



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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

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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports the University of California–Los Angeles alerted about 800,000 current and former students, faculty, and staff on Tuesday, December 12, that their names and certain personal information were exposed after a hacker broke into a campus computer system. (See item [10](#))
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that it has not found E. coli in samples of green onions suspected of sickening hundreds of Taco Bell patrons, but that investigators have not yet determined the source and have ruled nothing out. (See item [22](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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 12, Inside Bay Area (CA)* — **Officials: Blackouts unlikely.** Officials from state energy agencies Monday, December 11, expressed cautious optimism that California will dodge power outages next summer, good news for Bay Area residents who sweated through this summer's heat wave. Steve Larson, executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission said, "We now anticipate that we'll have an additional 900 megawatts of energy from new plants and renewable resources such as solar and wind." "We (state energy agencies) started planning for 2007 even before the conclusion of the 2006 heat wave," said California

ISO Chief Executive Yakout Mansour. "...if we were to face the same heat wave in 2007, we would be able to perform as well as we did in 2006," Mansour said. Larson said California will likely avoid an energy crisis in the upcoming summer because a number of small new power plants known as "peakers" are coming online. "If something unexpected were to happen this summer -- for example, higher than expected temperatures, or a forest fire destroying a transmission line -- one of the peaker plants could start supplying energy in an hour," Larson said.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/business/ci_4824269

2. *December 12, U.S. Energy Information Administration* — **EIA releases Short-Term Energy Outlook.** Production cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries that began in November, combined with the recent erosion in surplus U.S. product inventories and the expected increase in petroleum demand during the winter heating season drove spot prices for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil spot prices above \$60 per barrel in November. OPEC oil production is expected to be reduced by about 0.8 million barrels per day in November and December. WTI crude oil prices are projected to average about \$66 per barrel in 2006 and \$65 per barrel in 2007. Due to projected colder weather for the first quarter 2007 compared with the same period in 2006, natural gas spot prices are expected to average \$8.58 per thousand cubic feet (mcf) in the first quarter of 2007. Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Prices are projected to increase to an average of \$7.87 per mcf in 2007. The proportion of electric generation provided by natural gas grew somewhat in 2006 as a result of higher peak electricity demand during the summer months and comparatively low natural gas prices. This proportion is expected to decline in 2007 in response to lower temperatures and higher natural gas fuel costs.

Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/steo>

3. *December 11, Electric Light & Power* — **NARUC gives permanent status to committee on critical infrastructure.** In an effort to bolster and better protect the nation's utility infrastructure, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) elevated its ad hoc committee on critical infrastructure to permanent status. The committee, developed in response to the 9-11 terrorist attacks, will give state regulators a permanent forum to identify, study, and propose new solutions to utility infrastructure security and delivery concerns. The solutions would address such assets as facilities necessary to produce, transmit and deliver natural gas, electricity, water and telecommunications services. While the ad-hoc committee's initial focus was responding to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies, the permanent committee will take a much broader, more hands-on view of utility infrastructure. The committee will: educate members through workshops, conference sessions, training, and studies; develop additional tools on coordinated planning, prevention and response protocols between relevant federal, regional, state and local entities; and act as a liaison between state commissions and the relevant federal agencies, including the Homeland Security, Transportation, and Energy departments, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/display_article/279531/22/ARTCL/non e/none/NARUC_gives_perma nent_status_to_committee_on_critical_infrastructure/

4. *December 11, Washington Post* — **Congress approves offshore drilling bill.** The last bill passed by the 109th Congress, early Saturday morning, December 9, would open about eight

million acres in the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling, and U.S. industrial consumers of natural gas hope it will boost supplies and moderate prices. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) says the legislation will help Louisiana take measures to protect such energy infrastructure as ports, pipelines, and oil refineries.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/11/AR2006121101326_pf.html

