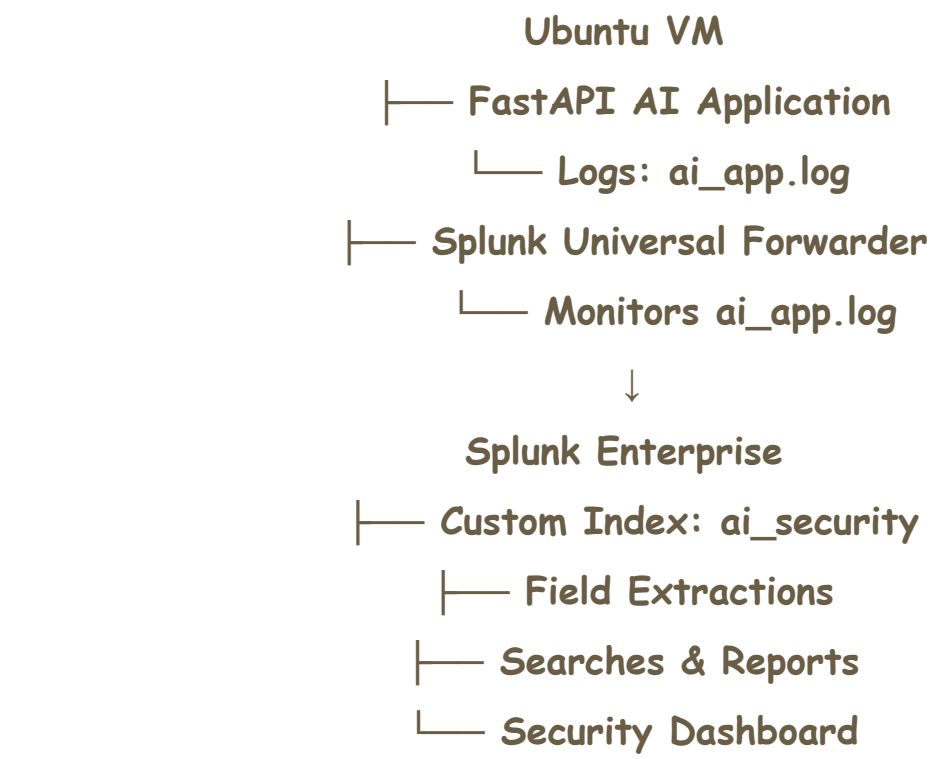


AI Logging, Monitoring and Incident Readiness

Kate Amarachukwu Igwilo

Overview

Modern AI-powered applications introduce new security challenges due to their heavy reliance on APIs, automation, and large volumes of user-generated compiler and inference requests. Traditional infrastructure monitoring alone is insufficient; **application-level logging and security visibility are critical**.

This project demonstrates how to design and implement **logging, monitoring, and incident readiness for an AI-powered API** using Splunk as a SIEM. A FastAPI-based AI application was deployed on an Ubuntu server, configured to generate security-relevant logs, and integrated with Splunk using the Splunk Universal Forwarder.

The goal of this project is to simulate how AI application telemetry can be operationalized in a ***SOC environment*** for detection, investigation, and response readiness.

This project demonstrates how to implement centralized logging, monitoring, and basic incident readiness for an AI-powered API using Splunk. The goal is to simulate how AI application logs can be operationalized in a SOC environment for visibility, detection, and investigation.

A FastAPI-based AI application was deployed on Ubuntu, configured to generate structured security-relevant logs, which were forwarded to Splunk Enterprise using the Splunk Universal Forwarder.

Objectives

1. Generate structured application security logs from an AI API
2. Forward logs securely to Splunk
3. Perform field extraction for security analysis
4. Build dashboards for monitoring AI application behavior
5. Simulate detection logic for abnormal or suspicious activity
6. Demonstrate incident readiness workflows

Environment Setup

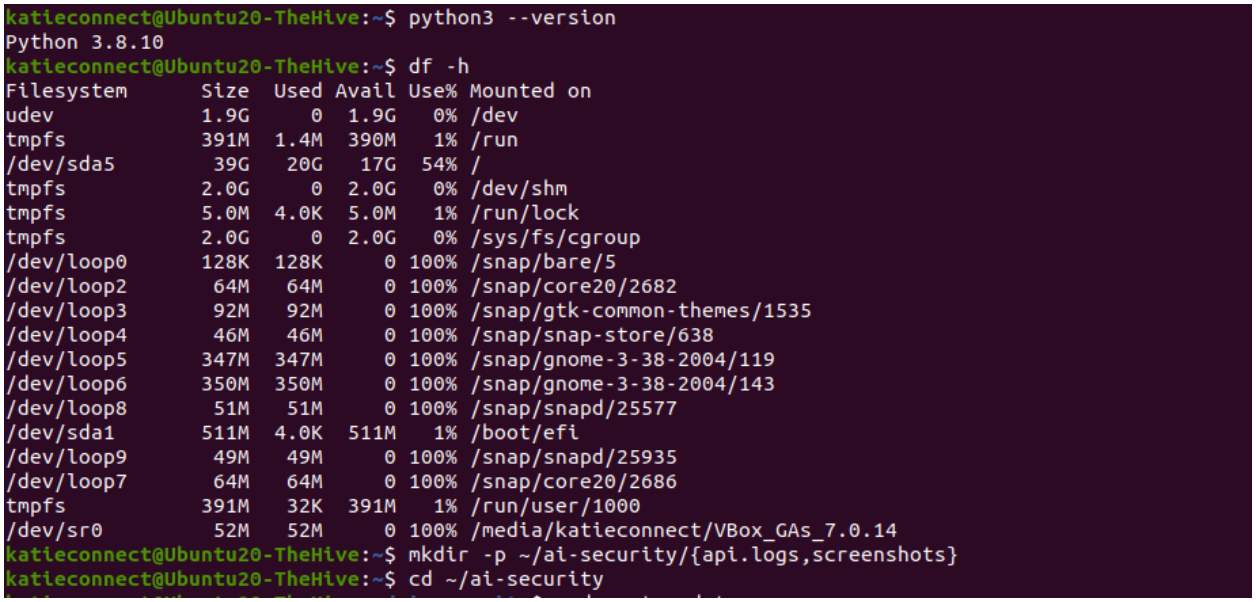
- OS: Ubuntu 20.04
- AI Framework: FastAPI (Uvicorn ASGI server)
- Logging: Python logging module
- SIEM: Splunk Enterprise (Free)
- Log Forwarding: Splunk Universal Forwarder

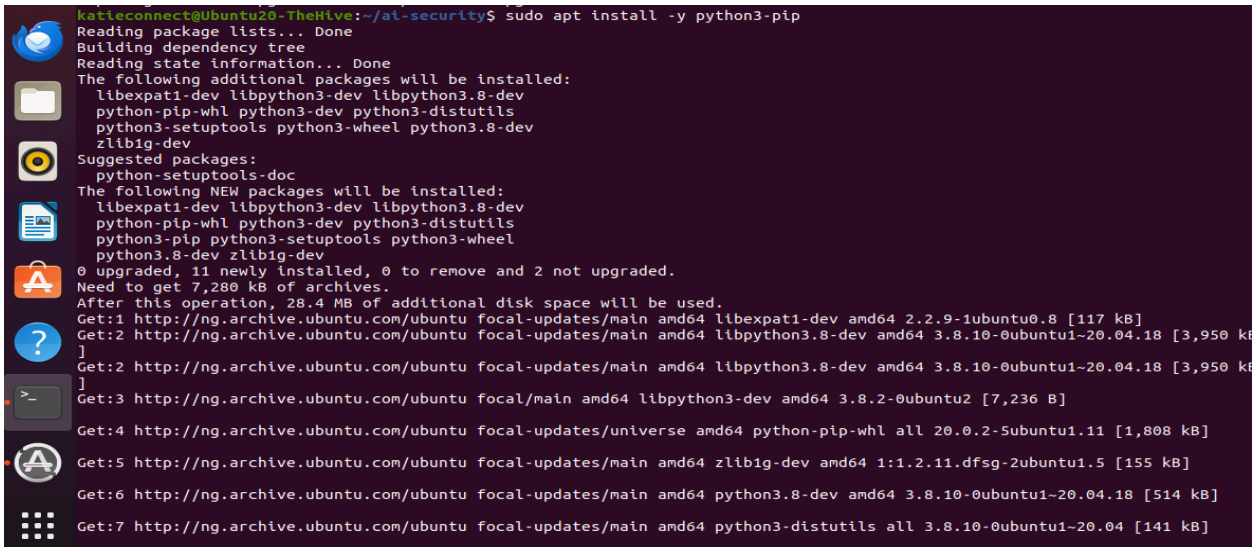
AI Application Deployment and Validation

