Your Essential Guide to the SC-401 Exam and Microsoft 365 Security

If you are preparing for the SC-401 Exam on administering information security in **Microsoft 365**, you are taking a significant step in your career. This exam tests your knowledge of security, compliance, and identity management within **Microsoft's cloud platform**. Let's explore essential areas that you should focus on while studying. For detailed resources and practice exams, visit this useful site.

Understanding Microsoft 365 Security

Microsoft 365 security involves safeguarding your organization's data, keeping it safe from *cyber threats*. It is crucial to understand:

- The various security tools and features available in **Microsoft 365**.
- How to manage identities and access to data.
- The importance of **encryption** and **data loss prevention**.

Exam Format and Structure

The SC-401 Exam can be intimidating, but knowing its format can ease your anxiety. The exam may contain:

- **Multiple-choice questions**
- **Case studies**
- **Scenario-based questions** that test real-world application

Make sure you are familiar with these question types to improve your test-taking strategies.

Focusing on Azure Security

Azure security plays a critical role in the overall security framework. When studying for the SC-401 Exam, pay attention to:

- **Azure Active Directory (AD)**
- **Role-based access control (RBAC)**
- **Azure security center features**

This knowledge will enhance your understanding of Microsoft's security measures.

The Importance of Microsoft Compliance

Compliance is essential for organizations to meet various regulatory requirements. In preparing for the SC-401, be sure to cover:

- The **compliance manager** tool in Microsoft 365
- The **shared responsibility model**
- Assessing compliance risks and implementing controls

Understanding these aspects will not only help in the exam but also enhance your role in managing compliance effectively.

Exploring Information Protection

Information protection ensures that sensitive data remains secure. Key topics include:

- Data **encryption methods**
- **Azure Information Protection (AIP)** solutions
- How to create and manage information protection policies

Being well-versed in these topics will prepare you for potential exam questions on data protection strategies.

Preparation Tips and Resources

Preparation is key to success in the SC-401 Exam. Here are some tips:

- Take **practice exams** to familiarize yourself with the test format.
- Join study groups to discuss different topics.
- Utilize *Microsoft's official learning resources* and documentation.

By actively engaging in your study routine, you will gain a deeper understanding of Microsoft 365 security concepts, which will be vital in the exam. Additionally, explore more resources here to optimize your preparation.

Final Thoughts

The SC-401 Exam is a stepping stone towards becoming proficient in administering information security in Microsoft 365. Focus on security, **Azure services**, compliance, and

data protection, and stay committed to your preparation. With dedication and the right study techniques, you can excel in this exam and advance your career.

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Microsoft

SC-401 Exam

Administering Information Security in Microsoft 365

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Topic 1, Contoso, Ltd Case Study 1

Instructions

This is a case study. Case studies are not timed separately from other exam sections. You can use as much exam time as you would like to complete each case study. However, there might be additional case studies or other exam sections. Manage your time to ensure that you can complete all the exam sections in the time provided. Pay attention to the Exam Progress at the top of the screen so you have sufficient time to complete any exam sections that follow this case study.

To answer the case study questions, you will need to reference information that is provided in the case. Case studies and associated questions might contain exhibits or other resources that provide more information about the scenario described in the case. Information provided in an individual question does not apply to the other questions in the case study.

A Review Screen will appear at the end of this case study. From the Review Screen, you can review and change your answers before you move to the next exam section. After you leave this case study, you will NOT be able to return to it.

To start the case study

To display the first question in this case study, select the "Next" button. To the left of the question, a menu provides links to information such as business requirements, the existing environment, and problem statements. Please read through all this information before answering any questions. When you are ready to answer a question, select the "Question" button to return to the question.

Overview

Contoso, Ltd. is a consulting company that has a main office in Montreal and three branch offices in Seattle, Boston, and Johannesburg.

Existing Environment

Microsoft 365 Environment

Contoso has a Microsoft 365 E5 tenant. The tenant contains the administrative user accounts shown in the following table.

Name	Role
Admin1	Global Reader
Admin2	Compliance Data Administrator
Admin3	Compliance Administrator
Admin4	Security Operator
Admin5	Security Administrator

Users store data in the following locations:

- SharePoint sites
- OneDrive accounts
- Exchange email
- Exchange public folders
- Teams chats
- Teams channel messages

When users in the research department create documents, they must add a 10-digit project code to each document. Project codes that start with the digits 999 are confidential.

