



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 October 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

- Reuters reports trafficking in stolen credit cards has largely shifted to Russian–language Websites after an international crackdown sparked disarray among English–speaking scam artists. (See item [6](#))
- The Associated Press reports two jets crossed paths on the runways at Logan International Airport, forcing one of them to abort its takeoff, marking the second such incident in just over a week and the 16th since last October. (See item [8](#))
- CNN reports New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced on Thursday there is evidence that a terrorist attack on the New York City subway system is possible in the coming days. (See item [11](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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

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

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

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

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

Energy Sector

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

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

1. *October 06, MarketWatch* — **Consumer demand seen lower going forward.** Gasoline demand in the United States, already lower because of soaring prices and tight supplies after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, is likely to drop further in the weeks ahead, Energy Information Administration (EIA) chief Guy Caruso said Thursday, October 6. Consumers have responded

to higher-priced gasoline by curbing their appetite at the pump in recent weeks. The Department of Energy (DOE) reported a sizable drop in monthly demand for petroleum products this week. Motor gasoline demand averaged nearly 8.8 million barrels per day for the last four weeks — 2.6 percent below the year-ago level, according to a report from DOE. Asked by reporters if the demand drop could be even steeper than the roughly 200,000 dip in September over year-ago levels in the next several weeks, Caruso said: "That is what it has been looking like." The EIA is the statistical arm of the Department of Energy.

Energy Information Administration: <http://www.eia.doe.gov>

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?guid=%7BF7EF96A3%2D1D36%2D4E06%2DA757%2D65D8A40455C2%7D&dist=rss&siteid=mktw>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. *October 07, Associated Press* — **Eight injured in South Texas plant explosion.** Eight people were injured, one seriously, Thursday, October 6, when an explosion rocked the Formosa Plastics plant in Point Comfort, TX at around 3:30 p.m. The plant produces PVC and vinyl for floor and wall coverings. Formosa spokesman Rob Thibault said the fire occurred in the olefins 2 unit and the unit was severely damaged. He said preliminary indications were that other units in the plant had little or no damage. He also said preliminary indications were that no releases offsite. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality spokesperson Andrea Morrow said the explosion was in a propylene line. The plant was evacuated as a precaution. Area residents had been asked to shut off their air conditioners and stay inside. Authorities closed nearby roads following the blast. By 10:30 p.m., a recording at the county judge's office reported all roads reopened and the shelter-in-place orders were lifted. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration planned to investigate, agency spokesperson Diana Petterson said. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board said it would deploy a five-person assessment team to the plant on Friday.

Source: http://www.news-journal.com/news/content/gen/ap/TX_Plant_Explosion.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. *October 06, Reuters* — **Small bombs target U.S. interests in Argentina.** Three homemade bombs exploded on Thursday, October 6, at two Citibank branches and a Blockbuster video store in Argentina in what appeared to be a protest against U.S. President George W. Bush's visit next month, police said. No one was hurt in the early morning explosions in towns outside the capital, Buenos Aires, although damage at the Blockbuster was considerable. Pamphlets against Bush were found in the debris, signed by unknown groups including the "Che Guevara

Anti-Imperialist Commando," said Oscar Rodriguez, police chief in the suburb of San Miguel. U.S. interests, particularly banks, are often targeted in Argentina by groups that plant small bombs on the eve of visits by U.S. or International Monetary Fund officials. Bush will visit the coastal Argentine city of Mar del Plata on November 4–5 for a summit of heads of state of the Americas.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1188982>

4. *October 06, The Washington Times* — **Giuliani offers strategy on identity theft.** Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told financial industry executives on Wednesday, October 5, they should protect consumers from identity theft in ways similar to cities preparing for terrorist attacks. "If you anticipate everything you can, you will be ready for the unanticipated," Giuliani said. Giuliani was the keynote speaker at a conference on payment card security, where nearly 300 executives discussed methods to stop the growing rate of identity theft, particularly with credit and debit cards. He said when he arrived at ground zero on September 11, 2001, he told a police officer who accompanied him: "We have no plans for this." Instead, New York City officials improvised with parts of other disaster plans to figure out a response, he said. The lesson for the financial security industry is that, "Success comes about because of relentless preparation," said Giuliani. Several speakers said although they are getting better at stopping identity thieves, consumers who entrust their credit-card numbers or other financial information to strangers are the industry's biggest security risk. "The greatest threat can be in your own house," said Marge Connelly, CapitalOne's vice president of corporate reputation and government, referring to consumers who do not guard their cards adequately.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20051005-093645-5695r.htm>

