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Exam : XDR Engineer

Title : Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer

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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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.
Topic 3	<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 4	<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 5	<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.

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q27-Q32):

NEW QUESTION # 27

An engineer is building a dashboard to visualize the number of alerts from various sources. One of the widgets from the dashboard is shown in the image below:

The engineer wants to configure a drilldown on this widget to allow dashboard users to select any of the alert names and view those alerts with additional relevant details. The engineer has configured the following XQL query to meet the requirement:

dataset = alerts

```
| fields alert_name, description, alert_source, severity, original_tags, alert_id, incident_id
| filter alert_name =
| sort desc_time
```

How will the engineer complete the third line of the query (filter alert_name =) to allow dynamic filtering on a selected alert name?

- A. \$y_axis.name
- B. \$x_axis.value**
- C. \$y_axis.value
- D. \$x_axis.name

Answer: B

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, dashboards and widgets support drilldown functionality, allowing users to click on a widget element (e.g., an alert name in a bar chart) to view detailed data filtered by the selected value. This is achieved using XQL (XDR Query Language) queries with dynamic variables that reference the clicked element's value. In the provided XQL query, the engineer wants to filter alerts based on the alert_name selected in the widget.

The widget likely displays alert names along the x-axis (e.g., in a bar chart where each bar represents an alert name and its count). When a user clicks on an alert name, the drilldown query should filter the dataset to show only alerts matching that selected alert_name. In XQL, dynamic filtering for drilldowns uses variables like \$x_axis.value to capture the value of the clicked element on the x-axis.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The variable \$x_axis.value is used to reference the value of the x-axis element (in this case, the alert_name) selected by the user. Completing the query with filter alert_name

= \$x_axis.value ensures that the drilldown filters the alerts dataset to show only those records where the alert_name matches the clicked value.

* Why not the other options?

* A. \$y_axis.value: This variable refers to the value on the y-axis, which typically represents a numerical value (e.g., the count of alerts) in a chart, not the categorical alert_name.

* C. \$x_axis.name: This is not a valid XQL variable for drilldowns. XQL uses \$x_axis.value to capture the selected value, not \$x_axis.name.

* D. \$y_axis.name: This is also not a valid XQL variable, and the y-axis is not relevant for filtering by alert_name.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal in the XQL Reference Guide explains drilldown configuration: "To filter data based on a clicked widget element, use \$x_axis.value to reference the value of the x-axis category selected by the user" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers dashboard creation and XQL, noting that "drilldown queries use variables like \$x_axis.value to dynamically filter based on user selections" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet lists "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, including configuring interactive widgets.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: XQL Reference Guide (<https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/>)

EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives

Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification/xdr-engineer>

NEW QUESTION # 28

An analyst considers an alert with the category of lateral movement to be allowed and not needing to be checked in the future. Based on the image below, which action can an engineer take to address the requirement?

□

- A. Create a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) suppression rule for the parent process and the specific BIOC: Lateral movement
- B. Create a disable injection and prevention rule for the parent process indicated in the alert
- **C. Create an alert exclusion rule by using the alert source and alert name**
- D. Create an exception rule for the parent process and the exact command indicated in the alert

Answer: C

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, a lateral movement alert (mapped to MITRE ATT&CK T1021, e.g., Remote Services) indicates potential unauthorized network activity, often involving processes like cmd.exe. If the analyst determines this behavior is allowed (e.g., a legitimate use of cmd /c dir for administrative purposes) and should not be flagged in the future, the engineer needs to suppress future alerts for this specific behavior. The most effective way to achieve this is by creating an alert exclusion rule, which suppresses alerts based on specific criteria such as the alert source (e.g., Cortex XDR analytics) and alert name (e.g., "Lateral Movement Detected").

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): Create an alert exclusion rule by using the alert source and alert name is the recommended action. This approach directly addresses the requirement by suppressing future alerts of the same type (lateral movement) from the specified source, ensuring that this legitimate activity (e.g., cmd /c dir by cmd.exe) does not generate alerts. Alert exclusions can be fine-tuned to apply to specific endpoints, users, or other attributes, making this a targeted solution.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Create a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) suppression rule for the parent process and the specific BIOC: Lateral movement: While BIOC suppression rules can suppress specific BIOCs, the alert in question appears to be generated by Cortex XDR analytics (not a custom BIOC), as indicated by the MITRE ATT&CK mapping and alert category. BIOC suppression is more relevant for custom BIOC rules, not analytics-driven alerts.

