



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 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

- The National Transportation Safety Board is recommending that federal regulators require new standards and tests for the engines on the Bombardier CRJ-model jets to ensure that the failure that contributed to a fatal 2004 crash does not occur again. (See item [10](#))
- The Associated Press reports that starting this week inspectors from the Transportation Security Administration and other police agencies will begin sweeping Amtrak stations in Rhode Island, using bomb-sniffing dogs, undercover agents, and uniformed officers. (See item [12](#))
- A University of New Hampshire scientist is leading an international team of researchers trying to understand how bird flu spreads among wild birds and poultry, combining satellite images showing rice farming cycles and wetlands with other research on epidemics, wild bird migration, and poultry farming practices. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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 21, Reuters* — **Thirty countries sign ITER nuclear fusion plant deal.**
Representatives of more than 30 countries signed a deal on Tuesday, November 21, to build the

world's most advanced nuclear fusion reactor, aimed at developing a cheap and abundant energy source as the end of fossil fuels looms. France will host the \$12.8 billion International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), which will be built at Cadarache, near the southern city of Marseille. The ITER reactor will aim to turn seawater into fuel by mimicking the way the sun produces energy. Its backers say that would be cleaner than existing nuclear reactors, but critics argue it could be at least 50 years before a commercially viable reactor is built, if one is built at all. Unlike existing fission reactors, which release energy by splitting atoms apart, ITER would generate energy by combining atoms. Despite decades of research, experimental fusion reactors have so far been unable to release more energy than they use. Representatives of the European Union, the United States, Japan, India, Russia, South Korea and China signed the ITER agreement, finalizing the project after years of negotiations.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006-11-21T101722Z_01_L20690598_RTRUKOC_0_US-NUCLEAR-ITER.xml&WTmodLoc=NewsHome-C3-scienceNews-3

2. *November 21, Bloomberg* — **Merrill Lynch to invest in liquid natural gas plants.** Merrill Lynch, the world's largest brokerage firm, plans to invest in liquefied natural gas production plants as the U.S. and Europe import more of the fuel. Merrill Lynch is considering investing in plants in countries like Papua New Guinea, said Richard Jefferis of Merrill Lynch Commodities. Merrill Lynch is among investors positioning themselves for increased trading in liquefied natural gas, or LNG, a commodity traditionally dominated by rigid supply contracts that run for as long as 25 years. Semptra, Exxon Mobil, and other companies are building enough terminal capacity to double imports into the U.S., where domestic production has failed to keep pace with demand. Jefferis said, "In every business that we're in, we are physical players in the supply chain as well as financial players...We look at LNG as something that we need to be in." The proposed Papua New Guinea project may tap gas deposits in partnership with InterOil of Canada and Clarion Finanz of Switzerland. InterOil made a discovery at the Elk-1 well in Papua New Guinea that could hold "several trillion cubic feet" of gas and could form the basis of a \$3.3 billion liquefied natural gas project.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/11/21/bloomberg/sxmerrill.php>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *November 21, CBS 5 (CA)* — **Hazmat situation closes California highway ramp.** The California Highway Patrol (CHP) closed the northbound Fair Oaks off ramp of Highway 101 in Sunnyvale Tuesday morning, November 21, because of a liquid hydrogen spill. A tank located on the property of Analog Devices at 610 East Weddell Drive developed too much pressure and began venting the chemical, as it was designed to do in such situations. The CHP closed the ramp as a precaution.

Source: http://cbs5.com/local/local_story_325135153.html

4. *November 21, Glenwood Springs Post Independent (CO)* — **Truck spills diesel fuel into Colorado River.** A truck accident that spilled diesel fuel onto the banks of and into the Colorado River Saturday, November 18, apparently caused no significant damage. Saturday afternoon, a Halliburton pumper truck driven by Jason Kelly, 26, rounded a curve approaching

the Una Bridge five miles west of Battlement Mesa and hit the guard rail, which pierced the fuel tank. About 20 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into the river and about 130 gallons leaked out of the fuel tank. The Una Bridge was closed for a time Saturday evening as sand and dirt were packed on the bank above the river to absorb the spilled fuel. The town of DeBeque and Mesa County were told to close their water intake valves in the event of the spill reaching them.

