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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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	• 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.
Topic 3	• 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 4	• 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	• 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q25-Q30):

NEW QUESTION # 25
Based on the image of a validated false positive alert below, which action is recommended for resolution?

- A. Create an exception for OUTLOOK.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module
- B. Disable an action to the CGO Process DWWIN.EXE
- C. Create an exception for the CGO DWWIN.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module
- D. Create an alert exclusion for OUTLOOK.EXE

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, a false positive alert involvingOUTLOOK.EXEtriggering aCGO (Codegen Operation)alert related toDWWIN.EXEsuggests that theROP (Return-Oriented Programming) Mitigation Module(part of Cortex XDR's exploit prevention) has flagged legitimate behavior as suspicious. ROP mitigation detects attempts to manipulate program control flow, often used in exploits, but can generate false positives for trusted applications like OUTLOOK.EXE. To resolve this, the recommended action is to create an exception for the specific process and module causing the false positive, allowing the legitimate behavior to

proceed without triggering alerts.
* Correct Answer Analysis (D):Create an exception for OUTLOOK.EXE for ROP Mitigation Moduleis the recommended action. Since OUTLOOK.EXE is the process triggering the alert, creating an exception for OUTLOOK.EXE in the ROP Mitigation Module allows this legitimate behavior to occur without being flagged. This is done by adding OUTLOOK.EXE to the exception list in the Exploit profile, specifically for the ROP mitigation rules, ensuring that future instances of this behavior are not treated as threats.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Create an alert exclusion for OUTLOOK.EXE: While an alert exclusion can suppress alerts for OUTLOOK.EXE, it is a broader action that applies to all alert types, not just those from the ROP Mitigation Module. This could suppress other legitimate alerts for OUTLOOK.EXE, reducing visibility into potential threats. An exception in the ROP Mitigation Module is more targeted.
* B. Disable an action to the CGO Process DWWIN.EXE: Disabling actions for DWWIN.EXE in the context of CGO is not a valid or recommended approach in Cortex XDR. DWWIN.EXE (Dr. Watson, a Windows error reporting tool) may be involved, but the primary process triggering the alert is OUTLOOK.EXE, and there is no "disable action" specifically for CGO processes in this context.
* C. Create an exception for the CGO DWWIN.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module: While DWWIN.EXE is mentioned in the alert, the primary process causing the false positive is OUTLOOK.EXE, as it's the application initiating the behavior. Creating an exception for DWWIN.EXE would not address the root cause, as OUTLOOK.EXE needs the exception to prevent the ROP Mitigation Module from flagging its legitimate operations.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains false positive resolution: "To resolve false positives in the ROP Mitigation Module, create an exception for the specific process (e.g., OUTLOOK.EXE) in the Exploit profile to allow legitimate behavior without triggering alerts" (paraphrased from the Exploit Protection section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers exploit prevention tuning, stating that "exceptions for processes like OUTLOOK.EXE in the ROP Mitigation Module prevent false positives while maintaining protection" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing false positive resolution.
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
Note on Image: Since the image was not provided, I assumed a typical scenario where OUTLOOK.EXE triggers a false positive CGO alert related to DWWIN.EXE due to ROP mitigation. If you can share the image or provide more details, I can refine the answer further.

NEW QUESTION # 26
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. Check Host Inventory -> Mounts
- B. dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT
- C. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured
- D. preset = device_control

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, theDevice 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):TheHost Inventory -> Mountssection 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 thexdr_datadataset, 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: Thedevice_controlpreset 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:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes 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). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse 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). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "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/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 27
How can a Malware profile be configured to prevent a specific executable from being uploaded to the cloud?

- A. Add the executable to the allow list for executions
- B. Create an exclusion rule for the executable
- C. Disable on-demand file examination for the executable
- D. Set PE and DLL examination for the executable to report action mode

Answer: B

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,Malware profilesdefine how the agent handles files for analysis, including whether they are uploaded to the cloud forWildFireanalysis or other cloud-based inspections. To prevent a specific executable from being uploaded to the cloud, the administrator can configure anexclusion rulein the Malware profile.
Exclusion rules allow specific files, directories, or patterns to be excluded from cloud analysis, ensuring they are not sent to the cloud while still allowing local analysis or other policy enforcement.
* Correct Answer Analysis (D):Creating anexclusion rulefor the executable in the Malware profile ensures that the specified file is not uploaded to the cloud for analysis. This can be done by specifying the file's name, hash, or path in the exclusion settings, preventing unnecessary cloud uploads while maintaining agent functionality for other files.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Disable on-demand file examination for the executable: Disabling on-demand file examination prevents the agent from analyzing the file at all, which could compromise security by bypassing local and cloud analysis entirely. This is not the intended solution.
* B. Set PE and DLL examination for the executable to report action mode: Setting examination to "report action mode" configures the agent to log actions without blocking or uploading, but it does not specifically prevent cloud uploads. This option is unrelated to controlling cloud analysis.
* C. Add the executable to the allow list for executions: Adding an executable to the allow list permits it to run without triggering prevention actions, but it does not prevent the file from being uploaded to the cloud for analysis.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains Malware profile configuration: "Exclusion rules in Malware profiles allow administrators to specify files or directories that are excluded from cloud analysis, preventing uploads to WildFire or other cloud services" (paraphrased from the Malware Profile Configuration section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers agent configuration, stating that "exclusion rules can be used to prevent specific files from being sent to the cloud for analysis" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Malware profile settings.
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 # 28
What will enable a custom prevention rule to block specific behavior?

