



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 September 2007

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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

- *Reuters* reports that the U.S. will remove nine tons of plutonium from military stockpiles, enough for more than 1,000 atom bombs, in order to demonstrate its commitment to non-proliferation. In the coming decades, the excess plutonium will be turned into mixed-oxide fuel, burnable in commercial nuclear reactors providing electricity. (See item [5](#))
- According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the industry's largest trade group, plans to unveil on Tuesday a proposal to increase U.S. federal oversight of imported food and ingredients, requiring the adoption of food-safety measures such as product tests and checks on foreign suppliers. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

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

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

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 17, Bloomberg*– **Crude oil falls before Fed meets on concern U.S. growth to slow.** Crude oil fell for a second day in New York on speculation slowing economic growth in the U.S. will reduce demand. Crude oil for October delivery fell as much as 85 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$78.25 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude oil for November settlement fell 0.6 percent to \$75.77. Oil dropped from an intraday record of \$80.36 a barrel in New York trading last week. U.S. refiners restarted plants shut by Hurricane

Humberto, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said turmoil in financial markets may weigh on 2008 demand.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=alfQ9LSKEfxs&refer=india>

2. *September 17, CNN Money* – **OPEC’s export capacity to fall- driving oil prices to US \$100 barrel in 2008, forecaster says.** Speaking at the 6th Annual Association for the Study of Peak Oil & Gas conference in Cork, Ireland, CIBC World Markets’ chief economist, the chief economist at CIBC World Markets told delegates that the export capacity of OPEC, Russia and Mexico will drop by 2.5 million barrels per day by the end of the decade. "At current rates of domestic consumption the future export capacity of OPEC, Russia and Mexico must be increasingly called into question. These trends are likely to result in a sharp escalation in world oil prices over the next few years," he said, adding that heavy government subsidies in other countries have contributed to “surging rates of oil consumption”

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/TO12517092007-1.htm>

3. *September 14, Reuters*– **Exxon restarting unites at UK Fawley refinery.** Exxon Mobil said on Friday it was restarting units that had been shut earlier this week at its Fawley refinery in the UK. Exxon had closed several units after a power disruption resulted in flaring on Wednesday at Britain's largest 326,000-barrels-per-day plant.

Source:

http://investing.reuters.co.uk/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=allBreakingNews&storyID=2007-09-14T121238Z_01_L14816849_RTRIDST_0_EXXON-FAWLEY-UPDATE-1.XML

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Chemical Industry

4. *September 14, KLFY (Lafayette, Louisiana)* – **Chemical spill evacuation lifted.** An early Friday morning chemical spill of silicon tetra-fluoride gas in Louisiana closed a major road and forced several people to evacuate their homes, within a half mile radius of the spill. No injuries were reported and emergency workers remained on the scene throughout the morning to contain the poisonous gas. There was some debate about closing the interstate, due to the deadly nature of the gas. Fortunately, the leak was contained and all roads were reopened by early afternoon.

Source: <http://www.klfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=7074872>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste

5. *September 17, Reuters* – **U.S. to remove plutonium from 1,000 old atom bombs.** The United States will remove from military stockpiles nine tons of plutonium, enough for more than 1,000 atom bombs, to demonstrate its commitment to non-proliferation, the U.S. energy secretary said on Monday. The excess plutonium will be taken out of retired nuclear weapons in coming decades and turned into mixed-oxide fuel burnable in commercial nuclear reactors providing electricity, an official said during a U.N. nuclear watchdog meeting. “As the United

States continues to reduce the size of its nuclear weapons stockpile, we will be able to dispose of even more nuclear material while increasing energy and national security,” he told a press briefing. The step reflected an accord between the United States and Russia in 2000 under which each was to make 34 tons of excess plutonium unusable for nuclear weapons, with the possibility of converting it into a proliferation-proof civilian energy source.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070917/us_nm/usa_plutonium_dc;_ylt=AnirEMkvlUqjrkzOj8oTpRYWIr0F

