Apply filters to SQL queries

Project description

In this project, I investigated potential security issues within an organization's employee and login activity databases using SQL queries. By applying filters with the AND, OR, NOT, and LIKE operators, I was able to retrieve key records related to failed login attempts, suspicious activity outside of business hours, and employees requiring security updates. These queries demonstrate how SQL can be used to efficiently filter and analyze data that supports cybersecurity investigations.

Retrieve after hours failed login attempts

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from  log_in_attempts where login_time > '18:00' and success = 0;
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        2 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 20:27:27   | CAN     | 192.168.205.12  |       0 |
|       18 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 19:28:50   | US      | 192.168.66.142  |       0 |
|       20 | tshah    | 2022-05-12 | 18:56:36   | MEXICO  | 192.168.109.50  |       0 |
|       28 | aestrada | 2022-05-09 | 19:28:12   | MEXICO  | 192.168.27.57   |       0 |
|       34 | drosas   | 2022-05-11 | 21:02:04   | US      | 192.168.45.93   |       0 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       52 | cjackson | 2022-05-10 | 22:07:07   | CAN     | 192.168.58.57   |       0 |
|       69 | wjaffrey | 2022-05-11 | 19:55:15   | USA     | 192.168.100.17  |       0 |
|       82 | abernard | 2022-05-12 | 23:38:46   | MEX     | 192.168.234.49  |       0 |
|       87 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 22:38:31   | CANADA  | 192.168.132.153 |       0 |
|       96 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 22:36:36   | CAN     | 192.168.84.194  |       0 |
|      104 | asundara | 2022-05-11 | 18:38:07   | US      | 192.168.96.200  |       0 |
|      107 | bisles   | 2022-05-12 | 20:25:57   | USA     | 192.168.116.187 |       0 |
|      111 | aestrada | 2022-05-10 | 22:00:26   | MEXICO  | 192.168.76.27   |       0 |
|      127 | abellmas | 2022-05-09 | 21:20:51   | CANADA  | 192.168.70.122  |       0 |
|      131 | bisles   | 2022-05-09 | 20:03:55   | US      | 192.168.113.171 |       0 |
|      155 | cgriffin | 2022-05-12 | 22:18:42   | USA     | 192.168.236.176 |       0 |
|      160 | jclark   | 2022-05-10 | 20:49:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.214.49  |       0 |
|      199 | yappiah  | 2022-05-11 | 19:34:48   | MEXICO  | 192.168.44.232  |       0 |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
19 rows in set (0.269 sec)
```

To retrieve the after-hours failed login attempts, the query uses the SELECT * statement, where the * symbol indicates that all columns from the table should be returned. The FROM keyword specifies the source table, which in this case is log_in_attempts. The WHERE clause is used to apply conditions: first, login_time > '18:00:00' ensures that only login attempts after 6:00 PM are included. Then, the AND keyword adds another condition, success = 0, which filters for failed login attempts. Here, the value 0 represents failed logins.

Retrieve login attempts on specific dates

A suspicious event occurred on 2022-05-09. To investigate this event, we will review all login attempts which occurred on this day and the day before.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from  log_in_attempts where login_date = '2022-05-08' or login_date =
'2022-05-09';
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        1 | jrafael  | 2022-05-09 | 04:56:27   | CAN     | 192.168.243.140 |       1 |
|        3 | dkot     | 2022-05-09 | 06:47:41   | USA     | 192.168.151.162 |       1 |
|        4 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 02:00:39   | USA     | 192.168.178.71  |       0 |
