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### Palo Alto Networks NetSec-Analyst Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Management and Operations: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Operations Professionals and covers the use of centralized management tools to maintain and monitor firewall environments. It focuses on Strata Cloud Manager, folders, snippets, automations, variables, and logging services. Candidates are also tested on using Command Center, Activity Insights, Policy Optimizer, Log Viewer, and incident-handling tools to analyze security data and improve the organization overall security posture. The goal is to validate competence in managing day-to-day firewall operations and responding to alerts effectively.</li></ul>

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Creation and Application: This section of the exam measures the abilities of Firewall Administrators and focuses on creating and applying different types of policies essential to secure and manage traffic. The domain includes security policies incorporating App-ID, User-ID, and Content-ID, as well as NAT, decryption, application override, and policy-based forwarding policies. It also covers SD-WAN routing and SLA policies that influence how traffic flows across distributed environments. The section ensures professionals can design and implement policy structures that support secure, efficient network operations.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Troubleshooting: This section of the exam measures the skills of Technical Support Analysts and covers the identification and resolution of configuration and operational issues. It includes troubleshooting misconfigurations, runtime errors, commit and push issues, device health concerns, and resource usage problems. This domain ensures candidates can analyze failures across management systems and on-device functions, enabling them to maintain a stable and reliable security infrastructure.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Object Configuration Creation and Application: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Security Analysts and covers the creation, configuration, and application of objects used across security environments. It focuses on building and applying various security profiles, decryption profiles, custom objects, external dynamic lists, and log forwarding profiles. Candidates are expected to understand how data security, IoT security, DoS protection, and SD-WAN profiles integrate into firewall operations. The objective of this domain is to ensure analysts can configure the foundational elements required to protect and optimize network security using Strata Cloud Manager.</li> </ul>

## Palo Alto Networks Network Security Analyst Sample Questions (Q357-Q362):

### NEW QUESTION # 357

A Palo Alto Networks firewall is exhibiting high CPU utilization (consistently above 90%) and experiencing packet drops, particularly for new sessions. Existing sessions appear to be stable. The 'show running resource-monitor' output shows high CPU in the 'data-plane' process. Which of the following is the MOST LIKELY cause for this behavior?

- A. The firewall is under a brute-force attack targeting the management interface.
- B. An outdated Antivirus signature database leading to inefficient scanning.
- C. A large number of new connections per second (CPS) exceeding the firewall's capacity.**
- D. A misconfigured NAT policy causing an infinite loop for specific traffic.
- E. Excessive logging to an external syslog server, saturating the management plane.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

High data plane CPU utilization and packet drops for new sessions, while existing sessions are stable, strongly indicate that the firewall is struggling to process the rate of new connection establishments. This is often due to a sudden surge in traffic, a misconfigured application, or a DDoS attack generating a high number of new session requests, exceeding the firewall's connections per second (CPS) capacity. While other options can cause performance issues, high new session processing is a classic symptom of CPS overload.

### NEW QUESTION # 358

An energy utility is employing Palo Alto Networks NGFWs to secure its distribution grid, which relies heavily on DNP3 and IEC 61850 protocols for substation automation. The security team wants to apply an 'IoT Security Profile' that provides robust protection against common industrial protocol vulnerabilities and ensures protocol conformity. Specifically, they need to:

1. Enforce strict DNP3/IEC 61850 protocol compliance, flagging any malformed packets or out-of-spec commands.
2. Prevent unauthorized 'firmware update' commands on IEC 61850 devices.
3. Detect and block known exploits targeting DNP3 and IEC 61850.

Which combination of features within an 'IoT Security Profile' and associated policy would address all these requirements effectively? (Multiple Response)

- A. Configure a 'Vulnerability Protection' profile with a focus on 'Critical' and 'High' severity signatures related to SCADA/ICS and apply it to the security policies governing DNP3/IEC 61850 traffic.**
- B. Set up a custom 'URL Filtering' profile to block access to known malicious update servers.

