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Palo Alto Networks XDR Analyst Certification
Explained: What to Expect and How to Prepare?



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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Analyst Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alerting and Detection Processes: This domain covers identifying alert types and sources, prioritizing alerts through scoring and custom configurations, creating incidents, and grouping alerts with data stitching techniques.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Endpoint Security Management: This domain addresses managing endpoint prevention profiles and policies, validating agent operational states, and assessing the impact of agent versions and content updates.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data Analysis: This domain encompasses querying data with XQL language, utilizing query templates and libraries, working with lookup tables, hunting for IOCs, using Cortex XDR dashboards, and understanding data retention and Host Insights.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Incident Handling and Response: This domain focuses on investigating alerts using forensics, causality chains and timelines, analyzing security incidents, executing response actions including automated remediation, and managing exclusions.

>> Valid XDR-Analyst Exam Question <<

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Analyst Sample Questions (Q61-Q66):

NEW QUESTION # 61

Which two types of exception profiles you can create in Cortex XDR? (Choose two.)

- A. exception profiles that apply to specific endpoints
- B. agent exception profiles that apply to specific endpoints
- C. global exception profiles that apply to all endpoints
- D. role-based profiles that apply to specific endpoints

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

Cortex XDR allows you to create two types of exception profiles: agent exception profiles and global exception profiles. Agent exception profiles apply to specific endpoints that are assigned to the profile. Global exception profiles apply to all endpoints in your network. You can use exception profiles to configure different types of exceptions, such as process exceptions, support exceptions, behavioral threat protection rule exceptions, local analysis rules exceptions, advanced analysis exceptions, or digital signer exceptions. Exception profiles help you fine-tune the security policies for your endpoints and reduce false positives. Reference:

Exception Security Profiles

Create an Agent Exception Profile

Create a Global Exception Profile

NEW QUESTION # 62

What is the purpose of the Unit 42 team?

- A. Unit 42 is responsible for threat research, malware analysis and threat hunting
- B. Unit 42 is responsible for the rapid deployment of Cortex XDR agents
- C. Unit 42 is responsible for the configuration optimization of the Cortex XDR server
- D. Unit 42 is responsible for automation and orchestration of products

Answer: A

Explanation:

Unit 42 is the threat intelligence and response team of Palo Alto Networks. The purpose of Unit 42 is to collect and analyze the most up-to-date threat intelligence and apply it to respond to cyberattacks. Unit 42 is composed of world-renowned threat researchers, incident responders and security consultants who help organizations proactively manage cyber risk. Unit 42 is responsible for threat research, malware analysis and threat hunting, among other activities¹².

Let's briefly discuss the other options to provide a comprehensive explanation:

A . Unit 42 is not responsible for automation and orchestration of products. Automation and orchestration are capabilities that are provided by Palo Alto Networks products such as Cortex XSOAR, which is a security orchestration, automation and response platform that helps security teams automate tasks, coordinate actions and manage incidents³.

B . Unit 42 is not responsible for the configuration optimization of the Cortex XDR server. The Cortex XDR server is the cloud-based platform that provides detection and response capabilities across network, endpoint and cloud data sources. The configuration optimization of the Cortex XDR server is the responsibility of the Cortex XDR administrators, who can use the Cortex XDR app to manage the settings and policies of the Cortex XDR server⁴.

C . Unit 42 is not responsible for the rapid deployment of Cortex XDR agents. The Cortex XDR agents are the software components that are installed on endpoints to provide protection and visibility. The rapid deployment of Cortex XDR agents is the responsibility of the Cortex XDR administrators, who can use various methods such as group policy objects, scripts, or third-party tools to deploy the Cortex XDR agents to multiple endpoints⁵.

In conclusion, Unit 42 is the threat intelligence and response team of Palo Alto Networks that is responsible for threat research, malware analysis and threat hunting. By leveraging the expertise and insights of Unit 42, organizations can enhance their security posture and protect against the latest cyberthreats.

Reference:

About Unit 42: Our Mission and Team

Unit 42: Threat Intelligence & Response

Cortex XSOAR

Cortex XDR Pro Admin Guide: Manage Cortex XDR Settings and Policies

Cortex XDR Pro Admin Guide: Deploy Cortex XDR Agents

NEW QUESTION # 63

To stop a network-based attack, any interference with a portion of the attack pattern is enough to prevent it from succeeding. Which statement is correct regarding the Cortex XDR Analytics module?

- A. It does not interfere with any portion of the pattern on the endpoint.
- B. It does not need to interfere with the any portion of the pattern to prevent the attack.
- **C. It interferes with the pattern as soon as it is observed on the endpoint.**
- D. It interferes with the pattern as soon as it is observed by the firewall.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The correct statement regarding the Cortex XDR Analytics module is D, it interferes with the pattern as soon as it is observed on the endpoint. The Cortex XDR Analytics module is a feature of Cortex XDR that uses machine learning and behavioral analytics to detect and prevent network-based attacks on endpoints. The Cortex XDR Analytics module analyzes the network traffic and activity on the endpoint, and compares it with the attack patterns defined by Palo Alto Networks threat research team. The Cortex XDR Analytics module interferes with the attack pattern as soon as it is observed on the endpoint, by blocking the malicious network connection, process, or file. This way, the Cortex XDR Analytics module can stop the attack before it causes any damage or compromise.

