



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 November 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

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## Daily Highlights

- A report by the Financial Action Task Force highlights the risks of criminal exploitation of new payment methods, many of which have taken hold on the Internet in recent years; the biggest new online payment brokers are eBay's PayPal, and Neteller. (See item [5](#))
- The Associated Press reports rail passengers in Buffalo, New York, will undergo explosives screening beginning Tuesday, November 7, as part of a program being tested by the Transportation Security Administration. (See item [9](#))
- Fraud investigators say that the U.S. Postal Service's "change of address" system may be leaving people vulnerable to identity theft with thieves filling out a change of address card and thereby accessing private mail including critical credit card bills. (See item [13](#))

## 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](#)

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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 07, KITV-4 (HI) — Thief, police decontaminated after copper theft.** Honolulu Fire Department teams on Friday, November 3, worked to decontaminate several police officers and a man authorities said tried to steal copper off a utility pole near Koko Head Park in Honolulu, HI. A man tried to cut down a utility pole to steal copper, police said, when the pole

fell and the transformer on it broke open. The transformers normally contain oil that has PCB, a cancer-causing chemical. Officials said the oil had dried up.

Source: <http://www.thehawaiichannel.com/news/10236767/detail.html>

2. *November 03, Houston Chronicle (TX)* — **Energy giant to lay fiber optic line on seafloor.** BP is planning an 800-mile, \$80 million undersea fiber optic data pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico to connect its offshore drilling and production platforms with onshore monitoring and control operations. It will replace the satellite communication system the company currently uses, which isn't reliable during severe weather such as hurricanes, spokesperson Nicola Montorsi said. Operations are possible by next summer. Among the expected benefits of the link is the ability to keep production flowing longer as BP removes workers from offshore platforms ahead of hurricanes because some of the shutdown procedures could be controlled reliably from shore, Montorsi said.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/4307411.html>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

3. *November 06, Associated Press* — **Tanker crash, fire snarl Florida's I-95.** A fuel tanker truck plummeted from a highway overpass onto the St. James Catholic Church parking lot Monday, November 6, igniting a fire that killed one person and forced the evacuation of a school in North Miami. Crews used fire-retardant foam to contain the blaze, which closed a section of southbound Interstate 95 and backed up rush hour traffic.
4. *November 02, NewsNet5 (OH)* — **Chemical spill prompts road closure.** A chemical spill at a Bedford, OH, business temporarily forced officials to close a road. Northfield Road between Forbes and Union roads was closed for about an hour. The spill occurred at Ben Venue Laboratories at 300 Northfield Road in an industrial part of Bedford.

Source: <http://dwb.thevictoriaadvocate.com/24hour/nation/story/3411470p-12533282c.html>

Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/10221859/detail.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *November 06, BusinessWeek* — **Financial Action Task Force developing recommendations to combat financial cybercrime.** A new report by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) highlights the risks of criminal exploitation of "new payment methods," many of which have taken hold on the Internet in recent years. New methods include e-purses, cards that let users

store funds via memory chips, and Internet payment services that operate outside traditional banks or credit card companies. The biggest online payment brokers are eBay's PayPal, and Neteller. E-wallets and Internet payments are of particular concern to the FATF because they often let users anonymously open accounts online. Internet payment services are an additional security risk because, unlike e-purses, their presence on the Web has increased during the past several years. FATF will explore differences in regulatory policies regarding Internet payments while it investigates the measures that countries should adopt to better secure online payment systems. To date, e-purses and other new Internet payment services have not been the subject of money laundering investigations. The FATF hopes to prevent these systems from falling prey to the problems currently plaguing prepaid phone cards and digital precious metal traders such as e-gold.

Source: [http://www.businessweek.com/print/technology/content/nov2006/tc20061106\\_986949.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/print/technology/content/nov2006/tc20061106_986949.htm)

