



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 September 2007

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

- Computerworld reported on Thursday that a major consulting firm is investigating how a confidential 2002 terrorist threat assessment for Chicago, conducted on behalf of the Federal Transit authority, made its way onto LimeWire, a peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing network, and eventually into the hands of a local Fox News journalist. (See item [40](#))
- WRAL, a local North Carolina news station, reported that the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday declared 85 North Carolina counties disaster areas because of the ongoing drought. The state Drought Management Advisory Council issued a report Thursday showing that 98 of North Carolina's 100 counties were in severe, extreme or exceptional drought. (See item [17](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

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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. *September 14, Bloomberg* – **Oil rises to record \$80.36 in New York on U.S. supply concern.** Crude oil rose to a record \$80.36 a barrel in New York on concern that fuel inventories will decline because of refinery shutdowns. Hurricane Humberto knocked out power yesterday, shutting three refineries in Port Arthur, Texas. Crude oil for October delivery rose 17 cents to \$80.26 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices are up 26 percent from a year ago. It was the 10th straight daily increase, the biggest consecutive series of gains since February 1996.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=ae64QXXX3WJI&refer=latin_america

2. *September 14, U.S. Department of Energy* – **DOE issues final request for proposals for Savannah River site liquid waste contract.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the release of a final Request for Proposals (RFP) for the competitive selection of a Liquid Waste (LW) contractor for the Savannah River Site (SRS). The resulting contract is expected to be approximately \$3 billion over six years with an option for a two year extension. The primary facilities related to this procurement include liquid radioactive waste tank farms, the Defense Waste Processing Facility, the saltstone facility, and potential operation of the Salt Waste Processing Facility. The procurement work scope includes the safe receipt, storage, and disposition of liquid wastes, and the operational closure of the LW storage tanks. SRS is a key DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) industrial complex located in South Carolina. The current EM focus at SRS is on the cleanup of legacy materials, facilities, and wastes left from the Cold War.

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/5490.htm>

3. *September 14, Associated Press* – **Gulf Coast recovering from Humberto.** Some residents of Texas and Louisiana fired up generators to cut through the darkness after Hurricane Humberto sneaked up on the Gulf Coast, knocking out power to thousands and flooding streets before fizzling into a tropical depression. Humberto, the first hurricane to hit the U.S. in two years, steadily lost its punch Thursday after sloshing ashore in Texas as a stronger storm than initially expected and then dragging across Louisiana. One death was blamed on the storm. The remnants of Humberto moved Friday into Mississippi, where flood watches were posted for northern portions of the state. By late morning, Humberto was about 50 miles northeast of Jackson, Miss., moving east-northeast near 12 mph. Texas Gov. Rick Perry declared three southeastern counties disaster areas. At one point, about 118,000 customers lost electricity in Texas and Louisiana. Power had been restored to about half of those by daylight Friday.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/nation/5135338.html>

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Chemical Industry

4. *September 14, South Bend Tribune* – **Chemical spill in Indiana closes highway.** A portion of U.S. 30 was until noon on today after a chemical tanker involved in an accident spilled unknown gallons of a hazardous material. A chemical tanker driven was carrying a load of Napohlite or Hexane — there was conflicting information available early Friday — both of which are highly flammable chemical solvents, when the tanker was rear-ended by a semi-truck. Napohlite and Hexane are solvents classified as the variety which are highly flammable, like gasoline, and whose vapors could form explosive mixtures with the air. The solvents are irritants to the skin, eyes and respiratory system. Workers at a local retail store reported similar symptoms, and the South Bend hazmat team ordered the workers to a local hospital for treatment.

Source:

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070914/News01/70914070>

5. *September 14, The Record* – **Chemical levels at high school called acceptable.** A second round of soil testing on an athletic field at River Dell Regional High School in New Jersey revealed acceptable amounts of chemicals. The results came eight days after the school announced it had discovered the pesticide dieldrin at more than twice the state's safety standard for residential areas in a soccer and baseball field adjacent to the school. The district hired a consultant this summer to test 18 samples from the high school and middle school campuses after pesticides were found at 39 times the safety levels in soil at a local middle school.

