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Palo Alto Networks Network Security Professional Certification Training Guide



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Palo Alto Networks NetSec-Analyst Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and Operations: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Operations Professionals and covers the use of centralized management tools to maintain and monitor firewall environments. It focuses on Strata Cloud Manager, folders, snippets, automations, variables, and logging services. Candidates are also tested on using Command Center, Activity Insights, Policy Optimizer, Log Viewer, and incident-handling tools to analyze security data and improve the organization overall security posture. The goal is to validate competence in managing day-to-day firewall operations and responding to alerts effectively.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Object Configuration Creation and Application: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Security Analysts and covers the creation, configuration, and application of objects used across security environments. It focuses on building and applying various security profiles, decryption profiles, custom objects, external dynamic lists, and log forwarding profiles. Candidates are expected to understand how data security, IoT security, DoS protection, and SD-WAN profiles integrate into firewall operations. The objective of this domain is to ensure analysts can configure the foundational elements required to protect and optimize network security using Strata Cloud Manager.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Creation and Application: This section of the exam measures the abilities of Firewall Administrators and focuses on creating and applying different types of policies essential to secure and manage traffic. The domain includes security policies incorporating App-ID, User-ID, and Content-ID, as well as NAT, decryption, application override, and policy-based forwarding policies. It also covers SD-WAN routing and SLA policies that influence how traffic flows across distributed environments. The section ensures professionals can design and implement policy structures that support secure, efficient network operations.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troubleshooting: This section of the exam measures the skills of Technical Support Analysts and covers the identification and resolution of configuration and operational issues. It includes troubleshooting misconfigurations, runtime errors, commit and push issues, device health concerns, and resource usage problems. This domain ensures candidates can analyze failures across management systems and on-device functions, enabling them to maintain a stable and reliable security infrastructure.

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Palo Alto Networks Network Security Analyst Sample Questions (Q315-Q320):

NEW QUESTION # 315

Which URL Filtering profile action would you set to allow users the option to access a site only if they provide a URL admin password?

- A. authentication
- B. continue
- C. authorization
- D. override

Answer: C

Explanation:

Explanation/Reference:

Reference:

<https://docs.paloaltonetworks.com/pan-os/8-1/pan-os-admin/url-filtering/url-filtering-concepts/url-filteringprofile-actions.html>

NEW QUESTION # 316

A large enterprise uses Palo Alto Networks firewalls and has a stringent security requirement to prevent intellectual property (IP) leakage. They want to block any outbound traffic containing source code patterns specific to their proprietary software, which uses a unique internal commenting style (e.g., W CompanyInternal: [text]). This pattern needs to be detected within any file type transferred via HTTP/S, FTP, or SMB, but only if the user belongs to the 'Developers' or 'Contractors' user groups. Furthermore, detection of a single instance of this pattern should trigger a block. Which combination of Data Patterns, Data Filtering Profiles, and Security Policy rules is most effective and efficient to implement this, leveraging user-ID and ensuring comprehensive coverage?

- **A.**
 - 1. Data Pattern: 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' (Regex: '// CompanyInternal: .', Data Type: Any, Context: Any).
 - 2. Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention' (add 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' with 'Block' action, Threshold: 1).
 - 3. Security Policy Rule: Source Zone: Any, Source User: 'Developers', 'Contractors', Destination Zone: External, Application: 'web-browsing', 'ftp', 'smb', Action: Allow, Profiles: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention' (as part of a Profile Group) with SSL Decryption enabled for this traffic.
- **B.**
 - 1. Data Pattern: 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' (Regex: '// CompanyInternal: .', Data Type: Any, Context: Any).
 - 2. Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention' (add 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' with 'Block' action, Threshold: 1).
 - 3. Security Policy Rule: Source Zone: Any, Source User: 'Developers', 'Contractors', Destination Zone: External, Application: 'web-browsing', 'ftp', 'smb', Action: Allow, Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention'.
- **C.**
 - 1. Data Pattern: 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' (Regex: '// CompanyInternal: .', Data Type: Any, Context: Any).
 - 2. Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention' (add 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' with 'Block' action, Threshold: 1, Object Type: File).
 - 3. Security Policy Rule: Source Zone: Any, Source User: 'Developers', 'Contractors', Destination Zone: External, Application: 'web-browsing', 'ftp', 'smb', Action: Block, Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention'.

