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Pure Storage FAAA_004 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Qualify, Sell, and Architect: This section of the exam assesses the skills of Technical Sales Engineers and covers identifying solutions based on customer requirements, sizing solutions based on customer needs using tools like Pure FlashArray Sizer, identifying market trends and opportunities (e.g., Ransomware and Portworx Solution Centers), demonstrating an understanding of FlashArray use cases, and demonstrating an understanding of unified storage on FlashArray37. A key skill measured is "identifying solutions based on customer requirements."
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Array Monitoring and Architecture: This section measures the skills of Storage Architects and covers explaining FlashArray's high availability architecture, defining FlashArray features (e.g., ActiveCluster, ActiveDR), explaining data reduction methods, identifying components of FlashArrays, and analyzing performance metrics and capacity usage using Pure1 Manage3. A crucial skill evaluated is "analyzing performance metrics".
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Subscriptions and DX: This section evaluates the competencies of Account Managers regarding Pure Storage's subscription services and digital experience. It focuses on identifying the benefits of Pure's Evergreen program (Evergreen<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One,• •• Forever,• •Flex) and Love Your Storage Guarantee, as well as determining future capacity, performance, and upgrade requirements through workload and hardware simulations.

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Pure Storage FlashArray Architect Associate Sample Questions (Q44-Q49):

NEW QUESTION # 44

What allows for array upgrades without any degradation in performance?

- A. Non-disruptive upgrades
- B. ActiveCluster
- C. Right-Size Guarantee
- D. Protection groups

Answer: A

Explanation:

The feature that allows for array upgrades without any degradation in performance is non-disruptive upgrades .

Why This Matters:

Non-Disruptive Upgrades:

Pure Storage FlashArray supports rolling upgrades, enabling software updates (e.g., Purity//FA) and hardware upgrades (e.g., controllers) without interrupting operations.

During a controller upgrade, the active/active architecture ensures that one controller continues handling I/O operations while the other is upgraded, maintaining consistent performance.

Why Not the Other Options?

A . ActiveCluster:

ActiveCluster provides synchronous replication for high availability but does not directly relate to non-disruptive upgrades.

C . Right-Size Guarantee:

The Right-Size Guarantee ensures customers receive the expected effective capacity based on their workload's data reduction profile. It is unrelated to upgrades or performance.

D . Protection groups:

Protection groups are used for replication and snapshot management but do not impact the ability to perform non-disruptive upgrades.

Key Points:

Non-Disruptive Upgrades: Ensure seamless updates without impacting performance or availability.

Active/Active Architecture: Enables continuous I/O processing during upgrades.

Customer Experience: Minimizes downtime and disruption during maintenance or upgrades.

Reference:

Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Non-Disruptive Operations with FlashArray" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Evergreen Architecture and Non-Disruptive Upgrades" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Performing Non-Disruptive Upgrades on FlashArray"

NEW QUESTION # 45

What should a protection group in a stretched pod be used for?

- A. Integrating ActiveCluster with async snapshot replication
- B. Using CloudSnap to offload to a third-site target
- C. Initiating ActiveDR failover/failback in a test scenario
- D. Configuring fan-out async snapshot replication

Answer: A

Explanation:

A protection group in a stretched pod should be used for integrating ActiveCluster with asynchronous snapshot replication . This combination allows for synchronous replication within the stretched pod (using ActiveCluster) while also enabling asynchronous replication to a third site for additional disaster recovery protection.

Why This Matters:

ActiveCluster: Provides synchronous replication between two sites within a stretched pod, ensuring zero RPO and near-zero RTO for high availability.

Async Snapshot Replication: Extends the disaster recovery strategy by replicating snapshots asynchronously to a third site, providing an additional layer of protection against regional failures.

Combining these features ensures both local high availability and remote disaster recovery.

Why Not the Other Options?

B . Using CloudSnap to offload to a third-site target:

CloudSnap is used to offload snapshots to cloud storage (e.g., AWS S3 or Azure Blob). While it is useful for backup purposes, it does not integrate with ActiveCluster for synchronous replication.

