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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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.
Topic 3	• 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 4	• 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 5	• 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q28-Q33):

NEW QUESTION # 28
An XDR engineer is configuring an automation playbook to respond to high-severity malware alerts by automatically isolating the affected endpoint and notifying the security team via email. The playbook should only trigger for alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, not custom BIOCs. Which two conditions should the engineer include in the playbook trigger to meet these requirements? (Choose two.)

- A. Alert status is New
- B. Alert severity is High
- C. Alert category is Malware
- D. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics

Answer: B,C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,automation playbooks(also referred to as response actions or automation rules) allow engineers to define automated responses to specific alerts based on trigger conditions. The playbook in this scenario needs to isolate endpoints and send email notifications for high-severity malware alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, excluding custom BIOC alerts. To achieve this, the engineer must configure the playbook trigger with conditions that match the alert's severity, category, and source.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Alert severity is High: The playbook should only trigger for high-severity alerts, as specified in the requirement. Setting the conditionAlert severity is Highensures that only alerts with a severity level of "High" activate the playbook, aligning with the engineer's goal.
* C. Alert category is Malware: The playbook targets malware alerts specifically. The condition Alert category is Malwareensures that the playbook only responds to alerts categorized as malware, excluding other types of alerts (e.g., lateral movement, exploit).
* Why not the other options?
* B. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics: While this condition would ensure the playbook triggers only for alerts from the Cortex XDR analytics engine (and not custom BIOCs), the requirement to exclude BIOCs is already implicitly met because BIOC alerts are typically categorized differently (e.g., as custom alerts or specific BIOC categories). The alert category (Malware) and severity (High) conditions are sufficient to target analytics-driven malware alerts, and adding the source condition is not strictly necessary for the stated requirements. However, if the engineer wanted to be more explicit, this condition could be considered, but the question asks for the two most critical conditions, which are severity and category.
* D. Alert status is New: The alert status (e.g., New, In Progress, Resolved) determines the investigation stage of the alert, but the requirement does not specify that the playbook should only trigger for new alerts. Alerts with a status of "InProgress" could still be

high-severity malware alerts requiring isolation, so this condition is not necessary.
Additional Note on Alert Source: The requirement to exclude custom BIOCs and focus on Cortex XDR analytics alerts is addressed by theAlert category is Malwarecondition, as analytics-driven malware alerts (e.
g., from WildFire or behavioral analytics) are categorized as "Malware," while BIOC alerts are often tagged differently (e.g., as custom rules). If the question emphasized the need to explicitly filter by source, option B would be relevant, but the primary conditions for the playbook are severity and category.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains automation playbook triggers: "Playbook triggers can be configured with conditions such as alert severity (e.g., High) and alert category (e.g., Malware) to automate responses like endpoint isolation and email notifications" (paraphrased from the Automation Rules section).
TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers playbook creation, stating that
"conditions like alert severity and category ensure playbooks target specific alert types, such as high-severity malware alerts from analytics" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "playbook creation and automation" as a key exam topic, encompassing trigger condition configuration.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal:https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/ EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet:https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education
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NEW QUESTION # 29
What are two possible actions that can be triggered by a dashboard drilldown? (Choose two.)

- A. Link to an XQL query
- B. Initiate automated response actions
- C. Send alerts to console users
- D. Navigate to a different dashboard

Answer: A,D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,dashboard drilldownsallow users to interact with widgets (e.g., charts or tables) by clicking on elements to access additional details or perform actions. Drilldowns enhance the investigative capabilities of dashboards by linking to related data or views.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Navigate to a different dashboard: A drilldown can be configured to navigate to another dashboard, providing a more detailed view or related metrics. For example, clicking on an alert count in a widget might open a dashboard focused on alert details.
* C. Link to an XQL query: Drilldowns often link to anXQL querythat filters data based on the clicked element (e.g., an alert name or source). This allows users to view raw events or detailed records in the Query Builder or Investigation view.
* Why not the other options?
* B. Initiate automated response actions: Drilldowns are primarily for navigation and data exploration, not for triggering automated response actions. Response actions (e.g., isolating an endpoint) are typically initiated from the Incident or Alert views, not dashboards.
* D. Send alerts to console users: Drilldowns do not send alerts to users. Alerts are generated by correlation rules or BIOCs, and dashboards are used for visualization, not alert distribution.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes drilldown functionality: "Dashboard drilldowns can navigate to another dashboard or link to an XQL query to display detailed data based on the selected widget element" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers dashboards, stating that "drilldowns enable navigation to other dashboards or XQL queries for deeper analysis" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing drilldown configuration.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal:https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/ EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet:https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education
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NEW QUESTION # 30

A security audit determines that the Windows Cortex XDR host-based firewall is not blocking outbound RDP connections for certain remote workers. The audit report confirms the following:
* All devices are running healthy Cortex XDR agents.
* A single host-based firewall rule to block all outbound RDP is implemented.
* The policy hosting the profile containing the rule applies to all Windows endpoints.
* The logic within the firewall rule is adequate.
* Further testing concludes RDP is successfully being blocked on all devices tested at company HQ.
* Network location configuration in Agent Settings is enabled on all Windows endpoints.What is the likely reason the RDP connections are not being blocked?

