

Apply filters to SQL queries

Project description

As a security analyst at a large organization, I investigated potential security concerns by filtering login activity and employee data using SQL queries. This project demonstrates my ability to retrieve specific information using SQL **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**, and **LIKE** operators. I analyzed login attempts by time, date, country, and success status, and filtered employee data based on department and office location. These queries support incident investigation and system update planning.

Retrieve after hours failed login attempts

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *  
->  
-> FROM log_in_attempts  
->  
-> WHERE login_time > '18:00' AND success = 0;
```

This SQL query filters the `log_in_attempts` table to find all login attempts that were **unsuccessful** and made **after business hours (18:00)**.

- The condition `login_time > '18:00'` retrieves only those records where login attempts occurred after 6:00 PM.
- The condition `success = 0` filters for **failed login attempts** (0 represents a Boolean FALSE in MySQL).

By combining these filters with the **AND** operator, the query returns only the **after-hours failed login attempts**, helping identify suspicious access patterns outside of normal working hours.

```

MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
->
-> FROM log_in_attempts
->
-> WHERE login_time > '18:00' AND success = 0;

```

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 (0.178 sec)

```

- **Query Result (After Hours Failed Logins)**

This screenshot displays the **executed SQL query** along with the **retrieved results** from the `log_in_attempts` table. It confirms that the query accurately filtered **failed login attempts (success = 0)** that occurred **after 18:00 (6 PM)**. The output includes multiple rows of data, each representing a login attempt that matches the specified criteria — demonstrating successful application of SQL filtering using the **AND** operator.

Retrieve login attempts on specific dates

```

MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
->
-> FROM log_in_attempts
->
-> WHERE login_date = '2022-05-08' OR login_date = '2022-05-09';

```

This SQL query is used to retrieve all login attempts that occurred on two specific dates: May 8, 2022, and May 9, 2022. These dates are important because a suspicious event was detected on May 9, and investigating the day before can help uncover any related activity.

- The `SELECT *` command retrieves **all columns** from the `log_in_attempts` table.
- The `WHERE` clause applies a **filter** to return only the rows where the `login_date` is either `'2022-05-08'` OR `'2022-05-09'`.
- The `OR` operator is used to include **multiple specific conditions** for the same column.

```

mysql [organization]> SELECT *
-> FROM log_in_attempts
-> WHERE login_date = '2022-05-08' OR login_date = '2022-05-09';

