



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 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

- Kaiser Permanente Colorado began notifying approximately 38,000 members Tuesday, November 28, of a possible breach of their private health information including names, member ID numbers, date of birth, age, gender, and provider/physician information. (See item [6](#))
- A study released Wednesday, November 29, concludes that billions of liters of untreated urban sewage and toxic effluents that flow into the Great Lakes each year are threatening a critical ecosystem that supplies drinking water to millions of people. (See item [21](#))
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is investigating the theft of two packages containing 110 pounds of explosives, stolen over the weekend from a construction site in Menifee, California. (See item [38](#))

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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IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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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 29, New York Times* — **Efficiency efforts could sharply cut growth in global energy consumption, study says.** Growth in energy consumption worldwide could be cut by more than two-thirds over the next 15 years through more aggressive energy– efficiency

efforts by households and industry, according to a study by the McKinsey Global Institute. The report, released Wednesday, November 29, says energy savings could be achieved with current technology and would save money for consumers and companies. The report offers a long list of suggested steps, including the adoption of compact fluorescent light bulbs, improved insulation on new buildings, reduced standby power requirements, an accelerated push for appliance–efficiency standards and the use of solar water heaters. Those moves, among others, could reduce the yearly growth rate in worldwide energy demand through 2020 to 0.6 percent from a forecast annual rate of 2.2 percent, the report concludes. To take advantage of the energy–saving opportunities, some product standards would have to be tightened and some policy incentives changed. Current regulations and fuel subsidies, for example, often favor consumption over efficiency. But many potential steps are not taken, the report says, because energy users lack information or do not value efficiency enough to change their buying habits. Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/11/29/business/energy.php>

2. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Russia will build 42 nuclear reactors by 2030, nuclear chief says.** Russia plans to build 42 new nuclear reactors by 2030 as part of an ambitious program to revive its atomic power industry, Federal Nuclear Agency director Sergei Kiriyenko said Tuesday, November 28. He said Russia would need to build at least two nuclear reactors a year to meet the goal. Russia now has 31 reactors at 10 nuclear power plants, accounting for 16–17 percent of Russia's electricity generation, and President Vladimir Putin has called for raising the share to 25 percent. Expanding the share of nuclear energy would allow the nation to save more natural gas for export, Kiriyenko said. The government has kept Russia's domestic gas prices at a fraction of export prices, and gas accounts for about half of electricity generation now. Kiriyenko also said that Russian and U.S. companies were continuing joint research on a next–generation reactor that would produce hydrogen as a byproduct. Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/11/28/europe/EU_GEN_Russia_Nuclear_Power.php

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *November 29, Government Computer News* — **Transportation Command consolidating logistics systems.** The Department of Defense is currently developing a backbone information system capable of planning, tracking, tracing and optimizing shipments from manufacturers to their point of delivery. The deployment of such a system is a major goal of Gen. Norton Schwartz, commander of the Transportation Command, who spoke Tuesday, November 28, at the Defense Logistics 2006 conference in Washington, DC. The result will be to consolidate hundreds of transportation and distribution systems currently in use and integrate key technologies, creating a single, end–to–end transportation management system. Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42672–1.html

Banking and Finance Sector

4. *November 29, Finextra (UK)* — **Consumers turning to plastic for small value payments.**

More than 67 million Americans have used a credit or debit card for a purchase of less than \$5 in the past 30 days, according to research conducted by Ipsos Insight and micropayments outfit Peppercoin. The study, which entailed telephone interviews with 1,000 U.S. adults, indicates a readiness by consumers to forego cash and use their plastic cards to pay for low-value items. It found that consumers are most likely to use credit or debit cards for small payments purchases at convenience stores, quick service restaurants, to buy coffee, or pay for the subway or tolls. All of these locations have been targeted by banks and card companies for the roll-out of new contactless payment programs.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16212>

5. *November 29, WSTM NBC-3 (NY)* — **Phishing scam targets credit union's president.** The president of Empire Federal Credit Union in Binghamton, NY, found out first-hand that some e-mail scammers are using his institution's name trying to coax personal information from some unsuspecting folks. Raymond Curtin received bogus e-mail messages purportedly from his own credit union. Curtin said it appears the Syracuse-based credit union's name has been used frequently in recent weeks by phishers. The scam advises recipients that their account access has been suspended and that they must click on a link to provide "sensitive information."

