Network Design, Traffic Analysis & SIEM Monitoring

Lab Documentation Report

1. Introduction

1.1 Objective

The challenge relates to the overall process concerning the design as well as protection of a small office network. The focus is on the application of subnetting to optimize IP address usage and logically segment the network to enhance efficiency and security. Substantive to the challenge is the process that entails the analysis of network activities to detect normal network communication patterns, as well as the assessment of potential network threats at the packet level. The challenge further incorporates the application of the concept of a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) solution that utilizes the Wazuh SIEM platform to continuously monitor the event logs to achieve comprehensive event analysis and overall real-time security insights and monitoring. The overall challenge seeks to collectively enable the learner to gain practical skills relevant to the different contours of network design, network inspection, and security aspects of network threat protection and event correlation.

1.2 Report by:

Name: Shah Devam

Email ID: shahdevam48@gmail.com

Tools used: Cisco Packet Tracer, Linux (Kali linux, Ubuntu), and Wazuh

2. Subnet Design for Small Office Network

2.1 Network Requirements

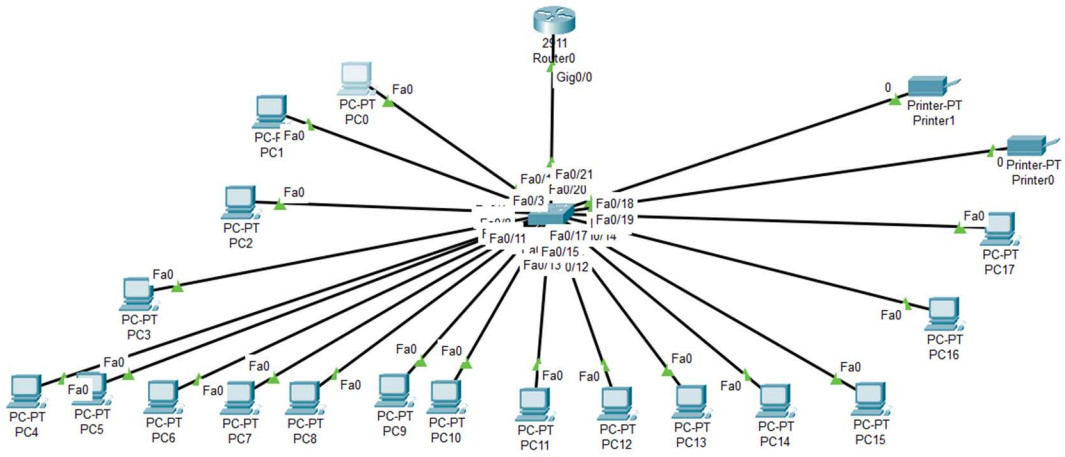
- Total devices: 20
- Environment: Small office

- Addressing: Private IP addressing
- Tool used: Cisco Packet Tracer

2.2 IP Range Selection

The private IP range **192.168.1.0/24** was selected because:

- It provides sufficient IP addresses for current and future expansion
- It is easy to manage and widely used in small office environments
- It allows clean separation from public networks



2.3 Subnet Calculation

PARAMETER	VALUE
CIDR NOTATION	/24
SUBNET MASK	255.255.255.0
TOTAL IPS	256

USABLE IPS	254
NETWORK ADDRESS	192.168.1.0
BROADCAST ADDRESS	192.168.1.255
USABLE RANGE	192.168.1.1 – 192.168.1.254

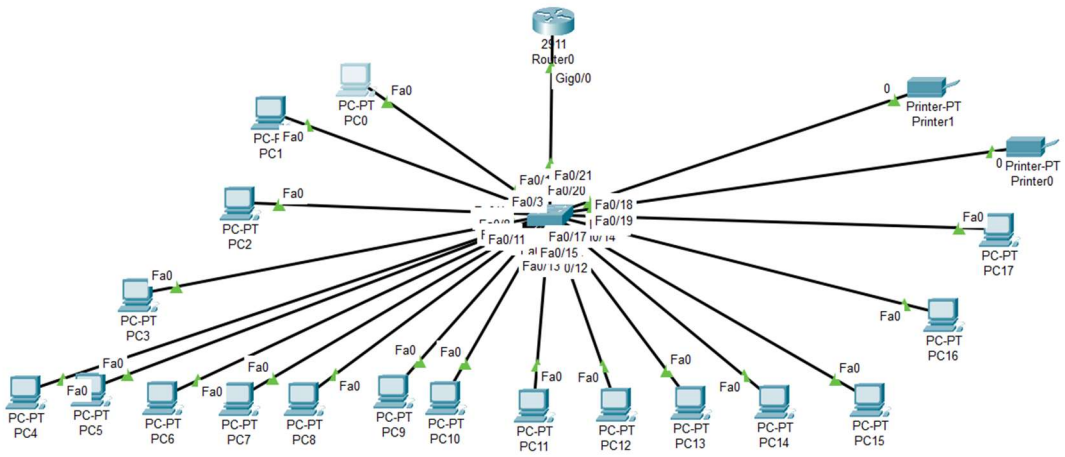
3. Network Topology Implementation (Cisco Packet Tracer)

3.1 Topology Design

The network consists of:

- One router (default gateway)
- One switch
- Multiple end devices (PCs and printers)

All devices are connected in a star topology via a central switch.



