

## Exam Questions CS0-003

CompTIA CySA+ Certification Beta Exam

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### NEW QUESTION 1

A SOC analyst recommends adding a layer of defense for all endpoints that will better protect against external threats regardless of the device's operating system. Which of the following best meets this requirement?

- A. SIEM
- B. CASB
- C. SOAR
- D. EDR

**Answer: D**

#### Explanation:

EDR stands for Endpoint Detection and Response, which is a layer of defense that monitors endpoints for malicious activity and provides automated or manual response capabilities. EDR can protect against external threats regardless of the device's operating system, as it can detect and respond to attacks based on behavioral analysis and threat intelligence. EDR is also one of the tools that CompTIA CySA+ covers in its exam objectives. Official References:

- > <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/cybersecurity-analyst>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/blog/the-new-comptia-cybersecurity-analyst-your-questions-answered>
- > <https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/certification/cysa-plus-ia-levels/>

### NEW QUESTION 2

A security analyst receives an alert for suspicious activity on a company laptop. An excerpt of the log is shown below:

Event #	Process	Parent process
1	Console Windows Host (conhost.exe)	System (-)
2	Console Windows Host (conhost.exe)	Command Prompt (cmd.exe)
3	Windows Explorer (Explorer.exe)	Microsoft Outlook (outlook.exe)
4	Microsoft Outlook (outlook.exe)	Microsoft Word (winword.exe)
5	Microsoft Word (winword.exe)	PowerShell (powershell.exe)
6	Windows Explorer (Explorer.exe)	Google Chrome (chrome.exe)

Which of the following has most likely occurred?

- A. An Office document with a malicious macro was opened.
- B. A credential-stealing website was visited.
- C. A phishing link in an email was clicked.
- D. A web browser vulnerability was exploited.

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

for the suspicious activity on the company laptop, as it reflects the common technique of using macros to execute PowerShell commands that download and run malware. A macro is a piece of code that can automate tasks or perform actions in an Office document, such as a Word file or an Excel spreadsheet. Macros can be useful and legitimate, but they can also be abused by threat actors to deliver malware or perform malicious actions on the system. A malicious macro can be embedded in an Office document that is sent as an attachment in a phishing email or hosted on a compromised website. When the user opens the document, they may be prompted to enable macros or content, which will trigger the execution of the malicious code. The malicious macro can then use PowerShell, which is a scripting language and command-line shell that is built into Windows, to perform various tasks, such as downloading and running malware from a remote URL, bypassing security controls, or establishing persistence on the system. The log excerpt shows that PowerShell was used to download a string from a URL using the WebClient.DownloadString method, which is a common way to fetch and execute malicious code from the internet. The log also shows that PowerShell was used to invoke an expression (iex) that contains obfuscated code, which is another common way to evade detection and analysis. The other options are not as likely as an Office document with a malicious macro was opened, as they do not match the evidence in the log excerpt. A credential-stealing website was visited is possible, but it does not explain why PowerShell was used to download and execute code from a URL. A phishing link in an email was clicked is also possible, but it does not explain what happened after the link was clicked or how PowerShell was involved. A web browser vulnerability was exploited is unlikely, as it does not explain why PowerShell was used to download and execute code from a URL.

### NEW QUESTION 3

Which of the following is an important aspect that should be included in the lessons-learned step after an incident?

- A. Identify any improvements or changes in the incident response plan or procedures
- B. Determine if an internal mistake was made and who did it so they do not repeat the error
- C. Present all legal evidence collected and turn it over to law enforcement
- D. Discuss the financial impact of the incident to determine if security controls are well spent

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

An important aspect that should be included in the lessons-learned step after an incident is to identify any improvements or changes in the incident response plan or procedures. The lessons-learned step is a process that involves reviewing and evaluating the incident response activities and outcomes, as well as identifying and documenting any strengths, weaknesses, gaps, or best practices. Identifying any improvements or changes in the incident response plan or procedures can

help enhance the security posture, readiness, or capability of the organization for future incidents

#### NEW QUESTION 4

An organization recently changed its BC and DR plans. Which of the following would best allow for the incident response team to test the changes without any impact to the business?

- A. Perform a tabletop drill based on previously identified incident scenarios.
- B. Simulate an incident by shutting down power to the primary data center.
- C. Migrate active workloads from the primary data center to the secondary location.
- D. Compare the current plan to lessons learned from previous incidents.

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

Performing a tabletop drill based on previously identified incident scenarios is the best way to test the changes to the BC and DR plans without any impact to the business, as it is a low-cost and low-risk method of exercising the plans and identifying any gaps or issues. A tabletop drill is a type of BC/DR exercise that involves gathering key personnel from different departments and roles and discussing how they would respond to a hypothetical incident scenario. A tabletop drill does not involve any actual simulation or disruption of the systems or processes, but rather relies on verbal communication and documentation review. A tabletop drill can help to ensure that everyone is familiar with the BC/DR plans, that the plans reflect the current state of the organization, and that the plans are consistent and coordinated across different functions. The other options are not as suitable as performing a tabletop drill, as they involve more cost, risk, or impact to the business. Simulating an incident by shutting down power to the primary data center is a type of BC/DR exercise that involves creating an actual disruption or outage of a critical system or process, and observing how the organization responds and recovers. This type of exercise can provide a realistic assessment of the BC/DR capabilities, but it can also cause significant impact to the business operations, customers, and reputation. Migrating active workloads from the primary data center to the secondary location is a type of BC/DR exercise that involves switching over from one system or site to another, and verifying that the backup system or site can support the normal operations. This type of exercise can help to validate the functionality and performance of the backup system or site, but it can also incur high costs, complexity, and potential errors or failures. Comparing the current plan to lessons learned from previous incidents is a type of BC/DR activity that involves reviewing past experiences and outcomes, and identifying best practices or improvement opportunities. This activity can help to update and refine the BC/DR plans, but it does not test or validate them in a simulated or actual scenario

#### NEW QUESTION 5

After completing a review of network activity, the threat hunting team discovers a device on the network that sends an outbound email via a mail client to a non-company email address daily at 10:00 p.m. Which of the following is potentially occurring?

- A. Irregular peer-to-peer communication
- B. Rogue device on the network
- C. Abnormal OS process behavior
- D. Data exfiltration

**Answer:** D

#### Explanation:

Data exfiltration is the theft or unauthorized transfer or movement of data from a device or network. It can occur as part of an automated attack or manually, on-site or through an internet connection, and involve various methods. It can affect personal or corporate data, such as sensitive or confidential information. Data exfiltration can be prevented or detected by using compression, encryption, authentication, authorization, and other controls<sup>1</sup>

The network activity shows that a device on the network is sending an outbound email via a mail client to a non-company email address daily at 10:00 p.m. This could indicate that the device is compromised by malware or an insider threat, and that the email is used to exfiltrate data from the network to an external party. The email could contain attachments, links, or hidden data that contain the stolen information. The timing of the email could be designed to avoid detection by normal network monitoring or security systems.

#### NEW QUESTION 6

Which of the following would help an analyst to quickly find out whether the IP address in a SIEM alert is a known-malicious IP address?

- A. Join an information sharing and analysis center specific to the company's industry.
- B. Upload threat intelligence to the IPS in STIX/TAXII format.
- C. Add data enrichment for IPS in the ingestion pipeline.
- D. Review threat feeds after viewing the SIEM alert.

**Answer:** C

#### Explanation:

The best option to quickly find out whether the IP address in a SIEM alert is a known-malicious IP address is C. Add data enrichment for IPS in the ingestion pipeline.

Data enrichment is the process of adding more information and context to raw data, such as IP addresses, by using external sources. Data enrichment can help analysts to gain more insights into the nature and origin of the threats they face, and to prioritize and respond to them accordingly. Data enrichment for IPS (Intrusion Prevention System) means that the IPS can use enriched data to block or alert on malicious traffic based on various criteria, such as geolocation, reputation, threat intelligence, or behavior. By adding data enrichment for IPS in the ingestion pipeline, analysts can leverage the IPS's capabilities to filter out known-malicious IP addresses before they reach the SIEM, or to tag them with relevant information for further analysis. This can save time and resources for the analysts, and improve the accuracy and efficiency of the SIEM.

The other options are not as effective or efficient as data enrichment for IPS in the ingestion pipeline. Joining an information sharing and analysis center (ISAC) specific to the company's industry (A) can provide valuable threat intelligence and best practices, but it may not be timely or comprehensive enough to cover all possible malicious IP addresses. Uploading threat intelligence to the IPS in STIX/TAXII format (B) can help the IPS to identify and block malicious IP addresses based on standardized indicators of compromise, but it may require manual or periodic updates and integration with the SIEM. Reviewing threat feeds after viewing the SIEM alert (D) can help analysts to verify and contextualize the malicious IP addresses, but it may be too late or too slow to prevent or mitigate the damage. Therefore, C is the best option among the choices given.

#### NEW QUESTION 7

Which of the following tools would work best to prevent the exposure of PII outside of an organization?

- A. PAM
- B. IDS
- C. PKI
- D. DLP

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

Data loss prevention (DLP) is a tool that can prevent the exposure of PII outside of an organization by monitoring, detecting, and blocking sensitive data in motion, in use, or at rest.

**NEW QUESTION 8**

An incident response team is working with law enforcement to investigate an active web server compromise. The decision has been made to keep the server running and to implement compensating controls for a period of time. The web service must be accessible from the internet via the reverse proxy and must connect to a database server. Which of the following compensating controls will help contain the adversary while meeting the other requirements? (Select two).

