

# SIEM Integration with Microsoft Sentinel: A Modern Approach

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## Documentation

### Introduction

This project showcases the use of Microsoft Sentinel (previously known as Azure Sentinel) as a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) tool to monitor and analyze failed Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) attacks on a live virtual machine set up as a honeypot. By using a custom PowerShell script to parse Windows Event Logs for failed RDP attempts and leveraging a third-party API to gather geographic information about the attackers, the project visualizes the attack data on a map within Microsoft Sentinel.

### Objectives

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Track failed RDP attacks using Microsoft Sentinel.
- **Geolocation Extraction:** Use a custom PowerShell script and a geolocation API to identify the attackers' locations.
- **Data Visualization:** Display the geographic distribution of RDP attacks on a map.

### Description

#### Key Features

- **Windows Event Logs Parsing:** Extract information about failed RDP logon attempts.
- **Geolocation Lookup:** Use the ipgeolocation.io API to convert attacker IP addresses into geographic locations.
- **Data Visualization:** Plot attacker locations on a map in Microsoft Sentinel.

#### Project Components

- **PowerShell Script:** Extracts failed RDP logon logs from the Windows Event Viewer.
- **Geolocation API:** Uses ipgeolocation.io to convert IP addresses into geographic locations.
- **Microsoft Sentinel Integration:** Ingests custom logs into Microsoft Sentinel and visualizes them on a map.

## Setup and Usage

### Prerequisites

- An Azure subscription with Microsoft Sentinel enabled.
- A virtual machine configured as a honeypot with RDP enabled.
- PowerShell installed on the virtual machine.
- An API key from [ipgeolocation.io](https://ipgeolocation.io).

## Walkthrough

### Step 1: Create a Virtual Machine in Azure

#### **Create a VM with Network Configurations:**

1. Log in to the Azure portal.
2. Navigate to "Virtual Machines" and select the option to create a new VM.
3. During the setup, configure the network settings to allow connections on all ports, temporarily disabling any security restrictions.
4. Deploy a virtual machine with RDP enabled to act as a honeypot.
5. Ensure the machine logs RDP events by configuring the security policies.



# Create a virtual machine ...



Validation passed

## Zone options

Security type

Image

VM architecture

Size

Enable Hibernation

Username

Already have a Windows license?

License type

Azure Spot

## Self-selected zone

Standard

Windows 10 Pro, version 22H2 - Gen1

x64

Standard D2s v3 (2 vcpus, 8 GiB memory)

No

harshit-admin

Yes

Windows Client

No

## Disks

OS disk size

OS disk type

Use managed disks

Delete OS disk with VM

Ephemeral OS disk

Image default

Premium SSD LRS

Yes

Enabled

No

## Networking

Virtual network

Subnet

Public IP

(new) honeypot-vm-vnet

(new) default (10.0.0.0/24)

(new) honeypot-vm-ip

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[Home](#) > [Virtual machines](#) >

# Create a virtual machine ...



Validation passed

## Networking

Virtual network	(new) honeypot-vm-vnet
Subnet	(new) default (10.0.0.0/24)
Public IP	(new) honeypot-vm-ip
NIC network security group	(new) honeypot-vm-nsg
Accelerated networking	Off
Place this virtual machine behind an existing load balancing solution?	No
Delete public IP and NIC when VM is deleted	Disabled

## Management

Microsoft Defender for Cloud	None
System assigned managed identity	Off
Login with Microsoft Entra ID	Off
Auto-shutdown	Off
Enable hotpatch	Off
Patch orchestration options	OS-orchestrated patching: patches will be installed by OS

## Monitoring

Alerts	Off
Boot diagnostics	On

Estimated cost: \$0.00 per hour

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# Create a virtual machine ...



Validation passed



Microsoft Defender for Cloud	None
System assigned managed identity	Off
Login with Microsoft Entra ID	Off
Auto-shutdown	Off
Enable hotpatch	Off
Patch orchestration options	OS-orchestrated patching: patches will be installed by OS

## Monitoring

Alerts	Off
Boot diagnostics	On
Enable OS guest diagnostics	Off
Enable application health monitoring	Off

