

**Defensive Security Project by:**

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# Monitoring Environment

# Scenario

## Monitoring and Security for VSI

**Objective:** Implement a comprehensive monitoring solution for Virtual Space Industries (VSI) using Splunk.

**Setup:** Deployed Splunk Docker container; analyzed Windows (`windows\_server\_logs.csv`) and Apache (`apache\_logs.txt`) logs.

### Focus Areas:

- **Windows Logs:** `signature\_id`, `signature`, `user`, `status`, `severity`
- **Apache Logs:** `method`, `referer\_domain`, `status`, `clientip`, `useragent`

### Reports Created:

- **Windows:** Signature IDs, severity levels, success vs. failure
- **Apache:** HTTP methods, top referrers, response codes

### Alerts Configured:

- **Windows:** Failed/successful logins, account deletions
- **Apache:** International traffic, high POST request volume

### Dashboards Designed:

- **Windows:** Signature trends, user activity, event counts
- **Apache:** HTTP methods, URI counts, traffic distribution

**Enhancement:** Installed additional Splunk add-on for improved monitoring.

**Outcome:** Provides VSI with robust detection and response capabilities for security and operational oversight.

# **Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk**

# Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk

**Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk** provides real-time website categorization and threat intelligence. It enhances security by classifying web traffic based on categories like malicious, suspicious, or benign.

## Key Features:

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Provides immediate categorization of referrer domains and websites, allowing for instant insights into their nature and potential risks.
- **Troubleshooting:** Helps in identifying and categorizing domains associated with malware, phishing, or other security threats.
- **Alerting:** Configurable alerts for detecting and responding to traffic from suspicious or malicious domains.
- **Scalability:** Efficiently handles large volumes of domain data, making it suitable for extensive web environments.
- **Integration:** Seamlessly works with other Splunk apps.



Seamlessly integrates with Splunk to provide real-time website categorization, enhancing threat detection and overall security monitoring.

# Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk

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A security team notices a spike in outbound traffic to various domains, potentially indicating data exfiltration or access to malicious websites through:

- **Integration:** The team integrates the Whois XML API with Splunk.
- **Monitoring:** They monitor network traffic and categorize domains in real-time.
- **Categorization:** The API categorizes domains, flagging potential exploits.
- **Analysis:** The team identifies legitimate traffic and suspicious activity.
- **Alerting:** Alerts are set for malicious categories, triggering investigations.
- **Mitigation:** Compromised endpoints are isolated, and malicious domains blocked.

The team quickly identifies and mitigates threats with:

- **Proactive Detection:** Early detection of malicious activity.
- **Efficient Analysis:** Distinguishes between legitimate and suspicious traffic.
- **Enhanced Security:** Quick response to threats, reducing data breach risks.
- **Improved Network Safety:** Blocking malicious domains ensures safer internet usage.

# Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk

The screenshot shows a Splunk web interface for the "Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk". The URL in the browser bar is `localhost:8000/en-US/app/TA_whois_xml_website_categorization_api/lookup?form.SearchTerms=www.semicomplete.com%2C%20http%3A%2F%2Fsemicomplete.com%2C%20stackoverflow.com%2C%20www.google.com`. The page title is "Website Categorization lookup". A search bar contains the query "www.semicomplete.com, http://semicomplete.com, stackoverflow.com, www.google.com". The "Submit" button is green. Below the search bar is a table titled "Lookup results" with columns: domain, responded, categories, as, and createdDate. The table lists three rows corresponding to the search terms.

domain	responded	categories	as	createdDate
www.semicomplete.com	yes	{"confidence":0.95,"id":596,"name":"Technology & Computing"}, {"confidence":0.68,"id":634,"name":"Home Entertainment Systems"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":619,"name":"Internet"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":52,"name":"Business and Finance"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":99,"name":"Information Services Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":115,"name":"Technology Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":116,"name":"Telecommunications Industry"}	{"asn":54113,"domain":"https://www.fastly.com","name":"FASTLY","route":"185.199.111.0/24","type":"Content"}	2006-03-22T18:37:23+00:00
http://semicomplete.com	yes	{"confidence":0.95,"id":596,"name":"Technology & Computing"}, {"confidence":0.68,"id":634,"name":"Home Entertainment Systems"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":619,"name":"Internet"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":52,"name":"Business and Finance"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":99,"name":"Information Services Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":115,"name":"Technology Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":116,"name":"Telecommunications Industry"}	{"asn":54113,"domain":"https://www.fastly.com","name":"FASTLY","route":"185.199.108.0/24","type":"Content"}	2006-03-22T18:37:23+00:00
stackoverflow.com	yes	{"confidence":0.99,"id":596,"name":"Technology & Computing"}, {"confidence":0.99,"id":615,"name":"Operating Systems"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":631,"name":"Programming Languages"}, {"confidence":0.98,"id":52,"name":"Business and Finance"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":99,"name":"Information Services Industry"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":619,"name":"Internet"}, {"confidence":0.92,"id":618,"name":"Information and Network Security"}, {"confidence":0.96,"id":628,"name":"Social Networking"}, {"confidence":0.9,"id":611,"name":"Databases"}, {"confidence":0.91,"id":600,"name":"Computer Networking"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":621,"name":"Web Development"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":115,"name":"Technology Industry"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":116,"name":"Telecommunications Industry"}	{"asn":13335,"domain":"https://www.cloudflare.com","name":"CLOUDFLARENED","route":"104.18.32.0/24","type":"Content"}	2003-12-26T14:18:07+00:00

# Whois XML Website Categorization API for Splunk

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs open, including Splunkbase, Settings | Splunk, Website Categorization, Splunk Add-on for, Reports | Splunk, Top 10 Domains, Top 10 domains, and Search | Splunk. The main content area displays the results of a search for specific domains using the Whois XML Website Categorization API.

Domain	Confidence	Category Names	ASN	Creation Date
http://semicomplete.com	yes	{"confidence":0.68,"id":634,"name":"Home Entertainment Systems"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":619,"name":"Internet"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":52,"name":"Business and Finance"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":99,"name":"Information Services Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":115,"name":"Technology Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":116,"name":"Telecommunications Industry"}	{"asn":54113,"domain":"https://www.fastly.com","name":"FASTLY","route":"185.199.108.0/24","type":"Content"}	2006-03-22T18:37:23+00:00
stackoverflow.com	yes	{"confidence":0.95,"id":596,"name":"Technology & Computing"}, {"confidence":0.68,"id":634,"name":"Home Entertainment Systems"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":619,"name":"Internet"}, {"confidence":0.95,"id":52,"name":"Business and Finance"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":99,"name":"Information Services Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":115,"name":"Technology Industry"}, {"confidence":0.66,"id":116,"name":"Telecommunications Industry"}	{"asn":13335,"domain":"https://www.cloudflare.com","name":"CLOUDFLARENET","route":"104.18.32.0/24","type":"Content"}	2003-12-26T14:18:07+00:00
www.google.com.br	yes	{"confidence":0,"id":0,"name":"Uncategorized"}	{"asn":15169,"domain":"https://about.google/intl/en/","name":"GOOGLE","route":"142.250.176.0/24","type":"Content"}	1999-05-18T00:00:00+00:00
tuxradar.com	yes	{"confidence":0,"id":0,"name":"Uncategorized"}	{"asn":16509,"domain":"https://www.amazon.com","name":"AMAZON-02","route":"18.132.0.0/14","type":"Enterprise"}	2008-10-21T13:43:38+00:00
logstash.net	yes	{"confidence":0.79,"id":52,"name":"Business and Finance"}, {"confidence":0.55,"id":114,"name":"Retail Industry"}, {"confidence":0.63,"id":596,"name":"Technology & Computing"}, {"confidence":0.7,"id":611,"name":"Databases"}, {"confidence":0.59,"id":616,"name":"Data Storage and Warehousing"}, {"confidence":0.79,"id":473,"name":"Shopping"}, {"confidence":0.7,"id":552,"name":"Style & Fashion"}, {"confidence":0.61,"id":274,"name":"Home & Garden"}, {"confidence":0.61,"id":653,"name":"Travel"}	{"asn":396982,"domain":"http://www.google.com","name":"GOOGLE-CLOUD-PLATFORM","route":"34.104.0.0/14","type":""}	2011-02-23T01:51:04+00:00

# Logs - Analyzed

1

## Windows Logs

**File:** `windows\_server\_logs.csv`

**Content:** Logs from a Windows server

**Purpose:**

- Track and monitor user activity
- Detect and identify potential security incidents
- Record and store data for forensic analysis

**Use Case:** Helps monitor server activities and understand the security posture

2

## Apache Logs

**File:** `apache\_logs.txt`

**Content:** Logs from an Apache server

**Purpose:**

- Track HTTP requests & responses
- Detect and identify potential security incidents
- Analyze user behavior and web traffic patterns

**Use Case:** Provides insights into web traffic, server health, and security monitoring

# Windows Logs

# Reports – Windows

Designed the following reports:

Report Name	Report Description
<b>Table of Signature and Signature ID's</b>	The 'signature' field describes the event, providing context about what occurred and the 'signature_id' helps pinpoint specific types of events as a unique identifier.
<b>Severity Levels by Count and Percentage</b>	The 'severity' field reflects the seriousness of the event, allowing us to prioritize incidents based on their potential impact.
<b>Status by Success and Failure</b>	The 'status' field indicates whether the event was successful or not, helping us identify failed login attempts or other unsuccessful actions.

