



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 04 April 2007

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

## Daily Highlights

- The Bonneville Power Administration has announced a reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who caused a nearly five-hour power outage near Lebanon, Oregon, on Thursday, March 29, by shooting at a 115-kilovolt transmission line. (See item [4](#))
- The Texas Attorney General has charged RadioShack Corp. with violating identity protection laws by dumping thousands of customer records in a garbage bin behind a store in Portland, Texas. (See item [10](#))
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has directed inspectors to stop all wheat gluten imports from Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Company Ltd., identified as the supplier involved in a major recall of pet food. (See item [19](#))
- The US-CERT has released Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-093A: Microsoft update for Windows animated cursor vulnerability (See item [29](#))

### 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](#)

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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://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 03, Reuters* — **Early Daylight Saving Time has little impact on power usage.** The early onset of Daylight Saving Time in the United States this year may have been for naught. The move to turn the clocks forward by an hour on March 11 rather than the usual early April date was mandated by the U.S. government as an energy-saving effort. But the move appears to have had little impact on power usage. "We haven't seen any measurable impact," said Jason Cuevas of Southern, one of the nation's largest power companies, echoing comments from several large utilities. That may come as no surprise to the Department of Energy, which last year predicted only modest energy savings because the benefits of the later daylight hour would be offset. For example, households may draw less electricity for lights at night, but will use more power in the early in the day as they wake to darker and chillier mornings. The U.S. Congress will evaluate the effects of the earlier switch to Daylight Saving Time.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2007-04-03-dst-bust\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2007-04-03-dst-bust_N.htm)
  
2. *April 02, Computerworld* — **PG&E pushes for adoption of greener energy options.** The San Francisco Bay Area's naturally cool weather could help IT managers cut electricity costs. But Mark Bramfitt of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) knows that most data centers are walled off from green alternatives. PG&E estimates that the data centers in its service area, which includes the Bay Area and much of Northern California, use as much as 500 megawatts of power per year. With power-reduction efforts energy use could be cut by as much as half, said Bramfitt. PG&E is offering incentives to get data centers to cut power consumption. In November, the company said it would offer up to \$4 million in electric rebates to companies that cut the number of physical servers they use and move to virtualization. A data center that requires less energy reduces the need for PG&E to purchase extra power during peak demands. Bramfitt said he has received about three dozen applications from companies to participate in the incentive program. Some use just a few servers, while others use up to 6,000. Bramfitt is shooting for an initial power savings of four to five megawatts annually.  
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=287615&pageNumber=2>
  
3. *April 02, InformationWeek* — **Two more deaths attributed to copper demand.** Two New Hampshire men were buried this week after they were electrocuted while taking copper wire from an unoccupied power plant in Tyngsboro, MA. The bodies were found lying alongside bolt cutters and coils of copper wire. Their deaths followed the electrocution fatalities in Arkansas of two people attempting to strip copper wire from utility poles. The problem has gotten so out of hand that the Arkansas government has passed three bills that crack down on the theft of scrap metal. The price of copper has rocketed in recent months, driven primarily by demand from China. Copper prices increased 14 percent in March to \$3.16 a pound, the highest level since early December. Chungcheng Fan of the China Institute of Communications said that China would most likely use the Ethernet version of passive optical network technology, or EPON, in rural areas because "the problem of stealing copper wire is too great to further expand copper-based access."  
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=198701820>
  
4. *April 02, Democrat-Herald (OR)* — **BPA offers reward for vandal info.** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has announced a reward of up to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who caused a nearly five-hour power outage in the Lebanon, OR area Thursday, March 29. Someone shot at a 115-kilovolt

transmission line operated by BPA, causing the outage. The line parted mid-span between two transmission towers and fell onto a line operated by Consumers Power Inc., resulting in service disruptions to Consumers Power and Pacific Power. Crews responding to the scene to repair the damage discovered clay pigeons and a dead bird below the section of the line that had been shot, suggesting that someone shot at the bird and clay pigeons and hit the line. The incident is similar to one that occurred in August 2006, where vandals shot out insulators on the same BPA power line and caused a four-hour outage to Consumers Power's Lebanon Substation. Each year, vandalism and other crimes cost BPA's ratepayers up to \$1 million in direct costs of replacing damaged or stolen equipment.