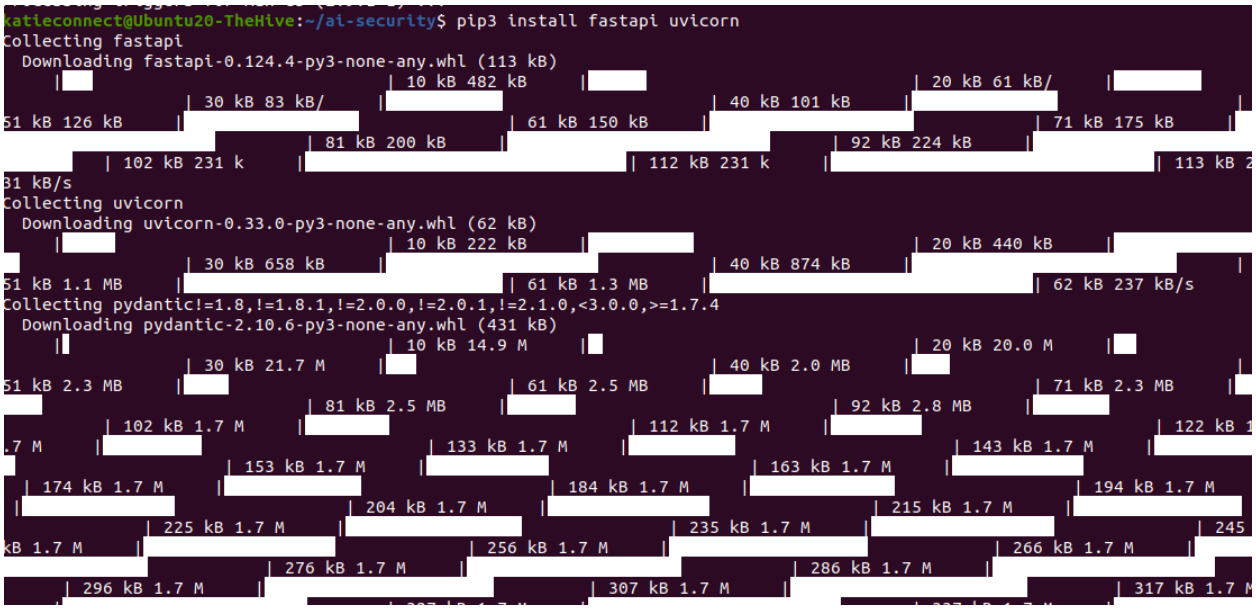
The FastAPI application was deployed on Ubuntu and exposed on port `8000`. Uvicorn was used as the ASGI server to handle incoming API requests.

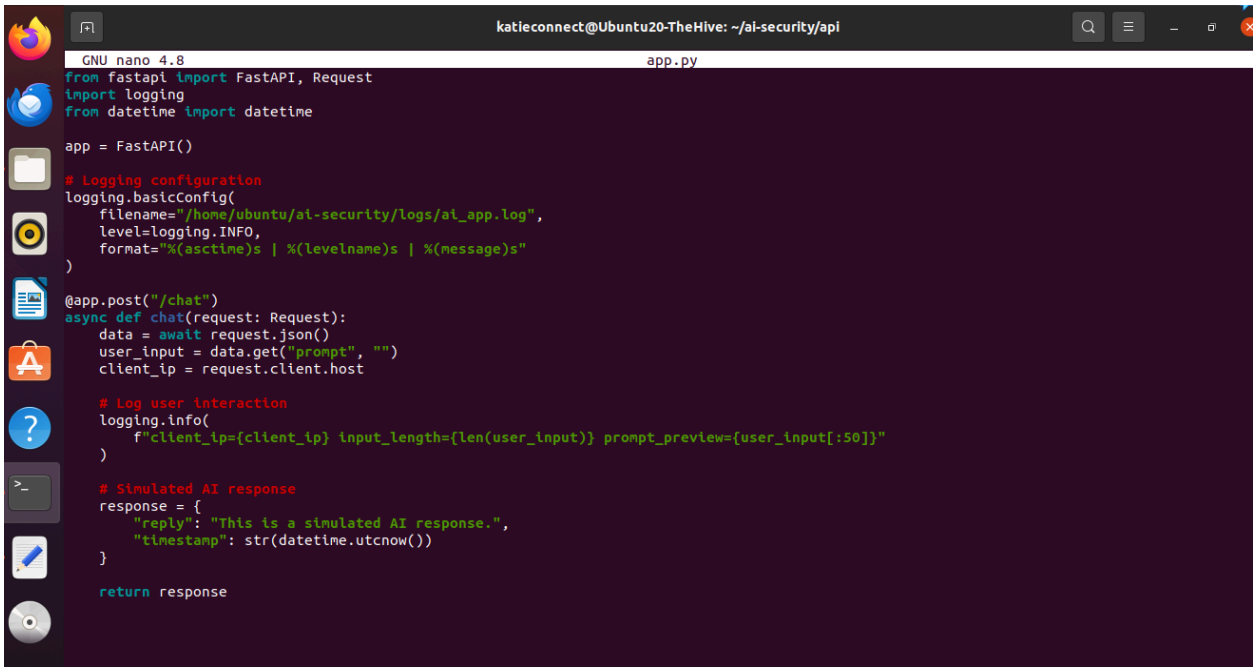
The API was validated using:

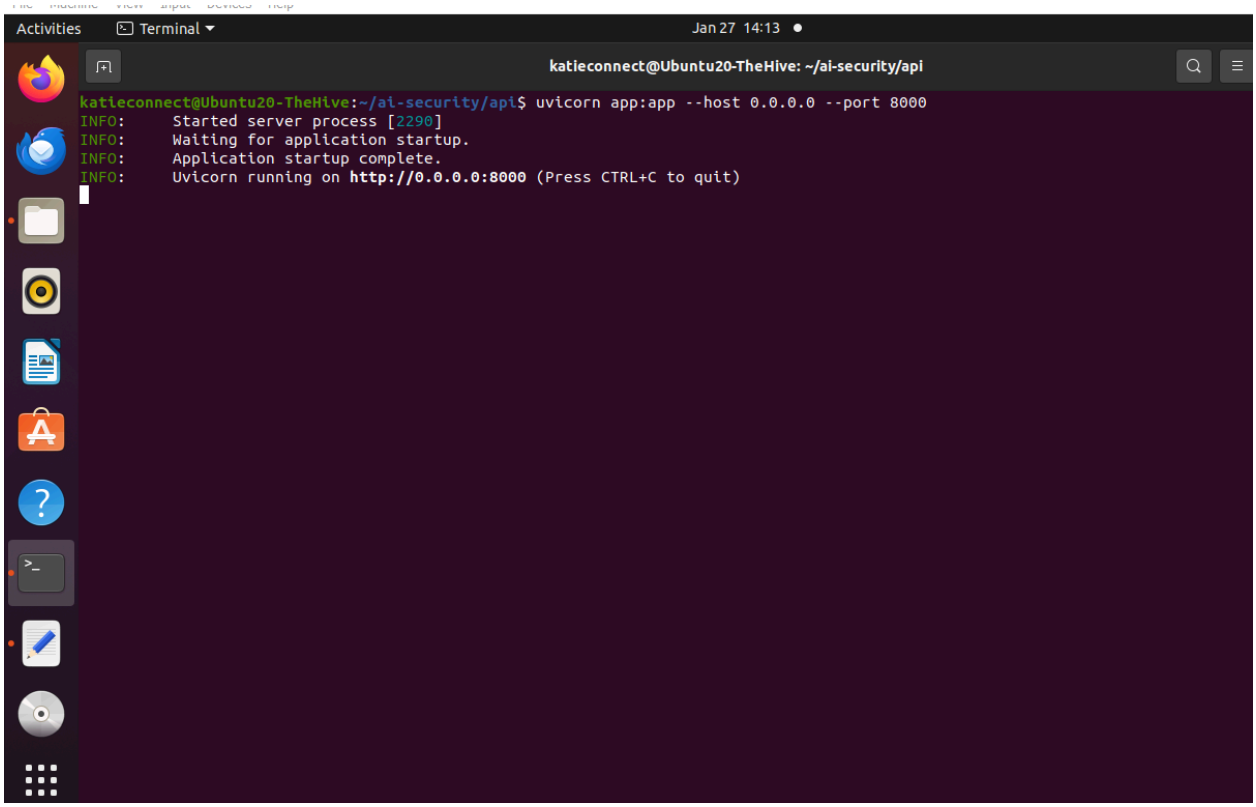
- FastAPI interactive documentation
- Direct `curl` requests to generate traffic and logs



