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Palo Alto Networks PSE-Strata-Pro-24 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deployment and Evaluation: This section of the exam measures the skills of Deployment Engineers and focuses on identifying the capabilities of Palo Alto Networks NGFWs. Candidates will evaluate features that protect against both known and unknown threats. They will also explain identity management from a deployment perspective and describe the proof of value (PoV) process, which includes assessing the effectiveness of NGFW solutions.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Value and Competitive Differentiators: This section of the exam measures the skills of Technical Business Value Analysts and focuses on identifying the value proposition of Palo Alto Networks Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs). Candidates will assess the technical business benefits of tools like Panorama and SCM. They will also recognize customer-relevant topics and align them with Palo Alto Networks' best solutions. Additionally, understanding Strata's unique differentiators is a key component of this domain.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network Security Strategy and Best Practices: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Strategy Specialists and highlights the importance of the Palo Alto Networks five-step Zero Trust methodology. Candidates must understand how to approach and apply the Zero Trust model effectively while emphasizing best practices to ensure robust network security.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architecture and Planning: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Architects and emphasizes understanding customer requirements and designing suitable deployment architectures. Candidates must explain Palo Alto Networks' platform networking capabilities in detail and evaluate their suitability for various environments. Handling aspects like system sizing and fine-tuning is also a critical skill assessed in this domain.

Palo Alto Networks Systems Engineer Professional - Hardware Firewall Sample Questions (Q31-Q36):

NEW QUESTION # 31

Which three use cases are specific to Policy Optimizer? (Choose three.)

- A. Enabling migration from port-based rules to application-based rules
- B. Converting broad rules based on application filters into narrow rules based on application groups
- C. Discovering 5-tuple attributes that can be simplified to 4-tuple attributes
- D. Automating the tagging of rules based on historical log data
- E. Discovering applications on the network and transitions to application-based policy over time

Answer: A,B,E

Explanation:

* Discovering Applications on the Network (Answer A):

* Policy Optimizer analyzes traffic logs to identify applications running on the network that are currently being allowed by port-based or overly permissive policies.

* It provides visibility into these applications, enabling administrators to transition to more secure, application-based policies over time.

* Converting Broad Rules into Narrow Rules (Answer B):

* Policy Optimizer helps refine policies by converting broad application filters (e.g., rules that allow all web applications) into narrower rules based on specific application groups.

* This reduces the risk of overly permissive access while maintaining granular control.

* Migrating from Port-Based Rules to Application-Based Rules (Answer C):

* One of the primary use cases for Policy Optimizer is enabling organizations to migrate from legacy port-based rules to application-based rules, which are more secure and aligned with Zero Trust principles.

* Policy Optimizer identifies traffic patterns and automatically recommends the necessary application-based policies.

* Why Not D:

* 5-tuple attributes (source IP, destination IP, source port, destination port, protocol) are used in traditional firewalls. Simplifying these attributes to 4-tuple (e.g., removing the protocol) is not a use case for Policy Optimizer, as Palo Alto Networks NGFWs focus on application-based policies, not just 5-tuple matching.

* Why Not E:

* Automating tagging of rules based on historical log data is not a specific feature of Policy Optimizer. While Policy Optimizer analyzes log data to recommend policy changes, tagging is not its primary use case.

References from Palo Alto Networks Documentation:

* Policy Optimizer Overview

* Transitioning to Application-Based Policies

NEW QUESTION # 32

According to a customer's CIO, who is upgrading PAN-OS versions, "Finding issues and then engaging with your support people requires expertise that our operations team can better utilize elsewhere on more valuable tasks for the business." The upgrade project was initiated in a rush because the company did not have the appropriate tools to indicate that their current NGFWs were reaching capacity.

Which two actions by the Palo Alto Networks team offer a long-term solution for the customer? (Choose two.)

- A. Propose AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM) to address the company's issues from within the existing technology.
- B. Inform the CIO that the new enhanced security features they will gain from the PAN-OS upgrades will fix any future problems with upgrading and capacity.
- C. Suggest the inclusion of training into the proposal so that the operations team is informed and confident in working on their firewalls.
- D. Recommend that the operations team use the free machine learning-powered AIOps for NGFW tool.

Answer: A,C

Explanation:

The customer's CIO highlights two key pain points: (1) the operations team lacks expertise to efficiently manage PAN-OS upgrades and support interactions, diverting focus from valuable tasks, and (2) the company lacked tools to monitor NGFW capacity, leading to a rushed upgrade. The goal is to recommend long-term solutions leveraging Palo Alto Networks' offerings for Strata Hardware Firewalls. Options B and D-training and AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM)- address these issues by enhancing team capability and providing proactive management tools. Below is a detailed explanation, verified against official documentation.