- D.
 - 1. Create a custom URL category for each sensitive application.
 - 2. Create a custom vulnerability signature for the pattern '// CompanyInternal:
 - 3. Security Policy Rule: Source User: 'Developers', 'Contractors', Destination Zone: External, Application: 'web-browsing', 'ftp', 'smb', Action: Reset-Client, Vulnerability Profile: .
- E.
 - 1. Data Pattern: 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' (Regex: '// CompanyInternal: .', Data Type: ASCII, Context: File).
 - 2. Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention' (add 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' with 'Block' action, Threshold: 1).
 - 3. Security Policy Rule: Source Zone: Any, Source User: 'Developers', 'Contractors', Destination Zone: External, Application: 'any', Action: Deny, Data Filtering Profile: 'IP_Leakage_Prevention'.

Answer: A

Explanation:

This is a complex scenario requiring proper understanding of Data Filtering, User-ID, and SSL Decryption. Let's break down the requirements and why option D is correct. Requirements Analysis: Pattern: '// CompanyInternal: [text]' - Y Requires a Regex Data Pattern. Coverage: Any file type via HTTP/S, FTP, or SMB -> This implies inspecting file transfers and potentially encrypted traffic (HTTP/S). User Scope: ONLY 'Developers' or 'Contractors' user groups Requires User-ID in the security policy. Action: Block on single instance -> Data Filtering Profile with 'Block' action and Threshold of 1. Evaluation of Options: A: Data Pattern: Correct regex, 'Data Type: Any', 'Context: Any' is good for broad file content scanning. Data Filtering Profile: Correct (Block action, Threshold 1). Security Policy Rule: Source User and Application are correct. Crucially, the 'Action: Allow' is a problem. Data Filtering profiles are applied to 'allow' rules. If the rule's action is 'Allow', the profile then determines what happens if a pattern is matched (e.g., block, alert). This structure is correct for applying Data Filtering. However, it's missing the critical aspect of SSL Decryption if the traffic is HTTPS, which is implicitly included in 'HTTP/S'. B: Data Pattern: 'Data Type: ASCII' might be too restrictive if the code is in other encodings. 'Context: File' is good. Security Policy Rule: 'Action: Denys means traffic is blocked before Data Filtering can even inspect it. Data Filtering profiles only apply to 'Allow' security policies. So, this option is fundamentally flawed for data filtering. C: Data Pattern: Correct. Data Filtering Profile: 'Object Type: File' is redundant with 'Context: Any' and the application types. 'Threshold: is correct. Security Policy Rule: 'Action: Block' has the same flaw as Option B: Data Filtering profiles do not apply to 'Block' rules. D (Correct): 1. Data Pattern: 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' (Regex: '// CompanyInternal: .', Data Type: Any, Context: Any). This is the I correct, flexible definition for the pattern. 2. Data Filtering Profile: (add 'ProprietaryCode_Pattern' with 'Block' action, Threshold: 1). This ensures that a single match triggers a block. 3. Security Policy Rule: Source User: 'Developers', 'Contractors' - Correctly leverages User-ID Application: 'web-browsing', 'ftp', 'smb' - Covers the required protocols. Action: 'Allow' - This is essential because Data Filtering profiles are applied to 'Allow' rules. When a match occurs, the profile's 'Block' action overrides the 'Allow' for that specific session. Profiles: (as part of a Profile Group) with SSL Decryption enabled for this traffic. This is the critical missing piece from option A. Since the requirement includes HTTP/S, SSL decryption must be enabled on the firewall for it to be able to inspect the encrypted payload and apply the data pattern Applying the Data Filtering profile within a Profile Group is the standard way to attach multiple security profiles. This option correctly specifies all components needed for a robust solution. E: Using custom URL categories or vulnerability signatures for data leakage is incorrect. Custom URL categories are for blocking/allowing URLs, not content inspection. Vulnerability signatures are for detecting exploits, not sensitive data patterns. Data Filtering is the dedicated feature for this purpose.

