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# Pure Storage FlashArray Architect Associate Sample Questions (Q16-Q21):

#### **NEW QUESTION #16**

A manufacturing customer is running Oracle volumes on their existing //X90R3 array and would like to use FlashArray for their Windows file shares. They are asking if it is feasible to do this. How should the SE respond?

- A. The customer needs to upgrade to XL to be able to use FA File.
- B. The customer should migrate their Windows file servers to Pure.
- C. The customer should be able to use their current FlashArray.

#### Answer: C

#### Explanation:

The SE should respond that the customer can use their current FlashArray for Windows file shares alongside their existing Oracle workloads. Pure Storage FlashArray is a versatile platform capable of supporting multiple workloads, including block storage for databases (e.g., Oracle) and file services for Windows file shares.

Why This Matters:

FlashArray Versatility:

Pure Storage FlashArray supports both block and file workloads through its integrated architecture. While FlashArray is primarily known for block storage, it can also support file workloads using FA File Services, which provides NFS and SMB protocols for file sharing.

The customer does not need to migrate their Windows file servers or upgrade their hardware unless there are specific capacity or performance constraints.

Current Array Feasibility:

Assuming the existing //X90R3 array has sufficient capacity and performance headroom, it can handle the additional workload without requiring upgrades.

Why Not the Other Options?

A). The customer should migrate their Windows file servers to Pure:

While migrating file servers to Pure Storage can provide benefits like simplified management and improved performance, it is not a requirement. The customer can continue using their existing file servers while leveraging FlashArray for block storage.

B). The customer needs to upgrade to XL to be able to use FA File:

 $Upgrading \ to \ a \ higher-end \ model \ like \ FlashArray//XL \ is \ unnecessary \ unless \ the \ current \ array \ lacks \ the \ required \ capacity \ or \ performance \ for \ the \ additional \ workload. \ The \ //X90R3 \ is \ fully \ capable \ of \ supporting \ FA \ File \ Services.$ 

**Key Points:** 

Versatility: FlashArray can support both block and file workloads simultaneously.

No Immediate Upgrades Needed: The current array can likely handle the additional workload without requiring hardware changes. Workload Consolidation: Using a single platform for multiple workloads simplifies infrastructure and reduces costs.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "FA File Services Overview" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Consolidating Workloads on FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Supporting Multiple Workloads with FlashArray"

#### **NEW QUESTION #17**

What is the minimally required FlashArray model that includes the DirectCompress Accelerator (DCA)?

- A. FlashArray//X70 R4
- B. FlashArray//X70 R3
- C. FlashArray//XL130
- D. FlashArray//X90 R4

#### Answer: A

#### Explanation:

The DirectCompress Accelerator (DCA) is a hardware component introduced in certain FlashArray models to enhance inline data compression performance. To determine the minimally required FlashArray model that includes DCA, let's analyze the options: Analysis of Options:

A). FlashArray//X70 R4:

The FlashArray//X70 R4 was the first model to include the DirectCompress Accelerator (DCA). This makes it the minimally required model for DCA support.

B). FlashArray//X70 R3:

The FlashArray//X70 R3 does not include the DCA. It relies on software-based compression, which is less efficient than hardware-accelerated compression.

C). FlashArray//X90 R4:

The FlashArray//X90 R4 includes DCA but is a higher-tier model than the X70 R4. While it supports DCA, it is not the minimal requirement.

D). FlashArray//XL130:

The FlashArray//XL130 is a high-performance model that includes DCA, but it is overkill for this requirement and not the minimal model.

Recommendation:

The correct answer is

A). FlashArray//X70 R4, as it is the first model to include the DirectCompress Accelerator (DCA).

Reference: FlashArray Hardware Specifications:

FlashArray Models

Details the features and capabilities of each FlashArray model.

DirectCompress Accelerator Overview:

DirectCompress Accelerator

Explains the benefits and availability of DCA.

#### **NEW QUESTION #18**

A customer is unsatisfied because the level of data reduction on their FlashArray is NOT as high as expected. What two statements should the SE make to the customer? (Choose two.)