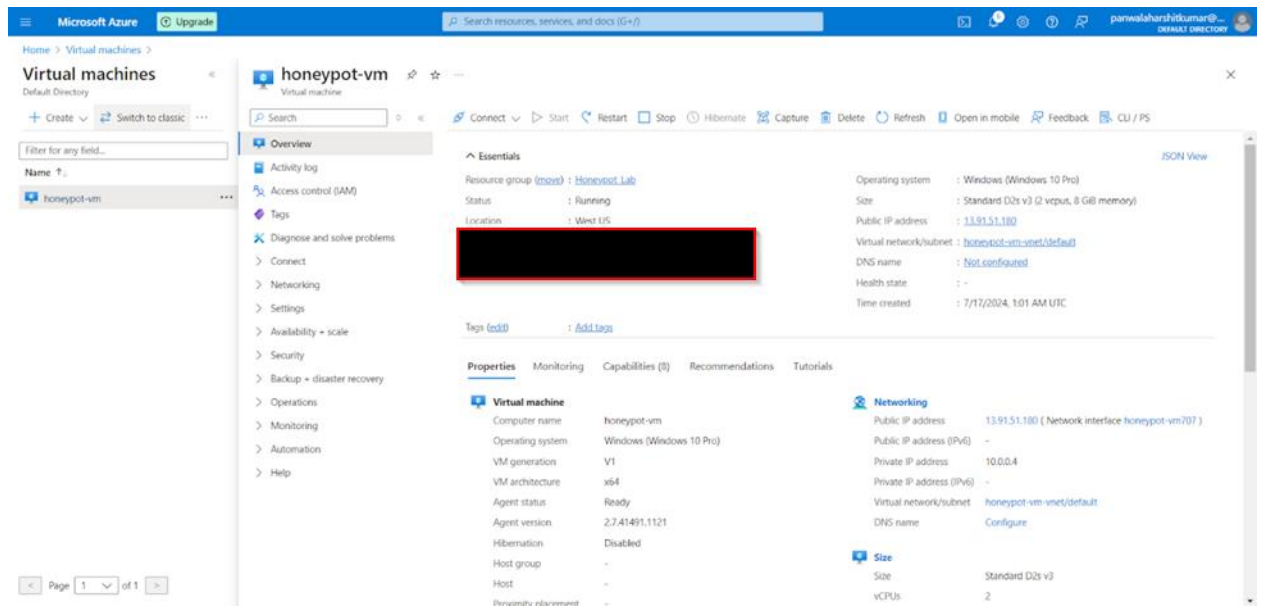
## Advanced

Extensions	None
VM applications	None
Cloud init	No
User data	No
Disk controller type	-
Proximity placement group	None
Capacity reservation group	None

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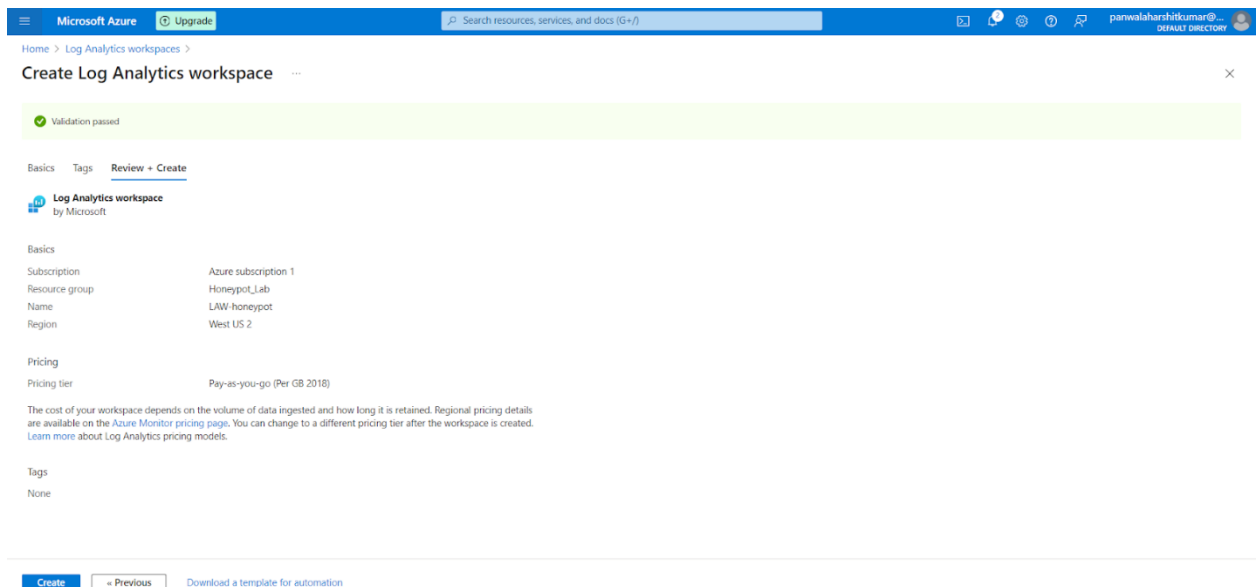
Create



## Step 2: Create a Log Analytics Workspace

### Set Up a Log Analytics Workspace:

1. In the Azure portal, search for "Log Analytics Workspaces".
2. Follow the prompts to create a new workspace that will be used to collect and analyze log data from your VM.



### Step 3: Configure Microsoft Defender for Cloud

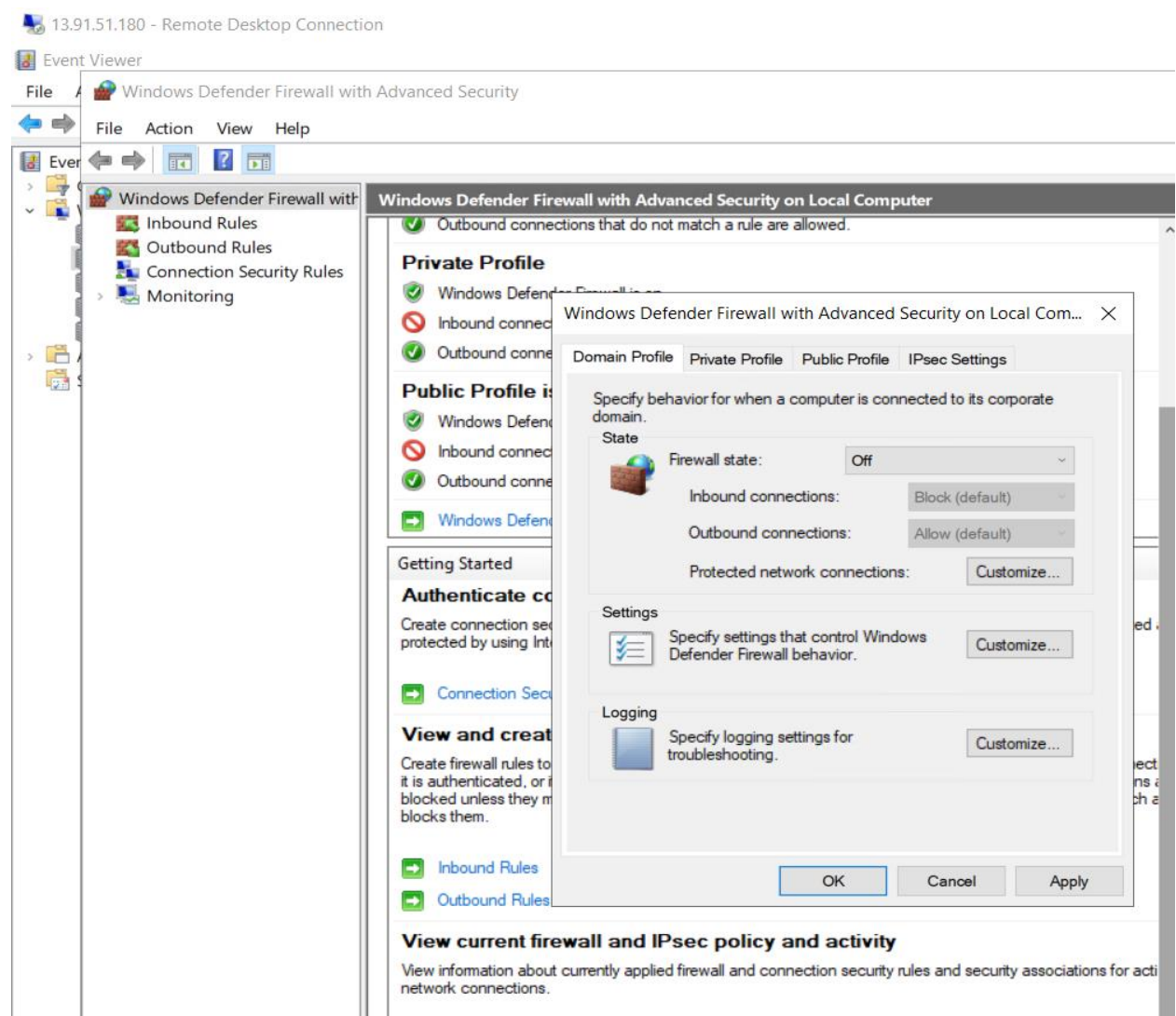
#### Enable Microsoft Defender for Servers:

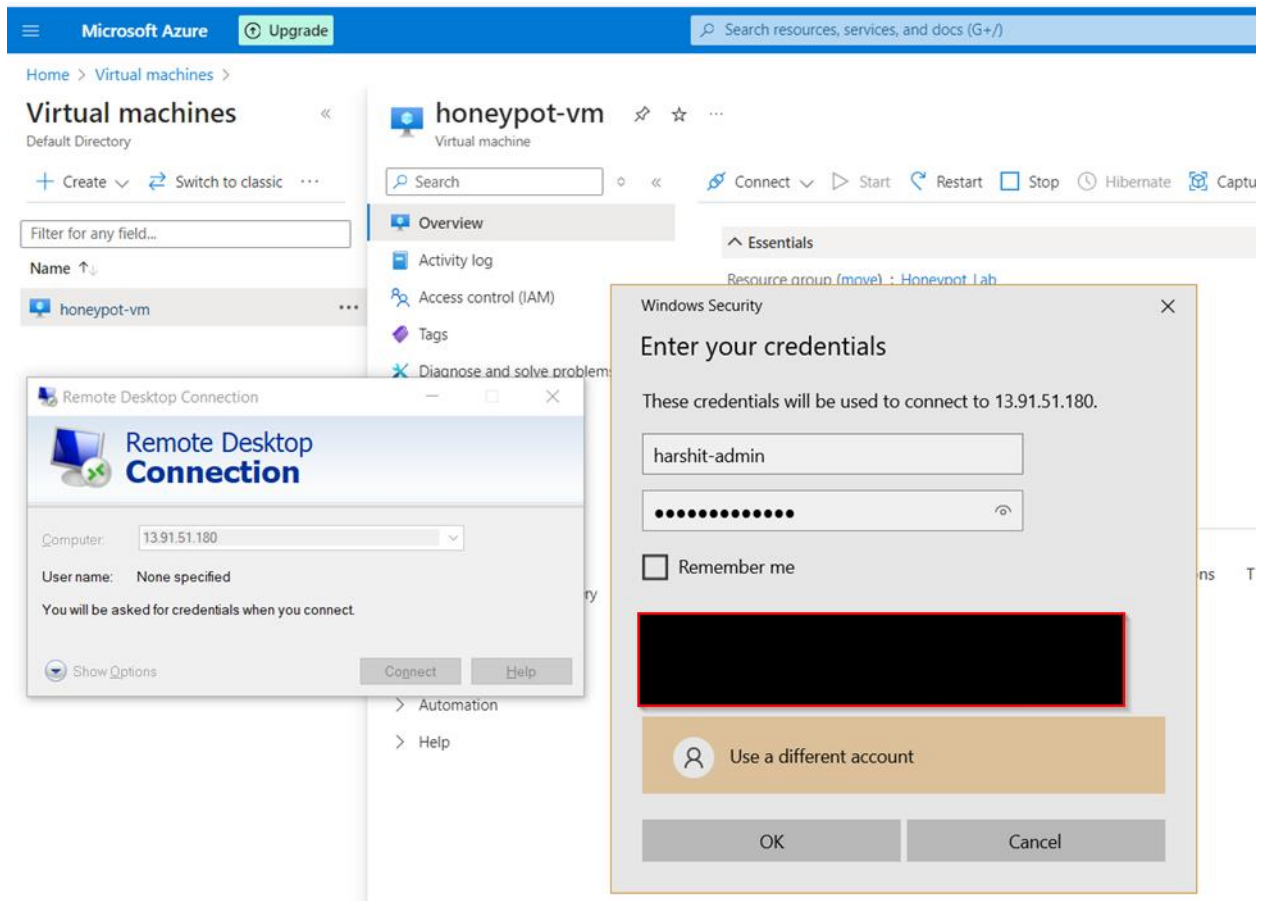
1. In the Azure portal, navigate to "Microsoft Defender for Cloud".
2. Enable Microsoft Defender specifically for the VM, focusing on server protection. For simplicity, you can disable other protections.