5. *October 06, TechWeb News* — **Phishers plant fake Google toolbar.** Phishers are playing off Google's brand name, a security researcher said Wednesday, October 5, by flooding instant messaging (IM) and Internet relay chat (IRC) with messages that lead to a download of a fake Google toolbar whose sole purpose is to steal credit card information. Security company Facetime's senior researcher Chris Boyd warned that two URL links are in circulation over IM and IRC channels; both links lead the naïve to a page which, among other actions, installs and launches a phony Google toolbar, hijacks the Windows HOSTS file, and adds the anti-spyware program known as "World Antispy." The toolbar, in connection with the rewritten HOSTS file, redirects most Google addresses and pops up a window asking for credit card information. Boyd said that Facetime has spotted three variations of the attack, each one exploiting a different vulnerability and installing a slightly different payload.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=171203636>

6. *October 05, Reuters* — **Internet crime shifts to Russia.** Trafficking in stolen credit cards has largely shifted to Russian-language Websites after an international crackdown sparked disarray among English-speaking scam artists, a U.S. Secret Service official said on Wednesday, October 5. The October 2004 raid, dubbed Operation Firewall, led to 28 arrests in seven countries and shut down several Websites that served as online bazaars where scam artists could buy and sell credit-card numbers, drivers' licenses and other documents. Now much of the activity has shifted to Russian-language Websites that are wary of outsiders, posing additional challenges to online investigators who must cope with language and legal barriers, said Brian Nagel, the Secret Service's director of investigations. "The English-speaking side of this criminal activity seems to be in complete disarray," Nagel said at a credit-card security

conference. "The Russian-speaking side ... rebounded pretty strongly and there seems to be more membership than there was before," he said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20051005/wr_nm/c_ybercrime_dc_1

7. *October 05, Agence France-Press* — **Joint intelligence effort to curb money laundering.**

Financial intelligence experts from 47 countries met Wednesday, October 5, in Sofia, Bulgaria, to discuss efficient ways to curb money laundering in a joint effort within the international organization of financial intelligence services. The Egmont Group unites "financial intelligence services from 104 member countries who monitor financial resources that might have possibly come from organized crime or been linked to terrorism," said Bulgarian Financial Intelligence chief Vassil Kirov. "In order to have a preventive role they have to be able to quickly share information among themselves, and not be delayed due to restrictions" like banking secrets, he added. When Egmont group first started its investigations its members "were content if they could determine the official directors of offshore companies, suspected of money laundering. Now, in most of the cases, they are actually able to trace down the chief owner of the company in question," Kirov said.

Egmont Group: <http://www.egmontgroup.org/>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/afp/20051005/bs_afp_bulgariacrime_051005174410

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *October 06, Associated Press* — **Second near-collision at Logan in just over a week.**

Two jets crossed paths on the runways at Logan International Airport, forcing one of them to abort its takeoff, marking the second such incident in just over a week and the 16th since last October. An American Airlines airliner was rolling down the runway on Tuesday, October 4, moving into position for takeoff, when an American Eagle regional jet that had just landed crossed the runway, Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Jim Peters said. Peters could not say how close the planes had come to colliding, but The Boston Globe quoted an aviation source familiar with the investigation saying the two planes came within 1,000 feet of each other. The airliner's clearance for takeoff was canceled, and the Federal Aviation Administration is investigating whether air traffic controllers or the pilot of the American Eagle plane was at fault. Officials say they have found no link between the 16 runway incursions since October 2004, though they have cited Logan's five cramped, intersecting runways as a reason why the incidents occur with such frequency. Logan is the nation's 17th busiest airport with 1,250 daily arrivals and departures,

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/10/06/second_near_collision_at_logan_in_just_over_a_week/

9. *October 06, Department of Transportation* — **Fiscal accountability measures for DOT's Hurricane Katrina spending.**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is taking extraordinary steps to ensure fiscal accountability in spending to support repair and reconstruction work in the Gulf Coast region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta told the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary and the District of Columbia on Thursday,

