



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 April 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The New York Times reports after a rash of incidents of personal information being stolen from universities, attention is now being focused on how universities are protecting their data. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports an Amtrak train with 115 people aboard derailed on the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge, sending at least two people to the hospital. (See item [13](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security began a weeklong exercise simulating terrorist attacks with biological and chemical weapons on New Jersey and Connecticut and testing the nation's ability to respond. (See item [30](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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

Energy Sector

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

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

1. *April 04, Reuters* — **ChevronTexaco agrees to acquire Unocal.** ChevronTexaco Corp., on Monday, April 4, said it agreed to acquire Unocal Corp. for about \$16.4 billion, increasing its oil and natural gas reserves in the energy-thirsty Asia Pacific region. ChevronTexaco, a distant second behind Exxon Mobil Corp. in U.S. oil production, beat out Italian oil group Eni, China National Offshore Oil Corp. and other potential suitors to acquire the number nine U.S. oil and

gas producer. The deal gives ChevronTexaco a valuable portfolio of discovered and undeveloped deepwater oil and natural gas assets overseas, specifically in the Asia Pacific region. Among its peers, Unocal has the largest exposure to Asia, a region that has reshaped the energy landscape over the past year because of its burgeoning demand for oil. El Segundo, CA-based Unocal operates or participates in exploration and production projects in Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Congo, and Brazil as well as the Gulf of Mexico.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-energy-unocal-chevrontexaco.html>

2. *April 04, Associated Press* — **Norway and Britain sign oil field treaty.** Norway and Britain signed a treaty in Oslo on Monday, April 4, to develop oil fields that straddle their North Sea boundary in hopes of eventually boosting supplies to help meet world thirst for oil. Demand has pushed oil prices to record levels, prompting Norwegian oil minister Thorhild Widvey to say she now worries that the cost could be harmful to the world economy. The new treaty, which was finalized in February, was signed by Widvey and British energy minister Mike O'Brien in hopes of producing more oil, especially from smaller fields in the border zone. Norway, the world's third largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia and Russia, is already producing at full capacity and expects its oil production to decline as major fields age. It has been stressing development of smaller fields as a way to maintain capacity, currently about 3.2 million barrels of oil per day. The new framework treaty includes projects not already outlined in other agreements, and covers such things as building joint oil and natural gas pipelines, jointly developing median-line fields and using infrastructure on one side of the border to develop resources in the other country's waters.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A24864-2005Apr 4.html>

3. *April 04, Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal (CA)* — **Officials from western states propose power line.** California, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada are creating a partnership to develop a high-voltage power line through the four states to serve the western power transmission grid. The "Frontier Line" will be constructed through each state over the next five years. The governors of the four states created the partnership through a memorandum of understanding out of recognition that there is growing consumer electric power demand in the West and that it is best handled through regional cooperation. The project will also more tightly coordinate the four states' development of renewable and conventional resources. The agreement creates a transmission project coordinating committee, the Frontier Line Task Force, that will include a member from each state. Work has already been done to identify potential routes for the project, most of which will be along proposed or existing corridors.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2005/04/04/daily6.html>

4. *April 01, Reuters* — **Storms mean good year for California hydropower.** California will have more hydropower than usual this year as the storms which normally feed the Pacific Northwest's massive dams took a more southerly route, state utilities said on Friday, April 1. The storms have left the Sierra Nevada mountains in California covered in a deep layer of snow, some of which will eventually help drive turbines at the state's hydropower projects when it melts later this year. California Department of Water Resources (DWR) spokesperson Don Strickland said that heavy rains in Southern California had replenished the region's reservoirs while the snowpack in southerly areas was also "very good." Utility Southern

