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A Security Operations Center (SOC) using Palo Alto Networks XSOAR for incident management receives a high volume of alerts daily. An analyst is tasked with prioritizing incidents related to potential data exfiltration. Which of the following incident categorization criteria, when combined, would MOST effectively facilitate accurate prioritization for data exfiltration incidents, considering both technical indicators and business impact?

Explanation:

Both A and C are valid approaches for critical categorization. Option A directly checks for the MITRE technique tag and specific asset tags ('PCI-DSS Data', 'Internet-Facing'), which are explicit indicators of high risk in a compliance-driven environment, leading to a 'Critical' severity and a 'Compliance Breach Attempt' category. Option C leverages a pre-defined list of 'CriticalAssets' (which should encompass assets with PCI-DSS data and internet exposure) and the MITRE technique. If the 'CriticalAssets' list is accurately maintained and 'TopTier Attack' is an appropriate category for such a high-impact incident in their schema, this is also a very effective and scalable method. Option B uses less precise attributes and a slightly lower severity. Options D and E fail to address the core prioritization requirement.

Question 2: (Single Select)

A Security Operations Center (SOC) using Palo Alto Networks XSOAR for incident management receives a high volume of alerts daily. An analyst is tasked with prioritizing incidents related to potential data exfiltration. Which of the following incident categorization criteria, when combined, would MOST effectively facilitate accurate prioritization for data exfiltration incidents, considering both technical indicators and business impact?

- A: Source IP Geolocation and Destination Port. While useful, these alone may not capture the full context of data exfiltration.
- B: Threat Intelligence Feed Match (e.g., C2 IP from Unit 42) and Affected Asset Criticality (e.g., Crown Jewel Asset). This combines technical indicators with business impact for effective prioritization.
- C: Time of Day and User Department. These are primarily contextual and less indicative of immediate threat severity.
- D: Alert Volume from a specific sensor and Protocol Used. Alert volume can be misleading, and protocol alone might not signify exfiltration.
- E: File Hash Reputation (WildFire) and Endpoint OS Version. File hash is good for malware, but OS version isn't a primary exfiltration indicator.

Correct Answer: B

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Palo Alto Networks Security Operations Professional Sample Questions (Q71-Q76):

NEW QUESTION # 71

A new Cortex XSOAR user is exploring the Marketplace to find integrations for their existing security tools. They notice that some packs are labeled 'Certified,' others 'Community,' and a few 'Private.' What are the key distinctions between these pack types, particularly concerning their reliability, support, and update mechanisms within the XSOAR ecosystem?

- A. 'Certified' packs are solely for cloud-based XSOAR deployments, while 'Community' packs are for on-premise instances. 'Private' packs are deprecated content no longer actively maintained.
- B. 'Certified' packs are guaranteed to be bug-free and offer 24/7 support. 'Community' packs are user-contributed and have no official support. 'Private' packs are internal to an organization and can only be shared within their XSOAR instance.
- C. 'Certified' packs require a separate license purchase, 'Community' packs are free, and 'Private' packs are part of the core XSOAR platform.
- **D. 'Certified' packs are developed and maintained by Palo Alto Networks, offering official support and regular updates. 'Community' packs are developed by XSOAR users, providing diverse functionalities but with best-effort support. 'Private' packs are custom-developed for specific organizations and are not visible publicly.**
- E. 'Certified' packs are open-source and peer-reviewed by the XSOAR community, ensuring high quality. 'Community' packs are developed by Palo Alto Networks and are continuously updated. 'Private' packs are experimental and may not be stable.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Option A accurately describes the distinctions. 'Certified' packs are indeed developed and maintained by Palo Alto Networks, ensuring official support, rigorous testing, and regular updates. 'Community' packs are contributed by the broader XSOAR user community, offering a wide range of functionalities but with 'best-effort' support from the community. 'Private' packs are custom integrations developed by or for a specific organization, visible only within their XSOAR instance, and maintained by that organization.

NEW QUESTION # 72

Consider a scenario where a Palo Alto Networks NGFW detects a highly evasive, custom malware attempting to exfiltrate data. The malware uses DNS over HTTPS (DOH) to bypass traditional DNS filtering and establish C2 communication. The SOC'S current policy on the NGFW is to block known malicious DOH domains. What additional NGFW security profile, or combination thereof, should be enabled and tuned to detect and prevent such advanced exfiltration, assuming the SOC also employs Cortex XDR and WildFire?

