

PSE-Strata-Pro-24 Certified Questions - New PSE-Strata-Pro-24 Test Guide



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Palo Alto Networks PSE-Strata-Pro-24 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Network Security Strategy and Best Practices: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Strategy Specialists and highlights the importance of the Palo Alto Networks five-step Zero Trust methodology. Candidates must understand how to approach and apply the Zero Trust model effectively while emphasizing best practices to ensure robust network security.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deployment and Evaluation: This section of the exam measures the skills of Deployment Engineers and focuses on identifying the capabilities of Palo Alto Networks NGFWs. Candidates will evaluate features that protect against both known and unknown threats. They will also explain identity management from a deployment perspective and describe the proof of value (PoV) process, which includes assessing the effectiveness of NGFW solutions.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Architecture and Planning: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Architects and emphasizes understanding customer requirements and designing suitable deployment architectures. Candidates must explain Palo Alto Networks' platform networking capabilities in detail and evaluate their suitability for various environments. Handling aspects like system sizing and fine-tuning is also a critical skill assessed in this domain.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Business Value and Competitive Differentiators: This section of the exam measures the skills of Technical Business Value Analysts and focuses on identifying the value proposition of Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs). Candidates will assess the technical business benefits of tools like Panorama and SCM. They will also recognize customer-relevant topics and align them with Palo Alto Networks' best solutions. Additionally, understanding Strata's unique differentiators is a key component of this domain.

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Palo Alto Networks Systems Engineer Professional - Hardware Firewall Sample Questions (Q22-Q27):

NEW QUESTION # 22

In which two locations can a Best Practice Assessment (BPA) report be generated for review by a customer?
(Choose two.)

- A. AIOps
- B. PANW Partner Portal
- C. Strata Cloud Manager (SCM)
- D. Customer Support Portal

Answer: A,C

Explanation:

Step 1: Understand the Best Practice Assessment (BPA)

* Purpose: The BPA assesses NGFW (e.g., PA-Series) and Panorama configurations against best practices, including Center for Internet Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls, to enhance security and feature adoption.

* Process: Requires a Tech Support File (TSF) upload or telemetry data from onboarded devices to generate the report.

* Evolution: Historically available via the Customer Support Portal, the BPA has transitioned to newer platforms like AIOps and Strata Cloud Manager.

* References: "BPA measures security posture against best practices" (paloaltonetworks.com, Best Practice Assessment Overview).

Step 2: Evaluate Each Option

Option A: PANW Partner Portal

* Description: The Palo Alto Networks Partner Portal is a platform for partners (e.g., resellers, distributors) to access tools, resources, and customer-related services.

* BPA Capability:

* Historically, partners could generate BPAs on behalf of customers via the Customer Success Portal (accessible through Partner Portal integration), but this was not a direct customer-facing feature.

* As of July 17, 2023, the BPA generation capability in the Customer Support Portal and related partner tools was disabled, shifting focus to AIOps and Strata Cloud Manager.

* Partners can assist customers with BPA generation but cannot directly generate reports for customer review in the Partner Portal itself; customers must access reports via their own interfaces (e.g., AIOps).

* Verification:

* "BPA transitioned to AIOps; Customer Support Portal access disabled after July 17, 2023" (live. paloaltonetworks.com, BPA Transition Announcement, 07-10-2023).

* No current documentation supports direct BPA generation in the Partner Portal for customer review.

* Conclusion: Not a customer-accessible location for generating BPAs. Not Applicable.

Option B: Customer Support Portal

* Description: The Customer Support Portal (support.paloaltonetworks.com) provides customers with tools, case management, and historically, BPA generation.

* BPA Capability:

* Prior to July 17, 2023, customers could upload a TSF under "Tools > Best Practice Assessment" to generate a BPA report (HTML, XLSX, PDF formats).

* Post-July 17, 2023, this functionality was deprecated in favor of AIOps and Strata Cloud Manager. Historical BPA data was maintained until December 31, 2023, but new report generation ceased.

* As of March 08, 2025, the Customer Support Portal no longer supports BPA generation, though it remains a support hub.

* Verification:

* "TSF uploads for BPA in Customer Support Portal disabled after July 17, 2023" (docs. paloaltonetworks.com/panorama/10-2/panorama-admin/panorama-best-practices).

* "Transition to AIOps for BPA generation" (live. paloaltonetworks.com, BPA Transition to AIOps,

07-10-2023).

* Conclusion: No longer a valid location for BPA generation as of the current date. Not Applicable.

Option C: AIOps

* Description: AIOps for NGFW is an AI-powered operations platform for managing Strata NGFWs and Panorama, offering real-time insights, telemetry-based monitoring, and BPA generation.