October 6. Mineta testified that the Department has created a special financial integrity team that will ensure all Hurricane Katrina spending is thoroughly documented and there is an accounting for every dollar spent. The Secretary also noted that the Department has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a detailed Hurricane Financial Stewardship Plan that outlines existing and additional internal controls intended to safeguard taxpayer funds. In addition to outlining details of the Department's fiscal accountability measures, the Secretary reviewed the steps taken by the Department both before and after Hurricane Katrina to evacuate citizens, move supplies and begin making critical repairs to damaged transportation systems. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot14705.htm>

10. *October 06, Associated Press* — **Dulles expansion moving forward; National to approve private planes.** Work on two new runways that are part of Dulles Airport's \$3 billion expansion could begin in months, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's chief executive said Wednesday, October 5. The new runways are part of an expansion plan that will more than double the airport's capacity, enabling it to handle 55 million passengers each year. "It's conceivable that we can be out there clearing trees by the end of this year or the beginning of next," James Bennett told board members. Meanwhile, Bennett said Reagan National airport, which the authority also oversees, will begin receiving non-commercial flights on October 18 for the first time since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Private planes will only be permitted from 12 "gateway" airports approved by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Flight operators will have to pay for the on-board air marshal required by the TSA, and for a special screening regimen. Also, Bennett attributed security staffing problems at Dulles to the redeployment of TSA resources to the Gulf Coast after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. But he said staffing is always a problem at Dulles because it's difficult to recruit personnel to work at an airport so difficult to reach by public transportation. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-10-06-dc-airports_x.htm

11. *October 06, CNN* — **New York subway system on alert.** The FBI has shared a "specific threat" with New York officials against its subway system, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Thursday, October 6. "If you see something, say something. Call ... 911 if it's an emergency," he said, urging vigilance. There were indications that a terrorist attack on the subway system was possible "in coming days," said New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. The subway system carries up to seven million commuters daily. The heightened alert came 10 days after the arrest of nine people in France allegedly plotting attacks on the Paris subway, an airport, and an intelligence agency's headquarters. In July, London's public transportation system was attacked twice. At least 52 people died, and 700 people were wounded when four men detonated their bombs aboard subway trains and a double-decker bus on July 7. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/10/06/newyork.subways/index.html>

12. *October 05, Airport Business* — **Some Palm Springs Airport precautions may be for naught.** A breach of security last month at Palm Springs International Airport could happen again despite millions of dollars pouring in for security for the nation's airports. On September 18, Michael Broderick drove a pickup truck through Palm Springs International Airport's chain-link fence behind the rental-car area that led to the runway. The incident raised questions about the strength of the airport's security. "You can't address everything and anything that might happen," said Bryant Francis, Palm Springs International Airport's deputy director of aviation. Airport officials say their fence already meets Transportation Security

Administration (TSA) guidelines and doesn't need to be upgraded. Other airports, though, like Ontario International, Los Angeles International and Phoenix–Sky Harbor, are adding concrete barriers to their perimeters. Last year Palm Springs finished a \$15 million security checkpoint where officials can check vehicles before they reach the airport terminal. But the checkpoint is only staffed during orange and red alerts issued by the Department of Homeland Security and it only protects the terminal, not the rest of the airport's perimeter. Airports rely on chain–link fences to keep intruders and large animals off the runway. They typically don't use concrete walls for fear a plane might run into them.

Source: <http://www.airportbusiness.com/article/article.jsp?id=3787&siteSection=5>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *October 06, Reuters* — **FedEx Cessna plane crashes in downtown Winnipeg.** A Cessna 208 carrying cargo for FedEx Corp. crashed near a major downtown intersection in Winnipeg early Thursday, October 6, killing its pilot, the only person on board, but sparing injury on the ground. The plane crashed on railway tracks in the western Canadian city just before 6 a.m. (1100 GMT), leaving only a "twisted heap" of wreckage behind, local radio CJOB said. The crash occurred close to an intersection of several major streets. The plane, which was on its way to Thunder Bay, Ontario from Winnipeg, was owned, operated and maintained by FedEx subcontractor Morningstar Air Express Inc., FedEx Canada spokesperson Karen Cooper said. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20051006-0719-crash-canada-fedex.html>

