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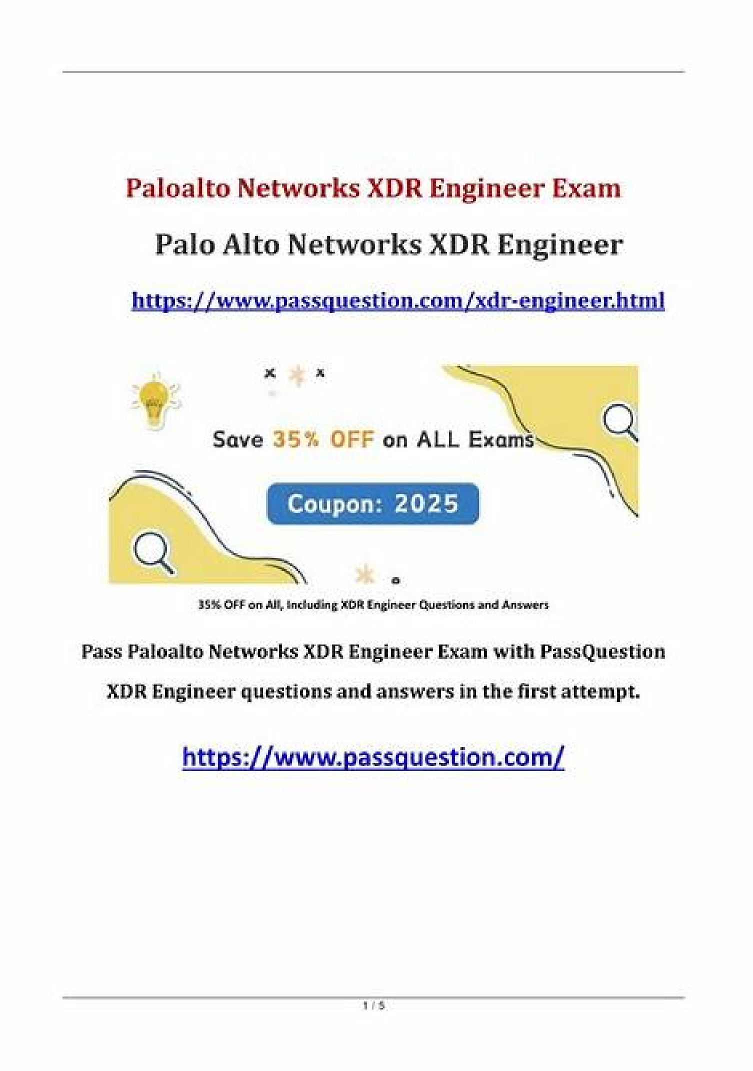

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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

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	- 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	- 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.

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q31-Q36):

NEW QUESTION # 31
How can a Malware profile be configured to prevent a specific executable from being uploaded to the cloud?

- A. Create an exclusion rule for the executable
- B. Set PE and DLL examination for the executable to report action mode
- C. Add the executable to the allow list for executions
- D. Disable on-demand file examination for the executable

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,Malware profilesdefine how the agent handles files for analysis, including whether they are uploaded to the cloud forWildFireanalysis or other cloud-based inspections. To prevent a specific executable from being uploaded to the cloud, the administrator can configure anexclusion rulein the Malware profile.
Exclusion rules allow specific files, directories, or patterns to be excluded from cloud analysis, ensuring they are not sent to the cloud while still allowing local analysis or other policy enforcement.
* Correct Answer Analysis (D):Creating anexclusion rulefor the executable in the Malware profile ensures that the specified file is not uploaded to the cloud for analysis. This can be done by specifying the file's name, hash, or path in the exclusion settings, preventing unnecessary cloud uploads while maintaining agent functionality for other files.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Disable on-demand file examination for the executable: Disabling on-demand file examination prevents the agent from analyzing

the file at all, which could compromise security by bypassing local and cloud analysis entirely. This is not the intended solution.
* B. Set PE and DLL examination for the executable to report action mode: Setting examination to "report action mode" configures the agent to log actions without blocking or uploading, but it does not specifically prevent cloud uploads. This option is unrelated to controlling cloud analysis.
* C. Add the executable to the allow list for executions: Adding an executable to the allow list permits it to run without triggering prevention actions, but it does not prevent the file from being uploaded to the cloud for analysis.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains Malware profile configuration: "Exclusion rules in Malware profiles allow administrators to specify files or directories that are excluded from cloud analysis, preventing uploads to WildFire or other cloud services" (paraphrased from the Malware Profile Configuration section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers agent configuration, stating that "exclusion rules can be used to prevent specific files from being sent to the cloud for analysis" (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
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NEW QUESTION # 32
What should be configured in Cortex XDR to integrate asset data from Microsoft Azure for better visibility and incident investigation?

