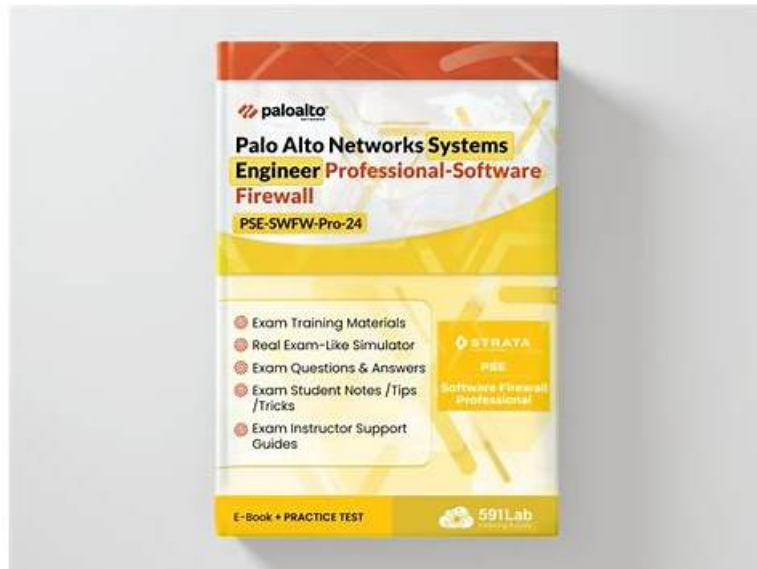


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Palo Alto Networks Systems Engineer Professional - Hardware Firewall Sample Questions (Q32-Q37):

NEW QUESTION # 32

According to a customer's CIO, who is upgrading PAN-OS versions, "Finding issues and then engaging with your support people requires expertise that our operations team can better utilize elsewhere on more valuable tasks for the business." The upgrade project was initiated in a rush because the company did not have the appropriate tools to indicate that their current NGFWs were

reaching capacity.

Which two actions by the Palo Alto Networks team offer a long-term solution for the customer? (Choose two.)

- A. Propose AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM) to address the company's issues from within the existing technology.
- B. Inform the CIO that the new enhanced security features they will gain from the PAN-OS upgrades will fix any future problems with upgrading and capacity.
- C. Recommend that the operations team use the free machine learning-powered AIOps for NGFW tool.
- D. Suggest the inclusion of training into the proposal so that the operations team is informed and confident in working on their firewalls.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

The customer's CIO highlights two key pain points: (1) the operations team lacks expertise to efficiently manage PAN-OS upgrades and support interactions, diverting focus from valuable tasks, and (2) the company lacked tools to monitor NGFW capacity, leading to a rushed upgrade. The goal is to recommend long-term solutions leveraging Palo Alto Networks' offerings for Strata Hardware Firewalls. Options B and D-training and AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM)- address these issues by enhancing team capability and providing proactive management tools. Below is a detailed explanation, verified against official documentation.

Step 1: Analyzing the Customer's Challenges

* Expertise Gap: The CIO notes that identifying issues and engaging support requires expertise the operations team doesn't fully have or can't prioritize. Upgrading PAN-OS on Strata NGFWs involves tasks like version compatibility checks, pre-upgrade validation, and troubleshooting, which demand familiarity with PAN-OS tools and processes.

* Capacity Visibility: The rushed upgrade stemmed from not knowing the NGFWs were nearing capacity (e.g., CPU, memory, session limits), indicating a lack of monitoring or predictive analytics.

Long-term solutions must address both operational efficiency and proactive capacity management, aligning with Palo Alto Networks' ecosystem for Strata firewalls.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Upgrade Overview

"Successful upgrades require planning, validation, and monitoring to avoid disruptions and ensure capacity is sufficient." Step 2:

Evaluating the Recommended Actions Option A: Recommend that the operations team use the free machine learning-powered AIOps for NGFW tool.

Analysis: AIOps for NGFW (free version) is a cloud-based tool that uses machine learning to monitor firewall health, detect anomalies, and provide upgrade recommendations. It offers basic telemetry (e.g., CPU usage, session counts) and alerts, which could have flagged capacity issues earlier. However, it lacks advanced features like automated remediation, detailed capacity planning, or integration with Strata Cloud Manager, limiting its long-term impact. Additionally, it doesn't address the expertise gap, as the team still needs knowledge to interpret and act on insights.

Conclusion: Helpful but not a comprehensive long-term solution.

Reference: AIOps for NGFW Documentation

"The free version provides basic health monitoring and ML-driven insights but lacks premium features for proactive management."

Option B: Suggest the inclusion of training into the proposal so that the operations team is informed and confident in working on their firewalls.

Analysis: Palo Alto Networks offers training through the Palo Alto Networks Authorized Training Partners and Cybersecurity Academy, covering PAN-OS administration, upgrades, and troubleshooting. For Strata NGFWs, courses like "Firewall Essentials: Configuration and Management (EDU-210)" teach upgrade best practices, capacity monitoring (e.g., via Device > High Availability > Resources), and support engagement.

How It Solves the Issue:

Reduces reliance on external expertise by upskilling the team.

