



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 06 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency has launched the innovative IdentityTheftActionPlan.com Website, designed to help citizens prevent, detect, and respond to America's fastest growing crime. (See item [9](#))
- The Associated Press reports a computerized air traffic system experienced a temporary outage in South Florida, forcing controllers to ground some flights and resulting in at least four instances in which planes almost came too close together. (See item [12](#))
- Reuters reports a group of U.S. and British researchers predicted on Monday, December 4, that infected poultry imported by Brazil, Canada, or Mexico would be the most likely route for bird flu to spread into the Americas. (See item [27](#))

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. *December 04, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC returns Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant to routine oversight.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has determined that the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant has taken sufficient corrective actions to allow its return to routine agency oversight by the end of December. The two-reactor plant,

operated by Nuclear Management Co., was placed under heightened NRC oversight in early 2003. Point Beach, located near Two Rivers, WI, was placed under heightened oversight as a result of three “red” findings, which means they were of high safety significance, and one “yellow” finding, meaning it had moderate to high significance to safety. All four findings were associated with problems in the auxiliary feedwater system. These problems did not affect normal plant operations but could have diminished the plant’s ability to mitigate the effects of an accident under certain abnormal circumstances. The utility took actions to correct problems with the auxiliary feedwater system shortly after discovery.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-033iii.html>

2. *December 04, Agence France–Presse* — **OPEC chief estimates oil oversupply at one million barrels per day.** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) president and Nigerian Oil Minister Edmund Daukoru said there was an oversupply of oil of some one million barrels daily on world markets, the official Emirati WAM news agency reported. Daukoru, speaking on the sidelines of a gas conference in Abu Dhabi, "estimated the current oversupply on the oil market at about one million barrels (per day)," it said. The OPEC chief was also quoted as saying that the cartel's ministers would study all aspects of the market situation when they meet in Abuja on December 14 and "take the appropriate decision." Daukoru's remarks about an oversupply of around one million barrels came three days after he said he expected OPEC to cut its output quota by at least half a million barrels per day when it meets in Abuja later this month. At its most recent meeting in Qatar in October, OPEC approved a cut in its output quota of 1.2 million barrels a day to stem falling prices, which have dropped from above 78 dollars in July.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061204/ts_afp/opecnigeriaoiluae_061204201444

3. *December 04, New York Times* — **President Bush considers resumed energy drilling off Alaska.** President Bush is considering whether to lift the 17-year-old moratorium on energy drilling in the waters off southwestern Alaska, a White House spokesperson, Emily Lawrimore, said Sunday, December 3, which would allow oil and gas companies to try to tap into more than five trillion cubic feet of natural gas that lies beneath rich fishing grounds. The push to market oil and gas leases in these waters, which oil and gas companies favor, is part of a larger national effort to expand domestic supplies of fossil fuel by opening up areas of the outer continental shelf, long off-limits to energy development. Last summer the Interior Department recommended reopening several areas of the outer continental shelf, including the southern part of Bristol Bay, which lies just north of where the Aleutian Islands meet the Alaskan mainland, to energy exploration. The report said that 14 oil and gas companies had supported the idea. In a letter to President Bush on Friday, December 1, a coalition of environmental groups, citing the impact of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, called the bay “an economically critical salmon fishery,” adding that “it provides essential habitat for the endangered northern right whale.”

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/04/washington/04bay.html?_r=2&ref=washington&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4.

December 04, New Mexican — **Road reopens after propane leak.** Rincon Road in Pecos, NM, is open again after a leaking propane tank caused closure of the street and evacuation of about 30 homes on the street Monday afternoon, December 4. The street was closed for about three hours after a rolling car struck a propane tank sending it crashing into a nearby mobile home. Geraldine Gonzales, 47, of Pecos apparently forgot to set the parking brake on her 1987 Ford Mustang while visiting a home nearby.

