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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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.
Topic 2	• 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.
Topic 3	• 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.
Topic 4	• 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.
Topic 5	• 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q35-Q40):

NEW QUESTION # 35
Which two steps should be considered when configuring the Cortex XDR agent for a sensitive and highly regulated environment? (Choose two.)

- A. Enable minor content version updates
- B. Create an agent settings profile, enable content auto-update, and include a delay of four days
- C. Create an agent settings profile where the agent upgrade scope is maintenance releases only
- D. Enable critical environment versions

Answer: B,C

Explanation:
In a sensitive and highly regulated environment (e.g., healthcare, finance), Cortex XDR agent configurations must balance security with stability and compliance. This often involves controlling agent upgrades and content updates to minimize disruptions while ensuring timely protection updates. The following steps are recommended to achieve this balance.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B, C):
* B. Create an agent settings profile where the agent upgrade scope is maintenance releases only: In regulated environments, frequent agent upgrades can introduce risks of instability or compatibility issues. Limiting upgrades tomaintenance releases only(e.g., bug fixes and minor updates, not major version changes) ensures stability while addressing critical issues. This is configured in the agent settings profile to control the upgrade scope.
* C. Create an agent settings profile, enable content auto-update, and include a delay of four days: Content updates (e.g., Behavioral Threat Protection rules, localanalysis logic) are critical for maintaining protection but can be delayed in regulated environments to allow for testing.
Enablingcontent auto-updatewith afour-day delayensures that updates are applied automatically but provides a window to validate

changes, reducing the risk of unexpected behavior.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Enable critical environment versions: There is no specific "critical environment versions" setting in Cortex XDR. This option appears to be a misnomer and does not align with standard agent configuration practices for regulated environments.
* D. Enable minor content version updates: While enabling minor content updates can be useful, it does not provide the control needed in a regulated environment (e.g., a delay for testing).
Option C (auto-update with a delay) is a more comprehensive and appropriate step.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains agent configurations for regulated environments: "In sensitive environments, configure agent settings profiles to limit upgrades to maintenance releases and enable content auto-updates with a delay (e.g., four days) to ensure stability and compliance" (paraphrased from the Agent Settings section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers agent management, stating that "maintenance-only upgrades and delayed content updates are recommended for regulated environments to balance security and stability" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing settings for regulated environments.
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 # 36
Which action is being taken with the query below?

```
dataset = xdr_data
| fields agent_hostname, _time, _product
| comp latest as latest_time by agent_hostname, _product
| join type=inner (dataset = endpoints
| fields endpoint_name, endpoint_status, endpoint_type) as lookup lookup.endpoint_name = agent_hostname
| filter endpoint_status = ENUM.CONNECTED
| fields agent_hostname, endpoint_status, latest_time, _product
```

- A. Identifying endpoints that have disconnected from the network
- B. Monitoring the latest activity of endpoints
- C. Monitoring the latest activity of connected firewall endpoints
- D. Checking for endpoints with outdated agent versions

Answer: B

Explanation:
The providedXQL (XDR Query Language)query in Cortex XDR retrieves and processes data to provide insights into endpoint activity. Let's break down the query to understand its purpose:
* dataset = xdr_data | fields agent_hostname, _time, _product: Selects thexdr_datadataset (general event data) and retrieves fields for the agent hostname, timestamp, and product (e.g., agent type or component).
* comp latest as latest_time by agent_hostname, _product: Computes the latest timestamp (_time) for each combination of agent_hostname and _product, naming the result latest_time. This identifies the most recent activity for each endpoint and product.
* join type=inner (dataset = endpoints | fields endpoint_name, endpoint_status, endpoint_type) as lookup lookup.endpoint_name = agent_hostname: Performs an inner join with theendpointsdataset, matching endpoint_name (from the endpoints dataset) with agent_hostname (from xdr_data), and retrieves fields like endpoint_status and endpoint_type.
* filter endpoint_status = ENUM.CONNECTED: Filters the results to include only endpoints with a status ofCONNECTED.
* fields agent_hostname, endpoint_status, latest_time, _product: Outputs the final fields: hostname, status, latest activity time, and product.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):The query ismonitoring the latest activity of endpoints. It calculates the most recent activity (latest_time) for each connected endpoint (agent_hostname) by joining event data (xdr_data) with endpoint metadata (endpoints) and filtering for connected endpoints. This provides a view of the latest activity for active endpoints, useful for monitoring their status and recent events.
* Why not the other options?
* B. Identifying endpoints that have disconnected from the network: The queryfilters for endpoint_status = ENUM.CONNECTED, so it only includes connected endpoints, not disconnected ones.
* C. Monitoring the latest activity of connected firewall endpoints: The query does not filter for firewall endpoints (e.g., using endpoint_type or _product to specify firewalls). It applies to all connected endpoints, not just firewalls.