Source: <http://www.wstm.com/Global/story.asp?S=5740684&nav=2aKD>

6. *November 28, ABC News 7 (CO)* — **Kaiser Permanente notifying Colorado members of laptop theft.** Kaiser Permanente Colorado began notifying approximately 38,000 members Tuesday, November 28, of a possible breach of their private health information. The information was on a laptop that was stolen from the personal car of a national Kaiser Permanente employee in Oakland, CA, on October 4. Information on the laptop included names, member ID numbers, date of birth, age, gender and provider/physician information and medical record numbers. "We believe the laptop was stolen for its street value and not the information on the computer," said Jacque Montgomery, a Kaiser Permanente spokesperson.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/10414015/detail.html?rs=den&psp=news>

7. *November 28, SC Magazine* — **Phishing scams use FFIEC deadline to dupe financial customers.** CSOs and governance officers aren't the only ones studying up on compliance regulations. Phishers are also getting governance-savvy, sending bogus e-mails that pretend to bring customers in line with new guidelines for financial organizations. In the e-mails, phishers urge victims to sign up for a new, two-factor authentication code, according to SecureWorks, which said it has spotted numerous scams using the ploy. The scammers ask customers to provide account and PIN numbers to register for a dual authentication code. The scam e-mail even tells potential victims that a code is required by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). Erik Petersen, vice president of professional services for SecureWorks, said that the spoofs are "very well done. They seem to understand the federal agency supervision of banking and financial institutions, and they're using that against the banks and against the customer." "We would advise a client that (this scam) is likely to have a

higher yield rate, meaning it's more likely to get some people to put in their credentials," he said. "All of these schemes are meant to look like something that's authentic."

Source: <http://www.scmagazine.com/uk/news/article/606925/phishing-scams-using-ffiec-deadline-dupe-financial-customers/>

8. *November 28, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury targets drug cartel assets in Colombia and offshore havens.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on Tuesday, November 28, added five Colombian individuals and twenty-two entities to its list of Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers (SDNTs) for their ties to the North Valle drug cartel. The individuals Gloria Elena Fajardo Hernandez, Piedad Rocio Sanchez Candelo, Sandra Milena Prieto Santiago, Hector Leon, and Abdala Saieh Jassir. "Today's action levies financial sanctions against another group of previously-concealed entities and individuals operating on behalf of the North Valle cartel," said Adam Szubin, Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control. The five Colombian individuals act as front persons for the North Valle drug cartel leader Raul Grajales Lemos (Raul Grajales), and one of the individuals is also associated with North Valle leader Carlos Alberto "Beto" Renteria (Beto Renteria). Twenty-two companies controlled by Grajales and/or Renteria were also designated Tuesday as SDNTs. Tuesday's action freezes any assets of the designees found in the United States and prohibits all financial and commercial transactions by any U.S. person with the designees.
- Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp179.htm>

9. *November 27, Associated Press* — **South Carolina school district sold computers with personal information.** The Greenville County school district sold computers that contained Social Security numbers and birthdates for roughly 100,000 students and at least 1,000 employees. The two buyers never released the information found in computers they bought at a dozen school district auctions between 1999 and last March, but worry about other computers sold, their attorney David Gantt told The Greenville News. The businessmen went public about their findings after the district repeatedly ignored their warnings and continued to sell computers without removing the data, Gantt said. "Their concern is, and frankly a reasonable concern is, who else might have gotten access to this information?" he said. "They didn't buy everything at these sales." Discovered data included addresses, phone numbers, medical information, personnel evaluations, driver's license numbers and Department of Juvenile Justice records.
- Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/local/16109822.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *November 29, Associated Press* — **Visa waivers may be offered to more nations.** The Bush administration will ask Congress to change and expand a program that allows citizens of some countries to enter the United States without visas. In exchange, the U.S. government would require visitors to provide more data about themselves before they board planes. In a statement, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said that in addition to being expanded, the program should be changed to increase security. For example, participating nations would be asked to quickly provide information on lost or stolen passports. Officials did

not say which other countries the administration might try adding to the program. Countries from Central and Eastern Europe have expressed interest in entering the program, which lets travelers enter the United States with only a passport. The program applies to citizens of 27 countries traveling to the United States for 90 days or less for tourism or business.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/11/28/AR2006112801548.html>