California Edison said on Friday it expects water resources for electricity generation this summer to be between 150 and 200 percent of normal. Utility Pacific Gas and is currently forecasting its hydropower supplies will be about 98 percent of normal with above normal readings for its southerly projects offset by a below normal outlook for projects further north, nearer the Oregon border. California, with a capacity of about 12,500 megawatts, gets about 25 percent of its electricity from hydropower, well above the national average of around seven percent. DWR Website: <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=8066523>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *April 05, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-327: Protection of Chemical and Water Infrastructure: Federal Requirements, Actions of Selected Facilities, and Remaining Challenges (Report)**. The National Strategy for Homeland Security grouped critical infrastructure into 13 sectors which include assets that if attacked by terrorists could have a debilitating impact on the nation. Two of these 13 sectors are the chemical and water sectors. The total number of chemical sector facilities is not clear. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that there are 4,000 chemical manufacturing facilities that produce, use, or store more than threshold amounts of chemicals that the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment. There are approximately 53,000 community water systems and more than 2,900 maritime facilities that are required to comply with security regulations under the Maritime Transportation Security Act. This report provides information about what federal requirements exist for the chemical and water sectors to secure their facilities, what federal efforts were taken by the lead agencies for these sectors to facilitate sectors' actions, what actions selected facilities within these sectors have taken and whether they reflect a risk management approach, what obstacles they say they faced in implementing enhancements, and what are the Coast Guard's results from its inspection of regulated maritime facilities' security enhancements. There are no new recommendations. Highlights:
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05327high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-327>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *April 04, The Daily Times (TN)* — **Internet scam preys on Union Planters customers**. The merger of Union Planters and Regions banks has made Union Planters customers targets of phishing scams. Union Planters Bank customers are particularly vulnerable right now because

they are receiving notification of changes related to the merger by mail. High-tech scam artists are using the customer's relationship with the bank to get people to reveal personal information in response to e-mail contacts. Kevin Crateau, regional marketing officer for Union Planters, said identity thieves are trying to take advantage of bank customers via telephone calls as well as e-mail. He said both Union Planters and Regions have policies against using the Internet to request personal information from customers. He said several customers have reported receiving e-mail with the Regions name. When the merger is complete, those who use online banking services with Union Planters will be redirected to the Regions site when they sign on at the Union Planters site. Crateau said the transition to the Regions name will be completed later this month. "The official conversion will be made April 21 and all 1,440 locations will open April 22 as Regions Banks, offering the best of both Union Planters and Regions," Crateau said.

Source: <http://www.thedailytimes.com/sited/story/html/203125>

7. *April 04, New York Times* — **Some colleges fall short in security of computers.** With a rash of incidents of personal information being stolen from universities, attention is now being focused on how universities are protecting their data. "Universities are built on the free flow of information and ideas," said Stanton S. Gatewood, the chief information security officer at the University of Georgia, which is still investigating a hacking incident there last year that may have exposed records on some 20,000 people. In many cases, Gatewood said, that free flow has translated into a highly decentralized system that has traditionally granted each division within a university a fair amount of autonomy to set up, alter and otherwise maintain its own fleet of networked computers. Various servers that handle mail, Web traffic and classroom activities — "they're all out in the colleges within the university system," Gatewood explained, "and they don't necessarily report to the central IT infrastructure." Throw in aging equipment, an entrenched sense that information should be as free-flowing as possible, and a long-standing reliance on Social Security numbers as the primary means of identifying and tracking transient populations, and the heightened vulnerabilities of universities become apparent.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/04/technology/04data.html>

8. *April 04, Washington Post* — **Internet aids access to sensitive identity data.** Although Social Security numbers are one of the most powerful pieces of personal information an identity thief can possess, they remain widely available and inexpensive despite public outcry and the threat of a congressional crackdown after breaches at large information brokers. So far, those moves have not curbed a multi-tiered and sometimes shadowy marketplace of selling and re-selling personal data that is vulnerable to similar fraud. A simple Internet search yields more than a dozen Websites offering an array of personal data. Some are run by small data brokers and re-sellers, others by private investigators. No law prohibits the sale of Social Security numbers, but privacy experts warn that the number is over-used and under-protected. They also point out that if the number is compromised, it is hard to limit the damage because new numbers are almost never issued. "The current system has the worst of all worlds," said Daniel J. Solove, a George Washington University law school professor who specializes in privacy law. "Anyone can easily find it [the Social Security number] out . . . It's used everywhere, and it's really hard to change if it falls in the wrong hands. How could you come up with a worse system?"

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23686-2005Apr 3.html>

9.