# Images of Reports – Windows

Signature\_ID | Signature

source="windows\_server\_logs.csv" host="windows\_server\_logs" sourcetype="csv" | table signature signature\_id | dedup signature

4,764 events (before 7/30/24 7:44:27.000 PM) No Event Sampling ▾

Events Patterns Statistics (15) Visualization

100 Per Page ▾ Format Preview ▾

signature ▾ signature\_id ▾

signature	signature_id
A user account was created	4720
Special privileges assigned to new logon	4672
An account was successfully logged on	4624
A user account was locked out	4740
A user account was deleted	4726
Domain Policy was changed	4739
A computer account was deleted	4743
A process has exited	4689
A logon was attempted using explicit credentials	4648
System security access was granted to an account	4717
A user account was changed	4738
The audit log was cleared	1102
System security access was removed from an account	4718
An attempt was made to reset an accounts password	4724
A privileged service was called	4673

# Images of Reports – Windows (cont.)

**Severity Levels by Count and Percentage**

```
source="windows_server_logs.csv" host="windows_server_logs" sourcetype="csv"
| stats count by severity
| eventstats sum(count) as total
| eval percentage=round((count * 100)/total, 2)
| table severity, count, percentage
```

✓ 4,764 events (before 7/30/24 7:46:02.000 PM) No Event Sampling ▾

Events Patterns Statistics (2) Visualization

100 Per Page ▾ Format Preview ▾

severity	count	percentage
high	329	6.91
informational	4435	93.09

Save Save As ▾ View Create Table View Close All time ▾

**Status by Success and Failure**

```
source="windows_server_logs.csv" host="windows_server_logs" sourcetype="csv"
| stats count by status
| eventstats sum(count) as total
| eval percentage=round((count * 100)/total, 2)
| table status, count, percentage
```

✓ 4,764 events (before 7/30/24 7:48:15.000 PM) No Event Sampling ▾

Events Patterns Statistics (2) Visualization

100 Per Page ▾ Format Preview ▾

status	count	percentage
failure	142	2.98
success	4622	97.02

Save Save As ▾ View Create Table View Close All time ▾

# Alerts – Windows

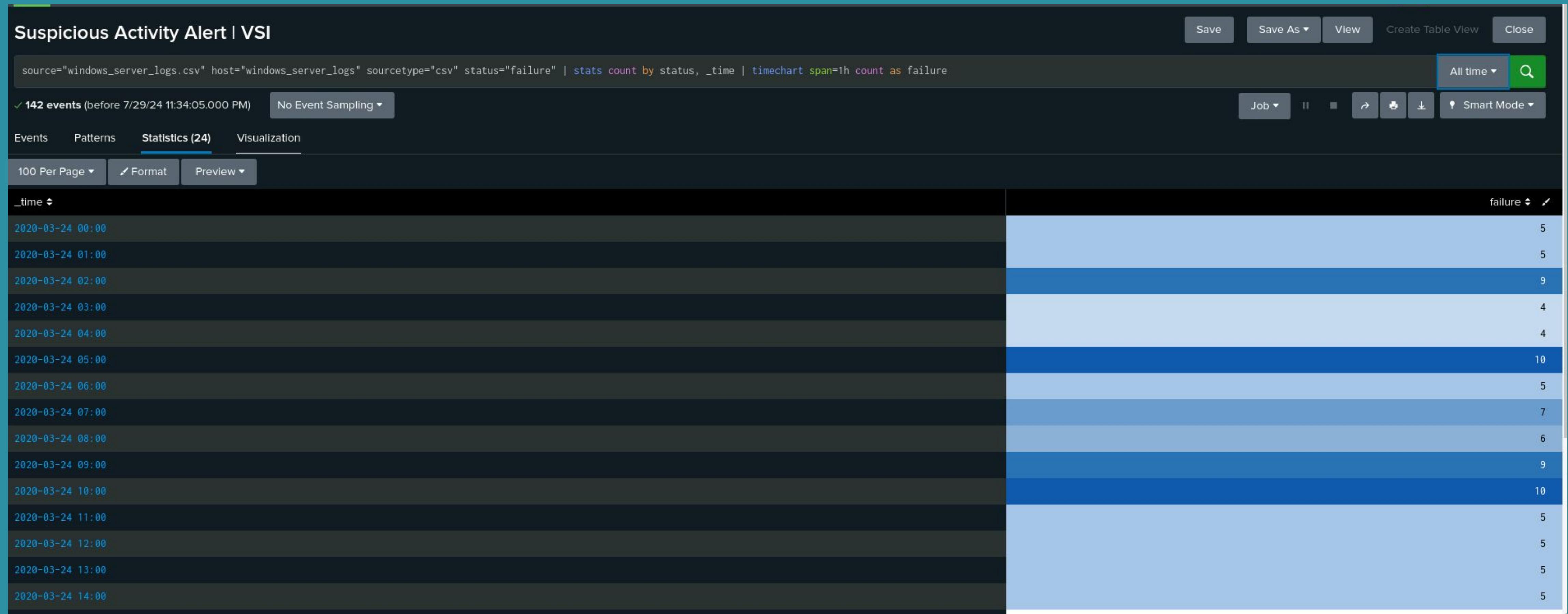
Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
<b>Windows Failed Attempts</b>	<p><b>Alert Purpose:</b> Monitor Windows security logs</p> <p><b>Trigger Condition:</b> High number of failed login attempts within a specified time frame</p> <p><b>Potential Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brute force attacks</li><li>• Unauthorized access attempts</li></ul>	Average Failed Attempts per Hour = 5	Threshold = 8 Failed Attempts Per Hour

## JUSTIFICATION:

- **Total Events:** 4,764
- **Failed Attempts:** 142 (Approx. 2.98%)
- **Average Failed Attempts per Hour:** 5
- **Peak Failed Attempts:** 10
- **Threshold Recommendation:** Set at 8 attempts per hour
- **Reasoning:** Balances sensitivity to detect unusual spikes while minimizing false alarms

# Images of Alerts – Windows



# Alerts — Windows (cont.)

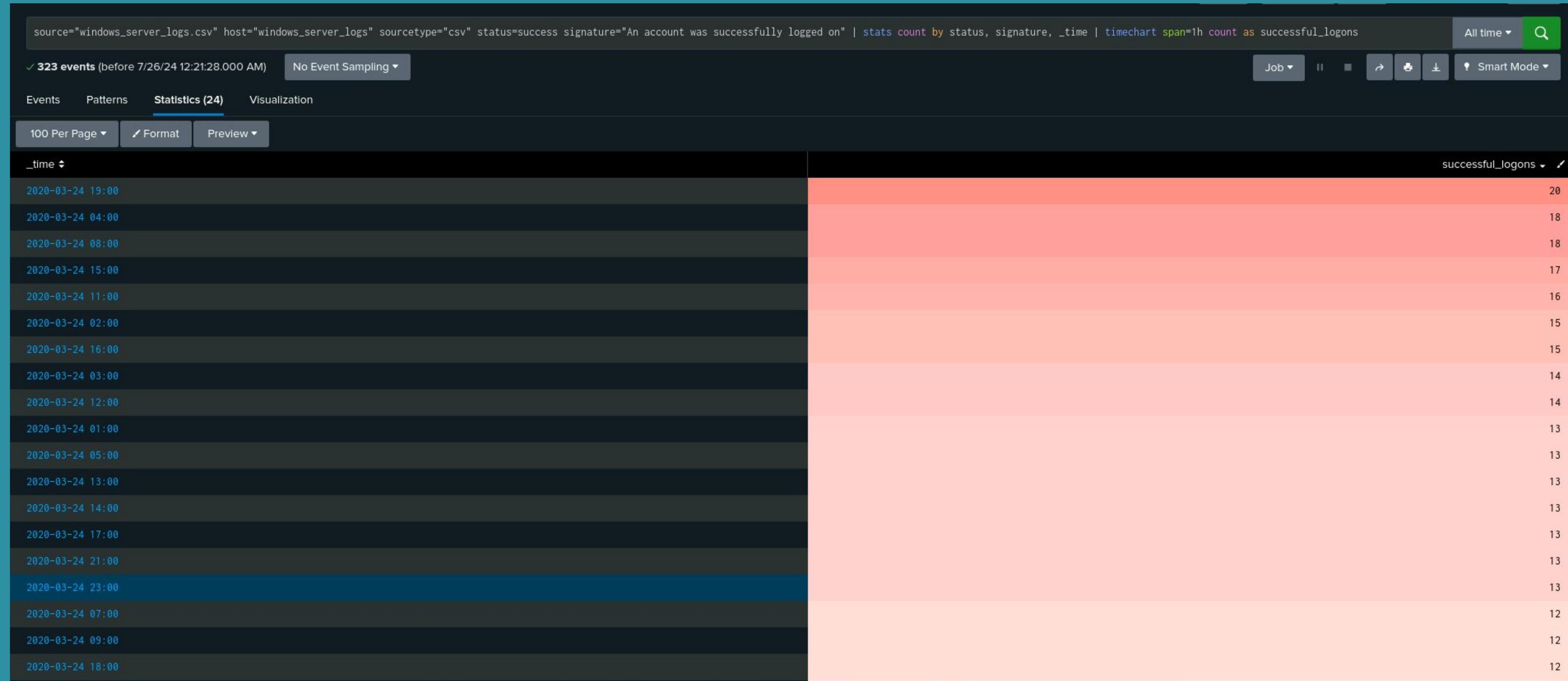
Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
<b>High Number of Successful Windows Logon Attempts</b>	<p><b>Alert Purpose:</b> Monitor Windows security logs</p> <p><b>Trigger Condition:</b> High number of successful logon attempts within a specified time frame</p> <p><b>Potential Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unauthorized access</li><li>• Compromised accounts</li></ul> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Sudden increase in successful logins</p>	<b>Average Successful Logins per Hour =</b> 13	<b>Allowed Successful Login Attempts Per Hour =</b> 17

Justification:

- **Average Successful Logins per Hour:** 13.46 (baseline for normal activity)
- **Peak Successful Logins:** 20 per hour
- **Threshold Recommendation:** Set at 17 logins per hour
- **Reasoning:** Balances between preventing false alarms and detecting unusual spikes in activity

# Images of Alerts – Windows (cont.)



# Alerts — Windows (cont.)

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
High Number of User Account Deletions	<p><b>Alert Purpose:</b> Monitor Windows security logs</p> <p><b>Trigger Condition:</b> Unusually high number of user account deletions in time frame</p> <p><b>Potential Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unauthorized activity</li><li>• Security breaches</li></ul> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Sudden spike in account deletions</p>	Average Deleted Accounts Per Hour = 13	Allowed Deleted Account Attempts per Hour = 17

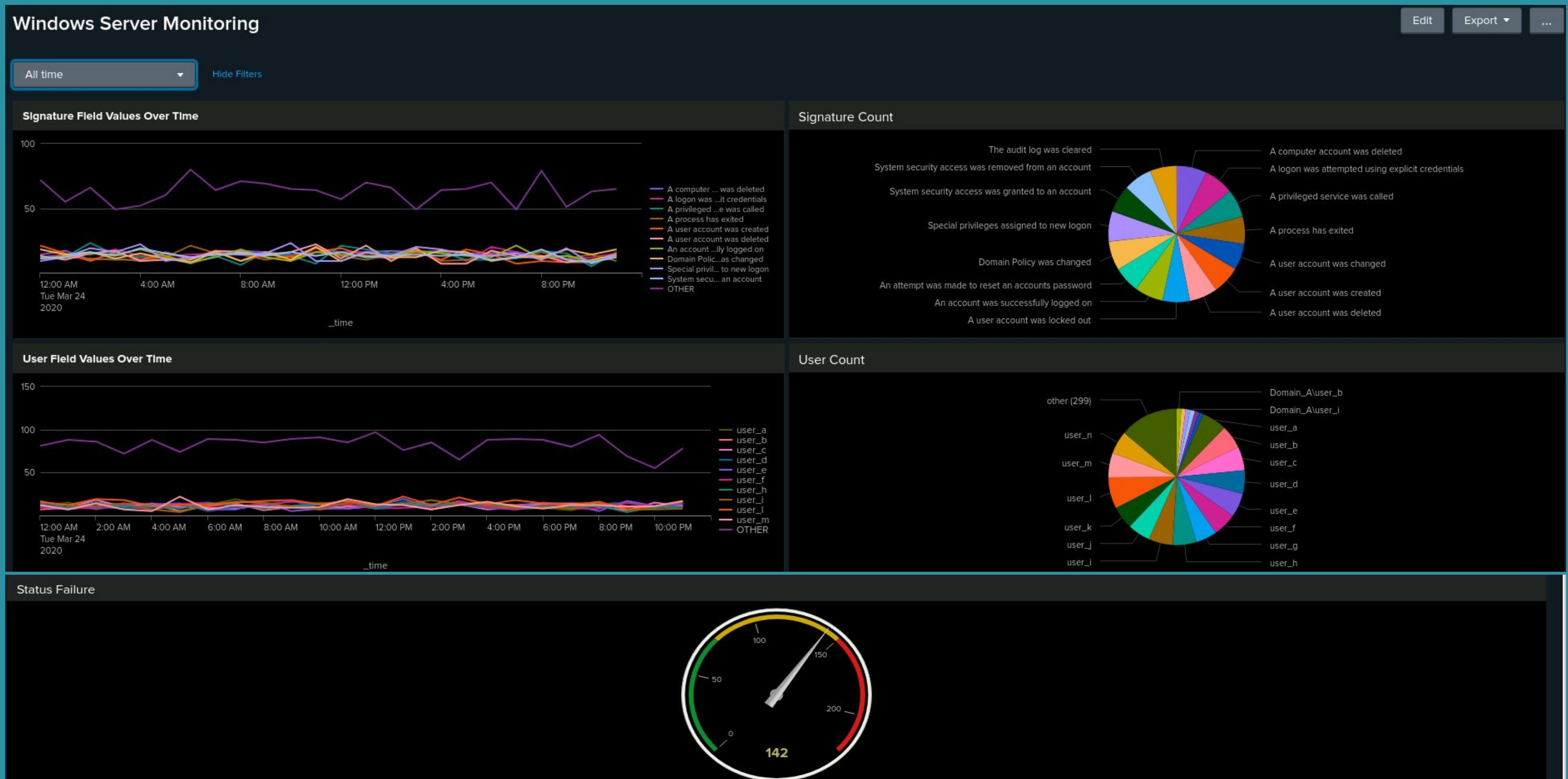
## JUSTIFICATION:

- **Baseline for Normal Deletions:** 13.25 (reference point for typical behavior)
- **Threshold Recommendation:** Set at 17 deletions
- **Reasoning:** Captures significant deviations above the average while considering the peak of 22 deletions
- **Goal:** Detect unusual spikes in account deletions while minimizing false alarms

# Images of Alerts – Windows (cont.)

_time	deleted_accounts
2020-03-24 11:00	22
2020-03-24 13:00	21
2020-03-24 15:00	19
2020-03-24 03:00	17
2020-03-24 07:00	17
2020-03-24 18:00	17
2020-03-24 08:00	16
2020-03-24 10:00	16
2020-03-24 02:00	15
2020-03-24 09:00	14
2020-03-24 23:00	14
2020-03-24 00:00	13
2020-03-24 19:00	13
2020-03-24 20:00	13
2020-03-24 12:00	11
2020-03-24 01:00	10
2020-03-24 05:00	10
2020-03-24 06:00	10
2020-03-24 22:00	10
2020-03-24 04:00	9
2020-03-24 14:00	9
2020-03-24 21:00	8
2020-03-24 16:00	7

# Dashboards – Windows



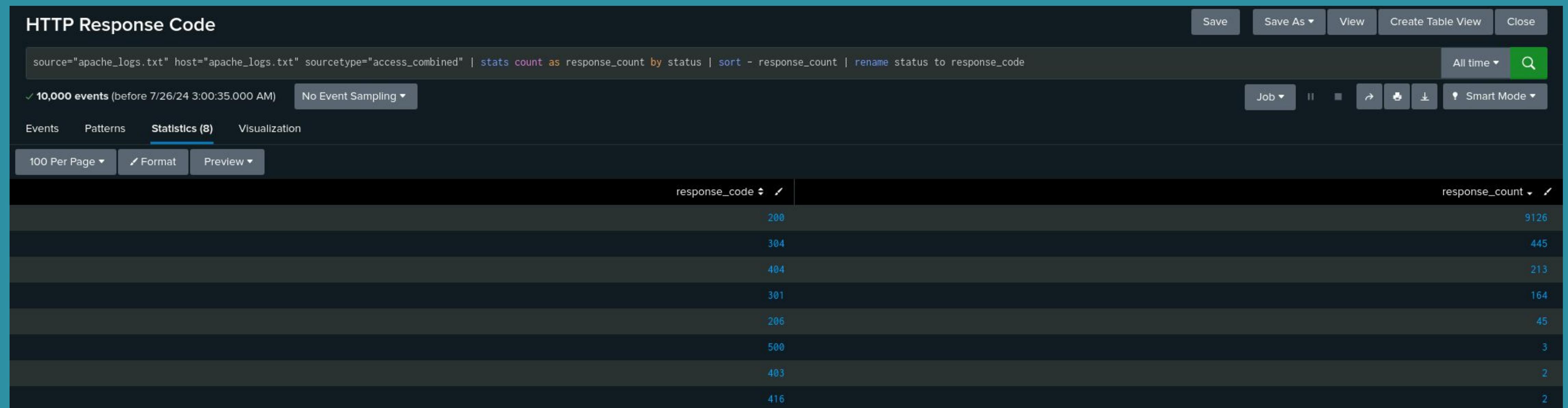
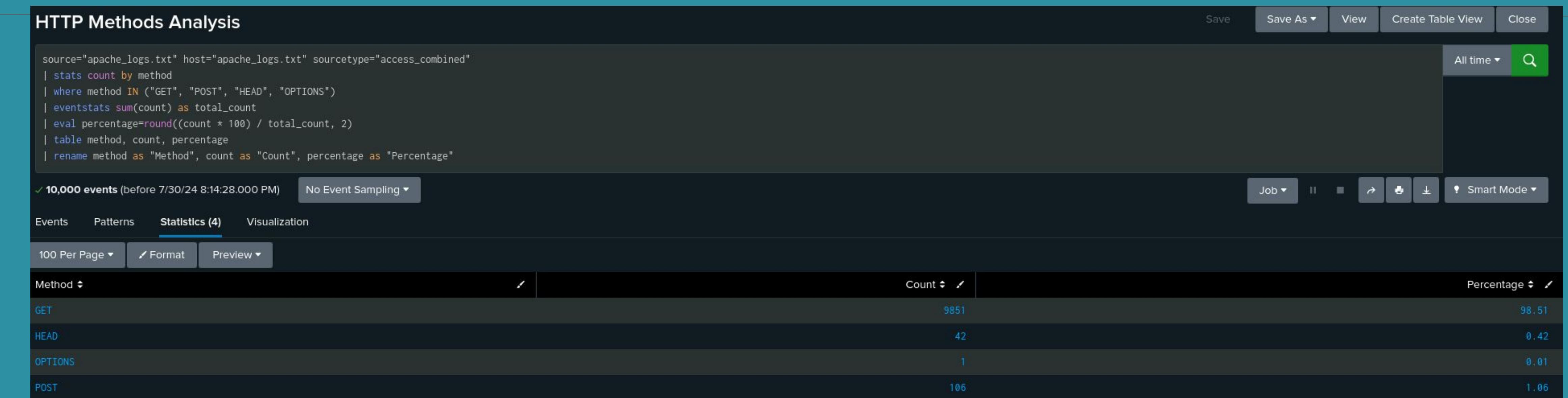
# Apache Logs