Enables efficient upgrade planning (e.g., using Best Practice Assessment (BPA) tool).

Frees the team for higher-value tasks by minimizing support escalations.

Long-Term Benefit: A trained team can proactively manage upgrades and capacity, addressing the CIO's concern about expertise allocation.

Conclusion: A strong long-term solution.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Training Catalog

"Training empowers operations teams to confidently manage NGFWs, including upgrades and capacity planning." Option C: Inform the CIO that the new enhanced security features they will gain from the PAN-OS upgrades will fix any future problems with upgrading and capacity.

Analysis: New PAN-OS versions (e.g., 11.1) bring features like enhanced App-ID, decryption, or ML-based threat detection, improving security. However, these don't inherently solve upgrade complexity or capacity visibility. Capacity issues depend on hardware limits (e.g., PA-5200 Series max sessions), not software features, and upgrades still require expertise. This response oversells benefits without addressing root causes.

Conclusion: Not a valid long-term solution.

Reference: PAN-OS 11.1 Release Notes

"New features enhance security but do not automate upgrade processes or capacity monitoring." Option D: Propose AIOPS Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM) to address the company's issues from within the existing technology.

Analysis: AIOPS Premium, integrated with Strata Cloud Manager (SCM), is a subscription-based service for managing Strata NGFWs. It provides:

Predictive Analytics: Forecasts capacity needs (e.g., CPU, memory, sessions) using ML.

Upgrade Planning: Recommends optimal upgrade paths and validates configurations.

Proactive Alerts: Identifies issues before they escalate, reducing support calls.

Centralized Management: Monitors all firewalls from SCM, integrating with existing PAN-OS deployments.

How It Solves the Issue:

Prevents rushed upgrades by predicting capacity limits (e.g., via Capacity Saturation Reports).

Simplifies upgrade preparation with automated insights, reducing expertise demands.

Aligns with existing Strata technology, enhancing ROI.

Long-Term Benefit: Offers a scalable, proactive toolset to manage NGFWs, addressing both capacity and operational efficiency.

Conclusion: A robust long-term solution.

Reference: Strata Cloud Manager AIOPS Premium Documentation

"AIOPS Premium provides advanced capacity planning and upgrade readiness, minimizing operational burden." Step 3: Why B and D Are the Best Choices B (Training): Directly tackles the expertise gap, empowering the team to handle upgrades and capacity monitoring independently. It's a foundational fix, ensuring long-term self-sufficiency.

D (AIOPS Premium in SCM): Provides a technological solution to preempt capacity issues and streamline upgrades, reducing the need for deep expertise and support escalations. It complements training by automating complex tasks.

Synergy: Together, they address both human (expertise) and systemic (tools) challenges, aligning with the CIO's goals of operational efficiency and business value.

Step 4: How These Actions Integrate with Strata NGFWs

Training: Teaches use of PAN-OS tools like System Resources (CLI: show system resources) and Dynamic Updates for capacity and upgrade prep.

AIOPS Premium: Enhances Strata NGFW management via SCM, pulling telemetry (e.g., from Device > Setup > Telemetry) to predict and resolve issues.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Monitoring

"Combine training and tools like AIOPS to optimize NGFW performance and upgrades."

NEW QUESTION # 33

A systems engineer should create a profile that blocks which category to protect a customer from ransomware URLs by using Advanced URL Filtering?

- A. High Risk
- **B. Ransomware**
- C. Scanning Activity
- D. Command and Control

Answer: B

Explanation:

When configuring Advanced URL Filtering on a Palo Alto Networks firewall, the "Ransomware" category should be explicitly blocked to protect customers from URLs associated with ransomware activities.

Ransomware URLs typically host malicious code or scripts designed to encrypt user data and demand a ransom. By blocking the "Ransomware" category, systems engineers can proactively prevent users from accessing such URLs.

* Why "Ransomware" (Correct Answer A)? The "Ransomware" category is specifically curated by Palo Alto Networks to include URLs known to deliver ransomware or support ransomware operations.

Blocking this category ensures that any URL categorized as part of this list will be inaccessible to end-users, significantly reducing the risk of ransomware attacks.

* Why not "High Risk" (Option B)? While the "High Risk" category includes potentially malicious sites, it is broader and less targeted. It may not always block ransomware-specific URLs. "High Risk" includes a range of websites that are flagged based on factors like bad reputation or hosting malicious content in general. It is less focused than the "Ransomware" category.

* Why not "Scanning Activity" (Option C)? The "Scanning Activity" category focuses on URLs used in vulnerability scans, automated probing, or reconnaissance by attackers. Although such activity could be a precursor to ransomware attacks, it does not directly block ransomware URLs.

* Why not "Command and Control" (Option D)? The "Command and Control" category is designed to block URLs used by malware or compromised systems to communicate with their operators. While some ransomware may utilize command-and-control (C2) servers, blocking C2 URLs alone does not directly target ransomware URLs themselves.

By using the Advanced URL Filtering profile and blocking the "Ransomware" category, the firewall applies targeted controls to mitigate ransomware-specific threats.

