



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 January 2007

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

- A new rule going into effect Tuesday, January 22, will require Americans flying to Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean to show a passport to get back into the country. (See item [10](#))
- USA TODAY reports the Transportation Security Administration will start a nationwide tracking system in about a month to determine how long rail cars filled with lethal materials are stopped on tracks or sit in unsecured storage yards in urban areas. (See item [15](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has designated the President's State of the Union Address as a National Special Security Event and the U.S. Secret Service assumes its legally mandated role as the lead federal agency for the design and implementation of the operational security plan. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 22, Reuters* — **U.S. urged to ramp up geothermal power.** Mining heat stored in rocks in the Earth's crust could meet a growing portion of U.S. electricity demand, replacing aging nuclear and coal plants with an environmentally friendly alternative, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). An MIT study said the mining of thermal energy could be done on a far larger scale than conventionally known, reducing spiraling oil import

bills and strengthening U.S. energy security. Geothermal power is already on the rise globally as expensive oil and gas make it increasingly competitive despite high capital costs. Top energy consumer the U.S. is leading the way, with 61 projects in the works to double its geothermal capacity to more than 5,000 megawatts, according to the Geothermal Energy Association. MIT's study said the U.S. as a first step could achieve capacity of 100,000 megawatts -- enough to supply about 25 million homes -- in 50 years at an eventual cost of just \$40 million a year. That would represent about six percent of the current U.S. electricity supply.

Study: http://geothermal.inel.gov/publications/future_of_geothermal_energy.pdf

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2007-01-22T061736Z_01_N21399355_RTRUKOC_0_US-THE_RMAL-ENERGY.xml

2. *January 22, Rutland Herald (VT)* — **'Mini-hydros' seen as energy resource of future.** Steve Bachler doesn't just see abandoned mills and small ancient dams when he walks the rivers and brooks of a small Vermont town. He sees opportunity. "Some of these downstream dams that aren't used anymore are perfect opportunities for micro-hydros," Bachler said. Bachler hopes there are more small electricity-generating hydro facilities in the state's future. He's a member of the Vermont Small Hydro Association, a new group that is trying to change Vermont's regulatory process to make it easier to build these smaller hydroelectric projects. The group is launching a town meeting resolution petition drive to test the response from Vermont residents. The idea is that using about 1,000 sites along waterways ideal for small hydros can solve part of the state's future energy problems. The time seems right, he said, since the state is now tackling issues such as climate change and facing the possibility of an energy future without Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant and Hydro-Quebec. These smaller hydro facilities -- often called mini- or micro-hydros -- can generate energy for a single home or a whole block. Towns could use the energy to power municipal-owned buildings or local schools.

Source: <http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070122/NEWS02/701220345>

3. *January 21, Associated Press* — **Timber industry turning toward energy production.** The timber industry is realizing that energy production can help finance widespread thinning of national forests to combat wildfires and insect infestations. Since Congress reauthorized a federal energy production tax credit for biomass, solar and wind power last month, sawmills in Oregon are going forward with biomass projects. Another is slated for Arizona in conjunction with a long-term U.S. Forest Service thinning project there triggered by the massive 2002 Rodeo-Chedeski fire. More are foreseen in California, which has a long history of generating electricity from forest thinnings. Steve Mueller of DG Energy LLC said there are three keys. A generating plant needs to be close to the fuel, close to a major electrical transmission line, and close to a mill to buy the excess steam. Plants burning forest thinnings and waste from lumber and pulp mills generate about 2,500 megawatts nationally -- far behind wind power in production, popularity and government support -- said Bill Carlson of USA biomass Power Producers Alliance.