# Reports – Apache

Designed the following reports:

Report Name	Report Description
<b>HTTP Methods Analysis</b>	<p><b>Report Focus:</b> Analysis of HTTP methods used in requests to VSI's web server</p> <p><b>Monitored Methods:</b> GET, HEAD, OPTIONS, POST</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highlight frequency of each method</li><li>• Provide insights into request patterns</li><li>• Identify unusual traffic behavior</li></ul>
<b>Top 10 Referring Domains</b>	<p><b>Report Focus:</b> Top 10 external domains referring traffic to VSI's website</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify sources generating the most traffic</li><li>• Understand referral patterns</li><li>• Spot unusual or potentially suspicious referrers</li></ul>
<b>HTTP Response Codes Report</b>	<p><b>Report Focus:</b> Summary of HTTP response codes generated by VSI's web server</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze server response patterns</li><li>• Track successful requests</li><li>• Identify various error types (e.g., 4xx, 5xx codes)</li></ul>

# Images of Reports — Apache



# Images of Reports – Apache (cont.)

Top 10 Referring Domains

source="apache\_logs.txt" host="apache\_logs.txt" sourcetype="access\_combined" | top limit=10 referer\_domain

✓ 10,000 events (before 7/30/24 8:16:30.000 PM) No Event Sampling ▾

Events Patterns Statistics (10) Visualization

100 Per Page ▾ ✓ Format Preview ▾

referer_domain	count	percent
http://www.semicomplete.com	3038	51.256960
http://semicomplete.com	2001	33.760756
http://www.google.com	123	2.075249
https://www.google.com	105	1.771554
http://stackoverflow.com	34	0.573646
http://www.google.fr	31	0.523030
http://s-chassis.co.nz	29	0.489286
http://logstash.net	28	0.472414
http://www.google.es	25	0.421799
https://www.google.co.uk	23	0.388055

# Alerts – Apache

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
<b>International Traffic Alert</b>	<p><b>Alert Purpose:</b> Monitor web traffic volume originating from outside the US</p> <p><b>Trigger Condition:</b> Unusual spikes in international traffic</p> <p><b>Potential Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Security threats from foreign sources</li><li>• Unauthorized access attempts</li></ul> <p><b>Insight:</b> Helps detect suspicious international activity</p>	<p><b>Average number of international web traffic instances per hour =</b></p> <p>76</p>	<p><b>Allowed number of international web traffic instances per hour =</b></p> <p>91</p>

# Images of Alerts – Apache



# Alerts – Apache (cont.)

Designed the following alerts:

Alert Name	Alert Description	Alert Baseline	Alert Threshold
HTTP POST Requests	<p><b>Alert Purpose:</b> Monitor HTTP POST requests per hour</p> <p><b>Trigger Condition:</b> Abnormal spikes in POST requests</p> <p><b>Potential Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspicious form submissions</li><li>• Unauthorized file uploads</li><li>• Potential attacks (e.g., data exfiltration)</li></ul>	<p><b>Average number of HTTP Post Requests per hour =</b></p> <p>3</p>	<p><b>Allowed number of HTTP Post Requests per hour =</b></p> <p>6</p>

## JUSTIFICATION:

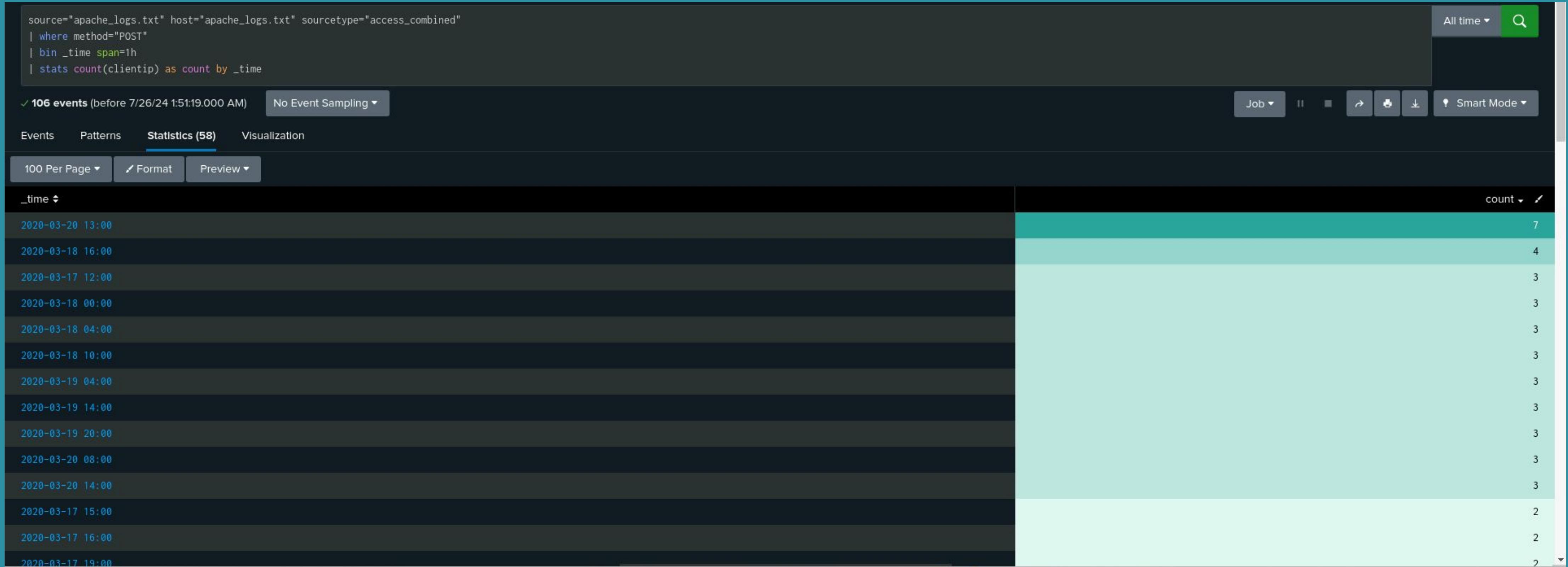
**Threshold Strategy:** Detect significant deviations from average POST request rate

**Threshold Level:** Set 25% above the average

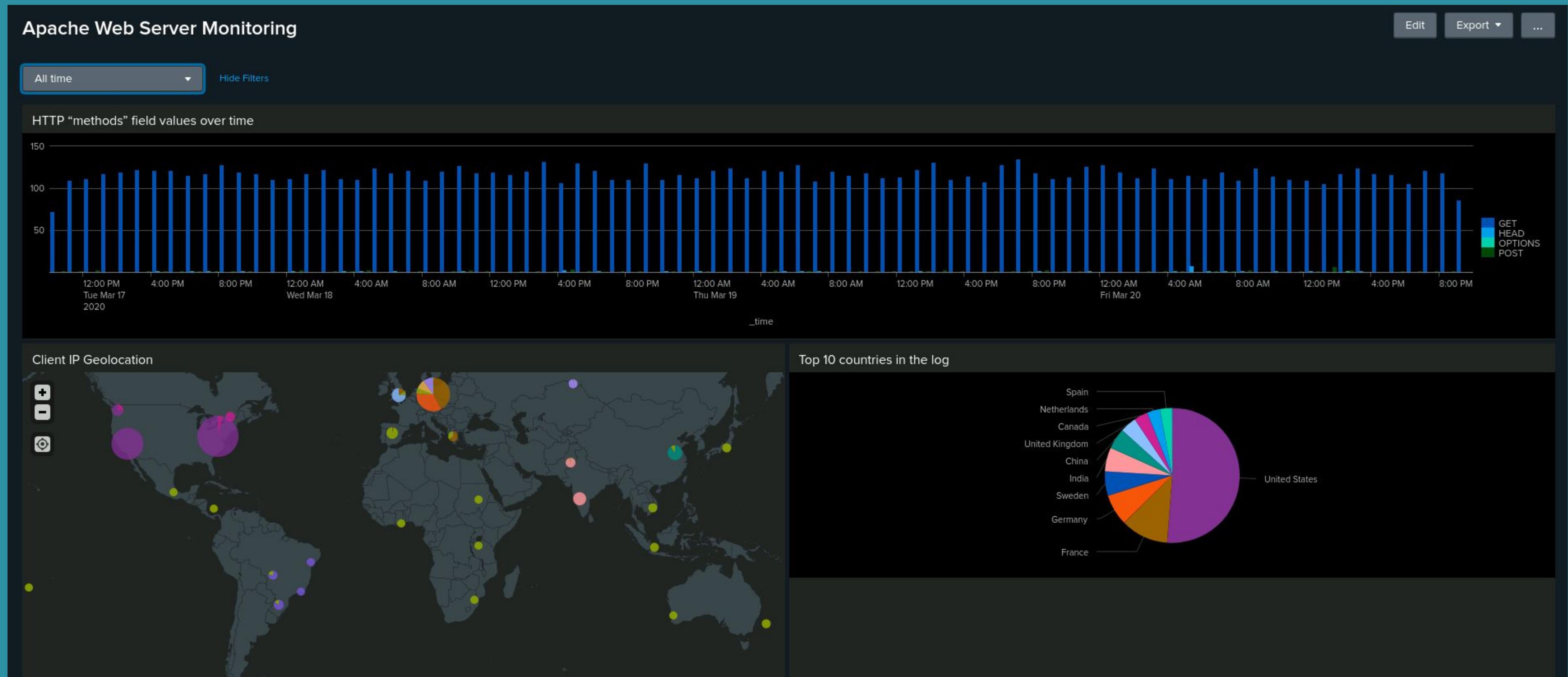
**Reasoning:** Captures sudden spikes in POST requests and minimizes false positives

