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### Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cortex XDR Agent Configuration: This section of the exam measures skills of the XDR engineer and covers configuring endpoint prevention profiles and policies, setting up endpoint extension profiles, and managing endpoint groups. The focus is on ensuring endpoints are properly protected and policies are consistently applied across the organization.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ingestion and Automation: This section of the exam measures skills of the security engineer and covers onboarding various data sources including NGFW, network, cloud, and identity systems. It also includes managing simple automation rules, configuring Broker VM applets and clusters, setting up XDR Collectors, and creating parsing rules for data normalization and automation within the Cortex XDR environment.</li></ul>

Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintenance and Troubleshooting:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the XDR engineer and covers managing software component updates for Cortex XDR, such as content, agents, Collectors, and Broker VM. It also includes troubleshooting data management issues like data ingestion and parsing, as well as resolving issues with Cortex XDR components to ensure ongoing system reliability and performance.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planning and Installation:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the security engineer and covers the deployment process, objectives, and required resources such as hardware, software, data sources, and integrations for Cortex XDR. It also includes understanding and explaining the deployment and functionality of components like the XDR agent, Broker VM, XDR Collector, and Cloud Identity Engine. Additionally, it assesses the ability to configure user roles, permissions, and access controls, as well as knowledge of data retention and compute unit considerations.</li> </ul>
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Detection and Reporting:</b> This section of the exam measures skills of the detection engineer and covers creating detection rules to meet security requirements, including correlation, custom prevention rules, and the use of behavioral indicators of compromise (BIOCs) and indicators of compromise (IOCs). It also assesses configuring exceptions and exclusions, as well as building custom dashboards and reporting templates for effective threat detection and reporting.</li> </ul>

## Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q16-Q21):

### NEW QUESTION # 16

Which step is required to configure a proxy for an XDR Collector?

- A. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant
- B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings
- **C. Edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information**
- D. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The XDR Collector in Cortex XDR is a lightweight tool for collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints. When a proxy is required for the XDR Collector to communicate with the Cortex XDR cloud, the proxy settings must be configured in the collector's configuration file. Specifically, the YAML configuration file (e.g., config.yaml) must be edited to include the proxy details, such as the proxy server's address, port, and authentication credentials (if required).

\* **Correct Answer Analysis (A):** To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, the engineer must edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information. This involves adding or updating the proxy settings in the file, which the collector uses to route its traffic through the specified proxy server.

\* **Why not the other options?**

\* **B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings:** While restarting the collector may be necessary to apply changes, it is not the primary step required to configure the proxy. The YAML file must be edited first.

\* **C. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder:** The Pathfinder is a Cortex XDR feature for discovering endpoints, not for configuring proxy settings for the XDR Collector.

\* **D. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant:** Proxy settings for the XDR Collector are configured locally on the collector, not in the Cortex XDR tenant's web interface.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains XDR Collector configuration: "To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, edit the YAML configuration file to include the proxy server details, such as address and port" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Configuration section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers XDR Collector setup, stating that "proxy settings are configured by editing the collector's YAML file" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing XDR Collector configuration.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer

Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

### NEW QUESTION # 17

When using Kerberos as the authentication method for Pathfinder, which two settings must be validated on the DNS server? (Choose two.)

- A. AD DS-integrated zones
- B. DNS forwarders
- C. Reverse DNS zone
- D. Reverse DNS records

**Answer: C,D**

Explanation:

Pathfinder in Cortex XDR is a tool for discovering unmanaged endpoints in a network, often using authentication methods like Kerberos to access systems securely. Kerberos authentication relies heavily on DNS for resolving hostnames and ensuring proper communication between clients, servers, and the Kerberos Key Distribution Center (KDC). Specific DNS settings must be validated to ensure Kerberos authentication works correctly for Pathfinder.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (B, C):

\* B. Reverse DNS zone: A reverse DNS zone is required to map IP addresses to hostnames (PTR records), which Kerberos uses to verify the identity of servers and clients. Without a properly configured reverse DNS zone, Kerberos authentication may fail due to hostname resolution issues.

