

HashiCorp HCVA0-003 Questions and Start Preparation Today [2025]



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HashiCorp HCVA0-003 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• Vault Architecture Fundamentals: This section of the exam measures the skills of Site Reliability Engineers and provides an overview of Vault's core encryption and security mechanisms. It covers how Vault encrypts data, the sealing and unsealing process, and configuring environment variables for managing Vault deployments efficiently. Understanding these concepts is essential for maintaining a secure Vault environment.
Topic 2	• Vault Policies: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Security Architects and covers the role of policies in Vault. Candidates will understand the importance of policies, including defining path-based policies and capabilities that control access. The section explains how to configure and apply policies using Vault's CLI and UI, ensuring the implementation of secure access controls that align with organizational needs.
Topic 3	• Secrets Engines: This section of the exam measures the skills of Cloud Infrastructure Engineers and covers different types of secret engines in Vault. Candidates will learn to choose an appropriate secrets engine based on the use case, differentiate between static and dynamic secrets, and explore the use of transit secrets for encryption. The section also introduces response wrapping and the importance of short-lived secrets for enhancing security. Hands-on tasks include enabling and accessing secrets engines using the CLI, API, and UI.
Topic 4	• Vault Leases: This section of the exam measures the skills of DevOps Engineers and covers the lease mechanism in Vault. Candidates will understand the purpose of lease IDs, renewal strategies, and how to revoke leases effectively. This section is crucial for managing dynamic secrets efficiently, ensuring that temporary credentials are appropriately handled within secure environments.
Topic 5	• Access Management Architecture: This section of the exam measures the skills of Enterprise Security Engineers and introduces key access management components in Vault. Candidates will explore the Vault Agent and its role in automating authentication, secret retrieval, and proxying access. The section also covers the Vault Secrets Operator, which helps manage secrets efficiently in cloud-native environments, ensuring streamlined access management.

Topic 6	• Authentication Methods: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Engineers and covers authentication mechanisms in Vault. It focuses on defining authentication methods, distinguishing between human and machine authentication, and selecting the appropriate method based on use cases. Candidates will learn about identities and groups, along with hands-on experience using Vault's API, CLI, and UI for authentication. The section also includes configuring authentication methods through different interfaces to ensure secure access.
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HashiCorp Certified: Vault Associate (003) Exam Sample Questions (Q160-Q165):

NEW QUESTION # 160

What is the Vault CLI command to query information about the token the client is currently using?

- A. vault lookup self
- **B. vault token lookup**
- C. vault lookup token
- D. vault self-lookup

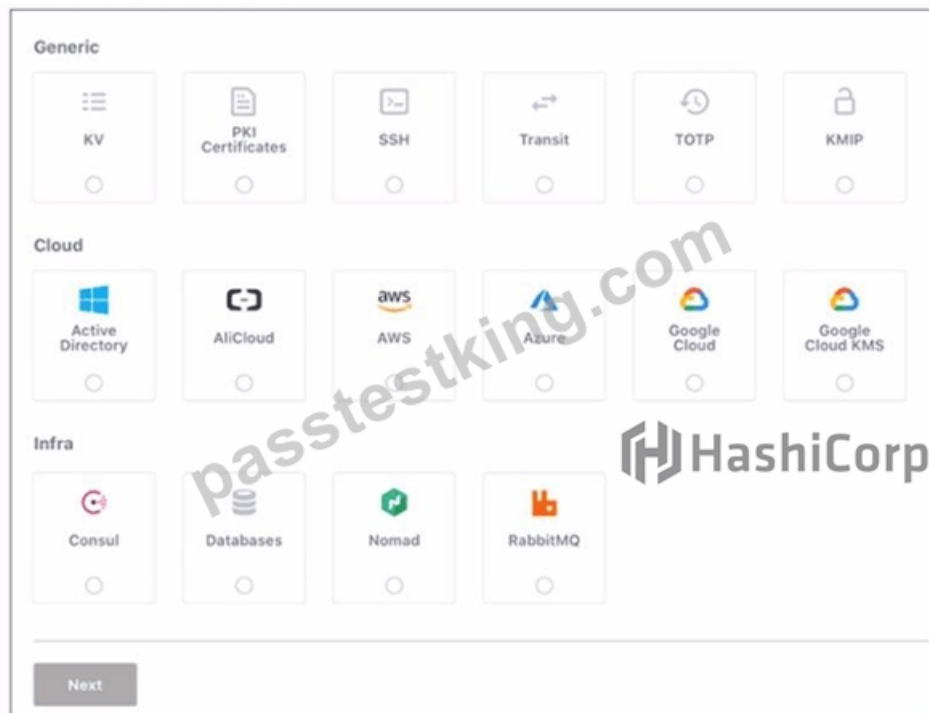
Answer: B

Explanation:

The Vault CLI command to query information about the token the client is currently using is vault token lookup. This command displays information about the token or accessor provided as an argument, or the locally authenticated token if no argument is given. The information includes the token ID, accessor, policies, TTL, creation time, and metadata. This command can be useful for debugging and auditing purposes, as well as for renewing or revoking tokens. References: token lookup - Command | Vault | HashiCorp Developer, Tokens | Vault | HashiCorp Developer

NEW QUESTION # 161

Use this screenshot to answer the question below:



When are you shown these options in the GUI?

