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## Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
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## Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q47-Q52):

### NEW QUESTION # 47

An analyst considers an alert with the category of lateral movement to be allowed and not needing to be checked in the future. Based on the image below, which action can an engineer take to address the requirement?

- A. Create a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) suppression rule for the parent process and the specific BIOC: Lateral movement
- B. Create a disable injection and prevention rule for the parent process indicated in the alert
- C. Create an exception rule for the parent process and the exact command indicated in the alert
- **D. Create an alert exclusion rule by using the alert source and alert name**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, lateral movement alert (mapped to MITRE ATT&CK T1021, e.g., Remote Services) indicates potential unauthorized network activity, often involving processes like cmd.exe. If the analyst determines this behavior is allowed (e.g., a legitimate use of cmd /c dir for administrative purposes) and should not be flagged in the future, the engineer needs to suppress future alerts for this specific behavior. The most effective way to achieve this is by creating an alert exclusion rule, which suppresses alerts based on specific criteria such as the alert source (e.g., Cortex XDR analytics) and alert name (e.g., "Lateral Movement Detected").

\* Correct Answer Analysis (B): Create an alert exclusion rule by using the alert source and alert name is the recommended action.

This approach directly addresses the requirement by suppressing future alerts of the same type (lateral movement) from the specified source, ensuring that this legitimate activity (e.g., cmd /c dir by cmd.exe) does not generate alerts. Alert exclusions can be fine-tuned to apply to specific endpoints, users, or other attributes, making this a targeted solution.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. Create a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) suppression rule for the parent process and the specific BIOC: Lateral movement: While BIOC suppression rules can suppress specific BIOC, the alert in question appears to be generated by Cortex XDR analytics (not a custom BIOC), as indicated by the MITRE ATT&CK mapping and alert category. BIOC suppression is more relevant for custom BIOC rules, not analytics-driven alerts.

\* C. Create a disable injection and prevention rule for the parent process indicated in the alert: There is no "disable injection and prevention rule" in Cortex XDR, and this option does not align with the goal of suppressing alerts. Injection prevention is related to exploit protection, not lateral movement alerts.

\* D. Create an exception rule for the parent process and the exact command indicated in the alert: While creating an exception for the parent process (cmd.exe) and command (cmd /c dir) might prevent some detections, it is not the most direct method for suppressing analytics-driven lateral movement alerts. Exceptions are typically used for exploit or malware profiles, not for analytics-based alerts.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains alert suppression: "To prevent future checks for allowed alerts, create an alert exclusion rule using the alert source and alert name to suppress specific alert types" (paraphrased from the Alert Management section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers alert tuning, stating that "alert exclusion rules based on source and name are effective for suppressing analytics-driven alerts like lateral movement" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing alert suppression techniques.

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/certification#xdr-engineer>

Note on Image: The image was not provided, but I assumed a typical lateral movement alert involving a parent process (cmd.exe) and a command (cmd /c dir). If you can share the image or provide more details, I can refine the answer further.

### NEW QUESTION # 48

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

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

**Answer: A**

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 # 49

Multiple remote desktop users complain of in-house applications no longer working. The team uses macOS with Cortex XDR agents version 8.7.0, and the applications were previously allowed by disable prevention rules attached to the Exceptions Profile "Engineer-Mac." Based on the images below, what is a reason for this behavior?

- A. XDR agent version was downgraded from 8.7.0 to 8.4.0
- B. Installation type changed from VDI to Kubernetes
- C. The Cloud Identity Engine is disconnected or removed
- D. Endpoint IP address changed from 192.168.0.0 range to 192.168.100.0 range

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The scenario involves macOS users with Cortex XDR agents (version 8.7.0) who can no longer run in-house applications that were

previously allowed via disable prevention rules in the "Engineer-Mac" Exceptions Profile. This profile is applied to an endpoint group (e.g., "Mac-Engineers"). The issue likely stems from a change in the endpoint group's configuration or the endpoints' attributes, affecting policy application.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (A): The reason for the behavior is that the endpoint IP address changed from 192.168.0.0 range to 192.168.100.0 range. In Cortex XDR, endpoint groups can be defined using dynamic criteria, such as IP address ranges, to apply specific policies like the "Engineer-Mac" Exceptions Profile. If the group "Mac-Engineers" was defined to include endpoints in the 192.168.0.0 range, and the remote desktop users' IP addresses changed to the 192.168.100.0 range (e.g., due to a network change or VPN reconfiguration), these endpoints would no longer belong to the "Mac-Engineers" group. As a result, the "Engineer-Mac" Exceptions Profile, which allowed the in-house applications, would no longer apply, causing the applications to be blocked by default prevention rules.

