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SecInterviewPrep

Here's a **comprehensive list of potential interview questions** that could be asked during an Identity and Access Management (IAM) internship interview. These questions cover technical concepts, situational problems, and behavioral aspects to ensure you are well-prepared.

General IAM and Security Questions:

- [What is Identity and Access Management \(IAM\), and why is it important?](#)
- [Explain the difference between authentication and authorization.](#)
- [What is the principle of least privilege, and how does it contribute to security?](#)
- [How does multi-factor authentication \(MFA\) enhance security?](#)
- [Can you explain the concept of Single Sign-On \(SSO\) and its benefits?](#)
- [What is RBAC](#)
- [What is ABAC](#)
- [What is the difference between Role-Based Access Control \(RBAC\) and Attribute-Based Access Control \(ABAC\)?](#)

9. [What is identity federation, and why is it used?](#)
10. [Can you explain the purpose of a directory service like Active Directory in IAM?](#)
11. [What are the common challenges faced in IAM implementations?](#)
12. [What is OAuth 2.0](#)
13. [What is SAML](#)
14. [What is OpenID Connect](#)
15. [How do OAuth 2.0, SAML, and OpenID Connect differ, and when would you use each?](#)

Technical IAM Questions:

11. How would you design an IAM solution for a large organization with multiple applications and users?
12. What are some common IAM tools and platforms you've used or are familiar with (e.g., Okta, Azure AD, Ping Identity)?
13. How would you handle access requests for a sensitive application?
14. How do you secure APIs using IAM principles?
15. What are service accounts, and how do you ensure their secure use?
16. How would you enforce least privilege access in a cloud environment (AWS IAM, Azure RBAC, or GCP IAM)?
17. What is the role of a security token in IAM?
18. Can you walk me through the lifecycle of an IAM user (provisioning to deactivation)?
19. How do you implement and manage password policies effectively?
20. What are shadow IT and its implications for IAM?

Scenario-Based and Problem-Solving Questions:

21. How would you handle a situation where a user's account is compromised?
22. Describe how you would revoke access for a terminated employee.
23. If an application requires access to a database, how would you secure this access?
24. A user reports they can't access a resource they previously had access to. How would you troubleshoot this issue?
25. How would you mitigate risks associated with privileged access accounts?
26. Imagine an auditor is requesting evidence for IAM compliance. How would you prepare and present it?
27. If there's a data breach and you suspect compromised credentials, what immediate steps would you take?
28. How would you implement access for contractors or third-party vendors while ensuring security?
29. How would you prevent and detect privilege escalation attacks?
30. If you discover orphaned accounts (unused accounts) in your IAM system, how would you handle them?

Behavioral and Situational Questions:

31. Tell me about a time you implemented a security or IAM solution. What was the outcome?

32. Describe a time when you had to explain a complex technical concept to a non-technical team member.
33. Have you ever had to work with a team to address a security incident? What was your role?
34. How do you prioritize IAM-related tasks when working under tight deadlines?
35. What steps do you take to stay updated on the latest trends in IAM and cybersecurity?
36. Describe a challenging problem you solved that required critical thinking and technical expertise.
37. How do you balance usability and security in IAM solutions?
38. Tell me about a time when you had to ensure compliance with security policies. How did you achieve this?
39. Have you ever had to deal with resistance to a security policy or practice? How did you handle it?
40. How do you approach learning new tools or technologies related to IAM?

PayPal-Specific and Industry-Specific Questions:

41. What do you know about PayPal's security practices or its approach to IAM?
42. How would you design an IAM solution for an organization like PayPal, handling millions of users and financial transactions?
43. In a payment system, how would you ensure secure access for internal and external users?
44. How does PayPal mitigate fraud risks through IAM practices?
45. If tasked with improving PayPal's IAM processes, what would be your first step?
46. How would you integrate IAM into a CI/CD pipeline for faster deployment of secure applications?
47. What is your understanding of the PCI-DSS standard, and how does it relate to IAM?
48. How do you ensure compliance with privacy laws like GDPR and CCPA in IAM practices?

Advanced IAM Topics:

49. What is zero-trust architecture, and how does IAM fit into it?
50. How do you ensure scalability and reliability in IAM solutions?
51. Can you explain Just-In-Time (JIT) access and its benefits in IAM?
52. What are access reviews, and why are they necessary?
53. How would you implement identity governance in a large organization?
54. What is privilege creep, and how can you prevent it?
55. How do you approach securing non-human identities (e.g., applications, IoT devices)?
56. How does blockchain technology impact or enhance IAM solutions?
57. What are adaptive authentication methods, and when should they be used?
58. How do you monitor and audit IAM systems for suspicious activities?

Additional Concepts to Research:

- IAM in hybrid and multi-cloud environments.
- Incident response plans for IAM-related breaches.
- IAM integrations with DevSecOps practices.

- Trends in decentralized identity and self-sovereign identity.
- Machine learning applications in IAM (e.g., anomaly detection).

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