

# Apply Filters to SQL Queries

## Project description

As a security professional at a large organization, I am responsible for investigating potential security issues to ensure the system remains secure. I have been informed of concerns related to login attempts and employee machines. My task is to examine the organization's data by querying the **employees** and **log\_in\_attempts** tables using SQL filters. By retrieving relevant records from these datasets, I used the query outputs and analyzed login patterns to identify any suspicious activity to mitigate potential threats.

## Retrieve after hours failed login attempts

```
MariaDB [organization]> clear
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 (0.147 sec)
```

Company business hours end at 6 pm (18:00) and I was tasked to look into failed login attempts made after business hours in a potential security incident. To investigate this, I made a sequel query where I asked the database to give me all the information (**SELECT \***) of accounts that tried to log in (**FROM log\_in\_attempts**) after business hours (**WHERE login\_time > '18:00'**) and who failed (**AND success = FALSE**). The query gave me back an output of information about failed login attempts, giving me the **event\_id**, **username** of the account that failed to log in, the **login\_date** and **login\_time** of the attempt, the **country** in which the attempt was made,

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the `ip_address` of the device used to attempt, and `success` of the attempt. The success of the attempts are shown as `0` to indicate a `FALSE` success, if the individual had succeeded then the success column would have a `1` to indicate a `TRUE` success, but since I only specified login attempts that failed there are no `1`s in the results. The `AND` in (`WHERE login_time > '18:00' AND success = FALSE`) lets SQL know that both conditions needed to be met in the results I needed which is how I got the specific results.

Retrieve login attempts on specific dates

```
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
4	dkot	2022-05-08	02:00:39	USA	192.168.178.71	0
8	bisles	2022-05-08	01:30:17	US	192.168.119.173	0
12	dkot	2022-05-08	09:11:34	USA	192.168.100.158	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
26	apatel	2022-05-08	17:27:00	CANADA	192.168.123.105	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
36	asundara	2022-05-08	09:00:42	US	192.168.78.151	1
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
43	mcouliba	2022-05-08	02:35:34	CANADA	192.168.16.208	0
44	daquino	2022-05-08	07:02:35	CANADA	192.168.168.144	0
47	dkot	2022-05-08	05:06:45	US	192.168.233.24	1
49	asundara	2022-05-08	14:00:01	US	192.168.173.213	0
53	nmason	2022-05-08	11:51:38	CAN	192.168.133.188	1
56	acook	2022-05-08	04:56:30	CAN	192.168.209.130	1
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
66	aestrada	2022-05-08	21:58:32	MEX	192.168.67.223	1
67	abernard	2022-05-09	11:53:41	MEX	192.168.118.29	1
68	mrah	2022-05-08	17:16:13	US	192.168.42.248	1

A suspicious event occurred on 2022-05-09. To investigate this event, I was asked to look into the attempts made in the days of 05/08/2022 and 05/09/2022 so I then updated the query to show me specifically `log_in_attempts` made within the `login_date = '2022-05-09' OR login_date = '2022-05-08'` since using `AND` would only give the information of the accounts that made the attempts on both days and not just ones that attempted on one and not the

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other or even on both days. By specifying the dates I need I can avoid having to go scrolling through hundreds of results trying to find the dates I need.

Retrieve login attempts outside of Mexico

```
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	mrh	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	lyamamoto	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	iuduke	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
33	zbernal	2022-05-11	02:52:10	US	192.168.72.59	1
34	drosas	2022-05-11	21:02:04	US	192.168.45.93	0
36	asundara	2022-05-08	09:00:42	US	192.168.78.151	1
37	eraab	2022-05-10	06:03:41	CANADA	192.168.152.148	0
38	sbaelish	2022-05-09	14:40:01	USA	192.168.60.42	1
41	apatel	2022-05-10	17:39:42	CANADA	192.168.46.207	0

There's been suspicious activity with login attempts, but the team has determined that this activity didn't originate in Mexico. I had to make a SQL query to investigate login attempts that occurred outside of Mexico. I kept the same first two command lines since I still am requesting all the information of the account and events of the table `log_in_attempts`, only this time I changed the `WHERE` to indicate that I was looking for results that were `NOT` from the `country` of Mexico, but different tables files showed Mexico written as `MEXICO` and some as `MEX`, so I had to make the command line read `WHERE NOT country LIKE 'MEX%'`. The `%` sign after `Mex` indicates I'm looking for results where the `country` column has results that have `MEX` in it but that also could have more letters after the `MEX`; like `ICO` for example. This would result in the query giving

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me results from all attempts made outside of Mexico, so the query would isolate any results that have **MEX** or **MEXICO** or any variation of Mexico in the **country** column.