Small office network topology designed using Cisco Packet Tracer

3.2 DHCP Configuration via Router CLI

DHCP was configured on the router to automatically assign IP addresses to client devices, reducing manual configuration errors.

```
Router#show ip in
Router#show ip interface b
Router#show ip interface brief
Interface              IP-Address      OK? Method Status                Protocol
GigabitEthernet0/0     192.168.1.1     YES manual up                    up
GigabitEthernet0/1     unassigned      YES unset  administratively down down
GigabitEthernet0/2     unassigned      YES unset  administratively down down
Vlan1                  unassigned      YES unset  administratively down down
```

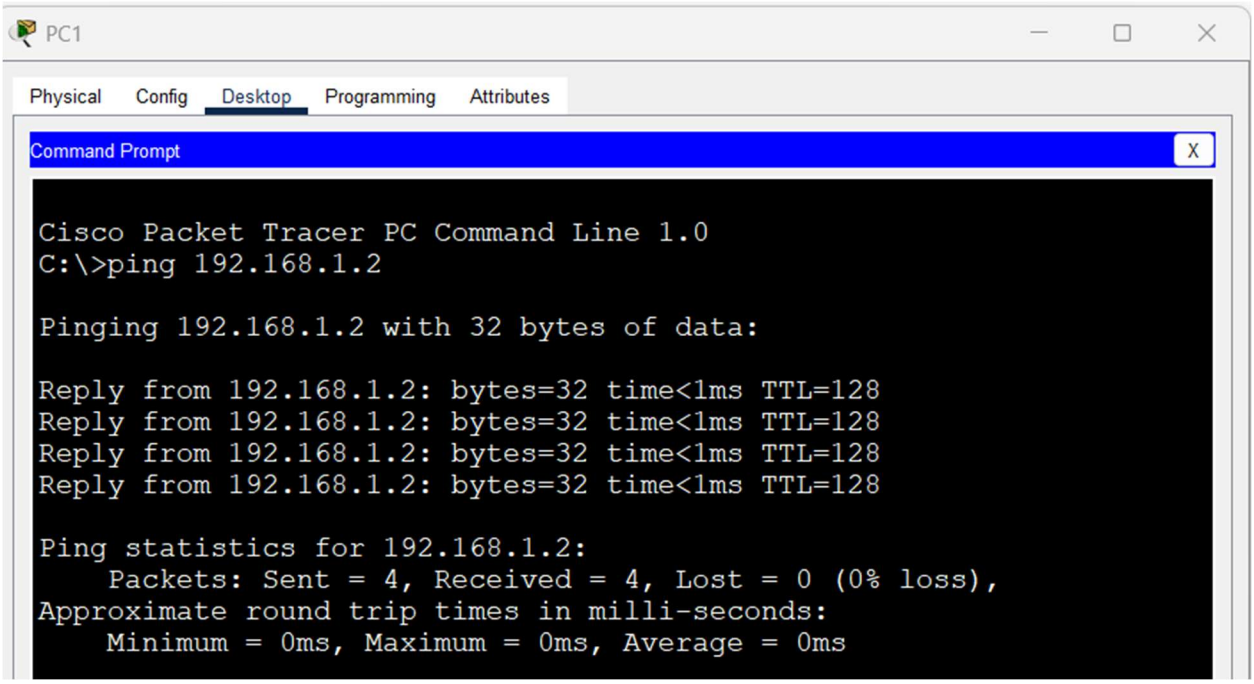
```
Router#show ip dhcp binding
IP address       Client-ID/              Lease expiration        Type
                 Hardware address
192.168.1.2      0009.7C34.55E3            --                    Automatic
192.168.1.3      000A.41E8.7726            --                    Automatic
```

```
ip dhcp pool OFFICENET
 network 192.168.1.0 255.255.255.0
 default-router 192.168.1.1
```

DHCP configuration on router using Cisco CLI

3.3 IP Address Verification

Client devices successfully received IP addresses from the DHCP pool.

