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Palo Alto Networks Network Security Architect Sample Questions (Q44-Q49):

NEW QUESTION # 44

An organization has a directive to adopt a Zero Trust framework focused on using identity and role-based access groups, device security and content inspection across all Security policies. To achieve this goal, an Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) was purchased, including Advanced Threat Prevention, IoT Security, and GlobalProtect.

The current security architecture uses Panorama to manage 60 NGFWs - a mix of PA-3240, PA-1410, and PA-440. Sites with PA-3240s host private application resources in the trust data center zone All sites have an untrust zone for internet access and a users zone for managed and unmanaged endpoint devices. A transit mesh zone exists to establish site-to-site connectivity through PAN-OS SD-WAN.

Privately hosted applications include web servers, SMB and NFS file servers and hosted Active Directory. The organization is in the process of adopting group mapping restrictions to these private applications, with daily additions of groups. It is also planning to build AI applications to assist the data teams with complex queries that will be hosted in the large offices containing data centers and is exploring hosting in the public cloud.

The organization uses on-premises Exchange, Dropbox, Zoom, and ChatGPT. There are a number of shadow SaaS applications that require further investigation. Users have been using Google Drive to upload confidential files within the organization by using their personal logins.

IoT devices on the network are associated on their own VLAN on the users zone. Using Device Security, all IoT devices have been categorized by asset profiles with medium or high confidence, policy sets imported into Panorama, and a default deny applied to the IoT networks.

The organization has rolled out SSL decryption and is using URL categorization for the majority of content filtering. Malicious categories, unknown and high-risk websites are blocked, with the remainder of sites set to alert.

Which deployment method should the architect suggest for enabling User-ID based rules, restricting or allowing access as close to the source as possible, while minimizing operational overhead?

- A. Panorama device template with a group mapping profile with group allow list to reduce group update time on the firewalls
- B. Panorama device template for data redistribution, referencing primary and secondary Panoramas as the User-ID agent
- C. Cloud Identity agent to sync user groups to the Cloud Identity Engine and the firewalls
- D. Cloud Directory via SCIM to sync user groups to the Cloud Identity Engine and the firewalls

Answer: C

Explanation:

The Cloud Identity Engine uses a lightweight Cloud Identity Agent for on-premises directories, while SCIM is for cloud-native identity providers. In this environment, the organization hosts Active Directory on-premises and needs scalable, centralized user and group synchronization for many firewalls with low operational overhead, so deploying the Cloud Identity Agent to sync user groups to the Cloud Identity Engine and the firewalls is the best fit.

NEW QUESTION # 45

A large organization uses Palo Alto Networks VM-Series firewalls deployed across multiple availability zones in Microsoft Azure. These are managed by an Azure Virtual Machine Scale Set (VMSS) and integrated with an Azure Load Balancer for high availability (HA) traffic inspection within a Transit VNet.

The security team needs to perform a critical PAN-OS software upgrade across the entire fleet of firewalls with the requirement of minimal application downtime.

Following Palo Alto Networks best practices for highly available cloud deployments, what is the recommended approach for safely performing this software upgrade with the least downtime?

- A. Provision a new, parallel VMSS with the new PAN-OS version, validate it, and redirect traffic from the old VMSS to the new one
- B. Configure Azure Load Balancer probes to handle the health check failover during upgrades
- C. Use Azure Update Manager to push the PAN-OS upgrade package directly to all firewall instances simultaneously during a scheduled maintenance window
- D. Update the image in an Azure VMSS and then initiate an upgrade of the instances

Answer: A

Explanation:

The safest approach with the least downtime is a blue/green-style replacement: build a new parallel VMSS running the target PAN-OS version, validate it fully, and then redirect traffic from the old scale set to the new one. Palo Alto Networks documents creating custom Azure VM-Series images for the exact PAN-OS version you want to deploy, which supports standing up a separate validated fleet rather than in-place upgrading the active inspection path. Azure health probes help determine instance health during updates, but they do not remove the risk of service disruption from upgrading the live fleet in place.

NEW QUESTION # 46

A global manufacturing organization with 50,000 employees spanning 35 countries designs advanced industrial equipment and owns significant intellectual property. The organization operates in a highly competitive market where protecting trade secrets is critical to maintaining market advantage.

Over the past 18 months, the CISO discovered that employees across the organization have adopted hundreds of GenAI applications to improve productivity. Engineers use AI coding assistants to accelerate product development sales teams use AI tools to generate proposals, and customer service representatives use chatbots to draft responses. While this adoption has driven innovation, it has also created significant security risks.