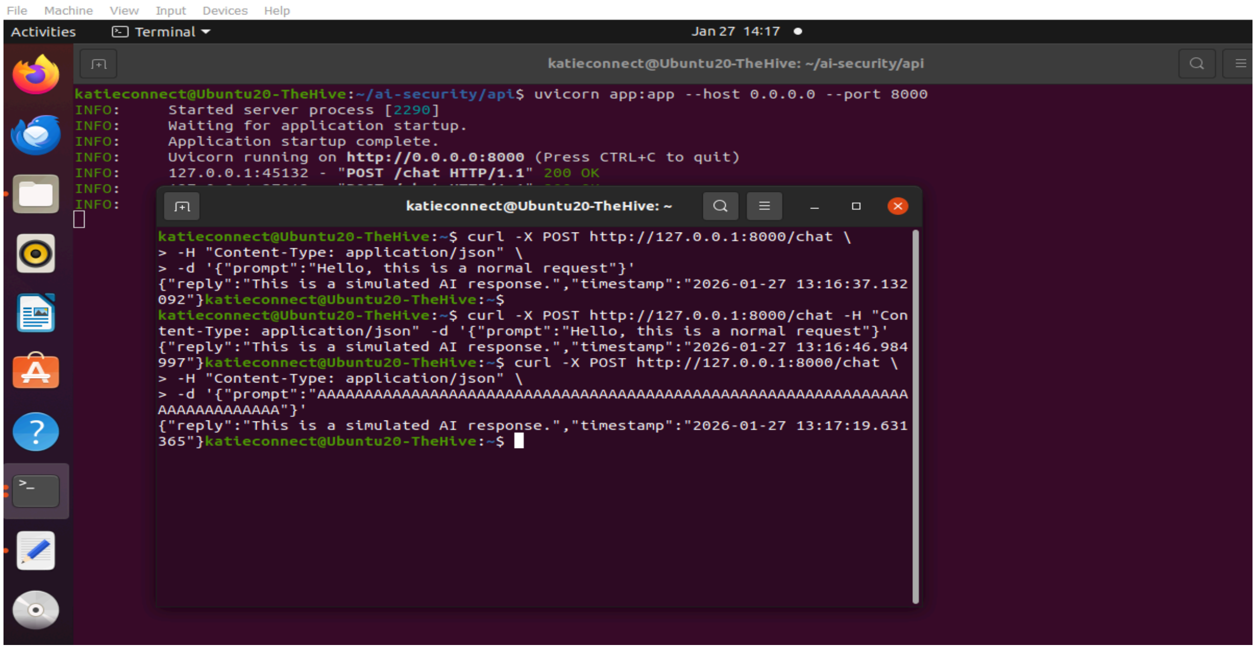

katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~/ai-security$ sudo apt install -y python3-pip
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
libexpat1-dev libpython3-dev libpython3.8-dev
python-pip-whl python3-dev python3-distutils
python3-setuptools python3-wheel python3.8-dev
zlib1g-dev
Suggested packages:
python-setuptools-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
libexpat1-dev libpython3-dev libpython3.8-dev
python-pip-whl python3-dev python3-distutils
python3-pip python3-setuptools python3-wheel
python3.8-dev zlib1g-dev
0 upgraded, 11 newly installed, 0 to remove and 2 not upgraded.
Need to get 7,280 kB of archives.
After this operation, 28.4 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 libexpat1-dev amd64 2.2.9-1ubuntu0.8 [117 kB]
Get:2 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 libpython3.8-dev amd64 3.8.10-0ubuntu1~20.04.18 [3,950 kB]
Get:2 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 libpython3.8-dev amd64 3.8.10-0ubuntu1~20.04.18 [3,950 kB]
Get:3 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal/main amd64 libpython3-dev amd64 3.8.2-0ubuntu2 [7,236 B]
Get:4 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/universe amd64 python-pip-whl all 20.0.2-5ubuntu1.11 [1,808 kB]
Get:5 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 zlib1g-dev amd64 1:1.2.11.dfsg-2ubuntu1.5 [155 kB]
Get:6 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 python3.8-dev amd64 3.8.10-0ubuntu1~20.04.18 [514 kB]
Get:7 http://ng.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 python3-distutils all 3.8.10-0ubuntu1~20.04 [141 kB]

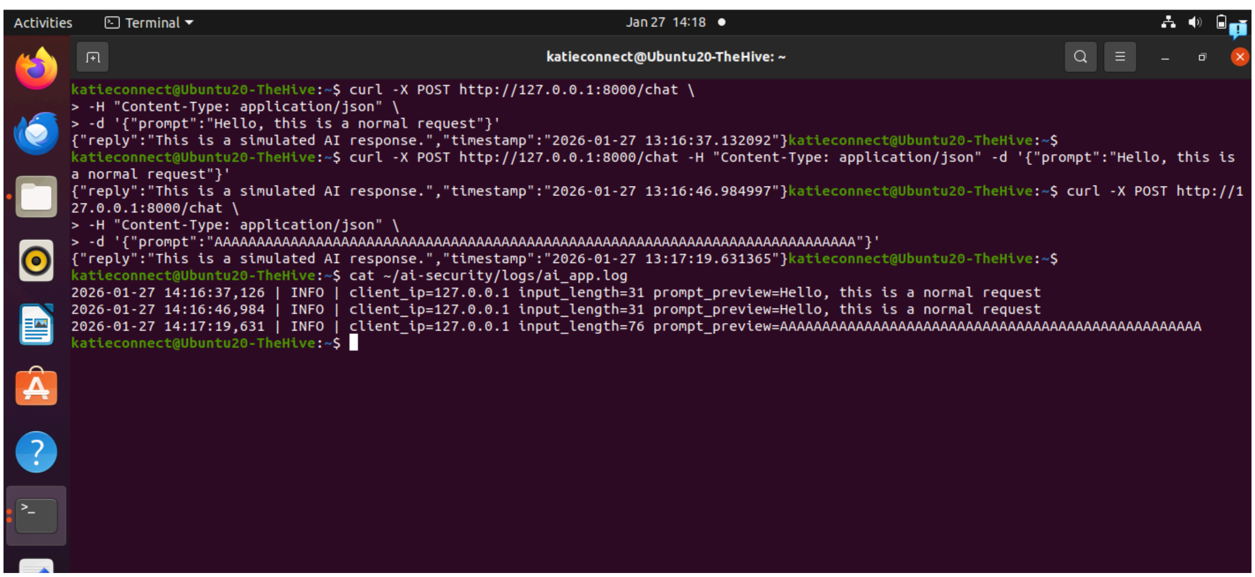

katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~/ai-security$ pip3 install fastapi uvicorn
Collecting fastapi
Downloading fastapi-0.124.4-py3-none-any.whl (113 kB)
Collecting uvicorn
Downloading uvicorn-0.33.0-py3-none-any.whl (62 kB)
Collecting pydantic!=1.8,!=1.8.1,!=2.0.0,!=2.0.1,!=2.1.0,<3.0.0,>=1.7.4
Downloading pydantic-2.10.6-py3-none-any.whl (431 kB)