6. *September 16, Associated Press* – **Energy company develops centrifuge plant in Piketon.** 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., based in Bethesda, Md., 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 90 miles east of Cincinnati, 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. The project, which has about 140 employees, could create up to 400 permanent jobs in the next few years in an area that typically has one of the state's highest unemployment rates. The new plant is expected to use about 5 percent of the electricity needed for gaseous diffusion, USEC said.
Source: <http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070916/BIZ01/709160355>
7. *September 16, Associated Press* – **More nations back U.S. nuclear project.** A U.S.-initiated project that aims to reduce the dangers of nuclear proliferation and control radioactive waste gained support Sunday, as 11 more nations signed on with original members Russia, China, France and Japan. Under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, a limited number of countries including the U.S. and Russia would provide uranium fuel to other nations for powering reactors to generate electricity, and then retrieve the fuel for reprocessing. This would deprive those nations of their own nuclear fuel enrichment programs, which can be used to make atomic arms. The dangers of uranium enrichment have come into sharp focus over the past four years because of the international standoff with Iran, which has defied a U.N. Security Council demand that it freeze development of the activity. It is fears that indigenous enrichment programs like Iran's could be misused for weapons that have led to attempts to create global fuel banks, guaranteeing supplies of energy-capable enriched uranium. Such plans could indirectly hasten the nuclear arms race, however, by encouraging countries to start or revive past programs before any global plan is in place. Already, Argentina and South Africa have said they plan to revive enrichment activities, while Australia plans to start from scratch. While no one suggests they want a weapons program, their examples could embolden other nations in less stable regions. Additionally, critics of the initiative say resuming reprocessing – or recycling spent fuel to gain new fuel, a process the U.S. abandoned in the 1970s over proliferation concerns – can make it easier for terrorists or enemy states to obtain

weapons-usable plutonium.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070916/ap_on_re_eu/nuclear_project_1

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *September 17, Defense News* – **U.S. Coast Guard to tap landfill for power.** Next month, the U.S. Coast Guard plans to strike a 15 year deal with an energy firm to begin using the methane produced by a 54-acre city landfill in the Curtis Bay section of south Baltimore to power its only shipyard, which is located just across the highway. The project will generate nearly enough renewable energy to satisfy the annual energy-savings goal for the entire Homeland Security Department as set by a 2005 law. That law requires agencies to generate 3 percent of their energy from renewable sources each year between now and 2009. There are between 600 and 1,700 such landfills across the country that could be candidates for similar energy-savings projects, said the chief of maintenance at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore. That, he said, translates to a “tremendous opportunity for federal agencies.” The planned contract may be as unusual as the energy source. Though valued at \$49 million, the deal will not cost the Coast Guard a penny. The agency is using an energy-savings performance contract, a type of share-in-savings contracting vehicle in which energy or utility companies pay the up-front costs for improvements that will reduce energy and water consumption. The companies are repaid through savings that result from the efficiencies. And for their part, agencies are guaranteed not to pay more than they otherwise would have had the upgrades not been made.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3037008&C=america>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *September 17, AFP* – **Financial turbulence will persist but global economy strong: Paulson.** During a press conference following a meeting with France’s Finance Minister, the U.S. Treasury Secretary attributed the mortgage crisis to faulty lending practices rather than to hedge funds. “The current turmoil on financial markets will persist for a while longer but the overall global economy remains healthy,” he said. The statements came in response to European efforts to increase market transparency. Similarly, the U.S. is promoting the implementation of new principles and guidelines for the hedge fund industry, according to a Treasury official. The secretary also assured the nation that the U.S. economy is performing well on many different levels such as inflation, low unemployment, and exports.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070917/ts_alt_afp/franceuseconomypaulson_070917090638;_ylt=Aj4Kfhol1VNdkwbsonEwdxXYa7gF

10. *September 17, The New York Times* – **Connecticut says data on its money was stolen.** A computer backup tape listing bank account information and other sensitive financial data for almost all Connecticut state agencies as well as 1.3 million Ohio residents was stolen last July from the car of an intern working on a computer project for Ohio’s Office of Budget and Management. The common link was Accenture, a consulting firm that was working to develop