6. *November 05, Associated Press* — **Spanish, U.S., Colombian investigators break up counterfeit ring.** Authorities from Spain, Colombia, and the U.S. have broken up a counterfeit-money network that had printed millions of fake euros and dollars for distribution in Europe, police said Sunday, November 5. Investigators of the Bank of Spain this year detected a "notable increase in the introduction to our country of false notes, euros and dollars, from Colombia," a police statement said. The counterfeit money was arriving in mail parcels and, on one occasion, within a drug-smuggling operation led by Colombians. Investigators were led to a lithographic printing outfit in Bogota, Colombia, where two 20-year-old men were arrested. A total of \$4,366,800 in counterfeit bills was seized in the raid.  
Source: [http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/11/05/europe/EU\\_GEN\\_Spain\\_Forged\\_Money.php](http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/11/05/europe/EU_GEN_Spain_Forged_Money.php)
7. *November 04, Boston Globe* — **Rhode Island man arrested in counterfeit slot machine token case.** Louis B. "The Coin" Colavecchio has been arrested on charges of making counterfeit tokens designed to work in casino slot machines from Connecticut to Las Vegas. Colavecchio has been convicted of the same crime before, and was sentenced to 27 months in prison in 1998. Investigators from the Rhode Island state police and U.S. Secret Service seized dozens of tokens, molds, dyes, chemicals, sanders, heavy machine presses, scales, and blank strips of metal at Colavecchio's home. O'Donnell said investigators believe Colavecchio was making tokens, which ranged in value from \$5 to \$100, for slots machines at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun, both in Connecticut; the Trump Marina Casino, Trump Plaza Casino, Atlantic City Hilton, Taj Mahal Resort, Sands Casino and Caesar's Palace Casino in New Jersey; and the Borgata and Harrah's casino in Las Vegas. Sgt. Kevin Hawkins of the Rhode Island State Police Intelligence Unit said Colavecchio obtained slot tokens from the casinos, then made rubber molds of those tokens. He melted the tokens and send them to a chemist to determine the mix of metals in it. Colavecchio would duplicate that mix, create dyes to match the token pattern, and then make his own tokens.  
Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2006/11/04/pawtucket\\_man\\_arrested\\_in\\_counterfeit\\_slot\\_machine\\_token\\_case/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2006/11/04/pawtucket_man_arrested_in_counterfeit_slot_machine_token_case/)
8. *November 02, BBC* — **Thousands hit by UK credit card scam.** A credit card scam centered around two gas stations in East Sussex, UK, is being investigated after more than 560 people reported fraudulent bank activity. Police said the amount stolen could be as much as \$3 million.

Illegally obtained information were used across 20 countries in cash withdrawals averaging \$381. Two were arrested in the UK connection with the case. Four more men believed to be linked to the investigation were arrested in Spain after withdrawing money from cash machines there in September. Chip-and-pin handsets in the petrol stations were swapped for identical ones which actually stored card details. The false machines were then removed and the data on them used to clone bank cards. Police said the information had been sold around the world, enabling the withdrawal of money from Sussex bank accounts at cash machines as far afield as Canada, Argentina, and Mauritius. Police believe more victims could come forward as people check their monthly bank statements in the coming weeks. Note: Currency in this article was converted from Euros to dollars.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/southern\\_counties/6109632.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/southern_counties/6109632.stm)

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

9. *November 06, Associated Press* — **Explosives screening for Buffalo rail passengers begins Tuesday.** Rail passengers in Buffalo, NY, will undergo explosives screening as part of a program being tested by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Beginning Tuesday, November 7, randomly chosen carryon bags of Amtrak travelers and passengers using the city's Metro Rail system will be swabbed and checked with portable machines capable of detecting minute traces of explosives. The pilot program is meant to give security officials another tool should the nation's terror alert level rise from its current status of yellow, or elevated, said Brett O'Neil, spokesperson for the TSA in Buffalo. Buffalo was chosen as one of the first cities to test the screening program because of its location on an international border, as well as for its relatively light rail passenger load. About 29 million people take commuter trains, subways and buses daily in the United States and experts warn they may be tempting terrorist targets because of their predictability.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--tsa-trains1106nov06.0.3735841.story?coll=ny-region-apnewyork>

10. *November 06, Southern Illinoisan* — **States try cable barriers to make roads safer.** As the number of traffic deaths increases, cable barriers are becoming increasingly popular because they're effective and the cost is relatively low, transportation officials say. Last year, traffic deaths nationwide were the most in a single year since 1990, and the overall fatality rate — deaths per 100 million miles traveled — increased for the first time in 20 years. In Illinois, cable barriers — usually three cables supported by steel posts — have been installed along expressways in sections of Will and Kankakee counties and in the Metro East area, state Department of Transportation spokesperson Mike Claffey said. Ohio has spent \$5.5 million since 2003 to install 83 miles of cable barriers and is working on 30 miles of barriers at a cost of \$2.2 million. Ohio had 18 fatal median-crossover crashes in both 2004 and 2005, but no one died in crashes where there were cables. Missouri has cable on more than 200 miles of interstate highways, about 20 percent of the state's total. Only one of every 20 vehicles that have crashed into the cables has gone through the median and into the lanes of approaching traffic.