April 01, Vnunet.com — **Financial spam increases as tax year ends.** March saw a huge increase in the amount of spam offering financial deals, according to a survey by Email Systems. The e-mail management company said that financial spam accounted for over 40 percent of all spam, predominantly offering share tips on stock supposed to increase in value. Email Systems attributes this behavior to it being the end of the tax year. "What is interesting is that this activity coincides with March, when many financial organizations are aggressively marketing their products to consumers before the end of the financial year. This is another indicator that spammers and scammers are becoming increasingly adept at identifying key interest factors likely to encourage consumers to part with their cash and are targeting their mails accordingly. Spamming is no longer just a numbers game. The output has become so sophisticated that consumers need to be extremely vigilant to ensure that they do not mistakenly believe a spam mail to be from a legitimate source," said Neil Hammerton, chief executive at Email Systems. Press release with latest figures:

http://www.emailsystems.com/press/press_releases.php?itemid=204

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1162279>

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Transportation Sector

10. *April 04, Associated Press* — Report: Boston's Big Dig tunnels are safe. The Big Dig highway tunnels under downtown Boston are structurally sound and safe despite recent leaks, according to a report released by the Federal Highway Administration Monday, April 4. The agency launched the investigation into the Interstate 93 tunnels after water broke through a faulty wall panel in September, backing up traffic for miles and setting off a new round of criticism of the much-maligned, multibillion-dollar road project. Studies also revealed hundreds of smaller leaks. The report said the most serious breach "appears to be isolated to a discrete section of the tunnel and primarily the result of poor quality control during construction." But overall, the Big Dig itself "is structurally sound and remains safe for traffic," it said. Representatives of the agency met Monday, April 4, with officials from the state Highway Department and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority to brief them on the latest findings, which were later posted on the Federal Highway Administration's Website. The report urges the Turnpike Authority to work quickly to finish inspecting tunnel walls and create a program aimed at detecting any future leaks. The \$14.6 billion Big Dig, formally known as the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project, is the most expensive highway project in U.S. history. Report: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/centralarterytunnel/index.htm>
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-big-dig.0.5504351.story?coll=sns-ap-nation-headlines>

11. *April 04, Los Angeles Times* — California ports compete for ship traffic. The Port of Los Angeles built an island in San Pedro Bay with 58 million cubic yards of concrete, rock and muck to woo the world's largest shipping conglomerate. One result was the dethroning of Long Beach as the nation's busiest containership port. The ports may share San Pedro Bay, but behind the scenes on shore there's a fierce rivalry. Since December, Long Beach, aided by deeper waters that allow it to accommodate the largest containerships, has moved more than 1.5 million containers, just off the pace set by Los Angeles at nearly 1.7 million containers. Although many harbors vie to receive more of the ever-growing international shipping traffic

destined for the United States, no two major U.S. ports do it in such close proximity.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-ports4apr04.0.4079298.story?coll=la-home-business>

12. April 04, Boston Globe — Airlines try to stem the online trade of frequent flier rewards.

Airlines are stepping up scrutiny of Internet auction sites where savvy consumers and frequent business travelers are selling and bartering free vouchers, miles, and other airline awards. In recent months, hundreds of deals for airline vouchers have appeared on eBay and on Craigslist sites across the country. Now, these tickets are being offered at even lower prices as some of the bigger promotions with American Airlines and United Airlines that promised free flights across the country or around the world are set to expire. American Airlines and other carriers say they are increasingly monitoring Internet sites and handing out punishments for the sales of rewards that are explicitly prohibited. Facing stiff competition and high oil prices, financially struggling airlines say they cannot afford to have their own customers undermine award programs and profits. Although airlines often allow awards to be transferred for free to family members and friends, selling the tickets for cash or bartering them for other products, such as tickets to a U2 concert, is strictly forbidden.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2005/04/04/airlines_try_to_stem_the_trade_of_frequent_fliers_loot_online/

13. April 04, Associated Press — Amtrak train derails in Washington. Two people were admitted to hospitals after an Amtrak train with 115 people aboard derailed on Sunday, April 3, authorities said. The train's four cars were left leaning at a 45-degree angle against an embankment when the engine derailed Sunday morning on the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge, Amtrak spokesperson Marcie Golgoski said. One person was airlifted to Legacy Emanuel hospital in nearby Portland, OR, said hospital spokesperson Will Morton, but he could not reveal the person's condition. Another, a pregnant woman, was admitted to Hood River Memorial Hospital in Hood River, OR, for observation. Twenty-four other people were treated at hospitals and released, while an unknown number of others were treated by medics at the scene. The accident happened some 40 miles east of Vancouver. The National Transportation Safety Board and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Co., which owns the track, were investigating the cause of the accident.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=639513>

14. April 04, The Trucker — Highway Watch audio training. Prime Inc. is distributing to its 3,300 drivers a new audio CD that will train them on how to participate in the Department of Homeland Security's Highway Watch program. Prime is the first trucking company in Missouri to use this training format. Having the training in audio format significantly decreases the time needed for training over-the-road truck drivers to recognize potential safety and security threats and avoid becoming a target of terrorists, the company said.

