

2025 FAAA_004: Pure Storage FlashArray Architect Associate—Trustable Reliable Practice Questions



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Pure Storage FAAA_004 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Qualify, Sell, and Architect: This section of the exam assesses the skills of Technical Sales Engineers and covers identifying solutions based on customer requirements, sizing solutions based on customer needs using tools like Pure FlashArray Sizer, identifying market trends and opportunities (e.g., Ransomware and Portworx Solution Centers), demonstrating an understanding of FlashArray use cases, and demonstrating an understanding of unified storage on FlashArray37. A key skill measured is "identifying solutions based on customer requirements."
Topic 2	• Subscriptions and DX: This section evaluates the competencies of Account Managers regarding Pure Storage's subscription services and digital experience. It focuses on identifying the benefits of Pure's Evergreen program (Evergreen • One, • Forever, • Flex) and Love Your Storage Guarantee, as well as determining future capacity, performance, and upgrade requirements through workload and hardware simulations.
Topic 3	• Array Monitoring and Architecture: This section measures the skills of Storage Architects and covers explaining FlashArray's high availability architecture, defining FlashArray features (e.g., ActiveCluster, ActiveDR), explaining data reduction methods, identifying components of FlashArrays, and analyzing performance metrics and capacity usage using Pure1 Manage3. A crucial skill evaluated is "analyzing performance metrics".

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Pure Storage FlashArray Architect Associate Sample Questions (Q17-Q22):

NEW QUESTION # 17

Which Pure Storage offering can be deployed in AWS?

- A. CloudSnap
- B. ObjectEngine
- C. Cloud Block Store

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Pure Storage offering that can be deployed in AWS is Cloud Block Store .

Why This Matters:

Cloud Block Store:

Cloud Block Store is a cloud-native block storage solution that runs in public clouds like AWS and Azure.

It provides enterprise-grade storage features, including deduplication, compression, and thin provisioning, while seamlessly integrating with on-premises FlashArray environments.

Why Not the Other Options?

A . ObjectEngine:

ObjectEngine is a backup and recovery solution designed for rapid restores and backups. It is not a storage solution that can be deployed in AWS.

C . CloudSnap:

CloudSnap is a feature that offloads snapshots to cloud storage (e.g., AWS S3 or Azure Blob). It is not a standalone storage solution but rather a feature of FlashArray.

Key Points:

Cloud Block Store: Provides block storage in AWS with enterprise-grade features.

Integration: Seamlessly integrates with on-premises FlashArray environments for hybrid cloud architectures.

Scalability: Enables scalable and cost-effective storage in the cloud.

Reference:

Pure Storage Cloud Block Store Documentation: "Deploying Cloud Block Store in AWS" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Hybrid Cloud Architectures with FlashArray and Cloud Block Store" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Cloud Block Store Use Cases and Deployment"

NEW QUESTION # 18

Refer to the exhibit.



A customer is experiencing latency in the VMware environment connected to this array. What should the SE recommend?

- A. Add network cards to alleviate network congestion
- B. Add DirectFlash Modules as the system is disk bound
- C. Upgrade the controllers
- D. Check the ESXi host

Answer: D

Explanation:

The exhibit shows latency in the VMware environment connected to the FlashArray. When troubleshooting latency issues in a VMware environment, the first step is to identify whether the issue originates from the storage array, the network, or the ESXi host. In this case, the SE should recommend checking the ESXi host, as it is often the source of latency problems in VMware environments.

Why This Matters:

ESXi Host Issues:

The ESXi host could be experiencing resource contention (e.g., CPU, memory, or network bottlenecks) or misconfigurations (e.g., improper queue depth settings or multipathing policies).

High latency on the ESXi host can impact the performance of virtual machines and appear as storage latency, even if the FlashArray itself is functioning optimally.

Why Not the Other Options?

A . Add DirectFlash Modules as the system is disk bound:

Pure Storage FlashArray uses DirectFlash Modules, which are NVMe-based and provide extremely low latency. If the array were disk-bound, it would indicate a hardware limitation, but this is unlikely with FlashArray's architecture. The issue is more likely related to the ESXi host or network.