computer programs in both states. Though details of the incident are limited, the Ohio inspector general confirmed that the data on the tape was not encrypted. Although officials from both states declared that there is no evidence the data had been ‘misused,’ the Connecticut governor’s spokesman acknowledged that the tape “lists names and numbers of 440 checking, money market, treasury, savings and other types of accounts held by the state, memorandums, and instructions and files related to Connecticut’s new computer system.” The information contained on the tape was in violation of the Accenture’s contract with the state. Though the incident took place in July, officials in Ohio only became aware that the compromised data also included information from the state of Connecticut in September. An in-depth investigation into the incident is currently pending.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/17/nyregion/17tape.html?ei=5087%0A&em=&en=a8f1030ba7f3f5dc&ex=1190174400&pagewanted=print>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *September 17, The Washington Post* – **Anger over airline delays spurs passengers' coalition into action.** The Coalition for an Airline Passengers Bill of Rights, founded by a passenger stranded on an American Airlines flight last December, is planning a rally in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday. The rally is in support of a bill of rights for passengers, which would require “airlines to return to the gate after a tarmac delay of more than three hours, to provide food and water for stranded passengers, and to more frequently update customers with information on the delay.” Members of Congress have expressed general skepticism that the bill will be passed. However, some of the group’s demands are reflected in the new funding bill for the Federal Aviation Administration, which requires carriers to prepare contingency plans for lengthy tarmac delays. The bill also requires the Transportation Department to be more diligent with flight delays. Since last year’s incident, the founding activist created a website for travelers and set up a hot line for passengers involved in disputes with airlines. She is also scheduled to testify at a House hearing on air travel matters September 26.

Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/16/AR2007091601571.html>

12. *September 17, The Los Angeles Times* – **Cuban smuggling business is thriving.** Cuban illegal immigration has been increasing in recent years due to organized smuggling operations. Miami immigration authorities stated that Cubans can now reach U.S. soil by paying \$6,000 to \$10,000 to smugglers operating go-fasts -- light, open craft fitted with powerful outboards enabling speeds as high as 100 mph. Though the U.S. releases a 20,000 yearly quota of visas to Cubans for legal immigration, the “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy, whereby Cuban citizens reaching U.S. dry land can obtain legal U.S. residence, prompted a large number of attempts to sail for U.S. shores. Officials estimate the number of Cubans crossing the Straits of Florida successfully at 15,000 each year. Nevertheless, the latest trend of using high-power boats to smuggle people into the U.S. pressed immigration authorities to call for action. Both law enforcement officials and immigration policy analysts have suggested prosecution of those whose money is used to smuggle the immigrants into the U.S. Because the notion of ‘sponsors’ include those paying to have their relatives smuggled in, a steep controversy erupted especially

among Miami's Cuban Diaspora. However, the U.S. District Attorney's office released a statement clarifying that the relatives paying the smugglers will not be charged.

Source:

<http://www.latimes.com/la-na-migrants17sep17,0,4626303.story?page=1&coll=la-home-center>

13. *September 17, Flight Global* – **ERJ pilots warned against accidental TCAS deactivation.** The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released a warning to pilots operating the Embraer ERJ and Legacy jets that they could “deactivate the type's transponder by placing their feet on the footrests.” According to the FAA, this type of mistake, in which pilots unwittingly set the transponders to ‘standby’ mode, might have been the cause of last year’s accident in Brazil when a Legacy and a Boeing 737-800 collided. What concerns the FAA is the fact that the flight display shows the error in white writing, which becomes opaque among the plethora of colorful characters. With this in mind, FAA officials advised operators of the Embraer ERJ and Legacy to raise awareness of this potential hazard during pilot training.
Source: <http://www.flightglobal.com/articles/2007/09/17/216796/erj-pilots-warned-against-accidental-tcas-deactivation.html>
14. *September 17, USA Today* – **Superfast firefighting required for new jets.** Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) crews in Atlanta expressed their concerns over changes in the materials used to build airplanes and the impediments posed by new security measures at airports. Firefighters claim that the new five layer composite material used to build airplanes instead of aluminum “puts out a lot of hydrogen cyanide when it burns, which turns to hydrochloric acid when it interacts with water on your skin or water in your lungs.” Although the new material is lighter, but stronger than aluminum, it is much more hazardous once it catches fire. The firefighters also raised concerns about various obstacles, such as higher and stronger fences, which hamper the performance of firefighting crews during emergencies on airport runways. According to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport ARFF, firefighters have only 3 minutes to reach passengers in a fire aboard an aircraft, and this limited time might be further reduced by the aforementioned obstacles. Out of the 58,000 firefighters nationwide, only 3,000 are ARFF certified.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-09-16-airportfires_N.htm
15. *September 16, USA Today* – **In the Southwest, fixing the fence never ends.** To ensure that illegal immigrants coming from Mexico do not succeed in crossing the border is a strenuous and costly process not only for border patrol officers, but also for engineers and National Guard troops. President Bush approved last year a plan to build a 700 mile fence along the southwestern border with Mexico, but critics are highly vocal about the lack of accurate estimates of the increasing costs involved in the process. Generally, the price tag for last year’s construction was approximated between \$1.2 and \$1.3 million, but it did not reflect the subsequent \$7.1 million spent on maintenance and engineering projects, which, according to the National Guard Bureau spokesman, were necessary across four border-states. Moreover, the price tag does not include costs for materials or equipment rentals. In spite of DHS spokesman’s statements claiming a decrease in illegal immigration due to the existence of the new fence, border authorities insist that the obstacle was not as effective in the San Diego area where the number of illegal crossings has increased in recent years. Part of the problem is that