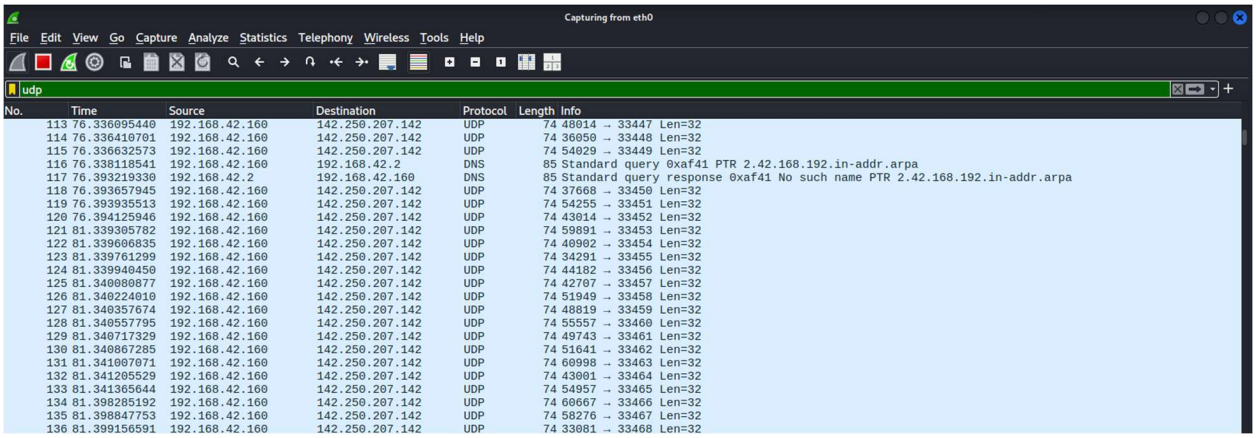


Successful IP address assignment verified using ipconfig on client device

4. Network Traffic Capture & Analysis

4.1 Traffic Capture Setup

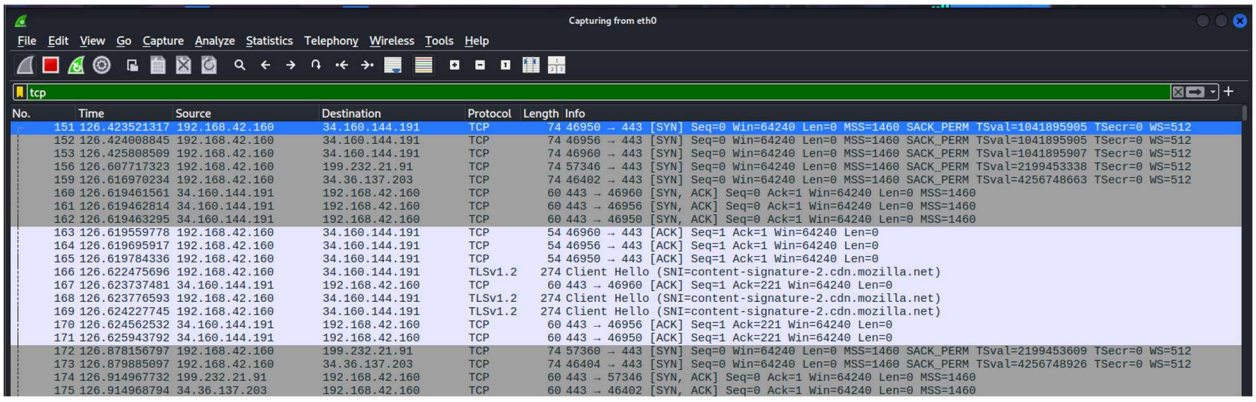
Wireshark was used as a packet sniffing utility to observe and track live communication flow in the environment. The traces captured involved communication made using various protocols like ICMP, which was used to verify connectivity and trace the path of communication in a network; HTTP, which was representative of communication made in a web-based application scenario; and TCP, which was useful in understanding the session establishment and the data transfer process in a communication session. This provided an opportunity to carefully analyze the details of the packets, the flow of communication, and the functionality of various protocols in a very practical way.



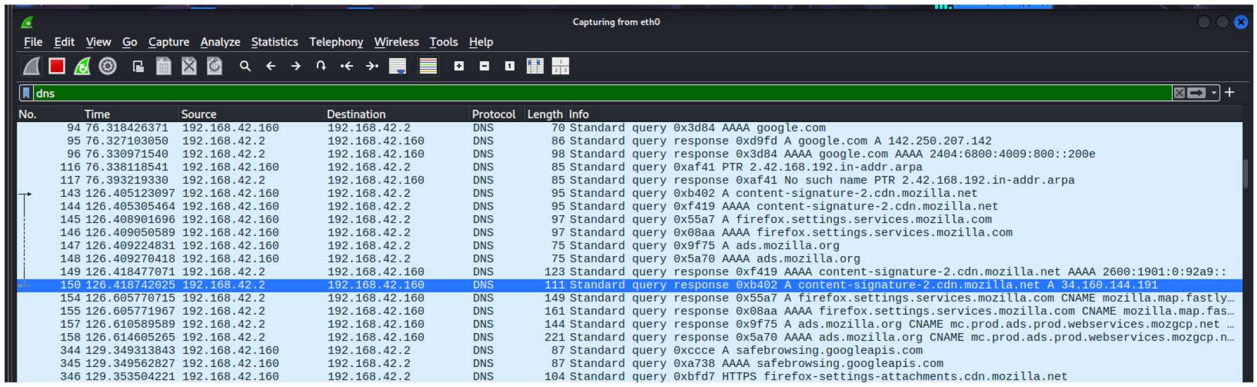
Live network traffic capture initiated in Wireshark

