Activity: Perform a SQL query

Activity overview

Previously, you learned how to use basic SQL queries to retrieve information from a database. You have also learned about using the ORDER BY keyword to sort data returned in an ascending or a descending order.

In this lab activity, you'll use SELECT and FROM in SQL to return the information you need from a database. You'll also use the ORDER BY keyword to sequence the information returned by a query based on a specified column.

It's important to know how to query information from a database because this is a common task you might encounter as a security analyst. You should know how to get the information you need to improve security and keep data safe.

With that in mind, it's time to explore the scenario.

Note: The terms **row** and **record** are used interchangeably in this lab activity.

Scenario

In this scenario, you have to determine which employee devices must be updated. You also need to investigate user login activity to explore if any unusual activity has occurred.

The information you need is located in the machines and login_attempts tables in the organization database.

Here's how you'll do this task: **First**, you'll obtain information on the employee devices that must be updated. **Next**, you'll examine the login attempts for unusual activity. **Finally**, you'll use the ORDER BY keyword to sort the data returned by your SQL queries.

Task 1. Retrieve employee device data

In this task, you need to obtain information on employee devices because your team needs to update them. The information you need is in the machines table in the organization database.

First, you need to retrieve all the information about the employee devices.

1. Run the following query to select all device information from the machines table:

```
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A
Welcome to the MariaDB monitor. Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MariaDB connection id is 35
Server version: 10.5.29-MariaDB-0+deb11u1 Debian 11
Copyright (c) 2000, 2018, Oracle, MariaDB Corporation Ab and others.
Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.
MariaDB [organization]> clear
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
   -> FROM machines;
 device id
              | operating_system | email_client | OS_patch_date | employee_id |
 a184b775c707 | OS 1
                                  | Email Client 1 |
                                                     2021-09-01
 a192b174c940 | OS 2
                                 | Email Client 1 |
                                                     2021-06-01
                                                                            1052
                                 | Email Client 2 |
                                                                            1182
 a305b818c708 | OS 3
                                                     2021-06-01
                                  | Email Client 2 |
 a317b635c465 | OS 1
                                                     2021-03-01
                                                                             1130
 a320b137c219 | OS 2
                                  | Email Client 2
                                                     2021-03-01
                                                                             1000
 a398b471c573 | OS 3
                                 | Email Client 2 |
                                                     2021-12-01
                                                                              0
                                                                             1078
                                  | Email Client 1 |
 a667b270c984 | OS 1
                                                     2021-03-01
 a821b452c176 | OS 2
                                  | Email Client 2
                                                     2021-12-01
                                                                             1104
 a998b568c863 | OS 3
                                  | Email Client 1
                                                     2021-12-01
                                                                             1026
 b157c491d493 | OS 2
                                 | Email Client 1 |
                                                     2021-03-01
                                                                              0 |
 b239c825d303 | OS 1
                                                                             1001
                                  | Email Client 1 |
                                                     2021-03-01
                                  | Email Client 2 |
                                                                             1157
 b264c773d977
               | OS 2
                                                     2021-03-01
 b265c937d713 | OS 2
                                  | Email Client 1
                                                     2021-09-01
 b433c245d868 | OS 1
                                  | Email Client 1 |
| Email Client 1 |
                                                     2021-06-01
                                                                             1079
 b551c837d758 | OS 3
                                                     2021-03-01
                                                                             1105
 b566c710d544 | OS 1
                                    Email Client 1
                                                     2021-06-01
                                                                             1183
 b806c503d354
                                    Email Client
                                                     2021-12-01
                                                                             1027
              | OS 2
 b979c871d361 | OS 2
                                    Email Client 1 |
                                                     2021-03-01
                                                                             1053
 c116d593e558 | OS 3
                                    Email Client 1 | 2021-09-01
                                                                             1002
```

Next, you want to focus on the email client running on various devices.