5. *December 08, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Adequacy of U.S. Northeast gas supply depends on LNG: speakers.** The U.S. Northeast is a region of high, and growing, gas demand, but putting sufficient liquefied natural gas infrastructure in place to meet that demand remains a substantial and urgent challenge, speakers said Friday, December 8, at a Center for LNG briefing. KeySpan Executive Vice President David Manning said that because the gas market "is so weather-sensitive" and the supply/demand balance has "tightened significantly" over the last two to three years, direct access to more LNG supplies will prove vital, he said. Some have suggested that Northeast gas consumers rely on the two terminals being built in Atlantic Canada rather than building facilities on the U.S. side of the border. U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member Suede Kelly warned that because of Canada's own depleting sources and increasing demand, "imports are not going to meet that need." Another suggestion for bringing LNG into the region is to rely on Gulf of Mexico-area terminals to import the gas and then move it north via traditional pipeline routes. But Manning said that current pipeline infrastructure from the Gulf is essentially full.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6330042.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *December 12, South Coast Today (MA)* — **Ammonia leak evacuates fish plant.** An ammonia leak at a fish processing plant in New Bedford, MA, Monday, December 11, forced the evacuation of about two-dozen workers for a little more than two hours. The leak apparently sprung when technicians for Recco Refrigeration and Engineering were working on the refrigeration system at Pier Fish Co. Inc., 68 Conway St. Fire trucks blocked off Conway Street as the leak was being fixed.

Source: <http://www.southcoasttoday.com/daily/12-06/12-12-06/09local.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *December 01, National Defense* — **Congress says service contracts no longer allowed.** A new law that effectively bans the Department of Defense (DoD) from outsourcing the operation of flight simulators is casting serious doubts on military plans to expand the use of these devices. Following a congressional investigation of the Air Force and Army practice of buying training as a service, lawmakers concluded that these contracts are a bad deal for taxpayers, and directed DoD to only purchase training simulators under the traditional rules of military

procurement. “The secretary of defense may not enter into a service contract to acquire a military flight simulator,” states the fiscal year 2007 defense authorization bill. The widespread use of simulation service contracts for years has been lauded as smart business, supporters say, because it allows the military to spread out the cost over many years, rather than pay for the hardware upfront. Military officials also like the arrangement because it shifts to contractors the responsibility of maintaining the simulators and of keeping the technology up to speed with commercial advances. Many members of Congress, however, dislike service contracts, as they make it more difficult to track expenses and itemize costs.

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

8. *December 01, National Defense* — **Industry has yet to crack government market code.** The collective perception of the video game industry is that defense and homeland security remain largely untapped markets. Insiders believe it is only a matter of time before government decision-makers fully appreciate the potential of gaming technologies as training tools. “We need more program managers in the Defense Department who understand gaming, and what they can and can’t get from the technology,” says Ben Sawyer, chairman of the 2006 Serious Games Summit. One hurdle for the industry to overcome is the widespread belief, particularly in military circles, that games create a false sense of reality because they don’t rely on “accurate models,” Sawyer says. The truth is that expecting game designers to build accurate models may not be the best use of their talents, according to Sawyer. Training-oriented games for military users, for example, are most effective when they challenge the player’s decision-making skills under high-pressure situations. If the customer wants the game to also have accurate models that replicate the battlefield exactly as it is in the real world, they have to understand that what they are asking for is not what typically game companies do.

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 12, Federal Trade Commission* — **Federal, state law enforcers complete bogus business opportunity sweep.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on Tuesday, December 12, announced Project FAL\$E HOPE\$, a federal and state law enforcement sweep targeting bogus business opportunities and work-at-home scams. The crackdown includes more than 100 law enforcement actions by the FTC, the Department of Justice, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and law enforcement agencies in 11 states. In four of the new FTC cases alone, consumers have lost more than \$30 million. Project FAL\$E HOPE\$ includes new cases announced Tuesday, developments in existing cases, criminal convictions, and state actions, as well as new education materials for advertising sales staff on screening ads for bogus business opportunities. Consumers should visit the FTC’s Website at <http://www.ftc.gov/bizopps> for information in English and Spanish on spotting and avoiding business opportunity scams. The site includes an e-card consumers can use to warn their friends about business opportunity scams.

