

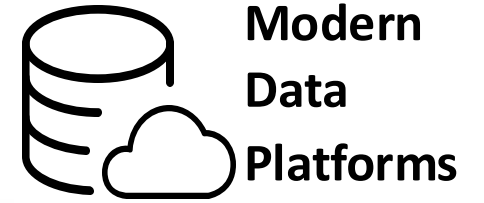


Oracle 23ai SQL Firewall, here we go

Improving Database Security
Exposing SQL Firewall Capabilities

Stefan Oehrli

Stefan Oehrli – Modern Data Platforms



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Tech Architecture Manager

- Since 1997 active in various IT areas
- More than 25 years of experience in Oracle databases
- Focus: Protecting data and operating databases securely
 - Security assessments and reviews
 - Database security concepts and their implementation
 - Oracle Backup & Recovery concepts and troubleshooting
 - Oracle Enterprise User and Advanced Security, DB Vault, ...
 - Oracle Directory Services
- Co-author of the book The Oracle DBA (Hanser, 2016/07)





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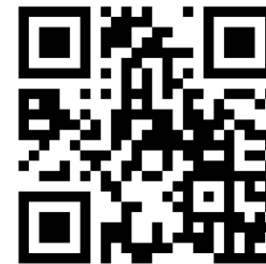
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WHY? We are the game changer for our client's data platform projects

HOW? Maximum automation, maximum efficiency, maximum quality!

WHAT? We build innovative data platforms based on our blueprints and licensable assets and tools.



3 key benefits

- 1 Architecture expertise from hands-on projects
- 2 Delivery of tailor-made data platforms
- 3 Integrated Teams - Like a rowing team, perfect alignment and interaction.



Tools and Blueprints

Key enabler for the implementation of modern data platforms at a high speed and quality.

Continuous Optimization

Tools and Blueprints are continuously optimized to the customer and project's needs.

Expertise & Light Towers

Expert group for modern data platforms from technical implementation to project management and organization

SQL Firewall

A new approach to protect your data.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 SQL Firewall
- 3 CLI Management
- 4 GUI Management
- 5 Reporting, Audit and Alerts
- 6 Licensing
- 7 Challenges
- 8 Conclusion



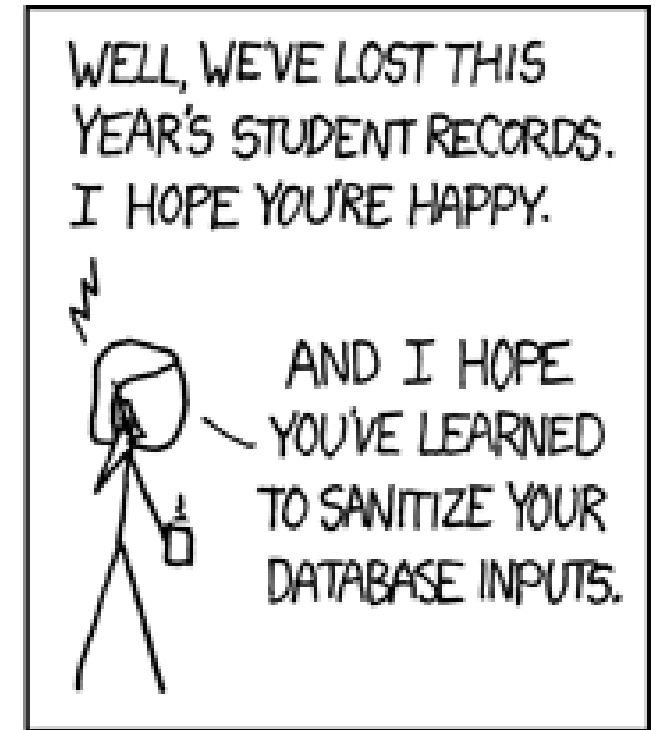
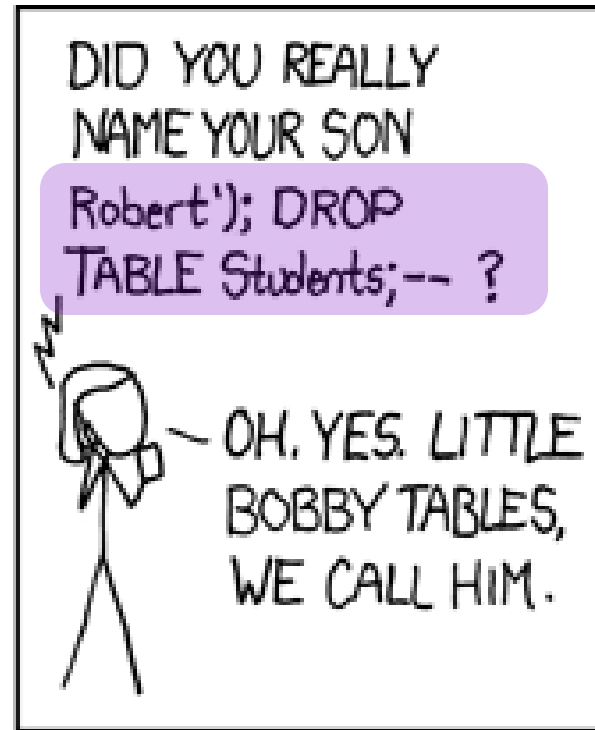
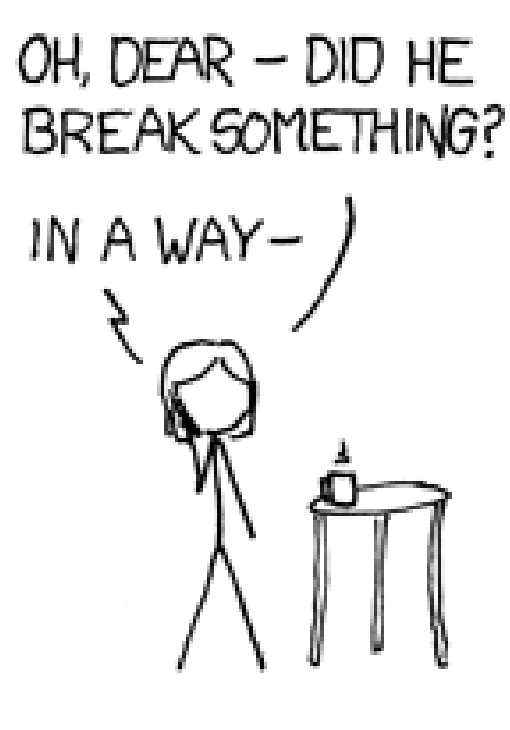
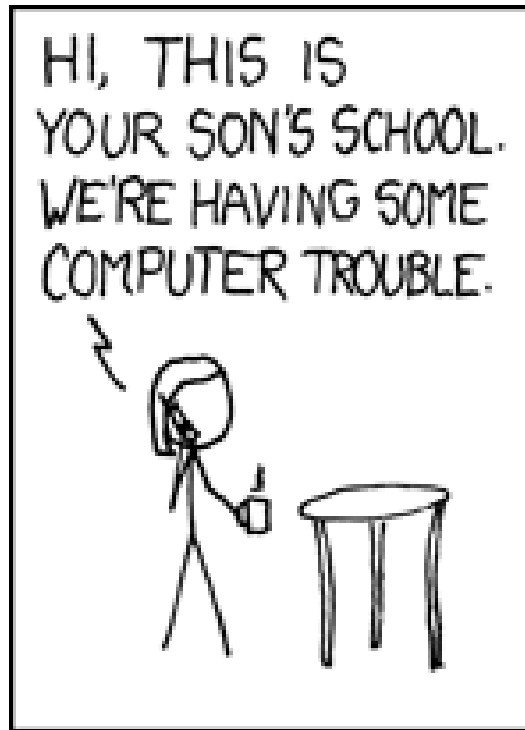
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Introduction

What about the
Database Security?