### Step 4: Configure the VM Firewall

#### Access the VM via Remote Desktop:

1. Use Remote Desktop Connection to log in to the VM.
2. Open the Windows Firewall settings (wf.msc) and turn off firewall protection for all profiles (private, public, domain).
3. Ensure the VM can be pinged from your machine to maintain connectivity.





## Step 5: Enable Microsoft Sentinel

### Set Up Microsoft Sentinel:

1. Navigate to "Microsoft Sentinel" in the Azure portal.
2. Add a new Sentinel workspace and link it to the Log Analytics Workspace you created earlier.

### Connect the Virtual Machine to Microsoft Sentinel:

1. In the Sentinel workspace, go to "Data connectors".
2. Select "Windows Security Events" and follow the instructions to connect to the virtual machine.

## Step 6: Verify Event Logging

### Check Event Logs in Event Viewer:

1. Open the Event Viewer on the VM.
2. Attempt a failed login via Remote Desktop to ensure the event is logged.
3. Verify that the event log captures the IP address of the machine making the attempt.



Microsoft Azure Upgrade Search resources, services, and docs (G+)

Home > Virtual machines >

## Virtual machines

Default Directory

+ Create Switch to classic

Filter for any field...

Name ↑

honeypot-vm

### honeypot-vm

Virtual machine

Search

Overview

Activity log

Access control (IAM)

Tags

Diagnose and solve problem

Remote Desktop Connection

Remote Desktop Connection

Computer: 13.91.51.180

User name: MicrosoftAccount\harshit-admin

You will be asked for credentials when you connect.

Show Options Connect Help

Automation

Windows Security

### Your credentials did not work

The credentials that were used to connect to 13.91.51.180 did not work. Please enter new credentials.

harshit-admin

Password

MicrosoftAccount\harshit-admin

☐ Remember me

The logon attempt failed

More choices

OK Cancel

13.91.51.180 - Remote Desktop Connection

Event Viewer

File Action View Help

Event Viewer (Local)

- Custom Views
- Windows Logs
  - Application
  - Security
  - Setup
  - System
- Forwarded Events
- Applications and Services Log
- Subscriptions

### Security

Number of events: 3,167 (1) New events available

Keywords	Date and Time	Source	Event ID	Task Category
Audit Failure	7/17/2024 7:07:01 AM	Micros...	4625	Logon
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:06:51 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:06:51 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:06:14 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:05:51 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:05:51 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:05:14 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...
Audit Success	7/17/2024 7:04:56 AM	Micros...	4688	Process...

#### Event 4625, Microsoft Windows security auditing.

General Details

An account failed to log on.

Subject:

- Security ID: NULL SID
- Account Name: -
- Account Domain: -
- Logon ID: 0x0

Logon Type: 3

Account For Which Logon Failed:

- Security ID: NULL SID
- Account Name: harshit-fail1
- Account Domain: MicrosoftAccount

Failure Information:

Log Name: Security

Source: Microsoft Windows security ; Logged: 7/17/2024 7:07:01 AM

Event ID: 4625 Task Category: Logon

Level: Information Keywords: Audit Failure

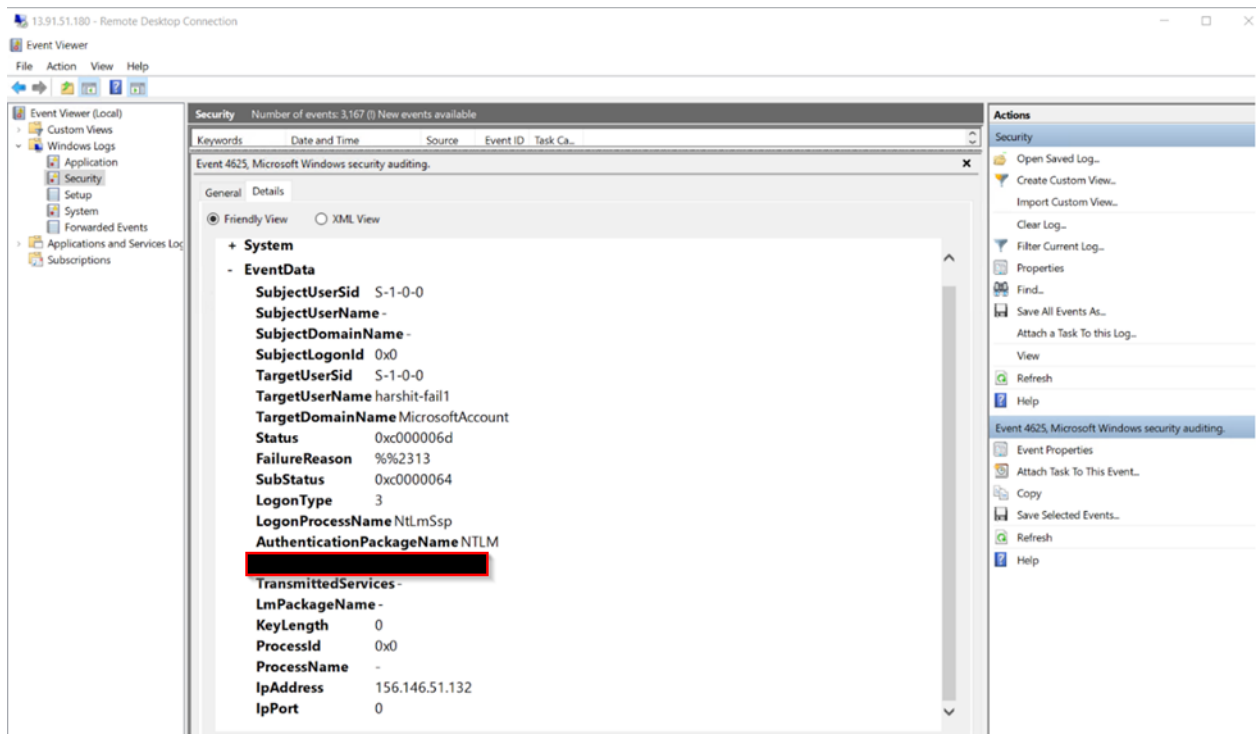
User: N/A Computer: honeypot-vm

OpCode: Info

More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)

