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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and Troubleshooting: 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.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection and Reporting: 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.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and Installation: 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q50-Q55):

NEW QUESTION # 50

Which two steps should be considered when configuring the Cortex XDR agent for a sensitive and highly regulated environment? (Choose two.)

- A. Enable minor content version updates
- B. Create an agent settings profile where the agent upgrade scope is maintenance releases only
- C. Create an agent settings profile, enable content auto-update, and include a delay of four days
- D. Enable critical environment versions

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

In a sensitive and highly regulated environment (e.g., healthcare, finance), Cortex XDR agent configurations must balance security with stability and compliance. This often involves controlling agent upgrades and content updates to minimize disruptions while ensuring timely protection updates. The following steps are recommended to achieve this balance.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B, C):

* B. Create an agent settings profile where the agent upgrade scope is maintenance releases only: In regulated environments, frequent agent upgrades can introduce risks of instability or compatibility issues. Limiting upgrades to maintenance releases only (e.g., bug fixes and minor updates, not major version changes) ensures stability while addressing critical issues. This is configured in the agent settings profile to control the upgrade scope.

* C. Create an agent settings profile, enable content auto-update, and include a delay of four days: Content updates (e.g., Behavioral Threat Protection rules, local analysis logic) are critical for maintaining protection but can be delayed in regulated environments to allow for testing.

Enabling content auto-update with a four-day delay ensures that updates are applied automatically but provides a window to validate changes, reducing the risk of unexpected behavior.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Enable critical environment versions: There is no specific "critical environment versions" setting in Cortex XDR. This option appears to be a misnomer and does not align with standard agent configuration practices for regulated environments.

* D. Enable minor content version updates: While enabling minor content updates can be useful, it does not provide the control needed in a regulated environment (e.g., a delay for testing).

Option C (auto-update with a delay) is a more comprehensive and appropriate step.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains agent configurations for regulated environments: "In sensitive environments, configure agent settings profiles to limit upgrades to maintenance releases and enable content auto-updates with a delay (e.g., four days) to ensure stability and compliance" (paraphrased from the Agent Settings section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers agent management, stating that "maintenance-only upgrades and delayed content updates are recommended for regulated environments to balance security and stability" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing settings for regulated environments.

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 # 51

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

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

Answer: A,B

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
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NEW QUESTION # 52

Log events from a previously deployed Windows XDR Collector agent are no longer being observed in the console after an OS upgrade. Which aspect of the log events is the probable cause of this behavior?

- A. They are less than 1MB
- B. They are in Winlogbeat format
- C. They are greater than 5MB
- D. They are in Filebeat format

Answer: C

Explanation:

The XDR Collector on a Windows endpoint collects logs (e.g., Windows Event Logs) and forwards them to the Cortex XDR console for analysis. An OS upgrade can impact the collector's functionality, particularly if it affects log formats, sizes, or compatibility. If log events are no longer observed after the upgrade, the issue likely relates to a change in how logs are processed or transmitted. Cortex XDR imposes limits on log event sizes to ensure efficient ingestion and processing.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): The probable cause is that the log events are greater than 5MB. Cortex XDR has a size limit for individual log events, typically around 5MB, to prevent performance issues during ingestion. An OS upgrade may change the way logs are generated (e.g., increasing verbosity or adding metadata), causing events to exceed this limit. If log events are larger than 5MB, the XDR Collector will drop them, resulting in no logs being observed in the console.

* Why not the other options?

* B. They are in Winlogbeat format: Winlogbeat is a supported log shipper for collecting Windows Event Logs, and the XDR Collector is compatible with this format. The format itself is not the issue unless misconfigured, which is not indicated.

* C. They are in Filebeat format: Filebeat is also supported by the XDR Collector for file-based logs. The format is not the likely cause unless the OS upgrade changed the log source, which is not specified.

