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PT-AM-CPE Certified Professional - PingAM Exam

1. Which protocol is primarily used for Single Sign-On (SSO) in enterprise environments?

- A. FTP
- B. SAML
- C. SMTP
- D. SNMP

Answer: B. SAML

Explanation: Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) is widely used for Single Sign-On (SSO) in enterprise environments, enabling secure exchange of authentication and authorization data between parties.

2. What does MFA stand for in authentication mechanisms?

- A. Multi-Factor Authentication
- B. Mandatory File Access
- C. Multi-Frime Allocation
- D. Managed Firewall Access

Answer: A. Multi-Factor Authentication

Explanation: MFA stands for Multi-Factor Authentication, which enhances security by requiring multiple forms of verification before granting access.

3. Which of the following is NOT a factor in Multi-Factor Authentication?

- A. Something you know
- B. Something you have
- C. Something you can see
- D. Something you are

Answer: C. Something you can see

Explanation: The traditional MFA factors are something you know (e.g., password), something you have (e.g., token), and something you are (e.g., biometrics). "Something you can see" is not a standard MFA factor.

4. OAuth 2.0 is primarily used for:

- A. User authentication
- B. Token-based authorization
- C. Encrypting data
- D. Establishing VPN connections

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Ping Identity PT-AM-CPE Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending Services Using OAuth2-Based Protocols: This domain addresses integrating applications with OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect, securing OAuth2 clients with mutual TLS and proof-of-possession, transforming OAuth2 tokens, and implementing social authentication.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Intelligent Access: This domain covers implementing authentication mechanisms, using PingGateway to protect websites, and establishing access control policies for resources.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federating Across Entities Using SAML2: This domain covers implementing single sign-on using SAML v2.0 and delegating authentication responsibilities between SAML2 entities.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing and Deploying AM: This domain encompasses installing and upgrading PingAM, hardening security configurations, setting up clustered environments, and deploying PingOne Advanced Identity Platform to the cloud.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Access Management Security: This domain focuses on strengthening authentication security, implementing context-aware authentication experiences, and establishing continuous risk monitoring throughout user sessions.

Ping Identity Certified Professional - PingAM Exam Sample Questions (Q82-Q87):

NEW QUESTION # 82

What happens when an end user accesses the following login page: .../XUI/?ForceAuth=true#login?

- A. A screen is presented to the end user suggesting they enable second factor authentication
- B. Nothing. ForceAuth is not a parameter that PingAM knows how to process
- C. The end user will be presented with second factor authentication
- D. Even if the end user is already authenticated, they will be redirected to the login page

Answer: D

Explanation:

The ForceAuth=true parameter is a standard directive used in various authentication protocols (specifically SAML2 and OIDC) and is natively supported by the PingAM 8.0.2 XUI (the modern End-User User Interface).

According to the "Authentication and SSO" documentation:

Normally, if a user has an active, valid session cookie (iPlanetDirectoryPro), and they navigate to the AM login URL, PingAM will recognize the session and automatically redirect the user to their destination (the "Success URL") without prompting for credentials.

This is the core benefit of Single Sign-On.

However, when the ForceAuth=true parameter is appended to the query string, it instructs the PingAM authentication engine to bypass the session check for the purpose of re-authentication. The engine will:

Ignore the existing valid session cookie.

Force the user back to the login page (rendering the initial nodes of the configured authentication tree).

Require the user to provide their credentials again.

This is a critical security feature for high-value transactions. For instance, if a user is already logged in but attempts to change their bank transfer details, the application can redirect them to AM with ForceAuth=true to ensure the person sitting at the computer is indeed the authorized user. Option B is incorrect because ForceAuth only forces a re-authentication; whether that includes MFA depends on the tree configuration, not the parameter itself. Option C is incorrect as PingAM explicitly processes this parameter. Therefore, the primary outcome is the redirection to the login page regardless of the current session state.

NEW QUESTION # 83

Which of the following code examples inserts a may_act claim to the resulting token in a PingAM implementation?

- A. `var mayAct = /* is a JSON object with may act property data */ requestedToken.setMayAct(mayAct)`
- B. `var mayAct = /* is a JSON object with may act property data */ requestedToken.addMayAct(mayAct)`
- C. `var mayAct = /* is a JSON object with may act property data */ token.addMayAct(mayAct)`

- D. `var mayAct = /*` is a JSON object with `may act` property data `*/ token.setMayAct(mayAct)`

Answer: B

Explanation:

In PingAM 8.0.2, the OAuth 2.0 Token Exchange (RFC 8693) implementation allows for complex identity delegation scenarios.

The `may_act` claim is a specific claim used to indicate that one entity is authorized to act on behalf of another. When customizing the behavior of token exchange via the OAuth2 Token Exchange Script, developers interact with specific scriptable objects provided by the PingAM engine.

According to the "Scripting API" for OAuth2 and the "Token Exchange" developer guide, the `requestedToken` object is the primary interface used to modify the structure of the token being issued during the exchange. To insert the `may_act` claim, the API provides the `addMayAct()` method.

The `may_act` claim is technically a JSON object that contains a sub (subject) claim of the entity that is allowed to act as the subject of the token. In the scripting environment:

The `requestedToken` variable represents the token currently being minted.

The `.addMayAct()` method is the defined function signature to append this delegation metadata.

Why other options are incorrect:

Options A and D: The object name `token` is not the standard binding used for the target token in the Token Exchange script context; `requestedToken` is the correct binding.