B . Upgrade the controllers:

Controller upgrades are typically unnecessary unless the array is nearing its performance limits. Since the exhibit does not indicate any signs of controller saturation, this is not the correct recommendation.

C . Add network cards to alleviate network congestion:

While network congestion can cause latency, the issue is more likely related to the ESXi host configuration. Adding network cards should only be considered after confirming network bottlenecks through diagnostics.

Key Points:

ESXi Host Diagnostics: Start by checking the ESXi host for resource contention, misconfigurations, or improper settings.

Storage Array Health: Verify that the FlashArray is not experiencing any performance issues (e.g., high queue depths or latency).

Network Analysis: Only after ruling out the ESXi host and storage array should network-related issues be investigated.

Reference:

Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Troubleshooting Latency in VMware Environments" VMware Best Practices Guide:

"Optimizing ESXi Host Performance" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Diagnosing and Resolving Latency Issues"

NEW QUESTION # 19

A customer has presented two workloads that need to be replicated. One is a highly transactional database workload and the other is a VM datastore with tier one applications.

The customer has the following requirements:

* The database workload is highly reliant on storage performance The VM datastore requires zero downtime.

* The customer has advised the two FlashArrays will be 20 miles apart and they are worried that this could impact their internal SLAs.

What replication strategies should be advised for these workloads?

- A. ActiveDR should be used for the VM workloads and ActiveCluster for the database workload.
- **B. ActiveCluster should be used for the VM workloads and ActiveDR for the database workload.**
- C. ActiveCluster should be used for both workloads.
- D. ActiveDR should be used for both workloads.

Answer: B

Explanation:

To address the customer's requirements, we need to evaluate the replication strategies offered by Pure Storage FlashArray:

ActiveCluster and ActiveDR, and how they align with the specific needs of the two workloads.

Workload Analysis:

Transactional Database Workload :

This workload is highly reliant on storage performance. Any replication strategy must ensure minimal latency and high availability to avoid impacting transactional throughput and response times.

The database workload typically benefits from synchronous replication to maintain consistency and performance across sites.

VM Datastore (Tier 1 Applications) :

This workload requires zero downtime, meaning it must remain accessible even in the event of a site failure. High availability and seamless failover are critical.

The VM datastore can tolerate some level of asynchronous replication as long as it does not compromise availability or recovery

objectives.

Replication Strategies:

ActiveCluster :

ActiveCluster is a synchronous replication solution that provides active-active high availability across two FlashArrays. It ensures zero RPO (Recovery Point Objective) and zero RTO (Recovery Time Objective), making it ideal for workloads requiring continuous availability and zero downtime.

ActiveCluster is well-suited for the VM datastore workload because it guarantees seamless failover and high availability, meeting the zero-downtime requirement.

ActiveDR :

ActiveDR is an asynchronous replication solution designed for disaster recovery scenarios. It provides near-zero RPO (typically seconds to minutes) and allows for non-disruptive testing of failover scenarios.

ActiveDR is better suited for the transactional database workload because it minimizes the impact of latency over the 20-mile distance while still maintaining high performance and consistency.

Distance Consideration:

The 20-mile distance between the two FlashArrays introduces latency concerns. Synchronous replication (ActiveCluster) can handle this distance effectively for the VM datastore workload due to its tolerance for slightly higher latency. However, for the transactional database workload, the latency could degrade performance, making ActiveDR a better choice.

Final Recommendation:

Use ActiveCluster for the VM datastore workload to achieve zero downtime and high availability.

Use ActiveDR for the transactional database workload to balance performance and disaster recovery needs over the 20-mile distance.

Reference:

Pure Storage ActiveCluster Documentation :

Explains the synchronous replication capabilities and use cases for ActiveCluster.

Pure Storage ActiveCluster

Pure Storage ActiveDR Documentation :

Details the asynchronous replication features and disaster recovery use cases for ActiveDR.