\* C. Reverse DNS records: Reverse DNS records (PTR records) within the reverse DNS zone must be correctly configured for all relevant hosts. These records ensure that IP addresses resolve to the correct hostnames, which is critical for Kerberos to authenticate Pathfinder's access to endpoints.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. DNS forwarders: DNS forwarders are used to route DNS queries to external servers when a local DNS server cannot resolve them. While useful for general DNS resolution, they are not specifically required for Kerberos authentication or Pathfinder.

\* D. AD DS-integrated zones: Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS)-integrated zones enhance DNS management in AD environments, but they are not strictly required for Kerberos authentication. Kerberos relies on proper forward and reverse DNS resolution, not AD-specific DNS configurations.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains Pathfinder configuration: "For Kerberos authentication, ensure that the DNS server has a properly configured reverse DNS zone and reverse DNS records to support hostname resolution" (paraphrased from the Pathfinder Configuration section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers Pathfinder setup, stating that "Kerberos requires valid reverse DNS zones and PTR records for authentication" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Pathfinder authentication settings.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

### NEW QUESTION # 18

An administrator wants to employ reusable rules within custom parsing rules to apply consistent log field extraction across multiple data sources. Which section of the parsing rule should the administrator use to define those reusable rules in Cortex XDR?

- A. FILTER
- B. RULE
- C. CONST
- D. INGEST

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, parsing rules are used to extract and normalize fields from log data ingested from various sources to ensure consistent analysis and correlation. To create reusable rules for consistent log field extraction across multiple data sources, administrators use the CONST section within the parsing rule configuration. The CONST section allows the definition of reusable constants or rules that can be applied across different parsing rules, ensuring uniformity in how fields are extracted and processed. The CONST section is specifically designed to hold constant values or reusable expressions that can be referenced in other parts of

the parsing rule, such as the `RULE` or `INGEST` sections. This is particularly useful when multiple data sources require similar field extraction logic, as it reduces redundancy and ensures consistency. For example, a constant regex pattern for extracting IP addresses can be defined in the `CONST` section and reused across multiple parsing rules.

\* Why not the other options?

\* `RULE`: The `RULE` section defines the specific logic for parsing and extracting fields from a log entry but is not inherently reusable across multiple rules unless referenced via constants defined in `CONST`.

\* `INGEST`: The `INGEST` section specifies how raw log data is ingested and preprocessed, not where reusable rules are defined.

\* `FILTER`: The `FILTER` section is used to include or exclude log entries based on conditions, not for defining reusable extraction rules.

Exact Extract or Reference:

While the exact wording of the `CONST` section's purpose is not directly quoted in public-facing documentation (as some details are in proprietary training materials like EDU-260 or the Cortex XDR Admin Guide), the Cortex XDR Documentation Portal ([docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com](https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com)) describes data ingestion and parsing workflows, emphasizing the use of constants for reusable configurations. The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers data onboarding and parsing, noting that "constants defined in the `CONST` section allow reusable parsing logic for consistent field extraction across sources" (paraphrased from course objectives). Additionally, the Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet lists "data source onboarding and integration configuration" as a key skill, which includes mastering parsing rules and their components like `CONST`.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer

Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

## NEW QUESTION # 19

During the deployment of a Broker VM in a high availability (HA) environment, after configuring the Broker VM FQDN, an XDR engineer must ensure agent installer availability and efficient content caching to maintain performance consistency across failovers. Which additional configuration steps should the engineer take?