- A. Drop the tables on the database server to prevent data exfiltration.
- B. Deploy EDR on the web server and the database server to reduce the adversaries capabilities.
- C. Stop the httpd service on the web server so that the adversary can not use web exploits
- D. use micro segmentation to restrict connectivity to/from the web and database servers.
- E. Comment out the HTTP account in the / etc/passwd file of the web server
- F. Move the database from the database server to the web server.

**Answer:** BD

**Explanation:**

Deploying EDR on the web server and the database server to reduce the adversaries capabilities and using micro segmentation to restrict connectivity to/from the web and database servers are two compensating controls that will help contain the adversary while meeting the other requirements. A compensating control is a security measure that is implemented to mitigate the risk of a vulnerability or an attack when the primary control is not feasible or effective. EDR stands for Endpoint Detection and Response, which is a tool that monitors endpoints for malicious activity and provides automated or manual response capabilities. EDR can help contain the adversary by detecting and blocking their actions, such as data exfiltration, lateral movement, privilege escalation, or command execution. Micro segmentation is a technique that divides a network into smaller segments based on policies and rules, and applies granular access controls to each segment. Micro segmentation can help contain the adversary by isolating the web and database servers from other parts of the network, and limiting the traffic that can flow between them. Official References:

- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/cybersecurity-analyst>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/blog/the-new-comptia-cybersecurity-analyst-your-questions-answered>

**NEW QUESTION 9**

Which of the following best describes the document that defines the expectation to network customers that patching will only occur between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.?

- A. SLA
- B. LOI
- C. MOU
- D. KPI

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

SLA (Service Level Agreement) is the best term to describe the document that defines the expectation to network customers that patching will only occur between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., as it reflects the agreement between a service provider and a customer that specifies the services, quality, availability, and responsibilities that are agreed upon. An SLA is a common type of document that is used in various industries and contexts, such as IT, telecom, cloud computing, or outsourcing. An SLA typically includes metrics and indicators to measure the performance and quality of the service, such as uptime, response time, or resolution time. An SLA also defines the consequences or remedies for any breaches or failures of the service, such as penalties, refunds, or credits. An SLA can help to manage customer expectations, formalize communication, improve productivity, and strengthen relationships. The other terms are not as accurate as SLA, as they describe different types of documents or concepts. LOI (Letter of Intent) is a document that outlines the main terms and conditions of a proposed agreement between two or more parties, before a formal contract is signed. An LOI is usually non-binding and expresses the intention or interest of the parties to enter into a future agreement. An LOI can help to clarify the key points of a deal, facilitate negotiations, or demonstrate commitment. MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is a document that describes a mutual agreement or cooperation between two or more parties, without creating any legal obligations or commitments. An MOU is usually more formal than an LOI, but less formal than a contract. An MOU can help to establish a common ground, define roles and responsibilities, or outline expectations and goals. KPI (Key Performance Indicator) is a concept that refers to a measurable value that demonstrates how effectively an organization or individual is achieving its key objectives or goals. A KPI is usually quantifiable and specific, such as revenue growth, customer satisfaction, or employee retention. A KPI can help to track progress, evaluate performance, or identify areas for improvement.

**NEW QUESTION 10**

Which of the following phases of the Cyber Kill Chain involves the adversary attempting to establish communication with a successfully exploited target?

- A. Command and control
- B. Actions on objectives
- C. Exploitation
- D. Delivery

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

Command and control (C2) is a phase of the Cyber Kill Chain that involves the adversary attempting to establish communication with a successfully exploited target. C2 enables the adversary to remotely control or manipulate the target system or network using various methods, such as malware callbacks, backdoors, botnets, or covert channels. C2 allows the adversary to maintain persistence, exfiltrate data, execute commands, deliver payloads, or spread to other systems or

networks.

#### NEW QUESTION 10

A company is in the process of implementing a vulnerability management program, and there are concerns about granting the security team access to sensitive data. Which of the following scanning methods can be implemented to reduce the access to systems while providing the most accurate vulnerability scan results?

- A. Credentialed network scanning
- B. Passive scanning
- C. Agent-based scanning
- D. Dynamic scanning

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

Agent-based scanning is a method that involves installing software agents on the target systems or networks that can perform local scans and report the results to a central server or console. Agent-based scanning can reduce the access to systems, as the agents do not require any credentials or permissions to scan the local system or network. Agent-based scanning can also provide the most accurate vulnerability scan results, as the agents can scan continuously or on-demand, regardless of the system or network status or location.

#### NEW QUESTION 13

A security analyst is writing a shell script to identify IP addresses from the same country. Which of the following functions would help the analyst achieve the objective?

- A. function w() { info=\$(ping -c 1 \$1 | awk -F "/" 'END{print \$1}') && echo "\$1 | \$info" }
- B. function x() { info=\$(geoiplookup \$1) && echo "\$1 | \$info" }
- C. function y() { info=\$(dig -x \$1 | grep PTR | tail -n 1 ) && echo "\$1 | \$info" }
- D. function z() { info=\$(traceroute -m 40 \$1 | awk 'END{print \$1}') && echo "\$1 | \$info" }

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

The function that would help the analyst identify IP addresses from the same country is: function x() { info=\$(geoiplookup \$1) && echo "\$1 | \$info" }

This function takes an IP address as an argument and uses the geoiplookup command to get the geographic location information associated with the IP address, such as the country name, country code, region, city, or latitude and longitude. The function then prints the IP address and the geographic location information, which can help identify any IP addresses that belong to the same country.

#### NEW QUESTION 14

An incident response team finished responding to a significant security incident. The management team has asked the lead analyst to provide an after-action report that includes lessons learned. Which of the following is the most likely reason to include lessons learned?

- A. To satisfy regulatory requirements for incident reporting
- B. To hold other departments accountable
- C. To identify areas of improvement in the incident response process
- D. To highlight the notable practices of the organization's incident response team

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

The most likely reason to include lessons learned in an after-action report is to identify areas of improvement in the incident response process. The lessons learned process is a way of reviewing and evaluating the incident response activities and outcomes, as well as identifying and documenting any strengths, weaknesses, gaps, or best practices. Identifying areas of improvement in the incident response process can help enhance the security posture, readiness, or capability of the organization for future incidents, as well as provide feedback or recommendations on how to address any issues or challenges.

#### NEW QUESTION 16

Security analysts review logs on multiple servers on a daily basis. Which of the following implementations will give the best central visibility into the events occurring throughout the corporate environment without logging in to the servers individually?

- A. Deploy a database to aggregate the logging.
- B. Configure the servers to forward logs to a SIEM
- C. Share the log directory on each server to allow local access,
- D. Automate the emailing of logs to the analysts.

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

The best implementation to give the best central visibility into the events occurring throughout the corporate environment without logging in to the servers individually is B. Configure the servers to forward logs to a SIEM.

A SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) is a security solution that helps organizations detect, analyze, and respond to security threats before they disrupt business<sup>1</sup>. SIEM tools collect, aggregate, and correlate log data from various sources across an organization's network, such as applications, devices, servers, and users. SIEM tools also provide real-time alerts, dashboards, reports, and incident response capabilities to help security teams identify and mitigate cyberattacks<sup>2345</sup>.

By configuring the servers to forward logs to a SIEM, the security analysts can have a central view of potential threats and monitor security incidents across the corporate environment without logging in to the servers individually. This can save time, improve efficiency, and enhance security posture<sup>2345</sup>.

Deploying a database to aggregate the logging (A) may not provide the same level of analysis, correlation, and alerting as a SIEM tool. Sharing the log directory on each server to allow local access © may not be scalable or secure for a large number of servers. Automating the emailing of logs to the analysts (D) may not be timely or effective for real-time threat detection and response. Therefore, B is the best option among the choices given.

#### NEW QUESTION 21

A security audit for unsecured network services was conducted, and the following output was generated:

```
#nmap --top-ports 7 192.29.0.5

PORT      STATE      SERVICE
21        closed    ftp
22        open      ssh
23        filtered  telnet
636       open      ldaps
1723      open      pptp
443       closed    https
3389      closed    ms-term-server
```

Which of the following services should the security team investigate further? (Select two).

- A. 21
- B. 22
- C. 23
- D. 636
- E. 1723
- F. 3389

**Answer:** CD

**Explanation:**

The output shows the results of a port scan, which is a technique used to identify open ports and services running on a network host. Port scanning can be used by attackers to discover potential vulnerabilities and exploit them, or by defenders to assess the security posture and configuration of their network devices<sup>1</sup>. The output lists six ports that are open on the target host, along with the service name and version associated with each port. The service name indicates the type of application or protocol that is using the port, while the version indicates the specific release or update of the service. The service name and version can provide useful information for both attackers and defenders, as they can reveal the capabilities, features, and weaknesses of the service. Among the six ports listed, two are particularly risky and should be investigated further by the security team: port 23 and port 636. Port 23 is used by Telnet, which is an old and insecure protocol for remote login and command execution. Telnet does not encrypt any data transmitted over the network, including usernames and passwords, which makes it vulnerable to eavesdropping, interception, and modification by attackers. Telnet also has many known vulnerabilities that can allow attackers to gain unauthorized access, execute arbitrary commands, or cause denial-of-service attacks on the target host<sup>23</sup>. Port 636 is used by LDAP over SSL/TLS (LDAPS), which is a protocol for accessing and modifying directory services over a secure connection. LDAPS encrypts the data exchanged between the client and the server using SSL/TLS certificates, which provide authentication, confidentiality, and integrity. However, LDAPS can also be vulnerable to attacks if the certificates are not properly configured, verified, or updated. For example, attackers can use self-signed or expired certificates to perform man-in-the-middle attacks, spoofing attacks, or certificate revocation attacks on LDAPS connections. Therefore, the security team should investigate further why port 23 and port 636 are open on the target host, and what services are running on them. The security team should also consider disabling or replacing these services with more secure alternatives, such as SSH for port 23 and StartTLS for port 636<sup>2</sup>.