Source: http://www.thetrucker.com/stories/03_05/0331_prime_watch.htm

15. April 04, Bloomberg — U.S. airline service worse in 2004. Service worsened at nearly three-fourths of U.S. airlines last year as fewer employees handled a growing number of passengers, according to a survey by two academics who follow the industry. US Airways Group Inc., the seventh-biggest U.S. carrier, had the largest drop in quality. Only four of 14 carriers showed improvement from a year earlier, the first time performance deteriorated at

most carriers at least since 1999, said Dean Headley, an associate professor of marketing at Wichita State University and co-researcher of the study. Headley said five of the six top-ranked airlines for service were low-cost carriers: JetBlue, AirTran, Southwest, Alaska Air Group Inc. and America West Holdings Corp. AirTran, which moved up six positions, and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines, which advanced five, gained the most in the rankings since last year. United was the only so-called legacy carrier ranked in the top six. Headley and Brent Bowen, a University of Nebraska at Omaha professor, have conducted the study annually for the past 15 years.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aOB2.sIz_YQhU&refer=us

- 16. April 01, Federal Aviation Administration — FAA proposes removal or modification of aircraft insulation blankets.** To reduce the risk of fire spreading aboard aircraft, the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday, April 1, proposed requiring operators of more than 800 U.S.-registered Boeing aircraft to replace or modify certain insulation blankets over the next six years. The primary purpose of aircraft insulation blankets is to protect the passengers and crew from engine noise and frigid temperatures at high altitudes. Like silver-lined household insulation, they often are backed with a transparent film that helps hold them together. The proposed airworthiness directive (AD) was prompted by the discovery that some insulation blankets, which are coated with a film called AN-26, no longer meet the standards for preventing the spread of fire. There are about 1,600 Boeing 727, 737, 747, 757 and 767 aircraft worldwide with this insulation, of which 831 are U.S.-registered. As an alternative to replacing the insulation, Boeing is developing a spray-on barrier that, if successful, would correct the problem and meet the requirements of the proposed directive. Boeing expects to have the product ready by April 2006. The estimated cost of replacing the blankets on the U.S. fleet is approximately \$330 million. If Boeing's alternate spray-on method is used, the cost may be less than \$200 million. Source: <http://www.faa.gov/apa/pr/pr.cfm?id=1935>

- 17. March 31, Department of Transportation — Government could improve California passenger rail with Amtrak reform.** The federal government could do more to support California's plans for high speed passenger rail, but can't because of the current system, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said during a visit to the state capitol. Secretary Mineta said the Administration's reform plan could lead to noticeable improvements in inter-city passenger service. Next week, Secretary Mineta will re-submit to Congress the "Passenger Rail Investment Reform Act" that would create a federal-state partnership for investing in rail systems. The proposal would allow rail operators to compete for operating contracts, give states control over service and schedules, provide federal funds for passenger rail infrastructure improvements, like stations, trains and tracks, and re-position Amtrak as an operating company focused on providing service. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot5505.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

- 18. April 04, DM News — U.S. Postal Service Board votes for rate hike.** The Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service voted March 31 to file a request with the Postal Rate

Commission to increase postage rates in 2006. The requested rate increase will generate funds to meet the \$3.1 billion escrow requirement of the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003. The filing, to be made before April 10, will increase almost all rates and fees by approximately 5.4 percent.

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=3239_6

19. *April 04, Associated Press* — **Japan's prime minister submits postal service plan.** Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday, April 4, proposed privatizing Japan's postal service by 2017, a step that would create the world's biggest bank out of the large amount of cash deposited at Japanese post offices. The outline calls for splitting Japan Post into separate businesses for mail delivery, banking services, and insurance starting in 2007. A fourth company would handle employee salaries and manage post office properties. The prime minister's plan states that the new company would have a duty to provide service nationwide — even in isolated areas where maintaining a presence might be unprofitable.

Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/11307809.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

20. *April 04, Agricultural Research Service* — **Transgenic cows resist mastitis-causing bacteria.** Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have used gene-transfer technologies to produce dairy cows that resist a widespread bacterial infection called mastitis. Currently, vaccines, antibiotics, and a cow's own immune system cannot effectively fight the bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*, a major cause of mastitis. An ARS team built a transgene that includes the genetic code for producing a naturally occurring, antimicrobial protein called lysostaphin. The scientists introduced this transgene into Jersey cows. The lysostaphin is secreted into milk, where it kills *S. aureus*, thus protecting cows from becoming infected. The three genetically engineered cows that have been tested so far are expressing lysostaphin in their milk and are resistant to *S. aureus* intramammary infection. All three transgenic cows showed little or no sign of infection after repeated exposures to *S. aureus* — and one never became infected, indicating complete protection. Overall, the researchers found that in tests, 71 percent of the mammary glands that were exposed to *S. aureus* from nontransgenic animals became infected — compared to only 14 percent for the transgenic animals. Future studies will include developing similar defenses against other pathogens that affect dairy cattle.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

21. *April 04, Kentucky Ag Connection* — **Training program for responding to exotic pest problems.** In Kentucky more than 75 percent of county agents have undergone training to be so-called "First Detectors," which is a program that trains people to recognize and respond to exotic pest problems such as soybean rust. Those who complete the training are eligible for certification as a First Detector and placed on a registry as part of a National Plant Diagnostic Network. The network is designed to increase the capacity of the agricultural infrastructure to quickly detect and respond to exotic, threatening diseases, insect pests, and weeds. It provides information as well as receives updates on exotic or threatening plant-related problems. There are four ways an exotic pest can make its way into the U.S. — naturally, accidentally, deliberately, or by someone engineering a toxic microbial colonist or plant. National Plant

Diagnostic Network: <http://www.npdn.org/DesktopDefault.aspx>

Source: <http://www.kentuckyagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=175&y r=2005>

22. *April 04, Nebraska Ag Connection* — **University of Nebraska team monitoring soybean rust.** While soybean rust has not been detected in Nebraska, a University of Nebraska–Lincoln team will monitor dozens of plots statewide this growing season to spot the disease if it shows up. Monitoring soybean rust and catching it early are critical steps in controlling this new, potentially devastating soybean disease, said Loren Giesler, plant pathologist in the university's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. To spot the disease as early as possible, researchers will closely check special soybean fields called sentinel plots. Sentinel plots are commonly used to monitor soybean rust in other parts of the world such as Brazil or South Africa, Giesler said. As many as 50 sentinel plots will be located throughout Nebraska. The plots will be planted early so that if soybean rust enters Nebraska, these plots will be infected with soybean rust before farmers' fields. In addition, plots will be scouted frequently.
Source: <http://www.nebraskaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=199&y r=2005>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

23. *April 02, Concord Monitor (NH)* — **New Hampshire city tries to shore up security.** To protect the Hutchins Street water treatment plant in Concord, NH, from the possibility of a terrorist attack, city officials will reinforce the stone security wall in front of the plant with a barbed wire–topped fence and replace the open gate at the plant entrance with an automated one. In compliance with the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, a federal law passed after the attacks of September 11, 2001, requiring communities to assess the security of their water supplies and treatment plants, Concord officials paid an environmental consulting, planning and engineering firm \$29,980 to study the vulnerability of the plant, make physical security recommendations and develop an emergency–response plan. Although the fencing will provide increased protection for the plant, the adjacent reservoir, Penacook Lake, will remain unfenced. The lake is 2 ½ miles long and the watershed covers 350 acres, according to Jim Donison, superintendent of the treatment plant. The study's other recommendations include changing the locks at the treatment plant and installing surveillance cameras.
Source: <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050402/REPOSITORY/504020321/1037/NEWS04>

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Public Health Sector

24. *April 04, Associated Press* — **New bird flu case reported in Vietnam.** Vietnamese authorities on Monday, April 4, confirmed another human bird flu case, but said the patient in central Vietnam was recovering from the disease which has killed at least 48 people in the region. A 27-year-old woman was admitted to a hospital in Ha Tinh province Wednesday, March 30. Overall, 48 people in the region have been killed by the virus, which emerged on Asian poultry farms in December 2003. The disease has killed two people from Cambodia and 12 in Thailand. The remainder died in Vietnam, including 14 in the latest wave that began in late December 2004.