illegal immigrants come up with new ideas to cross the porous border such as using flexible ladders, welding wholes through the fence, or digging tunnels. However, the perpetual attempts to cross the border illegally into the U.S. and the costs associated with the maintenance of the new fence have not thwarted the government's plan to build 370 more miles of fence by the end of 2008.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-09-16-border-fence_N.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *September 17, New Orleans City Business* – **Ship lines cruise into terminal operations.** Last month the Port of New Orleans authorized their President and CEO to enter into a lease with New Orleans Terminal LLC, a new joint venture, for operations at a container terminal. This reflects a new trend of ocean liners and shipping services diversifying into taking ownership stakes in terminal operations. Traditionally, the agreements between the shipping lines and terminal operators are on an annual per-ton basis, and the lines have no financial stake in the terminal operations. Container trade has grown significantly since 2000, but it is constrained by the limited availability of terminal facilities in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/viewStory.cfm?recID=20269>

17. *September 16, The News Tribune* – **A powerhouse of the ports.** A Seattle-based company plans to build a new container terminal in Tacoma, Washington. Since the company's business plan depends on high volume, the port will accept all shipping lines at its dock, rather than the traditional West Coast method of designating one carrier for the terminal. The company is working with a local tribe of American Indians, who owned part of the land and will hold the lease. The new terminal should create hundreds of new jobs.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/business/story/157224.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *September 17, Reuters/Wall Street Journal* – **Food industry group to propose safety rules: report.** The Grocery Manufacturers Association, the industry's largest trade group, plans to unveil on Tuesday a proposal to increase U.S. federal oversight of imported food and ingredients, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday. The system would require the industry to adopt food-safety measures such as product tests and checks on foreign suppliers, the report said. The trade group is also lobbying Congress for more funds for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and it is working with federal and state officials and other groups toward a model regulation for farms and packing houses, the report said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1728962320070917>

19. *September 17, CBC News* – **Dole lettuce salad recalled over E. coli fears.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said has warned Canadians not to eat Dole's Heart Delight lettuce salad because of fears of E. coli contamination. The salad is produced in the United States. Suspected packages have a "best if used by" date of Sept. 19, 2007, a lot code of A24924B and

a UPC of 0 71430 01038 9.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2007/09/17/lettuce-recall.html>

20. *September 17, KITV (Honolulu)* – **Spiders aboard ship from China, officials say.** State agriculture officials identified what are believed to be a type of comb-footed spider from the theridiidae family, a venomous spider that is not native to Hawaii, on a shipment of granite from China. The shipment arrived in Kalaeloa two weeks ago, and the spiders are currently loose on the island. The state entomologist says that officials will respond after determining if the spider poses any medical or economic risk.
Source: <http://www.thehawaiichannel.com/news/14120199/detail.html>
21. *September 16, Washington Post Foreign Service*– **Pig disease in China worries the world.** Chinese officials are admitting that blue ear pig disease, a respiratory virus that affects swine, has reached epidemic proportions in China. However, they contend that the situation is under control and they have been reluctant to share scientific data and tissue samples with other countries. The head of infectious disease research for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, said: "We are concerned that with international traffic this particular virus could enter other continents – Europe or Africa or the Americas." China does not export pork to the United States, but the virus has already been found in pigs in China's southern neighbors, Vietnam and Burma, as well as within at least 26 of China's 33 provinces and regions.
Source:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/15/AR2007091501647.html>
22. *September 14, Associated Press*– **Drought cuts Md., Del. crops by a third.** The USDA has designated Maryland and Delaware as drought disaster areas, saying that corn and soybean crops in the two states will be at least 32 percent smaller than last year. Based on conditions September 1, the government says corn production will be down 34 percent in Maryland and 40 percent in Delaware. Soybean production will fall 34 percent in Maryland and 32 percent in Delaware.
Source: <http://www.lancasterfarming.com/node/801>

