

Master Class: Microsoft Defender for Endpoint

Fast Lane Worldwide Experts in Technology Training and Consulting

*■*Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

1

# Module 6

**Advanced Hunting** 

Fast Lane Worldwide Experts in Technology Training and Consulting

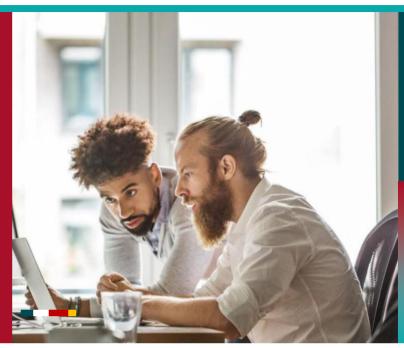


*■*Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

# **Content Module 6**

- Advanced Hunting
- Kusto Query Language
  - General
  - Data flow pipeline
  - Statements
  - Useful Links



© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

3

3



# **Advanced Hunting**

© 2025 Fast Lane

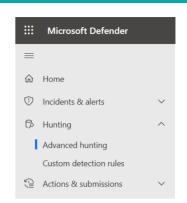
Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

4

## **Advanced Hunting**

'... is a query-based threat hunting tool ... '

- Modes
  - guided
  - advanced
- Data freshness
  - Event and activity date (alerts, security events, ...)
    - immediately
  - Entity data
    - up to 24 hours



© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

. .

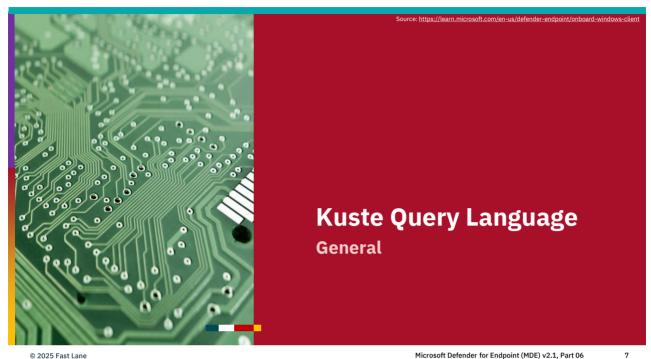
5

### **Advanced Hunting**

- Schema Tables
  - from multiple Defender Sources
  - Description in <u>documentation</u>
- Queries
  - could be saved query or function
  - added to schema for all administrators
- Result used
  - for investigation
  - Take actions
  - Detection rules

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06



Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

7

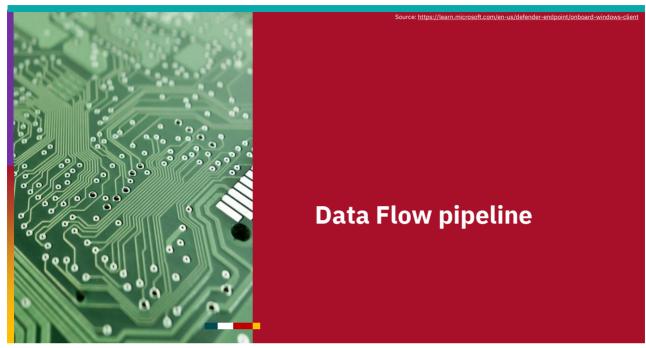
### General

Some rules for KQL

- Case sensitivity
  - Tablenames
    - Fieldnames
    - Operators
    - Functions
- Comments: //
- Line breaks: before |
- Time: always saved as UTC

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06



© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

9

9

Source: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/defender-endpoint/overview-attack-surface-reduction and the surface of the surface

### **Data Flow Pipeline**

#### Overview

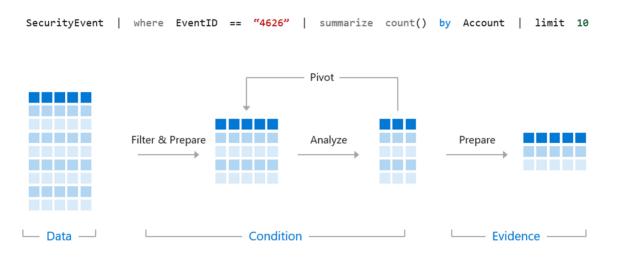
- · Each statement starts with either a
  - Table
  - Variable(s) declaration(s)
  - Functions with result type table
- · Variable declaration must end with;
- Use | to pass data from table to operator
  - Multiple | are possible