Source: <http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2006/11/06/ap-sta-te-il/d8l7cv681.txt>

11. *November 04, Associated Press* — **Northwest may recall hundreds of pilots.** Northwest Airlines Corp., which is working to emerge from bankruptcy, is planning to recall hundreds of furloughed pilots this year and next, more than it initially said it would recall, the pilot's union said. Northwest, the nation's fifth-largest airline, sent letters to at least 425 pilots seeking to recall them as of October 10 and expects to recall about 150 pilots more in the first half of 2007. "We have been recalling pilots for the past three months to meet our needs," Northwest spokesperson Roman Blahoski told the St. Paul newspaper.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061104/northwest\\_pilots.html?v=3](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061104/northwest_pilots.html?v=3)

12. *October 31, Belleville News-Democrat (IL)* — **Four charged in theft of railroad bar from shed.** Police charged four Belleville, IL, men on Monday, October 30, with stealing a railroad crossing bar from a maintenance shed. George E. McKay, Alford Brown, Robert E. Greer, and Ernie G. Lawyer were charged with felony theft, Capt. Roger Barfield said. An off-duty Belleville police officer saw four men at the Norfolk and Southern Railroad maintenance shed in Belleville on Sunday and called police. The men were trying to load a 22-foot aluminum pole that was placed next to a trash receptacle onto the back of a pickup truck, Barfield said. The pole weighed about 1,000 pounds. Police calculated the men would have received \$1,000 to \$1,500 in recycling fees, Barfield said.

Source: [http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/local/crime\\_courts/15891019.htm](http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/local/crime_courts/15891019.htm)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

13. *November 03, NBC 15 (AL)* — **Consumer Alert: Change of address ID theft.** Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the country, and thieves are constantly evolving in their tactics to obtain personal information. Fraud investigators say that the U.S. Postal Service's "change of address" system may be leaving people vulnerable. National Fraud Specialist, Sgt. James Lackey of the Mobile (Alabama) County Sheriff's Office says it's as simple as knowing someone's name and address. He explains, "Someone will go without your permission and fill out a change of address for you." That means all of your mail, including critical credit card bills or offers or anything else with your personal information, will go to the person after your identity. Lackey adds that the Mobile cases he's had complaints on have been to over to postal inspectors. In addition, he says he's seen incidents where a change of address card has been stolen out of the mail so the mail keeps going to the old address, where thieves can access it there. All of this has some consumer advocates pushing for changes in the "change of address" systems, but any change to the postal system would have to come at a congressional level.

Source: [http://www.nbc15online.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=46d78b0d-5843-4e74-9fb4-29fe13996b24&rss=217](http://www.nbc15online.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=46d78b0d-5843-4e74-9fb4-29fe13996b24&rss=217)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

14. *November 03, CongressDaily* — **USDA to overhaul office advancing U.S. agriculture interests abroad.** The Bush administration plans to announce Wednesday, November 8, a

major reorganization of the Washington headquarters of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The reorganization is intended to emphasize the FAS role in trade negotiations, trade agreement enforcement and promotion of the U.S. view of science and trade in foreign countries. The agency traditionally analyzed demand for U.S. products overseas and promoted those products.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=35410&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35410&dcn=to%20daysnews)

15. *November 03, Medford News (OR)* — **Parasite causing whirling disease could be transmitted via fishing waders.** A new study from Oregon State University has found that a parasite that causes deadly "whirling disease" in juvenile trout and other salmonids may be transmitted from one fishing hole to another — and from one stream to another — on fishing boots and waders. The spread of whirling disease within the United States over the past half century has primarily been through the movement of infected fish through hatcheries, researchers say. But increasingly whirling disease has begun to show up in streams not stocked with infected fish and researchers have discovered that its transmission is not accomplished directly from fish to fish. "The bottom line is that we've found that the spores that eventually infect the fish and lead to whirling disease can survive out of water for eight hours on the soles of waders," said Paul Reno, a microbiologist with the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station at Oregon State University. Whirling disease is a neurological disorder caused by the parasite, *Myxobolus cerebralis*, which primarily affects juvenile trout causing severe deformities of the skeleton and skull — and can lead to mortality rates as high as 100 percent. Source: <http://www.medfordnews.com/articles/index.cfm?artOID=333117&cp=10996>

