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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and Installation: 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.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cortex XDR Agent Configuration: 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.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection and Reporting: 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.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingestion and Automation: 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.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and Troubleshooting: 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q16-Q21):

NEW QUESTION # 16

During the deployment of a Broker VM in a high availability (HA) environment, after configuring the Broker VM FQDN, an XDR engineer must ensure agent installer availability and efficient content caching to maintain performance consistency across failovers. Which additional configuration steps should the engineer take?

- A. Use shared SSL certificates and keys for all Broker VMs and configure a single IP address for failover
- B. Enable synchronized session persistence across Broker VMs and use a self-signed certificate and key
- **C. Upload the signed SSL server certificate and key and deploy a load balancer**
- D. Deploy a load balancer and configure SSL termination at the load balancer

Answer: C

Explanation:

In a high availability (HA) environment, the Broker VM in Cortex XDR acts as a local proxy to facilitate agent communications, content caching, and installer distribution, reducing dependency on direct cloud connections. To ensure agent installer availability and efficient content caching across failovers, the Broker VM must be configured to handle agent requests consistently, even if one VM fails. This requires proper SSL certificate management and load balancing to distribute traffic across multiple Broker VMs.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The engineer should upload the signed SSL server certificate and key to each Broker VM to secure communications and ensure trust between agents and the Broker VMs.

Additionally, deploying a load balancer in front of the Broker VMs allows traffic to be distributed across multiple VMs, ensuring availability and performance consistency during failovers. The load balancer uses the configured Broker VM FQDN to route agent requests, and the signed SSL certificate ensures secure, uninterrupted communication. This setup supports content caching and installer distribution by maintaining a stable connection point for agents.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Use shared SSL certificates and keys for all Broker VMs and configure a single IP address for failover: While shared SSL certificates can be used, configuring a single IP address for failover (e.g., via VRRP or a floating IP) is less flexible than a load balancer and may not efficiently handle content caching or installer distribution across multiple VMs. Load balancers are preferred for HA setups in Cortex XDR.

* C. Deploy a load balancer and configure SSL termination at the load balancer: SSL termination at the load balancer means the load balancer decrypts traffic before forwarding it to the Broker VMs, requiring unencrypted communication between the load balancer and VMs. This is not recommended for Cortex XDR, as Broker VMs require end-to-end SSL encryption for security, and SSL termination complicates certificate management.

* D. Enable synchronized session persistence across Broker VMs and use a self-signed certificate and key: Self-signed certificates are not recommended for production HA environments, as they can cause trust issues with agents and require manual configuration.

Synchronized session persistence is not a standard feature for Broker VMs and is unnecessary for content caching or installer availability.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes Broker VM HA configuration: "For high availability, deploy multiple Broker VMs behind a load balancer and upload a signed SSL server certificate and key to each VM to secure agent communications" (paraphrased from the Broker VM Deployment section). The EDU-

260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers Broker VM setup, stating that "a load balancer with signed SSL certificates ensures agent installer availability and content caching in HA environments" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes

"planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Broker VM deployment for HA.

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 # 17

Which configuration profile option with an available built-in template can be applied to both Windows and Linux systems by using XDR Collector?

- A. Filebeat
- B. Winlogbeat
- C. XDR Collector settings
- D. HTTP Collector template

Answer: A

Explanation:

The XDR Collector in Cortex XDR is a lightweight tool for collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints, including Windows and Linux systems, and forwarding them to the Cortex XDR cloud for analysis. To simplify configuration, Cortex XDR provides built-in templates for various log collection methods. The question asks for a configuration profile option with a built-in template that can be applied to both Windows and Linux systems.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): Filebeat is a versatile log shipper supported by Cortex XDR's XDR Collector, with built-in templates for collecting logs from files on both Windows and Linux systems.

Filebeat can be configured to collect logs from various sources (e.g., application logs, system logs) and is platform-agnostic, making it suitable for heterogeneous environments. Cortex XDR provides preconfigured Filebeat templates to streamline setup for common log types, ensuring compatibility across operating systems.

* Why not the other options?

* B. HTTP Collector template: The HTTP Collector template is used for ingesting data via HTTP

/HTTPS APIs, which is not specific to Windows or Linux systems and is not a platform-based log collection method. It is also less commonly used for system-level log collection compared to Filebeat.

* C. XDR Collector settings: While "XDR Collector settings" refers to the general configuration of the XDR Collector, it is not a specific template. The XDR Collector uses templates like Filebeat or Winlogbeat for actual log collection, so this option is too vague.