SharePoint Online Environment

Contoso has four Microsoft SharePoint Online sites named Site1, Site2, Site3, and Site4.

Site2 contains the files shown in the following table.

Name	Number of SWIFT codes in the file
File1.docx	1
File2.bmp	4
File3.txt	3
File4.xlsx	7

Two users named User1 and User2 are assigned roles for Site2 as shown in the following table.

User	Role
User1	Site owner
User2	Site visitor

Site3 stores documents related to the company's projects. The documents are organized in a folder hierarchy based on the project.

Site4 has the following two retention policies applied:

- Name: Site4RetentionPolicy1
  - Locations to apply the policy: Site4
  - Delete items older than: 2 years
  - Delete content based on: When items were created

- Name: Site4RetentionPolicy2
  - Locations to apply the policy: Site4
  - Retain items for a specific period: 4 years
  - Start the retention period based on: When items were created
  - At the end of the retention period: Do nothing

Problem Statements

Management at Contoso is concerned about data leaks. On several occasions, confidential research department documents were leaked.

Requirements

Planned Changes

Contoso plans to create the following data loss prevention (DLP) policy:

- Name: DLPpolicy1
- Locations to apply the policy: Site2
- Conditions:
  - Content contains any of these sensitive info types: SWIFT Code
  - Instance count: 2 to any
- Actions: Restrict access to the content

Technical Requirements

Contoso must meet the following technical requirements:

- All administrative users must be able to review DLP reports.
- Whenever possible, the principle of least privilege must be used.
- For all users, all Microsoft 365 data must be retained for at least one year.
- Confidential documents must be detected and protected by using Microsoft 365.
- Site1 documents that include credit card numbers must be labeled automatically.
- All administrative users must be able to create Microsoft 365 sensitivity labels.
- After a project is complete, the documents in Site3 that relate to the project must be retained for 10 years.

Question: 1

DRAG DROP

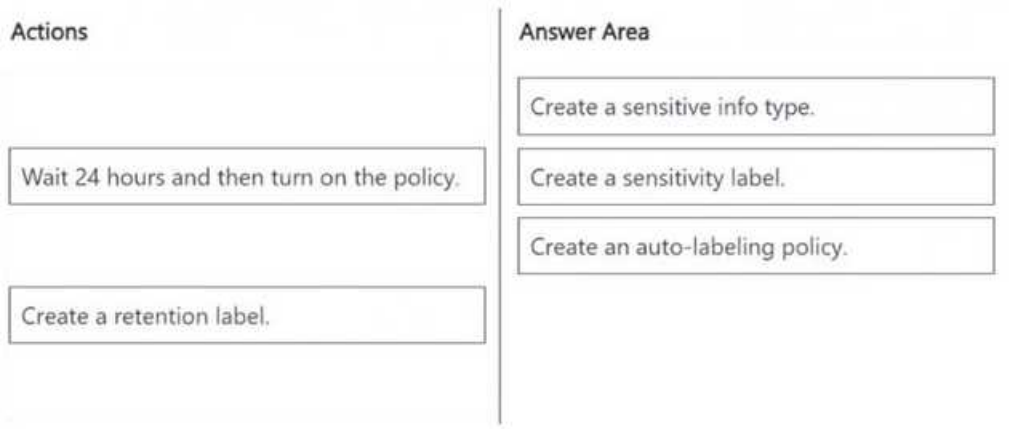
You need to meet the technical requirements for the Site1 documents.

Which three actions should you perform in sequence? To answer, move the appropriate actions from the list of actions to the answer area and arrange them in the correct order.



Answer:

Explanation:



The goal is to automatically label documents in Site1 that contain credit card numbers. To achieve this, we need a sensitivity label with an auto-labeling policy based on a sensitive info type that detects credit card numbers.

Step 1: Create a Sensitive Info Type
- A sensitive info type is needed to detect credit card numbers in documents.
- Microsoft Purview includes built-in sensitive info types for credit card numbers, but we can also create a custom one if necessary.

Step 2: Create a Sensitivity Label
- A sensitivity label is required to classify and protect documents containing sensitive information.
- This label can apply encryption, watermarking, or access controls to credit card data.

