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## Pure Storage FlashArray-Implementation-Specialist Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-Installation</li> <li>• Upgrade: This section of the exam measures the skills of FlashArray Implementation Specialists and evaluates how professionals confirm system functionality after installation or an upgrade. It involves validating connectivity, running health checks, confirming configurations, and ensuring that the deployment meets operational expectations.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation: This section of the exam measures the skills of Enterprise Infrastructure Technicians and focuses on executing a successful installation of FlashArray systems. It tests the ability to perform physical setup, cabling, configuration of network settings, and the application of initial system configurations necessary for full deployment.</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrades: This section of the exam measures the skills of FlashArray Implementation Specialists and focuses on tasks involved in managing firmware and software upgrades. Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of upgrade planning, verification steps, and rollback procedures, ensuring that systems are updated with minimal disruption to service.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Installation</li> <li>• Upgrade: This section of the exam measures the skills of Enterprise Infrastructure Technicians and covers all preparation activities before deploying or upgrading a Pure Storage FlashArray. It includes understanding environmental requirements, verifying prerequisites, checking compatibility, and validating system readiness through appropriate tools and documentation.</li> </ul>

## Pure Storage Certified FlashArray Implementation Specialist Sample Questions (Q209-Q214):

### NEW QUESTION # 209

After racking a new FlashArray with one data pack, how should DirectFlash modules be installed?

- A. Starting in bay 10, left to right.
- **B. Starting in bay 0, left to right.**
- C. Starting in bay 19, right to left.
- D. Starting in bay 4, left to right.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Understanding the strict physical drive population rules is a fundamental requirement for any Pure Storage Implementation Engineer. The front chassis of a standard 3U FlashArray (such as an //X50 or //X70) contains 20 dedicated capacity drive bays, numbered from 0 to 19.

When installing a new FlashArray that has been ordered with a single, baseline data pack-which always consists of exactly 10 DirectFlash Modules (DFMs) or DFMDs-the physical insertion order is not arbitrary.

The official hardware installation guidelines dictate that these 10 drives must be populated sequentially starting in bay 0, from left to right .

By filling bays 0 through 9 continuously, the engineer ensures that the Purity operating system can logically group the physical media into a contiguous, balanced Wide Write Group (WWG) for optimal parity calculation and wear leveling. Leaving gaps between the drives, or starting the installation in the higher- numbered bays (such as bay 10 or bay 19), violates the tested physical airflow characteristics of the chassis and will trigger hardware topology alerts during the hardware\_check.py validation phase of the array initialization. If a second data pack is ever purchased for capacity expansion, those subsequent 10 drives would then seamlessly populate bays 10 through 19, again from left to right, completing the primary chassis.

### NEW QUESTION # 210

When transforming an array from SAS to NVMe with the Evergreen XFORM upgrade, when should a swing shelf be installed?

- A. When the array is half populated with Flash Modules
- B. When the chassis is populated with two data packs
- **C. When there is insufficient free space to evac capacity.**

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

A swing shelf (temporary external capacity) is required during a SAS-to-NVMe (Evergreen) upgrade specifically when there is insufficient free space elsewhere in the array to evacuate the data residing in the legacy chassis.

The Evergreen "Stateless" or XFORM upgrade involves replacing the legacy SAS-based controller chassis (which contains SAS SSDs) with a new NVMe-based FlashArray//X chassis (which uses DirectFlash Modules).

Evacuation Requirement: Before the old chassis can be removed, the data on its internal drives must be moved to a safe location. If the customer already has external SAS expansion shelves with enough free space to hold this data, Purity will transparently migrate the data there, and no swing shelf is needed.

Swing Shelf Scenario: If the array is highly utilized (e.g., the chassis is full and external shelves are full or non-existent), the Implementation Engineer must attach a temporary "swing shelf" provided by Pure Storage. This shelf acts as the evacuation target. Once the data is moved to the swing shelf, the old chassis is replaced. The data is then migrated back from the swing shelf to the new NVMe media in the new chassis, and the swing shelf is returned.