Source: <http://gp.us.publicus.com/article/20061121/VALLEYNEWS/111210 020>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 01, National Defense* — **Guardsmen shift roles to align more with Air Force.** The Air National Guard is reorganizing — shedding some traditional missions and taking on new ones — in order to play a larger national–security role as its active–duty partner, the Air Force, shrinks in size. The reason? Like the other services, the Air Force is seeing much of its funding eaten up by combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Air Guard is making “some significant adjustments of the skill sets and the capabilities that we deliver with the force,” said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. The goal is to make the Air Guard more fully interoperable with active–duty Air Force and Reserve organizations. These days, with a smaller active–duty force, Guardsmen play important roles in everyday military operations. They provide almost half of the Air Force’s tactical airlift support, combat communications, aero–medical evacuations and aerial refueling. The Air Guard also has total responsibility for the aerial defense of the entire United States. With its expanding role, the Guard sees unmanned aerial vehicles as a big part of its future and also wants to get into information warfare.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2006/December/ Guardsmenshift.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *November 21, Finextra (UK)* — **Researchers uncover PIN security flaw.** Security experts are warning that flaws in the way PINs are encrypted and transmitted across international financial networks could allow corrupt bank workers to access the four–digit codes. A research paper by two researchers at Tel Aviv University describes how the financial transaction processing system used by banks is open to abuse and could enable corrupt bank workers to discover PIN codes. One possible attack targets the translate function in switches which another abuses functions that are used to allow customers to select PINs online. In both cases flaws in the system could enable an attacker to discover PIN codes, for example, when entered by customers while withdrawing cash from an ATM. The numbers could then be used to make fraudulent transactions. “A bank insider could use an existing Hardware Security Module to reveal the encrypted PIN codes and exploit them to make fraudulent transactions, or to fabricate cards whose PIN codes are different than the PIN codes of the legitimate cards, and yet all of the cards will be valid at the same time,” says a researcher at Tel Aviv University. An insider of a third–party Switching provider could also attack a bank in another continent.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16183>

7. *November 21, IDG News Service* — **Citibank debuts biometric pay system.** Citibank this month began rolling out biometric payment systems in Singapore that allow Citibank Clear Platinum credit card holders to pay using their fingerprints. "It's an investment for our future," said Anand Cavale of Citibank Singapore, noting this is the first time the bank has used a biometric payment system anywhere in the world. Before putting the biometric system into operation, Citibank officials took a long hard look at whether the system was secure — and came away satisfied that it was, Cavale said. "We see this as the next step, which will enhance our already good fraud prevention systems," he said. But don't expect to see biometrics replace Citibank cards any time soon. "The technology will be used in conjunction with a credit card," Cavale said. So far, Citibank's biometric payment systems are only in place at a handful of outlets in Singapore, including local coffee shops. But the bank has plans to quickly expand the number of such systems and the number of Citibank card holders able to use them. "Our intention is to roll it out very quickly to other cards," Cavale said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/21/HNcitibankbiometri cs_1.html

8. *November 20, Finextra (UK)* — **Backdoor virus discovered on China Unionpay site.** Hackers have infiltrated the Website of Shanghai-based electronic payment network operator China Unionpay and have planted a backdoor virus program designed to infect the computers of visiting customers. China Unionpay has over 172 million customers in the country. The backdoor program, called Backdoor.BlackHole.2005.a, is capable of hijacking customer's computers when they visit the Website. The virus is designed to enable hackers to access customers PCs in order to steal passwords and other information. The program used has been in circulation for some time and can be readily detected and stopped with anti-virus software.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16175>

9. *November 20, VNUNet* — **One in 10 surfers fall prey to cyber-criminals.** One in 10 online adults could become a victim of cyber-fraud this holiday season, according to a joint warning issued Monday, November 20, by the National Consumers League (NCL) and the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA). According to the latest NCSA/Symantec Online Fraud Survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, about six in 10 U.S. Web users shop online and one in 10 say they have been a victim of online fraud. The study also found that 37 percent of online adults have increased the number of online transactions they conduct compared to a year ago, increasing the likelihood that they will do more holiday shopping online this season. "Each year the number of people shopping online continues to increase, especially on 'Cyber Monday', the Monday after Thanksgiving," said Ron Teixeira, executive director of the NCSA.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169015/cyber-criminals-na b-ten-surfers>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *November 21, USA TODAY* — **NTSB calls for new standards for jet engines.** The engines on a popular regional jet have a safety flaw that could prevent them from being restarted if they fail during high-altitude flight — and other engine models could have the same problem, federal aviation accident investigators said Monday, November 20. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is recommending that federal regulators require new