Step 3: Create an Auto-Labeling Policy
● An auto-labeling policy ensures that the sensitivity label is applied automatically when credit card numbers are detected in Site1.
● This policy is configured to scan files and automatically apply the correct sensitivity label.

Question: 2

You need to meet the technical requirements for the creation of the sensitivity labels.

To which user or users must you assign the Sensitivity Label Administrator role?

A. Admin1 only
B. Admin1 and Admin4 only
C. Admin1 and Admin5 only
D. Admin1, Admin2, and Admin3 only
E. Admin1, Admin2, Admin4, and Admin5 only

Answer: D

Explanation:

To meet the requirement that all administrative users must be able to create Microsoft 365 sensitivity labels, we need to assign the Sensitivity Label Administrator role to the correct users.

Sensitivity Label Administrator Role Responsibilities

This role allows users to:
● Create and manage sensitivity labels in Microsoft Purview.
● Publish and configure auto-labeling policies.
● Modify label encryption and content marking settings.

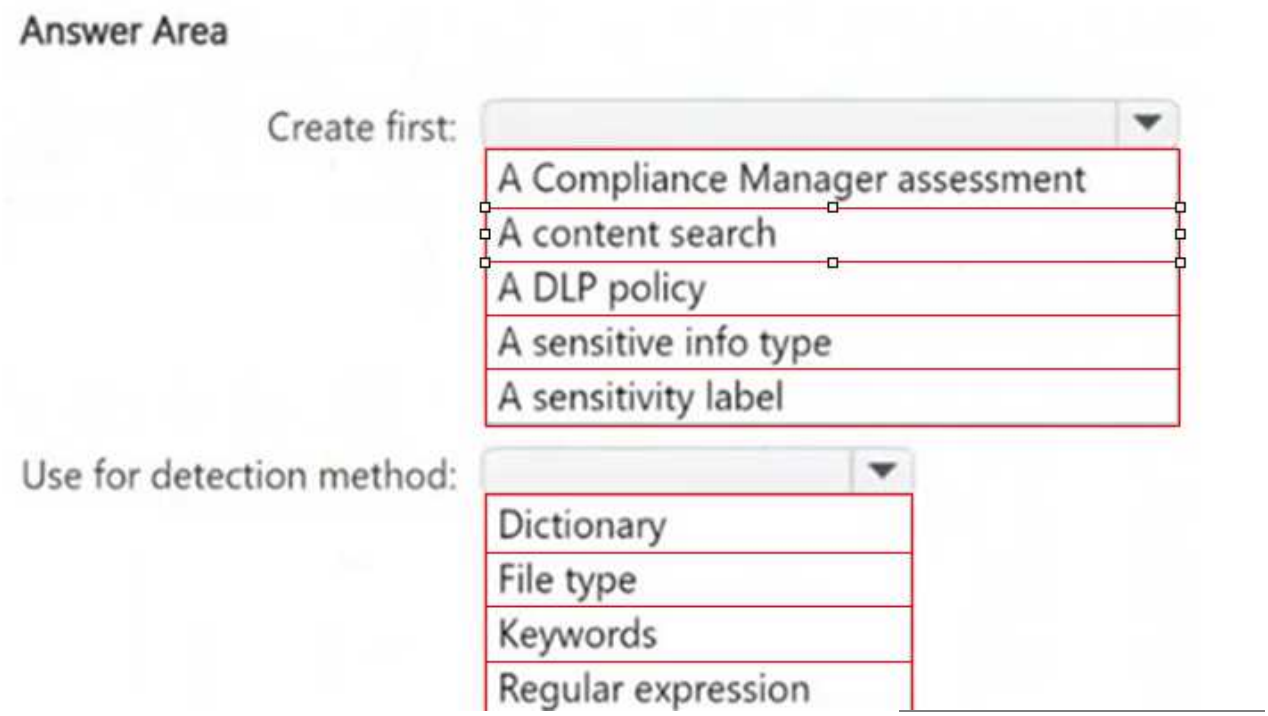
Review of Admin Roles from the Table:

Admin	Role Assigned	Can Create Sensitivity Labels?
Admin1	Global Reader	□ No, read-only permissions.
Admin2	Compliance Data Administrator	□ Yes, can manage compliance data, including labels.
Admin3	Compliance Administrator	□ Yes, has full compliance management, including labels.
Admin4	Security Operator	□ No, this role is focused on security alerts and response.
Admin5	Security Administrator	□ No, primarily focused on security policies and threat management.