|        8 | bisles   | 2022-05-08 | 01:30:17   | US      | 192.168.119.173 |       0 |
|       12 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 09:11:34   | USA     | 192.168.100.158 |       1 |
|       15 | lyamamot | 2022-05-09 | 17:17:26   | USA     | 192.168.183.51  |       0 |
|       24 | arusso   | 2022-05-09 | 06:49:39   | MEXICO  | 192.168.171.192 |       1 |
|       25 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 07:04:02   | US      | 192.168.33.137  |       1 |
|       26 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 17:27:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.123.105 |       1 |
|       28 | aestrada | 2022-05-09 | 19:28:12   | MEXICO  | 192.168.27.57   |       0 |
|       30 | yappiah  | 2022-05-09 | 03:22:22   | MEX     | 192.168.124.48  |       1 |
|       32 | acook    | 2022-05-09 | 02:52:02   | CANADA  | 192.168.142.239 |       0 |
|       36 | asundara | 2022-05-08 | 09:00:42   | US      | 192.168.78.151  |       1 |
|       38 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 14:40:01   | USA     | 192.168.60.42   |       1 |
|       39 | yappiah  | 2022-05-09 | 07:56:40   | MEXICO  | 192.168.57.115  |       1 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       43 | mcouliba | 2022-05-08 | 02:35:34   | CANADA  | 192.168.16.208  |       0 |
|       44 | daquino  | 2022-05-08 | 07:02:35   | CANADA  | 192.168.168.144 |       0 |
|       47 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 05:06:45   | US      | 192.168.233.24  |       1 |
|       49 | asundara | 2022-05-08 | 14:00:01   | US      | 192.168.173.213 |       0 |
|       53 | nmason   | 2022-05-08 | 11:51:38   | CAN     | 192.168.133.188 |       1 |
|       56 | acook    | 2022-05-08 | 04:56:30   | CAN     | 192.168.209.130 |       1 |
|       58 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 17:20:54   | CAN     | 192.168.57.162  |       0 |
|       61 | dtanaka  | 2022-05-09 | 09:45:18   | USA     | 192.168.98.221  |       1 |
|       65 | aalonso  | 2022-05-09 | 23:42:12   | MEX     | 192.168.52.37   |       1 |
|       66 | aestrada | 2022-05-08 | 21:58:32   | MEX     | 192.168.67.223  |       1 |
|       67 | abernard | 2022-05-09 | 11:53:41   | MEX     | 192.168.118.29  |       1 |
|       68 | mrah     | 2022-05-08 | 17:16:13   | US      | 192.168.42.248  |       1 |
|       70 | tmitchel | 2022-05-09 | 10:55:17   | MEXICO  | 192.168.87.199  |       1 |
|       71 | mcouliba | 2022-05-09 | 06:57:42   | CAN     | 192.168.55.169  |       0 |
|       72 | alevitsk | 2022-05-08 | 12:09:10   | CANADA  | 192.168.139.176 |       1 |
|       79 | abernard | 2022-05-09 | 11:41:15   | MEX     | 192.168.158.170 |       0 |
|       80 | cjackson | 2022-05-08 | 02:18:10   | CANADA  | 192.168.33.140  |       1 |
|       83 | lrodriqu | 2022-05-08 | 08:10:23   | USA     | 192.168.67.69   |       1 |
|       87 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 22:38:31   | CANADA  | 192.168.132.153 |       0 |
|       90 | gesparza | 2022-05-09 | 00:49:05   | CANADA  | 192.168.87.201  |       0 |
|       92 | pwashing | 2022-05-08 | 00:36:12   | US      | 192.168.247.219 |       0 |
|       96 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 22:36:36   | CAN     | 192.168.84.194  |       0 |
|       97 | jreckley | 2022-05-09 | 02:49:23   | MEXICO  | 192.168.32.231  |       1 |
|      101 | sbaelish | 2022-05-08 | 12:01:22   | US      | 192.168.145.158 |       0 |
|      102 | jreckley | 2022-05-09 | 16:51:44   | MEX     | 192.168.108.13  |       1 |
|      108 | daquino  | 2022-05-09 | 21:30:48   | CANADA  | 192.168.15.110  |       1 |
|      110 | mabadi   | 2022-05-09 | 00:01:54   | USA     | 192.168.90.124  |       1 |
|      112 | rjensen  | 2022-05-09 | 09:22:05   | MEX     | 192.168.69.116  |       1 |
```