* BPA Capability:

* Supports two BPA generation methods:

* On-Demand BPA: Customers upload a TSF (PAN-OS 9.1 or higher) via "Dashboards > On Demand BPA" to generate a report, even without telemetry or onboarding.

* Continuous BPA: For onboarded devices with telemetry enabled (PAN-OS 10.0+), AIOps provides ongoing best practice assessments via the Best Practices dashboard.

* Available in free and premium tiers; the free tier includes BPA generation.

* Reports include detailed findings, remediation steps, and adoption summaries.

* Use Case: Ideal for customers managing firewalls with or without full AIOps integration.

* Verification:

* "Generate on-demand BPA reports by uploading TSFs in AIOps" (docs.paloaltonetworks.com/aiops/aiops-for-ngfw/dashboards/on-demand-bpa).

* "AIOps Best Practices dashboard assesses configurations continuously" (live.paloaltonetworks.com/AIOps/On-Demand-BPA, 10-25-2022).

* Conclusion: A current, customer-accessible location for BPA generation. Applicable.

Option D: Strata Cloud Manager (SCM)

* Description: Strata Cloud Manager is a unified, AI-powered management interface for NGFWs and SASE, integrating AIOps, digital experience management, and configuration tools.

* BPA Capability:

* Supports on-demand BPA generation by uploading a TSF under "Dashboards > On Demand BPA," similar to AIOps, for devices not sending telemetry or not fully onboarded.

* For onboarded devices, provides real-time best practice checks via the "Best Practices" dashboard, analyzing policies against Palo Alto Networks and CIS standards.

* Available in Essentials (free) and Pro (paid) tiers; BPA generation is included in both.

* Use Case: Offers a modern, centralized platform for customers to manage and assess security posture.

* Verification:

* "Run BPA directly from Strata Cloud Manager with TSF upload" (docs.paloaltonetworks.com/strata-cloud-manager/dashboards/on-demand-bpa, 07-24-2024).

* "Best Practices dashboard measures posture against guidance" (paloaltonetworks.com/Strata-Cloud-Manager-Overview).

* Conclusion: A current, customer-accessible location for BPA generation. Applicable.

Step 3: Select the Two Valid Locations

* C (AIOps): Supports both on-demand (TSF upload) and continuous BPA generation, accessible to customers via the Palo Alto Networks hub.

* D (Strata Cloud Manager): Provides identical on-demand BPA capabilities and real-time assessments, designed as a unified management interface.

* Why Not A or B?

* A (PANW Partner Portal): Partner-focused, not a direct customer tool for BPA generation.

* B (Customer Support Portal): Deprecated for BPA generation post-July 17, 2023; no longer valid as of March 08, 2025.

Step 4: Verified References

* AIOps BPA: "On-demand BPA in AIOps via TSF upload" (docs.paloaltonetworks.com/aiops/aiops-for-ngfw/dashboards/on-demand-bpa).

* Strata Cloud Manager BPA: "Generate BPA reports in SCM" (docs.paloaltonetworks.com/strata-cloud-manager/dashboards/on-demand-bpa).

* Customer Support Portal Transition: "BPA moved to AIOps/SCM; CSP access ended July 17, 2023" (live.paloaltonetworks.com/BPA-Transition, 07-10-2023).

NEW QUESTION # 23

A prospective customer is interested in Palo Alto Networks NGFWs and wants to evaluate the ability to segregate its internal network into unique BGP environments.

Which statement describes the ability of NGFWs to address this need?

- A. It can be addressed by creating multiple eBGP autonomous systems.
- B. It can be addressed with BGP confederations.
- C. It cannot be addressed because PAN-OS does not support it.

- D. It cannot be addressed because BGP must be fully meshed internally to work.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Segregating a network into unique BGP environments requires the ability to configure separate BGP autonomous systems (AS) within the NGFW. Palo Alto Networks firewalls support advanced BGP features, including the ability to create and manage multiple autonomous systems.

* Why "It can be addressed by creating multiple eBGP autonomous systems" (Correct Answer B)?

PAN-OS supports the configuration of multiple eBGP AS environments. By creating unique eBGP AS numbers for different parts of the network, traffic can be segregated and routed separately. This feature is commonly used in multi-tenant environments or networks requiring logical separation for administrative or policy reasons.

* Each eBGP AS can maintain its own routing policies, neighbors, and traffic segmentation.

* This approach allows the NGFW to address the customer's need for segregated internal BGP environments.

* Why not "It cannot be addressed because PAN-OS does not support it" (Option A)? This statement is incorrect because PAN-OS fully supports BGP, including eBGP, iBGP, and features like route reflectors, confederations, and autonomous systems.