Source: http://www.dailybulletin.com/business/ci_5054921

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *January 19, Appeal-Democrat (CA)* — **Chemical spill shuts down street, evacuates nearby business.** Yuba City, CA, firefighters donned their hazardous material suits Thursday, January 18, in response to a chemical spill behind a vacant meatpacking plant. The spill behind the former Palace Meats plant at 350 Bridge St. injured no one but forced the evacuation of a neighboring business. A tank that was being removed from the plant fell off the back of a flatbed truck, causing a valve on the tank to release a liquid that hit the air and turned to a white vapor. "We're fairly certain it was ammonia" that was used as a refrigerant in the plant, said fire Battalion Chief John Limas. The offices of Comcast and the Sutter County Probation Department, downwind and only about a half-block away, did not have to be evacuated. Police closed nearby Boyd Street and told employees of the Carpet Clearance store next door to evacuate.

Source: http://www.appeal-democrat.com/articles/2007/01/19/news/loca1_news/news5.txt

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *January 18, Aviation Week* — **Navy shifting to electrical propulsion for its future ships.** The Navy's next-generation destroyer — bristling with advanced sensors and weapons — will feature a novel electric drive to slake its unprecedented thirst for power. At the same time, the Navy is working under mandates from the Department of Defense and Congress to increase energy efficiency, with the goal of reducing the consumption of fossil fuels by surface ships. Energy efficiency is an ongoing concern due to fluctuating oil prices and the potential for supply disruptions that could affect the Navy's ability to meet its operational needs in a crisis. Many experts say that electric propulsion systems promote fuel efficiency and can provide 10–25 percent reductions in consumption. The Navy has specified electric propulsion for the seven DDG 1000 Zumwalt-class destroyers slated for construction beginning in Fiscal 2008. "[Electric propulsion] is not something totally new to the Navy, or to the fleet," says John Pazik, division manager for ships and engineering systems at the Office of Naval Research. "But the capabilities it can provide when we start incorporating it in warships could have significant benefits."

Source: http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=dti&id=news/dti1106a.xml

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *January 22, Chicago Sun-Times* — **Voters' personal info leaked again.** About 100 computer discs with 1.3 million Chicago voters' Social Security numbers have been distributed to aldermen and ward committeemen, and the whereabouts of at least an additional six CDs with the same information are unknown, according to the Chicago Board of Elections. This follows a security lapse in October, when voters' Social Security numbers were available through the board's Website. But unlike the Website flaw, which was fixed in a few minutes, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the board of elections to retrieve sensitive data physically

scattered on more than 100 discs throughout the area. The discs also contain voters' birth dates and addresses — information that along with Social Security numbers can be used to commit identity theft. The board said that, so far, there has been no evidence of identity theft as a result of the lapse. Records on the CDs contain information about 2.2 million active and inactive voters, but only 1.3 million of the records contain Social Security numbers.

Source: <http://www.dailysouthtown.com/news/222632.221NWS4.article>

7. *January 22, Finextra (UK)* — **Australian banks to examine liability for online scams.** The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) is to review liability issues in online crime and phishing in a move that will be closely watched by banks worldwide. The association has called for submissions to review the Electronic Funds Transfer Code of Conduct (EFT Code) — a voluntary industry code of practice covering all forms of consumer electronic payments transactions. Banks in Australia currently reimburse customers who fall victim to online scams that steal data including passwords and personal details. But the consultation paper calls for industry feedback on whether account holders should be liable for unauthorized transaction losses when customers' equipment does not meet "minimum" security requirements. ASIC consumer protection executive director Greg Tanzer says rapid growth in the use of the Internet as a transaction channel has stimulated an accompanying growth in Internet fraud, including the use of deception-based phishing and the installation of malicious code on users' equipment. "Whether account holders should be required to bear any liability for losses resulting from these types of fraud, is one of the important issues to be addressed by the review, and the matter is discussed in detail in the consultation paper," he adds.

