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The SecOps Group CNSP Exam Syllabus Topics:

| Topic | Details |
|---------|--|
| Topic 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cryptography: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and focuses on basic encryption and decryption methods used to protect data in transit and at rest. It includes an overview of algorithms, key management, and the role of cryptography in maintaining data confidentiality. |
| Topic 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This section of the exam measures skills of Network Engineers and explores the utility of widely used software for scanning, monitoring, and troubleshooting networks. It clarifies how these tools help in detecting intrusions and verifying security configurations. |

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| Topic 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TLS Security Basics: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and outlines the process of securing network communication through encryption. It highlights how TLS ensures data integrity and confidentiality, emphasizing certificate management and secure configurations. |
| Topic 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Scanning & Fingerprinting: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and covers techniques for probing and analyzing network hosts to gather details about open ports, operating systems, and potential vulnerabilities. It emphasizes ethical and legal considerations when performing scans. |
| Topic 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database Security Basics: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Engineers and covers how databases can be targeted for unauthorized access. It explains the importance of strong authentication, encryption, and regular auditing to ensure that sensitive data remains protected. |
| Topic 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Engineers and explains how to verify the security and performance of various services running on a network. It focuses on identifying weaknesses in configurations and protocols that could lead to unauthorized access or data leaks. |
| Topic 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Security Tools and Frameworks (such as Nmap, Wireshark, etc) |
| Topic 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open-Source Intelligence Gathering (OSINT): This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and discusses methods for collecting publicly available information on targets. It stresses the legal and ethical aspects of OSINT and its role in developing a thorough understanding of potential threats. |
| Topic 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Discovery Protocols: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and examines how protocols like ARP, ICMP, and SNMP enable the detection and mapping of network devices. It underlines their importance in security assessments and network monitoring. |
| Topic 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Engineering attacks: This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and addresses the human element of security breaches. It describes common tactics used to manipulate users, emphasizes awareness training, and highlights how social engineering can bypass technical safeguards. |
| Topic 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linux and Windows Security Basics: This section of the exam measures skills of Security Analysts and compares foundational security practices across these two operating systems. It addresses file permissions, user account controls, and basic hardening techniques to reduce the attack surface. |
| Topic 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing Network Services |
| Topic 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Malware Analysis: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Engineers and offers an introduction to identifying malicious software. It covers simple analysis methods for recognizing malware behavior and the importance of containment strategies in preventing widespread infection. |
| Topic 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Password Storage: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Engineers and addresses safe handling of user credentials. It explains how hashing, salting, and secure storage methods can mitigate risks associated with password disclosure or theft. |
| Topic 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCP • IP (Protocols and Networking Basics): This section of the exam measures the skills of Security Analysts and covers the fundamental principles of TCP • IP, explaining how data moves through different layers of the network. It emphasizes the roles of protocols in enabling communication between devices and sets the foundation for understanding more advanced topics. |
| Topic 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Architectures, Mapping, and Target Identification: This section of the exam measures the skills of Network Engineers and reviews different network designs, illustrating how to diagram and identify potential targets in a security context. It stresses the importance of accurate network mapping for efficient troubleshooting and defense. |

The SecOps Group Certified Network Security Practitioner Sample Questions (Q21-Q26):

NEW QUESTION # 21

Which SMB (Server Message Block) network protocol version introduced support for encrypting SMB traffic?

- A. None of the above
- B. SMBv1
- C. SMBv3
- D. SMBv2

Answer: C

Explanation:

The SMB protocol, used for file and printer sharing, has evolved across versions, with significant security enhancements in later iterations.

Why C is correct: SMBv3, introduced with Windows 8 and Server 2012, added native support for encrypting SMB traffic. This feature uses AES-CCM encryption to protect data in transit, addressing vulnerabilities in earlier versions. CNSP notes SMBv3's encryption as a critical security improvement.

Why other options are incorrect:

- A . SMBv1: Lacks encryption support and is considered insecure, often disabled due to vulnerabilities like WannaCry exploitation.
- B . SMBv2: Introduces performance improvements but does not support encryption natively.
- D . None of the above: Incorrect, as SMBv3 is the version that introduced encryption.

NEW QUESTION # 22

Which one of the following services is not a UDP-based protocol?

- A. SNMP
- B. IKE
- C. SSH
- D. NTP

Answer: C

Explanation:

Protocols are defined by their transport layer usage (TCP or UDP), impacting their security and performance characteristics.

