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Exam : PSE-Strata-Pro-24

Title : Palo Alto Networks Systems
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1 / 10

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Palo Alto Networks PSE-Strata-Pro-24 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Value and Competitive Differentiators: This section of the exam measures the skills of Technical Business Value Analysts and focuses on identifying the value proposition of Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs). Candidates will assess the technical business benefits of tools like Panorama and SCM. They will also recognize customer-relevant topics and align them with Palo Alto Networks' best solutions. Additionally, understanding Strata's unique differentiators is a key component of this domain.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture and Planning: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Architects and emphasizes understanding customer requirements and designing suitable deployment architectures. Candidates must explain Palo Alto Networks' platform networking capabilities in detail and evaluate their suitability for various environments. Handling aspects like system sizing and fine-tuning is also a critical skill assessed in this domain.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment and Evaluation: This section of the exam measures the skills of Deployment Engineers and focuses on identifying the capabilities of Palo Alto Networks NGFWs. Candidates will evaluate features that protect against both known and unknown threats. They will also explain identity management from a deployment perspective and describe the proof of value (PoV) process, which includes assessing the effectiveness of NGFW solutions.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Security Strategy and Best Practices: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Strategy Specialists and highlights the importance of the Palo Alto Networks five-step Zero Trust methodology. Candidates must understand how to approach and apply the Zero Trust model effectively while emphasizing best practices to ensure robust network security.

Palo Alto Networks Systems Engineer Professional - Hardware Firewall Sample Questions (Q54-Q59):

NEW QUESTION # 54

While responding to a customer RFP, a systems engineer (SE) is presented the question, "How do PANW firewalls enable the mapping of transactions as part of Zero Trust principles?" Which two narratives can the SE use to respond to the question? (Choose two.)

- A. Emphasize Zero Trust as an ideology, and that the customer decides how to align to Zero Trust principles.
- B. Reinforce the importance of decryption and security protections to verify traffic that is not malicious.
- C. Explain how the NGFW can be placed in the network so it has visibility into every traffic flow.
- D. Describe how Palo Alto Networks NGFW Security policies are built by using users, applications, and data objects.

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

The question asks how Palo Alto Networks (PANW) Strata Hardware Firewalls enable the mapping of transactions as part of Zero Trust principles, requiring a systems engineer (SE) to provide two narratives for a customer RFP response. Zero Trust is a security model that assumes no trust by default, requiring continuous verification of all transactions, users, and devices-inside and outside the network. The Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW), part of the Strata portfolio, supports this through its advanced visibility, decryption, and policy enforcement capabilities. Below is a detailed explanation of why options B and D are the correct narratives, verified against official Palo Alto Networks documentation.

Step 1: Understanding Zero Trust and Transaction Mapping in PAN-OS

Zero Trust principles, as defined by frameworks like NIST SP 800-207, emphasize identifying and verifying every transaction (e.g.,

network flows, application requests) based on context such as user identity, application, and data. For Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, "mapping of transactions" refers to the ability to identify, classify, and control network traffic with granular detail, enabling verification and enforcement aligned with Zero Trust.

The PAN-OS operating system achieves this through:

- * App-ID: Identifies applications regardless of port or protocol.
- * User-ID: Maps IP addresses to user identities.
- * Content-ID: Inspects and protects content, including decryption for visibility.
- * Security Policies: Enforces rules based on these mappings.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Zero Trust Architecture Guide

"Zero Trust requires visibility into all traffic, verification of trust, and enforcement of least privilege policies- capabilities delivered by PAN-OS through App-ID, User-ID, and Content-ID." Step 2: Evaluating the Narratives Let's analyze each option to determine which two best explain how PANW firewalls enable transaction mapping for Zero Trust:

Option A: Emphasize Zero Trust as an ideology, and that the customer decides how to align to Zero Trust principles.

Analysis: While Zero Trust is indeed a guiding philosophy, this narrative is vague and does not directly address how the firewall enables transaction mapping. It shifts responsibility to the customer without highlighting specific PAN-OS capabilities, making it less relevant to the question.

Conclusion: Not a suitable answer.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Zero Trust Overview - "Zero Trust is a strategy, but Palo Alto Networks provides the tools to implement it." Option B: Reinforce the importance of decryption and security protections to verify traffic that is not malicious.

Analysis: Decryption is a cornerstone of Zero Trust because encrypted traffic (e.g., TLS/SSL) can hide malicious activity. PAN-OS NGFWs use SSL Forward Proxy and SSL Inbound Inspection to decrypt traffic, allowing full visibility into transactions. Once decrypted, App-ID and Content-ID classify the traffic and apply security protections (e.g., threat prevention, URL filtering) to verify it aligns with policy and is not malicious. This directly enables transaction mapping by ensuring all flows are identified and verified.

Step-by-Step Explanation:

Enable decryption under Policies > Decryption to inspect encrypted traffic.

App-ID identifies the application (e.g., HTTPS-based apps).

Content-ID scans for threats, ensuring the transaction is safe.

