

Ping Identity PT-AM-CPE Exam Questions - Updated Frequently

**PT-AM-CPE CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL – PINGAM
COMPLETE EXAM QUESTIONS AND EXPLAINED
ANSWERS**

PT-AM-CPE Certified Professional - PingAM Exam

Q1. Which component of PingAM is primarily responsible for evaluating login policies and determining whether a user can authenticate?

- A. Policy Agent
- B. Authentication Tree
- C. Data Store
- D. Session Service

Answer: B. Authentication Tree
Explanation: Authentication Trees provide flexible, node-based flows to evaluate credentials and contextual information for login. They replace static authentication chains in newer versions.

Q2. What is the default protocol PingAM uses for **federated single sign-on (SSO)** between service providers and identity providers?

- A. OAuth2
- B. OpenID Connect
- C. SAML 2.0
- D. Kerberos

Answer: C. SAML 2.0
Explanation: While PingAM supports multiple federation standards, SAML 2.0 is the primary standard for enterprise SSO between IdPs and SPs.

Q3. In OAuth2, which grant type is most secure for mobile/native applications that cannot keep a client secret?

- A. Implicit Grant
- B. Authorization Code with PKCE

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Ping Identity PT-AM-CPE Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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.

Topic 3	<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 4	<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 5	<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.

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Ping Identity Certified Professional - PingAM Exam Sample Questions (Q73-Q78):

NEW QUESTION # 73

What should be executed to ensure a successful upgrade when PingAM requires a version upgrade?

- **A. Post-upgrade, run a set of functional and non-functional tests**
- B. Post-upgrade, run a set of functional tests
- C. Post-upgrade, set the PingAM Version Control Flag to the correct version
- D. Post-upgrade, run a set of non-functional tests

Answer: A

Explanation:

Upgrading PingAM 8.0.2 is a complex process that involves updating binaries, modifying schemas in the configuration store, and potentially migrating scripts to the "Next-Generation" scripting engine. To ensure that the system is not only "running" but also "production-ready," a comprehensive testing phase is required.

According to the "Post-Upgrade Tasks" and "Best Practices for Upgrading" documentation:

A successful upgrade verification must cover two distinct categories of testing:

Functional Tests: These verify that the core features still work as intended. Can users log in? Do the authentication trees execute correctly? Are SAML assertions being generated? This ensures the "Logic" of the identity platform is intact.

Non-Functional Tests: These are equally critical in an upgrade scenario. An upgrade can sometimes introduce performance regressions, change the way memory is utilized by the JVM, or alter the connection pool behavior to the CTS. Testing for performance, high availability (failover), security (vulnerability scanning), and monitoring ensures the system can handle production loads and meets the organization's Service Level Agreements (SLAs).

While setting version flags (Option D) might be a technical step in some internal processes, it does not "ensure a successful upgrade" in the way that rigorous validation does. Running only functional tests (Option A) or only non-functional tests (Option C) leaves the environment vulnerable to either logic errors or system crashes. Thus, the verified best practice is to run both functional and non-functional tests (Option B) before redirecting production traffic to the upgraded instances.

NEW QUESTION # 74

To protect against cross-site request forgery attacks, a default PingAM installation requires that some requests, such as POST requests, include:

- A. X-Requested-With or Accept-API-Version header
- B. If-Match: _rev header
- C. X-OpenAM-Username header
- D. X-OpenAM-Password header

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) is an attack where a malicious site sends a request to PingAM using the victim's authenticated browser session. Because standard HTML forms and cross-site requests cannot easily set custom HTTP headers, requiring a specific header is an effective defense for REST APIs.

According to the PingAM "Security" documentation and the "REST API" reference:

By default, PingAM 8.0.2 enforces a CSRF filter on its REST endpoints (such as /json/authenticate or /json/users). For any "state-changing" request (like a POST, PUT, or DELETE), the client must prove the request is intentional and not a forged browser-driven request. This is achieved by requiring at least one of the following headers:

X-Requested-With: Commonly used by AJAX libraries like jQuery. Its presence indicates the request was made via a script, which is generally not possible for a standard cross-site CSRF attack.

Accept-API-Version: This header serves two purposes. First, it ensures the client is targeting a specific version of the PingAM REST API (e.g., resource=2.0, protocol=1.0). Second, since custom headers cannot be set in simple cross-site <form> submissions, it acts as a CSRF token.

If a POST request is sent to the REST API without one of these headers, PingAM will reject the request with a 403 Forbidden error, even if the user has a valid session cookie.

Option B (If-Match: _rev) is used for concurrency control (preventing "lost updates" in IDM or AM configuration), but it is not the primary CSRF defense. Options A and D are headers sometimes used for "Zero-Page Login" or legacy authentication, but they do not provide protection against CSRF for the general REST API. Therefore, the combination of X-Requested-With or Accept-API-Version is the correct answer for default CSRF protection in PingAM 8.0.2.