Source: http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1112636986165_108046186/?hub=Health

25. *April 04, Reuters* — **Bird flu has cost Asia billions of dollars.** The bird flu outbreak in Asia has already cost the region about eight to 12 billion dollars and is intensifying pressure for tighter biosecurity, a report by investment bank CLSA says. In the report, CLSA said investors had not focused on the disease even though it had devastated the agri-industries of several Asian countries. The World Health Organization has issued repeated warnings in recent months about the increasing risk of a global influenza pandemic emerging from the bird flu crisis in Asia. CLSA said it was difficult to assign a probability or timetable for a pandemic but the epicenter would likely be Thailand, Vietnam, or China. The economies of Hong Kong, Singapore, and China would be hit hardest initially by a pandemic, based on healthcare expenditure and tourist arrivals per capita and total trade divided by gross domestic product. However, as those countries had greater resources to combat the disease they may suffer fewer fatalities than poorer areas, the report said. The report was commissioned by U.S.-based Bio Economic Research Associates. More information about this report is available at

http://www.bio-era.net/be_index.html

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=8080087>

26. *April 01, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* — **Health and Human Services awards contract to develop influenza vaccine.** Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt announced Friday, April 1, that HHS has awarded a \$97 million contract to Sanofi Pasteur to speed the production process for new influenza vaccines for the U.S. The five-year award supports the development of advanced techniques using a cell-based, rather than an egg-based, approach to producing influenza vaccines. The contract also calls for plans to establish a U.S.-based, cell cultured influenza vaccine manufacturing facility. Currently licensed influenza vaccines are produced in chicken eggs in a process that takes nearly nine months. Using a cell culture approach to producing influenza vaccine offers a number of benefits. Vaccine manufacturers can bypass the step needed to adapt the virus strains to grow in eggs. In addition, cell culture-based influenza vaccines will help meet surge capacity needs in the event of a shortage or pandemic, since cells may be frozen in advance and large volumes grown quickly. U.S. licensure and manufacture of influenza vaccines produced in cell culture also will provide security against risks associated with egg-based production, such as the potential for egg supplies to be contaminated by various poultry-based diseases.

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2005pres/20050401.html>

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Government Sector

27. *April 01, Federal Computer Week* — **US–VISIT exit choice forthcoming.** The Department of Homeland Security will choose within the next 60 days which of three procedures it will use to track international visitors leaving the United States, department officials said on Friday, April 1. A report evaluating the three methods under consideration is due soon, said Anna Hinken, spokesperson for US–VISIT, the program that screens foreign nationals entering and exiting the country to weed out potential terrorists. The first process uses kiosks located throughout an airport or seaport. An exit attendant — who would be a contract worker — checks the traveler's documents. The second method requires the passenger to present the receipt when reaching the departure gate. An exit attendant will then scan the receipt and one of the passenger's index fingers using a wireless handheld device. The third procedure uses just the wireless device at the gate. The screening officer scans the traveler's fingerprints and takes a picture with the device, which is similar in size to tools that car–rental companies use. The upcoming report will determine which method best balances high security with allowing legitimate travel and ensuring passengers' privacy, Hinken said.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article88459-04-01-05-Web>

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *April 04, The Associated Press* — **First phase of emergency communication system in Wyoming nears installation.** The first phase of a \$51 million project to help emergency responders communicate between agencies is expected to be set up in southeast Wyoming this summer. Problems communicating between agencies were mentioned by police and medical crews who responded to a fiery chain collision last August on Interstate 80 between Cheyenne and Laramie, WY. The 36–vehicle wreck killed at least seven people. Communication difficulty was also mentioned as the top problem by people who responded to a flood that caused \$3 million in damage to Kaycee in 2002. "We're putting together a new radio system that will serve public safety users, which are police, fire, paramedics and up to livestock inspectors," said Tom Mahon, WyoLink project manager with the Wyoming Department of Transportation. The system will be fully digital and will enable a public safety person in Cheyenne to punch a button and talk to someone in Casper, a link that isn't possible now. Although agencies would need to communicate with one another during a terrorism attack, it would also be important during a fire or a naturally occurring disease outbreak in cattle, said Kelly Hamilton, a law enforcement officer with the Wyoming Livestock Board who heads the state's Public Safety Communications System.
Source: <http://www.jacksonholestartrib.com/articles/2005/04/04/news/wyoming/17471e20a28fc72287256fd9003a2386.txt>

