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HashiCorp HCVA0-003 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Vault Leases: This section of the exam measures the skills of DevOps Engineers and covers the lease mechanism in Vault. Candidates will understand the purpose of lease IDs, renewal strategies, and how to revoke leases effectively. This section is crucial for managing dynamic secrets efficiently, ensuring that temporary credentials are appropriately handled within secure environments.
Topic 2	• Vault Deployment Architecture: This section of the exam measures the skills of Platform Engineers and focuses on deployment strategies for Vault. Candidates will learn about self-managed and HashiCorp-managed cluster strategies, the role of storage backends, and the application of Shamir secret sharing in the unsealing process. The section also covers disaster recovery and performance replication strategies to ensure high availability and resilience in Vault deployments.

Topic 3	• Vault Tokens: This section of the exam measures the skills of IAM Administrators and covers the types and lifecycle of Vault tokens. Candidates will learn to differentiate between service and batch tokens, understand root tokens and their limited use cases, and explore token accessors for tracking authentication sessions. The section also explains token time-to-live settings, orphaned tokens, and how to create tokens based on operational requirements.
Topic 4	• Encryption as a Service: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cryptography Specialists and focuses on Vault's encryption capabilities. Candidates will learn how to encrypt and decrypt secrets using the transit secrets engine, as well as perform encryption key rotation. These concepts ensure secure data transmission and storage, protecting sensitive information from unauthorized access.
Topic 5	• Authentication Methods: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Engineers and covers authentication mechanisms in Vault. It focuses on defining authentication methods, distinguishing between human and machine authentication, and selecting the appropriate method based on use cases. Candidates will learn about identities and groups, along with hands-on experience using Vault's API, CLI, and UI for authentication. The section also includes configuring authentication methods through different interfaces to ensure secure access.
Topic 6	• Vault Policies: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Security Architects and covers the role of policies in Vault. Candidates will understand the importance of policies, including defining path-based policies and capabilities that control access. The section explains how to configure and apply policies using Vault's CLI and UI, ensuring the implementation of secure access controls that align with organizational needs.
Topic 7	• Secrets Engines: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Infrastructure Engineers and covers different types of secret engines in Vault. Candidates will learn to choose an appropriate secrets engine based on the use case, differentiate between static and dynamic secrets, and explore the use of transit secrets for encryption. The section also introduces response wrapping and the importance of short-lived secrets for enhancing security. Hands-on tasks include enabling and accessing secrets engines using the CLI, API, and UI.

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HashiCorp Certified: Vault Associate (003)Exam Sample Questions (Q204-Q209):

NEW QUESTION # 204
As a best practice, the root token should be stored in which of the following ways?

- A. Should be stored in another password safe
- B. Should be stored in configuration automation tooling
- C. Should be stored in Vault
- D. Should be revoked and never stored after initial setup

Answer: D

Explanation:
The root token is the initial token created when initializing Vault. It has unlimited privileges and can perform any operation in Vault. As a best practice, the root token should be revoked and never stored after initial setup. This is because the root token is a single

point of failure and a potential security risk if it is compromised or leaked. Instead of using the root token, Vault operators should create other tokens with appropriate policies and roles that allow them to perform their tasks. If a new root token is needed in an emergency, the vault operator generate-root command can be used to create one on-the-fly with the consent of a quorum of unseal key holders. References: Tokens | Vault | HashiCorp Developer, Generate root tokens using unseal keys | Vault | HashiCorp Developer

NEW QUESTION # 205

Which of the following Vault policies will allow a Vault client to read a secret stored at secrets/applications /app01/api_key?