To retrieve records for specific dates, we use SELECT and FROM to identify the columns and the table. This time, instead of filtering on login_time, we filter on login_date. We use the OR operator to return rows where the login_date is either '2022-05-08' or '2022-05-09'.

Retrieve login attempts outside of Mexico

There's been suspicious activity with login attempts, but the team has determined that this activity didn't originate in Mexico. Now, you need to investigate login attempts that occurred outside of Mexico.

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from  log_in_attempts where not country like 'Mex%';
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address     | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+----------------+---------+
|        1 | jrafael  | 2022-05-09 | 04:56:27   | CAN     | 192.168.243.140 |       1 |
|        2 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 20:27:27   | CAN     | 192.168.205.12  |       0 |
|        3 | dkot     | 2022-05-09 | 06:47:41   | USA     | 192.168.151.162 |       1 |
|        4 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 02:00:39   | USA     | 192.168.178.71  |       0 |
|        5 | jrafael  | 2022-05-11 | 03:05:59   | CANADA  | 192.168.86.232  |       0 |
|        7 | eraab    | 2022-05-11 | 01:45:14   | CAN     | 192.168.170.243 |       1 |
|        8 | bisles   | 2022-05-08 | 01:30:17   | US      | 192.168.119.173 |       0 |
|       10 | jrafael  | 2022-05-12 | 09:33:19   | CANADA  | 192.168.228.221 |       0 |
|       11 | sgilmore | 2022-05-11 | 10:16:29   | CANADA  | 192.168.140.81  |       0 |
|       12 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 09:11:34   | USA     | 192.168.100.158 |       1 |
|       13 | mrah     | 2022-05-11 | 09:29:34   | USA     | 192.168.246.135 |       1 |
|       14 | sbaelish | 2022-05-10 | 10:20:18   | US      | 192.168.16.99   |       1 |
|       15 | lyamamot | 2022-05-09 | 17:17:26   | USA     | 192.168.183.51  |       0 |
|       16 | mcouliba | 2022-05-11 | 06:44:22   | CAN     | 192.168.172.189 |       1 |
|       17 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 02:33:02   | USA     | 192.168.81.89   |       1 |
|       18 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 19:28:50   | US      | 192.168.66.142  |       0 |
|       19 | jhill    | 2022-05-12 | 13:09:04   | US      | 192.168.142.245 |       1 |
|       21 | iuduike  | 2022-05-11 | 17:50:00   | US      | 192.168.131.147 |       1 |
|       25 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 07:04:02   | US      | 192.168.33.137  |       1 |
|       26 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 17:27:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.123.105 |       1 |
|       29 | bisles   | 2022-05-11 | 01:21:22   | US      | 192.168.85.186  |       0 |
|       31 | acook    | 2022-05-12 | 17:36:45   | CANADA  | 192.168.58.232  |       0 |
|       32 | acook    | 2022-05-09 | 02:52:02   | CANADA  | 192.168.142.239 |       0 |
|       33 | zbernal  | 2022-05-11 | 02:52:10   | US      | 192.168.72.59   |       1 |
|       34 | drosas   | 2022-05-11 | 21:02:04   | US      | 192.168.45.93   |       0 |
|       36 | asundara | 2022-05-08 | 09:00:42   | US      | 192.168.78.151  |       1 |
|       37 | eraab    | 2022-05-10 | 06:03:41   | CANADA  | 192.168.152.148 |       0 |
|       38 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 14:40:01   | USA     | 192.168.60.42   |       1 |
|       41 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 17:39:42   | CANADA  | 192.168.46.207  |       0 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       43 | mcouliba | 2022-05-08 | 02:35:34   | CANADA  | 192.168.16.208  |       0 |
|       44 | daquino  | 2022-05-08 | 07:02:35   | CANADA  | 192.168.168.144 |       0 |
|       45 | dtanaka  | 2022-05-11 | 10:28:54   | US      | 192.168.223.157 |       1 |
|       46 | eraab    | 2022-05-11 | 11:29:27   | CAN     | 192.168.24.12   |       0 |
|       47 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 05:06:45   | US      | 192.168.233.24  |       1 |
|       48 | asundara | 2022-05-11 | 03:18:45   | USA     | 192.168.72.10   |       1 |
|       49 | asundara | 2022-05-08 | 14:00:01   | US      | 192.168.173.213 |       0 |
|       50 | jclark   | 2022-05-10 | 10:48:02   | CANADA  | 192.168.174.117 |       0 |
|       51 | jrafael  | 2022-05-10 | 22:40:01   | CANADA  | 192.168.148.115 |       1 |
|       52 | cjackson | 2022-05-10 | 22:07:07   | CAN     | 192.168.58.57   |       0 |
|       53 | nmason   | 2022-05-08 | 11:51:38   | CAN     | 192.168.133.188 |       1 |
|       55 | jlansky  | 2022-05-11 | 05:15:34   | US      | 192.168.6.170   |       0 |
```

To retrieve login attempts that occurred outside of Mexico, we use SELECT and FROM to

identify the columns and the table. Then, we add a WHERE clause to filter the results. Since Mexico can appear in the data as either MEX or MEXICO, we use the LIKE keyword with the % wildcard to match both patterns. Finally, we use the NOT operator so that the query only returns login attempts where the country is not Mexico.

Retrieve employees in Marketing

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from employees where department = 'Marketing' and office like 'East%'
;
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+----------+
| employee_id | device_id    | username | department | office   |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+----------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing  | East-170 |
|        1052 | a192b174c940 | jdarosa  | Marketing  | East-195 |
|        1075 | x573y883z772 | fbautist | Marketing  | East-267 |
|        1088 | k8651965m233 | rgosh    | Marketing  | East-157 |
|        1103 | NULL         | randerss | Marketing  | East-460 |
|        1156 | a184b775c707 | dellery  | Marketing  | East-417 |
|        1163 | h679i515j339 | cwilliam | Marketing  | East-216 |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+----------+
7 rows in set (0.001 sec)
```

