Although the industry has settled on the term ‘SIEM’ as the catch-all term for this type of security software, it evolved from several different (but complementary) technologies that came before it.

- **LMS** “Log Management System” – a system that collects and stores log files (from Operating Systems, Applications, etc) from multiple hosts and systems into a single location, allowing centralized access to logs instead of accessing them from each system individually.

- **SLM /SEM** “Security Log/Event Management” – an LMS, but marketed towards security analysts instead of system administrators. SEM is about highlighting log entries as more significant to security than others.

- **SIM** “Security Information Management” – an Asset Management system, but with features to incorporate security information too. Hosts may have vulnerability reports listed in their summaries, Intrusion Detection and AntiVirus alerts may be shown mapped to the systems involved.

- **SEC** “Security Event Correlation” – To a particular piece of software, three failed login attempts to the same user account from three different clients, are just three lines in their logfile. To an analyst, that is a peculiar sequence of events worthy of investigation, and Log Correlation (looking for patterns in log files) is a way to raise alerts when these things happen.

- **SIEM** “Security Information and Event Management” – SIEM is the “All of the Above” option, and as the above technologies become merged into single products, became the generalized term for managing information generated from security controls and infrastructure. We’ll use the term SIEM for the rest of this presentation.
What’s in the Logs?

We may think of Security Controls as containing all the information we need to be secure, but often they only contain the things they have detected – there is no ‘before and after the event’ context within them.

This context is usually vital to separate the false positive from true detection, the actual attack from a merely misconfigured system.

Successful attacks on computer systems rarely look like real attacks except in hindsight – if this were not the case, we could automate ALL security defenses without ever needing to employ human analysts.

Attackers will try to remove and falsify log entries to cover their tracks – having a source of log information that can be trusted is vital to any legal proceeding from computer misuse.
The Blind Men and the Security Information Elephant

SIEM is about looking at what’s happening on your network through a larger lens than can be provided via any one security control or information source.

- Your Intrusion Detection only understands Packets, Protocols & IP Addresses
- Your Endpoint Security sees files, usernames & hosts
- Your Service Logs show user logins, service activity & configuration changes.
- Your Asset Management system sees apps, business processes & owners

None of these by themselves, can tell you what is happening to your business in terms of securing the continuity of your business processes...

But together, they can.
SIEM is essentially nothing more than a management layer above your existing systems and security controls.

It connects and unifies the information contained in your existing systems, allowing them to be analyzed and cross-referenced from a single interface.

SIEM is a perfect example of the ‘Garbage In, Garbage Out’ principle of computing: **SIEM is only as useful as the information you put into it.**

The more valid information depicting your network, systems, and behavior the SIEM has, the more effective it will be in helping you make effective detections, analyses, and responses in your security operations.
Bob’s Machine was compromised by asbss.exe which originated from a malicious website, this malware then used Bob’s account to try and infect DAVEPC3, but antivirus caught it. Bob’s machine “BOBPC1” is likely still compromised, however.

**We should block the malicious domain and sanitize Bob’s workspace, ASAP**
• Log Collection is the heart and soul of a SIEM – the more log sources that send logs to the SIEM, the more that can be accomplished with the SIEM.

• Logs on their own rarely contain the information needed to understand their contents within the context of your business.

• Security Analysts have limited bandwidth to be familiar with every last system that your IT operation depends on.

• With only the logs, all an analyst sees is “Connection from Host A to Host B”

• Yet, to the administrator of that system, this becomes “Daily Activity Transfer from Point of Sales to Accounts Receivable”.

• The Analyst needs this information to make reasoned assessment of any security alert involving this connection.

• True value of logs is in correlation to get actionable information.
**LOGS AND ALERTS:**

**Security Controls**
- Intrusion Detection
- Endpoint Security (Antivirus, etc)
- Data Loss Prevention
- VPN Concentrators
- Web Filters
- Honeypots
- Firewalls

**Infrastructure**
- Routers
- Switches
- Domain Controllers
- Wireless Access Points
- Application Servers
- Databases
- Intranet Applications

**KNOWLEDGE:**

**Infrastructure Information**
- Configuration
- Locations
- Owners
- Network Maps
- Vulnerability Reports
- Software Inventory

**Business Information**
- Business Process Mappings
- Points of Contact
- Partner Information

---

**SIEM Recipes** - A list of ingredients you’ll need for a good SIEM Deployment
HOW A LOG FILE IS GENERATED IN YOUR NETWORK

- Configuration and Asset Information
- System Logs and Security Controls Alerts
- Business Locations
- Business Units
- Network Maps
- Business Processes
- Software Inventory
- Software Inventory
- Accounts Receivable
- Accounting IT
- USSaleSyncAcct

10.100.20.0/24
10.88.5.0/16
Pennsylvania
Boston

10.100.20.18
Initiated Database Copy using credentials USSalesSyncAcct to remote Host 10.88.6.12 - Status Code 0x44F8
Behold: The Power of Correlation

Correlation is the process of matching events from systems (hosts, network devices, security controls, anything that sends logs to the SIEM.)