Source:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3MTYmZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTcxOTQ4OTImeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkz>

6. *September 13, The Baltimore Sun* – **School shut down after chemical spill in lab.** A private school in Annapolis, Maryland was closed after a spill in the science lab produced a chemical haze, a city fire official said. Hazardous materials teams from the city and Anne Arundel County were called in, and they traced the problem to the prep room for the high school's chemistry lab where they found that chemicals stored there had interacted, producing heat and smoke. Fire and school officials did not know what chemicals were involved or how they got mixed. Students and staff were directed away from the school. A commercial cleaning company was contacted.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/annearundel/bal-haze0913,0,2863053.story?track=rss>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

7. *September 14, Associated Press* – **Uranium plant testing starts.** The nation's only company that enriches uranium for nuclear power plants said Friday that it has begun testing a key process at its demonstration facility in southern Ohio. USEC Inc. is developing the American Centrifuge Plant to enrich uranium using centrifugal force, considered to be much more efficient than the 1950s-developed gaseous diffusion method. Initial tests of the centrifuge technology, which began in late August, showed that the process can make enriched uranium at levels desired by power plants, a USEC statement said. USEC is trying to line up investors for the \$2.3 billion commercial plant, part of a 3,714-acre site about 65 miles south of Columbus, where a gaseous diffusion plant closed in 2001. The company expects the plant will begin operation in late 2009, and will have 11,500 centrifuge machines, each about 40 feet tall, running in 2012. Tests will continue to determine whether the centrifuge machines can produce uranium in a reliable and cost-effective manner, the company said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070914/oh_atomic_plant.html?.v=1&printer=1

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *September 13, MSNBC* – **Some TD Ameritrade info stolen.** TD Ameritrade Holding Corp announced that its security system has been breached and information related to more than 6.3 million customers has been compromised. However, the spokeswoman for the company insisted sensitive information such as Social Security numbers “does not appear to have been stolen.” Until now, none of the customers reported financial losses or identity thefts due to SPAM received via the stolen information, she said. Ameritrade officials posted the news about their hacked system on the company’s website and plan on personally notifying each customer of the unfortunate news.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20774455/>
9. *September 13, U.S. Security and Exchange Commission* – **SEC charges 69 audit firms and partners.** The U.S. Security and Exchange Commission filed a lawsuit against 69 audit companies and partners for operating without carrying a registration with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The accused companies issued 60 audit reports between 2003 and 2005, during which they did not comply “with a fundamental requirement of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 that accounting firms that prepare and issue audit reports on the financial statements of public companies must be registered with the PCAOB.” The SEC investigation and lawsuit aim to protect investors, according to the director of the SEC’s Enforcement Division.
Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2007/2007-183.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *September 16, Associated Press* – **Tourist plane crash in Thailand leaves 88 dead.** A passenger plane filled with foreign tourists crashed Sunday as it tried to land in pouring rain on the island of Phuket, splitting in two and bursting into flames, officials said. At least 88 people were killed. The budget One-Two-Go Airlines domestic flight OG269 was carrying 123 passengers and seven crew members from the capital, Bangkok to Phuket. Officials said the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 crashed in a downpour, skidded off the runway and broke in two. Some said weather was likely a factor in the crash.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,296946,00.html>
11. *September 14, The Arizona Republic* – **U.S. truck heads to Mexico; first under '94 treaty.** In spite of the recent cut in funding, the Mexico-U.S. truck pilot program continues its activities. Conforming to the terms of the arrangement, the first authorized U.S. truck belonging to Stagecoach Cartage and Distribution of El Paso crossed the border into Mexico and delivered products for a razor manufacturer. Stagework is the first U.S firm granted a permit to operate in Mexico. Last week, two Mexican trucks crossed into the U.S. and delivered cargo to New York and North Carolina. However, citing safety concerns, the U.S. Senate cut the program’s funding earlier this week.
Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0914trucks0914.html#>

