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Amazon SCS-C03 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detection: This domain covers identifying and monitoring security events, threats, and vulnerabilities in AWS through logging, monitoring, and alerting mechanisms to detect anomalies and unauthorized access.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security Foundations and Governance: This domain addresses foundational security practices including policies, compliance frameworks, risk management, security automation, and audit procedures for AWS environments.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Protection: This domain centers on protecting data at rest and in transit through encryption, key management, data classification, secure storage, and backup mechanisms.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incident Response: This domain addresses responding to security incidents through automated and manual strategies, containment, forensic analysis, and recovery procedures to minimize impact and restore operations.

- **Infrastructure Security:** This domain focuses on securing AWS infrastructure including networks, compute resources, and edge services through secure architectures, protection mechanisms, and hardened configurations.

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Amazon AWS Certified Security - Specialty Sample Questions (Q166-Q171):

NEW QUESTION # 166

A security engineer is responding to an incident that is affecting an AWS account. The ID of the account is 123456789012. The attack created workloads that are distributed across multiple AWS Regions.

The security engineer contains the attack and removes all compute and storage resources from all affected Regions. However, the attacker also created an AWS KMS key. The key policy on the KMS key explicitly allows IAM principal kms:* permissions.

The key was scheduled to be deleted the previous day. However, the key is still enabled and usable. The key has an ARN of arn:aws:kms:us-east-2:123456789012:key/mrk-0bb0212cd9864fdea0dcamzo26efb5670.

The security engineer must delete the key as quickly as possible.

Which solution will meet this requirement?

- **A. Log in to the account by using the account root user credentials. Re-issue the deletion request for the KMS key with a waiting period of 7 days.**
- B. Update the IAM principal to allow kms:* permissions on the KMS key ARN. Re-issue the deletion request for the KMS key with a waiting period of 7 days.
- C. Identify the other Regions where the KMS key ID is present and schedule the key for deletion in 7 days.
- D. Disable the KMS key. Re-issue the deletion request for the KMS key in 30 days.

Answer: A

Explanation:

AWS KMS enforces a mandatory minimum waiting period of 7 days before a customer managed key can be deleted. According to AWS Certified Security - Specialty incident response guidance, no method exists to immediately delete a KMS key. The fastest possible deletion is achieved by scheduling deletion with the minimum 7-day waiting period.

In this scenario, although deletion was previously scheduled, the key remains enabled and usable. The most authoritative and reliable method to regain control and reissue deletion immediately is to use the AWS account root user, which has implicit permissions to manage KMS keys regardless of compromised IAM principals.

Option B is incorrect because KMS keys are regional resources; multi-Region keys require coordinated deletion but do not shorten the waiting period. Option C is unnecessary because the key policy already allows kms:*. Option D increases the deletion waiting period to 30 days, which violates the requirement to delete the key as quickly as possible.

AWS documentation clearly states that root user access is the ultimate authority for KMS key management and that 7 days is the minimum deletion window, making this the fastest valid option.

* AWS Certified Security - Specialty Official Study Guide

* AWS Key Management Service Developer Guide

* AWS Incident Response Best Practices

NEW QUESTION # 167

A security engineer needs to implement AWS IAM Identity Center with an external identity provider (IdP).

Select and order the correct steps from the following list to meet this requirement. Select each step one time or not at all. (Select and order THREE.)

- . Configure the external IdP as the identity source in IAM Identity Center.
- . Create an IAM role that has a trust policy that specifies the IdP's API endpoint.

- . Enable automatic provisioning in IAM Identity Center settings.
- . Enable automatic provisioning in the external IdP.
- . Obtain the SAML metadata from IAM Identity Center.
- . Obtain the SAML metadata from the external IdP.

Answer:

Explanation:

Explanation:

Step 1: Obtain the SAML metadata from IAM Identity Center.

Step 2: Obtain the SAML metadata from the external IdP.

Step 3: Configure the external IdP as the identity source in IAM Identity Center.

When integrating AWS IAM Identity Center (formerly AWS SSO) with an external identity provider (IdP) using SAML 2.0, AWS requires a specific sequence of steps to establish trust and federation correctly.

Step 1: Obtain the SAML metadata from IAM Identity Center

IAM Identity Center acts as the service provider (SP) in the SAML trust. The external IdP must trust IAM Identity Center, so the IdP needs IAM Identity Center's SAML metadata first. This metadata contains critical information such as the SP entity ID, ACS (Assertion Consumer Service) URL, and signing certificate.

Without this metadata, the external IdP cannot be configured to send assertions to AWS.

Step 2: Obtain the SAML metadata from the external IdP

After the external IdP is configured to trust IAM Identity Center, the IdP generates its own SAML metadata.

This metadata includes the IdP entity ID, SSO endpoint, and signing certificate. IAM Identity Center requires this information to validate authentication assertions coming from the external IdP.

Step 3: Configure the external IdP as the identity source in IAM Identity Center Once both metadata files are available, the security engineer configures the external IdP as the identity source in IAM Identity Center. At this stage, IAM Identity Center imports the IdP metadata and establishes the SAML trust relationship. After this configuration, users authenticated by the external IdP can be federated into AWS accounts and applications via IAM Identity Center.