Events from different sources can be combined and compared against each other to identify patterns of behavior invisible to individual devices...

They can also be matched against the information specific to your business.

Correlation allows you to automate detection for the things that should not occur on your network.
The beauty of log correlation

Log Correlation is the difference between:

“14:10 7/4/20110 User BRoberts Successful Auth to 10.100.52.105 from 10.10.8.22”

and...

An Account belonging to Marketing connected to an Engineering System from an office desktop, on a day when nobody should be in the office”
Your network generates vast amounts of log data – a Fortune 500 enterprise’s infrastructure can generate 10 terabytes of plain-text log data per month, without breaking a sweat.

You can’t hire enough people to read every line of those logs looking for bad stuff. I’m serious, don’t even try this. Even if you succeeded, they’d be so bored they’d never actually spot anything even if it was right in front of their face. Which it would be.

Log Correlation lets you locate the interesting places in your logs – that’s where the analysts start investigating...

And they’re going to find pieces of information that lead to other pieces of information as the trail of evidence warms up.

Being able to search through the rest of those logs for that one thing they suspect resides there is one of the other key functions of a SIEM.

It’s a good thing that a SIEM is fundamentally a...
...Giant Database of Logs.

It would be amazingly useful if every operating system and every application in the world, recorded their log events in the same format – they don’t. Most logs are written to be readable by humans, not computers.

That makes using regular search tools over logs from different sources... a little difficult.

These two logs say the same thing to a human being, but are very different from the machine’s point of view.

“User Broberts Successfully Authenticated to 10.100.52.105 from client 10.10.8.22”

“100.100.52.105 New Client Connection 10.10.8.22 on account: Broberts: Success”

Long story short – we’re going to need to break down every known log message out there, into a normalized format.

“User [USERNAME] [STATUS] Authenticated to [DESTIP] from client [SOURCEIP]”

“100.100.52.105 New Client Connection 10.10.8.22 on account: Broberts: Success”

So when you see a SIEM Product that talks about “how many devices it supports” – it’s talking about how many devices it can parse the logs from.
Breaking those log entries down into their components – normalizing them, is what allows us to search across logs from multiple devices and correlate events between them.

Once we’ve normalized logs into a database table, we can do database style searches, such as:

Show [All Logs] From [All Devices] from the [last two weeks], where the [username] is [Broberts]

This is what allows us to do automated correlation as well, matching fields between log events, across time periods, across device types.

If A single Host fails to log in to three separate servers using the same credentials, within a 6-second time window, raise an alert.

Just as with any database, event normalization allows the creation of report summarizations of our log information

What User Accounts have accessed the highest number of distinct hosts in the last month?

What Subnet generate the highest number of failed login attempts per day, averaged out over 6 months?”

Searches, Pivoting, and Cross-Correlation
But Wait, There’s More!

- So you’ve now seen that SIEM is a recording device for the systems that form your information infrastructure.

- SIEM allows you to give analysts access to information from these systems, without giving them access to the systems themselves.

- Event Correlation allows you to encode security knowledge into automated searches across events and asset information to alert on things happening within your infrastructure, and create a starting point for human analysis into a sea of log data.

- But to keep up with today’s threat landscape, you need more than just SIEM – you need relevant data, a unified approach and integrated threat intelligence to truly get a holistic view of your security posture.
AlienVault® UNIFIED SECURITY MANAGEMENT® (USM) brings it all together.

**SIEM & LOG MANAGEMENT**
Quickly correlate & analyze security event data from across your network with built-in SIEM & log management.

**ASSET DISCOVERY & INVENTORY**
Know who and what is connected to your environment at all times.

**BEHAVIORAL MONITORING**
Spot suspicious user and administrator behavior across your environments and applications.

**VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**
Identify systems that are vulnerable to exploits with active network scanning & continuous vulnerability monitoring.

**INTRUSION DETECTION**
Detect threats faster with our built-in network IDS, cloud IDS, and host-based IDS with file integrity monitoring.

**powered by AV Labs Threat Intelligence**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features:</th>
<th>AlienVault USM</th>
<th>Traditional SIEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Management:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log Management</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Management</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Correlation</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>✅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security Monitoring Technologies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asset Discovery</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Network IDS</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host IDS</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
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<tr>
<td>File Integrity Monitoring</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud Monitoring (AWS, Azure, Office 365, G Suite)</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Response (AlienApps) with 3rd-party security &amp; operations tools</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerability Assessment</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>$$ (3rd-party product that requires integration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Capabilities:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Threat Intelligence</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified Management Console for security monitoring technologies</td>
<td>Built-In</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps: Play, share, enjoy!

- Play in our product sandbox
- Start detecting threats today with a free trial
- Go Beyond SIEM with Unified Security Management
- Join the Open Threat Exchange

www.alienvault.com