Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 28 November 2005

Current Nationwide Threat Level is **ELEVATED** Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For info click here
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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports that a waitress from a Deleware restaurant has been accused of aggravated identity theft after using a hand–held credit card reader to steal the account numbers of customers. (See item 7)

- Reuters reports that officials in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, have begun poisoning pigeons and other wild birds to prevent avian flu from spreading into the crowded city. (See item 25)

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

IT and Cyber: Information Technology and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument &Icons; General; DHS Daily Report Contact Information

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – http://www.esisac.com]

1. *November 25, Associated Press* — **Power grid is in need of new expansion plan.** Utility managers and regulators say questions about cost and ownership of new transmission lines need to be answered soon –– before demand outstrips supply to the West, one of the fastest–growing areas of the nation. Otherwise, the risk of a blackout like the one that left the East Coast in the dark in 2003 keeps rising. New generating capacity has to have a way to reach new businesses and homes, meaning more high–voltage wires, said Jim McDonald, spokesperson for utility Arizona Public Service. On November 17, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proposed transmission pricing changes to promote what commissioners said was long–overdue investment in energy infrastructure. The goal is to increase power–grid reliability and lower costs by reducing transmission congestion between states, commissioners said. Reliability and

congestion are issues that have been a struggle for utility managers and regulators across the West for more than a decade, as they have watched transmission line construction fail to keep pace with demand. Transmission investment actually declined for 23 years from 1975 to 1998, according to FERC figures. Over that same period, electricity demand more than doubled, resulting in a significant decrease in transmission capacity.
Source: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2002645311_p owergrid25.html?syndication=rss

2. *November 25, Richmond Times−Dispatch* — **Blaze damages Virginia oil refinery.** It took firefighters from three jurisdictions 10½ hours to extinguish an oil refinery blaze near Yorktown, VA, on Friday, November 25. The fire broke out at the Giant Industries Inc. refinery. Mark B. Cox, Giant executive vice president, said on Friday that the cause of the fire was under investigation and the extent of the damage was still being assessed. It is also unclear how long the damage will interfere with production, he said. The Giant refinery played a crucial role in supplying gasoline to central and eastern Virginia after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita knocked out refineries and oil pipelines along the Gulf Coast. Some of the Gulf refineries have resumed operations, but others remain shut down. Charlie Yonker, Giant vice president for administrative services at the Yorktown refinery, said it was unclear what effect, if any, the loss of production might have on gasoline prices. He said no evacuation was necessary because of the fire. Cox said the unit that burned was a "fluidized catalytic cracker," which takes heavy oils and upgrades them into gasoline and diesel fuel. The refinery has a capacity of approximately 61,900 barrels per day.
Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/ MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128768366306

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *November 21, St. Louis Business Journal (MO)* — **MEMC Electronic Materials employees safe after fire.** MEMC Electronic Materials Inc. said the company doesn't expect any impact on its business from an early Monday, November 21, fire at its plant in O'Fallon, MO. The fire required three Hazmat teams at the facility. Officials closed Highway 79 in both directions between Interstate 70 and Salt River Road, and evacuated part of St. Peters due to concerns over hazardous materials. That evacuation order was lifted mid−morning.
Source: http://wichita.bizjournals.com/industries/high_tech/semicond uctors/2005/11/21/stlouis_daily2.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *November 21, Associated Press* — **European Union adopts plan to open arms market.** European Union (EU) defense ministers adopted a plan Monday, November 21, to open up their $35 billion arms industry to increased cross−border competition within the 25−nation bloc −− a landmark move designed to cut costs for tight military budgets. The new "code of