Logs (e.g., Traffic, Threat) map the transaction details (source, destination, app, user).

Conclusion: Correct answer-directly ties to transaction mapping via visibility and verification.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Decryption Overview

"Decryption enables visibility into encrypted traffic, a requirement for Zero Trust, allowing the firewall to apply security policies and log transaction details." Option C: Explain how the NGFW can be placed in the network so it has visibility into every traffic flow.

Analysis: Network placement (e.g., inline deployment) is important for visibility, but it's a deployment strategy, not a capability of the firewall itself. While visibility is a prerequisite for Zero Trust, this narrative does not explain how the firewall maps transactions (e.g., via App-ID or User-ID). It's too indirect to fully address the question.

Conclusion: Not the strongest answer.

Reference: PAN-OS Deployment Guide - "Inline placement ensures visibility, but mapping requires App-ID and User-ID." Option D: Describe how Palo Alto Networks NGFW Security policies are built by using users, applications, and data objects.

Analysis: This narrative highlights the core PAN-OS features-User-ID, App-ID, and Content-ID-that enable transaction mapping. Security policies in PAN-OS are defined using:

Users: Mapped via User-ID from directory services (e.g., AD).

Applications: Identified by App-ID, even within encrypted flows.

Data Objects: Controlled via Content-ID (e.g., file types, sensitive data). These policies log and enforce transactions, providing the granular context required for Zero Trust (e.g., "Allow user Alice to access Salesforce, but block file uploads").

Step-by-Step Explanation:

Configure User-ID (Device > User Identification) to map IPs to users.

Use App-ID in policies (Policies > Security) to identify apps.

Define data objects (e.g., Objects > Custom Objects > Data Patterns) for content control.

Logs (e.g., Monitor > Logs > Traffic) record transaction mappings.

Conclusion: Correct answer-directly explains transaction mapping via policy enforcement.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Security Policy

"Security policies leverage User-ID, App-ID, and Content-ID to map and control transactions, aligning with Zero Trust least privilege." Step 3: Why B and D Are the Best Choices B: Focuses on decryption and verification, ensuring all transactions (even encrypted ones) are mapped and validated, a critical Zero Trust requirement.

D: Highlights the policy framework that maps transactions to users, apps, and data, enabling granular control and logging-core to Zero Trust enforcement. Together, they cover visibility (B) and enforcement (D), fully addressing how PANW firewalls implement transaction mapping for Zero Trust.

Step 4: Sample RFP Response Narratives

B Narrative: "Palo Alto Networks NGFWs enable Zero Trust by decrypting traffic to provide full visibility into transactions. Using SSL decryption and integrated security protections like threat prevention, the firewall verifies that traffic is not malicious, mapping every flow to ensure compliance with Zero Trust principles." D Narrative: "Our NGFWs map transactions through security policies

built on users, applications, and data objects. By leveraging User-ID, App-ID, and Content-ID, the firewall identifies who is accessing what application and what data is involved, enforcing least privilege and logging every transaction for Zero Trust alignment." Conclusion The two narratives that best explain how PANW Strata Hardware Firewalls enable transaction mapping for Zero Trust are B and D. These are grounded in PAN-OS capabilities-decryption for visibility and policy- based mapping-verified by Palo Alto Networks documentation up to March 08, 2025, including PAN-OS 11.1 and the Zero Trust Architecture Guide.

NEW QUESTION # 55

A customer sees unusually high DNS traffic to an unfamiliar IP address. Which Palo Alto Networks Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) subscription should be enabled to further inspect this traffic?

- A. Advanced WildFire
- **B. Advanced DNS Security**
- C. Advanced Threat Prevention
- D. Advanced URL Filtering

Answer: B

Explanation:

The appropriate CDSS subscription to inspect and mitigate suspicious DNS traffic is Advanced DNS Security

. Here's why:

* Advanced DNS Security protects against DNS-based threats, including domain generation algorithms (DGA), DNS tunneling (often used for data exfiltration), and malicious domains used in attacks. It leverages machine learning to detect and block DNS traffic associated with command-and-control servers or other malicious activities. In this case, unusually high DNS traffic to an unfamiliar IP address is likely indicative of a DNS-based attack or malware activity, making this the most suitable service.

* Option A: Advanced Threat Prevention (ATP) focuses on identifying and blocking sophisticated threats in network traffic, such as exploits and evasive malware. While it complements DNS Security, it does not specialize in analyzing DNS-specific traffic patterns.

* Option B: Advanced WildFire focuses on detecting and preventing file-based threats, such as malware delivered via email attachments or web downloads. It does not provide specific protection for DNS- related anomalies.

* Option C: Advanced URL Filtering is designed to prevent access to malicious or inappropriate websites based on their URLs.

While DNS may be indirectly involved in resolving malicious websites, this service does not directly inspect DNS traffic patterns for threats.

* Option D (Correct): Advanced DNS Security specifically addresses DNS-based threats. By enabling this service, the customer can detect and block DNS queries to malicious domains and investigate anomalous DNS behavior like the high traffic observed in this scenario.

