SOC Task 2 – Incident Investigation Report

Internship Project | Splunk Log Analysis

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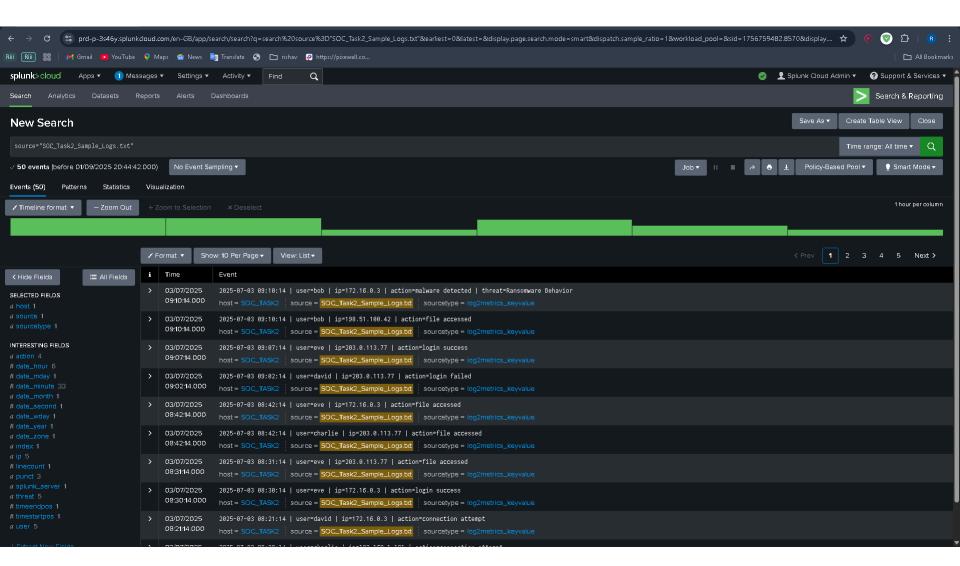
Objective

The purpose of this task is to analyze the provided log file
 `SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt` using Splunk, identify suspicious activities, and visualize them through dashboards.

All Events (Baseline Check)

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt"

- Observation:
- Allogeventsingested successfully. Includes login, file access, connection attempts, and malware detections.

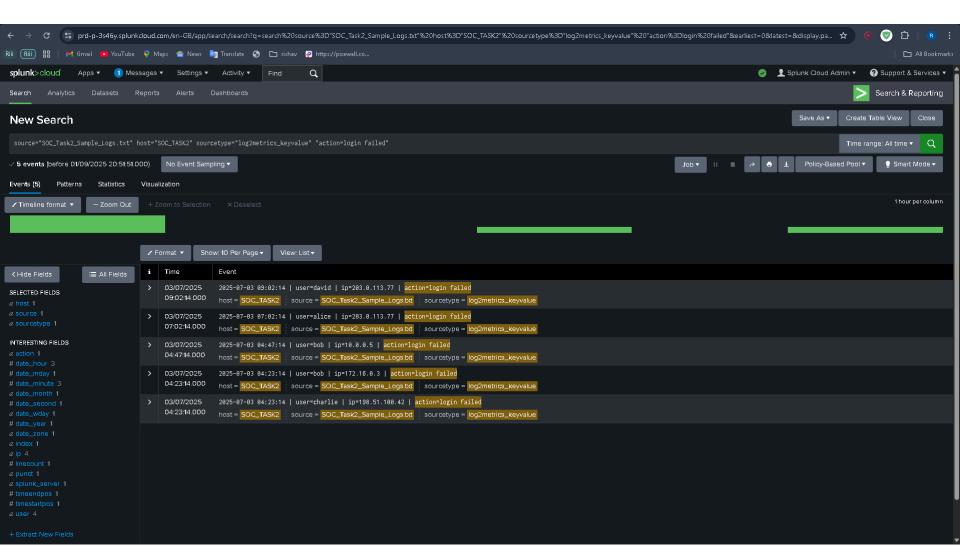


Failed Login Attempts

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt" action="login failed"

• Observation:

 Severalfailedloginattempts recorded → Possible brute force or credential-stuffing activity.

