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Palo Alto Networks PSE-Strata-Pro-24 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Value and Competitive Differentiators: This section of the exam measures the skills of Technical Business Value Analysts and focuses on identifying the value proposition of Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs). Candidates will assess the technical business benefits of tools like Panorama and SCM. They will also recognize customer-relevant topics and align them with Palo Alto Networks' best solutions. Additionally, understanding Strata's unique differentiators is a key component of this domain.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment and Evaluation: This section of the exam measures the skills of Deployment Engineers and focuses on identifying the capabilities of Palo Alto Networks NGFWs. Candidates will evaluate features that protect against both known and unknown threats. They will also explain identity management from a deployment perspective and describe the proof of value (PoV) process, which includes assessing the effectiveness of NGFW solutions.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture and Planning: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Architects and emphasizes understanding customer requirements and designing suitable deployment architectures. Candidates must explain Palo Alto Networks' platform networking capabilities in detail and evaluate their suitability for various environments. Handling aspects like system sizing and fine-tuning is also a critical skill assessed in this domain.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Security Strategy and Best Practices: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Strategy Specialists and highlights the importance of the Palo Alto Networks five-step Zero Trust methodology. Candidates must understand how to approach and apply the Zero Trust model effectively while emphasizing best practices to ensure robust network security.

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Palo Alto Networks Systems Engineer Professional - Hardware Firewall Sample Questions (Q21-Q26):

NEW QUESTION # 21

An existing customer wants to expand their online business into physical stores for the first time. The customer requires NGFWs at the physical store to handle SD-WAN, security, and data protection needs, while also mandating a vendor-validated deployment method. Which two steps are valid actions for a systems engineer to take? (Choose two.)

- A. Create a bespoke deployment plan with the customer that reviews their cloud architecture, store footprint, and security requirements.
- B. Use the reference architecture "On-Premises Network Security for the Branch Deployment Guide" to achieve a desired architecture.
- C. Use Golden Images and Day 1 configuration to create a consistent baseline from which the customer can efficiently work.
- D. Recommend the customer purchase Palo Alto Networks or partner-provided professional services to meet the stated requirements.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

When assisting a customer in deploying next-generation firewalls (NGFWs) for their new physical store branches, it is crucial to address their requirements for SD-WAN, security, and data protection with a validated deployment methodology. Palo Alto Networks provides robust solutions for branch security and SD-WAN integration, and several steps align with vendor-validated methods:

- * Option A (Correct): Palo Alto Networks or certified partners provide professional services for validated deployment methods, including SD-WAN, security, and data protection in branch locations. Professional services ensure that the deployment adheres to industry best practices and Palo Alto's validated reference architectures. This ensures a scalable and secure deployment across all branch locations.
- * Option B: While using Golden Images and a Day 1 configuration can create a consistent baseline for configuration deployment, it does not align directly with the requirement of following vendor-validated deployment methodologies. This step is helpful but secondary to vendor-validated professional services and bespoke deployment planning.
- * Option C (Correct): A bespoke deployment plan considers the customer's specific architecture, store footprint, and unique security requirements. Palo Alto Networks' system engineers typically collaborate with the customer to design and validate tailored deployments, ensuring alignment with the customer's operational goals while maintaining compliance with validated architectures.
- * Option D: While Palo Alto Networks provides branch deployment guides (such as the "On-Premises Network Security for the Branch Deployment Guide"), these guides are primarily reference materials.

They do not substitute for vendor-provided professional services or the creation of tailored deployment plans with the customer.

References:

- * Palo Alto Networks SD-WAN Deployment Guide.
- * Branch Deployment Architecture Best Practices: <https://docs.paloaltonetworks.com>
- * Professional Services Overview: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services>

NEW QUESTION # 22

A customer sees unusually high DNS traffic to an unfamiliar IP address. Which Palo Alto Networks Cloud-Delivered Security Services (CDSS) subscription should be enabled to further inspect this traffic?