**Goal:** Enable timely responses to potential threats through early detection

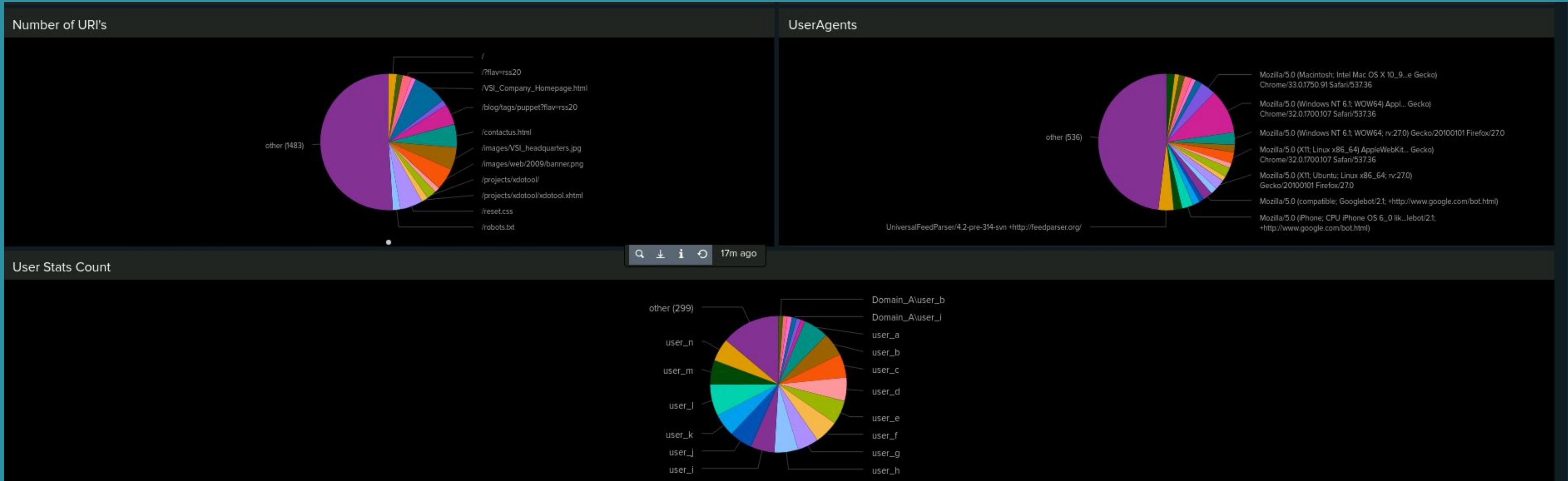
# Images of Alerts – Apache (cont.)



# Dashboards — Apache



# Dashboards – Apache (cont.)



# Attack Analysis

# Attack Summary – Windows

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## Severity Changes

- The severity level of incidents increased significantly from 6.91% to 20.22%.
- This rise suggests a shift towards more serious or critical attacks, indicating potentially severe security issues or sophisticated attacks.

## Failed Activities

- There was a notable increase in failed activities.
- This spike in failed activities may point to potential unauthorized access attempts or other security concerns requiring investigation.

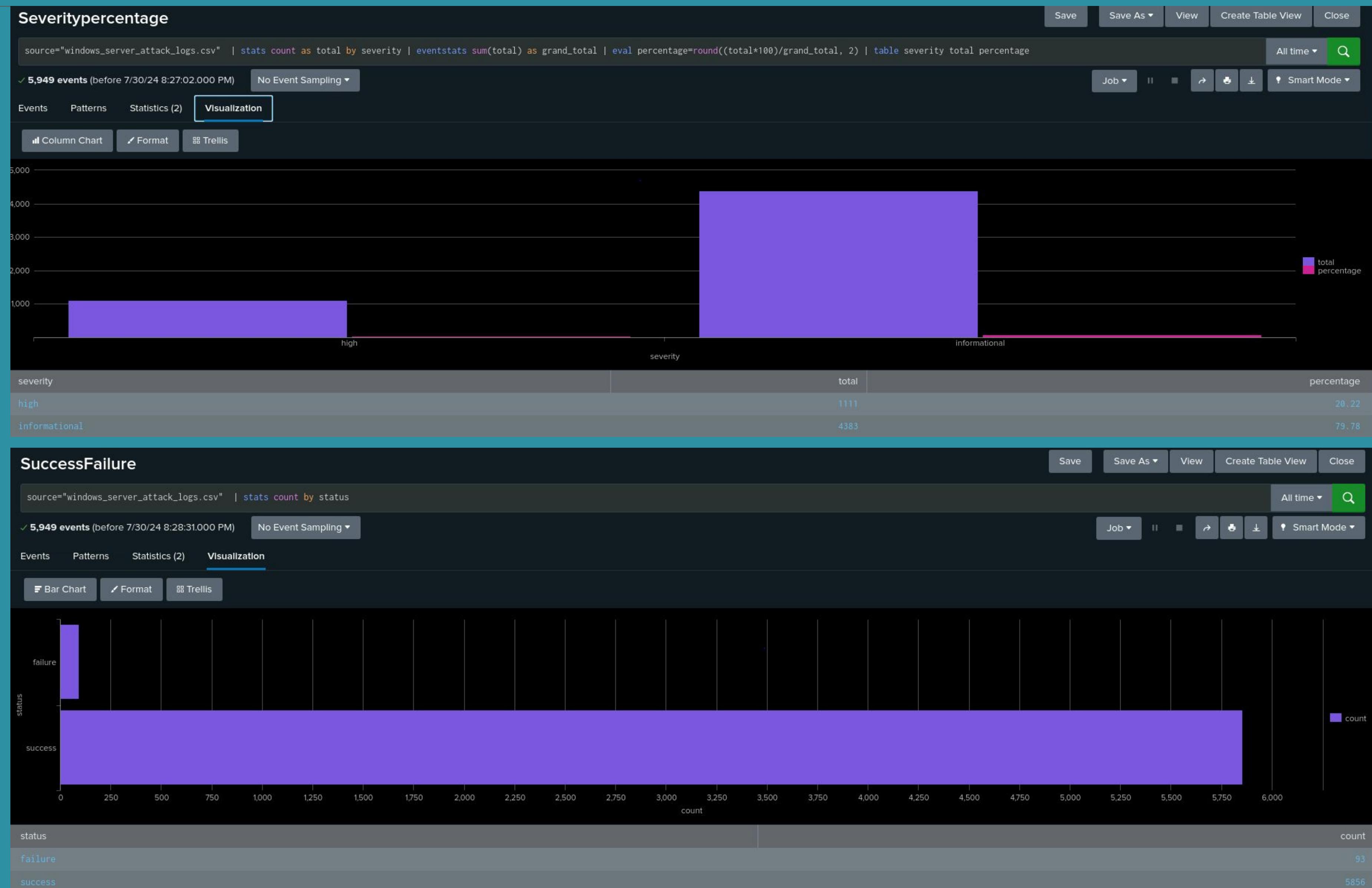
## Failed Windows Activity

- There was a significant spike in failed login attempts.
- On March 25, 2020, at 8:00 a.m., there were 34 failed login events.
- This pattern may indicate a brute-force attack or other login-related issues, warranting further analysis and potential response measures.

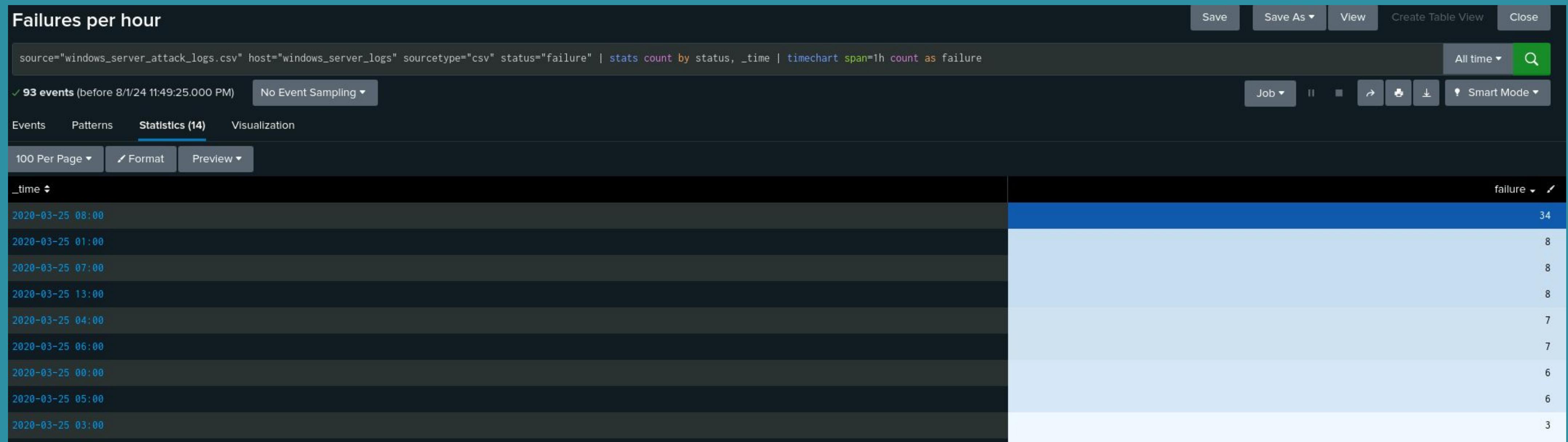
## Successful Logins

- Our alerts were triggered, there were peaks in successful logins.
- On March 5, 2020, the logs showed high login volumes at 11 a.m. (194 logins) and 12 p.m. (75 logins), primarily by User (J).
- These peaks could be either legitimate high activity or signs of account compromise, necessitating further scrutiny of User (J) and associated login patterns.

