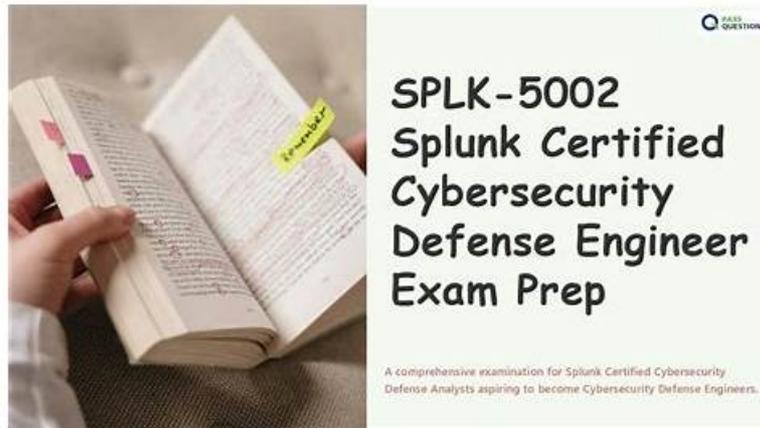


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## Splunk Certified Cybersecurity Defense Engineer Sample Questions (Q32-Q37):

### NEW QUESTION # 32

A security team notices delays in responding to phishing emails due to manual investigation processes. How can Splunk SOAR improve this workflow?

- A. By increasing the indexing frequency of email logs
- **B. By automating email triage and analysis with playbooks**
- C. By prioritizing phishing cases manually
- D. By assigning cases to analysts in real-time

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

How Splunk SOAR Improves Phishing Response?

Phishing attacks require fast detection and response. Manual investigation delays can be eliminated using Splunk SOAR automation.

#Why Use Playbooks for Automated Email Triage? (Answer B)#Extracts email headers and attachments for analysis#Checks links & attachments against threat intelligence feeds#Automatically quarantines or deletes malicious emails#Escalates high-risk cases to SOC analysts

#Example Playbook Workflow in Splunk SOAR:#Scenario: A suspicious email is reported.#Splunk SOAR playbook automatically:

Extracts sender details & checks against threat intelligence

Analyzes URLs & attachments using VirusTotal/Sandboxing

Tags the email as "Malicious" or "Safe"

Quarantines the email & alerts SOC analysts

Why Not the Other Options?

#A. Prioritizing phishing cases manually - Still requires manual effort, leading to delays.#C. Assigning cases to analysts in real-time -

Doesn't solve the issue of slow manual investigations.#D. Increasing the indexing frequency of email logs - Helps with log retrieval but doesn't automate phishing response.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk SOAR Phishing Playbook Guide: [https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/SOAR#Phishing Detection Automation in](https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/SOAR#Phishing%20Detection%20Automation%20in%20Splunk)

Splunk: [https://splunkbase.splunk.com#Email Threat Intelligence with SOAR:](https://splunkbase.splunk.com#Email%20Threat%20Intelligence%20with%20SOAR)

[https://www.splunk.com/en\\_us/blog/security](https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/security)

### NEW QUESTION # 33

What is the main purpose of Splunk's Common Information Model (CIM)?

- A. To compress data during indexing
- B. To normalize data for correlation and searches
- C. To create accelerated reports
- D. To extract fields from raw events

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

What is the Splunk Common Information Model (CIM)?

Splunk's Common Information Model (CIM) is a standardized way to normalize and map event data from different sources to a common field format. It helps with:

Consistent searches across diverse log sources

Faster correlation of security events

Better compatibility with prebuilt dashboards, alerts, and reports

Why is Data Normalization Important?

Security teams analyze data from firewalls, IDS/IPS, endpoint logs, authentication logs, and cloud logs.

These sources have different field names (e.g., "src\_ip" vs. "source\_address").

CIM ensures a standardized format, so correlation searches work seamlessly across different log sources.

How CIM Works in Splunk?

#Maps event fields to a standardized schema#Supports prebuilt Splunk apps like Enterprise Security (ES)

#Helps SOC teams quickly detect security threats

#Example Use Case:

A security analyst wants to detect failed admin logins across multiple authentication systems.

Without CIM, different logs might use:

user\_login\_failed

auth\_failure

login\_error

With CIM, all these fields map to the same normalized schema, enabling one unified search query.

Why Not the Other Options?

#A. Extract fields from raw events - CIM does not extract fields; it maps existing fields into a standardized format.#C. Compress

data during indexing - CIM is about data normalization, not compression.#D. Create accelerated reports - While CIM supports acceleration, its main function is standardizing log formats.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk CIM Documentation: [https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/CIM#How Splunk CIM Helps with Security Analytics:](https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/CIM#How%20Splunk%20CIM%20Helps%20with%20Security%20Analytics)

[https://www.splunk.com/en\\_us/solutions/common-information-model.html#Splunk Enterprise Security & CIM Integration:](https://www.splunk.com/en_us/solutions/common-information-model.html#Splunk%20Enterprise%20Security%20&%20CIM%20Integration)

<https://splunkbase.splunk.com/app/263>

### NEW QUESTION # 34

How can you ensure that a specific sourcetype is assigned during data ingestion?