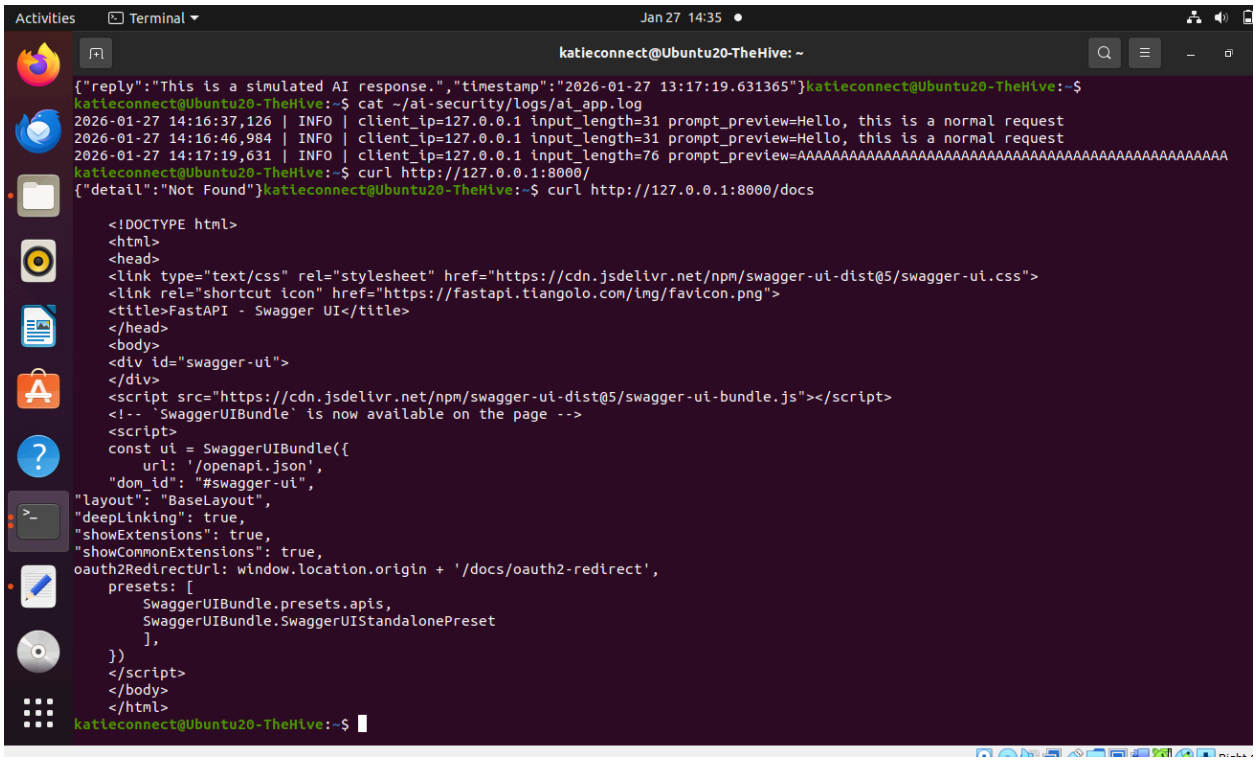




AI Application Running on Ubuntu


File Machine View Input Devices Help
Activities
Terminal
Jan 27 14:17
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive: ~/ai-security/api
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~/ai-security/api$ uvicorn app:app --host 0.0.0.0 --port 8000
INFO: Started server process [2290]
INFO: Waiting for application startup.
INFO: Application startup complete.
INFO: Uvicorn running on http://0.0.0.0:8000 (Press CTRL+C to quit)
INFO: 127.0.0.1:45132 - "POST /chat HTTP/1.1" 200 OK
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive: ~
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8000/chat \
> -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
> -d '{"prompt":"Hello, this is a normal request"}'
{"reply":"This is a simulated AI response.","timestamp":"2026-01-27 13:16:37.132092"}katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8000/chat -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d '{"prompt":"Hello, this is a normal request"}'
{"reply":"This is a simulated AI response.","timestamp":"2026-01-27 13:16:46.984997"}katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8000/chat \
> -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
> -d '{"prompt":"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA"}'
{"reply":"This is a simulated AI response.","timestamp":"2026-01-27 13:17:19.631365"}katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$


Activities
Terminal
Jan 27 14:18
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive: ~
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8000/chat \
> -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
> -d '{"prompt":"Hello, this is a normal request"}'
{"reply":"This is a simulated AI response.","timestamp":"2026-01-27 13:16:37.132092"}katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8000/chat -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d '{"prompt":"Hello, this is a normal request"}'
{"reply":"This is a simulated AI response.","timestamp":"2026-01-27 13:16:46.984997"}katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8000/chat \
> -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
> -d '{"prompt":"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA"}'
{"reply":"This is a simulated AI response.","timestamp":"2026-01-27 13:17:19.631365"}katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$ cat ~/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log
2026-01-27 14:16:37,126 | INFO | client_ip=127.0.0.1 input_length=31 prompt_preview=Hello, this is a normal request
2026-01-27 14:16:46,984 | INFO | client_ip=127.0.0.1 input_length=31 prompt_preview=Hello, this is a normal request
2026-01-27 14:17:19,631 | INFO | client_ip=127.0.0.1 input_length=76 prompt_preview=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:~$



FastAPI interactive documentation confirming API availability

Log Ingestion into Splunk

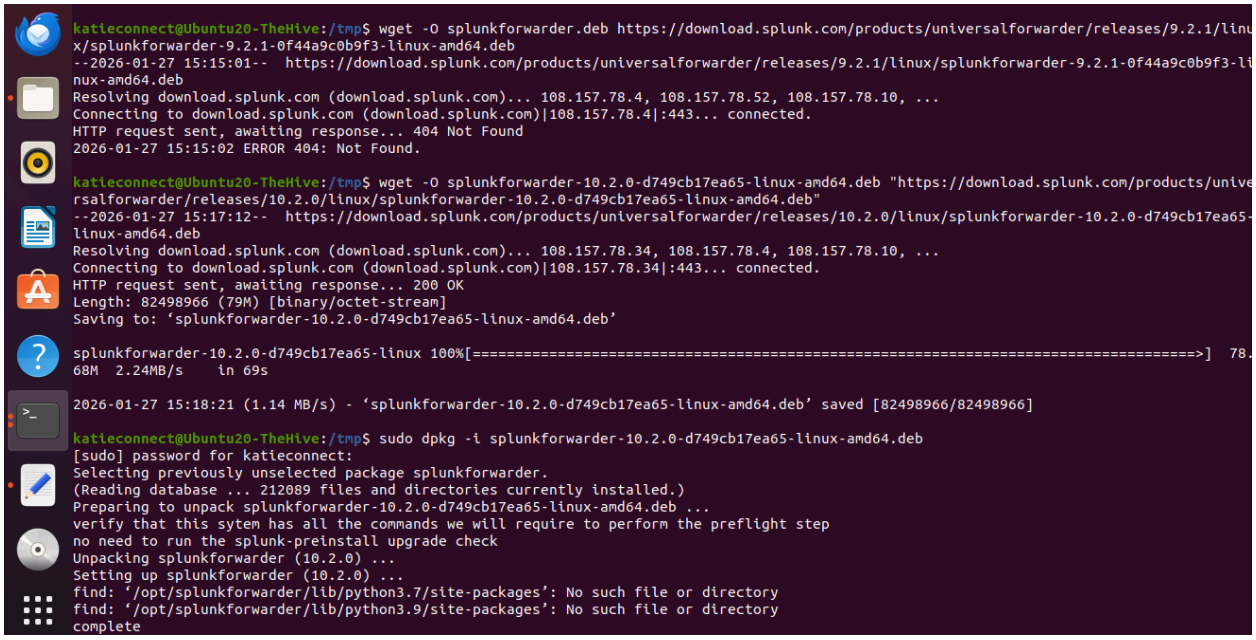
Forwarder Configuration

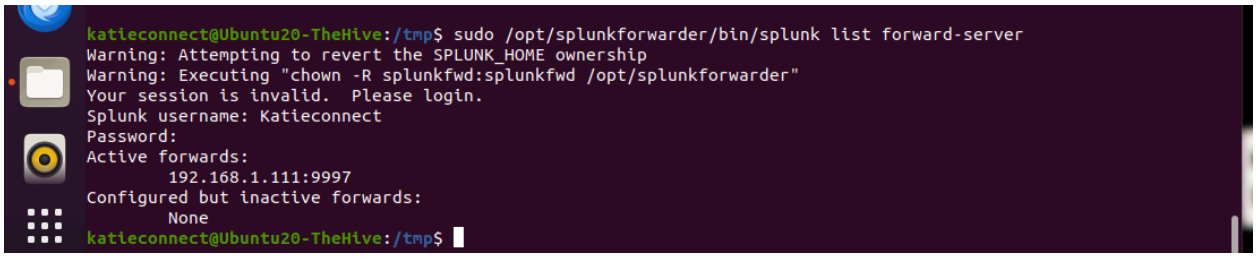
The Splunk Universal Forwarder was configured to monitor the AI application log file:

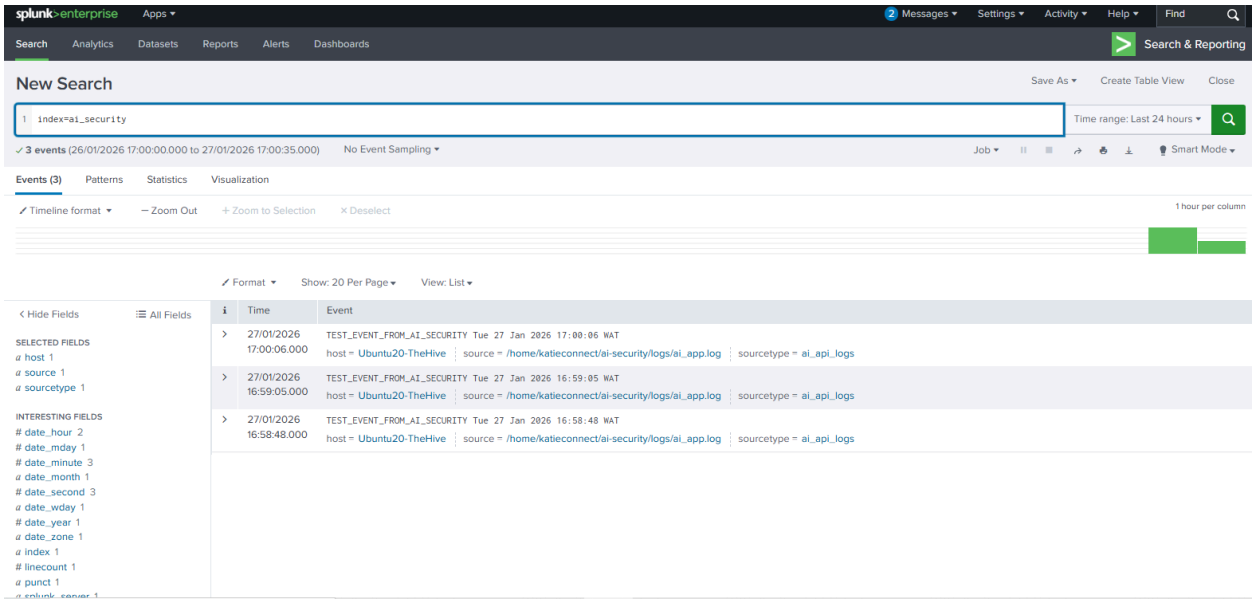
monitor:///home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log

index=ai_security

sourcetype=ai_api_logs

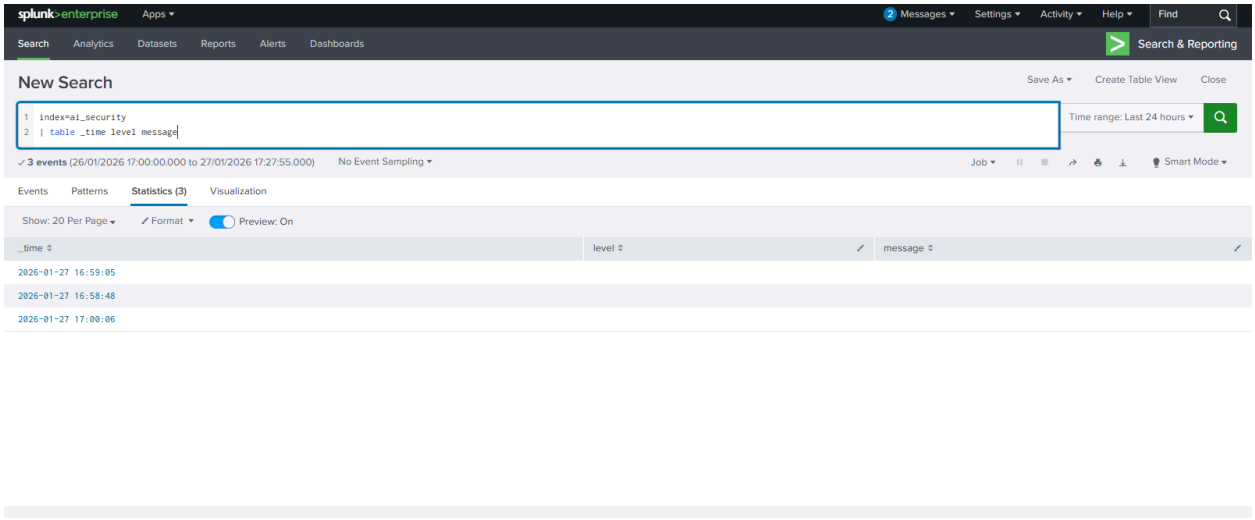

katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:/tmp$ wget -O splunkforwarder.deb https://download.splunk.com/products/universalforwarder/releases/9.2.1/linux/splunkforwarder-9.2.1-0f44a9c0b9f3-linux-amd64.deb
--2026-01-27 15:15:01-- https://download.splunk.com/products/universalforwarder/releases/9.2.1/linux/splunkforwarder-9.2.1-0f44a9c0b9f3-linux-amd64.deb
Resolving download.splunk.com (download.splunk.com)... 108.157.78.4, 108.157.78.52, 108.157.78.10, ...
Connecting to download.splunk.com (download.splunk.com)|108.157.78.4|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 404 Not Found
2026-01-27 15:15:02 ERROR 404: Not Found.
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:/tmp$ wget -O splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb "https://download.splunk.com/products/universalforwarder/releases/10.2.0/linux/splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb"
--2026-01-27 15:17:12-- https://download.splunk.com/products/universalforwarder/releases/10.2.0/linux/splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb
Resolving download.splunk.com (download.splunk.com)... 108.157.78.34, 108.157.78.4, 108.157.78.10, ...
Connecting to download.splunk.com (download.splunk.com)|108.157.78.34|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 82498966 (79M) [binary/octet-stream]
Saving to: ‘splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb’
splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux 100%[
68M 2.24MB/s in 69s
2026-01-27 15:18:21 (1.14 MB/s) - ‘splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb’ saved [82498966/82498966]
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:/tmp$ sudo dpkg -i splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb
[sudo] password for katieconnect:
Selecting previously unselected package splunkforwarder.
(Reading database ... 212089 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack splunkforwarder-10.2.0-d749cb17ea65-linux-amd64.deb ...
verify that this sytem has all the commands we will require to perform the preflight step
no need to run the splunk-preinstall upgrade check
Unpacking splunkforwarder (10.2.0) ...
Setting up splunkforwarder (10.2.0) ...
find: ‘/opt/splunkforwarder/lib/python3.7/site-packages’: No such file or directory
find: ‘/opt/splunkforwarder/lib/python3.9/site-packages’: No such file or directory
complete

