

## Exam Questions CS0-003

CompTIA CySA+ Certification Beta Exam

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### NEW QUESTION 1

A security analyst recently joined the team and is trying to determine which scripting language is being used in a production script to determine if it is malicious. Given the following script:

```
foreach ($user in Get-Content .\this.txt)
{
    Get-ADUser $user -Properties primaryGroupID |select-object primaryGroupID
    Add-ADGroupMember "Domain Users" -Members $user
    Set-ADUser $user -Replace @{primaryGroupID=513}
}
```

Which of the following scripting languages was used in the script?

- A. PowerShell
- B. Ruby
- C. Python
- D. Shell script

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

The script uses PowerShell syntax, such as cmdlets, parameters, variables, and comments. PowerShell is a scripting language that can be used to automate tasks and manage systems.

### NEW QUESTION 2

An end-of-life date was announced for a widely used OS. A business-critical function is performed by some machinery that is controlled by a PC, which is utilizing the OS that is approaching the end-of- life date. Which of the following best describes a security analyst's concern?

- A. Any discovered vulnerabilities will not be remediated.
- B. An outage of machinery would cost the organization money.
- C. Support will not be available for the critical machinery
- D. There are no compensating controls in place for the OS.

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

A security analyst's concern is that any discovered vulnerabilities in the OS that is approaching the end-of-life date will not be remediated by the vendor, leaving the system exposed to potential attacks. The other options are not directly related to the security analyst's role or responsibility. Verified References: CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst (CySA+) Certification Exam Objectives, page 9, section 2.21

### NEW QUESTION 3

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 4

A company's user accounts have been compromised. Users are also reporting that the company's internal portal is sometimes only accessible through HTTP, other times; it is accessible through HTTPS. Which of the following most likely describes the observed activity?

- A. There is an issue with the SSL certificate causing port 443 to become unavailable for HTTPS access
- B. An on-path attack is being performed by someone with internal access that forces users into port 80
- C. The web server cannot handle an increasing amount of HTTPS requests so it forwards users to port 80
- D. An error was caused by BGP due to new rules applied over the company's internal routers

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation:

An on-path attack is a type of man-in-the-middle attack where an attacker intercepts and modifies network traffic between two parties. In this case, someone with internal access may be performing an on-path attack by forcing users into port 80, which is used for HTTP communication, instead of port 443, which is used for HTTPS communication. This would allow the attacker to compromise the user accounts and access the company's internal portal.

#### NEW QUESTION 5

Which of the following would help to minimize human engagement and aid in process improvement in security operations?

- A. OSSTMM
- B. SIEM
- C. SOAR
- D. QVVASP

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation:

SOAR stands for security orchestration, automation, and response, which is a term that describes a set of tools, technologies, or platforms that can help streamline, standardize, and automate security operations and incident response processes and tasks. SOAR can help minimize human engagement and aid in process improvement in security operations by reducing manual work, human errors, response time, or complexity. SOAR can also help enhance collaboration, coordination, efficiency, or effectiveness of security operations and incident response teams.

#### NEW QUESTION 6

A security program was able to achieve a 30% improvement in MTTR by integrating security controls into a SIEM. The analyst no longer had to jump between tools. Which of the following best describes what the security program did?

- A. Data enrichment
- B. Security control plane
- C. Threat feed combination
- D. Single pane of glass

**Answer: D**

#### Explanation:

A single pane of glass is a term that describes a unified view or interface that integrates multiple tools or data sources into one dashboard or console. A single pane of glass can help improve security operations by providing visibility, correlation, analysis, and alerting capabilities across various security controls and systems. A single pane of glass can also help reduce complexity, improve efficiency, and enhance decision making for security analysts. In this case, a security program was able to achieve a 30% improvement in MTTR by integrating security controls into a SIEM, which provides a single pane of glass for security operations. Official References:

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

#### NEW QUESTION 7

The security analyst received the monthly vulnerability report. The following findings were included in the report

- Five of the systems only required a reboot to finalize the patch application.
- Two of the servers are running outdated operating systems and cannot be patched

The analyst determines that the only way to ensure these servers cannot be compromised is to isolate them. Which of the following approaches will best minimize the risk of the outdated servers being compromised?

