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Splunk Certified Cybersecurity Defense Engineer Sample Questions (Q11-Q16):

NEW QUESTION # 11

Which of the following actions improve data indexing performance in Splunk?(Choosetwo)

- A. Using lightweight forwarders for data ingestion
- B. Increasing the number of indexers in a distributed environment
- C. Configuring index time field extractions
- D. Indexing data with detailed metadata

Answer: B,C

Explanation:

How to Improve Data Indexing Performance in Splunk?

Optimizing indexing performance is critical for ensuring faster search speeds, better storage efficiency, and reduced latency in a Splunk deployment.

#Why is "Configuring Index-Time Field Extractions" Important? (Answer B) Extracting fields at index time reduces the need for search-time processing, making searches faster.

Example: If security logs contain IP addresses, usernames, or error codes, configuring index-time extraction ensures that these fields are already available during searches.

#Why "Increasing the Number of Indexers in a Distributed Environment" Helps? (Answer D) Adding more indexers distributes the data load, improving overall indexing speed and search performance.

Example: In a large SOC environment, more indexers allow for faster log ingestion from multiple sources (firewalls, IDS, cloud services).

Why Not the Other Options?

#A. Indexing data with detailed metadata - Adding too much metadata increases indexing overhead and slows down performance.
#C. Using lightweight forwarders for data ingestion - Lightweight forwarders only forward raw data and don't enhance indexing performance.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk Indexing Performance Guide: <https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/Splunk/latest/Indexer/Howindexingworks#Best%20Practices%20for%20Splunk%20Indexing%20Optimization>: <https://splunkbase.splunk.com/#Distributed%20Splunk%20Architecture%20for%20Large-Scale%20Environments>: https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/tips-and-tricks

NEW QUESTION # 12

A security analyst wants to validate whether a newly deployed SOAR playbook is performing as expected.

What steps should they take?

- A. Monitor the playbook's actions in real-time environments
- B. Test the playbook using simulated incidents
- C. Compare the playbook to existing incident response workflows
- D. Automate all tasks within the playbook immediately

Answer: B

Explanation:

A SOAR (Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response) playbook is a set of automated actions designed to respond to security incidents. Before deploying it in a live environment, a security analyst must ensure that it operates correctly, minimizes false positives, and doesn't disrupt business operations.

#Key Reasons for Using Simulated Incidents:

Ensures that the playbook executes correctly and follows the expected workflow.

Identifies false positives or incorrect actions before deployment.

Tests integrations with other security tools (SIEM, firewalls, endpoint security).

Provides a controlled testing environment without affecting production.

How to Test a Playbook in Splunk SOAR?

1##Use the "Test Connectivity" Feature - Ensures that APIs and integrations work.2##Simulate an Incident - Manually trigger an alert similar to a real attack (e.g., phishing email or failed admin login).3##Review the Execution Path - Check each step in the playbook debugger to verify correct actions.4##Analyze Logs & Alerts - Validate that Splunk ES logs, security alerts, and remediation steps are correct.5##Fine-tune Based on Results - Modify the playbook logic to reduce unnecessary alerts or excessive automation.

Why Not the Other Options?

#B. Monitor the playbook's actions in real-time environments - Risky without prior validation. It can cause disruptions if the playbook misfires.
#C. Automate all tasks immediately - Not best practice. Gradual deployment ensures better security control and

monitoring.#D. Compare with existing workflows - Good practice, but it does not validate the playbook's real execution.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk SOAR Documentation: <https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/SOAR#Testing Playbooks in Splunk SOAR>:

https://www.splunk.com/en_us/products/soar.html#SOAR Playbook Debugging Best Practices:

<https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

NEW QUESTION # 13

A company wants to implement risk-based detection for privileged account activities.

What should they configure first?

- A. Correlation searches with low thresholds
- B. Automated dashboards for all accounts
- C. Event sampling for raw data
- D. Asset and identity information for privileged accounts

Answer: D

Explanation:

Why Configure Asset & Identity Information for Privileged Accounts First?