12. *September 14, The Washington Post* – **\$300 million cut in Dulles rail project is proposed.** Virginia politicians proposed a \$300 million cut in the allotted spending for the new Silver metro line going to Dulles Airport. Following a fierce debate, officials decided to reduce the funds to accommodate a qualifying Federal Transit Administration (FTA) budget. Part of the controversy revolved around the proposed Tyson’s tunnel, which is supported by many area residents. Nevertheless, Virginia senators argued that the state has to cut back funding for existing proposals such as the tunnel, in order to realistically compete for federal grants. The Silver metro line will cost an estimated \$5.1 billion, of which \$2.5 billion will be necessary for the first phase—a sum more compliant with federal requirements than the previous \$2.8 billion.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/13/AR2007091301596_2.html
13. *September 14, WTSP (Tampa Bay)* – **Threat made on flight to St. Petersburg.** A woman was arrested Thursday evening after making bomb threats aboard a flight originating from Greensboro, North Carolina. Minutes before landing at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, the passenger locked herself in the bathroom, tried to start a fire and passed a written warning claiming she had a bomb, according to officials. The woman was taken into custody after an attendant and a passenger managed to open the bathroom door by using a fire extinguisher, and was charged with making a false report of a bomb or weapon of mass destruction and criminal mischief. Authorities did not find a bomb on the airplane or in the passenger’s luggage.
Source: <http://www.tampabays10.com/news/specials/popular/article.aspx?s=popular&storyid=63272>
14. *September 13, Knox News* – **Luggage confusion temporarily shuts down airport concourse.** Security officials have temporarily evacuated a terminal at a small airport in Knoxville, Tennessee, due to a baggage scare. After a forced landing at Knoxville’s McGhee Tyson Airport due to unfavorable weather conditions, a Northwest Airlines flight passenger entered the airport concourse carrying previously checked luggage. However, the bags were mixed with unchecked luggage. As a precautionary measure, officials decided to evacuate the concourse and re-screen all bags. The Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman revealed there were no threats.
Source: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2007/sep/13/luggage-confusion-temporarily-shuts-down-airport-c/>
15. *September 13, U.S. Customs and Border Protection* – **U.S., Canada border agencies remind truckers to renew membership in Frequent-Crosser program.** Commercial carriers are advised to renew their Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program membership if they wish to continue to be part of the program. Under FAST, 87,000 pre-approved and low-risk North American truck drivers can cross the border under reduced scrutiny. Because the cargo they carry is cleared in advance, the processing time at the border is significantly reduced, thus allowing border officers to focus more on high-risk cargo. Another advantage of the program is that the FAST ID cards are accepted as an alternative to passports, in accord with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.
Source: http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/09132007_2.xml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *September 14, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – **Suspicious items shut Sandy Springs post office.** Around 6:30 Friday morning, several strange items, including “10 to 15 Mason jars filled with brown liquid, a picture of President Bush, some Homeland Security pamphlets and a stuffed Santa Claus toy... bearing only the words ‘New York’ tied around the neck,” were discovered in a Georgian Post Office. Authorities used a robot to test the bear, in case it was a detonation device. The post office and part of the street it is on were closed while the jars were investigated.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/northfulton/stories/2007/09/14/postoffice_0915.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *September 14, WRAL.com* – **USDA declares disaster in 85 N.C. counties.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday declared 85 North Carolina counties disaster areas because of the ongoing drought. The disaster declaration makes low-interest Emergency Disaster Loans available to farmers who can't get credit elsewhere. Under USDA rules, farmers in the 11 counties that neighbor those in the disaster area also are eligible for assistance. Federal agriculture reports show 85 counties with a 30 percent or greater loss of at least one significant crop. Many farmers have already exhausted their winter hay supplies and have had to find other sources of feed for cattle. The state Drought Management Advisory Council issued a report Thursday showing that 98 of North Carolina's 100 counties were in severe, extreme or exceptional drought.

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/1815150/>

18. *September 14, Reuters* – **USDA issues rule for import of older Canada cattle.** During a Friday telephone news conference, the U.S. Agriculture Department issued a final rule that would allow the import of older Canadian cattle and beef, formerly banned due to concerns over mad cow disease, into the United States. Officials said that they are confident the imports would pose no risk to U.S. cattle or consumers. Under the rule, Canadian feeders and ranchers will be allowed to ship bison and cattle born on or after March 1, 1999 into the U.S. Meat from the older animals could also be shipped. The new regulation would expand current rules that allow the import of cattle less than 30 months of age into the U.S. for slaughter.