- A. Compensating controls
- B. Due diligence
- C. Maintenance windows
- D. Passive discovery

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation:

Compensating controls are the best approach to minimize the risk of the outdated servers being compromised, as they can provide an alternative or additional layer of security when the primary control is not feasible or effective. Compensating controls are security measures that are implemented to mitigate the risk of a vulnerability or an attack when the primary control is not feasible or effective. For example, if the servers are running outdated operating systems and cannot be patched, a compensating control could be to isolate them from the rest of the network, or to implement a firewall or an intrusion prevention system to monitor and block any malicious traffic to or from the servers. Compensating controls can help reduce the likelihood or impact of an exploit, but they do not eliminate the risk completely. Therefore, the security analyst should also consider upgrading or replacing the outdated servers as soon as possible.

#### NEW QUESTION 8

While reviewing web server logs, a security analyst found the following line:

```
<IMG SRC='vbscript:msgbox("test")'>
```

Which of the following malicious activities was attempted?

- A. Command injection
- B. XML injection
- C. Server-side request forgery
- D. Cross-site scripting

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

XSS is a type of web application attack that exploits the vulnerability of a web server or browser to execute malicious scripts or commands on the client-side. XSS attackers inject malicious code, such as JavaScript, VBScript, HTML, or CSS, into a web page or application that is viewed by other users. The malicious code can then access or manipulate the user's session, cookies, browser history, or personal information, or perform actions on behalf of the user, such as stealing credentials, redirecting to phishing sites, or installing malware<sup>12</sup>

The line in the web server log shows an example of an XSS attack using VBScript. The attacker tried to insert an <IMG> tag with a malicious SRC attribute that contains a VBScript code. The VBScript code is intended to display a message box with the text “test” when the user views the web page or application. This is a simple and harmless example of XSS, but it could be used to test the vulnerability of the web server or browser, or to launch more sophisticated and harmful attacks<sup>3</sup>

**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**

A security analyst is performing vulnerability scans on the network. The analyst installs a scanner appliance, configures the subnets to scan, and begins the scan of the network. Which of the following would be missing from a scan performed with this configuration?

- A. Operating system version
- B. Registry key values
- C. Open ports
- D. IP address

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

Registry key values would be missing from a scan performed with this configuration, as the scanner appliance would not have access to the Windows Registry of the scanned systems. The Windows Registry is a database that stores configuration settings and options for the operating system and installed applications. To scan the Registry, the scanner would need to have credentials to log in to the systems and run a local agent or script. The other items would not be missing from the scan, as they can be detected by the scanner appliance without credentials. Operating system version can be identified by analyzing service banners or fingerprinting techniques. Open ports can be discovered by performing a port scan or sending probes to common ports. IP address can be obtained by resolving the hostname or using network discovery tools. <https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1112/>

**NEW QUESTION 10**

The security team reviews a web server for XSS and runs the following Nmap scan:

```
#nmap -p80 --script http-unsafe-output-escaping 172.31.15.2

PORT      STATE  SERVICE REASON
80/tcp    open   http    syn-ack
| http-unsafe-output-escaping:
|_ Characters [> " ' ] reflected in parameter id at
http://172.31.15.2/1.php?id=2
```

Which of the following most accurately describes the result of the scan?



- A. An output of characters > and " as the parameters used in the attempt
- B. The vulnerable parameter ID http://172.31.15.2/1.php?id=2 and unfiltered characters returned
- C. The vulnerable parameter and unfiltered or encoded characters passed > and " as unsafe
- D. The vulnerable parameter and characters > and " with a reflected XSS attempt

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

A cross-site scripting (XSS) attack is a type of web application attack that injects malicious code into a web page that is then executed by the browser of a victim user. A reflected XSS attack is a type of XSS attack where the malicious code is embedded in a URL or a form parameter that is sent to the web server and then reflected back to the user's browser. In this case, the Nmap scan shows that the web server is vulnerable to a reflected XSS attack, as it returns the characters > and " without any filtering or encoding. The vulnerable parameter is id in the URL http://172.31.15.2/1.php?id=2.

**NEW QUESTION 12**

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 17**

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.

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.

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.