11. *November 29, Boston Globe* — **Conley Terminal to add fourth container ship line.** CMA CGM, the world's third-biggest container ship company, will begin service to the Conley Terminal in South Boston every other Thursday starting December 7, the Massachusetts Port Authority said. The move will increase total container-shipping business to Boston's port by four to five percent annually and will also offer the first direct-shipping service between Boston and two European ports, Rotterdam and Liverpool. Boston's port now gets Mediterranean Shipping Co. vessels twice weekly from Europe and China Ocean Shipping Co. vessels weekly from China, along with a weekly Boston-New York Columbia Coastal Transport barge that moves containers to and from ships in New York Harbor
Source: http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2006/11/29/conley_terminal_to_add_4th_container_ship_line/
12. *November 29, Daily Mail (UK)* — **Passengers notified as radiation traces found on planes in spy death probe.** Passengers have been notified after radiation traces were found on two BA planes linked to the death of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko. The BA 767 planes operate on routes within Europe and up to 800 passengers on four flights may have been affected. A statement from the airline said: "BA has been advised that three of its Boeing 767 short haul aircraft have been identified by the UK Government as part of the investigation into the death of Alexander Litvinenko. "The airline was contacted last night by the Government. It has taken the three B767s out of service to enable forensic examination to be carried out. "The initial results of the forensic tests, which was confirmed late this afternoon, has shown very low traces of a radioactive substance onboard two of the three aircraft.
Source: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.htm?in_article_id=419497&in_page_id=1770&ct=5
13. *November 28, USA TODAY* — **Amtrak ridership increases.** Tighter airport security and higher gas prices appear to be boosting Amtrak ridership in the Northeast, the South, and the Midwest. Trains in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New England saw double-digit jumps in ridership. Routes in the West saw the smallest increases, and trains in the Louisiana area had drops because of Hurricane Katrina. Amtrak, which serves a daily average of 69,000 riders on 300 trains, saw total ridership increase just over one percent in fiscal year 2006, which ended September 30. "We believe that some of the security concerns, people having some difficulty with flying, have sent some people to the train," says Amtrak spokesperson Karina Romero. "Gas prices probably also had an impact." Ridership on the Acela/Metroliner, the busiest trains of all running from Washington, DC, to Boston, grew by 8.8 percent. The line had 2,668,174 riders in 2006, or 589 more passengers a day.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-11-28-amtrak-ridership_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *November 29, USPS News* — **Postal Service prepares for the busiest mailing and delivery days of the year.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) expects to deliver 20 billion letters, packages and cards between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with the busiest mailing day expected to be Monday, December 18, when more than 280 million cards and letters will be processed — more than twice the average processed on any given day. Total mail volume on December 18 is projected to rise to 900 million pieces of mail, increased from 670 million pieces on an average day. About 100 million First-Class letters are processed daily. That number increases to about 150 million a day during the holidays. About 12 million packages will be delivered every day through Christmas Eve. The busiest delivery day will be Wednesday, Dec. 20. In addition to the national logistics of moving and delivering all this mail, the Postal Service will have extended hours at more than 7,400 Post Offices. Customers can purchase stamps online or at more than 75,000 alternate access points, including banks, grocery stores, drug stores and at Post Offices. National call center operators are ready to answer questions on hours and services. Customers can call 1-800-ASK-USPS for information. Also, the USPS will deliver Express Mail on December 24 and 25.

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/2006/pr06_078.htm

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Agriculture Sector

15. *November 28, Agriculture Online* — **Deadly diseases sweeping through China's hog farms.** "Pig Fever" is sweeping through the expanding Chinese swine industry, according to swine veterinarians who have traveled there this fall. University of Nottingham, England, swine veterinarians Steven McOrist and Stan Done observed the outbreak first-hand during a recent visit to China's swine veterinary centers. China's hog industry is "rapidly consolidating" on a scale similar to that in the U.S., McOrist says. This includes the segmentation of farrowing and finishing, with 500- to 1,000-head sow barns and "routine off-site finishing" popping up around Chinese cities. Comprising a possible combination of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) and other diseases, this year's "Pig Fever" outbreak has swept through this growing number of Chinese finishing facilities, resulting in more than 1 million culls. Controls have been introduced in an effort to control the outbreak. McOrist urges heightened observation and intensive treatment for swine populations where symptoms of porcine respiratory diseases are observed.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1164735223274.xml&catref=ag1001>