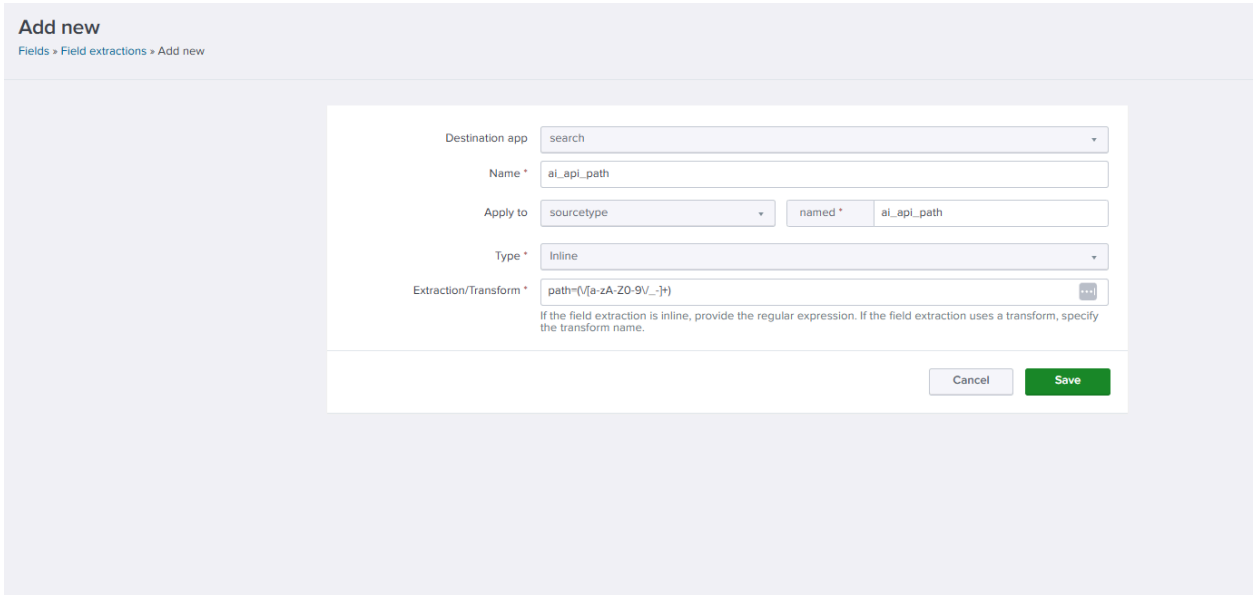

katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:/tmp$ sudo /opt/splunkforwarder/bin/splunk list forward-server
Warning: Attempting to revert the SPLUNK_HOME ownership
Warning: Executing "chown -R splunkfwd:splunkfwd /opt/splunkforwarder"
Your session is invalid. Please login.
Splunk username: Katieconnect
Password:
Active forwards:
192.168.1.111:9997
Configured but inactive forwards:
None
katieconnect@Ubuntu20-TheHive:/tmp$

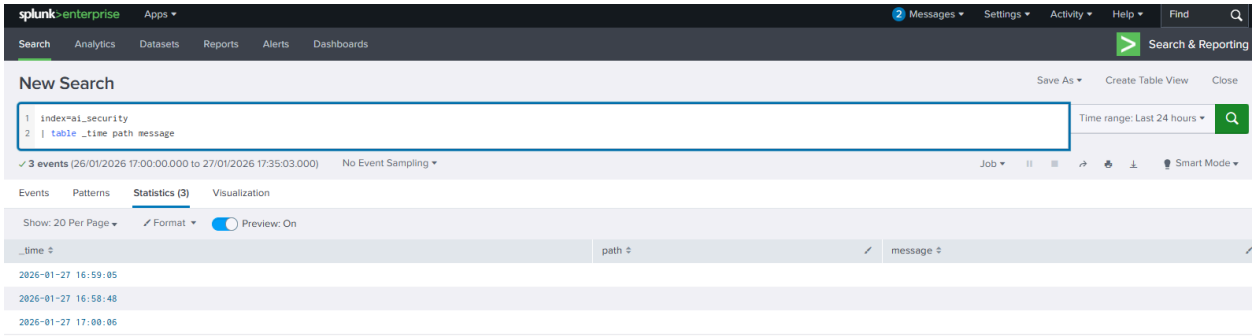

splunk>enterprise
Apps
Messages
Settings
Activity
Help
Find
Search
Analytics
Datasets
Reports
Alerts
Dashboards
Search & Reporting
New Search
Save As
Create Table View
Close
index=ai_security
Time range: Last 24 hours
3 events (26/01/2026 17:00:00.000 to 27/01/2026 17:00:35.000)
No Event Sampling
Job
Smart Mode
Events (3)
Patterns
Statistics
Visualization
Timeline format
Zoom Out
Zoom to Selection
Deselect
1 hour per column
Format
Show: 20 Per Page
View: List
Hide Fields
All Fields
SELECTED FIELDS
host 1
source 1
sourcetype 1
INTERESTING FIELDS
date_hour 2
date_mday 1
date_minute 3
date_month 1
date_second 3
date_wday 1
date_year 1
date_zone 1
index 1
linecount 1
punct 1
Time
Event
27/01/2026 17:00:06.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 17:00:06 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs
27/01/2026 16:59:05.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 16:59:05 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs
27/01/2026 16:58:48.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 16:58:48 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs

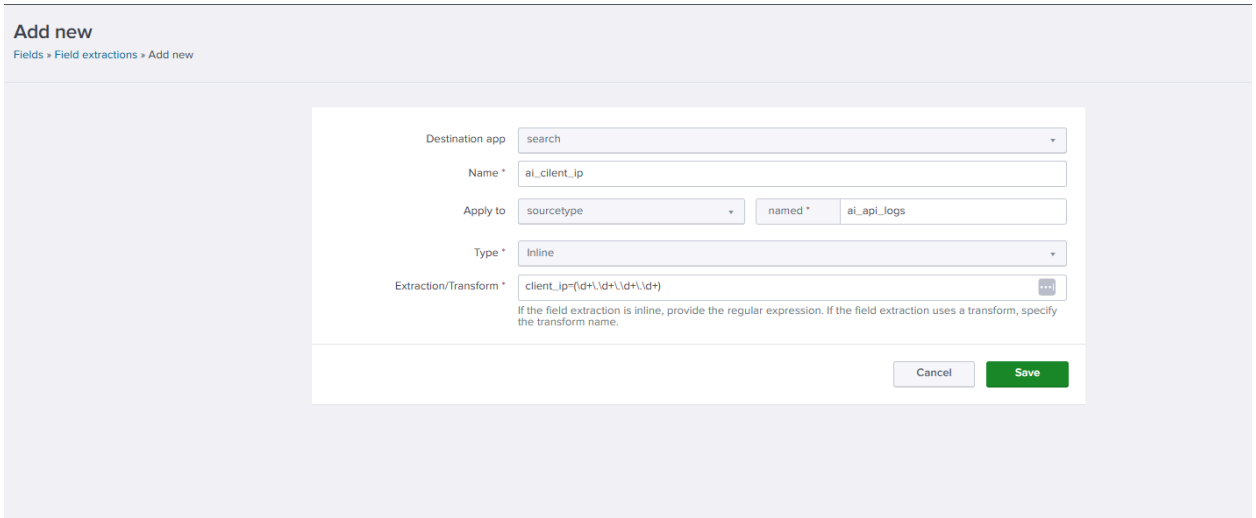
Field Extraction

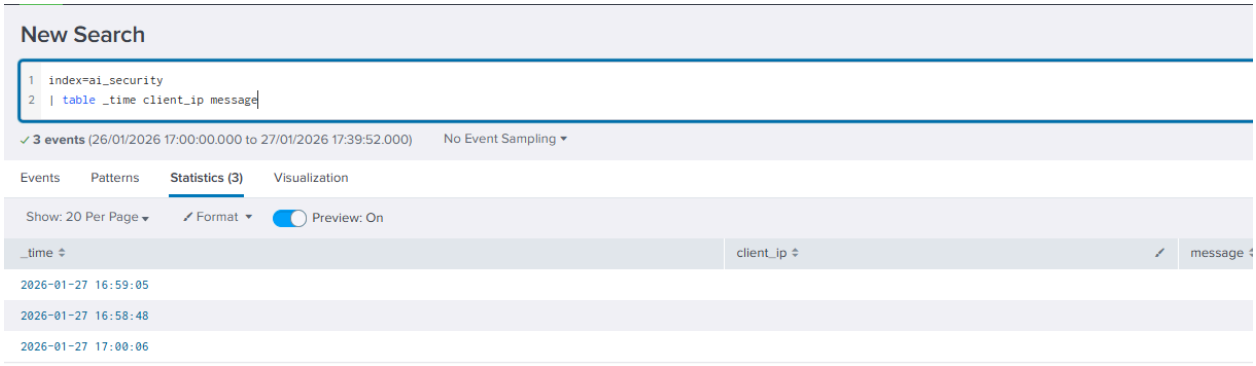
To enable meaningful analysis, custom field extractions were created. These fields allow filtering, aggregation, and correlation of AI security events across time and sources.