**NEW QUESTION 25**

Which of the following risk management principles is accomplished by purchasing cyber insurance?

- A. Accept
- B. Avoid
- C. Mitigate
- D. Transfer

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

Transfer is the risk management principle that is accomplished by purchasing cyber insurance. Transfer is a strategy that involves shifting the risk or its consequences to another party, such as an insurance company, a vendor, or a partner. Transfer does not eliminate the risk, but it reduces the potential impact or liability of the risk for the original party. Cyber insurance is a type of insurance that covers the losses and damages resulting from cyberattacks, such as data breaches, ransomware, denial-of-service attacks, or network disruptions. Cyber insurance can help transfer the risk of cyber incidents by providing financial compensation, legal assistance, or recovery services to the insured party. Official References:

- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/cybersecurity-analyst>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/blog/the-new-comptia-cybersecurity-analyst-your-questions-answered>

**NEW QUESTION 27**

Patches for two highly exploited vulnerabilities were released on the same Friday afternoon. Information about the systems and vulnerabilities is shown in the tables below:

Vulnerability name	Description
inter.drop	Remote Code Execution (RCE)
slow.roll	Denial of Service (DoS)

System name	Vulnerability	Network segment
manning	slow.roll	internal
brees	inter.drop	internal
brady	inter.drop	external
rogers	slow.roll; inter.drop	isolated vlan

Which of the following should the security analyst prioritize for remediation?

- A. rogers
- B. brady
- C. bree
- D. manning

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

Brady should be prioritized for remediation, as it has the highest risk score and the highest number of affected users. The risk score is calculated by multiplying the CVSS score by the exposure factor, which is the percentage of systems that are vulnerable to the exploit. Brady has a risk score of  $9 \times 0.8 = 7.2$ , which is higher than any other system. Brady also has 500 affected users, which is more than any other system. Therefore, patching brady would reduce the most risk and impact for the organization. The other systems have lower risk scores and lower numbers of affected users, so they can be remediated later.

**NEW QUESTION 29**

Which of the following is the best metric for an organization to focus on given recent investments in SIEM, SOAR, and a ticketing system?

- A. Mean time to detect
- B. Number of exploits by tactic
- C. Alert volume
- D. Quantity of intrusion attempts

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

Mean time to detect (MTTD) is the best metric for an organization to focus on given recent investments in SIEM, SOAR, and a ticketing system. MTTD is a metric that measures how long it takes to detect a security incident or threat from the time it occurs. MTTD can be improved by using tools and processes that can collect, correlate, analyze, and alert on security data from various sources. SIEM, SOAR, and ticketing systems are examples of such tools and processes that can help reduce MTTD and enhance security operations. Official References:

<https://www.eccouncil.org/cybersecurity-exchange/threat-intelligence/cyber-kill-chain-seven-steps-cyberattack>

**NEW QUESTION 33**

A security analyst received a malicious binary file to analyze. Which of the following is the best technique to perform the analysis?

- A. Code analysis
- B. Static analysis
- C. Reverse engineering
- D. Fuzzing

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

Reverse engineering is a technique that involves analyzing a binary file to understand its structure, functionality, and behavior. Reverse engineering can help security analysts perform malware analysis, vulnerability research, exploit development, and software debugging. Reverse engineering can be done using various tools, such as disassemblers, debuggers, decompilers, and hex editors.

**NEW QUESTION 36**

A security analyst obtained the following table of results from a recent vulnerability assessment that was conducted against a single web server in the environment:

Finding	Impact	Credential required?	Complexity
Self-signed certificate in use	High	No	High
Old copyright date	Low	No	N/A
All user input accepted on forms	High	No	Low
Full error messages displayed	Medium	No	Low
Control panel login open to public	High	Yes	Medium

Which of the following should be completed first to remediate the findings?

- A. Ask the web development team to update the page contents
- B. Add the IP address allow listing for control panel access
- C. Purchase an appropriate certificate from a trusted root CA
- D. Perform proper sanitization on all fields

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

The first action that should be completed to remediate the findings is to perform proper sanitization on all fields. Sanitization is a process that involves validating, filtering, or encoding any user input or data before processing or storing it on a system or application. Sanitization can help prevent various types of attacks, such as cross-site scripting (XSS), SQL injection, or command injection, that exploit unsanitized input or data to execute malicious scripts, commands, or queries on a system or application. Performing proper sanitization on all fields can help address the most critical and common vulnerability found during the vulnerability assessment, which is XSS.

**NEW QUESTION 41**

A vulnerability management team is unable to patch all vulnerabilities found during their weekly scans. Using the third-party scoring system described below, the team patches the most urgent vulnerabilities:

Metric	Description
Cobain	Exploitable by malware
Grohl	Externally facing
Novo	Exploit PoC available
Smear	Older than 2 years
Channing	Vulnerability research activity

Additionally, the vulnerability management team feels that the metrics Smear and Channing are less important than the others, so these will be lower in priority. Which of the following vulnerabilities should be patched first, given the above third-party scoring system?

- A. InLoud:Cobain: Yes Grohl: No Novo: Yes Smear: Yes Channing: No
- B. TSpirit:Cobain: Yes Grohl: Yes Novo: Yes Smear: No Channing: No
- C. ENameless: Cobain: Yes Grohl: No Novo: Yes Smear: No Channing: No
- D. PBleach: Cobain: Yes Grohl: No Novo: No Smear: No Channing: Yes

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

The vulnerability that should be patched first, given the above third-party scoring system, is: TSpirit: Cobain: Yes Grohl: Yes Novo: Yes Smear: No Channing: No This vulnerability has three out of five metrics marked as Yes, which indicates a high severity level. The metrics Cobain, Grohl, and Novo are more important than Smear and Channing, according to the vulnerability management team. Therefore, this vulnerability poses a greater risk than the other vulnerabilities and should be patched first.

#### NEW QUESTION 45

A security analyst at a company called ACME Commercial notices there is outbound traffic to a host IP that resolves to <https://office365password.acme.co>. The site's standard VPN logon page is [www.acme.com/logon](http://www.acme.com/logon). Which of the following is most likely true?

- A. This is a normal password change URL.
- B. The security operations center is performing a routine password audit.
- C. A new VPN gateway has been deployed
- D. A social engineering attack is underway

**Answer: D**

#### Explanation:

for the outbound traffic to a host IP that resolves to <https://office365password.acme.co>, while the site's standard VPN logon page is [www.acme.com/logon](http://www.acme.com/logon). A social engineering attack is a technique that exploits human psychology and behavior to manipulate people into performing actions or divulging information that benefit the attackers. A common type of social engineering attack is phishing, which involves sending fraudulent emails or other messages that appear to come from a legitimate source, such as a company or a colleague, and lure the recipients into clicking on malicious links or attachments, or entering their credentials or other sensitive information on fake websites. In this case, the attackers may have registered a domain name that looks similar to the company's domain name, but with a typo ([office365](https://office365password.acme.co) instead of [office365](https://office365password.acme.co)), and set up a fake website that mimics the company's VPN logon page. The attackers may have also sent phishing emails to the company's employees, asking them to reset their passwords or log in to their VPN accounts using the malicious link. The security analyst should investigate the source and content of the phishing emails, and alert the employees not to click on any suspicious links or enter their credentials on any untrusted websites. Official References:

- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/cybersecurity-analyst>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/blog/the-new-comptia-cybersecurity-analyst-your-questions-answered>

#### NEW QUESTION 46

Given the following CVSS string- CVSS:3.0/AV:N/AC:L/PR:N/UI:N/3:U/C:K/I:K/A:H Which of the following attributes correctly describes this vulnerability?

- A. A user is required to exploit this vulnerability.
- B. The vulnerability is network based.
- C. The vulnerability does not affect confidentiality.
- D. The complexity to exploit the vulnerability is high.

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

The vulnerability is network based is the correct attribute that describes this vulnerability, as it can be inferred from the CVSS string. CVSS stands for Common Vulnerability Scoring System, which is a framework that assigns numerical scores and ratings to vulnerabilities based on their characteristics and severity. The CVSS string consists of several metrics that define different aspects of the vulnerability, such as the attack vector, the attack complexity, the privileges required, the user interaction, the scope, and the impact on confidentiality, integrity and availability. The first metric in the CVSS string is the attack vector (AV), which indicates how the vulnerability can be exploited. The value of AV in this case is N, which stands for network. This means that the vulnerability can be exploited remotely over a network connection, without physical or logical access to the target system. Therefore, the vulnerability is network based. Official References:

- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/cybersecurity-analyst>
- > <https://packitforwarding.com/index.php/2019/01/10/comptia-cysa-common-vulnerability-scoring-system>

#### NEW QUESTION 50

After conducting a cybersecurity risk assessment for a new software request, a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) decided the risk score would be too high. The CISO refused the software request. Which of the following risk management principles did the CISO select?

- A. Avoid
- B. Transfer
- C. Accept
- D. Mitigate

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

Avoid is a risk management principle that describes the decision or action of not engaging in an activity or accepting a risk that is deemed too high or unacceptable. Avoiding a risk can eliminate the possibility or impact of the risk, as well as the need for any further risk management actions. In this case, the CISO decided the risk score would be too high and refused the software request. This indicates that the CISO selected the avoid principle for risk management.

**NEW QUESTION 53**

An analyst notices there is an internal device sending HTTPS traffic with additional characters in the header to a known-malicious IP in another country. Which of the following describes what the analyst has noticed?

- A. Beaconing
- B. Cross-site scripting
- C. Buffer overflow
- D. PHP traversal

**Answer:** A

**NEW QUESTION 56**

Which of the following security operations tasks are ideal for automation?

