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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	- 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 3	- 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 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	- 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.

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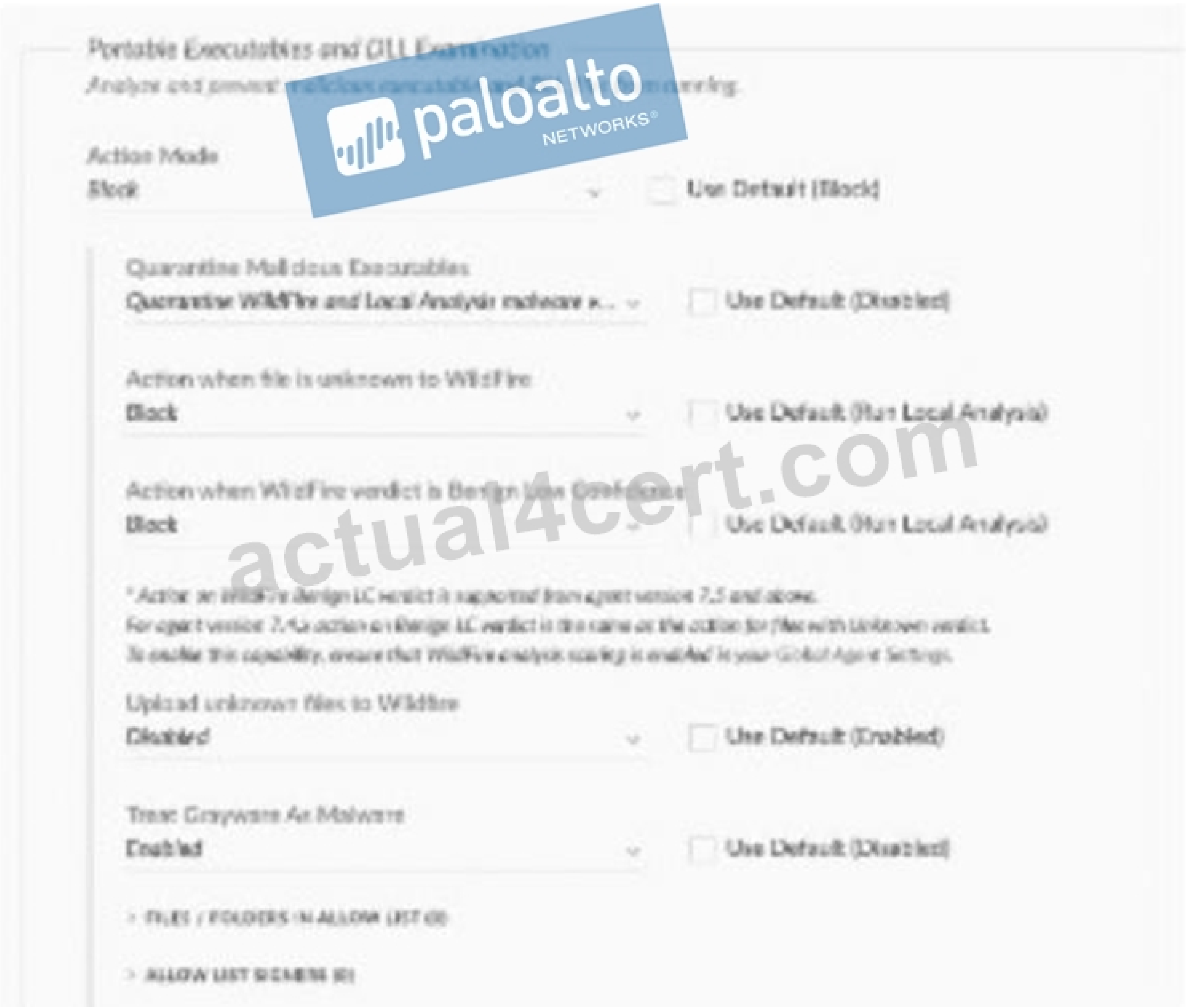
Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q40-Q45):

NEW QUESTION # 40
Based on the Malware profile image below, what happens when a new custom-developed application attempts to execute on an endpoint?



Portable Executables and DLL Examination

Analyze and prevent malicious executable and DLL files from running.

Action Mode

Block □ Use Default (Block)

Quarantine Malicious Executables

Quarantine WildFire and Local Analysis malware a... □ Use Default (Disabled)

Action when file is unknown to WildFire

Block □ Use Default (Run Local Analysis)

Action when WildFire verdict is Benign Low Confidence

Block □ Use Default (Run Local Analysis)

*Action on WildFire Benign LC verdict is supported from agent version 7.5 and above.
For agent version 7.4, action on Benign LC verdict is the same as the action for files with Unknown verdict.
To enable this capability, ensure that WildFire analysis scoring is enabled in your Global Agent Settings.