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2006/12/falsehopes.htm>

10. *December 12, Associated Press* — **UCLA probes computer security breach.** The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) alerted about 800,000 current and former students, faculty

and staff on Tuesday, December 12, that their names and certain personal information were exposed after a hacker broke into a campus computer system. It was one of the largest such breaches involving a U.S. higher education institution. The attacks on the database began in October 2005 and ended November 21 of this year, when computer security technicians noticed suspicious database queries, according to a statement posted on a school Website set up to answer questions about the theft. Acting Chancellor Norman Abrams said in a letter posted on the site that while the database includes Social Security numbers, home addresses and birth dates, there was no evidence any data have been misused. The letter suggests, however, that recipients contact credit reporting agencies and take steps to minimize the risk of potential identity theft. Jim Davis, UCLA's chief information officer, said a computer trespasser used a program designed to exploit an undetected software flaw to bypass all security measures and gain access to the restricted database that contains information on about 800,000 current and former students, faculty and staff.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/12/AR2006121200173.html>

11. *December 11, Websense Security Labs* — **Report of new form of cyber-extortion via Web mail.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a new form of cyber-extortion. Unlike previously documented cases (where end-users were infected with malicious code, certain file types were encoded or encrypted, and a ransom message was left on the machine), this attack compromises users' online Web mail accounts. When end-users logged into their Web mail accounts (in this case Hotmail), they noticed that all their 'sent' and 'received' emails were deleted along with all their online contacts. The only message that remained was one from the attacker that requested they contact them for payment in order to receive the data back. In this case, the end-users had recently visited an Internet cafe where their credentials may have been compromised. The email, which was poorly written in Spanish, roughly translates in English to: "If you want to know where your contacts and your emails are then pay us or if you prefer to lose everything then don't write soon!"

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts>

12. *December 11, Arizona Republic* — **Stolen PC puts workers from Honeywell at risk.** For the second time this year, Honeywell employees in Arizona are grappling with a possible leak of their personal information. An undetermined number of Honeywell workers were notified by the company last week that their names, addresses, Social Security numbers and other personal information were on a computer that was stolen from a Denver, CO, office October 14. The notices include an offer to provide affected employees with fraud protection of up to \$25,000 for a year and to monitor credit reports for a similar period. The computer contained the personal information of about 1.4 million people, including employees hired at Honeywell and other companies in the eight months before the theft. Honeywell spokesperson Robert Ferris was unable to say how many of the company's employees were affected by the computer theft. Honeywell's workforce in Arizona is approximately 10,700 employees. Affiliated Computer Services Inc. of Dallas, TX, was maintaining the information for the Colorado Department of Human Services' family support registry. The registry includes the names of people receiving family services in Colorado and a partial list of recent new hires from around the country.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/1211biz-honeywell1211.html>

13. *December 11, Gov Exec* — **Veterans Affairs' tech chief says another major data breach is unlikely.** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), site of a major data breach earlier this year, has taken steps to better protect personal information but still has work to do, the agency's chief information officer said Monday, December 11. Robert Howard, the VA's chief information officer and assistant secretary for information and technology, said the agency likely will avoid another incident on the scale of the May 6, 2006, data breach that left 26.5 million people at risk for identity theft, because employees have improved the way they handle data. Department laptops have been encrypted, but not all electronic devices that could potentially store personal information have had the software installed, Howard said. Medical devices containing personal information are difficult to encrypt due to federal medical regulations, and shutting them down is not an option, he noted. A top priority for 2007 is to address risks to personal information stored on non-VA computers, Howard said.
Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35675&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35675&dcn=to%20daysnews)