16. *November 28, Agricultural Research Service* — **Volatile compounds help growers control cotton pests.** Airborne volatile compounds that attract plant-feeding insects to alfalfa could help growers control cotton pests with fewer pesticides. That's according to Agricultural Research Service (ARS) entomologists Jackie Blackmer and John Byers, at the agency's U.S. Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center in Maricopa, AZ. Working with Cesar Rodriguez-Saona of Rutgers University, they investigated the influence of volatiles — or chemical scents — on the western tarnished plant bug (WTPB), a pest that feeds on several

important crops, including cotton. Existing control options are extremely limited. Traps can be helpful pest management tools, but their success hinges on knowing exactly how to lure a particular insect. Often, that means enticing them with chemical signals, such as sex pheromones, but researchers have not yet developed an effective WTPB pheromone trap. The scientists' studies show that female WTPB are drawn to alfalfa volatiles and chemically manufactured synthetics that have most of the characteristics of natural chemical scents. This information could be used to develop more effective field traps baited with volatiles.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2006/061128.htm>

17. *November 28, Delta Farm Press* — **Agro-terrorism prevention resource offered.** The National Cotton Council has established an online resource to raise awareness of how the agro-terrorism threat applies to the U.S. cotton industry. This includes U.S. Department of Agriculture's voluntary "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist" for farming operations. The potential of terrorist attacks against agricultural targets is recognized as a national security threat by the federal government. The Department of Homeland Security, in concert with other federal agencies, continues to develop strategies to protect agricultural production and processing from terrorist acts.

National Cotton Council Website: <http://www.cotton.org/tech/safety/biosecurity.cfm>

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/061128-terrorism-prevention/>

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Food Sector

18. *November 28, Dow Jones* — **USDA Secretary frustrated by South Korea's rejection of U.S. beef.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns said Tuesday, November 28, that he "vented frustration" to South Korea over its rejection last week of a U.S. beef shipment. The nine-ton shipment from Creekstone Farms Premium Beef that was rejected was the first since South Korea lifted its nearly three-year ban on U.S. beef. Johanns complained that the rejection was the result of the discovery of a small piece of cartilage, something he argued should not have been important. USDA officials said earlier this month that negotiators made progress in getting South Korea to agree that bovine material such as silver skin — a membrane separating muscle groups — is not a risk, but there was no success in getting the country to agree to tolerance levels for bone fragments and cartilage.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=87008>

19. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Bacteria find prompts distributor's second fruit recall.** A Norfolk, VA, based fruit distributor issued its second recall in four weeks on packages of fresh cut fruit after a container tested positive for a potentially fatal bacteria. Krisp-Pak Company Inc. on Monday, November 27, recalled fruit from Hampton Roads- and Richmond-area Farm Fresh supermarkets after one package was found to have listeria monocytogenes, a bacteria that can cause fatal infections in children, the elderly, or people with weak immune systems, Krisp-Pak said in a statement. The package that tested positive had an expiration date of November 18, but Krisp-Pak's recall extends to packages with November 30 expirations. The company also stopped producing the fruit packages until it figures out the source of the listeria.

Source: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-va--fruitrecall1128nov28.0.4493499.story?coll=dp-headlines-virginia>

20. *November 27, Capital Press* — **Warehouse thieves nabbed in Sacramento.** Police in Sacramento, CA, with the help of three county sheriff departments, apprehended two men Monday, November 27, after being tipped about suspicious activity at a warehouse involving thousands of pounds of stolen almonds and walnuts. Sacramento police arrested Sukhwinder Singh Grewal, 41, and Amrik Singh, 27, on suspicion of stealing \$1.7 million in nuts during the past year, Stanislaus County sheriff's deputy Royjindar Singh said. Hartley Spycher, a Turlock almond processor, recovered all of his stolen nuts taken on November 6 — two trailer loads, each containing 38,000 pounds of almonds. Singh said while this case ended successfully, some nut processors have not been lucky in recovering their property. Phippen Farms in Ripon, in San Joaquin County, reported a theft of 80,000 pounds of nuts stolen and sheriff's deputies only recovered 9,000 pounds of the company's crop. "It shows they were able to export or get rid of 71,000 pounds so some of these other thefts are probably long gone," Singh said. "The criminals had a pretty good recordkeeping system going, so we are trying to determine how much was sold and how much was stolen to see how they match up."
Source: <http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=94&SubSectionID=801&ArticleID=28913&TM=82393.35>