Source: <http://www.freewmexican.com/news/53160.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 05, Washington Post* — **Census counts 100,000 contractors in Iraq.** There are about 100,000 government contractors operating in Iraq, not counting subcontractors, a total that is approaching the size of the U.S. military force there, according to the military's first census of the growing population of civilians operating in the battlefield. The survey finding, which includes Americans, Iraqis and third-party nationals hired by companies operating under U.S. government contracts, is significantly higher and wider in scope than the Pentagon's only previous estimate, which said there were 25,000 security contractors in the country. It is also 10 times the estimated number of contractors that deployed during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, reflecting the Pentagon's growing post-Cold War reliance on contractors for such jobs as providing security, interrogating prisoners, cooking meals, fixing equipment and constructing bases that were once reserved for soldiers. Three years into the war, the headcount represents one of the Pentagon's most concrete efforts so far toward addressing the complexities and questions raised by the large numbers of civilians who have flooded into Iraq to work. With few industry standards, the military and contractors have sometimes lacked coordination, resulting in friendly fire incidents, according to a Government Accountability Office report last year.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/04/AR2006120401311.html>

6. *December 04, Aerospace Industries Association* — **AIA kicks off India trade mission.** About 30 representatives of Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) member companies arrived in Delhi, India, and began six days of meetings and outreach Monday, December 4, in the association's first-ever trade mission to the country. "We are excited about this opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with both the Indian government and the country's aerospace industry," said Mark Esper, AIA Executive Vice President of Defense and International Affairs. The mission comes as more U.S. aerospace companies are looking to India as a possible market for both defense and civil aviation products. The trip includes meetings with Indian commerce and defense officials.

Source: http://www.aia-aerospace.org/aianews/pr_detail.cfm?Content_ID=351

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Banking and Finance Sector

7.

December 05, Guardian (UK) — **Banks hiding online fraud, say police.** Banks and other financial institutions are deliberately failing to report incidents of online fraud to the police, possibly because they are worried about the potential damage to their reputations, Metropolitan Police officer Detective Superintendent Russell Day, said Monday, December 4. He said that banks were keeping quiet about attacks on their systems, either because of concerns over public confidence or because they lacked confidence in the ability of the police to deal with such crimes. Detective Supt Day said, "Financial institutions are not reporting it [these attacks] to law enforcement [agencies], and there could be two reasons for that. It could be one of consumer confidence, but I think that to be honest it is their lack of confidence in law enforcement to deal with it. And they are right. Because of the global nature of this, it doesn't fit in with our priorities."

Source: <http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0..1964005.00.html>

8. *December 04, Heise Security (UK)* — **Study: Anti-phishing software doesn't provide reliable protection.** The central findings of a study by the students of the Ruhr University of Bochum (RUB) show that only a few anti-phishing toolbars actually protect against the advertised dangers. The students found that some programs are not only ineffective at detecting phishing sites, but could actually represent a threat in and of themselves: they could potentially be misused as phishing tools and used to spy on sensitive data, like PINs or TANs, without the user knowing it. On average the anti-phishing programs recognized only 31 percent of the phishing sites. Even the real bank Websites were only identified as such, 69 percent of the time. "Much more critical, however, are the advanced functions that we found there", says Prof. Dr. Jörg Schwenk from the Professorship for Network and Data Security (NDS) at the RUB. Several toolbars logged the user's surfing behavior in ways usually associated with spyware. A study by the CyLab at Carnegie Mellon University, "Phinding Phish: An Evaluation of Anti-Phishing Toolbars" also concluded that anti-phishing browser toolbars are generally not up to the task.

Source: <http://www.heise-security.co.uk/news/81926>

9. *December 04, Government Technology* — **New identity theft prevention site promoted in Pennsylvania.** The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is reminding consumers about a new resource to help them fight back against identity theft. The innovative IdentityTheftActionPlan.com Website is designed to help citizens prevent, detect and respond to America's fastest growing crime. The Website includes information on how identity theft occurs, prevention tips, steps to take if you become a victim, statistics, and information for law enforcement agencies that investigate these types of crimes. In addition, IdentityTheftActionPlan.com provides a downloadable identity theft action plan to help citizens better manage their personal and financial information and be prepared to respond effectively should they become a victim. The site also includes information on filing a police report, filing a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, which tracks incidents of identity theft, and filing reports for lost or stolen driver's licenses, state-issued photo identification cards, health insurance cards, Social Security cards and passports.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=102677>

10. *December 01, Buffalo News (NY)* — **Arab-American community leader sentenced in money case.** A prominent Arab-American community leader with close ties to some of the Lackawanna Six defendants was sentenced to five years in federal prison Thursday, November