Upload unknown files to WildFire

Disabled □ Use Default (Enabled)

Treat Grayware As Malware

Enabled □ Use Default (Disabled)

> FILES / FOLDERS IN ALLOW LIST (0)

> ALLOW LIST SIGNERS (0)

- A. It will execute after one hour
- B. It will not execute
- C. It will immediately execute
- D. It will execute after the second attempt

Answer: B

Explanation:
Since no image was provided, I assume the Malware profile is configured with default Cortex XDR settings, which typically enforce strict malware prevention for unknown or untrusted executables. In Cortex XDR, the Malware profilewithin the security policy determines how executables are handled on endpoints. For anew custom-developed application(an unknown executable not previously analyzed or allow-listed), the default behavior is toblock executionuntil the file is analyzed byWildFire(Palo Alto Networks' cloud-based threat analysis service) or explicitly allowed via policy.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):By default, Cortex XDR's Malware profile is configured toblock unknown executables, including new custom-developed applications, to prevent potential threats. When the application attempts ilustrator execute, the Cortex XDR agent intercepts it, sends it to WildFire for analysis (if not excluded), and blocks execution until a verdict is received. If the application is not on an allow list or excluded, itwill not executeimmediately, aligning with option B.
* Why not the other options?
* A. It will immediately execute: This would only occur if the application is on an allow list or if the Malware profile is configured to allow unknown executables, which is not typical for default settings.
* C. It will execute after one hour: There is no default setting in Cortex XDR that delays execution for one hour. Execution depends on the WildFire verdict or policy configuration, not a fixed time delay.
* D. It will execute after the second attempt: Cortex XDR does not have a mechanism that allows execution after a second attempt. Execution is either blocked or allowed based on policy and analysis results.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains Malware profile behavior: "By default, unknown executables are blocked until a WildFire verdict is received, ensuring protection against new or custom- developed applications" (paraphrased from the Malware Profile Configuration section). TheEDU-260:
Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers Malware profiles, stating that "default settings block unknown executables to

prevent potential threats until analyzed" (paraphrased from course materials).
ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Malware profile 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
Note on Image: Since the image was not provided, I assumed a default Malware profile configuration. If you can share the image or describe its settings (e.g., specific allow lists, exclusions, or block rules), I can refine the answer to match the exact configuration.

NEW QUESTION # 41

An XDR engineer is creating a correlation rule to monitor login activity on specific systems. When the activity is identified, an alert is created. The alerts are being generated properly but are missing the username when viewed. How can the username information be included in the alerts?

- A. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field
- B. Add a mapping for the username field in the alert fields mapping
- C. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field
- D. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username

Answer: B

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,correlation rulesare used to detect specific patterns or behaviors (e.g., login activity) by analyzing ingested data and generating alerts when conditions are met. For an alert to include specific fields likeusername, the field must be explicitly mapped in thealert fields mappingconfiguration of the correlation rule. This mapping determines which fields from theunderlying dataset are included in the generated alert's details.
In this scenario, the correlation rule is correctly generating alerts for login activity, but theusernamefield is missing. This indicates that the correlation rule's query may be identifying the relevant events, but the usernamefield is not included in the alert's output fields. To resolve this, the engineer must update thealert fields mappingin the correlation rule to explicitly include theusernamefield, ensuring it appears in the alert details when viewed.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Adding a mapping for theusernamefield in thealert fields mapping ensures that the field is extracted from the dataset and included in the alert's metadata. This is done in the correlation rule configuration, where administrators can specify which fields to include in the alert output.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username:
Mapping to a MITRE ATT&CK technique like "Initial Access" defines the type of attack or behavior, not specific fields likeusername. This does not address the missing field issue.
* B. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field: While the correlation rule's query must reference theusernamefield to detect relevant events, including it in the query alone does not ensure it appears in the alert's output. Thealert fields mappingis still required.
* D. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field: Drill-down queries are used for additional investigation after an alert is generated, not for including fields in the alert itself. This does not solve the issue of missingusernamein the alert details.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes correlation rule configuration: "To include specific fields in generated alerts, configure the alert fields mapping in the correlation rule to map dataset fields, such as username, to the alert output" (paraphrased from the Correlation Rules section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers detection engineering, stating that "alert fields mapping determines which data fields are included in alerts generated by correlation rules" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing correlation rule 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
/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 42

Which step is required to configure a proxy for an XDR Collector?

- A. Edit the YAML configuration file with the new proxy information
- B. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant
- C. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder
- D. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings

Answer: A

Explanation:
TheXDR Collectorin Cortex XDR is a lightweight tool for collecting logs and events from servers and endpoints. When a proxy is required for the XDR Collector to communicate with the Cortex XDR cloud, the proxy settings must be configured in the collector's configuration file. Specifically, theYAML configuration file(e.g., config.yaml) must be edited to include the proxy details, such as the proxy server's address, port, and authentication credentials (if required).
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, the engineer mustedit the YAML configuration filewith the new proxy information. This involves adding or updating the proxy settings in the file, which the collector uses to route its traffic through the specified proxy server.
* Why not the other options?
* B. Restart the XDR Collector after configuring the proxy settings: While restarting the collector may be necessary to apply changes, it is not the primary step required to configure the proxy. The YAML file must be edited first.
* C. Connect the XDR Collector to the Pathfinder: The Pathfinder is a Cortex XDR feature for discovering endpoints, not for configuring proxy settings for the XDR Collector.
* D. Configure the proxy settings on the Cortex XDR tenant: Proxy settings for the XDR Collector are configured locally on the collector, not in the Cortex XDR tenant's web interface.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains XDR Collector configuration: "To configure a proxy for the XDR Collector, edit the YAML configuration file to include the proxy server details, such as address and port" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Configuration section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers XDR Collector setup, stating that"proxy settings are configured by editing the collector's YAML file" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing XDR Collector 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
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NEW QUESTION # 43
An insider compromise investigation has been requested to provide evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on a company laptop. Cortex XDR agent is installed with default prevention agent settings profile and default extension "Device Configuration" profile. Where can an engineer find the evidence?

- A. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured
- B. preset = device_control
- C. dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.
  MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT
- D. Check Host Inventory -> Mounts

Answer: D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, theDevice Configuration profile(an extension of the agent settings profile) controls how the Cortex XDR agent monitors and manages device-related activities, such as the mounting of removable drives.
By default, the Device Configuration profile includes monitoring for device mount events, such as when a USB drive or other removable media is connected to an endpoint. These events are logged and can be accessed for investigations, such as detecting unauthorized drive usage in an insider compromise scenario.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):TheHost Inventory -> Mountssection in the Cortex XDR console provides a detailed view of mount events for each endpoint, including information about removable drives mounted on the system. This is the most straightforward place to find evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on the company laptop, as it aggregates device mount events captured by the default Device Configuration profile.

* Why not the other options?
* B. dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.
MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT: This XQL query is technically correct for retrieving mount events from thexdr_datadataset, but it requires manual query execution and knowledge of specific event types. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is a more user-friendly and direct method for accessing this data, making it the preferred choice for an engineer investigating this issue.
* C. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured: This is incorrect because the default Device Configuration profile already captures mount events for removable drives, so no additional configuration is needed.
* D. preset = device_control: Thedevice_controlpreset in XQL retrieves device control-related events (e.g., USB block or allow actions), but it may not specifically include mount events unless explicitly configured. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is more targeted for this investigation.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes device monitoring: "The default Device Configuration profile logs mount events for removable drives, which can be viewed in the Host Inventory -> Mounts section of the console" (paraphrased from the Device Configuration section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers investigation techniques, stating that "mount events for removable drives are accessible in the Host Inventory for endpoints with default device monitoring" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing investigation of endpoint events.
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
A static endpoint group is created by adding 321 endpoints using the Upload From File feature. However, after group creation, the members count field shows 244 endpoints. What are two possible reasons why endpoints were not added to the group? (Choose two.)

- A. Static groups have a limit of 250 endpoints when adding by file
- B. Endpoints added to the new group were previously added to an existing group
- C. Endpoints added to the group were in Disconnected or Connection Lost status when groupmembership was added
- D. The IP address, hostname, or alias of the endpoints must match an existing agent that has registered with the tenant

Answer: C,D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,static endpoint groupsare manually defined groups of endpoints, often created by uploading a file containing endpoint identifiers (e.g., IP addresses, hostnames, or aliases) using theUpload From File feature. If fewer endpoints are added to the group than expected (e.g., 244 instead of 321), there are several possible reasons related to endpoint status or registration.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C, D):
* **C. Endpoints added to the group were in Disconnected or Connection Lost status when group status when group membership was added: If endpoints are in aDisconnectedorConnection Loststatus (i.e., not actively communicating with the Cortex XDR tenant), they may not be successfully added to the group, as Cortex XDR requires active registration to validate and process group membership.
* D. The IP address, hostname, or alias of the endpoints must match an existing agent that has registered with the tenant: For endpoints to be added to a static group, their identifiers (IP address, hostname, or alias) in the uploaded file must correspond to agents that are registered with the Cortex XDR tenant. If the identifiers do not match registered agents, those endpoints will not be added to the group.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Static groups have a limit of 250 endpoints when adding by file: There is no documented limit of 250 endpoints for static groups in Cortex XDR when using the Upload From File feature.
The platform supports large numbers of endpoints in groups, and this is not a valid reason.
* B. Endpoints added to the new group were previously added to an existing group: In Cortex XDR, endpoints are assigned to a single group for policy application to avoid conflicts, but this does not prevent endpoints from being added to a new static group during creation. The issue lies in registration or connectivity, not prior group membership.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains endpoint group management: "Endpoints must be registered and actively connected to the tenant to be added to static groups. Unregistered or disconnected endpoints may not be included in the group" (paraphrased from the Endpoint Management section). TheEDU-
260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers group creation, stating that "static groups require valid, registered

endpoint identifiers, and disconnected endpoints may not be added" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing endpoint group 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
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NEW QUESTION # 45
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