Users that must be assigned the Sensitivity Label Administrator role:
- Admin2 (Compliance Data Administrator)
- Admin3 (Compliance Administrator)
- Admin1 (Global Reader) (should be assigned this role to fulfill the requirement that all admins can create labels).

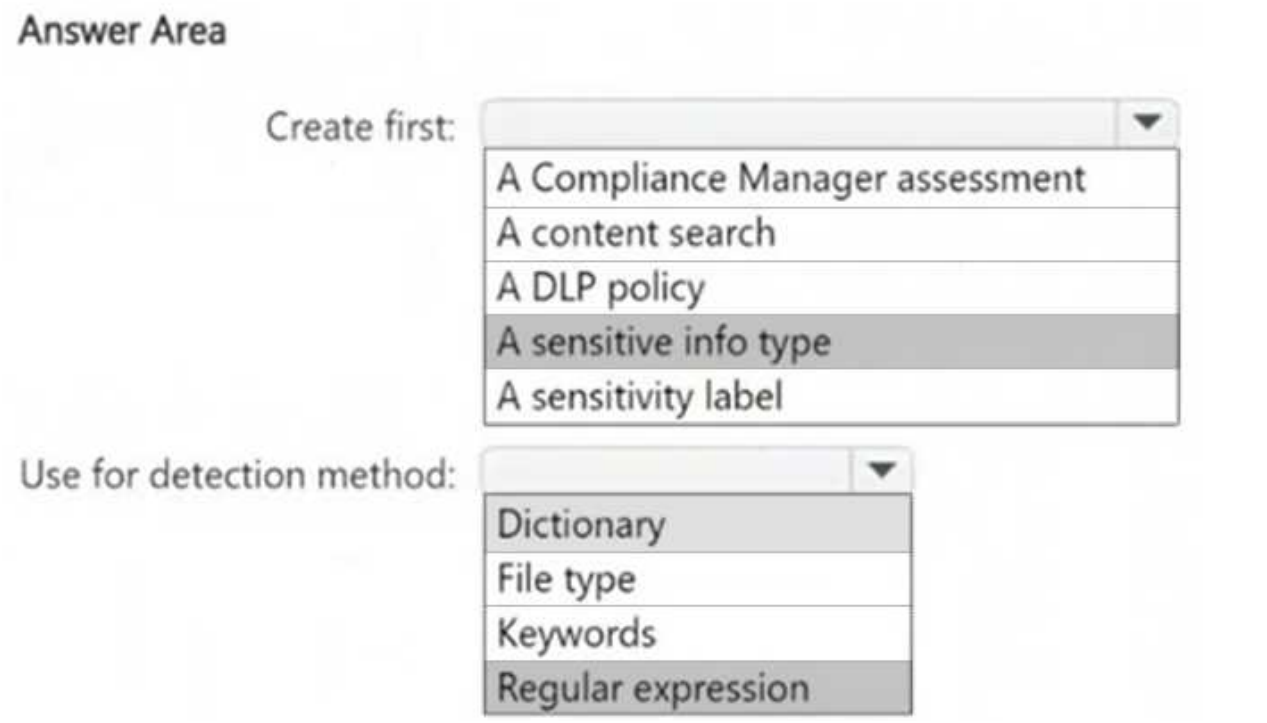
Question: 3

HOTSPOT
You need to meet the technical requirements for the confidential documents.
What should you create first, and what should you use for the detection method? To answer, select the appropriate options in the answer area.
NOTE: Each correct selection is worth one point.



Answer:

Explanation:



To detect and protect confidential documents, we need a custom rule to identify project codes that start with 999 (since they are classified as confidential).

Box 1: A Sensitive Info Type (SIT) allows Microsoft Purview DLP policies to recognize structured data (e.g.,

project codes). DLP policies require a sensitive info type to detect content based on patterns, keywords, or dictionary terms. A sensitivity label alone does not define detection logic—it is used for classification and protection after content is identified.

Box 2: Since project codes follow a structured 10-digit pattern, we should use a Regular Expression (Regex) to match project codes that start with 999.