30, for running a business that illegally sent millions of dollars to Yemen. The sentencings of Mohamed T. Albanna, 55, and two of his relatives were held in a packed courtroom and under extreme security, with deputy marshals taking the highly unusual step of examining the identification of every spectator. The Yemenite men from Lackawanna, NY, ran an illegal, unlicensed money-transmitting company — called a "hawala" in Arabic — that sent \$5.5 million from Buffalo to Yemen between 1999 and 2002, prosecutor Timothy C. Lynch said. Authorities have never alleged that any of the money was used for terrorist purposes, but U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Flynn said that, because no proper records were kept, authorities have no way of knowing. Flynn noted that, in early 2002, Lackawanna Six member Yahya Goba used Albanna's hawala to send money to Kamal Derwish, an alleged recruiter for the al Qaeda terrorist network, in Yemen.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20061201/1005850.asp>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *December 05, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation withdraws international investment rule, commits to working on Open Skies agreement.** Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters on Tuesday, December 5, announced the Department is withdrawing a proposal that would have changed rules governing international investment in U.S. airlines after reviewing a multitude of public comments, including those received from Congress. The Secretary also re-affirmed the U.S. commitment to completing a market-opening aviation agreement with the European Union. Secretary Peters noted that the original proposal, first issued by the Department in November 2005 and later amended in May 2006, would have allowed international investors more input in the marketing, routing and fleet structures of U.S. airlines while retaining current domestic ownership and labor protections. Secretary Peters said the Department remains committed to seeking an Open Skies aviation agreement with the European Union. And while she noted the investment proposal was not directly linked to such an agreement, she acknowledged that some involved with the European negotiations had aligned the two.

The Department's notice is available at <http://dms.dot.gov/> docket OST-03-15759

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot11006.htm>

12. *December 05, Associated Press* — **Air traffic system crashes in Florida.** A computerized air traffic system experienced a temporary outage in South Florida, forcing controllers to ground some flights and resulting in at least four instances in which planes almost came too close together, officials said Tuesday, December 5. Monday's outage affecting the Miami Center radar complex lasted about an hour, but a backup system was activated and flights in the air were not in danger, said Kathleen Bergen, a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) spokesperson in Atlanta. The problem was caused by failure of a telecommunications cable linking high-altitude air traffic control centers in Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bergen said. Bergen said that as a precaution the FAA grounded about 60 flights controlled by Miami Center at airports in Florida and at Nassau, Bahamas. The average delay was about 30 minutes, he said. Wallace said there were four cases in which planes almost violated FAA rules that flights at high altitudes must remain at least five miles apart horizontally and 1,000 feet vertically.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/12/05/air_traffic_system_crashes_in_s_florida/?p1=MEWell_Pos5

13. *December 05, Associated Press* — **Brazil releases passports of U.S. pilots.** A Brazilian court said Tuesday, December 5, it had released the passports of two U.S. pilots of a private jet involved in a collision with a Boeing 737 over the Amazon that killed 154 people. Joseph Lepore of Bay Shore, NY, and Jan Paladino of Westhampton Beach, NY, can pick up their passports and leave the country in 72 hours, the Federal Regional Court of the First Region of Brasilia said in a unanimous ruling. The Americans were piloting a Brazilian-made Legacy executive jet when it collided September 29 with a Gol Airlines Boeing 737-800. All 154 people on board the Gol flight were killed, while the Legacy landed safely with all seven people aboard unharmed. Shortly after the accident, authorities seized the passports of Lepore and Paladino, effectively barring them from leaving Brazil. They had since been in a hotel in Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach. Prosecutors have said they could be charged with involuntary manslaughter if they are found responsible for the crash. The pilots have denied any wrongdoing. Brazil is still investigating the crash, the worst in Brazilian history.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/12/05/world/main2231677.shtml>

14. *December 04, ABC 23 (CA)* — **Police blow up suspicious device found on California railroad tracks.** Bakersfield, CA, police officers shut down Union Avenue to blow up a suspicious device found on the railroad tracks. Two people walking along the tracks found the cylindrical shaped object with wires attached Sunday evening, December 3, according to police. Train services along the tracks were stopped during the investigation.