To retrieve employees in the Marketing department who are located in the East building, we use SELECT and FROM to identify the columns and the table. In the WHERE clause, we filter for employees whose department is exactly Marketing using the = operator. Next, we filter for office locations that begin with East by using the LIKE keyword with %, which allows for different room numbers such as East-170 or East-320. We connect both conditions with AND so the results only include employees in Marketing and in the East building.

Retrieve employees in Finance or Sales

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from employees
    ->  where department = 'Sales' or department = 'Finance';
+-------------+-------------+----------+------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id   | username | department | office      |
+-------------+-------------+----------+------------+-------------+
|        1003 | d394e816f943 | sgilmore | Finance    | South-153   |
|        1007 | h174i497j413 | wjaffrey | Finance    | North-406   |
|        1008 | i858j583k571 | abernard | Finance    | South-170   |
|        1009 | NULL        | lrodriqu | Sales      | South-134   |
|        1010 | k2421212m542 | jlansky  | Finance    | South-109   |
|        1011 | l748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales      | South-292   |
|        1015 | p611q262r945 | jsoto    | Finance    | North-271   |
|        1017 | r550s824t230 | jclark   | Finance    | North-188   |
|        1018 | s310t540u653 | abellmas | Finance    | North-403   |
|        1022 | w237x430y567 | arusso   | Finance    | West-465    |
|        1024 | y976z753a267 | iuduike  | Sales      | South-215   |
|        1025 | z381a365b233 | jhill    | Sales      | North-115   |
|        1029 | d336e475f676 | ivelasco | Finance    | East-156    |
|        1035 | j236k3031245 | bisles   | Sales      | South-171   |
|        1039 | n253o917p623 | cjackson | Sales      | East-378    |
|        1041 | p929q222r778 | cgriffin | Sales      | North-208   |
|        1044 | s429t157u159 | tbarnes  | Finance    | West-415    |
|        1045 | t567u844v434 | pwashing | Finance    | East-115    |
|        1046 | u429v921w138 | daquino  | Finance    | West-280    |
|        1047 | v109w587x644 | cward    | Finance    | West-373    |
|        1048 | w167x592y375 | tmitchel | Finance    | South-288   |
|        1049 | NULL        | jreckley | Finance    | Central-295 |
|        1050 | y132z930a114 | csimmons | Finance    | North-468   |
|        1057 | f370g535h632 | mscott   | Sales      | South-270   |
|        1062 | k3671639m697 | redwards | Finance    | North-180   |
|        1063 | l686m140n569 | lpope    | Sales      | East-226    |
|        1066 | o678p794q957 | ttyrell  | Sales      | Central-444 |
|        1069 | NULL        | jpark    | Finance    | East-110    |
```

To retrieve employees in either the Sales or Finance departments, we use `SELECT` and `FROM` to identify the columns and the table. In the `WHERE` clause, we use the `OR` operator to filter for employees whose department is either `Sales` or `Finance`. This means the query will return records that match **one condition or the other**, giving us all employees in both departments.

Retrieve all employees not in IT

