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Exam : FAAA_005

Title : Pure Storage FlashArray
Architect Associate

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Pure Storage FlashArray Architect Associate Sample Questions (Q58-Q63):

NEW QUESTION # 58

Refer to the exhibit.



A customer is assessing the health of their FlashArray.

What should the customer discuss with their SE based on this information?

- A. Upgrading the controller to the //X90R3 model
- B. Adding more network ports
- C. Adding a second shelf of NVMe DirectFlash modules

Answer: C

Explanation:

Based on the exhibit (referenced via the link), the customer should discuss adding a second shelf of NVMe DirectFlash modules with their SE. This recommendation is based on the assumption that the exhibit indicates the array is nearing its capacity limits or requires additional storage to accommodate future growth.

Why This Matters:

Capacity Planning:

FlashArray uses DirectFlash Modules to provide high-performance, low-latency storage. If the array is approaching its physical capacity, adding a second shelf of NVMe modules is the most effective way to expand storage without requiring a full hardware upgrade.

This approach ensures the array can continue to meet the customer's growing storage needs while maintaining performance and reliability.

Scalability:

Pure Storage arrays are designed to scale seamlessly by adding expansion shelves. This allows customers to increase capacity without disrupting operations or replacing existing hardware.

Why Not the Other Options?

A). Upgrading the controller to the //X90R3 model:

Upgrading the controller is only necessary if the current controller is nearing its performance limits.

The exhibit does not indicate performance bottlenecks, so this step is likely unnecessary.

C). Adding more network ports:

Adding network ports is relevant for improving connectivity or bandwidth but does not address capacity concerns. If the array is running out of storage space, adding network ports will not resolve the issue.

Key Points:

Capacity Expansion: Adding a second shelf of NVMe modules provides additional storage capacity to support future growth.

Non-Disruptive Scaling: Expansion shelves can be added without downtime, ensuring continuous availability.

Cost Efficiency: Avoids unnecessary upgrades or replacements, optimizing costs while meeting capacity requirements.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Expanding FlashArray Capacity with DirectFlash Modules" Pure Storage

Whitepaper: "Scaling Storage with FlashArray Expansion Shelves" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Best Practices for Capacity Planning and Expansion"

NEW QUESTION # 59

During a controller upgrade of a Pure Storage FlashArray, what aspect of array design ensures there will be no tangible impact on performance?

- A. Stateful controller architecture
- B. Primary/secondary controller architecture
- C. Active/passive controller front-ends ports
- **D. Active/active controller architecture**

Answer: D

Explanation:

During a controller upgrade of a Pure Storage FlashArray, the active/active controller architecture ensures there will be no tangible impact on performance. This design allows both controllers to handle I/O operations simultaneously, so even if one controller is being upgraded, the other can continue processing workloads without interruption.

Why This Matters:

Active/Active Architecture: In an active/active design, both controllers share the workload equally. If one controller is taken offline for maintenance or upgrades, the remaining controller seamlessly handles all I/O operations.

This ensures continuous availability and consistent performance during upgrades, minimizing downtime and user impact.

Why Not the Other Options?

B). Stateful controller architecture:

While stateful architectures maintain session information, they do not inherently ensure no performance impact during upgrades. The key factor here is the active/active design.

C). Active/passive controller front-end ports:

In an active/passive design, only one controller is actively handling I/O at any given time. If the active controller is upgraded, the passive controller must take over, which can lead to temporary performance degradation.

D). Primary/secondary controller architecture:

Similar to active/passive, this design relies on a primary controller for all operations, making it less resilient during upgrades compared to active/active.

Key Points:

Active/Active Design: Ensures continuous I/O processing during upgrades.

Seamless Upgrades: Minimizes performance impact and downtime for users.

High Availability: Maintains consistent performance and reliability throughout the upgrade process.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Controller Upgrade Process and Best Practices" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Active/Active Controller Architecture" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Minimizing Impact During Controller Upgrades"

NEW QUESTION # 60

Which Evergreen/Forever benefit allows a customer to trade in an existing 12 TB shelf for a new 60 TB shelf while only paying for a 48 TB increase?

- **A. Right-Size Guarantee**
- B. Love Your Storage
- C. Flat is Fair Maintenance
- D. Capacity Consolidation

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Right-Size Guarantee is an Evergreen/Forever benefit that allows customers to trade in existing storage shelves for newer, higher-capacity shelves while only paying for the incremental capacity increase. In this scenario, the customer can trade in a 12 TB shelf for a 60 TB shelf and only pay for the additional 48 TB of capacity.

Why This Matters:

The Right-Size Guarantee ensures that customers can upgrade their storage infrastructure without overpaying for capacity they already own. This aligns with Pure Storage's commitment to providing flexible and cost-effective storage solutions.

By leveraging this benefit, the customer can modernize their storage environment while optimizing costs.

Why Not the Other Options?

A). Capacity Consolidation:

Capacity Consolidation refers to the ability to consolidate workloads onto fewer arrays or shelves, but it does not specifically address trading in existing shelves for higher-capacity ones at a reduced cost.