2. Run the following query to select only the device_id and email_client columns from the machines table. Replace X with device_id and Y with email_client:

```
200 rows in set (0.029 sec)
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT X, Y FROM machines;
ERROR 1054 (42322): Unknown column 'X' in 'field list'
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT X, Y FROM machines;
ERROR 1054 (42322): Unknown column 'X' in 'field list'
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT device_id, email_client FROM machines;
                        | email_client
  a184b775c707 | Email Client 1
a192b174c940 | Email Client 1
   a305b818c708 | Email Client 2
   a317b635c465 | Email Client 2
a320b137c219 | Email Client 2
   a398b471c573 | Email Client
a667b270c984 | Email Client
a821b452c176 | Email Client
   a998b568c863 | Email Client
   b157c491d493 | Email Client
   b239c825d303 | Email Client
   b264c773d977 | Email Client
b265c937d713 | Email Client
   b433c245d868 | Email Client
b551c837d758 | Email Client
   b566c710d544 |
                            Email Client
   b806c503d354 | Email Client
   b979c871d361 |
   b979c871d361 | Email Client
c116d593e558 | Email Client
   c150d982e144 | Email Client
   c185d679e493 |
                            Email Client
   c406d877e950 | Email Client
   c547d140e477 | Email Client
   c568d742e974 | Email Client
   c597d792e215 |
                            Email Client
   c603d749e374 | Email Client
c986d200e170 | Email Client
d168e758f876 | Email Client
   d280e557f635
                            Email Client
   d336e475f676 | Email Client 2
d394e816f943 | Email Client 2
   d647e310f618
   d693e351f221
                            Email Client
```

Now, you need information on the operating systems used on various devices and their last patch date.

3. Complete the query to return only the device_id, operating_system, and OS_patch_date columns from the machines table. Replace X, Y, and Z with the columns that you need to return:

MariaDB [organi	zation]> SELECT dev	ice_id, operatin	g_system, OS_patch_date FROM machines;
device_id	operating_system	08_patch_date	* !
a184b775c707	08 1	+ 2021-09-01	+ 1
a192b174c940		2021-06-01	i .
a305b818c708		2021-06-01	i .
a317b635c465		2021-03-01	i .
a320b137c219	OS 2	2021-03-01	i .
a398b471c573	OS 3	2021-12-01	i .
a667b270c984	os 1	2021-03-01	
a821b452c176	08 2	2021-12-01	i
a998b568c863	l os 3	2021-12-01	
b157c491d493	OS 2	2021-03-01	i
b239c825d303	OS 1	2021-03-01	
b264c773d977	OS 2	2021-03-01	i
b265c937d713		2021-09-01	
b433c245d868	08 1	2021-06-01	i
b551c837d758	l os 3	2021-03-01	
b566c710d544	08 1	2021-06-01	i
b806c503d354	OS 2	2021-12-01	
b979c871d361	08 2	2021-03-01	
c116d593e558	08 3	2021-09-01	
c150d982e144	08 2	2021-06-01	
c185d679e493	08 1	2021-09-01	
c406d877e950	08 2	2021-06-01	
c547d140e477	08 2	2021-03-01	
c568d742e974	08 2	2021-09-01	
c597d792e215	OS 2	2021-09-01	
c603d749e374	08 1	2021-12-01	
c986d200e170	OS 2	2021-09-01	
d168e758f876	OS 2	2021-09-01	
d280e557f635	OS 3	2021-03-01	
d336e475f676	OS 2	2021-06-01	
d394e816f943	OS 3	2021-03-01	
d647e310f618	OS 2	2021-06-01	
d693e351f221	OS 2	2021-09-01	
d790e839f461	OS 1	2021-06-01	
d831e972f553		2021-09-01	
d881e710f732		2021-03-01	
e113f288g203	08 2	2021-03-01	
e121f951g937		2021-06-01	
e127f591g924		2021-12-01	
e218f877g788		2021-09-01	
e281f433g404		2021-12-01	
e301f659g551		2021-12-01	
e391f189g913		2021-12-01	
e395f616g566	OS 2	2021-03-01	
e782f537g683	OS 1	2021-03-01	

Task 2. Investigate login activity

In this task, you need to analyze the information from the log_in_attempts table to determine if any unusual activity has occurred.

