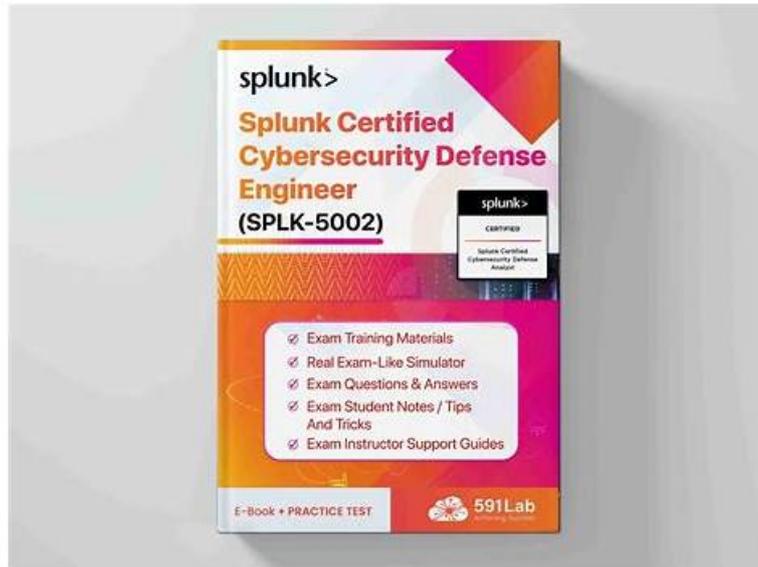


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Splunk SPLK-5002 Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic | Details |
|---------|--|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Engineering: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and Cybersecurity Engineers and covers foundational data management tasks. It includes performing data review and analysis, creating and maintaining efficient data indexing, and applying Splunk methods for data normalization to ensure structured and usable datasets for security operations. |
| Topic 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditing and Reporting on Security Programs: This section tests Auditors and Security Architects on validating and communicating program effectiveness. It includes designing security metrics, generating compliance reports, and building dashboards to visualize program performance and vulnerabilities for stakeholders. |
| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automation and Efficiency: This section assesses Automation Engineers and SOAR Specialists in streamlining security operations. It covers developing automation for SOPs, optimizing case management workflows, utilizing REST APIs, designing SOAR playbooks for response automation, and evaluating integrations between Splunk Enterprise Security and SOAR tools. |
| Topic 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Effective Security Processes and Programs: This section targets Security Program Managers and Compliance Officers, focusing on operationalizing security workflows. It involves researching and integrating threat intelligence, applying risk and detection prioritization methodologies, and developing documentation or standard operating procedures (SOPs) to maintain robust security practices. |
| Topic 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection Engineering: This section evaluates the expertise of Threat Hunters and SOC Engineers in developing and refining security detections. Topics include creating and tuning correlation searches, integrating contextual data into detections, applying risk-based modifiers, generating actionable Notable Events, and managing the lifecycle of detection rules to adapt to evolving threats. |

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Splunk Certified Cybersecurity Defense Engineer Sample Questions (Q29-Q34):

NEW QUESTION # 29

A company wants to implement risk-based detection for privileged account activities. What should they configure first?

- A. Event sampling for raw data
- B. Correlation searches with low thresholds
- C. Asset and identity information for privileged accounts
- D. Automated dashboards for all accounts

Answer: C

Explanation:

Why Configure Asset & Identity Information for Privileged Accounts First?

Risk-based detection focuses on identifying and prioritizing threats based on the severity of their impact. For privileged accounts (admins, domain controllers, finance users), understanding who they are, what they access, and how they behave is critical.

#Key Steps for Risk-Based Detection in Splunk ES:1##Define Privileged Accounts & Groups - Identify high-risk users (Admin, HR, Finance, CISO).2##Assign Risk Scores - Apply higher scores to actions involving privileged users.3##Enable Identity & Asset Correlation - Link users to assets for better detection.

4##Monitor for Anomalies - Detect abnormal login patterns, excessive file access, or unusual privilege escalation.

#Example in Splunk ES:

A domain admin logs in from an unusual location # Trigger high-risk alert A finance director downloads sensitive payroll data at midnight # Escalate for investigation Why Not the Other Options?

#B. Correlation searches with low thresholds - May generate excessive false positives, overwhelming the SOC.#C. Event sampling for raw data - Doesn't provide context for risk-based detection.#D. Automated dashboards for all accounts - Useful for visibility, but not the first step for risk-based security.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk ES Risk-Based Alerting (RBA): https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/security/risk-based-alerting.html

#Privileged Account Monitoring in Splunk: <https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/ES/latest/User>

#RiskBasedAlerting#Implementing Privileged Access Security (PAM) with Splunk: <https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

com

NEW QUESTION # 30

A cybersecurity engineer notices a delay in retrieving indexed data during a security incident investigation.

The Splunk environment has multiple indexers but only one search head.

Which approach can resolve this issue?

- A. Configure a search head cluster to distribute search queries.
- B. Optimize search queries to use `tstats` instead of raw searches.
- C. Increase search head memory allocation.
- D. Implement accelerated data models for faster querying.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Why Use stats for Faster Searches?

When a cybersecurity engineer experiences delays in retrieving indexed data, the best way to improve search performance is to use stats instead of raw searches.

#What is stats? stats is a high-performance command that queries data from indexed fields only, rather than scanning raw events. This makes searches significantly faster and more efficient.

#Why is This the Best Approach?

stats searches are 10-100x faster than raw event searches.

It leverages metadata and indexed fields, reducing search load.

It minimizes memory and CPU usage on the search head and indexers.

#Example Use Case: #Scenario: The SOC team is investigating failed logins across multiple indexers. #Using a raw search:

```
index=security sourcetype=auth_logs action=failed | stats count by user
```

#Problem: This query scans millions of raw events, causing slow performance.