A security audit reveals sensitive CAD files uploaded to image-generation services, proprietary source code shared with public coding assistants, and confidential customer information used in prompts. The audit identifies over 300 different GenAI applications

in use, most of which had not been formally reviewed or approved.

The customer service department has also been developing internal AI applications, including a customer service copilot built on a cloud large language model (LLM) platform, an internal knowledge management assistant, and a code review tool. These internal applications access sensitive databases, customer records and internal APIs - creating additional security concerns about exploitation or misuse.

The organization has a distributed workforce in which 60% of employees work remotely or in hybrid arrangements, accessing corporate resources and AI applications from various locations using managed and unmanaged devices. Existing network security infrastructure lacks AI-specific security capabilities.

Organization leadership wants to enable AI-driven innovation while implementing comprehensive security controls. The CISO has been tasked with developing an organization-wide GenAI governance program that protects sensitive assets without hindering productivity. The program must address both external AI applications employees are using and internal AI applications being developed by IT.

Which enforcement solution can the CISO recommend to control GenAI data exfiltration?

- A. Implement Prisma AIRS
- **B. Implement AI Access Security**
- C. Configure User-ID and App-ID on the perimeter NGFWs
- D. Configure Prisma AIRS to monitor for data exfiltration within the AI application prompts

Answer: B

Explanation:

AI Access Security is designed to control and govern user interactions with external GenAI applications, including inspecting prompts and responses and applying DLP policies to prevent sensitive data exfiltration. It provides inline enforcement for SaaS-based AI usage across distributed users, which directly addresses the risk of confidential data being exposed through third-party GenAI tools.

NEW QUESTION # 47

A global organization is modernizing its data center and private cloud infrastructure. The environment consists of:

- A Nutanix AHV cluster hosting critical east-west application workloads
- A VMware ESXi cluster with multi-socket hosts, supporting high-throughput workloads (>10 Gbps)
- A new pair of PA-5450 firewalls to secure the perimeter and handle encrypted traffic inspection at scale
- Strict performance service-level agreements (SLAs) for both north-south and east-west flows, with heavy reliance on TLS 1.3 and IPSec
- A Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) environment on KVM to provide high-performance security services to maximize packet throughput and minimize latency. The chief architect is tasked with ensuring that the firewall design avoids hypervisor contention, optimizes non-uniform memory access (NUMA) and uses hardware features for encrypted traffic.

VM-Series on Nutanix AHV - Resource Allocation

- Because the Nutanix cluster is already heavily used, the architect's main concern is preventing performance degradation of the virtual firewall. Thin provisioning or ballooning could introduce latency and unpredictability which is unacceptable for a security-sensitive workload.

VM-Series on VMware ESXi - NUMA and vCPU Placement

- In the VMware ESXi environment, the architect is deploying VM-Series for workloads pushing >10 Gbps. Assigning vCPUs across NUMA nodes or oversubscribing cores would create latency due to cross-socket memory access and scheduling delays. Similarly, dedicating logical hypethreads does not provide the deterministic data plane performance required.

Operational Integration and High Availability

- With performance guaranteed by correct hypervisor and hardware provisioning, the architect also considers high availability (HA). VM-Series pairs are deployed in active/passive HA across Nutanix and VMware clusters, while PA-5450s form the data center's north-south secure perimeter deployment. This ensures resilience without introducing unnecessary east-west inspection bottlenecks.
- The recommendation must be a scalable, high-performance firewall deployment aligned with enterprise SLAs and the CISO's encrypted traffic concerns.

Which PAN-OS feature will meet the CISO's need for north-south traffic inspection?

- A. High-density DAC/QSFP ports for flexible network connectivity
- B. Dual redundant, hot-swappable power supplies for HA
- C. Dedicated out-of-band management port for separating management and data traffic
- **D. Dedicated hardware crypto engines for offloading SSL/TLS decryption and IPSec processing**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Dedicated hardware crypto engines on the PA-5450 offload SSL/TLS decryption and IPSec processing from the main CPU, enabling high-performance inspection of encrypted north-south traffic. This ensures the firewall can meet strict SLAs while handling heavy TLS 1.3 and IPSec workloads efficiently.

NEW QUESTION # 48

A company experiences lateral movement attacks within the internal network. Which feature helps mitigate this risk?

- A. Static routes
- **B. Internal segmentation with NGFW**
- C. NAT rules
- D. QoS policies

Answer: B

Explanation:

Internal segmentation using NGFWs enforces security policies between internal zones, limiting lateral movement. This approach applies inspection and access control within the network, unlike NAT or routing, which do not provide security enforcement.

NEW QUESTION # 49

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