- A. URL Filtering profile to block the DOH server IP.
- B. Antivirus and Anti-Spyware profiles to detect the malware signature.
- C. DoS Protection profile to mitigate the DOH traffic volume, and a File Blocking profile to prevent any file transfers.
- **D. Decryption profile for SSL/TLS inspection, coupled with a WildFire Analysis profile on outbound HTTP/S traffic to analyze the DOH payload, and an Advanced Threat Prevention (ATP) subscription for behavioral analysis of DNS traffic.**
- E. Threat Prevention (IPS) profile with a custom signature for the DOH C2 traffic, and a Data Filtering profile to prevent the exfiltration of sensitive data types.

Answer: D

Explanation:

To detect and prevent evasive DOH exfiltration, multiple advanced capabilities are needed.

1. Decryption profile (SSL/TLS inspection): DOH traffic is encrypted. Without decryption, the NGFW cannot inspect the inner contents of the DOH requests to identify the C2 communication or exfiltrated data.
2. WildFire Analysis profile: Once decrypted, the NGFW can forward the decrypted DOH payload (which might contain the custom malware's C2 traffic or data fragments) to WildFire for dynamic analysis and zero-day detection.
3. Advanced Threat Prevention (ATP) subscription: This provides more sophisticated behavioral analysis, including for DNS traffic, which can help identify anomalous DOH patterns indicative of C2.

A (Antivirus/Anti-Spyware) relies on known signatures, which custom malware evades. B (URL Filtering) might work if the DOH

server is a known malicious IP, but evasive malware often uses dynamic or new IPs. C (Custom IPS/Data Filtering) is good, but without decryption, the IPS signature won't see the traffic, and Data Filtering will be blind to encrypted data. E (DoS/File Blocking) is too broad and not specifically tailored for detecting evasive DOH exfiltration.

NEW QUESTION # 73

An internal application developer inadvertently embeds hardcoded credentials within a file (SHA256: f8d7c2e1a9b0c3d4e5f6a7b9c9doe1f2a3b4c5d6e7f8a9bc1d2e3f4a5b6c7d8) that is then committed to a public GitHub repository. This file also contains a URL (https://internal-api.example.com/sensitive_data) pointing to a highly confidential internal API. The security team needs to leverage Cortex products to identify if this file has been processed or accessed internally, prevent external access to the sensitive URL, and ensure the file's exposure is contained. Which specific combination of Cortex capabilities would achieve this with the highest fidelity and automation, considering both file and URL indicator types?

- A. Configure a 'File Blocking Profile' on the NGFW to prevent the transfer of files with the specific hash over the network. For the URL, instruct the network team to manually configure a 'Deny' rule on the firewall for traffic destined to internal-api.example.com
- B. Upload the file to WildFire for analysis. If identified as sensitive, WildFire will automatically block its execution on endpoints. For the URL, rely on the NGFW's 'Data Filtering' profile to prevent exfiltration if the sensitive data passes through the firewall.
- C.

```
# Cortex XSOAR Playbook Snippet for Data Exposure Incident

# 1. Ingest indicators: file hash and URL
file_hash = 'f8d7c2e1a9b0c3d4e5f6a7b9c9doe1f2a3b4c5d6e7f8a9bc1d2e3f4a5b6c7d8'
sensitive_url = 'https://internal-api.example.com/sensitive_data'

# 2. XQL Query for historical and real-time detection of file and URL access
xql_query = f"""
(file_events | where sha256 = '{file_hash}') OR
(network_connections | where url = '{sensitive_url}')
| select_time, device_name, user_name, event_type, path, url, sha256
"""
search_results = demistomars.xql.query(query=xql_query, time_range='7 days')

# 3. Prevent external access to the URL via NGFW
demistomars.executeCommand('PaloAltoNetworks_add_to_block_list', {'entry_type': 'url', 'entry_value': sensitive_url, 'block_list_name': 'Sensitive_API_Blocklist'})

# 4. Prevent internal execution/processing of the file via XDR
demistomars.executeCommand('XDR update prevention policy', {'policy_name': 'Internal Security Policy', 'hash': file_hash, 'action': 'block'})
# 5. Alert and assign to incident response team
if search_results:
    demistomars.executeCommand('createIncident', {'name': 'Sensitive Data Exposure Alert', 'details': search_results.to_json()})
```

- D. Manually create an XDR 'Custom Indicator' for the file hash, then conduct a 'Live Terminal' session on developer machines to search for the file. For the URL, configure a new 'URL Filtering Profile' on the NGFW to block the full URL, and manually distribute this policy.
- E. Create a 'Behavioral Threat Protection' rule in Cortex XDR to detect processes accessing URLs matching the pattern 'internal-api.example.com'. For the file, conduct an 'Investigation' in Cortex XDR starting from the file hash.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option B provides the most comprehensive, automated, and high-fidelity solution by effectively combining Cortex XSOAR for orchestration with Cortex XDR for endpoint visibility and NGFWs for network control, utilizing both file and URL indicator types.

