

FlashArray-Storage-Professional Valid Exam Papers & FlashArray-Storage-Professional Free Practice

Pure Certified FlashArray Storage Professional

1. What is the primary factor that affects the IOPS (Input/Output Operations Per Second) performance of a Pure FlashArray?

- A. Network bandwidth
- B. CPU utilization
- C. SSD latency
- D. Available memory
- E. Number of connected hosts

Answer: C. SSD latency

Explanation: SSD latency directly impacts IOPS performance as lower latency allows for faster read/write operations, enhancing the overall IOPS capability of the FlashArray.

2. Which Pure FlashArray feature helps in optimizing performance by distributing data across multiple SSDs?

- A. Deduplication
- B. Compression
- C. FlashBlade
- D. Striping
- E. Replication

Answer: D. Striping

Explanation: Striping distributes data across multiple SSDs, which can enhance performance by allowing parallel read/write operations, thereby increasing throughput and reducing latency.

3. How does Pure FlashArray ensure consistent high performance under varying workloads?

- A. By using a single large cache
- B. Through dynamic resource allocation
- C. By limiting the number of connected hosts
- D. Through manual performance tuning
- E. By using HDDs for burst workloads

Answer: B. Through dynamic resource allocation

Explanation: Pure FlashArray dynamically allocates resources such as cache and compute power based on the current workload demands, ensuring consistent high performance even as workloads vary.

4. What is the role of NVMe in Pure FlashArray performance?

- A. It provides higher capacity storage
- B. It reduces network latency
- C. It offers faster data transfer rates

1

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Pure Storage FlashArray-Storage-Professional Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troubleshooting: Covers identification and resolution of configuration errors, performance issues, and replication problems using Pure Storage diagnostic tools and alerts. Includes port configuration and predictive support mechanisms to maintain system reliability.
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration: Covers core administrative tasks including volume configuration, array management, host connections, third-party integrations, and security protocols. Focuses on best practices for maintaining optimal performance and secure access across the storage environment.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Protection: Covers snapshot management, replication configuration, policy management, SafeMode, and advanced replication technologies such as ActiveDR. Focuses on ensuring data availability, disaster recovery, and protection against data loss.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring: Covers the use of Pure1, GUI, and CLI tools to monitor array health, generate reports, and analyze performance and capacity metrics. Includes data reduction ratios, meta forecasting, and proactive capacity planning.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FA File: Covers configuration and management of FA File services, including DNS setup, Active Directory integration, and protocol access. Focuses on enabling secure and efficient file sharing across the organization.

Pure Storage Pure Certified FlashArray Storage Professional Sample Questions (Q10-Q15):

NEW QUESTION # 10

What major benefit does meta fingerprinting provide for customers?

- A. Provides security for Remote Assist (RA)
- B. Ensures biometric security
- C. Enables predictive support

Answer: C

Explanation:

In the Pure Storage ecosystem, "Meta fingerprinting" refers to the core technology behind Pure1 Meta, which is Pure's cloud-based artificial intelligence and machine learning engine. Pure1 collects thousands of data points of telemetry (metadata) from all connected FlashArrays globally every day.

By analyzing this vast amount of telemetry data, Pure1 Meta creates workload signatures or "fingerprints." It then continuously compares your array's telemetry footprint against the global pool of arrays. The major benefit of this is that it enables predictive support. If Pure1 Meta detects that your array's fingerprint matches a known issue experienced by another array elsewhere in the world, Pure Storage can proactively alert you, open a support ticket, or recommend a Purity upgrade before you ever experience an outage or performance impact. It also uses these fingerprints for highly accurate capacity and performance forecasting.

Here is why the other options are incorrect:

Provides security for Remote Assist (RA) (A): Remote Assist allows Pure Support to log into your array for troubleshooting, but its security is based on a customer-initiated, secure outbound TLS connection (tunneling), not meta fingerprinting.

Ensures biometric security (B): This is a distractor. "Fingerprinting" in the context of Pure Storage refers to data and workload profiling, not human biometric authentication like physical fingerprint scanners.

NEW QUESTION # 11

How should an administrator configure initiator-to-target connections for zones with multiple initiators?

- A. Multiple initiator to multiple target zone sets
- **B. Single initiator to multiple target zone sets**
- C. Single target to multiple initiator zone sets

Answer: B

Explanation:

Zoning Best Practices: In a Fibre Channel SAN environment, zoning is used to partition the fabric to ensure that initiators (hosts) can only see the targets (FlashArray ports) they are intended to communicate with.

The "Single Initiator" Rule: Pure Storage, following industry-standard SAN best practices (and Cisco/Brocade recommendations), strongly advises using Single Initiator Zoning. This means each zone should contain exactly one initiator (HBA port) and one or more targets (FlashArray ports).

Why Single Initiator to Multiple Targets (Option B)?:

Isolation: This prevents "Initiator-to-Initiator" communication. If multiple initiators are in the same zone, they may attempt to communicate with or probe each other (Registered State Change Notifications - RSCNs), which can cause host instability, driver timeouts, or discovery issues.

Troubleshooting: It simplifies troubleshooting. If a port is experiencing CRC errors or flapping, the impact is isolated to that specific host's zone rather than affecting a broad "group" zone.