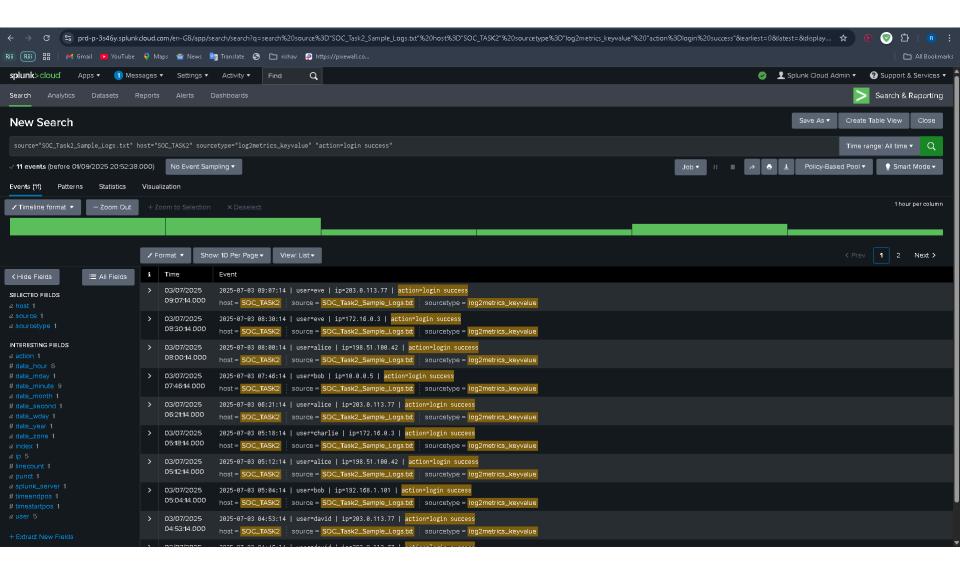


Successful Login Attempts

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt" action="login success"

• Observation:

 Legitimate successful login events recorded. Baseline for comparison with failed attempts.

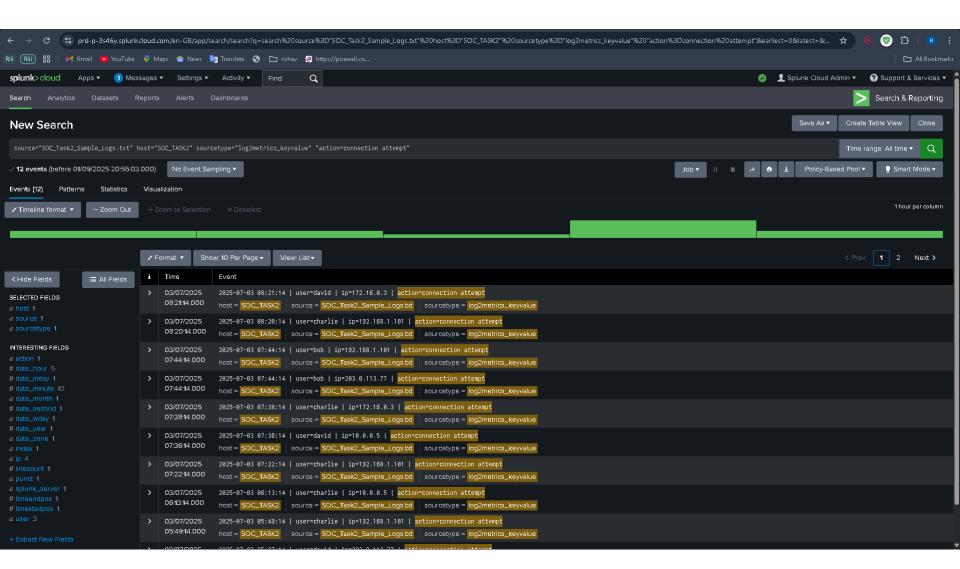


Connection Attempts

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt" action="connection attempt"

• Observation:

 High number of connection attempts observed → Possible brute force or scanning attempts.

