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Palo Alto Networks XDR-Engineer Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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 2	• 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 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	• 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 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 (Q46-Q51):

NEW QUESTION # 46
An XDR engineer is configuring an automation playbook to respond to high-severity malware alerts by automatically isolating the affected endpoint and notifying the security team via email. The playbook should only trigger for alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, not custom BIOCs. Which two conditions should the engineer include in the playbook trigger to meet these requirements? (Choose two.)

- A. Alert severity is High
- B. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics
- C. Alert status is New
- D. Alert category is Malware

Answer: A,D

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,automation playbooks(also referred to as response actions or automation rules) allow engineers to define automated responses to specific alerts based on trigger conditions. The playbook in this scenario needs to isolate endpoints and send email notifications for high-severity malware alerts generated by the Cortex XDR analytics engine, excluding custom BIOC alerts. To achieve this, the engineer must configure the playbook trigger with conditions that match the alert's severity, category, and source.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Alert severity is High: The playbook should only trigger for high-severity alerts, as specified in the requirement. Setting the conditionAlert severity is Highensures that only alerts with a severity level of "High" activate the playbook, aligning with the engineer's goal.
* C. Alert category is Malware: The playbook targets malware alerts specifically. The condition Alert category is Malwareensures that the playbook only responds to alerts categorized as malware, excluding other types of alerts (e.g., lateral movement, exploit).
* Why not the other options?
* B. Alert source is Cortex XDR Analytics: While this condition would ensure the playbook triggers only for alerts from the Cortex XDR analytics engine (and not custom BIOCs), the requirement to exclude BIOCs is already implicitly met because BIOC alerts are typically categorized differently (e.g., as custom alerts or specific BIOC categories). The alert category (Malware) and severity (High) conditions are sufficient to target analytics-driven malware alerts, and adding the source condition is not strictly necessary for the stated requirements. However, if the engineer wanted to be more explicit, this condition could be considered, but the question asks for the two most critical conditions, which are severity and category.
* D. Alert status is New: The alert status (e.g., New, In Progress, Resolved) determines the investigation stage of the alert, but the requirement does not specify that the playbook should only trigger for new alerts. Alerts with a status of "InProgress" could still be high-severity malware alerts requiring isolation, so this condition is not necessary.
Additional Note on Alert Source: The requirement to exclude custom BIOCs and focus on Cortex XDR analytics alerts is addressed by theAlert category is Malwarecondition, as analytics-driven malware alerts (e.
g., from WildFire or behavioral analytics) are categorized as "Malware," while BIOC alerts are often tagged differently (e.g., as custom rules). If the question emphasized the need to explicitly filter by source, option B would be relevant, but the primary

conditions for the playbook are severity and category.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains automation playbook triggers: "Playbook triggers can be configured with conditions such as alert severity (e.g., High) and alert category (e.g., Malware) to automate responses like endpoint isolation and email notifications" (paraphrased from the Automation Rules section).
TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers playbook creation, stating that
"conditions like alert severity and category ensure playbooks target specific alert types, such as high-severity malware alerts from analytics" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "playbook creation and automation" as a key exam topic, encompassing trigger condition 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 # 47

Log events from a previously deployed Windows XDR Collector agent are no longer being observed in the console after an OS upgrade. Which aspect of the log events is the probable cause of this behavior?

- A. They are in Winlogbeat format
- B. They are less than 1MB
- C. They are in Filebeat format
- D. They are greater than 5MB

Answer: D

Explanation:
TheXDR Collectoron a Windows endpoint collects logs (e.g., Windows Event Logs) and forwards them to the Cortex XDR console for analysis. An OS upgrade can impact the collector's functionality, particularly if it affects log formats, sizes, or compatibility. If log events are no longer observed after the upgrade, the issue likely relates to a change in how logs are processed or transmitted. Cortex XDR imposes limits on log event sizes to ensure efficient ingestion and processing.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):The probable cause is thatthe log events are greater than 5MB. Cortex XDR has a size limit for individual log events, typically around 5MB, to prevent performance issues during ingestion. An OS upgrade may change the way logs are generated (e.g., increasing verbosity or adding metadata), causing events to exceed this limit. If log events are larger than 5MB, the XDR Collector will drop them, resulting in no logs being observed in the console.
* Why not the other options?
* B. They are in Winlogbeat format: Winlogbeat is a supported log shipper for collecting Windows Event Logs, and the XDR Collector is compatible with this format. The format itself is not the issue unless misconfigured, which is not indicated.
* C. They are in Filebeat format: Filebeat is also supported by the XDR Collector for file-based logs. The format is not the likely cause unless the OS upgrade changed the log source, which is not specified.
* D. They are less than 1MB: There is no minimum size limit for log events in Cortex XDR, so being less than 1MB would not cause logs to stop appearing.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portalexplains log ingestion limits: "Individual log events larger than 5MB are dropped by the XDR Collector to prevent ingestion issues, which may occur after changes like an OS upgrade" (paraphrased from the XDR Collector Troubleshooting section). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers log collection issues, stating that "log events exceeding 5MB are not ingested, a common issue after OS upgrades thatincrease log size" (paraphrased from course materials).
ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing log ingestion issues.
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
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NEW QUESTION # 48