- A. Configure the sourcetype in the deployment server.
- **B. Use props.conf to specify the sourcetype.**
- C. Use REST API calls to tag sourcetypes dynamically.
- D. Define the sourcetype in the search head.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Why Use props.conf to Assign Sourcetypes?

In Splunk, sourcetypes define the format and structure of incoming data. Assigning the correct sourcetype ensures that logs are parsed, indexed, and searchable correctly.

#How Does props.conf Help?

props.conf allows manual sourcetype assignment based on source or host.

Ensures that logs are indexed with the correct parsing rules (timestamps, fields, etc.).

#Example Configuration in props.conf:

```
ini
```

CopyEdit

```
[source::/var/log/auth.log]
```

```
sourcetype = auth_logs
```

#This forces all logs from /var/log/auth.log to be assigned sourcetype=auth\_logs.

Why Not the Other Options?

#B. Define the sourcetype in the search head - Sourcetypes are assigned at ingestion time, not at search time.

#C. Configure the sourcetype in the deployment server - The deployment server manages configurations, but props.conf is what actually assigns sourcetypes. #D. Use REST API calls to tag sourcetypes dynamically - REST APIs help modify configurations, but they don't assign sourcetypes directly during ingestion.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk props.conf Documentation: <https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/Splunk/latest/Admin/Propsconf>

#Best Practices for Sourcetype Management: [https://www.splunk.com/en\\_us/blog/tips-and-tricks/Splunk-Data-Parsing-Guide](https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/tips-and-tricks/Splunk-Data-Parsing-Guide): <https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

### NEW QUESTION # 35

Which practices strengthen the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)? (Choose three)

- **A. Including detailed step-by-step instructions**
- B. Focusing solely on high-risk scenarios
- **C. Collaborating with cross-functional teams**
- D. Excluding historical incident data
- **E. Regular updates based on feedback**

**Answer: A,C,E**

Explanation:

Why Are These Practices Essential for SOP Development?

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are crucial for ensuring consistent, repeatable, and effective security operations in a Security Operations Center (SOC). Strengthening SOP development ensures efficiency, clarity, and adaptability in responding to incidents.

1##Regular Updates Based on Feedback (Answer A)

Security threats evolve, and SOPs must be updated based on real-world incidents, analyst feedback, and lessons learned.

Example: A new ransomware variant is detected; the SOP is updated to include a specific containment playbook in Splunk SOAR.

2##Collaborating with Cross-Functional Teams (Answer C)

Effective SOPs require input from SOC analysts, threat hunters, IT, compliance teams, and DevSecOps.

Ensures that all relevant security and business perspectives are covered.

Example: A SOC team collaborates with DevOps to ensure that a cloud security response SOP aligns with AWS security controls.

3##Including Detailed Step-by-Step Instructions (Answer D)

SOPs should provide clear, actionable, and standardized steps for security analysts.

Example: A Splunk ES incident response SOP should include:

How to investigate a security alert using correlation searches.

How to escalate incidents based on risk levels.

How to trigger a Splunk SOAR playbook for automated remediation.

Why Not the Other Options?

#B. Focusing solely on high-risk scenarios- All security events matter, not just high-risk ones. Low-level alerts can be early indicators of larger threats. #E. Excluding historical incident data- Past incidents provide valuable lessons to improve SOPs and incident response workflows.

References & Learning Resources

#Best Practices for SOPs in Cybersecurity: <https://www.nist.gov/cybersecurity-framework> #Splunk SOAR Playbook SOP

Development: <https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/SOAR> #Incident Response SOPs with Splunk: <https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

### NEW QUESTION # 36

What methods can improve dashboard usability for security program analytics? (Choose three)

- A. Avoiding performance optimization
- B. Standardizing color coding for alerts
- C. Adding context-sensitive filters
- D. Using drill-down options for detailed views
- E. Limiting the number of panels on the dashboard

**Answer: B,C,D**

Explanation:

Methods to Improve Dashboard Usability in Security Analytics

A well-designed Splunk security dashboard helps SOC teams quickly identify, analyze, and respond to security threats.

#1. Using Drill-Down Options for Detailed Views (A)

Allows analysts to click on high-level metrics and drill down into event details.

Helps teams pivot from summary statistics to specific security logs.

Example:

Clicking on a failed login trend chart reveals specific failed login attempts per user.

#2. Standardizing Color Coding for Alerts (B)

Consistent color usage enhances readability and priority identification.

Example:

Red # Critical incidents

Yellow # Medium-risk alerts

Green # Resolved issues

#3. Adding Context-Sensitive Filters (D)

Filters allow users to focus on specific security events without running new searches.

Example:

A dropdown filter for "Event Severity" lets analysts view only high-risk events.

#Incorrect Answers:

C: Limiting the number of panels on the dashboard # Dashboards should be optimized, not restricted.

E: Avoiding performance optimization # Performance tuning is essential for responsive dashboards.

#Additional Resources:

Splunk Dashboard Design Best Practices

Optimizing Security Dashboards in Splunk

### NEW QUESTION # 37

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