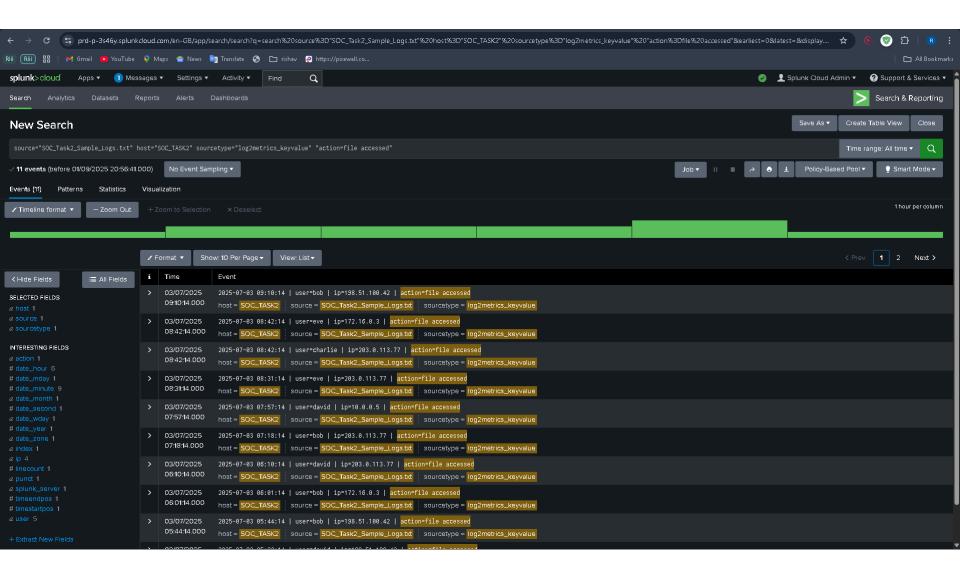


File Accessed Events

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt" action="file accessed"

Observation:

 Filesaccessedbymultiple users. Needs correlation with login attempts for insider activity.

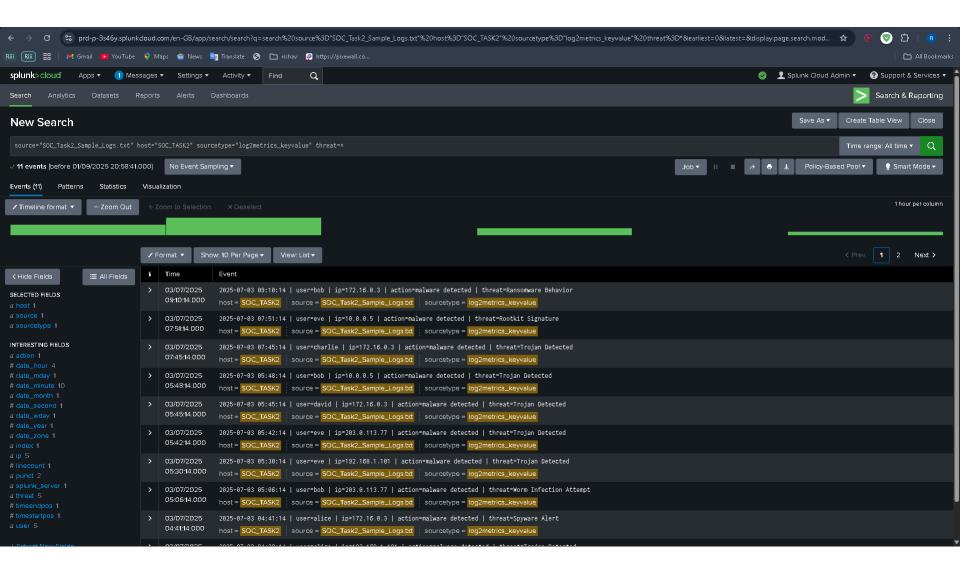


Malware / Threat Detection

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt" threat=*

Observation:

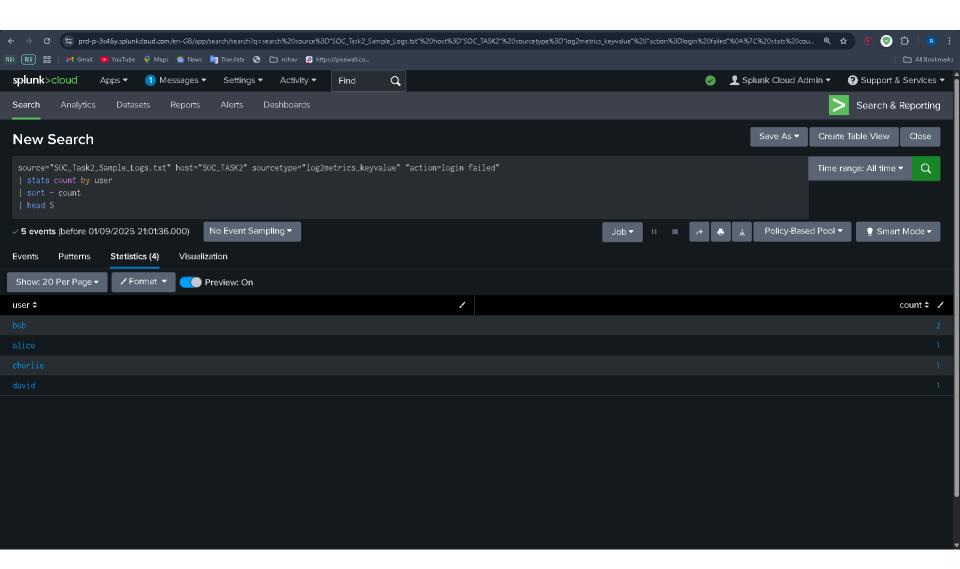
 Malwareevents detected. High severity → Requires immediate SOC response.



Top 5 Users with Most Failed Logins

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt"
 action="login failed" | stats count by user |
 sort count | head 5

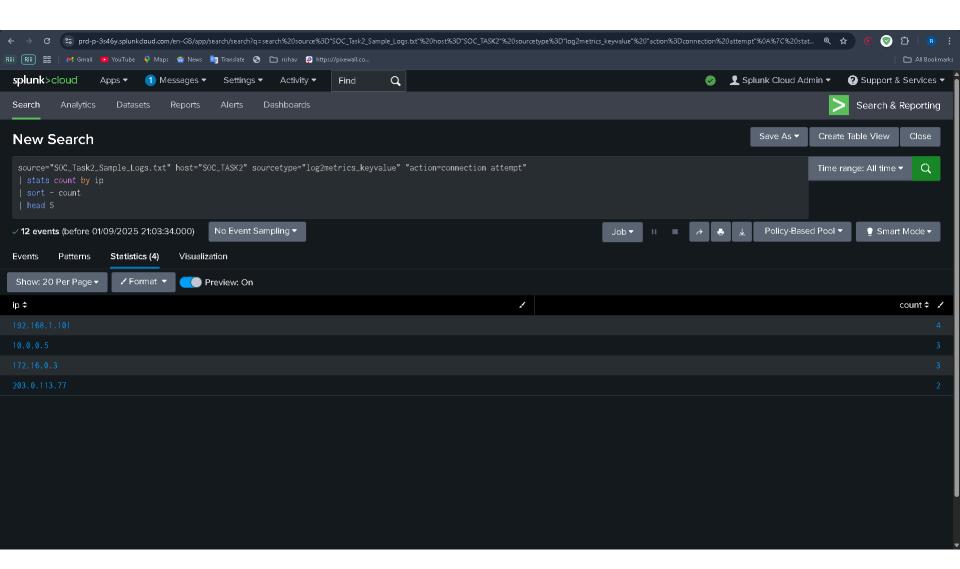
- Observation:
- Identifiedtop5users with excessive failed logins.



