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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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 3	- 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 4	- 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 5	- 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.

Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q28-Q33):

NEW QUESTION # 28
A new parsing rule is created, and during testing and verification, all the logs for which field data is to be parsed out are missing. All the other logs from this data source appear as expected. What may be the cause of this behavior?

- A. The Broker VM is offline
- B. The parsing rule corrupted the database
- C. The filter stage is dropping the logs
- D. The XDR Collector is dropping the logs

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,parsing rulesare used to extract and normalize fields from raw log data during ingestion, ensuring that the data is structured for analysis and correlation. The parsing process includes stages such as filtering, parsing, and mapping. If logs for which field data is to be parsed out are missing, while other logs from the same data source are ingested as expected, the issue likely lies within the parsing rule itself, specifically in the filtering stage that determines which logs are processed.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):The filter stage is dropping the logsis the most likely cause. Parsing rules often include afilter stagethat determines which logs are processed based on specific conditions (e.
g., log content, source, or type). If the filter stage of the new parsing rule is misconfigured (e.g., using an incorrect condition like log_type != expected_type or a regex that doesn't match the logs), it may drop the logs intended for parsing, causing them to be excluded from the ingestion pipeline. Since other logs from the same data source are ingested correctly, the issue is specific to the parsing rule's filter, not a broader ingestion problem.
* Why not the other options?
* A. The Broker VM is offline: If the Broker VM were offline, it would affect all log ingestion from the data source, not just the specific logs targeted by the parsing rule. The question states that other logs from the same data source are ingested as expected, so the Broker VM is likely operational.
* B. The parsing rule corrupted the database: Parsing rules operate on incoming logs during ingestion and do not directly interact with or corrupt the Cortex XDR database. This is an unlikely cause, and database corruption would likely cause broader issues, not just missing specific logs.
* D. The XDR Collector is dropping the logs: The XDR Collector forwards logs to Cortex XDR, and if it were dropping logs, it would likely affect all logs from the data source, not just those targeted by the parsing rule. Since other logs are ingested correctly, the issue is downstream in the parsing rule, not at the collector level.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains parsing rule behavior: "The filter stage in a parsing rule determines which logs are processed; misconfigured filters can drop logs, causing them to be excluded from ingestion" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers parsing rule troubleshooting, stating that "if specific logs are missing during parsing, check the filter stage for conditions that may be dropping the logs" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing parsing rule configuration and troubleshooting.
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

NEW QUESTION # 29
What will enable a custom prevention rule to block specific behavior?

- A. A correlation rule added to a Malware profile
- B. A custom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) added to an Exploit profile
- C. A correlation rule added to an Agent Blocking profile
- D. A custom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) added to a Restriction profile

Answer: D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,custom prevention rulesare used to block specific behaviors or activities on endpoints by leveragingBehavioral Indicators of Compromise (BIOCs). BIOCs define patterns of behavior (e.g., specific process executions, file modifications, or network activities) that, when detected, can trigger preventive actions, such as blocking a process or isolating an endpoint. These BIOCs are typically associated with a Restriction profile, which enforces blocking actions for matched behaviors.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Acustom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC)added to a Restriction profileenables a custom prevention rule to block specific behavior. The BIOC defines the behavior to detect (e.g., a process accessing a sensitive file), and the Restriction profile specifies the preventive action (e.g., block the process). This configuration ensures that the identified behavior is blocked on endpoints where the profile is applied.
* Why not the other options?
* A. A correlation rule added to an Agent Blocking profile: Correlation rules are used to generate alerts by correlating events across datasets, not to block behaviors directly. There is no
"Agent Blocking profile" in Cortex XDR; this is a misnomer.
* B. A custom behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) added to an Exploit profile:
Exploit profiles are used to detect and prevent exploit-based attacks (e.g., memory corruption), not general behavioral patterns defined by BIOCs. BIOCs are associated with Restriction profiles for blocking behaviors.
* D. A correlation rule added to a Malware profile: Correlation rules do not directly block behaviors; they generate alerts. Malware profiles focus on file-based threats (e.g., executables analyzed by WildFire), not behavioral blocking via BIOCs.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains BIOC and Restriction profiles: "Custom BIOCs can be added to Restriction profiles to block specific behaviors on endpoints, enabling tailored prevention rules" (paraphrased from the BIOC and Restriction Profile sections). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers prevention rules, stating that "BIOCs in Restriction profiles enable blocking of specific endpoint behaviors" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing BIOC and prevention rule 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 /certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 30
Some company employees are able to print documents when working from home, but not on network- attached printers, while others are able to print only to file. What can be inferred about the affected users' inability to print?