- A. FlashArray data reduction needs to be tuned to increase its effectiveness.
- B. FlashArray's deduplication effectiveness will usually increase as the data quantity grows.
- C. A FlashArray's compression and deduplication will need to be tuned for data subsets.
- D. The Right-Size Guarantee means that the customer can work with their SE if necessary.

#### Answer: B,D

#### Explanation:

If a customer is unsatisfied with the level of data reduction on their FlashArray, the SE should make the following two statements: FlashArray's deduplication effectiveness will usually increase as the data quantity grows:

Deduplication relies on identifying and eliminating duplicate data blocks. As more data is written to the array, the likelihood of finding duplicates increases, improving the overall deduplication ratio.

Customers should expect better data reduction results over time as their dataset grows.

The Right-Size Guarantee means that the customer can work with their SE if necessary:

Pure Storage's Right-Size Guarantee ensures that customers receive the expected effective capacity based on their workload's data reduction profile. If the actual data reduction does not meet expectations, the customer can collaborate with their SE to address the issue and potentially adjust their subscription or configuration.

Why Not the Other Options?

A). A FlashArray's compression and deduplication will need to be tuned for data subsets:

FlashArray's data reduction techniques (compression and deduplication) are automatic and do not require manual tuning. This statement is misleading.

C). FlashArray data reduction needs to be tuned to increase its effectiveness:

Similar to Option A, FlashArray's data reduction mechanisms are fully automated and do not require manual intervention. Key Points:

Data Growth: Deduplication effectiveness improves as more data is written to the array.

Right-Size Guarantee: Provides assurance that customers can work with their SE to address data reduction concerns.

Automatic Optimization: FlashArray's data reduction features are self-optimizing and do not require manual tuning.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Understanding Data Reduction and Capacity Planning" Pure Storage

Whitepaper: "Maximizing Data Reduction with FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Right-Size Guarantee Terms and Conditions"

#### **NEW QUESTION #19**

A customer notices a low data reduction ratio upon initial data ingest.

Which Purity data reduction technique will help increase the data reduction ratio over time?

- A. RAID-HA protection and AES-256 encryption
- B. Deep deduplication and deep compression
- C. Snapshot cleanup and garbage collection
- D. Capacity consolidation and cloning

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation:

If a customer notices a low data reduction ratio upon initial data ingest, the Purity data reduction technique that will help increase the data reduction ratio over time is deep deduplication and deep compression.

Why This Matters:

Deep Deduplication and Deep Compression:

Purity//FA (the operating system for FlashArray) applies deduplication to eliminate duplicate data blocks and compression to reduce the size of unique data blocks.

These techniques are applied continuously as new data is written to the array. Over time, as more data is ingested and patterns emerge, the effectiveness of deduplication and compression increases, leading to a higher data reduction ratio.

For example, deduplication becomes more effective as the dataset grows and more duplicates are identified. Similarly, compression benefits from identifying repetitive patterns in larger datasets.

Why Not the Other Options?

B). Snapshot cleanup and garbage collection:

Snapshot cleanup and garbage collection are maintenance processes that reclaim space from deleted snapshots or unused data

blocks. While these processes free up space, they do not directly contribute to increasing the data reduction ratio.

C). Capacity consolidation and cloning:

Capacity consolidation refers to combining workloads onto fewer arrays, and cloning creates space-efficient copies of volumes.

While cloning leverages data reduction techniques, it does not inherently improve the overall data reduction ratio for existing data.

D). RAID-HA protection and AES-256 encryption:

RAID-HA (high availability) ensures data redundancy, and AES-256 encryption secures data. Neither of these features impacts the data reduction ratio.

**Key Points:** 

Deep Deduplication and Compression: Continuously optimize storage efficiency as more data is ingested.

Data Reduction Ratio: Improves over time as deduplication identifies duplicates and compression reduces unique data.

Purity//FA Automation: These techniques are fully automated and do not require manual intervention.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "Understanding Data Reduction in Purity//FA" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Maximizing Data Reduction with FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "How Deduplication and Compression Work in FlashArray"

## NEW OUESTION # 20

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 #21**

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