Consultation paper: http://finextra.com/finextra-downloads/newsdocs/eft_review_2_007.pdf

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16409>

8. *January 22, VNUNet* — **Cyber-criminals target mobile banking.** Cyber-criminals and identity thieves will turn their attention to mobile banking and payment initiatives during 2007, experts warn. TowerGroup noted that, while most mobile phones are potential targets, smartphones and wireless PDAs are "particularly attractive" to scammers given their capabilities to support PC-like applications including Web browsing and instant messaging. TowerGroup believes that mobile commerce initiatives now emerging from the financial services industry "lack a reasonable and justifiable focus" on mobile security. "The success of mobile banking and payments, as well as the concept of the mobile wallet, will be measured against the industry's ability to effectively contain the malware problems to a level that is at least on par with that of the existing internet channel," said Bob Egan of TowerGroup. "Over 200 mobile viruses have already been identified, a number that is doubling nearly every six months." TowerGroup estimates that employees at 80 percent of U.S. financial institutions are already using smartphones, including BlackBerrys. As the mobile channel continues its rapid growth, the complexities surrounding security, including identity theft, consumer privacy and fraud, are increasing exponentially.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2173161/cyber-criminals-target-mobile>

9. *January 18, Associated Press* — **U.S. retracts Canada spy coins claim.** Reversing itself, the Department of Defense (DoD) says an espionage report it produced that warned about Canadian coins with tiny radio frequency transmitters was not true. The Defense Security Service said it never could substantiate its own published claims about the mysterious coins. The service had contended since late June that such coins were found planted on U.S. contractors with classified

security clearances on at least three separate occasions between October 2005 and January 2006 as the contractors traveled through Canada. Intelligence and technology experts were flabbergasted over the initial report, which suggested such transmitters could be used to surreptitiously track the movements of people carrying the coins. Robert Moroz, who organizes an annual technology conference in Canada, said one vendor in 2005 attached coin-sized transmitters to casino chips as part of a proof-of-concept demonstration. Moroz also cited previous industry proposals — later abandoned — to build such transmitters into the euro. But he was skeptical about DoD's claims even before the Pentagon said its own report was false. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/18/AR2007011801152.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *January 22, Associated Press* — New passport rules start. A new rule going into effect Tuesday, January 22, will require Americans flying to Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean to show a passport to get back into the country. The new regulations requiring passports were adopted by Congress in 2004 to secure the borders against terrorists. Starting Tuesday, Canadian, Mexican and Bermudan air travelers, as well as U.S. citizens flying home from those countries or the Caribbean, must display their passports to enter the United States. The only valid substitutes for a passport will be a NEXUS Air card, used by some American and Canadian frequent fliers; identification as a U.S. Coast Guard merchant mariner; and the green card carried by legal permanent residents. Active members of the U.S. military are exempt. For now, the rules affect only air travelers. Land and sea travelers will not have to show passports until at least January 2008. Air travelers who cannot produce a passport will be interviewed by customs agents, who will decide whether to let them into the country.

Additional information is available on the State Department Website:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/22/AR2007012200911.html>

11. *January 22, Associated Press* — Singapore to terror-proof Hazmat trucks. Trucks carrying hazardous materials in Singapore will be equipped with devices that can remotely shut down the engines to prevent their use in a terrorist attack, the government said Monday, January 21. Since July 2005, the city-state has been using global positioning system devices to track the exact locations of all vehicles carrying toxic, corrosive or flammable materials such as petroleum and diesel. The new devices would let authorities remotely "stop the vehicles by shutting down the engine safely," Ho Peng Kee, senior minister of state for law and home affairs, told Parliament. Ho said the plan would be implemented during a one-year period, starting in April. Vehicles carrying hazardous materials have a stipulated route and time to get to their destination, Ho added. Any deviation would trigger an alarm at the city-state's civil defense agency, and set off the vehicle's blinking lights and horns. Authorities would then investigate.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/22/AR2007012200432.html>