conduct" is voluntary and nonbinding, but it marks a breakthrough after decades efforts to persuade nations to relax the protection of their tightly guarded national defense markets and allow Europe's defense companies to compete on a continent−wide level. "It will mean a better deal for European taxpayers, and for their armed forces. And it is a vital step for ensuring that our defense industries remain globally competitive," said Javier Solana, the EU's foreign and security policy representative who chaired the meeting of defense ministers. The new rules will not apply to companies from outside the EU. By allowing companies to compete more in each others' markets, the EU hopes to encourage a restructuring of the continent's fractured industry so it is better placed to take on international rivals.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp−dyn/content/article/2005/11 /21/AR2005112100314.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 26, TechNewsWorld* — **Identity theft by insiders to grow dramatically next year according to forecaster.** The data security forecast by Joseph Ansanelli, chief executive officer of the data security firm Vontu, indicates that in 2006, as employees continue to learn about the value of sensitive customer information −− and if they are not trained and encouraged properly to protect this information −− there is a real risk that this information will increasingly be misused by retail employees. "Many retailers have not educated their employees on the value of customer information to the company, nor have they educated them on employee responsibilities towards protecting and correctly handling this information. One example would be the use of skimmers in restaurants. Several thefts have been reported due to wait staff taking the customers' credit card then running it through their skimmer in order to later be able to retrieve this number," said Ansanelli. "Employees need to be aware of the value of this information to the company, and the ramifications of not treating this information according to the company policies. They also need to understand what they can do outside their roles to help protect this information and honor the company's security commitment to their customers," said Ansanelli.
Source: http://www.technewsworld.com/story/LRXqBRLbwIFTTr/Forecast−I D−Theft−by−Insiders−to−Grow−Dramatically−in−06.xhtml

6. *November 25, Vnunet.com* — **UK phishing scam takes a new tack.** Internet security company Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new United Kingdom (UK) phishing scam that does not target any particular financial or e−commerce brand. Instead users receive an e−mail from a bank welcoming them as a customer, and claiming that they are the beneficiary to funds from the 'Alliance Security and Finance Company' in Amsterdam. The e−mail includes a URL to the bank and provides a username and password to log−in to their "account." When the user logs in, the account information is displayed along with a balance of more than $9 million. The Website then requests the user to transfer the funds to their own bank account, and asks for details of that account in order to perform the transfer.
Source: http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2146753/british−phishing−a ttack−offers

7. *November 23, Associated Press* — **Delaware waitress faces federal identity theft charges.** A waitress at Fenwick Island, DE, restaurant Harpoon Hanna's, appeared in federal court

Monday, November 21, on charges of aggravated identity theft. Katsiaryna Kabiarets is accused of using a hand−held credit card reader to steal the account numbers of customers. Kabiarets, a Belarus native in the U.S. on a temporary work visa, told investigators she copied approximately 50 card numbers. According to court papers, Kabiarets said she was approached by a Russian man at a party in New York who gave her a device to copy card numbers, offering $10 for Visa and MasterCard numbers and $15 for American Express. She said the man paid more for American Express because "he said they were easier to counterfeit." She said she used the device in August and gave it back to the man in September. When police searched Kabiarets' residence, however, they recovered a card reader, two computers and identification and credit cards belonging to other people. Bruce Cundiff of Javelin Strategy and Research, a credit card industry analyst company, said he was surprised by the claim about American Express cards. "It is not easier to skim American Express cards versus Visa and MasterCards. They all use the same technology," he said.
Source: http://www.wboc.com/Global/story.asp?S=4158139

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *November 26, Sun−Sentinel (FL)* — **Air−puff devices reduce searches, detect explosives.** Security at Florida's Fort Lauderdale−Hollywood International Airport will more high−tech very soon. Phone−booth size machines that check for explosives by blowing air at passengers are to be installed by the end of this month at Concourse C in Terminal 1 and Concourse H in Terminal 4. After screeners are trained on how to use them, the devices are to be operational by mid−December, said Lauren Stover, spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Known as explosives trace portals, the $160,000 devices puff air at passengers, from ankles to neck, seeking to dislodge explosive particles, tousling hair and clothing. The air is sucked into the ceiling, where a computer can detect even a billionth of a gram of explosives. The total process takes about 12 seconds. The portals will be used primarily for secondary screenings, for instance if travelers set off metal detector alarms. But passengers also will be asked randomly to walk through the machines. The portals should reduce the need for pat−down searches and make the security process more efficient, TSA officials said.
Source: http://www.sun−sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl−psporta ls19nov26,0,108446.story?coll=sfla−news−palm

