

Training Ping Identity PT-AM-CPE Kit, PT-AM-CPE Exam Review



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Ping Identity PT-AM-CPE Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Access Management Security: This domain focuses on strengthening authentication security, implementing context-aware authentication experiences, and establishing continuous risk monitoring throughout user sessions.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending Services Using OAuth2-Based Protocols: This domain addresses integrating applications with OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect, securing OAuth2 clients with mutual TLS and proof-of-possession, transforming OAuth2 tokens, and implementing social authentication.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing and Deploying AM: This domain encompasses installing and upgrading PingAM, hardening security configurations, setting up clustered environments, and deploying PingOne Advanced Identity Platform to the cloud.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federating Across Entities Using SAML2: This domain covers implementing single sign-on using SAML v2.0 and delegating authentication responsibilities between SAML2 entities.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Intelligent Access: This domain covers implementing authentication mechanisms, using PingGateway to protect websites, and establishing access control policies for resources.

Ping Identity Certified Professional - PingAM Exam Sample Questions (Q79-Q84):

NEW QUESTION # 79

Which of the following is an incorrect statement about session upgrade outcomes?

- A. In a server-side or client-side session configuration, PingAM issues a new session token to a user who reauthenticates, only when the current session does not meet the security requirements
- B. In a server-side session configuration, when using the ForceAuth parameter and an authentication tree, PingAM issues a new session token to a user who reauthenticates, even if the current session already meets the security requirements
- C. In a client-side session configuration, PingAM replaces the client's original session token with a new session token
- D. In a server-side session configuration, when using advices, PingAM copies the session properties to a new session and replaces the client's original session token with a new session token

Answer: A

Explanation:

In PingAM 8.0.2, a Session Upgrade occurs when a user is required to authenticate at a higher security level (Auth Level). The outcomes of these upgrades depend on the session storage (server-side vs. client-side) and the parameters used.

Statement B is incorrect because it claims that a new token is issued only when the current session does not meet requirements. In reality, if a request explicitly includes a parameter like ForceAuth=true or prompt=login, PingAM will force a re-authentication and issue a new session token regardless of the current session's state.

According to the "Session Upgrade" and "Step-up Authentication" documentation:

Statement A is correct: When ForceAuth=true is used, the AM engine ignores the existing session's Auth Level and forces the user through the tree. A new session/token is generated upon success.

Statement C is correct: This describes the standard "Advice" flow (e.g., from a policy). AM creates a new session, copies existing properties from the old one, and replaces the token.

Statement D is correct: In client-side sessions, since the state is in a JWT cookie, any change (like an Auth Level increase) requires the issuance of a brand-new signed JWT to replace the old one.

Therefore, because PingAM allows for forced re-authentication even when requirements are met, the restrictive "only when" condition in Statement B makes it the incorrect (and thus the target) answer. This behavior is key for security scenarios where a fresh proof of presence is required regardless of previous activity.

NEW QUESTION # 80

Which of the following environment conditions are needed in an authentication policy created as part of the prerequisites for step-up authentication?

- A) Authentication Level (greater than or equal to)

- B) Authentication by Service
- C) Authentication by Module Instance (authentication modules only)
- D) Authentication to a Realm

- A. A, C, or D
- B. A, B, or D
- C. B, C, or D
- **D. A, B, or C**

Answer: D

Explanation:

To implement Step-up Authentication in PingAM 8.0.2, you typically use Authorization Policies that include "Environment Conditions."¹⁴ These conditions check the "quality" of the user's current session. If the session does not meet the specified condition, PingAM generates an Advice, which triggers the step-up process.

According to the "Condition Types" reference in the PingAM 8 documentation, the conditions used specifically to evaluate how a user authenticated are:

Authentication Level (greater than or equal to): This is the most common condition for step-up. It checks if the session's Auth Level is at least a certain value (e.g., Level 2). If the user only has a Level 1 session, the policy fails and triggers an upgrade.

Authentication by Service: This condition checks if the user authenticated using a specific Authentication Tree or Chain (e.g., the user must have used the "SecureBankMFA" tree).

Authentication by Module Instance: This is used for legacy deployments where individual modules are used instead of trees. It verifies that the user successfully completed a specific module (e.g., the "DataStore" module).

Authentication to a Realm (Option D) is generally not a condition used for step-up authentication. While a policy exists within a realm, the "step-up" logic is focused on the method or level of authentication within that realm, not the fact that they are in the realm itself (which is already a prerequisite for reaching the policy engine). Therefore, the combination of A, B, and C (Option B) represents the specific environment conditions designed to evaluate the authentication context for step-up or "Quality of Service" (QoS) requirements.

NEW QUESTION # 81

Which organization sets, maintains, and governs the SAML2 standard?