- A. Advanced WildFire
- B. Advanced Threat Prevention
- C. Advanced DNS Security
- D. Advanced URL Filtering

Answer: C

Explanation:

The appropriate CDSS subscription to inspect and mitigate suspicious DNS traffic is Advanced DNS Security

. Here's why:

- * Advanced DNS Security protects against DNS-based threats, including domain generation algorithms (DGA), DNS tunneling (often used for data exfiltration), and malicious domains used in attacks. It leverages machine learning to detect and block DNS traffic associated with command-and-control servers or other malicious activities. In this case, unusually high DNS traffic to an unfamiliar IP address is likely indicative of a DNS-based attack or malware activity, making this the most suitable service.
- * Option A: Advanced Threat Prevention (ATP) focuses on identifying and blocking sophisticated threats in network traffic, such as exploits and evasive malware. While it complements DNS Security, it does not specialize in analyzing DNS-specific traffic patterns.
- * Option B: Advanced WildFire focuses on detecting and preventing file-based threats, such as malware delivered via email attachments or web downloads. It does not provide specific protection for DNS-related anomalies.
- * Option C: Advanced URL Filtering is designed to prevent access to malicious or inappropriate websites based on their URLs. While DNS may be indirectly involved in resolving malicious websites, this service does not directly inspect DNS traffic patterns for threats.
- * Option D (Correct): Advanced DNS Security specifically addresses DNS-based threats. By enabling this service, the customer can detect and block DNS queries to malicious domains and investigate anomalous DNS behavior like the high traffic observed in this scenario.

How to Enable Advanced DNS Security:

- * Ensure the firewall has a valid Advanced DNS Security license.
- * Navigate to Objects > Security Profiles > Anti-Spyware.
- * Enable DNS Security under the "DNS Signatures" section.
- * Apply the Anti-Spyware profile to the relevant Security Policy to enforce DNS Security.

References:

- * Palo Alto Networks Advanced DNS Security Overview: <https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/dns-security>
- * Best Practices for DNS Security Configuration.

NEW QUESTION # 23

While responding to a customer RFP, a systems engineer (SE) is presented the question, "How do PANW firewalls enable the mapping of transactions as part of Zero Trust principles?" Which two narratives can the SE use to respond to the question? (Choose two.)

- A. Reinforce the importance of decryption and security protections to verify traffic that is not malicious.
- B. Explain how the NGFW can be placed in the network so it has visibility into every traffic flow.
- C. Emphasize Zero Trust as an ideology, and that the customer decides how to align to Zero Trust principles.
- D. Describe how Palo Alto Networks NGFW Security policies are built by using users, applications, and data objects.

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

The question asks how Palo Alto Networks (PANW) Strata Hardware Firewalls enable the mapping of transactions as part of Zero Trust principles, requiring a systems engineer (SE) to provide two narratives for a customer RFP response. Zero Trust is a security model that assumes no trust by default, requiring continuous verification of all transactions, users, and devices-inside and outside the network. The Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW), part of the Strata portfolio, supports this through its advanced visibility, decryption, and policy enforcement capabilities. Below is a detailed explanation of why options B and D are the correct narratives, verified against official Palo Alto Networks documentation.

Step 1: Understanding Zero Trust and Transaction Mapping in PAN-OS

Zero Trust principles, as defined by frameworks like NIST SP 800-207, emphasize identifying and verifying every transaction (e.g., network flows, application requests) based on context such as user identity, application, and data. For Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, "mapping of transactions" refers to the ability to identify, classify, and control network traffic with granular detail, enabling verification and enforcement aligned with Zero Trust.

The PAN-OS operating system achieves this through:

- * App-ID: Identifies applications regardless of port or protocol.
- * User-ID: Maps IP addresses to user identities.
- * Content-ID: Inspects and protects content, including decryption for visibility.
- * Security Policies: Enforces rules based on these mappings.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Zero Trust Architecture Guide

"Zero Trust requires visibility into all traffic, verification of trust, and enforcement of least privilege policies- capabilities delivered by PAN-OS through App-ID, User-ID, and Content-ID." Step 2: Evaluating the Narratives Let's analyze each option to determine which two best explain how PANW firewalls enable transaction mapping for Zero Trust:

Option A: Emphasize Zero Trust as an ideology, and that the customer decides how to align to Zero Trust principles.

Analysis: While Zero Trust is indeed a guiding philosophy, this narrative is vague and does not directly address how the firewall enables transaction mapping. It shifts responsibility to the customer without highlighting specific PAN-OS capabilities, making it less relevant to the question.

Conclusion: Not a suitable answer.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Zero Trust Overview - "Zero Trust is a strategy, but Palo Alto Networks provides the tools to implement it." Option B: Reinforce the importance of decryption and security protections to verify traffic that is not malicious.

