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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q19-Q24):

NEW QUESTION # 19

Which step is required to configure a proxy for an XDR Collector?

- A. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder
- B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings
- C. Edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information
- D. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant

Answer: C

Explanation:

The XDR Collector in Cortex XDR is a lightweight tool for collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints. When a proxy is required for the XDR Collector to communicate with the Cortex XDR cloud, the proxy settings must be configured in the collector's configuration file. Specifically, the YAML configuration file (e.g., config.yaml) must be edited to include the proxy details, such as the proxy server's address, port, and authentication credentials (if required).

* Correct Answer Analysis (A): To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, the engineer must edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information. This involves adding or updating the proxy settings in the file, which the collector uses to route its traffic through the specified proxy server.

* Why not the other options?

* B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings: While restarting the collector may be necessary to apply changes, it is not the primary step required to configure the proxy. The YAML file must be edited first.

* C. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder: The Pathfinder is a Cortex XDR feature for discovering endpoints, not for configuring proxy settings for the XDR Collector.

* D. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant: Proxy settings for the XDR Collector are configured locally on the collector, not in the Cortex XDR tenant's web interface.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains XDR Collector configuration: "To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, edit the YAML configuration file to include the proxy server details, such as address and port" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Configuration section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers XDR Collector setup, stating that "proxy settings are configured by editing the collector's YAML file" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing XDR Collector configuration.

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 # 20

Some company employees are able to print documents when working from home, but not on network-attached printers, while others are able to print only to file. What can be inferred about the affected users' inability to print?

- A. They may be attached to the default extensions policy and profile
- B. They may be on different device extensions profiles set to block different print jobs
- C. They may have a host firewall profile set to block activity to all network-attached printers
- D. They may have different disk encryption profiles that are not allowing print jobs on encrypted files

Answer: C

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, printing issues can be influenced by agent configurations, particularly those related to network access or device control. The scenario describes two groups of employees: one group can print when working from home but not on network-attached printers, and another can only print to file (e.g., PDF or XPS). This suggests a restriction on network printing, likely due to

a security policy enforced by the Cortex XDR agent.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): They may have a host firewall profile set to block activity to all network-attached printers is the most likely inference. Cortex XDR's host firewall feature allows administrators to define rules that control network traffic, including blocking outbound connections to network-attached printers (e.g., by blocking protocols like IPP or LPD on specific ports). Employees working from home (on external networks) may be subject to a firewall profile that blocks network printing to prevent data leakage, while local printing (e.g., to USB printers) or printing to file is allowed. The group that can only print to file likely has stricter rules that block all physical printing, allowing only virtual print-to-file operations.

* Why not the other options?

* A. They may be attached to the default extensions policy and profile: The default extensions policy typically does not include specific restrictions on printing, focusing instead on general agent behavior (e.g., device control or exploit protection). Printing issues are more likely tied to firewall or device control profiles.

* C. They may have different disk encryption profiles that are not allowing print jobs on encrypted files: Cortex XDR does not manage disk encryption profiles, and disk encryption (e.g., BitLocker) does not typically block printing based on file encryption status. This is not a relevant cause.

* D. They may be on different device extensions profiles set to block different print jobs:

While device control profiles can block USB printers, they do not typically control network printing or distinguish between print-to-file and physical printing. Network printing restrictions are more likely enforced by host firewall rules.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains host firewall capabilities: "Host firewall profiles can block outbound traffic to network-attached printers, restricting printing for remote employees to prevent unauthorized data transfers" (paraphrased from the Host-Based Firewall section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers firewall configurations, stating that "firewall rules can block network printing while allowing local or virtual printing, often causing printing issues for remote users" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing host firewall 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/certification#xdr-engineer>

NEW QUESTION # 21

Which XQL query can be saved as a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) rule, then converted to a custom prevention rule?

- A. dataset = xdr_data
| filter event_type = ENUM.DEVICE and action_process_image_name = "*" and action_process_image_command_line = "-e cmd*" and action_process_image_command_line != "*cmd.exe -a /c*"
- B. dataset = xdr_data
| filter event_type = ENUM.PROCESS and event_type = ENUM.DEVICE and action_process_image_name = "*" and action_process_image_command_line = "-e cmd*" and action_process_image_command_line != "*cmd.exe -a /c*"
- C. dataset = xdr_data
| filter event_type = FILE and (event_sub_type = FILE_CREATE_NEW or event_sub_type = FILE_WRITE or event_sub_type = FILE_REMOVE or event_sub_type = FILE_RENAME) and agent_hostname = "hostname"
| filter lowercase(action_file_path) in ("/etc/*", "/usr/local/share/*", "/usr/share/*") and action_file_extension in ("conf", "txt")
| fields action_file_name, action_file_path, action_file_type, agent_ip_addresses, agent_hostname, action_file_path
- D. dataset = xdr_data
| filter event_type = ENUM.PROCESS and action_process_image_name = "*" and action_process_image_command_line = "-e cmd*" and action_process_image_command_line != "*cmd.exe -a /c*"