12. *January 22, Canada Press* — **Safety review makes 41 recommendations to improve safety at BC Ferries.** A safety review at BC Ferries — located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada — ordered by the company after one of its passenger vessels sank last spring, recommends the relationship between the corporation and its employees be improved. The report by former BC auditor general George Morfitt released Monday, January 22, makes 41 recommendations. The privately operated BC Ferries Services Inc. launched the safety review after the sinking last March of the Queen of the North, a passenger ferry with 101 passengers and crew on board. The vessel hit an island near Prince Rupert in northwestern British Columbia and sank. Two passengers are missing and presumed dead. One recommendation raises questions about the high volume of ferry traffic in a narrow area near Victoria known as Active Pass. The report is available on the BC Ferries website at www.bcferrries.com. Source: <http://www.macleans.ca/topstories/politics/news/shownews.jsp?content=n012259A>
13. *January 22, Reuters* — **No danger to plane in bomb threat in Houston.** Investigators have determined there was no threat to about 50 passengers on board a commercial regional flight that landed on Monday, January 22, at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport, according to a Houston airport spokesperson. A non-specific bomb threat to the propeller-driven plane, providing regional service to Continental Airlines Houston hub at the Tyler, TX, airport was phoned in to law enforcement officials at about 10:30 a.m. CST (1630 GMT) Monday, a Houston FBI spokesperson said. Source: <http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?view=CN&storyID=2007-01-22T1802>
14. *January 22, Associated Press* — **Plane skids off runway in Wisconsin.** A jet with 104 people on board skidded off a runway in snowy weather Sunday, January 21, after the Northwest Airlines crew aborted the flight as it began accelerating for takeoff, airline officials said. No serious injuries were reported in the late-morning incident. One passenger on the DC-9 was treated for a sore back, airline officials said. The crew of Flight 1726 bound for Detroit "opted to discontinue its takeoff due to an engine problem," the airline said in a statement. The plane skidded when the pilot applied the brakes, said Pat Rowe, spokesperson for General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, WI. The aircraft came to a stop on the grass by the runway. The 99 passengers and five crewmembers were bused back to the terminal with their luggage. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-01-22-plane-skids-off-runway_x.htm
15. *January 21, USA TODAY* — **TSA to track rail shipments with toxic cargo.** The government for the first time will monitor rail shipments of potentially deadly cargo passing through cities to make sure cars vulnerable to attack don't sit unguarded for too long. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will start a nationwide tracking system in about a month to determine how long rail cars filled with lethal materials are stopped on tracks or sit in unsecured storage yards in urban areas. Unguarded rail cars filled with toxic chemicals such as chlorine in cities are the single biggest terrorist threat related to the nation's railroads, the TSA says. The U.S. Naval Research Lab has said an attack on such a rail car could kill 100,000 people. Railroads carry 105,000 carloads of toxic chemicals a year, and 1.6 million carloads of other hazardous materials such as explosives and radioactive items, the government says. Railroads carry two-thirds of shipped toxic chemicals, most of it chlorine and anhydrous ammonia, a fertilizer. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-01-21-rail-cargo_x.htm

16. *January 21, Copley News Service* — **Two men accused of hacking into traffic system.** Two city traffic engineers are facing felony charges for allegedly hacking into the computerized system that manages Los Angeles traffic signals, causing severe tie-ups that coincided with a wage protest by the union for city engineers. Officials said the accused men, Gabriel Murillo, 37, and Kartik Patel, 34, did not shut down the signals, but extended the timing of red lights at four busy intersections to keep motorists at a near standstill. The four intersections were near major destinations—one was at Los Angeles International Airport—or near freeways. While the traffic congestion did not lead to injuries, it took four days for officials with the city's Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control Center to undo the damage. Prosecutors allege Murillo altered computer codes so only he and his fellow engineer—who have been credited with helping create the center and the computer system it houses—could change the system. Murillo and Patel have pleaded not guilty. The incident has raised questions about the vulnerability of the computerized traffic control system—considered one of the most advanced in the nation—in a city that year after year has the worst traffic congestion in the nation. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070121-9999-1n21traff.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *January 21, New York Times* — **Damaged ship off Britain spills fuel and cargo.** A damaged and listing cargo ship was spilling fuel and cargo containers into stormy seas off the southwest coast of England, near Devon, British officials said Sunday, January 21. Some of the containers held hazardous materials. Some of the containers have already washed up at local beaches, officials said. The vessel was carrying 2,323 containers, 158 of which were classed as hazardous, according to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. Dangerous materials in containers on board included nitric oxide and potassium hydroxide, battery acid and chemicals used to make perfume. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/22/world/europe/22ship.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

