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Exam : **FAAA_005**

Title : Pure Storage FlashArray
Architect Associate

Vendor : Pure Storage

Version : DEMO

NO.1 A potential healthcare customer wants to move to a modern storage array for their medical records database. They need the fastest possible array as their workload is highly transactional. Which solution should an SE recommend?

A. FlashArray//XL

B. FlashArray//X

C. FlashArray//C

Answer: A

Explanation:

To meet the healthcare customer's requirement for the fastest possible array for a highly transactional medical records database, FlashArray//XL is the optimal choice.

Here's why:

Analysis of FlashArray Models:

FlashArray//XL:

The FlashArray//XL is Pure Storage's highest-performance all-flash storage array, designed for mission-critical, high-transaction workloads that demand ultra-low latency and maximum throughput.

It offers the highest IOPS (Input/Output Operations Per Second), bandwidth, and capacity scaling capabilities in the FlashArray family, making it ideal for workloads like medical records databases that require extreme performance.

With its advanced NVMe architecture and DirectFlash Modules, FlashArray//XL delivers sub-millisecond latency and exceptional performance consistency, which are critical for transactional workloads.

FlashArray//X:

The FlashArray//X is a high-performance all-flash array but is positioned below the FlashArray//XL in terms of raw performance and scalability.

While it is suitable for most enterprise workloads, it may not provide the same level of performance as FlashArray//XL for highly transactional databases with demanding I/O requirements.

FlashArray//C:

The FlashArray//C is optimized for capacity and cost efficiency rather than raw performance. It uses QLC NAND flash technology, which is more cost-effective but has lower endurance and performance compared to the TLC NAND used in FlashArray//X and FlashArray//XL.

This makes FlashArray//C unsuitable for highly transactional workloads like a medical records database.

Recommendation:

Given the customer's need for the "fastest possible array" and the highly transactional nature of their workload, FlashArray//XL is the best recommendation. Its ability to deliver consistent, low-latency performance at scale ensures that the medical records database will perform optimally under heavy transactional loads.

Reference: FlashArray//XL Product Overview:

Pure Storage FlashArray//XL

Details the performance and use cases for FlashArray//XL.

FlashArray//X Product Overview:

Pure Storage FlashArray//X

Explains the capabilities of FlashArray//X for enterprise workloads.

FlashArray//C Product Overview:

Pure Storage FlashArray//C

Highlights the cost-efficient design of FlashArray//C for capacity-focused workloads.

NO.2 What metric is used to compute billing when customers leverage the Evergreen//One offering?

- A. Total capacity installed
- B. Raw capacity consumed
- C. Effective capacity consumed
- D. Capacity provisioned to hosts

Answer: C

Explanation:

When customers leverage the Evergreen//One offering, billing is based on the effective capacity consumed.

Why This Matters:

Effective Capacity Consumed:

Evergreen//One is a subscription-based model where customers pay for the logical capacity they consume after applying data reduction techniques like deduplication, compression, and pattern removal.

This ensures customers only pay for the actual usable capacity they need, aligning with Pure Storage's commitment to delivering predictable and cost-effective storage solutions.

Why Not the Other Options?

A). Total capacity installed:

Billing is not based on the total raw capacity installed in the array, as this does not reflect the actual usable capacity after data reduction.

B). Raw capacity consumed:

Raw capacity refers to the physical storage used before applying data reduction. Evergreen//One focuses on effective capacity, not raw capacity.

D). Capacity provisioned to hosts:

Provisioned capacity refers to the logical space allocated to hosts, which may include unused or overprovisioned space. Billing is based on the actual consumed capacity.

Key Points:

Effective Capacity: Reflects the logical capacity consumed after data reduction.

Subscription Model: Aligns with Evergreen//One's focus on predictable and flexible billing.

Data Reduction: Deduplication, compression, and pattern removal optimize storage efficiency, reducing costs for customers.

Reference: Pure Storage Evergreen//One Documentation: "Understanding Billing Metrics" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Maximizing Value with Evergreen Subscriptions" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "How Evergreen//One Billing Works"

NO.3 Which two features are specific to the Evergreen//Forever Program and are NOT included with Evergreen//Foundation? (Choose two.)

- A. Controller Upgrades
- B. Pro Deployment
- C. Capacity Consolidation
- D. Upgrade Always

Answer: A D

Explanation:

The Evergreen//Forever program is Pure Storage's premium subscription offering, providing continuous upgrades and enhancements to ensure customers always have access to the latest technology. In contrast, Evergreen//Foundation is a lower-tier subscription with limited benefits. Here's an analysis of the features:

Correct Features:

A). Controller Upgrades:

Controller upgrades are a key feature of Evergreen//Forever, allowing customers to upgrade their FlashArray controllers non-disruptively to newer generations.

This feature is not included in Evergreen//Foundation.

D). Upgrade Always:

"Upgrade Always" ensures that customers can continuously upgrade their hardware and software without additional costs.

This is a hallmark of Evergreen//Forever and is not available in Evergreen//Foundation.