- A. The pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to internal rule groups
- B. Report mode is set to Enabled in the report settings under the profile configuration
- C. The profile's default action for outbound traffic is set to Allow
- D. The pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to external rule groups

Answer: A

Explanation:
Cortex XDR'shost-based firewallfeature allows administrators to define rules to control network traffic on endpoints, such as blocking outbound Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections (typically on TCP port
3389). The firewall rules are organized intorule groups, which can be applied based on the endpoint's network location(e.g., internal or external). Thenetwork location configurationin Agent Settings determines whether an endpoint is considered internal (e.g., on the company network at HQ) or external (e.g., remote workers on a public network). The audit confirms that a rule to block outbound RDP exists, the rule logic is correct, and it works at HQ but not for remote workers.
* Correct Answer Analysis (D):The likely reason RDP connections are not being blocked for remote workers is thatthe pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to internal rule groups.
Since network location configuration is enabled, Cortex XDR distinguishes between internal (e.g., HQ) and external (e.g., remote workers) networks. If the firewall rule group containing the RDP block rule is applied only tointernal rule groups, it will only take effect for endpoints at HQ (internal network), as confirmed by the audit. Remote workers, on an external network, would not be subject to this rule group, allowing their outbound RDP connections to proceed.
* Why not the other options?
* A. The profile's default action for outbound traffic is set to Allow: While a default action of Allow could permit traffic not matched by a rule, the audit confirms the RDP block rule's logic is adequate and works at HQ. This suggests the rule is being applied correctly for internal endpoints, but not for external ones, pointing to a rule group scoping issue rather than the default action.
* B. The pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to external rule groups: If the rule group were applied only to external rule groups, remote workers (on external networks) would have RDP blocked, but the audit shows the opposite-RDP is blocked at HQ (internal) but not for remote workers.
* C. Report mode is set to Enabled in the report settings under the profile configuration: If report mode were enabled, the firewall rule would only log RDP traffic without blocking it, but this would affect all endpoints (both HQ and remote workers). The audit shows RDP is blocked at HQ, so report mode is not enabled.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains host-based firewall configuration: "Firewall rule groups can be applied to internal or external network locations, as determined by the network location configuration in Agent Settings. Rules applied to internal rule groups will not affect endpoints on external networks" (paraphrased from the Host-Based Firewall section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers firewall rules, stating that "network location settings determine whether a rule group applies to internal or external endpoints, impacting rule enforcement" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing host-based firewall settings.
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 # 31
A multinational company with over 300,000 employees has recently deployed Cortex XDR in North America.
The solution includes the Identity Threat Detection and Response (ITDR) add-on, and the Cortex team has onboarded the Cloud Identity Engine to the North American tenant. After waiting the required soak period and deploying enough agents to receive Identity and threat analytics detections, the team does not see user, group, or computer details for individuals from the European offices.
What may be the reason for the issue?

- A. The Cloud Identity Engine needs to be activated in all global regions
- B. The Cloud Identity Engine plug-in has not been installed and configured
- C. The ITDR add-on is not compatible with the Cloud Identity Engine
- D. The XDR tenant is not in the same region as the Cloud Identity Engine

Answer: D

Explanation:
TheIdentity Threat Detection and Response (ITDR)add-on in Cortex XDR enhances identity-based threat detection by integrating with theCloud Identity Engine, which synchronizes user,group, and computer details from identity providers (e.g., Active Directory, Okta). For the Cloud Identity Engine to provide comprehensive identity data across regions, it must be properly configured and aligned with the Cortex XDR tenant's region.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):The issue is likely thatthe XDR tenant is not in the same region as the Cloud Identity Engine. Cortex XDR tenants are region-specific (e.g., North America, Europe), and the Cloud Identity Engine must be configured to synchronize data with the tenant in the same region. If the North American tenant is used but the European offices' identity data is managed by a Cloud Identity Engine in a different region (e.g., Europe), the tenant may not receive user, group, or computer details for European users, causing the observed issue.
* Why not the other options?
* B. The Cloud Identity Engine plug-in has not been installed and configured: The question states that the Cloud Identity Engine has been onboarded, implying it is installed and configured.
The issue is specific to European office data, not a complete lack of integration.
* C. The Cloud Identity Engine needs to be activated in all global regions: The Cloud Identity Engine does not need to be activated in all regions. It needs to be configured to synchronize with the tenant in the correct region, and regional misalignment is the more likely issue.
* D. The ITDR add-on is not compatible with the Cloud Identity Engine: The ITDR add-on is designed to work with the Cloud Identity Engine, so compatibility is not the issue.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains Cloud Identity Engine integration: "The Cloud Identity Engine must be configured in the same region as the Cortex XDR tenant to ensure proper synchronization of user, group, and computer details" (paraphrased from the Cloud Identity Engine section). TheEDU-260:
Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers ITDR and identity integration, stating that "regional alignment between the tenant and Cloud Identity Engine is critical for accurate identity data" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Cloud Identity Engine configuration.
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 # 32
How can a customer ingest additional events from a Windows DHCP server into Cortex XDR with minimal configuration?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:
To ingest additional events from a Windows DHCP server into Cortex XDR with minimal configuration, the recommended approach is to use theCortex XDR Collector. TheXDR Collectoris 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 responsecapabilities. 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:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes theXDR Collectoras a tool for "collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints with minimal setup" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). TheEDU-260:
Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse emphasizes that "XDR Collectors are ideal for ingesting server logs, such as those from Windows DHCP servers, with streamlined configuration" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetlists "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 # 33
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