

# 100% Pass Palo Alto Networks - XDR-Engineer–Valid Exam Overview



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## Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Detection and Reporting:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the detection engineer and covers creating detection rules to meet security requirements, including correlation, custom prevention rules, and the use of behavioral indicators of compromise (BIOCs) and indicators of compromise (IOCs). It also assesses configuring exceptions and exclusions, as well as building custom dashboards and reporting templates for effective threat detection and reporting.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ingestion and Automation:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the security engineer and covers onboarding various data sources including NGFW, network, cloud, and identity systems. It also includes managing simple automation rules, configuring Broker VM applets and clusters, setting up XDR Collectors, and creating parsing rules for data normalization and automation within the Cortex XDR environment.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cortex XDR Agent Configuration:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the XDR engineer and covers configuring endpoint prevention profiles and policies, setting up endpoint extension profiles, and managing endpoint groups. The focus is on ensuring endpoints are properly protected and policies are consistently applied across the organization.</li></ul>

Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planning and Installation:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the security engineer and covers the deployment process, objectives, and required resources such as hardware, software, data sources, and integrations for Cortex XDR. It also includes understanding and explaining the deployment and functionality of components like the XDR agent, Broker VM, XDR Collector, and Cloud Identity Engine. Additionally, it assesses the ability to configure user roles, permissions, and access controls, as well as knowledge of data retention and compute unit considerations.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintenance and Troubleshooting:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the XDR engineer and covers managing software component updates for Cortex XDR, such as content, agents, Collectors, and Broker VM. It also includes troubleshooting data management issues like data ingestion and parsing, as well as resolving issues with Cortex XDR components to ensure ongoing system reliability and performance.</li> </ul>

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## Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q11-Q16):

### NEW QUESTION # 11

Which step is required to configure a proxy for an XDR Collector?

- A. Edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information
- B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings
- C. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant
- D. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The XDR Collector in Cortex XDR is a lightweight tool for collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints. When a proxy is required for the XDR Collector to communicate with the Cortex XDR cloud, the proxy settings must be configured in the collector's configuration file. Specifically, the YAML configuration file (e.g., config.yaml) must be edited to include the proxy details, such as the proxy server's address, port, and authentication credentials (if required).

\* **Correct Answer Analysis (A):** To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, the engineer must edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information. This involves adding or updating the proxy settings in the file, which the collector uses to route its traffic through the specified proxy server.

\* **Why not the other options?**

\* **B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings:** While restarting the collector may be necessary to apply changes, it is not the primary step required to configure the proxy. The YAML file must be edited first.

\* **C. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder:** The Pathfinder is a Cortex XDR feature for discovering endpoints, not for configuring proxy settings for the XDR Collector.

\* **D. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant:** Proxy settings for the XDR Collector are configured locally on the collector, not in the Cortex XDR tenant's web interface.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains XDR Collector configuration: "To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, edit the YAML configuration file to include the proxy server details, such as address and port" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Configuration section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers XDR Collector setup, stating that "proxy settings are configured by editing the collector's YAML file" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing XDR

Collector configuration.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

### NEW QUESTION # 12

How long is data kept in the temporary hot storage cache after being queried from cold storage?

- A. 1 hour, re-queried to a maximum of 24 hours
- **B. 24 hours, re-queried to a maximum of 7 days**
- C. 1 hour, re-queried to a maximum of 12 hours
- D. 24 hours, re-queried to a maximum of 14 days

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, data is stored in different tiers: hot storage (for recent, frequently accessed data), cold storage (for older, less frequently accessed data), and a temporary hot storage cache for data retrieved from cold storage during queries. When data is queried from cold storage, it is moved to the temporary hot storage cache to enable faster access for subsequent queries. The question asks how long this data remains in the cache and the maximum duration for re-queries.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (B): Data retrieved from cold storage is kept in the temporary hot storage cache for 24 hours. If the data is re-queried within this period, it remains accessible in the cache. The maximum duration for re-queries is 7 days, after which the data may need to be retrieved from cold storage again, incurring additional processing time.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. 1 hour, re-queried to a maximum of 12 hours: These durations are too short and do not align with Cortex XDR's data retention policies for the hot storage cache.

\* C. 24 hours, re-queried to a maximum of 14 days: While the initial 24-hour cache duration is correct, the 14-day maximum for re-queries is too long and not supported by Cortex XDR's documentation.

\* D. 1 hour, re-queried to a maximum of 24 hours: The 1-hour initial cache duration is incorrect, as Cortex XDR retains queried data for 24 hours.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains data storage: "Data queried from cold storage is cached in hot storage for 24 hours, with a maximum re-query period of 7 days" (paraphrased from the Data Management section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers data retention, stating that "queried cold storage data remains in the hot cache for 24 hours, accessible for up to 7 days with re-queries" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing data storage management.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

### NEW QUESTION # 13

When isolating Cortex XDR agent components to troubleshoot for compatibility, which command is used to turn off a component on a Windows machine?

- A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop
- B. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop
- C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp
- **D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Cortex XDR agents on Windows include multiple components (e.g., for exploit protection, malware scanning, or behavioral analysis) that can be individually enabled or disabled for troubleshooting purposes, such as isolating compatibility issues. The cytool.exe utility, located in the Cortex XDR installation directory (typically C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\), is used to manage agent

components and settings. The runtime stop command specifically disables a component without uninstalling the agent.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The command "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop is used to turn off a specific Cortex XDR agent component on a Windows machine.