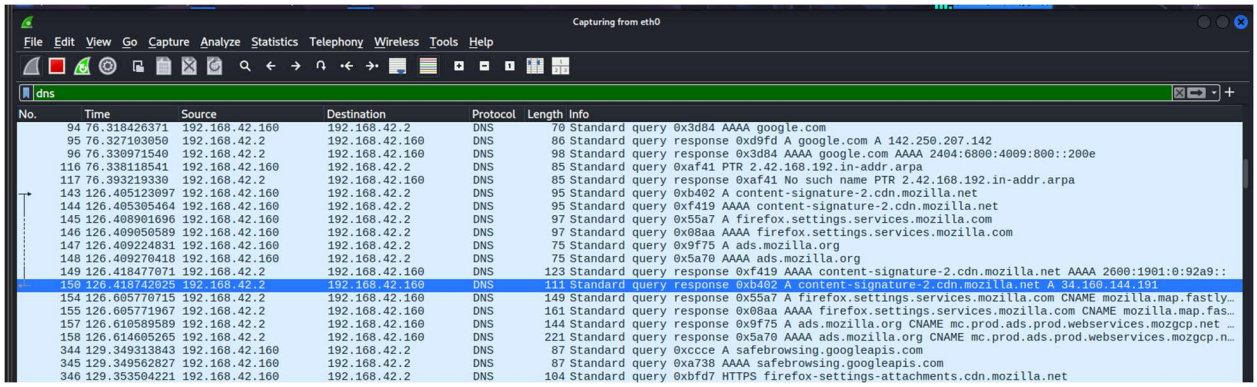
4.2 Protocol Analysis

Captured traffic was filtered to analyze different protocols such as TCP, UDP, and ICMP.



TCP Capture

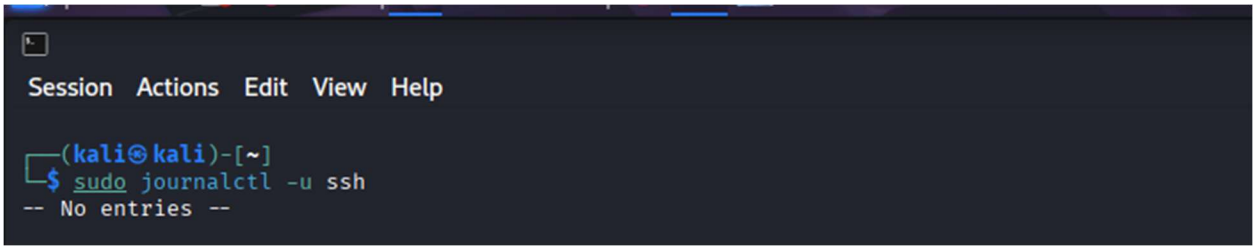




DNS

4.3 Top Talkers & Conversations

The statistical analysis capabilities that are inherent within Wireshark software were employed in analyzing the captured data in search of devices that were generating the most communications. Through such information as packets and protocol analysis as well as connection statistics, there was an ability to determine those computers in the network that were generating the most data in terms of communications. The software analysis not only enabled identification but also enabled visible interpretation regarding patterns and possible points within networks that could be conclusive in detecting errors in communications.