Actions

- Security
- Open Saved Log...
- Create Custom View...
- Import Custom View...
- Clear Log...
- Filter Current Log...
- Properties
- Find...
- Save All Events As...
- Attach a Task To this Log...
- View
- Refresh
- Help
- Event 4625, Microsoft Windows security auditing.
- Event Properties
- Attach Task To This Event...
- Copy
- Save Selected Events...
- Refresh
- Help

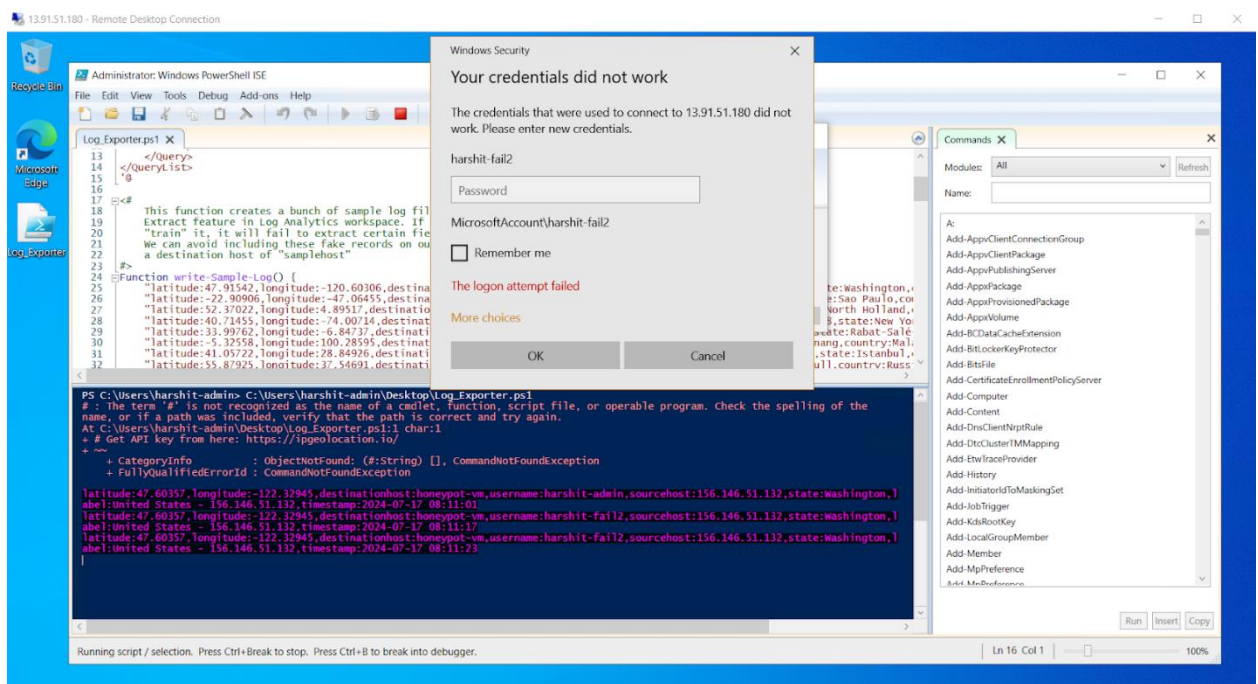


Step 7: Execute the PowerShell Script

Update the Script with Your API Key: **Log\_Exporter.ps1**

Run the PowerShell Script:

1. Update the script with your ipgeolocation.io API key.
2. Execute the script to parse event logs and log geographic data.



## Step 8: Ingest Custom Logs into Microsoft Sentinel

### Configure Custom Log Ingestion:

1. In the Sentinel workspace, go to "Custom Logs".
2. Add a new custom log source pointing to the log files generated by the PowerShell script.
3. Observe the failed attempts in the file: failed\_rdp.log

Microsoft Azure

Upgrade

[Home](#) > [Log Analytics workspaces](#) > [LAW-honeypot | Tables](#) >

## Create a custom log ...

✓ Sample

✓ Record delimiter

✓ Collection paths

✓ Details

5 Review + Create

Sample

Sample log

failed\_rdp.log

Record delimiter

Record delimiter

New line

Collection paths

Windows

C:\ProgramData\failed\_rdp.log

Details

Custom log name

FAILED\_RDP\_WITH\_GEO\_CL

Description

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## Create a custom log ...

Sample  **Record delimiter** Collection paths Details Review + Create

Select a record delimiter. Select **New line** for files with a single entry per line, or specify a **Timestamp** delimiter for entries spanning more than one line. [Learn more](#)