Analysis: Decryption is a cornerstone of Zero Trust because encrypted traffic (e.g., TLS/SSL) can hide malicious activity. PAN-OS NGFWs use SSL Forward Proxy and SSL Inbound Inspection to decrypt traffic, allowing full visibility into transactions. Once decrypted, App-ID and Content-ID classify the traffic and apply security protections (e.g., threat prevention, URL filtering) to verify it aligns with policy and is not malicious. This directly enables transaction mapping by ensuring all flows are identified and verified.

Step-by-Step Explanation:

Enable decryption under Policies > Decryption to inspect encrypted traffic.

App-ID identifies the application (e.g., HTTPS-based apps).

Content-ID scans for threats, ensuring the transaction is safe.

Logs (e.g., Traffic, Threat) map the transaction details (source, destination, app, user).

Conclusion: Correct answer-directly ties to transaction mapping via visibility and verification.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Decryption Overview

"Decryption enables visibility into encrypted traffic, a requirement for Zero Trust, allowing the firewall to apply security policies and log transaction details." Option C: Explain how the NGFW can be placed in the network so it has visibility into every traffic flow.

Analysis: Network placement (e.g., inline deployment) is important for visibility, but it's a deployment strategy, not a capability of the firewall itself. While visibility is a prerequisite for Zero Trust, this narrative does not explain how the firewall maps transactions (e.g., via App-ID or User-ID). It's too indirect to fully address the question.

Conclusion: Not the strongest answer.

Reference: PAN-OS Deployment Guide - "Inline placement ensures visibility, but mapping requires App-ID and User-ID." Option D: Describe how Palo Alto Networks NGFW Security policies are built by using users, applications, and data objects.

Analysis: This narrative highlights the core PAN-OS features-User-ID, App-ID, and Content-ID-that enable transaction mapping.

Security policies in PAN-OS are defined using:

Users: Mapped via User-ID from directory services (e.g., AD).

Applications: Identified by App-ID, even within encrypted flows.

Data Objects: Controlled via Content-ID (e.g., file types, sensitive data). These policies log and enforce transactions, providing the granular context required for Zero Trust (e.g., "Allow user Alice to access Salesforce, but block file uploads").

Step-by-Step Explanation:

Configure User-ID (Device > User Identification) to map IPs to users.

Use App-ID in policies (Policies > Security) to identify apps.

Define data objects (e.g., Objects > Custom Objects > Data Patterns) for content control.

Logs (e.g., Monitor > Logs > Traffic) record transaction mappings.

Conclusion: Correct answer-directly explains transaction mapping via policy enforcement.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Security Policy

"Security policies leverage User-ID, App-ID, and Content-ID to map and control transactions, aligning with Zero Trust least privilege." Step 3: Why B and D Are the Best Choices B: Focuses on decryption and verification, ensuring all transactions (even encrypted ones) are mapped and validated, a critical Zero Trust requirement.

D: Highlights the policy framework that maps transactions to users, apps, and data, enabling granular control and logging-core to Zero Trust enforcement. Together, they cover visibility (B) and enforcement (D), fully addressing how PANW firewalls implement transaction mapping for Zero Trust.

Step 4: Sample RFP Response Narratives

B Narrative: "Palo Alto Networks NGFWs enable Zero Trust by decrypting traffic to provide full visibility into transactions. Using SSL decryption and integrated security protections like threat prevention, the firewall verifies that traffic is not malicious, mapping every flow to ensure compliance with Zero Trust principles." D Narrative: "Our NGFWs map transactions through security policies built on users, applications, and data objects. By leveraging User-ID, App-ID, and Content-ID, the firewall identifies who is

accessing what application and what data is involved, enforcing least privilege and logging every transaction for Zero Trust alignment." Conclusion The two narratives that best explain how PANW Strata Hardware Firewalls enable transaction mapping for

Zero Trust are B and D. These are grounded in PAN-OS capabilities-decryption for visibility and policy- based mapping-verified by Palo Alto Networks documentation up to March 08, 2025, including PAN-OS

11.1 and the Zero Trust Architecture Guide.

NEW QUESTION # 24

A large global company plans to acquire 500 NGFWs to replace its legacy firewalls and has a specific requirement for centralized logging and reporting capabilities.

What should a systems engineer recommend?

- **A. Combine Panorama for firewall management with Palo Alto Networks' cloud-based Strata Logging Service to offer scalability for the company's logging and reporting infrastructure.**
- B. Highlight the efficiency of PAN-OS, which employs AI to automatically extract critical logs and generate daily executive reports, and confirm that the purchase of 500 NGFWs is sufficient.
- C. Use Panorama for firewall management and to transfer logs from the 500 firewalls directly to a third-party SIEM for centralized logging and reporting.
- D. Deploy a pair of M-1000 log collectors in the customer data center, and route logs from all 500 firewalls to the log collectors for centralized logging and reporting.