Step 1: Analyzing the Customer's Challenges

* Expertise Gap: The CIO notes that identifying issues and engaging support requires expertise the operations team doesn't fully have or can't prioritize. Upgrading PAN-OS on Strata NGFWs involves tasks like version compatibility checks, pre-upgrade validation, and troubleshooting, which demand familiarity with PAN-OS tools and processes.

* Capacity Visibility: The rushed upgrade stemmed from not knowing the NGFWs were nearing capacity (e.g., CPU, memory, session limits), indicating a lack of monitoring or predictive analytics.

Long-term solutions must address both operational efficiency and proactive capacity management, aligning with Palo Alto Networks' ecosystem for Strata firewalls.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Upgrade Overview

"Successful upgrades require planning, validation, and monitoring to avoid disruptions and ensure capacity is sufficient." Step 2: Evaluating the Recommended Actions Option A: Recommend that the operations team use the free machine learning-powered AIOps for NGFW tool.

Analysis: AIOps for NGFW (free version) is a cloud-based tool that uses machine learning to monitor firewall health, detect anomalies, and provide upgrade recommendations. It offers basic telemetry (e.g., CPU usage, session counts) and alerts, which could have flagged capacity issues earlier. However, it lacks advanced features like automated remediation, detailed capacity planning, or integration with Strata Cloud Manager, limiting its long-term impact. Additionally, it doesn't address the expertise gap, as the team still needs knowledge to interpret and act on insights.

Conclusion: Helpful but not a comprehensive long-term solution.

Reference: AIOps for NGFW Documentation

"The free version provides basic health monitoring and ML-driven insights but lacks premium features for proactive management."

Option B: Suggest the inclusion of training into the proposal so that the operations team is informed and confident in working on their firewalls.

Analysis: Palo Alto Networks offers training through the Palo Alto Networks Authorized Training Partners and Cybersecurity Academy, covering PAN-OS administration, upgrades, and troubleshooting. For Strata NGFWs, courses like "Firewall Essentials: Configuration and Management (EDU-210)" teach upgrade best practices, capacity monitoring (e.g., via Device > High Availability > Resources), and support engagement.

How It Solves the Issue:

Reduces reliance on external expertise by upskilling the team

Enables efficient upgrade planning (e.g., using Best Practice Assessment (BPA) tool).

Frees the team for higher-value tasks by minimizing support escalations.

Long-Term Benefit: A trained team can proactively manage upgrades and capacity, addressing the CIO's concern about expertise allocation.

Conclusion: A strong long-term solution.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks Training Catalog

"Training empowers operations teams to confidently manage NGFWs, including upgrades and capacity planning." Option C: Inform the CIO that the new enhanced security features they will gain from the PAN-OS upgrades will fix any future problems with upgrading and capacity.

Analysis: New PAN-OS versions (e.g., 11.1) bring features like enhanced App-ID, decryption, or ML-based threat detection,

improving security. However, these don't inherently solve upgrade complexity or capacity visibility. Capacity issues depend on hardware limits (e.g., PA-5200 Series max sessions), not software features, and upgrades still require expertise. This response oversells benefits without addressing root causes.

Conclusion: Not a valid long-term solution.

Reference: PAN-OS 11.1 Release Notes

"New features enhance security but do not automate upgrade processes or capacity monitoring." Option D: Propose AIOps Premium within Strata Cloud Manager (SCM) to address the company's issues from within the existing technology.

Analysis: AIOps Premium, integrated with Strata Cloud Manager (SCM), is a subscription-based service for managing Strata NGFWs. It provides:

Predictive Analytics: Forecasts capacity needs (e.g., CPU, memory, sessions) using ML.

Upgrade Planning: Recommends optimal upgrade paths and validates configurations.

Proactive Alerts: Identifies issues before they escalate, reducing support calls.

Centralized Management: Monitors all firewalls from SCM, integrating with existing PAN-OS deployments.

How It Solves the Issue:

Prevents rushed upgrades by predicting capacity limits (e.g., via Capacity Saturation Reports).

Simplifies upgrade preparation with automated insights, reducing expertise demands.

Aligns with existing Strata technology, enhancing ROI.

Long-Term Benefit: Offers a scalable, proactive toolset to manage NGFWs, addressing both capacity and operational efficiency.

Conclusion: A robust long-term solution.

Reference: Strata Cloud Manager AIOps Premium Documentation

"AIOps Premium provides advanced capacity planning and upgrade readiness, minimizing operational burden." Step 3: Why B and D Are the Best Choices B (Training): Directly tackles the expertise gap, empowering the team to handle upgrades and capacity monitoring independently. It's a foundational fix, ensuring long-term self-sufficiency.