#### NEW QUESTION # 211

A FlashArray arrives with Purity 5.3.8 applied out of the factory. The account team requests that the array be configured with Purity 6.1.21. Which steps should the Implementation Engineer select to meet this requirement?

- A. Configure the array with the current code and then open a case with Support to upgrade.
- B. Copy the PPKG and SHA1 files to a USB stick and upgrade the controllers.
- C. Create a bootable USB stick from the 6.1.21 ISO file and reimage both controllers with it.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

To meet the requirement of deploying a specific, newer Purity version (6.1.21) on a factory-fresh array that arrived with older code (5.3.8), the most efficient and correct procedure for an Implementation Engineer is to create a bootable USB stick with the target 6.1.21 ISO and reimage the controllers.

The "Factory Reset" or re-imaging process is a supported method for initial installation when the desired software baseline differs significantly from what is pre-loaded. Since the array contains no customer data yet, re-imaging is non-destructive to business operations and avoids the time-consuming process of initializing the array on old code, registering it, and then performing a multi-step software upgrade (Option C).

Procedure: The engineer downloads the specific Purity ISO from the Pure Storage Support portal, uses a tool like Rufus or Etcher (or the pureinstall utility) to create the bootable media, and boots the controllers from this USB to lay down the fresh image.

Option B is incorrect because copying .ppkg files is part of an online upgrade workflow for running systems, not a re-imaging process for a raw box.

#### NEW QUESTION # 212

On a FlashArray//XR4, which port is enabled for the management service by default?

- A. ETH6
- B. ETH4
- C. ETH0
- D. ETH2

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

When configuring the network topology for a new Pure Storage FlashArray//XR4 deployment, the physical Ethernet ports on the rear of the controllers are rigidly mapped to default services by the Purity//FA operating system. This standardized mapping ensures that Implementation Engineers can reliably configure out-of-band management access before any advanced routing or high-speed data fabrics are established.

Across the entire FlashArray product line—including the modern //XR4 and //CR4 architectures—the first onboard 1GbE Base-T copper port, explicitly labeled eth0, is always enabled and dedicated strictly to the management service by default.

This interface (eth0, along with its highly available partner eth1) is responsible for all non-disruptive administrative access. It handles the web-based GUI traffic (HTTPS), SSH terminal sessions, REST API calls, and the secure outbound tunnel to the Pure1 cloud for Call Home telemetry and Remote Assist. High-speed ports like eth2, eth4, or eth6 (which utilize SFP28 or QSFP optical transceivers) are defaulted to Replication or left unconfigured for frontend host I/O (iSCSI/NVMe-oF). An Implementation Engineer

relies on eth0 being the default management port to connect their laptop during the initial serial console setup (puresetup) and validate network reachability.

### NEW QUESTION # 213

An Implementation Engineer is onsite to add two 4-port FC cards to a FlashArray//X20R3. In what state should the controller be in before performing the card add procedure?

- A. Primary
- B. Standby
- C. Secondary

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Before performing a physical card addition (I/O expansion) on a specific controller, it should be in the Secondary state.

The procedure for adding hardware to a FlashArray is a sequential, non-disruptive process. You cannot add a card to the Primary controller because it is actively handling host I/O; opening it would cause a service outage. Therefore, the Implementation Engineer must first verify the cluster health and, if necessary, perform a manual failover (pureadm make --secondary) to ensure the target controller is Secondary.

Once the controller is Secondary (passing no I/O), the engineer proceeds to stop the Purity software (pureadm stop) and/or power down the controller to safely install the PCIe card. While the physical work happens when the controller is powered off/inactive, "Secondary" is the correct operational starting state required to begin the maintenance workflow safely. "Standby" is often used to refer to a controller that is powered on but not running Purity, which is a subsequent step, not the initial prerequisite state relative to the cluster role.

### NEW QUESTION # 214

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