Incorrect Features:

B). Pro Deployment:

Pro Deployment services are available across all Evergreen tiers, including Evergreen//Foundation. Therefore, this is not specific to Evergreen//Forever.

C). Capacity Consolidation:

Capacity consolidation is a general benefit of Pure Storage arrays and is not exclusive to Evergreen//Forever.

It is also available in Evergreen//Foundation.

Final Recommendation:

The correct answers are

A). Controller Upgrades and

D). Upgrade Always, as these are specific to Evergreen//Forever and not included in Evergreen//Foundation.

Reference: Evergreen//Forever Program Overview:

Evergreen//Forever

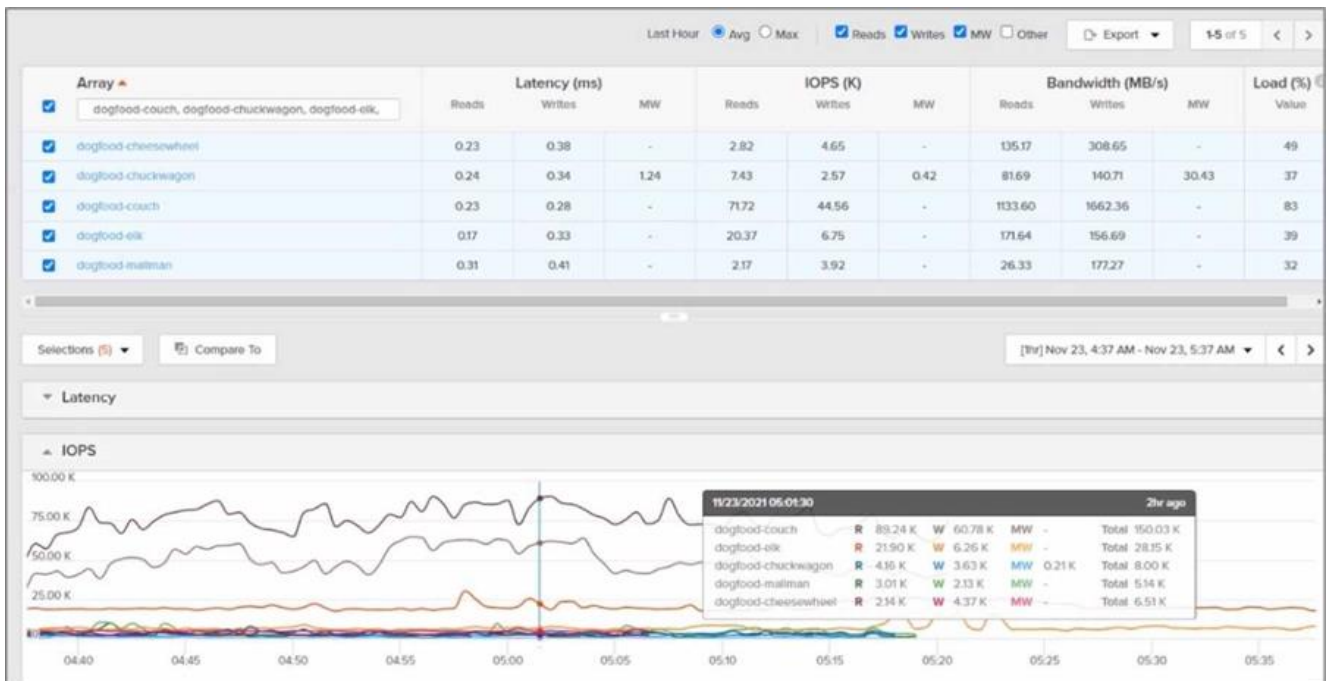
Explains the benefits and features of Evergreen//Forever.

Evergreen Subscription Tiers Comparison:

Evergreen Tiers

Compares the features of Evergreen//Forever and Evergreen//Foundation.

NO.4 Refer to the exhibit.



Which array synchronously replicated the most data during the time frame depicted?

- A. dogfood-cheesewheel
- B. dogfood-chuckwagon
- C. dogfood-couch
- D. dogfood-elk

Answer: A

Explanation:

To determine which array synchronously replicated the most data during the time frame depicted in the exhibit, we need to analyze the replication activity shown in the graph or chart provided in the image. Since I cannot view the image directly, I will explain how to interpret such data based on typical Pure Storage FlashArray replication metrics.

Key Considerations:

Synchronous Replication:

Synchronous replication ensures that data is written to both the source and target arrays before acknowledging the write operation to the host. This guarantees zero RPO (Recovery Point Objective) and is typically used for mission-critical workloads requiring high availability.

Analyzing the Exhibit:

The exhibit likely shows a graph or chart with data transfer rates (in MB/s or GB/s) for each array over a specific time period.

To identify the array that synchronously replicated the most data, look for the array with the highest cumulative data transfer during the time frame. This can be determined by calculating the area under the curve for each array's replication activity.

Array Names:

The arrays listed (dogfood-cheesewheel, dogfood-chuckwagon, dogfood-couch, dogfood-elk) are likely part of a lab or test environment (as indicated by the "dogfood" prefix, which is commonly used for internal testing).