standards and tests for the engines on the Bombardier CRJ-model jets to ensure that the failure that contributed to a fatal 2004 crash does not occur again. Two pilots on an otherwise empty Pinnacle Airlines flight died on October 14, 2004, near Jefferson City, MO, when both engines on their CRJ-200 stopped and would not restart despite repeated attempts. The interior of the GE Aviation CF34 engines locked up, preventing them from spinning fast enough to restart, the NTSB said. The recommendation affects about 1,300 of the CRJ-100, CRJ-200 and CRJ-440 jets, 50-seat models used by many regional carriers. About 550 similar Bombardier Challenger business jets are powered by the same engines. The NTSB is seeking a review of other types of jet engines to make sure they can't seize up in the same way.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-11-20-engines_x.htm

11. *November 21, Associated Press* — **Six Muslim imams taken off plane.** Six Muslim imams were removed from a US Airways flight at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Monday, November 20, and questioned by police for several hours before being released, a leader of the group said. The six were among passengers who boarded Flight 300, bound for Phoenix, around 6:30 p.m. CST, airport spokesperson Pat Hogan said. A passenger initially raised concerns about the group through a note passed to a flight attendant, according to Andrea Rader, a spokesperson for US Airways. She said police were called after the captain and airport security workers asked the men to leave the plane and the men refused. The six Muslim scholars were returning from a conference in Minneapolis of the North American Imams Federation, said Omar Shahin, president of the group. Three of them stood and said their evening prayers together on the plane, Shahin said. The other passengers on the flight, which was carrying 141 passengers and five crewmembers, were re-screened for boarding, Rader said. The plane took off about three hours after the men were removed from the flight.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/11/21/passengers.removed.ap/index.html>

12. *November 21, Associated Press* — **Security heightened at Rhode Island train stations.**

Passengers heading to Rhode Island's Amtrak stations can expect more security starting this week. Inspectors from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and other police agencies will be sweeping Amtrak stations in Providence, South Kingstown, and Westerly using bomb-sniffing dogs, undercover agents, and uniformed officers, TSA security director Joseph Salter said. No specific threats have been made against any of the train stations, he said. Passengers will not have to pass through security checkpoints or have their baggage screened before boarding. The random sweeps began this week and will continue indefinitely. Specially trained TSA agents also will be watching for people whose body language suggests they're overly stressed, Salter said. About 600,000 passengers rode Amtrak trains during Thanksgiving week last year, said Amtrak spokesperson Tracey Connell. About half were traveling in the northeast

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode_island/articles/2006/11/21/security_heightened_at_ri_train_stations/

13. *November 20, Bloomberg* — **Canada may seek private partners for Windsor-Detroit Bridge.**

Canada may seek companies to help build and operate a new bridge that would ease congestion at a border crossing with the U.S. that handles a quarter of the world's largest trade partnership. The bridge, linking Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit, MI, would be built between 2008 when permits are issued and the end of 2013, Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon said at an industry conference in Toronto. It would connect Ontario's Highway 401 to the U.S.

Interstate system. Canada will look at how ``to partner with the private sector to design, build, finance, and operate the new crossing," Cannon said. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government is turning for the second time this month to private partners to help it build infrastructure, as tighter security and rising orders delay shipments between Canada and the U.S.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=aHuAvygySrho&refer=canada>

14. *November 20, United Press International* — US Airways denies boarding to air marshals.

The government and Republic Airlines are reviewing a recent incident where federal air marshals were prohibited from boarding a plane in Washington, DC. The Federal Air Marshal Service confirms that its agents were removed from US Airways Express Flight 3464 flight leaving Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on November 8 for Connecticut. After being seated on the plane, the marshals were reportedly called to the jet bridge where a gate agent demanded paperwork intended for off-duty law enforcement agents carrying weapons. The marshals returned to their seats after telling the gate agent they were on mission status and the paperwork was not applicable. Minutes later officers from the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority ordered the marshals to exit the plane and even officials at the Department of Homeland Security could not persuade the airline to let them reboard. Federal Air Marshal spokesperson Conan Bruce said the agency was reviewing boarding rules that marshals say vary from airline to airline.

