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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	• 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 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	• 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.
Topic 4	• 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 5	• 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.

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q41-Q46):

NEW QUESTION # 41
When isolating Cortex XDR agent components to troubleshoot for compatibility, which command is used to turn off a component on a Windows machine?

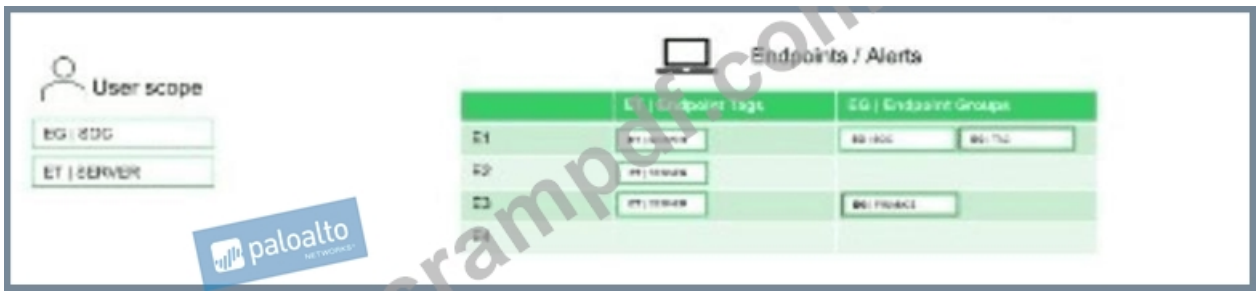
- A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" runtime stop
- B. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp
- C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop
- D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop

Answer: A

Explanation:
Cortex XDR agents on Windows include multiple components (e.g., for exploit protection, malware scanning, or behavioral analysis)

that can be individually enabled or disabled for troubleshooting purposes, such as isolating compatibility issues. Thecytool.exeutility, located in the Cortex XDR installation directory (typically C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\), is used to manage agent components and settings. The runtime stop command specifically disables a component without uninstalling the agent.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):The command"C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.
exe" runtime stopis used to turn off a specific Cortex XDR agent component on a Windows machine.
For example, cytool.exe runtime stop protection would disable the protection component, allowing troubleshooting for compatibility issues while keeping other components active.
* Why not the other options?
* A. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" stop: The xdr.exe binary is not used for managing components; it is part of the agent's corefunctionality. The correct utility is cytool.exe.
* C. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\xdr.exe" -s stop: Similarly, xdr.exe is not the correct tool, and -s stop is not a valid command syntax for component management.
* D. "C:\Program Files\Palo Alto Networks\Traps\cytool.exe" occp: The occp command is not a valid cytool.exe option. The correct command for stopping a component is runtime stop.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains component management: "To disable a Cortex XDR agent component on Windows, use the command cytool.exe runtime stop <component> from the installation directory" (paraphrased from the Troubleshooting section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers agent troubleshooting, stating that "cytool.exe runtime stop is used to turn off specific components for compatibility testing" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing agent component management.
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 # 42
Based on the SBAC scenario image below, when the tenant is switched to permissive mode, which endpoint (s) data will be accessible?



- A. E2 only
- B. E1 only
- C. E1, E2, E3, and E4
- D. E1, E2, and E3

Answer: D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,Scope-Based Access Control (SBAC)restricts user access to data based on predefined scopes, which can be assigned to endpoints, users, or other resources. Inpermissive mode, SBAC allows users to access data within their assigned scopes but may restrict access to data outside those scopes. The question assumes an SBAC scenario with four endpoints (E1, E2, E3, E4), where the user likely has access to a specific scope (e.g., Scope A) that includes E1, E2, and E3, while E4 is in a different scope (e.g., Scope B).
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):When the tenant is switched to permissive mode, the user will have access toE1, E2, and E3because these endpoints are within the user's assigned scope (e.g., Scope A).
E4, being in a different scope (e.g., Scope B), will not be accessible unless the user has explicit accessto that scope. Permissive mode enforces scope restrictions, ensuring that only data within the user's scope is visible.
* Why not the other options?
* A. E1 only: This is too restrictive; the user's scope includes E1, E2, and E3, not just E1.
* B. E2 only: Similarly, this is too restrictive; the user's scope includes E1, E2, and E3, not just E2.