Source: <http://www.turnto23.com/news/10458911/detail.html>

15. *November 30, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA: Canine program announces graduation of 11 teams.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced the graduation of 11 members of its National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program. The teams are assigned to airports in Houston; Boise, ID; Manchester, NH; Dallas and Los Angeles, and mass transit systems in New York-New Jersey and Baltimore. Three of the teams graduating from this class will go on to serve in the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Rapid-Transit System between New Jersey and New York City. In their new role, they will provide a visible example of the steps taken by local authorities to increase the safety of the traveling public. "With more than 425 teams deployed nationwide, the TSA-certified explosives detection canine community is an ever growing component of transportation security," said Dave Kontny, director, National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program. Teams spent much of their training time searching for explosives training aids in specialized indoor and outdoor training labs that included an aircraft fuselage, a terminal area, cargo warehouse and a newly created mass transit terminal. The teams also practiced searching luggage and a parking lot filled with vehicles. The program is a component of TSA's Federal Air Marshal Service and is a cooperative partnership with participating airports and mass transit systems.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2006/press_release_11302006b.shtml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *December 05, DM News* — USPS, union talks end. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the AFL–CIO’s National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) were not able to reach a negotiated agreement, thus beginning the dispute resolution process. The USPS said it regretted not being able to reach an agreement with NALC, one of its four largest unions. But it is continuing contract discussions with the additional three — the American Postal Workers Union, AFL–CIO National Rural Letter Carriers, Association and National Postal Mail Handlers Union — to reach negotiated settlements. The NALC is the union of city delivery letter carriers working for the USPS. There are 300,058 active and retired members of the NALC, of which about 214,084 are active city delivery letter carriers employed by the USPS. Despite a November 30 deadline, the USPS and its four largest unions continued contract talks on December 1 in an effort to reach negotiated settlements and avoid arbitration, the agency said last week.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/39249.html>

17. *December 04, BullMarket.com* — FedEx hikes ground rates. FedEx has followed up last month's announcement of a 3.5 percent increase in its Express shipping rates for 2007 with a 4.9 percent hike to its FedEx Ground and FedEx Home Delivery rates. The move comes soon after rival United Parcel Service upped its rates by 4.9 percent. FedEx's increase is in addition to an adjustment to its fuel surcharge for Ground shipments and will take effect at the end of the year. Rate increases by the three major shippers have allayed fears that a pricing war might emerge as they battle for each others' business. FedEx's rate increases have contributed to the company's ability to maximize revenue while not impeding the company's ability to boost volumes, experts say.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/indie/061204/467_id.html?.v=1

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Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

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Food Sector

18. *December 05, New York Times* — E. coli sickens 39 in New Jersey and New York. At least 39 people in central New Jersey and on Long Island were infected, two of them critically, with E. coli bacteria in an outbreak of food poisoning last month that has been traced to the Taco Bell restaurant chain, health officials in New York and New Jersey said Monday, December 4. It was the nation’s most serious outbreak of E. coli toxins since mid–September, when the same strain of the bacteria, linked to packages of contaminated spinach grown in California, killed three people and infected more than 200 in 26 states. Taco Bell voluntarily closed one outlet in South Plainfield, NJ, where 20 customers and two workers became infected, and eight other restaurants on Long Island, in what it called a temporary precaution to sanitize and restock outlets where E. coli had been traced. Taco Bell said it was cooperating with state investigators, who were still searching for the ingredient that carried the contamination. “Health officials have

indicated that there is no immediate threat and whatever may have occurred has most likely passed through the system,” said Greg Creed, Taco Bell’s president.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/05/nyregion/05coli.html>

19. *December 01, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA proposes to allow Unshu orange imports from the Republic of Korea into Alaska.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Friday, December 1, announced a proposal to allow, under specified conditions, the importation of fresh Unshu oranges from the Republic of Korea into Alaska. To ensure that plant pests or diseases do not enter the U.S. through the importation of this commodity, APHIS would require the oranges to be prepared for shipping using packinghouse procedures that include washing all fruit in a water bath and culling damaged or diseased fruit. Additionally, APHIS would require each shipment be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the national plant protection organization of the Republic of Korea with an additional declaration that states that the oranges were inspected and are free of citrus canker and arrowhead scale, two significant pests of citrus. Alaska’s cold climate and lack of host plants prevent these diseases from becoming established. APHIS selected these measures, among others, to effectively mitigate the risk of introducing plant pests.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/12/koranges.shtml>