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Water Sector

23. *September 17, Star Tribune* – **Sunday: Battling tainted water.** The groundwater beneath the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area in Minnesota is contaminated with industrial pollutants due to earlier industrial dumping, states a Star Tribune report. After extensive analysis 20 major plumes of contamination under 35 communities have been identified. Although no illnesses have been directly linked to the pollutants, the contamination poses threats to long-term health, and many of the chemicals are known carcinogens. Currently, 150,000 people in the area drink the contaminated water, which must be treated to remove the chemicals. 37,000 people are likely to receive such filtration in the near future. Taxpayer funded cleanup is underway at many of the sites, but it is anticipated that many will not be completely decontaminated for over a century.
Source: <http://www.startribune.com/10237/story/1421645.html>

24. *September 17, Copley News Service*– **Thirsty state could lose key supply of water.** Due to last month’s delta smelt ruling, California’s practice of north-south water transfers is under threat. The Governor of California called back lawmakers for a special fall session, which may produce a compromise on reservoir creation and a redesign of the delta water system. The hope is that the plan will be on the February fifth presidential ballot. Although aggressive water conservation strategies have been implemented, other sources of water are needed to maintain the economy of the region.
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070917-9999-1n17water.html>
25. *September 17, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – **Water war still hot as drought continues.** Due to the current drought, Georgia and Alabama are clashing over the contentious Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering a reduction in the quantity of water released from Allatoona Lake. Alabama opposes this, as they are concerned about sufficient water for their power plants and pulp and paper mills. Low water levels would also interfere with dredging on the Alabama River, which allows barges to serve various manufacturers. Allatoona Lake also provides drinking water for Cobb County and other Atlanta suburbs. As the lake level has decreased, the algae bloom has increased, resulting in odor and taste complaints. The Corps owns the reservoir and estimates the levels could reach a record low by the end of the year.
Source: http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/09/17/curve_0917_3DOT.html
26. *September 16, Associated Press* – **Williamstown issues boil-water order.** After high levels of coliform bacteria were discovered in consecutive samples of the town’s water supply, a boil-water notice was issued last week. This is the second time tests have shown elevated levels of the bacteria in September. Chlorine was added to the water and the boil-water order may be lifted as early as the middle of this week.
Source:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/vermont/articles/2007/09/16/williamstown_issues_boil_water_order/
27. *September 13, WCPO News Channel 9, Cincinnati, Ohio* – **Kentucky/Ohio water fight: Is new waste water plant too close to Cincinnati water intake?** Northern Kentucky plans to build a new, \$75 million waste water treatment plant, with state-of –the-art ultraviolet light to clean sewage and rainwater before it is discharged into the Brush Creek and the Ohio River. Cincinnati Water Works claims these discharges are too close to their intake pipes for drinking water. Both sides have met repeatedly, but without a compromise being reached. The general manager of the Northern Kentucky’s Sanitation District 1 stated that the plant will be well within federal and state regulations on waste water, saying “Ohio regulation does not allow waste water discharge pipes within 1,500 feet of intake lines. Kentucky doesn't allow discharge pipes within five-miles. Our new plant is more than 16 miles away [from Cincinnati's water intake pipes].”
Source:
http://www.wcpo.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=476b4936-5ae9-483d-85ed-d5ae1ec67383