Source: [http://www.democratherald.com/articles/2007/04/01/news/local/2loc02\\_bpa.txt](http://www.democratherald.com/articles/2007/04/01/news/local/2loc02_bpa.txt)

5. *April 02, Reuters* — **U.S. oil companies look to invest in riskier regions.** Major oil companies are looking to invest in increasingly risky corners of the world, as high oil prices and tightening access to oil reserves make these regions more attractive. As oil prices have increased, resource-rich countries such as Venezuela and Russia have tightened their grip on oil and gas assets, shrinking the pool of available reserves for companies such as Exxon Mobil Corp. The companies also have to contend with security problems in West Africa and in Iraq, which could soon attract investment. Oil companies have long examined environmental and political risk in addition to geological, technological and commercial risks before investing in assets. But Frank Verrastro of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said the political and environmental challenges facing oil companies have gotten much more complex in recent years. New challenges include a renewed push for nationalization of energy assets by some countries, terrorism and the emergence of national oil companies as more formidable competitors.

Source: [http://investing.reuters.co.uk/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=allBreakingNews&storyID=2007-04-02T184340Z\\_01\\_N02440894\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_OIL-RISK.XML](http://investing.reuters.co.uk/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=allBreakingNews&storyID=2007-04-02T184340Z_01_N02440894_RTRIDST_0_OIL-RISK.XML)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

6. *April 03, Florida Today* — **Flights asked to avoid area over gas line.** Space Coast Regional Airport flights were asked to avoid an area where a 12-inch gas line burst in Port St. John, FL. Flights were asked to stay at least a mile away from the gas line. Because there was no wind, the gas was going straight up into the air. No homes were evacuated. Florida Gas Transmission Co. manages the gas line.  
Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070403/BREAKINGNEWS/70403024/1086>
7. *April 02, Southwest Daily News (LA)* — **Butane leak prompts evacuation.** The Sulphur, LA, fire and police departments responded Monday afternoon, April 2, to a hazardous waste leak from an 18-wheeler in the parking lot of Winner's Choice on Cities Service. A Petron Inc. truck carrying 7,771 gallons of normal butane, non-corrosive but highly flammable experienced a leak necessitating the evacuation of a half-mile radius around Winner's Choice. The cause is still under investigation.  
Source: [http://www.sulphurdailynews.com/articles/2007/04/03/news/new\\_s1.txt](http://www.sulphurdailynews.com/articles/2007/04/03/news/new_s1.txt)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *April 03, Aviation Week* — **War support costs top Pentagon spending.** Department of Defense (DoD) contracts and contract modifications for war-supporting operations continue to lead the list of the Pentagon's accounts for money already spent or about to be spent, according to an Aerospace Daily analysis. Fuel, logistics and wheeled trucks or tractors procurement all were ranked among the top 10 of 2006 contract transactions, according to an analysis of more than 1 million records gleaned from data provided by the National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting. The Pentagon spent about \$10.7 billion on fuel and another \$7.6 billion for logistics and related services, putting both in the top five of DoD contract transaction accounts, the analysis showed. Coming in at number 10 was the \$5.8 billion spent for wheeled trucks and tractors, the analysis showed. Defense analysts say the expense trends show the Pentagon is more focused on war needs than certain research projects. John Edwards of Forecast International has called the DoD spending plan a more "nuts-and-bolts" approach. Some analysts predict vehicle purchases could rise between 400 percent and 500 percent within the next five years.

Source: [http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/PEN\\_T04037.xml&headline=War%20Support%20Costs%20Top%20Pentagon%20Spending%20&channel=defense](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/PEN_T04037.xml&headline=War%20Support%20Costs%20Top%20Pentagon%20Spending%20&channel=defense)

9. *March 29, Department of Justice* — **Alabama defense contractor and its owner indicted for illegal exports of military technology.** An Alabama company and its owner have been indicted on charges of illegally exporting sensitive military technology overseas, fraud involving aircraft parts, and submitting false documents to the government, Kenneth L. Wainstein, Assistant Attorney General for National Security, and Alice H. Martin, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, announced Thursday, March 29. The five-count indictment, issued in the Northern District of Alabama, charges Axion Corporation, a defense contracting firm based in Huntsville, AL, and its owner, Alexander Nooredin Latifi, 59, a resident of Huntsville. "This indictment and other recent illegal export prosecutions should serve as a warning to companies seeking to enhance their profits at the expense of America's national security," said Assistant Attorney General Wainstein. "No defense contractor can export an item on the United States Munitions List, to another country, without first obtaining a license from the Department of State," said Alice H. Martin, United States Attorney Northern District of Alabama.