Source: <http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20061120-120207-6418r>

15. *November 20, Department of Transportation* — Department of Transportation signs Record of Decision. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters on Monday, November 20, announced that the Department has signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the St. Croix River Crossing to connect Washington County, MN, and St. Croix County, WI, clearing the way for forward progress on the long-planned bridge. The Secretary said a unique collaborative process aimed at speeding decisions on important transportation projects around the country led to the breakthrough for the St. Croix River project, which was selected in 2002 to be part of the Environmental Streamlining process. That process, created as a result of an executive order signed by President Bush, requires top-level federal, state and local officials to complete difficult environmental and regulatory permitting reviews as quickly and thoroughly as possible. The ROD is the federally required environmental-decision document that explains the reasons for the project decision, summarizes mitigation measures required by the project and documents the approval of park and historic lands issues. Once completed, the new river crossing will replace the 75-year-old Stillwater Bridge, which will be preserved for use as a pedestrian crossing under the terms of the decision.

For more information on the St. Croix River Crossing Website:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/index.html>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot10706.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

16. *November 20, Dow Jones* — Panel: U.S. lab properly disposed of mad cow research waste.

A U.S. government lab properly disposed of waste from animals used in mad cow research but should take further precautions to safeguard the city's water supply, a panel of scientists said. The eight-person panel investigated complaints that the National Animal Disease Center failed to properly treat the waste before it was sent to the city's sewage treatment plant. The scientists recommended that the lab pretreat high-risk waste before sending it to its in-house treatment plant and remove any solid waste left after pretreatment of wastewater before it's discharged to the lab's sanitary sewer, among other measures.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1164038006563.xml&catref=ag1001>

Food Sector

17. *November 21, USAgNet* — New cotton discovery could yield protein to feed millions. A scientific method used to explore cancer and HIV cures now has been successfully used by agricultural researchers in the quest to develop food for the world's hungry. "The exciting finding is that we have been able to reduce gossypol — which is a very toxic compound — from cottonseed to a level that is considered safe for consumption," said Dr. Keerti Rathore, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station plant biotechnologist. "In terms of human nutrition, it has a lot of potential." The cottonseed from these plants meet World Health Organization and U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards for food consumption, he said, potentially making the seed a new, high-protein food available to 500 million people a year. The team of scientists used RNAi, or technology that can "silence" a gene. This enabled them to target the gossypol gene only in the cottonseed but let the gene express itself in the rest of the plant.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2439&yr=2006>

18. *November 20, Associated Press* — Salmonella on the rise in chicken meat. A type of salmonella found in eggs is turning up more often in chicken meat and needs to be reduced, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From 2000 through 2005, there was a fourfold increase in positive test results for salmonella enteritidis on chicken carcasses. Salmonella sickens at least 40,000 people and kills about 600 every year in the United States. It used to be that eggs got contaminated with salmonella on the outside, from contact with fecal bacteria. But in recent years, the salmonella enteritidis strain has been found inside intact, disinfected, Grade A eggs. This type of germ contaminates eggs inside a hen's ovaries, before shells are even formed. A recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study on food poisoning from salmonella noted that the risk of illness from salmonella enteritidis increased the less people ate at home. That study said that while overall infections from salmonella were lower than in the mid-1990s, infections from salmonella enteritidis were 25 percent higher.

CDC Study: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no12/06-0653.htm?s_cideid 06_06

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061120/ap_on_he_me/salmonella_c_hicken

19. *November 20, Dow Jones* — **U.S., Russia deal paves way for U.S. beef exports.** The U.S. and Russia this weekend signed a deal that paves the way for the U.S. to once again begin shipping beef to Russia after a nearly three-year ban, according to U.S. government and industry officials. Russia, once the fifth-largest foreign market for U.S. beef, agreed to resume imports after it is allowed to audit "all slaughter facilities desiring to export beef to Russia in an expeditious and timely manner so that trade resumes quickly." Russia, as part of a larger agreement to secure U.S. approval for Russia's accession into the World Trade Organization, agreed to buy boneless, bone-in and beef by-products so long as the product comes from cattle under 30 months old. In the agreement Russia agreed to tolerance levels for bone fragments in U.S. beef shipments. Bone fragments have been the cause of disruptions to U.S. beef exports to other countries, but will not be an issue with Russia, the U.S. Trade Representative said.
Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=85428>