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *September 17, International Herald Tribune* – **China confirms H5N1 strain of bird flu among ducks.** An outbreak of H5N1 bird flu has killed about 9,830 ducks on five farms in the Panyu District of Hong Kong, the health secretary there said Monday. Tissue sample tests at a provincial government lab confirmed the presence of the virus. As of September 14, about 32,630 ducks had been slaughtered in an attempt to contain the outbreak. Local and provincial officials will conduct joint inspections, and poultry from farms within a 20 kilometer radius of the outbreak will be suspended. China, which raises more poultry than any other country in the world, has vowed an aggressive fight against H5N1, which has sickened at least 328 people worldwide, killing 200 of them, according to the WHO. China has reported 25 human cases of bird flu since 2003, 16 of them fatal.
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/09/17/asia/AS-GEN-China-Bird-Flu.php>
29. *September 17, AFP* – **Conference of germ resistance to begin in Chicago.** Thousands of physicians and scientists meet in Chicago on Monday at the world's largest conference on disease-causing microbes, to discuss the growing resistance of germs to antibiotics and the effects of global warming on them. The conference will cover antibiotic resistant staphylococcus bacteria, tuberculosis, and bird flu, among other pathogens.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070917/ts_alt_afp/ushealthvirusclimate_070917064520;_ylt=A16U.DEqI_5i_19950WBTVHYa7gF
30. *September 17, WMTV, Maine* – **Report: ER's attract patients better suited for office visits.** The Maine Health Data Organization's study of top emergency department diagnoses from 36 hospitals between 2003 and 2005, suggests that hospitals there treat far too many patients whose ailments would be better addressed at a doctor's office. The analysis found a high incidence of dental problems, back aches and respiratory problems such as colds– all of which could be treated at a doctor's office at significantly less cost. According to a 2005 report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nationwide, non-urgent cases account for about 14 percent of cases, contributing to ER crowding and inefficiency.
Source: <http://www.wmtv.com/health/14128082/detail.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

31. *September 15, El Paso Times* – **12 Bliss workers detained after immigration checks.** After Military Police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents interviewed workers at a housing construction site at Fort Bliss, Texas, twelve were detained for being in the country illegally or not having the correct work permits. Subcontractors employed most of these workers, and it is the subcontractors' responsibility to provide documentation of the workers' immigration status to the main contractor. The twelve detainees will be turned over to the ICE.
Source: http://preview.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_6897967
32. *September 14, Associated Press* – **Teen arrested after bomb found at school.** A Texas high school was evacuated and a 16-year-old student arrested after officials discovered a pipe bomb

on Friday. The bomb was in the student's backpack and he "did not threaten anyone or say why he took the device to school." Authorities moved the device and the bomb squad used a robot to determine that there was no "ignition source to detonate it." The students were evacuated to a football field and a two-block radius around the school was shut down for about an hour.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5137049.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *September 17, PRNewswire*– **Norfolk Southern whistle-stop train delivers safety training to emergency responders in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.** A special train will travel to Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi September 17-21 to provide emergency preparedness training to first responders as part of the 2007 Norfolk Southern TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) Whistle-Stop Tour. TRANSCAER is a nationwide program that assists communities in preparing for and responding to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. At each location, state and local emergency planning committees, emergency responders and government officials can participate in hands-on drills and training sessions. Railroad training tank cars, specialized emergency response vehicles and over-the-road tank trucks will be on display. More than 250 participants are expected at each stop. This is the eighth TRANSCAER train Norfolk Southern has sponsored since 1994.

Source:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NEM065B17092007-1.htm>

34. *September 17, PRNewswire*– **USA Mobility gets more HHS work.** Alexandria-based, wireless messaging and communications services company USA Mobility, Inc. has been asked by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide additional paging units for the National Disaster Medical System, the agency's nationwide emergency medical response system. The company will supply about 600 more alphanumeric paging units across the country and at HHS' Washington headquarters. USA Mobility established a relationship with HHS last November when the agency, which is responsible for providing medical and other essential services in emergency situations, started using 980 two-way messaging units for its rapid-deployment forces, incident response coordination teams and applied public health teams. HHS acquired the two-way units after government studies showed relief efforts after the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina in 2005 were delayed by the failures of land-line and cell phone networks.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2007/09/17/daily7.html>

35. *September 17, Daily Herald*– **Vernon Hills gets emergency notification call system.** The village of Vernon Hills recently installed a system, which will provide village-to-resident notification in less than five minutes. The system cost \$18,000 and the village officials can create and send out messages to every number in the database. The officials anticipate it being used for only major emergencies, such as severe weather or hazardous conditions on local roads.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=38097&src=109>