9. *November 26, Richmond Times−Dispatch (VA)* — **X−ray failure at Virginia airport leads to screening backup.** Hundreds of travelers flying out of Virginia's Richmond International Airport suffered through screening delays of up to an hour, more than six times longer than usual, this past Thanksgiving holiday week. The problem was a broken−down security−screening X−ray machine, federal and airport officials said. As of Friday, November 25, the Capital Region Airport Commission, which operates Richmond International, had not received any complaints from passengers saying they had missed flights as a result of the delays, airport spokesperson Troy Bell said. Holdups began about mid−morning Tuesday, November 22, when one of the two X−ray machines at the security checkpoint serving the airport's Concourse B went down, officials said. The X−ray device's failure cut the checkpoint's capacity in half, Bell said, a problem that lingered until the machine was repaired and back in service around 10 a.m. EST Thanksgiving morning. Three of the four airlines boarding

passengers on Concourse B recorded two delayed flights out of Richmond on Thursday, he said, and the fourth airline had one delayed departure because of the screening backup. None of the flights departed more than 24 minutes late, Bell said.
Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128768365705&path=!news&s=1045855934842

10. *November 26, Associated Press* — **Unruly passenger prompts flight to divert to Charlotte.** A United Airlines flight was diverted to Charlotte, NC, after a passenger lit a cigarette, argued with a flight attendant, then urinated in the plane's aisle, the airline said. Flight 1502 had 117 passengers aboard when it was diverted from its direct route from Orlando, FL, to Washington, DC, Friday night, November 25, United Airlines spokesperson Robin Urbanski said. The plane landed in Charlotte at 8:15 p.m. EST and was on the ground for about 20 minutes before completing the flight to Dulles International Airport. The man was taken into custody by federal authorities, Charlotte/Douglas International Airport director Jerry Orr said.
Source: http://dwb.newsobserver.com/news/ncwire_news/story/2845667p–9299082c.html

11. *November 25, Arizona Republic* — **Man arrested for threatening clerk at Arizona airport.** An unidentified man who claimed to be a terrorist was arrested Friday, November 25. Police said he briefly held an information clerk hostage at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix, AZ. The man hopped over the information desk counter at Sky Harbor International Airport's Terminal Four about 6:45 p.m. MST, Phoenix police spokesperson Sgt. Lauri Williams said. Williams said the man grabbed the clerk, held her hands behind her and demanded the release of some prisoners in Illinois. The incident lasted about three minutes before the man surrendered. The man suggested that he had a weapon, but police found no weapons on him, she said. Williams said the man was arrested on suspicion of a terrorist hoax and kidnapping.
Source: http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/1125terroristhoax–ON. html

12. *November 25, Associated Press* — **Utah airport most timely.** Of the 33 largest airports nationwide, Utah's Salt Lake City International has the best record for on–time arrivals. Data released by the U.S. Bureau of Transportation statistics shows the airport's ranking improved from third–best during the first three quarters of 2004 to first over the same time period in 2005. Since 1998, the only year the airport had a better performance was in 2003, when nearly 90 percent of flights were on–time. The airport ranked second for on–time departures this year, behind first–place Houston by just .06 percent. Overall, about 84% of all flights into Salt Lake City were on time between January and September. Flights that leave or arrive within 15 minutes of their scheduled time are considered on–time.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005–11–25–airport–arriv als_x.htm

13. *November 24, Los Angeles Times (CA)* — **Close calls on LAX runways high despite attempts to reduce them.** Years of efforts to improve runway safety at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) have failed to reduce close calls between airplanes on its four busy runways. The head of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) believes the best solution is to begin work "without delay" to reconfigure the two sets of parallel runways. About 80% of the close calls between aircraft at LAX occur on the busier south side after pilots land on the outer runway and use taxiways to cross the inner runway on their way to the terminals. Among the nation's airports, LAX is unusual because airplanes cross active runways about 900 times a day. FAA

records indicate that most of the incidents were attributed to miscommunication between pilots and controllers, distractions among flight crews and the airport's layout. The airport's configuration has been a factor in many incursions. Typically, planes land on the outer runways and take off on the inner runways. But controllers sometimes switch this pattern to maximize use of the runways. More than a decade after talks about moving the runway began, the city's Airport Commission will consider awarding a contract to a builder Monday, December 5, with a start date in January.
Source: http://www.latimes.com/travel/la−me−lax24nov24,0,5654238.story?coll=la−home−headlines

