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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic | Details |
|---------|--|
| Topic 1 | <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 2 | <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 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"> 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 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. |

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q32-Q37):

NEW QUESTION # 32

When isolating Cortex XDR agent components to troubleshoot for compatibility, which command is used to turn off a component on a Windows machine?

- A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop
- B. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop**
- C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp
- D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop

Answer: B

Explanation:

Cortex XDR agents on Windows include multiple components (e.g., for exploit protection, malware scanning, or behavioral analysis) that can be individually enabled or disabled for troubleshooting purposes, such as isolating compatibility issues. The cytool.exe utility, located in the Cortex XDR installation directory (typically C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\), is used to manage agent components and settings. The runtime stop command specifically disables a component without uninstalling the agent.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The command "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop is used to turn off a specific Cortex XDR agent component on a Windows machine.

For example, cytool.exe runtime stop protection would disable the protection component, allowing troubleshooting for compatibility issues while keeping other components active.

* Why not the other options?

* A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop: The xrdr.exe binary is not used for managing components; it is part of the agent's corefunctionality. The correct utility is cytool.exe.

* C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop: Similarly, xrdr.exe is not the correct tool, and -s stop is not a valid command syntax for component management.

* D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp: The occp command is not a valid cytool.exe option. The correct command for stopping a component is runtime stop.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains component management: "To disable a Cortex XDR agent component on Windows, use the command cytool.exe runtime stop <component> from the installation directory" (paraphrased from the Troubleshooting section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers agent troubleshooting, stating that "cytool.exe runtime stop is used to turn off specific components for compatibility testing" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing agent component management.

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 # 33

How can a Malware profile be configured to prevent a specific executable from being uploaded to the cloud?

- A. Create an exclusion rule for the executable
- B. Add the executable to the allow list for executions
- C. Set PE and DLL examination for the executable to report action mode
- D. Disable on-demand file examination for the executable

Answer: A

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, Malware profilesdefine how the agent handles files for analysis, including whether they are uploaded to the cloud for WildFire analysis or other cloud-based inspections. To prevent a specific executable from being uploaded to the cloud, the administrator can configure an exclusion rulein the Malware profile.

Exclusion rules allow specific files, directories, or patterns to be excluded from cloud analysis, ensuring they are not sent to the cloud while still allowing local analysis or other policy enforcement.

* Correct Answer Analysis (D):Creating an exclusion rulefor the executable in the Malware profile ensures that the specified file is not uploaded to the cloud for analysis. This can be done by specifying the file's name, hash, or path in the exclusion settings, preventing unnecessary cloud uploads while maintaining agent functionality for other files.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Disable on-demand file examination for the executable: Disabling on-demand file examination prevents the agent from analyzing the file at all, which could compromise security by bypassing local and cloud analysis entirely. This is not the intended solution.

* B. Set PE and DLL examination for the executable to report action mode: Setting examination to "report action mode" configures the agent to log actions without blocking or uploading, but it does not specifically prevent cloud uploads. This option is unrelated to controlling cloud analysis.

* C. Add the executable to the allow list for executions: Adding an executable to the allow list permits it to run without triggering prevention actions, but it does not prevent the file from being uploaded to the cloud for analysis.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains Malware profile configuration: "Exclusion rules in Malware profiles allow administrators to specify files or directories that are excluded from cloud analysis, preventing uploads to WildFire or other cloud services" (paraphrased from the Malware Profile Configuration section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers agent configuration, stating that "exclusion rules can be used to prevent specific files from being sent to the cloud for analysis" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Malware profile settings.

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>

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NEW QUESTION # 34

Which action is being taken with the query below?

```
dataset = xdr_data
| fields agent_hostname, _time, _product
| comp latest as latest_time by agent_hostname, _product
| join type=inner (dataset = endpoints
| fields endpoint_name, endpoint_status, endpoint_type) as lookup lookup.endpoint_name = agent_hostname
| filter endpoint_status = ENUM.CONNECTED
| fields agent_hostname, endpoint_status, latest_time, _product
```

- A. Checking for endpoints with outdated agent versions
- B. Monitoring the latest activity of connected firewall endpoints
- C. Monitoring the latest activity of endpoints
- D. Identifying endpoints that have disconnected from the network

Answer: C

Explanation:

The provided XQL (XDR Query Language) query in Cortex XDR retrieves and processes data to provide insights into endpoint activity. Let's break down the query to understand its purpose:

* dataset = xdr_data | fields agent_hostname, _time, _product: Selects the xdr_data dataset (general event data) and retrieves fields for the agent hostname, timestamp, and product (e.g., agent type or component).

* comp latest as latest_time by agent_hostname, _product: Computes the latest timestamp (_time) for each combination of agent_hostname and _product, naming the result latest_time. This identifies the most recent activity for each endpoint and product.

* join type=inner (dataset = endpoints | fields endpoint_name, endpoint_status, endpoint_type) as lookup lookup.endpoint_name = agent_hostname: Performs an inner join with the endpoints dataset, matching endpoint_name (from the endpoints dataset) with agent_hostname (from xdr_data), and retrieves fields like endpoint_status and endpoint_type.

* filter endpoint_status = ENUM.CONNECTED: Filters the results to include only endpoints with a status of CONNECTED.