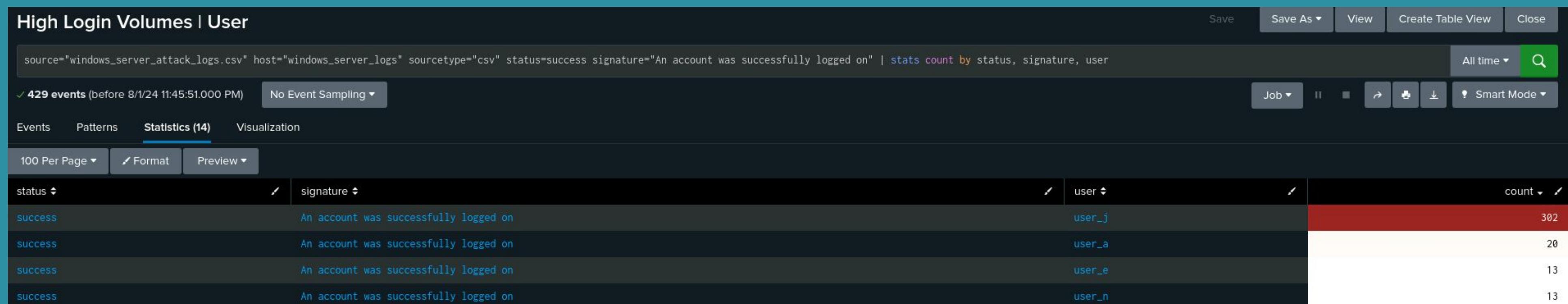
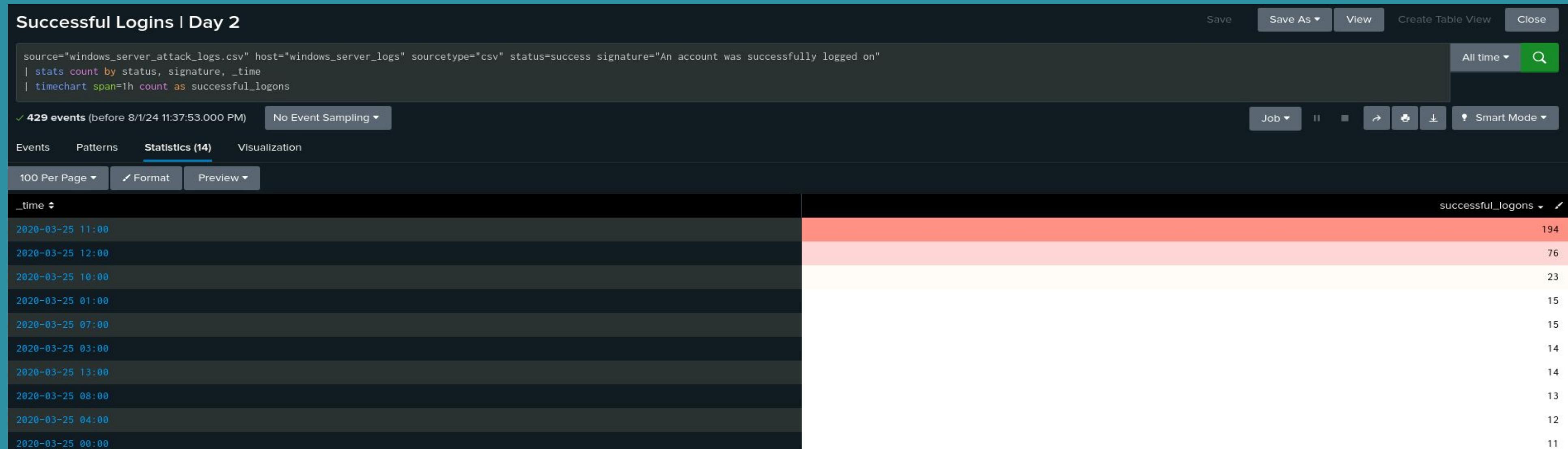
# Images of Attack Logs - Windows



# Images of Attack Logs - Windows (cont.)



# Images of Attack Logs - Windows (cont.)



# Attack Summary – Windows (cont.)

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## Deleted Accounts

No suspicious volume of deleted accounts was detected.

**The alert settings for account deletions appear appropriate, as no unusual activity was observed.**

## Signature Analysis

Significant spikes were noted in account lockouts and password resets.

### Details:

Account lockouts peaked from 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., reaching 896 events at 2:00 a.m..

Password resets peaked from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., reaching 1258 events at 9:00 a.m..

**These spikes suggest unusual activity patterns that could indicate security incidents or administrative issues requiring further investigation.**

## User Activity

Peaks in account lockouts and password resets were noted.

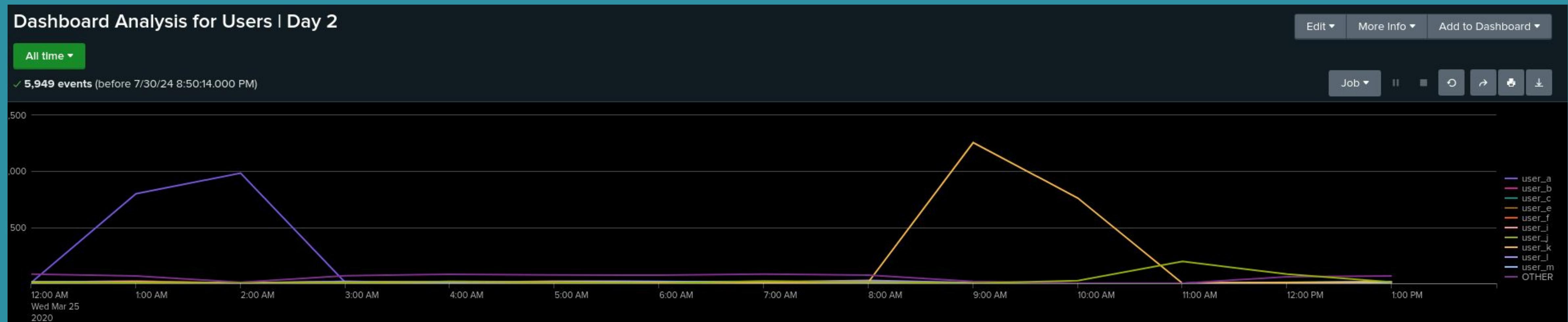
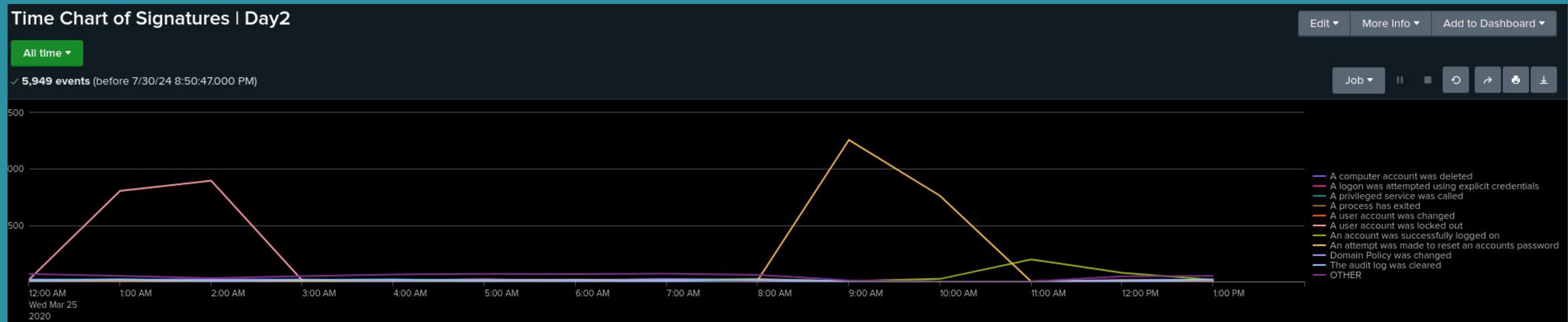
### Details:

User A recorded 984 events, with the highest activity occurring at 2:00 a.m..