Why the other options are incorrect:

* Creating an IAM role with an IdP API endpoint is used for IAM federation, not IAM Identity Center.

* Automatic provisioning (SCIM) is optional and is configured after SAML federation is established.

* Automatic provisioning must be enabled on both sides, but it is not required to complete the core IdP integration.

This sequence follows AWS best practices for SAML-based federation with IAM Identity Center.

NEW QUESTION # 168

A company's application team needs a new AWS Key Management Service (AWS KMS) customer managed key to use with Amazon S3. The company's security policy requires separate keys for different AWS services to limit security exposure. How can a security engineer limit the KMS customer managed key to work with only Amazon S3?

- A. Configure the application's IAM role policy to allow only S3 operations when the operations are combined with the KMS customer managed key.
- B. Configure the key policy to allow only Amazon S3 to perform the kms:Encrypt action.
- **C. Configure the key policy to allow KMS actions only when the value for the kms:ViaService condition key matches the Amazon S3 service name.**
- D. Configure the application's IAM role policy to allow Amazon S3 to perform the iam:PassRole action.

Answer: C

Explanation:

AWS KMS provides condition keys that can be used to tightly scope how and where a customer managed key can be used. According to the AWS Certified Security - Specialty Study Guide, the kms:ViaService condition key is specifically designed to restrict key usage to requests that originate from a particular AWS service in a specific Region.

By configuring the key policy to allow KMS cryptographic operations only when kms:ViaService equals s3.

<region>.amazonaws.com, the security engineer ensures that the key can be used exclusively by Amazon S3.

Even if other IAM principals have permissions to use the key, the key cannot be used by other services such as Amazon EC2, Amazon RDS, or AWS Lambda.

Option A is incorrect because AWS services do not assume identities in key policies. Options C and D modify IAM role policies, which do not control how a KMS key is used by AWS services. AWS documentation clearly states that service-level restrictions must be enforced at the KMS key policy level using condition keys.

This approach enforces strong separation of duties and limits blast radius, which aligns with AWS security best practices.

Referenced AWS Specialty Documents:

NEW QUESTION # 169

A company recently experienced a malicious attack on its cloud-based environment. The company successfully contained and eradicated the attack. A security engineer is performing incident response work.

The security engineer needs to recover an Amazon RDS database cluster to the last known good version. The database cluster is configured to generate automated backups with a retention period of 14 days. The initial attack occurred 5 days ago at exactly 3:15 PM.

Which solution will meet this requirement?

- A. Identify the Regional cluster ARN for the database. Use the ARN to restore the Regional cluster by using the restore to point in time feature. Set a target time 14 days ago.
- B. List all snapshots that have been taken of all the company's RDS databases. Identify the snapshot that was taken closest to 5 days ago at 3:14 PM and restore it.
- **C. Identify the Regional cluster ARN for the database. Use the ARN to restore the Regional cluster by using the restore to point in time feature. Set a target time 5 days ago at 3:14 PM.**
- D. Identify the Regional cluster ARN for the database. List snapshots that have been taken of the cluster. Restore the database by using the snapshot that has a creation time that is closest to 5 days ago at 3:14 PM.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Amazon RDS supports point-in-time recovery (PITR) using automated backups within the configured retention window. According to the AWS Certified Security - Specialty Study Guide, PITR allows recovery to any second within the retention period, making it the most precise recovery method following a security incident.

By restoring the database cluster to a point just before the attack occurred, such as 3:14 PM, the security engineer ensures that the restored database reflects the last known good state without including malicious changes. This method is more accurate than restoring from snapshots, which are created at fixed intervals and may not align with the exact recovery time.

Options B and C rely on snapshot timing and may reintroduce compromised data. Option D restores to an arbitrary time and does not meet the requirement to recover to the last known good version.

AWS documentation explicitly recommends point-in-time recovery for incident response scenarios that require precise restoration.

Referenced AWS Specialty Documents:

AWS Certified Security - Specialty Official Study Guide

Amazon RDS Automated Backups and PITR

AWS Incident Response and Recovery Guidance

NEW QUESTION # 170

A company is investigating actions that an IAM role performed. The company must find out when the role last accessed AWS Security Hub and when the role last used the DeleteInsight action in Security Hub. Which solution will provide this information?

- A. Use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) to generate a credential report. Search the report for Security Hub activity.
- B. Use the checks for the security category in AWS Trusted Advisor. Search for the role and examine the actions taken.
- **C. Use the Access Advisor tab in AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM). Search for Security Hub and the actions taken.**
- D. Create an analyzer in AWS Identity and Access Management Access Analyzer. Examine the findings for the role's actions in Security Hub.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Access Advisor feature in IAM provides information about the services that an IAM role or user has accessed and the last time they accessed each service. This feature shows when the IAM role last accessed AWS Security Hub. To find specific actions like DeleteInsight, you can review CloudTrail logs, but Access Advisor is the first step to quickly see the last access to the service.