SQL Injection

Exploits of a Mom

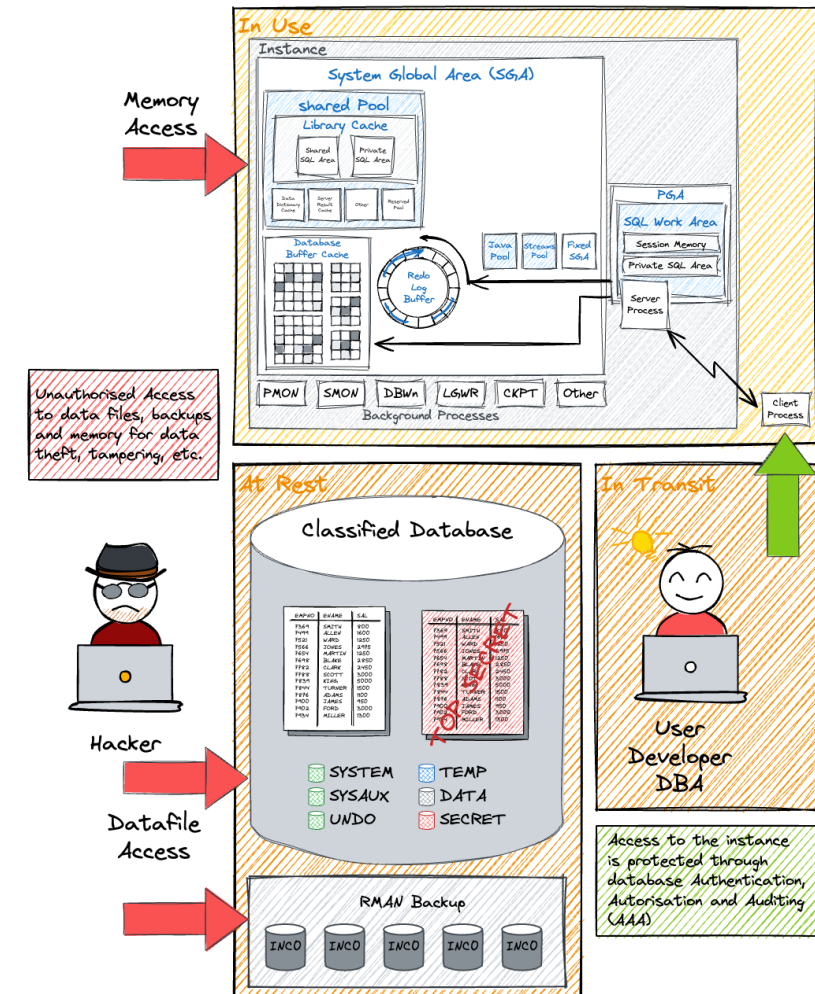


xkcd: <https://xkcd.com/327>

The Security Challenges of a Database

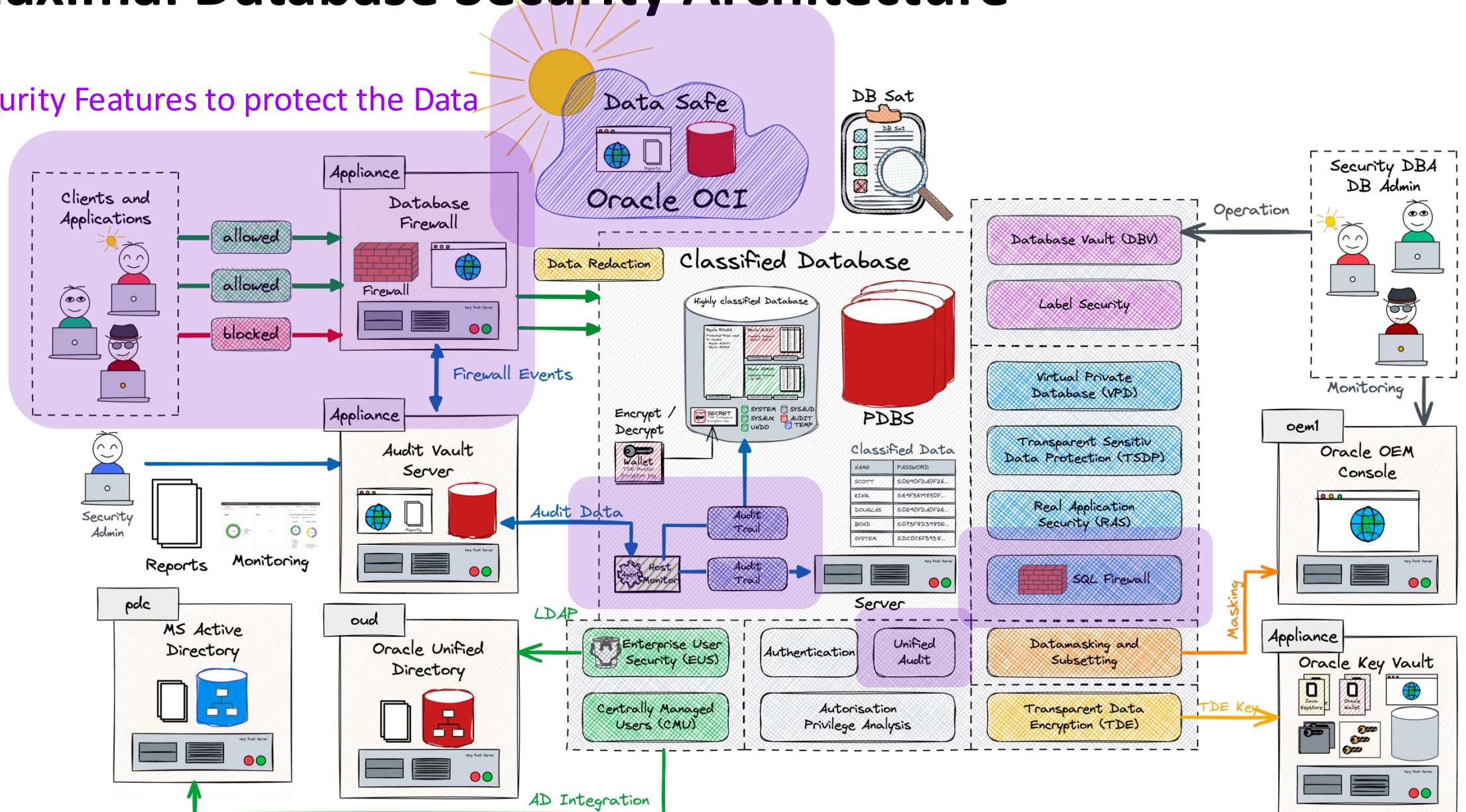
The dirty dozen...

- **Access Bypass:** Unpatched or misconfigured database vulnerabilities.
- **Privilege Abuse:** Exploiting application vulnerabilities for higher access.
- **Sensitive Data Search:** In unprotected systems and databases.
- **Credential Theft:** Via phishing, social engineering, or malware.
- **System Bridging:** Using less secure systems to target secure ones.
- **Password Exploitation:** Guessing or poor management.
- **SQL Injection:** Manipulating user input to exploit applications.
- **Rogue Accounts:** For reconnaissance and access escalation.
- **Non-Production Data Risks:** Targeting less secure dev/test environments.
- **Unencrypted Data Exposure:** Accessing or stealing files from disk or backups.