- A. ISC2
- **B. OASIS**
- C. IETF
- D. WC3

Answer: B

Explanation:

PingAM 8.0.2 is strictly compliant with various identity standards to ensure interoperability between different vendors and platforms. The Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V2.0 is the cornerstone of modern XML-based federation.⁷ According to the PingAM "SAML 2.0 Introduction" and "Supported Standards" documentation, the SAML 2.0 standard is developed and maintained by OASIS (the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards).⁸ Specifically, the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee (SSTC) is responsible for the specifications that define the SAML core (assertions and protocols), bindings (how SAML messages are mapped onto transport protocols like HTTP), and profiles (how SAML is used to solve specific use cases like Web Browser SSO).

Knowing the governing body is important for administrators when reviewing the "Technical Metadata" and "Schema" sections of PingAM, as AM's implementation follows the OASIS SAML 2.0 standards for XML signing, encryption, and assertion structure. Other organizations listed, such as the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force), govern protocols like OAuth2 and OpenID Connect, while the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) handles general web standards like XML and WebAuthn. However, for SAML2, OASIS remains the authoritative governing body.

NEW QUESTION # 82

Which of the following best represents the information that is typically contained in the debug output?

- A. The component that created the debug entry, A header with the time and date, The debug level, A general message, Optional stack trace
- **B. The component that created the debug entry, A header with the time and date, The running thread ID, The debug level, A**

general message, Optional stack trace

- C. The component that created the debug entry, A header with the time and date, The running thread ID, A general message, Optional stack trace
- D. A header with the time and date, The running thread ID, The debug level, A general message, Optional stack trace

Answer: B

Explanation:

In PingAM 8.0.2, troubleshooting complex issues often requires moving beyond audit logs to Debug Logs. These logs capture the internal operations of the AM engine and its various components (e.g., Authentication, Core Token Service, Session Management).⁷ According to the "Debug Logging" section of the PingAM 8.0.2 Maintenance Guide, the standard format for a debug log entry is designed to provide maximum context for support engineers and developers. A typical entry includes:

Time and Date Header: Precise timestamp of when the event occurred.

The Component (Category): Identifies which part of the code issued the message (e.g., amAuth, amSession, amOAuth2).

The Debug Level: Indicates the verbosity/severity, such as ERROR, WARNING, INFO, MESSAGE, or OFF.

The Thread ID: Crucial for multi-threaded environments like Tomcat, allowing administrators to trace a single user's request across multiple log entries.

The Message: A descriptive string explaining the internal operation or the error encountered.

Stack Trace: If the entry is recording an exception, a full Java stack trace is optionally included to pinpoint the exact line of code where the failure occurred.

Option A is the most complete and accurate representation of this structured output. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they omit essential troubleshooting fields like the Thread ID or the Component name, which are necessary for correlating logs in a high-concurrency production environment. Understanding this structure is fundamental for any administrator using tools like ssoadm or the REST API to capture and analyze troubleshooting information.

NEW QUESTION # 83

To protect against cross-site request forgery attacks, a default PingAM installation requires that some requests, such as POST requests, include:

- **A. X-Requested-With or Accept-API-Version header**
- B. X-OpenAM-Password header
- C. If-Match: _rev header
- D. X-OpenAM-Username header

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) is an attack where a malicious site sends a request to PingAM using the victim's authenticated browser session. Because standard HTML forms and cross-site requests cannot easily set custom HTTP headers, requiring a specific header is an effective defense for REST APIs.

According to the PingAM "Security" documentation and the "REST API" reference:

By default, PingAM 8.0.2 enforces a CSRF filter on its REST endpoints (such as /json/authenticate or /json/users). For any "state-changing" request (like a POST, PUT, or DELETE), the client must prove the request is intentional and not a forged browser-driven request. This is achieved by requiring at least one of the following headers:

X-Requested-With: Commonly used by AJAX libraries like jQuery. Its presence indicates the request was made via a script, which is generally not possible for a standard cross-site CSRF attack.

Accept-API-Version: This header serves two purposes. First, it ensures the client is targeting a specific version of the PingAM REST API (e.g., resource=2.0, protocol=1.0). Second, since custom headers cannot be set in simple cross-site <form> submissions, it acts as a CSRF token.

If a POST request is sent to the REST API without one of these headers, PingAM will reject the request with a 403 Forbidden error, even if the user has a valid session cookie.

Option B (If-Match: _rev) is used for concurrency control (preventing "lost updates" in IDM or AM configuration), but it is not the primary CSRF defense. Options A and D are headers sometimes used for "Zero-Page Login" or legacy authentication, but they do not provide protection against CSRF for the general REST API. Therefore, the combination of X-Requested-With or Accept-API-Version is the correct answer for default CSRF protection in PingAM 8.0.2.

NEW QUESTION # 84

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