Source:

http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2007-09-14T151751Z_01_WBT007581_RTRIDST_0_CANADA-MADCOW-CANADA-USDA-COL.XML

19. *September 13, News Inferno* – **Ground beef recall issued by Stew Leonard's after E. coli sickens three.** Three people who ate meat purchased at a Yonkers, New York supermarket have been diagnosed with E coli poisoning, prompting Stew Leonard's to recall some of its ground beef. Health authorities, however, do not believe that the E. coli contamination

originated at the supermarket. This Stew Leonard's recall is the third ground beef recall due to E. coli contamination this month. On August 31, Interstate Meats of Oregon recalled more than 41,000 pounds of ground beef sold under its "Northwest Finest" label. The recall came after the tainted ground beef was linked to an E. coli outbreak that sickened 9 people in the Pacific Northwest. And on September 6, New York meat processor Fairbanks Farms recalled trays of ground beef patties sold in Shaw's supermarkets in New England after the meat tested positive for E. coli. No illnesses were reported in relation to that recall.

Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/1813>

20. *September 13, USDA* – **Johanns announces \$3.6 million for 19 rural cooperative development centers.** On Wednesday, the U.S. Agriculture Secretary announced the award of more than \$3.6 million to help Rural Cooperative Development Centers improve the economic condition of rural areas in 18 states. Grants are being awarded to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education to finance up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing and operating Centers for Cooperative Development. USDA Rural Development's Cooperative Program helps rural residents form new cooperative businesses and improve the operations of existing cooperatives. For example, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development plans to provide technical assistance and education to promote new cooperatives while continuing to improve existing farmers' cooperatives.

Source:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/09/0245.xml>

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Water Sector

21. *September 13, Associated Press* – **Agency tests water near nuclear site.** More than three dozen tests of private drinking water wells and a pond near a nuclear-waste landfill found trace amounts of tritium, but poses no public health risk, state officials said Thursday. The results came as agency board members heard testimony from environmental officials about the independent tests. The tests were done after media reports raised questions whether tritium that has been found inside the site since the 1970s was leaking into private wells. Exposure to tritium, an isotope of hydrogen, can increase chances for cancer, researchers say. Tritium bonds with water and moves with the same speed, officials said.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070913/sc_nuclear_waste_landfill.html?.v=1

22. *September 13, Associated Press* – **Farmers, residents debate Valley water pollution regulations.** The Irrigated Lands Program, adopted in California in 2003, may be extended, depending on a forthcoming report on the environmental impact of the program. It was the first program of its kind to be implemented and requires "farmers to comply with clean water regulations that apply to businesses and cities." Despite the program, rural residents using well water are still finding pollutants in their wells. Farmers also complain about the cost of monitoring technology. Officials with the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the State Water Resources Control Board held an open meeting earlier this week to determine the needs of the residents in an attempt to continue to improve the program.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_6885694

23. *September 13, Bay City News Service* – **Officials say Santa Cruz beach contains unsafe bacteria levels.** The water at Cowell Beach has been deemed “unsafe for human body contact” by Santa Cruz County health officials. Unsafe bacteria levels were found, but there is no indication that there was a sewage spill. This is the second county beach closed due to elevated bacteria levels this week.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_6883598

24. *September 13, Associated Press* – **Agency tests water near nuclear site.** Despite finding trace amounts of tritium during their tests of over three dozen private wells and a pond near a nuclear waste landfill, state officials say that there is no public health risk. The Chem-Nuclear disposal site for low-level radioactive waste has been at the site for over 30 years. Media reports questioned if tritium, known to increase cancer risk, was leaking into the area’s drinking water. An independent laboratory performed the tests to ensure that there were no questions as to the accuracy of the tests. Testing will continue every three months and Chem-Nuclear has offered to test the drinking water of any county resident requesting it.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/09/13/ap4116302.html>

25. *September 13, The San Diego Union-Tribune* – **Sanders, Aguirre spar over water woes.** The Mayor and City Attorney of San Diego, California disagree over San Diego’s water supply. The Mayor does not want recycled water used for residential purposes, while the City Attorney claims recycled water use would reduce San Diego’s water troubles. In addition to the problems of diminished water levels, the Environmental Protection Agency has expressed concern over the state of the city’s sewage treatment plants and repeated sewage spills.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20070914-9999-1m14tap.html>