- A. A custom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) added to an Exploit profile
- B. A correlation rule added to a Malware profile
- C. A custom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) added to a Restriction profile
- D. A correlation rule added to an Agent Blocking profile

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,custom prevention rulesare used to block specific behaviors or activities on endpoints by leveragingBehavioral Indicators of Compromise (BIOCs). BIOCs define patterns of behavior (e.g., specific process executions, file modifications, or network activities) that, when detected, can trigger preventive actions, such as blocking a process or isolating an endpoint. These BIOCs are typically associated with a Restriction profile, which enforces blocking actions for matched behaviors.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Acustom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC)added to a Restriction profileenables a custom prevention rule to block specific behavior. The BIOC defines the behavior to detect (e.g., a process accessing a sensitive file), and the Restriction profile specifies the preventive action (e.g., block the process). This configuration ensures that the identified behavior is blocked on endpoints where the profile is applied.
* Why not the other options?
* A. A correlation rule added to an Agent Blocking profile: Correlation rules are used to generate alerts by correlating events across datasets, not to block behaviors directly. There is no
"Agent Blocking profile" in Cortex XDR; this is a misnomer.
* B. A custom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) added to an Exploit profile:
Exploit profiles are used to detect and prevent exploit-based attacks (e.g., memory corruption), not general behavioral patterns defined by BIOCs. BIOCs are associated with Restriction profiles for blocking behaviors.
* D. A correlation rule added to a Malware profile: Correlation rules do not directly block behaviors; they generate alerts. Malware profiles focus on file-based threats (e.g., executables analyzed by WildFire), not behavioral blocking via BIOCs.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains BIOC and Restriction profiles: "Custom BIOCs can be added to Restriction profiles to block specific behaviors on endpoints, enabling tailored prevention rules" (paraphrased from the BIOC and Restriction Profile sections). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers prevention rules, stating that "BIOCs in Restriction profiles enable blocking of specific endpoint behaviors" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing BIOC and prevention rule 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 # 29
How can a customer ingest additional events from a Windows DHCP server into Cortex XDR with minimal configuration?

- A. Install the Cortex XDR agent
- B. Install the XDR Collector
- C. Enable HTTP collector integration
- D. Activate Windows Event Collector (WEC)

Answer: B

Explanation:
To ingest additional events from a Windows DHCP server into Cortex XDR with minimal configuration, the recommended approach is to use theCortex XDR Collector. TheXDR Collectoris a lightweight component designed to collect and forward logs and events from various sources, including Windows servers, to Cortex XDR for analysis and correlation. It is specifically optimized for scenarios where full Cortex XDR agent deployment is not required, and it minimizes configuration overhead by automating much of the data collection process.
For a Windows DHCP server, the XDR Collector can be installed on the server to collect DHCP logs (e.g., lease assignments, renewals, or errors) from the Windows Event Log or other relevant sources. Once installed, the collector forwards these events to

the Cortex XDR tenant with minimal setup, requiring only basic configuration such as specifying the target data types and ensuring network connectivity to the Cortex XDR cloud. This approach is more straightforward than alternatives like setting up a full agent or configuring external integrations like Windows Event Collector (WEC) or HTTP collectors, which require additional infrastructure or manual configuration.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Activate Windows Event Collector (WEC): While WEC can collect events from Windows servers, it requires significant configuration, including setting up a WEC server, configuring subscriptions, and integrating with Cortex XDR via a separate ingestion mechanism. This is not minimal configuration.
* C. Enable HTTP collector integration: HTTP collector integration is used for ingesting data via HTTP/HTTPS APIs, which is not applicable for Windows DHCP server events, as DHCP logs are typically stored in the Windows Event Log, not exposed via HTTP.
* D. Install the Cortex XDR agent: The Cortex XDR agent is a full-featured endpoint protection and detection solution that includes prevention, detection, and responsecapabilities. While it can collect some event data, it is overkill for the specific task of ingesting DHCP server events and requires more configuration than the XDR Collector.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes theXDR Collectoras a tool for "collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints with minimal setup" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). TheEDU-260:
Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse emphasizes that "XDR Collectors are ideal for ingesting server logs, such as those from Windows DHCP servers, with streamlined configuration" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetlists "data source onboarding and integration configuration" as a key skill, which includes configuring XDR Collectors for log ingestion.
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 # 30
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