18. *January 22, Agricultural Research Service* — **Identifying variation in the U.S. bovine prion gene.** Do genes affect bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease? Are some cattle more susceptible than others? To address these and other questions, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE, have sequenced the bovine prion gene (PRNP) in 192 cattle that represent 16 beef and five dairy breeds common in the U.S. Researchers are examining PRNP variation in order to learn if and how prions correlate with BSE susceptibility. From the 192 PRNP sequences, the researchers have identified 388 variations, or polymorphisms, 287 of which were previously unknown. Some of these polymorphisms may influence BSE susceptibility in cattle. Comparing PRNP sequences from infected and healthy cattle may enable researchers to identify genetic markers in the prion gene that predict BSE susceptibility. In addition to PRNP, the researchers

is currently sequencing several closely related genes, which will also be tested for their association with BSE.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2007/070122.htm>

19. *January 20, Agence France–Presse* — **New case of foot–and–mouth disease in China.** A new case of foot–and–mouth disease was discovered this week in China's northwestern province of Gansu, the country's agriculture ministry said in a statement. Tests confirmed Wednesday, January 17, that seven breeding cows in the village of Doucheng had the disease, according to the statement. Authorities have killed the cows and 82 other cattle, sheep and pigs.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070120/hl_afp/healthchinafarm_070120174259

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *January 22, CBS* — **Denver scientists puzzled by dead ducks in water.** Scientists in Denver, CO, are trying to find out why ducks are dying near the city's Metro District Wastewater Treatment Plant. More than 200 dead ducks have been found in the chlorine contact basin in the past two weeks. The dead ducks are mainly northern shoveler ducks with wide, flat beaks that scrape food from the top of the water. Testing is underway on the hundreds of birds that have died. The area is a popular gathering place for ducks. Warm water and food bring thousands of them to the plant, but officials are doing everything they can to get the birds to leave. They're using propane canons to scare off the ducks in hopes they won't find any more dead. The plant increased chlorine levels in mid–December. They've since lowered those levels but so far they can't find any connection. The Division of Wildlife is now doing tests on the dead and injured ducks to find a cause.
Source: http://kutv.com/topstories/topstories_story_022093600.html

21. *January 17, Union–Democrat (CA)* — **Low Lyons level has Tuolumne Utilities District on edge.** A lack of rain has left Lyons Reservoir, which supplies thousands of California's Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) customers with drinking water, at its lowest level in more than 15 years. Water will be sent from Pinecrest Lake down to Lyons Reservoir to replace water as it's being used, said TUD General Manager Pete Kampa. During the past 10 years, an average 3,439 acre–feet of water has been stored at the reservoir in January. An acre–foot is 326,000 gallons. A high of 4,000 acre–feet was stored in 1997, and the lowest its been since 1996 was 2,314 acre–feet in 2000. The level is now at 850 acre–feet.
Source: http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=22459