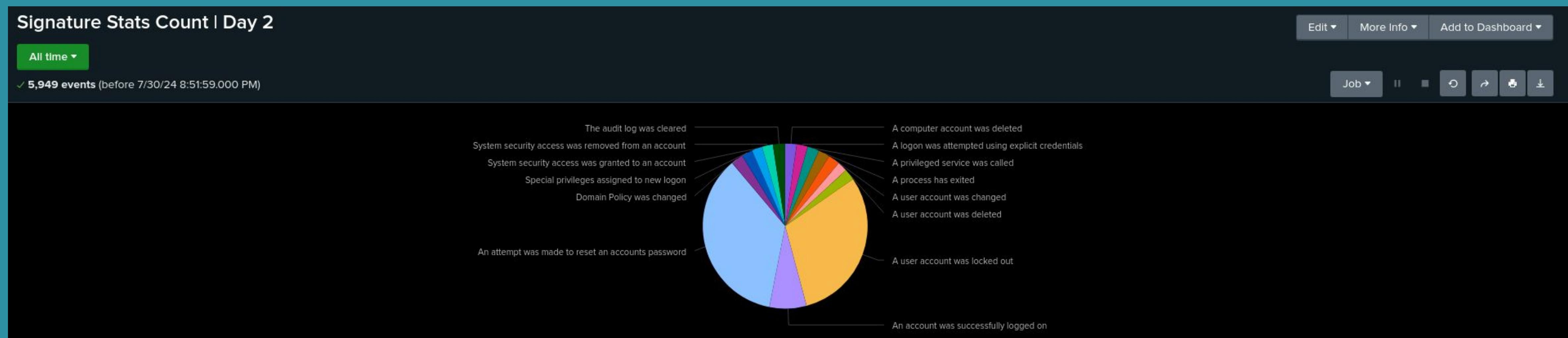
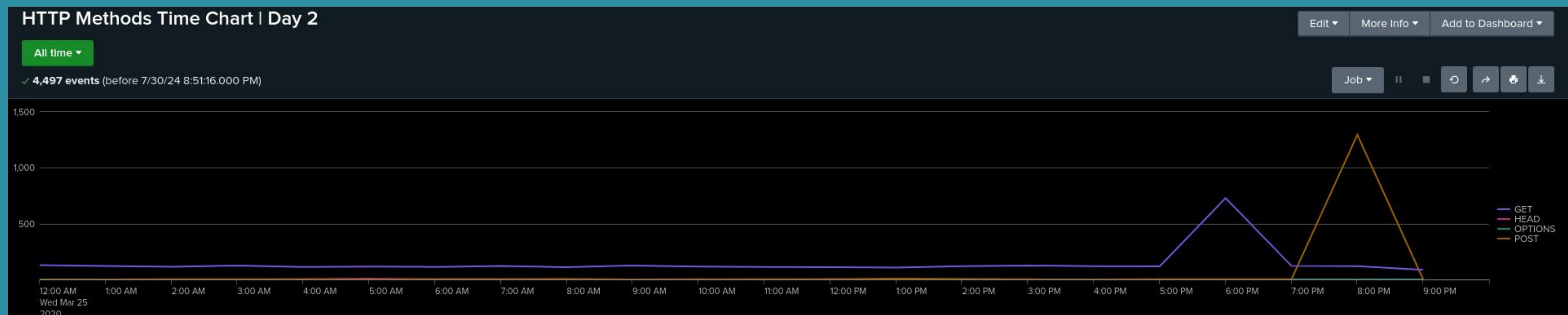
User K recorded 1256 events, with the highest activity occurring at 9:00 a.m..

**The high activity levels for these users might reflect abnormal behavior or potential security concerns, requiring closer examination of User A and User K's activities.**

# Images of Attack Logs - Windows (cont.)



# Images of Attack Logs - Windows (cont.)



# Attack Summary – Apache

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## HTTP Methods Analysis

The analysis of HTTP methods revealed frequent use of GET, HEAD, OPTIONS, and POST methods.

**Understanding the distribution of these methods helps identify typical traffic patterns and detect unusual behaviors that might indicate an attack or misconfigured server.**

## Top 10 Referring Domains

The report identified the top 10 external domains referring traffic to VSI's website.

### Details:

Peaks were noted, particularly with domains like semicomplete.com on March 25, 2024 with a high of 1336 at 8:00 p.m., suggesting potential scraping attacks or suspicious referral patterns.

**Identifying and analyzing referring domains helps in spotting unusual or potentially malicious traffic sources that may indicate security threats.**

# Attack Summary – Apache (cont.)

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## HTTP Response Codes Report

Significant changes in HTTP response codes were observed.

### Details:

404 Response Code: rose from 213 to an unusually high peak of 679.

**Anomalies in response codes may point to issues such as misconfigured server responses, potential attacks, or broken links.**

## International Activity

An alert was triggered due to a significant increase in international traffic, which reached 937 counts at 20:00.

### Details:

At 20:05:59 on March 25, 2020, traffic from Ukraine peaked at 877 hits.

**Sudden spikes in international traffic could indicate potential security threats or targeted attacks, necessitating closer monitoring and investigation.**

## HTTP POST Activity

An alert was triggered, there was a high volume of POST requests.

### Details:

At 8:00 p.m. on March 25, 2020, there were 1296 POST requests.

**An unusually high volume of POST requests might suggest suspicious activity or attempts to exploit vulnerabilities, requiring further analysis.**

# Images of Attack Logs - Apache



# Attack Summary – Apache (cont.)

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## HTTP Methods:

- **Suspicious:** High volume of POST requests (1296).

## Referrer Domains:

- **Suspicious:** Peaks in null referrers and 1337 at 8:00 p.m. on March 25, 2020, indicating potential scraping.

## HTTP Response Codes:

- **Suspicious:** Increase in 404 codes (624).

## International Activity:

- **Suspicious:** High traffic from Ukraine (877 hits) at 8 p.m. on March 25, 2020.
- **Threshold:** Appropriate.

## HTTP POST Activity:

- **Suspicious:** 1296 POST requests at 8:00 p.m. on March 25, 2020.
- **Threshold:** Appropriate.

## Dashboard Insights:

- **HTTP Methods:** Peaks in GET (5-7 p.m.) and POST (7-9 p.m.), with POST reaching 1296.
- **Cluster Map:** High activity from Kiev (440 hits).
- **URI Data:** Frequent hits on /VSI\_Account\_logon.php, suggesting possible brute-force attacks.

# Attack Summary – Apache (cont.)

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## HTTP Methods Analysis:

- **Suspicious Activity:** High volume of POST requests (1,296 recorded)
- **Potential Threats:** Exploitation attempts or web form stress testing

## Referrer Domains:

- **Suspicious Peaks:** Traffic spikes from 'null' domain and 1,337 hits at 8:00 p.m. on 3/25/2020
- **Indicators:** Potential scraping or unusual referral sources

## HTTP Response Codes Report:

- **404 Response Code Anomalies:** Peak of 624, indicating broken links or non-existent pages

# Attack Summary – Apache (cont.)

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## International Activity:

- **Suspicious Traffic:** Influx from Ukraine with 877 hits at 8:00 p.m. on 3/25/2020
- **Indicators:** Potential security threats or targeted attacks

## HTTP POST Activity:

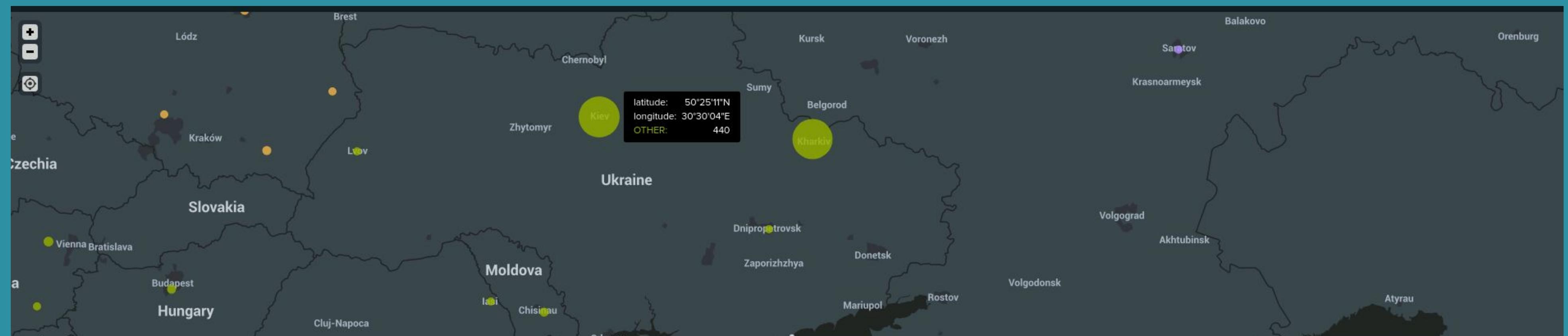
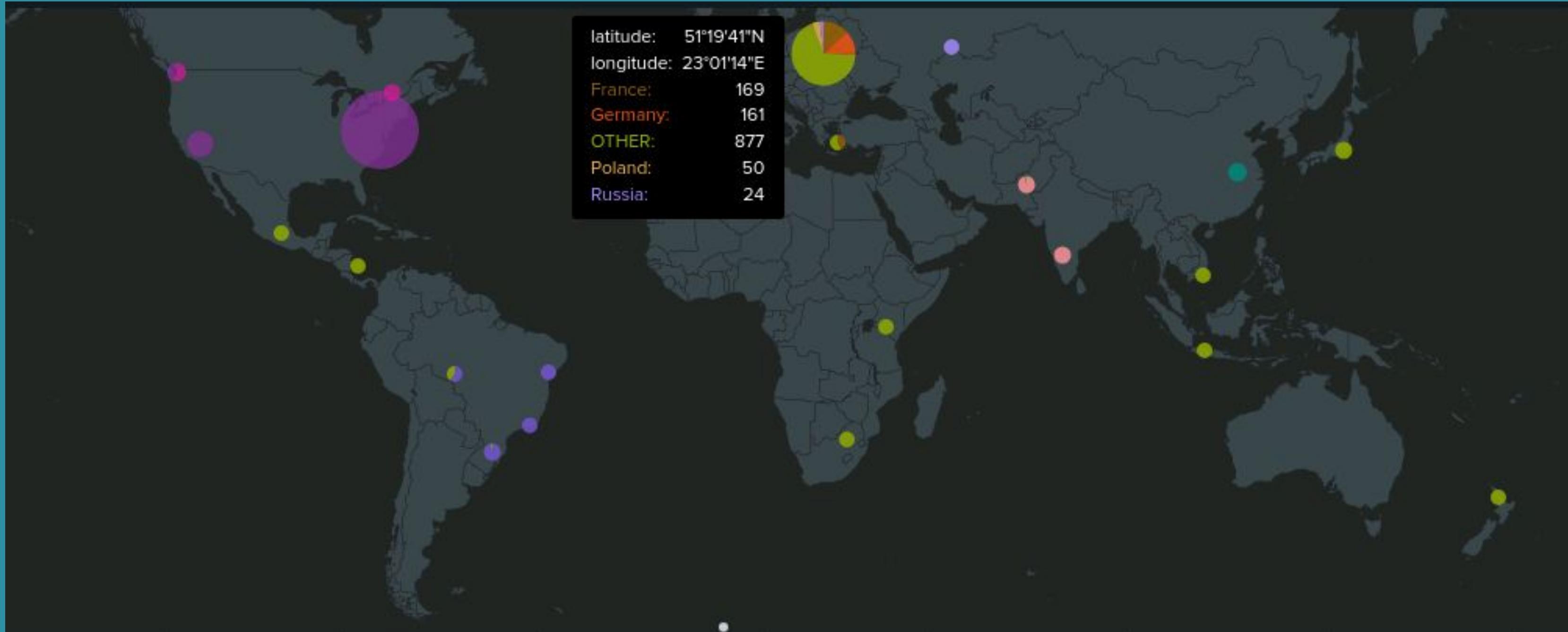
- **High Volume:** Peak of 1,296 POST requests at 8:00 p.m.
- **Potential Threats:** Possible attempts to exploit web form vulnerabilities