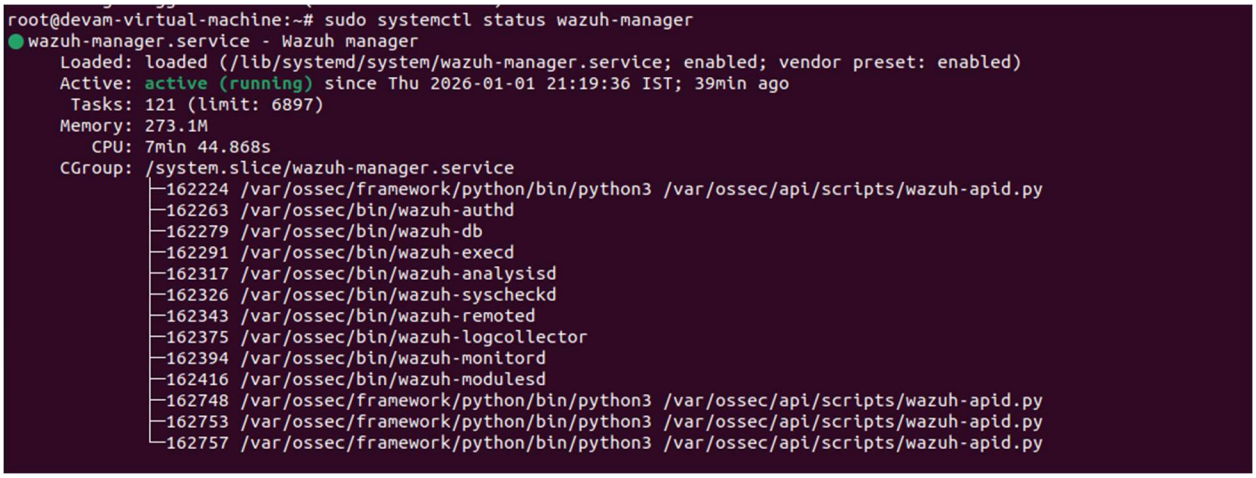


Kali checking SSH

5. SIEM Implementation Using Wazuh

5.1 Wazuh Agent & Manager Setup

The Wazuh agent was deployed on an intended monitored system and installed, ensuring the capture of endpoint activity and its forwarding for centralized analysis. After installation, the agent successfully registered itself with the Wazuh Manager and established a secure channel with it for the collection of logs, forwarding of events, and correlation based on rules. This established channel allowed the continuous sending of security data by the monitored system to the Wazuh platform for real-time visibility into the data, the detection of anomalies, and the generation of alerts according to predefined policies. It had been successfully integrated and corroborated that the SIEM infrastructure was working as it should, with the agent playing an active role in comprehensive security monitoring and incident detection.



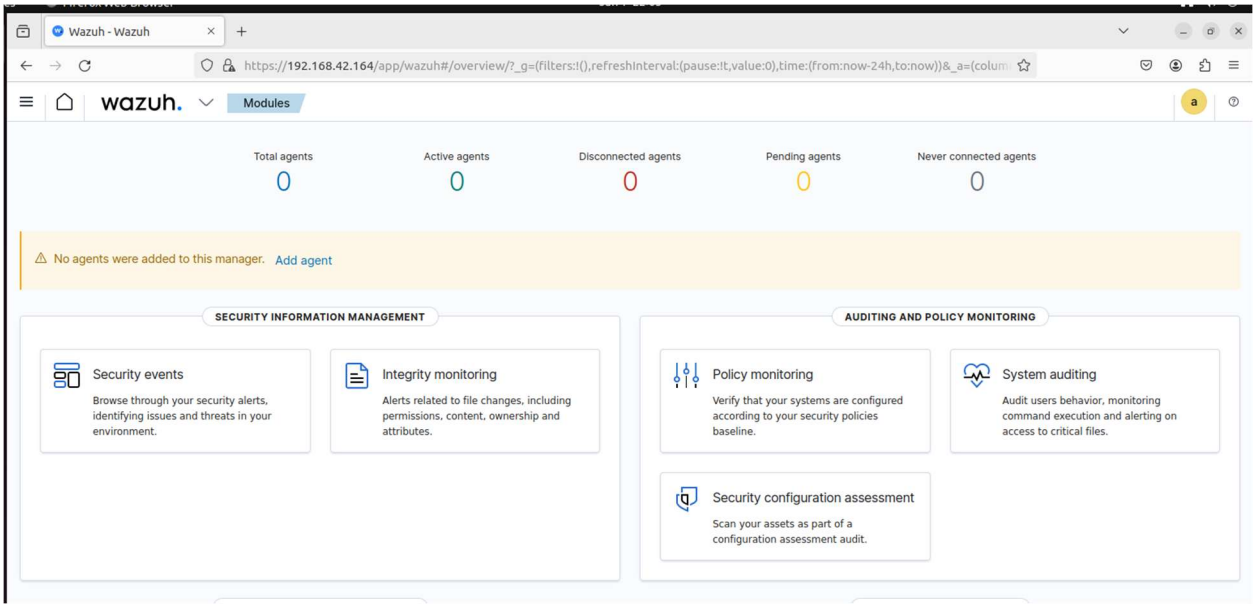
Wazuh manager is Active

```
● wazuh-indexer.service - Wazuh-indexer
     Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/wazuh-indexer.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
     Active: active (running) since Thu 2026-01-01 21:06:12 IST; 54min ago
       Docs: https://documentation.wazuh.com
   Main PID: 118392 (java)
      Tasks: 76 (limit: 6897)
     Memory: 2.2G
        CPU: 8min 49.086s
     CGroup: /system.slice/wazuh-indexer.service
             └─118392 /usr/share/wazuh-indexer/jdk/bin/java -Xshare:auto -Dopensearch.networkaddress.cache.ttl=60
```

Wazuh Indexer is Active

```
● wazuh-dashboard.service - wazuh-dashboard
     Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/system/wazuh-dashboard.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
     Active: active (running) since Thu 2026-01-01 21:32:06 IST; 28min ago
   Main PID: 165421 (node)
      Tasks: 11 (limit: 6897)
     Memory: 181.0M
        CPU: 55.095s
     CGroup: /system.slice/wazuh-dashboard.service
             └─165421 /usr/share/wazuh-dashboard/node/bin/node --no-warnings --max-http-header-size=65536
```