NEW QUESTION # 317

A network administrator is troubleshooting an intermittent application connectivity issue that only affects a specific subnet, but only when traffic traverses a particular firewall managed by Panorama. The administrator suspects a recent policy change. How can Panorama's features be leveraged to efficiently diagnose and potentially revert problematic policy changes for this specific firewall, minimizing impact to other devices?

- A. Utilize Panorama's 'Configuration History' and 'Load Named Configuration' features to review recent changes, identify the specific commit that introduced the issue, and revert only that firewall's configuration to a previous, known-good state without affecting other devices managed by Panorama.
- B. Perform a 'Revert to Last Saved Configuration' directly on the affected firewall, then manually re-apply all necessary changes.
- C. Disable all security policies on the problematic firewall to isolate the issue, then re-enable them one by one.
- D. Export the full configuration of all firewalls, use a diff tool to compare them, then manually reconfigure the problematic firewall.
- E. Use the 'Commit Scope' feature in Panorama to commit only the changes made to the problematic device group and then review the commit history on the device itself.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option C is the most effective and safe method. Panorama's 'Configuration History' allows administrators to view all past commits,

including who made them and what changes were included. The 'Load Named Configuration' feature enables loading a specific historical configuration point for a particular firewall or device group, rather than the entire Panorama configuration. This granular control allows for targeted troubleshooting and reversion without impacting other firewalls. Option A is partially correct but doesn't offer direct reversion of specific historical commits. Option B is risky as it might revert more than intended and lose recent valid changes. Option D is cumbersome and manual. Option E is disruptive and not a targeted diagnostic approach.

NEW QUESTION # 318

Which two DNS policy actions in the anti-spyware security profile can prevent hacking attacks through DNS queries to malicious domains? (Choose two.)

- A. Sinkhole
- B. Block
- C. Override
- D. Deny

Answer: A,B

Explanation:

A DNS policy action is a setting in an Anti-Spyware security profile that defines how the firewall handles DNS queries to malicious domains. A malicious domain is a domain name that is associated with a known threat, such as malware, phishing, or botnet¹. There are four possible DNS policy actions: alert, allow, block, and sinkhole¹.

The alert action logs the DNS query and allows it to proceed to the intended destination. This action does not prevent hacking attacks, but only notifies the administrator of the potential threat¹.

The allow action allows the DNS query to proceed to the intended destination without logging it. This action does not prevent hacking attacks, but only bypasses the DNS security inspection².

The block action blocks the DNS query and sends a response to the client with an NXDOMAIN (non-existent domain) error code. This action prevents hacking attacks by preventing the client from resolving the malicious domain¹.

The sinkhole action redirects the DNS query to a predefined IP address (the sinkhole IP address) that is under the control of the administrator. This action prevents hacking attacks by isolating the client from the malicious domain and allowing the administrator to monitor and remediate the infected host¹.

The override action is not a valid DNS policy action, but a setting in an Anti-Spyware security profile that allows the administrator to create exceptions for specific spyware signatures that they want to override the default action or log settings³.

Therefore, the two DNS policy actions that can prevent hacking attacks through DNS queries to malicious domains are block and sinkhole.

Reference:

1: Enable DNS Security - Palo Alto Networks 2: How To Disable the DNS Security Feature from an Anti-Spyware Profile - Palo Alto Networks 3: Security Profile: Anti-Spyware - Palo Alto Networks

NEW QUESTION # 319

Which feature enables an administrator to review the Security policy rule base for unused rules?

- A. Test Policy Match
- B. View Rulebase as Groups
- C. Policy Optimizer
- D. Security policy tags eb

Answer: C

Explanation:

Policy Optimizer provides a simple workflow to migrate your legacy Security policy rulebase to an App-ID based rulebase, which improves your security by reducing the attack surface and gaining visibility into applications so you can safely enable them. Policy Optimizer can also identify unused rules, duplicate rules, and rules that can be merged or reordered to optimize your rulebase. You can use Policy Optimizer to review the usage statistics of your rules and take actions to clean up or modify your rulebase as needed¹. References: Security Policy Rule Optimization, Updated Certifications for PAN-OS 10.1, Free PCNSE Questions for Palo Alto Networks PCNSE Exam

NEW QUESTION # 320