- A. path "secrets/applications/" { capabilities = ["read"] allowed_parameters = { "certificate" = [] } }
- B. path "secrets/applications/+/api_*" { capabilities = ["read"] }
- C. path "secrets/applications/app01/api_key/*" { capabilities = ["update", "list", "read"] }
- D. path "secrets/*" { capabilities = ["list"] }

Answer: B

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed in Depth Explanation:
This question requires identifying a policy that permits reading the secret at secrets/applications/app01 /api_key. Vault policies use paths and capabilities to control access. Let's evaluate:
* A: path "secrets/applications/" { capabilities = ["read"] allowed_parameters = { "certificate" = []
} }This policy allows reading at secrets/applications/, but not deeper paths like secrets/applications /app01/api_key. The allowed_parameters restriction is irrelevant for reading secrets. Incorrect.
* B: path "secrets/*" { capabilities = ["list"] }The list capability allows listing secrets under secrets/, but not reading their contents. Reading requires the read capability. Incorrect.
* C: path "secrets/applications/+/api_*" { capabilities = ["read"] }The + wildcard matches one segment (e.g., app01), and api_* matches api_key. This policy grants read access to secrets/applications /app01/api_key. Correct.
* D: path "secrets/applications/app01/api_key/*" { capabilities = ["update", "list", "read"] }This policy applies to subpaths under api_key/, not the exact path api_key. It includes read, but the path mismatch makes it incorrect for this specific secret.
Overall Explanation from Vault Docs:
"Wildcards (*, +) allow flexible path matching... read capability is required to retrieve secret data." Option C uses globbing to precisely target the required path.
Reference:https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/tutorials/policies/policies

NEW QUESTION # 206

During a service outage, you must ensure all current tokens and leases are copied to another Vault cluster for failover so applications don't need to authenticate. How can you accomplish this?

- A. Replicate to another cluster using Performance Replication and promote the secondary cluster during an outage
- B. Configure all applications to use the auto-auth feature of the Vault Agent
- C. Have Vault write all the tokens and leases to a file so you have a second copy of them
- D. Configure Disaster Recovery replication and promote the secondary cluster during an outage

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed in Depth Explanation:
* A:Insecure and manual; not a Vault feature. Incorrect.
* B:Auto-auth doesn't replicate tokens/leases. Incorrect.
* C:DR replication mirrors tokens and leases; promotion enables failover. Correct.
* D:Performance replication doesn't replicate tokens fully. Incorrect.
Overall Explanation from Vault Docs:
"Disaster Recovery replication mirrors tokens and leases... Promote the secondary during an outage."
Reference:https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/docs/enterprise/replication#replicated-data

NEW QUESTION # 207

What is the default maximum time-to-live (TTL) for a token, measured in days?

- A. 14 days (336 hours)
- B. 31 days (744 hours)
- C. 7 days (168 hours)
- D. 32 days (768 hours)

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed in Depth Explanation:
* A:Vault's default max TTL is 768 hours (32 days). Correct.
* B, C, D:Incorrect values per Vault's defaults.
Overall Explanation from Vault Docs:
"The system max TTL is 768 hours (32 days) unless overridden..."
Reference:https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/docs/concepts/tokens#token-time-to-live-periodic-tokens- and-explicit-max-ttls

NEW QUESTION # 208

After encrypting data using the Transit secrets engine, you've received the following output. Which of the following is true based on the output displayed below?
Key: ciphertext Value: vault:v2:
45f9zW6cglbrzCjI0yCyC6DBYtSBSxnMgUn9B5aHcGEit71xefPEmmjMbrk3

- A. Similar to the KV secrets engine, the Transit secrets engine was enabled using the transit v2 option
- B. The original encryption key has been rotated at least once
- C. The data is stored in Vault using a KV v2 secrets engine
- D. This is the second version of the encrypted data

Answer: B

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed in Depth Explanation:
* A:v2 shows the key was rotated once. Correct.
* B:Transit doesn't store data. Incorrect.
* C:v2 is the key version, not data version. Incorrect.
* D:No transit v2 option exists. Incorrect.
Overall Explanation from Vault Docs:
"Ciphertext is prepended with the key version (e.g., v2)... Indicates rotation."
Reference:https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/tutorials/encryption-as-a-service/eaas-transit#rotate-the- encryption-key

NEW QUESTION # 209

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