Source: <http://birmingham.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel07/bh032907.htm>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *April 03, InformationWeek* — **RadioShack admits to dumping customer records.** The Texas Attorney General (AG) has charged RadioShack Corp. with violating identity protection laws for dumping thousands of customer records in a garbage bin behind a Texas store. Texas

Attorney General Greg Abbott contends RadioShack's actions exposed its customers to identity theft since the records contained names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and credit card information. The AG's office is investigating whether the tossed information has been used in identity theft crimes. Steve Schmidt, an area VP for RadioShack, called the breach an isolated incident. The consumer electronics chain operates around 4,500 stores. The Attorney General's office launched an investigation after receiving reports that RadioShack employees dumped bulk customer records in garbage containers behind a store in Portland, TX, which is near Corpus Christi, according to a release from the AG's office.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=DU2ZPKZEGP54KQSNDLRCKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=198702184&articleID=198702184>

- 11. April 02, Associated Press — IRS warns of phony e-mail scams.** Taxpayers should be on the lookout for phony e-mails that resemble the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) images and content but are designed to steal personal and financial data, the agency warned Monday, April 2. The IRS said it does not send out unsolicited e-mails or ask for personal and financial data, such as bank account or credit card numbers or passwords. "We've definitely seen an increase, an uptick in the number of scams out there," said IRS spokesperson Eric Smith. He added the phony e-mails increase during certain times of the year, including March and April. The agency has previously warned the public about such "phishing" scams, in which Websites and e-mails mimic legitimate businesses or agencies to steal passwords and other sensitive data. The IRS said the phony sites appear legitimate because most of the images and content are copied from actual IRS Website pages. A year ago, the IRS created an electronic mail box to get copies of possible fraudulent e-mails involving use of the agency's name, logo or Website. To date, it has received more than 17,700 e-mails reporting more than 240 different phishing scams.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/business/taxes/articles/2007/04/02/irs\\_warns\\_of\\_phony\\_e\\_mail\\_scams/](http://www.boston.com/business/taxes/articles/2007/04/02/irs_warns_of_phony_e_mail_scams/)

- 12. April 02, CNET News — FCC imposes rules designed to prevent pretexting.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) hopes to prevent data burglaries with a set of new regulations for phone companies aimed at preventing the fraudulent practice called "pretexting." On Monday, April 2, the FCC issued an order designed to strengthen its current privacy rules by requiring telephone and wireless operators to adopt additional safeguards to protect personal telephone records from being disclosed to unauthorized people. The new regulations come as lawmakers have already outlawed the practice of "pretexting," which encompasses any technique used to fraudulently obtain personal information. Congress is now looking to impose stricter regulations on phone companies to protect customer data. Specifically, the FCC order prohibits carriers from releasing—either over the phone or online—sensitive personal data, such as call detail records, unless the customer provides a password. It also requires operators to notify customers immediately when changes are made to their accounts. And it requires providers to notify their customers in the event of a breach of confidentiality.

Source: [http://news.com.com/FCC+imposes+rules+to+prevent+pretexting/2100-1037\\_3-6172705.html](http://news.com.com/FCC+imposes+rules+to+prevent+pretexting/2100-1037_3-6172705.html)

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

**13. *April 03, New York Times* — French train breaks rail speed record.** French high-speed train broke the world speed record on rail Tuesday, April 3, reaching 357 miles (574.8 kilometers) an hour in a much publicized test in eastern France. The train, code-named V150, is a research prototype meant to demonstrate the superiority both of the TGV high speed train and of its likely successor, the AGV, which is also manufactured by the French engineering group Alstom. The train reached its maximum speed in about 16 minutes at a site about 125 miles from Paris on a specially chosen sector of rail tracks of the new Eastern Europe TGV line, which will begin to serve Paris to Strasbourg in June. High-speed trains are a potentially lucrative market in developing countries — China and India are the biggest markets. High-speed trains have not caught on in the United States as they have in Europe, where TGV is generally considered to provide faster transportation than air travel for train trips of less than three hours. The Maglev from Japan holds the world record for a train with a speed of 361 miles an hour recorded in 2003; it uses electromagnetic technology, where the train does not actually touch the rail.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/04/business/worldbusiness/04train.html?\\_r=1&hp&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/04/business/worldbusiness/04train.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin)