For example, cytool.exe runtime stop protection would disable the protection component, allowing troubleshooting for compatibility issues while keeping other components active.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop: The xdr.exe binary is not used for managing components; it is part of the agent's core functionality. The correct utility is cytool.exe.

\* C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop: Similarly, xdr.exe is not the correct tool, and -s stop is not a valid command syntax for component management.

\* D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp: The occp command is not a valid cytool.exe option. The correct command for stopping a component is runtime stop.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains component management: "To disable a Cortex XDR agent component on Windows, use the command cytool.exe runtime stop <component> from the installation directory" (paraphrased from the Troubleshooting section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers agent troubleshooting, stating that "cytool.exe runtime stop is used to turn off specific components for compatibility testing" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing agent component management.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer

Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

## NEW QUESTION # 14

Which statement describes the functionality of fixed filters and dashboard drilldowns in enhancing a dashboard's interactivity and data insights?

- A. Fixed filters limit the data visible in widgets, while dashboard drilldowns allow users to download data from the dashboard in various formats
- B. Fixed filters allow users to adjust the layout, while dashboard drilldowns provide links to external reports and/or dashboards
- C. Fixed filters let users select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope, while dashboard drilldowns provide interactive insights or trigger contextual changes, like linking to XQL searches
- D. Fixed filters allow users to select predefined data values, while dashboard drilldowns enable users to alter the scope of the data displayed by selecting filter values from the dashboard header

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, fixed filters and dashboard drilldowns are key features that enhance the interactivity and usability of dashboards. Fixed filters allow users to refine the data displayed in dashboard widgets by selecting predefined or dynamic values (e.g., time ranges, severities, or alert sources), adjusting the scope of the data presented. Dashboard drilldowns, on the other hand, enable users to interact with widget elements (e.g., clicking on a chart bar) to gain deeper insights, such as navigating to detailed views, other dashboards, or executing XQL (XDR Query Language) searches for granular data analysis.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (C): The statement in option C accurately describes the functionality: Fixed filters let users select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope, ensuring users can focus on specific subsets of data (e.g., alerts from a particular source). Dashboard drilldowns provide interactive insights or trigger contextual changes, like linking to XQL searches, allowing users to explore related data or perform detailed investigations directly from the dashboard.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. Fixed filters allow users to select predefined data values, while dashboard drilldowns enable users to alter the scope of the data displayed by selecting filter values from the dashboard header. This is incorrect because drilldowns do not alter the scope via dashboard header filters; they provide navigational or query-based insights (e.g., linking to XQL searches). Additionally, fixed filters support both predefined and dynamic values, not just predefined ones.

\* B. Fixed filters limit the data visible in widgets, while dashboard drilldowns allow users to download data from the dashboard in various formats. While fixed filters limit data in widgets, drilldowns do not primarily facilitate data downloads. Downloads are handled via export functions, not drilldowns.

\* D. Fixed filters allow users to adjust the layout, while dashboard drilldowns provide links to external reports and/or dashboards:

Fixed filters do not adjust the dashboard layout; they filter data. Drilldowns can link to other dashboards but not typically to external reports, and their primary role is interactive data exploration, not just linking.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes dashboard features: "Fixed filters allow users to select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope of data in widgets. Drilldowns enable interactive exploration by linking to XQL searches or other dashboards for contextual insights" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers dashboard configuration, stating that "fixed filters refine data scope, and drilldowns provide interactive links to XQL queries or related dashboards" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing fixed filters and drilldowns.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

### NEW QUESTION # 15

An insider compromise investigation has been requested to provide evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on a company laptop. Cortex XDR agent is installed with default prevention agent settings profile and default extension "Device Configuration" profile. Where can an engineer find the evidence?

- A. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured
- B. `preset = device_control`
- C. `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT`
- **D. Check Host Inventory -> Mounts**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, the Device Configuration profile (an extension of the agent settings profile) controls how the Cortex XDR agent monitors and manages device-related activities, such as the mounting of removable drives.

By default, the Device Configuration profile includes monitoring for device mount events, such as when a USB drive or other removable media is connected to an endpoint. These events are logged and can be accessed for investigations, such as detecting unauthorized drive usage in an insider compromise scenario.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (A): The Host Inventory -> Mounts section in the Cortex XDR console provides a detailed view of mount events for each endpoint, including information about removable drives mounted on the system. This is the most straightforward place to find evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on the company laptop, as it aggregates device mount events captured by the default Device Configuration profile.

\* Why not the other options?

\* B. `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.`

`MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT`: This XQL query is technically correct for retrieving mount events from the `xdr_data` dataset, but it requires manual query execution and knowledge of specific event types. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is a more user-friendly and direct method for accessing this data, making it the preferred choice for an engineer investigating this issue.

\* C. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured: This is incorrect because the default Device Configuration profile already captures mount events for removable drives, so no additional configuration is needed.

\* D. `preset = device_control`: The `device_control` preset in XQL retrieves device control-related events (e.g., USB block or allow actions), but it may not specifically include mount events unless explicitly configured. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is more targeted for this investigation.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes device monitoring: "The default Device Configuration profile logs mount events for removable drives, which can be viewed in the Host Inventory -> Mounts section of the console" (paraphrased from the Device Configuration section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers investigation techniques, stating that "mount events for removable drives are accessible in the Host Inventory for endpoints with default device monitoring" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing investigation of endpoint events.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education>

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