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Water Sector

21. *November 28, Canadian Press* — **Study indicates sewage threatens Great Lakes.** Billions of liters of untreated urban sewage and toxic effluents that flow into the Great Lakes each year are threatening a critical ecosystem that supplies drinking water to millions of people, a landmark study released Wednesday, November 29, concludes. Even though municipalities in the Great Lakes region have spent vast sums of money in recent decades upgrading their wastewater plants, the situation remains appalling, says the report by the Sierra Legal Defense Fund. The survey graded municipalities in areas such as collection, treatment and disposal of sewage based on information provided by the local governments. The main problem, the study concludes, is that in many cases, antiquated sewage systems are incapable of dealing effectively with the vast amounts of effluent that flow through them. The report makes several recommendations, including improving water conservation in order to reduce the flow to sewage plants, and keeping rain water out of sewers by disconnecting downspouts and separating storm drains and sewer systems. The report also calls on national, provincial and state governments, along with scores of municipalities, to work together to beef up infrastructure, harmonize legislation and ensure enforcement. Report: <http://www.sierralegal.org/reports/great.lakes.sewage.report.nov.2006b.pdf>
Source: <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2006/11/28/2531585-cp.htm1>

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Public Health Sector

22. *November 29, Reuters* — **Flu viruses survive frozen in lakes, study finds.** Influenza virus can live for decades and perhaps even longer in frozen lakes and might be picked up and carried by

birds to reinfect animals and people, researchers reported on Tuesday, November 28. Such frozen viruses could potentially become the source of new epidemics that sicken and kill generations after they were last seen, the researchers report in the *Journal of Virology*. "We've found viral RNA in the ice in Siberia, and it's along the major flight paths of migrating waterfowl," said Dr. Scott Rogers of Bowling Green State University in Ohio. "The data suggest that influenza A virus deposited as the birds begin their autumn migration can be preserved in lake ice. As birds return in the spring, the ice melts, releasing the viruses," the researchers wrote.

Abstract: <http://jvi.asm.org/cgi/content/abstract/80/24/12229>

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/reuters/fluvirusesurvivefrozeninlakesstudyfinds:_ylt=Alz7HH348ibKJsrc6MWw65.z5xcB

23. *November 28, United Nations* — **Up to \$1.5 billion needed to counter bird flu over the next three years: UN coordinator.** Despite significant progress in the past year to combat the global spread of deadly bird flu, it remains a very real threat particularly in Africa, the United Nations (UN) coordinator for response to the disease said Tuesday, November 28, estimating that up to \$1.5 billion in international assistance is needed worldwide over the next two to three years for preventive measures. Dr. David Nabarro, the Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza, also said that a high-level meeting in Bamako, Mali, Wednesday-Friday, December 6-8, to discuss bird flu, would call for more donor funds for African countries to fight the disease and its H5N1 virus, which experts fear could mutate and pass from person to person unleashing a deadly human pandemic.

Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20761&Cr=bird&Cr1=flu>

24. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Boston Children's Hospital scolded for failure to report whooping cough outbreak.** City health officials have ordered the Boston Children's Hospital to improve its process for informing the Boston Public Health Commission of disease outbreaks after the hospital failed last month to quickly notify the agency about a whooping cough outbreak among staff. State law requires that infectious disease clusters be reported within 24 hours, but public health officials did not learn of the outbreak that affected 33 employees until several weeks later. The city's order — the first time the board has ever issued such a mandate — gives Children's until Friday, December 15, to submit a plan. Health commission officials said the delay in reporting was troubling because some of the infected workers had jobs at other medical facilities and the disease, also known as pertussis, could have spread.

Source: <http://www3.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO35193/>

25. *November 28, Associated Press* — **Inspectors stake out smuggled animals to prevent the spread of disease.** Wildlife inspector Bryan Landry can spot threats everywhere at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. A backpack carried off a flight from Nigeria contains plastic bags of meat from the bush that could harbor the lethal Ebola virus. Those salted duck eggs from South Korea, a delicacy not easily found here, could carry the dreaded bird flu. And the exotic birds taped to a passenger's legs and the pair of monkey paws concealed in a bag could harbor any one of several diseases that jump to humans. Landry and fellow inspectors with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service are a last line of defense against such risky items before they come across the border, often with unsuspecting people intending only to bring back a taste from home, an exotic pet or a travel memento. "The issues surrounding disease are quickly becoming a daily event," Landry said. Potential carriers are multiplying.

