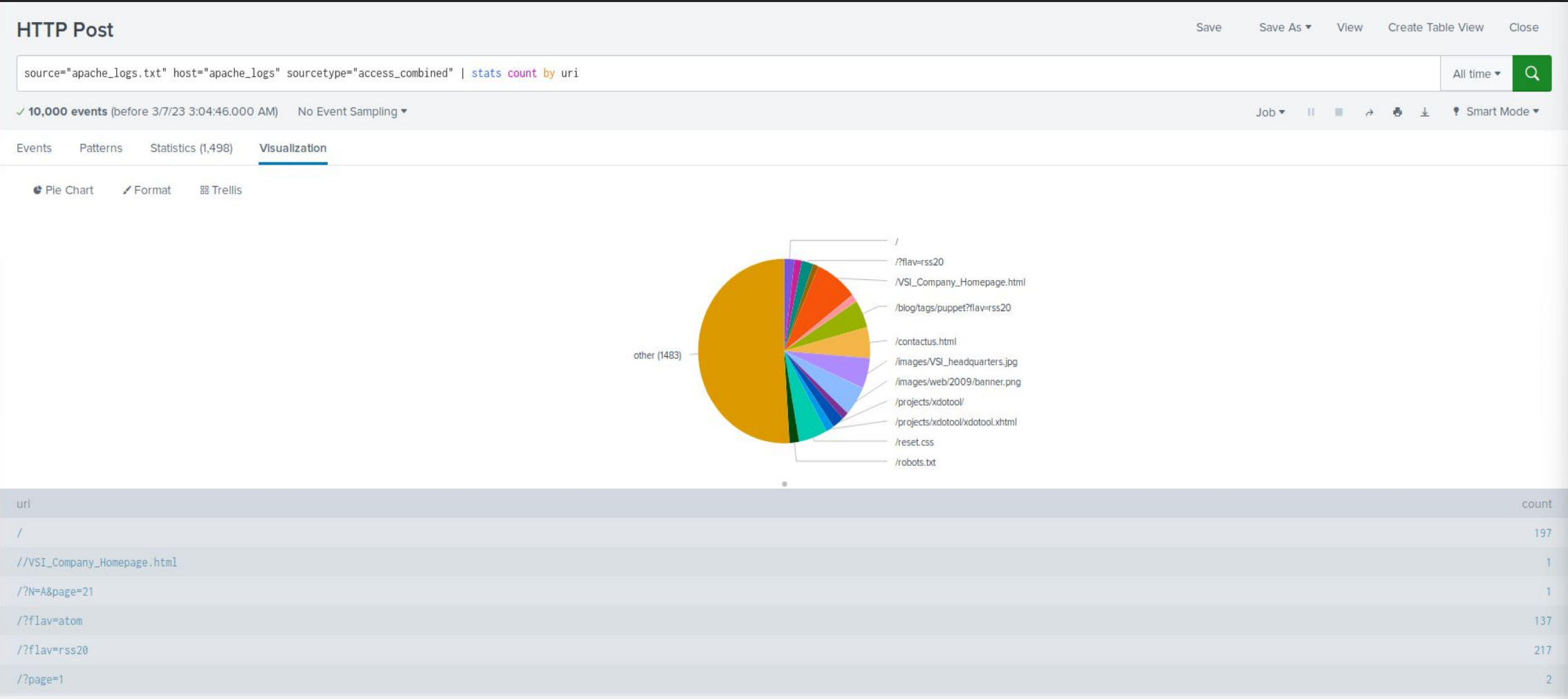
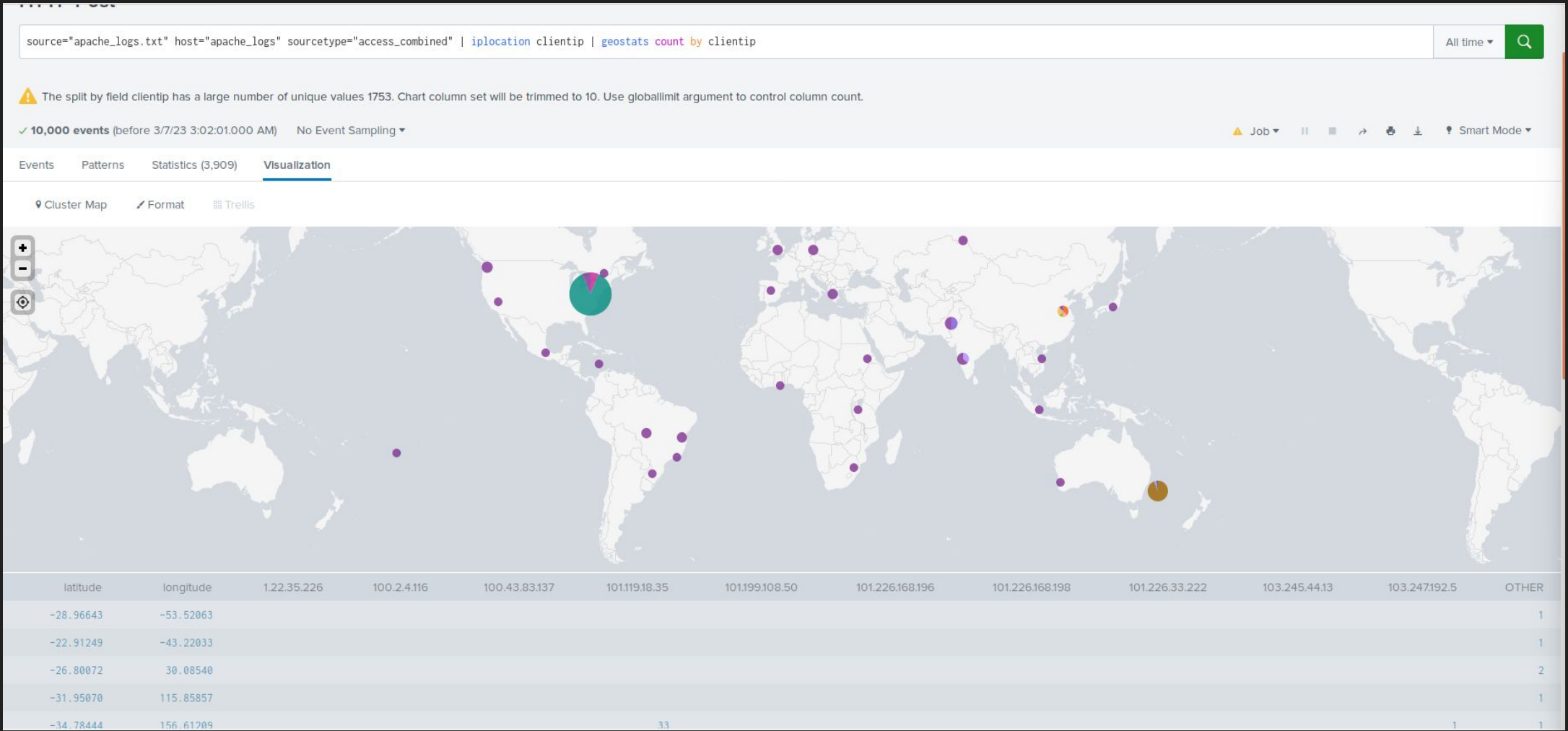
