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## The SecOps Group Certified Network Security Practitioner Sample Questions (Q22-Q27):

#### **NEW OUESTION #22**

What kind of files are "Dotfiles" in a Linux-based architecture?

• A. Driver files

- B. Library files
- C. System files
- D. Hidden files

#### Answer: D

#### Explanation:

In Linux, file visibility is determined by naming conventions, impacting how files are listed or accessed in the file system. Why D is correct: "Dotfiles" are files or directories with names starting with a dot (e.g., .bashrc), making them hidden by default in directory listings (e.g., ls requires -a to show them). They are commonly used for user configuration, as per CNSP's Linux security overview.

Why other options are incorrect:

A: Library files (e.g., in /lib) aren't inherently hidden.

B: Driver files (e.g., kernel modules in /lib/modules) aren't dotfiles by convention.

C: System files may or may not be hidden; "dotfiles" specifically denotes hidden status.

#### **NEW QUESTION #23**

Which of the following services do not encrypt its traffic by default?

- A. FTPS
- B. SSH
- C. DNS
- D. All of these

#### Answer: C

#### Explanation:

Encryption ensures confidentiality and integrity of network traffic. Analyzing defaults:

A. DNS (Domain Name System):

Default: Unencrypted (UDP/TCP 53), per RFC 1035. Queries/responses (e.g., "google.com  $\rightarrow$  142.250.190.14") are plaintext. Modern Options: DNS over HTTPS (DoH, TCP 443) or DNS over TLS (DoT, TCP 853) encrypt, but aren't default in most systems (e.g., pre-2020 Windows).

B. SSH (Secure Shell):

Default: Encrypted (TCP 22), per RFC 4251. Uses asymmetric (e.g., RSA) and symmetric (e.g., AES) crypto for all sessions. C . FTPS (FTP Secure):

Default: Encrypted (TCP 21 control, dynamic data ports). Extends FTP with SSL/TLS (e.g., RFC 4217), securing file transfers. Technical Details:

DNS: Plaintext exposes queries to eavesdropping (e.g., ISP snooping) or spoofing (e.g., cache poisoning).

SSH/FTPS: Encryption is baked into their standards; disabling it requires explicit misconfiguration.

Security Implications: Unencrypted DNS risks privacy and integrity (e.g., Kaminsky attack). CNSP likely pushes DoH/DoT adoption.

Why other options are incorrect:

B, C: Encrypt by default.

D: False, as only DNS lacks default encryption.

Real-World Context: The 2013 Snowden leaks exposed DNS monitoring, DoH uptake (e.g., Cloudflare 1.1.1.1) counters this.

#### **NEW QUESTION #24**

Which of the following is an example of a SUID program?

- A. /usr/bin/curl
- B. /usr/bin/passwd
- C. None of the above
- D. /bin/ls

#### Answer: B

#### Explanation:

In Linux/Unix, the SUID (Set User ID) bit allows a program to execute with the owner's permissions, typically root, rather than the caller's. It's denoted by an s in the user execute field (e.g., -rwsr-xr-x). Common SUID programs perform privileged tasks requiring

temporary elevation.

Analysis:

C . /usr/bin/passwd:

Purpose: Updates user passwords in /etc/shadow (root-owned, 0600 perms).

Permissions: Typically -rwsr-xr-x, owned by root. The SUID bit lets non-root users modify shadow securely.

Command: ls -1/usr/bin/passwd confirms SUID (s in user execute).

A . /bin/ls:

Purpose: Lists directory contents, no privileged access needed. Permissions: -rwxr-xr-x (no SUID). Runs as the calling user.

B. /usr/bin/curl:

Purpose: Transfers data over HTTP/FTP, no root privileges required by default.

Permissions: -rwxr-xr-x (no SUID).

Technical Details:

SUID Bit: Set via chmod u+s <file> or chmod 4755.

Security: SUID binaries are audited (e.g., find / -perm -u=s) due to escalation risks if writable or poorly coded (e.g., buffer overflows).

Security Implications: CNSP likely highlights SUID as an attack vector (e.g., CVE-1996-0095 exploited passwd flaws). Hardening removes unnecessary SUID bits.

Why other options are incorrect:

A, B: Lack SUID; no privileged operations.

D: Incorrect, as /usr/bin/passwd is a SUID example.

Real-World Context: SUID on /bin/su or /usr/bin/sudo similarly enables privilege escalation, often targeted in exploits.

#### **NEW QUESTION #25**

What will be the subnet mask for 192.168.0.1/18?

- A. 255.255.192.0
- B. 255.255.255.0
- C. 255.225.225.0
- D. 255.225.192.0

#### Answer: A

Explanation:

An IP address with a /18 prefix (CIDR notation) indicates 18 network bits in the subnet mask, leaving 14 host bits (32 total bits - 18). For IPv4 (e.g., 192.168.0.1):

Binary Mask: First 18 bits are 1s, rest 0s.

1st octet: 11111111 (255) 2nd octet: 11111111 (255) 3rd octet: 11000000 (192) 4th octet: 00000000 (0) Decimal: 255.255.192.0

Calculation: Bits: /18 = 2

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