Answer: A

Explanation:

A large deployment of 500 firewalls requires a scalable, centralized logging and reporting infrastructure.

Here's the analysis of each option:

* Option A: Combine Panorama for firewall management with Palo Alto Networks' cloud-based Strata Logging Service to offer scalability for the company's logging and reporting infrastructure

* The Strata Logging Service (or Cortex Data Lake) is a cloud-based solution that offers massive scalability for logging and reporting. Combined with Panorama, it allows for centralized log collection, analysis, and policy management without the need for extensive on-premises infrastructure.

* This approach is ideal for large-scale environments like the one described in the scenario, as it ensures cost-effectiveness and scalability.

* This is the correct recommendation.

* Option B: Use Panorama for firewall management and to transfer logs from the 500 firewalls directly to a third-party SIEM for centralized logging and reporting

* While third-party SIEM solutions can be integrated with Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, directly transferring logs from 500 firewalls to a SIEM can lead to bottlenecks and scalability issues.

Furthermore, relying on third-party solutions may not provide the same level of native integration as the Strata Logging Service.

* This is not the ideal recommendation.

* Option C: Highlight the efficiency of PAN-OS, which employs AI to automatically extract critical logs and generate daily executive reports, and confirm that the purchase of 500 NGFWs is sufficient

* While PAN-OS provides AI-driven insights and reporting, this option does not address the requirement for centralized logging and reporting. It also dismisses the need for additional infrastructure to handle logs from 500 firewalls.

* This is incorrect.

* Option D: Deploy a pair of M-1000 log collectors in the customer data center, and route logs from all 500 firewalls to the log collectors for centralized logging and reporting

* The M-1000 appliance is an on-premises log collector, but it has limitations in terms of scalability and storage capacity when compared to cloud-based options like the Strata Logging Service. Deploying only two M-1000 log collectors for 500 firewalls would result in potential performance and storage challenges.

* This is not the best recommendation.

References:

* Palo Alto Networks documentation on Panorama

* Strata Logging Service (Cortex Data Lake) overview in Palo Alto Networks Docs

NEW QUESTION # 25

According to a customer's CIO, who is upgrading PAN-OS versions, "Finding issues and then engaging with your support people requires expertise that our operations team can better utilize elsewhere on more valuable tasks for the business." The upgrade project was initiated in a rush because the company did not have the appropriate tools to indicate that their current NGFWs were reaching capacity.

Which two actions by the Palo Alto Networks team offer a long-term solution for the customer? (Choose two.)

- A. Inform the CIO that the new enhanced security features they will gain from the PAN-OS upgrades will fix any future problems with upgrading and capacity.
- B. Recommend that the operations team use the free machine learning-powered AIOps for NGFW tool.
- C. Suggest the inclusion of training into the proposal so that the operations team is informed and confident in working on their firewalls.
- D. Propose AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM) to address the company's issues from within the existing technology.

Answer: C,D

Explanation:

The customer's CIO highlights two key pain points: (1) the operations team lacks expertise to efficiently manage PAN-OS upgrades and support interactions, diverting focus from valuable tasks, and (2) the company lacked tools to monitor NGFW capacity, leading to a rushed upgrade. The goal is to recommend long-term solutions leveraging Palo Alto Networks' offerings for Strata Hardware Firewalls. Options B and D—training and AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM)—address these issues by enhancing team capability and providing proactive management tools. Below is a detailed explanation, verified against official documentation.

Step 1: Analyzing the Customer's Challenges

* Expertise Gap: The CIO notes that identifying issues and engaging support requires expertise the operations team doesn't fully have or can't prioritize. Upgrading PAN-OS on Strata NGFWs involves tasks like version compatibility checks, pre-upgrade validation, and troubleshooting, which demand familiarity with PAN-OS tools and processes.

* Capacity Visibility: The rushed upgrade stemmed from not knowing the NGFWs were nearing capacity (e.g., CPU, memory, session limits), indicating a lack of monitoring or predictive analytics.

Long-term solutions must address both operational efficiency and proactive capacity management, aligning with Palo Alto Networks' ecosystem for Strata firewalls.

NEW QUESTION # 26

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