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, 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 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 | 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 |
|       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

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 | 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 (0.001 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 `employee` 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.

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 | k2421212m542 | 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 | j236k3031245 | 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 | k3671639m697 | 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`.

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 | 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   |
|        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 | aestrada | 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 | j236k3031245 | bisles   | Sales           | South-171   |
|        1036 | k5501533m205 | 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.