26. *September 12, WTHR (Indianapolis, Indiana)* – **Water company fights weed invasion.** The curly leaf pond weed and Eurasian milfoil are growing in Indianapolis’ Central Canal, which is the “primary source of drinking water for the city.” The weeds limit the amount of water the treatment plant can draw, so crews are trying to remove the weeds as quickly as possible from the canal. As the summer has been unusually hot and dry, the weeds have been especially bad. Hiring crews to remove the weeds using weed harvester machines is the best option, as chemicals and weed-eating insects or fish create other problems. As autumn sets in and the temperature drops, the weeds should stop growing.

Source: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=7065889&nav=9Tai>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *September 15, UPI* – **Infectious skin disease found in Texas.** Texas doctors have identified nine cases of the skin disease leishmaniasis in patients who have not traveled to endemic areas. sometimes called the Baghdad boil, is common in South America, Mexico and the Middle East, but the North Texas patients identified by doctors at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center had not traveled to any of those areas. Doctors suspect human infection begins when a sand fly bites a rodent called the burrowing wood rat, which carries the parasite. When

the sand fly later bites a person, the sores may develop.

Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=upiUPI-20070915-005841-5646&show_article=1

28. *September 14, The Washington Post* – **N.J. Governor to defy new health-care rules.** New Jersey's Governor informed President Bush this week that the state will not obey federal rules that would make it harder to enroll middle-income kids for a popular government-subsidized health insurance program. His move escalated the growing confrontation between a number of states and the administration over the new rules imposed on the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The rules have been criticized as unfair and overreaching by children's advocates and politicians of both parties. New Jersey's action comes against the background of a larger debate over the \$5 billion-a-year program's future. The Senate and the House have passed legislation that would dramatically increase funding for the program, though the Administration has vowed to veto either bill. The Governor said that he is prepared to file a lawsuit challenging the new rules.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/13/AR2007091302139.html>
29. *September 14, Wall Street Journal* – **Cephalon drug is tied to several deaths.** Drug maker Cephalon Inc. sent letters to doctors this week warning them that four deaths have been linked to Fentora, the company's powerful narcotic used to treat acute cancer pain. Fentora and its predecessor, Actiq, are approved by the Food and Drug Administration only for use in cancer patients, but are often prescribed by physicians "off-label" for such ailments as headaches and back pain. While Cephalon denies marketing the two drugs outside their indication, its marketing practices are under scrutiny in three separate probes, including a congressional probe into off-label treatments. Fentora and Actiq contain fentanyl, a highly addictive substance 80 times as potent as morphine. Fentanyl is classified as a Schedule II substance by the Drug Enforcement Administration, which puts it in the same category as cocaine and methamphetamine. Schedule II drugs have the highest potential for abuse and an associated risk of fatal overdose.
Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118970661359926560.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us
30. *September 13, The Star Ledger* – **Pfizer warns of contaminant in HIV drug Viracept.** Pfizer is notifying health-care professionals in the United States about the presence of a contaminant in the HIV medicine Viracept, the same drug Roche recently recalled in Europe after contaminated batches were discovered there. Roche, which markets the drug in Europe, said the contamination occurred during the manufacturing process. A compound called MSA interacts with ethanol, which is used in the final steps of producing the Viracept pill, a reaction that forms ethyl methanesulfonate, or EMS, which tests have shown can cause cancer and mutations in animals. No studies have been conducted to determine its effect on humans, but it is considered a potential human carcinogen. Pfizer also cited the manufacturing process as the source of contamination, but isn't following Roche's decision to recall the drug. According to Pfizer, the concentration of EMS detected in its product were "substantially lower" than the levels found in the batches in Europe. An e-mail notice from the Food and Drug Administration said it considers "the risks of unintended interruption of HIV treatment that may result from a recall to be greater than the risks associated with taking Pfizer-manufactured

Viracept.”