16. *November 03, USAgNet* — **U.S. rice industry adopts plan to rid 2007 crop from genetically engineered rice.** U.S. rice industry representatives attending the two-day USA Rice Federation Conference on GE Rice Elimination adopted a plan to begin working immediately to rid the 2007 U.S. rice crop of Liberty Link genetically engineered traits. The main points of the plan include: certifying negative test results for Liberty Link traits in 2007-crop seed; not planting the 2007 Cheniere variety; and a decision by mills to purchase only 2007 rice grown from seed that tested negative. Rice produced from farm-saved seed will be purchased only with a negative test result. The committee will submit its draft plan to the USA Rice Executive Committee and Board for adoption this week. Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2301&yr=2006>

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## **Food Sector**

17. *November 03, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Columbia and Peru open markets to U.S. beef.** U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab applauded the recent actions by Colombia and Peru to lift their Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy-related bans on U.S. beef and beef product imports. In 2003, the United States exported a combined total of more than \$4 million worth of beef and beef products to Colombia and Peru. The reopening of these two markets restores two-thirds of the market access for U.S. beef and beef products in South America. Source: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2006/11/0439.xml>



18. *November 02, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service* — **USDA launches new export sales database.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announced the expansion of its Website to include a new database, which provides weekly and historical USDA data. The data includes current U.S. export sales and shipments figures for certain grains, soybeans and products, wheat products, rice, flaxseed, linseed oil, cotton and cottonseed products, sunflower seed oil, beef, and cattle hides and skins. The new database will allow users to search for information dating from January 1, 1999, to the present, based on commodity and country of destination. Data typically will be updated on a weekly basis, usually Thursdays, with the release of the weekly export sales report. Each week, FAS publishes export sales data. The program serves as an early alert system that gauges the possible impact of foreign sales on U.S. supplies and prices. The weekly U.S. Export Sales report, which has a link to the new database, is available on the FAS Website at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html>. For more information on the new export sales searchable database or on the export sales reporting requirement, contact the FAS Export Sales Reporting staff at 202-720-9209. Export Sales Query System: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/> Source: [http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/PressRelease/pressrel\\_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0175-06](http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0175-06)

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## **Water Sector**

19. *November 04, Times of Northwest Indiana* — **Legionnaires' bacteria found at power plant.** The bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease was discovered at NIPSCO's (Northern Indiana Public Service Company) Schahfer Generating Station in Wheatfield, IN, earlier this fall and an employee subsequently alleged he had tested positive for the bacteria. The employee came forward along with two others to be tested after NIPSCO informed all employees working there that a test for the bacteria in a cooling tower had come back positive in October, according to NIPSCO spokesperson Tom Cuddy. Tests on two of the employees came back negative. The third employee came back and told company officials he tested positive but subsequently refused to release his medical records, Cuddy said. The cooling tower had been flushed and treated, and subsequent tests by an independent lab showed none of the bacteria, Cuddy said. Source: [http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/11/04/news/lake\\_county/d44b2dfc0b8ede2b8625721c00073848.txt](http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/11/04/news/lake_county/d44b2dfc0b8ede2b8625721c00073848.txt)

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## **Public Health Sector**

20. *November 06, Reuters* — **Chinese scientists identify deadly gene in H5N1.** Chinese scientists have identified a gene in the H5N1 bird flu virus which they say is responsible for its virulence in poultry, opening the way for new vaccines. There are many different strains of H5N1, some of which kill more than half the people they infect, while others do little or no harm. "We can now understand how this virus becomes lethal and the molecular basis for its pathogenicity,"

said Bu Zhigao at the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute. The Chinese researchers zeroed in on the virulent gene after analyzing two closely related strains of the H5N1 obtained from infected geese in southern Guangdong province in 1996 — one highly pathogenic in chickens and the other harmless. Differences between the two strains were located in four genes, they found. The scientists designed four genetically modified viruses each containing one of the four genes in question and tested them on laboratory chickens. Only chickens infected with the modified virus containing the highly pathogenic gene died. The other chickens had no signs of disease, the scientists wrote in the November issue of the Journal of Virology.