C . Initiating ActiveDR failover/failback in a test scenario:

ActiveDR is designed for asynchronous replication and failover/failback scenarios but does not integrate with ActiveCluster in a stretched pod configuration.

D . Configuring fan-out async snapshot replication:

Fan-out replication involves sending snapshots to multiple targets asynchronously. However, this does not align with the use case of integrating ActiveCluster with async replication for a stretched pod.

Key Points:

Stretched Pod: Enables synchronous replication across two sites using ActiveCluster.

Async Replication: Adds a third-site replication target for comprehensive disaster recovery.

Integrated Protection: Combines high availability and disaster recovery into a single solution.

Reference:

Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "ActiveCluster with Async Replication" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Disaster Recovery Strategies with FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Using Protection Groups in Stretched Pods"

NEW QUESTION # 46

A customer has presented two workloads that need to be replicated. One is a highly transactional database workload and the other is a VM datastore with tier one applications.

The customer has the following requirements:

- * The database workload is highly reliant on storage performance. The VM datastore requires zero downtime.
- * The customer has advised the two FlashArrays will be 20 miles apart and they are worried that this could impact their internal SLAs.

What replication strategies should be advised for these workloads?

- A. ActiveCluster should be used for the VM workloads and ActiveDR for the database workload.
- B. ActiveCluster should be used for both workloads.
- C. ActiveDR should be used for both workloads.
- D. ActiveDR should be used for the VM workloads and ActiveCluster for the database workload.

Answer: A

Explanation:

To address the customer's requirements, we need to evaluate the replication strategies offered by Pure Storage FlashArray:

ActiveCluster and ActiveDR , and how they align with the specific needs of the two workloads.

Workload Analysis:

Transactional Database Workload :

This workload is highly reliant on storage performance. Any replication strategy must ensure minimal latency and high availability to avoid impacting transactional throughput and response times.

The database workload typically benefits from synchronous replication to maintain consistency and performance across sites.

VM Datastore (Tier 1 Applications) :

This workload requires zero downtime, meaning it must remain accessible even in the event of a site failure. High availability and seamless failover are critical.

The VM datastore can tolerate some level of asynchronous replication as long as it does not compromise availability or recovery objectives.

Replication Strategies:

ActiveCluster :

ActiveCluster is a synchronous replication solution that provides active-active high availability across two FlashArrays. It ensures zero RPO (Recovery Point Objective) and zero RTO (Recovery Time Objective), making it ideal for workloads requiring continuous availability and zero downtime.

ActiveCluster is well-suited for the VM datastore workload because it guarantees seamless failover and high availability, meeting the zero-downtime requirement.

ActiveDR :

ActiveDR is an asynchronous replication solution designed for disaster recovery scenarios. It provides near-zero RPO (typically seconds to minutes) and allows for non-disruptive testing of failover scenarios.

ActiveDR is better suited for the transactional database workload because it minimizes the impact of latency over the 20-mile distance while still maintaining high performance and consistency.

Distance Consideration:

The 20-mile distance between the two FlashArrays introduces latency concerns. Synchronous replication (ActiveCluster) can handle this distance effectively for the VM datastore workload due to its tolerance for slightly higher latency. However, for the transactional database workload, the latency could degrade performance, making ActiveDR a better choice.

Final Recommendation:

Use ActiveCluster for the VM datastore workload to achieve zero downtime and high availability.

Use ActiveDR for the transactional database workload to balance performance and disaster recovery needs over the 20-mile distance.

Reference:

Pure Storage ActiveCluster Documentation :

Explains the synchronous replication capabilities and use cases for ActiveCluster.

Pure Storage ActiveCluster

Pure Storage ActiveDR Documentation :

Details the asynchronous replication features and disaster recovery use cases for ActiveDR.

Pure Storage ActiveDR

Pure Storage Best Practices for Replication :

Provides guidance on selecting the appropriate replication strategy based on workload requirements and distance considerations.