Efficiency: When a target port changes state (e.g., during a controller reboot), the switch sends an RSCN. In a single-initiator zone, only that specific host is notified. In a multi-initiator zone, every host in the zone is interrupted to process the notification, even if they aren't using the port that changed.

Target Selection: While the zone should have only one initiator, it can (and should) include multiple target ports from the FlashArray (usually one port from CT0 and one from CT1 for the same fabric) to provide path redundancy and allow the host's MPIO software to manage failover.

NEW QUESTION # 12

A customer is managing a VMware environment and has recently copied a snapshot from a Pure Storage array to a new volume.

When attempting to mount this volume on a VMware virtual machine, the operation fails.

How should this be resolved?

- **A. Resignature the volume.**
- B. Adjust the VMware security settings.
- C. Reformat the volume.

Answer: A

Explanation:

VMFS UUID Conflict: When you create a volume from a snapshot on a FlashArray, the data is a block-for-block copy of the original. This includes the VMFS metadata and the unique identifier (UUID) of the datastore.

ESXi Protection Mechanism: When an ESXi host sees a volume that contains a VMFS signature identical to one already mounted (or one it has seen before but on a different device ID), it flags the volume as a "snapshot." To prevent data corruption or VM identity conflicts, VMware will not automatically mount this "duplicate" volume.

The Resignaturing Process: By choosing to Resignature the volume (via the "Mount Datastore" wizard in vCenter or the ESXi CLI), VMware assigns a new, unique UUID to the VMFS volume. This allows the host to treat it as a distinct, independent datastore.

Why Option B is incorrect: Reformatting the volume would indeed allow it to be mounted, but it would destroy all the data you just copied from the snapshot, defeating the purpose of the operation.

Why Option C is incorrect: While there are advanced settings in VMware (like LVM.enableResignature), they don't solve the issue of the operation "failing" during a standard mount attempt; they simply change how the host behaves. Resignaturing is the standard, safe, and recommended workflow for mounting snapshot copies in a VMware environment.

NEW QUESTION # 13

Which storage protocol is best suited for a Hyper-V cluster in an ethernet-switched environment?

- A. NVMe/FC
- B. NVMe/RoCE
- **C. iSCSI**

Answer: C

Explanation:

Protocol Compatibility: While NVMe-over-Fabrics (NVMe-oF) is the future of high-performance storage, support for it within specific hypervisor ecosystems varies. In the context of Microsoft Hyper-V, especially in older or standard Ethernet-switched environments, iSCSI remains the most mature, widely supported, and native protocol for block storage.

Ethernet Constraints: The question specifies an Ethernet-switched environment. This immediately rules out NVMe/FC (NVMe over Fibre Channel), as that requires dedicated Fibre Channel switching infrastructure and HBAs, not standard Ethernet.

NVMe/RoCE vs. iSCSI: While NVMe/RoCE (RDMA over Converged Ethernet) runs on Ethernet, it requires specialized NICs (RDMA-capable) and a specific switch configuration (PFC/LFC) to ensure a lossless fabric. Hyper-V has specific requirements for RoCE (often tied to SMB Direct for File services), but for general block storage volumes in a standard Ethernet environment, iSCSI is the "best suited" due to its ease of deployment, native Windows initiator support, and lack of requirement for specialized lossless hardware.

Pure Storage Best Practices: Pure Storage FlashArrays provide industry-leading iSCSI performance. When using iSCSI with Hyper-V, Pure recommends using the native Windows MPIO (Multi-Path I/O) with the "Least Queue Depth" policy to ensure optimal load balancing across the Ethernet fabric.

NEW QUESTION # 14

What is a potential indicator of incorrect configuration on a Pure Storage FlashArray?

- **A. CRC errors on a single port**
- B. Unusual spikes in latency or IOPS
- C. Blinking status LED on the controller

Answer: A

Explanation:

Understanding CRC Errors: CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) errors occur when the data received at a port does not match the checksum sent by the initiator or switch. In a Pure Storage environment, these are tracked per port and can be viewed via the CLI (purehw list) or the GUI.

Configuration vs. Hardware: While a failing SFP or a damaged fiber cable can cause CRC errors, they are a primary indicator of configuration mismatches in the SAN fabric. Common culprits include:

Port Speed Mismatches: Manually setting a port to 16Gbps when the switch is set to "Auto" or 8Gbps.

Duplex Mismatches: Though rare in modern Fibre Channel, it is a classic Ethernet/iSCSI configuration error.

MTU Mismatches: In iSCSI or NVMe-oF environments, if the FlashArray is configured for Jumbo Frames (MTU 9000) but the switch or host is at MTU 1500, packet fragmentation or CRC-like errors/drops will occur.

Why Option A is incorrect: A blinking status LED on a controller is often part of normal operation (indicating heartbeat or activity). A solid amber LED would be an indicator of a hardware failure, not necessarily a misconfiguration.

Why Option C is incorrect: While latency spikes can be caused by misconfiguration (like incorrect MPIO settings), they are more commonly symptoms of workload changes, "noisy neighbors," or reaching the physical performance limits of the array. CRC errors are a much more specific diagnostic "smoking gun" for port and fabric configuration issues.

Best Practice: When CRC errors are detected, Pure Storage recommends first checking the physical layer (reseating SFPs/cables) and then verifying that the port speed and protocol settings on the FlashArray match the upstream switch configuration exactly.

NEW QUESTION # 15

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