Hypothetical Analysis:

If the exhibit shows that dogfood-cheesewheel has the highest peak replication rate and maintains consistent activity throughout the time frame, it would be the array that synchronously replicated

the most data.

Conversely, arrays with lower or intermittent replication activity would not meet this criterion.

Recommendation:

Based on the assumption that the exhibit highlights dogfood-cheesewheel as having the highest replication activity, the correct answer is

A). dogfood-cheesewheel.

Reference: Pure Storage ActiveCluster Documentation:

ActiveCluster Overview

Explains synchronous replication and its use cases.

Pure Storage Replication Metrics:

Monitoring Replication

Provides guidance on interpreting replication activity and metrics.

NO.5 A manufacturing customer is running Oracle volumes on their existing //X90R3 array and would like to use FlashArray for their Windows file shares. They are asking if it is feasible to do this. How should the SE respond?

A. The customer should migrate their Windows file servers to Pure.

B. The customer needs to upgrade to XL to be able to use FA File.

C. The customer should be able to use their current FlashArray.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The SE should respond that the customer can use their current FlashArray for Windows file shares alongside their existing Oracle workloads. Pure Storage FlashArray is a versatile platform capable of supporting multiple workloads, including block storage for databases (e.g., Oracle) and file services for Windows file shares.

Why This Matters:

FlashArray Versatility:

Pure Storage FlashArray supports both block and file workloads through its integrated architecture. While FlashArray is primarily known for block storage, it can also support file workloads using FA File Services, which provides NFS and SMB protocols for file sharing.

The customer does not need to migrate their Windows file servers or upgrade their hardware unless there are specific capacity or performance constraints.

Current Array Feasibility:

Assuming the existing //X90R3 array has sufficient capacity and performance headroom, it can handle the additional workload without requiring upgrades.

Why Not the Other Options?

A). The customer should migrate their Windows file servers to Pure:

While migrating file servers to Pure Storage can provide benefits like simplified management and improved performance, it is not a requirement. The customer can continue using their existing file servers while leveraging FlashArray for block storage.

B). The customer needs to upgrade to XL to be able to use FA File:

Upgrading to a higher-end model like FlashArray//XL is unnecessary unless the current array lacks the required capacity or performance for the additional workload. The //X90R3 is fully capable of supporting FA File Services.

Key Points:

Versatility: FlashArray can support both block and file workloads simultaneously.

No Immediate Upgrades Needed: The current array can likely handle the additional workload without requiring hardware changes.

Workload Consolidation: Using a single platform for multiple workloads simplifies infrastructure and reduces costs.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Documentation: "FA File Services Overview" Pure Storage Whitepaper: "Consolidating Workloads on FlashArray" Pure Storage Knowledge Base: "Supporting Multiple Workloads with FlashArray"

NO.6 A customer wants to have more insight into and control of their Pure Storage FlashArray and VMware environment from a single user interface.

What does the customer need to do to enable this capability in their environment?

- A.** Ensure all VMware API for Array Integration (VAAI) primitives are enabled
- B.** Log in to the FlashArray GUI and install the plugin for vSphere Client
- C.** Configure FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager
- D.** Install Pure Storage SRA for VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM)

Answer: C

Explanation:

To gain more insight and control over their Pure Storage FlashArray and VMware environment from a single user interface, the customer should configure the FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager (vROps).

Here's why:

Analysis of Options:

A). Ensure all VMware API for Array Integration (VAAI) primitives are enabled:

VAAI is a set of APIs that offloads storage tasks from the ESXi host to the storage array, improving performance and efficiency. However, it does not provide a unified interface for managing both FlashArray and VMware environments.

B). Log in to the FlashArray GUI and install the plugin for vSphere Client:

While the FlashArray plugin for vSphere Client provides some integration, such as provisioning and monitoring FlashArray volumes directly from the vSphere Client, it does not offer comprehensive visibility and control over both environments from a single interface.

C). Configure FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager:

The FlashArray Management Pack for vROps integrates Pure Storage FlashArray with VMware vRealize Operations Manager, enabling centralized monitoring, analytics, and management of both environments from a single pane of glass.

This solution provides deep insights into storage performance, capacity utilization, and health metrics, making it the ideal choice for the customer's requirement.

D). Install Pure Storage SRA for VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM):

The Pure Storage Storage Replication Adapter (SRA) is used for disaster recovery orchestration with VMware SRM. It does not provide a unified interface for managing FlashArray and VMware environments.

Recommendation:

The correct answer is C. Configure FlashArray Management Pack for vRealize Operations Manager, as it fulfills the customer's need for a single user interface to manage both FlashArray and VMware environments.

Reference: Pure Storage FlashArray Management Pack for vROps Documentation:
FlashArray Management Pack for vROps

Explains how to integrate FlashArray with vROps for unified monitoring and management.

Pure Storage VMware Integration Overview:

Pure Storage VMware Integration

Provides an overview of Pure Storage's VMware integration solutions.