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Palo Alto Networks XSIAM-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Planning and Installation: This section of the exam measures skills of XSIAM Engineers and covers the planning, evaluation, and installation of Palo Alto Networks Cortex XSIAM components. It focuses on assessing existing IT infrastructure, defining deployment requirements for hardware, software, and integrations, and establishing communication needs for XSIAM architecture. Candidates must also configure agents, Broker VMs, and engines, along with managing user roles, permissions, and access controls.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and Troubleshooting: This section of the exam measures skills of Security Operations Engineers and covers post-deployment maintenance and troubleshooting of XSIAM components. It includes managing exception configurations, updating software components such as XDR agents and Broker VMs, and diagnosing data ingestion, normalization, and parsing issues. Candidates must also troubleshoot integrations, automation playbooks, and system performance to ensure operational reliability.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Optimization: This section of the exam measures skills of Detection Engineers and focuses on refining XSIAM content and detection logic. It includes deploying parsing and data modeling rules for normalization, managing detection rules based on correlation, IOCs, BIOCs, and attack surface management, and optimizing incident and alert layouts. Candidates must also demonstrate proficiency in creating custom dashboards and reporting templates to support operational visibility.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration and Automation: This section of the exam measures skills of SIEM Engineers and focuses on data onboarding and automation setup in XSIAM. It covers integrating diverse data sources such as endpoint, network, cloud, and identity, configuring automation feeds like messaging, authentication, and threat intelligence, and implementing Marketplace content packs. It also evaluates the ability to plan, create, customize, and debug playbooks for efficient workflow automation.

Palo Alto Networks XSIAM Engineer Sample Questions (Q63-Q68):

NEW QUESTION # 63

An XSOAR playbook utilizes an XSIAM API command (`Cxsiam-api-v2-get-alert-raw-data`) to retrieve the raw data of an alert for detailed analysis. The command sometimes returns a `'KeyError: 'raw_data''` even though the alert ID is valid and the alert exists in XSIAM. This suggests that the `'raw_data'` field is occasionally missing from the API response for specific alert types or sources. How would you handle this in the playbook to prevent failures and ensure robust processing, while also facilitating future debugging if new missing keys appear?

- A. Modify the XSIAM 'Alert Enrichment' automation to ensure that `'raw_data'` is always populated for all alert types before the playbook is triggered.
- B. Before calling `'xsiam-api-v2-get-alert-raw-data'`, add a `'wait'` command to ensure the raw data has fully propagated in XSIAM.
- C. Create a 'Conditional' task in the playbook that checks `*is-error` of the `'xsiam-api-v2-get-alert-raw-data'` output and branches the playbook flow to a fallback process if an error (like `'KeyError'`) is detected.
- D. Implement a `'try-except KeyError'` block around the API response parsing code, logging the full response payload when a `'KeyError'` occurs.
- E. Use the Python `'.get()'` method with a default value (e.g., `'response.get('raw_data', OF)'`) when accessing the `'raw_data'` key, and log a warning if the default is used.

Answer: D,E

Explanation:

A `'KeyError'` means the key isn't present. Using `.get()` with a default value (B) is a standard Pythonic way to prevent `'KeyError'` and provides a fallback, allowing the playbook to continue. Logging a warning helps identify when data is missing. An explicit `'try-except KeyError'` block (C) also prevents the playbook from failing and is crucial for debugging, as logging the full response helps understand why the key was missing for specific alert types. Both B and C contribute to robustness and debuggability. Option A is unlikely to solve a missing key error, as propagation doesn't introduce missing keys. Option D requires modification of XSIAM's core data model, which might not be feasible or desired. Option E addresses the error after it happens, but B and C provide more granular control within the parsing.

NEW QUESTION # 64

A security engineer notices that in the past week ingestion has spiked significantly. Upon investigating the anomaly, it is determined that a custom application developed in-house caused the spike. The custom application is sending syslog to the Broker VM Syslog Collector applet. The engineer consults with the SOC analyst, who determines that 90% of the logs from the custom application are not used.

What can the engineer configure to reduce the ingestion?

- A. Parsing rule to drop the unnecessary data at the Broker VM

- B. Correlation rule on the Cortex XSIAM server to drop the unnecessary data
- C. Data model rule to map the useful data
- D. Data model rule to drop the unnecessary data

Answer: A

Explanation:

To reduce ingestion from the custom application, the engineer should configure a parsing rule on the Broker VM. Parsing rules can be set to drop unnecessary data before it is ingested into Cortex XSIAM, preventing wasteful log volume and optimizing system efficiency.

NEW QUESTION # 65

A large-scale phishing campaign is targeting your organization. XSIAM is generating numerous alerts. To optimize the incident investigation, you need to enrich each phishing-related alert with external threat intelligence from VirusTotal for the observed URLs and file hashes. Specifically, you want to see VirusTotal scores and links to full reports directly within the alert details. How can this be efficiently implemented using XSIAM's content optimization features and automation?

- **A. Configure an XSIAM playbook triggered by phishing alerts. This playbook would query the VirusTotal API, then use an 'Alert Action' or 'Incident Action' to dynamically add custom fields to the alert/incident layout, displaying the VirusTotal scores and clickable report links. This involves defining custom fields with appropriate renderers.**
- B. Manually query VirusTotal for each URL and hash and add the results as a comment.
- C. Integrate VirusTotal as a separate data source, allowing analysts to search it manually.
- D. Export all phishing alerts to a CSV and upload them to VirusTotal for bulk analysis.
- E. Create a dashboard widget that displays a summary of VirusTotal lookups across all alerts.