Abstract: <http://jvi.asm.org/cgi/content/abstract/80/22/11115>

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HKG277591.htm>

21. *November 06, Dallas Morning News* — **Whooping cough outbreak in Texas.** Collin County, TX, health officials are trying to quash a whooping cough outbreak that's infected at least four children at one Plano school. The sick students attend Centennial Elementary School, said Janet Glowicz, the nurse epidemiologist for Collin County Health Care Services. As a precaution, two other children exposed to the illness in Frisco ISD were asked to stay home from school, Glowicz said. The four children from Centennial who were infected were not hospitalized, and they had all been vaccinated.

Source: [http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/collin/plano/stories/DN-whoopingcough\\_04cco.ART0.North.Edition1.3e f75a1.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/collin/plano/stories/DN-whoopingcough_04cco.ART0.North.Edition1.3e f75a1.html)

22. *November 06, KFOXTV (NM)* — **Whooping cough outbreak in New Mexico.** The New Mexico Department of Health is investigating a pertussis outbreak in Santa Fe County. According to department of health officials, there have been 24 reported cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in Santa Fe County from August to October. Officials said the outbreak has affected everyone from infants to the elderly.

Source: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/10247654/detail.html>

23. *November 02, Gulf News (Dubai)* — **Mystery illness strikes family in Dubai.** Health authorities in Dubai are investigating the death of a two-year-old boy who died two days after he was admitted for high fever, unconsciousness and bleeding from the nose. The toddler died on Tuesday, October 31, after he was admitted to Al Qasimi Hospital on Sunday, according to his father, who was later admitted to hospital along with his 8-year-old daughter, for similar symptoms. Dr. Ali Shakar, undersecretary at the Health Ministry, said that ministry officials suspected that the boy died of Herpes Encephalitis.

Source: <http://archive.gulfnews.com/articles/06/11/02/10079362.html>

24. *November 01, American Institute of Biological Sciences* — **Information on bird flu cases poorly recorded, scientists say.** The highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has been detected in at least 55 countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa. Unfortunately, according to a Roundtable article in the November 2006 BioScience, the journal of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, critical information about the incidence of the disease in wild birds — even the species of the infected bird — is often recorded inaccurately or not recorded at all. The deficiencies in data collection, the authors write, "can lead to unwarranted assumptions and conclusions that in turn affect public perceptions, practical control and management measures, and the disposition of resources." The article's authors, Maï Yasué, Chris J. Feare, Leon Bennun, and Wolfgang Fiedler, made use of the Aiwatwatch (avian influenza watch) e-mail forum



to gather information for their article from sources worldwide. They describe several instances in which the species of an infected wild bird was incorrectly or inadequately recorded and others in which the bird's sex and age were misidentified. Likewise, reported details of the location and time of discovery of an infected bird often lack specificity, yet they are crucial for a good understanding of the virus's spread.

Full text article: <http://www.aibs.org/bioscience-press-releases/resources/11-06.pdf>

Source: [http://www.aibs.org/bioscience-press-releases/061101\\_information\\_on\\_bird\\_flu\\_cases\\_poorly\\_recorded\\_scientists\\_say.html](http://www.aibs.org/bioscience-press-releases/061101_information_on_bird_flu_cases_poorly_recorded_scientists_say.html)

25. *October 31, ZeeNews (India)* — **Japanese encephalitis toll in India mounts to 292.** The deadly vector-borne disease Japanese encephalitis (JE) continued to claim lives of children in eastern Uttar Pradesh, India, with the toll mounting to 292 on Tuesday, October 31. State Joint Director of Health Dr. Umakant Prasad said 1,566 people suffering from JE had been admitted to hospitals since April 2006. Almost 75 patients — including 17 fresh cases — are still under treatment. The state government has undertaken a massive vaccination drive against the disease, however, the efficacy and penetration of the drive has come under cloud with the mounting toll.

