



# **Microsoft Azure Monitor (formerly Azure Activity logs)**

Detection Strategy Guide

July 2025

## Product Overview

Microsoft Azure Monitor is a cloud-based service that serves as a centralized platform for collecting, analyzing, and acting on log and performance data from diverse sources, including Azure resources, on-premises servers, and applications. It allows users to query, visualize, and set alerts on this data using the Kusto Query Language (KQL) to gain operational insights, troubleshoot issues, detect trends, and enhance security posture.

## Detection Strategy for SIEM Integrations

### Detection

SIEM technology provides us with a helpful detection "backstop" for event telemetry. The detections are not authored by us, so how we ingest and action on the SIEM's alerts depends on the SIEM's category.

This SIEM integration is categorized as **investigative-only**. This means no alerts from the SIEM are ingested, but the SIEM can still be used by us for investigation telemetry. Therefore we strongly recommend you set up this integration in Workbench to increase the available investigative support.

### Response

SIEM telemetry provides additional information that can be useful for us to disposition alerts. With the exception of investigative-only SIEMs, we will follow our normal event triage process and create an Expel Alert that is sent to our SOC analysts for analysis. We may also run queries against your SIEM logs to search for additional types of data, which we use to enrich our alerts with additional context.

## What We Support for Microsoft Azure Monitor

To see a comprehensive list of the most up-to-date SIEM rules and available DUETs (**did you expect this**) that we support for Microsoft Azure Monitor, ask your Sales or Support rep for the most recent download (not all SIEM rules are visible on the [Detections page](#) in Workbench).

**Microsoft Azure Monitor detection rules support**

No, this SIEM integration is categorized as investigative-only.

<b>Detection rules written by Expel</b>	No. Expel does not write any detection rules for SIEM integrations.
<b>Custom rules support</b>	No.
<b>Investigative support through Workbench</b>	<p>Yes. We are able to take the following investigative actions to gather data for triage and investigation of events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Query Logs</li> <li>■ List Sources</li> </ul>
<b>Hunting support</b>	No. Hunting is not currently available for this integration.

## Additional Details and Common Questions

### Console Access

A SIEM alert does not typically include all of the contextual timeline activity surrounding the event of interest. Because this integration does not allow us to get all necessary data via the API, we will ask you for a certain level of console access during onboarding. Granting it is optional, but is strongly recommended.

The level of access that we require is meant to support essential triage and research activities, and to help us determine the vector and extent of attacker activity for an identified threat. At minimum, we will ask for visibility into alert data, timeline events recorded, and live response/real time response shell (if applicable).

### Historic Volume

We use historic volume to determine projected SIEM alert volume, which helps us decide whether or not a particular detection is appropriate to send to our SOC. We target 30 days as the ideal period of time to check on volume, and two weeks as the minimum. This gives us the confidence we need to properly evaluate incoming SIEM alerts in a way that does not flood the SOC with benign activity.

## DUET

A DUET (**did you expect this**) rule flags certain SIEM alerts as needing an immediate verification or notification, and bypasses the normal internal event triage process. The alerts subject to DUET rules contain behaviors that are not typically indicative of true security incidents, as they are related to policy violations or *potential* risk.

There are a number of workflows that a DUET may follow. When enabled, the activity will be flagged for investigation and will be routed to you (rather than to us) to take a specified first action. To see the specific DUET rules currently supported for this integration, visit the [Detections page](#) in Workbench.