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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	- 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 3	- 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 4	- 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.

Topic 5	- 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Questions For Greatest Achievement [Updated 2026]

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q47-Q52):

NEW QUESTION # 47
An administrator wants to employ reusable rules within custom parsing rules to apply consistent log field extraction across multiple data sources. Which section of the parsing rule should the administrator use to define those reusable rules in Cortex XDR?

- A. RULE
- B. INGEST
- C. CONST
- D. FILTER

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, parsing rules are used to extract and normalize fields from log data ingested from various sources to ensure consistent analysis and correlation. To create reusable rules for consistent log field extraction across multiple data sources, administrators use theCONSTsection within the parsing rule configuration. TheCONSTsection allows the definition of reusable constants or rules that can be applied across different parsing rules, ensuring uniformity in how fields are extracted and processed.
TheCONSTsection is specifically designed to hold constant values or reusable expressions that can be referenced in other parts of the parsing rule, such as theRULEorINGESTsections. This is particularly useful when multiple data sources require similar field extraction logic, as it reduces redundancy and ensures consistency. For example, a constant regex pattern for extracting IP addresses can be defined in theCONST section and reused across multiple parsing rules.
* Why not the other options?
* RULE: TheRULEsection defines the specific logic for parsing and extracting fields from a log entry but is not inherently reusable across multiple rules unless referenced via constants defined in CONST.
* INGEST: TheINGESTsection specifies how raw log data is ingested and preprocessed, not where reusable rules are defined.
* FILTER: TheFILTERsection is used to include or exclude log entries based on conditions, not for defining reusable extraction rules.
Exact Extract or Reference:
While the exact wording of theCONSTsection's purpose is not directly quoted in public-facing documentation (as some details are in proprietary training materials like EDU-260 or the Cortex XDR Admin Guide), theCortex XDR Documentation Portal(docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com) describes data ingestion and parsing workflows, emphasizing the use of constants for reusable configurations. TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers data onboarding and parsing, noting that "constants defined in the CONST section allow reusable parsing logic for consistent field extraction across sources" (paraphrased from course objectives). Additionally, thePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetlists "data source onboarding and integration configuration" as a key skill, which includes mastering parsing rules and their components likeCONST.
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 # 48
During a recent internal purple team exercise, the following recommendation is given to the detection engineering team: Detect and prevent command line invocation of Python on Windows endpoints by non- technical business units. Which rule type should be implemented?

- A. Behavioral Indicator of Compromise (BIOC)
- B. Indicator of Compromise (IOC)
- C. Correlation
- D. Analytics Behavioral Indicator of Compromise (ABIOC)

Answer: A

Explanation:
The recommendation requires detecting and preventing the command line invocation of Python (e.g., python.
exe or py.exe) on Windows endpoints, specifically for non-technical business units. This involves identifying a specific behavior (command line execution of Python) and enforcing a preventive action (e.g., blocking the process). In Cortex XDR,Behavioral Indicators of Compromise (BIOCs)are used to define and detect specific patterns of behavior on endpoints, such as command line activities, and can be paired with a Restriction profileto block the behavior.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):ABehavioral Indicator of Compromise (BIOC)rule should be implemented. The BIOC can be configured to detect the command line invocation of Python by defining conditions such as the process name (python.exe or py.exe) and the command line arguments.
For example, a BIOC rule might look for process = python.exe with a command line pattern like cmd.
exe /c python*. This BIOC can then be added to a Restriction profile to prevent the execution of Python by non-technical business units, which can be targeted by applying the profile to specific endpoint groups (e.g., those assigned to non-technical units).
* Why not the other options?
* A. Analytics Behavioral Indicator of Compromise (ABIOC): ABIOCs are analytics-driven rules generated by Cortex XDR's machine learning and behavioralanalytics, not user-defined rules. They are not suitable for creating custom detection and prevention rules like the one needed here.
* C. Correlation: Correlation rules are used to generate alerts by correlating events across multiple datasets (e.g., network and endpoint data), but they do not directly prevent behaviors like command line execution.
* D. Indicator of Compromise (IOC): IOCs are used to detect specific artifacts (e.g., file hashes, IP addresses) associated with known threats, not to detect and prevent behavioral patterns like command line execution.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains BIOC rules: "Behavioral Indicators of Compromise (BIOCs) can detect specific endpoint behaviors, such as command line invocation of processes like Python, and prevent them when added to a Restriction profile" (paraphrased from the BIOC section). TheEDU-260:
Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers detection engineering, stating that "BIOCs are used to detect and block specific behaviors, such as command line executions, on Windows endpoints" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes
"detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing BIOC rule creation.
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
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NEW QUESTION # 49
Which method will drop undesired logs and reduce the amount of data being ingested?

