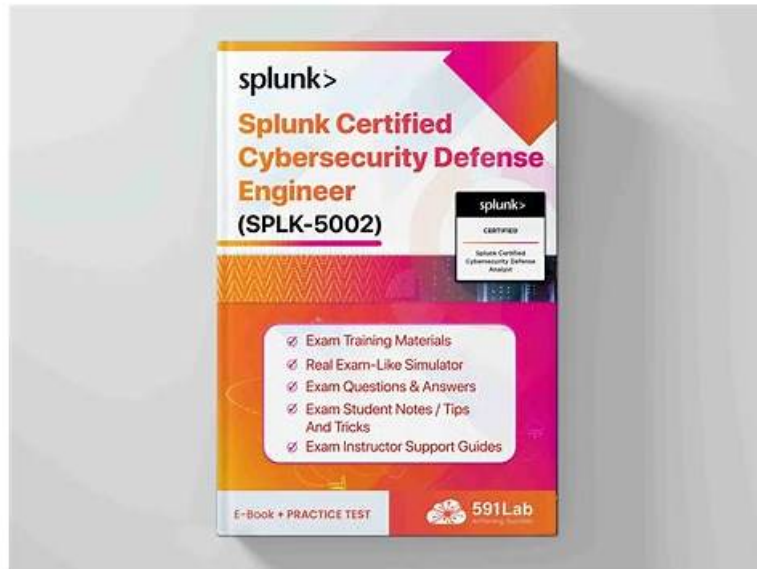


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Splunk SPLK-5002 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Automation and Efficiency: This section assesses Automation Engineers and SOAR Specialists in streamlining security operations. It covers developing automation for SOPs, optimizing case management workflows, utilizing REST APIs, designing SOAR playbooks for response automation, and evaluating integrations between Splunk Enterprise Security and SOAR tools.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data Engineering: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and Cybersecurity Engineers and covers foundational data management tasks. It includes performing data review and analysis, creating and maintaining efficient data indexing, and applying Splunk methods for data normalization to ensure structured and usable datasets for security operations.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Building Effective Security Processes and Programs: This section targets Security Program Managers and Compliance Officers, focusing on operationalizing security workflows. It involves researching and integrating threat intelligence, applying risk and detection prioritization methodologies, and developing documentation or standard operating procedures (SOPs) to maintain robust security practices.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Auditing and Reporting on Security Programs: This section tests Auditors and Security Architects on validating and communicating program effectiveness. It includes designing security metrics, generating compliance reports, and building dashboards to visualize program performance and vulnerabilities for stakeholders.

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection Engineering: This section evaluates the expertise of Threat Hunters and SOC Engineers in developing and refining security detections. Topics include creating and tuning correlation searches, integrating contextual data into detections, applying risk-based modifiers, generating actionable Notable Events, and managing the lifecycle of detection rules to adapt to evolving threats.
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Splunk Certified Cybersecurity Defense Engineer Sample Questions (Q51-Q56):

NEW QUESTION # 51

What is the main purpose of incorporating threat intelligence into a security program?

- **A. To proactively identify and mitigate potential threats**
- B. To archive historical events for compliance
- C. To generate incident reports for stakeholders
- D. To automate response workflows

Answer: A

Explanation:

Why Use Threat Intelligence in Security Programs?

Threat intelligence provides real-time data on known threats, helping SOC teams identify, detect, and mitigate security risks proactively.

#Key Benefits of Threat Intelligence:
 #Early Threat Detection- Identifies known attack patterns (IP addresses, domains, hashes).
 #Proactive Defense- Blocks threats before they impact systems.
 #Better Incident Response- Speeds up triage and forensic analysis.
 #Contextualized Alerts- Reduces false positives by correlating security events with known threats.

#Example Use Case in Splunk ES:
 #Scenario: The SOC team ingests threat intelligence feeds (e.g., from MITRE ATT&CK, VirusTotal).
 #Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) correlates security events with known malicious IPs or domains.
 #If an internal system communicates with a known C2 server, the SOC team automatically receives an alert and blocks the IP using Splunk SOAR.

Why Not the Other Options?

#A. To automate response workflows- While automation is beneficial, threat intelligence is primarily for proactive identification.
 #C. To generate incident reports for stakeholders- Reports are a byproduct, but not the main goal of threat intelligence.
 #D. To archive historical events for compliance- Threat intelligence is real-time and proactive, whereas compliance focuses on record-keeping.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk ES Threat Intelligence Guide: <https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/ES#MITRE ATT&CK Integration with Splunk>:
<https://attack.mitre.org/resources#Threat Intelligence Best Practices in SOC>:
<https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

NEW QUESTION # 52

Which practices strengthen the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)? (Choose three)

- **A. Regular updates based on feedback**
- B. Focusing solely on high-risk scenarios
- **C. Collaborating with cross-functional teams**
- D. Excluding historical incident data
- **E. Including detailed step-by-step instructions**

Answer: A,C,E

Explanation:

Why Are These Practices Essential for SOP Development?

