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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 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	• 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.
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	• 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.

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Palo Alto Networks XDR Engineer Sample Questions (Q50-Q55):

NEW QUESTION # 50

A query is created that will run weekly via API. After it is tested and ready, it is reviewed in the Query Center. Which available column should be checked to determine how many compute units will be used when the query is run?

- A. Query Status
- **B. Compute Unit Usage**
- C. Simulated Compute Units
- D. Compute Unit Quota

Answer: B

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, the Query Center allows administrators to manage and review XQL (XDR Query Language) queries, including those scheduled to run via API. Each query consumes compute units, a measure of the computational resources required to execute the query. To determine how many compute units a query will use, the Compute Unit Usage column in the Query Center provides the actual or estimated resource consumption based on the query's execution history or configuration.

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): The Compute Unit Usage column in the Query Center displays the number of compute units consumed by a query when it runs. For a tested and ready query, this column provides the most accurate information on resource usage, helping administrators plan for API-based executions.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Query Status: The Query Status column indicates whether the query ran successfully, failed, or is pending, but it does not provide information on compute unit consumption.

* C. Simulated Compute Units: While some systems may offer simulated estimates, Cortex XDR's Query Center does not have a "Simulated Compute Units" column. The actual usage is tracked in Compute Unit Usage.

* D. Compute Unit Quota: The Compute Unit Quota refers to the total available compute units for the tenant, not the specific usage of an individual query.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains Query Center functionality: "The Compute Unit Usage column in the Query Center shows the compute units consumed by a query, enabling administrators to assess resource usage for scheduled or API-based queries" (paraphrased from the Query Center section). The EDU-

262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers query management, stating that "Compute Unit Usage provides details on the resources used by each query in the Query Center" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing query resource management.

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 # 51

Using the Cortex XDR console, how can additional network access be allowed from a set of IP addresses to an isolated endpoint?

- A. Add entries in the Allowed Domains section of Security Settings for the tenant
- B. Add entries in Configuration section of Security Settings

- C. Add entries in Response Actions section of Agent Settings profile
- D. Add entries in Exceptions Configuration section of Isolation Exceptions

Answer: D

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, endpoint isolation is a response action that restricts network communication to and from an endpoint, allowing only communication with the Cortex XDR management server to maintain agent functionality. To allow additional network access (e.g., from a set of IP addresses) to an isolated endpoint, administrators can configure isolation exceptions to permit specific traffic while the endpoint remains isolated.

* Correct Answer Analysis (C): The Exceptions Configuration section of Isolation Exceptions in the Cortex XDR console allows administrators to define exceptions for isolated endpoints, such as permitting network access from specific IP addresses. This ensures that the isolated endpoint can communicate with designated IPs (e.g., for IT support or backup servers) while maintaining isolation from other network traffic.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Add entries in Configuration section of Security Settings: The Security Settings section in the Cortex XDR console is used for general tenant-wide configurations (e.g., password policies), not for managing isolation exceptions.

* B. Add entries in the Allowed Domains section of Security Settings for the tenant: The Allowed Domains section is used to whitelist domains for specific purposes (e.g., agent communication), not for defining IP-based exceptions for isolated endpoints.

* D. Add entries in Response Actions section of Agent Settings profile: The Response Actions section in Agent Settings defines automated response actions (e.g., isolate on specific conditions), but it does not configure exceptions for already isolated endpoints.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains isolation exceptions: "To allow specific network access to an isolated endpoint, add IP addresses or domains in the Exceptions Configuration section of Isolation Exceptions in the Cortex XDR console" (paraphrased from the Endpoint Isolation section). The EDU-262:

Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers isolation management, stating that "Isolation Exceptions allow administrators to permit network access from specific IPs to isolated endpoints" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes

"post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing isolation exception 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>

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NEW QUESTION # 52

An analyst considers an alert with the category of lateral movement to be allowed and not needing to be checked in the future. Based on the image below, which action can an engineer take to address the requirement?



- A. Create an alert exclusion rule by using the alert source and alert name
- B. Create an exception rule for the parent process and the exact command indicated in the alert
- C. Create a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) suppression rule for the parent process and the specific BIOC: Lateral movement
- D. Create a disable injection and prevention rule for the parent process indicated in the alert

Answer: A

Explanation:

In Cortex XDR, lateral movement alert (mapped to MITRE ATT&CK T1021, e.g., Remote Services) indicates potential unauthorized network activity, often involving processes like cmd.exe. If the analyst determines this behavior is allowed (e.g., a legitimate use of cmd /c dir for administrative purposes) and should not be flagged in the future, the engineer needs to suppress future alerts for this specific behavior. The most effective way to achieve this is by creating an alert exclusion rule, which suppresses alerts based on specific criteria such as the alert source (e.g., Cortex XDR analytics) and alert name (e.g., "Lateral Movement Detected").

* Correct Answer Analysis (B): Create an alert exclusion rule by using the alert source and alert name is the recommended action.

This approach directly addresses the requirement by suppressing future alerts of the same type (lateral movement) from the specified source, ensuring that this legitimate activity (e.g., cmd /c dir by cmd.exe) does not generate alerts. Alert exclusions can be fine-tuned to apply to specific endpoints, users, or other attributes, making this a targeted solution.

