



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 February 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports Kentucky officials will begin annual inspections of industrial buildings that use combustible dust in an effort to prevent deadly explosions. (See item [5](#))
- The New York Times reports President Bush has named John D. Negroponte as the director of national intelligence, a new position that will oversee the country's 15 intelligence agencies and exercise broad control over a multi-billion dollar intelligence budget. (See item [19](#))
- The Apple Valley Sun Current reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency has certified a team of emergency responders in Dakota County, MN, as an Incident Management Team, a standing team of trained experts who could be mobilized to assist a city, county, or state in the event of a sustained natural or man-made disaster. (See item [22](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 17, Associated Press* — **British plant missing plutonium.** A British nuclear-reprocessing plant cannot account for over 66 pounds of plutonium, but authorities believe it is an accounting issue rather than a loss of potential bomb-making material, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) said Thursday, February 17. The amount of material listed as missing at the Sellafield plant in northwestern England was “within

international standards of expected measurement accuracies for closing a nuclear material balance at the type of facility concerned," the AEA said. "There is no evidence to suggest that any of the apparent losses reported were real losses of nuclear material," the AEA added.

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050217.wplut0217/BNStory/International/>

- 2. *February 17, Globe and Mail (Canada)* — Canadian utility official admits security breaches.** Canadian utility officials at Hydro-Québec are admitting they failed to introduce proper security measures at their power installations in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks after a news report uncovered important security flaws. A Radio-Canada news report on Tuesday, February 15, showed a cameraman and reporter entering the public utility's power installations at LG-2 and Manic-5 in Northern Quebec. They were able to open the wide doors at LG-2, the largest hydroelectric power generating station on the continent, and drive into the heart of the installations, right up to the plant's control center. The report underscored the lack of security guards and surveillance cameras, and unguarded entrances. "What I have seen is not acceptable and we must act fast," Hydro-Québec president André Caillé said. "We are now in operational mode to correct the situation," he continued. The utility's president of production, Thierry Vandal, conceded that the implementation of stringent security measures has been too slow. The Quebec government has ordered the Sûreté du Québec, the provincial police, to investigate the security breaches. The government assured Hydro-Québec consumers at home and especially in the United States that corrective measures will be implemented.

Source: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20050217/QUEBEC17/TPNational/Canada>

- 3. *February 17, The Times-Picayune (LA)* — Proposed terminal gets license.** The U.S. Maritime Administration on Wednesday, February 16, licensed a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal in the Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coast dismissing environmental concerns raised by federal fisheries scientists. The Shell US Gas & Power LLC Gulf Landing terminal would handle more than one billion cubic feet of gas a day, transferring it from super-cooled tankers to pipelines running to Louisiana and Texas. The terminal would be 38 miles south of Cameron Parish. "Everyone is in agreement that the benefits of this new facility include stabilizing current and future energy prices, enhancing the competitiveness of the U.S. economy, creating over 1,000 local construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs, reducing congestion, and enhancing the safety and mobility functions of ports throughout the Gulf of Mexico," according to a statement issued by the Maritime Administration said. Before the terminal is built, Shell will have to conduct an extensive baseline survey of fisheries and other organisms in the area. After the plant opens, the company will have to continue monitoring marine life to ensure no more organisms are killed than it predicted, using a monitoring plan reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences.

Source: http://www.nola.com/business/t-p/index.ssf?base/money-0/110_8623746161470.xml

- 4. *February 16, Associated Press* — Probe finds nuclear facility guards mishandled guns.** Federal and private guards entrusted with monitoring the transport of nuclear and conventional weapons systematically violated policies governing the handling and inventory of their own weapons, a report released Wednesday, February 16, stated. In one case, a private guard gave a government handgun to his wife to store overnight in her car, the report by the Department of

Energy inspector general found. In another, guards improperly took government and personal handguns to a Nevada nuclear test site. The report noted inadequate record keeping exposed the weapons to theft, loss or misuse. Officials with the National Nuclear Security Administration and Wackenhut Services Inc. downplayed the findings as paperwork slip-ups, not performance flaws. They said weapons inventory procedures had been stepped up, and guards had been disciplined. Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General Reports:

<http://www.ig.doe.gov/igreports.htm>

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apus_story.asp?category=1110&slug=Test%20Site%20Security