- A. Suspicious file analysis: Look for suspicious-looking graphics in a folder. Create subfolders in the original folder based on category of graphics found. Move the suspicious graphics to the appropriate subfolder
- B. Firewall IoC block actions: Examine the firewall logs for IoCs from the most recently published zero-day exploit. Take mitigating actions in the firewall to block the behavior found in the logs. Follow up on any false positives that were caused by the block rules
- C. Security application user errors: Search the error logs for signs of users having trouble with the security application. Look up the user's phone number. Call the user to help with any questions about using the application
- D. Email header analysis: Check the email header for a phishing confidence metric greater than or equal to five. Add the domain of sender to the block list. Move the email to quarantine

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

Email header analysis is one of the security operations tasks that are ideal for automation. Email header analysis involves checking the email header for various indicators of phishing or spamming attempts, such as sender address spoofing, mismatched domains, suspicious subject lines, or phishing confidence metrics. Email header analysis can be automated using tools or scripts that can parse and analyze email headers and take appropriate actions based on predefined rules or thresholds.

**NEW QUESTION 61**

The Chief Information Security Officer is directing a new program to reduce attack surface risks and threats as part of a zero trust approach. The IT security team is required to come up with priorities for the program. Which of the following is the best priority based on common attack frameworks?

- A. Reduce the administrator and privileged access accounts
- B. Employ a network-based IDS
- C. Conduct thorough incident response
- D. Enable SSO to enterprise applications

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

The best priority based on common attack frameworks for a new program to reduce attack surface risks and threats as part of a zero trust approach is to reduce the administrator and privileged access accounts. Administrator and privileged access accounts are accounts that have elevated permissions or capabilities to perform sensitive or critical tasks on systems or networks, such as installing software, changing configurations, accessing data, or granting access. Reducing the administrator and privileged access accounts can help minimize the attack surface, as it can limit the number of potential targets or entry points for attackers, as well as reduce the impact or damage of an attack if an account is compromised.

**NEW QUESTION 62**

An employee is suspected of misusing a company-issued laptop. The employee has been suspended pending an investigation by human resources. Which of the following is the best step to preserve evidence?

- A. Disable the user's network account and access to web resources
- B. Make a copy of the files as a backup on the server.
- C. Place a legal hold on the device and the user's network share.
- D. Make a forensic image of the device and create a SRA-I hash.

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

Making a forensic image of the device and creating a SRA-I hash is the best step to preserve evidence, as it creates an exact copy of the device's data and verifies its integrity. A forensic image is a bit-by-bit copy of the device's storage media, which preserves all the information on the device, including deleted or hidden files. A SRA-I hash is a cryptographic value that is calculated from the forensic image, which can be used to prove that the image has not been altered or tampered with. The other options are not as effective as making a forensic image and creating a SRA-I hash, as they may not capture all the relevant data, or they may not provide sufficient verification of the evidence's authenticity. Official References:



<https://www.sans.org/blog/forensics-101-acquiring-an-image-with-ftk-imager/>  
> <https://swailescomputerforensics.com/digital-forensics-imaging-hash-value/>

#### NEW QUESTION 63

Which of the following is the first step that should be performed when establishing a disaster recovery plan?

- A. Agree on the goals and objectives of the plan
- B. Determine the site to be used during a disaster
- C. Demonstrate adherence to a standard disaster recovery process
- D. Identify applications to be run during a disaster

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

The first step that should be performed when establishing a disaster recovery plan is to agree on the goals and objectives of the plan. The goals and objectives of the plan should define what the plan aims to achieve, such as minimizing downtime, restoring critical functions, ensuring data integrity, or meeting compliance requirements. The goals and objectives of the plan should also be aligned with the business needs and priorities of the organization and be measurable and achievable.

#### NEW QUESTION 64

While performing a dynamic analysis of a malicious file, a security analyst notices the memory address changes every time the process runs. Which of the following controls is most likely preventing the analyst from finding the proper memory address of the piece of malicious code?

- A. Address space layout randomization
- B. Data execution prevention
- C. Stack canary
- D. Code obfuscation

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

The correct answer is A. Address space layout randomization.

Address space layout randomization (ASLR) is a security control that randomizes the memory address space of a process, making it harder for an attacker to exploit memory-based vulnerabilities, such as buffer overflows<sup>1</sup>. ASLR can also prevent a security analyst from finding the proper memory address of a piece of malicious code, as the memory address changes every time the process runs<sup>2</sup>.

The other options are not the best explanations for why the memory address changes every time the process runs. Data execution prevention (B) is a security control that prevents code from being executed in certain memory regions, such as the stack or the heap<sup>3</sup>. Stack canary © is a security technique that places a random value on the stack before a function's return address, to detect and prevent stack buffer overflows. Code obfuscation (D) is a technique that modifies the source code or binary of a program to make it more difficult to understand or reverse engineer. These techniques do not affect the memory address space of a process, but rather the execution or analysis of the code.

#### NEW QUESTION 68

During an extended holiday break, a company suffered a security incident. This information was properly relayed to appropriate personnel in a timely manner and the server was up to date and configured with appropriate auditing and logging. The Chief Information Security Officer wants to find out precisely what happened. Which of the following actions should the analyst take first?

- A. Clone the virtual server for forensic analysis
- B. Log in to the affected server and begin analysis of the logs
- C. Restore from the last known-good backup to confirm there was no loss of connectivity
- D. Shut down the affected server immediately

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

The first action that the analyst should take in this case is to clone the virtual server for forensic analysis. Cloning the virtual server involves creating an exact copy or image of the server's data and state at a specific point in time. Cloning the virtual server can help preserve and protect any evidence or information related to the security incident, as well as prevent any tampering, contamination, or destruction of evidence. Cloning the virtual server can also allow the analyst to safely analyze and investigate the incident without affecting the original server or its operations.

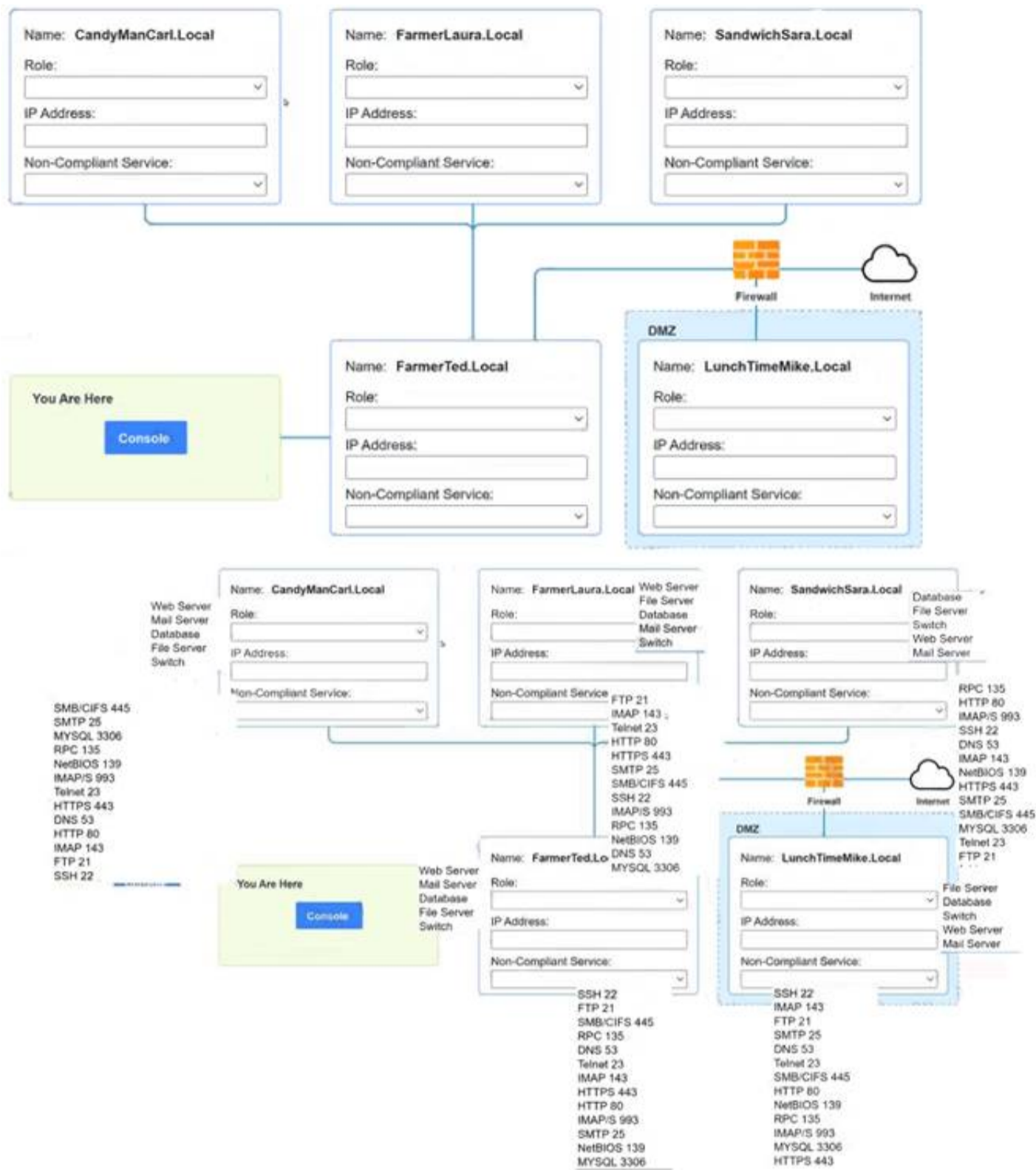
#### NEW QUESTION 72

You are a penetration tester who is reviewing the system hardening guidelines for a company. Hardening guidelines indicate the following.