Source: <http://www.nj.com/business/ledger/index.ssf?/base/business-7/1189658631216280.xml&coll=1>

31. *September 13, Reuters* – **McKesson says computers with patient data stolen.** U.S. pharmaceuticals distributor McKesson Corp said on Thursday that two computers containing confidential patient data were stolen from the company on July 18. The computers contained data on thousands of participants in a program that McKesson administers to help supply medications to low-income patients, a spokesman said. He declined to say which health-care company had hired McKesson to run the program, what sort of information was on the computers, or whether it was encrypted. He said patients had been notified that the information may have been compromised, and local police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were helping with the investigation.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070913/us_nm/mckesson_theft_dc;_ylt=AvlHcUzu0Wp8_skyjJhrGkWIr0F

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *September 14, The Dallas Morning News* – **Dallas school building gutted by fire.** A fire destroyed a vacant elementary school building in Dallas, Texas early Friday morning.

Investigators are trying to determine the cause of the fire.

Source:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/091407dnmetschoolfire.d1baa3cd.html>

33. *September 14, KGMB (Hawaii)* – **Government accused of trashing low income housing property.** A Hawaiian environmental group faulted government agencies for dumping rubbish outside a public housing building in Honolulu. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority stated that it was unaware of who left the rubbish and is investigating. The rubbish included metal, pipes, concrete, abandoned trucks, and light poles, many of which were clearly marked as belonging to government agencies.

Source: <http://kgmb9.com/kgmb/display.cfm?storyID=12409&sid=1183>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *September 14, Courier News Online* – **Salvation Army shows off mobile command center.** Members of the Salvation Army in New Jersey dedicated an emergency response center on wheels Thursday saying it's the kind of equipment they would have liked to have had during the April storm that flooded Somerset County towns. The mobile command vehicle, based at the Salvation Army New Jersey Division headquarters in Union, Union County, was once just a Winnebago, the organization's state director of human services. Someone in Pennsylvania donated the vehicle to the Salvation Army. Turning the Winnebago into a mobile command

center funded by private and corporate donations, cost \$60,000. The need for a mobile command center became evident when the Salvation Army New Jersey Division sent volunteers to Louisiana to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. “By day, it's a command center, with tables and chairs. By night, we take out the tables and put down the cots,” said the division’s emergency disaster services manager.

Source:

<http://www.thespectrum.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070912/NEWS01/709120310>

35. *September 14, dailypress.com* – **University issues emergency response plan.** In the wake of the Virginia Tech massacre, Christopher Newport University has developed contingency plans and has upgraded security. In a catastrophic emergency, the university will use a new siren and public address system that can be heard up to a mile away. The siren was one of eight notification systems the university has installed in the wake of the April 16 shooting at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Like their peers at colleges and universities across the nation, CNU officials upgraded the campus security notification system and reviewed safety and security plans after April 16. CNU improved communications capacity for the campus police force and upgraded the phone system, expanding the number of incoming lines adding a recording system to log calls. CNU also created an emergency management team to keep track of potential or existing emergencies, and to work with President Paul Triple on responding to and managing emergency situations.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-22692sy0sep14.0.133173.story?track=rss>

36. *September 13, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* – **DHS releases national preparedness guidelines.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced publication of two important tools to organize and synchronize national efforts to strengthen preparedness: (1) the National Preparedness Guidelines, which establish a vision for national preparedness and provide a systematic approach for prioritizing preparedness efforts across the Nation; and (2) the Target Capabilities List, which describes the collective national capabilities required to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. “The National Preparedness Guidelines and Target Capabilities List are the culmination of extensive efforts to define the specific plans and capabilities our nation must possess in order to address catastrophic threats,” stated the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1189720458491.shtm

37. *September 13, Fort Bend Herald* – **Drill helps emergency responders.** Emergency response authorities said they were pleased with the outcome of the Fort Bend County Local Emergency Planning Committee's full-scale hazardous materials response exercise Wednesday. The scenario featured a simulated hazmat incident at Champion Technologies; however, all emergency response operations were conducted at the Fort Bend County Firefighters Association's fire training field, where an incident command post was established and response and rescue efforts occurred. Afterwards, participants spent time identifying strengths and weaknesses. An abstract report on the exercise will be written and be ready for the state by the end of September. The exercise was funded under a state grant from the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management. The day was spent testing how well emergency response and incident management personnel from city and county government agencies, schools, hospitals and industry responded to a simulated hazardous materials scenario.