NEW QUESTION # 75

When a user undergoes a session upgrade, what is the outcome?

- A. The session properties are copied to a new session, and a new session token is handed to the client
- B. The session is updated with new properties, but the session token remains the same
- C. A new session is created, and the original session is deleted
- D. A new session is created, and the original session properties are not copied

Answer: A

Explanation:

Session Upgrade in PingAM 8.0.2 is the mechanism by which a user's current authenticated session is "elevated" to a higher authentication level (Auth Level). This is commonly triggered by Step-up Authentication requirements, where a user attempts to access a highly sensitive resource that requires a stronger authentication method (such as MFA) than what was used for their initial login.

According to the PingAM documentation on "Session Upgrade Outcomes," the process is not merely a modification of the existing session. Instead, when a user successfully completes the additional authentication requirements (the "Advice"):

Creation of a New Session: PingAM generates a brand-new authenticated session. This new session is assigned a higher authentication level corresponding to the tree or module just completed.

Property Copying: To ensure a seamless user experience, PingAM copies the session properties (attributes, constants, and other metadata) from the original lower-level session into the new higher-level session. This ensures that information gathered during the initial login remains available to applications.

Token Replacement: Because the session ID is part of the session token (SSO Token), a new session implies a new token. PingAM hands the client a new session token to replace the original one. The client (browser or application) must then use this new token for subsequent requests.

If the realm is configured for server-side sessions, the new session is stored in the Core Token Service (CTS). If configured for client-side sessions, a new signed/encrypted JWT is sent to the client as a cookie. The key distinction is that the token changes, and properties are preserved through copying, which distinguishes Option B as the correct technical description of the internal AM lifecycle.

NEW QUESTION # 76

A multi-server PingAM deployment is scheduled for upgrade. What measure can be implemented to prevent external user access

during this process?

- A. Disable access from the firewall
- **B. Disable access from the load balancer**
- C. Shut down the PingAM instances
- D. Shut down the PingDS instances

Answer: B

Explanation:

According to the PingAM 8.0.2 Upgrade Guide and best practices for high-availability environments, performing an upgrade on a multi-server cluster requires a controlled redirection of traffic. While several methods can technically stop traffic, the load balancer is the primary tool for managing availability during maintenance.

In a production environment, PingAM instances are typically situated behind a load balancer that performs health checks and distributes user requests. By disabling access from the load balancer (specifically, by draining connections or marking nodes as "out of service"), administrators can gracefully prevent new external users from reaching the servers undergoing the upgrade. This approach is superior to shutting down the PingAM instances (Option A) immediately, as it allows existing sessions to complete their current operations or be handled by other nodes in the cluster if a "rolling upgrade" strategy is being used.

Shutting down the PingDS instances (Option B) is dangerous, as the directory service is required by PingAM for both configuration and user data; losing the data store while the AM application is still active can lead to severe system errors and data corruption.

While a firewall (Option C) can block traffic, it is generally a "blunt instrument" that does not provide the sophisticated session management or health-probe handling that a load balancer offers. The load balancer allows for a "Maintenance Page" to be displayed to users, providing a better user experience during the downtime. Therefore, for a professional multi-server upgrade, managing the traffic flow at the load balancer layer is the verified best practice in PingAM 8 documentation.

NEW QUESTION # 77

What scope is required to be included in a client's request if you wish to utilize the OpenID Connect capabilities of PingAM's OAuth2 implementation?

- A. id
- **B. openid**
- C. profile
- D. openid+connect

Answer: B

Explanation:

PingAM 8.0.2 implements OpenID Connect (OIDC) 1.0 as an identity layer on top of the OAuth 2.0 protocol. While OAuth 2.0 is designed for authorization (accessing resources), OIDC is designed for authentication (verifying who the user is).

According to the "OpenID Connect 1.0" documentation in PingAM, the presence of a specific scope in the Authorization Request is what signals to the AM server that the request should be treated as an OIDC flow rather than a standard OAuth2 flow. This mandatory scope is openid.

When PingAM receives an /oauth2/authorize request containing the scope=openid parameter:

It triggers the OIDC processing logic.

It ensures that an ID Token (a signed JWT containing user identity information) is generated alongside (or instead of) the Access Token.

It allows the client to later access the UserInfo Endpoint to retrieve further claims about the authenticated user.

Other scopes like profile (Option A), email, or address are optional OIDC scopes used to request specific sets of user claims, but they do not "activate" OIDC on their own. openid+connect and id (Options B and D) are not recognized standard scopes in the OIDC specification. Therefore, openid is the fundamental requirement for any OIDC interaction in PingAM 8.0.2.

NEW QUESTION # 78

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