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ISACA CCOA Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic | Details |
|---------|---|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Securing Assets: This section of the exam measures skills of a Cybersecurity Specialist and covers the methods and strategies used to secure organizational assets. It includes topics like endpoint security, data protection, encryption techniques, and securing network infrastructure. The goal is to ensure that sensitive information and resources are properly protected from external and internal threats. |
| Topic 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Technology Essentials: This section of the exam measures skills of a Cybersecurity Specialist and covers the foundational technologies and principles that form the backbone of cybersecurity. It includes topics like hardware and software configurations, network protocols, cloud infrastructure, and essential tools. The focus is on understanding the technical landscape and how these elements interconnect to ensure secure operations. |
| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cybersecurity Analyst and covers the tactics, techniques, and procedures used by adversaries to compromise systems. It includes identifying methods of attack, such as phishing, malware, and social engineering, and understanding how these techniques can be detected and thwarted. |

| | |
|---------|---|
| Topic 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity Principles and Risk: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cybersecurity Specialist and covers core cybersecurity principles and risk management strategies. It includes assessing vulnerabilities, threat analysis, and understanding regulatory compliance frameworks. The section emphasizes evaluating risks and applying appropriate measures to mitigate potential threats to organizational assets. |
| Topic 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Detection and Response: This section of the exam measures the skills of a Cybersecurity Analyst and focuses on detecting security incidents and responding appropriately. It includes understanding security monitoring tools, analyzing logs, and identifying indicators of compromise. The section emphasizes how to react to security breaches quickly and efficiently to minimize damage and restore operations. |

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ISACA Certified Cybersecurity Operations Analyst Sample Questions (Q53-Q58):

NEW QUESTION # 53

Cyber Analyst Password:

For questions that require use of the SIEM, please reference the information below:

<https://10.10.55.2>

Security-Analyst!

CYB3R-4n4ly\$t!

Email Address:

ccoatest@isaca.org

Password:Security-Analyst!

The enterprise has been receiving a large amount of false positive alerts for the eternalblue vulnerability.

The SIEM rulesets are located in /home/administrator/hids/ruleset/rules.

What is the name of the file containing the ruleset for eternalblue connections? Your response must include the file extension.

Answer:

Explanation:

Step 1: Define the Problem and Objective

Objective:

* Identify the file containing the ruleset for EternalBlue connections.

* Include the file extension in the response.

Context:

* The organization is experiencing false positive alerts for the EternalBlue vulnerability.

* The rulesets are located at:

/home/administrator/hids/ruleset/rules

* We need to find the specific file associated with EternalBlue.

Step 2: Prepare for Access

2.1: SIEM Access Details:

* URL:

<https://10.10.55.2>

* Username:

ccoatest@isaca.org

* Password:

Security-Analyst!

* Ensure your machine has access to the SIEM system via HTTPS.

Step 3: Access the SIEM System

3.1: Connect via SSH (if needed)

* Open a terminal and connect:

```
ssh administrator@10.10.55.2
```

* Password:

Security-Analyst!

* If prompted about SSH key verification, type yesto continue.

Step 4: Locate the Ruleset File

4.1: Navigate to the Ruleset Directory

* Change to the ruleset directory:

```
cd /home/administrator/hids/ruleset/rules
```

```
ls -l
```

* You should see a list of files with names indicating their purpose.

4.2: Search for EternalBlue Ruleset

* Use grep to locate the EternalBlue rule:

```
grep -irl "eternalblue" *
```

* Explanation:

* grep -i: Case-insensitive search.

* -r: Recursive search within the directory.

* -l: Only print file names with matches.

* "eternalblue": The keyword to search.

* *: All files in the current directory.

Expected Output:

```
exploit_eternalblue.rules
```

* Filename:

```
exploit_eternalblue.rules
```

* The file extension is .rules, typical for intrusion detection system (IDS) rule files.

Step 5: Verify the Content of the Ruleset File

5.1: Open and Inspect the File

* Use less to view the file contents:

```
less exploit_eternalblue.rules
```

* Check for rule patterns like:

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET 445 (msg:"EternalBlue SMB Exploit"; ...)
```

* Use the search within less:

```
/eternalblue
```

* Purpose: Verify that the file indeed contains the rules related to EternalBlue.

Step 6: Document Your Findings

* Ruleset File for EternalBlue:

```
exploit_eternalblue.rules
```

* File Path:

```
/home/administrator/hids/ruleset/rules/exploit_eternalblue.rules
```

* Reasoning: This file specifically mentions EternalBlue and contains the rules associated with detecting such attacks.

Step 7: Recommendation

Mitigation for False Positives:

* Update the Ruleset:

* Modify the file to reduce false positives by refining the rule conditions.

* Update Signatures:

* Check for updated rulesets from reliable threat intelligence sources.

* Whitelist Known Safe IPs:

* Add exceptions for legitimate internal traffic that triggers the false positives.

* Implement Tuning:

* Adjust the SIEM correlation rules to decrease alert noise.

Final Verification:

* Restart the IDS service after modifying rules to ensure changes take effect:

```
sudo systemctl restart hids
```

* Check the status:

```
sudo systemctl status hids
```

Final Answer:

* Ruleset File Name:

```
exploit_eternalblue.rules
```

NEW QUESTION # 54

An organization moving its payment card system into a separate location on its network (or security reasons is an example of network:

- A. centricity.
- B. encryption.
- **C. segmentation.**
- D. redundancy.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The act of moving a payment card system to a separate network location is an example of network segmentation because:

- * Isolation for Security: Segregates sensitive systems from less secure parts of the network.
- * PCI DSS Compliance: Payment card data must be isolated to reduce the scope of compliance.
- * Minimized Attack Surface: Limits exposure in case other parts of the network are compromised.
- * Enhanced Control: Allows for tailored security measures specific to payment systems.

Other options analysis:

- * A. Redundancy: Involves having backup systems, not isolating networks.
- * C. Encryption: Protects data but does not involve network separation.
- * D. Centricity: Not a recognized concept in network security.

CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition References:

- * Chapter 7: Network Segmentation and Isolation: Emphasizes segmentation for protecting sensitive data.
- * Chapter 9: PCI Compliance Best Practices: Discusses network segmentation to secure payment card environments.

NEW QUESTION # 55

Which of the following is the MOST common output of a vulnerability assessment?

- A. A list of authorized users and their access levels for each system and application
- B. A detailed report on the overall vulnerability posture, including physical security measures
- C. A list of potential attackers along with their IP addresses and geolocation data
- **D. A list of identified vulnerabilities along with a severity level for each**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The most common output of a vulnerability assessment is a detailed list of identified vulnerabilities, each accompanied by a severity level (e.g., low, medium, high, critical). This output helps organizations prioritize remediation efforts based on risk levels.

- * Purpose: Vulnerability assessments are designed to detect security weaknesses and misconfigurations.
- * Content: The report typically includes vulnerability descriptions, affected assets, severity ratings (often based on CVSS scores), and recommendations for mitigation.
- * Usage: Helps security teams focus on the most critical issues first.

Incorrect Options:

- * B. A detailed report on overall vulnerability posture: While summaries may be part of the report, the primary output is the list of vulnerabilities.
- * C. A list of potential attackers: This is more related to threat intelligence, not vulnerability assessment.
- * D. A list of authorized users: This would be part of an access control audit, not a vulnerability assessment.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 5, Section "Vulnerability Management," Subsection "Vulnerability Assessment Process" - The primary output of a vulnerability assessment is a list of discovered vulnerabilities with associated severity levels.

NEW QUESTION # 56

Which of the following is a PRIMARY purpose of middleware?

- A. Providing security to applications
- **B. Enabling communication between different applications**
- C. Creating user interfaces for applications

- D. Storing data for applications

Answer: B

Explanation:

Middleware serves as an intermediary to facilitate communication and data exchange between different applications:

- * **Integration:** Connects disparate applications and services, allowing them to function as a cohesive system.
- * **Functionality:** Provides messaging, data translation, and API management between software components.
- * **Examples:** Message-oriented middleware (MOM), database middleware, and API gateways.
- * **Use Case:** An ERP system communicating with a CRM application through middleware.

Incorrect Options:

- * **B. Providing security:** Security features might be embedded, but it is not the primary function.
- * **C. Storing data:** Middleware typically facilitates data flow, not storage.
- * **D. Creating user interfaces:** Middleware operates at the backend, not the user interface layer.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 7, Section "Middleware Functions," Subsection "Application Integration" - Middleware primarily enables communication between heterogeneous applications.

NEW QUESTION # 57

Most of the operational responsibility remains with the customer in which of the following cloud service models?

- A. Data Platform as a Service (DPaaS)
- B. Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- **C. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)**
- D. Software as a Service (SaaS)

Answer: C

Explanation:

In the IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) model, the majority of operational responsibilities remain with the customer.

- * **Customer Responsibilities:** OS management, application updates, security configuration, data protection, and network controls.
- * **Provider Responsibilities:** Hardware maintenance, virtualization, and network infrastructure.
- * **Flexibility:** Customers have significant control over the operating environment, making them responsible for most security measures.

Incorrect Options:

- * **A. Data Platform as a Service (DPaaS):** Managed data services where the provider handles database infrastructure.
- * **B. Software as a Service (SaaS):** Provider manages almost all operational aspects.
- * **C. Platform as a Service (PaaS):** Provider manages the platform; customers focus on application management.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 3, Section "Cloud Service Models," Subsection "IaaS Responsibilities" - IaaS requires customers to manage most operational aspects, unlike PaaS or SaaS.

NEW QUESTION # 58

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