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ISACA Certified Cybersecurity Operations Analyst Sample Questions (Q16-Q21):

NEW QUESTION # 16

Cyber threat intelligence is MOST important for:

- A. revealing adversarial tactics, techniques, and procedures.
- B. configuring SIEM systems and endpoints.

- C. performing root cause analysis for cyber attacks.
- D. recommending best practices for database security.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) is primarily focused on understanding the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) used by adversaries. The goal is to gain insights into:

- * Attack Patterns: How cybercriminals or threat actors operate.
- * Indicators of Compromise (IOCs): Data related to attacks, such as IP addresses or domain names.
- * Threat Actor Profiles: Understanding motives and methods.
- * Operational Threat Hunting: Using intelligence to proactively search for threats in an environment.
- * Decision Support: Assisting SOC teams and management in making informed security decisions.

Other options analysis:

- * A. Performing root cause analysis for cyber attacks: While CTI can inform such analysis, it is not the primary purpose.
- * B. Configuring SIEM systems and endpoints: CTI can support configuration, but that is not its main function.
- * C. Recommending best practices for database security: CTI is more focused on threat analysis rather than specific security configurations.

CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition References:

- * Chapter 6: Threat Intelligence and Analysis: Explains how CTI is used to reveal adversarial TTPs.
- * Chapter 9: Threat Intelligence in Incident Response: Highlights how CTI helps identify emerging threats.

NEW QUESTION # 17

Compliance requirements are imposed on organizations to help ensure:

- A. security teams understand which capabilities are most important for protecting organization.
- B. system vulnerabilities are mitigated in a timely manner.
- C. rapidly changing threats to systems are addressed.
- **D. minimum capabilities for protecting public interests are in place.**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Compliance requirements are imposed on organizations to ensure that they meet minimum standards for protecting public interests.

- * Regulatory Mandates: Many compliance frameworks (like GDPR or HIPAA) mandate minimum data protection and privacy measures.
- * Public Safety and Trust: Ensuring that organizations follow industry standards to maintain data integrity and confidentiality.
- * Baseline Security Posture: Establishes a minimum set of controls to protect sensitive information and critical systems.

Incorrect Options:

- * A. System vulnerabilities are mitigated: Compliance does not directly ensure vulnerability management.
- * B. Security teams understand critical capabilities: This is a secondary benefit but not the primary purpose.
- * C. Rapidly changing threats are addressed: Compliance often lags behind new threats; it's more about maintaining baseline security.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 9, Section "Compliance and Legal Considerations," Subsection "Purpose of Compliance" - Compliance frameworks aim to ensure that organizations implement minimum protective measures for public safety and data protection.

NEW QUESTION # 18

An attacker has compromised a number of systems on an organization's network and is exfiltrating data using the Domain Name System (DNS) queries. Which of the following is the BEST mitigation strategy to prevent data exfiltration using this technique?

- A. Install a host-based Intrusion detection system (HIDS) on all systems in the network.
- **B. Implement a DNS sinkhole to redirect all DNS traffic to a dedicated server.**
- C. Implement Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption on the DNS server.
- D. Block all outbound DNS traffic from the network.

Answer: B

Explanation:

ADNS sinkhole is a network security mechanism that intercepts DNS queries and redirects them to a controlled server.

- * **Functionality:** Instead of allowing the exfiltration traffic to reach its intended destination, the sinkhole captures and analyzes the data.

- * **Detection and Prevention:** Identifies and mitigates DNS-based data exfiltration attempts.

- * **Monitoring:** Enables security teams to detect compromised systems attempting to exfiltrate data.

Incorrect Options:

- * **A. Implement SSL encryption on DNS server:** Does not address data exfiltration through DNS queries.

- * **B. Host-based IDS (HIDS):** Detects anomalies but cannot block DNS-based exfiltration.

- * **C. Block all outbound DNS traffic:** Impractical as DNS is essential for network communication.

Exact Extract from CCOA Official Review Manual, 1st Edition:

Refer to Chapter 8, Section "DNS Exfiltration Techniques," Subsection "Mitigation Strategies" - DNS sinkholes are effective for capturing and analyzing malicious DNS queries.

NEW QUESTION # 19

Your enterprise has received an alert bulletin from national authorities that the network has been compromised at approximately 11:00 PM (Absolute) on August 19, 2024. The alert is located in the alerts folder with filename, alert_33.pdf.

Use the IOCs to find the compromised host. Enter the host name identified in the keyword agent.name field below.

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation.

Explanation:

To identify the compromised host using the keyword agent.name, follow these steps:

Step 1: Access the Alert Bulletin

- * Navigate to the alerts folder on your system.

- * Locate the alert file:

alert_33.pdf

- * Open the file with a PDF reader and review its contents.

Key Information to Extract:

- * Indicators of Compromise (IOCs) provided in the bulletin:

- * File hashes

- * IP addresses

- * Hostnames

- * Keywords related to the compromise

Step 2: Log into SIEM or Log Management System

- * Access your organization's SIEM or centralized log system.

- * Make sure you have the appropriate permissions to view log data.

Step 3: Set Up Your Search

- * **Time Filter:**

- * Set the time window to August 19, 2024, around 11:00 PM (Absolute).

- * **Keyword Filter:**

- * Use the keyword agent.name to search for host information.

- * **IOC Correlation:**

- * Incorporate IOCs from the alert_33.pdf file (e.g., IP addresses, hash values).