splunk>enterprise
Apps
Messages
Settings
Activity
Help
Find
Search
Analytics
Datasets
Reports
Alerts
Dashboards
Search & Reporting
New Search
Save As
Create Table View
Close
1 index=ai_security
2 | table _time path message
Time range: Last 24 hours
✓ 3 events (26/01/2026 17:00:00.000 to 27/01/2026 17:35:03.000)
No Event Sampling
Job
Smart Mode
Events
Patterns
Statistics (3)
Visualization
Show: 20 Per Page
Format
Preview: On
_time
path
message
2026-01-27 16:59:05
2026-01-27 16:58:48
2026-01-27 17:00:06

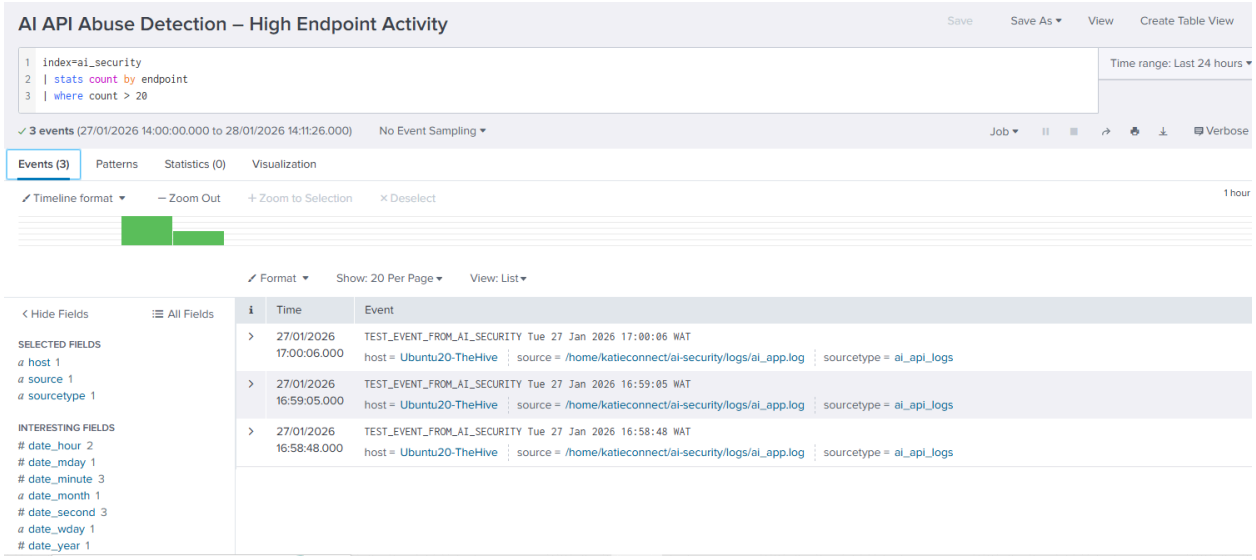

Add new
Fields » Field extractions » Add new
Destination app
search
Name *
ai_client_ip
Apply to
sourcetype
named *
ai_api_logs
Type *
Inline
Extraction/Transform *
client_ip=(\d+\.\d+\.\d+\.\d+)
If the field extraction is inline, provide the regular expression. If the field extraction uses a transform, specify the transform name.
Cancel
Save



Volume-Based Detection

Events were returned, confirming repeated access to specific endpoints during testing.

Key Insight:
This highlights how different detection strategies behave depending on data volume and activity patterns.

