Line Charts from SQL Data

Line charts are used to display trends and changes over time.

In this tutorial, the number of security events per day will be displayed using a line chart.

Step 1 - Create the SQL Query

The following query counts the number of events recorded each day.

```
SELECT

    DATE(event_timestamp) AS event_date,

    COUNT(*) AS total

FROM cyber_security_events

GROUP BY DATE(event_timestamp)

ORDER BY event_date;
```

Example result:

event_date	total
2026-06-01	12
2026-06-02	18
2026-06-03	9
2026-06-04	15

Step 2 - Retrieve the Data with PHP

```
<?php

$sql = "

SELECT

    DATE(event_timestamp) AS event_date,

    COUNT(*) AS total

FROM cyber_security_events

GROUP BY DATE(event_timestamp)

ORDER BY event_date

";

$result = $pdo->query($sql);

$data = [];

while($row = $result->fetch())
{

    $data[] = [

        $row['event_date'],

        (int)$row['total']

    ];

}
```

```
?>
```

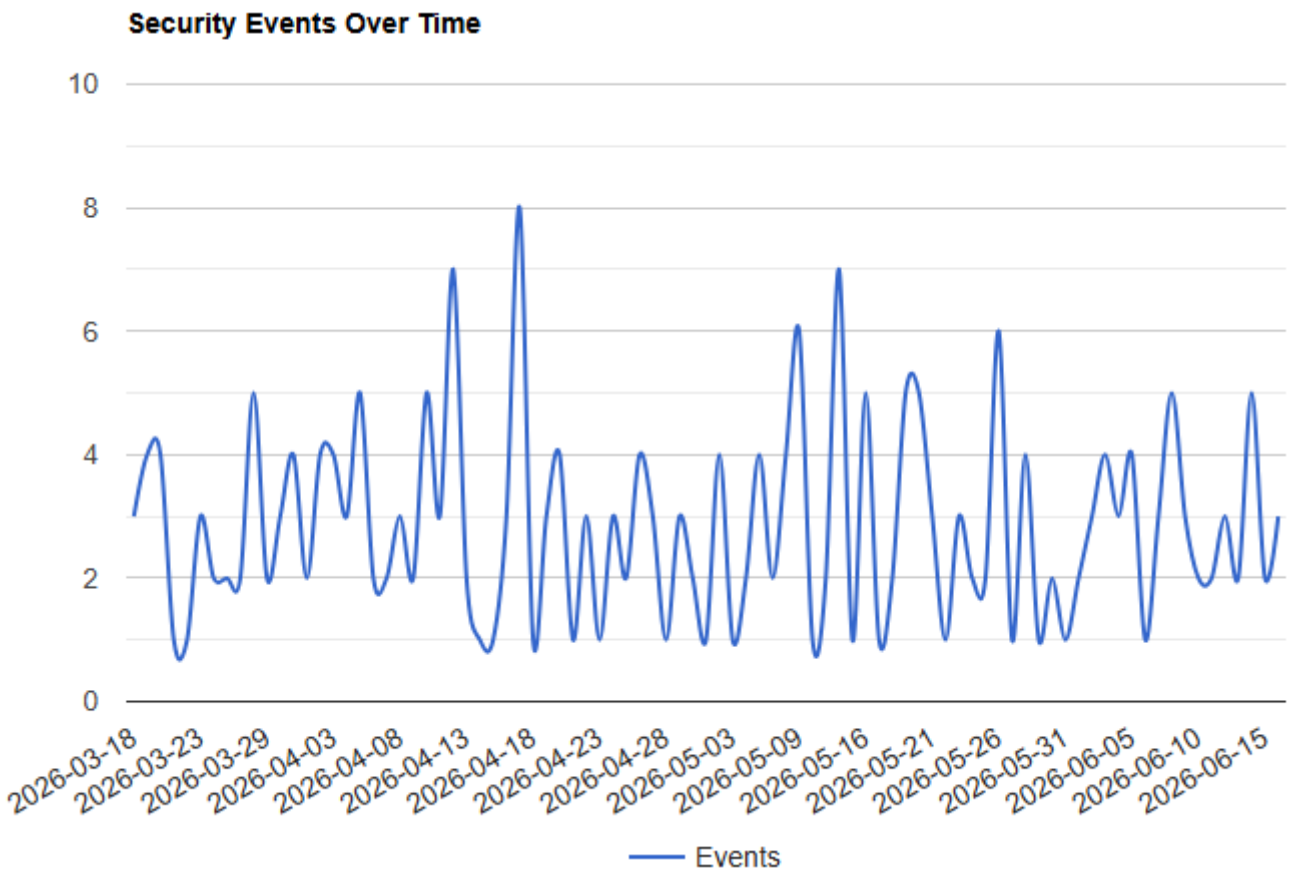
Step 3 - Create the Chart Container

```
<div id="chart_div"
     style="width:100%; max-width:900px; min-height:320px;">
</div>
```

Step 4 - Create the Line Chart

```
<script>

google.charts.load(
    'current',
    {'packages':['corechart']}
);

google.charts.setOnLoadCallback(drawChart);

function drawChart()
{

    var data =

        google.visualization.arrayToDataTable([

        ['Date','Events'],

        ...<?php echo json_encode($data); ?>

    ]);
```

```
    var options = {
        title:'Security Events Over Time',
        curveType:'function',
        legend:{position:'bottom'}
    };

    var chart =
        new google.visualization.LineChart(
            document.getElementById('chart_div')
        );

    chart.draw(data, options);
}
</script>
```



Understanding the Chart

The horizontal axis displays:

```
Date
```

The vertical axis displays:

```
Number of Security Events
```

This makes it easier to identify:

- Busy periods
- Trends over time
- Sudden increases in activity
- Patterns in the data

Complete Example

```
<?php

$sql = "

SELECT

    DATE(event_timestamp) AS event_date,

    COUNT(*) AS total

FROM cyber_security_events

GROUP BY DATE(event_timestamp)

ORDER BY event_date

";

$result = $pdo->query($sql);

$data = [];

while($row = $result->fetch())
{

    $data[] = [

        $row['event_date'],

        (int)$row['total']

    ];

}

?>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<head>

<script src="https://www.gstatic.com/charts/loader.js"></script>

</head>

<body>

<div id="chart_div"
     style="width:100%; max-width:900px; min-height:320px;">
</div>


<script>

google.charts.load(
    'current',
    {'packages':['corechart']}
);

google.charts.setOnLoadCallback(drawChart);

function drawChart()
{

    var data =

        google.visualization.arrayToDataTable([

        ['Date','Events'],

        ...<?php echo json_encode($data); ?>

    ]);
```

```
    var options = {
        title:'Security Events Over Time',
        curveType:'function',
        legend:{position:'bottom'}
    };

    var chart =
        new google.visualization.LineChart(
            document.getElementById('chart_div')
        );

    chart.draw(data, options);
}
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

Accessibility and data note

Provide the values in an HTML table or concise text summary as well as the chart. Do not rely on colour alone, and give the chart container an accessible name where practical. Google Charts loads JavaScript from Google; use fictional or non-personal summary data only.

Revision #4
Created 2026-06-21 23:40:15 UTC by Mr Napper

Updated 2026-08-19 23:04:46 UTC by Mr Napper