* Why not "It can be addressed with BGP confederations" (Option C)? While BGP confederations can logically group AS numbers within a single AS, they are generally used to simplify iBGP designs in very large-scale networks. They are not commonly used for segregating internal environments and are not required for the described use case.

* Why not "It cannot be addressed because BGP must be fully meshed internally to work" (Option D)? Full mesh iBGP is only required in environments without route reflectors. The described scenario does not mention the need for iBGP full mesh; instead, it focuses on segregated environments, which can be achieved with eBGP.

NEW QUESTION # 24

Which two methods are valid ways to populate user-to-IP mappings? (Choose two.)

- A. XML API
- B. User-ID
- C. Captive portal
- D. SCP log ingestion

Answer: A,C

Explanation:

Step 1: Understanding User-to-IP Mappings

User-to-IP mappings are the foundation of User-ID, a core feature of Strata Hardware Firewalls (e.g., PA-400 Series, PA-5400 Series). These mappings link a user's identity (e.g., username) to their device's IP address, enabling policy enforcement based on user identity rather than just IP. Palo Alto Networks supports multiple methods to populate these mappings, depending on the network environment and authentication mechanisms.

* Purpose: Allows the firewall to apply user-based policies, monitor user activity, and generate user-specific logs.

* Strata Context: On a PA-5445, User-ID integrates with App-ID and security subscriptions to enforce granular access control.

NEW QUESTION # 25

A customer asks a systems engineer (SE) how Palo Alto Networks can claim it does not lose throughput performance as more Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) subscriptions are enabled on the firewall.

Which two concepts should the SE explain to address the customer's concern? (Choose two.)

- A. Management Data Plane Separation
- B. Parallel Processing
- C. Advanced Routing Engine
- D. Single Pass Architecture

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

The customer's question focuses on how Palo Alto Networks Strata Hardware Firewalls maintain throughput performance as more Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) subscriptions—such as Threat Prevention, URL Filtering, WildFire, DNS Security, and others—are enabled. Unlike traditional firewalls where enabling additional security features often degrades performance, Palo Alto Networks leverages its unique architecture to minimize this impact. The systems engineer (SE) should explain two key concepts—

Parallel Processing and Single Pass Architecture-which are foundational to the firewall's ability to sustain throughput. Below is a detailed explanation, verified against Palo Alto Networks documentation.

Step 1: Understanding Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) and Performance Concerns CDSS subscriptions enhance the Strata Hardware Firewall's capabilities by integrating cloud-based threat intelligence and advanced security features into PAN-OS. Examples include:

- * Threat Prevention: Blocks exploits, malware, and command-and-control traffic.
- * WildFire: Analyzes unknown files in the cloud for malware detection.
- * URL Filtering: Categorizes and controls web traffic.

Traditionally, enabling such services on other firewalls increases processing overhead, as each feature requires separate packet scans or additional hardware resources, leading to latency and throughput loss. Palo Alto Networks claims consistent performance due to its innovative design, rooted in the Single Pass Parallel Processing (SP3) architecture.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Cloud-Delivered Security Services Overview

"CDSS subscriptions integrate with NGFWs to deliver prevention-oriented security without compromising performance, leveraging the SP3 architecture." Step 2: Explaining the Relevant Concepts The SE should focus on A. Parallel Processing and C. Single Pass Architecture, as these directly address how throughput is maintained when CDSS subscriptions are enabled.

Concept A: Parallel Processing

Definition: Parallel Processing refers to the hardware architecture in Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, where specialized processors handle distinct functions (e.g., networking, security, decryption) simultaneously. This is achieved through a separation of duties across dedicated hardware components, such as the Network Processor, Security Processor, and Signature Matching Processor, all working in parallel.

How It Addresses the Concern: When CDSS subscriptions are enabled, tasks like threat signature matching (Threat Prevention), URL categorization (URL Filtering), or file analysis forwarding (WildFire) are offloaded to specific processors. These operate concurrently rather than sequentially, preventing bottlenecks. The parallel execution ensures that adding more security services doesn't linearly increase processing time or reduce throughput.

Technical Detail:

Network Processor: Handles routing, NAT, and flow lookup.

Security Processor: Manages encryption/decryption and policy enforcement.

Signature Matching Processor: Performs content inspection for threats and CDSS features.

High-speed buses (e.g., 1Gbps in high-end models) connect these processors, enabling rapid data transfer.

Outcome: Throughput remains high because the workload is distributed across parallel hardware resources, not stacked on a single CPU.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Hardware Architecture

"Parallel Processing hardware ensures that function-specific tasks are executed concurrently, maintaining performance as security services scale." Concept C: Single Pass Architecture Definition: Single Pass Architecture is the software approach in PAN-OS where a packet is processed once, with all necessary functions-networking, policy lookup, App-ID, User-ID, decryption, and content inspection (including CDSS features)-performed in a single pass. This contrasts with multi-pass architectures, where packets are scanned repeatedly for each enabled feature.