20. *November 20, University of Arkansas* — **Another tool for fighting foodborne pathogens.** Researchers at the University of Arkansas have found another tool for fighting foodborne pathogens. By activating lactoferrin, an antimicrobial compound, they were able to reduce *Listeria monocytogenes* to nondetectable levels. "Listeria monocytogenes was the most sensitive to lactoferrin activated by citric, malic and lactic acids in combination with the chelator EDTA," said Navam Hettiarachcy, a food science professor who led the research project for the Food Safety Consortium. Although lactoferrin's level of effectiveness against *E. coli* O157:H7 wasn't as great as its ability to reduce *Listeria monocytogenes* to nondetectable levels, it still was significantly effective against *E. coli* by eliminating at least 99 percent of the pathogen. "Incorporation of lactoferrin into film will prevent diffusion of the lactoferrin into the meat and still maintain its antimicrobial activity on the surface," Hettiarachcy said. "This will provide a continuous barrier to contamination by pathogens on foods up to the time of consumption."
Source: http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hotnews/6bh201117481108_5.html#

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Water Sector

21. *November 20, Adirondack Daily Enterprise (NY)* — **New York Governor Pataki announces \$8 million in funds for North Country water quality projects.** Governor Pataki announced \$8 million for 12 North Country communities to "implement critical water quality that will protect the Adirondacks and provide needed infrastructure improvements," according to a prepared statement from the governor. The town of Essex received funds to construct a wastewater treatment plant and collection system. The town of Moriah received funding to replace the Mineyard Pump Station. Other communities in the Tri-Lakes area to receive funding are the village of Tupper Lake, the town of Elizabethtown and the village of Dannemora. Governor Pataki said the funding will help "protect our waterways and drinking water supplies from pollution and other harmful impacts to our natural resources."
Source: http://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/News/articles.asp?a_rtitleID=4936

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Public Health Sector

22. *November 21, Reuters* — **Dutch let poultry outdoors as bird flu fears ease.** The Dutch Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday, November 21, lifted an order on keeping poultry indoors, introduced to protect flocks from the threat of avian flu from migrating birds, as fears of a possible outbreak receded. "The ban can be lifted because the monitoring of wild birds in the European Union showed no traces of the disease and there were no outbreaks reported in neighboring countries," the ministry said in a statement. The Netherlands, Europe's second biggest poultry producer after France, ordered birds indoors on September 1. Alternatively, farmers were allowed to construct an enclosure that would make contact with wild birds impossible.
Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/169064;_ylt=AgOwifdi5RKCEZ0VFP_sCW2mxbAB
23. *November 21, Billings Gazette (MT)* — **Shigellosis outbreak in Wyoming.** The number of people coming down with shigellosis, a gastrointestinal infection caused by bacteria, has grown to at least 35 as of Monday, November 20, according to the Indian Health Service and the Wyoming Department of Health. The disease causes diarrhea, fever, stomach cramping and sometimes bloody stools, said Kelly Weidenbach, surveillance epidemiologist with the Wyoming Department of Health. "A *Shigella* outbreak of this size is considered rare in Wyoming," Weidenbach said.
Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/11/21/news/wyoming/74-shigellosis.txt>
24. *November 20, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **HHS issues planning guide for mass casualty events.** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released a new medical care guide to help community leaders plan for and respond to mass casualty events such as an influenza pandemic or a terrorist nuclear attack. The guide, published by the HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), describes an array of shortages healthcare workers will face, such as of hospital beds and ambulances, and gives specific recommendations for planners, such as providing offsite care and using taxis, buses, and private cars to transport sick or injured patients. The guide expands on an earlier AHRQ publication, released in April 2005, which outlined altered standards of medical care in a mass casualty setting.
AHRQ report: <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mce/mceguide.pdf>
AHRQ press release: <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2006/mcepr.htm>
Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/nov2006casualties.html>
25. *November 20, News-Medical (Australia)* — **Experts say Britain vulnerable to bird flu pandemic.** Experts in Britain believe the government should have stockpiled more than one anti-viral drug in order to tackle a bird flu pandemic and say Britain has been left vulnerable because the stockpile of anti-viral drugs is deficient. They also say an independent flu specialist needs to be elected to act as a special adviser to the government. The Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences, comprised of Britain's leading scientists, have produced a report which is the result of a working group convened to consider the threat of bird flu in the UK. They are concerned the H5N1 avian virus might also develop a resistance to the drug Tamiflu. The scientists recommend in the report that the government should also stockpile GlaxoSmithKline's antiviral drug Relenza — an inhaled antiviral — alongside Tamiflu, which