```
MariaDB [organization]> select * from employees where not department = 'Information Technol
    -> ;
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id   | username | department      | office      |
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing       | East-170    |
|        1001 | b239c825d303 | bmoreno  | Marketing       | Central-276 |
|        1002 | c116d593e558 | tshah    | Human Resources | North-434   |
|        1003 | d394e816f943 | sgilmore | Finance         | South-153   |
|        1004 | e218f877g788 | eraab    | Human Resources | South-127   |
|        1005 | f551g340h864 | gesparza | Human Resources | South-366   |
|        1007 | h174i497j413 | wjaffrey | Finance         | North-406   |
|        1008 | i858j583k571 | abernard | Finance         | South-170   |
|        1009 | NULL         | lrodriqu | Sales           | South-134   |
|        1010 | k2421212m542 | jlansky  | Finance         | South-109   |
|        1011 | l748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales           | South-292   |
|        1015 | p611q262r945 | jsoto    | Finance         | North-271   |
|        1016 | q793r736s288 | sbaelish | Human Resources | North-229   |
|        1017 | r550s824t230 | jclark   | Finance         | North-188   |
|        1018 | s310t540u653 | abellmas | Finance         | North-403   |
|        1020 | u899v381w363 | arutley  | Marketing       | South-351   |
|        1022 | w237x430y567 | arusso   | Finance         | West-465    |
|        1024 | y976z753a267 | iuduike  | Sales           | South-215   |
|        1025 | z381a365b233 | jhill    | Sales           | North-115   |
|        1026 | a998b568c863 | apatel   | Human Resources | West-320    |
|        1027 | b806c503d354 | mrah     | Marketing       | West-246    |
|        1028 | c603d749e374 | aestrada | Human Resources | West-121    |
|        1029 | d336e475f676 | ivelasco | Finance         | East-156    |
|        1030 | e391f189g913 | mabadi   | Marketing       | West-375    |
|        1031 | f419g188h578 | dkot     | Marketing       | West-408    |
|        1034 | i679j565k940 | bsand    | Human Resources | East-484    |
|        1035 | j236k3031245 | bisles   | Sales           | South-171   |
|        1036 | k5501533m205 | rjensen  | Marketing       | Central-239 |
|        1038 | m873n636o225 | btang    | Human Resources | Central-260 |
|        1039 | n253o917p623 | cjackson | Sales           | East-378    |
|        1040 | o783p832q294 | dtarly   | Human Resources | East-237    |
|        1041 | p929q222r778 | cgriffin | Sales           | North-208   |
|        1042 | q175r338s833 | acook    | Human Resources | West-381    |
|        1044 | s429t157u159 | tbarnes  | Finance         | West-415    |
|        1045 | t567u844v434 | pwashing | Finance         | East-115    |
|        1046 | u429v921w138 | daquino  | Finance         | West-280    |
|        1047 | v109w587x644 | cward    | Finance         | West-373    |
|        1048 | w167x592y375 | tmitchel | Finance         | South-288   |
|        1049 | NULL         | jreckley | Finance         | Central-295 |
|        1050 | y132z930a114 | csimmons | Finance         | North-468   |
|        1051 | z451a308b518 | itraora  | Marketing       | Central-134 |
|        1052 | a192b174c940 | jdarosa  | Marketing       | East-195    |
|        1053 | b979c871d361 | nemmanue | Human Resources | Central-259 |
|        1055 | d831e972f553 | awilliam | Marketing       | Central-256 |
|        1056 | e782f537g683 | ankala   | Marketing       | North-139   |
|        1057 | f370g535h632 | mscott   | Sales           | South-270   |
|        1058 | g264h852i697 | madebowa | Marketing       | South-119   |
```

To retrieve employees who are not in the Information Technology department, we use SELECT and FROM to specify the columns and table. In the WHERE clause, we use the NOT keyword with the = operator to exclude rows where the department is Information Technology. This way, the query only returns employees from all other departments that still require the update.

Summary

Through this activity, I applied SQL filters to examine suspicious login attempts, identify activity outside of specific countries, and target employee machines needing security updates. I practiced using operators such as AND, OR, NOT, and LIKE to refine queries and retrieve only the relevant records. This process reflects how security analysts use SQL in real-world scenarios to quickly isolate potential threats and support decision-making for system protection.