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Agriculture Sector

14. *October 06, Green Bay Press–Gazette* — **Chronic wasting disease testing returns to area.** More than 30 deer processors and registration stations in Northeastern Wisconsin are accepting adult deer heads from freshly harvested whitetails for intensive chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance testing this fall for the first time since 2002. Tom Bahti, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Northeast Region wildlife supervisor, said extensive testing three years ago did not find chronic wasting disease in the 16–county region, but the herd needs to be monitored on a recurring basis. DNR veterinarian Simon Hollamby said early detection of any disease offers the best chances for stopping it, whether it's tuberculosis, CWD or something else. Disease monitoring efforts are continuing around the two disease eradication zones and any CWD–positive deer farms. Source: http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/sports/archive/sports_22_891284.shtml
15. *October 06, ProMED* — **Vesicular stomatitis, equine & bovine.** On Tuesday, October 4, the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) in Plum Island, NY, confirmed the first cases of vesicular stomatitis, New Jersey (VS–NJ) in three cattle on premises in Scotts Bluff County, NE. VS–NJ virus was isolated out of samples from three affected adult beef cattle. This is a cow/calf operation and approximately 50 percent of the cattle are exhibiting

clinical signs. A quarantine has been placed on the affected premises by State regulatory officials. Additionally, on Wednesday October 5, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA, confirmed the finding of vesicular stomatitis by virus isolation from a horse at [different] premises in Scotts Bluff County, NE. A quarantine has been placed on the affected premises by State regulatory officials. Five other horses on the premises were not showing clinical signs at the time of the foreign animal disease investigation. Although the two premises are in the same county, Scotts Bluff, they are approximately 24 miles apart.

Source: http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:14775611028561748074::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE.F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000.30586

- 16. *October 05, United States Department of Agriculture* — **USDA announces \$200 million in disaster relief funding for citrus canker compensation in Florida.**** United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns on Wednesday, October 5, announced \$200 million in disaster relief funding to compensate commercial citrus growers in Florida for losses suffered as a result of citrus canker. The number of Florida growers impacted by citrus canker has increased significantly following a series of hurricanes beginning in 2004 that spread the wind-borne disease to new areas. In the spring and summer of this year, 269 new citrus canker infections were detected in commercial groves affecting 62,000 acres of citrus. On September 30, USDA announced \$53.75 million in emergency funding to accelerate eradication activities and prevent commercial canker infections caused by recent hurricanes from spreading. Citrus canker is a rapidly spreading, highly contagious bacterial disease that causes fruit to drop prematurely. In addition, citrus canker lesions make infected fruit unmarketable. Because there is no chemical cure or treatment for citrus canker in Florida, the only way to eradicate the disease is to destroy all infected or exposed trees. The citrus industry contributes to the eradication effort by participating in self-survey programs that have led to numerous new detections.

Citrus Canker information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/emergencyprograms/citruscanker/>

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a/d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/.ce/7.2.5JM/.p/5.2.4TQ/.d/1/th/J.2.9D/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2005%2F10%2F0425.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.navtype=RT&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=LAT. EST.RELEASES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=NEWS.RELEASE#7.2.5JM>

- 17. *October 05, Associated Press* — **State testing moose for chronic wasting disease.**** Moose in North Dakota are now being tested in for chronic wasting disease, wildlife officials say. Randy Kreil, wildlife chief for the state Game and Fish Department, said the testing was prompted by a moose killed in northern Colorado that tested positive for chronic wasting disease last month. It was the first of its species known to have contracted the disease in the wild, officials said. The fatal brain-wasting disease afflicts members of the deer family. Kreil said the state has tested "two or three" moose over the years for the disease. He said the testing was done on the animals because they were either emaciated or displayed unusual behavior. Kreil said results of tests for chronic wasting disease in those moose all have come back negative.

Source: <http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/12826028.htm>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

18. *October 06, Desoto Sun Herald (FL)* — Florida authority signs historic water pact. The authority that oversees Florida's Peace River water supply made history Wednesday, October 5, by signing a pact to expand the Peace River Water Plant. The four-member Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority board voted unanimously to launch the \$123 million water-plant-expansion project. The deal, which will increase the plant's capacity from 18 million gallons per day to 32.7 million, and its reservoir from 600 million gallons to six billion, had previously been approved by each of the counties that are members of the authority: Charlotte, Sarasota, DeSoto, and Manatee. What's historic is that the deal includes interlocal agreements that give the board more authority to develop additional water sources for the region. One clause, for example, gives the authority the ability to develop new water sources even without a customer demanding it or pledging to pay for the project. The board has also recently given its staff a mandate to pursue additional deals to buy water or develop more sources to stave off a temporary water shortage that is projected to crop up between now and 2009, when the project is to be completed.