* D. Checking for endpoints with outdated agent versions: The query does not retrieve or compare agent version information (e.g., agent_version field); it focuses on the latest activity time.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains XQL queries: "Queries using comp latest and joins with the endpoints dataset can monitor the latest activity of connected endpoints by calculating the most recent event timestamps" (paraphrased from the XQL Reference Guide). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers XQL for monitoring, stating that "combining xdr_data and endpoints datasets with a latest computation monitors recent endpoint activity" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing XQL queries for monitoring.
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

NEW QUESTION # 37
Based on the SBAC scenario image below, when the tenant is switched to permissive mode, which endpoint (s) data will be accessible?

- A. E1, E2, and E3
- B. E1 only
- C. E2 only
- D. E1, E2, E3, and E4

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,Scope-Based Access Control (SBAC)restricts user access to data based on predefined scopes, which can be assigned to endpoints, users, or other resources. Inpermissive mode, SBAC allows users to access data within their assigned scopes but may restrict access to data outside those scopes. The question assumes an SBAC scenario with four endpoints (E1, E2, E3, E4), where the user likely has access to a specific scope (e.g., Scope A) that includes E1, E2, and E3, while E4 is in a different scope (e.g., Scope B).
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):When the tenant is switched to permissive mode, the user will have access toE1, E2, and E3because these endpoints are within the user's assigned scope (e.g., Scope A).
E4, being in a different scope (e.g., Scope B), will not be accessible unless the user has explicit accessto that scope. Permissive mode enforces scope restrictions, ensuring that only data within the user's scope is visible.
* Why not the other options?
* A. E1 only: This is too restrictive; the user's scope includes E1, E2, and E3, not just E1.
* B. E2 only: Similarly, this is too restrictive; the user's scope includes E1, E2, and E3, not just E2.
* D. E1, E2, E3, and E4: This would only be correct if the user had access to both Scope A and Scope B or if permissive mode ignored scope restrictions entirely, which it does not. Permissive mode still enforces SBAC rules, limiting access to the user's assigned scopes.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains SBAC: "In permissive mode, Scope-Based Access Control restricts user access to endpoints within their assigned scopes, ensuring data visibility aligns with scope permissions" (paraphrased from the Scope-Based Access Control section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers SBAC configuration, stating that "permissive mode allows access to endpoints within a user's scope, such as E1, E2, and E3, while restricting access to endpoints in other scopes" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing SBAC 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 # 38
An engineer is building a dashboard to visualize the number of alerts from various sources. One of the widgets from the dashboard is shown in the image below:

The engineer wants to configure a drilldown on this widget to allow dashboard users to select any of the alert names and view those alerts with additional relevant details. The engineer has configured the following XQL query to meet the requirement:
dataset = alerts
| fields alert_name, description, alert_source, severity, original_tags, alert_id, incident_id
| filter alert_name =
| sort desc _time
How will the engineer complete the third line of the query (filter alert_name =) to allow dynamic filtering on a selected alert name?