Maximal Database Security Architecture

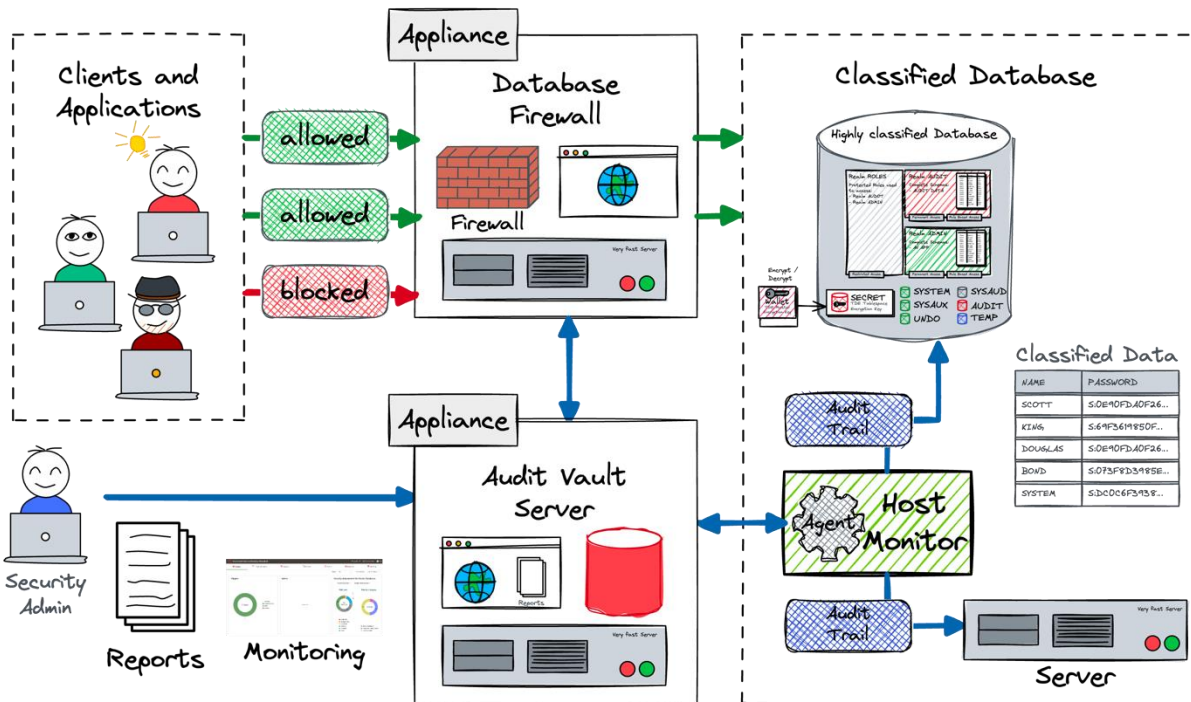
Security Features to protect the Data



But we already have it, don't we?

Some kind of SQL firewall functionality

Oracle Audit Vault and Database Firewall

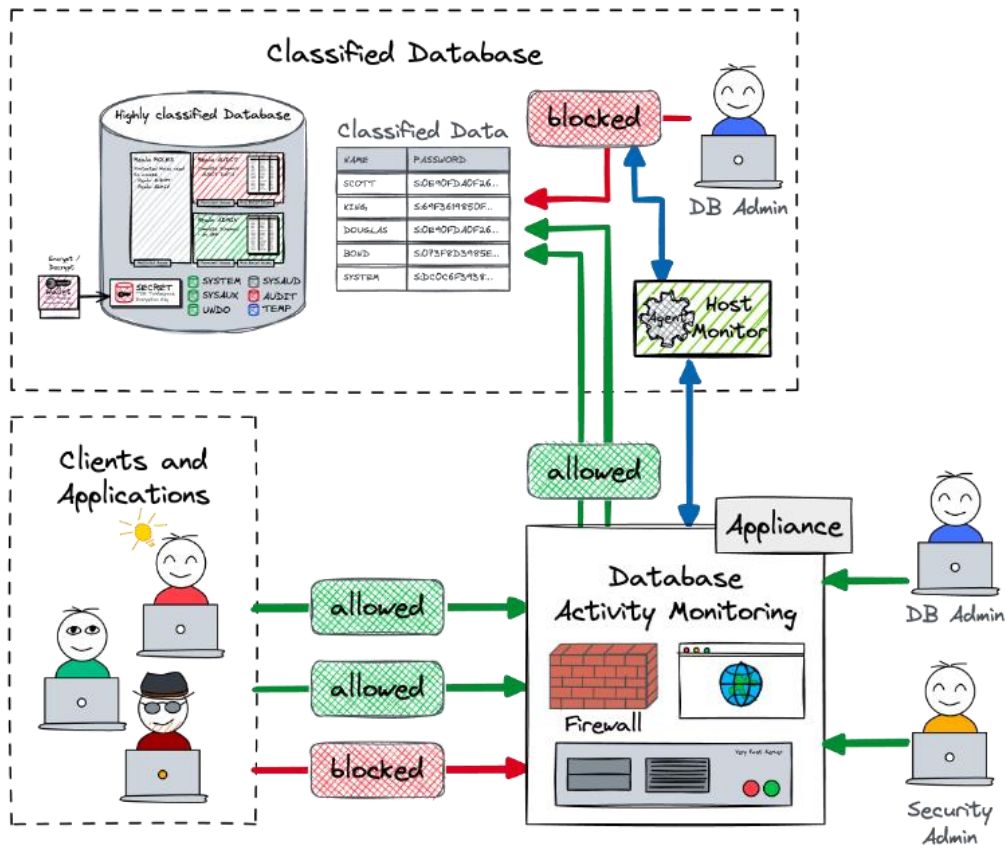


- Dedicated Product for central Audit Management and Reporting
- Two main Features
 - **Audit Vault Server** to control, manage, report
 - **Database Firewall** to monitors data access, enforces access policies
- Support a **wide range** of targets / databases
 - Oracle Database
 - Microsoft SQL Server
 - MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, IBM DB2
- Able to **log** and **block** database activities
- **Dedicate** Infrastructure
 - Requires corresponding system architecture

But we already have it, don't we?

Alternative solutions from third-party providers

Database Activity Monitoring



- Various Solutions
 - *Imperva SecureSphere*
 - *IBM Guardium*
 - *Trellix Database Security, McAfee DAM, Sentrigo Hedgehog*
- Various Solution Approaches
 - Network Appliance
 - Agent based
- Able to **log** and **block** database activities
- Support a **wide range** of targets / databases