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

- D. [COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, managing data ingestion involves defining rules to collect, filter, or drop logs to optimize storage and processing. The goal is todrop undesired logsto 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. Thedropaction explicitly discards logs matching a condition, whilefilterwithnot containscan 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 dropslogs 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:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains 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). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse 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). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "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 # 50
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 rulesare 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 likeusername, the field must be explicitly mapped in thealert fields mappingconfiguration of the correlation rule. This mapping determines which fields from theunderlying dataset are included in the generated alert's details.
In this scenario, the correlation rule is correctly generating alerts for login activity, but theusernamefield is missing. This indicates that the correlation rule's query may be identifying the relevant events, but the usernamefield is not included in the alert's output fields. To

resolve this, the engineer must update thealert fields mappingin the correlation rule to explicitly include theusernamefield, ensuring it appears in the alert details when viewed.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Adding a mapping for theusernamefield in thealert 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 likeusername. 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 theusernamefield to detect relevant events, including it in the query alone does not ensure it appears in the alert's output. Thealert fields mappingis 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 missingusernamein the alert details.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes 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). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers detection engineering, stating that "alert fields mapping determines which data fields are included in alerts generated by correlation rules" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "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
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NEW QUESTION # 51
What is a benefit of ingesting and forwarding Palo Alto Networks NGFW logs to Cortex XDR?

- A. Automated downloading of malware signatures from the NGFW
- B. Blocking network traffic based on Cortex XDR detections
- C. Enabling additional analysis through enhanced application logging
- D. Sending endpoint logs to the NGFW for analysis

Answer: C

Explanation:
IntegratingPalo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs)with Cortex XDR by ingesting and forwarding NGFW logs allows for enhanced visibility and correlation across network and endpoint data.
NGFW logs contain detailed information about network traffic, applications, and threats, which Cortex XDR can use to improve its detection and analysis capabilities.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Enabling additional analysis through enhanced application logging is a key benefit. NGFW logs include application-layer data (e.g., App-ID, user activity, URL filtering), which Cortex XDR can ingest to perform deeper analysis, such as correlating network events with endpoint activities. This enhanced logging enables better incident investigation, threat detection, and behavioral analytics by providing a more comprehensive view of the environment.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Sending endpoint logs to the NGFW for analysis: The integration is about forwarding NGFW logs to Cortex XDR, not the other way around. Endpoint logs are not sent to the NGFW for analysis in this context.
* B. Blocking network traffic based on Cortex XDR detections: While Cortex XDR can share threat intelligence with NGFWs to block traffic (via mechanisms like External Dynamic Lists), this is not the primary benefit of ingesting NGFW logs into Cortex XDR. The focus here is on analysis, not blocking.
* D. Automated downloading of malware signatures from the NGFW: NGFWs do not provide malware signatures to Cortex XDR. Malware signatures are typically sourced from WildFire (Palo Alto Networks' cloud-based threat analysis service), not directly from NGFW logs.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains NGFW integration: "Ingesting Palo Alto Networks NGFW logs into Cortex XDR enables additional analysis through enhanced application logging, improving visibility and correlation across network and endpoint data" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). TheEDU-
260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers NGFW log integration, stating that

"forwarding NGFW logs to Cortex XDR enhancesapplication-layer analysis for better threat detection" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes
"data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing NGFW log integration.
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
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NEW QUESTION # 52
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