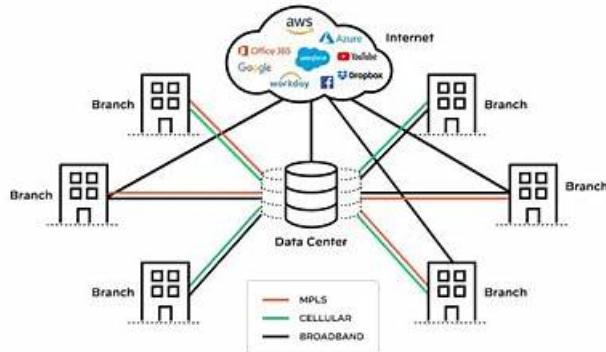


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SD-WAN Architecture Explained



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Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Troubleshooting: This domain focuses on resolving connectivity, routing, forwarding, application performance, and policy issues using co-pilot data analysis and analytics for network optimization and reporting.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Operations and Monitoring: This domain addresses monitoring device statistics, controller events, alerts, WAN Clarity reports, real-time network visibility tools, and SASE-related event management.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deployment and Configuration: This domain focuses on Prisma SD-WAN deployment procedures, site-specific settings, configuration templates for different locations, routing protocol tuning, and VRF implementation for network segmentation.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unified SASE: This domain covers Prisma SD-WAN integration with Prisma Access, ADEM configuration, IoT connectivity via Device-ID, Cloud Identity Engine integration, and User Group-based policy implementation.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Planning and Design: This domain covers SD-WAN planning fundamentals including device selection, bandwidth and licensing planning, network assessment, data center and branch configurations, security requirements, high availability, and policy design for path, security, QoS, performance, and NAT.

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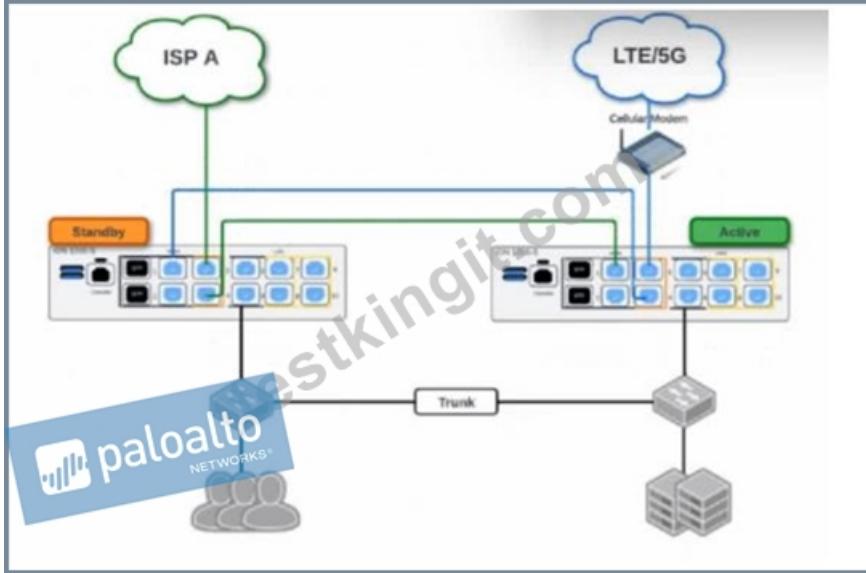
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Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN Engineer Sample Questions (Q37-Q42):

NEW QUESTION # 37

Based on the HA topology image below, which two statements describe the end-state when power is removed from the ION 1200-S labeled "Active", assuming that the ION labeled "Standby" becomes the active ION? (Choose two.)



- A. The newly active ION will send a gratuitous ARP to the LAN for the IP address of any SVIs.
- B. Both the connection to ISP A and the connection to LTE/5G will be usable.
- C. The VRRP Virtual IP address assigned to any SVIs will be moved to the newly active ION.
- D. The connection to ISP A will be usable, but the connection to LTE/5G will not.

Answer: A,B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation at least 150 to 250 words each from Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN Engineer documents: Prisma SD-WAN High Availability (HA) for branch ION devices, particularly the Gen-2 ION 1200-S, is designed to provide "100% WAN Capacity" preservation during a hardware or power failure. This is achieved through the use of Bypass Pairs (Fail-to-Wire). In the provided topology, the ISP A and LTE/5G circuits are cross-connected using the bypass ports (typically ports 3 and 4 on the ION 1200-S).