**14. *April 03, Associated Press* — Japanese plane makes emergency landing.** A Japan Airlines jetliner carrying 259 people, including the country's finance minister, made a successful emergency landing in western Japan Tuesday, April 3, with only one of its two engines working. The Boeing 777-200 plane was on its way from Tokyo to Fukuoka when the right-side engine overheated and had to be shut off, Japan Airlines spokesperson Yoshiteru Suzuki said. Live television footage showed the white and red jet coast in for an easy landing at the Fukuoka airport after circling the airfield to burn off excess fuel. Among the passengers was Finance Minister Koji Omi, who was traveling on personal business. The plane was carrying 10 crewmembers and 249 passengers, Suzuki said.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/20070403/japan.htm>

**15. *April 02, Bangkok Post (Thailand)* — Laem Chabang Port gets security upgrade to U.S. container standards.** Thailand's Laem Chabang Port is fully prepared to meet container safety standards set for shipments to the United States, according to Chaowalit Sethameteekul, the director-general of the Customs Department. "If Thailand didn't start improving security standards two or three years ago to meet the U.S. Safe Port Act, cargo shipments to the U.S. today would definitely be facing problems," Chaowalit said. Speaking at a recent seminar on U.S. government container security requirements, Chaowalit said the Customs Department had installed X-ray inspection systems to screen outgoing containers from Laem Chabang Port to the U.S. The port also has 22 radiation detectors to guard against the shipment of hazardous materials or bombs, with training of local staff assisted by U.S. experts. Tags based on RFID (radio frequency identification) technology are also used to communicate with tracking satellites to help monitor containers from the port to their arrival. "Thailand is the first country in Southeast Asia today to meet the requirements under the U.S. container security initiative," he said. Laem Chabang also ranks as the 21st port in the world out of 54 currently meeting U.S. regulations. Other key Thai trading partners, including Canada and the European Union, also require inbound cargo to meet the security rules

Source: [http://www.industrywatch.com/pages/iw2/Story.nsp?story\\_id=104906172&ID=iw&scategory=Transportation%3AShipping&P=&F=&R=&V NC=hnall](http://www.industrywatch.com/pages/iw2/Story.nsp?story_id=104906172&ID=iw&scategory=Transportation%3AShipping&P=&F=&R=&V NC=hnall)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**16. *April 02, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — USDA establishes cut flower import requirements.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Monday, April 2, announced that it has established specific requirements for the importation of cut flowers that are hosts of chrysanthemum white rust from countries where the disease is known to occur. To be eligible for importation into the U.S., the flowers must be grown in a registered production site and accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate or equivalent documentation issued by the national plant protection organization of the country of origin or its designee. The certificate must also contain an additional declaration stating that the place of production as well as the shipment have been inspected and found free of chrysanthemum white rust. APHIS is also requiring box labels and other documents accompanying shipments of cut flowers be marked with the identity of the registered production site. In addition, APHIS–authorized inspectors must be allowed access to production sites and other areas necessary to monitor the chrysanthemum white rust–free status of the site. Chrysanthemum white rust is a serious disease of chrysanthemums caused by the fungus, *Puccinia horiana*. Plants for propagation as well cut flowers are considered the primary pathway for the introduction of chrysanthemum white rust.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/04/cwhtrust.shtml>

**17. *April 02, Agence France–Presse* — Mad cow disease confirmed in Slovenia.** Slovenian veterinary authorities said on Monday, April 2, additional testing confirmed that a seven–year–old cow slaughtered last month in the country was infected with mad cow disease. The diseased cow was born and bred in a small farm near the town of Celje, 50 miles north of the capital Ljubljana. The case is the seventh detected in a Slovenian–born cow. Another cow in which mad cow was diagnosed had been imported.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070402/hl\\_afp/sloveniahealthmadcow\\_070402175042;\\_ylt=AnkcrFS\\_HG9sXR3QfuKi5TaJOrgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070402/hl_afp/sloveniahealthmadcow_070402175042;_ylt=AnkcrFS_HG9sXR3QfuKi5TaJOrgF)