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *December 12, Washington Technology* — **Texas plans permanent border watch Website.** Texas' month-long experiment with border surveillance Web cameras is being touted as a success with 221,000 people participating via the Internet, state officials said. The Texas Border Watch Test Site operated for a month, closing on December 3. During the experiment, live video feeds from border surveillance cameras in Texas were made available on a Website. Subscribers registered to view the footage and report suspicious activity. During the month, 221,562 subscribers visited the Website and viewed footage 27 million times, generating more than 13,000 emails. Texas Governor Rick Perry said he intends to issue a request for proposals to implement a permanent Texas Border Watch Website.
Website: <http://www.texasborderwatch.com>
Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/29841-1.html?topic=homeland
15. *December 12, Associated Press* — **Schieffer: railroads are growing.** The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railway's (DM&E) \$6 billion coal-train expansion project is part of a shift in the nation's transportation system, railroad president Kevin Schieffer said. The railroad industry is in a position to gain market share from the trucking industry, he told the Pierre and Fort Pierre Rotary Club Monday, December 11. The DM&E's proposal is to expand into Wyoming and haul low-sulfur coal east across a refurbished line through South Dakota and Minnesota. Schieffer also met with Pierre, SD, Mayor Dennis Eisnach to discuss the idea of building a bypass at Pierre to keep the coal trains out of the city. Schieffer said he believes most people will not mind the railroad going through town once they see the safety measures and improvements in place.
Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/16222632.htm>
16. *December 12, UN News Center* — **UN issues guidelines to thwart terrorists from blowing up planes with carry-on liquids.** Seeking to thwart terrorist plots to blow up airliners, the United Nations aviation agency has issued new interim security control guidelines for screening potentially dangerous items in hand luggage, including liquid, gels, and aerosols that may be

used in improvised explosive devices on board an aircraft. The steps, adopted by the Council of the UN International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) following a thwarted terrorist plot in August in the UK to blow up some 10 trans-Atlantic flights, restrict liquids to containers no greater than 100 milliliters (approximately 3.4 ounces) placed in a transparent re-sealable one-liter-capacity (approximately 0.26 gallons) plastic bag which should be completely closed. To facilitate screening and avoid a cluttered X-ray image, the guidelines recommend that plastic bags holding liquid containers be presented apart from other cabin baggage, coats and jackets or laptops for separate X-ray screening. The recommendations are to be implemented no later than March 1, 2007. ICAO's aviation security panel will continue revising the recommended overall list of prohibited items for Council review in June.

Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20948&Cr=terror &Cr1=>

17. *December 12, Associated Press* — **Metro announces new safety measures.** The Washington, DC area's mass transit system on Tuesday, December 12, announced new safety policies for its subway track workers following the deaths of two employees who were struck by a train late last month. Metro track inspectors will inspect the rails only between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when fewer trains are running. In addition, inspectors will be required to inform the system's operations control center of their locations, and trains will be instructed to slow down to less than 20-miles-per-hour when they are within 600 feet of track workers. Trains will not be allowed to pass until they receive a signal from the track inspectors to do so, Metro officials said. The National Transportation Safety Board is also investigating.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-451584~Metro_announces_new_safety_measures_after_worker_deaths.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

18. *December 11, Hutchinson News (KS)* — **Official: Kansas is 'wide open' to agriterrorism.**

Cattle trucks by the hundreds roll across Kansas each day, carrying thousands of head. They come from across the country, from states like Texas and Iowa and from other countries like Canada and Mexico. More than 5,500 roads lead in and out of Kansas. An estimated 800 to 1,000 trucks travel those roads each day, carrying about 50,000 head of cattle. In all, within 24 hours of shipment, livestock from either coast can pass through Kansas as part of the production cycle -- averaging more than nine million head a year. "We're wide open," Kansas Livestock Commissioner George Teagarden said. "Agriculture is vulnerable throughout the United States. We don't have razor-wire fences around our operations, and anyone can drive down a road and get to livestock across a fence." There are checkpoints to help prevent the spread of disease, Teagarden said, but not every animal that enters the state is inspected, nor are health papers checked.

Source: http://www.hutchnews.com/news/regional/stories/agriterror121_106.shtml

19. *December 05, Associated Press* — **U.S. government to ban Australian state wheat exporter from credit programs.** The U.S. Agriculture Secretary says the Australian government's report on the national wheat export monopoly's cheating on the Iraqi oil-for-food program leaves the U.S. government no option but to bar the exporter's American subsidiary from U.S.-run export credit programs. The inquiry report found that AWB Ltd., the parent company, paid bribes totaling more than \$200 million to the former Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein. AWB (USA) was suspended late last year from benefiting from U.S. export subsidies, such as the GSM-102 export credit guarantee program, because of allegations that its parent company had made the illegal payments to Iraq while participating in the U.N. oil-for-food program. The program was started to lessen the burden of sanctions against Iraq on civilians.