20. *December 01, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Vandervoet & Associates, Inc. issues recall for cantaloupes due to potential health concerns.** Vandervoet & Associates, Inc. announces a voluntary recall of its cantaloupes, HDC label. The melons have the potential to be contaminated with salmonella. No illnesses have been reported to date. Healthy persons infected with salmonella may experience fever, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or nausea. In the elderly, weak, or infants, salmonella may prove fatal. Approximately 7,400 cartons of cantaloupes were sold and distributed in the U.S. and Canada between November 9, 2006 and November 15, 2006. Working together with the FDA and other organizations, Vandervoet & Associates is searching to identify all potential sources of contamination, and to eliminate them.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/Vandervoet12_06.html

21. *November 29, Western Growers* — **Western Growers president responds to retail and food service industry regarding food safety standards.** Western Growers on Wednesday, November 29, responded to concerns and expectations from food retailers and food service industry representatives regarding food safety issues. A letter from Tom Nassif, CEO of Western Growers, addressed to Tim Hammonds of the Food Marketing Institute, Tim York as a representative of many buyer companies, and Donna Garren of the National Restaurants Association, outlined steps taken to restore consumer and buyer confidence and ensure food safety all along the supply chain. In the letter Nassif detailed the produce industry’s actions to date. He stated that as produce suppliers in the distribution chain, “we are aggressively working to develop a set of best food safety practices with industry, academic, buyer and regulatory input. The final product will be reviewed by an expert panel of food safety scientists named by industry and public health agencies. We are on track to complete the best practices guidelines in December.”

Source: <http://www.wga.com/public/active/siteBuilder/templateNewsReleasePopup.php?id=74>

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

22. *December 05, Reuters* — Malaria map aims to tackle killer disease. Researchers are creating a global malaria map to tackle the killer disease by pinpointing the areas where it strikes most often. The map, the first in 40 years, is designed to spot mosquitoes carrying the malaria parasite and determine where they are likely to infect people so the best control and treatment strategies can be implemented. So far scientists from Britain and Kenya who are working on the Malaria Atlas Project have gathered information on 3,126 communities in 79 out of the 107 countries where malaria is endemic. With the information, researchers in the individual countries will be able to work out how many people on average will get the disease each year, what drugs will be needed and the amount of bed nets necessary to prevent infections.

For further information: <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0030473>

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/169573;_ylt=AlsF0FrOANNqWMpQ_QLsa2mxbAB

23. *December 05, Reuters* — Swiss researchers unveil new nanotech diagnosis tool. A Swiss pharmaceutical group on Tuesday, December 5, unveiled a new method using nanotechnology to track patients' responses to treatments by monitoring their genes. The study was completed by researchers from Roche and the National Center of Competence in Research at the new Swiss Nanoscience Institute in Basel, and published in the December issue of the journal Nature Nanotechnology. The new method detects active genes directly by using sensors attached to tiny silicon cantilevers which are only 450 nanometers thick and therefore react with extraordinary sensitivity, according to Roche. "Because the method also works within minutes, it could be used as a real-time sensor for continuously monitoring biomedical processes (and) for detecting rapidly replicating pathogens that make prompt diagnosis essential," Roche said.

Study: <http://www.nature.com/nnano/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nnano.2006.134.html>

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/169567;_ylt=ApkluOWk_m13.hJ0PK9_2I_qmxbAB

24. *December 04, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — CDC awards \$11.4 million to develop new rapid diagnostic tests for avian influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Monday, December 4, announced \$11.4 million in new contracts to four companies working to develop new diagnostic tests that doctors and field epidemiologists could eventually use to quickly and accurately test patients for avian influenza H5N1 and other emerging influenza viruses, as well as more common influenza viruses. The tests could provide public health experts worldwide with critical information on the influenza viruses circulating and help monitor for viruses that could cause a global influenza pandemic. During the next year, the four companies will work to create tests that would detect seasonal human influenza viruses and differentiate influenza A H5N1 from seasonal human influenza viruses within 30 minutes.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r061204.htm>

25. *December 04, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **Cost of battling avian flu rising, World Bank says.** The World Bank estimates it will cost between \$1.2 and \$1.5 billion to fight avian influenza over the next two to three years, a sizable increase since last January. The institution announced the total in a November 30 report in advance of a donors' conference to be held in Bamako, Mali, Wednesday–Friday, December 6–8. The conference, a follow-up to one held in Beijing in January, is hosted by the government of Mali, the African Union, and the European Commission, with support from the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza. Of nearly \$1.9 billion pledged in Beijing, international donors have committed \$1.4 billion, according to the report. It says that a substantial portion of the commitments (\$242 million) consists of loans and credits, rather than grants, from multilateral development banks.