```

event_id	username	login_date	login_time	country	ip_address	success
1	jensael	2022-05-08	04:56:27	CAN	192.168.242.140	1
2	dnet	2022-05-08	06:47:41	USA	192.168.151.162	1
3	dnet	2022-05-08	02:00:39	USA	192.168.178.71	0
4	hialas	2022-05-08	01:30:17	US	192.168.118.173	0
12	dnet	2022-05-08	09:11:34	USA	192.168.100.158	1
15	lyamnet	2022-05-08	17:17:26	USA	192.168.183.51	0
24	zrusad	2022-05-08	06:46:38	MEXICO	192.168.171.192	1
25	shelish	2022-05-08	07:04:02	US	192.168.33.127	1
26	spitel	2022-05-08	17:27:00	CANADA	192.168.123.105	1
28	sestads	2022-05-08	18:28:12	MEXICO	192.168.27.57	0
30	yppish	2022-05-08	03:22:22	MEX	192.168.124.48	1
32	sooch	2022-05-08	02:52:02	CANADA	192.168.142.239	0
36	seundad	2022-05-08	09:00:42	US	192.168.70.151	1
38	shelish	2022-05-08	14:40:01	USA	192.168.60.42	1
39	yppish	2022-05-08	07:56:40	MEXICO	192.168.57.115	1
42	cgiffin	2022-05-08	21:04:05	US	192.168.4.157	0
43	seoulids	2022-05-08	02:34:34	CANADA	192.168.16.208	0
44	dequinc	2022-05-08	07:02:38	CANADA	192.168.168.144	0
47	dnet	2022-05-08	05:06:45	US	192.168.233.24	1
48	seundad	2022-05-08	14:00:01	US	192.168.173.213	0
53	rwascn	2022-05-08	11:51:38	CAN	192.168.133.188	1
56	sooch	2022-05-08	04:56:30	CAN	192.168.208.130	1
58	ivelasco	2022-05-08	17:20:54	CAN	192.168.57.162	0
61	dtanaka	2022-05-08	09:45:18	USA	192.168.98.221	1
64	salomac	2022-05-08	21:42:12	MEX	192.168.82.37	1
66	sestads	2022-05-08	21:56:32	MEX	192.168.67.223	1
67	shelish	2022-05-08	11:57:41	MEX	192.168.118.26	1
68	rsah	2022-05-08	17:16:13	US	192.168.42.248	1
70	tritchel	2022-05-08	10:56:17	MEXICO	192.168.87.185	1
71	seoulids	2022-05-08	06:57:42	CAN	192.168.89.165	0
72	slavitsk	2022-05-08	11:09:10	CANADA	192.168.135.176	1
75	shelish	2022-05-08	11:41:15	MEX	192.168.158.170	1
80	cjackson	2022-05-08	02:18:23	CANADA	192.168.33.140	1
83	lendriqu	2022-05-08	08:10:23	USA	192.168.67.19	1
87	spitel	2022-05-08	22:38:21	CANADA	192.168.132.183	0
90	gasperd	2022-05-08	00:45:08	CANADA	192.168.87.201	0
92	swanning	2022-05-08	00:36:12	US	192.168.247.215	0
96	ivelasco	2022-05-08	22:36:36	CAN	192.168.84.164	1
97	jseckley	2022-05-08	02:45:23	MEXICO	192.168.32.231	0
101	shelish	2022-05-08	16:01:22	US	192.168.145.158	1
102	jseckley	2022-05-08	16:51:44	MEX	192.168.108.110	1
108	dequinc	2022-05-08	21:30:48	CANADA	192.168.115.110	1
110	shabadi	2022-05-08	00:01:54	USA	192.168.90.124	1
112	zjensen	2022-05-08	09:22:05	MEX	192.168.65.116	1
117	hamd	2022-05-08	00:19:11	USA	192.168.157.187	0
120	tritchel	2022-05-08	02:58:17	MEXICO	192.168.134.62	0
127	shelish	2022-05-08	21:20:51	CANADA	192.168.70.122	0
128	jclack	2022-05-08	10:45:55	CANADA	192.168.122.169	0
131	hialas	2022-05-08	20:03:55	US	192.168.112.171	1
134	ludulke	2022-05-08	06:46:40	USA	192.168.22.115	1
135	hamd	2022-05-08	14:06:23	US	192.168.91.238	0
144	dequinc	2022-05-08	11:09:32	CANADA	192.168.139.9	1
145	ivelasco	2022-05-08	09:06:02	CANADA	192.168.39.196	1
147	yppish	2022-05-08	06:04:34	MEX	192.168.65.245	0
148	dequinc	2022-05-08	06:15:55	CANADA	192.168.135.6	1
150	rwascn	2022-05-08	14:40:02	CAN	192.168.204.124	0
151	shabadi	2022-05-08	16:29:46	USA	192.168.30.225	1
158	sestall	2022-05-08	19:30:32	MEXICO	192.168.190.178	0
161	shelish	2022-05-08	13:25:50	CAN	192.168.180.205	0
162	yppish	2022-05-08	04:51:22	MEXICO	192.168.162.100	0
163	tritchel	2022-05-08	09:21:16	MEX	192.168.119.25	0
165	jseckley	2022-05-08	18:28:43	MEXICO	192.168.34.193	0
168	jlamaky	2022-05-08	13:25:42	USA	192.168.210.94	1
169	slavitsk	2022-05-08	08:10:43	CANADA	192.168.210.228	0
170	shelish	2022-05-08	16:43:18	USA	192.168.65.113	0
172	shabadi	2022-05-08	08:06:50	US	192.168.180.41	1
178	egilares	2022-05-08	12:27:22	CAN	192.168.52.216	0
184	slavitsk	2022-05-08	03:09:48	CAN	192.168.33.70	0
186	hialas	2022-05-08	04:29:17	USA	192.168.40.72	0
187	zrusad	2022-05-08	00:36:26	MEX	192.168.77.177	1
189	rwascn	2022-05-08	05:37:24	CANADA	192.168.168.117	1
190	jacte	2022-05-08	05:09:21	USA	192.168.25.60	0
191	cjackson	2022-05-08	06:46:07	CANADA	192.168.7.187	0
193	lendriqu	2022-05-08	07:11:29	US	192.168.125.240	0
197	jacte	2022-05-08	09:05:09	US	192.168.36.21	0

75 rows in set (0.002 sec)

- **Output of Query for Specific Dates**

This screenshot displays the output of the SQL query that filtered login attempts from the `log_in_attempts` table based on two specific dates: **2022-05-08** and **2022-05-09**. The query successfully returned all records matching the specified `login_date` values, including relevant fields such as:

- `event_id`
- `username`
- `login_date` and `login_time`
- `country`
- `ip_address`
- `success` (where 0 indicates failed login)

This data will help the security team investigate activity around the date of a suspicious event and understand user behavior leading up to and during the incident.

Retrieve login attempts outside of Mexico

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *  
->  
-> FROM log_in_attempts  
->  
-> WHERE NOT country LIKE 'MEX%';
```

In this step, the objective was to retrieve all login attempts **that did not originate in Mexico**. The `country` column in the database includes both `"MEX"` and `"MEXICO"` for Mexican-origin attempts. To filter out these, I used the `NOT` operator combined with `LIKE 'MEX%'`.

- `LIKE 'MEX%'` matches any country value starting with "MEX", covering both `"MEX"` and `"MEXICO"`.
- The `NOT` operator excludes all these matching entries from the result.

This ensures that **only login attempts from countries other than Mexico** are returned. It helps narrow down the investigation to external sources of suspicious activity.

