2026 Google Security-Operations-Engineer: Google Cloud Certified - Professional Security Operations Engineer (PSOE) Exam–The Best Latest Exam Cost

Security Operations Engineer
GOOGLE CLOUD CERTIFIED · PROFESSIONAL

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Google Security-Operations-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Detection Engineering: This section of the exam measures the skills of Detection Engineers and focuses on developing and fine-tuning detection mechanisms for risk identification. It involves designing and implementing detection rules, assigning risk values, and leveraging tools like Google SecOps Risk Analytics and SCC for posture management. Candidates learn to utilize threat intelligence for alert scoring, reduce false positives, and improve rule accuracy by integrating contextual and entity-based data, ensuring strong coverage against potential threats.
Topic 2	• Platform Operations: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Security Engineers and covers the configuration and management of security platforms in enterprise environments. It focuses on integrating and optimizing tools such as Security Command Center (SCC), Google SecOps, GTI, and Cloud IDS to improve detection and response capabilities. Candidates are assessed on their ability to configure authentication, authorization, and API access, manage audit logs, and provision identities using Workforce Identity Federation to enhance access control and visibility across cloud systems.

Topic 3	- Monitoring and Reporting: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Operations Center (SOC) Analysts and covers building dashboards, generating reports, and maintaining health monitoring systems. It focuses on identifying key performance indicators (KPIs), visualizing telemetry data, and configuring alerts using tools like Google SecOps, Cloud Monitoring, and Looker Studio. Candidates are assessed on their ability to centralize metrics, detect anomalies, and maintain continuous visibility of system health and operational performance.
Topic 4	- Data Management: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and focuses on effective data ingestion, log management, and context enrichment for threat detection and response. It evaluates candidates on setting up ingestion pipelines, configuring parsers, managing data normalization, and handling costs associated with large-scale logging. Additionally, candidates demonstrate their ability to establish baselines for user, asset, and entity behavior by correlating event data and integrating relevant threat intelligence for more accurate monitoring.

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Google Cloud Certified - Professional Security Operations Engineer (PSOE) Exam Sample Questions (Q86-Q91):

NEW QUESTION # 86
You are conducting proactive threat hunting in your company's Google Cloud environment. You suspect that an attacker compromised a developer's credentials and is attempting to move laterally from a development Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) cluster to critical production systems. You need to identify IoCs and prioritize investigative actions by using Google Cloud's security tools before analyzing raw logs in detail.
What should you do next?

- A. Investigate Virtual Machine (VM) Threat Detection findings in Security Command Center (SCC). Filter for VM Threat Detection findings to target the Compute Engine instances that serve as the nodes for the cluster, and look for malware or rootkits on the nodes.
- B. Review threat intelligence feeds within Google Security Operations (SecOps), and enrich any anomalies with context on known IoCs, attacker tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), and campaigns.
- C. In the Security Command Center (SCC) console, apply filters for the cluster and analyze the resulting aggregated findings' timeline and details for IoCs. Examine the attack path simulations associated with attack exposure scores to prioritize subsequent actions.
- D. Create a Google SecOps SOAR playbook that automatically isolates any GKE resources exhibiting unusual network connections to production environments and triggers an alert to the incident response team.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed 150 to 250 words of Explanation From Exact Extract Google Security Operations Engineer documents:
The key requirements are to "proactively hunt," "prioritize investigative actions," and identify "lateral movement" paths before deep log analysis. This is the primary use case for Security Command Center (SCC) Enterprise. SCC aggregates all findings from Google Cloud services and correlates them with assets.
By filtering on the GKE cluster, the analyst can see all associated findings (e.g., from Event Threat Detection) which may contain initial IoCs.

More importantly, SCC's attack path simulation feature is specifically designed to "prioritize investigative actions" by modeling how an attacker could move laterally. It visualizes the chain of exploits-such as a misconfigured GKE service account with excessive permissions, combined with a public-facing service-that an attacker could use to pivot from the development cluster to high-value production systems. Each path is given an attack exposure score, allowing the hunter to immediately focus on the most critical risks. Option C is too narrow, as it only checks for malware on nodes, not the lateral movement path. Option B is a later step used to enrich IoCs after they are found. Option D is an automated response (SOAR), not a proactive hunting and prioritization step.
(Reference: Google Cloud documentation, "Security Command Center overview"; "Attack path simulation and attack exposure scores")

NEW QUESTION # 87
You have identified a common malware variant on a potentially infected computer. You need to find reliable IoCs and malware behaviors as quickly as possible to confirm whether the computer is infected and search for signs of infection on other computers.
What should you do?