When the "Active" ION device loses power, the internal physical relays in its bypass ports transition to a closed state, effectively creating a physical bridge between the ports. In this scenario, the LTE/5G signal—which enters the Active ION's port 4—is mechanically bridged to port 3, allowing it to pass through to port 4 of the Standby ION. Simultaneously, ISP A is already connected to the Standby ION. Consequently, once the Standby device completes its transition to the "Active" state, it has physical access to both WAN circuits, validating Statement A.

Regarding the LAN transition, Prisma SD-WAN does not use standard VRRP for ION-to-ION HA; instead, it uses a proprietary Control Plane HA mechanism. When the failover occurs, the newly active ION takes over the IP addresses of all configured Switch Virtual Interfaces (SVIs) and LAN interfaces. To ensure the downstream Layer 2 infrastructure (like the LAN switches shown in the diagram) updates its MAC address tables to point to the new physical hardware for those IPs, the newly active ION immediately broadcasts a Gratuitous ARP (GARP). This ensures that LAN traffic is correctly steered to the new device without a significant timeout, validating Statement C.

NEW QUESTION # 38

A network administrator is troubleshooting a critical SaaS application, "SuperSaaSApp", that is experiencing connectivity issues. Initially, the configured active and backup paths for the application were reported as completely down at Layer 3. The Prisma SD-WAN system attempted to route traffic for the application over an L3 failure path that was explicitly configured as a Standard VPN to Prisma Access.

However, users are still reporting a complete outage for the application and monitoring tools show application flows being dropped when attempting to use the Standard VPN L3 failure path, even though the tunnel itself appears to be up. The administrator suspects a policy misconfiguration related to how the Standard VPN path interacts with destination groups.

What is the most likely reason for flows being dropped when attempting to use the Standard VPN L3 failure path?

- A. The Standard VPN in the path policy was not configured to "Minimize Cellular Usage", leading to the depletion of metered

data and subsequent flow drops.

- B. The "Move Flows Forced" action was not enabled in the performance policy for "SuperSaaSApp", preventing the system from actively shifting traffic to the L3 failure path.
- C. The path policy rule explicitly designates a Standard VPN as the L3 failure path, but it does not include a designated Standard Services and DC Group, causing traffic to be dropped.**
- D. The path policy rule for "SuperSaaSApp" has the "Required" checkbox selected for its Service & DC Group, but no direct paths were configured alongside it, creating a conflict.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation

According to Palo Alto Networks Prisma SD-WAN administrator documentation regarding Path Policy configuration, specific rules apply when utilizing Standard VPNs (IPSec tunnels to non-ION devices, such as Prisma Access or third-party firewalls) as an L3 Failure Path.

When a Path Policy rule is configured, the administrator defines Active Paths, Backup Paths, and L3 Failure Paths. The L3 Failure Path is a "last resort" mechanism used when all Active and Backup paths are unavailable (Layer 3 down).

If Standard VPN is selected as the L3 Failure Path type, the system explicitly requires that the administrator also associates it with a specific Standard Services and DC Group within that same policy rule.

The ION device uses the Standard Services and DC Group to identify the specific remote endpoint (tunnel destination) where the traffic should be routed. Unlike a "Direct" (Internet) path which can simply route out to the WAN, a Standard VPN represents a logical tunnel. If the policy rule designates "Standard VPN" as the failure path but leaves the "Standard Services and DC Group" field empty or unselected, the ION effectively has a directive to "use a VPN" but lacks the instruction on which VPN group to use for this specific application context. Consequently, even if the IPSec tunnel to Prisma Access is physically up and stable, the policy engine cannot resolve the next hop for the "SuperSaaSApp" traffic, resulting in the packets being dropped. To resolve this, the administrator must edit the Path Policy rule to ensure the specific Standard Service/DC Group representing Prisma Access is checked/selected for the L3 Failure Path.

NEW QUESTION # 39

An administrator is configuring a High Availability (HA) pair of ION 3000 devices at a Data Center.

Which statement accurately describes the requirement for the HA Control Interface connection between the two devices?

- A. The HA Control interface must be a direct physical connection or a Layer 2 adjacent connection on a dedicated VLAN, with no routing between them.**
- B. The HA Control connection is optional if both devices are managed by the same Cloud Controller.
- C. The HA Control interface uses the management port and must be connected to the internet.
- D. The HA Control interface must be connected via a Layer 3 routed network to ensure reachability across different subnets.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation

In a Prisma SD-WAN High Availability (HA) deployment, the HA Control Interface is the critical lifeline used to synchronize state, heartbeats, and flow information between the Active and Standby ION devices.