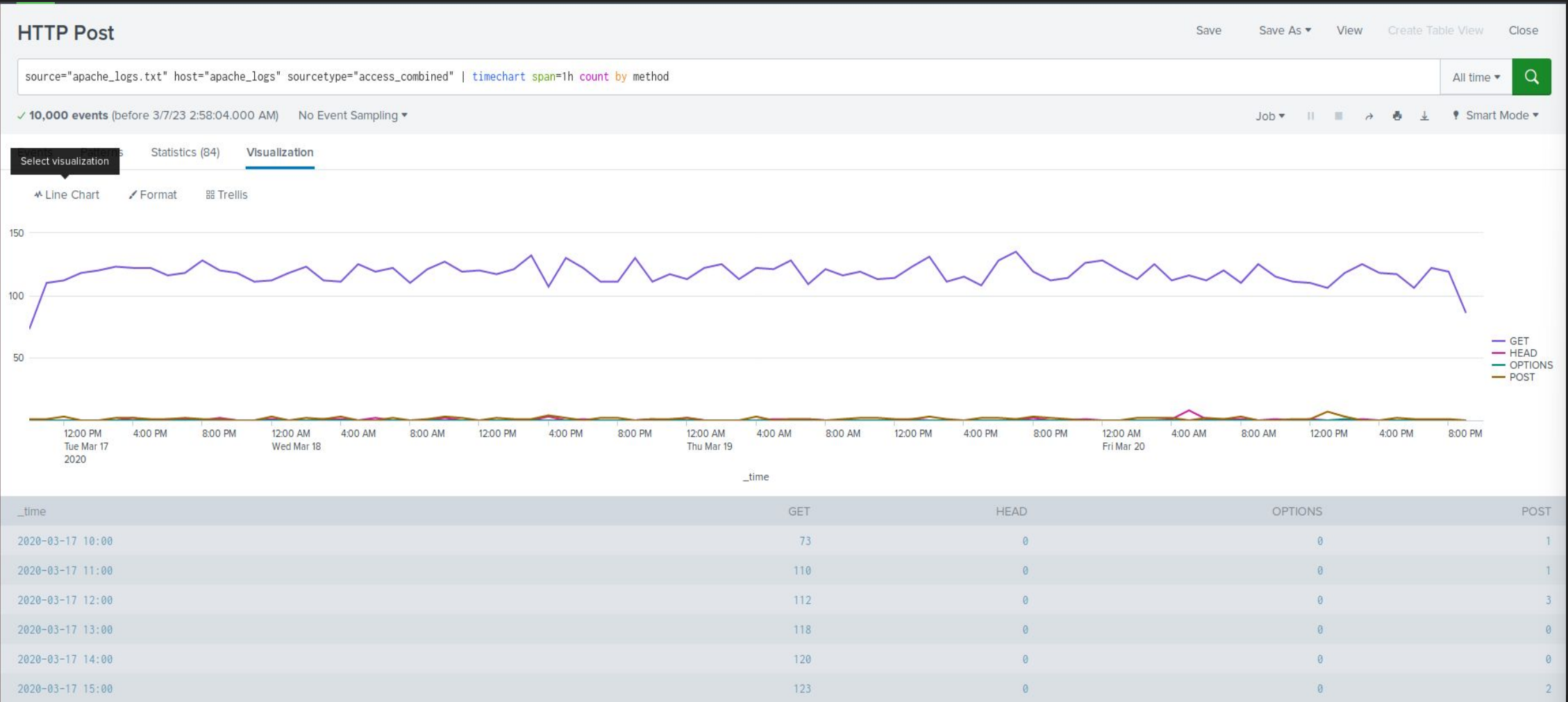
Alert Type: ..... Scheduled. Hourly, at 0 minutes past the hour. [Edit](#)