Source: <http://www.herald-coaster.com/articles/2007/09/13/news/news01.txt>

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Information Technology

38. *September 14, Infoworld* – **Badware hunters tame wild Webmasters.** If hijacked sites and hosting companies that fail to police malware distribution sources represent two of the most serious threats to Internet security, there may be hope for improvement, according to researchers working with Harvard Law School's StopBadware.org. After publishing a list of rogue Web site hosting companies and launching a campaign to label every malicious site they can find on the Internet, an effort that has filtered out over 600,000 nefarious applications thus far, the StopBadware team says that people are responding. The project currently counts less than 250,000 Web sites that it classifies as distributors of programs that qualify as badware -- any application that either tries to hide itself or any of its intentions, based on the parameters of the effort. By inserting warnings into Google's search results that steer end-users away from malware and adware sources, while communicating with those responsible for creating or handing out the suspicious programs, progress is being made, according to StopBadware's lead researchers.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/09/14/Badware-hunters-taming-wild-webmasters-hosts_1.html

39. *September 13, Computerworld* – **Microsoft downplays stealth update concerns.** Microsoft Corp. today downplayed the concerns over undercover updates to Windows XP and Windows Vista, saying that silent modifications to the Windows Update (WU) software have been a longtime practice and are needed to keep users patched. “Windows Update is a service that primarily delivers updates to Windows,” said the WU group program manager the team’s blog today. “To ensure ongoing service reliability and operation, we must also update and enhance the Windows Update service itself, including its client-side software.” Microsoft was moved to respond after the popular “Windows Secrets” newsletter looked into complaints that WU had modified numerous files in both XP and Vista, even though users had set the operating system to not install updates without their permission. In many cases, users who dug into Windows’ event logs found that the updates had been done in the middle of the night. Windows gives users some flexibility in how their PCs retrieve and install updates and patches from the company's servers. But some users have filed accounts of stealth updates to WU even when they had completely disabled the automatic update feature in the operating system. The program manager disputed those claims, saying, “WU does not automatically update itself when Automatic Updates is turned off, this only happens when the customer is using WU to automatically install upgrades or to be notified of updates.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9036478&intsrc=hm_list

40. *September 13, Computerworld* – **Confidential Chicago terrorist threat assessment leaked over P2P.** Officials at consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. are looking into how a Fox News reporter acquired a confidential terrorist threat assessment on Chicago over a public file-sharing network. An investigative reporter with WFLD Fox News in Chicago, on Tuesday

reported that he recently used a peer-to-peer (P2P) program called LimeWire obtain the Booz Allen document. The firm authored the document in 2002. A spokesman for Booz Allen confirmed the incident and said the document was commissioned by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) five years ago. The spokesman said the company did not know how the documents ended up on the internet. He said that after Booz Allen completed the threat assessment, it made the document available to numerous federal, state and private-sector entities and first responders as required under its contract with the FTA. It was then the responsibility of those entities to protect the documents, he said. The Booz Allen incident again highlights what some analysts say is a growing problem: the easy availability of all sorts of government, personal and confidential information on P2P networks. In July, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform heard testimony from several witnesses about how everything from classified military documents to corporate data can be found on P2P networks.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036481&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

41. *September 13, IDG News Service – Data explosion shakes up IT.* In just three years, the bytes of data generated by digital cameras, mobile phones, business IT systems and other tech devices will equal the number of grains of sand on the world's beaches. It's a mind-boggling estimation from market analysis company IDC. But it reflects the proliferation of devices and systems used by consumers and businesses, IDC's vice president of worldwide IT markets and strategies said today. Over the next few years, corporations will face tough decisions on how to store data, find information and comply with regulations, he said. It won't be an easy task. While 85% of that data is predicted to come from consumers snapping photos, surfing Web pages and sending e-mail, about 60% of that consumer data will still cross corporate networks, he said. Much of the data is unstructured, meaning it's not clearly labeled as to its content, such as photos, video and perhaps phone recordings, which makes it more difficult to use. But technologies that enable deep analysis of the data are emerging, and could help businesses unlock what's important and improve their operations. But the security concerns still abound, as well as regulatory compliance and liability worries. According to data from the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, the number of reported software vulnerabilities declined in 2003 and 2004 but surged in 2005 to around 6,000, an all-time high.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036378&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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Communications Sector