Source: <http://www.sun-herald.com/NewsArchive4/100605/tp6de6.htm?date=100605&story=tp6de6.htm>

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Public Health Sector

19. *October 07, Staff Summary* — Recent scientific advances in understanding influenza viruses. Recent genetic sequencing suggests that the 1918 Spanish Flu virus, which killed millions worldwide, most likely originated from a single avian source and not as a reassortant virus, as was the case for the viruses responsible for the influenza pandemics in 1957 and 1968. This finding raises even greater concerns about the current outbreak of influenza (H5N1) in Asia. The 1918 influenza virus was recently resurrected at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta by Dr. Terrance Tumpey, and maintains a high degree of lethality, killing mice in three to five days. Recent publications in *Nature* compared sequences of multiple influenza strains; concluding that the 1918 virus differs from other human flu sequences in all of its eight genomic sequences. In a landmark paper, Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology characterized the virus replication machinery; ten mutations present in 1918 are identified that are not present in human influenza viruses circulating today. Some of the same mutations have been found in the highly pathogenic avian H5N1 flu virus now circulating in Asia, and also in avian H7N7 flu virus which caused a recent outbreak in the Netherlands, indicating that these mutations may hold the key for these strains' increased virulence. The 1918 flu virus is not the same virus we are seeing today. One of the two key surface proteins on the 1918 H1N1 flu virus is different than the ones on H5N1. This protein is required for attachment and cell penetration, indicating that additional mutations must occur before the H5N1 virus could become as lethal as the 1918 virus. Researchers will now look at reconstructing the virus with and without key adaptive mutations to determine their

impact on virulence and potential susceptibility to antiviral drugs.

The foregoing summary is based on the following references:

Nature – Large-scale sequencing of human influenza reveals the dynamic nature of viral genome evolution: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/pdf/nature04239.pdf>

Nature – Characterization of the 1918 influenza virus polymerase genes:

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v437/n7060/full/437794a.html>

Science Magazine (subscription required) – Resurrected Influenza Virus Yields Secrets of Deadly 1918 Pandemic: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/310/5745/28>

ScienceNOW(subscription required) – Blast From Influenza's Past:

http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2004/206/3?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&titleabstract=%22blast+from+influenza%27s+past%22&searchid=1128624607447_1191&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0

ScienceNOW(subscription required) – Resurrecting the "Spanish Flu":

http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2005/1005/2?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&titleabstract=resurrecting+the+%22spanish+flu%22&searchid=1128624718067_1199&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences– Existing antivirals are effective against influenza viruses with genes from the 1918 pandemic virus:

<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/99/21/13849>

Source: DHS Daily Report Staff

- 20. *October 06, Reuters* — Indonesia confirms two suspected bird flu cases.** Indonesian health officials said on Thursday, October 6, that two young men, including one who died a week ago, had proved positive for the bird flu virus in local tests. I Nyoman Kandun, head of disease control at the health ministry, said specimens had been sent to a Hong Kong laboratory recognized by the World Health Organization for further testing. Results should be available in the next few days. Indonesian health officials suspect bird flu in six deaths since July in the world's fourth most populous nation, while the Hong Kong laboratory has confirmed four. "The PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) showed positive for both (men)," said Kandun. "One is a 21-year-old man...he is still alive and in a stable condition. The other one had died. Both are proven to have had direct contact with dead poultry."