14. *November 24, Associated Press* — **Airplane lands without landing gear at Las Vegas airport.** An airport official says an electrical problem forced a pilot to land a small private plane on its belly at Nevada's North Las Vegas Airport. Airport spokesperson Linda Healey says none of the six people on board were injured and there was no substantial damage to the plane. She says the pilot of the twin−engine Cessna 340 called in an electrical failure just before 12:30 p.m. PST. Healey said, the plane landed with its landing gear up shortly after. One of the runways at the airport was temporarily closed as a result. The incident has been turned over to The National Transportation Safety Board for investigation.
Source: http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4163345&nav=8faO

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.
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Agriculture Sector

15. *November 25, The News−Press (Southwest FL)* — **Citrus disease found in small Florida grove.** Buckingham, FL residents are waiting to hear what's going to happen to their citrus trees after a case of canker was discovered at a small commercial grove in the area. State agriculture officials said two trees tested positive for the disease Thursday, November 17 at a Gainesville, FL laboratory. The infections were found at the Southerland FE & FR Grove, a two−acre grove at 12340 Coyle Drive, said agriculture spokesman Mark Fagan. Fagan said the state is still figuring out how many trees will have to be destroyed. Fagan said the infected trees came from a citrus nursery in central inland Florida where infections have been found. Widespread canker cases have been reported this year across Lee County, FL, and thousands of trees have been chopped as a result. The 1,900−foot rule −− equal to roughly 250 acres −− was adopted following a 1998−99 study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The study found that 95 percent of the canker's bacteria disperses, putting trees within a 1,900−foot radius in jeopardy. Some Buckingham residents said they had already cut down citrus trees in fear of such an outbreak.
Source: http://www.news−press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051125/NEWS0105/511250429/1075

16. *November 24, Canadian Press* — **New network for prion disease research should spur quest for test, treatment.** Canadian scientists are hoping to make a significant contribution to the field of research into prion diseases –– mad cow disease and its human form, among others –– through the formation of a virtual network announced Thursday, November 24. The federal government will invest $35 million over the next seven years into PrioNet Canada, the virtual network which will be headquartered at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The network will link 27 scientists working in the prion field, said Dr. Neil Cashman, the country's leading prion expert and the scientific director of the of the network. Cashman said he hopes the network will create "an intellectual infrastructure" that will allow Canadian scientists to contribute to the development of a non–invasive test for prion diseases and treatments for the human form, known as variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease. "Just by virtue of us communicating with one another, synergies will emerge," he said. The scientists' work will focus on the range of brain–wasting diseases caused by prions –– misfolded infectious proteins. Also known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, prion diseases include bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease, chronic wasting disease, and scrapie, a disease of sheep.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/cpress/20051125/ca_pr_on_he/prion_re search_centre_1

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Food Sector

17. *November 25, CBC News (Toronto, Canada)* — **Bean sprouts suspected in salmonella outbreak.** People in eastern Ontario, Canada, are being warned not to eat bean sprouts that have been linked to a wider outbreak of salmonella poisoning. Bean sprouts contaminated with salmonella bacteria are strongly suspected of causing 15 cases of food poisoning in the Kingston, Ontario area. At least 200 people across Ontario have become ill as result of salmonella in the past two months. Those infected in Kingston ate raw bean sprouts, either at a downtown restaurant or after buying them from local grocery stores. People in the area are advised not to eat any bean sprouts until the source of the outbreak is identified, said Dr. Ian Gemmill, medical officer of health for the region. An emergency room doctor in Kingston found an increased incidence of gastrointestinal illnesses on a computer tracking system, Gemmill said. The source of contamination doesn't appear to be local, and could be as remote as a grower of the seeds in China, he said. Cross–contamination may have happened at the company that grows the seeds in Ontario, or during transport and handling.
Source: http://www.cbc.ca/toronto/story/to_sprouts20051125.html?ref= rss

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Water Sector

18. *November 27, Associated Press* — **Running water restored to Chinese city.** Running water was restored Sunday, November 27, to Harbin, China, a city of 3.8 million people where a chemical spill forced a five–day shutdown, but officials warned it was not immediately safe to drink. The official Xinhua News Agency said tests showed a 50–mile spill of toxic benzene in the Songhua River had passed the city in northeastern China. Wang Minghe, deputy general

manager of the Harbin water department, said the water was still "dangerous" to drink because it's been sitting in pipes for five days. Liu Yurun, general manager for the city's water utility, said local radio and television stations would broadcast a color–based indicator of water safety over the next few days. Work crews were installing more than 1,000 tons of carbon filters at water plants in preparation for treating supplies from the Songhua, according to state media. Before service resumed, people lined up for free water delivered by truck from wells operated by factories and a beer brewery. The city also had trucked in millions of bottles of drinking water and said it was drilling 100 new water wells. The Harbin disaster resulted from a November 13 explosion at a chemical plant in Jilin, a city about 120 miles southeast.
Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,–5441113, 00.html