2

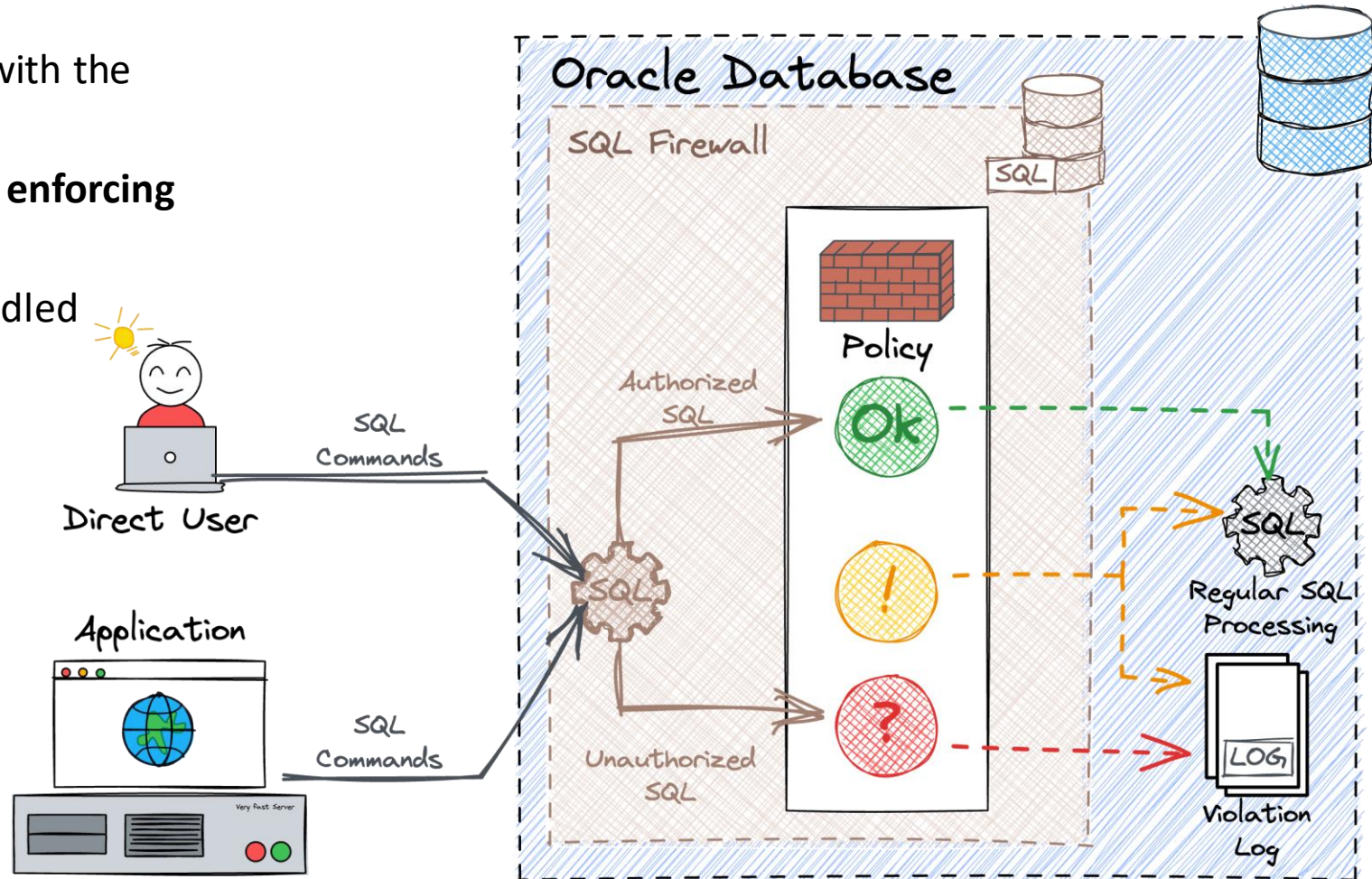
SQL Firewall

Enhancing Database
Protection

SQL Firewall Overview

Anomaly and SQL Injection blocking and detection

- “Learns” how clients and applications work with the database
- Supports both **permissive** (logging only) and **enforcing** (logging and blocking) modes.
- Anomalies or SQL injection attempts are handled **before** any other **action** is taken
- The SQL firewall is **embedded** in the database and cannot be bypassed.



SQL Firewall Overview

What exactly is it about?

Real-Time Protection

- Blocks unauthorized SQL and preventing SQL injection and access anomalies

Customizable Allow-Lists

- Create specific SQL permissions for each user, with logging of unusual activities

Connection and Statement Control

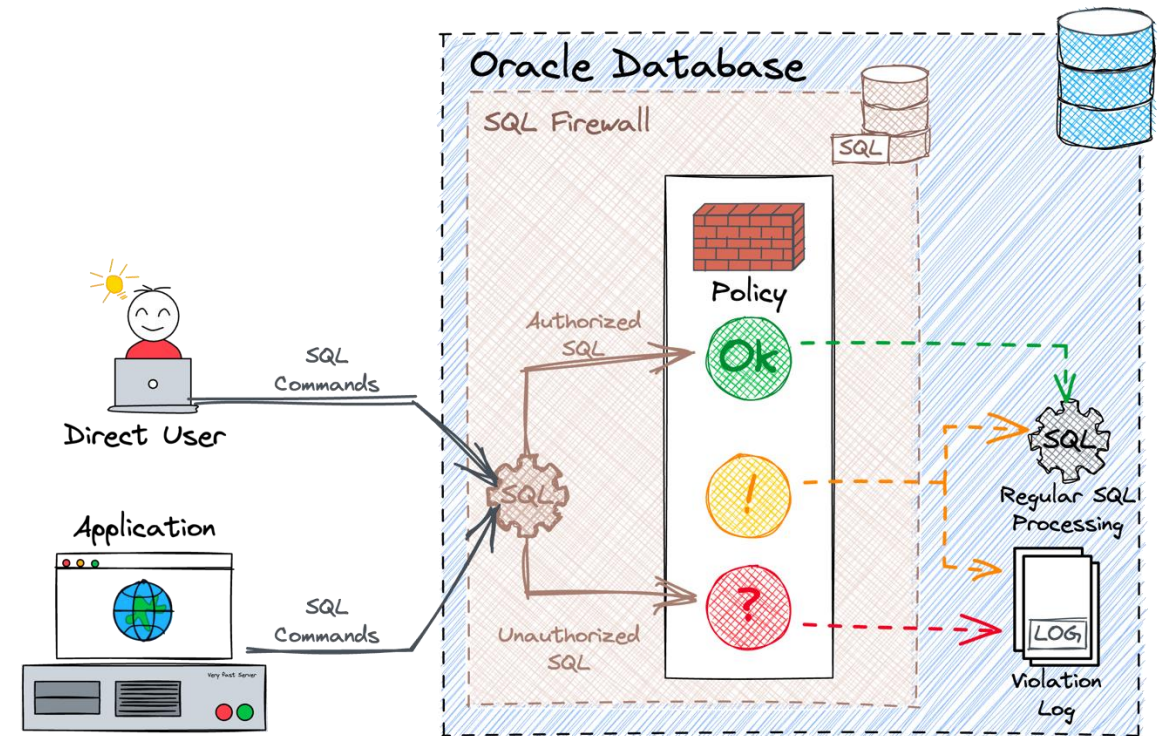
- Manages **allowed SQL statements** and **connection** paths, e.g. IP addresses, context etc.

Integrated into Oracle Database

- Ensures inspection of all SQL activities, including encrypted and network SQL

Flexible Policy Application

- Tailored policies for different database accounts, enhancing gradual security improvement



Navigating SQL Firewall – Processes

Understanding the Mechanics and Strategies for Optimal Deployment

Learning Stage

- **Capture** the user's SQL activities
- **Review** the capture
- **Generate** an allow-list

Protecting Stage

- **Enable** the allow-list
- **Monitor violations** SQL Firewall raises violation for any unexpected access patterns.

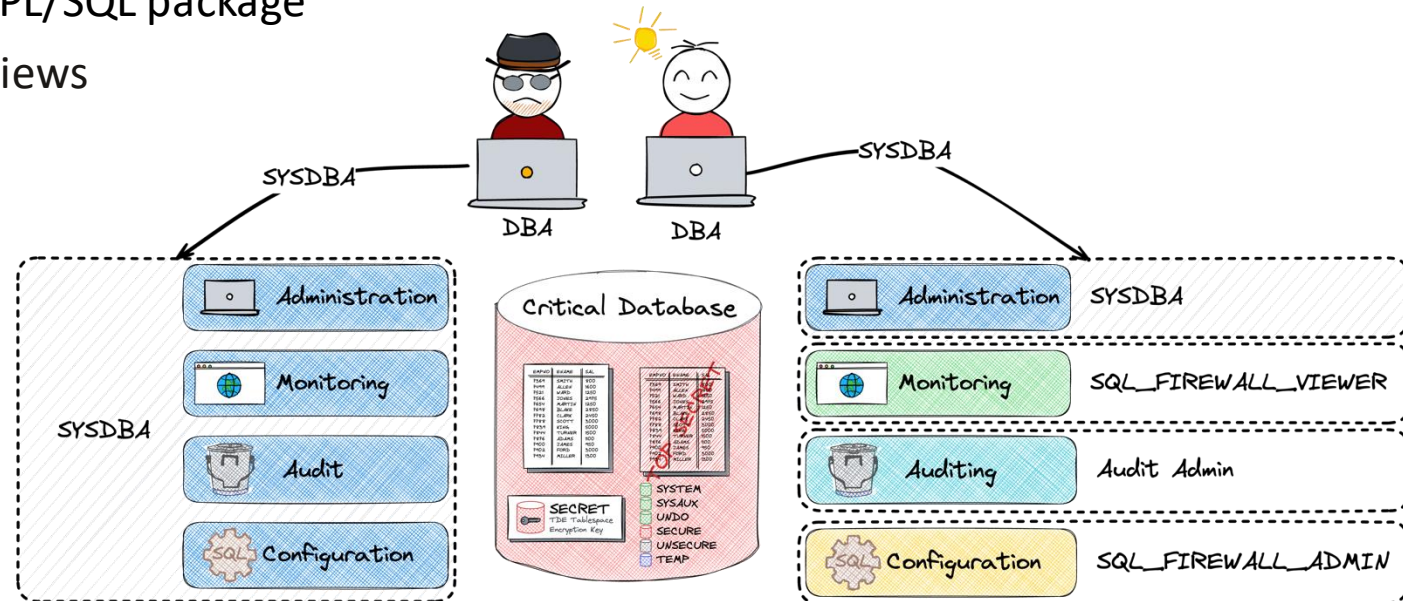


SQL Firewall Roles

Who should / can do what?