The strict requirement for this connection is that it must be Layer 2 adjacent.

Best Practice: A direct physical cable connection between the designated HA ports of the two devices (e.g., Port 2 on Device A to Port 2 on Device B).

Alternative: Connectivity through a switch on a dedicated, isolated VLAN is supported, provided the devices are in the same broadcast domain and subnet.

Routing (Layer 3) is not supported for the HA Control link because the keepalive mechanism relies on low-latency, multicast/broadcast-level adjacency to detect failures instantly (sub-second failover). If the HA link were routed (Option A), network latency or router convergence issues could cause "Split-Brain" scenarios where both devices assume the Active role, leading to IP conflicts and traffic loops. Option C is incorrect because the Controller is too slow to manage real-time failover; the decision must be local.

NEW QUESTION # 40

An engineer at a managed services provider is updating an application that allows its customers to request firewall changes to also manage SD-WAN. The application will be able to make any approved changes directly to devices via API.

What is a requirement for the application to create SD-WAN interfaces?

- A. XML API's "sdwanprofiles/interfaces" parameter on a Panorama device
- B. REST API's "sdwanInterfaceprofiles" parameter on a Panorama device
- C. XML API's "InterfaceProfiles/sdwan" parameter on a firewall device
- D. REST API's "sdwanInterfaces" parameter on a firewall device

Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation at least 150 to 250 words each from Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN Engineer documents: In Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS SD-WAN environments, automation and orchestration are key components for service providers managing large-scale deployments. The PAN-OS REST API provides a modern, structured way to programmatically manage configuration objects, including those required for SD-WAN functionality.

When an application is designed to push changes directly to devices (individual firewalls) rather than through a centralized template in Panorama, it must interact with the firewall's local REST API. To successfully create a virtual SD-WAN interface, the application must target the correct resource URI. In the PAN-OS API schema, the logical SD-WAN interface—which groups physical links to enable application-based path selection—is managed via the `sdwanInterfaces` parameter within the REST API.

It is important to distinguish between the interface itself and the profiles that support it. Option A refers to `sdwanInterfaceprofiles`, which are the objects used to define the characteristics of a link (such as bandwidth, link type, and monitoring frequency), but not the interface itself. Furthermore, since the scenario specifies making changes "directly to devices," the target must be the firewall rather than Panorama. While Panorama can manage these objects via templates, a direct-to-device automation workflow necessitates using the firewall's REST API endpoint. Utilizing the REST API over the legacy XML API is the recommended standard for modern integrations due to its ease of use with JSON payloads and alignment with contemporary DevSecOps practices. By using the `sdwanInterfaces` parameter on the firewall, the MSP application can programmatically bind physical Layer 3 interfaces to the SD-WAN fabric.

NEW QUESTION # 41

A customer wants to deploy Prisma SD-WAN ION devices at small home offices that use consumer-grade broadband routers. These routers typically use Symmetric NAT and do not allow static port forwarding.

Which standard mechanism does Prisma SD-WAN utilize to successfully establish direct Branch-to-Branch (Dynamic) VPN tunnels through these Symmetric NAT devices?

- A. STUN (Session Traversal Utilities for NAT)
- B. UPnP (Universal Plug and Play)
- C. SSL VPN encapsulation
- D. Manual GRE Tunnels

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation

Prisma SD-WAN utilizes STUN (Session Traversal Utilities for NAT) to facilitate NAT Traversal for its Secure Fabric overlay.

Discovery: When an ION device connects to the internet behind a NAT router, it reaches out to the Prisma SD-WAN Controller.

The controller acts as a STUN server, identifying the public IP address and port that the ION's traffic is originating from.

Symmetric NAT Challenge: In Symmetric NAT, the mapping changes for every destination. However, the Prisma SD-WAN architecture is designed to handle this by having the controller coordinate the connection attempt.

Hole Punching: The controller shares the discovered public mapping information between two peer ION devices. They then simultaneously initiate traffic to each other's public IP/Port (a technique called "UDP Hole Punching"). This tricks the intermediate NAT devices into allowing the inbound traffic, establishing a direct P2P IPSec tunnel without requiring manual port forwarding or static IPs at the edge.

NEW QUESTION # 42

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