Apply filters to SQL queries

Project description

As a security professional at a large organization, part of my job is to investigate security issues to help keep the system secure. The security team recently discovered some potential security issues that involve login attempts and employee machines. Below I explain the steps taken to examine databases using SQL to retrieve different datasets and investigate potential security issues.

Retrieve after hours failed login attempts

After discovering a potential security incident that occurred after business hours, I queried the `log_in_attempts` table to review after hours login activity. I used the `WHERE` clause to filter by a) log in times greater than 6pm using the '>' operator and by b) failed login attempts as determined by the success column with a value of '0' using the '=' operator. The `AND` operator allowed be to filter both on the same line.

```
MariaDB [organization]> clear
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 (0.214 sec)
```

Retrieve login attempts on specific dates

Seeing a suspicious event occurring on 2022-05-09, I reviewed login attempts which occurred on or before this day by using filters in SQL to query for logins between 2022-05-08 and 2022-05-09. I used the `OR` operator within the `WHERE` clause to filter the `login_date` column by these two dates. Below is a screenshot of a portion of the query.

```
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 |
```

Retrieve login attempts outside of Mexico

The security team determined that the suspicious activity did not occur in Mexico. As a result, I was tasked to filter out Mexico from the database of `log_in_attempts`. By using the `NOT` function, I filtered out Mexico from the countries column of the database. Additionally, I used a "%" as a wildcard to account for the different variations of data that indicate Mexico. Below is a portion of the query.

```
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 |
```

Retrieve employees in Marketing

The security team wanted to perform updates on employee machines for the Marketing department in the East building. I filtered using the `WHERE` clause so the query only pulled members of the Marketing team using the '=' operator. I filtered for the East office by using the `AND` operator to add another filter, followed by the `LIKE` function to filter offices by "East%". This allowed me to pull all machines in the East building despite them having room numbers attached to the end of the office string.

```
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)
```

Retrieve employees in Finance or Sales

The security team also needed to perform another update on all machines for employees in both Marketing and Sales departments. To do this, I used the `OR` function to filter for both Marketing and Sales departments from the department column. Below is a screenshot of a portion of the returned query.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM employees
    -> WHERE department = 'Marketing' OR department = 'Sales';
+-------------+-------------+----------+------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id   | username | department | office      |
+-------------+-------------+----------+------------+-------------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing  | East-170    |
|        1001 | b239c825d303 | bmoreno  | Marketing  | Central-276 |
|        1009 | NULL         | lrodriqu | Sales      | South-134   |
|        1011 | l748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales      | South-292   |
|        1020 | u899v381w363 | arutley  | Marketing  | South-351   |
|        1024 | y976z753a267 | iuduike  | Sales      | South-215   |
|        1025 | z381a365b233 | jhill    | Sales      | North-115   |
```

Retrieve all employees not in IT

Another security was required for all departments except the Information Technology department. To make this update, I needed to gather information on these employees. The following shows how I used a SQL query to filter for employees not in IT by using the `NOT` operator in the `WHERE` clause, pulling from the `employees` table.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM employees
    -> WHERE NOT department = 'Information Technology';
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
| 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    | IHuman 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   |
```

Summary

I used filters in SQL queries to get information on login attempts and employee machines. Two different tables were used: `log_in_attempts` and `employees`. I used `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` operators to filter for the specific data. I also used `LIKE` and the (%) wildcard to filter for patterns.