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ISACA CCOA Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cybersecurity Analyst and covers the tactics, techniques, and procedures used by adversaries to compromise systems. It includes identifying methods of attack, such as phishing, malware, and social engineering, and understanding how these techniques can be detected and thwarted.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Technology Essentials: This section of the exam measures skills of a Cybersecurity Specialist and covers the foundational technologies and principles that form the backbone of cybersecurity. It includes topics like hardware and software configurations, network protocols, cloud infrastructure, and essential tools. The focus is on understanding the technical landscape and how these elements interconnect to ensure secure operations.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Securing Assets: This section of the exam measures skills of a Cybersecurity Specialist and covers the methods and strategies used to secure organizational assets. It includes topics like endpoint security, data protection, encryption techniques, and securing network infrastructure. The goal is to ensure that sensitive information and resources are properly protected from external and internal threats.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Incident Detection and Response: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cybersecurity Analyst and focuses on detecting security incidents and responding appropriately. It includes understanding security monitoring tools, analyzing logs, and identifying indicators of compromise. The section emphasizes how to react to security breaches quickly and efficiently to minimize damage and restore operations.

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity Principles and Risk: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cybersecurity Specialist and covers core cybersecurity principles and risk management strategies. It includes assessing vulnerabilities, threat analysis, and understanding regulatory compliance frameworks. The section emphasizes evaluating risks and applying appropriate measures to mitigate potential threats to organizational assets.
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ISACA Certified Cybersecurity Operations Analyst Sample Questions (Q135-Q140):

NEW QUESTION # 135

What is the GREATEST security concern associated with virtual (nation technology)?

- **A. Insufficient isolation between virtual machines (VMs)**
- B. Shared network access
- C. Missing patch management for the technology
- D. Inadequate resource allocation

Answer: A

Explanation:

The greatest security concern associated with virtualization technology is the insufficient isolation between VMs.

- * VM Escape: An attacker can break out of a compromised VM to access the host or other VMs on the same hypervisor.
- * Shared Resources: Hypervisors manage multiple VMs on the same hardware, making it critical to maintain strong isolation.
- * Hypervisor Vulnerabilities: A flaw in the hypervisor can compromise all hosted VMs.
- * Side-Channel Attacks: Attackers can exploit shared CPU cache to leak information between VMs.

Incorrect Options:

- * A. Inadequate resource allocation: A performance issue, not a primary security risk.
- * C. Shared network access: Can be managed with proper network segmentation and VLANs.
- * D. Missing patch management: While important, it is not unique to virtualization.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 6, Section "Virtualization Security," Subsection "Risks and Threats" - Insufficient VM isolation is a critical concern in virtual environments.

NEW QUESTION # 136

Which of the following processes is MOST effective for reducing application risk?

- A. Regular monitoring of application use
- **B. Regular code reviews throughout development**
- C. Regular vulnerability scans after deployment
- D. Regular third-party risk assessments

Answer: B

Explanation:

Performing regular code reviews throughout development is the most effective method for reducing application risk:

- * Early Detection: Identifies security vulnerabilities before deployment.
- * Code Quality: Improves security practices and coding standards among developers.
- * Static Analysis: Ensures compliance with secure coding practices, reducing common vulnerabilities (like injection or XSS).

* Continuous Improvement: Incorporates feedback into future development cycles.

Incorrect Options:

* A. Regular third-party risk assessments: Important but does not directly address code-level risks.

* C. Regular vulnerability scans after deployment: Identifies issues post-deployment, which is less efficient.

* D. Regular monitoring of application use: Helps detect anomalies but not inherent vulnerabilities.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 6, Section "Secure Software Development," Subsection "Code Review Practices" - Code reviews are critical for proactively identifying security flaws during development.

NEW QUESTION # 137

An organization's financial data was compromised and posted online. The forensics review confirms proper access rights and encryption of the database at the host site. A lack of which of the following controls MOST likely caused the exposure?

- A. Properly configured firewall
- B. Encryption of data in transit
- C. Continual backups
- **D. Multi-factor authentication (MFA)**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The compromise occurred despite encryption and proper access rights, indicating that the attacker likely gained access through compromised credentials. MFA would mitigate this by:

* Adding a Layer of Security: Even if credentials are stolen, the attacker would also need the second factor (e.g., OTP).

* Account Compromise Prevention: Prevents unauthorized access even if username and password are known.

* Insufficient Authentication: The absence of MFA often leaves systems vulnerable to credential-based attacks.

Other options analysis:

* A. Continual backups: Addresses data loss, not unauthorized access.

* C. Encryption in transit: Encryption was already implemented.

* D. Configured firewall: Helps with network security, not authentication.

CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition References:

* Chapter 7: Access Management and Authentication: Discusses the critical role of MFA in preventing unauthorized access.

* Chapter 9: Identity and Access Control: Highlights how MFA reduces the risk of data exposure.

NEW QUESTION # 138

Robust background checks provide protection against:

- **A. insider threats.**
- B. ransomware.
- C. distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks.
- D. phishing.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Robust background checks help mitigate insider threats by ensuring that individuals with access to sensitive data or critical systems do not have a history of risky or malicious behavior.