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK144752.htm>

- 21. *October 06, Associated Press* — Confining bird flu abroad key to U.S. plan.** Containing any bird flu outbreak wherever it first strikes is a centerpiece of U.S. preparations for a potential influenza pandemic, the nation's health secretary said Wednesday, October 5, just before a trip to Asia to shore up international cooperation. If it appears that the bird flu has mutated to easily infect people, federal health officials would rush overseas to help limit its spread. That is the first step in the Bush administration's soon-to-be-updated plans for dealing with the next worldwide influenza outbreak. "If you can get there fast enough and apply good public health techniques of isolating and quarantining and medicating and vaccinating the people in that area, you can...squench it or you can delay it," Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt said in outlining the pandemic plan. To further that goal, more than 65 countries and international organizations were to participate in discussions Thursday, October 6, at the State

Department about preparations for the possibility of a worsening bird flu. Next week, Leavitt plans to meet with leaders of the Southeast Asia countries that are the epicenter of the virus. Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/124927;_ylt=Amp8KejnFOnWNio2_o7_ey6Oz5xcB

22. *October 05, National Institutes of Health* — **Genomes of more than 200 human flu strains reveal a dynamic virus.** In the first large-scale effort of its kind, researchers have determined the full genetic sequence of more than 200 distinct strains of human influenza virus. The information, being made available in a publicly accessible database, is expected to help scientists better understand how flu viruses evolve, spread and cause disease. The new genomes are the initial results of the Influenza Genome Sequencing Project, a joint effort of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and multiple partners including NIH's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), the Wadsworth Center of the New York State Department of Health in Albany, NY, and The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR) in Rockville, MD. The report was published online in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday, October 5. The scientists, led by Elodie Ghedin, Ph.D., of TIGR, and Steven Salzberg, Ph.D., of the University of Maryland, College Park, fully sequenced 209 strains of flu virus, determining the order of more than 2.8 million nucleotide bases, the building blocks of DNA. In collaboration with David Lipman, M.D., and colleagues at NCBI, NIAID will rapidly make this sequence information publicly available through GenBank, an international, searchable online database. Elodie Ghedin's research: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature04239.html> Original project press release: <http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2004/flugenome.htm> GenBank Project Website: <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/genomes/mscs/influenza.htm> How to search GenBank: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/GenbankSearch.html> NIH Website: <http://www.nih.gov/> Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/oct2005/niaid-05.htm>

23. *October 05, ProMed* — **Summary of Canadian mystery virus released by Ontario Ministry of Health and Public Health Agency of Canada.** The province of Ontario has in place ongoing surveillance for febrile respiratory illnesses (FRI) in hospitals and residential institutions due to the proliferation of undiagnosed respiratory deaths in Canada. As a result of this ongoing surveillance, outbreaks are regularly detected, especially during the influenza and respiratory virus season, which we are now entering Canada. Preliminary laboratory results are negative for key respiratory pathogens of concern. The attack rate and mortality rate are not out of the expected range for long-term care facility outbreaks and the outbreak appears to be waning. Further laboratory investigations are ongoing. The current outbreak of FRI was identified in a Toronto nursing home on Tuesday, September 27. A FRI case is defined as a resident, staff member or visitor with sudden onset of fever with malaise and/or anorexia, with or without runny nose and congestion or cough. As of Tuesday, October 4, 67/249 residents and 8/290 staff members met the case definition; 23 residents and one staff member were hospitalized. Also as of Tuesday, six residents died and three visitors were identified who meet the case definition; two of these were hospitalized and investigated. Cases are rapidly improving upon initiation of antibiotic therapy. Canada's weekly FluWatch surveillance report: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *October 06, LA Daily News (CA)* — California first responders meet on plan for local disasters. A Los Angeles emergency–preparedness conference last week helped strengthen ties between regional responders in California for future crises, officials said Wednesday, October 5. The summit helped emergency officials clarify how they will work together when Los Angeles faces its next crisis, participants said. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa told participants he will work with the federal government to make Homeland Security funding more equitable to large cities with many terror targets, like Los Angeles. In addition, smaller cities gained assurances that they will be kept in the loop during the next catastrophe. "As smaller agencies, sometimes we don't get all the information we should be getting directly from the larger agencies," said Anthony Alba, chief of police in San Fernando. "That was brought out into the open and there was an understanding that we're going to work on improving those relationships." First responders also spoke by phone with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, addressing everything from the future of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the availability of antidotes to potential biological terrorist attacks. In addition, officials at the summit simulated a large–scale terrorist attack in Los Angeles, and planned for another major exercise in March.