Trigger Condition: .. Number of Results is > 10. [Edit](#)

Actions: ..... [▼](#) 1 Action [Edit](#)

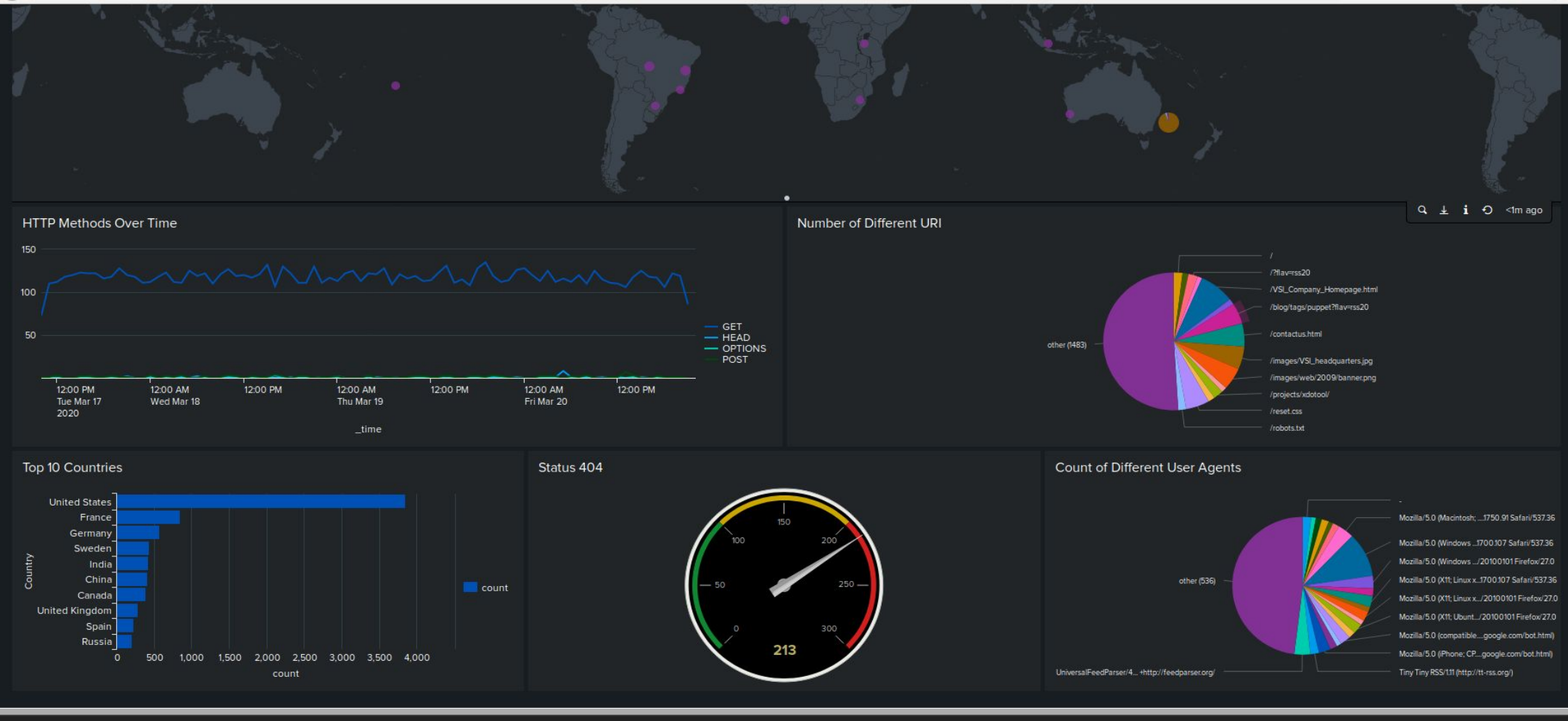
