
◆ Query Breakdown

_sourceCategory=Labs/Apache/Access (status_code=200 or status_code=404)

| timeslice 1m

| if (status_code = "200", 1, 0) as successes

| if (status_code = "404", 1, 0) as fails

| sum(successes) as success_cnt, sum(fails) as fail_cnt by _timeslice

| (fail_cnt/(success_cnt+fail_cnt)) * 100 as failure_rate_pct

| outlier failure_rate_pct window=5, threshold=3, consecutive=1, direction=+

| where failure_rate_pct_violation > 0

1. _sourceCategory=Labs/Apache/Access (status_code=200 or status_code=404)

- Pulls Apache Access logs.
 - Filters logs where status code is **200 (success)** or **404 (not found / failure)**.
 - Keeps the dataset focused on successful vs failed requests.
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2. | timeslice 1m

- Splits logs into **1-minute intervals**.
 - This lets us calculate success/failure ratios over time.
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3. | if (status_code = "200", 1, 0) as successes

- Creates a **binary column**:
 - If the status code is 200 → assign 1.
 - Otherwise → 0.
 - This way, we can later **sum successes** easily.
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4. | if (status_code = "404", 1, 0) as fails

- Same logic but for failures (404).

- Turns each 404 event into a 1, else 0.

5. | `sum(successes)` as `success_cnt`, `sum(fails)` as `fail_cnt` by `_timeslice`

- Aggregates per 1-minute slice.
- Counts total **successes vs fails** in each minute.
- Example output:

_timeslice success_cnt fail_cnt

10:01	900	15
10:02	920	10
10:03	1000	60

6. | `(fail_cnt/(success_cnt+fail_cnt)) * 100` as `failure_rate_pct`

- Calculates **failure rate %**.
- Formula:

$$\text{failure_rate_pct} = \frac{\text{failures}}{\text{successes} + \text{failures}} \times 100$$

- Example: If 60 fails, 1000 successes $\rightarrow (60/1060) * 100 \approx 5.6\%$ failure rate.

7. | `outlier failure_rate_pct window=5, threshold=3, consecutive=1, direction=+`

This is the anomaly detection step.

- **failure_rate_pct** \rightarrow metric being monitored.
- **window=5** \rightarrow looks at the last **5 minutes** as a baseline.
- **threshold=3** \rightarrow flags if current failure rate is ≥ 3 **standard deviations above the mean** of last 5.
- **consecutive=1** \rightarrow only **1 anomaly point** needed to flag.
- **direction=+** \rightarrow only detects **spikes upward** (failure rate unusually high).

8. | `where failure_rate_pct_violation > 0`

- Filters results to show **only violations** (when anomaly is detected).

- If the outlier didn't trigger, that row is filtered out.
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◆ Example Log Scenarios Where Outlier is Useful

✓ Scenario 1: Web Server Error Spikes

- Normally 404 failure rate is 1–2%.
 - Suddenly jumps to 30% because:
 - A new app deployment broke links.
 - Attackers are probing for missing pages.
 - Outlier flags this **spike in failure rate**.
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✓ Scenario 2: Authentication Failures

- Use on login logs (status=FAILED).
 - Normally 10 failed logins/hour.
 - Suddenly 200 failed logins in 5 minutes → possible **brute force attack**.
 - Outlier flags the anomaly.
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✓ Scenario 3: Database Query Errors

- Monitor DB logs for query errors (error_code).
 - If error rate suddenly surges, it may mean:
 - DB misconfiguration.
 - Malicious queries attempting SQL injection.
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✓ Scenario 4: Network Device Failures

- Monitor firewall/router logs.
 - If packet drops suddenly spike above baseline, Outlier will detect possible **DDoS attack** or hardware issue.
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✅ **In short:**

This query calculates **failure rate % of web requests**, then uses **statistical anomaly detection** to automatically flag when the failure rate suddenly spikes above normal baseline behavior.