Placement Empowerment Program

Cloud Computing and DevOps Centre

Write the Shell Script to Monitor Logs : Create a script that monitors server logs for errors and alert you

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Introduction

Log files play a critical role in IT systems, as they record activities and events generated by applications, servers, and network devices. Monitoring these logs helps identify issues such as errors, warnings, and suspicious activities that may require immediate attention. Automating the monitoring process ensures efficiency and reduces the risk of missing critical information.

This PoC demonstrates the creation of a **PowerShell script** to monitor logs in real-time. The script will detect specific keywords (like "error") in a log file and alert the user when such events occur.

Step-by-Step Overview

Step 1:

Create a Folder called logs for Your Logs and Script

Step 2:

Open Notepad and Add the following sample text to it and Save the file as **mylogfile.log** inside the logs folder

Step 3:

Open Notepad and Type the following PowerShell script into it and Set the $LogFilePath address to the mylogfile.log which you saved in logs folder. Save the file as monitor_logs.ps1 inside the same logs folder

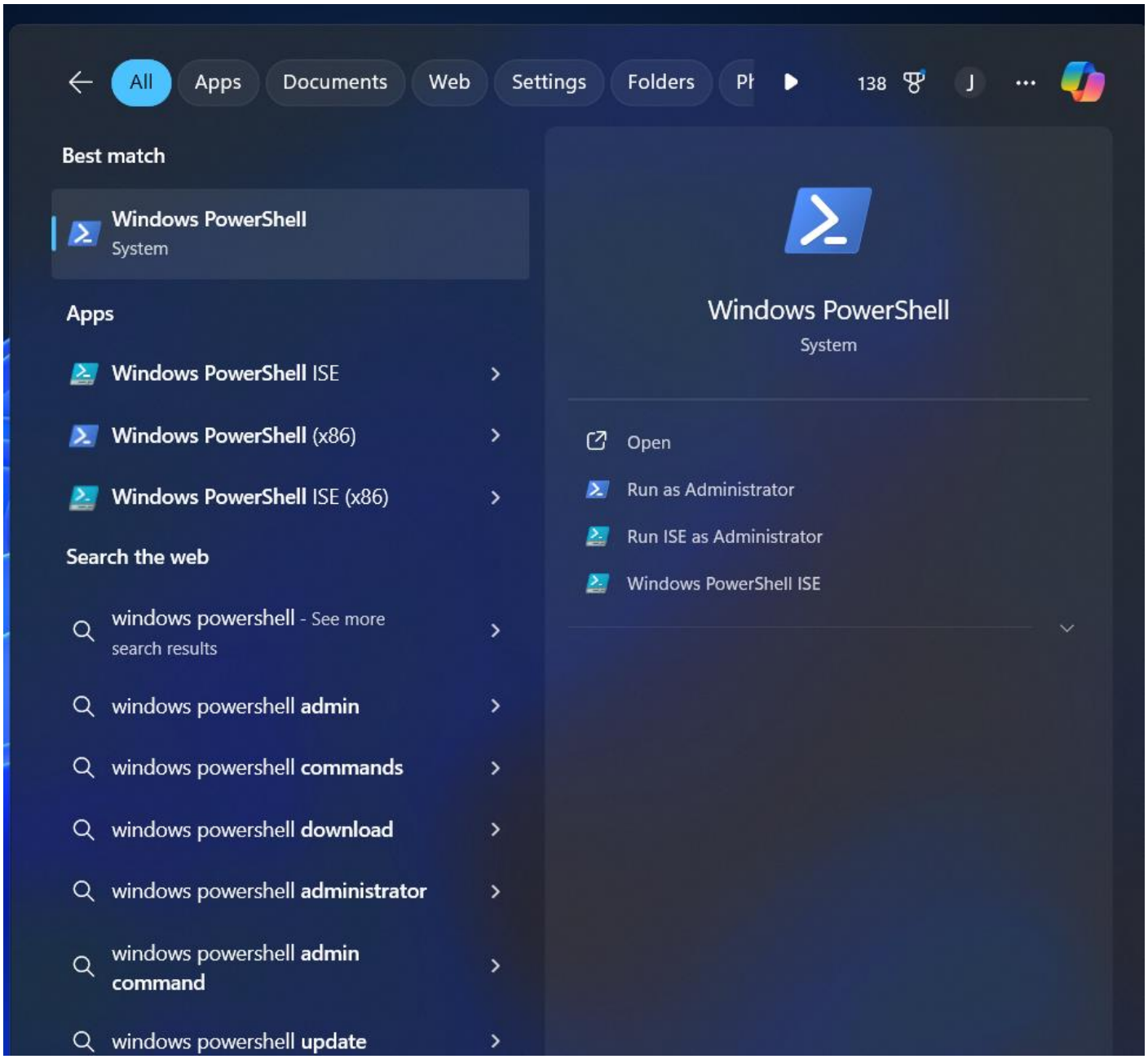
mylogfile.log logs.ps1

File Edit View

```