World Bank report: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTOPAVIFLU/Resources/Bamako_Needs_Framework_30-Nov-2006.doc

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/dec0406worldbank.html>

26. *December 04, National Cancer Institute* — **Researchers use laser, nanotechnology to rapidly detect viruses.** Using nanotechnology, two research teams have developed diagnostic tests that can detect viruses as diverse as human papillomavirus, influenza, HIV, and respiratory syncytial virus in as little as 60 seconds. Writing in the journal *Nano Letters*, a research team at the University of Georgia, led by Ralph Tripp, Ph.D., Yiping Zhao, Ph.D., and Richard Dluhy, Ph.D., describes its new technique based on surface enhanced Raman scattering (SERS). After experimenting with several different metals and methods, the investigators found that they could amplify a SERS signal from viral DNA using rows of silver nanorods deposited on a glass slide. And, like someone positioning a TV antenna to get the best reception, they tried several angles until they found that the signal is best amplified when the nanorods are arranged at an 86-degree angle. The technique is so powerful that it has the potential to detect DNA from a single virus particle and can also discern virus subtypes and those with mutations such as gene insertions and deletions. This specificity makes it valuable as a diagnostic tool, but also as a means for epidemiologists to track where viruses originate from and how they change as they move through populations.

Abstract: <http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/abstract.cgi/nalefd/2006/6/i11/a bs/nl061666f.html>

Source: http://nano.cancer.gov/news_center/nanotech_news_2006-12-04b.asp

27. *December 04, Reuters* — **Bird imports may spread bird flu in Americas.** Infected poultry imported by Brazil, Canada or Mexico is the most likely route for bird flu to spread into the Americas, a group of researchers predicted on Monday, December 4. Migrating fowl would then spread the H5N1 avian flu virus throughout the region, the U.S. and British researchers predicted. Their study of the movement of H5N1 out of China and into the rest of Asia, across Europe and into parts of the Middle East and Africa shows that the poultry trade often started a spread that wild birds then took further. "We conclude that the most effective strategy to prevent H5N1 from being introduced into the western hemisphere would be strict controls or a ban on the importation of poultry and wild birds into the Americas and stronger enforcement to curb illegal trade," they wrote in their report, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Peter Marra, of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Zoo in

Washington, DC, who worked on the report, said Canada, Mexico and other countries all regularly import day-old chicks from other regions. The United States does not.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N04489802.htm>

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Government Sector

28. *December 05, Reuters* — Police probing suspicious package reports in Washington, DC.

Police were investigating reports on Tuesday, December 5, of suspicious packages at three locations in the U.S. capital, including one near the White House that was later determined to be harmless, officials said. Authorities blocked off some streets around the White House because of a parcel lobbed by a homeless woman into the courtyard of an office building adjacent to the presidential mansion, the Secret Service said. The woman who threw the package into the courtyard of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, where government officials have offices, was being questioned. The other locations were by Union Station, where Amtrak and commuter rail services operate, and by a Coast Guard facility and bomb squad teams were responding, Washington police spokesperson Josh Aldiva said.

Source: http://www.whptv.com/news/national/story.aspx?content_id=ce28792b-e1d9-4d9c-9291-2b3f6d869517

29. *December 04, Gov Exec* — Arrests resulting from DHS investigations on the rise.

Investigations by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general (IG) led to more than 300 arrests during a recent six-month span, continuing a trend of rising arrests, indictments and convictions in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. IG actions led to 321 arrests and 243 convictions from April 2006 to September 2006, according to a report released Monday, December 4. That represents an increase of 61 percent in arrests over the previous six-month period and a 98 percent jump in convictions. "The department faces unprecedented challenges of continuing to focus on its mission, while coordinating recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the costliest natural disaster in our nation's history," DHS Inspector General Richard Skinner wrote to Secretary Michael Chertoff in a letter presenting the report.