Pure Storage Replication Best Practices

Pure Storage Architectural Guides :

Covers architectural considerations for deploying ActiveCluster and ActiveDR in multi-site environments.

Pure Storage Architectural Guides

This approach ensures that both workloads meet their respective SLAs while addressing the customer's concerns about distance and performance.

NEW QUESTION # 47

Which two features are specific to the Evergreen//Forever Program and are NOT included with Evergreen//Foundation? (Choose two.)

- A. Pro Deployment
- B. Controller Upgrades
- C. Upgrade Always
- D. Capacity Consolidation

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

The Evergreen//Forever program is Pure Storage's premium subscription offering, providing continuous upgrades and enhancements to ensure customers always have access to the latest technology. In contrast, Evergreen//Foundation is a lower-tier subscription with limited benefits. Here's an analysis of the features:

Correct Features:

A . Controller Upgrades :

Controller upgrades are a key feature of Evergreen//Forever, allowing customers to upgrade their FlashArray controllers non-disruptively to newer generations.

This feature is not included in Evergreen//Foundation.

D . Upgrade Always :

"Upgrade Always" ensures that customers can continuously upgrade their hardware and software without additional costs.

This is a hallmark of Evergreen//Forever and is not available in Evergreen//Foundation.

Incorrect Features:

B . Pro Deployment :

Pro Deployment services are available across all Evergreen tiers, including Evergreen//Foundation.

Therefore, this is not specific to Evergreen//Forever.

C . Capacity Consolidation :

Capacity consolidation is a general benefit of Pure Storage arrays and is not exclusive to Evergreen//Forever.

It is also available in Evergreen//Foundation.

Final Recommendation:

The correct answers are A. Controller Upgrades and D. Upgrade Always , as these are specific to Evergreen/Forever and not included in Evergreen/Foundation.

Reference:

Evergreen/Forever Program Overview :

Evergreen/Forever

Explains the benefits and features of Evergreen/Forever.

Evergreen Subscription Tiers Comparison :

Evergreen Tiers

Compares the features of Evergreen/Forever and Evergreen/Foundation.

NEW QUESTION # 48

A customer has deployed an ActiveCluster solution with Uniform Configuration. The customer wants to make sure that all host connections are configured to the array according to best practices.

What Fibre Channel connections should the architect recommend for the customer to use?

- A. A single connection from each controller through two fabrics
- B. Crossed connections from each controller through a single fabric
- C. A single connection from each controller through a single fabric
- D. **Dual connections from each controller through two fabrics**

Answer: D

Explanation:

For an ActiveCluster solution with Uniform Configuration , the architect should recommend dual connections from each controller through two fabrics to ensure high availability and redundancy in Fibre Channel connectivity.

Why This Matters:

Dual Connections:

Each controller should have dual connections to provide redundancy and fault tolerance. If one connection fails, the other ensures uninterrupted communication between the host and the array.

Two Fabrics:

Using two independent Fibre Channel fabrics (e.g, Fabric A and Fabric B) ensures that there is no single point of failure in the network infrastructure. This aligns with best practices for ActiveCluster deployments.

Why Not the Other Options?

B . A single connection from each controller through two fabrics:

A single connection per controller does not provide sufficient redundancy. If the connection fails, the host may lose access to the array.

C . Crossed connections from each controller through a single fabric:

Using a single fabric introduces a single point of failure. Additionally, "crossed connections" are not a standard or recommended configuration for ActiveCluster.

D . A single connection from each controller through a single fabric:

This configuration lacks both redundancy at the connection level and at the fabric level, making it highly vulnerable to failures.

Key Points:

Redundancy: Dual connections and two fabrics ensure fault tolerance and high availability.

Best Practices: Aligns with Pure Storage's recommendations for ActiveCluster deployments.

Uniform Configuration: Ensures consistent and reliable connectivity across all hosts in the cluster.

Reference:

Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "ActiveCluster Best Practices for Fibre Channel Connectivity" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Designing High-Availability Solutions with ActiveCluster" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Configuring Host Connections for ActiveCluster"

NEW QUESTION # 49

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