- > There must be one primary server or service per device.
  - > Only default port should be used
  - > Non-secure protocols should be disabled.
  - > The corporate internet presence should be placed in a protected subnet
- Instructions :
- > Using the available tools, discover devices on the corporate network and the services running on these devices.

You must determine

- > ip address of each device
- > The primary server or service each device
- > The protocols that should be disabled based on the hardening guidelines



- A. Mastered
- B. Not Mastered

Answer: A

#### Explanation:

Answer below images



```
PC1
nmap <host>
ping <host>
help

[root@server1 ~]# nmap candymancarl.local

Starting Nmap 7.01 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2016-03-02 16:20 EST
Interesting ports on CandyManCarl.Local (192.168.1.20):
Not shown: 1676 closed ports
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
21/tcp    open      ftp
135/tcp   open      msrpc Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp   open      netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open      microsoft-ds
MAC Address: 09:00:27:D9:8E:D4 (Symmetrical Systems Industries Consortium)

Nmap finished: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.420 seconds

[root@server1 ~]# nmap farmerlaura.local

Starting Nmap 7.01 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2016-03-02 16:20 EST
Interesting ports on FarmerLaura.Local (192.168.1.30):
Not shown: 1678 closed ports
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
143/tcp   open      imap
993/tcp   open      imap/s
MAC Address: 09:00:27:D9:8E:D3 (Symmetrical Systems Industries Consortium)

Nmap finished: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.420 seconds

[root@server1 ~]# nmap sandwichsara.local

Starting Nmap 7.01 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2016-03-02 16:20 EST
Interesting ports on SandwichSara.Local (192.168.1.40):
```

A computer screen with white text Description automatically generated

```
PC1

Starting Nmap 7.01 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2016-03-02 16:20 EST
Interesting ports on SandwichSara.Local (192.168.1.40):
Not shown: 1677 closed ports
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
22/tcp    open      ssh
53/udp    open      dns
3306/tcp   open      mysql
MAC Address: 09:00:27:D9:8E:D1 (Symmetrical Systems Industries Consortium)

Nmap finished: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.420 seconds

[root@server1 ~]# nmap farmerted.local

Starting Nmap 7.01 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2016-03-02 16:20 EST
Interesting ports on FarmerTed.Local (192.168.1.10):
Not shown: 1678 closed ports
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
22/tcp    open      ssh
23/tcp    open      telnet
MAC Address: 09:00:27:D9:8E:D6 (Symmetrical Systems Industries Consortium)

Nmap finished: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.420 seconds

[root@server1 ~]# nmap lunchtimemike.local

Starting Nmap 7.01 ( http://www.insecure.org/nmap/ ) at 2016-03-02 16:20 EST
Interesting ports on LunchTimeMike.Local (10.10.10.25):
Not shown: 1677 closed ports
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
22/tcp    open      ssh
80/tcp    open      http
443/tcp    open      https
MAC Address: 09:00:27:D9:8E:D5 (Symmetrical Systems Industries Consortium)

Nmap finished: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.420 seconds

[root@server1 ~]#
```

## NEW QUESTION 77

A security analyst is trying to identify anomalies on the network routing. Which of the following functions can the analyst use on a shell script to achieve the objective most accurately?

- A. function x() { info=\$(geoiplookup \$1) && echo "\$1 | \$info" }
- B. function x() { info=\$(ping -c 1 \$1 | awk -F "/" 'END{print \$5}') && echo "\$1 | \$info" }
- C. function x() { info=\$(dig \$(dig -x \$1 | grep PTR | tail -n 1 | awk -F "." '{print \$1}')'.origin.asn.cymru.com TXT +short) && echo "\$1 | \$info" }
- D. function x() { info=\$(traceroute -m 40 \$1 | awk 'END{print \$1}') && echo "\$1 | \$info" }

Answer: C

## Explanation:

The function that can be used on a shell script to identify anomalies on the network routing most accurately is: function x() { info=\$(dig(dig -x \$1 | grep PTR | tail -n 1

```
| awk -F ".in-addr" '{print $1} ').origin.asn.cymru.com  
TXT +short) && echo "$1 | $info" }
```

This function takes an IP address as an argument and performs two DNS lookups using the dig command. The first lookup uses the -x option to perform a reverse DNS lookup and get the hostname associated with the IP address. The second lookup uses the origin.asn.cymru.com domain to get the autonomous system number (ASN) and other information related to the IP address. The function then prints the IP address and the ASN information, which can help identify any routing anomalies or inconsistencies

#### NEW QUESTION 81

The Chief Executive Officer of an organization recently heard that exploitation of new attacks in the industry was happening approximately 45 days after a patch was released. Which of the following would best protect this organization?

- A. A mean time to remediate of 30 days
- B. A mean time to detect of 45 days
- C. A mean time to respond of 15 days
- D. Third-party application testing

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

A mean time to remediate (MTTR) is a metric that measures how long it takes to fix a vulnerability after it is discovered. A MTTR of 30 days would best protect the organization from the new attacks that are exploited 45 days after a patch is released, as it would ensure that the vulnerabilities are fixed before they are exploited

#### NEW QUESTION 85

An analyst finds that an IP address outside of the company network that is being used to run network and vulnerability scans across external-facing assets. Which of the following steps of an attack framework is the analyst witnessing?

- A. Exploitation
- B. Reconnaissance
- C. Command and control
- D. Actions on objectives

**Answer:** B

#### Explanation:

Reconnaissance is the first stage in the Cyber Kill Chain and involves researching potential targets before carrying out any penetration testing. The reconnaissance stage may include identifying potential targets, finding their vulnerabilities, discovering which third parties are connected to them (and what data they can access), and exploring existing entry points as well as finding new ones. Reconnaissance can take place both online and offline. In this case, an analyst finds that an IP address outside of the company network is being used to run network and vulnerability scans across external-facing assets. This indicates that the analyst is witnessing reconnaissance activity by an attacker. Official References:  
<https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/capabilities/cyber/cyber-kill-chain.html>

#### NEW QUESTION 86

A user downloads software that contains malware onto a computer that eventually infects numerous other systems. Which of the following has the user become?

- A. Hacklivist
- B. Advanced persistent threat
- C. Insider threat
- D. Script kiddie

**Answer:** C

#### Explanation:

The user has become an insider threat by downloading software that contains malware onto a computer that eventually infects numerous other systems. An insider threat is a person or entity that has legitimate access to an organization's systems, networks, or resources and uses that access to cause harm or damage to the organization. An insider threat can be intentional or unintentional, malicious or negligent, and can result from various actions or behaviors, such as downloading unauthorized software, violating security policies, stealing data, sabotaging systems, or collaborating with external attackers.

#### NEW QUESTION 91

The Chief Information Security Officer wants to eliminate and reduce shadow IT in the enterprise. Several high-risk cloud applications are used that increase the risk to the organization. Which of the following solutions will assist in reducing the risk?

- A. Deploy a CASB and enable policy enforcement
- B. Configure MFA with strict access
- C. Deploy an API gateway
- D. Enable SSO to the cloud applications

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

A cloud access security broker (CASB) is a tool that can help reduce the risk of shadow IT in the enterprise by providing visibility and control over cloud applications and services. A CASB can enable policy enforcement by blocking unauthorized or risky cloud applications, enforcing data loss prevention rules, encrypting sensitive data, and detecting anomalous user behavior.

#### NEW QUESTION 92

An analyst recommends that an EDR agent collect the source IP address, make a connection to the firewall, and create a policy to block the malicious source IP address across the entire network automatically. Which of the following is the best option to help the analyst implement this recommendation?

- A. SOAR

- B. SIEM
- C. SLA
- D. IoC

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

SOAR (Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response) is the best option to help the analyst implement the recommendation, as it reflects the software solution that enables security teams to integrate and coordinate separate tools into streamlined threat response workflows and automate repetitive tasks. SOAR is a term coined by Gartner in 2015 to describe a technology that combines the functions of security incident response platforms, security orchestration and automation platforms, and threat intelligence platforms in one offering. SOAR solutions help security teams to collect inputs from various sources, such as EDR agents, firewalls, or SIEM systems, and perform analysis and triage using a combination of human and machine power. SOAR solutions also allow security teams to define and execute incident response procedures in a digital workflow format, using automation to perform low-level tasks or actions, such as blocking an IP address or quarantining a device. SOAR solutions can help security teams to improve efficiency, consistency, and scalability of their operations, as well as reduce mean time to detect (MTTD) and mean time to respond (MTTR) to threats. The other options are not as suitable as SOAR, as they do not match the description or purpose of the recommendation. SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) is a software solution that collects and analyzes data from various sources, such as logs, events, or alerts, and provides security monitoring, threat detection, and incident response capabilities. SIEM solutions can help security teams to gain visibility, correlation, and context of their security data, but they do not provide automation or orchestration features like SOAR solutions. SLA (Service Level Agreement) is a document that defines the expectations and responsibilities between a service provider and a customer, such as the quality, availability, or performance of the service. SLAs can help to manage customer expectations, formalize communication, and improve productivity and relationships, but they do not help to implement technical recommendations like SOAR solutions. IoC (Indicator of Compromise) is a piece of data or evidence that suggests a system or network has been compromised by a threat actor, such as an IP address, a file hash, or a registry key. IoCs can help to identify and analyze malicious activities or incidents, but they do not help to implement response actions like SOAR solutions.

**NEW QUESTION 94**

Which of the following will most likely ensure that mission-critical services are available in the event of an incident?