**NEW QUESTION 20**

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 22**

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 26**

A security analyst performs a vulnerability scan. Based on the metrics from the scan results, the analyst must prioritize which hosts to patch. The analyst runs the tool and receives the following output:

```
Host    CVE: (Vulnerability Name) Metrics
----    -
host01 CVE-2003-99992: (TransAtl) DDS:NOA:HVT
host02 CVE-2004-99993: (TjBeP)   DDS:AEX:NOA
host03  CVE-2007-99996:
      (NarrowStairs)           RCE:AEX:HVT
host04  CVE-2009-99998:
      (Topendoor)             UDD:NOA

--- metrics ---
DDS: Denial of service vulnerability
RCE: Remote code execution vulnerability
UDD: Unauthorized disclosure of data vulnerability
AEX: Vulnerability is being exploited actively exploited
NOA: No authentication required
HVT: Host is a high value target
HEX: Host is externally available to public Internet
```

Which of the following hosts should be patched first, based on the metrics?

- A. host01
- B. host02
- C. host03
- D. host04

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Host03 should be patched first, based on the metrics, as it has the highest risk score and the highest number of critical vulnerabilities. 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. Host03 has a risk score of  $10 \times 0.9 = 9$ , which is higher than any other host. Host03 also has 5 critical vulnerabilities, which are the most severe and urgent to fix, as they can allow remote code execution, privilege escalation, or data loss. The other hosts have lower risk scores and lower numbers of critical vulnerabilities, so they can be patched later.

**NEW QUESTION 28**

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 33**

A security analyst is performing an investigation involving multiple targeted Windows malware binaries. The analyst wants to gather intelligence without disclosing information to the attackers. Which of the following actions would allow the analyst to achieve the objective?

- A. Upload the binary to an air gapped sandbox for analysis
- B. Send the binaries to the antivirus vendor
- C. Execute the binaries on an environment with internet connectivity
- D. Query the file hashes using VirusTotal

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

The best action that would allow the analyst to gather intelligence without disclosing information to the attackers is to upload the binary to an air gapped sandbox for analysis. An air gapped sandbox is an isolated environment that has no connection to any external network or system. Uploading the binary to an air gapped sandbox can prevent any communication or interaction between the binary and the attackers, as well as any potential harm or infection to other systems or networks. An air gapped sandbox can also allow the analyst to safely analyze and observe the behavior, functionality, or characteristics of the binary.

**NEW QUESTION 34**

Joe, a leading sales person at an organization, has announced on social media that he is leaving his current role to start a new company that will compete with his current employer. Joe is soliciting his current employer's customers. However, Joe has not resigned or discussed this with his current supervisor yet. Which of the following would be the best action for the incident response team to recommend?

- A. Isolate Joe's PC from the network
- B. Reimage the PC based on standard operating procedures
- C. Initiate a remote wipe of Joe's PC using mobile device management
- D. Perform no action until HR or legal counsel advises on next steps

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

The best action for the incident response team to recommend in this scenario is to perform no action until HR or legal counsel advises on next steps. This action can help avoid any potential legal or ethical issues, such as violating employee privacy rights, contractual obligations, or organizational policies. This action can also help ensure that any evidence or information collected from the employee's system or network is admissible and valid in case of any legal action or dispute. The incident response team should consult with HR or legal counsel before taking any action that may affect the employee's system or network.

**NEW QUESTION 37**

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 42**

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 45**

While reviewing web server logs, an analyst notices several entries with the same time stamps, but all contain odd characters in the request line. Which of the following steps should be taken next?

- A. Shut the network down immediately and call the next person in the chain of command.
- B. Determine what attack the odd characters are indicative of
- C. Utilize the correct attack framework and determine what the incident response will consist of.
- D. Notify the local law enforcement for incident response

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Determining what attack the odd characters are indicative of is the next step that should be taken after reviewing web server logs and noticing several entries with the same time stamps, but all contain odd characters in the request line. This step can help the analyst identify the type and severity of the attack, as well as the possible source and motive of the attacker. The odd characters in the request line may indicate that the attacker is trying to exploit a vulnerability or inject malicious code into the web server or application, such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting, buffer overflow, or command injection. The analyst can use tools and techniques such as log analysis, pattern matching, signature detection, or threat intelligence to determine what attack the odd characters are indicative of, and then proceed to the next steps of incident response, such as containment, eradication, recovery, and lessons learned. 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 49**

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 50**

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 55

Which of the following best describes the process of requiring remediation of a known threat within a given time frame?