#Optimized using stats:

```
| tstats count where index=security sourcetype=auth_logs action=failed by user
```

#Advantage: Faster results without scanning raw events.

Why Not the Other Options?

#A. Increase search head memory allocation - May help, but inefficient queries will still slow down searches.

#C. Configure a search head cluster - A single search head isn't necessarily the problem; improving search performance is more effective.

#D. Implement accelerated data models - Useful for prebuilt dashboards, but won't improve ad-hoc searches.

NEW QUESTION # 31

How can you ensure efficient detection tuning? (Choose three)

- A. Disable correlation searches for low-priority threats.
- B. Automate threshold adjustments.
- C. Perform regular reviews of false positives.
- D. Use detailed asset and identity information.

Answer: B,C,D

Explanation:

Ensuring Efficient Detection Tuning in Splunk Enterprise Security

Detection tuning is essential to minimize false positives and improve security visibility.

#1. Perform Regular Reviews of False Positives (A)

Reviewing false positives helps refine detection logic.

Analysts should analyze past alerts and adjust correlation rules.

Example:

Tuning a failed login correlation search to exclude known legitimate admin accounts.

#2. Use Detailed Asset and Identity Information (B)

Enriches detections with asset and user context.

Helps differentiate high-risk vs. low-risk security events.

Example:

A login from an executive's laptop is higher risk than from a test server.

#3. Automate Threshold Adjustments (D)

Dynamic thresholds adjust based on activity baselines.

Reduces false positives while maintaining security coverage.

Example:

A brute-force detection rule dynamically adjusts its alerting threshold based on normal user behavior.

C: Disable correlation searches for low-priority threats # Instead of disabling, adjust the rule sensitivity or lower alert severity.

#Additional Resources:

Splunk Security Essentials: Detection Tuning Guide

Tuning Correlation Searches in Splunk ES

NEW QUESTION # 32

Which features of Splunk are crucial for tuning correlation searches? (Choose three)

- A. Disabling field extractions
- B. Optimizing search queries
- C. Using thresholds and conditions
- D. Reviewing notable event outcomes
- E. Enabling event sampling

Answer: B,C,D

Explanation:

Correlation searches are a key component of Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) that help detect and alert on security threats by analyzing machine data across various sources. Proper tuning of these searches is essential to reduce false positives, improve performance, and enhance the accuracy of security detections in a Security Operations Center (SOC).

Crucial Features for Tuning Correlation Searches

#1. Using Thresholds and Conditions (A)

Thresholds help control the sensitivity of correlation searches by defining when a condition is met.

Setting appropriate conditions ensures that only relevant events trigger notable events or alerts, reducing noise.

Example:

Instead of alerting on any failed login attempt, a threshold of 5 failed logins within 10 minutes can be set to identify actual brute-force attempts.

#2. Reviewing Notable Event Outcomes (B)

Notable events are generated by correlation searches, and reviewing them is critical for fine-tuning.

Analysts in the SOC should frequently review false positives, duplicates, and low-priority alerts to refine rules.

Example:

If a correlation search is generating excessive alerts for normal user activity, analysts can modify it to exclude known safe behaviors.

#3. Optimizing Search Queries (E)

Efficient Splunk Search Processing Language (SPL) queries are crucial to improving search performance.

Best practices include:

Using index-time fields instead of extracting fields at search time.

Avoiding wildcards and unnecessary joins in searches.

Using tstats instead of regular searches to improve efficiency.

Example:

Using:

```
| tstats count where index=firewall by src_ip
```

instead of:

```
index=firewall | stats count by src_ip
```

can significantly improve performance.

Incorrect Answers & Explanation

#C. Enabling Event Sampling

Event sampling helps analyze a subset of events to improve testing but does not directly impact correlation search tuning in production.

In a SOC environment, tuning needs to be based on actual real-time event volumes, not just sampled data.

#D. Disabling Field Extractions

Field extractions are essential for correlation searches because they help identify and analyze security-related fields (e.g., user, src_ip, dest_ip).

Disabling them would limit the visibility of important security event attributes, making detections less effective.

Additional Resources for Learning

#Splunk Documentation & Learning Paths:

Splunk ES Correlation Search Documentation

Best Practices for Writing SPL

Splunk Security Essentials - Use Cases

SOC Analysts Guide for Correlation Search Tuning

#Courses & Certifications:

Splunk Enterprise Security Certified Admin

Splunk Core Certified Power User

Splunk SOAR Certified Automation Specialist

NEW QUESTION # 33

Which elements are critical for documenting security processes?(Choosetwo)

- A. Incident response playbooks

- B. Visual workflow diagrams
- C. Customer satisfaction surveys
- D. Detailed event logs

Answer: A,B

Explanation:

Effective documentation ensures that security teams can standardize response procedures, reduce incident response time, and improve compliance.

#1. Visual Workflow Diagrams (B)

Helps map out security processes in an easy-to-understand format.

Useful for SOC analysts, engineers, and auditors to understand incident escalation procedures.

Example:

Incident flow diagrams showing escalation from Tier 1 SOC analysts # Threat hunters # Incident response teams.

#2. Incident Response Playbooks (C)

Defines step-by-step response actions for security incidents.

Standardizes how teams should detect, analyze, contain, and remediate threats.

Example:

ASOAR playbook for handling phishing emails (e.g., extract indicators, check sandbox results, quarantine email).

Incorrect Answers:

A: Detailed event logs # Logs are essential for investigations but do not constitute process documentation.

D: Customer satisfaction surveys # Not relevant to security process documentation.

Additional Resources:

NIST Cybersecurity Framework - Incident Response

Splunk SOAR Playbook Documentation

NEW QUESTION # 34

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