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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q43-Q48):

NEW QUESTION # 43

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 to drop undesired logs to 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. The drop action explicitly discards logs matching a condition, while filter with not contains can 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 drops logs 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:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains 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). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course 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). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "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 # 44

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

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

Answer: A

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 # 45

Which components may be included in a Cortex XDR content update?

- A. Behavioral Threat Protection (BTP) rules and local analysis logic
- B. Firewall rules and antivirus definitions
- C. Antivirus definitions and agent versions
- D. Device control profiles, agent versions, and kernel support

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cortex XDR content updates deliver enhancements to the platform's detection and prevention capabilities, including updates to rules, logic, and other components that improve threat detection without requiring a full agent upgrade. These updates are distinct from agent software updates (which change the agent version) or firewall configurations.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): Cortex XDR content updates typically include Behavioral Threat Protection (BTP) rules and local analysis logic. BTP rules define patterns for detecting advanced threats based on endpoint behavior, while local analysis logic enhances the agent's ability to analyze files and activities locally, improving detection accuracy and performance.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Device control profiles, agent versions, and kernel support: Device control profiles are part of policy configurations, not content updates. Agent versions are updated via software upgrades, not content updates. Kernel support may be included in agent upgrades, not content updates.

* C. Antivirus definitions and agent versions: Antivirus definitions are associated with traditional AV solutions, not Cortex XDR's behavior-based approach. Agent versions are updated separately, not as part of content updates.

* D. Firewall rules and antivirus definitions: Firewall rules are managed by Palo Alto Networks firewalls, not Cortex XDR content updates. Antivirus definitions are not relevant to Cortex XDR's detection mechanisms.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal describes content updates: "Content updates include Behavioral Threat Protection (BTP) rules and local analysis logic to enhance detection capabilities" (paraphrased from the Content Updates section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers content management, stating that "content updates deliver BTP rules and local analysis enhancements to improve threat detection" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing content updates.

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 # 46

What is a benefit of ingesting and forwarding Palo Alto Networks NGFW logs to Cortex XDR?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Integrating Palo 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:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains 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). The EDU-

260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers NGFW log integration, stating that

"forwarding NGFW logs to Cortex XDR enhances application-layer analysis for better threat detection" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes

"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 # 47

When isolating Cortex XDR agent components to troubleshoot for compatibility, which command is used to turn off a component on a Windows machine?

- A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop
- B. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop
- **C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop**
- D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp

Answer: C

Explanation:

Cortex XDR agents on Windows include multiple components (e.g., for exploit protection, malware scanning, or behavioral analysis) that can be individually enabled or disabled for troubleshooting purposes, such as isolating compatibility issues. The cytool.exe utility, located in the Cortex XDR installation directory (typically C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\), is used to manage agent components and settings. The runtime stop command specifically disables a component without uninstalling the agent.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The command "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop is used to turn off a specific Cortex XDR agent component on a Windows machine.

For example, cytool.exe runtime stop protection would disable the protection component, allowing troubleshooting for compatibility issues while keeping other components active.

* Why not the other options?

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