The other statements are incorrect for the following reasons:

A is incorrect because the Cortex XDR Analytics module does interfere with the attack pattern on the endpoint, by blocking the malicious network connection, process, or file. The Cortex XDR Analytics module does not rely on the firewall or any other network device to stop the attack, but rather uses the Cortex XDR agent installed on the endpoint to perform the interference.

B is incorrect because the Cortex XDR Analytics module does not interfere with the attack pattern as soon as it is observed by the firewall. The Cortex XDR Analytics module does not depend on the firewall or any other network device to detect or prevent the attack, but rather uses the Cortex XDR agent installed on the endpoint to perform the analysis and interference. The firewall may not be able to observe or block the attack pattern if it is encrypted, obfuscated, or bypassed by the attacker.

C is incorrect because the Cortex XDR Analytics module does need to interfere with the attack pattern to prevent the attack. The Cortex XDR Analytics module does not only detect the attack pattern, but also prevents it from succeeding by blocking the malicious network connection, process, or file. The Cortex XDR Analytics module does not rely on any other response mechanism or human intervention to stop the attack, but rather uses the Cortex XDR agent installed on the endpoint to perform the interference.

Reference:

Cortex XDR Analytics Module

Cortex XDR Analytics Module Detection and Prevention

NEW QUESTION # 64

Which of the following represents a common sequence of cyber-attack tactics?

- A. Actions on the objective - Reconnaissance - Weaponization & Delivery - Exploitation - Installation - Command & Control
- B. Reconnaissance - Installation - Weaponization & Delivery - Exploitation - Command & Control - Actions on the objective
- **C. Reconnaissance - Weaponization & Delivery - Exploitation - Installation - Command & Control - Actions on the objective**
- D. Installation - Reconnaissance - Weaponization & Delivery - Exploitation - Command & Control - Actions on the objective

Answer: C

Explanation:

A common sequence of cyber-attack tactics is based on the Cyber Kill Chain model, which describes the stages of a cyber intrusion from the perspective of the attacker. The Cyber Kill Chain model consists of seven phases: reconnaissance, weaponization, delivery, exploitation, installation, command and control, and actions on the objective. These phases are briefly explained below:

Reconnaissance: The attacker gathers information about the target, such as its network, systems, vulnerabilities, employees, and business operations. The attacker may use various methods, such as scanning, phishing, or searching open sources, to collect data that can help them plan the attack.

Weaponization: The attacker creates or obtains a malicious payload, such as malware, exploit, or script, that can be used to compromise the target. The attacker may also embed the payload into a delivery mechanism, such as an email attachment, a web link, or a removable media.

Delivery: The attacker sends or delivers the weaponized payload to the target, either directly or indirectly. The attacker may use various channels, such as email, web, or physical access, to reach the target's network or system.

Exploitation: The attacker exploits a vulnerability or weakness in the target's network or system to execute the payload. The vulnerability may be technical, such as a software flaw, or human, such as a social engineering trick.

Installation: The attacker installs or drops additional malware or tools on the target's network or system to establish a foothold and

maintain persistence. The attacker may use various techniques, such as registry modification, file manipulation, or process injection, to hide their presence and evade detection.

Command and Control: The attacker establishes a communication channel between the compromised target and a remote server or controller. The attacker may use various protocols, such as HTTP, DNS, or IRC, to send commands and receive data from the target.

Actions on the objective: The attacker performs the final actions that achieve their goal, such as stealing data, destroying files, encrypting systems, or disrupting services. The attacker may also try to move laterally within the target's network or system to access more resources or data.

Reference:

Cyber Kill Chain: This document explains the Cyber Kill Chain model and how it can be used to analyze and respond to cyberattacks.

Cyber Attack Tactics: This document provides an overview of some common cyber attack tactics and examples of how they are used by threat actors.

NEW QUESTION # 65

What is the standard installation disk space recommended to install a Broker VM?

- A. 1GB disk space
- B. 512GB disk space
- C. 2GB disk space
- D. 256GB disk space

Answer: D

Explanation:

The Broker VM for Cortex XDR is a virtual machine that serves as the central communication hub for all Cortex XDR agents deployed in your organization. It enables agents to communicate with the Cortex XDR cloud service and allows you to manage and monitor the agents' activities from a centralized location. The system requirements for the Broker VM are as follows:

CPU: 4 cores

RAM: 8 GB

Disk space: 256 GB

Network: Internet access and connectivity to all Cortex XDR agents

The disk space requirement is based on the number of agents and the frequency of content updates. The Broker VM stores the content updates locally and distributes them to the agents. The disk space also depends on the retention period of the content updates, which can be configured in the Broker VM settings. The default retention period is 30 days.

Reference:

Broker VM for Cortex XDR

PCDRA Study Guide

NEW QUESTION # 66

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