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *February 17, Associated Press* — **Kentucky officials will inspect plants that use combustible dust.** Kentucky officials will begin annual inspections of factories that use combustible dust in an effort to prevent deadly explosions. Van Cook, executive director of the state Office of Housing, Buildings and Construction, said the steps are an effort to avoid a repeat of the explosions and fire that killed seven people at a Corbin, KY, factory two years ago. Cook said his office recently gave field inspectors in its fire marshal's office a list of industrial buildings in their areas. The inspectors will use that information to identify which ones use combustible dust, Cook said. A federal agency that investigated the February 2003 blasts at CTA Acoustics in Corbin said Tuesday, February 15, that the disaster might have been prevented if the fire marshal inspections were done specifically for dust hazards. Fire inspectors have not routinely looked at factories unless there has been a complaint or request, according to the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. Federal and state officials said it isn't yet clear how many factories in Kentucky or the nation generate combustible dust during manufacturing. The Chemical Safety Board has started a nationwide review of the hazards of combustible dust.

Source: <http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/state/10924295.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *February 17, TechWeb News* — **Citibank tries on-screen keyboard to foil phishers.** The UK division of global financial firm Citibank has introduced an on-screen keyboard for its online banking customers in an attempt to foil some types identity theft. Although customers type their account username into a typical form, their password must be entered by clicking on an on-screen keyboard. According to Citibank, the change is "to reduce the chance of malicious software attempting to record keystrokes and steal your details." While phishers may need time

to replicate an on–screen keyboard, the move seems aimed at spyware–style key loggers that are dropped on systems, often by phishers, to monitor a machine and send all typed characters to the attacker.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/60401709>

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Transportation Sector

7. *February 17, Government Technology* — **Proposal issued to relax ban on using cell phones.** On Tuesday, February 15, the Federal Communications Commission proposed to relax its current ban on the use of cellular telephones on airborne aircraft. The Commission addressed policy and technical options for permitting controlled use of cellular handsets and other wireless devices in airborne aircraft as a means to increase communication options available to the traveling public as well as public safety personnel. Specifically, the Commission proposed to permit the airborne operation of "off the shelf" wireless handsets and other devices so long as the device operates at its lowest power setting and the operation does not allow unwanted radio frequency emissions to interfere with terrestrial cellular systems.
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=93110>
8. *February 17, Associated Press* — **Airport control tower hours may shorten.** Control towers at some airports could go dark between midnight and 5 a.m., under a cost–cutting plan the government is considering. The air traffic controllers' union says the move would compromise safety. Lawmakers worry it could lead to service reductions in their states. Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Greg Martin said the agency is looking to adjust staffing to meet changes in demand. There are 48 airports that handle few commercial and cargo flights in those five late–night hours. Federal air traffic controllers staff 315 airports, but not all do it around the clock. For example, control towers at Mansfield Regional Airport in Ohio and at Palm Springs International Airport in California operate for only 17 hours, Martin said. In addition, there are 193 airports with scheduled commercial service that do not even have control towers. When a tower is empty, pilots are always in voice contact with a controller, either at the Terminal Radar Approach Control or at a center, Martin said.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/TRAVEL/02/17/faa.control.towers.ap/index.html>
9. *February 17, Jacksonville Business Journal (FL)* — **CSX Transportation opposes District Hazmat law.** CSX Transportation Inc. has filed a complaint in federal court asking that the District of Columbia's ban on the transportation of hazardous materials be declared invalid. Company officials say they plan to seek a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction. In its filing CSX noted that as a "common carrier" it is required by federal law to transport hazardous materials and claims that the Washington, DC law violates the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. DC Bill 16–77 was passed by the City Council on February 1, and signed into law Tuesday, February 15, by Mayor Anthony Williams. It would prevent rail and truck transportation companies from transporting certain hazardous materials through the District of Columbia. Other communities are also discussing similar legislation. "Federal laws require railroads to carry hazardous materials. As long as that legal duty exists, this company has a responsibility to move the materials as safely as possible for all communities," said Ellen M. Fitzsimmons, CSX senior vice president–law and public affairs.