- A. Business continuity plan
- B. Vulnerability management plan
- C. Disaster recovery plan
- D. Asset management plan

**Answer:** C

**NEW QUESTION 99**

Which of the following is the best way to begin preparation for a report titled "What We Learned" regarding a recent incident involving a cybersecurity breach?

- A. Determine the sophistication of the audience that the report is meant for
- B. Include references and sources of information on the first page
- C. Include a table of contents outlining the entire report
- D. Decide on the color scheme that will effectively communicate the metrics

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

The best way to begin preparation for a report titled "What We Learned" regarding a recent incident involving a cybersecurity breach is to determine the sophistication of the audience that the report is meant for. The sophistication of the audience refers to their level of technical knowledge, understanding, or interest in cybersecurity topics. Determining the sophistication of the audience can help tailor the report content, language, tone, and format to suit their needs and expectations. For example, a report for executive management may be more concise, high-level, and business-oriented than a report for technical staff or peers.

**NEW QUESTION 100**

Which of the following items should be included in a vulnerability scan report? (Choose two.)

- A. Lessons learned
- B. Service-level agreement
- C. Playbook
- D. Affected hosts
- E. Risk score
- F. Education plan

**Answer:** DE

**Explanation:**

A vulnerability scan report should include information about the affected hosts, such as their IP addresses, hostnames, operating systems, and services. It should also include a risk score for each vulnerability, which indicates the severity and potential impact of the vulnerability on the host and the organization. Official References: <https://www.first.org/cvss/>

**NEW QUESTION 103**

The security operations team is required to consolidate several threat intelligence feeds due to redundant tools and portals. Which of the following will best achieve the goal and maximize results?

- A. Single pane of glass
- B. Single sign-on
- C. Data enrichment
- D. Deduplication

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

Deduplication is a process that involves removing any duplicate or redundant data or information from a data set or source. Deduplication can help consolidate several threat intelligence feeds by eliminating any overlapping or repeated indicators of compromise (IoCs), alerts, reports, or recommendations. Deduplication can also help reduce the volume and complexity of threat intelligence data, as well as improve its quality, accuracy, or relevance.

#### NEW QUESTION 107

When starting an investigation, which of the following must be done first?

- A. Notify law enforcement
- B. Secure the scene
- C. Seize all related evidence
- D. Interview the witnesses

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

The first thing that must be done when starting an investigation is to secure the scene. Securing the scene involves isolating and protecting the area where the incident occurred, as well as any potential evidence or witnesses. Securing the scene can help prevent any tampering, contamination, or destruction of evidence, as well as any interference or obstruction of the investigation.

#### NEW QUESTION 112

An incident response team receives an alert to start an investigation of an internet outage. The outage is preventing all users in multiple locations from accessing external SaaS resources. The team determines the organization was impacted by a DDoS attack. Which of the following logs should the team review first?

- A. CDN
- B. Vulnerability scanner
- C. DNS
- D. Web server

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

A distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack is a type of cyberattack that aims to overwhelm a target's network or server with a large volume of traffic from multiple sources. A common technique for launching a DDoS attack is to compromise DNS servers, which are responsible for resolving domain names into IP addresses. By flooding DNS servers with malicious requests, attackers can disrupt the normal functioning of the internet and prevent users from accessing external SaaS resources. Official References: <https://www.eccouncil.org/cybersecurity-exchange/threat-intelligence/cyber-kill-chain-seven-steps-cyberattack/>

#### NEW QUESTION 115

An attacker has just gained access to the syslog server on a LAN. Reviewing the syslog entries has allowed the attacker to prioritize possible next targets. Which of the following is this an example of?

- A. Passive network foot printing
- B. OS fingerprinting
- C. Service port identification
- D. Application versioning

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

Passive network foot printing is the best description of the example, as it reflects the technique of collecting information about a network or system by monitoring or sniffing network traffic without sending any packets or interacting with the target. Foot printing is a term that refers to the process of gathering information about a target network or system, such as its IP addresses, open ports, operating systems, services, or vulnerabilities. Foot printing can be done for legitimate purposes, such as penetration testing or auditing, or for malicious purposes, such as reconnaissance or intelligence gathering. Foot printing can be classified into two types: active and passive. Active foot printing involves sending packets or requests to the target and analyzing the responses, such as using tools like ping, traceroute, or Nmap. Active foot printing can provide more accurate and detailed information, but it can also be detected by firewalls or intrusion detection systems (IDS). Passive foot printing involves observing or capturing network traffic without sending any packets or requests to the target, such as using tools like tcpdump, Wireshark, or Shodan. Passive foot printing can provide less information, but it can also avoid detection by firewalls or IDS. The example in the question shows that the attacker has gained access to the syslog server on a LAN and reviewed the syslog entries to prioritize possible next targets. A syslog server is a server that collects and stores log messages from various devices or applications on a network. A syslog entry is a record of an event or activity that occurred on a device or application, such as an error, a warning, or an alert. By reviewing the syslog entries, the attacker can obtain information about the network or system, such as its configuration, status, performance, or security issues. This is an example of passive network foot printing, as the attacker is not sending any packets or requests to the target, but rather observing or capturing network traffic from the syslog server. The other options are not correct, as they describe different techniques or concepts. OS fingerprinting is a technique of identifying the operating system of a target by analyzing its responses to certain packets or requests, such as using tools like Nmap or Xprobe2. OS fingerprinting can be done actively or passively, but it is not what the attacker is doing in the example. Service port identification is a technique of identifying the services running on a target by scanning its open ports and analyzing its responses to certain packets or requests, such as using tools like Nmap or Netcat. Service port identification can be done actively or passively, but it is not what the attacker is doing in the example. Application versioning is a concept that refers to the process of assigning unique identifiers to different versions of an application, such as using numbers, letters, dates, or names. Application versioning can help to track changes, updates, bugs, or features of an application, but it is not related to what the attacker is doing in the example.

#### NEW QUESTION 117

A company is in the process of implementing a vulnerability management program. Which of the following scanning methods should be implemented to minimize the risk of OT/ICS devices malfunctioning due to the vulnerability identification process?

- A. Non-credentialed scanning
- B. Passive scanning
- C. Agent-based scanning
- D. Credentialed scanning

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Passive scanning is a method of vulnerability identification that does not send any packets or probes to the target devices, but rather observes and analyzes the network traffic passively. Passive scanning can minimize the risk of OT/ICS devices malfunctioning due to the vulnerability identification process, as it does not interfere with the normal operation of the devices or cause any network disruption. Passive scanning can also detect vulnerabilities that active scanning may miss, such as misconfigured devices, rogue devices or unauthorized traffic. Official References:

- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/blog/the-new-comptia-cybersecurity-analyst-your-questions-answered>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/certifications/cybersecurity-analyst>

**NEW QUESTION 120**

Which of the following describes how a CSIRT lead determines who should be communicated with and when during a security incident?

- A. The lead should review what is documented in the incident response policy or plan
- B. Management level members of the CSIRT should make that decision
- C. The lead has the authority to decide who to communicate with at any time
- D. Subject matter experts on the team should communicate with others within the specified area of expertise

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

The incident response policy or plan is a document that defines the roles and responsibilities, procedures and processes, communication and escalation protocols, and reporting and documentation requirements for handling security incidents. The lead should review what is documented in the incident response policy or plan to determine who should be communicated with and when during a security incident, as well as what information should be shared and how. The incident response policy or plan should also be aligned with the organizational policies and legal obligations regarding incident notification and disclosure.

**NEW QUESTION 123**

A systems analyst is limiting user access to system configuration keys and values in a Windows environment. Which of the following describes where the analyst can find these configuration items?

- A. confi
- B. ini
- C. ntds.dit
- D. Master boot record
- E. Registry

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is D. Registry.

The registry is a database that stores system configuration keys and values in a Windows environment. The registry contains information about the hardware, software, users, and preferences of the system. The registry can be accessed and modified using the Registry Editor tool (regedit.exe) or the command-line tool (reg.exe). The registry is organized into five main sections, called hives, which are further divided into subkeys and values.

The other options are not the best descriptions of where the analyst can find system configuration keys and values in a Windows environment. config.ini (A) is a file that stores configuration settings for some applications, but it is not a database that stores system configuration keys and values. ntds.dit (B) is a file that stores the Active Directory data for a domain controller, but it is not a database that stores system configuration keys and values. Master boot record (C) is a section of the hard disk that contains information about the partitions and the boot loader, but it is not a database that stores system configuration keys and values.

**NEW QUESTION 127**

Which of the following threat-modeling procedures is in the OWASP Web Security Testing Guide?

- A. Review Of security requirements
- B. Compliance checks
- C. Decomposing the application
- D. Security by design

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

The OWASP Web Security Testing Guide (WSTG) includes a section on threat modeling, which is a structured approach to identify, quantify, and address the security risks associated with an application. The first step in the threat modeling process is decomposing the application, which involves creating use cases, identifying entry points, assets, trust levels, and data flow diagrams for the application. This helps to understand the application and how it interacts with external entities, as well as to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities<sup>1</sup>. The other options are not part of the OWASP WSTG threat modeling process.

**NEW QUESTION 132**

A security analyst is trying to detect connections to a suspicious IP address by collecting the packet captures from the gateway. Which of the following commands should the security analyst consider running?