* D. Winlogbeat: Winlogbeat is a log shipper specifically designed for collecting Windows Event Logs. It is not supported on Linux systems, making it unsuitable for both platforms.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes XDR Collector templates: "Filebeat templates are provided for collecting logs from files on both Windows and Linux systems, enabling flexible log ingestion across platforms" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers XDR Collector configuration, stating that "Filebeat is a cross-platform solution for log collection, supported by built-in templates for Windows and Linux" (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 templates.

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 # 18

An XDR engineer is creating a correlation rule to monitor login activity on specific systems. When the activity is identified, an alert is created. The alerts are being generated properly but are missing the username when viewed. How can the username information be included in the alerts?

- A. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field
- B. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username
- **C. Add a mapping for the username field in the alert fields mapping**
- D. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field

Answer: C

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, correlation rules are used to detect specific patterns or behaviors (e.g., login activity) by analyzing ingested data and generating alerts when conditions are met. For an alert to include specific fields like username, the field must be explicitly mapped in the alert fields mapping configuration of the correlation rule. This mapping determines which fields from the underlying dataset are included in the generated alert's details.

In this scenario, the correlation rule is correctly generating alerts for login activity, but the username field is missing. This indicates that the correlation rule's query may be identifying the relevant events, but the username field is not included in the alert's output fields. To resolve this, the engineer must update the alert fields mapping in the correlation rule to explicitly include the username field, ensuring it appears in the alert details when viewed.

* Correct Answer Analysis (C): Adding a mapping for the username field in the alert fields mapping ensures that the field is extracted from the dataset and included in the alert's metadata. This is done in the correlation rule configuration, where administrators can specify which fields to include in the alert output.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username:

Mapping to a MITRE ATT&CK technique like "Initial Access" defines the type of attack or behavior, not specific fields like username. This does not address the missing field issue.

* B. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field: While the correlation rule's query must reference the username field to detect relevant events, including it in the query alone does not ensure it appears in the alert's output. The alert fields mapping is still required.

* D. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field: Drill-down queries are used for additional investigation after an alert is generated, not for including fields in the alert itself. This does not solve the issue of missing username in the alert details.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes correlation rule configuration: "To include specific fields in generated alerts, configure the alert fields mapping in the correlation rule to map dataset fields, such as username, to the alert output" (paraphrased from the Correlation Rules section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers detection engineering, stating that "alert fields mapping determines which data fields are included in alerts generated by correlation rules" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing correlation rule configuration.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: [https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives](https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/EDU-262:Cortex%20XDR%20Investigation%20and%20Response%20Course%20Objectives)
Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

NEW QUESTION # 19

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

Answer: C

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 # 20

When onboarding a Palo Alto Networks NGFW to Cortex XDR, what must be done to confirm that logs are being ingested successfully after a device is selected and verified?

- A. Wait for an incident that involves the NGFW to populate
- B. Confirm that the selected device has a valid certificate
- C. Retrieve device certificate from NGFW dashboard
- **D. Conduct an XQL query for NGFW log data**

Answer: D

Explanation:

When onboarding a Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) to Cortex XDR, the process involves selecting and verifying the device to ensure it can send logs to Cortex XDR. After this step, confirming successful log ingestion is critical to validate the integration. The most direct and reliable method to confirm ingestion is to query the ingested logs using XQL (XDR Query Language), which allows the engineer to search for NGFW log data in Cortex XDR.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): Conduct an XQL query for NGFW log data is the correct action.

After onboarding, the engineer can run an XQL query such as `dataset = panw_ngfw_logs | limit 10` to check if NGFW logs are present in Cortex XDR. This confirms that logs are being successfully ingested and stored in the appropriate dataset, ensuring the integration is working as expected.

* Why not the other options?

* B. Wait for an incident that involves the NGFW to populate: Waiting for an incident is not a reliable or proactive method to confirm log ingestion. Incidents depend on detection rules and may not occur immediately, even if logs are being ingested.

* C. Confirm that the selected device has a valid certificate: While a valid certificate is necessary during the onboarding process (e.g., for secure communication), this step is part of the verification process, not a method to confirm log ingestion after verification.

* D. Retrieve device certificate from NGFW dashboard: Retrieving the device certificate from the NGFW dashboard is unrelated to confirming log ingestion in Cortex XDR. Certificates are managed during setup, not for post-onboarding validation.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains NGFW log ingestion validation: "To confirm successful ingestion of Palo Alto Networks NGFW logs, run an XQL query (e.g., `dataset = panw_ngfw_logs`) to verify that log data is present in Cortex XDR" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers NGFW integration, stating that "XQL queries are used to validate that NGFW logs are being ingested after onboarding" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing log ingestion validation.

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 # 21

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