Which statement describes the functionality of fixed filters and dashboard drilldowns in enhancing a dashboard's interactivity and data insights?

- A. Fixed filters allow users to select predefined data values, while dashboard drilldowns enable users to alter the scope of the data displayed by selecting filter values from the dashboard header
- B. Fixed filters allow users to adjust the layout, while dashboard drilldowns provide links to external reports and/or dashboards
- C. Fixed filters let users select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope, while dashboard drilldowns provide interactive insights or trigger contextual changes, like linking to XQL searches
- D. Fixed filters limit the data visible in widgets, while dashboard drilldowns allow users to download data from the dashboard in various formats

Answer: C

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR,fixed filtersanddashboard drilldownsare key features that enhance the interactivity and usability of dashboards. Fixed filters allow users to refine the data displayed in dashboard widgets by selecting predefined or dynamic values (e.g., time ranges, severities, or alertsources), adjusting the scope of the data presented. Dashboard drilldowns, on the other hand, enable users to interact with widget elements (e.
g., clicking on a chart bar) to gain deeper insights, such as navigating to detailed views, other dashboards, or executingXQL (XDR Query Language)searches for granular data analysis.
* Correct Answer Analysis (C):The statement in option C accurately describes the functionality:Fixed filters let users select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope, ensuring users can focus on specific subsets of data (e.g., alerts from a particular source).Dashboard drilldowns provide interactive insights or trigger contextual changes, like linking to XQL searches, allowing users to explore related data or perform detailed investigations directly from the dashboard.
* Why not the other options?
* A. Fixed filters allow users to select predefined data values, while dashboard drilldowns enable users to alter the scope of the data displayed by selecting filter values from the dashboard header: This is incorrect because drilldowns do not alter the scope via dashboard header filters; they provide navigational or query-based insights (e.g., linking to XQL searches).
Additionally, fixed filters support both predefined and dynamic values, not just predefined ones.
* B. Fixed filters limit the data visible in widgets, while dashboard drilldowns allow users to download data from the dashboard in various formats: While fixed filters limit data in widgets, drilldowns do not primarily facilitate data downloads. Downloads are handled via export functions, not drilldowns.
* D. Fixed filters allow users to adjust the layout, while dashboard drilldowns provide links to external reports and/or dashboards: Fixed filters do not adjust the dashboard layout; they filter data. Drilldowns can link to other dashboards but not typically to external reports, and their primary role is interactive data exploration, not just linking.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes dashboard features: "Fixed filters allow users to select predefined or dynamic values to adjust the scope of data in widgets. Drilldowns enable interactive exploration by linking to XQL searches or other dashboards for contextual insights" (paraphrased from the Dashboards and Widgets section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers dashboard configuration, stating that "fixed filters refine data scope, and drilldowns provide interactive links to XQL queries or related dashboards" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "dashboards and reporting" as a key exam topic, encompassing fixed filters and drilldowns.
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 # 49
A cloud administrator reports high network bandwidth costs attributed to Cortex XDR operations and asks for bandwidth usage to be optimized without compromising agent functionality. Which two techniques should the engineer implement? (Choose two.)