- A. `grep [IP address] packets.pcap`
- B. `cat packets.pcap | grep [IP Address]`
- C. `tcpdump -n -r packets.pcap host [IP address]`
- D. `strings packets.pcap | grep [IP Address]`

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

tcpdump is a command-line tool that can capture and analyze network packets from a given interface or file. The -n option prevents tcpdump from resolving hostnames, which can speed up the analysis. The -r option reads packets from a file, in this case packets.pcap. The host [IP address] filter specifies that tcpdump should only display packets that have the given IP address as either the source or the destination. This command can help the security analyst detect connections to a suspicious IP address by collecting the packet captures from the gateway. Official References:

- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.techtarget.com/searchsecurity/quiz/Sample-CompTIA-CySA-test-questions-with-answers>
- > [https://www.reddit.com/r/CompTIA/comments/tmxx84/passed\\_cysa\\_heres\\_my\\_experience\\_and\\_how\\_i\\_s](https://www.reddit.com/r/CompTIA/comments/tmxx84/passed_cysa_heres_my_experience_and_how_i_s)

#### NEW QUESTION 135

Which of the following best describes the goal of a tabletop exercise?

- A. To test possible incident scenarios and how to react properly
- B. To perform attack exercises to check response effectiveness
- C. To understand existing threat actors and how to replicate their techniques
- D. To check the effectiveness of the business continuity plan

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

A tabletop exercise is a type of simulation exercise that involves testing possible incident scenarios and how to react properly, without actually performing any actions or using any resources. A tabletop exercise is usually conducted by a facilitator who presents a realistic scenario to a group of participants, such as a cyberattack, a natural disaster, or a data breach. The participants then discuss and evaluate their roles, responsibilities, plans, procedures, and policies for responding to the incident, as well as the potential impacts and outcomes. A tabletop exercise can help identify strengths and weaknesses in the incident response plan, improve communication and coordination among the stakeholders, raise awareness and preparedness for potential incidents, and provide feedback and recommendations for improvement.

#### NEW QUESTION 137

A systems administrator is reviewing after-hours traffic flows from data-center servers and sees regular outgoing HTTPS connections from one of the servers to a public IP address. The server should not be making outgoing connections after hours. Looking closer, the administrator sees this traffic pattern around the clock during work hours as well. Which of the following is the most likely explanation?

- A. C2 beaconing activity
- B. Data exfiltration
- C. Anomalous activity on unexpected ports
- D. Network host IP address scanning
- E. A rogue network device

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

The most likely explanation for this traffic pattern is C2 beaconing activity. C2 stands for command and control, which is a phase of the Cyber Kill Chain that involves the adversary attempting to establish communication with a successfully exploited target. C2 beaconing activity is a type of network traffic that indicates a compromised system is sending periodic messages or signals to an attacker's system using various protocols, such as HTTP(S), DNS, ICMP, or UDP. C2 beaconing activity can enable the attacker to remotely control or manipulate the target system or network using various methods, such as malware callbacks, backdoors, botnets, or covert channels.

#### NEW QUESTION 140

A security analyst is validating a particular finding that was reported in a web application vulnerability scan to make sure it is not a false positive. The security analyst uses the snippet below:

```
<!--?xml version="1.0" ?-->
<!DOCTYPE replace [<!ENTITY ent SYSTEM "file:///etc/shadow">]>
<userInfo>
<firstName>John</firstName>
<lastName>Sent;</lastName>
</userInfo>
```

Which of the following vulnerability types is the security analyst validating?

- A. Directory traversal
- B. XSS
- C. XXE
- D. SSRF

**Answer:** B

#### Explanation:

XSS (cross-site scripting) is the vulnerability type that the security analyst is validating, as the snippet shows an attempt to inject a script tag into the web application. XSS is a web security vulnerability that allows an attacker to execute arbitrary JavaScript code in the browser of another user who visits the vulnerable website. XSS can be used to perform various malicious actions, such as stealing cookies, session hijacking, phishing, or defacing websites. The other vulnerability types are not relevant to the snippet, as they involve different kinds of attacks. Directory traversal is an attack that allows an attacker to access files and directories that are outside of the web root folder. XXE (XML external entity) injection is an attack that allows an attacker to interfere with an application's processing of XML data, and potentially access files or systems. SSRF (server-side request forgery) is an attack that allows an attacker to induce the server-side application to make requests to an unintended location. Official References:

- > <https://portswigger.net/web-security/xxe>
- > <https://portswigger.net/web-security/ssrf>
- > [https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Server\\_Side\\_Request\\_Forgery\\_Prevention\\_Cheat\\_Sheet.ht](https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Server_Side_Request_Forgery_Prevention_Cheat_Sheet.ht)

#### NEW QUESTION 142

After a security assessment was done by a third-party consulting firm, the cybersecurity program recommended integrating DLP and CASB to reduce analyst alert fatigue. Which of the following is the best possible outcome that this effort hopes to achieve?

- A. SIEM ingestion logs are reduced by 20%.

- B. Phishing alerts drop by 20%.
- C. False positive rates drop to 20%.
- D. The MTTR decreases by 20%.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The MTTR (Mean Time to Resolution) decreases by 20% is the best possible outcome that this effort hopes to achieve, as it reflects the improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the incident response process by reducing analyst alert fatigue. Analyst alert fatigue is a term that refers to the phenomenon of security analysts becoming overwhelmed, desensitized, or exhausted by the large number of alerts they receive from various security tools or systems, such as DLP (Data Loss Prevention) or CASB (Cloud Access Security Broker). DLP is a security solution that helps to prevent unauthorized access, use, or transfer of sensitive data, such as personal information, intellectual property, or financial records. CASB is a security solution that helps to monitor and control the use of cloud-based applications and services, such as SaaS (Software as a Service), PaaS (Platform as a Service), or IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service). Both DLP and CASB can generate alerts when they detect potential data breaches, policy violations, or malicious activities, but they can also produce false positives, irrelevant information, or duplicate notifications that can overwhelm or distract the security analysts. Analyst alert fatigue can have negative consequences for the security posture and performance of an organization, such as missing or ignoring critical alerts, delaying or skipping investigations or remediations, making errors or mistakes, or losing motivation or morale. Therefore, it is important to reduce analyst alert fatigue and optimize the alert management process by using various strategies, such as tuning the alert thresholds and rules, prioritizing and triaging the alerts based on severity and context, enriching and correlating the alerts with additional data sources, automating or orchestrating repetitive or low-level tasks or actions, or integrating and consolidating different security tools or systems into a unified platform. By reducing analyst alert fatigue and optimizing the alert management process, the effort hopes to achieve a decrease in the MTTR, which is a metric that measures the average time it takes to resolve an incident from the moment it is reported to the moment it is closed. A lower MTTR indicates a faster and more effective incident response process, which can help to minimize the impact and damage of security incidents, improve customer satisfaction and trust, and enhance security operations and outcomes. The other options are not as relevant or realistic as the MTTR decreases by 20%, as they do not reflect the best possible outcome that this effort hopes to achieve. SIEM ingestion logs are reduced by 20% is not a relevant outcome, as it does not indicate any improvement in the incident response process or any reduction in analyst alert fatigue. SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) is a security solution that collects and analyzes data from various sources, such as logs, events, or alerts, and provides security monitoring, threat detection, and incident response capabilities. SIEM ingestion logs are records of the data that is ingested by the SIEM system from different sources. Reducing SIEM ingestion logs may imply less data volume or less data sources for the SIEM system, which may not necessarily improve its performance or accuracy. Phishing alerts drop by 20% is not a realistic outcome, as it does not depend on the integration of DLP and CASB or any reduction in analyst alert fatigue. Phishing alerts are notifications that indicate potential phishing attempts or attacks, such as fraudulent emails, websites, or messages that try to trick users into revealing sensitive information or installing malware. Phishing alerts can be generated by various security tools or systems, such as email security solutions, web security solutions, endpoint security solutions, or user awareness training programs. Reducing phishing alerts may imply less phishing attempts or attacks on the organization, which may not necessarily be influenced by the integration of DLP and CASB or any reduction in analyst alert fatigue. False positive rates drop to 20% is not a realistic outcome

**NEW QUESTION 145**

Which of the following is a reason why proper handling and reporting of existing evidence are important for the investigation and reporting phases of an incident response?

- A. To ensure the report is legally acceptable in case it needs to be presented in court
- B. To present a lessons-learned analysis for the incident response team
- C. To ensure the evidence can be used in a postmortem analysis
- D. To prevent the possible loss of a data source for further root cause analysis

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is A. To ensure the report is legally acceptable in case it needs to be presented in court. Proper handling and reporting of existing evidence are important for the investigation and reporting phases of an incident response because they ensure the integrity, authenticity, and admissibility of the evidence in case it needs to be presented in court. Evidence that is mishandled, tampered with, or poorly documented may not be accepted by the court or may be challenged by the opposing party. Therefore, incident responders should follow the best practices and standards for evidence collection, preservation, analysis, and reporting<sup>1</sup>.

The other options are not reasons why proper handling and reporting of existing evidence are important for the investigation and reporting phases of an incident response. They are rather outcomes or benefits of conducting a thorough and effective incident response process. A lessons-learned analysis (B) is a way to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the incident response team and improve their performance for future incidents. A postmortem analysis © is a way to determine the root cause, impact, and timeline of the incident and provide recommendations for remediation and prevention. A root cause analysis (D) is a way to identify the underlying factors that led to the incident and address them accordingly.

**NEW QUESTION 148**

An incident response team found IoCs in a critical server. The team needs to isolate and collect technical evidence for further investigation. Which of the following pieces of data should be collected first in order to preserve sensitive information before isolating the server?

- A. Hard disk
- B. Primary boot partition
- C. Malicious tiles
- D. Routing table
- E. Static IP address

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The hard disk is the piece of data that should be collected first in order to preserve sensitive information before isolating the server. The hard disk contains all the files and data stored on the server, which may include evidence of malicious activity, such as malware installation, data exfiltration, or configuration changes. The hard disk should be collected using proper forensic techniques, such as creating an image or a copy of the disk and maintaining its integrity using hashing algorithms.