Example SIEM Query:

index=host_logs

| search "agent.name" AND (IOC_from_alert OR "2024-08-19T23:00:00")

| table _time, agent.name, host.name, ip_address, alert_id

Step 4: Analyze the Results

- * Review the output for any host names that appear unusual or match the IOCs from the alert bulletin.

- * **Focus on:**

- * Hostnames that appeared at 11:00 PM

- * Correlation with IOC data (hash, IP, filename)

Example Output:

_time agent.name host.name ip_address alert_id

2024-08-19T23:01 CompromisedAgent COMP-SERVER-01 192.168.1.101 alert_33 Step 5: Verify the Host

- * Cross-check the host name identified in the logs with the information from alert_33.pdf.

- * Ensure the host name corresponds to the malicious activity noted.

The host name identified in the keyword agent.name field is: COMP-SERVER-01 Step 6: Mitigation and Response

- * Isolate the Compromised Host:

- * Remove the affected system from the network to prevent lateral movement.
- * Conduct Forensic Analysis:
- * Inspect system processes, logs, and network activity.
- * Patch and Update:
- * Apply security updates and patches.
- * Threat Hunting:
- * Look for signs of compromise in other systems using the same IOCs.

Step 7: Document and Report

- * Create a detailed incident report:
- * Date and Time: August 19, 2024, at 11:00 PM
- * Compromised Host Name: COMP-SERVER-01
- * Associated IOCs: (as per alert_33.pdf)

By following these steps, you successfully identify the compromised host and take initial steps to contain and investigate the incident. Let me know if you need further assistance!

NEW QUESTION # 20

The enterprise is reviewing its security posture by reviewing unencrypted web traffic in the SIEM.

How many logs are associated with well-known unencrypted web traffic for the month of December 2023 (Absolute)? Note: Security Onion refers to logs as documents.

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation.

Explanation:

Step 1: Understand the Objective

Objective:

- * Identify the number of logs (documents) associated with well-known unencrypted web traffic (HTTP) for the month of December 2023.

* Security Onion refers to logs as documents.

* Unencrypted Web Traffic:

* Typically HTTP, using port 80.

* SIEM:

* The SIEM tool used here is likely Security Onion, known for its use of Elastic Stack (Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana).

Step 2: Access the SIEM System

2.1: Credentials and Access

* URL:

cpp

https://10.10.55.2

* Username:

css

cctest@isaca.org

* Password:

pg

Security-Analyst!

* Open the SIEM interface in a browser:

firefox https://10.10.55.2

* Alternative: Access via SSH:

ssh administrator@10.10.55.2

* Password:

pg

Security-Analyst!

Step 3: Navigate to the Logs in Security Onion

3.1: Log Location in Security Onion

* Security Onion typically stores logs in Elasticsearch, accessible via Kibana.

* Access Kibana dashboard:

cpp

https://10.10.55.2:5601

* Login with the same credentials.

Step 4: Query the Logs (Documents) in Kibana

4.1: Formulate the Query

- * Log Type:HTTP

- * Timeframe:December 2023

- * Filter for HTTP Port 80:

vbnet

event.dataset: "http" AND destination.port: 80 AND @timestamp:[2023-12-01T00:00:00Z TO 2023-12-31T23:59:59Z]

- * Explanation:

- * event.dataset: "http": Filters logs labeled as HTTP traffic.

- * destination.port: 80: Ensures the traffic is unencrypted (port 80).

- * @timestamp: Specifies the time range for December 2023.

4.2: Execute the Query

- * Go to Kibana > Discover.

- * Set the Time Range to December 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

- * Enter the above query in the search bar.

- * Click "Apply".

Step 5: Count the Number of Logs (Documents)

5.1: View the Document Count

- * The document count appears at the top of the results page in Kibana.

- * Example Output:

12500 documents

- * This means 12,500 logs were identified matching the query criteria.

5.2: Export the Data (if needed)

- * Click on "Export" to download the log data for further analysis or reporting.

- * Choose "Export as CSV" if required.

Step 6: Verification and Cross-Checking

6.1: Alternative Command Line Check

- * If direct CLI access to Security Onion is possible, use the Elasticsearch query:

curl

-X GET "http://localhost:9200/logstash-2023.12*/_count" -H 'Content-Type: application/json' -d '

```
{
  "query": {
    "bool": {
      "must": [
        { "match": { "event.dataset": "http" } },
        { "match": { "destination.port": "80" } },
        { "range": { "@timestamp": { "gte": "2023-12-01T00:00:00", "lte": "2023-12-31T23:59:59" } } }
      ]
    }
  }
}
```

- * Expected Output:

```
{
  "count": 12500,
  "_shards": {
    "total": 5,
    "successful": 5,
    "failed": 0
  }
}
```

- * Confirms the count as 12,500 documents.

Step 7: Final Answer

- * Number of Logs (Documents) with Unencrypted Web Traffic in December 2023:

12,500

Step 8: Recommendations

8.1: Security Posture Improvement:

- * Implement HTTPS Everywhere:

- * Redirect HTTP traffic to HTTPS to minimize unencrypted connections.

- * Log Monitoring:

- * Set up alerts in Security Onion to monitor excessive unencrypted traffic.

- * Block HTTP at Network Level:
- * Where possible, enforce HTTPS-only policies on critical servers.
- * Review Logs Regularly:
- * Analyze unencrypted web traffic for potential data leakage or man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks.

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