First, you need to investigate the locations where login attempts were made to ensure that they're in expected areas (the United States, Canada, or Mexico).

1. Write a SQL query to select the event_id and country columns from the log_in_attempts table.

Next, you need to check if login attempts were made outside of the organization's working hours.

2. Write a SQL query that selects the username, login_date, and login_time columns from the log_in_attempts table.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT username, login_date, login_time FROM log_in_attempts
 username | login date | login time
             2022-05-10
2022-05-09
                            20:27:27 06:47:41
  apatel
 dkot
              2022-05-08
                            02:00:39
  dkot
  jrafael
              2022-05-11
  arutley
              2022-05-12
2022-05-11
                            17:00:59
01:45:14
  eraab
 bisles
              2022-05-08
                            01:30:17
  yappiah
              2022-05-11
                            13:47:29
  jrafael
              2022-05-12
                            09:33:19
  sgilmore
              2022-05-11
                            10:16:29
              2022-05-08
 dkot
                            09:11:34
              2022-05-11
                            09:29:34
  mrah
  sbaelish
              2022-05-10
                            10:20:18
                            17:17:26
  lyamamot
              2022-05-09
  mcouliba
              2022-05-11
                            06:44:22
              2022-05-11
                            02:33:02
 pwashing
 pwashing
jhill
              2022-05-11
                            19:28:50
              2022-05-12
2022-05-12
                            13:09:04
                            18:56:36
  tshah
  iuduike
              2022-05-11
              2022-05-11
                            00:59:26
  rjensen
              2022-05-10
  yappiah
                            18:11:53
              2022-05-09
                            06:49:39
  arusso
              2022-05-09
                            07:04:02
  sbaelish
              2022-05-08
  aalonso
              2022-05-10
                            01:55:35
  aestrada
              2022-05-09
                            19:28:12
              2022-05-11
 bisles
                            01:21:22
 yappiah
acook
              2022-05-09
                            03:22:22
              2022-05-12
                            17:36:45
              2022-05-09
2022-05-11
  acook
                            02:52:02
  zbernal
                            02:52:10
              2022-05-11
                            21:02:04
  drosas
              2022-05-10
                            15:26:08
  asundara
              2022-05-08
                            09:00:42
              2022-05-10
  eraab
                            06:03:41
  sbaelish
              2022-05-09
                            14:40:01
  yappiah
              2022-05-09
                            07:56:40
                            15:15:46
17:39:42
  aalonso
              2022-05-12
              2022-05-10
  apatel
 cgriffin
              2022-05-09
                            23:04:05
  mcouliba
              2022-05-08
                            02:35:34
  daquino
              2022-05-08
                            07:02:35
  dtanaka
              2022-05-11
                            10:28:54
```

Now, you need to get a complete picture of all login attempts.

3. Write a SQL query that selects all columns from the log_in_attempts table, using a single symbol after the SELECT keyword.

MariaDB [org	ganization]:	> SELECT * FRO	OM log_in_atte	empts;		
+	username	login_date	+ login_time	country	ip_address	success
1	jrafael	2022-05-09	04:56:27	CAN	192.168.243.140	1 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
6	arutley	2022-05-12	17:00:59	MEXICO	192.168.3.24	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
9	yappiah	2022-05-11	13:47:29	MEX	192.168.59.136	1