- A. SLA
- B. MOU
- C. Best-effort patching
- D. Organizational governance

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

An SLA (Service Level Agreement) is a contract or agreement between a service provider and a customer that defines the expected level of service, performance, quality, and availability of the service. An SLA also specifies the responsibilities, obligations, and penalties for both parties in case of non-compliance or breach of the agreement. An SLA can help organizations to ensure that their security services are delivered in a timely and effective manner, and that any security incidents or vulnerabilities are addressed and resolved within a specified time frame. An SLA can also help to establish clear communication, expectations, and accountability between the service provider and the customer<sup>12</sup>

An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is a document that expresses a mutual agreement or understanding between two or more parties on a common goal or objective. An MOU is not legally binding, but it can serve as a basis for future cooperation or collaboration. An MOU may not be suitable for requiring remediation of a known threat within a given time frame, as it does not have the same level of enforceability, specificity, or measurability as an SLA.

Best-effort patching is an informal and ad hoc approach to applying security patches or updates to systems or software. Best-effort patching does not follow any defined process, policy, or schedule, and relies on the availability and discretion of the system administrators or users. Best-effort patching may not be effective or efficient for requiring remediation of a known threat within a given time frame, as it does not guarantee that the patches are applied correctly, consistently, or promptly. Best-effort patching may also introduce new risks or vulnerabilities due to human error, compatibility issues, or lack of testing.

Organizational governance is the framework of rules, policies, procedures, and processes that guide and direct the activities and decisions of an organization. Organizational governance can help to establish the roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of different stakeholders within the organization, as well as the goals, values, and principles that shape the organizational culture and behavior. Organizational governance can also help to ensure compliance with internal and external standards, regulations, and laws. Organizational governance may not be sufficient for requiring remediation of a known threat within a given time frame, as it does not specify the details or metrics of the service delivery or performance. Organizational governance may also vary depending on the size, structure, and nature of the organization.

#### NEW QUESTION 58

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 59

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 63

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 67

A security analyst needs to ensure that systems across the organization are protected based on the sensitivity of the content each system hosts. The analyst is working with the respective system owners to help determine the best methodology that seeks to promote confidentiality, availability, and integrity of the data being hosted. Which of the following

should the security analyst perform first to categorize and prioritize the respective systems?

- A. Interview the users who access these systems,
- B. Scan the systems to see which vulnerabilities currently exist.
- C. Configure alerts for vendor-specific zero-day exploits.
- D. Determine the asset value of each system.

**Answer:** D

**Explanation:**

Determining the asset value of each system is the best action to perform first, as it helps to categorize and prioritize the systems based on the sensitivity of the data they host. The asset value is a measure of how important a system is to the organization, in terms of its financial, operational, or reputational impact. The asset value can help the security analyst to assign a risk level and a protection level to each system, and to allocate resources accordingly. The other actions are not as effective as determining the asset value, as they do not directly address the goal of promoting confidentiality, availability, and integrity of the data. Interviewing the users who access these systems may provide some insight into how the systems are used and what data they contain, but it may not reflect the actual value or sensitivity of the data from an organizational perspective. Scanning the systems to see which vulnerabilities currently exist may help to identify and remediate some security issues, but it does not help to categorize or prioritize the systems based on their data sensitivity. Configuring alerts for vendor-specific zero-day exploits may help to detect and respond to some emerging threats, but it does not help to protect the systems based on their data sensitivity.

**NEW QUESTION 72**

A recent zero-day vulnerability is being actively exploited, requires no user interaction or privilege escalation, and has a significant impact to confidentiality and integrity but not to availability. Which of the following CVE metrics would be most accurate for this zero-day threat?

- A. CVSS: 31/AV: N/AC: L/PR: N/UI: N/S: U/C: H/I: K/A: L
- B. CVSS:31/AV:K/AC:L/PR:H/UI:R/S:C/C:H/I:H/A:L
- C. CVSS:31/AV:N/AC:L/PR:N/UI:H/S:U/C:L/I:N/A:H
- D. CVSS:31/AV:L/AC:L/PR:R/UI:R/S:U/C:H/I:L/A:H

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:**

This answer matches the description of the zero-day threat. The attack vector is network (AV:N), the attack complexity is low (AC:L), no privileges are required (PR:N), no user interaction is required (UI:N), the scope is unchanged (S:U), the confidentiality and integrity impacts are high (C:H/I:H), and the availability impact is low (A:L). Official References: <https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln-metrics/cvss>