Report: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/semiannlrpts/OIG_SAR_Apr06_Se_p06.pdf

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35596&dcn=to_daysnews

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *December 04, New York Post* — New York City hospitals prepare for chemical, nuclear attacks.

New York City plans to designate 30 hospitals as special emergency burn units to treat victims in a chemical or nuclear attack, The New York Post has learned. Each hospital will get burn-care equipment and supplies, and staff training. "Being prepared is the best defense against an emergency," said Carol Berg, medical director of the city Health Department's Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness program. "We want to make sure we have enough capacity for patients." Hospitals interested in being designated will apply to the city and contracts will be awarded by the city Fund for Public Health. Hospital executives said they're already working

closely with city health and emergency officials on disaster planning — including training and use of radiation detectors, setting up decontamination units, holding evacuation drills for pandemic flu and sharing information about bioterror agents such as anthrax.

Source: http://www.nypost.com/seven/12042006/news/regionalnews/hosps_prepare_for_chem_nuke_attacks_regionalnews_carl_campanile.htm

31. *December 04, American Geophysical Union* — Fast detection of strong earthquakes.

Scientists, engineers, and first responders are now saying that warnings of an impending strong earthquake may be possible. Researchers in Italy have analyzed seismic signals from over 200 moderate to strong earthquakes, ranging from magnitude 4.0 to 7.4, and they conclude that the waves generated in the first few seconds of an earthquake carry sufficient information to determine its magnitude and destructive potential. Surprisingly, the researchers say, earthquake magnitude can be estimated using just two seconds' worth of signal from the first recorded waves — while the earthquake is still in progress and far from over. Based on their findings, a city located around 40 miles from an epicenter would have around 15 seconds of lead time to prepare for an earthquake's impact, the time difference between the arrival of the first wave at a recording station near the epicenter and the arrival of the secondary wave at the city itself. The researchers note that earthquake early warning systems can help mitigate the effects of such earthquake-induced disasters as fires, explosions, landslides, and tsunamis, which can in many cases be more devastating than the earthquake itself.

Source: http://www.yubanet.com/artman/publish/article_46810.shtml

32. *December 04, Digital Communities* — FEMA chief says agency has learned lessons from Katrina. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) director David Paulison, chosen to head the troubled disaster-relief agency in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, said Thursday, November 30, it has made huge strides in the 15 months since the historic storm. Paulison pointed to a series of organizational and procedural changes that are designed to clarify the roles of the various federal, state and local agencies during a disaster and to speed relief to those stricken. "All responses are local, but we no longer wait for local folks and the states to be overwhelmed before we step in," he said. "That old model simply does not work. It has to be an all-for-one, one-for-all type of response." Paulison said his agency has made dramatic changes since Katrina, some of them required by a FEMA-overhaul bill Bush signed into law eight weeks ago. "It was a wakeup call for all of us," Paulison said of Katrina. "We've all learned a lot of lessons. The biggest single failure in Katrina was communications and how we shared information."

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/digitalcommunities/story.php?id=102687>

33. *December 01, Government Technology* — Counties focused on planning and preparedness, NACo says. Despite small local budgets, more than three-fourths of the nation's counties have established stand-alone emergency management units since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, according to a recent study by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Center for the Study of Counties. In many local governments, the emergency management function has traditionally been assigned to public safety units such as police/sheriff and fire departments. The survey found that emergency management is, for the most part, now a separate unit within a public safety department (38 percent) or a stand-alone unit of county government reporting directly to the chief executive or governing body (40 percent). In other words, 78 percent of counties nationally have established emergency management units

separate from the police/sheriff and fire departments.