Source: <http://www.zeenews.com/znnew/articles.asp?aid=332545&sid=REG>

26. *October 25, University of Rhode Island* — **Pharmacy professor discovers drug interaction that inhibits Tamiflu.** International and federal health officials are counting on the anti-viral drug Tamiflu to be a critical weapon in the event of an influenza pandemic. But a recently completed study at the University of Rhode Island's (URI) College of Pharmacy indicates that the drug can be rendered ineffective in patients also taking the anti-clotting drug Plavix. "Concurrent use of both drugs would inhibit the activation of oseltamivir (the generic, scientific name of Tamiflu), thus making this anti-viral agent therapeutically inactive," said URI Pharmacy Professor Bingfang Yan. Yan has notified the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health about the effect of Plavix on Tamiflu. The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics will publish the results of his team's research in its December issue.

Source: <http://www.uri.edu/news/releases/?id=3745>

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## **Government Sector**

27. *November 06, Associated Press* — **School bus injuries send 17,000 kids to ERs each year.** New national data show school bus-related accidents send 17,000 children to emergency rooms each year, more than double the number in previous estimates that only included crashes. Nearly one-fourth of the accidents occur when children are boarding or leaving school buses, while crashes account for 42 percent, the new research shows. Injuries range from cuts and sprains to broken bones, but most are not life threatening and don't require hospitalization. The researchers said the results provide a strong argument for requiring safety belts on school buses, something industry groups say is unnecessary and is more than many school districts can afford. Safety belts, particularly lap-shoulder belts "could not only prevent injuries related to crashes," they could also keep kids seated "so they're not falling out of their seats when buses make normal turns or brake," said lead author Jennifer McGeehan, a researcher at Columbus

Children's Hospital's Center for Injury Research and Policy in Columbus, Ohio. The study appears in November's Pediatrics, released Monday, November 6. Five states — California, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey and New York — and some districts have implemented varying safety belt requirements for school buses, according to the National Coalition for School Bus Safety, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/EDUCATION/11/06/school.bus.injuries.ap/index.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

### **28. *November 05, Pittsburgh Tribune–Review* — Drill brings “casualties” to Western**

**Pennsylvania.** With its many hospitals, Western Pennsylvania could receive hundreds of casualties from a terrorist attack or large-scale natural disaster. About 300 military and civilian emergency responders came together for a drill Saturday, November 4, at the 911th Airlift Wing at Pittsburgh International Airport. The drill simulated mock casualties of a large-scale terrorist attack in New York City being brought to Pittsburgh. The drill was conducted under the National Disaster Medical System, a federally coordinated initiative established 20 years ago to take care of military and civilian casualties from large-scale disasters, said David Rossi, area emergency manager for Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The disaster medical system is a cooperative effort of the departments of Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, and Defense, plus the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state and local governments, and the private sector. It is made up of about 2,000 hospitals, a medical evacuation and regulating system and 30 disaster medical assistance teams.

Source: [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s\\_478318.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s_478318.html)

### **29. *November 03, KCAL–TV (CA)* — Web-based network in terrorism technology unveiled.** A secure Web-based network that will allow local law enforcement agencies to share information on improvised explosive devices (IEDs) was unveiled Friday, November 3, in Los Angeles, CA. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will use the Technical Resource for Incident Prevention, or TRIPwire, to connect the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to other agencies across the country to share information about bombs and terrorism threats. TRIPwire will focus on improvised explosive devices because they are commonly used by terrorists, as seen in bombings in London, Madrid, Israel and Iraq. Many inexpensive ingredients can be used to make an IED, homeland security officials said.

Source: [http://cbs2.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_307142326.html](http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_307142326.html)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

### **30. *November 06, Secunia* — Microsoft XMLHTTP ActiveX control code execution vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been reported in Microsoft XML Core Services, which can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a user's system. The vulnerability is caused due to an unspecified error in the XMLHTTP 4.0 ActiveX Control. Successful exploitation allows execution of arbitrary code when a user e.g. visits a malicious Website using Internet

Explorer. NOTE: The vulnerability is already being actively exploited. Solution: Microsoft has recommended various workarounds including setting the kill-bit for the affected ActiveX control. See the vendor's advisory for details:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/927892.mspx>

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/22687/>

31. *November 06, VNUNet* — **Malicious Trojan poses as McAfee alert.** Security experts have intercepted a mass mailing purporting to come from McAfee, but which actually spreads a Trojan horse. Kaspersky Labs described the mass mailing as "unusual" because the messages attempt to spoof the e-mail address mcafee@europe.com. The Lafool.v infection is hidden in a Word document called "McAfee Inc. Reports.doc." The file is 80,635 bytes in size, and allegedly contains a report about the propagation of malicious programs on the Internet. However, the document actually contains a macro written in Visual Basic for Applications. Lafool.v extracts a new modification of LdPinch, a well-known Trojan password stealing program, from itself and launches it for execution, Kaspersky Labs warned.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2168037/malicious-trojan-p-oses-mcafee>