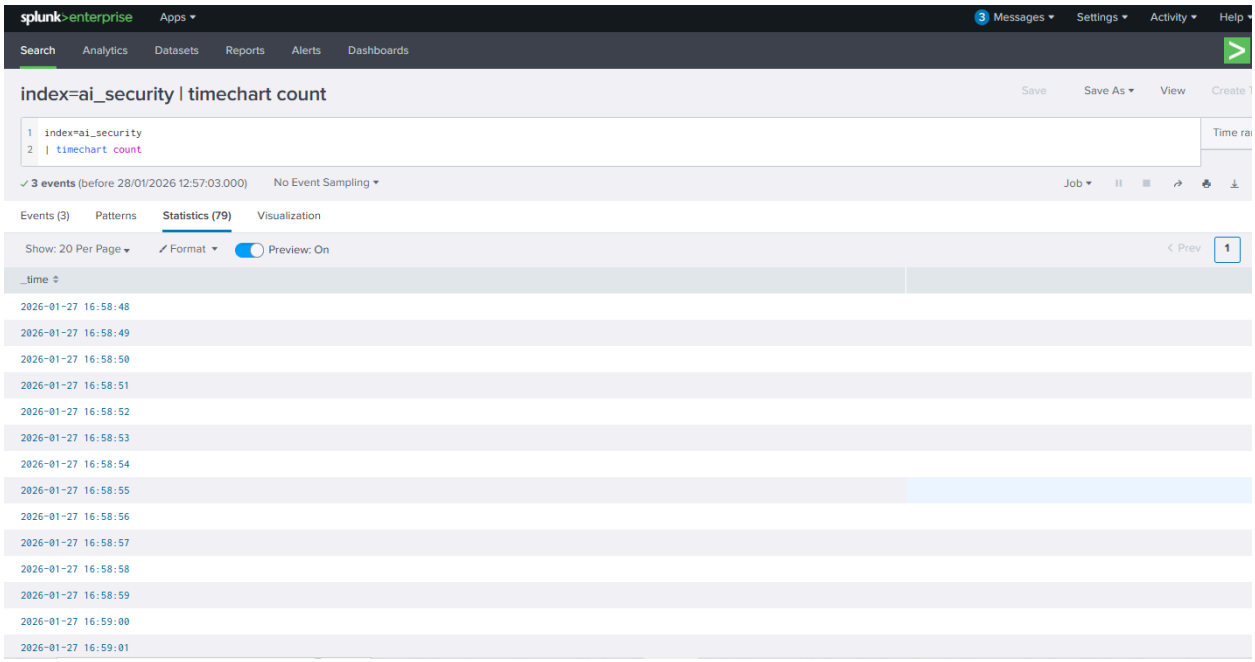


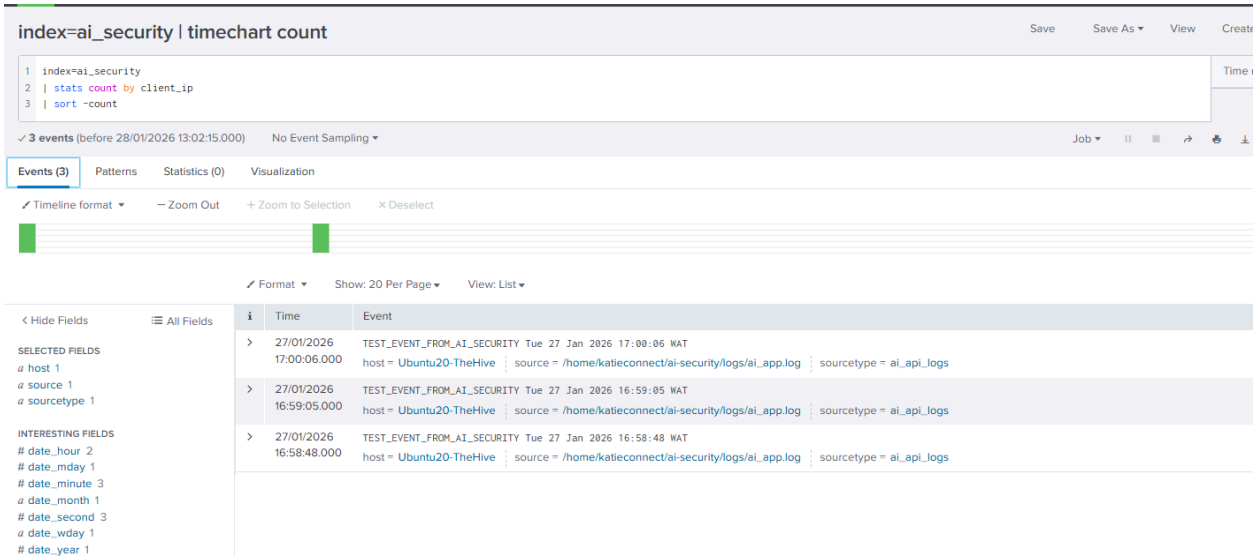
Dashboards

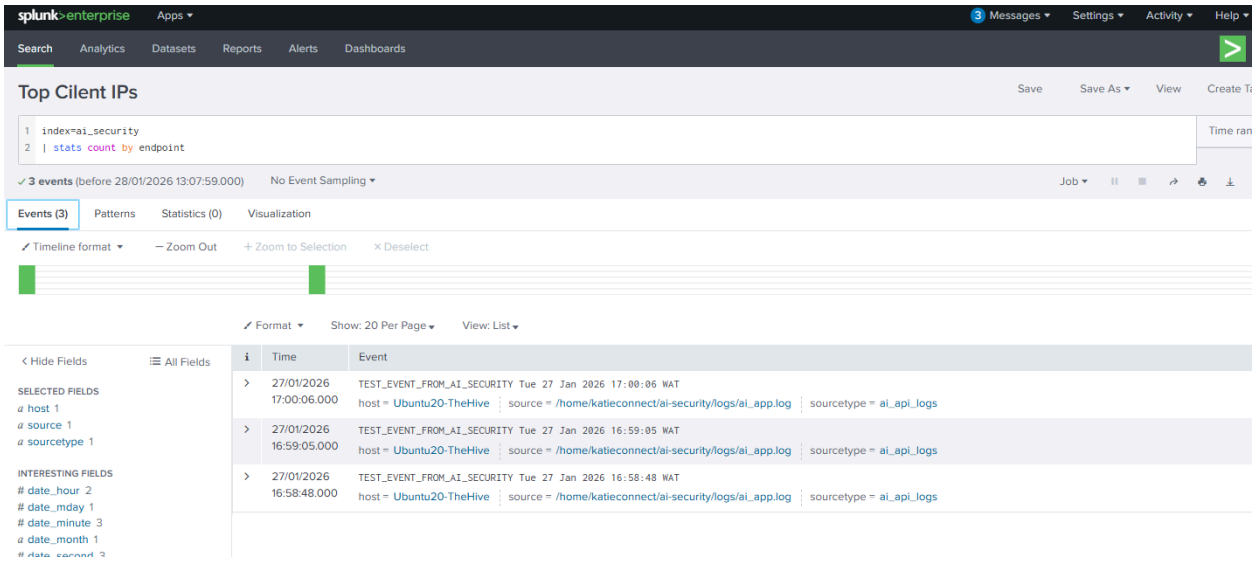
An **AI API Security Monitoring Dashboard** was created to provide continuous visibility.

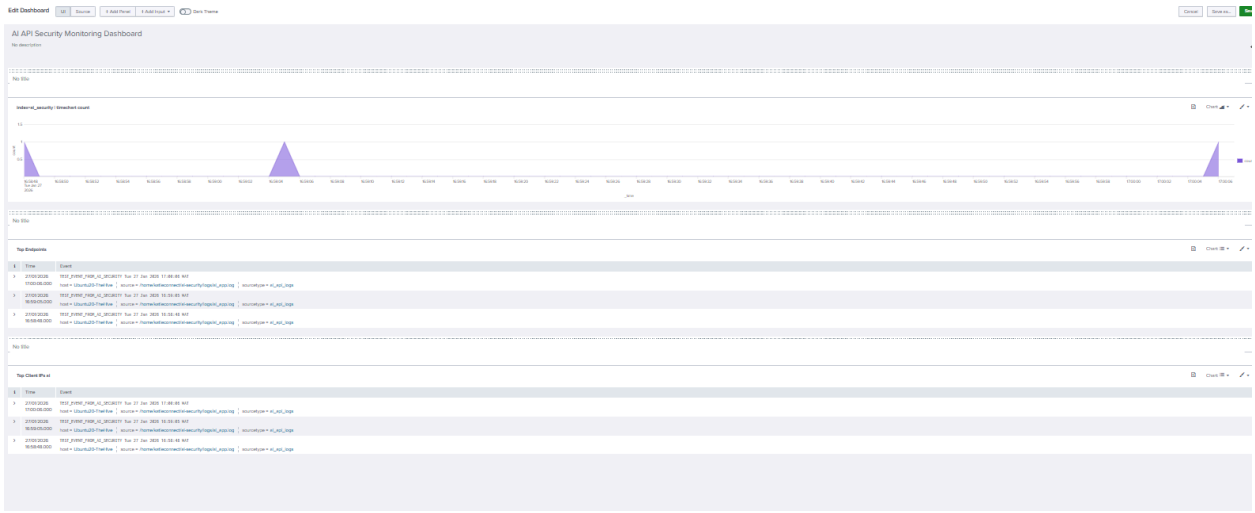
Dashboard Panels

- Total events over time
- Most accessed API endpoints
- Client IP activity




index=ai_security | timechart count
Save
Save As
View
index=ai_security
| stats count by client_ip
| sort -count
3 events (before 28/01/2026 13:02:15.000)
No Event Sampling
Job
Events (3)
Patterns
Statistics (0)
Visualization
Timeline format
Zoom Out
Zoom to Selection
Deselect
Format
Show: 20 Per Page
View: List
Hide Fields
All Fields
SELECTED FIELDS
a host 1
a source 1
a sourcetype 1
INTERESTING FIELDS
date_hour 2
date_mday 1
date_minute 3
a date_month 1
date_second 3
a date_wday 1
date_year 1
Time
Event
27/01/2026 17:00:06.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 17:00:06 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs
27/01/2026 16:59:05.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 16:59:05 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs
27/01/2026 16:58:48.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 16:58:48 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs


splunk>enterprise
Apps
3 Messages
Settings
Activity
Help
Search
Analytics
Datasets
Reports
Alerts
Dashboards
Top Cilent IPs
Save
Save As
View
index=ai_security
| stats count by endpoint
3 events (before 28/01/2026 13:07:59.000)
No Event Sampling
Job
Events (3)
Patterns
Statistics (0)
Visualization
Timeline format
Zoom Out
Zoom to Selection
Deselect
Format
Show: 20 Per Page
View: List
Hide Fields
All Fields
SELECTED FIELDS
a host 1
a source 1
a sourcetype 1
INTERESTING FIELDS
date_hour 2
date_mday 1
date_minute 3
a date_month 1
Time
Event
27/01/2026 17:00:06.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 17:00:06 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs
27/01/2026 16:59:05.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 16:59:05 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs
27/01/2026 16:58:48.000
TEST_EVENT_FROM_AI_SECURITY Tue 27 Jan 2026 16:58:48 WAT
host = Ubuntu20-TheHive source = /home/katieconnect/ai-security/logs/ai_app.log sourcetype = ai_api_logs



Alerting Limitations

Splunk Enterprise Free does not support scheduled alerts. As a result:

- Detection logic was saved as **Reports**
- Dashboards were used for continuous monitoring
- Alert behavior was documented conceptually

Conclusion

This project demonstrates how AI application logs can be transformed into actionable security telemetry using Splunk. It reflects real SOC activities including:

- Log ingestion troubleshooting
- Field extraction design
- Detection logic development
- Dashboard-driven monitoring
- Incident readiness planning

The project highlights the growing importance of **AI security observability** and provides a foundation for more advanced detection, alerting, and response workflows.