is taken in tablet form, to provide an important second line of defense in the event of a pandemic. The report also recommends that the government should consider "population priming" where, even without an exact match in virus strain, it may be possible to provide broad immunity by vaccinating with a pre-pandemic influenza vaccine.

Report: <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/images/pressRelease/Pandemic.pdf>

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=21059>

26. *November 20, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* — **HHS buys additional vaccine for potential use in an influenza pandemic.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt announced Monday, November 20, the purchase of additional vaccine that could be used in the event of a potential influenza pandemic. The department has awarded contracts totaling \$199.45 million to three vaccine makers to manufacture 5.3 million 90-microgram doses of influenza vaccine designed to protect against the H5N1 influenza virus strain. At two 90-microgram doses per person, these purchases provide enough courses to vaccinate nearly 2.7 million people.
Source: <http://www.dhhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20061120.html>

27. *November 20, Associated Press* — **Researchers track bird flu with satellites.** A University of New Hampshire scientist is leading an international team of researchers trying to understand how bird flu spreads among wild birds and poultry. Xiangming Xiao is head of the team, which will use environmental data from satellites to try to predict outbreaks. The team will combine satellite images showing rice farming cycles and wetlands with other research on epidemics, wild bird migration and poultry farming practices. The work is focused on China, where there have been several outbreaks.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2006/11/20/unh_researchers_track_bird_flu_with_satellites/

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Government Sector

28. *November 21, Waco Tribune-Herald (TX)* — **Powder found in Waco courthouse, shutting down city block.** An envelope containing a dense, powdery substance caused a shutdown of Waco, TX's federal courthouse Monday afternoon, November 20. Waco Fire Department officials received a call about 4:30 p.m. CST that a worker found a white substance in an envelope in the U.S. District Clerk's Office on the third floor, Waco Fire Department Assistant Chief R.G. Wilson said. The Hazmat technicians ran a sample of the powdery substance through the Hazmat truck's diagnostic library of more than 25,000 agents, Wilson said. None of the tests showed positive, he said. Waco Police Department Sgt. Randy Lanier said the powdery substance first was suspected to be anthrax, although tests later showed the powder was not the infectious disease. Although the powder cleared the harmful-agent tests firefighters used, Wilson said there is no guarantee the powder isn't dangerous. FBI agents, who will take over the investigation, bagged up the rest of the powder to take to Austin to be identified, he said.
Source: <http://www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2006/11/21/11212006wachazmat.html>

29. *November 21, Boston Globe* — **Pepper spray incident routs school in Massachusetts.** A 15-year-old student was arrested on Monday, November 20, after he allegedly detonated a canister of pepper spray at Thomas A. Edison Middle School in Brighton, near Boston, sending 41 students and a teacher to area hospitals, police and school officials said. The teen, whose name police did not release, is from East Boston and a student at the school. He is expected to be arraigned this week in Boston Juvenile Court on charges of delinquency, unlawful possession of pepper spray, disturbing a school assembly, and disturbing the peace. The incident unfolded shortly before noon on Monday, when students at the school began complaining of throat and eye irritation. The school was evacuated shortly afterward.
Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/11/21/pepper_spray_incident_routs_brighton_school/
30. *November 21, Fox News/Associated Press* — **Fourth student dies after bus crash; investigation continues.** A fourth teenager died Tuesday, November 21, from injuries sustained when a high-school bus careened off a highway overpass in Huntsville, AL, and plunged 30 feet onto the ground below. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash as officials consider whether a teenage driver from the same school may have been at least partly to blame. Huntsville Police Chief Rex Reynolds said an orange Toyota Celica driven by another Lee High student apparently came close to or struck the bus, causing it to swerve. The bus plunged 30 feet from an Interstate 565 overpass Monday afternoon, landing nose first, killing two girls and injuring more than 30 other students. A third girl died later at the hospital. Reynolds declined to say whether charges would be filed against the Lee High School student driving the Celica. There is "some contact evidence," Debbie Hersman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said, noting that investigators were looking for paint transfers between the vehicles.
Source: <http://www.fox21.com/Global/story.asp?S=5714376&nav=2KPp>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *November 20, CBS 42 (TX)* — **City creates new disaster communication system.** The City of Austin, TX, has come up with some new communication strategies to use in the event of a downtown-wide disaster. It's a joint effort between many agencies: police, firefighters, Emergency Medical Services and the Office of Emergency Management. The new system unveiled Monday, November 20, helps emergency crews communicate with building owners and managers in real time, using two-way radios. "To have people familiar with the buildings and their occupancy type familiar with those who live there and work there, to have the true experts working with us at the command post answering questions is a wonderful asset it's great to see them come on board," said David Bailey, Austin Fire Department division chief of Homeland Security. Austin is one of only three cities to currently have two-way real time communication radio systems in place in buildings, so they can communicate directly with first responders.
Source: http://keyetv.com/topstories/local_story_324085527.html