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
20	tshah	2022-05-12	18:56:36	MEXICO	192.168.109.50	0
21	iuduike	2022-05-11	17:50:00	US	192.168.131.147	1
22	rjensen	2022-05-11	00:59:26	MEX	192.168.213.128	0
23	yappiah	2022-05-10	18:11:53	MEXICO	192.168.200.48	1
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
27	aalonso	2022-05-10	01:55:35	MEX	192.168.103.210	0
28	aestrada	2022-05-09	19:28:12	MEXICO	192.168.27.57	0
29	bisles	2022-05-11	01:21:22	US	192.168.85.186	0
30	yappiah	2022-05-09	03:22:22	MEX	192.168.124.48	1
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
35	tshah	2022-05-10	15:26:08	MEX	192.168.92.147	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 1
39	yappiah	2022-05-09	07:56:40	MEXICO	192.168.57.115	1
40	aalonso	2022-05-12	15:15:46	MEX	192.168.174.186	0 1
41	apatel	2022-05-10	17:39:42	CANADA	192.168.46.207	0 1
42	cgriffin	2022-05-09	23:04:05	US	192.168.4.157	. o i
43	mcouliba	2022-05-08	02:35:34	CANADA	192.168.16.208	0 1
44	daquino	2022-05-08	07:02:35	CANADA	192.168.168.144	. 0 j
	dtanaka	2022-05-11		US	192.168.223.157	1 1

Task 3. Order login attempts data

In this task, you need to use the ORDER BY keyword. You'll sequence the data that your query returns according to the login date and time.

First, you need to sort the information by date.

1. Run the following query, which orders log_in_attempts data by login_date:

200 rows in	set (0.001	sec)							
wariann farr		ant nom +							
MariaDB [org	ganization].	> SELECT -							
	-> -> FROM log in attempts								
	log_in_atte	empts							
	-> -> ORDER BY login date;								
+		+	+		+	++			
event_id	username	login_date	login_time	country	ip_address	success			
145	ivelasco	2022-05-08	09:06:02	CANADA	192.168.39.196	1 1			
163	tmitchel	2022-05-08		MEX	192.168.119.29	 . 0 i			
36	asundara	2022-05-08		US	192.168.78.151	1 1			
165	irecklev	2022-05-08	15:28:43	MEXICO	192.168.34.193	 0 i			
168	jlansky	2022-05-08	13:25:42	USA	192.168.210.94	1 1			
169	alevitsk	2022-05-08	08:10:43	CANADA	192.168.210.228	 0 i			
72	alevitsk	2022-05-08	12:09:10	CANADA	192.168.139.176	1 1			
101	sbaelish	2022-05-08	12:01:22	US	192.168.145.158	. – . O i			
172	mabadi	2022-05-08	08:06:50	US	192.168.180.41	1 1			
150	nmason	2022-05-08	14:40:02	CAN	192.168.204.124	. – . O i			
68	mrah	2022-05-08	17:16:13	US	192.168.42.248	1 1			
66	aestrada	2022-05-08	21:58:32	MEX	192.168.67.223	1 1			
53	nmason		11:51:38	CAN	192.168.133.188	1 1			
147	yappiah	2022-05-08	06:04:34	MEX	192.168.65.245	0 1			
148	daquino	2022-05-08	06:15:55	CANADA	192.168.135.6	1 1			
49	asundara	2022-05-08	14:00:01	US	192.168.173.213	 . 0 i			
47	dkot	2022-05-08		US	192.168.233.24	1 1			
44	daguino	2022-05-08	07:02:35	CANADA	192.168.168.144	0 1			
43	mcouliba	2022-05-08	02:35:34	CANADA	192.168.16.208	0 1			
56	acook	2022-05-08	04:56:30	CAN	192.168.209.130	1 1			
80	cjackson	2022-05-08	02:18:10	CANADA	192.168.33.140	1 1			
117	bsand	2022-05-08	00:19:11	USA	192.168.197.187				
12	dkot	2022-05-08	09:11:34	USA	192.168.100.158	1 1			
189	nmason	2022-05-08	05:37:24	CANADA	192.168.168.117	1 1			
191	cjackson		06:46:07	CANADA	192.168.7.187				
8		2022-05-08	01:30:17	US	192.168.119.173	0 1			
193		2022-05-08	07:11:29	US	192.168.125.240				
4		2022-05-08	02:00:39	USA	192.168.178.71	0 1			
197	jsoto	2022-05-08	09:05:09	US	192.168.36.21	0 1			
26	apatel	2022-05-08	17:27:00	CANADA	192.168.123.105	1 1			
92	pwashing	2022-05-08	00:36:12	US	192.168.247.219	0 1			
178	sgilmore	2022-05-08	12:27:22	CAN	192.168.52.216				
83	lrodrigu		08:10:23	USA	192.168.67.69	1 1			
184	alevitsk	2022-05-08	03:09:48	CAN	192.168.33.70	0 1			
87	apatel	2022-05-08	22:38:31	CANADA	192.168.132.153	. 0 .			
70	tmitchel	2022-05-09		MEXICO	192.168.87.199	1 1			
61	dtanaka	2022-05-09	09:45:18	USA	192.168.98.221	1 1			
96	ivelasco	2022-05-09	22:36:36	CAN	192.168.84.194				
58	ivelasco	2022-05-09		CAN	192.168.57.162	0 1			

Now, you need to further organize the previous results by ordering them by login_time.

2. Modify the query from the previous step by adding the login time to the ORDER BY clause. You must replace X with the appropriate column name:

```
ariaDB [organization] > SELECT *
    -> FROM log_in_attempts
-> ORDER BY login_date, X;
ERROR 1054 (42S22): Unknown column 'X' in 'order clause'
 ariaDB [organization] > SELECT '
    -> FROM log in attempts
    -> ORDER BY login_date, login_time
    -> SELECT
    -> FROM log_in_attempts
    -> ORDER BY login_date, login_time;
ERROR 1064 (42000): You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual that corresponds to your Mari
DB server version for the right syntax to use near 'SELECT *
FROM log_in_attempts
ORDER BY login_date, login_time' at line 6
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
    -> FROM log in attempts
    -> ORDER BY login_date, login_time;
  event_id | username | login_date | login_time | country | ip_address
                                                                                      success
       117 | bsand
                         | 2022-05-08 | 00:19:11
                                                                   192.168.197.187
        92 | pwashing | 2022-05-08
8 | bisles | 2022-05-08
                                         01:30:17
                                                        US
                                                                   192.168.119.173
                                                                  1 192.168.178.71
            dkot
                          2022-05-08
                                         02:00:39
                                                        USA
         80 | cjackson | 2022-05-08
                                         02:18:10
                                                        CANADA
                                                                 | 192.168.33.140
         43 | mcouliba |
                          2022-05-08
                                                                   192.168.16.208
                                         02:35:34
                                                        CANADA
       184 | alevitsk |
                          2022-05-08
                                         03:09:48
                                                        CAN
                                                                    192.168.33.70
                          2022-05-08
                                                                   192.168.209.130
        56 | acook
                                         04:56:30
                                                        CAN
         47 | dkot
                          2022-05-08
                                                                   192.168.233.24
                                         05:06:45
                                                        US
            nmason
                           2022-05-08
                                         05:37:24
                                                        CANADA
                                                                    192.168.168.117
        147
                          2022-05-08
                                         06:04:34
                                                        MEX
                                                                    192.168.65.245
              yappiah
                                                        CANADA
                                                                   192.168.135.6
        148 I
              daquino
                          2022-05-08
                                         06:15:55
        191
            | cjackson |
                          2022-05-08
                                         06:46:07
                                                        CANADA
                                                                   192.168.7.187
192.168.168.144
              daquino
                           2022-05-08
                                         07:02:35
                                                        CANADA
              lrodriqu
                           2022-05-08
                                                                    192.168.125.240
              mabadi
                          2022-05-08 |
                                         08:06:50
                                                        US
                                                                   192.168.180.41
```

Lab Summary: Perform a SQL Query

Course: Tools of the Trade: Linux and SQL

In this lab I practiced retrieving and organizing data from the machines and log_in_attempts tables in the organization database. I used SELECT * to return all device information from the machines table and then focused on specific columns like device_id, email_client, operating_system, and OS_patch_date.

For login activity, I queried the log_in_attempts table to review event IDs and countries, checked usernames with login dates and times, and displayed the full table with SELECT *. Finally, I used the ORDER BY keyword to sort login activity first by login_date and then refined it by adding login_time to order results chronologically.

This lab reinforced how to pull targeted information with SELECT and how to sequence results with ORDER BY, which are essential skills for analyzing security-related data.