32. *November 06, Sophos* — **Sophos reveals top 12 spam producing countries.** Sophos has published its latest report on the top twelve spam relaying countries over the third quarter of 2006. Sophos experts believe that a possible reason for America's increasing lead in relayed spam when compared to its closest rival, China, is the emergence of over 300 strains of the mass-spammed Stratio worm. The worm, also known as Stration or Warezov, uses a trick dependent on the victim being able to speak English in its attempt to convert innocent PCs into members of a spam botnet. The top twelve spam relaying countries in July–September 2006 are as follows: 1) United States: 21.6 percent; 2) China (including Hong Kong): 13.4 percent; 3) France: 6.3 percent; 3) South Korea: 6.3 percent; 5) Spain: 5.8 percent; 6) Poland: 4.8 percent; 7) Brazil: 4.7 percent; 8) Italy: 4.3 percent; 9) Germany: 3.0 percent; 10) Taiwan: 2.0 percent; 11) Israel 1.8 percent; 12) Japan: 1.7 percent.

Source: [http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/11/dirt\\_ydozq306.html](http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/11/dirt_ydozq306.html)

33. *November 03, IDG News Service* — **Termination squad formed to combat malware.** The volunteers behind the Phishing Incident Reporting and Termination Squad (PIRT) have started a new project to crack down on malware. Called the Malware Incident Reporting and Termination Squad (MIRT), the effort was launched earlier last week, according to Paul Laudanski, owner of Computer Cops LLC and the leader of the project. MIRT works in much the same way as PIRT, an antiphishing project launched in March of this year. It invites users to submit samples of potentially malicious code to a database of "unknown files," which are then analyzed and reverse-engineered by MIRT's team of volunteers. MIRT then will publish reports on the malicious software and make its findings known to authorities and security companies, Laudanski said.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/03/HNantiphishingmalware\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/03/HNantiphishingmalware_1.html)

34. *November 03, IDG News Service* — **Oracle to acquire Stellent for \$440 million.** Oracle on Thursday, November 2, continued its string of acquisitions, announcing it will buy content management software company Stellent for about \$440 million. Stellent becomes Oracle's latest buy, following its acquisition of companies like Siebel Systems and PeopleSoft.

Source: [http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/03/HNoraclestellent\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/03/HNoraclestellent_1.html)

35. *November 03, Macworld* — **Symantec details OS X 'Macarena' virus.** Symantec has posted details about what it calls a “low risk level” virus affecting Mac OS X called OSX.Macarena. Peter Ferrie’s write-up for Symantec describes OSX.Macarena as “a proof of concept virus that infects files in the current folder on the compromised computer.” OSX.Macarena “infects other files when they are executed in the current directory, regardless of file name or extension.” For further detail: [http://www.symantec.com/security\\_response/writeup.jsp?docid=2006-110217-1331-99](http://www.symantec.com/security_response/writeup.jsp?docid=2006-110217-1331-99)  
Source: <http://www.macworld.com/news/2006/11/03/macarena/index.php>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	15281 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 1027 (icq), 4672 (eMule), 57715 (---), 1028 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 50001 (---) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at <a href="mailto:soc@us-cert.gov">soc@us-cert.gov</a> or visit their Website: <a href="http://www.us-cert.gov">www.us-cert.gov</a> .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <a href="https://www.it-isac.org/">https://www.it-isac.org/</a> .	

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## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

36. *November 03, Associated Press* — **Foothills Mall explosion was dry ice.** An explosive device exploded at Foothills Mall on Tucson, AZ’s northwest side on Thursday, November 2. Northwest Fire officials it went off in a trash can next to an outdoor cafe at the Barnes and Noble bookstore. Two large stores on the south side of the mall were evacuated for three hours after the dry ice exploded in a trash can. Authorities said the incident was similar to one the previous Saturday when an acid bomb exploded in a trash can inside the mall. The Pima County Sheriff's Department was investigating both incidents.  
Source: <http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=5628516&nav=HMO6>

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## General Sector

Nothing to report.

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