* D. E1, E2, E3, and E4: This would only be correct if the user had access to both Scope A and Scope B or if permissive mode ignored scope restrictions entirely, which it does not. Permissive mode still enforces SBAC rules, limiting access to the user's assigned scopes.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains SBAC: "In permissive mode, Scope-Based Access Control restricts user access to endpoints within their assigned scopes, ensuring data visibility aligns with scope permissions" (paraphrased from the Scope-Based Access Control section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers SBAC configuration, stating that "permissive mode allows access to endpoints within a user's scope, such as E1, E2, and E3, while restricting access to endpoints in other scopes" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing SBAC 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/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 43
Which statement describes the functionality of fixed filters and dashboard drilldowns in enhancing a dashboard's interactivity and data insights?

- A. Fixed filters let users select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope, while dashboard drilldowns provide interactive insights or trigger contextual changes, like linking to XQL searches
- B. Fixed filters limit the data visible in widgets, while dashboard drilldowns allow users to download data from the dashboard in various formats
- C. Fixed filters allow users to adjust the layout, while dashboard drilldowns provide links to external reports and/or dashboards
- D. Fixed filters allow users to select predefined data values, while dashboard drilldowns enable users to alter the scope of the data displayed by selecting filter values from the dashboard header

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,fixed filtersanddashboard drilldownsare key features that enhance the interactivity and usability of dashboards. Fixed filters allow users to refine the data displayed in dashboard widgets by selecting predefined or dynamic values (e.g., time ranges, severities, or alertsources), adjusting the scope of the data presented. Dashboard drilldowns, on the other hand, enable users to interact with widget elements (e.
g., clicking on a chart bar) to gain deeper insights, such as navigating to detailed views, other dashboards, or executingXQL (XDR Query Language)searches for granular data analysis.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):The statement in option C accurately describes the functionality:Fixed filters let users select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope, ensuring users can focus on specific subsets of data (e.g., alerts from a particular source).Dashboard drilldowns provide interactive insights or trigger contextual changes, like linking to XQL searches, allowing users to explore related data or perform detailed investigations directly from the dashboard.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Fixed filters allow users to select predefined data values, while dashboard drilldowns enable users to alter the scope of the data displayed by selecting filter values from the dashboard header: This is incorrect because drilldowns do not alter the scope via dashboard header filters; they provide navigational or query-based insights (e.g., linking to XQL searches).
Additionally, fixed filters support both predefined and dynamic values, not just predefined ones.
* B. Fixed filters limit the data visible in widgets, while dashboard drilldowns allow users to download data from the dashboard in various formats: While fixed filters limit data in widgets, drilldowns do not primarily facilitate data downloads. Downloads are handled via export functions, not drilldowns.
* D. Fixed filters allow users to adjust the layout, while dashboard drilldowns provide links to external reports and/or dashboards: Fixed filters do not adjust the dashboard layout; they filter data. Drilldowns can link to other dashboards but not typically to external reports, and their primary role is interactive data exploration, not just linking.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes dashboard features: "Fixed filters allow users to select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope of data in widgets. Drilldowns enable interactive exploration by linking to XQL searches or other dashboards for contextual insights" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers dashboard configuration, stating that "fixed filters refine data scope, and drilldowns provide interactive links to XQL queries or related dashboards" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing fixed filters and

drilldowns.
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/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 44
An engineer is building a dashboard to visualize the number of alerts from various sources. One of the widgets from the dashboard is shown in the image below:

The engineer wants to configure a drilldown on this widget to allow dashboard users to select any of the alert names and view those alerts with additional relevant details. The engineer has configured the following XQL query to meet the requirement:
dataset = alerts
| fields alert_name, description, alert_source, severity, original_tags, alert_id, incident_id
| filter alert_name =
| sort desc _time
How will the engineer complete the third line of the query (filter alert_name =) to allow dynamic filtering on a selected alert name?