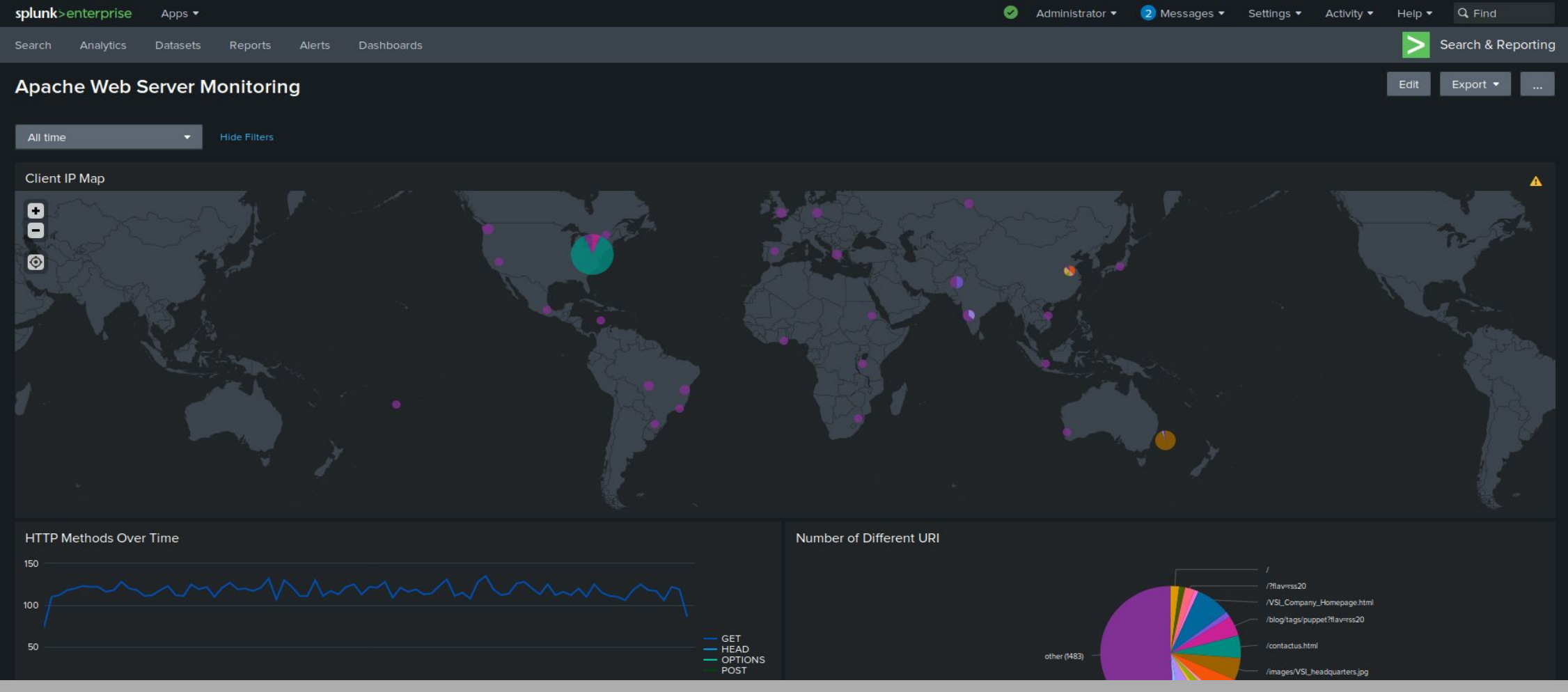
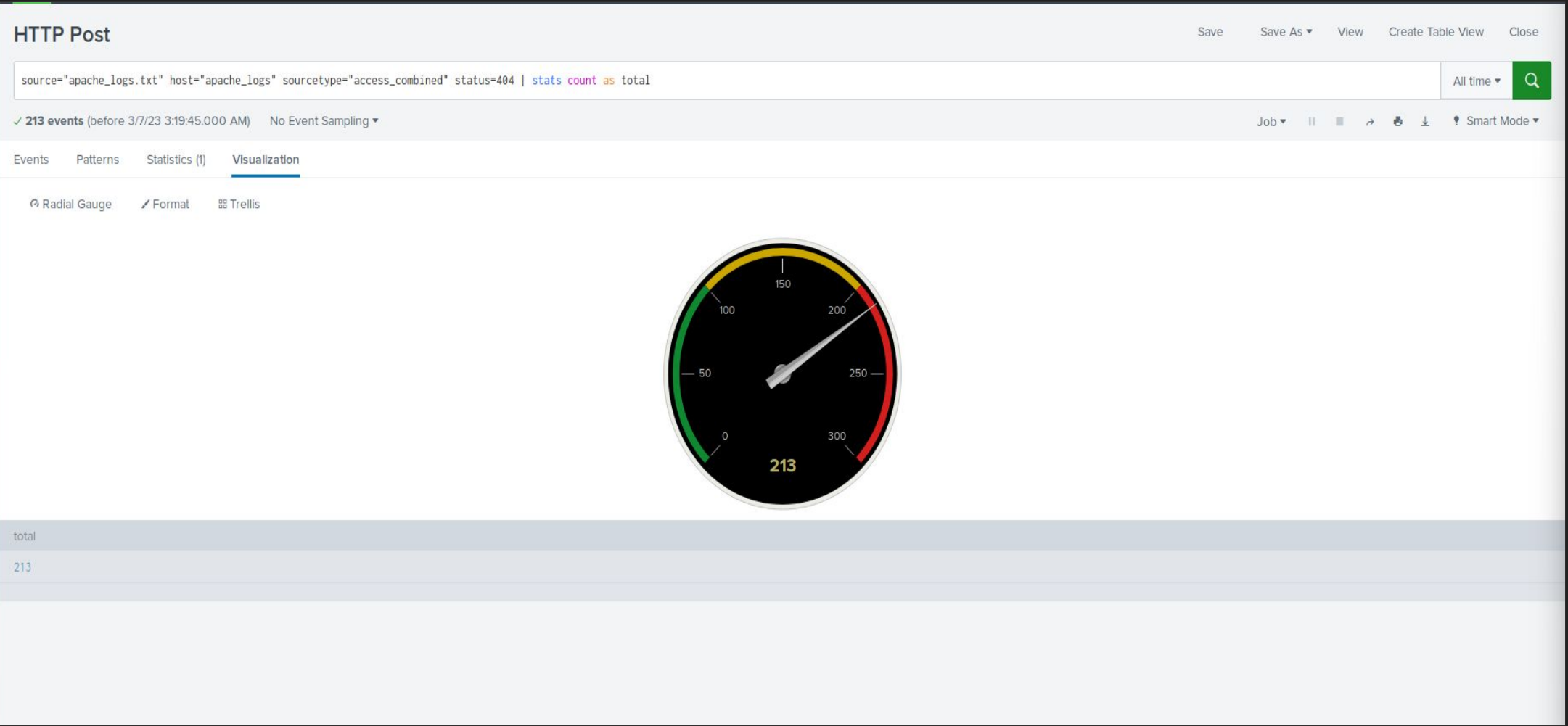
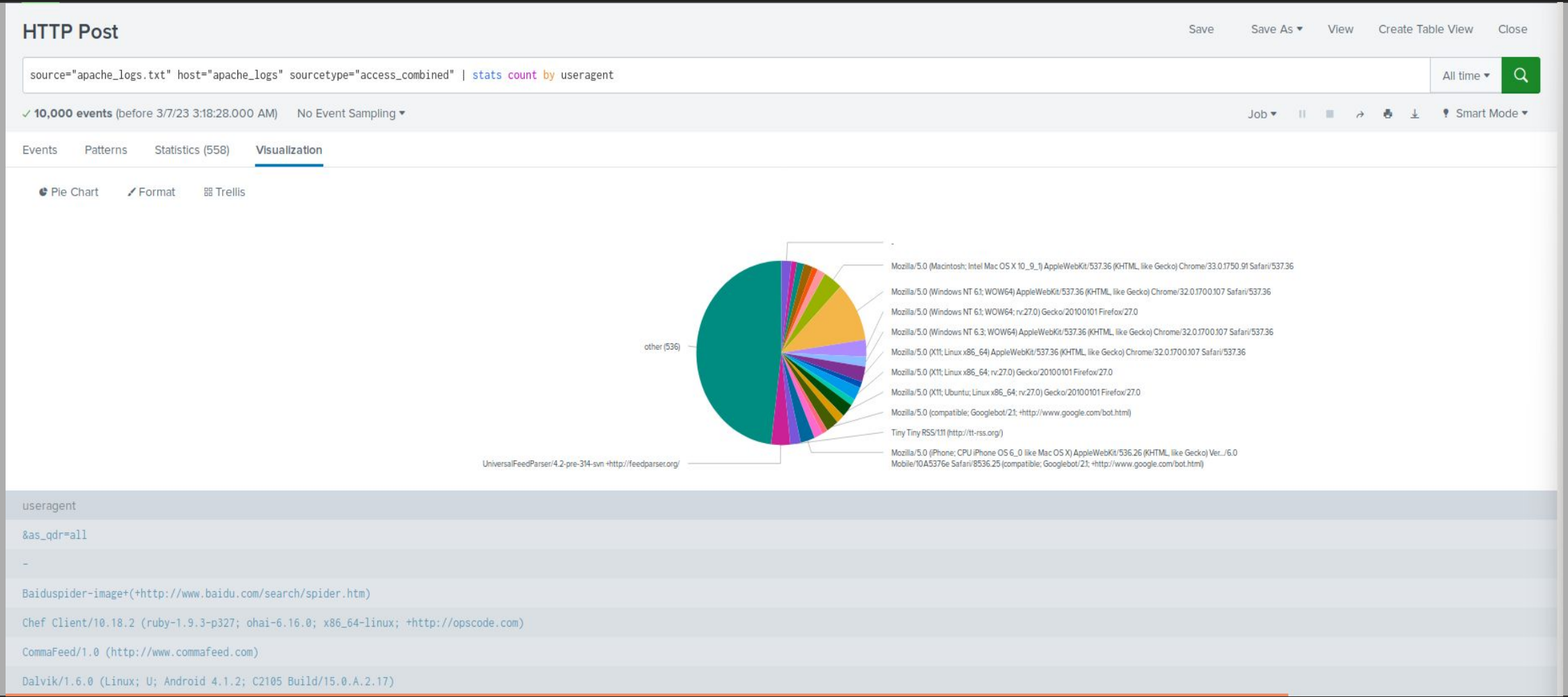
 Send email