- C. Apply a 'Data Filtering' profile to prevent specific binary patterns associated with firmware updates from traversing the network.
- D. Utilize 'Protocol Anomaly Detection' within the IoT Security Profile for DNP3 and IEC 61850 to detect malformed packets and non-compliant commands.
- E. Implement 'Application Function Filtering' for IEC 61850 within the IoT Security Profile, specifically denying the 'firmware-update' function code or equivalent.

**Answer: A,D,E**

Explanation:

This question tests a deep understanding of ICS/OT security within Palo Alto Networks' IoT Security capabilities.

A: Correct. 'Protocol Anomaly Detection' is precisely designed to ensure protocol conformity and flag malformed packets or out-of-spec commands for industrial protocols like DNP3 and IEC 61850. This addresses requirement #1.

B: Correct. 'Application Function Filtering' allows for granular control over specific functions within supported industrial protocols. Denying 'firmware-update' commands directly addresses requirement #2.

C: Correct. 'Vulnerability Protection' profiles are essential for detecting and blocking known exploits and vulnerabilities, including those targeting DNP3 and IEC 61850, fulfilling requirement #3.

D: Incorrect. 'Data Filtering' is more about sensitive data exfiltration (e.g., credit card numbers, PII) and less about blocking specific protocol commands based on their functional meaning. While it might block some specific data, it's not the primary mechanism for preventing unauthorized protocol functions.

E: Incorrect. 'URL Filtering' is for web traffic and not directly relevant to securing DNP3/IEC 61850, which are typically non-HTTP protocols. Firmware updates for these devices are usually via specific industrial protocols, not web-based URLs.

#### NEW QUESTION # 359

A Palo Alto Networks firewall is configured with an External Dynamic List (EDL) sourced from an internal web server. The web server is located in a different security zone. Which of the following security policy rules must be in place to allow the firewall to successfully fetch updates for this EDL?

- A. A NAT policy from the web server to the firewall's management interface is required.
- B. Allow traffic from the firewall's management interface to the web server's IP address on port 80/443.
- C. Allow traffic from the 'untrust' zone to the web server's IP address on port 80/443.
- D. No specific security policy rule is needed as EDL fetching is an internal firewall process.
- E. Allow traffic from the security zone where the firewall's data plane interfaces are located to the web server's IP address on port 80/443.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

EDL fetching is initiated by the firewall's management plane. Therefore, a security policy rule must allow traffic from the firewall's management interface (or the zone it belongs to, typically 'management' or 'trust') to the web server's IP address on the appropriate HTTP/HTTPS port (80 or 443). Options B and C are incorrect as they refer to data plane or untrust zones, which are not typically the source for EDL fetching. Option D is incorrect as security policies do apply. Option E is incorrect as NAT is not required for the firewall to initiate a connection.

#### NEW QUESTION # 360

What is the main function of the Test Policy Match function?

- A. ensure that policy rules are not shadowing other policy rules
- B. confirm that policy rules in the configuration are allowing/denying the correct traffic
- C. confirm that rules meet or exceed the Best Practice Assessment recommendations
- D. verify that policy rules from Expedition are valid

**Answer: A**

#### NEW QUESTION # 361

In which section of the PAN-OS GUI does an administrator configure URL Filtering profiles?

- A. Device

- B. Policies
- **C. Objects**
- D. Network

### Answer: C

#### Explanation:

An administrator can configure URL Filtering profiles in the Objects section of the PAN-OS GUI. A URL Filtering profile is a collection of URL filtering controls that you can apply to individual Security policy rules that allow access to the internet1. You can set site access for URL categories, allow or disallow user credential submissions, enable safe search enforcement, and various other settings1.

To create a URL Filtering profile, go to Objects > Security Profiles > URL Filtering and click Add. You can then specify the profile name, description, and settings for each URL category and action2. You can also configure other options such as User Credential Detection, HTTP Header Insertion, and URL Filtering Inline ML2. After creating the profile, you can attach it to a Security policy rule that allows web traffic2.

### NEW QUESTION # 362

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