Source: <http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2005/02/14/daily27.html>

10. *February 16, Associated Press* — **Atlanta airport confirmed as busiest.** The Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport saw more passengers than any other airport last year: 83.6 million travelers passed through the airport. This was a 5.7 percent increase from 2003, said the report which the airport released Wednesday, February 16. The airport expects another increase in total passengers this year to 89 million, spokesperson Robert Kennedy said. The numbers mean Atlanta edged out Chicago O'Hare International Airport in terms of number of passengers. But O'Hare claims the title of "world's busiest airport" by counting total number of flights.
- Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/TRAVEL/02/16/bt.atlanta.busiest.airport.ap/index.html>

11. *January 14, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–05–170: Homeland Security: Process for Reporting Lessons Learned from Seaport Exercises Needs Further Attention (Report).** Seaports are a critical vulnerability in the nation's defense against terrorism. They are potential entry points for bombs or other devices smuggled into cargo ships and ports' often–sprawling nature present many potential targets for attack. To assess the response procedures that would be implemented in an attack or security incident, officials conduct port–specific exercises. Many federal, state, and local agencies may potentially be involved. The Coast Guard has primary responsibility for coordinating these exercises and analyzing the results. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) the emerging framework for coordinating entities involved in security responses, (2) legal and operational issues emerging from exercises conducted to date, and (3) Coast Guard management of reports analyzing exercises. GAO reviewed reports on 82 exercises from fiscal year 2004 and observed four exercises as they were being conducted. To help ensure reports on terrorism–related exercises are submitted in a timely manner that complies with all Coast Guard requirements, the Commandant of the Coast Guard should review the Coast Guard's actions for ensuring timeliness and determine if further actions are needed. The Coast Guard generally concurred with GAO's findings and this recommendation. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05170high.pdf>
- Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-170>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

12. *February 17, Reuters* — **Monsanto to buy Emergent Genetics.** Agriculture products company Monsanto Co. on Thursday, February 17, said it will buy Emergent Genetics Inc., the third–largest U.S. cotton seed company, for \$300 million. Monsanto said that acquiring Emergent, its second acquisition in less than a month, will give it a base of popular cotton products on which it can apply biotechnology traits and molecular breeding capabilities to make

the plants easier for farmers to grow. Emergent, known for its Stoneville and NexGen brands, holds about 12 percent of the U.S. cotton seed market. Emergent is currently one of Monsanto's licensees buying traits to give its seeds resistance to insects and herbicides. Monsanto announced on January 24 that it was buying Seminis, the world's largest commercial vegetable and fruit seed company, for one billion dollars.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=7662555>

13. *February 17, Associated Press* — **Lobster disease spreading along New England coast.** A disease that rots lobsters' shells and can kill the crustaceans now affects 30 percent of lobsters along the New England coast, scientists said Wednesday, February 16. The disease's cause and how it spreads remain a mystery. The disease does not taint the lobsters' meat, but makes the shells too unsightly to serve whole. It can weaken lobsters so much that some die prematurely. Researchers in the region first noticed shell disease in the 1980s, with shells marked by little black spots. But in recent years, the researchers said, shells have become fully enveloped by the disease, and in the worst cases have rotted entirely. In 1999, the lobster industry in Rhode Island generated \$30 million and employed 425 fishermen, according to Mark Gibson of the state Department of Environmental Management. Four years later, the industry produced \$16.7 million and employed 279.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-02-16-lobster-disease_x.htm

14. *February 16, Reuters* — **Smithfield, ContiBeef to form top U.S. cattle feeder.** ContiBeef LLC and Smithfield Foods Inc. said on Wednesday, February 16, they will merge their cattle feedlots under a joint venture that will become the largest U.S. cattle feeding business. Under the 50/50 deal, which should start operations by April 30, Smithfield's four feedlots and ContiBeef's six feedlots will be operated as a stand-alone company with a one-time cattle feeding capacity of 811,000 head. That will surpass Cactus Feeders Inc., of Amarillo, TX, which currently tops the industry with a capacity of about 500,000 head, industry sources said. The deal comes about four months after top pork producer Smithfield entered the cattle feeding business. In October, it bought MF Cattle Feeding Inc. from ConAgra Foods Inc. That deal involved four feedlots. ContiBeef LLC is an affiliate of ContiGroup Cos. Inc., and is one of the largest cattle feeding operations in the world, marketing more than one million head of cattle annually, the company said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=7650854>

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Food Sector

15. *February 17, Associated Press* — **Investigators say USDA allowed imports of questionable meat.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowed Canada to ship 42,000 pounds of questionable meat into the U.S. despite restrictions in place since the discovery of mad cow disease in Canada, department investigators said Wednesday, February 16. The investigation resulted from a federal judge's ruling last April preventing the department from expanding Canadian beef imports. The agency's inspector general faulted agriculture officials for allowing more kinds of Canadian meat products into the U.S. before the judge's ruling. Such "permit creep" let in products that were at greater risk for the disease, the report said. "There was reduced assurance that Canadian beef entering the United States was low-risk," the inspector

general found. In all, the agency issued 1,144 permits for imported meat "without ensuring that the agency had an appropriate system of internal controls to manage the process," the report found.