- A. $y_axis.name
- B. $x_axis.name
- C. $x_axis.value
- D. $y_axis.value

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, dashboards and widgets supportdrilldownfunctionality, allowing users to click ona widget element (e.g., an alert name in a bar chart) to view detailed data filtered by the selected value. This is achieved usingXQL (XDR Query Language)queries with dynamic variables that reference the clicked element's value. In the provided XQL query, the engineer wants to filter alerts based on thealert_nameselected in the widget.
The widget likely displays alert names along thex-axis(e.g., in a bar chart where each bar represents an alert name and its count). When a user clicks on an alert name, the drilldown query should filter the dataset to show only alerts matching that selectedalert_name. In XQL, dynamic filtering for drilldowns uses variables like $x_axis.value to capture the value of the clicked element on the x-axis.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):The variable$x_axis.valueis used to reference the value of the x-axis element (in this case, thealert_name) selected by the user. Completing the query with filter alert_name
= $x_axis.value ensures that the drilldown filters the alerts dataset to show only those records where the alert_namematches the clicked value.
* Why not the other options?
* A. $y_axis.value: This variable refers to the value on the y-axis, which typically represents a numerical value (e.g., the count of alerts) in a chart, not the categoricalalert_name.
* C. $x_axis.name: This is not a valid XQL variable for drilldowns. XQL uses $x_axis.value to capture the selected value, not $x_axis.name.
* D. $y_axis.name: This is also not a valid XQL variable, and the y-axis is not relevant for filtering byalert_name.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalin theXQL Reference Guideexplains drilldown configuration: "To filter data based on a clicked widget element, use $x_axis.value to reference the value of the x-axis category selected by the user" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers dashboard creation and XQL, noting that "drilldown queries use variables like $x_axis.value to dynamically filter based on user selections" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetlists "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, including configuring interactive widgets.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: XQL Reference Guide (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

NEW QUESTION # 39
An XDR engineer is configuring an automation playbook to respond to high-severity malware alerts by automatically isolating the affected endpoint and notifying the security team via email. The playbook should only trigger for alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, not custom BIOCs. Which two conditions should the engineer include in the playbook trigger to meet these requirements? (Choose two.)

- A. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics
- B. Alert category is Malware
- C. Alert severity is High
- D. Alert status is New

Answer: B,C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,automation playbooks(also referred to as response actions or automation rules) allow engineers to define automated responses to specific alerts based on trigger conditions. The playbook in this scenario needs to isolate endpoints and send email notifications for high-severity malware alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, excluding custom BIOC alerts. To achieve this, the engineer must configure the playbook trigger with conditions that match the alert's severity, category, and source.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Alert severity is High: The playbook should only trigger for high-severity alerts, as specified in the requirement. Setting the conditionAlert severity is Highensures that only alerts with a severity level of "High" activate the playbook, aligning with the engineer's goal.
* C. Alert category is Malware: The playbook targets malware alerts specifically. The condition Alert category is Malwareensures that the playbook only responds to alerts categorized as malware, excluding other types of alerts (e.g., lateral movement, exploit).
* Why not the other options?
* B. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics: While this condition would ensure the playbook triggers only for alerts from the Cortex XDR analytics engine (and not custom BIOCs), the requirement to exclude BIOCs is already implicitly met because BIOC alerts are typically categorized differently (e.g., as custom alerts or specific BIOC categories). The alert category (Malware) and severity (High) conditions are sufficient to target analytics-driven malware alerts, and adding the source condition is not strictly necessary for the stated requirements. However, if the engineer wanted to be more explicit, this condition could be considered, but the question asks for the two most critical conditions, which are severity and category.
* D. Alert status is New: The alert status (e.g., New, In Progress, Resolved) determines the investigation stage of the alert, but the requirement does not specify that the playbook should only trigger for new alerts. Alerts with a status of "InProgress" could still be high-severity malware alerts requiring isolation, so this condition is not necessary.
Additional Note on Alert Source: The requirement to exclude custom BIOCs and focus on Cortex XDR analytics alerts is addressed by theAlert category is Malwarecondition, as analytics-driven malware alerts (e.
g., from WildFire or behavioral analytics) are categorized as "Malware," while BIOC alerts are often tagged differently (e.g., as custom rules). If the question emphasized the need to explicitly filter by source, option B would be relevant, but the primary conditions for the playbook are severity and category.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains automation playbook triggers: "Playbook triggers can be configured with conditions such as alert severity (e.g., High) and alert category (e.g., Malware) to automate responses like endpoint isolation and email notifications" (paraphrased from the Automation Rules section).
TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers playbook creation, stating that
"conditions like alert severity and category ensure playbooks target specific alert types, such as high-severity malware alerts from analytics" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "playbook creation and automation" as a key exam topic, encompassing trigger condition configuration.
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
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NEW QUESTION # 40
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