- A. They may have different disk encryption profiles that are not allowing print jobs on encrypted files
- B. They may be on different device extensions profiles set to block different print jobs
- C. They may have a host firewall profile set to block activity to all network-attached printers
- D. They may be attached to the default extensions policy and profile

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, printing issues can be influenced by agent configurations, particularly those related to network access or device

control. The scenario describes two groups of employees: one group can print when working from home but not on network-attached printers, and another can only print to file (e.g., PDF or XPS). This suggests a restriction on network printing, likely due to a security policy enforced by the Cortex XDR agent.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):They may have a host firewall profile set to block activity to all network-attached printersis the most likely inference. Cortex XDR'shost firewallfeature allows administrators to define rules that control network traffic, including blocking outbound connections to network-attached printers (e.g., by blocking protocols like IPP or LPD on specific ports). Employees working from home (on external networks) may be subject to a firewall profile that blocks network printing to prevent data leakage, while local printing (e.g., to USB printers) or printing to file is allowed. The group that can only print to file likely has stricter rules that block all physical printing, allowing only virtual print-to-file operations.
* Why not the other options?
* A. They may be attached to the default extensions policy and profile: The default extensions policy typically does not include specific restrictions on printing, focusing instead on general agent behavior (e.g., device control or exploit protection). Printing issues are more likely tied to firewall or device control profiles.
* C. They may have different disk encryption profiles that are not allowing print jobs on encrypted files: Cortex XDR does not manage disk encryption profiles, and disk encryption (e.
g., BitLocker) does not typically block printing based on file encryption status. This is not a relevant cause.
* D. They may be on different device extensions profiles set to block different print jobs:
While device control profiles can block USB printers, they do not typically control network printing or distinguish between print-to-file and physical printing. Network printing restrictions are more likely enforced by host firewall rules.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains host firewall capabilities: "Host firewall profiles can block outbound traffic to network-attached printers, restricting printing for remote employees to prevent unauthorized data transfers" (paraphrased from the Host-Based Firewall section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers firewall configurations, stating that "firewall rules can block network printing while allowing local or virtual printing, often causing printing issues for remote users" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes
"Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing host firewall 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 # 31
Which method will drop undesired logs and reduce the amount of data being ingested?

- A. [COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";
- B. [COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_dataset="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";
- C. [INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_dataset="vendor_product_raw",no_hit=drop] * filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs";
- D. [INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="vendor_product_raw", no_hit=keep] * filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs";

Answer: B

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, managing data ingestion involves defining rules to collect, filter, or drop logs to optimize storage and processing. The goal is todrop undesired logsto reduce the amount of data ingested. The syntax used in the options appears to be a combination of ingestion rule metadata (e.g., [COLLECT] or [INGEST]) and filtering logic, likely written in a simplified query language for log processing. Thedropaction explicitly discards logs matching a condition, whilefilterwithnot containscan achieve similar results by keeping only logs that do not match the condition.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):The method in option C,[COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product=" product", target_dataset="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";, explicitly dropslogs where the raw log content contains "undesired logs". The [COLLECT] directive defines the log collection scope (vendor, product, and dataset), and the no_hit=drop parameter indicates that unmatched logs are dropped. The drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs" statement ensures that logs matching the "undesired logs" pattern are discarded, effectively reducing the amount of data ingested.
* Why not the other options?
* A. [COLLECT:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="", no_hit=drop] * drop _raw_log contains "undesired logs";: This is similar to option C but uses target_brokers="", which is typically used for Broker VM configurations rather than direct

dataset ingestion. While it could work, option C is more straightforward with target_dataset="".
* B. [INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_dataset="
vendor_product_raw", no_hit=drop] * filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs";: This method uses filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs" to keep logs that do not match the condition, which indirectly drops undesired logs. However, the drop action in option C is more explicit and efficient for reducing ingestion.
* D. [INGEST:vendor="vendor", product="product", target_brokers="
vendor_product_raw", no_hit=keep] * filter _raw_log not contains "undesired logs";: The no_hit=keep parameter means unmatched logs are kept, which does not align with the goal of reducing data. The filter statement reduces data, but no_hit=keep may counteract this by retaining unmatched logs, making this less effective than option C.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains log ingestion rules: "To reduce data ingestion, use the drop action to discard logs matching specific patterns, such as _raw_log contains 'pattern'" (paraphrased from the Data Ingestion section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers data ingestion optimization, stating that "dropping logs with specific content using drop _raw_log contains is an effective way to reduce ingested data volume" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "data ingestion and integration" as a key exam topic, encompassing log filtering and dropping.
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
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. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet
- C. Enable minor content version updates
- D. Enable agent content management bandwidth control

Answer: A,D

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 # 33
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