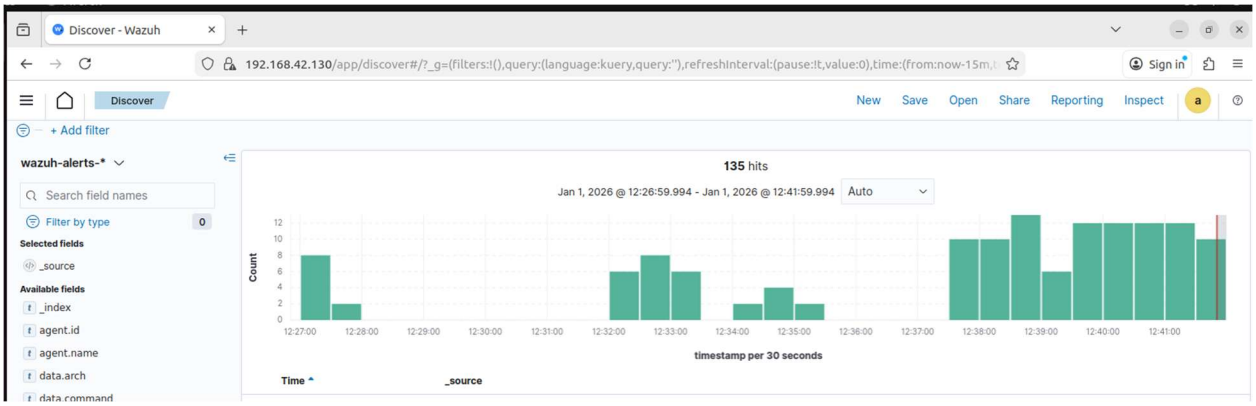
Wazuh Dashboard is Active



Wazuh agent is running active

5.2 Log Collection Verification

System logs, including authentication events, were successfully ingested into the SIEM platform.



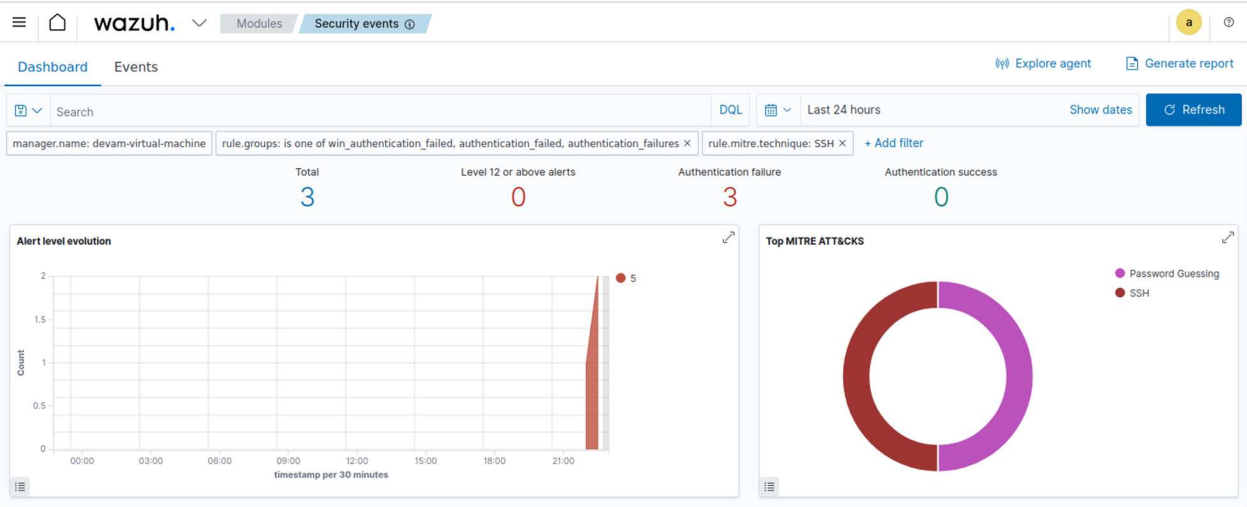
Total number of hits after various attempts

6. Security Incident Simulation (SSH Failed Login)

6.1 Attack Simulation

Multiple events of brute-force SSH login attempts were started on the target system to generate the brute-force attack. This controlled event was designed to mimic how a malicious attacker would repeatedly attempt to gain unauthorized access by systematically trying different username and password combinations. These events generated actual data for the monitoring tools and security platforms to detect suspicious login patterns, trigger alerts, and demonstrate the importance of intrusion detection mechanisms in safeguarding networked systems.