### Record delimiter

Select record delimiter

☒ New line ☐ Timestamp

### Preview

#### Records

latitude:52.37022,longitude:4.89517,destinationhost:samplehost,username:CSNYDER,sourcehost:89.248.165.74...
latitude:40.71455,longitude:-74.00714,destinationhost:samplehost,username:ADMINISTRATOR,sourcehost:72.4...
latitude:33.99762,longitude:-6.84737,destinationhost:samplehost,username:AZUREUSER,sourcehost:102.50.24...
latitude:-5.32558,longitude:100.28595,destinationhost:samplehost,username:Test,sourcehost:42.1.62.34,state:P...
latitude:41.05722,longitude:28.84926,destinationhost:samplehost,username:AZUREUSER,sourcehost:176.235.1...
latitude:55.87925,longitude:37.54691,destinationhost:samplehost,username:Test,sourcehost:87.251.67.98,state:...
latitude:52.37018,longitude:4.87324,destinationhost:samplehost,username:AZUREUSER,sourcehost:20.86.161.1...
latitude:17.49163,longitude:-88.18704,destinationhost:samplehost,username:Test,sourcehost:45.227.254.8,stat...
latitude:-55.88802,longitude:37.65136,destinationhost:samplehost,username:Test,sourcehost:94.232.47.130,sta...
latitude:13.76048,longitude:100.55563,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:Test,sourcehost:58.8.88.158,sta...
latitude:29.38780,longitude:47.99979,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:Test,sourcehost:62.215.34.181,st...
latitude:47.60357,longitude:-122.32945,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:harshit-fail1,sourcehost:156.1...
latitude:40.71854,longitude:-74.00888,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:harshit-admin,sourcehost:146.7...
latitude:47.60357,longitude:-122.32945,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:harshit-admin,sourcehost:156....
latitude:47.60357,longitude:-122.32945,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:harshit-fail2,sourcehost:156.1...
latitude:47.60357,longitude:-122.32945,destinationhost:honey-pot-vm,username:harshit-fail2,sourcehost:156.1...

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Microsoft Azure Upgrade Search resources, services, and docs (0+)

Home > Log Analytics workspaces > LAW-honeypot

Log Analytics workspaces LAW-honeypot | Logs

Filter for any field...

NEW QUERY 1\*

```

1 FAILED_RDP_WITH_GEO_CL
2 | extend username = extract(@'username:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
3 | extend timestamp = extract(@'timestamp:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
4 | extend latitude = extract(@'latitude:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
5 | extend longitude = extract(@'longitude:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
6 | extend sourcehost = extract(@'sourcehost:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
7 | extend state = extract(@'state:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
8 | extend label = extract(@'label:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
9 | extend destination = extract(@'destinationhost:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
10 | extend country = extract(@'country:[^\,]*', 1, RawData)
11 | where destination != "samplehost"
12 | where sourcehost != ""
13 | summarize event_count=count() by timestamp, label, country, state, sourcehost, username, destination, longitude, latitude

```

Results Chart

sourcehost	username	destination	longitude	latitude	event_count
58.8.88.158	Test	honeypot-vm	100.55563	13.76048	1
62.215.34.181	Test	honeypot-vm	47.99979	26.38780	1
156.146.51.132	harshh-fail1	honeypot-vm	-122.32945	47.60357	1
146.70.202.115	harshh-admin	honeypot-vm	-74.00888	40.71854	1
156.146.51.132	harshh-admin	honeypot-vm	-122.32945	47.60357	1
156.146.51.132	harshh-fail2	honeypot-vm	-122.32945	47.60357	1
156.146.51.132	harshh-fail2	honeypot-vm	-122.32945	47.60357	1

## Step 9: Visualize Data in Microsoft Sentinel

### Create Map Visualization:

1. Use Microsoft Sentinel's built-in map visualization tool to plot the geolocation data of failed RDP attempts.
2. This will provide a visual representation of where the attacks are originating from, helping you to better understand and respond to potential threats.

Microsoft Azure Upgrade Search resources, services, and docs (0+)

Home > Microsoft Sentinel | Workbooks >

New workbook

law-honeypot

Done Editing Open Map Settings ? Help

1 Editing query item: query - 0

Settings Advanced Settings Style Advanced Editor

Run Query Samples Logs Log Analytics LAW-honeypot Last 24 hours Visualization Size Map Settings

Log Analytics workspace Logs Query

```

1 FAILED_RDP_WITH_GEO_CL
2 | extend username = extract(@'username:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
3 | extend timestamp = extract(@'timestamp:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
4 | extend latitude = extract(@'latitude:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
5 | extend longitude = extract(@'longitude:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
6 | extend sourcehost = extract(@'sourcehost:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
7 | extend state = extract(@'state:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
8 | extend label = extract(@'label:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
9 | extend destination = extract(@'destinationhost:[^\,]*', 1, RawData),
10 | extend country = extract(@'country:[^\,]*', 1, RawData)
11 | where destination != "samplehost"
12 | where sourcehost != ""
13 | summarize event_count=count() by latitude, longitude, sourcehost, label, destination, country