Why D is correct: SSH (Secure Shell) uses TCP (port 22) for reliable, connection-oriented communication, unlike the UDP-based options. CNSP contrasts TCP and UDP protocol security.

Why other options are incorrect:

- A: SNMP uses UDP (ports 161, 162) for lightweight network management.
- B: NTP uses UDP (port 123) for time synchronization.
- C: IKE (IPsec key exchange) uses UDP (ports 500, 4500).

NEW QUESTION # 23

Which of the aforementioned SSL/TLS protocols are considered to be unsafe?

- A. SSLv2, SSLv3, TLSv1.0, TLSv1.1, TLSv1.2, and TLSv1.3
- B. Both A and B
- C. TLSv1.0 and TLSv1.1
- D. SSLv2 and SSLv3

Answer: B

Explanation:

SSL/TLS protocols secure network communication, but older versions have vulnerabilities:

SSLv2 (1995): Weak ciphers, no handshake integrity (e.g., MITM via DROWN attack, CVE-2016-0800). Deprecated by RFC 6176 (2011).

SSLv3 (1996): Vulnerable to POODLE (CVE-2014-3566), weak block ciphers (e.g., RC4). Deprecated by RFC 7568 (2015).

TLSv1.0 (1999, RFC 2246): Inherits SSLv3 flaws (e.g., BEAST, CVE-2011-3389), weak CBC ciphers. Deprecated by PCI

DSS (2018) and RFC 8996 (2021).

TLSv1.1 (2006, RFC 4346): Improved over 1.0 but lacks modern cipher suites (e.g., AEAD). Deprecated with 1.0 by RFC 8996.

TLSv1.2 (2008, RFC 5246): Secure with strong ciphers (e.g., AES-GCM), widely used today.

TLSv1.3 (2018, RFC 8446): Latest, removes legacy weaknesses, mandatory forward secrecy.

Why other options are incorrect:

A: Correct but incomplete without B.

B: Correct but incomplete without A.

D: Incorrectly includes TLSv1.2 and 1.3, which are secure and recommended.

Real-World Context: POODLE forced mass SSLv3 disablement in 2014; TLS 1.0/1.1 deprecation hit legacy systems in 2021.

NEW QUESTION # 24

WannaCry, an attack, spread throughout the world in May 2017 using machines running on outdated Microsoft operating systems.

What is WannaCry?

- **A. Ransomware**
- B. Malware

Answer: A

Explanation:

WannaCry is a ransomware attack that erupted in May 2017, infecting over 200,000 systems across 150 countries. It exploited the EternalBlue vulnerability (MS17-010) in Microsoft Windows SMBv1, targeting unpatched systems (e.g., Windows XP, Server 2003). Developed by the NSA and leaked by the Shadow Brokers, EternalBlue allowed remote code execution.

Ransomware Mechanics:

Encryption: WannaCry used RSA-2048 and AES-128 to encrypt files, appending extensions like .wcrpy.

Ransom Demand: Displayed a message demanding \$300-\$600 in Bitcoin, leveraging a hardcoded wallet.

Worm Propagation: Self-replicated via SMB, scanning internal and external networks, unlike typical ransomware requiring user interaction (e.g., phishing).

Malware Context: While WannaCry is malware (malicious software), "ransomware" is the precise subcategory, distinguishing it from viruses, trojans, or spyware. Malware is a broad term encompassing any harmful code; ransomware specifically encrypts data for extortion. CNSP likely classifies WannaCry as ransomware to focus on its payload and mitigation (e.g., patching, backups).

Why other options are incorrect:

B. Malware: Correct but overly generic. WannaCry's defining trait is ransomware behavior, not just maliciousness. Specificity matters in security taxonomy for threat response (e.g., NIST IR 8019).

Real-World Context: WannaCry crippled NHS hospitals, highlighting patch management's criticality. A kill switch (a domain sinkhole) halted it, but variants persist.

NEW QUESTION # 25

Which of the following is true for SNMP?

A) The default community string for read-only access is "public."

B) The default community string for read/write access is "private."

- **A. Both A and B**
- B. None of the above
- C. Only B
- D. Only A

Answer: A

Explanation:

SNMP community strings authenticate access, with defaults posing security risks if unchanged.

Why C is correct:

A: "public" is the standard read-only default, per SNMP specs and CNSP.

B: "private" is the standard read-write default, also per SNMP and CNSP.

Both are true, making C the answer.

Why other options are incorrect:

1, 2: Exclude one true statement each.

4: Both statements are true, so "none" is wrong.

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