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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	• 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.
Topic 3	• 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 4	• 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 5	• 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.

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q24-Q29):

NEW QUESTION # 24
What are two possible actions that can be triggered by a dashboard drilldown? (Choose two.)

- A. Initiate automated response actions
- B. Send alerts to console users
- C. Link to an XQL query
- D. Navigate to a different dashboard

Answer: C,D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,dashboard drilldownsallow users to interact with widgets (e.g., charts or tables) by clicking on elements to access additional details or perform actions. Drilldowns enhance the investigative capabilities of dashboards by linking to related data or views.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Navigate to a different dashboard: A drilldown can be configured to navigate to another dashboard, providing a more detailed view or related metrics. For example, clicking on an alert count in a widget might open a dashboard focused on alert details.
* C. Link to an XQL query: Drilldowns often link to anXQL querythat filters data based on the clicked element (e.g., an alert name or source). This allows users to view raw events or detailed records in the Query Builder or Investigation view.
* Why not the other options?
* B. Initiate automated response actions: Drilldowns are primarily for navigation and data exploration, not for triggering automated response actions. Response actions (e.g., isolating an endpoint) are typically initiated from the Incident or Alert views, not dashboards.
* D. Send alerts to console users: Drilldowns do not send alerts to users. Alerts are generated by correlation rules or BIOCs, and dashboards are used for visualization, not alert distribution.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes drilldown functionality: "Dashboard drilldowns can navigate to another dashboard or link to an XQL query to display detailed data based on the selected widget element" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers dashboards, stating that "drilldowns enable navigation to other dashboards or XQL queries for deeper analysis" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing drilldown configuration.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal:https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/ EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet:https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 25
An XDR engineer is creating a correlation rule to monitor login activity on specific systems. When the activity is identified, an alert is created. The alerts are being generated properly but are missing the username when viewed. How can the username information be included in the alerts?

- A. Add a mapping for the username field in the alert fields mapping
- B. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username
- C. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field
- D. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,correlation rulesare used to detect specific patterns or behaviors (e.g., login activity) by analyzing ingested data and generating alerts when conditions are met. For an alert to include specific fields likeusername, the field must be explicitly mapped in thealert fields mappingconfiguration of the correlation rule. This mapping determines which fields from theunderlying dataset are included in the generated alert's details.
In this scenario, the correlation rule is correctly generating alerts for login activity, but theusernamefield is missing. This indicates that the correlation rule's query may be identifying the relevant events, but the usernamefield is not included in the alert's output fields. To resolve this, the engineer must update thealert fields mappingin the correlation rule to explicitly include theusernamefield, ensuring it appears in the alert details when viewed.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):Adding a mapping for theusernamefield in thealert fields mapping ensures that the field is extracted from the dataset and included in the alert's metadata. This is done in the correlation rule configuration, where administrators can specify which fields to include in the alert output.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Select "Initial Access" in the MITRE ATT&CK mapping to include the username:
Mapping to a MITRE ATT&CK technique like "Initial Access" defines the type of attack or behavior, not specific fields likeusername. This does not address the missing field issue.
* B. Update the query in the correlation rule to include the username field: While the correlation rule's query must reference theusernamefield to detect relevant events, including it in the query alone does not ensure it appears in the alert's output. Thealert fields mappingis still required.
* D. Add a drill-down query to the alert which pulls the username field: Drill-down queries are used for additional investigation after an alert is generated, not for including fields in the alert itself. This does not solve the issue of missingusernamein the alert details.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes correlation rule configuration: "To include specific fields in generated alerts, configure the alert fields mapping in the correlation rule to map dataset fields, such as username, to the alert output" (paraphrased from the Correlation Rules section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers detection engineering, stating that "alert fields mapping determines which data fields are included in alerts generated by correlation rules" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing correlation rule configuration.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal:https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/ EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet:https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 26
During deployment of Cortex XDR for Linux Agents, the security engineering team is asked to implement memory monitoring for agent health monitoring. Which agent service should be monitored to fulfill this request?