NEW QUESTION # 34

What is used to stop a DNS-based threat?

- A. DNS proxy
- B. DNS tunneling
- C. DNS sinkholing
- D. Buffer overflow protection

Answer: C

Explanation:

DNS-based threats, such as DNS tunneling, phishing, or malware command-and-control (C2) activities, are commonly used by attackers to exfiltrate data or establish malicious communications. Palo Alto Networks firewalls provide several mechanisms to address these threats, and the correct method is DNS sinkholing.

* Why "DNS sinkholing" (Correct Answer D)? DNS sinkholing redirects DNS queries for malicious domains to an internal or non-routable IP address, effectively preventing communication with malicious domains. When a user or endpoint tries to connect to a malicious domain, the sinkhole DNS entry ensures the traffic is blocked or routed to a controlled destination.

* DNS sinkholing is especially effective for blocking malware trying to contact its C2 server or preventing data exfiltration.

* Why not "DNS proxy" (Option A)? A DNS proxy is used to forward DNS queries from endpoints to an upstream DNS server.

While it can be part of a network's DNS setup, it does not actively stop DNS-based threats.

* Why not "Buffer overflow protection" (Option B)? Buffer overflow protection is a method used to prevent memory-related attacks, such as exploiting software vulnerabilities. It is unrelated to DNS-based threat prevention.

* Why not "DNS tunneling" (Option C)? DNS tunneling is itself a type of DNS-based threat where attackers encode malicious traffic within DNS queries and responses. This option refers to the threat itself, not the method to stop it.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks DNS Security documentation confirms that DNS sinkholing is a key mechanism for stopping DNS-based threats.

NEW QUESTION # 35

A systems engineer should create a profile that blocks which category to protect a customer from ransomware URLs by using Advanced URL Filtering?

- A. High Risk
- B. Ransomware
- C. Scanning Activity
- D. Command and Control

Answer: B

Explanation:

When configuring Advanced URL Filtering on a Palo Alto Networks firewall, the "Ransomware" category should be explicitly blocked to protect customers from URLs associated with ransomware activities.

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* Why "Ransomware" (Correct Answer A)? The "Ransomware" category is specifically curated by Palo Alto Networks to include URLs known to deliver ransomware or support ransomware operations.

Blocking this category ensures that any URL categorized as part of this list will be inaccessible to end-users, significantly reducing the risk of ransomware attacks.

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By using the Advanced URL Filtering profile and blocking the "Ransomware" category, the firewall applies targeted controls to mitigate ransomware-specific threats.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks documentation for Advanced URL Filtering confirms that blocking the "Ransomware" category is a recommended best practice for preventing ransomware threats.

NEW QUESTION # 36

A company with a large Active Directory (AD) of over 20,000 groups has user roles based on group membership in the directory. Up to 1,000 groups may be used in Security policies. The company has limited operations personnel and wants to reduce the administrative overhead of managing the synchronization of the groups with their firewalls.

What is the recommended architecture to synchronize the company's AD with Palo Alto Networks firewalls?

- A. Configure NGFWs to synchronize with the AD after deploying the Cloud Identity Engine (CIE) and agents.
- **B. Configure a group mapping profile with an include group list.**
- C. Configure a group mapping profile with custom filters for LDAP attributes that are mapped to the user roles.
- D. Configure a group mapping profile, without a filter, to synchronize all groups.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Synchronizing a large Active Directory (AD) with over 20,000 groups can introduce significant overhead if all groups are synchronized, especially when only a subset of groups (e.g., 1,000 groups) are required for Security policies. The most efficient approach is to configure a group mapping profile with an include group list to minimize unnecessary synchronization and reduce administrative overhead.

* Why "Configure a group mapping profile with an include group list" (Correct Answer C)? Using a group mapping profile with an include group list ensures that only the required 1,000 groups are synchronized with the firewall. This approach:

* Reduces the load on the firewall's User-ID process by limiting the number of synchronized groups.

* Simplifies management by focusing on the specific groups relevant to Security policies.

* Avoids synchronizing the entire directory (20,000 groups), which would be inefficient and resource-intensive.

* Why not "Configure a group mapping profile, without a filter, to synchronize all groups" (Option B)? Synchronizing all 20,000 groups would unnecessarily increase administrative and resource overhead. This approach contradicts the requirement to reduce administrative burden.

* Why not "Configure a group mapping profile with custom filters for LDAP attributes that are mapped to the user roles" (Option A)? While filtering LDAP attributes can be useful, this approach is more complex to implement and manage compared to an include group list. It does not directly address the problem of limiting synchronization to a specific subset of groups.

* Why not "Configure NGFWs to synchronize with the AD after deploying the Cloud Identity Engine (CIE) and agents" (Option D)? While the Cloud Identity Engine (CIE) is a modern solution for user and group mapping, it is unnecessary in this scenario. A traditional group mapping profile with an include list is sufficient and simpler to implement. CIE is typically used for complex hybrid or cloud environments.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Group Mapping documentation recommends using include group lists for scenarios where only a subset of AD groups is required for policy enforcement.

NEW QUESTION # 37

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