Apply filters to SQL queries

Project description

The security team in my organization needs to investigate security incidents related to login attempts and employee devices. The organization's database contains separate tables for employees and log_in_attempts. I will use SQL queries to filter and analyze data from these tables to identify any irregularities or suspicious activity.

Retrieve after hours failed login attempts

A potential security incident was recently discovered, occurring after business hours (post-18:00). To investigate, I ran a SQL query to filter all failed login attempts made during that time.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM log_in_attempts
    -> WHERE login_time > '18:00' AND success = FALSE;
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        2 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 20:27:27   | CAN     | 192.168.205.12  |       0 |
|       18 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 19:28:50   | US      | 192.168.66.142  |       0 |
|       20 | tshah    | 2022-05-12 | 18:56:36   | MEXICO  | 192.168.109.50  |       0 |
|       28 | aestrada | 2022-05-09 | 19:28:12   | MEXICO  | 192.168.27.57   |       0 |
|       34 | drosas   | 2022-05-11 | 21:02:04   | US      | 192.168.45.93   |       0 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       52 | cjackson | 2022-05-10 | 22:07:07   | CAN     | 192.168.58.57   |       0 |
|       69 | wjaffrey | 2022-05-11 | 19:55:15   | USA     | 192.168.100.17  |       0 |
|       82 | abernard | 2022-05-12 | 23:38:46   | MEX     | 192.168.234.49  |       0 |
|       87 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 22:38:31   | CANADA  | 192.168.132.153 |       0 |
|       96 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 22:36:36   | CAN     | 192.168.84.194  |       0 |
|      104 | asundara | 2022-05-11 | 18:38:07   | US      | 192.168.96.200  |       0 |
|      107 | bisles   | 2022-05-12 | 20:25:57   | USA     | 192.168.116.187 |       0 |
|      111 | aestrada | 2022-05-10 | 22:00:26   | MEXICO  | 192.168.76.27   |       0 |
|      127 | abellmas | 2022-05-09 | 21:20:51   | CANADA  | 192.168.70.122  |       0 |
|      131 | bisles   | 2022-05-09 | 20:03:55   | US      | 192.168.113.171 |       0 |
|      155 | cgriffin | 2022-05-12 | 22:18:42   | USA     | 192.168.236.176 |       0 |
|      160 | jclark   | 2022-05-10 | 20:49:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.214.49  |       0 |
|      199 | yappiah  | 2022-05-11 | 19:34:48   | MEXICO  | 192.168.44.232  |       0 |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
19 rows in set (0.193 sec)
```

The first 3 lines of the screenshot show the SQL query I used to select all columns **(SELECT *)** from the log_in_attempts table **(FROM log_in_attempts)** where the login_time was after 18:00 and success was false **(WHERE login_time > '18:00' AND success = FALSE;)**. The use of the

WHERE clause and AND operator allowed for me to get just the required data from the database to help with easier analysis. This SQL query returned 19 rows of failed login attempts that occurred after 18:00 as shown in the screenshot along with an event id, username, login date and time, country and IP address.

Retrieve login attempts on specific dates

A suspicious event took place on 2022-05-09. To investigate, I created an SQL query to retrieve all login attempts from that day, as well as the day prior.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM log_in_attempts
    -> WHERE login_date = '2022-05-09' OR login_date = 2022-05-08;
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address      | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+-----------------+---------+
|        1 | jrafael  | 2022-05-09 | 04:56:27   | CAN     | 192.168.243.140 |       1 |
|        3 | dkot     | 2022-05-09 | 06:47:41   | USA     | 192.168.151.162 |       1 |
|       15 | lyamamot | 2022-05-09 | 17:17:26   | USA     | 192.168.183.51  |       0 |
|       24 | arusso   | 2022-05-09 | 06:49:39   | MEXICO  | 192.168.171.192 |       1 |
|       25 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 07:04:02   | US      | 192.168.33.137  |       1 |
|       28 | aestrada | 2022-05-09 | 19:28:12   | MEXICO  | 192.168.27.57   |       0 |
|       30 | yappiah  | 2022-05-09 | 03:22:22   | MEX     | 192.168.124.48  |       1 |
|       32 | acook    | 2022-05-09 | 02:52:02   | CANADA  | 192.168.142.239 |       0 |
|       38 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 14:40:01   | USA     | 192.168.60.42   |       1 |
|       39 | yappiah  | 2022-05-09 | 07:56:40   | MEXICO  | 192.168.57.115  |       1 |
|       42 | cgriffin | 2022-05-09 | 23:04:05   | US      | 192.168.4.157   |       0 |
|       58 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 17:20:54   | CAN     | 192.168.57.162  |       0 |
|       61 | dtanaka  | 2022-05-09 | 09:45:18   | USA     | 192.168.98.221  |       1 |
|       65 | aalonso  | 2022-05-09 | 23:42:12   | MEX     | 192.168.52.37   |       1 |
|       67 | abernard | 2022-05-09 | 11:53:41   | MEX     | 192.168.118.29  |       1 |
|       70 | tmitchel | 2022-05-09 | 10:55:17   | MEXICO  | 192.168.87.199  |       1 |
|       71 | mcouliba | 2022-05-09 | 06:57:42   | CAN     | 192.168.55.169  |       0 |
|       79 | abernard | 2022-05-09 | 11:41:15   | MEX     | 192.168.158.170 |       0 |
|       90 | gesparza | 2022-05-09 | 00:49:05   | CANADA  | 192.168.87.201  |       0 |
|       96 | ivelasco | 2022-05-09 | 22:36:36   | CAN     | 192.168.84.194  |       0 |
|       97 | jreckley | 2022-05-09 | 02:49:23   | MEXICO  | 192.168.32.231  |       1 |
|      102 | jreckley | 2022-05-09 | 16:51:44   | MEX     | 192.168.108.13  |       1 |
```