# Define the path to the log file
$LogFilePath = C:\Users\jenit\OneDrive\Desktop\logs

# Define the keyword to monitor
$Keyword = "error"

# Function to send an alert
Function Send-Alert {
    param([string]$Message)
    Write-Host "ALERT: $Message" -ForegroundColor Red
}

# Monitor the log file for new entries
Get-Content -Path $LogFilePath -Wait -Tail 0 | ForEach-Object {
    if ($_ -match $Keyword) {
        Send-Alert "Keyword '$Keyword' found in log: $_"
    }
}
```

Step 4:

Click the Windows Key and Search for Windows PowerShell and click Run as Administrator.


All
Apps
Documents
Web
Settings
Folders
138
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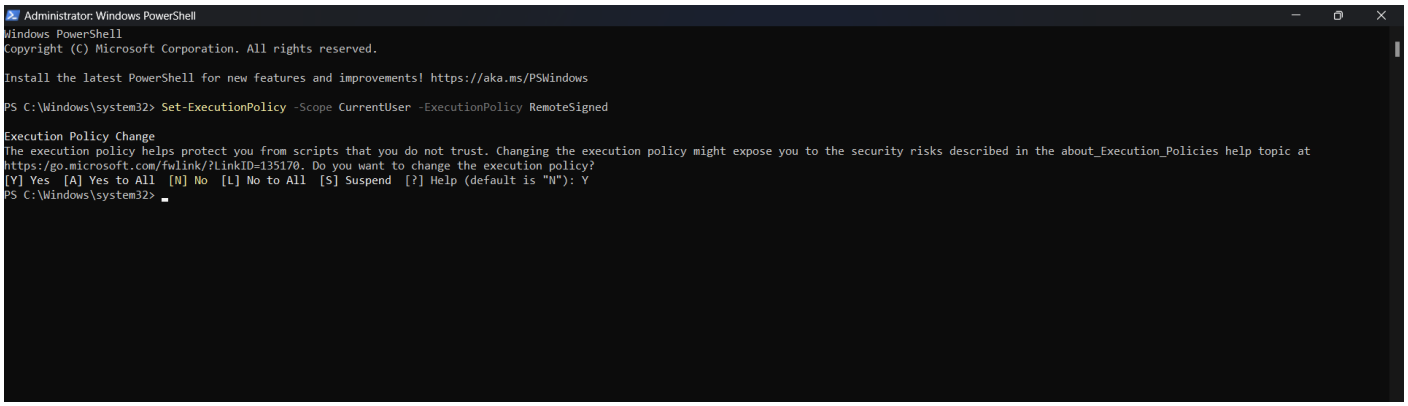
Best match
Windows PowerShell
System
Apps
Windows PowerShell ISE
Windows PowerShell (x86)
Windows PowerShell ISE (x86)
Search the web
windows powershell - See more search results
windows powershell admin
windows powershell commands
windows powershell download
windows powershell administrator
windows powershell admin command
windows powershell update
Windows PowerShell
System
Open
Run as Administrator
Run ISE as Administrator
Windows PowerShell ISE

Step 5:

Run the following command to allow script execution:

Set-ExecutionPolicy -Scope CurrentUser -ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned

When prompted, type Y and press Enter.