# Dashboards—Apache





# Dashboards—Apache



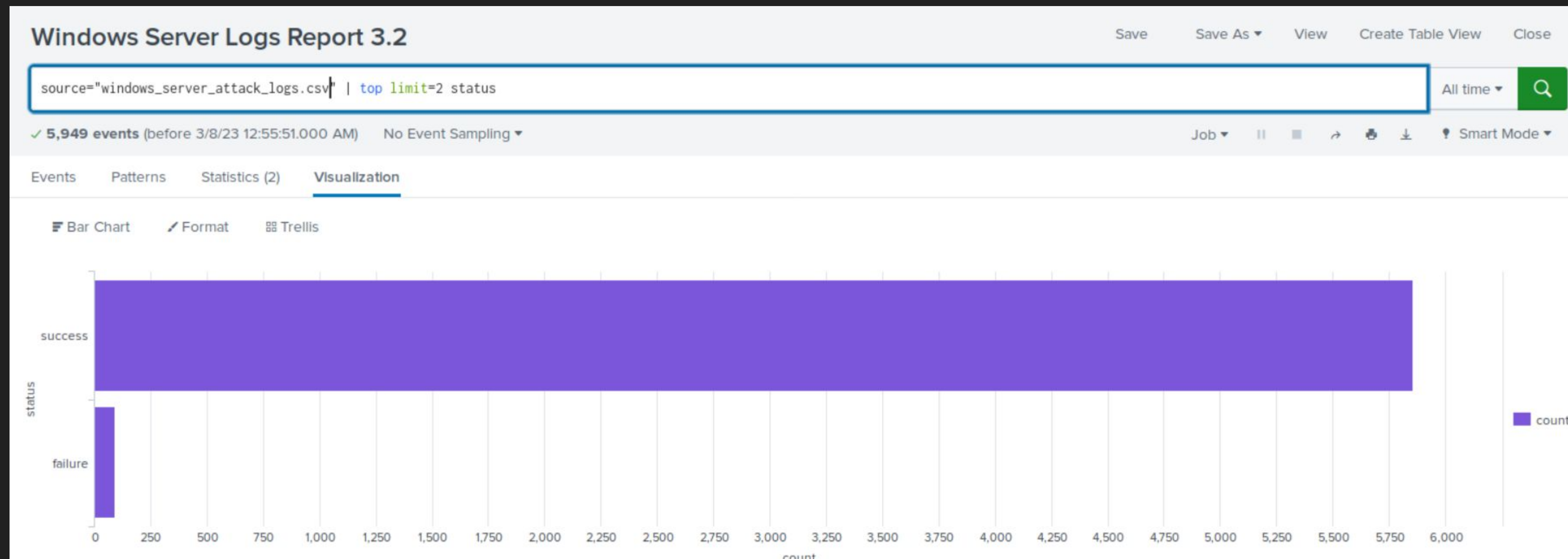


# Attack Analysis

# Attack Summary—Windows

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

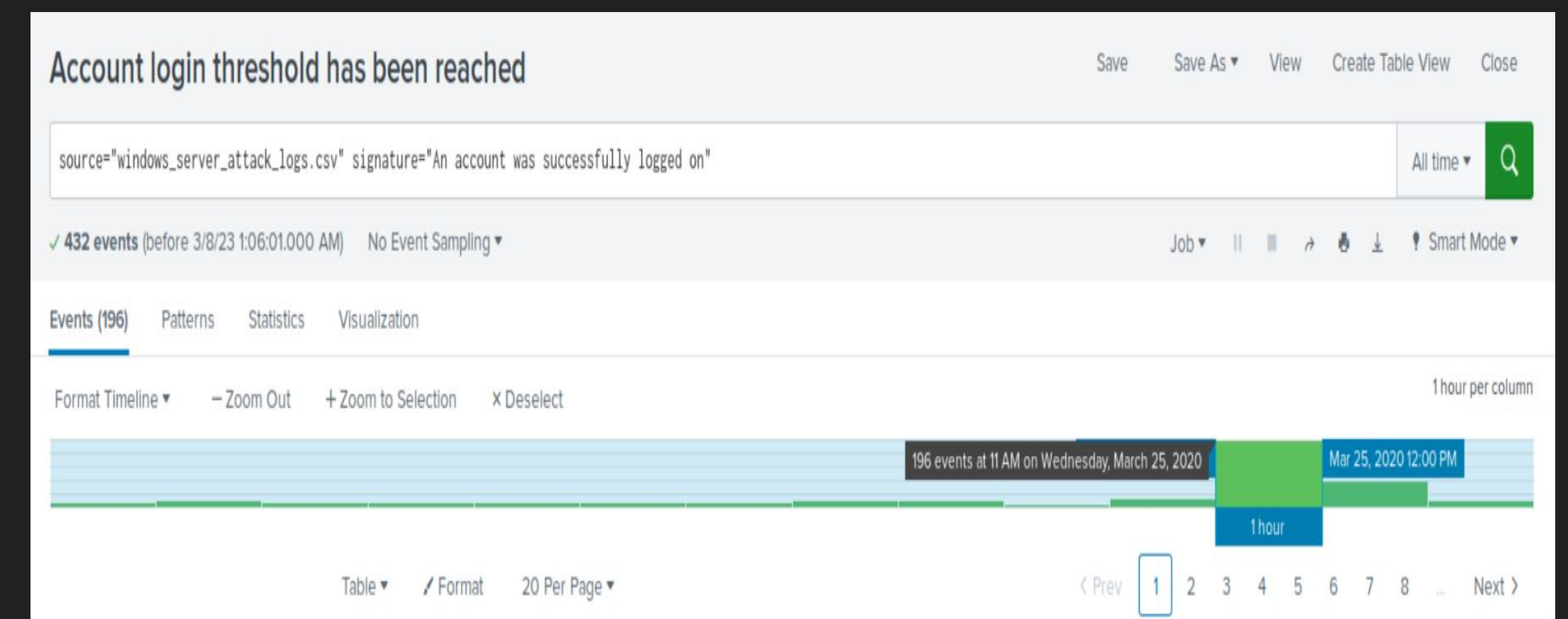
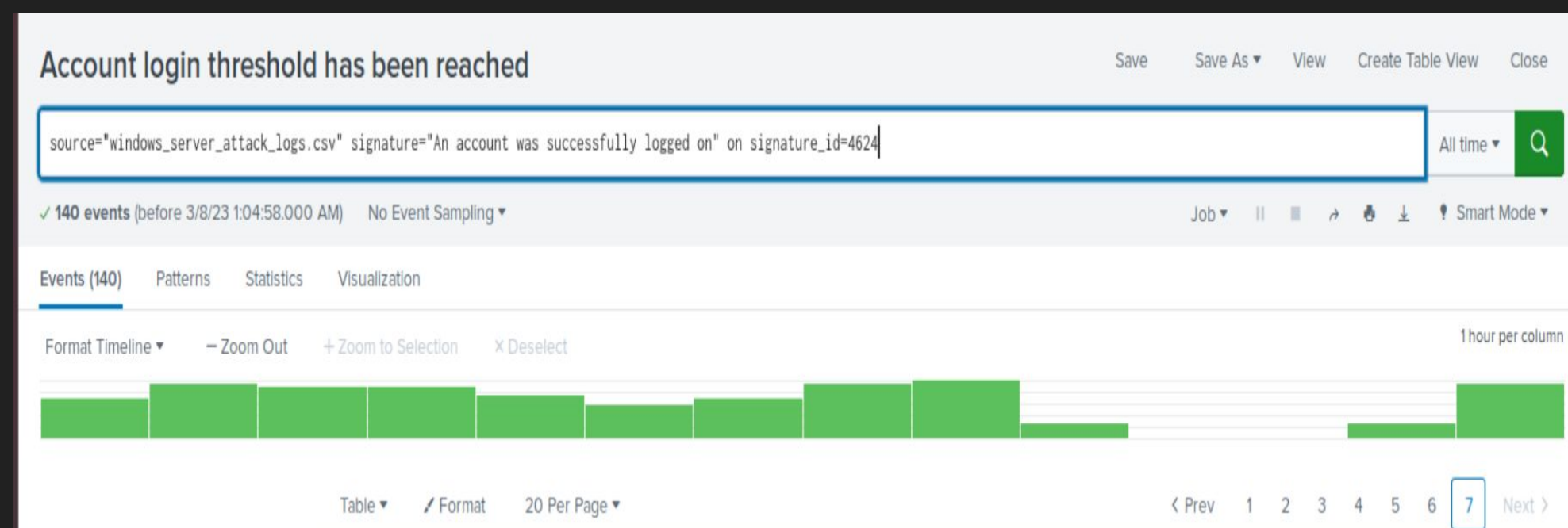
- IT severity count decreased (93% to 80%), while the high severity account increased (7% to 20%)
- Notable changes in failed activities, increase in successes 4616 to 5854 and decrease in fails from 142 to 93.