**18. *April 01, Associated Press* — Agents try to staunch wave of illegal seafood.** Agents Chris Schoppmeyer and Scott Doyle are interested in clams today. They want to know which of the wholesalers have unknowingly bought the shellfish from a company involved in a smuggling operation. They stop at a fish stand. Schoppmeyer recognizes the name. He's got a bite. "They were definitely sold here," Schoppmeyer says. Such fishing expeditions play out on a regular basis for agents at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The agents' mission has taken on greater urgency in recent years as more and more illegally harvested seafood gets

pulled from the water. Agency data shows that in the 2006 budget year, about 750 investigations were opened up in the Northeast region, which includes many of the nation's biggest commercial ports like Cape May, NJ, and Gloucester and New Bedford, MA. That represents a nearly 108 percent increase from five years earlier. Many of these busts have focused on a black market for seafood that stretches across the world. Every year, commercial fishermen in the U.S. land nearly 10 billion pounds of fish and shellfish valued at about \$3.5 billion. The fishing industry employs 28 million people, and NOAA says the value of the ocean economy to the U.S. is more than \$115 billion.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--fishpolice0401apr01%2C0%2C4091067%2Cprint.story?coll=ny-region-apnewyork>

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## **Food Sector**

**19. *April 03, Reuters* — U.S. blocks wheat gluten linked to pet food recall.** U.S. health officials have told import inspectors to detain wheat gluten shipments from a Chinese company identified as the supplier involved in a major recall of pet food. A notice from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) directed inspectors to stop all wheat gluten imports from Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Company Ltd. The FDA said wheat gluten supplied by the company to Menu Foods was found to contain melamine, a chemical used in plastics and fertilizers. Menu Foods has recalled 60 million cans and pouches of "cuts-and-gravy" style wet pet food sold under various brands after the deaths of 14 cats and dogs. Melamine should not be in pet food, but its presence has not been confirmed as the cause of any pet sickness or death, the FDA said.

Source: [http://www.reuters.com/article/wtMostRead/idUSN0219503620070\\_403](http://www.reuters.com/article/wtMostRead/idUSN0219503620070_403)

**20. *March 31, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — Pet treats and wet dog food products recalled.** As a precautionary measure, Del Monte Pet Products is voluntarily recalling select product codes of its pet treat products sold under the Jerky Treats, Gravy Train Beef Sticks and Pounce Meaty Morsels brands as well as select dog snack and wet dog food products sold under private label brands. The Company took this voluntary recall action after learning from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that wheat gluten supplied to Del Monte Pet Products from a specific manufacturing facility in China contained melamine. Melamine is a substance not approved for use in food. The FDA made this finding as part of its ongoing investigation into the recent pet food recall. The adulteration occurred in a limited production quantity on select product codes.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/delmonte03\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/delmonte03_07.html)

**21. *March 30, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — Jerky treats for dogs, cats and ferrets recalled.** Eight In One, Inc., a division of United Pet Group, Inc., is voluntarily recalling nationally all lots of Dingo CHICK'N JERKY treats due to Company concerns that the jerky treats have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, which can cause serious infections in dogs and cats, and, if there is cross contamination, in people. The products affected were sold at Target, PetsMart and other retailers. Laboratory testing has shown that some samples of these chicken jerky treats were contaminated with Salmonella. The company has received one report of Salmonellosis in a dog. There are no reports of human illness.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/eightinone03\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/eightinone03_07.html)

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

**22. *April 02, Associated Press* — Tuberculosis patient locked up in Arizona.** Behind the county hospital's tall cinderblock walls, a 27-year-old tuberculosis (TB) patient sits in a jail cell equipped with a ventilation system that keeps germs from escaping. Robert Daniels has been locked up indefinitely since last July. But he has not been charged with a crime. Instead, he suffers from extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). It is considered virtually untreatable. County health authorities obtained a court order to lock him up as a danger to the public because he failed to take precautions to avoid infecting others. Specifically, he said he did not heed doctors' instructions to wear a mask in public. Though Daniels' confinement is extremely rare, health experts say it is a situation that U.S. public health officials may have to confront more and more because of the spread of drug-resistant TB and the emergence of diseases such as SARS and avian flu in this increasingly interconnected world. Texas has placed 17 TB patients into an involuntary quarantine facility this year in San Antonio. Public health authorities in California said they have no TB patients in custody this year, though four were detained there last year.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/04/02/ap/national/main26\\_38449.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/04/02/ap/national/main26_38449.shtml)

**23. *April 02, National Institutes of Health* — Capability for influenza research and surveillance expanded.** The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Monday, April 2, announced it is awarding \$23 million per year for seven years to establish six Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance. Collectively, the centers will expand NIAID's influenza surveillance program internationally and in the U.S., and will bolster influenza research in key areas, including understanding how the virus causes disease and how the human immune system responds to infection with the virus. The goal of the newly created centers is to provide the federal government with important information to inform public health strategies for controlling and lessening the impact of seasonal influenza as well as an influenza pandemic.