Some 210 million wild animals were brought legally into the country last year, and many more were smuggled. The net of protection is thin. There are just 120 inspectors like Landry to cover 39 airports and border crossings full time.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/T/THREATS_FROM_THE_WILD?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

26. *November 27, Associated Press* — **FDA fines American Red Cross \$5.7 million for blood violations.** The federal government has fined the American Red Cross \$5.7 million for violating blood–safety laws and the terms of a 2003 consent decree. The fine covers quality assurance, inventory management, control of non–conforming blood products, donor screening and blood component manufacturing issues turned up during a 2005 inspection of a Red Cross facility in West Henrietta, NY, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said in a November 21 letter. The fine appears to be the largest single penalty ever assessed under terms of a 2003 court settlement that allows the large fines when the Red Cross violates FDA rules. Previously, the FDA had fined the Red Cross a total of nearly \$10 million.

Source: http://news.bostonherald.com/national/view.bg?articleid=1693_29

27. *November 24, Max Planck Society (Germany)* — **Researchers investigate evolution of Salmonella typhi and warn of increased spread of resistant strains.** In a study published in the latest issue of Science, an international consortium from the Max–Planck Society, Wellcome Trust Institutes in Britain and Vietnam, and the Institut Pasteur in France have elucidated the evolutionary history of Salmonella Typhi. Typhi is the cause of typhoid fever, a disease that sickens 21 million people and kills 200,000 worldwide every year. The results indicate that asymptomatic carriers played an essential role in the evolution and global transmission of Typhi. The rediscovered importance of the carrier state predicts that treatment of acute disease, including vaccination, will not suffice to eradicate this malady. The results also illuminate patterns leading to antibiotic resistance after the indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Fluoroquinolone treatment in southern Asia over two decades has resulted in the emergence of multiple, independent nalidixic acid–resistant mutants, of which one group, H58, has multiplied dramatically and spread globally. The prevalence of these bacteria hampers medical cure of clinical disease via antibiotics.

Abstract: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/314/5803/1301>

Study: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/314/5803/1301.pdf>

Source: <http://www.mpg.de/english/illustrationsDocumentation/documentation/pressReleases/2006/pressRelease20061120/index.html>

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Government Sector

28. *October 27, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–85: Immigration Benefits: Additional Efforts Needed to Help Ensure Alien Files Are Located when Needed (Report).** To document the interactions of aliens with the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and other government entities, USCIS creates alien files, or A–files. While deemed critical, especially in making citizenship decisions, A–files are sometimes missing during adjudications. In 2002, naturalization was granted to an alien whose A–file was missing and who was later found to be associated with a

terrorist organization. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) focused its review on (1) how often USCIS adjudicates naturalization applications without an A-file and why, (2) the effect that missing A-files can have on the adjudication process, and (3) steps taken to help mitigate the risk of missing A-files. To address these questions, GAO interviewed officials and staff from USCIS and reviewed relevant data, policies, and procedures related to processing naturalization applications and the automated file-tracking system DHS established to track the movement of A-files. GAO recommends that USCIS require adjudicators to record whether an A-file was available in naturalization adjudications and, with other DHS users of A-files, determine why staff are not complying with file-tracking procedures and correct any deficiencies. In its comments, DHS agreed with GAO's recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0785high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-85>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *November 28, Washington Technology* — District of Columbia moves beyond walky-talkies and toward interoperability. The next time a terrorist attack or large-scale emergency strikes the District of Columbia, citizens will see the region's first responders respond in unison, said Washington Chief Technology Officer Suzanne Peck. Through the combined use of a wired, broadband network and a wireless network covering Washington, 18 regional first-responder groups, together with those in the district and their federal counterparts, will be able to communicate seamlessly, share information and follow the orders of a single, unified regional command center. The city's new \$106 million Unified Communications Center, eight years in the making, opened September 26, and puts first responders in the best position possible to deal with any emergency, Peck said. The center also has hardened physical security, including blast proof glass and 72 hours' worth of self-sustainability in case the area is severely damaged in a crisis. The new Washington center, and the way in which it incorporates and coordinates multiple jurisdictions at various levels of government via an interoperable voice and data network and regional communications center, is precisely the type of project that many state and local governments are planning for, industry officials said.