In the query above I utilised the **OR** operator with the **WHERE** clause to ensure I got the results I required of the needed date range of 2022-05-09 and the day before 2022-05-08.

Retrieve login attempts outside of Mexico

I was also concerned with the login attempts that occurred outside of Mexico. Using SQL I created a query to retrieve the information of these login attempts so that they can be investigated further if necessary.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM log_in_attempts
    -> WHERE NOT country LIKE 'MEX%';
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+----------------+---------+
| event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address     | success |
+----------+----------+------------+------------+---------+----------------+---------+
|        1 | jrafael  | 2022-05-09 | 04:56:27   | CAN     | 192.168.243.140 |       1 |
|        2 | apatel   | 2022-05-10 | 20:27:27   | CAN     | 192.168.205.12  |       0 |
|        3 | dkot     | 2022-05-09 | 06:47:41   | USA     | 192.168.151.162 |       1 |
|        4 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 02:00:39   | USA     | 192.168.178.71  |       0 |
|        5 | jrafael  | 2022-05-11 | 03:05:59   | CANADA  | 192.168.86.232  |       0 |
|        7 | eraab    | 2022-05-11 | 01:45:14   | CAN     | 192.168.170.243 |       1 |
|        8 | bisles   | 2022-05-08 | 01:30:17   | US      | 192.168.119.173 |       0 |
|       10 | jrafael  | 2022-05-12 | 09:33:19   | CANADA  | 192.168.228.221 |       0 |
|       11 | sgilmore | 2022-05-11 | 10:16:29   | CANADA  | 192.168.140.81  |       0 |
|       12 | dkot     | 2022-05-08 | 09:11:34   | USA     | 192.168.100.158 |       1 |
|       13 | mrah     | 2022-05-11 | 09:29:34   | USA     | 192.168.246.135 |       1 |
|       14 | sbaelish | 2022-05-10 | 10:20:18   | US      | 192.168.16.99   |       1 |
|       15 | lyamamot | 2022-05-09 | 17:17:26   | USA     | 192.168.183.51  |       0 |
|       16 | mcouliba | 2022-05-11 | 06:44:22   | CAN     | 192.168.172.189 |       1 |
|       17 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 02:33:02   | USA     | 192.168.81.89   |       1 |
|       18 | pwashing | 2022-05-11 | 19:28:50   | US      | 192.168.66.142  |       0 |
|       19 | jhill    | 2022-05-12 | 13:09:04   | US      | 192.168.142.245 |       1 |
|       21 | iuduike  | 2022-05-11 | 17:50:00   | US      | 192.168.131.147 |       1 |
|       25 | sbaelish | 2022-05-09 | 07:04:02   | US      | 192.168.33.137  |       1 |
|       26 | apatel   | 2022-05-08 | 17:27:00   | CANADA  | 192.168.123.105 |       1 |
|       29 | bisles   | 2022-05-11 | 01:21:22   | US      | 192.168.85.186  |       0 |
|       31 | acook    | 2022-05-12 | 17:36:45   | CANADA  | 192.168.58.232  |       0 |
|       32 | acook    | 2022-05-09 | 02:52:02   | CANADA  | 192.168.142.239 |       0 |
```

In the query, I used SQL's **NOT** operator in combination with the **LIKE** operator and the **%** wildcard to identify all logins that occurred outside of Mexico. Since the country column could contain values **LIKE** 'MEX' or 'MEXICO', I included the **%** wildcard to capture any values beginning with "MEX." The **NOT** operator was then applied to exclude records that matched this pattern, ensuring the query returned only those logins from countries other than Mexico.

Retrieve employees in Marketing

The security team needed to apply security updates to specific employee machines in the marketing department. To identify which machines required updates, I ran the following SQL query to retrieve the relevant information.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM employees
    -> WHERE department = 'Marketing' AND office LIKE 'East%';
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+----------+
| employee_id | device_id    | username | department | office   |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+----------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing  | East-170 |
|        1052 | a192b174c940 | jdarosa  | Marketing  | East-195 |
|        1075 | x573y883z772 | fbautist | Marketing  | East-267 |
|        1088 | k8651965m233 | rgosh    | Marketing  | East-157 |
|        1103 | NULL         | randerss | Marketing  | East-460 |
|        1156 | a184b775c707 | dellery  | Marketing  | East-417 |
|        1163 | h679i515j339 | cwilliam | Marketing  | East-216 |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+----------+
7 rows in set (0.002 sec)
```