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

22. *January 22, Associated Press* — **WHO chief announces plans for urgent meeting on polio.**
The new head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday, January 22, she will hold an urgent meeting of leaders in the battle against polio to determine whether to push ahead toward the elusive goal of eradicating the disease. Some public health experts question whether it is feasible to rid the world of polio and have suggested it would be better simply to control it. Smallpox is the only disease that has been eradicated worldwide. She said she expected the meeting to produce a set of milestones that must be met if polio transmission is to be halted in the four remaining endemic countries — India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria — and to say how much it will cost. The global campaign to eradicate polio has already spent four billion dollars. Estimates are that it may cost another one billion to succeed. Initially the goal was to succeed by 2000, but that deadline was put back to 2005. Since then no new target date has been set.
Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>
Source: [http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/01/22/news/UN-GEN-UN-Pol io.php](http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/01/22/news/UN-GEN-UN-Pol%20io.php)
23. *January 22, Agence France-Presse* — **Egypt on high alert as bird flu virus becomes more resistant.** Egypt is on high alert after the H5N1 strain of the avian flu became more resistant to the Tamiflu antiviral drug predominantly used to combat the disease, the health minister has been quoted as saying. "The health ministry remains in a state of maximum alert and is reviewing its strategy in combating avian flu following the mutation of the H5N1 virus," Hatem al-Gabali told the state-owned Al-Ahram daily Monday, January 22. The World Health Organization announced last week that a mutated strain of the virus with "reduced susceptibility" to Tamiflu had been discovered in two people infected with bird flu in northern Egypt. The two Egyptians were from the same household and died in late December. In recent weeks, none of the infected humans have survived despite being treated with Tamiflu, while the mortality rate hovered around 50 percent in the first half of 2006. The virus detected in the two patients in Egypt was resistant to Tamiflu but susceptible to other antiviral drugs, in a development which could prompt health services to treat patients with a cocktail of drugs.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070122/hl_afp/healthfluegypt_070122130245
24. *January 22, Agence France-Presse* — **South Korea to cull animals to stem bird flu.** South Korean health officials have announced plans to slaughter more than 660,000 poultry and pigs to try to stem a new outbreak of potentially deadly bird flu. The agriculture ministry said it would expand a mass cull that began Sunday, January 21, around a poultry farm near the central city of Cheonan. The original plan was to cull 273,000 poultry, mostly chickens, and 6,000 pigs within 1,650 feet of the infection site. Some 5,500 birds have already been culled and buried in a quarantine area guarded by troops. "Today we decided to extend the culling to all farms in a one mile quarantine zone," ministry spokesperson Yoon Yong-Koo said. This will take in an additional 92 ducks, 70,000 quails and 315,600 chickens. "Altogether, we will cull about 665,000 animals," Yoon said Monday, January 22. Quarantine officials fear pigs could act as a "mixing bowl" in which a human pandemic strain of the H5N1 virus could evolve, because the animals can harbor both human and avian flu viruses.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070122/hl_afp/healthskoreaflu_070122094719
25. *January 15, PLoS – Pathogens* — **Effective post-exposure treatment of Ebola infection.**
Being highly pathogenic for humans and monkeys and the subject of former weapons programs

makes Ebola virus one of the most feared pathogens worldwide today. Due to a lack of licensed pre- and post-exposure intervention, the current response depends on rapid diagnostics, proper isolation procedures, and supportive care of case patients. Consequently, the development of more specific countermeasures is of high priority for the preparedness of many nations. Researchers investigated an attenuated vesicular stomatitis virus expressing the Ebola virus surface glycoprotein, which had previously demonstrated convincing efficacy as a vaccine against Ebola infections in rodents and monkeys, for its potential use in the treatment of an Ebola virus infection. Surprisingly, treatment of guinea pigs and mice as late as 24 hours after lethal Ebola virus infection resulted in 50 percent and 100 percent survival, respectively. More important, 50 percent of rhesus macaques (four of eight) were protected if treated 20 to 30 minutes after Ebola virus infection. Currently, this approach provides the most effective treatment strategy for Ebola infections and seems particularly suited for the use in accidental exposures and the control of human-to-human transmission during outbreaks.

Source: <http://pathogens.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.ppat.0030002>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

26. *January 22, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS designates State of the Union**

Address as a National Special Security Event. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff has designated the President's State of the Union Address as a National Special Security Event (NSSE). Secretary Chertoff has named Steven C. Woodard, Deputy Assistant Director of the U.S. Secret Service, to serve as the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for the State of the Union. A number of factors are taken into consideration when designating an event as a National Special Security Event, including anticipated attendance by dignitaries and the size and significance of the event. When an event is designated a NSSE, the U.S. Secret Service assumes its legally mandated role as the lead federal agency for the design and implementation of the operational security plan. Federal resources will be deployed to maintain the level of security needed for the event. The Secret Service is responsible for planning, directing, and executing federal security operations at designated NSSEs and, together with state and local law enforcement partners, develops the overall security plan. The Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Capitol Police, and a number of other federal and local agencies will play an active role in providing security at this event.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1169486183487.shtm

