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## Paloalto Networks XDR Engineer Exam

### Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer

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

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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 2	<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>
Topic 3	<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 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>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>

## Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q41-Q46):

### NEW QUESTION # 41

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 not execute**
- C. It will immediately execute
- D. It will execute after one hour

#### Answer: B

##### 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 run, 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.

##### 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>

Note on Image: Since the image was not provided, I assumed a default Malware profile configuration. If you can share the image or

describe its settings (e.g., specific allow lists, exclusions, or block rules), I can refine the answer to match the exact configuration.

### NEW QUESTION # 42

How can a customer ingest additional events from a Windows DHCP server into Cortex XDR with minimal configuration?

- A. Enable HTTP collector integration
- B. **Install the XDR Collector**
- C. Install the Cortex XDR agent
- D. Activate Windows Event Collector (WEC)

#### Answer: B

Explanation:

To ingest additional events from a Windows DHCP server into Cortex XDR with minimal configuration, the recommended approach is to use the Cortex XDR Collector. The XDR Collector is a lightweight component designed to collect and forward logs and events from various sources, including Windows servers, to Cortex XDR for analysis and correlation. It is specifically optimized for scenarios where full Cortex XDR agent deployment is not required, and it minimizes configuration overhead by automating much of the data collection process.

For a Windows DHCP server, the XDR Collector can be installed on the server to collect DHCP logs (e.g., lease assignments, renewals, or errors) from the Windows Event Log or other relevant sources. Once installed, the collector forwards these events to the Cortex XDR tenant with minimal setup, requiring only basic configuration such as specifying the target data types and ensuring network connectivity to the Cortex XDR cloud. This approach is more straightforward than alternatives like setting up a full agent or configuring external integrations like Windows Event Collector (WEC) or HTTP collectors, which require additional infrastructure or manual configuration.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. Activate Windows Event Collector (WEC): While WEC can collect events from Windows servers, it requires significant configuration, including setting up a WEC server, configuring subscriptions, and integrating with Cortex XDR via a separate ingestion mechanism. This is not minimal configuration.

\* C. Enable HTTP collector integration: HTTP collector integration is used for ingesting data via HTTP/HTTPS APIs, which is not applicable for Windows DHCP server events, as DHCP logs are typically stored in the Windows Event Log, not exposed via HTTP.

\* D. Install the Cortex XDR agent: The Cortex XDR agent is a full-featured endpoint protection and detection solution that includes prevention, detection, and response capabilities. While it can collect some event data, it is overkill for the specific task of ingesting DHCP server events and requires more configuration than the XDR Collector.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes the XDR Collector as a tool for "collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints with minimal setup" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). The EDU-260:

Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course emphasizes that "XDR Collectors are ideal for ingesting server logs, such as those from Windows DHCP servers, with streamlined configuration" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet lists "data source onboarding and integration configuration" as a key skill, which includes configuring XDR Collectors for log ingestion.

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 # 43

Log events from a previously deployed Windows XDR Collector agent are no longer being observed in the console after an OS upgrade. Which aspect of the log events is the probable cause of this behavior?

- A. They are in Filebeat format
- B. **They are greater than 5MB**
- C. They are less than 1MB
- D. They are in Winlogbeat format

#### Answer: B

## NEW QUESTION # 44

An XDR engineer is creating a correlation rule to monitor login activity on specific systems. When the activity is identified, an alert is created. The alerts are being generated properly but are missing the username when viewed. How can the username information be included in the alerts?

- A. Add a mapping for the username field in the alert fields mapping
- B. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username
- C. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field
- D. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, correlation rules are used to detect specific patterns or behaviors (e.g., login activity) by analyzing ingested data and generating alerts when conditions are met. For an alert to include specific fields like `username`, the field must be explicitly mapped in the `alert fields mapping` configuration of the correlation rule. This mapping determines which fields from the underlying dataset are included in the generated alert's details.

In this scenario, the correlation rule is correctly generating alerts for login activity, but the `username` field is missing. This indicates that the correlation rule's query may be identifying the relevant events, but the `username` field is not included in the alert's output fields. To resolve this, the engineer must update the `alert fields mapping` in the correlation rule to explicitly include the `username` field, ensuring it appears in the alert details when viewed.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (C): Adding a mapping for the `username` field in the `alert fields mapping` ensures that the field is extracted from the dataset and included in the alert's metadata. This is done in the correlation rule configuration, where administrators can specify which fields to include in the alert output.

\* Why not the other options?

\* A. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username:

Mapping to a MITRE ATT&CK technique like "Initial Access" defines the type of attack or behavior, not specific fields like `username`. This does not address the missing field issue.

\* B. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the `username` field: While the correlation rule's query must reference the `username` field to detect relevant events, including it in the query alone does not ensure it appears in the alert's output. The `alert fields mapping` is still required.

\* D. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the `username` field: Drill-down queries are used for additional investigation after an alert is generated, not for including fields in the alert itself. This does not solve the issue of missing `username` in the alert details.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes correlation rule configuration: "To include specific fields in generated alerts, configure the alert fields mapping in the correlation rule to map dataset fields, such as `username`, to the alert output" (paraphrased from the Correlation Rules section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers detection engineering, stating that "alert fields mapping determines which data fields are included in alerts generated by correlation rules" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing correlation rule 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  
Datasheet: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification/xdr-engineer>

## NEW QUESTION # 45

An insider compromise investigation has been requested to provide evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on a company laptop. Cortex XDR agent is installed with default prevention agent settings profile and default extension "Device Configuration" profile. Where can an engineer find the evidence?

- A. Check Host Inventory -> Mounts
- B. `dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT`
- C. `preset = device_control`
- D. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, the Device Configuration profile (an extension of the agent settings profile) controls how the Cortex XDR agent monitors and manages device-related activities, such as the mounting of removable drives.

By default, the Device Configuration profile includes monitoring for device mount events, such as when a USB drive or other removable media is connected to an endpoint. These events are logged and can be accessed for investigations, such as detecting unauthorized drive usage in an insider compromise scenario.

\* Correct Answer Analysis (A): The Host Inventory -> Mounts section in the Cortex XDR console provides a detailed view of mount events for each endpoint, including information about removable drives mounted on the system. This is the most straightforward place to find evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on the company laptop, as it aggregates device mount events captured by the default Device Configuration profile.

\* Why not the other options?

\* B. dataset = `xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM`.

`MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT`: This XQL query is technically correct for retrieving mount events from the `xdr_data` dataset, but it requires manual query execution and knowledge of specific event types. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is a more user-friendly and direct method for accessing this data, making it the preferred choice for an engineer investigating this issue.

\* C. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured: This is incorrect because the default Device Configuration profile already captures mount events for removable drives, so no additional configuration is needed.

\* D. `preset = device_control`: The `device_control` preset in XQL retrieves device control-related events (e.g., USB block or allow actions), but it may not specifically include mount events unless explicitly configured. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is more targeted for this investigation.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes device monitoring: "The default Device Configuration profile logs mount events for removable drives, which can be viewed in the Host Inventory -> Mounts section of the console" (paraphrased from the Device Configuration section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers investigation techniques, stating that "mount events for removable drives are accessible in the Host Inventory for endpoints with default device monitoring" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing investigation of endpoint events.

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 # 46

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