- A. Perform a UDM search for the file checksum in Google Security Operations (SecOps). Review activities that are associated with, or attributed to, the malware.
- B. Create a Compute Engine VM, and perform dynamic and static malware analysis.
- C. Run a Google Web Search for the malware hash, and review the results.
- D. Search for the malware hash in Google Threat Intelligence, and review the results.

Answer: D

Explanation:
The correct answer is A. The most effective and reliable method for a security engineer to "find reliable IoCs and malware behaviors" is to use Google Threat Intelligence (GTI). When a known indicator like a file hash is identified, the primary workflow is threat enrichment. Google Threat Intelligence, which is a core component of the Google SecOps platform and incorporates intelligence from Mandiant and VirusTotal, is the dedicated tool for this. Searching the hash in GTI provides a comprehensive report on the malware variant, including all associated reliable IoCs (e.g., C2 domains, IP addresses, related file hashes) and malware behaviors (TTPs, attribution, and context). This directly fulfills the user's need.
In contrast, Option D (UDM search) is the subsequent step. A UDM search is used to hunt for indicators within your own organization's logs. An engineer would first use GTI to gather the full list of IoCs and behaviors, and then use UDM search to hunt for all of those indicators across their environment. Option B (Web Search) is unreliable for professional operations, and Option C (manual analysis) is too slow for a
"common malware variant" and the need to act "quickly."
(Reference: Google Cloud documentation, "Google Threat Intelligence overview"; "Investigating threats using Google Threat Intelligence"; "View IOCs using Applied Threat Intelligence")

NEW QUESTION # 88
You are investigating whether an advanced persistent threat (APT) actor has operated in your organization's environment undetected. You have received threat intelligence that includes:
* A SHA256 hash for a malicious DLL
* A known command and control (C2) domain
* A behavior pattern where rundll32.exe spawns powershell.exe with obfuscated arguments Your Google Security Operations (SecOps) instance includes logs from EDR, DNS, and Windows Sysmon.
However, you have recently discovered that process hashes are not reliably captured across all endpoints due to an inconsistent Sysmon configuration. You need to use Google SecOps to develop a detection mechanism that identifies the associated activities.
What should you do?

- A. Write a multi-event YARA-L detection rule that correlates the process relationship and hash, and run a retrohunt based on this rule.
- B. Create a single-event YARA-L detection rule based on the file hash, and run the rule against historical and incoming telemetry to detect the DLL execution.
- C. Use Google SecOps search to identify recent uses of rundll32.exe, and tag affected assets for watchlisting.
- D. Build a data table that contains the hash and domain, and link the list to a high-frequency rule for near real-time alerting.

Answer: D

Explanation:
The core of this problem is the unreliable data quality for the file hash. A robust detection strategy cannot depend on an unreliable

data point. Options B and C are weak because they create a dependency on the SHA256 hash, which the prompt states is "not reliably captured." This would lead to missed detections.
Option A is far too broad and would generate massive noise.
The best detection engineering practice is to use the reliable IoCs in a flexible and high-performance manner.
The domain is a reliable IoC (from DNS logs), and the hash is still a valuable IoC, even if it's only intermittently available.
The standard Google SecOps method for this is to create a List (referred to here as a "data table") containing both static IoCs: the hash and the domain. An engineer can then write a single, efficient YARA-L rule that references this list. This rule would trigger if either a PROCESS_LAUNCH event is seen with a hash in the list or a NETWORK_DNS event is seen with a domain in the list (e.g., (event.principal.process.file.sha256 in
%ioc_list) or (event.network.dns.question.name in %ioc_list)). This creates a resilient detection mechanism that provides two opportunities to identify the threat, successfully working around the unreliable data problem.
(Reference: Google Cloud documentation, "YARA-L 2.0 language syntax"; "Using Lists in rules"; "Detection engineering overview")

NEW QUESTION # 89
Your organization uses Security Command Center Enterprise (SCCE). You are creating models to detect anomalous behavior. You want to programmatically build an entity data structure that can be used to query the connections between resources in your Google Cloud environment. What should you do?