Source: <http://www.firerescue1.com/communications-interoperability/articles/243648/>

30. *November 28, Government Technology* — The who, what, where, when, and why of disaster response. During the first few hours or days following a disaster, individuals and families should be ready to act on behalf of their own safety. Local essential services, such as police, firefighters, medical teams, and utility crews may be overwhelmed, and not immediately available. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may be called in to help following an emergency, it is not the primary responding agency for immediate disaster response. "The fact is that many expect to see FEMA on the scene immediately, but it is the individuals themselves and then local and state emergency agencies who are first responders in a major emergency," said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Bill Lokey. "With first responders often come the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other voluntary organizations to provide food, shelter and essential needs to displaced and injured families." FEMA frequently leans far forward in pre-positioning resources and personnel when there is an imminent disaster threat such as a hurricane, but it is only after the president approves a Governor's request for a

federal disaster declaration that the agency is permitted, by law, to respond with direct assistance to individuals and government entities affected by the disaster.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/102551

31. *November 28, New York Post* — **EMS disaster—master medics set for action.** The city of New York has created an elite squad of "combat" paramedics trained to reach and navigate the crevices of collapsed buildings, bridges, tunnels and roads to aid injured and trapped survivors, The New York Post has learned. Fifty-two Fire Department City of New York rescue medics will be ready to work alongside cops and firefighters deep in the rubble of any Big Apple disaster caused by a terrorist attack or natural catastrophe. They will administer medicine and fluids to victims who previously had to wait hours, or sometimes days, for treatment. "Our Emergency Medical Service can now provide the most advanced prehospital care to patients fighting for their lives in the most perilous situations," Chief of EMS John Peruggia said. More like combat medics geared up to tackle conditions on an urban battlefield, these proactive medical professionals will no longer have to wait on the sidelines while other first responders bring patients to them. The trailblazing medics went through nearly three weeks of rigorous instruction alongside firefighters at the department's "rescue school" on Randalls Island and will be hitting the street on December 3, with one ambulance in every borough.

Source: <http://www.jems.com/news/243623/>

32. *November 28, Congress Daily* — **Chertoff sets interoperable radio goals.** Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Tuesday, November 28, his department will ensure that the highest-risk urban areas have interoperable communications equipment by the end of next year, and that all states have it by the end of 2008. Chertoff laid out these ambitious goals amid growing frustration on Capitol Hill that his department has not done enough to get state and local governments to achieve interoperability, a broad term that refers to the ability of state and local emergency response officials to have communications equipment that allows them to talk to each other across jurisdictions during a crisis. Chertoff said the department will give urban locations "interoperability scorecards" next month to help them decide how much money to seek in their upcoming grant applications.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35563&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35563&dcn=to%20daysnews)

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *November 29, New Zealand Herald* — **New Zealand broadband users face 100 attacks a day.** New Zealand broadband computer users are being attacked by would-be intruders more than a hundred times a day, a study released Wednesday, November 29, says. The study by NetSafe and IBM New Zealand shows computers in New Zealand, connected to the Internet, were targeted more than a hundred times a day by a variety of worms, viruses, Trojans and hackers. The threats were monitored by intrusion detection software running on a computer equipped with an updated firewall and operating system that automatically downloads system updates and security patches. The first suspicious activity was detected within 20 seconds of being connected to the Internet. More than 4500 suspicious or malicious events were recorded when the computer was protected with an updated firewall for the first 27 days of the study. The number of attacks per day soared dramatically when the firewall was disabled for three

days at the end of the experiment, to approximately 538 per day.