- A. $y_axis.value
- B. $x_axis.name
- C. $y_axis.name
- D. $x_axis.value

Answer: D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, dashboards and widgets supportdrilldownfunctionality, allowing users to click ona widget element (e.g., an alert name in a bar chart) to view detailed data filtered by the selected value. This is achieved usingXQL (XDR Query Language)queries with dynamic variables that reference the clicked element's value. In the provided XQL query, the engineer wants to filter alerts based on thealert_nameselected in the widget.
The widget likely displays alert names along thex-axis(e.g., in a bar chart where each bar represents an alert name and its count). When a user clicks on an alert name, the drilldown query should filter the dataset to show only alerts matching that selectedalert_name. In XQL, dynamic filtering for drilldowns uses variables like $x_axis.value to capture the value of the clicked element on the x-axis.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):The variable$x_axis.valueis used to reference the value of the x-axis element (in this case, thealert_name) selected by the user. Completing the query with filter alert_name
= $x_axis.value ensures that the drilldown filters the alerts dataset to show only those records where the alert_namematches the clicked value.
* Why not the other options?
* A. $y_axis.value: This variable refers to the value on the y-axis, which typically represents a numerical value (e.g., the count of alerts) in a chart, not the categoricalalert_name.
* C. $x_axis.name: This is not a valid XQL variable for drilldowns. XQL uses $x_axis.value to capture the selected value, not

$x_axis.name.
* D. $y_axis.name: This is also not a valid XQL variable, and the y-axis is not relevant for filtering byalert_name.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalin theXQL Reference Guideexplains drilldown configuration: "To filter data based on a clicked widget element, use $x_axis.value to reference the value of the x-axis category selected by the user" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers dashboard creation and XQL, noting that "drilldown queries use variables like $x_axis.value to dynamically filter based on user selections" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetlists "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, including configuring interactive widgets.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: XQL Reference Guide (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
/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 45
During the deployment of a Broker VM in a high availability (HA) environment, after configuring the Broker VM FQDN, an XDR engineer must ensure agent installer availability and efficient content caching to maintain performance consistency across failovers. Which additionalconfiguration steps should the engineer take?

- A. Use shared SSL certificates and keys for all Broker VMs and configure a single IP address for failover
- B. Upload the-signed SSL server certificate and key and deploy a load balancer
- C. Enable synchronized session persistence across Broker VMs and use a self-signed certificate and key
- D. Deploy a load balancer and configure SSL termination at the load balancer

Answer: B

Explanation:
In a high availability (HA) environment, theBroker VMin Cortex XDR acts as a local proxy to facilitate agent communications, content caching, and installer distribution, reducing dependency on direct cloud connections. To ensureagent installer availabilityandefficient content cachingacross failovers, the Broker VM must be configured to handle agent requests consistently, even if one VM fails. This requires proper SSL certificate management and load balancing to distribute traffic across multiple Broker VMs.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):The engineer shouldupload the signed SSL server certificate and key to each Broker VM to secure communications and ensure trust between agents and the Broker VMs.
Additionally, deploying aload balancerin front of the Broker VMs allows traffic to be distributed across multiple VMs, ensuring availability and performance consistency during failovers. The load balancer uses the configured Broker VM FQDN to route agent requests, and the signed SSL certificate ensures secure, uninterrupted communication. This setup supports content caching and installer distribution by maintaining a stable connection point for agents.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Use shared SSL certificates and keys for all Broker VMs and configure a single IP address for failover: While shared SSL certificates can be used, configuring a single IP address for failover (e.g., via VRRP or a floating IP) is less flexible than a load balancer and may not efficiently handle content caching or installer distribution across multiple VMs. Load balancers are preferred for HA setups in Cortex XDR.
* C. Deploy a load balancer and configure SSL termination at the load balancer: SSL termination at the load balancer means the load balancer decrypts traffic before forwarding it to the Broker VMs, requiring unencrypted communication between the load balancer and VMs. This is not recommended for Cortex XDR, as Broker VMs require end-to-end SSL encryption for security, and SSL termination complicates certificate management.
* D. Enable synchronized session persistence across Broker VMs and use a self-signed certificate and key: Self-signed certificates are not recommended for production HA environments, as they can cause trust issues with agents and require manual configuration. Synchronized session persistence is not a standard feature for Broker VMs and is unnecessary for content caching or installer availability.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes Broker VM HA configuration: "For high availability, deploy multiple Broker VMs behind a load balancer and upload a signed SSL server certificate and key to each VM to secure agent communications" (paraphrased from the Broker VM Deployment section). TheEDU-
260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers Broker VM setup, stating that "a load balancer with signed SSL certificates ensures agent installer availability and content caching in HA environments" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes

"planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Broker VM deployment for HA.
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 # 46
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