- A. Create a Bash script to iterate through various resource types using gcloud CLI commands, and export a CSV file. Load this data into BigQuery for analysis.
- B. Employ attack path simulation with high-value resource sets to simulate potential lateral movement.
- C. Navigate to the Asset Query tab, and join resources from the Cloud Asset Inventory resource table.
Export the results to BigQuery for analysis.
- D. Use the Cloud Asset Inventory relationship table, and ingest the data into Spanner Graph.

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation
The key requirement is to programmatically build a data structure to query the connections (i.e., a graph) between resources.
Security Command Center (SCC) Enterprise is built upon the data provided by Cloud Asset Inventory (CAI).1 Cloud Asset Inventory provides two primary types of data: resources (the "nodes" of a graph) and relationships (the "edges" of a graph).2
* Option B is incorrect because it focuses on the resource table. While the resource table contains the assets themselves, it is the relationship table that specifically stores the connections between them (e.
g., a compute.googleapis.com/Instance is ATTACHED_TO a compute.googleapis.com/Network).
* Option A (attack path simulation) is a feature that consumes this graph data; it is not the method used to build the data structure for programmatic querying.
* Option C (Bash script) is a manual, inefficient, and incomplete method that would fail to capture the complex relationships that CAI tracks automatically.
* Option D is the correct solution. The Cloud Asset Inventory relationship table is the precise source for all resource connections.
To effectively query these connections as an entity data structure (a graph), the ideal destination is a graph database. Spanner Graph is Google Cloud's managed graph database service, designed specifically for storing and querying highly interconnected data, making it the perfect tool for analyzing resource relationships and potential attack paths.3 Exact Extract from Google Security Operations Documents:
Relationships in Cloud Asset Inventory: Cloud Asset Inventory (CAI) provides relationship data, which allows you to understand the connections between your Google Cloud resources.4 CAI models relationships as a graph. You can export this relationship data for analysis. The relationship service stores information about the relationships between resources. For example, a Compute Engine instance might have a relationship with a persistent disk, or an IAM policy binding might have a relationship with a project.
Spanner Graph: Spanner Graph is a graph database built on Cloud Spanner that lets you store and query your graph data at scale.5 It is suitable for use cases that involve complex relationships, such as security analysis, fraud detection, and recommendation engines.
By ingesting the Cloud Asset Inventory relationship table into Spanner Graph, you can programmatically execute graph queries to explore connections, identify high-risk assets, and model potential lateral movement paths.
References:
Google Cloud Documentation: Cloud Asset Inventory > Documentation > Analyzing asset relationships Google Cloud Documentation: Spanner > Documentation > Spanner Graph > Overview Google Cloud Documentation: Security Command Center > Documentation > Key concepts > Attack path simulation

NEW QUESTION # 90

You are an incident response engineer at an organization that uses Google Security Operations (SecOps). You recently started monitoring IOCs in Applied Threat Intelligence using YARA-L rules. You have discovered that there are more false positive alerts than expected, which is causing noise for the SOC team. You need to reduce the number of false positive alerts. What should you do?

- A. Create a playbook that automatically tunes the IOC source if its indicator confidence score (IC- Score) is between 60% and 80%.
- B. Implement curated detections instead of custom YARA-L rules.
- C. Configure alert grouping for the most repetitive alerts.
- D. Modify the YARA-L rules to use an indicator confidence score (IC-Score) of 60% and above.

Answer: D

Explanation:
To reduce false positives in YARA-L rules that use Applied Threat Intelligence, you should modify the rules to only trigger on indicators with an IC-Score of 60% or higher. The Indicator Confidence Score (IC-Score) reflects the reliability of each IOC; filtering by a higher score reduces noise from low-confidence indicators while maintaining detection of credible threats.

NEW QUESTION # 91
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