Source: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=1&ObjectID=10413035

34. *November 28, eWeek* — **Apple mega-patch fixes 22 flaws.** Apple Computer has shipped a monster security update to correct a total of 22 vulnerabilities in its Mac OS X operating system. The Cupertino, CA, company's patch batch includes a fix for a critical Wi-Fi flaw affecting eMac, iBook, iMac, PowerBook G3, PowerBook G4 and Power Mac G4 systems. The Wi-Fi flaw, first exposed at the beginning of the Month of Kernel Bugs project, was discovered and reported by Metasploit's HD Moore. Apple confirmed that the issue is a heap buffer overflow that exists in the AirPort wireless driver's handling of probe response frames. Security Update: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=304829>
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2064969.00.asp>
35. *November 28, Information Week* — **New bot exploits months-old Symantec bug.** Symantec on Tuesday, November 28, warned of a new bot exploiting multiple months-old bugs, including one in its own anti-virus scanning engine, and said that it's collected evidence of an attack in progress. The bot, dubbed Spybot.acyr, includes exploits for seven different vulnerabilities, including five already patched flaws in Microsoft Windows and one within Symantec's enterprise anti-virus products. The Symantec bug was reported and patched in May. Of the five Microsoft vulnerabilities leveraged by Spybot.acyr, the oldest harks to 2003, while the most recent was disclosed in August 2006. All have been patched.
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=196513728&subSection=All+Stories>
36. *November 28, VNUNet* — **Oracle database vulnerable to new attack class.** Database security researcher David Litchfield with NGS Software claims to have discovered a new class of security flaw affecting Oracle databases. The flaw could allow attackers to launch an SQL injection attack or steal confidential information. Referred to as "dangling cursor snarfing," the attack allows a low privilege user to gain administrator access to certain parts of a database, allowing them to either alter the database's content or steal confidential information. The vulnerability occurs when a third party or an Oracle application fails to close so-called cursors in the database. Cursors provide applications developers with a way to fetch and process database information in their software.
Litchfield's analysis: <http://www.databasesecurity.com/dbsec/cursor-snarfing.pdf>
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2169668/oracle-database-hi-t-class>
37. *November 28, EE Times* — **Better wireless rules, needed: BellSouth.** Engineers need to engage with regulators to sort out looming problems in network technologies, including broadband-over-powerline and Wi-Fi, according to BellSouth's CTO. In a keynote address Tuesday, November 28, at the IEEE Globecom conference, Bill Smith also said BellSouth believes digital subscriber lines (DSL) remain strong as an access network and WiMax is a strong contender for last-mile access where DSL lines don't reach. Regulators should carve out separate frequencies for powerline access and home networks. Otherwise, Smith said, the two will cause significant interference and consumer backlash. Similarly, it "makes no sense at all" that Wi-Fi enabled cell phones come under one regulatory regime inside buildings and another regulatory regime when they connect to cellular nets outdoors.
Source: <http://www.eetimes.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=F5HGIPIT>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	4662 (eDonkey2000), 1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 4672 (eMule), 1027 (icq), 1028 (----), 3724 (----), 445 (microsoft-ds), 58787 (----), 25 (smtp)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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

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

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

38. *November 28, Press-Enterprise (CA)* — Explosives missing at construction site. Two packages containing 110 pounds of explosives were stolen over the weekend from a construction site in Menifee, CA, a federal firearms official said Tuesday, November 28. Workers arriving Monday at the site in the 25000 block of Newport Road found a chain-link fence broken and the door to the explosives magazine pried open, said Susan Raichel, spokesperson for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). An inventory of the materials later revealed that two 55-pound cases of Blastex blasting agent were missing, she said. The theft was reported about 6 a.m. PST Monday by an employee of the Edic and Watt Inc. construction company. The explosives are used for quarry and construction blasting, Raichel said. "In the wrong hands, this could be dangerous," she said. "It could create a deadly result if someone doesn't know what they're doing." Riverside County sheriff's deputies and ATF officials said they have no suspects in the case and no indication as to why someone stole the materials.

Source: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_Re_explosives29.35b1ed4.html

39. *November 26, Kennebec Journal (ME)* — Two acid bombs set off in Wal-Mart. The explosion of two homemade bombs inside a Wal-Mart in Skowhegan, ME, on Saturday afternoon, November 25, sent a store full of holiday shoppers scurrying for the exits. Two acid bombs detonated in two separate aisles as the store was crowded with shoppers around 3:15 p.m. EST on Saturday, said Sgt. Joel Davis, fire investigation supervisor for the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office. One of the bombs detonated in the pet area. The second was in the store's toy section, Davis said. Early reports indicate that three or four people suffered minor injuries, mostly limited to ringing ears caused by the blasts, but last night investigators could still not rule out that someone may have suffered more serious injuries that had not yet been reported. The store was evacuated following the explosions and by 6:30 p.m. employees who had been waiting in the parking lot were told to go home for the evening. Two individuals have been identified from the store's security cameras as persons of interest. The devices did not appear to be attached to timing devices, Davis said, and there were no notes or messages associated with

the bombs.

Source: <http://kennebecjournal.maintoday.com/news/local/3365555.htm> 1

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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