- A. Cloud Inventory
- B. Cloud Identity Engine
- C. Microsoft 365
- D. Azure Network Watcher

Answer: A

Explanation:
Cortex XDR supports integration with cloud platforms like Microsoft Azure to ingest asset data, improving visibility into cloud-based assets and enhancing incident investigation by correlating cloud events with endpoint and network data. TheCloud Inventoryfeature in Cortex XDR is designed to collect and manage asset data from cloud providers, including Azure, providing details such as virtual machines, storage accounts, and network configurations.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Cloud Inventoryshould be configured to integrate asset data from Microsoft Azure. This feature allows Cortex XDR to pull in metadata about Azure assets, such as compute instances, networking resources, and configurations, enabling better visibility and correlation during incident investigations. Administrators configure Cloud Inventory by connecting to Azure via API credentials (e.g., using an Azure service principal) to sync asset data into Cortex XDR.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Azure Network Watcher: Azure Network Watcher is a Microsoft Azure service for monitoring and diagnosing network issues, but it is not directly integrated with Cortex XDR for asset data ingestion.
* B. Cloud Identity Engine: The Cloud Identity Engine integrates with identity providers (e.g., Azure AD) to sync user and group data for identity-based threat detection, not for general asset data like VMs or storage.
* D. Microsoft 365: Microsoft 365 integration in Cortex XDR is for ingesting email and productivity suite data (e.g., from Exchange or Teams), not for Azure asset data.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains cloud integrations: "Cloud Inventory integrates with Microsoft Azure to collect asset data, enhancing visibility and incident investigation byproviding details on cloud resources" (paraphrased from the Cloud Inventory section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers cloud data integration, stating that "Cloud Inventory connects to Azure to ingest asset metadata for improved visibility" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing Cloud Inventory setup.
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 # 33
A cloud administrator reports high network bandwidth costs attributed to Cortex XDR operations and asks for bandwidth usage to be optimized without compromising agent functionality. Which two techniques should the engineer implement? (Choose two.)

- A. Configure P2P download sources for agent upgrades and content updates
- B. Enable agent content management bandwidth control
- C. Enable minor content version updates
- D. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet

Answer: A,B

Explanation:
Cortex XDR agents communicate with the cloud for tasks like receiving content updates, agent upgrades, and sending telemetry data, which can consume significant network bandwidth. To optimize bandwidth usage without compromising agent functionality, the engineer should implement techniques that reduce network traffic while maintaining full detection, prevention, and response capabilities.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Configure P2P download sources for agent upgrades and content updates: Peer-to-Peer (P2P) download sources allow Cortex XDR agents to share content updates and agent upgrades with other agents on the same network, reducing the need for each agent to download data directly from the cloud. This significantly lowers bandwidth usage, especially in environments with many endpoints.
* C. Enable agent content management bandwidth control: Cortex XDR provides bandwidth control settings in theContent Managementconfiguration, allowing administrators to limit the bandwidth used for content updates and agent communications. This feature throttles data transfers to minimize network impact while ensuring updates are still delivered.
* Why not the other options?
* B. Enable minor content version updates: Enabling minor content version updates ensures agents receive incremental updates, but this alone does not significantly optimize bandwidth, as it does not address the volume or frequency of data transfers. It is a standard practice but not a primary bandwidth optimization technique.
* D. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet: A Broker VM can act as a local proxy for agent communications, potentially reducing cloud traffic, but thelocal agent settings appletis used for configuring agent settings locally, not for bandwidth optimization.
Additionally, deploying a Broker VM requires significant setup and may not directly address bandwidth for content updates or upgrades compared to P2P or bandwidth control.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes bandwidth optimization: "P2P download sources enable agents to share content updates and upgrades locally, reducing cloud bandwidth usage" and "Content Management bandwidth control allows administrators to limit the network impact of agent updates" (paraphrased from the Agent Management and Content Updates sections). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers post-deployment optimization, stating that "P2P downloads and bandwidth control settings are key techniques for minimizing network usage" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing bandwidth optimization.
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 # 34
What happens when the XDR Collector is uninstalled from an endpoint by using the Cortex XDR console?