How to Enable Advanced DNS Security:

* Ensure the firewall has a valid Advanced DNS Security license.

* Navigate to Objects > Security Profiles > Anti-Spyware.

* Enable DNS Security under the "DNS Signatures" section.

* Apply the Anti-Spyware profile to the relevant Security Policy to enforce DNS Security.

References:

Palo Alto Networks Advanced DNS Security Overview: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/dns-security> Best Practices for DNS Security Configuration.

NEW QUESTION # 56

A prospective customer has provided specific requirements for an upcoming firewall purchase, including the need to process a minimum of 200,000 connections per second while maintaining at least 15 Gbps of throughput with App-ID and Threat Prevention enabled.

What should a systems engineer do to determine the most suitable firewall for the customer?

- A. Download the firewall sizing tool from the Palo Alto Networks support portal.
- B. Upload 30 days of customer firewall traffic logs to the firewall calculator tool on the Palo Alto Networks support portal.
- **C. Use the product selector tool available on the Palo Alto Networks website.**
- D. Use the online product configurator tool provided on the Palo Alto Networks website.

Answer: C

NEW QUESTION # 57

Which technique is an example of a DNS attack that Advanced DNS Security can detect and prevent?

- A. DNS domain rebranding
- B. Polymorphic DNS
- **C. High entropy DNS domains**
- D. CNAME cloaking

Answer: C

Explanation:

Advanced DNS Security on Palo Alto Networks firewalls is designed to identify and prevent a wide range of DNS-based attacks. Among the listed options, "High entropy DNS domains" is a specific example of a DNS attack that Advanced DNS Security can detect and block.

* Why "High entropy DNS domains" (Correct Answer A)? High entropy DNS domains are often used in attacks where randomly generated domain names (e.g., gfh34ksdu.com) are utilized by malware or bots to evade detection. This is a hallmark of Domain Generation Algorithms (DGA)-based attacks.

Palo Alto Networks firewalls with Advanced DNS Security use machine learning to detect such domains by analyzing the entropy (randomness) of DNS queries. High entropy values indicate the likelihood of a dynamically generated or malicious domain.

* Why not "Polymorphic DNS" (Option B)? While polymorphic DNS refers to techniques that dynamically change DNS records to avoid detection, it is not specifically identified as an attack type mitigated by Advanced DNS Security in Palo Alto Networks documentation. The firewall focuses more on the behavior of DNS queries, such as detecting DGA domains or anomalous DNS traffic patterns.

* Why not "CNAME cloaking" (Option C)? CNAME cloaking involves using CNAME records to redirect DNS queries to malicious or hidden domains. Although Palo Alto firewalls may detect and block malicious DNS redirections, the focus of Advanced DNS Security is primarily on identifying patterns of DNS abuse like DGA domains, tunneling, or high entropy queries.

* Why not "DNS domain rebranding" (Option D)? DNS domain rebranding involves changing the domain names associated with malicious activity to evade detection. This is typically a tactic used for persistence but is not an example of a DNS attack type specifically addressed by Advanced DNS Security.

Advanced DNS Security focuses on dynamic, real-time identification of suspicious DNS patterns, such as high entropy domains, DNS tunneling, or protocol violations. High entropy DNS domains are directly tied to attack mechanisms like DGAs, making this the correct answer.

NEW QUESTION # 58

A prospective customer has provided specific requirements for an upcoming firewall purchase, including the need to process a minimum of 200,000 connections per second while maintaining at least 15 Gbps of throughput with App-ID and Threat Prevention enabled.

What should a systems engineer do to determine the most suitable firewall for the customer?

- A. Download the firewall sizing tool from the Palo Alto Networks support portal.
- B. Use the product selector tool available on the Palo Alto Networks website.
- **C. Upload 30 days of customer firewall traffic logs to the firewall calculator tool on the Palo Alto Networks support portal.**
- D. Use the online product configurator tool provided on the Palo Alto Networks website.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The prospective customer has provided precise performance requirements for their firewall purchase, and the systems engineer must recommend a suitable Palo Alto Networks Strata Hardware Firewall (e.g., PA-Series) model. The requirements include a minimum of 200,000 connections per second (CPS) and 15 Gbps of throughput with App-ID and Threat Prevention enabled. Let's evaluate the best approach to meet these needs.

g., PA-Series) model. The requirements include a minimum of 200,000 connections per second (CPS) and 15 Gbps of throughput with App-ID and Threat Prevention enabled. Let's evaluate the best approach to meet these needs.

Step 1: Understand the Requirements

* Connections per Second (CPS): 200,000 new sessions per second, indicating the firewall's ability to handle high transaction rates (e.g., web traffic, API calls).

* Throughput with App-ID and Threat Prevention: 15 Gbps, measured with application identification and threat prevention features active, reflecting real-world NGFW performance.

* Goal: Identify a PA-Series model that meets or exceeds these specs while considering the customer's actual traffic profile for optimal sizing.

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