- A. Enabling authentication methods
- B. Enabling authentication engines
- C. Enabling policies
- D. Enabling secret engines

Answer: A

Explanation:

This screenshot is shown when you are enabling authentication methods in the GUI. Authentication methods are the ways users and applications authenticate with Vault. Vault supports many different authentication methods, including username and password, GitHub, and more. You can enable one or more authentication methods from the grid of options, which are divided into three categories: Generic, Cloud, and Infra. Each option has a name, a description, and a logo. You can also enable authentication methods using the Vault CLI or API.

Enabling policies, authentication engines, and secret engines are different tasks that are not related to this screenshot. Policies are rules that govern the access to Vault resources, such as secrets, authentication methods, and audit devices. Authentication engines are components of Vault that perform authentication and assign policies to authenticated entities. Secret engines are components of Vault that store, generate, or encrypt data. These tasks have different GUI pages and options than the screenshot.

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[Authentication | Vault | HashiCorp Developer]

[Policies | Vault | HashiCorp Developer]

[Authentication | Vault | HashiCorp Developer]

[Secrets Engines | Vault | HashiCorp Developer]

NEW QUESTION # 162

Which of these is not a benefit of dynamic secrets?

- A. Minimizes damage of credentials leaking
- B. Supports systems which do not natively provide a method of expiring credentials
- C. Ensures that administrators can see every password used
- D. Replaces cumbersome password rotation tools and practices

Answer: C

Explanation:

Dynamic secrets are generated on-demand by Vault and have a limited time-to-live (TTL). They do not ensure that administrators can see every password used, as they are often encrypted and ephemeral. The benefits of dynamic secrets are:

- * They support systems that do not natively provide a method of expiring credentials, such as databases, cloud providers, SSH, etc. Vault can revoke the credentials when they are no longer needed or when the lease expires.
- * They minimize the damage of credentials leaking, as they are short-lived and can be easily rotated or revoked. If a credential is compromised, the attacker has a limited window of opportunity to use it before it becomes invalid.
- * They replace cumbersome password rotation tools and practices, as Vault can handle the generation and revocation of credentials automatically and securely. This reduces the operational overhead and complexity of managing secrets.

<https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/tutorials/getting-started/getting-started-dynamic-secrets1>,
<https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/docs/concepts/lease2>

NEW QUESTION # 163

You have a CI/CD pipeline using Terraform to provision AWS resources with static privileged credentials.

Your security team requests that you use Vault to limit AWS access when needed. How can you enhance this process and increase pipeline security?

- A. Enable the SSH secrets engine and have Terraform generate dynamic credentials when deploying resources in AWS
- B. Store the AWS credentials in the Vault KV store and use the Vault provider to obtain these credentials on each terraform apply
- C. Enable the aws secrets engine and configure Terraform to dynamically generate a short-lived AWS credential on each terraform apply
- D. Enable the Transit secrets engine to encrypt the AWS credentials and have Terraform retrieve these credentials when needed

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

The AWS secrets engine generates dynamic credentials, enhancing security. The Vault documentation states:

"The best bet here is to use the AWS secrets engine to generate dynamic credentials for your AWS account(s) when Terraform is executed. You can use the Vault provider to grab these credentials for Vault and then use the credentials as inputs for your AWS provider. In this scenario, Terraform would generate credentials only when executed, and the credentials would automatically expire when the lease expires."

-Vault Secrets: AWS

* D: Correct. Dynamic, short-lived credentials limit exposure:

"Enabling the aws secrets engine in Vault allows you to dynamically generate short-lived AWS credentials for each terraform apply."

-Vault Secrets: AWS

* A: SSH engine is unrelated to AWS.

* B: Transit encrypts data, not credentials.

* C: KV stores static credentials, less secure.

References:

Vault Secrets: AWS

Vault Provider for Terraform

NEW QUESTION # 164

You are enabling a secrets engine in Vault using the CLI. What subcommands are available when using the vault secrets command? (Select five)

- A. enable
- B. migrate
- C. tune
- D. update
- E. disable
- F. list
- G. move

Answer: A,C,E,F,G

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

The vault secrets command supports:

- * C. tune: "Tune a secrets engine configuration."
- * D. enable: "Enable a secrets engine."
- * E. move: "Move a secrets engine to a new path."
- * F. disable: "Disable a secrets engine."
- * G. list: "List enabled secrets engines."

* Incorrect Options:

- * A. update: Not a subcommand.
- * B. migrate: Not applicable here.

"The vault secrets command has several subcommands to use when working with secrets engines."

Reference:<https://developer.hashicorp.com/vault/docs/commands/secrets#usage>

NEW QUESTION # 165

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