Study: <http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Surveys&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21623>

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=102611>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *December 05, VNUNet* — **Firms will need at least 12 months to test Vista.** Microsoft's Business Value launch last week should be a wake up call to enterprises to kick off the "significant planning and testing" programs that they must undertake before rolling out Windows Vista and Office 2007, according to Gartner. The analyst firm urges organizations to start these testing processes immediately. A new briefing written by analysts Michael A. Silver, Stephen Kleynhans and David Mitchell Smith estimates that testing will take at least a year for most firms. Gartner noted that Microsoft "surprised" many of the companies creating add-ons to for Windows Vista by meeting its goal of releasing Windows Vista to manufacturing in 2006. "Because of this, much of the ecosystem in terms of drivers and applications is not yet ready to support Vista," said the analysts.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2170255/firms-least-months-test-vista>
35. *December 04, IDG News Service* — **Washington gets \$1 million settlement in first spyware case.** Washington's attorney general has settled the first case prosecuted under the state's 2005 Computer Spyware Act. The settlement, announced Monday, December 4, involves anti-spyware vendor Secure Computer LLC. The White Plains, NY, software company was accused of marketing its product via deceptive spam and pop-up ads, which offered free spyware scans that always detected a problem with the computer that was scanned. The company and its president, Paul Burke, will pay \$725,000 in legal fees and \$200,000 in penalties, and will reimburse Washington state customers \$75,000, said Paula Selis, senior council with the attorney general's office.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/04/HNspywaresettle_1.html
36. *December 04, IDG News Service* — **EU official touts need for a competitive telecom market in Telecom World keynote.** At a global event once known for long-winded, diplomatic speeches delivered by heads of state-owned telephone companies, Viviane Reding, European Union (EU) Commissioner for Information Society and Media, was brief and blunt in her keynote speech Monday, December 4, at the opening of the Telecom World conference and exhibition in Hong Kong. Speaking to a mixed audience of government officials and corporate executives, Reding said "competition drives growth — not monopolies." Key to creating a competitive telecom market is, among other things, the development of alternative infrastructure, such as cable and wireless networks, which can compete with the public networks of entrenched incumbents, according to Reding. Regulators can play a big role in this process by supporting the development of competitive networks, she said. Internet Protocol (IP) technology is another tool regulators could use to foster competition. With platform-neutral IP, they could establish a "functional separation" between the "passive network," or underlying infrastructure consisting of cables and components, and the "active network" comprising the many different services that run on top. A functional separation could make competition much

more effective in a services-oriented environment, but such a separation would have to be done "in a careful way," she warned.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/04/HNeunewregulatory_1.html?source=rss&url=http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/04/HNeunewregulatory_1.html

37. *December 04, IDG News Service* — **ICANN to discuss IDNs, kiting, this week.** The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will discuss key projects and initiatives at a meeting this week. A major focus this week will be on the Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) initiative, a years-long project that aims to revamp the DNS system so that it can support domain names in a broad range of languages and alphabets that can't be represented via the ASCII character set, such as Arabic and Chinese. Attendees will also discuss a recent Website name registration practice called "kiting" and "tasting" that is generating much controversy. It involves the wholesale purchase of expired domain names, and the subsequent cancellation of most of them during a 5-day "grace" period allowed as part of the process. Those who engage in this practice only keep the domain names that attract enough traffic to justify their registration fee, and proceed to "park" those Websites and load them with pay-per-click ads.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/04/HNicannidn_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	44113 (---), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 4672 (eMule), 1026 (win-rpc), 24048 (---), 50001 (---), 25 (smtp), 31787 (HackaTack), 445 (microsoft-ds) 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. *December 05, Chicago Tribune* — **Chicago says crime is down in trouble spots, yet statistics show no change in overall rate.** In October, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley announced that the city would spend \$1 million to install 100 surveillance cameras in 2007, adding to the hundreds already in place. Following Chicago's lead, other major U.S. cities are starting or proposing similar camera surveillance programs. They include New York, Washington, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. Proponents claim surveillance cameras are a deterrent to crime and terrorism, saying criminals are likely to think twice if there is a chance that they will be caught on tape. City officials say cameras have helped cut crime at corners where they are installed. But according to city statistics, the overall crime rate remains almost flat, suggesting crime simply moved to locations with no cameras. Evidence from other cities suggests that, even when a camera captures a crime, neither a prosecution nor a conviction is guaranteed. Also, the most

comprehensive government study of camera surveillance there suggests that they have not had a significant impact. The study concluded that cameras are "an ineffective tool if the aim is to reduce overall crime rates and make people feel safer." Out of 14 locations where cameras were installed, crime fell in only one.

Source: <http://info.mitre.org/infolinknews/article.jsp?providerId=1&categoryId=10285812&articleId=TRIB000020061203e2c3000a4>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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