```

Save As law-honeypot

Title \* Failed RDP World Map

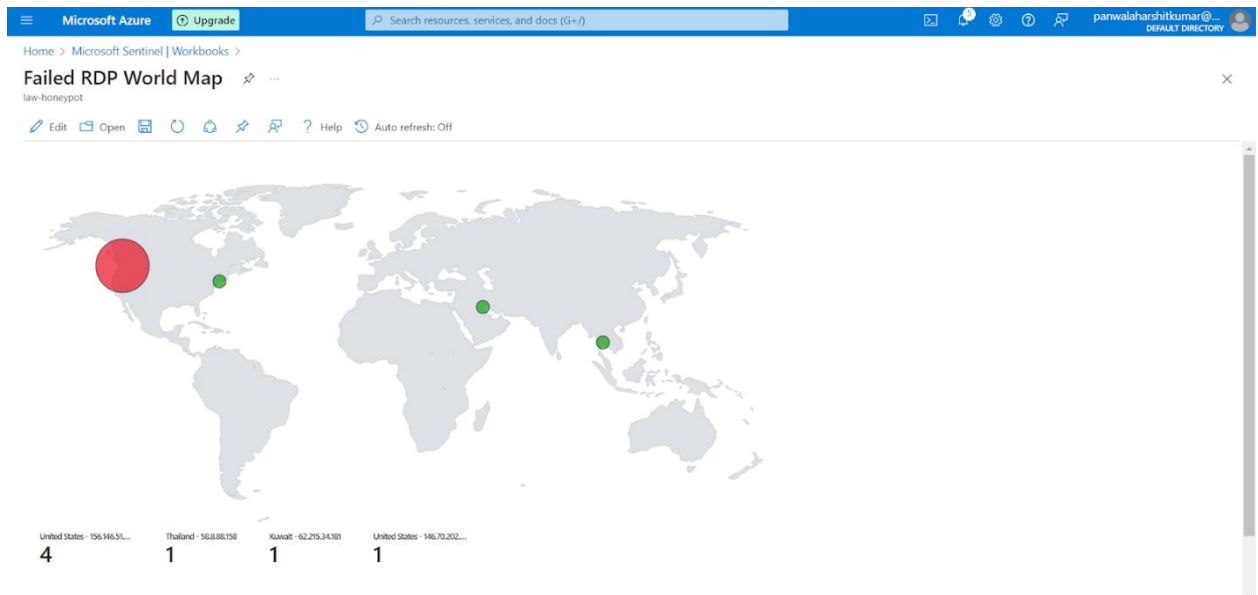
Subscription \* Azure subscription 1

Resource group \* Honeypot\_Lab

Location \* (US) West US 2

☐ Save content to an Azure Storage Account.

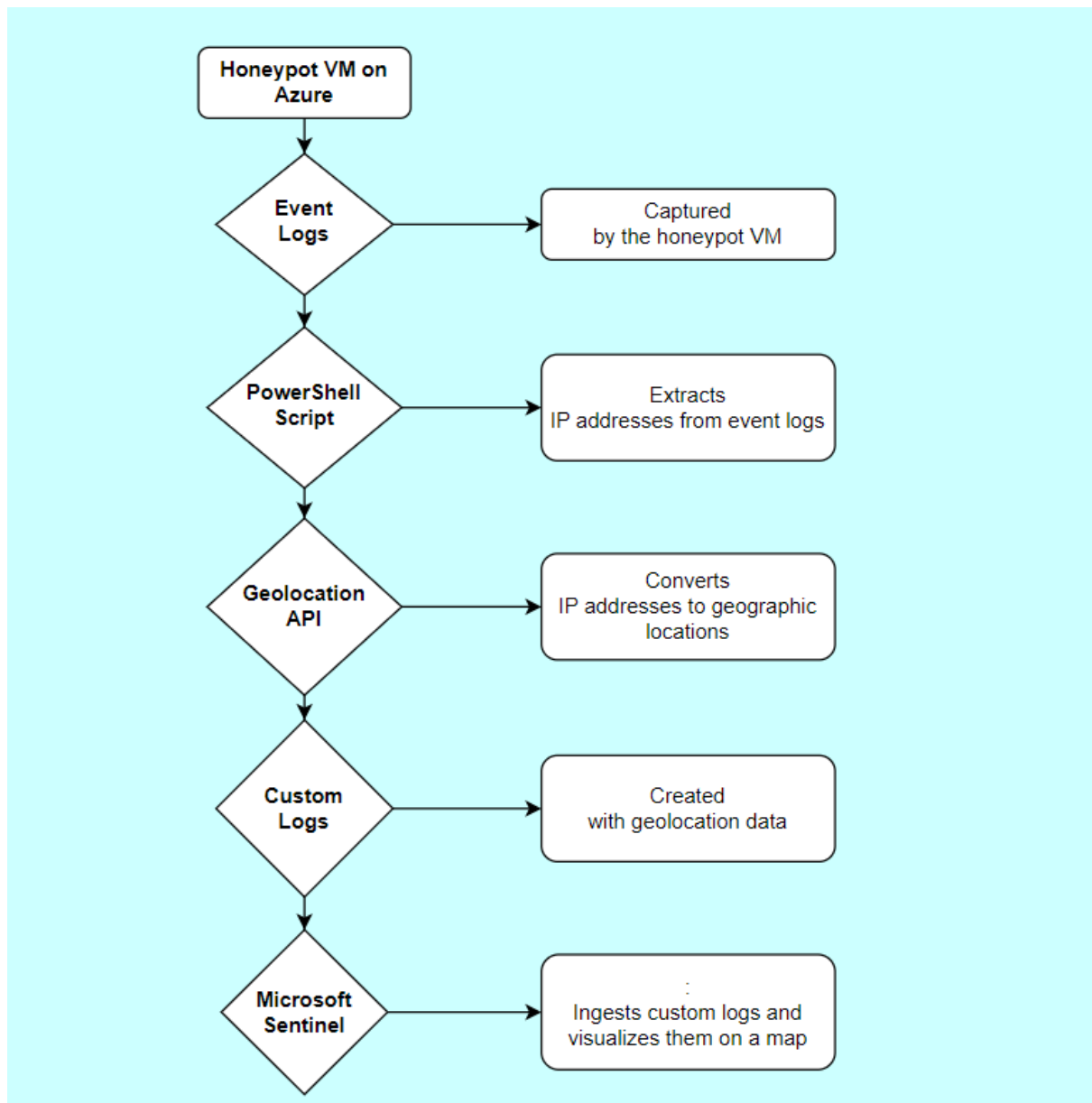
Apply Cancel



## Analysis and Visualization

Once the environment is set up and the script is running, you will start seeing live RDP brute force attacks plotted on the Microsoft Sentinel map. This visualization helps understand the geographic distribution of attacks and identify patterns or hotspots of malicious activity.

## Dataflow Diagram



## Final Output

- **World Map of Incoming Attacks After 24 Hours:** This visualization shows the geographic distribution of failed RDP attacks, providing valuable insights into the origin of these attacks.