# Attack Summary—Windows

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

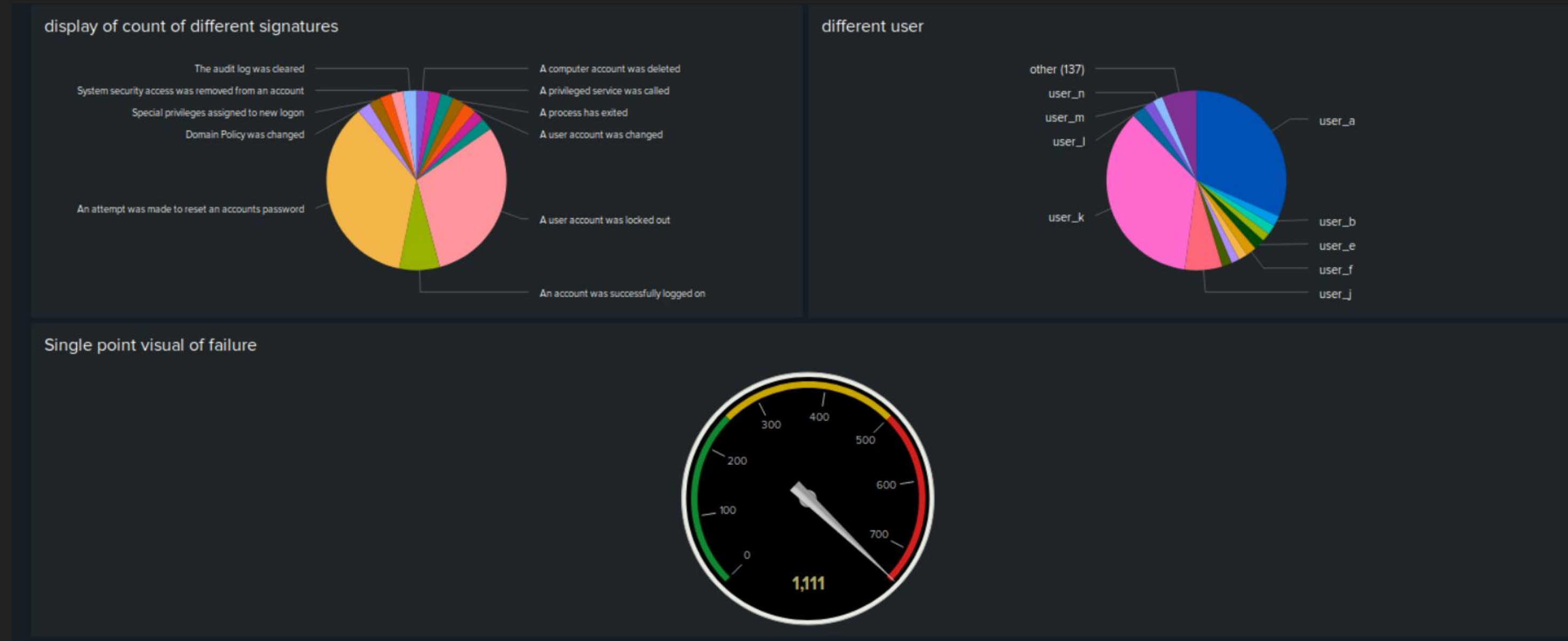
- Alert for suspicious volume of failed activities failed
  - Signature\_id 4624 prevents the alert being triggered
- Alert for suspicious volume of deleted accounts succeeded



# Attack Summary—Windows

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

- Suspicious user activity – excessive login attempts by user\_a, user\_k, and user\_j
- High number of attempts to reset account passwords (2128)
- High number of accounts locked out (1811)

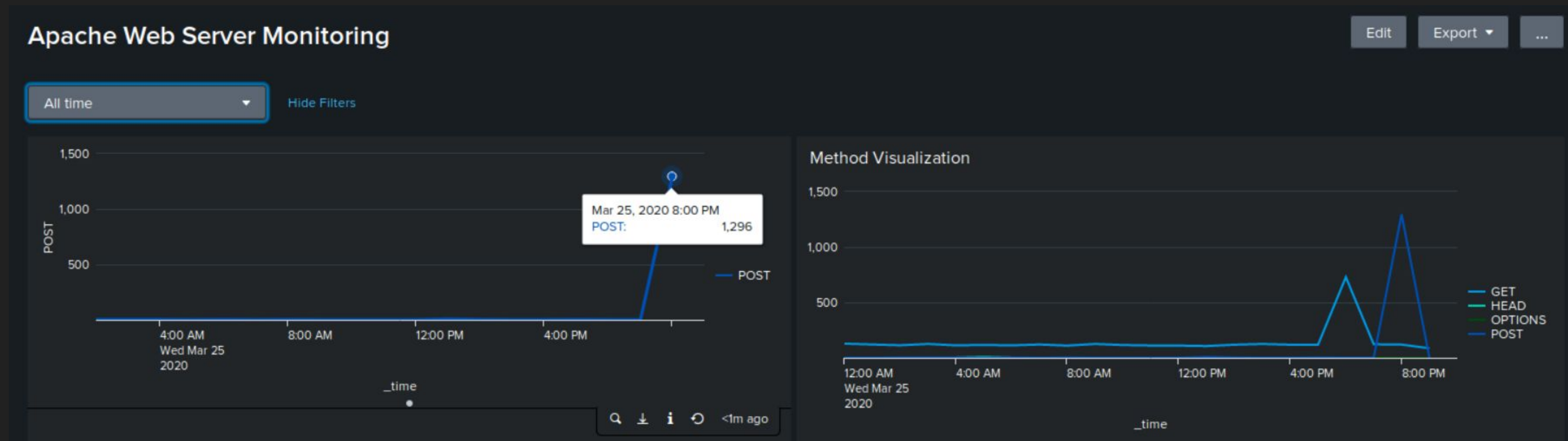




# Attack Summary—Apache

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

- There were a significant increase in POST requests (from 104 to 1324)
- There was a significant decline in referrals from websites
- The amount of 404 status code responses increased by 466 responses while all other response codes decreased