Example Regex pattern:

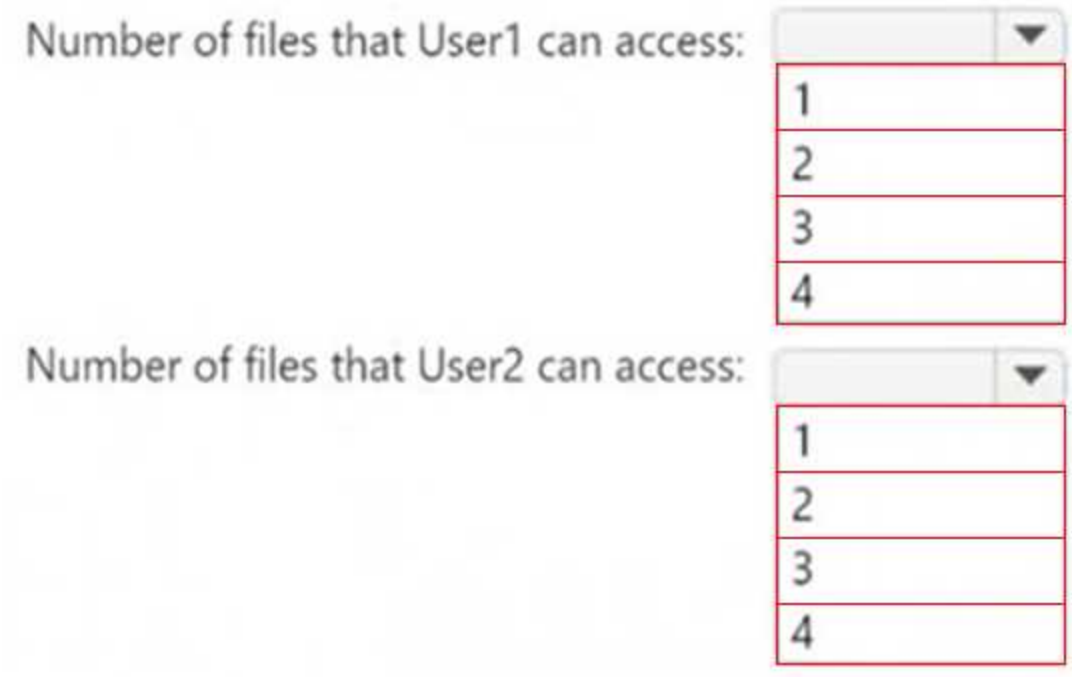
999\d{7}

This pattern detects a 10-digit number starting with "999".

Question: 4

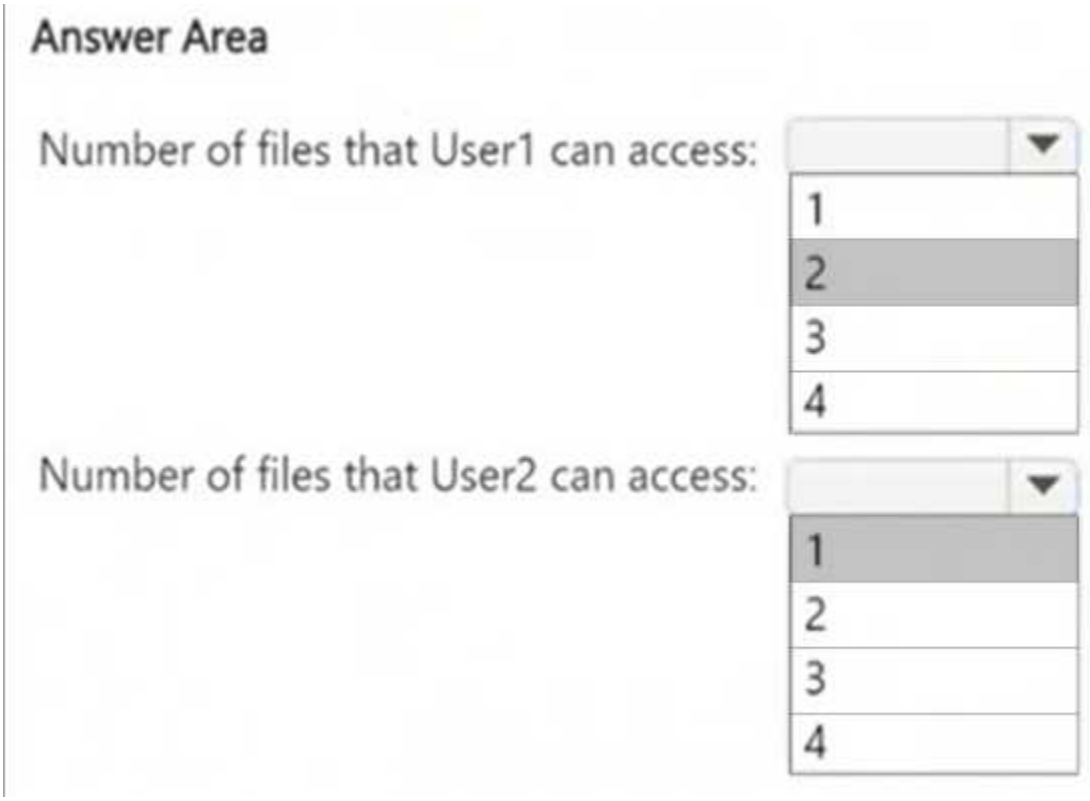
HOTSPOT
How many files in Site2 can User1 and User2 access after you turn on DLPpolicy1? To answer, select the appropriate options in the answer area.
NOTE: Each correct selection is worth one point.