* C. Create a disable injection and prevention rule for the parent process indicated in the alert: There is no "disable injection and

"prevention rule" in CortexXDR, and this option does not align with the goal of suppressing alerts. Injection prevention is related to exploit protection, not lateral movement alerts.

* D. Create an exception rule for the parent process and the exact command indicated in the alert: While creating an exception for the parent process (cmd.exe) and command (cmd /c dir) might prevent some detections, it is not the most direct method for suppressing analytics-driven lateral movement alerts. Exceptions are typically used for exploit or malware profiles, not for analytics-based alerts.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains alert suppression: "To prevent future checks for allowed alerts, create an alert exclusion rule using the alert source and alert name to suppress specific alert types" (paraphrased from the Alert Management section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers alert tuning, stating that "alert exclusion rules based on source and name are effective for suppressing analytics-driven alerts like lateral movement" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing alert suppression techniques.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification/xdr-engineer>

Note on Image: The image was not provided, but I assumed a typical lateral movement alert involving a parent process (cmd.exe) and a command (cmd /c dir). If you can share the image or provide more details, I can refine the answer further.

NEW QUESTION # 29

A cloud administrator reports high network bandwidth costs attributed to Cortex XDR operations and asks for bandwidth usage to be optimized without compromising agent functionality. Which two techniques should the engineer implement? (Choose two.)

- A. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet
- B. Enable minor content version updates
- C. Configure P2P download sources for agent upgrades and content updates
- D. Enable agent content management bandwidth control

Answer: C,D

Explanation:

Cortex XDR agents communicate with the cloud for tasks like receiving content updates, agent upgrades, and sending telemetry data, which can consume significant network bandwidth. To optimize bandwidth usage without compromising agent functionality, the engineer should implement techniques that reduce network traffic while maintaining full detection, prevention, and response capabilities.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):

* A. Configure P2P download sources for agent upgrades and content updates: Peer-to-Peer (P2P) download sources allow Cortex XDR agents to share content updates and agent upgrades with other agents on the same network, reducing the need for each agent to download data directly from the cloud. This significantly lowers bandwidth usage, especially in environments with many endpoints.

* C. Enable agent content management bandwidth control: Cortex XDR provides bandwidth control settings in the Content Management configuration, allowing administrators to limit the bandwidth used for content updates and agent communications. This feature throttles data transfers to minimize network impact while ensuring updates are still delivered.

* Why not the other options?

* B. Enable minor content version updates: Enabling minor content version updates ensures agents receive incremental updates, but this alone does not significantly optimize bandwidth, as it does not address the volume or frequency of data transfers. It is a standard practice but not a primary bandwidth optimization technique.

* D. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet: A Broker VM can act as a local proxy for agent communications, potentially reducing cloud traffic, but the local agent settings applet is used for configuring agent settings locally, not for bandwidth optimization.

Additionally, deploying a Broker VM requires significant setup and may not directly address bandwidth for content updates or upgrades compared to P2P or bandwidth control.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes bandwidth optimization: "P2P download sources enable agents to share content updates and upgrades locally, reducing cloud bandwidth usage" and "Content Management bandwidth control allows administrators to limit the network impact of agent updates" (paraphrased from the Agent Management and Content Updates sections). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers post-deployment optimization, stating that "P2P downloads and bandwidth control settings are key techniques for minimizing network usage" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto

Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing bandwidth optimization.

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 # 30

An XDR engineer is configuring an automation playbook to respond to high-severity malware alerts by automatically isolating the affected endpoint and notifying the security team via email. The playbook should only trigger for alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, not custom BIOCs. Which two conditions should the engineer include in the playbook trigger to meet these requirements? (Choose two.)