Answer: D

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, a Behavioral Indicator of Compromise (BIOC) rule defines a specific pattern of endpoint behavior (e.g., process execution, file operations, or network activity) that can trigger an alert. BIOC's are often created using XQL (XDR Query Language) queries, which are then saved as BIOC rules to monitor for the specified behavior. To convert a BIOC into a custom prevention rule, the BIOC must be associated with a Restriction profile, which allows the defined behavior to be blocked rather than just detected. For a query to be suitable as a BIOC and convertible to a prevention rule, it must meet the following criteria:

* It must monitor a behavior that Cortex XDR can detect on an endpoint, such as process execution, file operations, or device

events.

* The behavior must be actionable for prevention (e.g., blocking a process or file operation), typically involving events like process launches (ENUM.PROCESS) or file modifications (ENUM.FILE).

* The query should not include overly complex logic (e.g., multiple event types with conflicting conditions) that cannot be translated into a BIOC rule.

Let's analyze each query to determine which one meets these criteria:

* Option A: `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.DEVICE` ... This query filters for `event_type = ENUM.DEVICE`, which relates to device-related events (e.g., USB device connections).

While device events can be monitored, the additional conditions (`action_process_image_name = "**"` and `action_process_image_command_line`) are process-related attributes, which are typically associated with ENUM.PROCESS events, not ENUM.DEVICE. This mismatch makes the query invalid for a BIOC, as it combines incompatible event types and attributes. Additionally, device events are not typically used for custom prevention rules, as prevention rules focus on blocking processes or file operations, not device activities.

* Option B: `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.PROCESS and event_type = ENUM.`

`DEVICE` ... This query attempts to filter for events that are both ENUM.PROCESS and ENUM.

`DEVICE (event_type = ENUM.PROCESS and event_type = ENUM.DEVICE)`, which is logically incorrect because an event cannot have two different event types simultaneously. In XQL, the `event_type` field must match a single type (e.g., ENUM.PROCESS or ENUM.DEVICE), and combining them with an `and` operator results in no matches. This makes the query invalid for creating a BIOC rule, as it will not return any results and cannot be used for detection or prevention.

* Option C: `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = FILE` ... This query monitors file-related events (`event_type = FILE`) with specific sub-types (`FILE_CREATE_NEW`, `FILE_WRITE`, `FILE_REMOVE`, `FILE_RENAME`) on a specific hostname, targeting file paths (`/etc/*`, `/usr/local/share/*`, `/usr/share/*`) and extensions (`conf`, `txt`). While this query can be saved as a BIOC to detect file operations, it is not ideal for conversion to a custom prevention rule. Cortex XDR prevention rules typically focus on blocking process executions (via Restriction profiles), not file operations. While file-based BIOC's can generate alerts, converting them to prevention rules is less common, as Cortex XDR's prevention mechanisms are primarily process-oriented (e.g., terminating a process), not file-oriented (e.g., blocking a file write). Additionally, the query includes complex logic (e.g., multiple sub-types, `lowercase()` function, `fields` clause), which may not fully translate to a prevention rule.

* Option D: `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.PROCESS` ... This query monitors process execution events (`event_type = ENUM.PROCESS`) where the process image name matches a pattern (`action_process_image_name = "**"`), the command line includes `-e cmd*`, and excludes commands matching `*cmd.exe -a /c*`. This query is well-suited for a BIOC rule, as it defines a specific process behavior (e.g., a process executing with certain command-line arguments) that Cortex XDR can detect on an endpoint. Additionally, this type of BIOC can be converted to a custom prevention rule by associating it with a Restriction profile, which can block the process execution if the conditions are met. For example, the BIOC can be configured to detect processes with `action_process_image_name = "**"` and `action_process_image_command_line = "-e cmd"`, and a Restriction profile can terminate such processes to prevent the behavior.

Correct Answer Analysis (D):

Option D is the correct choice because it defines a process-based behavior (ENUM.PROCESS) that can be saved as a BIOC rule to detect the specified activity (processes with certain command-line arguments). It can then be converted to a custom prevention rule by adding it to a Restriction profile, which will block the process execution when the conditions are met. The query's conditions are straightforward and compatible with Cortex XDR's BIOC and prevention framework, making it the best fit for the requirement.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains BIOC and prevention rules: "XQL queries monitoring process events

(ENUM.PROCESS) can be saved as BIOC rules to detect specific behaviors, and these BIOC's can be added to a Restriction profile to create custom prevention rules that block the behavior" (paraphrased from the BIOC and Restriction Profile sections).