Source: <http://www.hpj.com/archives/2006/dec06/dec11/USgovernmenttobanAustralian.cfm?RANK=17&title=U.S.%20government%20to%20ban%20Australian%20state%20wheat%20exporter%20from%20credit%20programs>

20. *December 04, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service* — **USDA awards \$5.6 million in grants to assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns announced Monday, December 4, that Department is awarding 21 competitive grants totaling more than \$5.6 million to strengthen efforts aimed at serving minority and disadvantaged farmers. "USDA is committed to helping the nation's minority and disadvantaged farmers," Johanns said. "The grants will help many farmers and ranchers successfully acquire, own, operate and retain farms and ranches by delivering a wide range of outreach and assistance activities including farm management, financial management and marketing." A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice without regard to their individual qualities.

Source: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2006news/oasdf_06.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

21. *December 12, Statesman Journal (OR)* — **Illnesses in Oregon prompt frozen oyster recall.** An investigation led by Marion County, OR, and Oregon state health officials sparked a recall of frozen oysters imported from South Korea, officials said Monday, December 11. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plans to recall thousands of pounds of frozen oysters on the half-shell in Oregon, California, Colorado, Texas, and Nevada, according to the Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division. The investigation began November 22 after Marion County health officials heard of reports of illnesses after a private reception in Woodburn. No one was seriously ill or hospitalized, but health officials said that about 40 people became sick. Public-health investigators traced the source of the oysters to South Korea through a chain of suppliers with assistance from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the FDA.

Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061212/NEWS/612120340/1001>

22.

December 11, Associated Press — **E. coli outbreak still mysterious.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Monday, December 11, it has not found E. coli in samples of green onions suspected of sickening hundreds of Taco Bell patrons and New York health officials said a reported link to the scallions last week was a lab error. State testing did find E. coli bacteria on white onions taken from a Long Island Taco Bell, but it was not the strain involved in the outbreak that has made more than 300 people New Yorkers ill, state health officials said. Investigators have not yet determined the source and have ruled nothing out, said Dr. David Acheson, the chief medical officer at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition for the FDA.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=2717586&page=1>

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

23. *December 12, New York Times* — **New York City fails to collect millions for water.** For years, New York City has failed to collect on millions of dollars in overdue water bills because its records are so riddled with factual errors and outdated information that pursuing delinquents has become virtually impossible. An examination of the city's water records by The New York Times revealed that, at least on paper, tens of thousands of property owners have not paid a penny for water in at least two years. Officials insist that debtors collectively owe hundreds of millions for water they used but never paid for. But whether they are true deadbeats or customers with legitimate disputes, all debtors enjoy a virtual immunity because the city, unlike Boston or Los Angeles, will not use aggressive collection methods like service suspension because its records are so unreliable. What efforts the city has made to collect on thousands of water debts have been made all the more difficult by a broken record-keeping system that even city officials cannot make sense of. In the past year city officials have begun examining ways to overhaul the system. They hope to install a \$200 million automated meter-reading system, but that will not be in place until 2010.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/12/nyregion/12water.html?hp&ex=1165986000&en=bdad00ce5a2d7daa&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

24. *December 11, Water Tech* — **Report states that Texas desalination plant would be breakthrough.** Building a large-scale seawater desalination demonstration plant at Brownsville, TX, could represent an "historic and unprecedented water supply breakthrough" for all of Texas, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has written in its latest Biennial Report on Seawater Desalination, issued this month. The Brownsville Public Utilities Board, which would operate the plant, has made enough progress in its preliminary studies to commit to building the plant by 2010, the report says. The 25 million-gallons-per-day plant would require \$115 million in state grants and loans, with the remainder of the \$150 million total cost borne by the Brownsville utility; the Texas legislature must now decide whether to appropriate the state's share and launch the project, the TWDB report explained. Texas' growing metropolitan areas are struggling with groundwater and surface water ownership and allocation issues, and supplies from as-yet-unbuilt desalination plants on the Texas coast could be integrated into inland water systems to help meet these demands, the report says.