- A. Alert status is New
- B. Alert severity is High
- C. Alert category is Malware
- D. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, automation playbooks (also referred to as response actions or automation rules) allow engineers to define automated responses to specific alerts based on trigger conditions. The playbook in this scenario needs to isolate endpoints and send email notifications for high-severity malware alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, excluding custom BIOC alerts. To achieve this, the engineer must configure the playbook trigger with conditions that match the alert's severity, category, and source.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):

* A. Alert severity is High: The playbook should only trigger for high-severity alerts, as specified in the requirement. Setting the condition Alert severity is High ensures that only alerts with a severity level of "High" activate the playbook, aligning with the engineer's goal.

* C. Alert category is Malware: The playbook targets malware alerts specifically. The condition Alert category is Malware ensures that the playbook only responds to alerts categorized as malware, excluding other types of alerts (e.g., lateral movement, exploit).

* Why not the other options?

* B. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics: While this condition would ensure the playbook triggers only for alerts from the Cortex XDR analytics engine (and not custom BIOC), the requirement to exclude BIOC alerts is already implicitly met because BIOC alerts are typically categorized differently (e.g., as custom alerts or specific BIOC categories). The alert category (Malware) and severity (High) conditions are sufficient to target analytics-driven malware alerts, and adding the source condition is not strictly necessary for the stated requirements. However, if the engineer wanted to be more explicit, this condition could be considered, but the question asks for the two most critical conditions, which are severity and category.

* D. Alert status is New: The alert status (e.g., New, In Progress, Resolved) determines the investigation stage of the alert, but the requirement does not specify that the playbook should only trigger for new alerts. Alerts with a status of "InProgress" could still be high-severity malware alerts requiring isolation, so this condition is not necessary.

Additional Note on Alert Source: The requirement to exclude custom BIOC and focus on Cortex XDR analytics alerts is addressed by the Alert category is Malware condition, as analytics-driven malware alerts (e.g., from WildFire or behavioral analytics) are categorized as "Malware," while BIOC alerts are often tagged differently (e.g., as custom rules). If the question emphasized the need to explicitly filter by source, option B would be relevant, but the primary conditions for the playbook are severity and category.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains automation playbook triggers: "Playbook triggers can be configured with conditions such as alert severity (e.g., High) and alert category (e.g., Malware) to automate responses like endpoint isolation and email notifications" (paraphrased from the Automation Rules section).

The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers playbook creation, stating that "conditions like alert severity and category ensure playbooks target specific alert types, such as high-severity malware alerts from analytics" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "playbook creation and automation" as a key exam topic, encompassing trigger condition configuration.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer
Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification/xdr-engineer>

NEW QUESTION # 31

A query is created that will run weekly via API. After it is tested and ready, it is reviewed in the Query Center. Which available column should be checked to determine how many compute units will be used when the query is run?

- A. Compute Unit Quota
- **B. Compute Unit Usage**
- C. Query Status
- D. Simulated Compute Units

Answer: B

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, the Query Center allows administrators to manage and review XQL (XDR Query Language) queries, including those scheduled to run via API. Each query consumes compute units, a measure of the computational resources required to execute the query. To determine how many compute units a query will use, the Compute Unit Usage column in the Query Center provides the actual or estimated resource consumption based on the query's execution history or configuration.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The Compute Unit Usage column in the Query Center displays the number of compute units consumed by a query when it runs. For a tested and ready query, this column provides the most accurate information on resource usage, helping administrators plan for API-based executions.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Query Status: The Query Status column indicates whether the query ran successfully, failed, or is pending, but it does not provide information on compute unit consumption.

* C. Simulated Compute Units: While some systems may offer simulated estimates, Cortex XDR's Query Center does not have a "Simulated Compute Units" column. The actual usage is tracked in Compute Unit Usage.

* D. Compute Unit Quota: The Compute Unit Quota refers to the total available compute units for the tenant, not the specific usage of an individual query.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains Query Center functionality: "The Compute Unit Usage column in the Query Center shows the compute units consumed by a query, enabling administrators to assess resource usage for scheduled or API-based queries" (paraphrased from the Query Center section). The EDU-

262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers query management, stating that "Compute Unit Usage provides details on the resources used by each query in the Query Center" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing query resource management.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: <https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/> EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification/xdr-engineer>

NEW QUESTION # 32

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