How It Addresses the Concern: When CDSS subscriptions are activated, their inspection tasks (e.g., threat signatures, URL checks) are integrated into the single-pass process. The packet isn't reprocessed for each service; instead, a stream-based, uniform signature-matching engine applies all relevant checks in one go.

This minimizes latency and preserves throughput, as the overhead of additional services is marginal.

Technical Detail:

A packet enters the firewall and is classified by App-ID.

Decryption (if needed) occurs, exposing content.

A single Content-ID engine scans the stream for threats, URLs, and other CDSS-related patterns simultaneously.

Policy enforcement and logging occur without additional passes.

Outcome: Enabling more CDSS subscriptions adds rules to the existing scan, not new processing cycles, ensuring consistent performance.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Single Pass Architecture Whitepaper

"Single Pass software performs all security functions in one pass, eliminating redundant processing and maintaining high throughput even with multiple services enabled." Step 3: Evaluating the Other Options To confirm A and C are correct, let's examine why B and D don't directly address the throughput concern:

B). Advanced Routing Engine:

Analysis: The Advanced Routing Engine in PAN-OS enhances routing capabilities (e.g., BGP, OSPF) and supports features like path monitoring. While important for network performance, it doesn't directly influence the processing of CDSS subscriptions, which occur at the security and content inspection layers, not the routing layer.

Conclusion: Not relevant to the question.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Routing Overview - "The Advanced Routing Engine optimizes network paths but is separate from security processing." D). Management Data Plane Separation:

Analysis: This refers to the separation of the control plane (management tasks like configuration and logging) and data plane (packet processing). It ensures management tasks don't impact traffic processing but doesn't directly address how CDSS subscriptions affect

throughput within the data plane itself.

Conclusion: Indirectly supportive but not a primary explanation.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Hardware Architecture - "Control and data plane separation prevents management load from affecting throughput." Step 4: Tying It Together for the Customer The SE should explain:

Parallel Processing: "Our firewalls use dedicated hardware processors working in parallel for networking, security, and threat inspection. When you enable more CDSS subscriptions, the workload is spread across these processors, so throughput doesn't drop." Single Pass Architecture: "Our software processes each packet once, applying all security checks-including CDSS features-in a single scan. This avoids the performance hit you'd see with other firewalls that reprocess packets for each new service." This dual approach-hardware parallelism and software efficiency-ensures the firewall scales security without sacrificing speed.

NEW QUESTION # 26

Which two actions should a systems engineer take when a customer is concerned about how to remain aligned to Zero Trust principles as they adopt additional security features over time? (Choose two)

- A. Use the Policy Optimizer tool to understand security rules allowing users to bypass decryption.
- B. **Apply decryption where possible to inspect and log all new and existing traffic flows.**
- C. **Use the Best Practice Assessment (BPA) tool to measure progress toward Zero Trust principles.**
- D. Turn on all licensed Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) subscriptions in blocking mode for all policies.

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

When adopting additional security features over time, remaining aligned with Zero Trust principles requires a focus on constant visibility, control, and adherence to best practices. The following actions are the most relevant:

* Why "Apply decryption where possible to inspect and log all new and existing traffic flows" (Correct Answer B)?Zero Trust principles emphasize visibility into all traffic, whether encrypted or unencrypted. Without decryption, encrypted traffic becomes a blind spot, which attackers can exploit.

By applying decryption wherever feasible, organizations ensure they can inspect, log, and enforce policies on encrypted traffic, thus adhering to Zero Trust principles.

* Why "Use the Best Practice Assessment (BPA) tool to measure progress toward Zero Trust principles" (Correct Answer C)?The BPA tool provides detailed insights into the customer's security configuration, helping measure alignment with Palo Alto Networks' Zero Trust best practices. It identifies gaps in security posture and recommends actionable steps to strengthen adherence to Zero Trust principles over time.

* Why not "Turn on all licensed Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) subscriptions in blocking mode for all policies" (Option A)?While enabling CDSS subscriptions (like Threat Prevention, URL Filtering, Advanced Threat Prevention) in blocking mode can enhance security, it is not an action specifically tied to maintaining alignment with Zero Trust principles. A more holistic approach, such as decryption and BPA analysis, is critical to achieving Zero Trust.

* Why not "Use the Policy Optimizer tool to understand security rules allowing users to bypass decryption" (Option D)?Policy Optimizer is used to optimize existing security rules by identifying unused or overly permissive policies. While useful, it does not directly address alignment with Zero Trust principles or help enforce decryption.

NEW QUESTION # 27

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