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XSIAM-Engineer Valid Exam Questions - Customizable XSIAM-Engineer Exam Mode

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Palo Alto Networks XSIAM Engineer Sample Questions (Q340-Q345):

NEW QUESTION # 340

You are debugging an XSIAM setup where a critical 'DLP Exfiltration' alert (base score 85) is occasionally being scored much lower, sometimes as low as 30. You suspect an issue with a 'data sensitivity' field, which can be 'Public', 'Confidential', or 'Secret', affecting scoring. You examine the following simplified XQL snippet from a problematic scoring rule:

```
dataset = alerts | filter detection_rule_id = 'dlp_exfil_rule_id' | if (data_sensitivity = 'Public', score 0.5, if (data_sensitivity = 'Confidential', score 0.8, score 1.0)) as final_score | ...
```

Assuming this XQL logic is being applied within a scoring rule's action. What are the potential issues with this approach or the expected outcome if an alert with 'data_sensitivity = 'Public'' and base score 85 processes through this rule?

- A. If 'data_sensitivity' is 'Public', the score will correctly become 42.5. The issue is likely another rule overriding this. The XQL itself is valid for score adjustment.
- B. The XQL 'if' function is designed for filtering, not for dynamic score modification within a scoring rule's 'Action' field. This rule would likely fail to apply any score change.
- C. The logic is sound, but the 'score 1.0' for 'Secret' data implies no score change, which might be a misconfiguration if

'Secret' data should actually boost the score.

- D. The 'final_score' alias is only for internal calculation within the XQL query. It will not actually update the 'alert.score' field, leading to no visible change in the alert's score.
- E. The provided XQL fragment is too simplistic for a 'Set Total Score' action, and typical XSIAM scoring rules use discrete 'Additive' or 'Multiplicative' actions per condition, not complex inline XQL 'if' statements for direct score manipulation.

Answer: B,D,E

Explanation:

This question highlights several common pitfalls or misconceptions about how XSIAM scoring rules are configured, especially at a 'Very tough' level, assuming direct UI configuration and not backend API manipulation. Option A (Correct): The 'if' function within an XQL query is primarily for conditional logic within the query's processing stream (e.g., for creating new fields or filtering). Directly placing this kind of XQL 'if' statement for score modification in the 'Action' field of a scoring rule (which typically expects 'Additive', 'Multiplicative', or 'Set Total Score' with a fixed value or simple reference) is generally not how XSIAM's scoring rule configuration works. It would likely result in an error or the rule failing to apply any score change as intended. Option C (Correct): Even if the XQL itself was valid for execution, creating an alias like 'as final_score' within a subquery or a transformation does not automatically update the 'alert.score' attribute that the XSIAM platform uses for display and prioritization. To modify 'alert.score', you need to use the specific 'Actions' provided by the scoring rule engine (Additive Score Change, 'Multiplicative Score Change', 'Set Total Score'). Option E (Correct): This sums up the primary issue. XSIAM's scoring rules, when configured through the UI, generally expect discrete conditions and then specific, predefined actions for score modification (Additive, Multiplicative, Set Total Score with a single value). They do not support embedding complex, multi-conditional XQL directly to calculate and apply a score. For such dynamic, conditional scoring, you would typically use multiple separate scoring rules, each with its own condition and a simple 'Additive' or 'Multiplicative' action, or potentially a 'set Total Score' in combination with an XQL lookup to fetch the desired final score from a table. The provided XQL is more suited for a detection rule's query or a standalone enrichment query, not a scoring rule's action. Option B: Incorrect. While 42.5 is the correct mathematical result of 85×0.5 , the XQL itself is not applied in the way needed to achieve this as a scoring rule action. Option D: Incorrect. While a 'score 1' for 'Secret' data might seem like a misconfiguration, it's a separate issue from the fundamental problem of the XQL logic not being applicable in a scoring rule's action. The primary issue is the mechanism of score application, not the specific values.

