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Consul-Associate Exam

HashiCorp Networking Automation

Questions & Answers

(Demo Version - Limited Content)

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Question: 1

What are two ways that a client or service can programmatically discover healthy nodes for a service registered in a local Consul cluster? (Select Two)

- A. DNS
- B. User Interface (UI)
- C. HTTP API
- D. federation

Answer: A, C

Explanation:

Applications can discover healthy nodes of a particular service by accessing the DNS name of the service (e.g., `website.service.consul`) or by making the request via

Consul's HTTP API.

<https://learn.hashicorp.com/consul/getting-started/services#query-services>

Question: 2

Consul uses a gossip protocol that is powered by Serf. How is this communication protected between all participating servers and clients?

- A. shared secret
- B. username and password
- C. mutual TLS
- D. TLS

Answer: A

Explanation:

Consul's gossip protocol is protected by a symmetric key, or a shared secret, that is configured as part of the configuration file or in a separate file that is read when the

Consul service starts. For example, you can add the parameter "encrypt" to the configuration file with 32-byte, Base64 encoded shared secret. All nodes in the Consul

cluster, including WAN joined datacenters, must use the same encryption key.

An example of this key would be `pUqJrVyVRj5jsiYEKM/tFQYfWyJlv4s3XkvDwy7Cu5s=`. Furthermore, you can generate this 32-byte, Base64 encoded shared secret by using the built-in command `consul keygen`

```
$ consul keygen pUqJrVyVRj5jsiYEKM/tFQYfWyJlv4s3XkvDwy7Cu5s=
```

More information about the gossip encryption can be found [here](#).

By the way, the HashiCorp Learn platform mentioned that the key is 16-bytes, but that was changed sometime in 2019 in order for Serf to encrypt data using AES256

Question: 3

Which of the following are true about running Consul in development mode? (select three)

- A. development mode is easily scalable
- B. it is acceptable to run development mode in a production environment
- C. development mode is not secure
- D. development mode should never be used in a production environment
- E. development mode allows you to easily experiment with most of Consul's functionality

Answer: C, D, E

Explanation:

Running Consul in development mode is not secure or scalable but does let you quickly experiment with most of Consul's functionality without extra configuration.

Development mode does not use TLS to secure communications. Therefore, it is not secure. Development mode runs the Consul as an in-memory server. Therefore, it is limited to a single node and is not scalable.

Because Consul dev mode runs only on a single node, it is not suited for production environments.

More information on using the `-dev` flag to run Consul development mode can be found here.

Question: 4

You need to look up the members of the current Consul cluster. Consul ACLs have been enabled with a default rule of deny. You run the command `consul members` and receive the results as expected.

Which of the statements below can be true? (select two)

1. `$ consul members`
 2. Node Address Status Type Build Protocol DC Segment
 3. CONSUL-NODE-A 10.0.10.208:8301 alive server 1.6.3+ent 2 dc-1
 4. CONSUL-NODE-B 10.0.11.59:8301 alive server 1.6.3+ent 2 dc-1
 5. CONSUL-NODE-C 10.0.10.117:8301 alive server 1.6.3+ent 2 dc-1
 6. CONSUL-NODE-D 10.0.11.107:8301 alive server 1.6.3+ent 2 dc-1
 7. CONSUL-NODE-E 10.0.10.25:8301 alive server 1.6.3+ent 2 dc-1
- A. you're running as a privileged user, so a token is not needed
 - B. the token was already set using the `CONSUL_HTTP_TOKEN` environment variable
 - C. the anonymous token permits you to read this information
 - A. you're logged in directly on a Consul server node, therefore a token isn't needed to execute read-only commands

Answer: B, C

Explanation:

In this scenario, if you run `consul members` without a token and get a response, there can be only two reasons that it would immediately return the response.

- 1) the environment variable `CONSUL_HTTP_TOKEN` has already been set with a token with sufficient privileges
- 2) the anonymous token permits a read on the `agent_prefix`

The only other way this would work without a token is if the `default_policy` was set to "allow" or ACLs weren't enabled - both of which were specifically called out in the question.

<https://www.consul.io/docs/acl/acl-rules>

Question: 5

Given the following Consul agent configuration, what statements below are true? (select three)1.

```
{
2. "datacenter": "us-east-1",
3. "data_dir": "/var/consul/data",
4. "node_name": "web-server-a",
5. "server": false,
6. "retry_join": ["provider=aws tag_key=consul
tag_value=true"],7. }
```

- A. the client will automatically attempt to join a cluster upon agent start
- B. the configuration file has been written for a Consul client
- C. another file or configuration is needed to register a service with Consul
- A. the configuration file is for a node that will act as a Consul server

Answer: A, B, C

Explanation:

The configuration file is written for a Consul client, which is determined by the value of the `server` parameter. In this case, it's false, indicating it will not be a server, therefore it must be a Consul client.

Using `retry_join`, the client will automatically attempt to join a Consul client based upon the AWS tags specified. Alternatively, the `retry_join` could have been written to include the IP addresses of the Consul server nodes. However, because Consul servers are often treated as immutable, specifying IP addresses generally isn't scalable in a large environment as each client configuration file would need to be changed if new Consul nodes were provisioned.

Beyond the configuration file reference in the question, a second service definition file would be needed to register the actual service being hosted or provided by this client. The `node_name` provided indicates that this is a web server, so maybe the service definition file may register a front-end portal running on port 80 using Apache.

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