Source: <http://www.magicvalley.com/news/worldnation/index.asp?StoryID=12150>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

16. *February 17, New England Journal of Medicine* — Bird flu may be more widespread. In southern Vietnam, a four-year-old boy presented with severe diarrhea, followed by seizures, coma, and death. The cerebrospinal fluid contained one white cell per cubic millimeter, normal glucose levels, and increased levels of protein (0.81 g per liter). The diagnosis of avian influenza A (H5N1) was established by isolation of the virus from cerebrospinal fluid, fecal, throat, and serum specimens. The patient's nine-year-old sister had died from a similar syndrome two weeks earlier. In both siblings, the clinical diagnosis was acute encephalitis. Neither patient had respiratory symptoms at presentation. These cases suggest that the spectrum of influenza H5N1 is wider than previously thought.

Source: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/352/7/686>

17. *February 16, Associated Press* — Transplant patients get rabies from organs. Three hospital patients in Germany appear to have been infected with rabies through organ transplants and are in critical condition, a medical foundation said Wednesday, February 16. Three others who received transplants from the same donor, a woman who died of a heart attack late last year, are doing fine, the German Foundation for Organ Transplants said. The donor showed no rabies symptoms at the time of her death, although a recent examination of her brain showed typical signs of the disease, the group said. How the woman may have contracted rabies was unclear, but the group noted that she had been in India in October. Although rare in developed countries, rabies kills thousands of people each year in developing nations. The critically ill patients received the donor's lungs, kidneys, and a pancreas. All showed rabies symptoms, the group said. A patient in Heidelberg who received the liver, as well as two patients in Mainz who received her corneas, were in good health.

Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/10914940.htm>

18. *February 14, Archives of Internal Medicine* — Impact of influenza vaccination on seasonal mortality in elderly. Influenza vaccination coverage among elderly persons in the U.S. increased from between 15 percent and 20 percent before 1980 to 65 percent in 2001. Unexpectedly, estimates of influenza-related mortality in this age group also increased during this period. Researchers used a cyclical regression model to generate seasonal estimates of national influenza-related mortality among the elderly in both pneumonia and influenza deaths for the 33 seasons from 1968 to 2001. For people aged 65 to 74 years, mortality rates in

A(H3N2)–dominated seasons fell between 1968 and the early 1980s but remained approximately constant thereafter. Excess mortality in A(H1N1) and B seasons did not change. Researchers attribute the decline in influenza–related mortality among people aged 65 to 74 years in the decade after the 1968 pandemic to the acquisition of immunity to the emerging A(H3N2) virus. Researchers could not correlate increasing vaccination coverage after 1980 with declining mortality rates in any age group. Because fewer than 10 percent of all winter deaths were attributable to influenza in any season, researchers concluded that observational studies substantially overestimate vaccination benefit.

Source: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/165/3/265>

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Government Sector

19. *February 17, New York Times* — Bush names Negroponte as nation's first Intelligence Chief. President Bush on Thursday, February 17, named John D. Negroponte as the director of national intelligence, a new position that will oversee the country's 15 intelligence agencies and exercise broad control over a multi–billion dollar intelligence budget. Negroponte, 65, has been serving as the United States ambassador to Iraq since last summer, a tenure Bush called an "incalculable advantage for an intelligence chief." Before that, Negroponte had served as United States ambassador to the United Nations. Creating the new position was one of the central recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that finished its work last summer. The intelligence community had been under fire since the September 11th, 2001, terrorist attacks for poor communication and organization, and the commission said it believed that centralizing control of the myriad intelligence agencies would create a more effective system.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/17/politics/17cnd-inte.html?hp&ex=1108702800&en=22d49d39c86ff47&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

20. *February 16, Department of Homeland Security* — Secretary Chertoff announces senior staff. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Wednesday, February 16, announced John F. Wood as Chief of Staff and Brian R. Besanceney as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. As Chief of Staff, Wood will oversee the Department's policy, planning and operations responsibilities. Wood most recently served at the Department of Justice (DOJ) as Counselor to the Attorney General, where he oversaw the Department's Civil, Civil Rights, Antitrust, Tax, and Environment Divisions and DOJ's civil terrorism litigation. As Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Besanceney will manage both internal and external communications for the Department and all of its component directorates, as well as provide management and oversight to the Office of Public Affairs. Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security, Besanceney served as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Communications at the White House where he developed and implemented communication strategies on a wide range of public policy issues.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4356>