42. *September 13, RCR Wireless News* – **SF kills Wi-Fi plans.** San Francisco has formally walked away from a deal to build a Wi-Fi network throughout the city. The effort was already largely considered dead late last month when EarthLink Inc. rescinded its proposal—which included a teaming with Google Inc.—to cover the estimated \$14 million to \$17 million cost of building San Francisco’s Wi-Fi network. A committee of the city’s Board of Supervisors put the final death knell on the project yesterday when it declined to vote on the contract. The move was largely a bureaucratic one that may well end the years-long efforts to blanket the city with free Internet access. Many analysts say there is little silver lining for EarthLink in the Wi-Fi deals it made with about a dozen cities. The deals call for EarthLink to shoulder all of the upfront costs, a situation that is now giving the company serious second-thoughts. EarthLink wanted the municipalities to help pay for the construction, but San Francisco and others have been unwilling to meet the company halfway.

Source: <http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070913/FREE/70913008/1014>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

43. *September 13, WSAV* – **Flooding woes around Savannah.** Thunderstorms knocked out power to about 6,500 people in Savannah, Georgia on Thursday. The city is currently taking bids from companies to fix drainage problems in certain neighborhoods. One resident stated that while normal flooding is worrisome, everyone in Savannah would be “doomed” in the eventuality of a hurricane because the city is in “a basin.

Source: <http://www.wsav.com/midatlantic/sav/news.apx.-content-articles-SAV-2007-09-13-0026.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

44. *September 13, San Diego Union-Tribune* – **Officials say illegal campfire caused blaze near Pine Valley.** An illegal campfire has been determined as the source of a 2,170 acre brush fire in the Cleveland National Forest near San Diego, California. “Lightning strikes and campfires started by illegal immigrants” were described as the two most common causes of fires in the forest by an official. The fire is 35 percent contained and crews are trying to keep it from moving into other areas.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20070914-9999-1m14firefol.html>

45. *September 13, The Press-Enterprise* – **Inland deaths help spark debate -- is Forest Service losing its bearings?** The U.S. Forest Service has lost its sense of direction and increasing numbers of wildfires will kill more firefighters, according to an outside agency’s report, commissioned due to worries about safety. The report notes that the mission of the Forest Service is unclear as crews are “frequently torn between whether to act as agents of a ‘forest service’ that manages the forest and fights forest fires or a ‘fire service’ that is responsible for protecting homes built in sensitive forest areas.”

Source:

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Dams Sector

46. *September 14, Tri-Valley Herald* – **Delta levees receiving high-tech inspection.** The California State Department of Water Resources (DWR) is conducting aerial surveys of the state levee system. Using new, helicopter borne technology provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the DWR will evaluate more than 250 miles of levees. Traditionally, the DWR “bores into the levees every 1,000 feet to collect soil samples to determine the amount of erosion, seepage and settlements within the levees.” The new system uses an instrument called a bird that collects “electromagnetic images of the levee system from a distance of about 100 feet.” When potential problem areas are found, the DWR investigates further.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_6891792
47. *September 13, Christian Science Monitor* – **Problem dams on the rise in U.S.** Deficient dams across the United States have increased in recent years according to a Christian Science Monitor investigation. Their analysis showed that the number of deficient high-hazard dams has more than doubled since 1999. In the same time period, the number of significant-hazard dams rated as deficient almost tripled. In total, according to data from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2.6 percent of all dams in the U.S. are deficient. This increase may be fueled by a variety of factors, including: aging, tree growth, erosion, inadequate spillways, and lack of proper maintenance. However, it may also be due to better, more accurate reporting. In addition, more homes and businesses are being built closer to dams, thus increasing the number of high-hazard dams. In the most recent rating (2005) of American infrastructure by the American Society of Civil Engineers, bridges received a “C” grade and dams a “D”. The states which saw a decline in their quantity of deficient dams have all increased funding for their dams by a third or more since 1999.
Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0913/p02s01-usgn.html>

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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.

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