1. XQL Query for Detection: The XQL query efficiently searches Cortex Data Lake (XDRs backend) for historical and real-time instances of the specific file hash and connections to the exact sensitive URL. This addresses the need to 'identify if this file has been processed or accessed internally'.

2. NGFW URL Blocking: Cortex XSOAR can programmatically interact with the NGFW to add the sensitive URL to a block list (e.g., a custom URL category or an EDL used by a URL Filtering Profile). This immediately 'prevents external access to the sensitive URL' at the network perimeter.

3. XDR File Prevention: XSOAR can update Cortex XDR's prevention policies to block the execution or processing of the specific file hash on endpoints. This ensures 'the file's exposure is contained' at the endpoint level, preventing further internal propagation or execution of the sensitive file.

4. Automated Alerting/Incident Creation: If the XQL query finds matches, XSOAR can automatically create an incident, streamlining the incident response process.

Option A is too manual. Option C (WildFire) is for malware analysis and blocking, not typically for sensitive data exposure unless the file is also malicious, and 'Data Filtering' might be reactive. Option D is partly correct for network file blocking but is too manual for the URL and lacks endpoint detection. Option E is more focused on detection and doesn't offer the immediate, programmatic prevention capabilities that B does.

NEW QUESTION # 74

A Security Operations Center (SOC) using Cortex XSIAM has identified a highly sophisticated, multi-stage attack involving lateral movement and data exfiltration through an unknown C2 channel. The SOC analyst needs to rapidly contain the threat and enrich the incident data for forensic analysis. Which combination of Cortex XSIAM automation and integration components would be most effective in orchestrating an immediate, robust response?

- A. Playbooks triggered by custom XQL queries, integrating with external EDR solutions for host isolation and SIEM for log ingestion.
- B. Built-in MITRE ATT&CK correlation engine for threat identification, coupled with a manual API call to a SOAR platform for remediation.
- C. Alert grouping and deduplication for noise reduction, followed by a scheduled report generation for management review.
- D. Manual investigation using the XSIAM Investigation Canvas and then escalating to a ticketing system for follow-up.
- E. Automated incident creation from a single XDR alert, using built-in actions to quarantine endpoints and block suspicious IPs via NGFW integration.

Answer: E

Explanation:

Option D describes the most effective and automated approach. Cortex XSIAM's strength lies in its ability to automate responses directly from XDR alerts. Automatically quarantining endpoints and blocking IPs via NGFW integration provides immediate containment, which is critical for a multi-stage attack. While Playbooks (A) are powerful, 'custom XQL queries' suggest a more manual trigger or a less immediate, pre-defined response than an alert-driven automation. Option B involves manual intervention. Options C and E are reactive and lack immediate containment capabilities.

NEW QUESTION # 75

During a post-incident review of a successful ransomware attack, the incident response team identifies that initial alerts were generated but deprioritized due to an 'Information' severity classification. Analysis reveals the alerts, while individually low-fidelity, collectively pointed to a reconnaissance phase followed by credential access on a critical server. What adjustment to the incident categorization and prioritization framework would be most effective in preventing similar oversights?

- A. Increase the threshold for all network-based alerts by 50% to reduce false positives and focus only on high-severity alerts.
- B. Mandate manual review of all 'Information' severity alerts by a Tier 1 SOC analyst within 1 hour of generation.
- C. Develop correlation rules in the SIEM (e.g., Splunk, QRadar) or SOAR (e.g., XSOAR) to elevate incident severity based on sequences of related low-severity events targeting high-value assets.
- D. Implement an automated system to escalate any 'Information' level alert to 'Low' severity after 24 hours, regardless of context.
- E. Categorize all alerts related to critical servers as 'High' severity by default, irrespective of the initial detection's confidence level.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The core issue described is the failure to recognize a low-and-slow attack chain composed of individually low-fidelity events. Implementing correlation rules (Option C) in the SIEM or SOAR is the most effective solution. This allows the system to analyze multiple seemingly innocuous events in sequence, identify patterns indicative of an attack (e.g., reconnaissance followed by credential access on a critical asset), and then automatically elevate the aggregated incident's severity and priority.

Options A and B are inefficient or reactive.

Option D risks missing legitimate threats.

Option E would lead to significant alert fatigue and false positives, overwhelming analysts.

NEW QUESTION # 76

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