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Activity: Import and parse a text file

Introduction

Security logs are often stored in text files. To analyze the security logs in these files, security analysts have to import and parse these files. Python has some functions that come in handy for these tasks, allowing analysts to efficiently access information from text files.

In this lab, you'll practice using functions and other syntax in Python to import and parse text files.

Note: *Have you already completed this lab once?* Due to how Coursera handles files, you will need to reset the `login.txt"` file used in this lab to its original contents if you want to complete this lab more than once. The File contents reset section at the end of this notebook contains code that allows you to reset the `login.txt"` file to its original contents. After you have run the code in that section, you can begin the lab again.

Tips for completing this lab

Scenario

In this lab, you're working as a security analyst. You're responsible for preparing a security log file for analysis and creating a text file with IP addresses that are allowed to access restricted information.

Task 1

In this task, you'll import a security log text file and store it as a string to prepare it for analysis.

In Python, a `with` statement is often used in file handling to open a file and then automatically close the file after reading it.

You're given a variable named `import_file` that contains the name of the log file that you want to import. Start by writing the first line of the `with` statement in the following code cell. Use the `open()` function, setting the second parameter to `"r"`. Note that running this code will produce an error because it will only contain the first line of the `with` statement; you'll complete this `with` statement in the task after this. Be sure to replace the `### YOUR CODE HERE ###` with your own code.