## Retrieve employees in Marketing

```
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 | k865l965m233 | 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 (0.001 sec)

MariaDB [organization]> 
```

My team wants to perform security updates on specific employee machines in the **Marketing** department who work in all **East** offices. I am responsible for getting information on these employee machines, so I made a query on information **FROM** the **employees** table this time looking for people who work in the **Marketing** department **AND** who work in any of the **East** offices. Before, I was inquiring for information on the **log\_in\_attempts** table but now I'm looking for information on **employees** so the **FROM** now reads **FROM employees** to reflect the change in table. I'm still looking to get all the information on the results so the **SELECT \*** stays the same. Since I'm looking for results for employees in the **Marketing** department, and who work in the **East** offices the **WHERE** then had to be adjusted to reflect my query and so I wrote the query as **WHERE department = 'Marketing' AND office LIKE 'East%'**. This line indicates that I'm seeking results that have the **Marketing** value in the **department** column but also that the results must contain a value of **East** in the **office** column but the **%** sign indicates that it could have anything after **East** allowing the results to come back with every **employee** from every possible **East** office available.

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Retrieve employees in Finance or Sales

```
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	k242l212m542	jlansky	Finance	South-109
1011	l748m120n401	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	j236k303l245	bisles	Sales	South-171
1039	n253o917p623	cjackson	Sales	East-378
1041	p929q222r778	cgriffin	Sales	North-208
1044	s429t157u159	tbarnes	Finance	West-415
1045	t567u844v434	pwashing	Finance	East-115
1046	u429v921w138	daquino	Finance	West-280
1047	v109w587x644	cward	Finance	West-373
1048	w167x592y375	tmitchel	Finance	South-288
1049	NULL	jreckley	Finance	Central-295
1050	y132z930a114	csimmons	Finance	North-468
1057	f370g535h632	mscott	Sales	South-270
1062	k367l639m697	redwards	Finance	North-180
1063	l686m140n569	lpope	Sales	East-226
1066	o678p794q957	ttyrell	Sales	Central-444
1069	NULL	jpark	Finance	East-110
1071	t244u829v723	zdutchma	Sales	West-348

My team now needs to perform a different security update on machines for **employees** in the **Sales** and **Finance** departments. To get the information I would need I went ahead and made a query that gave me results for the machines that are in the **Finance** department and the **Sales** department by just altering the **WHERE** to specifically ask for the two departments I need. The first two lines would remain the same from the previous query I made but the **WHERE** would now read **WHERE department = 'Finance' OR department = 'Sales'** giving me a list of all employees that are either in **Finance** or in **Sales**.



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Retrieve all employees not 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	k242l212m542	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
1022	w237x430y567	arusso	Finance	West-465
1024	y976z753a267	iuduike	Sales	South-215
1025	z381a365b233	jhill	Sales	North-115
1026	a998b568c863	apatel	Human Resources	West-320
1027	b806c503d354	mrah	Marketing	West-246
1028	c603d749e374	astrada	Human Resources	West-121
1029	d336e475f676	ivelasco	Finance	East-156
1030	e391f189g913	mabadi	Marketing	West-375
1031	f419g188h578	dkot	Marketing	West-408
1034	i679j565k940	bsand	Human Resources	East-484
1035	j236k303l245	bisles	Sales	South-171
1036	k550l533m205	rjensen	Marketing	Central-239
1038	m873n636o225	btang	Human Resources	Central-260

My team needs to make one more update to employee machines. The employees who are in the **Information Technology** department already had this update, but employees in all other departments need it. The query would then have to isolate machines that are in the **Information Technology** department and to do this I wrote the query to indicate im not looking for machines that have the value of **Information Technology** in the **department** column by having it read **WHERE NOT department = 'Information Technology'**. This gave me all the results for every department aside from IT.

## Summary

I applied filters to SQL queries to get specific information on login attempts and employee machines. I used two different tables, **log\_in\_attempts** and **employees**. I used the **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** operators to filter for the specific information needed for each task. I also used **LIKE** and the percentage sign (%) wildcard to filter for patterns.