Information Technology

36. *September 17, Associated Press* – **Microsoft loses European appeal.** Microsoft lost its appeal of a European antitrust order Monday that obliges the technology giant to share communications code with rivals, sell a copy of Windows without Media Player and pay a \$613 million fine — the largest ever levied by EU regulators. The EU Court of First Instance ruled against Microsoft on both parts of the case, saying the European Commission was correct in concluding that the world’s biggest software company was guilty of monopoly abuse in trying to use its power over desktop computers to muscle into server software. Microsoft said it would withhold comment on the decision and on whether it would appeal to the EU’s highest court, the European Court of Justice, until it finishes reviewing the 248-page ruling. It has two months to appeal. The court had confirmed that regulators had “quite broad power and quite broad discretion” over companies with large market shares, said a Microsoft lawyer, citing Google Inc., Apple Inc. and International Business Machines Corp. as those that needed to heed the decision. In its ruling, the court upheld both the Commission’s argument and its order for Microsoft to hand over information on server protocols to rivals. Microsoft had claimed these were protected by patents and the Commission was forcing it to give away valuable intellectual property at little or no cost.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070917/ap_on_hi_te/eu_microsoft;_ylt=AroGciF_8D_k9ofqk.QLi8jtBAF

37. *September 17, Associated Press* – **Report: Sophisticated thieves selling code to criminal middlemen.** Online crooks are quickly enlarging an already vast sales and distribution network to propagate spam and send malicious software in hopes of infecting millions of computers worldwide, according to a new report. The Internet Security Threat Report, covering the first half of 2007 and released Monday by security software maker Symantec, says sophisticated thieves sell code to criminal middlemen for as much as \$1,000 per program. The middlemen then push the code to consumers, who may be duped into participating in a scam, or who may have their passwords, financial data and other personal data stolen and used by identity theft rings. The savviest hackers lock middlemen into long-term service contracts so they can automatically push the newest exploits on unwitting consumers and compensate for patches developed by legitimate programmers. The agreements — not unlike contracts between software powerhouses such as Oracle Corp. or Microsoft Corp. and their corporate clients — leave a trail of code that, in principal, makes it easier for authorities to catch both the hacker and the person who is buying the program. However, researchers who worked on Symantec's newest said the amount of money to be made from computer attacks still outweighs the danger. The report also found that the U.S. is the top country for so-called underground economy servers. It is home to 64 percent of the computers known to Symantec to be places where thieves barter over the sale of verified credit card numbers, government-issued identification numbers and other data. (See next article for related story.)

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20818870/>

38. *September 17, IDG News Service* – **Symantec: Bank account details fetch \$400 online.** Stolen bank account numbers are commanding the highest price in an underground trade of

personal details stolen by hackers, according to the Internet Security Threat Report released Monday by Symantec Corp. Bank account details command prices of up to \$400, while credit card details sell for between 50 cents and \$5, e-mail passwords from \$1 to \$350 each, and e-mail addresses from \$2 to \$4 per megabyte, the report says. The online trade in stolen data highlights the commercialization of Internet crime, with gangs researching, developing and marketing nefarious software for other criminals, said the director of Symantec's security practice for Europe. He also noted that there has been an increase in the quality and quantity of malicious code sold on the Internet, driven by well-funded international groups of criminals. The hackers are obtaining the information through increasingly targeted attacks on computers that often involve collecting personal information about a person from social networks such as MySpace.com or Facebook, the same source said. With specific personal details, a hacker can construct a personalized e-mail that entices the victim to either click on an attachment containing malicious software or visit a phishing site. On the spam front, Symantec said it has noticed a 30 percent drop in so-called pump-and-dump spam, in which e-mails touting penny stocks are sent out, causing a rise in the stock price before the perpetrators sell the stock early. The decline can be attributed to a crackdown by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=009036819&intsrc=hm_list

39. *September 17, Computerworld* – **Experts say more personal data is on stolen Ohio tape.** An Ohio state government backup tape stolen in June contained far more personal data than was first believed, according to a computer forensics firm hired by the state. When the incident was discovered, state officials said the device contained data on all 64,467 Ohio state employees and tens of thousands of other people, including Ohio teachers. Two reports released last week by Interhack Corp. said an examination of a copy of the missing tape revealed that it also held the names and Social Security numbers of 47,245 Ohio taxpayers and 19,388 former state employees. A spokesman for the Ohio Department of Administrative Services said that Interhack investigators also uncovered banking information on 100 state businesses and the federal employee ID numbers from 40,088 businesses. The incident is expected to cost the state almost \$3 million, including \$2.3 million to provide affected individuals with credit protection services, he said. The tape was stolen from a vehicle that transported data from government offices to an off-site location where developers were working on the state's new \$158 million ERP system, known as the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System. The breach prompted the state to review how backups are handled at all agencies.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=302856&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