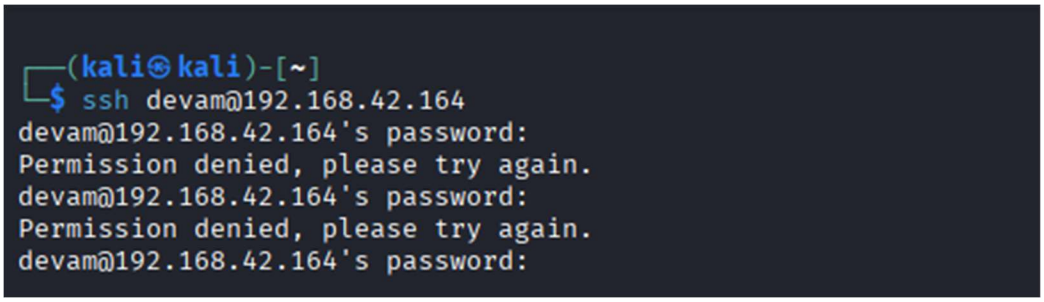
```
┌──(kali㉿kali)-[~]
└─$ ssh devam@192.168.42.164
devam@192.168.42.164's password:
Permission denied, please try again.
devam@192.168.42.164's password:
Permission denied, please try again.
devam@192.168.42.164's password:
```

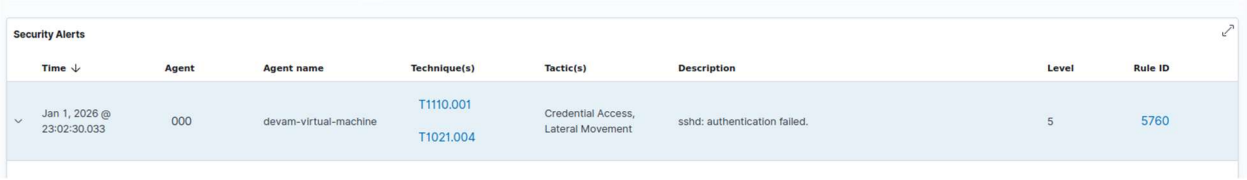


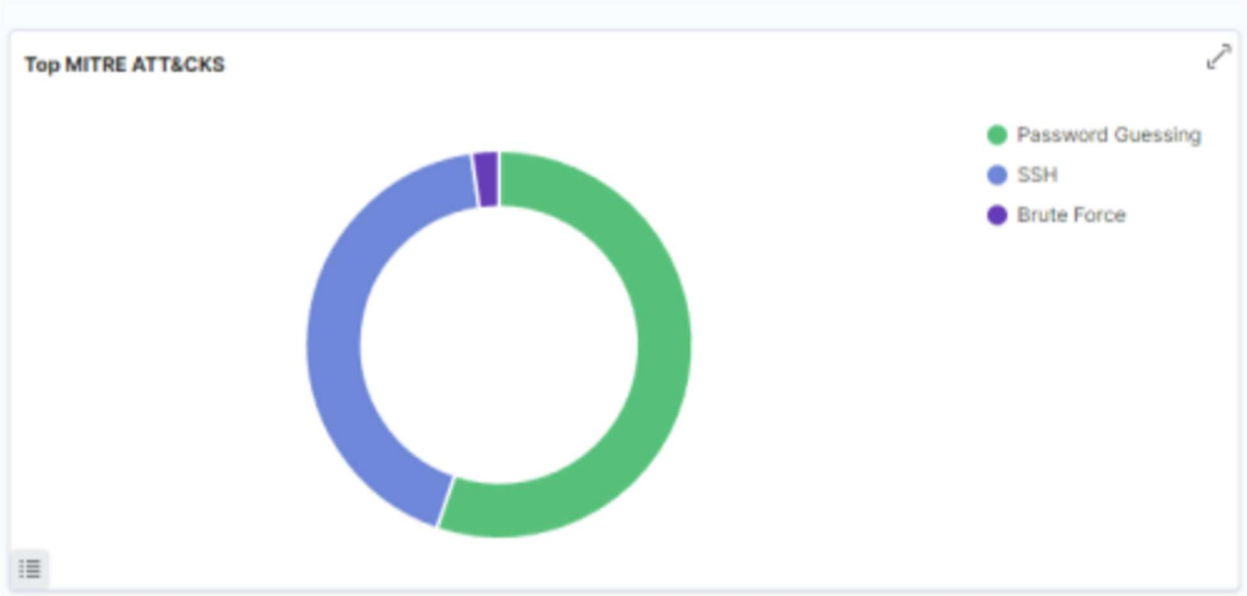
Failed SSH login attempts generated from attacker system

6.2 Alert Detection in SIEM

Wazuh detected the repeated failed login attempts and generated security alerts.







Burte Force and SSH attempts

7. Custom Alert Rule Configuration

7.1 Rule Creation

A custom detection rule has been deployed where the system automatically triggers an alert whenever there are several failed SSH authentications detected within a short time frame.