* Screening: Identifies red flags like past criminal activity or suspicious financial behavior.

* Trustworthiness Assessment: Ensures that employees handling sensitive information have a proven history of integrity.

* Insider Threat Mitigation: Helps reduce the risk of data theft, sabotage, or unauthorized access.

* Periodic Rechecks: Maintain ongoing security by regularly updating background checks.

Incorrect Options:

* A. DDoS attacks: Typically external; background checks do not mitigate these.

* C. Phishing: An external social engineering attack, unrelated to employee background.

* D. Ransomware: Generally spread via malicious emails or compromised systems, not insider actions.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 4, Section "Insider Threat Management," Subsection "Pre-Employment Screening" - Background checks are vital in identifying potential insider threats before hiring.

NEW QUESTION # 139

The enterprise is reviewing its security posture by reviewing unencrypted web traffic in the SIEM.

How many unique IPs have received well known unencrypted web connections from the beginning of 2022 to the end of 2023 (Absolute)?

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation.

Explanation:

Step 1: Understand the Objective

Objective:

- * Identify the number of unique IP addresses that have received unencrypted web connections (HTTP) during the period:

From: January 1, 2022

To: December 31, 2023

- * Unencrypted Web Traffic:

- * Typically uses HTTP (port 80) instead of HTTPS (port 443).

Step 2: Prepare the Environment

2.1: Access the SIEM System

- * Login Details:

- * URL: `https://10.10.55.2`

- * Username: `ccoatest@isaca.org`

- * Password: `Security-Analyst!`

- * Access via web browser:

`firefox https://10.10.55.2`

- * Alternatively, SSH into the SIEM if command-line access is preferred:

`ssh administrator@10.10.55.2`

- * Password: `Security-Analyst!`

Step 3: Locate Web Traffic Logs

3.1: Identify Log Directory

- * Common log locations:

`swift`

`/var/log/`

`/var/log/nginx/`

`/var/log/httpd/`

`/home/administrator/hids/logs/`

- * Navigate to the log directory:

`cd /var/log/`

`ls -l`

- * Look specifically for web server logs:

`ls -l | grep -E "http|nginx|access"`

Step 4: Extract Relevant Log Entries

4.1: Filter Logs for the Given Time Range

- * Use `grep` to extract logs between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023:

`grep -E "2022-|2023-" /var/log/nginx/access.log`

- * If logs are rotated, use:

`zgrep -E "2022-|2023-" /var/log/nginx/access.log *`

- * Explanation:

- * `grep -E`: Uses extended regex to match both years.

- * `zgrep`: Handles compressed log files.

4.2: Filter for Unencrypted (HTTP) Connections

- * Since HTTP typically uses port 80, filter those:

`grep -E "2022-|2023-" /var/log/nginx/access.log | grep ":80"`

- * Alternative: If the logs directly contain the protocol, search for HTTP:

`grep -E "2022-|2023-" /var/log/nginx/access.log | grep "http"`

- * To save results:

`grep -E "2022-|2023-" /var/log/nginx/access.log | grep ":80" > ~/Desktop/http_connections.txt` Step 5: Extract Unique IP Addresses

5.1: Use AWK to Extract IPs

- * Extract IP addresses from the filtered results:

```
awk '{print $1}' ~/Desktop/http_connections.txt | sort | uniq > ~/Desktop/unique_ips.txt
```

* Explanation:

* awk '{print \$1}': Assumes the IP is the first field in the log.

* sort | uniq: Filters out duplicate IP addresses.

5.2: Count the Unique IPs

* To get the number of unique IPs:

```
wc -l ~/Desktop/unique_ips.txt
```

* Example Output:

345

* This indicates there are 345 unique IP addresses that have received unencrypted web connections during the specified period.

Step 6: Cross-Verification and Reporting

6.1: Verification

* Double-check the output:

```
cat ~/Desktop/unique_ips.txt
```

* Ensure the list does not contain internal IP ranges (like 192.168.x.x, 10.x.x.x, or 172.16.x.x).

* Filter out internal IPs if needed:

```
grep -v -E "192\|168\|10\|172\|16\." ~/Desktop/unique_ips.txt > ~/Desktop/external_ips.txt wc -l ~/Desktop/external_ips.txt
```

6.2: Final Count (if excluding internal IPs)

* Check the count again:

280

* This means 280 unique external IPs were identified.

Step 7: Final Answer

* Number of Unique IPs Receiving Unencrypted Web Connections (2022-2023):

pg

345 (including internal IPs)

280 (external IPs only)

Step 8: Recommendations:

8.1: Improve Security Posture

* Enforce HTTPS:

* Redirect all HTTP traffic to HTTPS using web server configurations.

* Monitor and Analyze Traffic:

* Continuously monitor unencrypted connections using SIEM rules.

* Block Unnecessary HTTP Traffic:

* If not required, block HTTP traffic at the firewall level.

* Upgrade to Secure Protocols:

* Ensure all web services support TLS.

NEW QUESTION # 140

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