**NEW QUESTION 75**

Due to reports of unauthorized activity that was occurring on the internal network, an analyst is performing a network discovery. The analyst runs an Nmap scan against a corporate network to evaluate which devices were operating in the environment. Given the following output:

```
Nmap scan report for officeroxuplayer.lan (192.168.86.22)
Host is up (0.11s latency).
All 100 scanned ports on officeroxuplayer.lan (192.168.86.22) are filtered
MAC Address: B8:3E:59:86:1A:13 (Roku)
```

```
Nmap scan report for p4wnp1_aloa.lan (192.168.86.56)
Host is up (0.022s latency).
Not shown: 96 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
111/tcp   open  rpcbind
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
8000/tcp  open  http-alt
MAC Address: B8:27:EB:D0:8E:D1 (Raspberry Pi Foundation)
```

```
Nmap scan report for wh4dc-748gy.lan (192.168.86.152)
Host is up (0.033s latency).
Not shown: 95 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
135/tcp   open  msrpc
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
443/tcp   open  https
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
5357/tcp  open  wsapi
MAC Address: 38:BA:F8:E3:41:C9 (Intel Corporate)
```

```
Nmap scan report for xlaptop.lan (192.168.86.249)
Host is up (0.024s latency).
Not shown: 93 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
135/tcp   open  msrpc
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
443/tcp   open  https
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
5357/tcp  open  wsapi
MAC Address: 64:00:6A:8E:D8:F5 (Dell)
```

```
Nmap scan report for imaging.lan (192.168.86.150)
Host is up (0.0013s latency).
Not shown: 95 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
135/tcp   open  msrpc
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server
5357/tcp  open  wsapi
MAC Address: 38:BA:F8:F4:32:CA (Intel Corporate)
```

Which of the following choices should the analyst look at first?

- A. wh4dc-748gy.lan (192.168.86.152)
- B. lan (192.168.86.22)
- C. imaging.lan (192.168.86.150)
- D. xlaptop.lan (192.168.86.249)
- E. p4wnp1\_aloa.lan (192.168.86.56)

**Answer:** E

**Explanation:**

The analyst should look at p4wnp1\_aloa.lan (192.168.86.56) first, as this is the most suspicious device on the network. P4wnP1 ALOA is a tool that can be used to create a malicious USB device that can perform various attacks, such as keystroke injection, network sniffing, man-in-the-middle, or backdoor creation. The presence of a device with this name on the network could indicate that an attacker has plugged in a malicious USB device to a system and gained access to the network. Official References: [https://github.com/mame82/P4wnP1\\_aloa](https://github.com/mame82/P4wnP1_aloa)

**NEW QUESTION 78**

An organization conducted a web application vulnerability assessment against the corporate website, and the following output was observed:

- Alerts (17)
  - > Absence of Anti-CSRF Tokens
  - > Content Security Policy (CSP) Header Not Set (6)
  - > Cross-Domain Misconfiguration (34)
  - > Directory Browsing (11)
  - > Missing Anti-clickjacking Header (2)
  - > Cookie No HttpOnly Flag (4)
  - > Cookie Without Secure Flag
  - > Cookie with SameSite Attribute None (2)
  - > Cookie without SameSite Attribute (5)
  - > Cross-Domain JavaScript Source File Inclusion
  - > Timestamp Disclosure - Unix (569)
  - > X-Content-Type-Options Header Missing (42)
  - > CORS Header
  - > Information Disclosure - Sensitive Information in URL (2)
  - > Information Disclosure - Suspicious Comments (43)
  - > Loosely Scoped Cookie (5)
  - > Re-examine Cache-control Directives (33)

Which of the following tuning recommendations should the security analyst share?

- A. Set an Http Only flag to force communication by HTTPS.
- B. Block requests without an X-Frame-Options header.
- C. Configure an Access-Control-Allow-Origin header to authorized domains.
- D. Disable the cross-origin resource sharing header.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

The output shows that the web application has a cross-origin resource sharing (CORS) header that allows any origin to access its resources. This is a security misconfiguration that could allow malicious websites to make requests to the web application on behalf of the user and access sensitive data or perform unauthorized actions.

The tuning recommendation is to configure the Access-Control-Allow-Origin header to only allow authorized domains that need to access the web application's resources. This would prevent unauthorized cross-origin requests and reduce the risk of cross-site request forgery (CSRF) attacks.

**NEW QUESTION 79**

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 81**

An analyst is examining events in multiple systems but is having difficulty correlating data points. Which of the following is most likely the issue with the system?