It enables the detection of a possible brute-force or illegal access attempt based on repeated failed login attempts, which can then be escalated to a security alert.

```
root@devam-virtual-machine:~# wget https://packages.wazuh.com/4.x/apt/pool/main/w/wazuh-agent/wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb && sudo WAZUH_MANAGER='192.168.42.164' WAZUH_
AGENT_GROUP='default' WAZUH_AGENT_NAME='Test1' dpkg -i ./wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb
--2026-01-01 22:07:30--  https://packages.wazuh.com/4.x/apt/pool/main/w/wazuh-agent/wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb
Resolving packages.wazuh.com (packages.wazuh.com)... 108.159.80.89, 108.159.80.123, 108.159.80.93, ...
Connecting to packages.wazuh.com (packages.wazuh.com)|108.159.80.89|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 9378818 (8.9M) [application/vnd.debian.binary-package]
Saving to: 'wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb'

wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb             100%[=====================================================================================>]   8.94M  1.10MB/s    in 9.6s

2026-01-01 22:07:41 (955 KB/s) - 'wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb' saved [9378818/9378818]

Selecting previously unselected package wazuh-agent.
dpkg: regarding .../wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb containing wazuh-agent:
 wazuh-agent conflicts with wazuh-manager
  wazuh-manager (version 4.7.5-1) is present and installed.

dpkg: error processing archive ./wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb (--install):
 conflicting packages - not installing wazuh-agent
Errors were encountered while processing:
 ./wazuh-agent_4.7.5-1_amd64.deb
root@devam-virtual-machine:~# sudo systemctl daemon-reload
sudo systemctl enable wazuh-agent
sudo systemctl start wazuh-agent
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/multi-user.target.wants/wazuh-agent.service → /etc/systemd/system/wazuh-agent.service.
```

Created Custom rule for wazuh and added with help of CLI

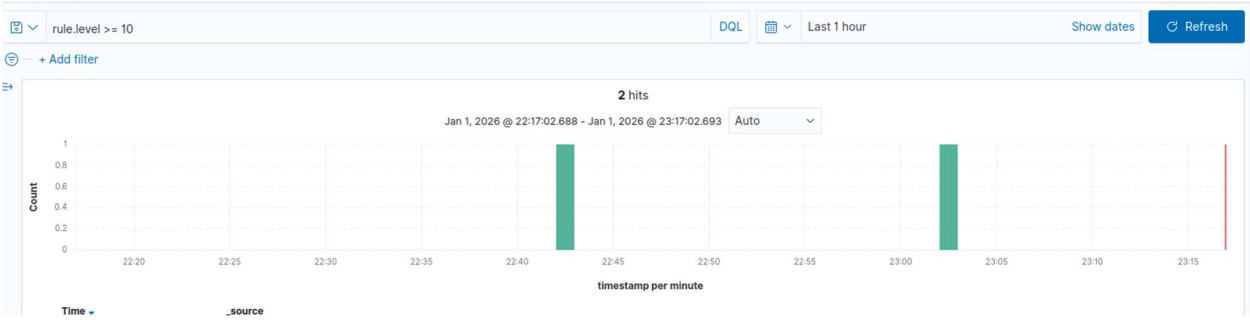
```
root@devam-virtual-machine:~# sudo /var/ossec/bin/agent_control -lc

Wazuh agent_control. List of available agents:
   ID: 000, Name: devam-virtual-machine (server), IP: 127.0.0.1, Active/Local
```

Agent has been added

7.2 Rule Validation

The rule successfully triggered alerts during testing.

Total number of hits during complete process



HIGH LEVEL HITS (SSH)

---

8. Challenges and How They Were Overcome

8.1 Encrypted Traffic Analysis

Challenge: The encrypted traffic could not be analyzed at a payload-level inspection.

Solution: There was a shift in focus of the analysis towards the metadata, which included IP, ports, duration of session, and number of packets, that was obtained through the use of Wireshark or Python scripts.

8.2 Security Event Monitoring with Wazuh

Problem: Identifying related abnormal activities across multiple systems in real time.

Solution: The Wazuh agent was successfully installed on the monitored computers and established a connection with the Wazuh Manager. With this configuration, it was possible to have a centralized collection of logs, event correlation, and alerting regarding possible anomalies, like repeated login failures. The use of Wazuh as a SIEM tool provided better insight into possible dangers.

---

9. Conclusion

This exercise provided in-depth learning in many key areas of networking security. It required practical design work in subnets to optimize the allocation of IP addresses, thorough analysis of the traffic in the networks to identify trends and abnormalities, and the use of SIEM tools to provide real-time security scanning in case of possible dangers to the networks. The use of a combination of industry-leading tools like Packet Tracer to develop networks for simulations in the networks, Wireshark to capture the information contained in individual packets in networks for thorough analysis, and Wazuh to offer log analysis to provide in-depth security scanning in the networks brought out the need for a multi-layered security approach to be in place at all times in a given organization or enterprise. It was clear that the solution to securing networks in the modern enterprise depends upon a mix of technical expertise and foresight.