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

Source: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/defender-endpoint/overview-attack-surface-reduction

# **Data Flow Pipeline**

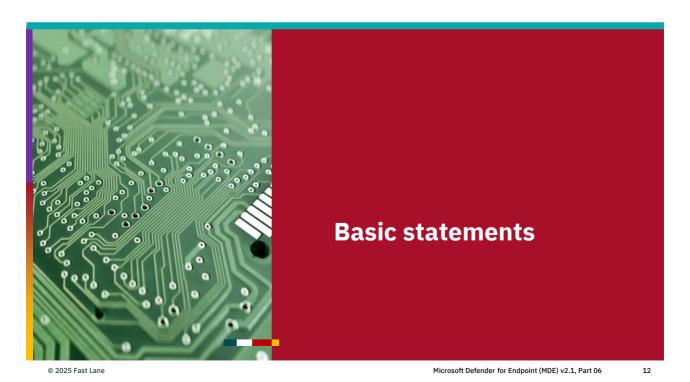


© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

11

11



12

· Getting table data

```
DeviceInfo
// Case-sensitivity
```

Using Pipeline

```
DeviceInfo
| limit 5
// limit doesn't sort the records.
// Alias for limit: take

DeviceInfo
| top 5 by DeviceName desc
// Records sorted first
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

13

13

### **Basic statements**

Sorting results

```
DeviceInfo
| sort by DeviceName asc
DeviceInfo
| sort by DeviceName asc, PublicIP desc
// Alias for sort: order
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

Variables

```
let lmt = 3;
DeviceInfo
| sort by DeviceName asc , Timestamp desc
| limit lmt;
// let creates a variable.

let myTable =
DeviceInfo
| limit 10;
myTable
// A variable could also contain a table.
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

15

15

### **Basic statements**

design result

```
DeviceInfo
| project DeviceName,DeviceType,PublicIP
// only this columns appear in the result

DeviceInfo
| project-away DeviceType,PublicIP
// all columns of DeviceInfo except DeviceType,PublicIP apppear in the result

DeviceInfo
| project-keep Device*,Device*,PublicIP
// project-keep has the same result as project but you could use *
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

Filter records

```
DeviceInfo
| where DeviceName =~ 'Client1'
// =~ case-insensitive

DeviceInfo
| where DeviceName startswith "server" // server*

DeviceInfo
| where DeviceName endswith ".local" // *.local

DeviceInfo
| where DeviceName contains "aztrg2112" // *aztrg2112*
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

17

17

#### **Basic statements**

Extends result

```
AlertEvidence
| where EntityType == 'File'
| extend FileSizeKB = FileSize / 1024
| project FileName,FileSize,FileSizeKB

AlertEvidence
| where EntityType == 'File'
| extend FileSizeKB = FileSize / 1024,
| FileSizeMB = FileSize / 1024 / 1024
| project FileName,FileSize,FileSizeKB,FileSizeMB
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

· Remove duplicates

```
DeviceInfo
| project DeviceName
| distinct DeviceName

DeviceInfo
| project DeviceName, PublicIP
| distinct DeviceName, PublicIP

DeviceInfo
| summarize by DeviceName, PublicIP
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

19

19

### **Basic statements**

Group records

```
DeviceInfo
| summarize count() by DeviceName

DeviceInfo
| summarize count() by DeviceName, PublicIP

DeviceInfo
| summarize Qty = count() by DeviceName, PublicIP
| sort by DeviceName asc, Qty desc
```

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

- Group records
- some aggregate functions

sum()	make_list()	arg_max()
avg()	make_set()	arg_min()
min()	make_bag()	
max()		

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

21

21

### **Basic statements**

Join tables

- union
  - 'concatenates two or more tables'
- join
  - 'joins' two tables using key properties

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

- extracting text
  - extract() function use regular expression
  - parse operator
- expanding arrays
  - mv-expand operator
- · expanding json objects
  - parse\_json() function to convert string to json object
  - evaluate operator +
  - bag\_unpack() function

© 2025 Fast Lane

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

23



Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (MDE) v2.1, Part 06