Top 5 IPs with Most Connection Attempts

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt"
 action="connection attempt" | stats count by
 ip | sort count | head 5

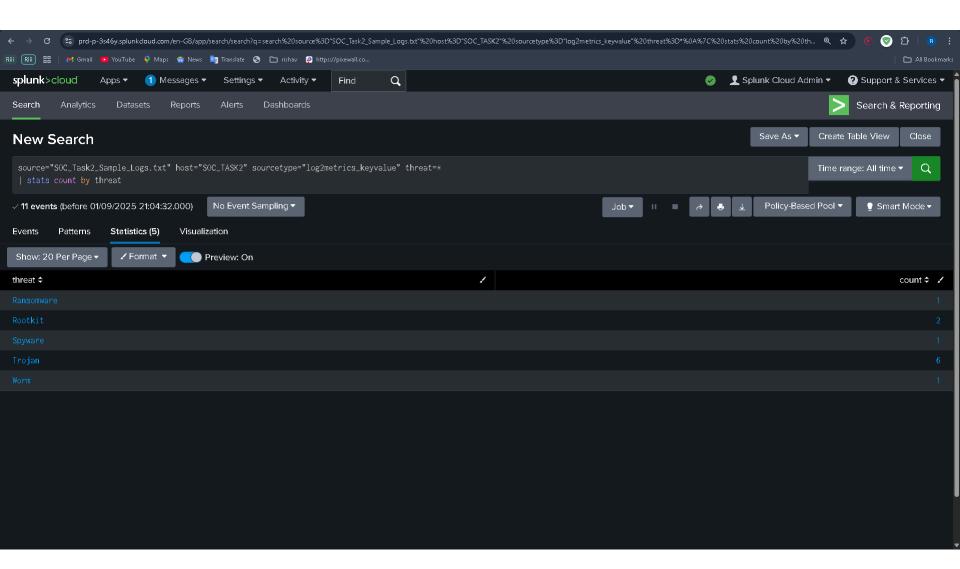
- Observation:
- CertainIPsshowsuspicious connection attempts.



Malware Type Count

- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt"
 threat=* | stats count by threat

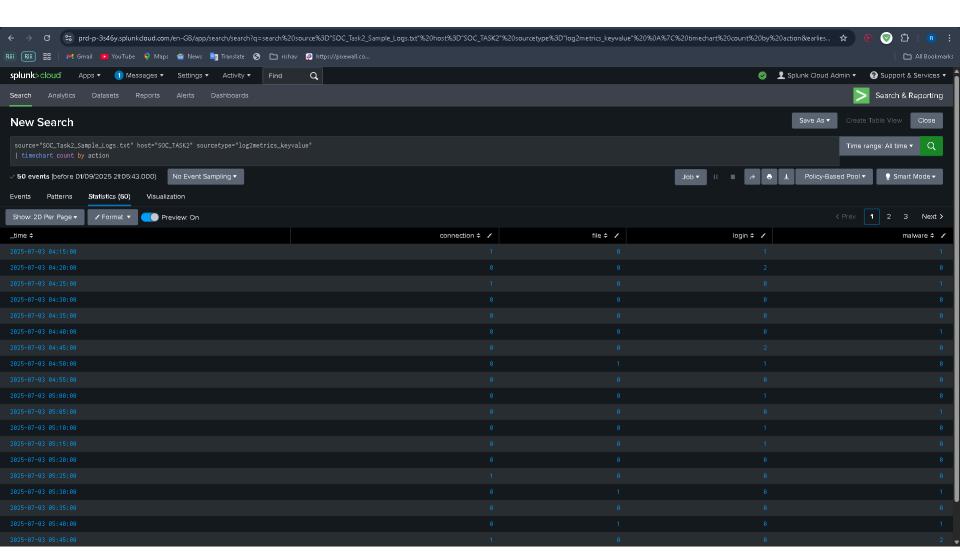
- Observation:
- Different malware types detected → Classification of threats possible.