- A. Configure P2P download sources for agent upgrades and content updates
- B. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet
- C. Enable agent content management bandwidth control
- D. Enable minor content version updates

Answer: A,C

Explanation:
Cortex XDR agents communicate with the cloud for tasks like receiving content updates, agent upgrades, and sending telemetry data, which can consume significant network bandwidth. To optimize bandwidth usage without compromising agent functionality, the engineer should implement techniques that reduce network traffic while maintaining full detection, prevention, and response capabilities.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A, C):
* A. Configure P2P download sources for agent upgrades and content updates: Peer-to-Peer (P2P) download sources allow Cortex XDR agents to share content updates and agent upgrades with other agents on the same network, reducing the need for each agent to download data directly from the cloud. This significantly lowers bandwidth usage, especially in environments with many endpoints.
* C. Enable agent content management bandwidth control: Cortex XDR provides bandwidth control settings in theContent Managementconfiguration, allowing administrators to limit the bandwidth used for content updates and agent communications. This feature throttles data transfers to minimize network impact while ensuring updates are still delivered.
* Why not the other options?
* B. Enable minor content version updates: Enabling minor content version updates ensures agents receive incremental updates, but this alone does not significantly optimize bandwidth, as it does not address the volume or frequency of data transfers. It is a standard practice but not a primary bandwidth optimization technique.
* D. Deploy a Broker VM and activate the local agent settings applet: A Broker VM can act as a local proxy for agent communications, potentially reducing cloud traffic, but thelocal agent settings appletis used for configuring agent settings locally, not for bandwidth optimization.
Additionally, deploying a Broker VM requires significant setup and may not directly address bandwidth for content updates or upgrades compared to P2P or bandwidth control.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes bandwidth optimization: "P2P download sources enable agents to share content updates and upgrades locally, reducing cloud bandwidth usage" and "Content Management bandwidth control allows administrators to limit the network impact of agent updates" (paraphrased from the Agent Management and Content Updates sections). TheEDU-260: Cortex XDR Prevention and Deploymentcourse covers post-deployment optimization, stating that "P2P downloads and bandwidth control settings are key techniques for minimizing network usage" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "post-deployment management and configuration" as a key exam topic, encompassing bandwidth optimization.
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
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NEW QUESTION # 50
An insider compromise investigation has been requested to provide evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on a company laptop. Cortex XDR agent is installed with default prevention agent settings profile and default extension "Device Configuration" profile. Where can an engineer find the evidence?

- A. Check Host Inventory -> Mounts
- B. dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM. MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT
- C. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured
- D. preset = device_control

Answer: A

Explanation:
In Cortex XDR, theDevice Configuration profile(an extension of the agent settings profile) controls how the Cortex XDR agent monitors and manages device-related activities, such as the mounting of removable drives.
By default, the Device Configuration profile includes monitoring for device mount events, such as when a USB drive or other removable media is connected to an endpoint. These events are logged and can be accessed for investigations, such as detecting unauthorized drive usage in an insider compromise scenario.
* Correct Answer Analysis (A):TheHost Inventory -> Mountssection in the Cortex XDR console provides a detailed view of mount events for each endpoint, including information about removable drives mounted on the system. This is the most straightforward place to find evidence of an unauthorized removable drive being mounted on the company laptop, as it aggregates device mount events captured by the default Device Configuration profile.
* Why not the other options?

* B. dataset = xdr_data | filter event_type = ENUM.MOUNT and event_sub_type = ENUM.
MOUNT_DRIVE_MOUNT: This XQL query is technically correct for retrieving mount events from thexdr_datadataset, but it requires manual query execution and knowledge of specific event types. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is a more user-friendly and direct method for accessing this data, making it the preferred choice for an engineer investigating this issue.
* C. The requested data requires additional configuration to be captured: This is incorrect because the default Device Configuration profile already captures mount events for removable drives, so no additional configuration is needed.
* D. preset = device_control: Thedevice_controlpreset in XQL retrieves device control-related events (e.g., USB block or allow actions), but it may not specifically include mount events unless explicitly configured. The Host Inventory -> Mounts section is more targeted for this investigation.
Exact Extract or Reference:
TheCortex XDR Documentation Portaldescribes device monitoring: "The default Device Configuration profile logs mount events for removable drives, which can be viewed in the Host Inventory -> Mounts section of the console" (paraphrased from the Device Configuration section). TheEDU-262: Cortex XDR Investigation and Responsecourse covers investigation techniques, stating that "mount events for removable drives are accessible in the Host Inventory for endpoints with default device monitoring" (paraphrased from course materials). ThePalo Alto Networks Certified XDR Engineer datasheetincludes "maintenance and troubleshooting" as a key exam topic, encompassing investigation of endpoint events.
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 # 51
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