Pure Storage ActiveDR

Pure Storage Best Practices for Replication :

Provides guidance on selecting the appropriate replication strategy based on workload requirements and distance considerations.

Pure Storage Replication Best Practices

Pure Storage Architectural Guides :

Covers architectural considerations for deploying ActiveCluster and ActiveDR in multi-site environments.

Pure Storage Architectural Guides

This approach ensures that both workloads meet their respective SLAs while addressing the customer's concerns about distance and performance.

NEW QUESTION # 20

A customer wants to have more insight into and control of their Pure Storage FlashArray and VMware environment from a single user interface. What does the customer need to do to enable this capability in their environment?

- A. Log in to the FlashArray GUI and install the plugin for vSphere Client
- B. Ensure all VMware API for Array Integration (VAAI) primitives are enabled
- **C. Configure FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager**
- D. Install Pure Storage SRA for VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM)

Answer: C

Explanation:

To gain more insight and control over their Pure Storage FlashArray and VMware environment from a single user interface, the customer should configure the FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager (vROps) . Here's why:

Analysis of Options:

A . Ensure all VMware API for Array Integration (VAAI) primitives are enabled :

VAAI is a set of APIs that offloads storage tasks from the ESXi host to the storage array, improving performance and efficiency. However, it does not provide a unified interface for managing both FlashArray and VMware environments.

B . Log in to the FlashArray GUI and install the plugin for vSphere Client :

While the FlashArray plugin for vSphere Client provides some integration, such as provisioning and monitoring FlashArray volumes directly from the vSphere Client, it does not offer comprehensive visibility and control over both environments from a single interface.

C . Configure FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager :

The FlashArray Management Pack for vROps integrates Pure Storage FlashArray with VMware vRealize Operations Manager,

enabling centralized monitoring, analytics, and management of both environments from a single pane of glass.

This solution provides deep insights into storage performance, capacity utilization, and health metrics, making it the ideal choice for the customer's requirement.

D . Install Pure Storage SRA for VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM) :

The Pure Storage Storage Replication Adapter (SRA) is used for disaster recovery orchestration with VMware SRM. It does not provide a unified interface for managing FlashArray and VMware environments.

Recommendation:

The correct answer is C. Configure FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager , as it fulfills the customer's need for a single user interface to manage both FlashArray and VMware environments.

Reference:

Pure Storage FlashArray Management Pack for vROps Documentation :

FlashArray Management Pack for vROps

Explains how to integrate FlashArray with vROps for unified monitoring and management.

Pure Storage VMware Integration Overview :

Pure Storage VMware Integration

Provides an overview of Pure Storage's VMware integration solutions.

NEW QUESTION # 21

Which FlashArray feature best protects local snapshots from ransomware attacks?

- A. ActiveCluster
- B. CloudSnap
- C. SafeMode

Answer: C

Explanation:

The FlashArray feature that best protects local snapshots from ransomware attacks is SafeMode .

Why This Matters:

SafeMode Snapshots:

SafeMode is a security feature that creates immutable snapshots, meaning they cannot be deleted, modified, or encrypted by malicious actors, including ransomware.

These snapshots are locked for a user-defined retention period, ensuring data integrity and recoverability even in the event of a ransomware attack.

Why Not the Other Options?

A . CloudSnap:

CloudSnap offloads snapshots to cloud storage (e.g., AWS S3 or Azure Blob). While it provides an offsite backup solution, it does not inherently protect against ransomware attacks targeting local snapshots.

C . ActiveCluster:

ActiveCluster provides synchronous replication between two sites for high availability. While it ensures data redundancy, it does not protect against ransomware attacks targeting snapshots.

Key Points:

SafeMode: Creates immutable snapshots to protect against ransomware attacks.

Data Integrity: Ensures snapshots remain unaltered during the retention period.

Ransomware Protection: A critical feature for safeguarding data in modern IT environments.

Reference:

Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "SafeMode Snapshots for Ransomware Protection" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Protecting Data Against Ransomware with FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Best Practices for Using SafeMode Snapshots"

NEW QUESTION # 22

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