27. *January 22, Federal Computer Week* — **Evans: HSPD-12 program is not an unfunded**

mandate for agencies. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the information technology industry disagree about whether aspects of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) program are being properly funded. By October 27, federal agencies must issue digital credentials to all employees who have less than 15 years of service. Vendors are worried, but OMB officials sound confident that agencies can pay for the mandatory personal identity verification program, known as HSPD-12. Evans said agencies can restructure their major investments to pay for HSPD-12, which OMB has designated as a priority program. Agency officials are recategorizing their portfolios to reflect the new priority, Karen Evans, administrator of e-government and IT at OMB, said. A number of agency chief

information officers agreed with Evans, assessment that HSPD-12 does not put agencies in a difficult financial spot.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97416-01-22-07-Print>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

28. *January 22, Atmore Advance (AL)* — Alabama county plans disaster drill. David Adams, director of Escambia County Emergency Management Agency in Alabama, is heading a plan that will put the entire county in the middle of a manufactured disaster. A standing-room only meeting was held Thursday, January 18, to plan a drill that will test the response of emergency workers, public and private, in mid-April. The drill is being planned in response to requirements of counties across the state made by the Department of Homeland Security. "These drills will show Homeland Security that you are using the equipment you have purchase through funds from their organization," Helms said. "It will also help us to help you show areas that need additional funding from them, too."

Source: <http://www.atmoreadvance.com/articles/2007/01/22/news/news4.txt>

29. *January 21, Daily Herald (IL)* — Illinois community to train residents for disaster-response teams. Mundelein, IL, is joining the growing number of suburban communities forming civilian disaster-response teams. The members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be trained to help their neighbors and others in the first few days after a catastrophe. The department is taking applications for the team, which will be trained by local firefighters. Interim fire Chief Craig Adams looking for a dozen and 20 team members initially. He hopes the unit will be ready this summer. The Los Angeles City Fire Department developed the Community Emergency Response Team concept in the 1980s to deal with earthquakes. The training now is overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and programs have developed across the nation. Mundelein's team members won't necessarily be restricted based on age, physical ability or other potentially limiting factors, Adams said. Tasks that wouldn't require physical strength could include transportation management or, in a deadly disaster, overseeing morgue operations, he said.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story.asp?id=272150>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *January 22, IDG News Service* — MySpace files law suit against Spam King. MySpace.com has filed a lawsuit against the self-proclaimed "Spam King" for allegedly blasting the portal with spam through the use of compromised user accounts, the Website said on Monday, January 22. MySpace also seeks a permanent injunction to bar Scott Richter, who has fought with Microsoft and the state of New York over spam, and his affiliates from using the popular social networking site. Richter runs Optinrealbig.com, an e-mail marketing company based in Westminster, CO. MySpace, which is owned by News Corp., also accused Richter of running afoul of the federal CAN-SPAM act and California's anti-spam law. The suit was filed Friday

in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. MySpace users can send "bulletins" — a few lines of text — to blocks of users who are in their circle of friends. That distribution power has made MySpace a frequent target for spammers, who can reach up to thousands of users if they have the log-in and password for a single account.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/01/22/HNmyspacesuesspamking_1.html

31. *January 22, IDG News Service* — China Mobile buys stake in Pakistani wireless firm.

China Mobile Communications, the world's largest mobile phone service provider, took its first major step outside China on Sunday, January 21, sealing a \$284 million deal to buy most of the outstanding shares of a wireless operator in Pakistan. The Chinese company, parent company of China Mobile Ltd., agreed to buy 88.9 percent of Paktel Ltd. from Millicom International Cellular, it said in a statement. China Mobile signed the deal after months of talks.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/infoworld/20070122/tc_infoworld/8530_3

32. *January 22, CNET News* — Cyberthreat experts to meet at secretive conference. Internet security experts are gathering at a secretive conference later this week to strategize in their fight against cybercriminals. The meeting on Thursday and Friday, January 25–26, at Microsoft's Redmond, WA, headquarters is slated to bring together representatives from security companies and government and law enforcement officials, as well as others involved in network security. The agenda focuses on botnets and related topics, seen by experts as a prime threat to the Internet. "These events have been a great way to build trust in the security community, which can lead to collaboration and data sharing. This helps in the overall efforts to combat the cybercriminals," said Dave Jevans, chairman of the Anti-Phishing Working Group, who is slated to speak at the event later this week.