By using SQL's **AND** and **LIKE** operators, I filtered the employees table to find all employees assigned to the 'Marketing' department and located in the east office building. Since the office building column starts with the office building name and a number like East-157 or East-460 I applied the **%** wildcard to search for entries that begin with East.

Retrieve employees in Finance or Sales

The machines used by employees in the Finance and Sales departments also required security updates. To identify these employees, I created a separate SQL query to filter for those belonging to these two departments.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM employees
    -> WHERE department = 'Finance' OR department = 'Sales';
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id    | username | department | office      |
+-------------+--------------+----------+------------+-------------+
|        1003 | d394e816f943 | sgilmore | Finance    | South-153   |
|        1007 | h174i497j413 | wjaffrey | Finance    | North-406   |
|        1008 | i858j583k571 | abernard | Finance    | South-170   |
|        1009 | NULL         | lrodriqu | Sales      | South-134   |
|        1010 | k2421212m542 | jlansky  | Finance    | South-109   |
|        1011 | 1748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales      | South-292   |
|        1015 | p611q262r945 | jsoto    | Finance    | North-271   |
|        1017 | r550s824t230 | jclark   | Finance    | North-188   |
|        1018 | s310t540u653 | abellmas | Finance    | North-403   |
|        1022 | w237x430y567 | arusso   | Finance    | West-465    |
|        1024 | y976z753a267 | iuduike  | Sales      | South-215   |
|        1025 | z381a365b233 | jhill    | Sales      | North-115   |
|        1029 | d336e475f676 | ivelasco | Finance    | East-156    |
|        1035 | j236k3031245 | bisles   | Sales      | South-171   |
```

In this SQL query the usage of the **WHERE** clause along with the **OR** operator enabled me to obtain the information needed for employees in either of those departments.

Retrieve all employees not in IT

The IT department had already received the latest security update, but employees in other departments still needed it. I ran an SQL query to locate all employees and systems excluding those in IT.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM employees
    -> WHERE NOT department = 'Information Technology';
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
| employee_id | device_id   | username | department      | office      |
+-------------+-------------+----------+-----------------+-------------+
|        1000 | a320b137c219 | elarson  | Marketing       | East-170    |
|        1001 | b239c825d303 | bmoreno  | Marketing       | Central-276 |
|        1002 | c116d593e558 | tshah    | Human Resources | North-434   |
|        1003 | d394e816f943 | sgilmore | Finance         | South-153   |
|        1004 | e218f877g788 | eraab    | Human Resources | South-127   |
|        1005 | f551g340h864 | gesparza | Human Resources | South-366   |
|        1007 | h174i497j413 | wjaffrey | Finance         | North-406   |
|        1008 | i858j583k571 | abernard | Finance         | South-170   |
|        1009 | NULL         | lrodriqu | Sales           | South-134   |
|        1010 | k2421212m542 | jlansky  | Finance         | South-109   |
|        1011 | l748m120n401 | drosas   | Sales           | South-292   |
|        1015 | p611q262r945 | jsoto    | Finance         | North-271   |
|        1016 | q793r736s288 | sbaelish | Human Resources | North-229   |
|        1017 | r550s824t230 | jclark   | Finance         | North-188   |
|        1018 | s310t540u653 | abellmas | Finance         | North-403   |
|        1020 | u899v381w363 | arutley  | Marketing       | South-351   |
```

This query filters the department column with the **NOT** operator to select all rows where the department is not 'Information Technology' as required.

Summary

By running SQL queries, I was able to obtain detailed reports on login events and employees related to suspicious activity and system security updates. Using SQL operators such as **AND**, **NOT**, **LIKE**, and **%,** I filtered through a vast amount of records to pinpoint login attempts on specific dates, from particular countries, failed logins, and employees in targeted departments. This approach allowed me to quickly extract relevant data that would have taken hours to find through manual searches.