Dedicated roles for different purpose

- **SYSDBA** basic configuration and setup
- **SQL_FIREWALL_ADMIN**
 - ADMINISTER SQL FIREWALL system privilege
 - EXECUTE privilege on the DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL PL/SQL package
 - SELECT privilege for the SQL Firewall dictionary views
 - *DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_**
- **SQL_FIREWALL_VIEWER**
 - SELECT privilege for the SQL Firewall dictionary views e.g. *DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_**



Navigating SQL Firewall – Usage

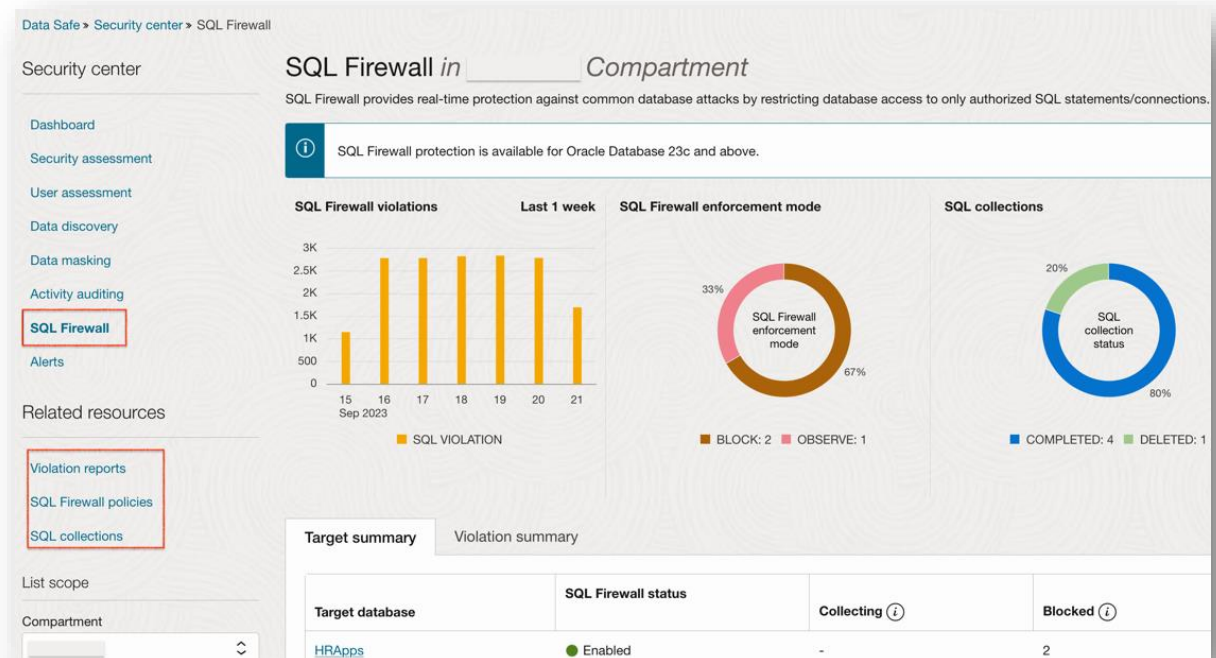
CLI or GUI you choose...

SQL Interface for the brave DBA

- System Privilege `ADMINISTER SQL FIREWALL`
- Predefined Roles
 - `SQL_FIREWALL_ADMIN`
 - `SQL_FIREWALL_VIEWER`
- Data Dictionary Views
- Violation Log `DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_VIOLATIONS`
- Capture Log `DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_CAPTURE_LOGS`
- A couple more `DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_` %
- Several base table in `SYSAUX` i.e.
`FW_CAPTURE$`, `FW_ALLOW_LIST$`,
`VIOLATION_LOG$`, ...

Oracle Data Safe on Oracle Cloud

- Manage multiple SQL Firewalls centrally
- Comprehensive view of SQL Firewall violations



Beyond the Basics - SQL Firewall Insights

Key Considerations and Advanced Knowledge

Smooth integration with other Oracle products

- **Multitenant Environment** both the CDB root and the individual PDB levels are affected
- **Oracle Centrally Managed Users** capture global user's activities is supported
- **Oracle Scheduler** jobs are excluded by default
- **Oracle Database Vault** not verified
- **Oracle Data Pump** Export and Import supports different use cases
 - Export and import SQL Firewall captures and allow-lists metadata e.g. `INCLUDE=SQL_FIREWALL`
 - Consider Procedures `DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.EXPORT_ALLOW_LIST` or `DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.IMPORT_ALLOW_LIST` to transfer allow-list



3

CLI Management

Use of *DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL*
for firewall management

SQL Firewall - Quick start

Short Journey through the SQL Firewall Configuration

- Connect as user with `SQL_FIREWALL_ADMIN` role
- Enable SQL Firewall

```
EXEC DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.ENABLE;
```

- Check the status of the SQL Firewall

```
SELECT * FROM dba_sql_firewall_status;
```

STATUS	STATUS_UPDATED_ON	EXCLUDE_JOBS
-----	-----	-----
ENABLED	21.11.23 06:30:01.430118000 +01:00	Y

SQL Firewall - Quick start

Short Journey through the SQL Firewall Configuration

- Enable a capture for the user SCOTT

```
BEGIN
  DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.CREATE_CAPTURE (
    username          => 'SCOTT',
    top_level_only    => TRUE,
    start_capture     => TRUE);
END;
/
```

- Verify what SCOTT is doing

```
SELECT sql_text FROM dba_sql_firewall_capture_logs
WHERE username = 'SCOTT';
```



SQL Firewall - Quick start

Short Journey through the SQL Firewall Configuration

- Disable capture for user SCOTT

```
EXEC DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.STOP_CAPTURE ('SCOTT');
```

- Generate an allow-list for user SCOTT

```
EXEC DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.GENERATE_ALLOW_LIST ('SCOTT');
```

- Query the allowed activity for user SCOTT

- DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_IP_ADDR
- DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_OS_PROG
- DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_OS_USER
- DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_SQL



SQL Firewall - Quick start

Short Journey through the SQL Firewall Configuration

- Customize the allow-list e.g. `DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.ADD_ALLOWED_CONTEXT` and `DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.DELETE_ALLOWED_CONTEXT`
- Enable the allow-list using `DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.ENABLE_ALLOW_LIST`

```
BEGIN
  DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.ENABLE_ALLOW_LIST (
    username      => 'SCOTT',
    enforce       => DBMS_SQL_FIREWALL.ENFORCE_SQL,
    block         => TRUE);
END;
/
```

- Start having fun with the protected Database...



SQL Firewall - Quick start

Short Journey through the SQL Firewall Configuration

- Limited availability of SCOTT

```
SQL> SELECT ename,sal FROM scott.emp WHERE ename='SCOTT';  
SELECT ename,sal FROM scott.emp WHERE ename='SCOTT'  
*  
ERROR at line 1:  
ORA-47605: SQL Firewall violation
```

- Chooses wisely what and when to capture application activity



4

GUI Management

Effective Administration
through Oracle Data Safe

GUI Management

Managing SQL Firewall via GUI

- **Oracle Data Safe** unifies data security controls for comprehensive database security
 - Cloud / OCI based tool
 - Control Cloud and On-Premises Targets
- **Centrall** Management and Reporting Platform
 - Risk Assessments
 - Audit Management
 - Sensitiv Data Discovery
 - SQL Firewall
 - Etc.



Enable SQL Firewall

Initial Configuration

Data Safe > Security center > SQL Firewall > Configuration details

ORACLE Cloud Search resources, services, documentation, and Marketplace Switzerland North (Zurich) > <> < > ? < >

SQL Firewall is disabled for the target DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1.