## Dashboard Insights:

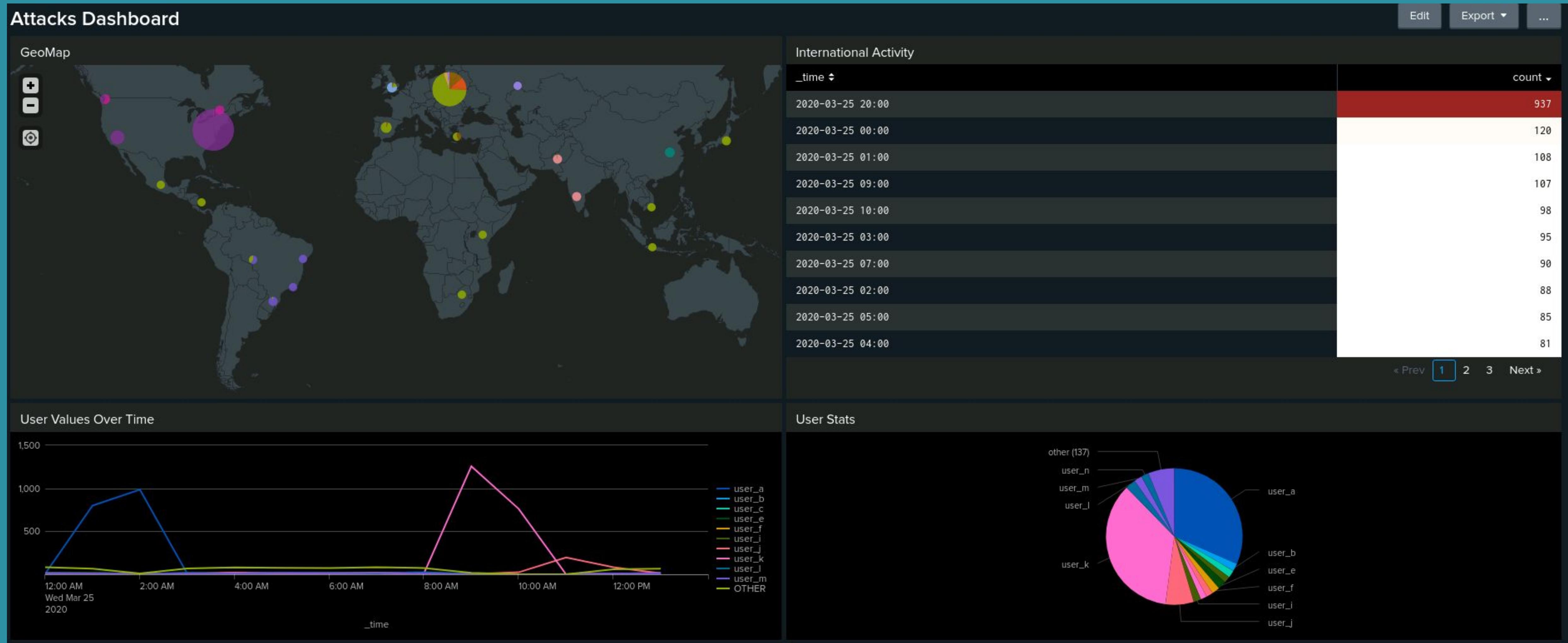
- **HTTP Methods:** GET requests peaked between 5-7 p.m., POST requests peaked between 7-9 p.m.
- **Cluster Map:** High activity from Kyiv, totaling 440 hits
- **URI Data:** Frequent hits on `/VSI\_Account\_logon.php`, suggesting possible brute-force attacks

# Images of Attack Logs - Apache (cont.)

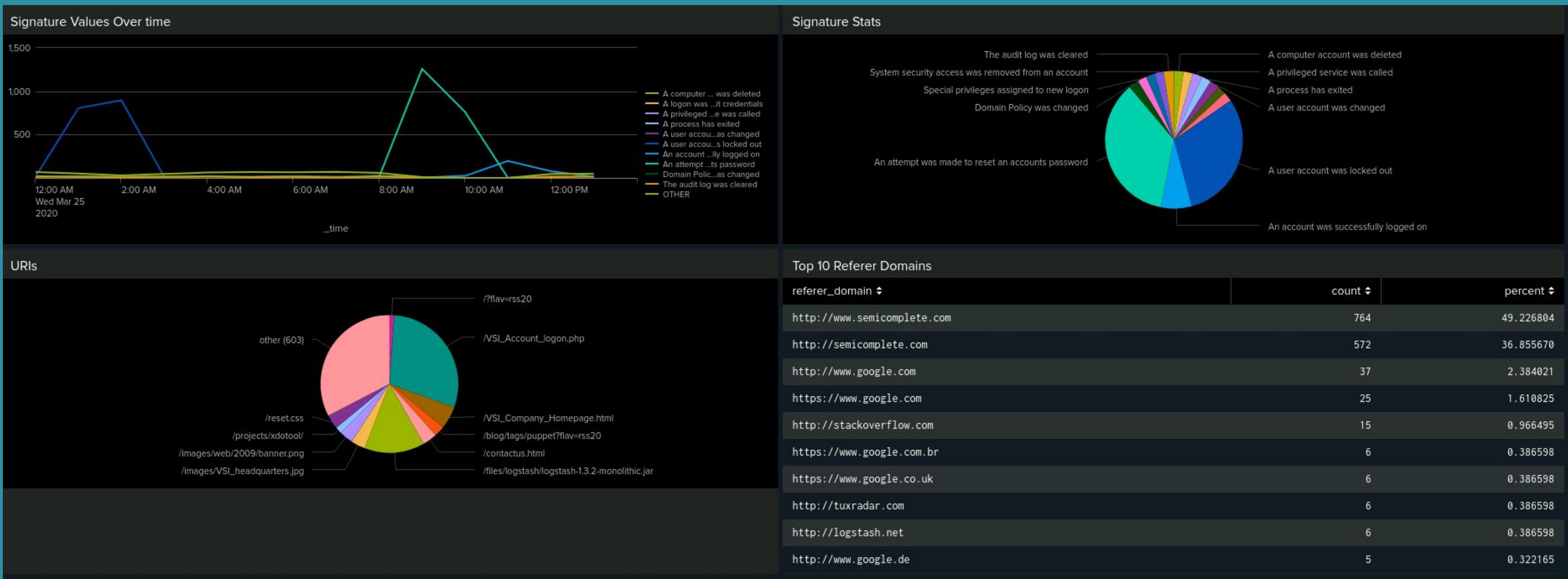
## | International Activity |



# Images of Attack Logs - Apache (cont.)



# Images of Attack Logs - Apache (cont.)



# Summary and Future Mitigations

# Project 3 - Summary

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## Project Overview:

Successfully utilized Splunk to analyze and monitor Windows Server and Apache Web Server logs.

## Windows Server Logs:

- **Key Findings:** Trends in failed/successful logins, account deletions, and spikes in account lockouts/password resets.
- **Alert Effectiveness:** Thresholds were set to capture significant anomalies and peak activities.

## Apache Web Server Logs:

- **Key Findings:** Detected suspicious HTTP POST activity, spikes in international traffic, and unusual HTTP response codes.
- **Indicators:** Potential scraping and brute-force attacks identified.

## Conclusion:

The monitoring setup proved robust in detecting and responding to security threats, with well-calibrated alerts and thresholds ensuring timely identification of suspicious activities.

# Project 3 - Summary (cont.)

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## **Strengthening Authentication:**

- Implement MFA and enforce strong password policies.

## **Improving Log Management:**

- Centralize and enhance log analysis for better anomaly detection.

## **Deploying Advanced Threat Detection:**

- Use Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS) and Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) tools.

## **Enhancing Network Security:**

- Implement network segmentation and update firewall rules.

## **Regular Updates:**

- Maintain a patch management process and conduct regular vulnerability scans.

# Project 3 - Summary (final)

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## Conducting Security Training:

- Provide ongoing training and simulate attacks to improve awareness.

## Strengthening Incident Response:

- Develop and update an incident response plan and establish a response team.

## Performing Security Audits:

- Conduct regular penetration tests and security audits.

## Securing Web Applications:

- Use a Web Application Firewall (WAF) and perform regular application security testing.

## Enhancing Data Protection:

- Encrypt sensitive data and use Data Loss Prevention (DLP) tools.

# Thank you for your attention!

## Key Takeaways:

### Robust Monitoring:

- The project showcased the importance of continuous monitoring and timely alerts.

### Proactive Defense:

- Implementing recommended mitigations can significantly enhance VSI's security posture.

### Next Steps:

- Begin implementing the proposed mitigations.
- Schedule follow-up meetings for progress reviews.

**Stay Secure!**

**Questions?** We're here to help!