19. *November 25, Associated Press* — **E. coli found in school's water.** The discovery of E. coli bacteria in the water at Prairie Elementary School in Yelm, WA, has prompted officials to advise teachers, staff and students not to drink from the school's water fountains and taps. No illnesses have been reported. The school has about 520 students in grades K–4. Initial test results Wednesday, November 23, were confirmed by additional tests Friday, November 25. Tests found that water in the school's well was not contaminated, but an inspection of the water reservoir indicated it could be the source of the bacteria, the Health Department said. The system was disinfected Friday, November 25, which would be flushed over the weekend. The advisory will remain in effect until two consecutive sets of satisfactory test results show the water is safe, the Health Department said.
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420AP_WA_School_Water.h tml

20. *November 25, Grand Forks herald (ND)* — **Communities need money to meet new water standards.** Some North Dakota communities are scrambling to find money to meet new federal standards on arsenic levels in drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a January 23, 2006, date for water systems to get arsenic levels at 10 parts per billion. The current limit on arsenic is 50 parts per billion. Twenty–four water systems in North Dakota currently exceed the new standard, said Larry Thelen, director of the North Dakota Health Department's drinking water program. As of this week, the Health Department had reviewed plans for 15 water systems. Eight of them expect to buy water from other districts. The others are looking to build new treatment plants or improve old facilities. Some communities in a three–county area in southeast North Dakota are slated to receive funds after being designated a federal Superfund environmental cleanup site. That will allow for expansion of the rural water system. Thelen believes those water systems in limbo eventually will find money from rural development funds or other grants and loans.
Source: http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/13257800.htm

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Public Health Sector

21. *November 27, Associated Press* — **Vietnam stages mock bird flu drill.** The mock scenario was deadly serious: a Vietnamese laboratory had confirmed the bird flu virus had mutated and was spreading from person to person. Ambulances carried a team of doctors to the affected Hanoi neighborhood. Clad from head to toe in biohazard suits they were ready to battle the start of a pandemic. Houses and vehicles were sprayed with disinfectant while doctors quickly took

throat swabs from masked patients and prepared to transport the worst cases to hospitals. The area was sealed off and 24−hour checkpoints were set up to ensure no one left or entered the neighborhood. The exercise was part of a large−scale bird flu drill in Hanoi Sunday, November 27, to test the country's pandemic preparedness. Some 900 people ran through a scenario where throngs of people were falling ill and dying. The World Health Organization (WHO) has encouraged countries to draft national pandemic preparedness plans, which include simulating mock situations. Australia will carry out a similar field exercise this week. WHO representatives observed the drill.
Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/international/index.ssf?
/base/international−13/113308195959560.xml&storylist=interna tional

22. *November 26, Voice of America* — **Indonesia reports 12th human case of bird flu.** Indonesia has reported its 12th human case of bird flu, and says it hopes to start producing the drug Tamiflu within months to fight the virus. Health officials confirmed Saturday, November 26, that a 16−year−old boy has tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. Seven avian flu cases in Indonesia have been fatal. The Health Ministry says Indonesia hopes to start producing Tamiflu within five months to meet the country's needs in a possible pandemic.
Source: http://www.voanews.com/english/2005−11−26−voa8.cfm

23. *November 26, Reuters* — **Hemorrhagic fever kills five in Pakistan.** Hemorrhagic fever has killed at least five people, including a doctor, and infected around 45 people in Pakistan's biggest city of Karachi, health officials said on Saturday, November 26. The cause of the death of Yusra Afaq, a doctor in a government−run hospital, has been identified as Crimean−Congo hemorrhagic fever. The remaining four deaths, which occurred over the last six weeks, were also caused by hemorrhagic fever but the exact type was still not known, said Naushad Sheikh, permanent secretary at the health ministry of southern Sindh province. Karachi is the capital of Sindh province. "The hospitals in Karachi have been put on high alert after 45 more cases of hemorrhagic fever were reported," he told Reuters. Locally called Congo virus fever, the disease is endemic in parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, southern Europe and most of north Africa. The disease is spread by ticks from animals to humans, or from humans to humans.
Hemorrhagic Fever information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/virlfvr/virlfvr.htm
Source: http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1347301