Source: http://www2.dailynews.com/news/ci_3090574

25. *October 06, Statesman Journal (OR)* — Simulated attack by terrorists to test Oregon first responders. Police officers will cordon off several blocks in Salem, OR, Saturday, October 8, in order to enable first responders to conduct a simulated terrorism drill. About 900 workers and volunteers will pretend that terrorists have bombed a bus and that the blast destroyed a state office building, killing and wounding many people. The major disaster drill will shut down several blocks of Salem for hours while state, federal, Salem, Marion, Polk and Yamhill county officials execute the large–scale practice. It will test first responders and communication systems and prepare for the possibility that a terrorist attack or similar crisis could occur in Salem. For the emergency responders and public officials, the real benefit already has taken place as 40 agencies have figured out how they together would respond to a major incident.

Source: http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051006/NEW_S/510060329/1002

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

26. *October 06, Vnunet* — **Security industry adopts uniform virus names.** The US Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) has kicked off an initiative to create common names for Internet worms and threats. Common Malware Enumeration (CME) aims to reduce confusion with the public caused by disparate naming schemes for Internet threats. Currently Internet worms are often named using information about the virus or a follow a description the author entered when crafting the malware. The new scheme will use a sequential CME number, beginning with CME-1. A similar naming system already exists for security vulnerabilities in software, which uses a Common Vulnerability and Exposure (CVE) identifier. However, CME differs from CVE in that the worm naming initiative will not include the date.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2143314/security-industry-gathers>

27. *October 05, Security Focus* — **TellMe multiple cross-site scripting vulnerabilities.** There has been a multiple cross-site scripting vulnerability identified in TellMe. This is due to a lack of proper sanitization of user-supplied input. An attacker may leverage this to have arbitrary script code executed in the browser of an unsuspecting user in the context of the affected site. This attack may facilitate the theft of cookie-based authentication credentials.

Source: TellMe Multiple Cross-Site Scripting Vulnerabilities

28. *October 04, BBC News* — **Web helps criminals trap victims.** Statistics have shows that criminals are using spyware to get hold of personal data they can sell or use themselves. This is a shift from e-mailed viruses that were sent to steal this valuable information. According to Mark Sunner, chief technology officer at MessageLabs, "More and more malicious code is appearing in web traffic as opposed to e-mail."

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4306048.stm>

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 is aware of publicly available exploit code for a format string vulnerability in the Helix Player. Please note that this vulnerability affects all media players based on the Helix Player, such as Real Player on UNIX / LINUX systems. The vulnerability exists in the way Helix Player handles certain media files. A remote attacker who is able to convince a user to view a specially crafted media file, may be able to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the Helix Player process.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

* VU#361181 – Helix Player format string vulnerability

Until a patch is available to address this vulnerability, US-CERT strongly

encourages users to review the workarounds section of the Vulnerability Note (VU#361181).

Top Source Port / IP Addresses: Increased reported port activity: 1029 UDP, 1030 UDP, 1028 UDP, 1434 UPD from the following IP blocks, located in China: 61.235.154.108, 220.164.140.141, 222.241.95.14, 61.235.155.2, 221.208.208.17 , 60.237.126.61, and 218.66.104.186

US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events such as Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. For more information please refer to: <http://www.us-cert.gov/current/#kat>

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice. <http://www.fema.gov/>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 135 (epmap), 27015 (halflife), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 40000 (---), 80 (www), 25 (smtp)
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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

29. *October 06, Star-Telegram (TX)* — Bill would give nonfederal officials arrest power. Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison introduced legislation Wednesday, October 5, to empower state and local law enforcement officers to arrest, detain and prosecute illegal immigrants, a role currently reserved for federal immigration authorities. The bill would also create a Volunteer Border Marshal Program in which licensed state and local law enforcement officers would voluntarily assist the U.S. Border Patrol. Hutchison described the measure as a "powerful deterrent" to curb the flow of illegal immigration from Mexico and other countries. An estimated 11 million immigrants are believed to be living in the United States illegally, drawn by jobs paying up to 10 times more than those in their own countries. Republican Senator John Cornyn, Hutchison's home state colleague who heads a Senate immigration subcommittee, said the proposal will be considered with other measures as Congress looks at an overhaul of the nation's immigration system. Hutchison said her bill would remove jurisdictional barriers that prevent state and local authorities from cracking down on illegal border crossings and help ease

the load on overburdened border patrol officers.

Source: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/nation/12832069.htm>

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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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