D (AIOps Premium in SCM): Provides a technological solution to preempt capacity issues and streamline upgrades, reducing the need for deep expertise and support escalations. It complements training by automating complex tasks.

Synergy: Together, they address both human (expertise) and systemic (tools) challenges, aligning with the CIO's goals of operational efficiency and business value.

Step 4: How These Actions Integrate with Strata NGFWs

Training: Teaches use of PAN-OS tools like System Resources (CLI: show system resources) and Dynamic Updates for capacity and upgrade prep.

AIOps Premium: Enhances Strata NGFW management via SCM, pulling telemetry (e.g., from Device > Setup > Telemetry) to predict and resolve issues.

Reference: PAN-OS Administrator's Guide (11.1) - Monitoring

"Combine training and tools like AIOps to optimize NGFW performance and upgrades."

NEW QUESTION # 33

Which two products can be integrated and managed by Strata Cloud Manager (SCM)? (Choose two)

- A. Prisma Cloud
- B. VM-Series NGFW
- C. Cortex XDR
- D. Prisma SD-WAN

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

Strata Cloud Manager (SCM) is Palo Alto Networks' centralized cloud-based management platform for managing network security solutions, including Prisma Access and Prisma SD-WAN. SCM can also integrate with VM-Series firewalls for managing virtualized NGFW deployments.

Why A (Prisma SD-WAN) Is Correct

* SCM is the management interface for Prisma SD-WAN, enabling centralized orchestration, monitoring, and configuration of SD-WAN deployments.

Why D (VM-Series NGFW) Is Correct

* SCM supports managing VM-Series NGFWs, providing centralized visibility and control for virtualized firewall deployments in cloud or on-premises environments.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect

* B (Prisma Cloud): Prisma Cloud is a separate product for securing workloads in public cloud environments. It is not managed via SCM.

* C (Cortex XDR): Cortex XDR is a platform for endpoint detection and response (EDR). It is managed through its own console, not SCM.

References:

* Palo Alto Networks Strata Cloud Manager Overview

NEW QUESTION # 34

Device-ID can be used in which three policies? (Choose three.)

- A. Policy-based forwarding (PBF)
- B. Decryption
- C. Security
- D. SD-WAN
- E. Quality of Service (QoS)

Answer: B,C,E

Explanation:

The question asks about the policies where Device-ID, a feature of Palo Alto Networks NGFWs, can be applied. Device-ID enables the firewall to identify and classify devices (e.g., IoT, endpoints) based on attributes like device type, OS, or behavior, enhancing policy enforcement. Let's evaluate its use across the specified policy types.

Step 1: Understand Device-ID

Device-ID leverages the IoT Security subscription and integrates with the Strata Firewall to provide device visibility and control. It uses data from sources like DHCP, HTTP headers, and machinelearning to identify devices and allows policies to reference device objects (e.g., "IP Camera," "Medical Device"). This feature is available on PA-Series firewalls running PAN-OS 10.0 or later with the appropriate license.

NEW QUESTION # 35

What is used to stop a DNS-based threat?

- A. Buffer overflow protection
- B. DNS sinkholing
- C. DNS proxy
- D. DNS tunneling

Answer: B

Explanation:

DNS-based threats, such as DNS tunneling, phishing, or malware command-and-control (C2) activities, are commonly used by attackers to exfiltrate data or establish malicious communications. Palo Alto Networks firewalls provide several mechanisms to address these threats, and the correct method is DNS sinkholing.

* Why "DNS sinkholing" (Correct Answer D)?DNS sinkholing redirects DNS queries for malicious domains to an internal or non-routable IP address, effectively preventing communication with malicious domains. When a user or endpoint tries to connect to a malicious domain, the sinkhole DNS entry ensures the traffic is blocked or routed to a controlled destination.

* DNS sinkholing is especially effective for blocking malware trying to contact its C2 server or preventing data exfiltration.

* Why not "DNS proxy" (Option A)?A DNS proxy is used to forward DNS queries from endpoints to an upstream DNS server. While it can be part of a network's DNS setup, it does not actively stop DNS- based threats.

* Why not "Buffer overflow protection" (Option B)?Buffer overflow protection is a method used to prevent memory-related attacks, such as exploiting software vulnerabilities. It is unrelated to DNS- based threat prevention.

* Why not "DNS tunneling" (Option C)?DNS tunneling is itself a type of DNS-based threat where attackers encode malicious traffic within DNS queries and responses. This option refers to the threat itself, not the method to stop it.

Reference: Palo Alto Networks DNS Security documentation confirms that DNS sinkholing is a key mechanism for stopping DNS-based threats.

NEW QUESTION # 36

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