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/apr2007/niaid-02.htm>

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## **Government Sector**

**24. *March 30, Federal Computer Week* — Senate bill would create telework management position.** Senate proponents of federal teleworking have introduced a bill that would require agencies to establish a key management position for telework. Under the bipartisan Telework

Enhancement Act of 2007, introduced March 28 by Senators Ted Stevens (R–AK) and Mary Landrieu (D–LA), agencies would have to designate a telework–managing officer, who would be responsible for implementing agency telework programs and serve as a liaison between employees and managers. The officer also would develop accountability and productivity criteria, and keep employees informed about their telework eligibility and other issues. Among other provisions, the bill also would reverse current telework eligibility law, which states that employees are ineligible to telework unless deemed otherwise by their agencies. If passed, the legislation would make all federal workers eligible unless shown otherwise by their employer. “By encouraging federal agencies to allow their employees to work from home, we will reduce their use of gasoline, save them thousands of dollars in fuel expenses each year and help protect the environment,” Stevens said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article98102-03-30-07-Web>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**25. *April 03, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — NOAA continues to increase U.S. tsunami warning capability.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced Monday, April 2, the deployment of three new Deep–ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) stations in the Pacific Ocean, located off southern and central Mexico and Costa Rica. These newly installed stations provide added tsunami detection capabilities for Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, American Samoa and countries in the Pacific. This deployment brings the total U.S. network to 28 DART stations. The array is expected to total 39 stations by spring 2008. NOAA also provided a DART station and technical expertise for the Indian Ocean tsunami warning program.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2007/nat040307.shtm>

**26. *April 02, San Diego Union–Tribune* — Caltrans, CHP to hold conference on emergency response.** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will hold their first–ever joint conference Tuesday, April 3, in Riverside, CA, on improving highway emergency response efforts with key transportation and public safety professionals. The two–day summit at the Riverside Convention Center will bring together transportation and public safety professionals who are responders to highway incidents, including tow service contractors, local emergency services providers, county coroners, commercial haulers, hazardous material clean–up contractors and county environmental officials. Up to 25 percent of all traffic congestion is due to highway emergency incidents, according to Will Kempton, Caltrans director. The goal of the summit is to develop enhanced coordinated efforts among emergency responders and to reduce motorist delays while increasing safety, he said.

Source: [http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/riverside/20070402-1335-e\\_mergency.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/riverside/20070402-1335-e_mergency.html)

**27. *April 02, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — President declares major disaster for New Mexico.** The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Monday, April 2, announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the state of New Mexico to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes during the period of March 23–24, 2007. FEMA

Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state of New Mexico by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Curry and Quay Counties.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=35210>

28. *March 31, Cleveland Banner (TN)* — **Full-scale drill tests emergency responders in East Tennessee.** Approximately 700 people from 40 agencies and the private sector were involved Saturday, March 31, in the largest exercise ever held in the East Tennessee area. The full-scale emergency response exercise was held in Bradley County and Hamilton County. The personnel were composed of specialists serving in teams from fire; law enforcement; and medical teams; bomb; building collapse; and Hazmat teams. The exercise was designed to tax the capabilities of local and regional responders, as well as evaluate interoperability and cooperation between the agencies and disciplines. Cleveland-Bradley County Emergency Management Agency director Troy Spence said all operations were monitored and managed well utilizing new communications software which enabled all Emergency Operations Center personnel to stay on top of the situations and efficiently manage resources.

Source: [http://www.clevelandbanner.com/NF/omf/daily\\_banner/news\\_story.html?rkey=0065367+cr=gdh](http://www.clevelandbanner.com/NF/omf/daily_banner/news_story.html?rkey=0065367+cr=gdh)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

29. *April 03, US-CERT* — **Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-093A: Microsoft update for Windows animated cursor vulnerability.** Microsoft has released Security Bulletin MS07-017 to correct vulnerabilities in the way that Microsoft Windows handles image files. This update includes a fix for the animated cursor ANI header stack buffer overflow vulnerability (VU#191609). Applying these updates will mitigate the vulnerability described in Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-089. The impact of exploiting that vulnerability is that a remote, unauthenticated attacker could execute arbitrary code or cause a denial-of-service condition. MS07-017: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms07-017.mspx>  
US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#191609: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/191609>  
US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA07-089A:

<http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA07-089A.html>

Source: [http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current\\_activity.html#ms07017](http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#ms07017)

30. *April 03, Computerworld* — **Firefox also vulnerable to Windows cursor exploit, says bug's finder.** Contrary to other reports, Mozilla Corp.'s Firefox 2.0 is vulnerable to attackers armed with the Windows animated (ANI) cursor exploit, a researcher said Tuesday, April 3. Alexander Sotirov, the vulnerability researcher at Determina Inc. who discovered the ANI flaw last December, showed how both IE7 and Firefox 2.0, when run on a Vista-powered PC, can be hijacked by an attack using the ANI exploit. When the attack was run against IE 7, the ANI exploit gave access to all files on the system. "However, we cannot alter any system files" because of IE's protected mode, which is enabled by default in Vista, said Sotirov. An identical attack against Firefox 2.0, however, gave Sotirov complete and total access to the PC's drive.

Source: [http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9015464&intsrc=hm\\_list](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9015464&intsrc=hm_list)

31. *April 03, Websense* — **Email lures for ANI zero-day exploit.** Websense has discovered a large email spam run that includes links to sites that are hosting ANI exploit code. Users receive an email with the subject line "Hot Pictures of Britney Spears" that is written in HTML and has anti-spam avoidance text within the HTML comments. Users who click on the links are redirected to one of several Websites. The sites contain obfuscated JavaScript. The decoded JavaScript sends all users to the same website, which is hosting the exploit code. When users connect, a file is downloaded and installed without any end-user interaction. The main server that hosts the exploit code is hosted in Russia and has been used by groups that have installed rootkits, password stealing Trojans, and other nefarious code in the past.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=764>

32. *April 02, IDG News Service* — **JavaScript botnet code leaked to Internet.** Software that could be used to turn a Web browser into an unwitting hacker's tool has been posted to the Internet. The software, called Jikto, was written by researcher Billy Hoffman and demonstrated on March 24 as part of a presentation on the dangers of JavaScript malware. Hoffman had discovered a way to write a Web vulnerability scanner in JavaScript, a Web language that can run in any browser. This technique circumvents JavaScript's security restrictions. In order for his demonstration to work, he had to post the Jikto code somewhere on the Internet. "Very briefly you could see the original URL of where the Jikto code got fetched," Hoffman said. That was enough for a show attendee to snag a copy and post it to a Website where it was downloaded about 100 times.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/04/02/HNjavascriptbotnet\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/04/02/HNjavascriptbotnet_1.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

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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**

33. *April 03, CNN* — **One person confirmed dead after CNN Center shooting.** One person has died following a shooting Tuesday, April 3, at the CNN Center complex, in what Atlanta police called a "domestic situation," according to hospital spokesperson Denise Simpson. A woman was shot and the gunman was then shot by Cpt. Odell Adams, according to a Turner spokesperson. The man and the woman were taken to Grady Memorial Hospital. Simpson did not say which had died, citing the need to notify next of kin. The other is in "extremely critical condition," the hospital said. The incident occurred about 30 feet from the back door of the CNN.com newsroom, outside a second set of glass doors. Some CNN employees witnessed the shooting. In a message to employees, Turner Broadcasting said the shooting took place at approximately 1:30 p.m. EDT at an entrance near the Omni Hotel, which is part of CNN Center.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/04/03/cnn.shooting/index.html>

**34. April 01, Associated Press — Historic Ellis Island structure reopening.** Abandoned and fallen into disuse for decades, a significant piece of American immigrant history is reopening on Ellis Island following extensive restoration. Parts of the island were opened to the public in 1990, for the first time since the immigration complex was shut down in 1954, but few people have been able to explore the rest of the island, including 30 shuttered buildings closest to the neighboring island where the Statue of Liberty stands. The newly restored structure is the Ferry Building, where many immigrants caught rides off the island to begin their new lives in America after a maze of legal and health inspections. Ellis Island was the gateway to America for more than 12 million immigrants. As many as 5,000 people a day passed through the processing center at its peak in the early 1900s. Money for the restoration came from the federal government, the state of New Jersey and donations.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2007-04-01-ellis-island\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2007-04-01-ellis-island_N.htm)

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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