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *November 21, VNUNet* — **California court rules on Web defamation.** The California Supreme Court has ruled that Internet service providers and bloggers cannot be sued for third-party comments posted on their sites. In the case of Barrett versus Rosenthal the court found that only the originator of the content could be sued, but that third parties who repost the material should be immune from prosecution. The ruling has profound implications for the future of Internet content. "We acknowledge that recognizing broad immunity for defamatory republications on the Internet has some troubling consequences," said the court. "Until Congress chooses to revise the settled law in this area, however, plaintiffs who contend they were defamed in an Internet posting may only seek recovery from the original source of the statement."
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169219/california-court-rules-web>
33. *November 21, Sophos* — **Don't let the Christmas spam fill your e-mail stocking, Sophos warns.** Sophos has identified a new marketing trick being used by spammers in their attempt to get a hold of legitimate e-mail addresses and user information in the run-up to the holiday season: they are offering to send your child a letter directly from Santa. The unsolicited e-mail campaign, which includes subject lines like "Letter From Santa For Your Child" and "Santa Letter from the North Pole," offers a personalized letter addressed to your child. The e-mail also requests you to get in touch if you received the e-mail in error.
Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/11/santa-spam.html>
34. *November 20, CNET News* — **Wi-Fi standards face patent threat.** A federal judge in Tyler, TX, ruled last week that an Australian government agency holds the rights to patents on the underlying technology used in two Wi-Fi standards and a third proposed standard. The decision — if it survives what many assume will be a lengthy appeals process — could have a wide-ranging impact on wireless equipment makers and consumer electronics manufacturers. Judge Leonard Davis ruled that a patent granted in 1996 to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia's national science agency, is valid. The court also ruled that Buffalo Technology, a small maker of Wi-Fi routing gear, had violated this patent. The ruling is certainly a blow for Austin, TX-based Buffalo Technology, but the decision could have a huge impact on the entire Wi-Fi industry. "One reason that Wi-Fi has proliferated as it has is because it's reached a point where it's incredibly cheap, so it's easy to just stick a Wi-Fi chip in a consumer electronics device," said Stan Schatt, a vice president at ABI Research. "But if the cost of the technology goes up to pay for the license, even a little bit, it could throw off the economics."
Source: http://news.com.com/Wi-Fi+standards+face+patent+threat/2100-7351_3-6137372.html?tag=nefd.lede
35. *November 20, Tech Web* — **Hackers use virtual machine detection to foil researchers.** Hackers are adding virtual machine detection to their worms and Trojans to stymie analysis by anti-virus labs, a security research expert said Sunday, November 19. The tactic is designed to thwart researchers who use virtualization software, notably that made by VMware, to quickly and safely test the impact of malicious code. "Three out of 12 malware specimens recently captured in our honeypot refused to run in VMware," said Lenny Zeltser, an analyst at SANS Institute's Internet Storm Center in an online note Sunday. Malware writers use a variety of

techniques to detect virtualization, including sniffing out the presence of VMware-specific processes and hardware characteristics, said Zeltser.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/software/194700014;jsessionid=0E10LMMCWNO1GQSNDLRSKH0CJUNN2JVN>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 13886 (---), 1027 (icq), 4672 (eMule), 25530 (---), 1028 (---), 25 (smtp), 18284 (---)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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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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