B). Flat is Fair Maintenance:

Flat is Fair Maintenance ensures predictable and consistent maintenance pricing over time, but it does not apply to upgrading or trading in storage shelves.

D). Love Your Storage:

Love Your Storage is a program that provides hardware upgrades and enhancements, but it does not directly relate to trading in shelves for capacity increases.

Key Points:

Right-Size Guarantee: Allows customers to trade in existing shelves for higher-capacity shelves at a reduced cost.

Cost Optimization: Ensures customers only pay for the incremental capacity increase, reducing total cost of ownership (TCO).

Evergreen Benefits: Part of Pure Storage's commitment to delivering flexible and future-proof storage solutions.

Reference: Pure Storage Evergreen/Forever Documentation: "Understanding the Right-Size Guarantee" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Evergreen Architecture and Subscription Benefits" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "How to Leverage the Right-Size Guarantee"

NEW QUESTION # 61

A customer notices a low data reduction ratio upon initial data ingest.

Which Purity data reduction technique will help increase the data reduction ratio over time?

- A. Snapshot cleanup and garbage collection
- **B. Deep deduplication and deep compression**
- C. RAID-HA protection and AES-256 encryption
- D. Capacity consolidation and cloning

Answer: B

Explanation:

If a customer notices a low data reduction ratio upon initial data ingest, the Purity data reduction technique that will help increase the data reduction ratio over time is deep deduplication and deep compression.

Why This Matters:

Deep Deduplication and Deep Compression:

Purity//FA (the operating system for FlashArray) applies deduplication to eliminate duplicate data blocks and compression to reduce the size of unique data blocks.

These techniques are applied continuously as new data is written to the array. Over time, as more data is ingested and patterns emerge, the effectiveness of deduplication and compression increases, leading to a higher data reduction ratio.

For example, deduplication becomes more effective as the dataset grows and more duplicates are identified. Similarly, compression benefits from identifying repetitive patterns in larger datasets.

Why Not the Other Options?

B). Snapshot cleanup and garbage collection:

Snapshot cleanup and garbage collection are maintenance processes that reclaim space from deleted snapshots or unused data blocks. While these processes free up space, they do not directly contribute to increasing the data reduction ratio.

C). Capacity consolidation and cloning:

Capacity consolidation refers to combining workloads onto fewer arrays, and cloning creates space-efficient copies of volumes.

While cloning leverages data reduction techniques, it does not inherently improve the overall data reduction ratio for existing data.

D). RAID-HA protection and AES-256 encryption:

RAID-HA (high availability) ensures data redundancy, and AES-256 encryption secures data. Neither of these features impacts the data reduction ratio.

Key Points:

Deep Deduplication and Compression: Continuously optimize storage efficiency as more data is ingested.

Data Reduction Ratio: Improves over time as deduplication identifies duplicates and compression reduces unique data.

Purity//FA Automation: These techniques are fully automated and do not require manual intervention.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Understanding Data Reduction in Purity//FA" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Maximizing Data Reduction with FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "How Deduplication and Compression Work in FlashArray"

NEW QUESTION # 62

A customer is in the very early stages of designing a storage solution at a greenfield site.

They wish to use NVMe-TCP connectivity and require approximately:

* 100 Gbps of consistent raw network throughput between the FlashArray and the dedicated SAN switches.

* The dedicated SAN switches support up to 25 Gbps connectivity.

What is the minimum number of Ethernet ports in total they should connect from the FlashArray to the SAN switches while still ensuring resiliency?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- **C. 2**
- D. 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

To achieve 100 Gbps of consistent raw network throughput between the FlashArray and the dedicated SAN switches, while ensuring resiliency, the customer must connect a sufficient number of Ethernet ports from the FlashArray to the SAN switches. Given that the dedicated SAN switches support up to 25 Gbps connectivity per port, the calculation is as follows:

Throughput Requirement:

The customer requires 100 Gbps of raw throughput.

Each Ethernet port provides 25 Gbps of bandwidth.

Number of Ports Needed:

To meet the 100 Gbps requirement:

Resiliency Requirement:

Resiliency ensures that the solution can tolerate failures (e.g., switch or link failures). To achieve this, the customer must double the number of ports to provide redundant paths.

Therefore, the total number of ports required is: $4 \times 2 = 8$ ports.

Why Not the Other Options?

B).2:

Two ports would only provide 50 Gbps of raw throughput (2×25 Gbps), which does not meet the 100 Gbps requirement.

Additionally, there would be no redundancy, violating the resiliency requirement.

C).4:

Four ports would meet the 100 Gbps throughput requirement but would lack redundancy, making the solution vulnerable to failures.

D).16:

Sixteen ports would exceed the required throughput and redundancy, resulting in unnecessary costs and complexity.

Key Points:

Throughput Calculation: Ensure the total bandwidth meets the 100 Gbps requirement.

Resiliency: Double the number of ports to provide redundant paths for high availability.

Optimization: Use the minimum number of ports that satisfy both throughput and resiliency requirements.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Network Design and Configuration Best Practices" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "NVMe-TCP Connectivity and Performance Optimization" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Calculating Required Network Ports for FlashArray"

NEW QUESTION # 63

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