40. *September 14, Computerworld* – **Hacked GOP site infects visitors with notorious bot-making malware.** A Republican Party Web site has been hacked, and for some time it has been spreading a variation of the long-running Storm Trojan horse to vulnerable visitors, a security researcher said Friday. This is the first time that Storm has taken to the Web for its victims, stated the head of research at Websense Inc. "The big news is that Storm has added infecting sites to its arsenal," he said. Storm debuted in January, cracked the top malware lists

early this summer, and has become infamous for its ability to adapt its infection strategies. "They have a knack for latching onto the latest newsworthy events and capitalizing on the public interest in them," a Symantec Corp. researcher said last month. Until now, Storm has infected users via files attached to e-mail or through links embedded in spam. The change noticed by Websense's scanners, however, means that Storm's backers have moved to other attack vectors -- in particular, compromised Web sites that sport malicious IFRAMEs. Users visiting such sites are instantly infected with the Trojan if their browsers are not patched against whatever exploit the IFRAME code is throwing out. According to Websense, several hundred sites have been compromised by Storm's makers. One such site was a Republican Party Web site for the 1st Congressional District of Wisconsin. Within hours after Websense notified the site's owners, however, it had been purged of the dangerous IFRAME code. By mid-morning Friday, it was safe to visit. The motive behind Storm's continued attacks, and its expansion into new areas like this, according to Websense, is a never-ending appetite for bots - - compromised computers that can be used for spamming or other criminal activities, either by the original attackers or by others who lease sections of the botnet.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9036679&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

41. *September 17, Reuters* – **Deutsche telecom to buy SunCom Wireless.** Deutsche Telekom's mobile phone division, T-Mobile USA, has agreed to buy SunCom Wireless Holdings Inc. for about \$1.6 billion, the companies said on Monday. Deutsche Telekom said in a statement it would also take on SunCom debt of almost \$800 million. SunCom shareholders will receive \$27 per share, a 22.7 percent premium to Friday's closing price, the companies said. The deal is expected to close in the first half of 2008. SunCom, founded in 1999, operates in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. It had more than 1.1 million customers by the end of June and posted second-quarter revenue of \$242.5 million. The acquisition will further enhance T-Mobile's network coverage through the addition of SunCom's markets and customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Deutsche Telekom said. Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest operator measured by sales, last month won permission from the European Commission for its T-Mobile Netherlands unit to buy the Dutch unit of rival France Telecom's Orange division.

Source: http://www.bnet.com/2407-13071_23-164730.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

42. *September 17, L.A. Times*– **Crews get a handle on Southland wildfires.** A fire started about 1:30 p.m. Friday in an area west of Fawnskin, near Big Bear Lake, and spread rapidly. That day California’s Governor declared a state of emergency in San Bernardino County, saying, "There is imminent danger to populated areas, including 6,000 homes and 150 businesses." As of Sunday evening, the blaze, called the Butler 2 fire, had burned 15,433 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest and was 12% contained, said a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-fires17sep17,1,5428403,full.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california&ctrack=1&cset=true>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

43. *September 17, Associated Press* – **2,000 evacuated as Calif. forest burns.** A wildfire continues burning in the dry brush of San Bernardino National Forest, consuming approximately 24 square miles and resulting in the evacuation of almost 1,600. Sunday’s cooler temperatures were expected to help the firefighters and the fire was not headed towards any homes. A smaller California wildfire continued to burn in eastern San Diego County. Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gwSSrT7-LciDlr1tYmyE9e19oX9Q>

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Dams Sector

44. *September 16, Houston Chronicle* – **In storm, Valley's levees vulnerable to flooding.** The Texas border with Mexico along the Rio Grande River is especially vulnerable to flooding due to inadequate levees. The International Boundary and Water Commission estimated that \$125 million is necessary for repairs to the levees, but the congressional allocation is only \$5 million per year. A direct hit from a hurricane, or even a severe thunderstorm or tropical storm, would be enough to overwhelm the already full reservoirs and create enough volume in the river to breach the levees. “Towns and cities in the Rio Grande Valley that house more than 2 million people could be inundated. Thousands of people could be displaced, unknown numbers killed or injured. Property worth billions of dollars could be destroyed.” Officials in Hidalgo County have begun raising \$40 million to improve the levees and continue to seek federal funding. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5138477.html>

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