Answer Area



Answer:

Explanation:



Understanding DLP Policy Impact on File Access

The DLP policy (DLPpolicy1) applies to Site2 and restricts access when:
- Content contains SWIFT Codes.
- Instance count is 2 or more.

File Analysis (Based on SWIFT Codes Count)

File Name	SWIFT Codes Count	DLP Policy Restricts Access?
File1.docx	1	□ No restriction (SWIFT codes < 2)
File2.bmp	4	□ Restricted (SWIFT codes ≥ 2)
File3.txt	3	□ Restricted (SWIFT codes ≥ 2)
File4.xlsx	7	□ Restricted (SWIFT codes ≥ 2)

Files that remain accessible (not restricted by DLP):
- File1.docx (Contains only 1 SWIFT Code → Below restriction threshold)

User access after DLP policy is applied:

User	Role in Site2	Access Rights	Can Access Files?
User1	Site Owner	Full Access	File1.docx, plus override access to another file
User2	Site Visitor	Read-only	File1.docx only

User1 (Site Owner):
- Has higher privileges and can override DLP restrictions (through admin intervention).
- Can access 2 files (File1.docx + override access to another file).

User2 (Site Visitor):
- Has read-only access but DLP blocks access to restricted files.
- Can only access 1 file (File1.docx), since all others are restricted.

Question: 5

HOTSPOT
You are reviewing policies for the SharePoint Online environment.
For each of the following statements, select Yes if the statement is true. Otherwise, select No.
NOTE: Each correct selection is worth one point.

Answer Area

Statements	Yes	No
If a user creates a file in Site4 on January 1, 2021, users will be able to access the file on January 15, 2023.	○	○
If a user deletes a file from Site4 that was created on January 1, 2021, an administrative user will be able to recover the file on April 15, 2023.	○	○
If a user deletes a file from Site4 that was created on January 1, 2021, an administrative user will be able to recover the file on April 15, 2026.	○	○

Answer:

Explanation:
Answer Area

Statements	Yes	No
If a user creates a file in Site4 on January 1, 2021, users will be able to access the file on January 15, 2023.	○	○
If a user deletes a file from Site4 that was created on January 1, 2021, an administrative user will be able to recover the file on April 15, 2023.	○	○
If a user deletes a file from Site4 that was created on January 1, 2021, an administrative user will be able to recover the file on April 15, 2026.	○	○

Understanding Site4's Retention Policies:
- Site4RetentionPolicy1 deletes items older than 2 years from creation. If a file was created on January

1, 2021, it would be deleted after January 1, 2023.
● Site4RetentionPolicy2 retains files for 4 years from creation. If a file was created on January 1, 2021, it will be kept until January 1, 2025, but not deleted after that (policy states "Do nothing").
Statement 1 - Yes, because Site4RetentionPolicy2 ensures files are retained for 4 years.
Statement 2 - Yes, because Site4RetentionPolicy2 retains the file for 4 years (until January 1, 2025).
Statement 3 - No, because retention is only for 4 years (until January 1, 2025). After that, the policy does "nothing," meaning the file is no longer recoverable after that period.

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