Timeline of Events

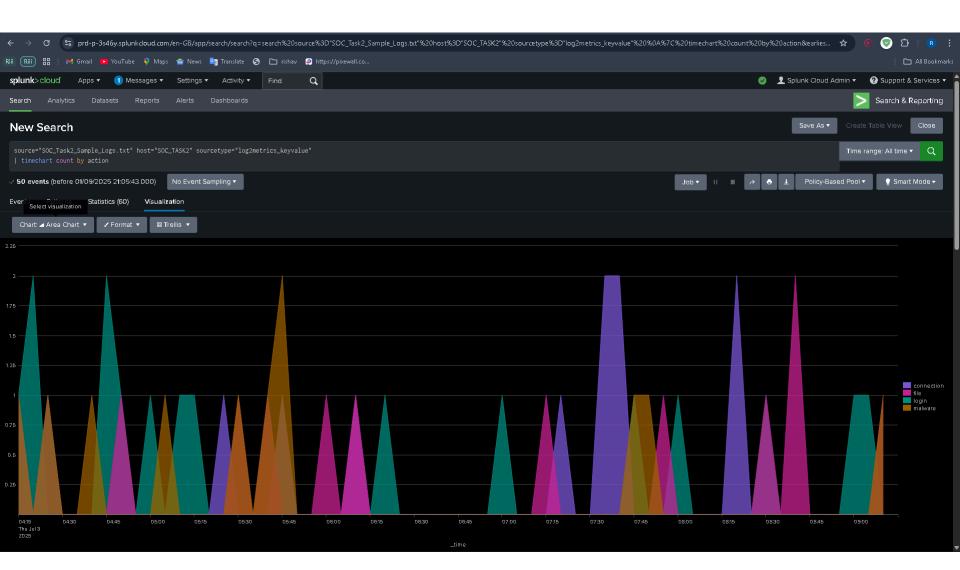
- Query:
- source="SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt" | timechart count by action

- Observation:
- Timeline shows peaks in failed logins and malware detections (attack windows).



Combined Log Activity Chart

"This chart provides a consolidated visualization of all security event recorded during the monitoring period, including login attempts connection activities, file access events, and malware detections. The timeline trend highlights peaks of unusual activity, helping SOG analysts quickly spot anomalies such as brute-force login attempts abnormal file access, and malware outbreaks. Such an aggregated view enables faster incident triage, prioritization of high-risk alerts and improved situational awareness for proactive threat response."



Conclusion & Recommendations

The internship tasks provided practical exposure to SOC operations, focusing on log monitoring, alert classification, and incident response reporting. By simulating real-world alerts such as malware infections, brute-force login attempts, and suspicious file access, the analysis reinforced critical skills in threat detection and response. **Key Takeaways:** - Strengthened ability to identify and prioritize security alerts using SIEM queries. - Improved knowledge of incident timelines, impact assessment, and remediation planning. - Developed professional SOC reporting practices with structured evidence and documentation. **Recommendations:** 1. Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) across all critical accounts to reduce login compromise risk. 2. Automate detection of brute-force attempts and integrate with alert escalation workflows. 3. Regularly patch and update endpoint systems to mitigate malware infections. 4. Enhance monitoring of insider threats with User and Entity Behavior Analytics (UEBA). 5. Establish routine SOC drills to improve incident response readiness. This report highlights how SOC monitoring and incident response simulations contribute to building a strong cybersecurity foundation and prepare interns for real-world security operations.