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are crucial for ensuring consistent, repeatable, and effective security operations in a Security Operations Center (SOC). Strengthening SOP development ensures efficiency, clarity, and adaptability in responding to incidents.

1##Regular Updates Based on Feedback (Answer A)

Security threats evolve, and SOPs must be updated based on real-world incidents, analyst feedback, and lessons learned.

Example: A new ransomware variant is detected; the SOP is updated to include a specific containment playbook in Splunk SOAR.

2##Collaborating with Cross-Functional Teams (Answer C)

Effective SOPs require input from SOC analysts, threat hunters, IT, compliance teams, and DevSecOps.

Ensures that all relevant security and business perspectives are covered.

Example: A SOC team collaborates with DevOps to ensure that a cloud security response SOP aligns with AWS security controls.

3##Including Detailed Step-by-Step Instructions (Answer D)

SOPs should provide clear, actionable, and standardized steps for security analysts.

Example: A Splunk ES incident response SOP should include:

How to investigate a security alert using correlation searches.

How to escalate incidents based on risk levels.

How to trigger a Splunk SOAR playbook for automated remediation.

Why Not the Other Options?

#B. Focusing solely on high-risk scenarios- All security events matter, not just high-risk ones. Low-level alerts can be early indicators of larger threats. #E. Excluding historical incident data- Past incidents provide valuable lessons to improve SOPs and incident response workflows.

References & Learning Resources

#Best Practices for SOPs in Cybersecurity: <https://www.nist.gov/cybersecurity-framework> #Splunk SOAR Playbook SOP

Development: [https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/SOAR#Incident Response SOPs with Splunk](https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/SOAR#Incident%20Response%20SOPs%20with%20Splunk): <https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

NEW QUESTION # 53

What is the primary function of summary indexing in Splunk reporting?

- A. Storing unprocessed log data
- B. Enhancing the accuracy of alerts
- C. Normalizing raw data for analysis
- **D. Creating pre-aggregated data for faster reporting**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Primary Function of Summary Indexing in Splunk Reporting

Summary indexing allows pre-aggregation of data to improve performance and speed up reports.

#Why Use Summary Indexing?

Reduces processing time by storing computed results instead of raw data.

Helps SOC teams generate reports faster and optimize search performance.

Example:

Instead of searching millions of firewall logs in real-time, a summary index stores daily aggregated counts of blocked IPs.

#Incorrect Answers:

A: Storing unprocessed log data # Raw logs are stored in primary indexes, not summary indexes.

C: Normalizing raw data for analysis # Normalization is handled by CIM and data models.

D: Enhancing the accuracy of alerts # Summary indexing improves reporting performance, not alert accuracy.

#Additional Resources:

Splunk Summary Indexing Guide

Optimizing SIEM Reports in Splunk

NEW QUESTION # 54

What are essential steps in developing threat intelligence for a security program? (Choose three)

- **A. Collecting data from trusted sources**
- B. Conducting regular penetration tests
- **C. Analyzing and correlating threat data**

- D. Creating dashboards for executives
- E. Operationalizing intelligence through workflows

Answer: A,C,E

Explanation:

Threat intelligence in Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) enhances SOC capabilities by identifying known attack patterns, suspicious activity, and malicious indicators.

Essential Steps in Developing Threat Intelligence:

Collecting Data from Trusted Sources (A)

Gather data from threat intelligence feeds (e.g., STIX, TAXII, OpenCTI, VirusTotal, AbuseIPDB).

Include internal logs, honeypots, and third-party security vendors.

Analyzing and Correlating Threat Data (C)

Use correlation searches to match known threat indicators against live data.

Identify patterns in network traffic, logs, and endpoint activity.

Operationalizing Intelligence Through Workflows (E)

Automate responses using Splunk SOAR (Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response).

Enhance alert prioritization by integrating intelligence into risk-based alerting (RBA).

NEW QUESTION # 55

During an incident, a correlation search generates several notable events related to failed logins. The engineer notices the events are from test accounts.

What should be done to address this?

- A. Suppress all notable events temporarily.
- B. Disable the correlation search for test accounts.
- C. Apply filtering to exclude test accounts from the search results.
- D. Lower the search threshold for failed logins.

Answer: C

Explanation:

When a correlation search in Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) generates excessive notable events due to test accounts, the best approach is to filter out test accounts while keeping legitimate detections active.

#1. Apply Filtering to Exclude Test Accounts (B)

Modifies the correlation search to exclude known test accounts.

Reduces false positives while keeping real threats visible.

Example:

Update the search to exclude test accounts:

```
index=auth_logs NOT user IN ("test_user1", "test_user2")
```

#Incorrect Answers:

A: Disable the correlation search for test accounts # This removes visibility into all failed logins, including those that may indicate real threats.

C: Lower the search threshold for failed logins # Would increase false positives, making it harder for SOC teams to focus on real attacks.

D: Suppress all notable events temporarily # Suppression hides all alerts, potentially missing real security incidents.

#Additional Resources:

Splunk ES: Managing Correlation Searches

Reducing False Positives in SIEM

NEW QUESTION # 56

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