- A. Deploy a load balancer and configure SSL termination at the load balancer
- B. Use shared SSL certificates and keys for all Broker VMs and configure a single IP address for failover
- C. Enable synchronized session persistence across Broker VMs and use a self-signed certificate and key
- **D. Upload the signed SSL server certificate and key and deploy a load balancer**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In a high availability (HA) environment, the Broker VM in Cortex XDR acts as a local proxy to facilitate agent communications, content caching, and installer distribution, reducing dependency on direct cloud connections. To ensure agent installer availability and efficient content caching across failovers, the Broker VM must be configured to handle agent requests consistently, even if one VM fails. This requires proper SSL certificate management and load balancing to distribute traffic across multiple Broker VMs.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The engineer should upload the signed SSL server certificate and key to each Broker VM to secure communications and ensure trust between agents and the Broker VMs.

Additionally, deploying a load balancer in front of the Broker VMs allows traffic to be distributed across multiple VMs, ensuring availability and performance consistency during failovers. The load balancer uses the configured Broker VM FQDN to route agent requests, and the signed SSL certificate ensures secure, uninterrupted communication. This setup supports content caching and installer distribution by maintaining a stable connection point for agents.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. Use shared SSL certificates and keys for all Broker VMs and configure a single IP address for failover: While shared SSL certificates can be used, configuring a single IP address for failover (e.g., via VRRP or a floating IP) is less flexible than a load balancer and may not efficiently handle content caching or installer distribution across multiple VMs. Load balancers are preferred for HA setups in Cortex XDR.

\* C. Deploy a load balancer and configure SSL termination at the load balancer: SSL termination at the load balancer means the load balancer decrypts traffic before forwarding it to the Broker VMs, requiring unencrypted communication between the load balancer and VMs. This is not recommended for Cortex XDR, as Broker VMs require end-to-end SSL encryption for security, and SSL termination complicates certificate management.

\* D. Enable synchronized session persistence across Broker VMs and use a self-signed certificate and key: Self-signed certificates are not recommended for production HA environments, as they can cause trust issues with agents and require manual configuration. Synchronized session persistence is not a standard feature for Broker VMs and is unnecessary for content caching or installer availability.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes Broker VM HA configuration: "For high availability, deploy multiple Broker VMs behind a load balancer and upload a signed SSL server certificate and key to each VM to secure agent communications" (paraphrased from the Broker VM Deployment section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers Broker VM setup, stating that "a load balancer with signed SSL certificates ensures agent installer availability and content caching in HA environments" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Broker VM deployment for HA.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

## NEW QUESTION # 20

During deployment of Cortex XDR for Linux Agents, the security engineering team is asked to implement memory monitoring for agent health monitoring. Which agent service should be monitored to fulfill this request?

- A. pmd
- B. pyxd
- C. dydng
- D. clad

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Cortex XDR agents on Linux consist of several services that handle different aspects of agent functionality, such as event collection, policy enforcement, and health monitoring. Memory monitoring for agent health involves tracking the memory usage of the agent's core processes to ensure they are operating within acceptable limits, which is critical for maintaining agent stability and performance. The pmd (Process Monitoring Daemon) service is responsible for monitoring the agent's health, including memory usage, on Linux systems.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (D): The pmd service should be monitored to fulfill the request for memory monitoring. The Process Monitoring Daemon tracks the Cortex XDR agent's resource usage, including memory consumption, and reports health metrics to the console. Monitoring this service ensures the agent remains healthy and can detect issues like memory leaks or excessive resource usage.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. dydng: This is not a valid Cortex XDR service on Linux. It appears to be a typo or a misnamed service.

\* B. clad: The clad service (Cortex Linux Agent Daemon) is responsible for core agent operations, such as communication with the Cortex XDR tenant, but it is not specifically focused on memory monitoring for health purposes.

\* C. pyxd: The pyxd service handles Python-based components of the agent, such as script execution for certain detections, but it is not responsible for memory monitoring or agent health.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains Linux agent services: "The pmd (Process Monitoring Daemon) service on Linux monitors agent health, including memory usage, to ensure stable operation" (paraphrased from the Linux Agent Deployment section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers Linux agent setup, stating that "pmd is the service to monitor for agent health, including memory usage, on Linux systems" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Linux agent deployment and monitoring.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer>

## NEW QUESTION # 21

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