```
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
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
45	dtanaka	2022-05-11	10:28:54	US	192.168.223.157	1
46	eraab	2022-05-11	11:29:27	CAN	192.168.24.12	0
47	dkot	2022-05-08	05:06:45	US	192.168.233.24	1
48	asundara	2022-05-11	03:18:45	USA	192.168.72.10	1
49	asundara	2022-05-08	14:00:01	US	192.168.173.213	0
50	jclark	2022-05-10	10:48:02	CANADA	192.168.174.117	0

The output displayed is the result of a SQL query that filtered all login attempts which **did not originate from Mexico**. To achieve this, the **NOT** and **LIKE** operators were used with the pattern **'MEX%'**, which successfully excluded both **"MEX"** and **"MEXICO"** entries from the results.

This query was essential to identify potentially suspicious or unauthorized login activity from outside the expected region. The **country** column values in the result confirm the presence of logins from the **US, Canada**, and other countries, but none from Mexico.

- Partial results of login attempts that did not originate in Mexico, retrieved using the NOT + LIKE operator. Full results returned 144 records.

Retrieve employees in Marketing

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *  
->  
-> FROM employees  
->  
-> WHERE department = 'Marketing'  
->  
-> AND office LIKE 'East-%';
```

This SQL query retrieves all employee records from the `employees` table where the `department` is **Marketing** and the `office` is located in the **East building**.

- The condition `department = 'Marketing'` filters the data to include only employees in the **Marketing department**.
- The condition `office LIKE 'East-%'` uses the **LIKE** operator with a wildcard (%) to include all office values that **start with "East-"**, such as **East-170** or **East-320**.
- The **AND** operator ensures both conditions must be true — meaning the result will only include **Marketing employees located in East building offices**.

This helps the team target specific employee machines for security updates based on **both department and location**.

```

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 (0.002 sec)

```

The output displays **7 employees** from the `employees` table who belong to the **Marketing department** and are located in offices that begin with "**East-**", such as East-170, East-195, and East-460.

This confirms that the query successfully applied both conditions (`department = 'Marketing'` AND `office LIKE 'East-%'`) and returned only the relevant employee records needed for the update task.

This result will help the team perform targeted security updates on machines used by these Marketing employees in the East building.

Retrieve employees in Finance or Sales

To support a new security update, I needed to identify all employees working in the **Finance** or **Sales** departments. These departments are listed in the `department` column of the `employees` table.

I used the `OR` operator in the SQL query to filter for both conditions. It was necessary to fully write out each condition and reference the `department` column each time to ensure the query worked as intended.

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *  
->  
-> FROM employees  
->  
-> WHERE department = 'Finance'  
->  
-> OR department = 'Sales';
```

- The query retrieves **all columns** from the `employees` table.
- It filters results where the `department` is either '**Finance**' or '**Sales**' using the **OR** operator.
- This helps isolate relevant employees whose systems require targeted updates.

```

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
1072	u905v920w694	esmith	Sales	East-421
1076	y347z204a710	fgarcia	Finance	Central-270

- The query successfully returned a list of employees from the `employees` table who work in either the **Finance** or **Sales** departments. All columns for the matched records were displayed. This output will help the team identify and apply the necessary system updates for users in these departments.
- Each record confirms the correct filtering using the **OR** condition across the `department` column. The result includes users across multiple offices, reflecting a complete dataset for both departments.

Retrieve all employees not in IT

```
MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *  
->  
-> FROM employees  
->  
-> WHERE department != 'Information Technology';
```

In this query, I retrieved all employee records except those who belong to the **Information Technology** department. I used the `!=` operator (which acts as the **NOT** condition) to filter out entries where the `department` column value is `'Information Technology'`.

This ensures that the result set includes only those employees **who still require the system update**, as the IT department's machines have already been updated.

Purpose:

To assist the team in identifying which employee machines still need updating by excluding those already handled (in the IT department).

```

MariaDB [organization]> SELECT *
->
-> FROM employees
->
-> WHERE 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	aestrada	Human Resources	West-121
1029	d336e475f676	ivelasco	Finance	East-156

This SQL query successfully retrieved all employees **not** in the **Information Technology** department using the **!=** operator on the **department** column. The output includes fields like **employee_id**, **device_id**, **username**, **department**, and **office**.

Employees shown belong to various departments such as **Marketing**, **Finance**, **Sales**, and **Human Resources**, with office locations distributed across **East**, **West**, **North**, **South**, and **Central** regions.

Total rows returned: 161

This confirms that the filter was correctly applied to exclude IT department employees from the update process.

Summary

In this project, I ran a series of SQL queries to support a security investigation and system update task. I retrieved failed login attempts outside office hours, filtered activity based on specific dates, excluded login attempts from Mexico using pattern matching with **NOT LIKE**,

and identified employees based on department and location criteria. These queries demonstrate my ability to use complex SQL filters for security use cases, including time-based analysis, pattern matching, and multi-condition filtering. The outputs were validated with screenshots and documented for professional reporting.