# Attack Summary—Apache

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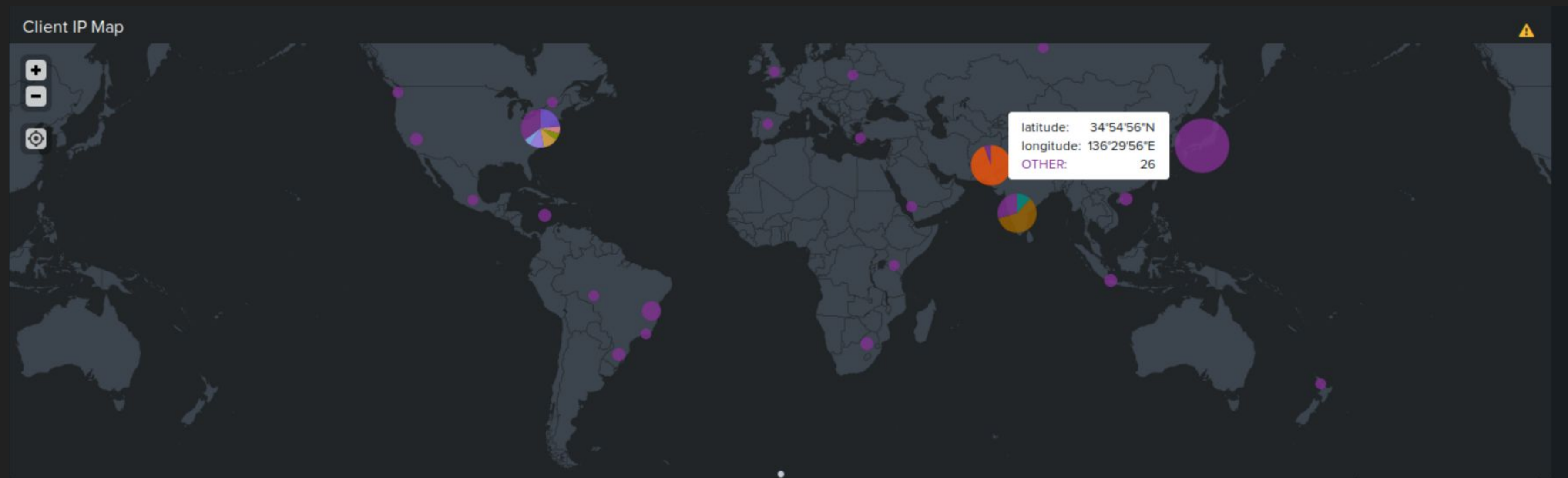
Summarize your findings from your alerts when analyzing the attack logs. Were the thresholds correct?

- There was a stark increase in **international** activity at 20:00 on Wednesday March 25, 2020; 939 activities. The threshold of 334 would have successfully notified us of the suspicious activity.
- A suspicious volume of HTTP **POST** requests were detected on 20:00 on Wednesday March 25, 2020. There were 1296 POST requests made. Our threshold was set to 10, and it would have detected this volume of POST requests.