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Emergency Services Sector

21. *February 17, ContraCostaTimes (CA)* — **Class prepares residents for disaster.** A dozen Antioch, CA, residents recently received 20 hours of classroom and hands-on training so they can supplement the efforts of emergency personnel in the event of a catastrophe. The sessions were organized by Contra Costa Fire Protection District and Antioch Police Department, the first government agency in the county to benefit from the federally funded training this year. The purpose of Community Emergency Response Training or CERT is to teach lay people how to respond to an earthquake, chemical spill, terrorist attack or some other large-scale crisis without contributing to the chaos, said Kathy Woofter, a Contra Costa Fire Protection District employee and one of eight instructors. Participants learned to recognize suspicious behavior or environmental red flags — an unusual number of dead birds or even the absence of common wildlife, for example — that could be signs of biological warfare, she said. In addition to the obvious necessities of nonperishable food, water, a flashlight and first-aid supplies, being ready for a disaster means having a transistor radio so one can obtain reliable information on road closures, emergency shelters and feeding stations, Woofter said.
Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/local/state/california/counties/contra_costa_county/cities_neighborhoods/antioch/10921908.htm
22. *February 17, Apple Valley Sun Current (MN)* — **Emergency response team FEMA certified.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has certified a team of emergency responders in Dakota County, MN, as an Incident Management Team (IMT). The Dakota County team is the first county-level team in the state to be certified, placing them in the top two percent of teams in the nation. The IMT is a standing team of trained experts who could be mobilized to assist a city, county, or state in the event of a sustained natural or man-made disaster. The National Fire Academy, a division of FEMA, trained the team over an eight-day period at the Dakota County Northern Service Center in West St. Paul. Thirty-two emergency responders from fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and public health agencies in Dakota County participated in the training. The training was funded by federal Homeland Security grants. The training program taught participants how to organize a command structure that encompasses the functions needed during comprehensive response to an emergency, such as logistics, finance, and communications. Each topic included a scenario that simulated a disaster situation, such as a flood or airplane crash.
Source: http://www.mnsun.com/story.asp?city=Apple_Valley&story=152462
23. *February 16, Westport Now (CT)* — **CERT training sessions.** Westport, CT's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is continuing to sponsor training sessions for interested citizens beginning February 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Westport Police Department. The program is free and training will be conducted by the Westport Police Department, the Westport Fire Department, Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Services, and the Mid-Fairfield County Chapter of the American Red Cross. After 24 hours of classroom training, CERT volunteers will become Special Call members of the Westport Volunteer Emergency Services.
Source: <http://www.westportnow.com/archives/010821.htm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

24. *February 16, CNET News* — **Software firms fault colleges' security education.** In a panel session Tuesday, February 15, at the Secure Software Forum in San Francisco, Oracle, Microsoft and other software makers attempted to analyze why flawed software is still overwhelmingly the rule and not the exception in the industry. A major contributor, the companies said, is college students' lack of a good grounding in secure programming. Many software makers believe that better training of computer science graduates is a key step toward improving software quality, but some security researchers have criticized the industry, pointing out that industry demand for programmers generally does not give preference to those trained in secure programming. To influence curricula, private industry has established scholarships at universities. Also, several federal agencies, including the Department of Defense and the National Security Agency, have named several college programs as National Centers of Academic Excellence in a variety of security disciplines. However, some panel members laid the blame for the problems squarely at the feet of software makers. Until companies are willing to foot the bill for security, applications will not get better, said Fred Rica, a partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers' Threat and Vulnerability Assessment Services.
Source: http://news.com.com/Software+firms+fault+colleges+security+education/2100-1002_3-5579014.html
25. *February 16, Federal Computer Week* — **American Electronics Association fears IT decline.** A report from the American Electronics Association warns that the decreasing focus on science and technology inside the United States will weaken the country's competitive advantage. The trade group's report notes that federally sponsored research and development funding for information technology has declined during the past decade and a half as priorities have shifted to life sciences. Authors of "Losing the Competitive Advantage?" also argued the U.S. educational system fails to provide the math and science skills needed to compete in the workforce, while higher education does not graduate enough scientists and engineers to keep up with the high-tech industry's growth. Bob Cohen, a senior vice president at the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), said ITAA members agree that some indicators suggest U.S. leadership in high technology may be at risk, if the country does not sharpen its competitiveness in global markets. Report:
http://www.aenet.org/Publications/idjj_CompetitivenessMain0_205.asp
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2005/0214/web-aea-02-16-05.a.sp>
26. *February 16, SecurityTracker* — **Typespeed vulnerability local users gain elevated privileges.** A format string vulnerability was reported in typespeed that could permit a local user to gain elevated privileges on the target system. A sprintf() call is made in 'file.c' without the appropriate format string specifier when processing data from the HOME environment variable. A local user can set the HOME environment variable to a specially crafted value to execute arbitrary code with 'games' group privileges. No solution is currently available.
Source: <http://securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Feb/1013218.html>
27. *February 16, SecurityTracker* — **KDE buffer overflow remote access vulnerability.** A buffer overflow vulnerability was reported in KDE in the 'fliccd' component of KDE-Edu, KStars, and INDI. A local user can obtain root privileges and a remote user may be able to gain access to the system. A local user can trigger several buffer overflow vulnerabilities in fliccd to execute arbitrary code on the target system. The Instrument Neutral Distributed Interface