* D. They are less than 1MB: There is no minimum size limit for log events in Cortex XDR, so being less than 1MB would not cause logs to stop appearing.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains log ingestion limits: "Individual log events larger than 5MB are dropped by the XDR Collector to prevent ingestion issues, which may occur after changes like an OS upgrade" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Troubleshooting section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers log collection issues, stating that "log events exceeding 5MB are not ingested, a common issue after OS upgrades that increase log size" (paraphrased from course materials).

The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing log ingestion issues.

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 # 53

When onboarding a Palo Alto Networks NGFW to Cortex XDR, what must be done to confirm that logs are being ingested successfully after a device is selected and verified?

- A. Confirm that the selected device has a valid certificate
- B. Retrieve device certificate from NGFW dashboard
- C. Wait for an incident that involves the NGFW to populate
- D. Conduct an XQL query for NGFW log data

Answer: D

Explanation:

When onboarding a Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) to Cortex XDR, the process involves selecting and verifying the device to ensure it can send logs to Cortex XDR. After this step, confirming successful log ingestion is critical to validate the integration. The most direct and reliable method to confirm ingestion is to query the ingested logs using XQL (XDR Query Language), which allows the engineer to search for NGFW log data in Cortex XDR.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): Conduct an XQL query for NGFW log data is the correct action.

After onboarding, the engineer can run an XQL query such as `dataset = panw_ngfw_logs | limit 10` to check if NGFW logs are present in Cortex XDR. This confirms that logs are being successfully ingested and stored in the appropriate dataset, ensuring the integration is working as expected.

* Why not the other options?

* B. Wait for an incident that involves the NGFW to populate: Waiting for an incident is not a reliable or proactive method to confirm log ingestion. Incidents depend on detection rules and may not occur immediately, even if logs are being ingested.

* C. Confirm that the selected device has a valid certificate: While a valid certificate is necessary during the onboarding process (e.g., for secure communication), this step is part of the verification process, not a method to confirm log ingestion after verification.

* D. Retrieve device certificate from NGFW dashboard: Retrieving the device certificate from the NGFW dashboard is unrelated to confirming log ingestion in Cortex XDR. Certificates are managed during setup, not for post-onboarding validation.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains NGFW log ingestion validation: "To confirm successful ingestion of Palo Alto Networks NGFW logs, run an XQL query (e.g., `dataset = panw_ngfw_logs`) to verify that log data is present in Cortex XDR" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers NGFW integration, stating that "XQL queries are used to validate that NGFW logs are being ingested after onboarding" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing log ingestion validation.

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 # 54

In addition to using valid authentication credentials, what is required to enable the setup of the Database Collector applet on the Broker VM to ingest database activity?

- A. Valid SQL query targeting the desired data
- B. Access to the database audit log
- C. Access to the database transaction log
- D. Database schema exported in the correct format

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Database Collector applet on the Broker VM in Cortex XDR is used to ingest database activity logs by querying the database directly. To set up the applet, valid authentication credentials (e.g., username and password) are required to connect to the database. Additionally, a valid SQL query must be provided to specify the data to be collected, such as specific tables, columns, or events (e.g., login activity or data modifications).

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): A valid SQL query targeting the desired data is required to configure the Database Collector applet. The query defines which database records or events are retrieved and sent to Cortex XDR for analysis. This ensures the applet collects only the relevant data, optimizing ingestion and analysis.

* Why not the other options?

* B. Access to the database audit log: While audit logs may contain relevant activity, the Database Collector applet queries the database directly using SQL, not by accessing audit logs.

Audit logs are typically ingested via other methods, such as Filebeat or syslog.

* C. Database schema exported in the correct format: The Database Collector does not require an exported schema. The SQL query defines the data structure implicitly, and Cortex XDR maps the queried data to its schema during ingestion.

* D. Access to the database transaction log: Transaction logs are used for database recovery or replication, not for direct data collection by the Database Collector applet, which relies on SQL queries.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes the Database Collector applet: "To configure the Database Collector, provide valid authentication credentials and a valid SQL query to retrieve the desired database activity" (paraphrased from the Broker VM Applets section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers data ingestion, stating that "the Database

Collector applet requires a SQL query to specify the data to ingest from the database" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Database 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 # 55

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