24. *November 25, Agence France Presse* — **Indonesia prepares for third polio immunization round.** Indonesia readied for a third nationwide round of polio immunization starting the week of November 27, and seen as crucial in the sprawling nation's fight against the disease's resurgence. More than 250,000 immunization posts will be set up across the world's fourth most populous nation in a bid to access all of Indonesia's more than 23 million children, health ministry official Jane Soepardi said. Polio infections have been confirmed in 295 children since it resurfaced in March, a decade after it was believed to have been eradicated. The last infection was reported on October 19. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) health official David Hipgrave said that Indonesia was "happily in a much better situation than we were" before the first two nationwide rounds, carried out in August and September. "UNICEF and the World Health Organization feel positively about the efforts so far and expect that with a good third round this month, and follow up rounds of vaccinations, national and local as needed, then this outbreak should have been contained by mid next−year," he told Agence France Presse.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: http://www.polioeradication.org/
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051125/hl_afp/indonesiahealthp
olio_051125150110;_ylt=Apec7hgMoq0bghGnT87BITCJOrgF;_ylu=X3o
DMTBiMW04NW9mBHNlYwMlJVRPUCUl

25. *November 25, Reuters* — **Vietnam poisons pigeons to prevent flu.** Vietnam's commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City has begun poisoning pigeons and other wild birds as it moves to prevent avian flu from spreading into the crowded city, an official said on Friday, November 25. The H5N1 bird flu virus has flared in 19 of the country's 64 provinces, the most recent cases being in the northern provinces of Quang Ninh and Nghe An, the Agriculture Ministry said in a report on Friday, November 25. The World Health Organization (WHO) said another human case was confirmed in the northern Hai Phong province. The infected 15−year−old boy had recovered and been discharged from the hospital, the WHO said in a statement. The virus has this week also surfaced in the south where Ho Chi Minh City, a center of 10 million people, is located. "We will make sure that no birds are left in the city to minimize the risk of bird flu," Huynh Huu Loi, Director of Ho Chi Minh City's Animal Health Department, told Reuters. Loi said beside the poisoning campaign, authorities would also move pet birds outside the city until Vietnam is free of bird flu.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=healthNe
ws&storyid=2005−11−25T172414Z_01_RID535665_RTRUKOC_0_US−BIRD
FLU−VIETNAM−POISON.xml&rpc=22

26. *November 23, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh* — **New vaccine platform may fight infections with causes from influenza to bioterrorism.** The development of effective vaccines for people with compromised immune systems may be feasible after all, according to a team of researchers, who demonstrated their approach could protect against pneumocystis pneumonia in mice lacking the same population of immune cells that HIV destroys in humans. The vaccine platform developed by Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh researchers, working in collaboration with researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and Louisiana State University, suggests that the immune system can be primed to ward off other infections as well, such as those caused by the flu, smallpox or exposure to anthrax, even in patients who have the highest risk for infection. In mice depleted of CD4+ T cells, which are essential for signaling other cells and for producing antigen−specific antibodies, the vaccine strategy provided protection against pneumocystis. Importantly, this vaccine strategy was able to bypass the need for T cells. The number of people with compromised immune systems continues to rise –– a population that cannot be protected against polio, the flu and other infectious agents with existing vaccines that depend on a normal T−cell response.
Source: http://www.chp.edu/pressroom/newsrelease241.php

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.
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Emergency Services Sector

27. *November 25, Rapid City Journal (SD)* — **South Dakota counties to improve information sharing capabilities.** A $725,000 homeland security equipment grant will give some Pennington County, SD, agencies a technological boost, allowing them to share more information and be better prepared to respond to crime and terrorism threats. The grant includes $288,580 for the Rapid City Police Department, where $139,000 of it will go toward auto vehicle location (AVL) and in−car mapping, John Beardsley, information technology project manager for the Rapid City Police Department, said. Beardsley said the in−car mapping will provide a visual display in police cars of the location of crimes or emergencies to which officers are responding. The AVL will show dispatchers where the nearest police unit is, so the dispatcher can send the nearest car to the scene. Another portion of the grant money will go toward a long−range technology goal, tentatively named the Western South Dakota Aegis Justice Link System, whereby police officials will eventually share data on the same system among South Dakota's Lawrence, Meade and Pennington counties. Under such a data−sharing system, an officer from one county could read another county's information on a suspect, Beardsley said.
Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2005/11/25/news/loc al/news02.txt