- A. pyxd
- B. pmd
- C. dypdng
- D. clad

Answer: B

Explanation:
Cortex XDR agents on Linux consist of several services that handle different aspects of agent functionality, such as event collection, policy enforcement, and health monitoring.Memory monitoringfor agent health involves tracking the memory usage of the agent's core processes to ensure they are operating within acceptable limits, which is critical for maintaining agent stability and performance. Thepmd(Process Monitoring Daemon) service is responsible for monitoring the agent's health, including memory usage, on Linux systems.
* Correct Answer Analysis (D):Thepmdservice should be monitored to fulfill the request for memory monitoring. The Process Monitoring Daemon tracks the Cortex XDR agent's resource usage, including memory consumption, and reports health metrics to the console. Monitoring this service ensures the agent remains healthy and can detect issues like memory leaks or excessive resource usage.
* Why not the other options?
* A. dypdng: This is not a valid Cortex XDR service on Linux. It appears to be a typo or a misnamed service.
* B. clad: The clad service (Cortex Linux Agent Daemon) is responsible for core agent operations, such as communication with the

Cortex XDR tenant, but it is not specifically focused on memory monitoring for health purposes.
* C. pyxd: The pyxd service handles Python-based components of the agent, such asscript execution for certain detections, but it is not responsible for memory monitoring or agent health.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains Linux agent services: "The pmd (Process Monitoring Daemon) service on Linux monitors agent health, including memory usage, to ensure stable operation" (paraphrased from the Linux Agent Deployment section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers Linux agent setup, stating that "pmd is the service to monitor for agent health, including memory usage, on Linux systems" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "planning and installation" as a key exam topic, encompassing Linux agent deployment and monitoring.
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 # 27
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 be attached to the default extensions policy and profile
- B. They may have different disk encryption profiles that are not allowing print jobs on encrypted files
- C. They may have a host firewall profile set to block activity to all network-attached printers
- D. They may be on different device extensions profiles set to block different print jobs

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
/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 28
A correlation rule is created to detect potential insider threats by correlating user login events from one dataset with file access events from another dataset. The rule must retain all user login events, even if there are no matching file access events, to ensure no login activity is missed.
text
Copy
dataset = x
| join (dataset = y)
Which type of join is required to maintain all records from dataset x, even if there are no matching events from dataset y?

- A. Inner
- B. Outer
- C. Right
- D. Left

Answer: D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, correlation rules useXQL (XDR Query Language)to combine data from multiple datasets to detect patterns, such as insider threats. Thejoinoperation in XQL is used to correlate events from two datasets based on a common field (e.g., user ID). The type of join determines how records are matched and retained when there are no corresponding events in one of the datasets. The question specifies that the correlation rule must retainall user login eventsfrom dataset x (the primary dataset containing login events), even if there are no matching file access events in dataset y (the secondary dataset). This requirement aligns with aLeft Join(also called Left Outer Join), which includes all records from the left dataset (dataset x) and any matching records from the right dataset (dataset y). If there is no match in dataset y, the result includes null values for dataset y's fields, ensuring no login events are excluded.
* Correct Answer Analysis (B):ALeft Joinensures that all records from dataset x (user login events) are retained, regardless of whether there are matching file access events in dataset y. This meets the requirement to ensure no login activity is missed.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Inner: An Inner Join only includes records where there is a match in both datasets (x and y).
This would exclude login events from dataset x that have no corresponding file access events in dataset y, which violates the requirement.
* C. Right: A Right Join includes all records from dataset y (file access events) and only matching records from dataset x. This would prioritize file access events, potentially excluding login events with no matches, which is not desired.
* D. Outer: A Full Outer Join includes all records from both datasets, with nulls in places where there is no match. While this retains all login events, it also includes unmatched file access events from dataset y, which is unnecessary for the stated requirement of focusing on login events.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalin theXQL Reference Guideexplains join operations: "A Left Join returns all records from the left dataset and matching records from the right dataset. If there is no match, null values are returned for the right dataset's fields" (paraphrased from the XQL Join section). TheEDU-262:
Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers correlation rules and XQL, noting that "Left Joins are used in correlation rules to ensure all events from the primary dataset are retained, even without matches in the secondary dataset" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetlists "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, including creating correlation rules with XQL.
References:
Palo Alto Networks Cortex XDR Documentation Portal: XQL Reference Guide (https://docs-cortex.paloaltonetworks.com/)
EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response Course Objectives
Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer Datasheet:https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/services/education/certification#xdr-engineer

NEW QUESTION # 29
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