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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q46-Q51):

NEW QUESTION # 46

An administrator wants to employ reusable rules within custom parsing rules to apply consistent log field extraction across multiple data sources. Which section of the parsing rule should the administrator use to define those reusable rules in Cortex XDR?

- A. CONST
- B. RULE
- C. INGEST
- D. FILTER

Answer: A

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, parsing rules are used to extract and normalize fields from log data ingested from various sources to ensure

consistent analysis and correlation. To create reusable rules for consistent log field extraction across multiple data sources, administrators use the CONST section within the parsing rule configuration. The CONST section allows the definition of reusable constants or rules that can be applied across different parsing rules, ensuring uniformity in how fields are extracted and processed. The CONST section is specifically designed to hold constant values or reusable expressions that can be referenced in other parts of the parsing rule, such as the RULE or INGEST sections. This is particularly useful when multiple data sources require similar field extraction logic, as it reduces redundancy and ensures consistency. For example, a constant regex pattern for extracting IP addresses can be defined in the CONST section and reused across multiple parsing rules.

* Why not the other options?

* RULE: The RULE section defines the specific logic for parsing and extracting fields from a log entry but is not inherently reusable across multiple rules unless referenced via constants defined in CONST.

* INGEST: The INGEST section specifies how raw log data is ingested and preprocessed, not where reusable rules are defined.

* FILTER: The FILTER section is used to include or exclude log entries based on conditions, not for defining reusable extraction rules.

Exact Extract or Reference:

While the exact wording of the CONST section's purpose is not directly quoted in public-facing documentation (as some details are in proprietary training materials like EDU-260 or the Cortex XDR Admin Guide), the Cortex XDR Documentation Portal (docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com) describes data ingestion and parsing workflows, emphasizing the use of constants for reusable configurations. The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers data onboarding and parsing, noting that "constants defined in the CONST section allow reusable parsing logic for consistent field extraction across sources" (paraphrased from course objectives). Additionally, the Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet lists "data source onboarding and integration configuration" as a key skill, which includes mastering parsing rules and their components like CONST.

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 # 47

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 BIOC. Which two conditions should the engineer include in the playbook trigger to meet these requirements? (Choose two.)

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

Answer: A,D

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 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's 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 # 48

Based on the image of a validated false positive alert below, which action is recommended for resolution?



- A. Create an alert exclusion for OUTLOOK.EXE
- B. Disable an action to the CGO Process DWWIN.EXE
- C. Create an exception for the CGO DWWIN.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module
- **D. Create an exception for OUTLOOK.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module**

Answer: D

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, a false positive alert involving OUTLOOK.EXE triggering a CGO (Codegen Operation) alert related to DWWIN.EXE suggests that the ROP (Return-Oriented Programming) Mitigation Module (part of Cortex XDR's exploit prevention) has flagged legitimate behavior as suspicious. ROP mitigation detects attempts to manipulate program control flow, often used in exploits, but can generate false positives for trusted applications like OUTLOOK.EXE. To resolve this, the recommended action is to create an exception for the specific process and module causing the false positive, allowing the legitimate behavior to proceed without triggering alerts.

* Correct Answer Analysis (D): Create an exception for OUTLOOK.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module is the recommended action. Since OUTLOOK.EXE is the process triggering the alert, creating an exception for OUTLOOK.EXE in the ROP Mitigation Module allows this legitimate behavior to occur without being flagged. This is done by adding OUTLOOK.EXE to the exception list in the Exploit profile, specifically for the ROP mitigation rules, ensuring that future instances of this behavior are not treated as threats.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Create an alert exclusion for OUTLOOK.EXE: While an alert exclusion can suppress alerts for OUTLOOK.EXE, it is a broader action that applies to all alert types, not just those from the ROP Mitigation Module. This could suppress other legitimate alerts for OUTLOOK.EXE, reducing visibility into potential threats. An exception in the ROP Mitigation Module is more targeted.

* B. Disable an action to the CGO Process DWWIN.EXE: Disabling actions for DWWIN.EXE in the context of CGO is not a valid or recommended approach in Cortex XDR. DWWIN.EXE (Dr. Watson, a Windows error reporting tool) may be involved, but the primary process triggering the alert is OUTLOOK.EXE, and there is no "disable action" specifically for CGO processes in this context.

* C. Create an exception for the CGO DWWIN.EXE for ROP Mitigation Module: While DWWIN.EXE is mentioned in the alert, the primary process causing the false positive is OUTLOOK.EXE, as it's the application initiating the behavior. Creating an exception for DWWIN.EXE would not address the root cause, as OUTLOOK.EXE needs the exception to prevent the ROP Mitigation Module from flagging its legitimate operations.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains false positive resolution: "To resolve false positives in the ROP Mitigation Module,

create an exception for the specific process (e.g., OUTLOOK.EXE) in the Exploit profile to allow legitimate behavior without triggering alerts" (paraphrased from the Exploit Protection section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers exploit prevention tuning, stating that "exceptions for processes like OUTLOOK.EXE in the ROP Mitigation Module prevent false positives while maintaining protection" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing false positive resolution.

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>

Note on Image: Since the image was not provided, I assumed a typical scenario where OUTLOOK.EXE triggers a false positive CGO alert related to DWWIN.EXE due to ROP mitigation. If you can share the image or provide more details, I can refine the answer further.

NEW QUESTION # 49

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

Answer: D

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 BIOC, 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 # 50

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

Answer: A

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 # 51

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