13.91.51.180 - Remote Desktop Connection

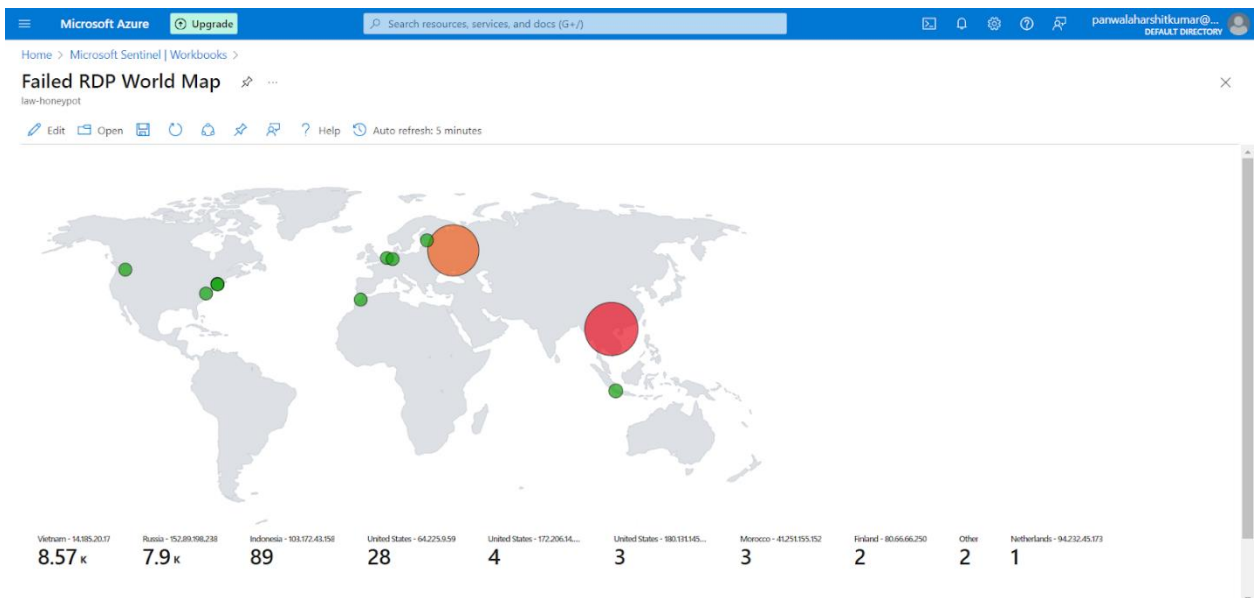
```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell ISE
File Edit View Tools Debug Add-ons Help
Log_Exporter.ps1 X
1 # Get API key from here: https://ipgeolocation.io/
2 $API_KEY = "959993718b27413a9711dd6e6e0a926"
3 $LOGFILE_NAME = "failed_rdp.log"
4 $LOGFILE_PATH = "C:\ProgramData\$(LOGFILE_NAME)"
5
6 # This filter will be used to filter failed RDP events from Windows Event Viewer
7 $XMLFilter = @'
8 <QueryList>
9   <Query Id="0" Path="Security">
10     <Select Path="Security">
11       * [System[(EventID='4625')]]
12     </Select>
13   </Query>
14 </QueryList>
15 '
```

```
latitude:21.01941,longitude:105.80903,destinationhost:honeypot-vm,username:administrator,sourcehost:14.224.158.225,state:Hanoi,label:V
ietnam - 14.224.158.225,timestamp:2024-07-18 07:37:59
Invoke-WebRequest : The remote server returned an error: (429).
At C:\Users\harshit-admin\Desktop\Log_Exporter.ps1:115 char:29
+ ... $response = Invoke-WebRequest -UseBasicParsing -Uri $API_ENDPOINT
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : InvalidOperation: (System.Net.HttpWebRequest:HttpWebRequest) [Invoke-WebRequest], WebException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : WebCmdletWebResponseException,Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.InvokeWebRequestCommand

latitude:21.01941,longitude:105.80903,destinationhost:honeypot-vm,username:administrator,sourcehost:14.224.158.225,state:Hanoi,label:V
ietnam - 14.224.158.225,timestamp:2024-07-18 07:37:59
Invoke-WebRequest : The remote server returned an error: (429).
At C:\Users\harshit-admin\Desktop\Log_Exporter.ps1:115 char:29
+ ... $response = Invoke-WebRequest -UseBasicParsing -Uri $API_ENDPOINT
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : InvalidOperation: (System.Net.HttpWebRequest:HttpWebRequest) [Invoke-WebRequest], WebException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : WebCmdletWebResponseException,Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.InvokeWebRequestCommand

latitude:21.01941,longitude:105.80903,destinationhost:honeypot-vm,username:administrator,sourcehost:14.224.158.225,state:Hanoi,label:V
ietnam - 14.224.158.225,timestamp:2024-07-18 07:37:58
Invoke-WebRequest : The remote server returned an error: (429).
At C:\Users\harshit-admin\Desktop\Log_Exporter.ps1:115 char:29
+ ... $response = Invoke-WebRequest -UseBasicParsing -Uri $API_ENDPOINT
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : InvalidOperation: (System.Net.HttpWebRequest:HttpWebRequest) [Invoke-WebRequest], WebException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : WebCmdletWebResponseException,Microsoft.PowerShell.Commands.InvokeWebRequestCommand

latitude:21.01941,longitude:105.80903,destinationhost:honeypot-vm,username:administrator,sourcehost:14.224.158.225,state:Hanoi,label:V
ietnam - 14.224.158.225,timestamp:2024-07-18 07:37:57
```





## Security Considerations

- Ensure the honeypot VM is isolated and does not contain sensitive data.
- Regularly update the script and VM to mitigate vulnerabilities.
- Monitor the performance impact on the VM due to logging and script execution.

## Conclusion and Future Work

This project demonstrates the effectiveness of Microsoft Sentinel in monitoring and analyzing security threats in real-time. By using a honeypot setup and a custom PowerShell script, valuable insights into the geographic distribution of RDP brute force attacks can be gained, aiding in better understanding and mitigating such threats.

## Future Enhancements

- Automate the deployment and configuration of the honeypot VM and Microsoft Sentinel.
- Integrate additional data sources for a comprehensive security analysis.
- Implement alerting mechanisms for real-time threat response.