DatabaseSecurityConfig1718622119677

Enable Refresh Move resource Add tags

ACTIVE

Database security configuration information Tags

General information

Name: DatabaseSecurityConfig1718622119677

Description: Database security configuration for target: DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1

OCID: ...3zsknq [Show](#) [Copy](#)

Compartment: oradbaace (root)/Lab

Created time: Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:01:59 UTC

Updated time: Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:07:34 UTC

Target database

Name: DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1

SQL Firewall status: ● Disabled [Enable](#)

Status updated time: Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:07:29 UTC

Auto-purge violation logs: Off [Turn on](#)

Database jobs: Excluded [Include](#)

Last refresh time: Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:02:10 UTC [Refresh](#)



Initiate Collection


Start SQL Collection to “Learn”


The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Create and start SQL collection" with a "Help" link in the top right corner. At the top of the dialog, there are four buttons: "Disable", "Refresh", "Move resource", and "Add tags". Below the title bar, there is an information icon (i) followed by the text "Create and start SQL collection for the selected database user." Underneath, the "Database user" field is labeled with a refresh icon and contains the text "EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD". Below this, the "SQL collection level" is labeled with an information icon (i) and has two radio button options: "User issued SQL commands" (which is selected) and "User issued SQL commands and SQL commands issued inside PL/SQL units". At the bottom of the dialog, there are two buttons: "Create and start SQL collection" and "Close".

Disable Refresh Move resource Add tags

Create and start SQL collection [Help](#)

i Create and start SQL collection for the selected database user.

Database user 

EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD 

SQL collection level *i*

- User issued SQL commands
- User issued SQL commands and SQL commands issued inside PL/SQL units

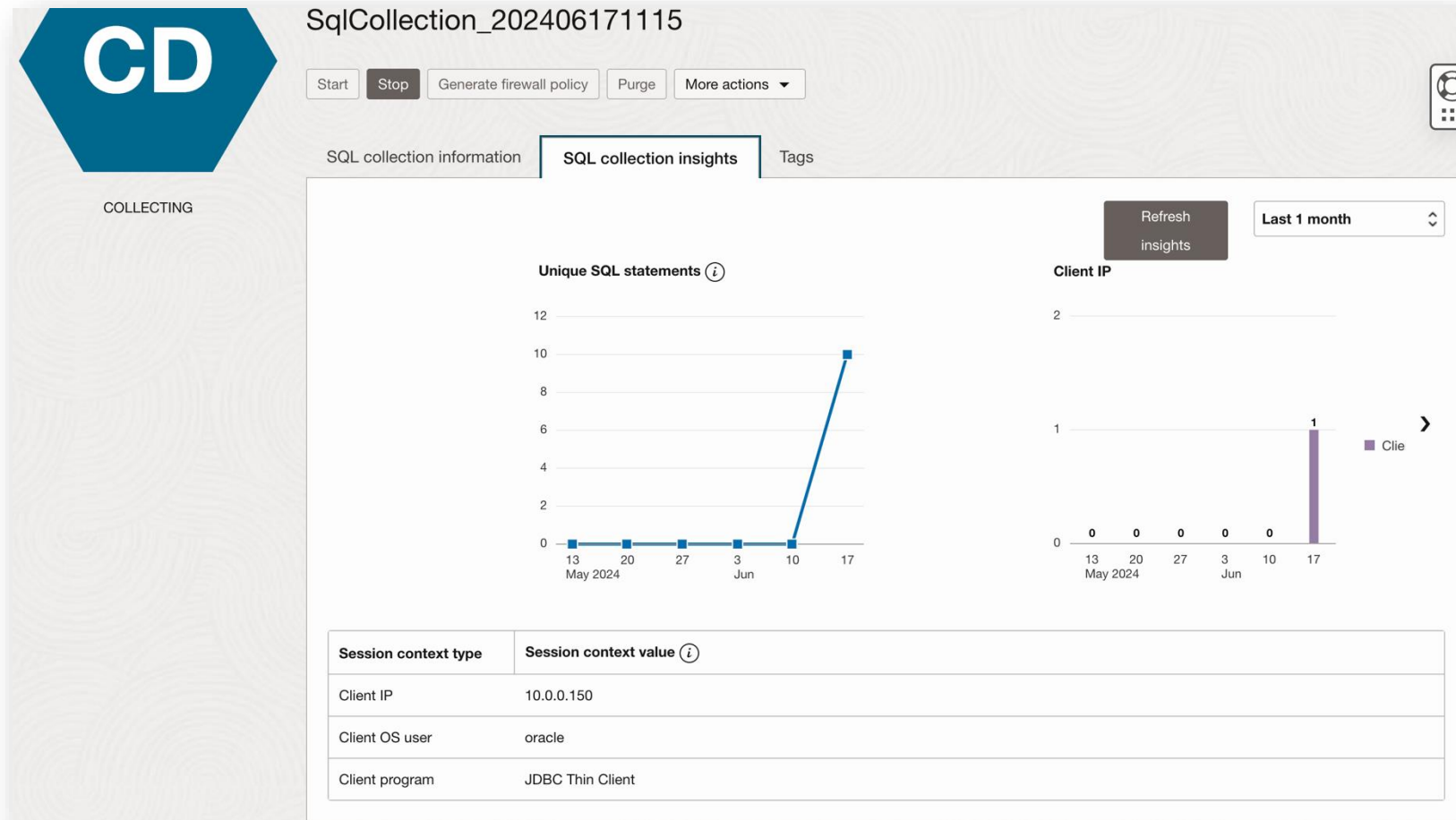
Create and start SQL collection [Close](#)

Showing 0 items < 1 of 1 >



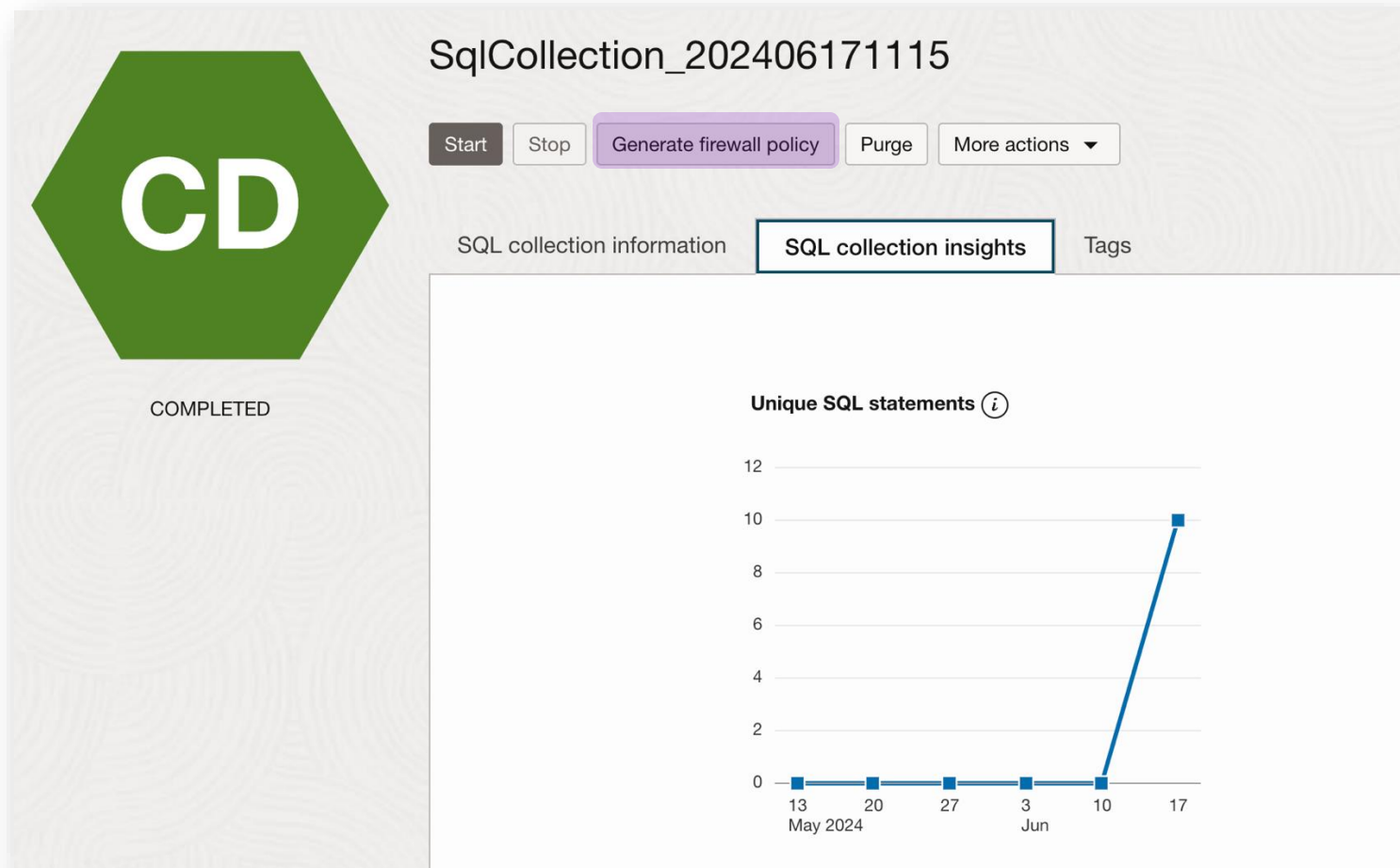
Collection Insights

Start SQL Collection to “Learn”