NEW QUESTION # 341

A red team exercise revealed that traditional IOCs (e.g., hash, IP, domain) for a known malware family were easily bypassed by polymorphic variants. The malware, however, consistently performs a unique sequence of API calls to inject code into legitimate processes: 'NtOpenProcess' -> 'NtAllocateVirtualMemory' -> 'NtWriteVirtualMemory' -> 'NtCreateRemoteThread'. To counter this, an XSIAM engineer needs to create a high-fidelity BIOC. Which of the following XQL queries best represents this behavioral pattern while minimizing false positives from legitimate applications performing similar operations?

- A.

```
dataset = xdr_data | pattern (event.api_call_name = 'NtOpenProcess' and process.pid != null) as stage_1, (event.api_call_name = 'NtAllocateVirtualMemory' and process.pid = stage_1.process.pid) as stage_2, (event.api_call_name = 'NtWriteVirtualMemory' and process.pid = stage_1.process.pid) as stage_3, (event.api_call_name = 'NtCreateRemoteThread' and process.pid = stage_1.process.pid) as stage_4 from stage_1, stage_2, stage_3, stage_4 | filter process.image_name != 'explorer.exe' and process.image_name != 'lsass.exe' | comp events_by_host = count() by host_name | where events by host > 1
```

- B.

```
event_type = 'syscall' AND (syscall.Name = 'NtOpenProcess' OR Syscall.Name = 'NtWriteVirtualMemory') AND Process.Reputation = 'unknown'
```

- C.

```
event_type = 'syscall' AND Syscall.Name in ('NtOpenProcess', 'NtAllocateVirtualMemory', 'NtWriteVirtualMemory', 'NtCreateRemoteThread')
```

- D.

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- E.

```
dataset = xdr_data | pattern (event.api_call_name = 'NtOpenProcess' and process.pid != null) as stage_1, (event.api_call_name = 'NtAllocateVirtualMemory' and process.pid = stage_1.process.pid) as stage_2, (event.api_call_name = 'NtWriteVirtualMemory' and process.pid = stage_1.process.pid) as stage_3, (event.api_call_name = 'NtCreateRemoteThread' and process.pid = stage_1.process.pid and target_process.name not in ('csrss.exe', 'winlogon.exe', 'dwm.exe', 'explorer.exe')) as stage_4 within 5s by host_id, process.pid | where stage_1.process.reputation is 'trusted' | limit 100
```

Answer: E

Explanation:

Option E is the most comprehensive and effective XQL query for this complex BIOC. Option A is too generic and will generate many false positives. Option B is closer but lacks crucial filters for common legitimate processes that might perform similar actions (e.g., debuggers, security tools) and doesn't specify a time window, which is critical for behavioral sequences. Option C is too specific to only the last step and might miss the full chain. Option D is too broad and only relies on reputation. Option E correctly uses the 'pattern' command to define the exact sequence of API calls, ensuring they occur within a specific 'time window' and 'by'

the same 'host_id' and 'process.pid'. Critically, it includes exclusions for 'target_process.name' (common legitimate injection targets like csrss.exe, winlogon.exe, explorer.exe, dwm.exe) and filters for 'stage_1.process.reputation != 'trusted'' to reduce false positives while accurately targeting malicious injection attempts.

NEW QUESTION # 342

You are managing a large XSIAM deployment with hundreds of endpoint agents. Several agents are showing 'Agent Compromised' status in the XSIAM console, which is causing critical incidents to be generated. Upon checking the affected endpoints, there's no visible malicious activity, and the local endpoint logs show no 'compromised' events. What is the most effective troubleshooting approach to determine the root cause of these false positives?