Option C: The method name `setMayAct` is incorrect. The PingAM API uses the `add` prefix for these types of claims (similar to `addActor`), reflecting the underlying structure where these claims are added to the claim set of the JWT.

Using the correct syntax `requestedToken.addMayAct(mayAct)` ensures that the resulting Access Token or ID Token contains the correctly formatted delegation information required by resource servers to validate that the "Actor" has the permission to represent the "Subject."

NEW QUESTION # 84

If PingAM is deployed in Apache Tomcat under `/openam`, what file system backups should be taken when PingAM needs to be upgraded?

- A. Execute the PingAM backup script in `/path/to/tomcat/webapps/openam/`
- **B. Back up `/path/to/tomcat/webapps/openam/`, `<home directory>/openam/` and `<home directory>/openamcfg/`**
- C. No explicit backups are required for PingAM as this is done automatically
- D. Back up `/path/to/tomcat/webapps/openam/` only

Answer: B

Explanation:

According to the PingAM 8.0.2 Upgrade Guide and the "Plan the upgrade" documentation, a successful upgrade and potential rollback strategy rely on capturing the complete state of the application across three distinct locations on the filesystem. When PingAM is deployed in a container like Apache Tomcat, the configuration is not stored within the WAR file itself but is distributed to maintain persistence across redeployments.

The three critical areas that must be backed up are:

The Web Application Directory (`/path/to/tomcat/webapps/openam/`): This contains the expanded binaries, JSPs, and web-level configurations. While the upgrade involves replacing the `openam.war` file, backing up this folder preserves any manual customizations made to the UI, CSS, or specific library additions (JARs) in the `WEB-INF/lib` folder.

The Configuration Directory (`<home directory>/openam/` or similar): This is the most vital component. By default, PingAM stores its instance-specific configuration, cryptographic keys (keystores), and internal metadata here. For file-based configurations (FBC), this directory holds the entire system state. Even with an external PingDS configuration store, this directory contains the bootstrap file and security secrets required to connect to that store.

The Bootstrap Configuration File (`<home directory>/openamcfg/`): This hidden directory contains a file (usually named after the deployment path, e.g., `am` or `openam`) that tells the PingAM binaries where the actual configuration directory is located. Without this pointer, a restored PingAM instance will behave like a fresh installation and prompt for a new setup.

The documentation explicitly warns: "Always back up your deployment before you upgrade... For AM servers, you can roll back by restoring from a file system backup of the deployed servers and their configuration directories." Relying only on the `webapps` folder (Option A) or assuming automatic backups (Option B) will lead to data loss or an unrecoverable state.

NEW QUESTION # 85

Which organization sets, maintains, and governs the SAML2 standard?

- A. IETF
- B. ISC2
- C. WC3
- **D. OASIS**

Answer: D

Explanation:

PingAM 8.0.2 is strictly compliant with various identity standards to ensure interoperability between different vendors and platforms. The Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V2.0 is the cornerstone of modern XML-based federation.⁷ According to the PingAM "SAML 2.0 Introduction" and "Supported Standards" documentation, the SAML 2.0 standard is developed and maintained by OASIS (the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards).⁸ Specifically, the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee (SSTC) is responsible for the specifications that define the SAML core (assertions and protocols), bindings (how SAML messages are mapped onto transport protocols like HTTP), and profiles (how SAML is used to solve specific use cases like Web Browser SSO).

Knowing the governing body is important for administrators when reviewing the "Technical Metadata" and "Schema" sections of PingAM, as AM's implementation follows the OASIS SAML 2.0 standards for XML signing, encryption, and assertion structure. Other organizations listed, such as the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force), govern protocols like OAuth2 and OpenID Connect, while the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) handles general web standards like XML and WebAuthn. However, for SAML2, OASIS remains the authoritative governing body.

NEW QUESTION # 86

Which token transformation is not supported by the REST security token service?

- A. Kerberos -> SAML2
- B. Username token -> SAML2
- **C. OpenID Connect -> SAML2**
- D. PingAM SessionToken -> SAML2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Security Token Service (STS) in PingAM 8.0.2 acts as a broker that translates security tokens from one format to another, allowing for interoperability between different security domains (e.g., translating a web-based session into a SOAP-based SAML assertion).

According to the PingAM "Security Token Service (STS)" documentation and the "Rest-Based STS" reference, the service supports a specific set of input and output token types. Supported input (source) tokens typically include Username Tokens, SAML2 Tokens, X.509 Certificates, Kerberos Tokens, and the internal PingAM Session Token (SSOToken). The service can transform these into output (target) tokens such as SAML2 Assertions or OIDC ID Tokens.

Analysis of the options:

Option A (Username token -> SAML2): Supported. This is a common use case where a client provides a username and password (WS-Security format) and receives a SAML2 assertion.

Option B (Kerberos -> SAML2): Supported. Used in Windows Desktop SSO environments where a SPNEGO/Kerberos token is exchanged for a SAML assertion for cloud applications.

Option D (PingAM SessionToken -> SAML2): Supported. This allows a user who already has a valid AM session to obtain a SAML2 token for a back-end web service.

Option C (OpenID Connect -> SAML2): Not supported by the REST STS implementation in version 8.0.2. While PingAM supports OIDC and SAML2 federation generally, the specialized STS service does not list an OIDC ID Token as a valid input token type for transformation into a SAML2 assertion within its specific state machine. OIDC to SAML "bridging" is typically handled via the standard Federation service rather than the STS broker.

NEW QUESTION # 87

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