(INDI) support installs fliccd with set user id (setuid) root user privileges. As a result, a local user can gain root privileges. If the fliccd daemon is running (which is not the default configuration), then a remote user can gain access to the target system, potentially with root privileges. The vendor has issued a patch for 3.3.2, available at:

ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/security_patches

Source: <http://securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Feb/1013217.html>

28. *February 16, SecurityTracker* — **DCP–Portal SQL injection vulnerability.** Several input validation vulnerabilities were reported in DCP–Portal that could permit a remote user to inject SQL commands. The 'index.php' and 'forums.php' scripts do not properly validate user–supplied input in several parameters. If magic_quotes_gpc is set to off in the 'php.ini' configuration file, then a remote user can submit a specially crafted HTTP request to execute SQL commands on the underlying database. No solution is currently available.

Source: <http://securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Feb/1013216.html>

29. *February 16, Secunia* — **Linux kernel multiple vulnerabilities.** Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in the Linux kernel. These can be exploited by malicious, local users to gain knowledge of potentially sensitive information or cause a DoS (Denial of Service), or by malicious people to cause a DoS or bypass certain security restrictions. There is no complete solution at this time.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/14295/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US–CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US–CERT Operations Center Synopsis: On Tuesday, Microsoft published 13 security updates as part of their February security release. Eleven of the security bulletins affect Windows, and nine of the bulletins have been marked as "Critical." The US–CERT recommends ensuring that all Windows systems on your network have been patched for these vulnerabilities. Full information on the vulnerabilities, as well as links to the patches can be found at

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/default.msp>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft–ds), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios–ssn), 53 (domain), 1025 (—), 80 (www), 113 (auth), 1026 (—), 6346 (gnutella–svc), 1027 (icq)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

30. *February 17, Newsday (NY)* — **Sunrise Mall is changing hands.** Real estate sources say Westfield Group, a rapidly expanding Australian mall owner that already owns one Long Island mall, will soon announce a deal to buy the Massapequa, LI, property, setting the stage for a shopping shoot-out between Westfield and the Island's dominant player, Simon Property Group. Steven Greenberg, a real estate adviser, suggested that the well-worn Sunrise Mall may soon be more appealing under Westfield. "They have a history of taking good property that's been forgotten and turning it around," said Greenberg, head of the Hewlett-based Greenberg Group, which helps national retailers find locations. That would put Westfield in a better position to challenge Simon, the country's largest mall owner.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-bzmall0217.0.1845535.story?coll=ny-topstories-headlines>

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General Sector

31. *February 17, New York Times* — **Officials warn of future terrorist acts in U.S.** In a wide-ranging assessment of threats to American security on Wednesday, February 16, including those posed by Iran and North Korea, officials told Congress intelligence indicated that terrorist organizations remained intent on obtaining and using devastating weapons against the U.S. "It may only be a matter of time before al Qaeda or another group attempts to use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons," Porter J. Goss, the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told the Senate Intelligence Committee. The warnings from Goss and other officials came as part of a stark presentation that described terrorism as the top threat to the U.S. despite what they described as successes in the last year. In his written testimony, Admiral Loy cited recent information from investigations and detentions as the basis for his concern about the Mexican border. He added, "Several al Qaeda leaders believe operatives can pay their way into the country through Mexico and also believe illegal entry is more advantageous than legal entry for operational security reasons." Robert S. Mueller, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, listed first among his current concerns what he said might already be "the threat from covert al Qaeda operatives inside the U.S."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/17/international/americas/17i.ntel.html>

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The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures:

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