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**WGU D487 Secure Software Design
Objective Assessment Exam 2025/2026 –
Complete Questions with Verified Correct
Answers (100% Guaranteed Pass)**

Secure Software Design Principles (15 Questions)

Question 1

What is the primary goal of secure software design?

- A) To meet functional requirements
- B) To reduce software development lifecycle time
- C) To identify and mitigate security risks early in development
- D) To ensure code reuse

Answer: C) To identify and mitigate security risks early in development

Rationale: Secure software design prioritizes identifying and mitigating security risks early in the SDLC to prevent vulnerabilities, aligning with industry best practices like BSIMM.

Question 2

What is a study of real-world software security initiatives organized to help companies measure and evolve their practices?

- A) OWASP Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM)
- B) Building Security In Maturity Model (BSIMM)
- C) ISO/IEC 27001
- D) NIST Cybersecurity Framework

Answer: B) Building Security In Maturity Model (BSIMM)

Rationale: BSIMM analyzes real-world security initiatives, providing a framework for organizations to benchmark and improve their software security practices.

Question 3

Which principle ensures that a system operates with the least privilege necessary?

- A) Defense in depth
- B) Least privilege
- C) Fail-safe defaults

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WGU Secure-Software-Design Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Pattern Selection and Implementation: This section of the exam measures skills of Software Developers and Software Architects and covers the selection and implementation of appropriate design patterns. Learners examine common design patterns and their applications in software development. The material focuses on understanding when and how to apply specific patterns to solve recurring design problems and improve code organization.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Software Architecture and Design: This module covers topics in designing, analyzing, and managing large scale software systems. Students will learn various architecture types, how to select and implement appropriate design patterns, and how to build well structured, reliable, and secure software systems.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Software Architecture Types: This section of the exam measures skills of Software Architects and covers various architecture types used in large scale software systems. Learners explore different architectural models and frameworks that guide system design decisions. The content addresses how to identify and evaluate architectural patterns that best fit specific project requirements and organizational needs.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Software System Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Software Project Managers and covers the management of large scale software systems. Learners study approaches for overseeing software projects from conception through deployment. The material focuses on coordination strategies and management techniques that ensure successful delivery of complex software solutions.

WGU Secure Software Design (KEO1) Exam Sample Questions (Q77-Q82):

NEW QUESTION # 77

Which mitigation technique is used to fight against an identity spoofing threat?

- A. Audit trails
- B. Encryption
- C. Require user authorization
- D. Filtering

Answer: C

Explanation:

To combat identity spoofing threats, a mitigation technique that is often used is requiring user authorization.

This involves implementing strong authentication methods to verify the identity of users before granting access to sensitive information or systems. Techniques such as two-factor authentication (2FA) or multi-factor authentication (MFA) are effective in reducing the risk of unauthorized access, as they require users to provide multiple pieces of evidence to confirm their identity, making it much harder for attackers to spoof an identity successfully.

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Best practices for preventing spoofing attacks, including the use of antivirus and firewall tools, and the importance of strong authentication methods like 2FA and MFA1.

The National Security Agency's guidance on identity theft threats and mitigations, emphasizing the need for personal protection and strong authentication measures2.

Discussion on the effectiveness of strong authentication methods in protecting against spoofing attacks3.

The role of comprehensive identity verification and authentication strategies in preventing AI-enhanced identity fraud4.

NEW QUESTION # 78

The software security team has been tasked with assessing a document management application that has been in use for many years and developing a plan to ensure it complies with organizational policies.

Which post-release deliverable is being described?

- A. Security strategy for M&A products
- B. External vulnerability disclosure response process
- C. Post-release certifications
- D. Security strategy for legacy code

Answer: D

Explanation:

The task described involves assessing a document management application that has been in use for many years. This scenario typically requires a security strategy that addresses the unique challenges of legacy code.

Legacy code refers to software that has been around for a long time and may not have been developed with current security standards in mind. A security strategy for legacy code would include measures to ensure that the application complies with current organizational policies, which may involve code reviews, updates, and the implementation of modern security practices to mitigate any potential vulnerabilities inherent in older code¹².

References:

- * Remotebase, "Best Practices for Managing Legacy Code"
- * Medium, "The Engineer's Complete Guide to Legacy Code"
- * Parasoft, "Testing Legacy Code & 3 Steps to Update"

NEW QUESTION # 79

Which secure coding best practice says to assume all incoming data should be considered untrusted and should be validated to ensure the system only accepts valid data?

- A. System configuration
- B. General coding practices
- C. Session management
- D. Input validation

Answer: D

Explanation:

The secure coding best practice that emphasizes treating all incoming data as untrusted and subjecting it to validation is known as input validation. This practice is crucial for ensuring that a system only processes valid, clean data, thereby preventing many types of vulnerabilities, such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), and buffer overflows, which can arise from maliciously crafted inputs.

* Input validation involves verifying that the data meets certain criteria before it is processed by the system. This includes checking for the correct data type, length, format, and range. It also involves sanitizing the data to ensure that it does not contain any potentially harmful elements that could lead to security breaches.

* A centralized input validation routine is recommended for the entire application, which helps in maintaining consistency and effectiveness in the validation process. This routine should be implemented on a trusted system, typically server-side, to prevent tampering or bypassing of the validation logic.

* It's important to classify all data sources into trusted and untrusted categories and to apply rigorous validation to all data from untrusted sources, such as user input, databases, file streams, and network interfaces.

By adhering to the input validation best practice, developers can significantly reduce the attack surface of their applications and protect against a wide array of common security threats.

: The verified answer is supported by the Secure Coding Practices outlined by the OWASP Foundation¹ and other reputable sources such as Coding Dojo² and CERT Secure Coding³.

NEW QUESTION # 80

Which software-testing technique can be automated or semi-automated and provides invalid, unexpected, or random data to the inputs of a computer software program?

- A. Fuzzing
- B. Dynamic analysis
- C. Static analysis
- D. Bugtraq

Answer: A

Explanation:

Fuzzing is an automated or semi-automated software testing technique that involves providing invalid, unexpected, or random data to the inputs of a computer program¹. This process is designed to uncover coding errors, security vulnerabilities, and other potential issues within the software by observing how it behaves under unexpected or malformed inputs. Fuzzing is particularly effective because it can expose corner cases that have not been properly dealt with and can be used to test programs that take structured inputs, such as file formats or protocols².

References: 1: Wikipedia - Fuzzing 2: DZone - Fuzzing in Software Engineering

NEW QUESTION # 81

The security team is reviewing all noncommercial software libraries used in the new product to ensure they are being used according to the legal specifications defined by the authors.

What activity of the Ship SDL phase is being performed?

- A. Policy compliance analysis
- B. Final security review
- C. Penetration testing
- D. Open-source licensing review

Answer: D

Explanation:

The activity described pertains to the review of noncommercial software libraries to ensure compliance with the legal specifications set by the authors. This is part of the open-source licensing review, which is a critical activity in the Ship phase of the Security Development Lifecycle (SDL). This review ensures that all open-source components are used in accordance with their licenses, which is essential for legal and security compliance.

References: The Ship phase of the SDL includes various activities such as policy compliance review, vulnerability scanning, penetration testing, open-source licensing review, and final security and privacy reviews^{1,2}. The open-source licensing review specifically addresses the legal aspects of using third-party software components².

NEW QUESTION # 82

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