Answer: A

Explanation:

To efficiently enrich phishing alerts with VirusTotal data directly within the alert details, the most effective approach combines XSIAM's automation (playbooks) and content optimization (custom fields with renderers). A playbook can be triggered by phishing alerts, automatically query the VirusTotal API, and then populate custom fields within the alert/incident layout with the relevant scores and links. This automates the enrichment and presents it directly where analysts need it, streamlining the investigation. Options A, C, D, and E are either manual, less integrated, or do not directly inject the data into the alert's detailed view.

NEW QUESTION # 66

A company is integrating Cortex XSIAM with their existing security infrastructure, which includes a SIEM, a SOAR platform, and multiple Active Directory domains. The XSIAM Engine needs to collect identity data, network flow data, and endpoint telemetry. Which of the following data collection methods and configurations are most appropriate for ensuring comprehensive and efficient data ingestion by the XSIAM Engine?

- A. Relying solely on existing SIEM forwarders to send all data to the XSIAM Engine, eliminating the need for direct integrations.
- B. Configuring the XSIAM Engine to pull data directly from all devices via SNMP for all telemetry types.
- C. Deploying a single Engine and configuring all data sources to send logs via unsecured Syslog over UDP to simplify initial setup.
- D. Manually uploading CSV files of security logs to the XSIAM Engine's data ingestion API on a daily basis.
- **E. Utilizing Cortex XDR agents for endpoint telemetry, configuring network devices to forward NetFlow/IPFIX to the Engine, and deploying dedicated Identity Connectors for Active Directory integration.**

Answer: E

Explanation:

Option B describes the most effective and recommended approach for comprehensive data ingestion with Cortex XSIAM. Cortex XDR agents are the primary method for endpoint telemetry, providing rich context. Network devices forwarding NetFlow/IPFIX directly to the Engine is efficient for network visibility. Dedicated Identity Connectors (e.g., for Active Directory) are designed for secure and real-time identity data synchronization. Option A uses insecure Syslog and lacks depth. Option C is inefficient and often leads to data loss or delayed ingestion as the SIEM might not forward all necessary fields or in the optimal format. Option D is manual and not scalable for continuous ingestion. Option E is highly inefficient for large-scale data collection and is not suitable for all telemetry types.

NEW QUESTION # 67

An XSIAM engineer discovers that a large number of 'Alert' events are being generated with duplicate or near-duplicate 'description' fields, making it difficult for analysts to triage effectively. For example, 'Suspicious login from new country' and 'Suspicious login from previously unseen country' are considered duplicates for practical purposes. To optimize content by normalizing these descriptions and potentially reducing alert fatigue, which combination of XSIAM data modeling rules and techniques would be most effective and resilient?

- A. Implement a 'regex extraction rule' on the 'description' field to capture key phrases and use these phrases to generate a 'normalized_alert_type' field. Subsequently, configure 'alert deduplication rules' based on this 'normalized_alert_type' and a defined time window.
- B. Utilize XSIAM's 'Content Enrichment' framework to create a Python script that employs Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques (e.g., stemming, lemmatization, semantic similarity algorithms) to generate a 'canonical_description' and store it. Then, use this new field for alert aggregation.
- C. Configure an 'XSIAM playbook' to automatically close duplicate alerts based on string similarity of their 'description' field every hour. For the remaining alerts, an 'alert grouping rule' should be set up to group alerts with identical 'description' values.
- D. Leverage XSIAM's 'Anomaly Detection Engine' to identify patterns in the 'description' field. Train a custom model to cluster similar descriptions together and then define an 'alert promotion rule' that only promotes one alert per cluster to the analyst queue.
- E. Manually create a comprehensive 'lookup table' mapping all known duplicate 'description' variants to a single 'master_description'. Deploy an 'ingestion mapping rule' to transform the 'description' field using this lookup table. For remaining variations, create a 'post-ingestion aggregation rule' that groups alerts by a 'hash' of the transformed description.

Answer: A,E

Explanation:

This question seeks a resilient and effective method to normalize near-duplicate alert descriptions and reduce fatigue. Option A is the most practical, scalable, and resilient approach within typical XSIAM content optimization capabilities: 1. Regex Extraction Rule : This is a core content optimization capability. Using regex to capture key phrases ('Suspicious login', 'new country') from variable descriptions allows for a programmatic way to derive a 'normalized_alert_type' field. This field becomes a consistent, structured representation of the alert's core meaning, even if the raw description varies slightly. 2. Alert Deduplication Rules : XSIAM has built-in alert deduplication capabilities. By applying these rules on the newly created 'normalized_alert_type' field (along with other contextual fields like 'username', 'source_ip', and a time window), you can effectively prevent multiple alerts with functionally identical meanings from reaching the analyst, reducing fatigue. This is a standard and robust method. Why other options are less optimal or practical: - B (NLP via Python script) : While semantically powerful, integrating custom NLP Python scripts for every incoming alert description at scale can be computationally expensive and difficult to maintain within the high-performance ingestion pipeline required by XSIAM. It's often overkill for common variations and might introduce latency. - C (Manual Lookup Table + Hashing) : Manually creating a comprehensive lookup table for all possible near-duplicates is not resilient or scalable. New variations would require constant manual updates. Hashing exact matches doesn't solve 'near-duplicate' problems. - D (Playbook to close duplicates) : This is a post-generation remediation step, not a content optimization step that normalizes the data itself to prevent the initial duplicates. Relying on playbooks to 'close' duplicates after they've been generated still means they've consumed resources and potentially caused initial noise. - E (Anomaly Detection Engine for Clustering) : While XSIAM has anomaly detection, using it for clustering alert descriptions specifically to then promote only one is not its primary design. Training and maintaining such a model for evolving text descriptions can be complex and resource-intensive, and the solution might be too abstract for the specific problem of 'near-duplicate descriptions'.

NEW QUESTION # 68

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