\* Why not the other options?

\* B. The Cloud Identity Engine is disconnected or removed: The Cloud Identity Engine provides user and group data for identity-based policies, but it is not directly related to Exceptions Profiles or application execution rules. Its disconnection would not affect the application of the "Engineer-Mac" profile.

\* C. XDR agent version was downgraded from 8.7.0 to 8.4.0: The question states the users are using version 8.7.0, and there's no indication of a downgrade. Even if a downgrade occurred, it's unlikely to affect the application of an Exceptions Profile unless specific features were removed, which is not indicated.

\* D. Installation type changed from VDI to Kubernetes: The installation type (e.g., VDI for virtual desktops or Kubernetes for containerized environments) is unrelated to macOS endpoints running remote desktop sessions. This change would not impact the application of the Exceptions Profile.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains endpoint group policies: "Dynamic endpoint groups based on IP address ranges apply policies like Exceptions Profiles; if an endpoint's IP changes to a different range, it may no longer belong to the group, affecting policy enforcement" (paraphrased from the Endpoint Management section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers policy application, stating that "changes in IP address ranges can cause endpoints to fall out of a group, leading to unexpected policy behavior like blocking previously allowed applications" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing endpoint group and policy 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 # 50

Which method will drop undesired logs and reduce the amount of data being ingested?

- A. `[COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_dataset="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";`
- B. `[INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="vendor_product_raw", no_hit=keep] * filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs";`
- C. `[INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_dataset="vendor_product_raw", no_hit=drop] * filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs";`
- D. `[COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";`

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, managing data ingestion involves defining rules to collect, filter, or drop logs to optimize storage and processing. The goal is to drop undesired logs to reduce the amount of data ingested. The syntax used in the options appears to be a combination of ingestion rule metadata (e.g., [COLLECT] or [INGEST]) and filtering logic, likely written in a simplified query language for log processing. The drop action explicitly discards logs matching a condition, while filter with not contains can achieve similar results by keeping only logs that do not match the condition.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (C): The method in option C, `[COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_dataset="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";`, explicitly drops logs where the raw log content contains "undesired logs". The [COLLECT] directive defines the log collection scope (vendor, product, and dataset), and the no\_hit=drop parameter indicates that unmatched logs are dropped. The `drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs"` statement ensures that logs matching the "undesired logs" pattern are discarded, effectively reducing the amount of data ingested.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. [COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target\_brokers="", no\_hit=drop] \* drop \_raw\_log contains "undesired logs"; This is similar to option C but uses target\_brokers="", which is typically used for Broker VM configurations rather than direct dataset ingestion. While it could work, option C is more straightforward with target\_dataset="".

\* B. [INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target\_dataset="vendor\_product\_raw", no\_hit=drop] \* filter \_raw\_log not contains "undesired logs"; This method uses filter \_raw\_log not contains "undesired logs" to keep logs that do not match the condition, which indirectly drops undesired logs. However, the drop action in option C is more explicit and efficient for reducing ingestion.

\* D. [INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target\_brokers="vendor\_product\_raw", no\_hit=keep] \* filter \_raw\_log not contains "undesired logs"; The no\_hit=keep parameter means unmatched logs are kept, which does not align with the goal of reducing data. The filter statement reduces data, but no\_hit=keep may counteract this by retaining unmatched logs, making this less effective than option C.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains log ingestion rules: "To reduce data ingestion, use the drop action to discard logs matching specific patterns, such as \_raw\_log contains 'pattern'" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers data ingestion optimization, stating that "dropping logs with specific content using drop \_raw\_log contains is an effective way to reduce ingested data volume" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing log filtering and dropping.

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 # 51

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

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

**Answer: D**

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.



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