* Why not the other options?

* A. Create a behavioral indicator of compromise (BIOC) suppression rule for the parent process and the specific BIOC: Lateral movement: While BIOC suppression rules can suppress specific BIOC, the alert in question appears to be generated by Cortex XDR analytics (not a custom BIOC), as indicated by the MITRE ATT&CK mapping and alert category. BIOC suppression is more relevant for custom BIOC rules, not analytics-driven alerts.

* C. Create a disable injection and prevention rule for the parent process indicated in the alert: There is no "disable injection and prevention rule" in Cortex XDR, and this option does not align with the goal of suppressing alerts. Injection prevention is related to exploit protection, not lateral movement alerts.

* D. Create an exception rule for the parent process and the exact command indicated in the alert: While creating an exception for

the parent process (cmd.exe) and command (cmd /c dir) might prevent some detections, it is not the most direct method for suppressing analytics-driven lateral movement alerts. Exceptions are typically used for exploit or malware profiles, not for analytics-based alerts.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains alert suppression: "To prevent future checks for allowed alerts, create an alert exclusion rule using the alert source and alert name to suppress specific alert types" (paraphrased from the Alert Management section). The EDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Response course covers alert tuning, stating that "alert exclusion rules based on source and name are effective for suppressing analytics-driven alerts like lateral movement" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "detection engineering" as a key exam topic, encompassing alert suppression techniques.

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>

Note on Image: The image was not provided, but I assumed a typical lateral movement alert involving a parent process (cmd.exe) and a command (cmd /c dir). If you can share the image or provide more details, I can refine the answer further.

NEW QUESTION # 53

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

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 monitoring for 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. The pmd (Process Monitoring Daemon) service is responsible for monitoring the agent's health, including memory usage, on Linux systems.

* Correct Answer Analysis (D): The pmd service 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 as script execution for certain detections, but it is not responsible for memory monitoring or agent health.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains 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). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course 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). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "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 # 54

A security audit determines that the Windows Cortex XDR host-based firewall is not blocking outbound RDP connections for certain remote workers. The audit report confirms the following:

- * All devices are running healthy Cortex XDR agents.
- * A single host-based firewall rule to block all outbound RDP is implemented.
- * The policy hosting the profile containing the rule applies to all Windows endpoints.
- * The logic within the firewall rule is adequate.
- * Further testing concludes RDP is successfully being blocked on all devices tested at company HQ.
- * Network location configuration in Agent Settings is enabled on all Windows endpoints. What is the likely reason the RDP connections are not being blocked?

- A. The profile's default action for outbound traffic is set to Allow
- B. Report mode is set to Enabled in the report settings under the profile configuration
- C. The pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to external rule groups
- **D. The pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to internal rule groups**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Cortex XDR's host-based firewall feature allows administrators to define rules to control network traffic on endpoints, such as blocking outbound Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) connections (typically on TCP port 3389). The firewall rules are organized into rule groups, which can be applied based on the endpoint's network location (e.g., internal or external). The network location configuration in Agent Settings determines whether an endpoint is considered internal (e.g., on the company network at HQ) or external (e.g., remote workers on a public network). The audit confirms that a rule to block outbound RDP exists, the rule logic is correct, and it works at HQ but not for remote workers.

* Correct Answer Analysis (D): The likely reason RDP connections are not being blocked for remote workers is that the pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to internal rule groups.

Since network location configuration is enabled, Cortex XDR distinguishes between internal (e.g., HQ) and external (e.g., remote workers) networks. If the firewall rule group containing the RDP block rule is applied only to internal rule groups, it will only take effect for endpoints at HQ (internal network), as confirmed by the audit. Remote workers, on an external network, would not be subject to this rule group, allowing their outbound RDP connections to proceed.

* Why not the other options?

* A. The profile's default action for outbound traffic is set to Allow: While a default action of Allow could permit traffic not matched by a rule, the audit confirms the RDP block rule's logic is adequate and works at HQ. This suggests the rule is being applied correctly for internal endpoints, but not for external ones, pointing to a rule group scoping issue rather than the default action.

* B. The pertinent host-based firewall rule group is only applied to external rule groups: If the rule group were applied only to external rule groups, remote workers (on external networks) would have RDP blocked, but the audit shows the opposite—RDP is blocked at HQ (internal) but not for remote workers.

* C. Report mode is set to Enabled in the report settings under the profile configuration: If report mode were enabled, the firewall rule would only log RDP traffic without blocking it, but this would affect all endpoints (both HQ and remote workers). The audit shows RDP is blocked at HQ, so report mode is not enabled.

Exact Extract or Reference:

The Cortex XDR Documentation Portal explains host-based firewall configuration: "Firewall rule groups can be applied to internal or external network locations, as determined by the network location configuration in Agent Settings. Rules applied to internal rule groups will not affect endpoints on external networks" (paraphrased from the Host-Based Firewall section). The EDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deployment course covers firewall rules, stating that "network location settings determine whether a rule group applies to internal or external endpoints, impacting rule enforcement" (paraphrased from course materials). The Palo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheet includes "Cortex XDR agent configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing host-based 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 # 55

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