- A. Review the specific 'Agent Compromised' incident details in XSIAM to identify the triggering detection rule or heuristic.
- B. Analyze the endpoint's system logs (Event Viewer/syslog) for any unusual processes or activities that might mimic compromise behavior.
- C. Initiate a full scan on the affected endpoints using a third-party antivirus to confirm the absence of malware.
- D. Check the XSIAM agent's policy assigned to these endpoints for any overly aggressive or misconfigured behavioral rules.
- E. Reinstall the XSIAM agent on one of the affected endpoints to see if the status clears.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

To understand false positives, you need to know why XSIAM thinks the agent is compromised. The most direct way is to review the incident details (B) which should point to the specific detection or rule that triggered the 'Agent Compromised' status. Once identified, you can then investigate that specific rule or heuristic. Coupled with this, checking the XSIAM agent policy (E) assigned to these endpoints is crucial. An overly aggressive or misconfigured behavioral rule could easily lead to false positives, especially if it's broad or looking for legitimate system behaviors. Options A and D are reactive and might confirm the lack of actual malware but won't tell you why XSIAM is flagging it. Reinstalling the agent (C) is a last resort and won't identify the underlying policy or rule issue.

NEW QUESTION # 343

Which types of content may be included in a Marketplace content pack?

- A. Behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) rules, layouts, and custom dashboards
- B. Predefined dashboards, indicators, and reports
- C. Scripts, playbooks, integrations, and correlation rules
- D. Integrations, playbooks, parsers, and server configuration keys

Answer: C

Explanation:

A Marketplace content pack in Cortex XSIAM can include scripts, playbooks, integrations, and correlation rules. These packaged content items extend platform functionality, automate workflows, and enhance detection and response capabilities.

NEW QUESTION # 344

An XSIAM engineer is reviewing a correlation rule that identifies 'Suspicious Data Staging' events. The rule is currently based on detecting a large volume of file write operations to a compressed archive format (e.g., .zip, .rar) followed by a network connection to an external, untrusted IP. The rule is missing detections because attackers are now using legitimate cloud storage sync tools (e.g., OneDrive, Dropbox) for staging, which do not involve traditional archive file writes, and the network connections are to trusted cloud services. How should the XSIAM content be optimized to detect this evolving threat, assuming XSIAM has visibility into cloud app usage logs and process activities?

- A. Add all cloud storage IPs to a global exclusion list, as they are considered 'trusted'.
- B. Create a new 'Behavioral Profile' for sensitive data, tracking access patterns. Then, correlate 'large volume of file access' (read/write) events on sensitive data, followed by 'cloud storage sync client process activity' (e.g., onedrive.exe, dropbox.exe), where the destination is an external tenant or an unusual user account, combined with a 'low reputation destination' network connection from the cloud service itself (if possible through API logs).
- C. Modify the rule to exclusively look for executables named 'winzip.exe' or 'winrar.exe' creating archive files, then exclude all connections to public cloud IPs.

- D. Reduce the time window for the correlation to 5 seconds to only detect extremely rapid staging, assuming legitimate sync tools are slower.
- E. Remove the file write and network connection components. Instead, focus solely on 'User Behavior Analytics' (UBA) for unusual data access patterns, without any specific rule logic.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Option B is the most sophisticated and effective approach. 'Behavioral Profile' for sensitive data: This is key to identifying what constitutes 'sensitive data' and tracking its normal access patterns. 'Large volume of file access' (read/write): This replaces the narrow 'archive file write' as attackers use various methods. 'Cloud storage sync client process activity': Directly addresses the use of legitimate tools like OneDrive/Dropbox, identifying the process responsible for the transfer. 'External tenant or unusual user account': This is crucial for distinguishing legitimate syncing (to the corporate tenant) from malicious exfiltration (to a personal account or external tenant). 'Low reputation destination' network connection from the cloud service: If XSIAM can ingest cloud service API logs, correlating this with the initial activity provides a strong indicator of exfiltration to an untrusted location, even if the initial connection is to a 'trusted' cloud provider. Option A is too narrow and easily bypassed. Option C relies purely on UBA without specific tuning, which may miss this specific scenario. Option D is dangerous as it allows all cloud exfiltration. Option E would lead to many false negatives.

NEW QUESTION # 345

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