Source: http://news.com.com/Cyberthreat+experts+to+meet+at+secretive+conference/2100-7348_3-6151860.html?tag=nefd.lede

33. *January 22, VNUNet* — Mobile operators urged to prepare for WiMax threat. The impact of WiMax on the mobile telephony industry could be profound, and carriers need to put together strategies concerning the wide area wireless technology now, industry experts urged Monday, January 22. In-Stat warned existing cellular carriers that WiMax may become a big competitor. However, the analyst firm conceded that the technology could also be a great ally, or a minor factor for established mobile operators. "WiMax faces many challenges, including multiple incompatibility standards, different frequency allocations in each country, and expensive consumer devices," said In-Stat analyst Allen Noguee.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2173166/mobile-operators-p-repare-wimax>

34. *January 22, Sophos* — U.S. is worst for malware hosting and spam-relaying: Report.

Sophos has published its Security Threat Report 2007, examining the threat landscape over the previous twelve months, and predicting malware and spam developments during 2007. The report reveals that the U.S. hosts more than one third of the Websites containing malicious code identified during 2006, as well as relaying more spam than any other nation. The Sophos Security Threat Report 2007 examines in detail the top ten malware threats of the last year, and also confirms that malware authors are continuing to turn their backs on large-scale attacks in favor of more focused strikes against computer users. Microsoft Windows continues to be the primary target for hackers, with Internet criminals increasingly manufacturing downloading Trojan horses rather than mass-mailing worms to do their dirty work for them.

Report (registration required): http://www.sophos.com/security/whitepapers/sophos-security-threats-2007_wsrus

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/01/secr ep2007.html>

35. January 19, eWeek — **IEEE 802.11n standard makes progress in London meeting.** The long-anticipated 1.10 version of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11n draft standard was approved unanimously in an IEEE task group meeting held in London in mid-January. According to Atheros CTO Bill McFarland, who attended the meeting, all of the 3,000-plus technical comments to the 11n draft 1.0 were resolved, and that in turn resulted in the successful agreement to draft 1.10. According to McFarland's written statement, this is a significant step forward in achieving the next stage of the approval process to an accepted 802.11n draft standard. Last fall, the Wi-Fi Alliance announced that it would publish an interim standard in March so that companies could begin work on 11n products, while giving customers some reason to believe that those products would continue to work when the standard became finalized.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2085922,00.asp>

36. January 19, Sophos — **Storm Trojan's second wave arrives.** Sophos has warned that the hackers behind the widespread "Storm Trojan" which was spammed widely across the Internet on Friday, January 19, have now renewed their activities using a new piece of malware, Troj/Dorf-Fam. These latest spam messages, which have a malicious e-mail attachment, have been sighted being sent from computers in 80 different countries so far including U.S., Turkey, South Korea, France, Germany, United Kingdom and Brazil. Subject lines seen so far include: a) Radical Muslim drinking enemies's blood; b) Chinese missile shot down Russian satellite; c) Chinese missile shot down Russian aircraft; d) Chinese missile shot down USA aircraft; e) Chinese missile shot down USA satellite; f) Russian missile shot down USA aircraft; g) Russian missile shot down USA satellite; h) Russian missile shot down Chinese aircraft; i) Russian missile shot down Chinese satellite; j) Saddam Hussein safe and sound!; k) Saddam Hussein alive! Attached to each e-mail is a file with one of the following names: Full Clip.exe, Full News.exe, Full Story.exe, Full Text.exe, Full Video.exe, Read More.exe, or Video.exe.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2007/01/stor mreturns.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	The top 10 Target Ports are temporarily unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience. 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/ .	

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:

<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

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

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non–commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.