28. *November 25, Reuters* — **Interpol, United Nations to test terrorist attack readiness.** Interpol will hold a global simulation under the auspices of the United Nations to test the world's readiness to deal with a natural disaster or terrorist attack, a top official said on Friday, November 25. "Basically it's looking at what we think will be a real incident, then having a real time response," said Lord John Stevens, head of Interpol's Strategic Advisory Panel. The 10−member panel of senior figures in international law enforcement is meeting in Cape Town to help chart a global police response to security threats. Stevens, a former London police chief, said the panel had unanimously endorsed the proposed exercise, which was likely to happen in New York early next year. "This will be the first time...that we will have a world−wide link into a table−top exercise..." Stevens said. All the lessons that had been learned from last year's Indian Ocean tsunami and from the attacks in New York, London and Bali would be tested again to enhance the response to future events, he said.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/News/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNew s&storyID=2005−11−25T122853Z_01_RID544906_RTRUKOC_0_US−SECUR ITY−INTERPOL.xml

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

29. *November 24, CNET News* — **World's biggest computer grid under construction.** The world's biggest computer grid, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), is being constructed at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) near Geneva, Switzerland. As the largest scientific instrument on the planet, it will need the hugely powerful computing to process the 15 petabytes of data that it will produce each year. When it is completed in 2007, LHC will smash protons and ions into head−on collisions to help scientists understand the structure of matter. Discovering new types of particles can only be done by statistical analysis of the massive

amounts of data the experiments will generate, which is where the LHC Computing Grid project comes in. Of the 150 grid sites around the world, 18 are in the U.K. The grid will use a four−tier model; data will be stored on tape at CERN, the 'Tier−0' centre. From there, data will be distributed to Tier−1 sites which have the storage and processing capacity to cope with a chunk of the data. These sites make the data available to the Tier−2s, which are able to run particular tasks. Individual scientists can then access data from Tier−3 sites which could be local clusters or individual PCs.

CERN Website: http://public.web.cern.ch/Public/Content/Chapters/AboutCERN/
CERNFuture/WhatLHC/WhatLHC−en.html

Source: http://news.com.com/Worlds+biggest+grid+seeks+secrets+of+the
+universe/2100−1008_3−5970641.html?tag=nefd.top

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 a publicly reported vulnerability in the way Cisco PIX firewalls process legitimate TCP connection attempts. A remote attacker may be able to send spoofed, malformed TCP packets with incorrect checksum values through affected PIX firewalls. Legitimate network traffic to the destination, PIX protected hosts may be blocked until the invalid PIX connection attempt entry times out around two minutes by default. Until a patch or more information becomes available, US−CERT recommends that system administrators who may be affected consider reconfiguring certain connection timers on Cisco PIX systems.Public exploit code for this reported vulnerability may be useful for automating a sustained attack.

For more information please review US−CERT Vulnerability Note (VU#853540) "Cisco PIX TCP checksum verification failure report:"
http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/853540

W32/Sober Revisited: US−CERT is aware of several new variants of the W32/Sober virus that propagate via email. As with many viruses, these variants rely on social engineering to propagate. Specifically, the user must click on a link or open an attached file. A recent variant sends messages that appear to be from the CIA or FBI, while a German version appears to be coming from the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), the German Federal police service. Additionally, US−CERT strongly encourages users not to follow unknown links, even if sent by a known and trusted source.

US−CERT encourages users to review the FBI ALERTS PUBLIC TO RECENT E−MAIL SCHEME at URL:
http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel05/emailscheme112205.htm

BKA warnt vor gefälschten E−Mails mit BKA−Absender − Variante des Sober−Wurms

US−CERT strongly encourages users to install anti−virus software, and keep its virus signature files up to date.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win−rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft−ds), 18551 (−−−), 27015 (halflife), 4142 (oidocsvc), 80 (www), 6588 (AnalogX), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap)

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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Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282−9201.

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