29. *March 31, National Journal* — **Group launches system to link emergency agencies.** A nonprofit coalition on Wednesday, March 31, announced the launch of an initiative to establish a data–messaging system to link local, state and federal emergency agencies. The National Emergency and Alerting Response System (NEARS), would deploy emergency messaging by using national data standards. Instead of building a new infrastructure to transmit emergency data, the NEARS system will be able to build upon existing systems and implement new standards as required by the federal National Incident Management Systems, a system for

sharing emergency data communications across jurisdictions. At the core of the system is the emergency provider access directory which will hold the names, addresses, e-mail addresses and contact information of emergency agencies, health departments, schools and hospitals. Notifications to public utilities, schools and eventually to private sector entities, such as buildings, will be transmitted via the system. Hospitals also will be part of the system. "We need the information to determine the appropriate response," said Dr. Robert Bass, executive director of the Maryland Institute for EMS Systems. Hospitals need to know whether there are hazardous materials to determine how to treat patients, he added.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0305/033105tdpm1.htm>

- 30. *March 28, Department of Homeland Security* — Comprehensive terrorism response exercise begins.** Top Officials 3 (TOPOFF 3), which started Monday, April 4 and will continue through Friday, April 8, is the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever conducted in the United States. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP), TOPOFF 3 is the third exercise in the TOPOFF Exercise Series, a congressionally mandated exercise program. The exercise is designed to strengthen the nation's capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. Joining DHS and other federal agencies in this important effort are the states of Connecticut and New Jersey, as well as the United Kingdom and Canada. These countries will conduct simultaneous, related exercises. Lessons learned from the exercise will provide valuable insights to guide future planning for securing the nation against terrorist events. Issues to be addressed include public health and safety, contamination, criminal investigation, and patient care. As the events continue, federal agencies implement the National Response Plan, and international aspects of play emerge. Fact Sheets on TOPOFF 3: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/theme_home8.jsp ; National Response Plan: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_05_66.xml
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4410>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

- 31. *April 04, IDG News Service* — China could overtake U.S. in number of broadband subscribers this year.** China will have more broadband Internet access subscribers than the U.S. by year-end, if the number of subscribers to broadband Internet access services continues to grow at current rates, according to figures published Monday, April 4, by market analyst Point Topic of London. At the end of December, the U.S. had 33.9 million broadband subscribers, and China 25.8 million, according to Point Topic. If those numbers continue to grow at the rates observed by Point Topic during the six months from July to December last year, then China will overtake the U.S. by year-end. In third place, Japan had 18.1 million broadband subscribers, South Korea 11.9 million, Germany 6.9 million, France 6.8 million and the United Kingdom 6.1 million, the company said. Six of the top 10 countries ranked by broadband market penetration are now European, according to Point Topic. South Korea still leads the world for the proportion of broadband subscribers in its population, closely followed by Hong Kong, but the Netherlands and Denmark are closing the gap, the company said. Report highlights: <http://www.point-topic.com/content/dslanalysis/bbana04050401.htm>
Source: <http://www.nwfusion.com/news/2005/0404chinacould.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

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

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT reports two denial of service (DoS) issues identified in the AutoProtect functionality of the Symantec Norton AntiVirus consumer product, where a real time scan of a specific file type can cause a system crash, Blue Screen of Death (BSOD), with both Symantec Norton AntiVirus 2004 and 2005 Windows applications. This type of file, while not malicious on it's own, could be maliciously introduced either remotely from outside the system through email or over <http>, or internally by an authorized user to disrupt service on a targeted system.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	445 (microsoft-ds), 4010 (samsung-unidex), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 113 (auth), 80 (www), 1026 (----), 53 (domain), 1027 (icq), 1025 (----)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

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

[DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is available on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

[Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins](#) – DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact. Homeland Security Advisories and Information Bulletins are available on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=70>

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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Contact DHS/IAIP

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

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

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