**NEW QUESTION 151**

Which of the following is often used to keep the number of alerts to a manageable level when establishing a process to track and analyze violations?

- A. Log retention
- B. Log rotation

- C. Maximum log size
- D. Threshold value

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

A threshold value is a parameter that defines the minimum or maximum level of a metric or event that triggers an alert. For example, a threshold value can be set to alert when the number of failed login attempts exceeds 10 in an hour, or when the CPU usage drops below 20% for more than 15 minutes. By setting a threshold value, the process can filter out irrelevant or insignificant alerts and focus on the ones that indicate a potential problem or anomaly. A threshold value can help to reduce the noise and false positives in the alert system, and improve the efficiency and accuracy of the analysis<sup>12</sup>

**NEW QUESTION 156**

A company receives a penetration test report summary from a third party. The report summary indicates a proxy has some patches that need to be applied. The proxy is sitting in a rack and is not being used, as the company has replaced it with a new one. The CVE score of the vulnerability on the proxy is a 9.8. Which of the following best practices should the company follow with this proxy?

- A. Leave the proxy as is.
- B. Decommission the proxy.
- C. Migrate the proxy to the cloud.
- D. Patch the proxy

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

The best practice that the company should follow with this proxy is to decommission the proxy. Decommissioning the proxy involves removing or disposing of the proxy from the rack and the network, as well as deleting or wiping any data or configuration on the proxy. Decommissioning the proxy can help eliminate the vulnerability on the proxy, as well as reduce the attack surface, complexity, or cost of maintaining the network. Decommissioning the proxy can also free up space or resources for other devices or systems that are in use or needed by the company.

**NEW QUESTION 159**

A security analyst is reviewing the following alert that was triggered by FIM on a critical system:

Host	Path	Key added
WEBSERVER01	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Personalization	Allow (1)
WEBSERVER01	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run	RunMe (%appdata%\abc.exe)
WEBSERVER01	HKCU\Printers\ConvertUserDevModesCount	Microsoft XPS Writer (2)
WEBSERVER01	HKCU\Network\Z	Remote Path (192.168.1.10 CorpZ_Drive)
WEBSERVER01	HKLM\Software\Microsoft\PCHealthCheck	Installed (1)

Which of the following best describes the suspicious activity that is occurring?

- A. A fake antivirus program was installed by the user.
- B. A network drive was added to allow exfiltration of data
- C. A new program has been set to execute on system start
- D. The host firewall on 192.168.1.10 was disabled.

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

A new program has been set to execute on system start is the most likely cause of the suspicious activity that is occurring, as it indicates that the malware has modified the registry keys of the system to ensure its persistence. File Integrity Monitoring (FIM) is a tool that monitors changes to files and registry keys on a system and alerts the security analyst of any unauthorized or malicious modifications. The alert triggered by FIM shows that the malware has created a new registry key under the Run subkey, which is used to launch programs automatically when the system starts. The new registry key points to a file named "update.exe" in the Temp folder, which is likely a malicious executable disguised as a legitimate update file. Official References:

- > <https://www.comptia.org/blog/the-new-comptia-cybersecurity-analyst-your-questions-answered>
- > <https://partners.comptia.org/docs/default-source/resources/comptia-cysa-cs0-002-exam-objectives>
- > <https://www.comptia.org/training/books/cysa-cs0-002-study-guide>

**NEW QUESTION 160**

A SOC analyst identifies the following content while examining the output of a debugger command over a client-server application:  
 getconnection (database01, "alpha " , "AXTV. 127GdCx94GTd") ;  
 Which of the following is the most likely vulnerability in this system?

- A. Lack of input validation
- B. SQL injection
- C. Hard-coded credential
- D. Buffer overflow attacks

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

The most likely vulnerability in this system is hard-coded credential. Hard-coded credential is a practice of embedding or storing a username, password, or other sensitive information in the source code or configuration file of a system or application. Hard-coded credential can pose a serious security risk, as it can expose the system or application to unauthorized access, data theft, or compromise if the credential is discovered or leaked by an attacker. Hard-coded credential can also make it difficult to change or update the credential if needed, as it may require modifying the code or file and redeploying the system or application.

#### NEW QUESTION 162

An older CVE with a vulnerability score of 7.1 was elevated to a score of 9.8 due to a widely available exploit being used to deliver ransomware. Which of the following factors would an analyst most likely communicate as the reason for this escalation?

- A. Scope
- B. Weaponization
- C. CVSS
- D. Asset value

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

Weaponization is a factor that describes how an adversary develops or acquires an exploit or payload that can take advantage of a vulnerability and deliver a malicious effect. Weaponization can increase the severity or impact of a vulnerability, as it makes it easier or more likely for an attacker to exploit it successfully and cause damage or harm. Weaponization can also indicate the level of sophistication or motivation of an attacker, as well as the availability or popularity of an exploit or payload in the cyber threat landscape. In this case, an older CVE with a vulnerability score of 7.1 was elevated to a score of 9.8 due to a widely available exploit being used to deliver ransomware. This indicates that weaponization was the reason for this escalation.

#### NEW QUESTION 167

A technician identifies a vulnerability on a server and applies a software patch. Which of the following should be the next step in the remediation process?

- A. Testing
- B. Implementation
- C. Validation
- D. Rollback

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

The next step in the remediation process after applying a software patch is validation. Validation is a process that involves verifying that the patch has been successfully applied, that it has fixed the vulnerability, and that it has not caused any adverse effects on the system or application functionality or performance. Validation can be done using various methods, such as scanning, testing, monitoring, or auditing.

#### NEW QUESTION 171

An analyst has been asked to validate the potential risk of a new ransomware campaign that the Chief Financial Officer read about in the newspaper. The company is a manufacturer of a very small spring used in the newest fighter jet and is a critical piece of the supply chain for this aircraft. Which of the following would be the best threat intelligence source to learn about this new campaign?

- A. Information sharing organization
- B. Blogs/forums
- C. Cybersecurity incident response team
- D. Deep/dark web

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

An information sharing organization is a group or network of organizations that share threat intelligence, best practices, or lessons learned related to cybersecurity issues or incidents. An information sharing organization can help security analysts learn about new ransomware campaigns or other emerging threats, as well as get recommendations or guidance on how to prevent, detect, or respond to them. An information sharing organization can also help security analysts collaborate or coordinate with other organizations in the same industry or region that may face similar threats or challenges.

#### NEW QUESTION 175

An analyst is remediating items associated with a recent incident. The analyst has isolated the vulnerability and is actively removing it from the system. Which of the following steps of the process does this describe?

- A. Eradication
- B. Recovery
- C. Containment
- D. Preparation

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

Eradication is a step in the incident response process that involves removing any traces or remnants of the incident from the affected systems or networks, such as malware, backdoors, compromised accounts, or malicious files. Eradication also involves restoring the systems or networks to their normal or secure state, as well as verifying that the incident is completely eliminated and cannot recur. In this case, the analyst is remediating items associated with a recent incident by isolating the vulnerability and actively removing it from the system. This describes the eradication step of the incident response process.

#### NEW QUESTION 177

A SOC manager receives a phone call from an upset customer. The customer received a vulnerability report two hours ago: but the report did not have a follow-up remediation response from an analyst. Which of the following documents should the SOC manager review to ensure the team is meeting the appropriate contractual obligations for the customer?

- A. SLA
- B. MOU
- C. NDA
- D. Limitation of liability

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

SLA stands for service level agreement, which is a contract or document that defines the expectations and obligations between a service provider and a customer regarding the quality, availability, performance, or scope of a service. An SLA may also specify the metrics, penalties, or remedies for measuring or ensuring compliance with the agreed service levels. An SLA can help the SOC manager review if the team is meeting the appropriate contractual obligations for the customer, such as response time, resolution time, reporting frequency, or communication channels.

**NEW QUESTION 179**

A cloud team received an alert that unauthorized resources were being auto-provisioned. After investigating, the team suspects that crypto mining is occurring. Which of the following indicators would most likely lead the team to this conclusion?

- A. High GPU utilization
- B. Bandwidth consumption
- C. Unauthorized changes
- D. Unusual traffic spikes

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

High GPU utilization is the most likely indicator that cryptomining is occurring, as it reflects the intensive computational work that is required to solve the complex mathematical problems involved in mining cryptocurrencies. Cryptomining is the process of generating new units of a cryptocurrency by using computing power to verify transactions and create new blocks on the blockchain. Cryptomining can be done legitimately by individuals or groups who participate in a mining pool and share the rewards, or illegitimately by threat actors who use malware or scripts to hijack the computing resources of unsuspecting victims and use them for their own benefit. This practice is called cryptojacking, and it can cause performance degradation, increased power consumption, and security risks for the affected systems. Cryptomining typically relies on the GPU (graphics processing unit) rather than the CPU (central processing unit), as the GPU is better suited for parallel processing and can handle more calculations per second. Therefore, a high GPU utilization rate can be a sign that cryptomining is taking place on a system, especially if there is no other explanation for the increased workload. The other options are not as indicative of cryptomining as high GPU utilization, as they can have other causes or explanations. Bandwidth consumption can be affected by many factors, such as network traffic, streaming services, downloads, or updates. It is not directly related to cryptomining, which does not require a lot of bandwidth to communicate with the mining pool or the blockchain network. Unauthorized changes can be a result of many types of malware or cyberattacks, such as ransomware, spyware, or trojans. They are not specific to cryptomining, which does not necessarily alter any files or settings on the system, but rather uses its processing power. Unusual traffic spikes can also be caused by various factors, such as legitimate surges in demand, distributed denial-of-service attacks, or botnets. They are not indicative of cryptomining, which does not generate a lot of traffic or requests to or from the system.

**NEW QUESTION 181**

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