Step 6:

Navigate to the logs folder

```
PS C:\Windows\system32> cd C:\Users\jenit\OneDrive\Desktop\logs
```

Step 7:

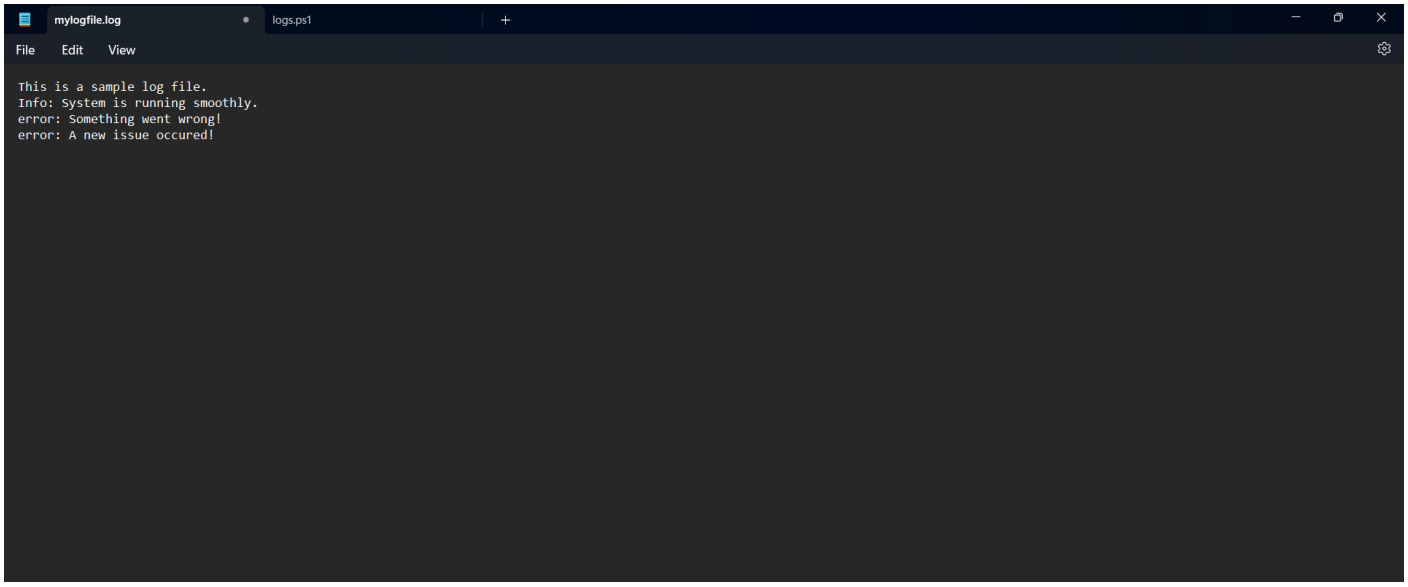
Run the script:

.\monitor_logs.ps1

```
PS C:\Users\jenit\OneDrive\Desktop\logs> .\monitor_logs.ps1
```

Step 8:

Open mylogfile.log in Notepad and Add a new line with the word "error" and Save the file.



Step 9:

Check PowerShell — you should see an alert like:

ALERT: Keyword 'error' found in log: error: A new issue occurred!

```
ALERT: Keyword 'error' found in log: error: A new issue occurred!
```

Outcome:

By completing this Proof of Concept (PoC), we will:

1. Successfully create and execute a PowerShell script to monitor log files in real time.

2. Detect and alert on predefined keywords (e.g., "error") to highlight critical events.

3. Gain hands-on experience with PowerShell scripting and automation on a Windows system.

4. Understand the importance of log monitoring in proactive system maintenance and troubleshooting.

5. Learn to customize and scale the script for more advanced monitoring scenarios in future projects.