* fields agent_hostname, endpoint_status, latest_time, _product: Outputs the final fields: hostname, status, latest activity time, and product.

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): The query is monitoring the latest activity of endpoints. It calculates the most recent activity (latest_time) for each connected endpoint (agent_hostname) by joining event data (xdr_data) with endpoint metadata (endpoints) and filtering for connected endpoints. This provides a view of the latest activity for active endpoints, useful for monitoring their status and recent events.

* Why not the other options?

* B. Identifying endpoints that have disconnected from the network: The query filters for endpoint_status = ENUM.CONNECTED, so it only includes connected endpoints, not disconnected ones.

* C. Monitoring the latest activity of connected firewall endpoints: The query does not filter for firewall endpoints (e.g., using endpoint_type or _product to specify firewalls). It applies to all connected endpoints, not just firewalls.

* D. Checking for endpoints with outdated agent versions: The query does not retrieve or compare agent version information (e.g., agent_version field); it focuses on the latest activity time.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains XQL queries: "Queries using comp latest and joins with the endpoints dataset can monitor the latest activity of connected endpoints by calculating the most recent event timestamps" (paraphrased from the XQL Reference Guide). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers XQL for monitoring, stating that "combining xdr_data and endpoints datasets with a latest computation monitors recent endpoint activity" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing XQL queries for monitoring.

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>

NEW QUESTION # 35

What should be configured in Cortex XDR to integrate asset data from Microsoft Azure for better visibility and incident

investigation?

- A. Cloud Inventory
- B. Cloud Identity Engine
- C. Azure Network Watcher
- D. Microsoft 365

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cortex XDR supports integration with cloud platforms like Microsoft Azure to ingest asset data, improving visibility into cloud-based assets and enhancing incident investigation by correlating cloud events with endpoint and network data. The Cloud Inventory feature in Cortex XDR is designed to collect and manage asset data from cloud providers, including Azure, providing details such as virtual machines, storage accounts, and network configurations.

* Correct Answer Analysis (C): Cloud Inventory should be configured to integrate asset data from Microsoft Azure. This feature allows Cortex XDR to pull in metadata about Azure assets, such as compute instances, networking resources, and configurations, enabling better visibility and correlation during incident investigations. Administrators configure Cloud Inventory by connecting to Azure via API credentials (e.g., using an Azure service principal) to sync asset data into Cortex XDR.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Azure Network Watcher: Azure Network Watcher is a Microsoft Azure service for monitoring and diagnosing network issues, but it is not directly integrated with Cortex XDR for asset data ingestion.

* B. Cloud Identity Engine: The Cloud Identity Engine integrates with identity providers (e.g., Azure AD) to sync user and group data for identity-based threat detection, not for general asset data like VMs or storage.

* D. Microsoft 365: Microsoft 365 integration in Cortex XDR is for ingesting email and productivity suite data (e.g., from Exchange or Teams), not for Azure asset data.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains cloud integrations: "Cloud Inventory integrates with Microsoft Azure to collect asset data, enhancing visibility and incident investigation by providing details on cloud resources" (paraphrased from the Cloud Inventory section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers cloud data integration, stating that "Cloud Inventory connects to Azure to ingest asset metadata for improved visibility" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Cloud Inventory setup.

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 # 36

After deploying Cortex XDR agents to a large group of endpoints, some of the endpoints have a partially protected status. In which two places can insights into what is contributing to this status be located? (Choose two.)

- A. All Endpoints page
- B. Management Audit Logs
- C. Asset Inventory
- D. XQL query of the endpoints dataset

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, a partially protected status for an endpoint indicates that some agent components or protection modules (e.g., malware protection, exploit prevention) are not fully operational, possibly due to compatibility issues, missing prerequisites, or configuration errors. To troubleshoot this status, engineers need to identify the specific components or issues affecting the endpoint, which can be done by examining detailed endpoint data and status information.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B, C):

* B. XQL query of the endpoints dataset: An XQL (XDR Query Language) query against the endpoints dataset (e.g., dataset = endpoints | filter endpoint_status =

"PARTIALLY_PROTECTED" | fields endpoint_name, protection_status_details) provides detailed insights into the reasons for the partially protected status. The endpoints dataset includes fields like protection_status_details, which specify which modules are not functioning and why.

* C. All Endpoints page: The All Endpoints page in the Cortex XDR console displays a list of all endpoints with their statuses, including those that are partially protected. Clicking into an endpoint's details reveals specific information about the protection status, such as which modules are disabled or encountering issues, helping identify the cause of the status.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Management Audit Logs: Management Audit Logs track administrative actions (e.g., policy changes, agent installations), but they do not provide detailed insights into the endpoint's protection status or the reasons for partial protection.

* D. Asset Inventory: Asset Inventory provides an overview of assets (e.g., hardware, software) but does not specifically detail the protection status of Cortex XDR agents or the reasons for partial protection.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains troubleshooting partially protected endpoints: "Use the All Endpoints page to view detailed protection status, and run an XQL query against the endpoints dataset to identify specific issues contributing to a partially protected status" (paraphrased from the Endpoint Management section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers endpoint troubleshooting, stating that "the All Endpoints page and XQL queries of the endpoints dataset provide insights into partial protection issues" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing endpoint status investigation.

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 # 37

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