Risk-based detection focuses on identifying and prioritizing threats based on the severity of their impact. For privileged accounts (admins, domain controllers, finance users), understanding who they are, what they access, and how they behave is critical.

#Key Steps for Risk-Based Detection in Splunk ES:1##Define Privileged Accounts & Groups - Identify high-risk users (Admin, HR, Finance, CISO).2##Assign Risk Scores - Apply higher scores to actions involving privileged users.3##Enable Identity & Asset Correlation - Link users to assets for better detection.

4##Monitor for Anomalies - Detect abnormal login patterns, excessive file access, or unusual privilege escalation.

#Example in Splunk ES:

A domain admin logs in from an unusual location # Trigger high-risk alert A finance director downloads sensitive payroll data at midnight # Escalate for investigation Why Not the Other Options?

#B. Correlation searches with low thresholds - May generate excessive false positives, overwhelming the SOC.#C. Event sampling for raw data - Doesn't provide context for risk-based detection.#D. Automated dashboards for all accounts - Useful for visibility, but not the first step for risk-based security.

References & Learning Resources

#Splunk ES Risk-Based Alerting (RBA): https://www.splunk.com/en_us/blog/security/risk-based-alerting.html

#Privileged Account Monitoring in Splunk: [https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/ES/latest/User/RiskBasedAlerting#Implementing Privileged Access Security \(PAM\) with Splunk](https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/ES/latest/User/RiskBasedAlerting#Implementing Privileged Access Security (PAM) with Splunk)

<https://splunkbase.splunk.com>

NEW QUESTION # 14

What are the main steps of the Splunk data pipeline?(Choosethree)

- A. Visualization
- B. Parsing
- C. Input phase
- D. Alerting
- E. Indexing

Answer: B,C,E

Explanation:

The Splunk Data Pipeline consists of multiple stages that process incoming data from ingestion to visualization.

Main Steps of the Splunk Data Pipeline:

Input Phase (C)

Splunk collects raw data from logs, applications, network traffic, and endpoints.

Supports various data sources like syslog, APIs, cloud services, and agents (e.g., Universal Forwarders).

Parsing (D)

Splunk breaks incoming data into events and extracts metadata fields.

Removes duplicates, formats timestamps, and applies transformations.

Indexing (A)

Stores parsed events into indexes for efficient searching.

Supports data retention policies, compression, and search optimization.

NEW QUESTION # 15

What are critical elements of an effective incident report?(Choosethree)

- A. Names of all employees involved
- B. Steps taken to resolve the issue
- C. Financial implications of the incident
- D. Timeline of events
- E. Recommendations for future prevention

Answer: B,D,E

Explanation:

Critical Elements of an Effective Incident Report

An incident report documents security breaches, outlines response actions, and provides prevention strategies.

#1. Timeline of Events (A)

Provides a chronological sequence of the incident.

Helps analysts reconstruct attacks and understand attack vectors.

Example:

08:30 AM- Suspicious login detected.

08:45 AM- SOC investigation begins.

09:10 AM- Endpoint isolated.

#2. Steps Taken to Resolve the Issue (C)

Documents containment, eradication, and recovery efforts.

Ensures teams follow response procedures correctly.

Example:

Blocked malicious IPs, revoked compromised credentials, and restored affected systems.

#3. Recommendations for Future Prevention (E)

Suggests security improvements to prevent future attacks.

Example:

Enhance SIEM correlation rules, enforce multi-factor authentication, or update firewall rules.

#Incorrect Answers:

B: Financial implications of the incident# Important for executives, not crucial for an incident report.

D: Names of all employees involved# Avoid exposing individuals and focuses on security processes.

#Additional Resources:

Splunk Incident Response Documentation

NIST Computer Security Incident Handling Guide

NEW QUESTION # 16

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