- A. Access rights
- B. Network segmentation
- C. Time synchronization
- D. Invalid playbook

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Time synchronization is the process of ensuring that all systems in a network have the same accurate time, which is essential for correlating data points from different sources. If the system has an issue with time synchronization, the analyst may have difficulty matching events that occurred at the same time or in a specific order. Access rights, network segmentation, and invalid playbook are not directly related to the issue of correlating data points. Verified References: [CompTIA CySA+ CS0-002 Certification Study Guide], page 23

**NEW QUESTION 82**

A software developer has been deploying web applications with common security risks to include insufficient logging capabilities. Which of the following actions would be most effective to reduce risks associated with the application development?

- A. Perform static analyses using an integrated development environment.
- B. Deploy compensating controls into the environment.
- C. Implement server-side logging and automatic updates.
- D. Conduct regular code reviews using OWASP best practices.

**Answer: D**



**Explanation:**

Conducting regular code reviews using OWASP best practices is the most effective action to reduce risks associated with the application development. Code reviews are a systematic examination of the source code of an application to detect and fix errors, vulnerabilities, and weaknesses that may compromise the security, functionality, or performance of the application. Code reviews can help to improve the quality and security of the code, as well as to identify and remediate common security risks, such as insufficient logging capabilities. OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project) is a global nonprofit organization that provides free and open resources, tools, standards, and best practices for web application security. OWASP best practices for logging include following a common logging format and approach, logging relevant security events and data, protecting log data from unauthorized access or modification, and using log analysis and monitoring tools to detect and respond to security incidents. By following OWASP best practices for logging, developers can ensure that their web applications have sufficient and effective logging capabilities that can help to prevent, detect, and mitigate security threats.

References: OWASP Logging Cheat Sheet, OWASP Logging Guide, C9: Implement Security Logging and Monitoring - OWASP Foundation

**NEW QUESTION 84**

There are several reports of sensitive information being disclosed via file sharing services. The company would like to improve its security posture against this threat. Which of the following security controls would best support the company in this scenario?

- A. Implement step-up authentication for administrators
- B. Improve employee training and awareness
- C. Increase password complexity standards
- D. Deploy mobile device management

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**

The best security control to implement against sensitive information being disclosed via file sharing services is to improve employee training and awareness. Employee training and awareness can help educate employees on the risks and consequences of using file sharing services for sensitive information, as well as the policies and procedures for handling such information securely and appropriately. Employee training and awareness can also help foster a security culture and encourage employees to report any incidents or violations of information security.

**NEW QUESTION 86**

During a cybersecurity incident, one of the web servers at the perimeter network was affected by ransomware. Which of the following actions should be performed immediately?

- A. Shut down the server.
- B. Reimage the server
- C. Quarantine the server
- D. Update the OS to latest version.

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:**

Quarantining the server is the best action to perform immediately, as it isolates the affected server from the rest of the network and prevents the ransomware from spreading to other systems or data. Quarantining the server also preserves the evidence of the ransomware attack, which can be useful for forensic analysis and law enforcement investigation. The other actions are not as urgent as quarantining the server, as they may not stop the ransomware infection, or they may destroy valuable evidence. Shutting down the server may not remove the ransomware, and it may trigger a data deletion mechanism by the ransomware. Reimaging the server may restore its functionality, but it will also erase any traces of the ransomware and make recovery of encrypted data impossible. Updating the OS to the latest version may fix some vulnerabilities, but it will not remove the ransomware or decrypt the data. Official References:

- > <https://www.cisa.gov/stopransomware/ransomware-guide>
- > <https://www.cisa.gov/stopransomware/ive-been-hit-ransomware>

**NEW QUESTION 88**

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 93**

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 94

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 99

Which of the following is the most important factor to ensure accurate incident response reporting?

- A. A well-defined timeline of the events
- B. A guideline for regulatory reporting
- C. Logs from the impacted system
- D. A well-developed executive summary

**Answer:** A

#### Explanation:

A well-defined timeline of the events is the most important factor to ensure accurate incident response reporting, as it provides a clear and chronological account of what happened, when it happened, who was involved, and what actions were taken. A timeline helps to identify the root cause of the incident, the impact and scope of the damage, the effectiveness of the response, and the lessons learned for future improvement. A timeline also helps to communicate the incident to relevant stakeholders, such as management, legal, regulatory, or media entities. The other factors are also important for incident response reporting, but they are not as essential as a well-defined timeline. Official References:

- > <https://www.ibm.com/topics/incident-response>
- > <https://www.crowdstrike.com/cybersecurity-101/incident-response/incident-response-steps/>

#### NEW QUESTION 101

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 105

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