Generate Firewall Policy

Review and define what to be protected



SQL Firewall – Overview

Status on the SQL Firewall

Data Safe > Security center > SQL Firewall

Security center

Dashboard

Security assessment

User assessment

Data discovery

Data masking

Activity auditing

SQL Firewall

Alerts

Related resources

Violation reports

SQL Firewall policies

SQL collections

Violation report history

List scope

Compartment

Lab

oradbaace (root)/Lab

Include child compartments

SQL Firewall in Lab *Compartment*

SQL Firewall provides real-time protection against common database attacks by restricting database access to only authorized SQL statements/connections. [Learn more](#)

SQL Firewall protection is available for Oracle Database 23ai and above. Take the tour

SQL Firewall violations

Last 1 week

18

12:00 AM Jun 17 2024

CONTEXT VIOLATION SQL VIOLATION

SQL Firewall enforcement mode

100%

OBSERVE: 1

SQL collections

100%

COMPLETED: 1

Target summary Violation summary Notifications

Target database	SQL Firewall status	Collecting ⓘ	Blocked ⓘ	Observed ⓘ
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	Enabled	-	-	1

Showing 1 item < 1 of 1 >

Note: SQL Firewall configuration records are updated every 24 hours



5

Reporting, Audit and Alerts

Strengthen Database Security through Proactive Monitoring and Auditing

SQL Firewall – Data Dictionary

What's available within the Database?

- Views of the configuration

```
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOW_LISTS  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_IP_ADDR  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_OS_PROG  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_OS_USER  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_ALLOWED_SQL  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_CAPTURE_LOGS  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_CAPTURES
```

- Views on events and activity

```
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_SESSION_LOGS  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_SQL_LOGS  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_STATUS  
DBA_SQL_FIREWALL_VIOLATIONS
```



SQL Firewall – SQL Firewall

Comprehensive reporting and alarm functions

Data Safe > Security center > SQL Firewall

Security center

- Dashboard
- Security assessment
- User assessment
- Data discovery
- Data masking
- Activity auditing
- SQL Firewall**
- Alerts

Related resources

- Violation reports
- SQL Firewall policies
- SQL collections
- Violation report history

List scope

Compartment

Lab

oradbaace (root)/Lab

Include child compartments

SQL Firewall in Lab *Compartment*

SQL Firewall provides real-time protection against common database attacks by restricting database access to only authorized SQL statements/connections. [Learn more](#)

SQL Firewall protection is available for Oracle Database 23ai and above. Take the tour

SQL Firewall violations Last 1 week

Violation Type	Count
CONTEXT VIOLATION	1
SQL VIOLATION	17
Total	18

SQL Firewall enforcement mode

100%

OBSERVE: 1

SQL collections

100%

COMPLETED: 1

Target summary | Violation summary | Notifications

Target database	SQL Firewall status	Collecting ⓘ	Blocked ⓘ	Observed ⓘ
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	● Enabled	-	-	1

Showing 1 item < 1 of 1 >

Note: SQL Firewall configuration records are updated every 24 hours



SQL Firewall – SQL Firewall

Comprehensive reporting and alarm functions

The screenshot shows the Oracle Cloud console interface for SQL Firewall violation reports. The breadcrumb trail is: Data Safe > Security center > SQL Firewall > Violation reports > SQL violations. The page title is "SQL violations in Lab compartment". A notification states: "Data Safe keeps the violation logs for up to 12 months." Below this, there are filter controls for Type (Operation time), Operation (After), and Value (May 18, 2024 11:55 UTC). A summary section displays: 1 Targets, 1 DB users, 0 Violations blocked, 15 Violations allowed, and 15 Total violations. Action buttons include Refresh now, Create custom report, Manage report schedule, Generate report, and Download report. A table titled "Manage columns" lists the following data:

Target name	Database user	Operation time	SQL text	Violation cause	Violations
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD	Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:28:38 UTC	SELECT A.USERID,A.FIRSTNAME,A.	SQL violation	ALL
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD	Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:28:38 UTC	SELECT SYS_CONTEXT (:SYS_B_0"	SQL violation	ALL
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD	Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:28:38 UTC	SELECT UPPER (SYS_CONTEXT (:S	SQL violation	ALL
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD	Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:28:38 UTC	BEGIN DBMS_APPLICATION_INFO.SE	SQL violation	ALL
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD	Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:28:38 UTC	SELECT DECODE (USER,:"SYS_B_0"	SQL violation	ALL
DBSeclabs_DB23ai-freepdb1	EMPLOYEESEARCH_PROD	Mon, 17 Jun 2024 11:28:36 UTC	SELECT A.USERID,A.FIRSTNAME,A.	SQL violation	ALL

















6

Licensing

Exploring Oracle SQL
Firewall Licensing
Options

Licensing

Exploring Oracle SQL Firewall Licensing Options

Release Availability	 11.2  12.1  12.2  18c  19c  21c  23ai
Parent Feature	SQL Firewall
Available On	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oracle Database FREE Enterprise Edition Oracle Database Appliance Exadata Exadata Cloud Service / Cloud@Customer Database Cloud Service Enterprise Edition - High Performance Database Cloud Service Enterprise Edition - Extreme Performance <p>Notes: Included with the Oracle Database Vault option or with Oracle Audit Vault and Database Firewall</p> <p>CLOUD: Only available in OCI</p>
Initial Release	23ai

Source: <https://apex.oracle.com/database-features>



Licensing

Exploring Oracle SQL Firewall Licensing Options

- **Oracle Database FREE**
 - Use it to test, develop and engineer...
- **Oracle Database Enterprise Edition** either via
 - Oracle Database Vault Option
 - Oracle Audit Vault and Database Firewall see [AVDF Licensing Information](#) section 1.3 Restricted-Use Licensing

Use of SQL Firewall

Use of SQL Firewall with Audit Vault and Database Firewall is included for Oracle databases being monitored.

- AVDF enables SQL Firewall on Oracle Database Standard Edition.



Licensing

Exploring Oracle SQL Firewall Licensing Options

- Consider using **Autonomous Database** e.g., shared, dedicated, Cloud@Customer,...
 - License includes as part of Database Vault
 - Combine it with Data Safe



Note: Oracle Autonomous Database supports the standard security features of the Oracle Database including privilege analysis, network encryption, centrally managed users, secure application roles, transparent sensitive data protection, and others. Additionally, Oracle Autonomous Database adds Label Security, Database Vault, Data Safe, and other advanced security features at no additional cost.