# Attack Summary—Apache

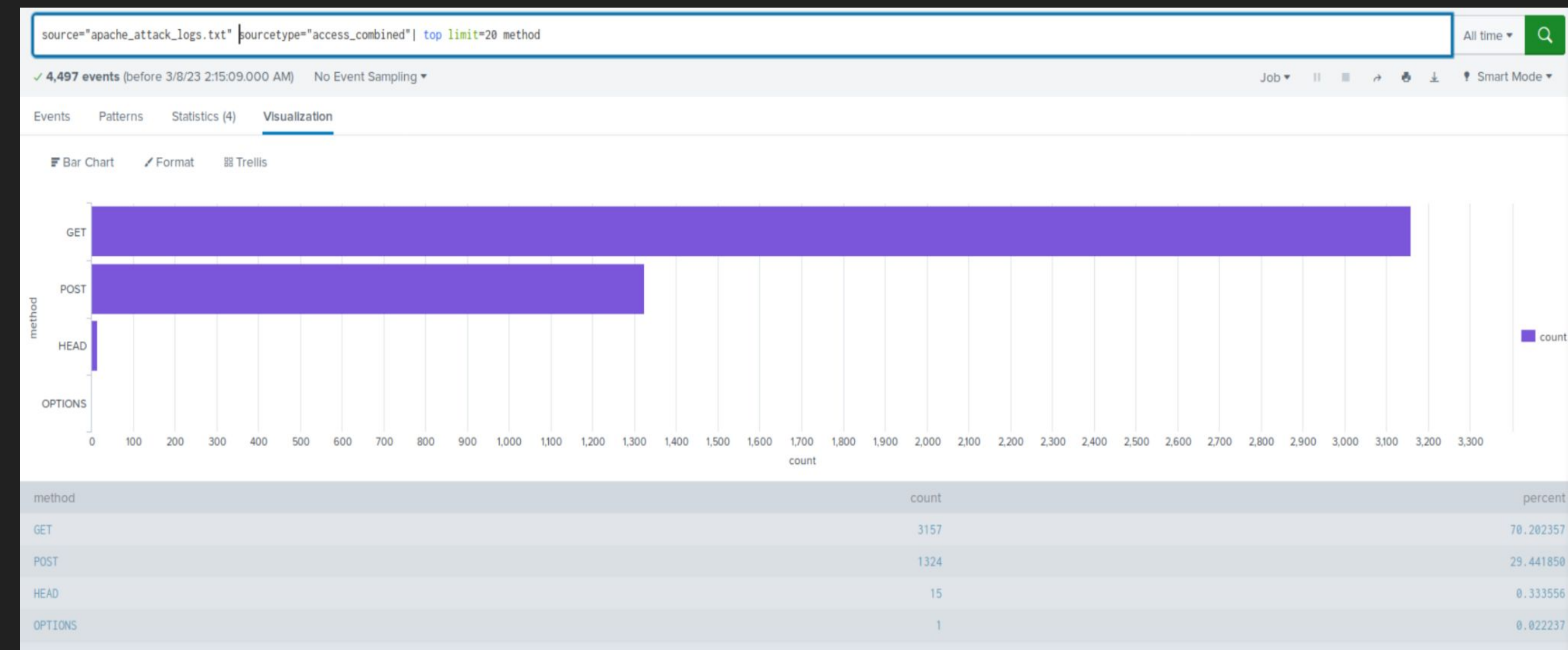
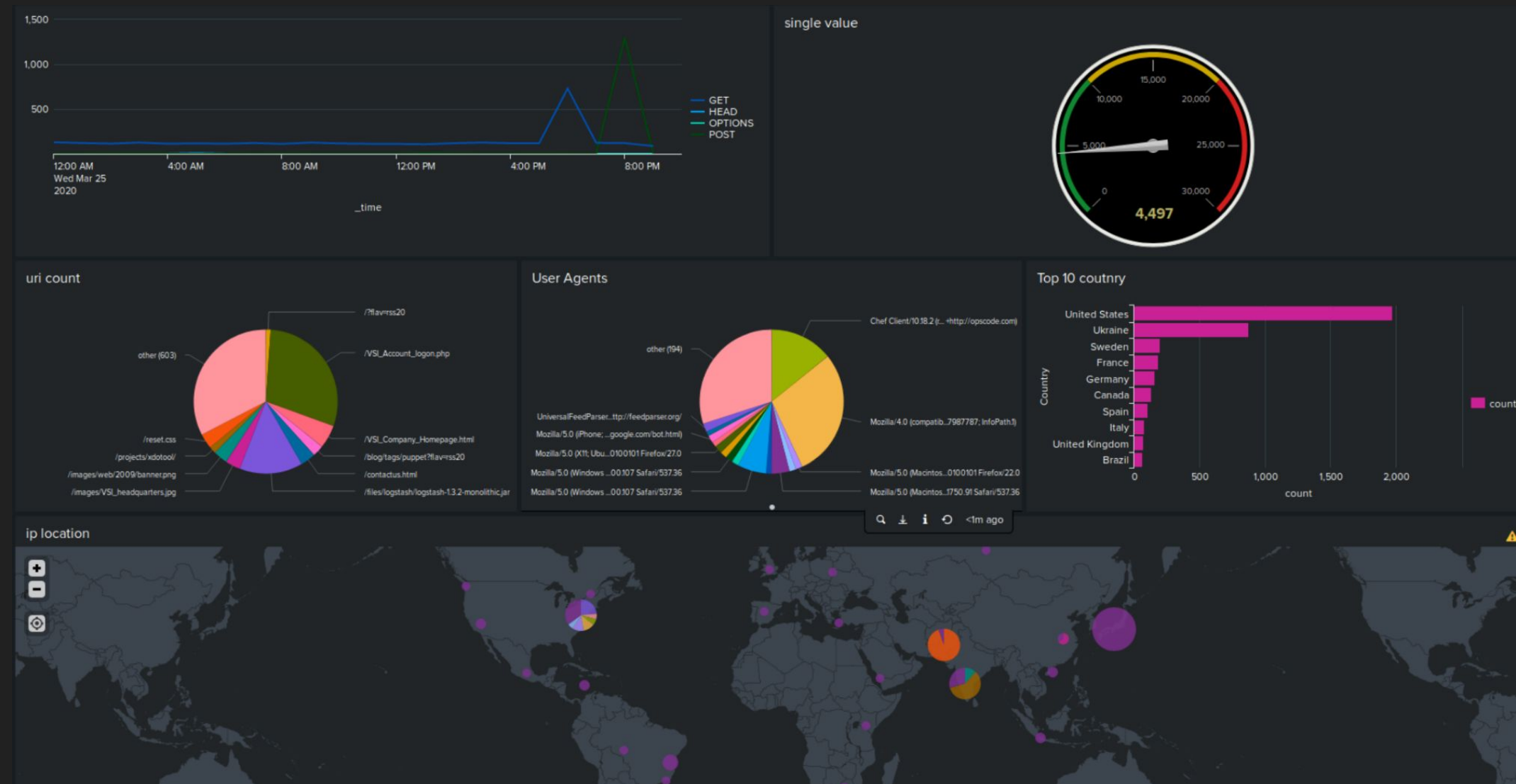
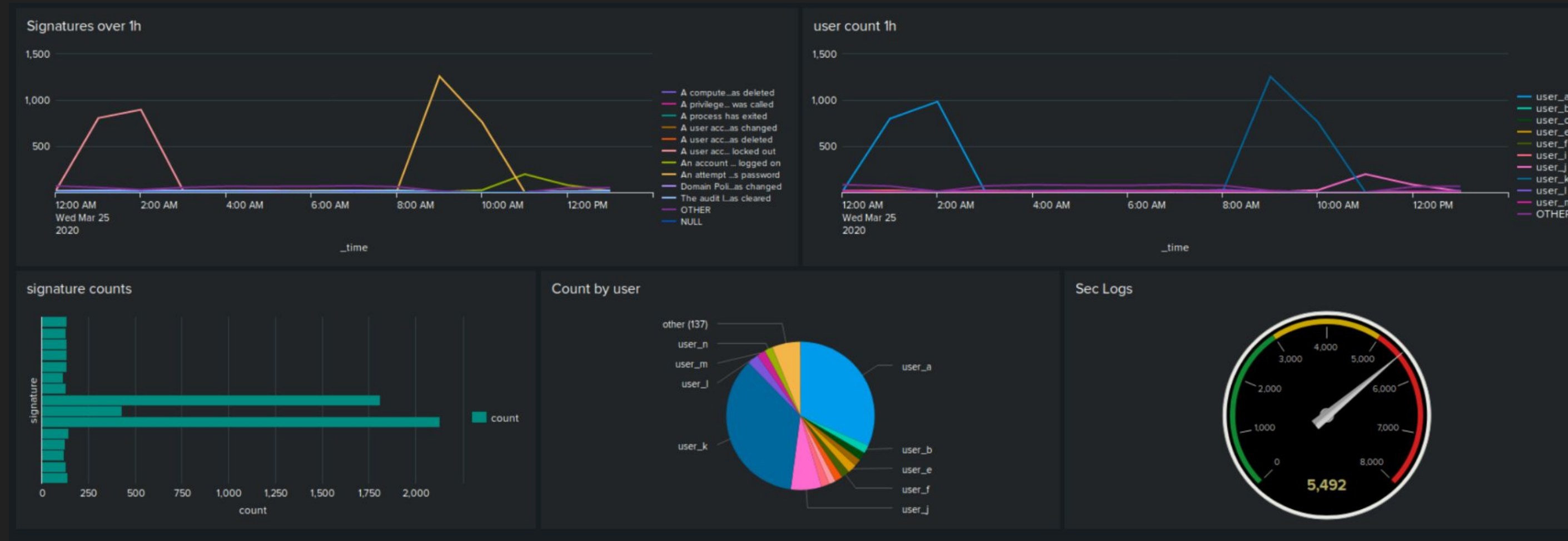
Summarize your findings from your dashboards when analyzing the attack logs.

- Suspicious spike in POST and GET requests on 03/25/20
- Non-US country login attempts with high rates in Kiev and Kharkiv, Ukraine
- High rates of VSI account logon (1323)





# Screenshots of Attack Logs





# Summary and Future Mitigations

# Project 3 Summary

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

## Windows Server:

- Unusual account logins from users a, k, and j
- Suspicious attempts to reset passwords and user lockout
- Brute Force Attack

## Apache Server:

- Attacker in Ukraine attempting DoS (404 errors)

- To protect VSI from future attacks, what future mitigations would you recommend?
  - Restrict high levels of account login attempts
  - Password reset policies
  - MFA