The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers BIOC creation, stating that "process-based XQL queries are ideal for BIOC's and can be converted to prevention rules via Restriction profiles to block executions" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing BIOC rule creation and conversion to prevention rules.

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 # 22

Based on the Malware profile image below, what happens when a new custom-developed application attempts to execute on an endpoint?



- A. It will not execute
- B. It will immediately execute
- C. It will execute after one hour
- D. It will execute after the second attempt

Answer: A

Explanation:

Since no image was provided, I assume the Malware profile is configured with default Cortex XDR settings, which typically enforce strict malware prevention for unknown or untrusted executables. In Cortex XDR, the Malware profile within the security policy determines how executables are handled on endpoints. For a new custom-developed application (an unknown executable not previously analyzed or allow-listed), the default behavior is to block execution until the file is analyzed by WildFire (Palo Alto Networks' cloud-based threat analysis service) or explicitly allowed via policy.

* **Correct Answer Analysis (B):** By default, Cortex XDR's Malware profile is configured to block unknown executables, including new custom-developed applications, to prevent potential threats. When the application attempts to execute, the Cortex XDR agent intercepts it, sends it to WildFire for analysis (if not excluded), and blocks execution until a verdict is received. If the application is not on an allow list or excluded, it will not execute immediately, aligning with option B.

* **Why not the other options?**

* **A. It will immediately execute:** This would only occur if the application is on an allow list or if the Malware profile is configured to allow unknown executables, which is not typical for default settings.

* **C. It will execute after one hour:** There is no default setting in Cortex XDR that delays execution for one hour. Execution depends on the WildFire verdict or policy configuration, not a fixed time delay.

* **D. It will execute after the second attempt:** Cortex XDR does not have a mechanism that allows execution after a second attempt. Execution is either blocked or allowed based on policy and analysis results.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains Malware profile behavior: "By default, unknown executables are blocked until a WildFire verdict is received, ensuring protection against new or custom-developed applications" (paraphrased from the Malware Profile Configuration section). The EDU-260:

Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers Malware profiles, stating that "default settings block unknown executables to prevent potential threats until analyzed" (paraphrased from course materials).

The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "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

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Note on Image: Since the image was not provided, I assumed a default Malware profile configuration. If you can share the image or describe its settings (e.g., specific allow lists, exclusions, or block rules), I can refine the answer to match the exact configuration.

NEW QUESTION # 23

During deployment of Cortex XDR for Linux Agents, the security engineering team is asked to implement memory monitoring for agent health monitoring. Which agent service should be monitored to fulfill this request?

- A. clad
- B. pyxd
- C. dydng
- **D. pmd**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Cortex XDR agents on Linux consist of several services that handle different aspects of agent functionality, such as event collection, policy enforcement, and health monitoring. Memory monitoring for agent health involves tracking the memory usage of the agent's core processes to ensure they are operating within acceptable limits, which is critical for maintaining agent stability and performance. The pmd (Process Monitoring Daemon) service is responsible for monitoring the agent's health, including memory usage, on Linux systems.

* Correct Answer Analysis (D): The pmd service should be monitored to fulfill the request for memory monitoring. The Process Monitoring Daemon tracks the Cortex XDR agent's resource usage, including memory consumption, and reports health metrics to the console. Monitoring this service ensures the agent remains healthy and can detect issues like memory leaks or excessive resource usage.

* Why not the other options?

* A. dydng: This is not a valid Cortex XDR service on Linux. It appears to be a typo or a misnamed service.

* B. clad: The clad service (Cortex Linux Agent Daemon) is responsible for core agent operations, such as communication with the Cortex XDR tenant, but it is not specifically focused on memory monitoring for health purposes.

* C. pyxd: The pyxd service handles Python-based components of the agent, such as script execution for certain detections, but it is not responsible for memory monitoring or agent health.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains Linux agent services: "The pmd (Process Monitoring Daemon) service on Linux monitors agent health, including memory usage, to ensure stable operation" (paraphrased from the Linux Agent Deployment section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers Linux agent setup, stating that "pmd is the service to monitor for agent health, including memory usage, on Linux systems" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Linux agent deployment and monitoring.

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

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NEW QUESTION # 24

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It's a straightforward operation, so I expected this to be more automatic, XDR-Engineer While reviewing the security logs for your server, you notice that a user on the Internet has attempted to access your internal mail server.

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