7

Challenges

Mastering Challenges:
Main Challenges and
Key Measures

Challenges

Things to consider when using the SQL firewall

Doing the Homework

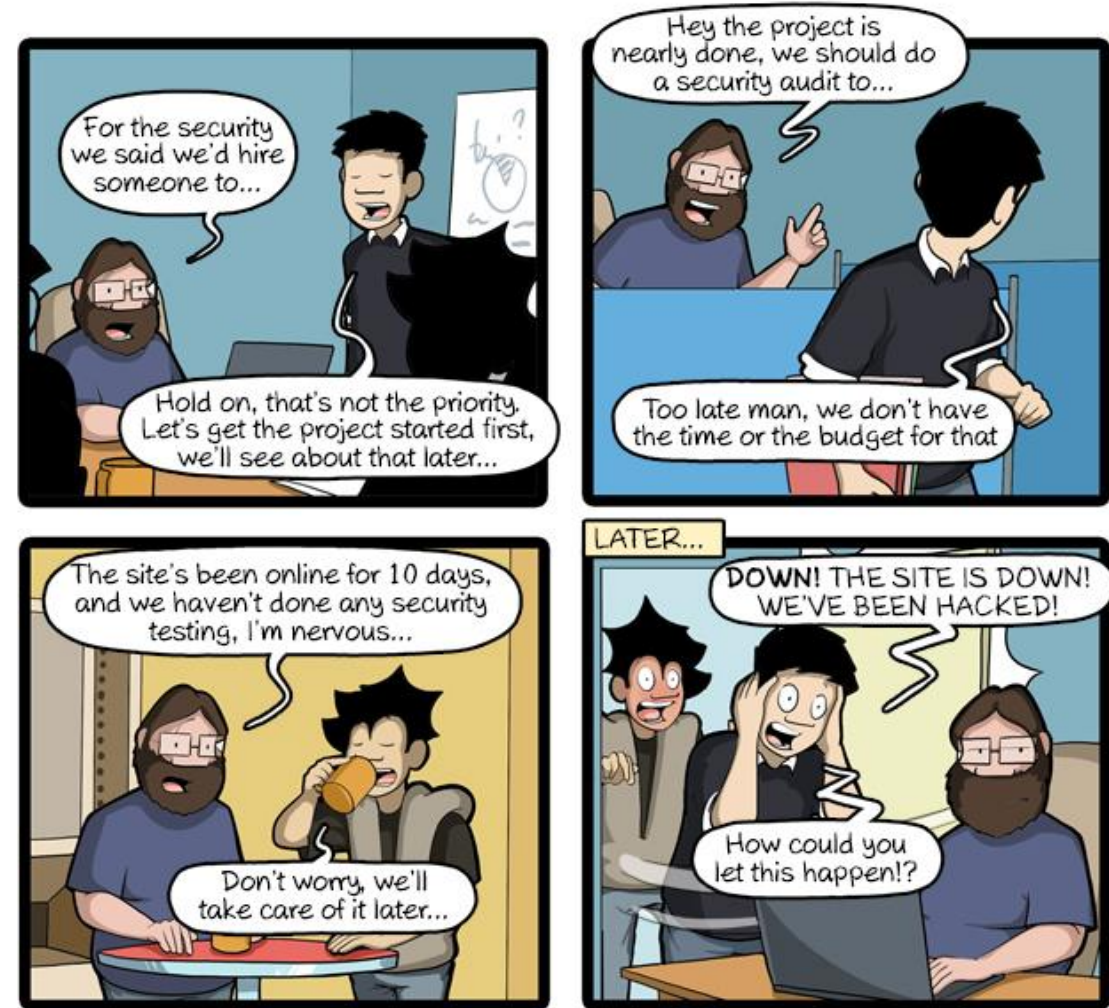
- Know the application and workload
- When to collect information
- What are my Clients / Networks etc.

SQL Statements

- Are you SQL Statements “stable”
- Whitelist vs. Blacklist approach

Start as early as possible

- It is easier when the application is not yet finished



CommitStrip.com

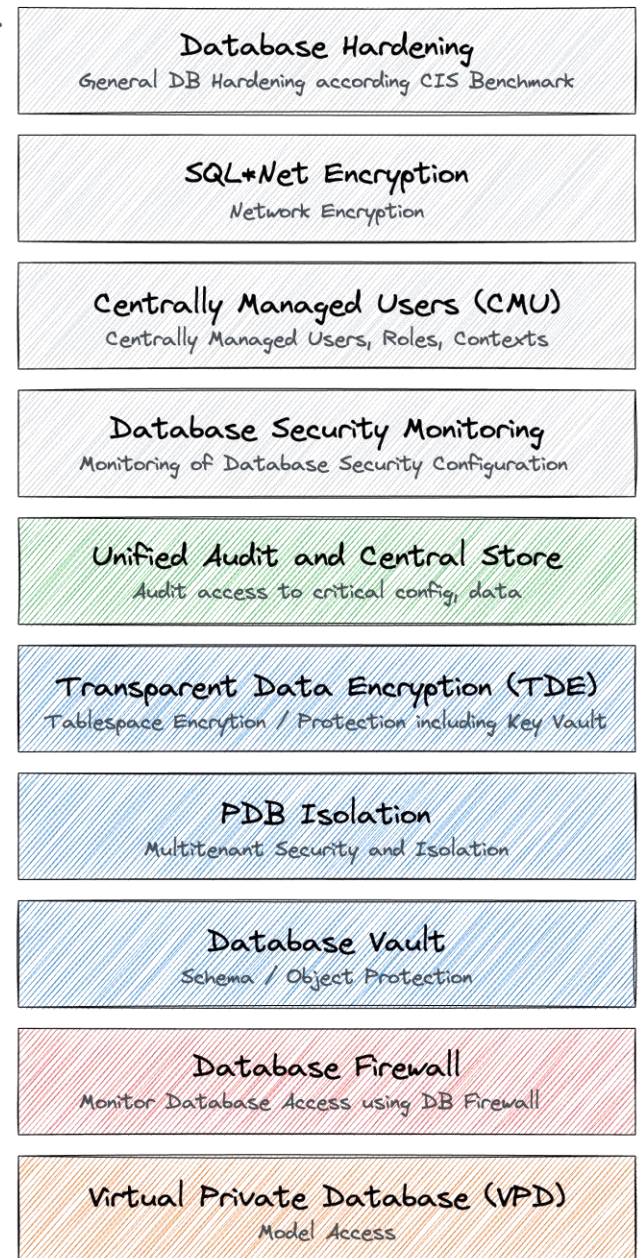
Additional Measures

SQL Firewall alone is not enough

- Defining and Implementing a Comprehensive Security Concept
- Implementation of **further** measures
 - User and role concept
 - Unified audit with corresponding assessment **and** housekeeping
 - Consider central Security Monitoring / Assessment e.g. AVDF, Data Safe, third party options

Security Measures

-  = All Security Levels
-  = Internal ++
-  = Confidential ++
-  = Secret ++
-  = out of Scope ++



Conclusion

Oracle SQL Firewall: Embedded security enforcement

SQL Firewall: A Major Milestone

- The SQL Firewall stands out as a pivotal feature in Oracle 23ai

Embedded permissive and enforcement modes

- Moves with the database e.g., cloning, backup & recovery etc.
- No additional infrastructure
- Differentiation from alternative solutions

A **good** foundation is a prerequisite

- Comprehensive Security Concept
- Additional Security Measures

The challenge: what needs to be protected and how

- Which Clients, IP's, Statements?
- When to collect information?

Security checklist

Anti-SQL-injection protection



SSL and OpenSSL up to date



Passwords hashed with salt



Multi-factor authentication on the back-office



AES encryption on sensitive data



Preventing the PM from sending the whole unencrypted database by email



Oracle LiveLabs – DB Security

Trial the SQL Firewall functionality in just a few minutes...

LiveLabs Search Workshops and Sprints... Event Code Sign In

DB Security - SQL Firewall

Share Start

30 minutes

Outline

- Train the SQL Firewall for expected SQL traffic
- Detect an insider threat
- Mitigate the risks of SQL injection attacks

Prerequisites

- Familiarity with database is preferred, but not required
- It will be helpful to have completed the DB Security - AVDF lab prior to beginning this lab
- Some understanding of cloud and database terms is helpful
- Familiarity with Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) is helpful

About This Workshop

In this workshop you will work with SQL Firewall, Oracle's Database Firewalling solution. SQL Firewall is hard-coded in the Oracle core DB to block out-of-policy activity and prevent SQL injection attacks with Oracle Data Safe and the PL/SQL API.

This lab is included in the DB Security Baseline lab. If you have completed that lab, then there is no need to do this one.

DB Security - SQL Firewall ID 3875

- Train the SQL Firewall for expected SQL traffic
- Detect an insider threat
- Mitigate the risks of SQL injection attacks

- <https://apexapps.oracle.com/pls/apex/r/dbpm/livelab/s/view-workshop?wid=3875>



**SQL Firewall offers
infrastructure-free database
protection, needing solid
security concepts for full
potential.**

Thank You