- A. The associated configuration data is removed from the Action Center immediately after uninstallation
- B. It is uninstalled during the next heartbeat communication, machine status changes to Uninstalled, and the configuration data is retained for 90 days
- C. The machine status remains active until manually removed, and the configuration data is retained for up to seven days
- D. The files are removed immediately, and the machine is deleted from the system without any retention period

Answer: B

Explanation:
TheXDR Collectoris a lightweight agent in Cortex XDR used to collect logs and events from endpoints or servers. When uninstalled

via the Cortex XDR console, the uninstallation process is initiated remotely, but the actual removal occurs during the endpoint's next communication with the Cortex XDR tenant, known as the heartbeat. The heartbeat interval is typically every few minutes, ensuring timely uninstallation. After uninstallation, the machine's status in the console updates, and associated configuration data is retained for a specific period to support potential reinstallation or auditing.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):When the XDR Collector is uninstalled using the Cortex XDR console, it is uninstalled during the next heartbeat communication, themachine status changes to Uninstalled, and theconfiguration data is retained for 90 days. This retention period allows administrators to review historical data or reinstall the collector if needed, after which the data is permanently deleted.
* Why not the other options?
* A. The files are removed immediately, and the machine is deleted from the system without any retention period: Uninstallation is not immediate; it occurs at the next heartbeat.
Additionally, Cortex XDR retains configuration data for a period, not deleting it immediately.
* B. The machine status remains active until manually removed, and the configuration data is retained for up to seven days: The machine status updates to Uninstalled automatically, not requiring manual removal, and the retention period is 90 days, not seven days.
* D. The associated configuration data is removed from the Action Center immediately after uninstallation: Configuration data is retained for 90 days, not removed immediately, and the Action Center is not the primary location for this data.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains XDR Collector uninstallation: "Whenuninstalled via the console, the XDR Collector is removed at the next heartbeat, the machine status changes to Uninstalled, and configuration data is retained for 90 days" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Management section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers collector management, stating that
"uninstallation occurs at the next heartbeat, with a 90-day retention period for configuration data" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes
"post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing XDR Collector uninstallation.
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 # 35

An engineer wants to automate the handling of alerts in Cortex XDR and defines several automation rules with different actions to be triggered based on specific alert conditions. Some alerts do not trigger the automation rules as expected. Which statement explains why the automation rules might not apply to certain alerts?

- A. They can be applied to any alert, but they only work if the alert is manually grouped into an incident by the analyst
- B. They can only be triggered by alerts with high severity; alerts with low or informational severity will not trigger the automation rules
- C. They are executed in sequential order, so alerts may not trigger the correct actions if the rules are not configured properly
- D. They only apply to new alerts grouped into incidents by the system and only alerts that generateincidents trigger automation actions

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,automation rules(also known as response actions or playbooks) are used to automate alert handling based on specific conditions, such as alert type, severity, or source. These rules are executed in a defined order, and the first rule that matches an alert's conditions triggers its associated actions. If automation rules are not triggering as expected, the issue often lies in their configuration or execution order.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):Automation rules areexecuted in sequential order, and each alert is evaluated against the rules in the order they are defined. If the rules are not configured properly (e.g., overly broad conditions in an earlier rule or incorrect prioritization), an alert may match an earlier rule and trigger its actions instead of the intended rule, or it may not match any rule due to misconfigured conditions. This explains why some alerts do not trigger the expected automation rules.
* Why not the other options?
* B. They only apply to new alerts grouped into incidents by the system and only alerts that generate incidents trigger automation actions: Automation rules can apply to both standalone alerts and those grouped into incidents. They are not limited to incident-related alerts.
* C. They can only be triggered by alerts with high severity; alerts with low or informational severity will not trigger the automation rules: Automation rules can be configured to trigger based on any severity level (high, medium, low, or informational), so this is not a

restriction.
* D. They can be applied to any alert, but they only work if the alert is manually grouped into an incident by the analyst: Automation rules do not require manual incident grouping; they can apply to any alert based on defined conditions, regardless of incident status.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains automation rules: "Automation rules are executed in sequential order, and the first rule matching an alert's conditions triggers its actions. Misconfigured rules or incorrect ordering can prevent expected actions from being applied" (paraphrased from the Automation Rules section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers automation, stating that
"sequential execution of automation rules requires careful configuration to ensure the correct actions are triggered" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "playbook creation and automation" as a key exam topic, encompassing automation 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
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NEW QUESTION # 36
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