Report: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/iwt/desal/docs/2006Biennial-Final.pdf>

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=65184

Public Health Sector

25. *December 12, Reuters* — **Don't give up on advanced human bird flu cases: expert.** The medical community believes anti-virals such as Tamiflu are only effective in fighting the H5N1 bird flu virus if they are administered within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. But virologist Menno de Jong said this assumption might only hold true for human flu viruses. H5N1 behaves differently from human flu viruses and has been observed to be replicating in its human hosts even on the seventh or eighth day, he said. "In my experience, there is a clear suggestion that there was still virus replication (when we made) a late start in treatment. In four of my patients, there was very rapid clearance of the virus from the throat and all four survived," he told Reuters. "If you can decrease the viral load (with drugs), you can have a good outcome. Even those who are treated late had good results," he said.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP302595.htm>
26. *December 11, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* — **Training for terrorism-related conditions in hospitals: CDC report.** A new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was released Monday, December 11. The report, "Training for Terrorism-Related Conditions in Hospitals: United States, 2003–2004," is based on data from the annual National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, conducted by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Among the findings: a) Teaching hospitals were better trained than other hospitals for bioterrorism, and Joint Commission accredited hospitals had prepared more of their physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses and lab staff for such emergencies; b) Eighty-eight percent of hospitals surveyed in 2003 and 2004 said their nurses had been trained in how to recognize and treat patients exposed to at least one of seven pathogens including smallpox, anthrax, plague, botulism, tularemia, viral encephalitis and hemorrhagic fever, and chemical or radiological attacks; c) Eighty-six percent of the clinical staff in hospitals with 24-hour emergency departments or outpatient clinics were trained to recognize and treat smallpox, and 82 percent were trained to recognize and treat anthrax infection.
Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad380.pdf>
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r061211.htm>
27. *December 11, National Institutes of Health* — **NIH announces licensing opportunities for rare disease technologies.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched a new Website Monday, December 11, offering technologies available for commercial licensing that are related to rare diseases or conditions. The Website currently consists of more than 500 such technologies, including drugs, biologics, and devices, available to be transferred from the NIH and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to the private sector for further research and development and potential commercialization. The new resource was developed by the Office of Rare Diseases and the Office of Technology Transfer at the NIH. "By making it much easier for pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions to identify licensing opportunities, this new site will help facilitate the transfer of research advances from bench to bedside where the interventions can ultimately benefit patients," said NIH Director, Elias Zerhouni, M.D.
Technologies available for licensing:

http://ott.od.nih.gov/licensing_royalties/raredisease_ovrvw.asp

Source: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/dec2006/ord-11.htm>

28. *December 11, Associated Press* — **Study shows what helped during 1918 flu.** Government health officials tried to build their case for school closings and similar steps during a flu pandemic by showcasing new research Monday, December 11, that suggests such measures seemed to work during the deadly Spanish flu of 1918. Researchers found that cities like St. Louis, which instituted "social distancing" at least two weeks before flu cases peaked in their communities, had flu-related death rates less than half that of Philadelphia, which didn't act until later. The whirlwind historical research project involves a team of researchers from the University of Michigan and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who combed through health records, newspaper clippings and other documents from 45 cities. Another finding: The more social distancing measures were used and the longer they were in place, the less severe was the pandemic's effect on a particular city. Wearing masks in public, restricting door-to-door sales, canceling church and quarantining sick people were among the layers of measures that appeared beneficial. But the researchers acknowledged they've only just begun their analysis, and haven't decided which measures were most effective.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/11/AR2006121100958.html>
29. *December 11, Massachusetts Institute of Technology* — **Genetic map offers new tool for malaria research.** An international research team has completed a map that charts the genetic variability of the human malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*. The work, published in the Sunday, December 10, advance online edition of *Nature Genetics*, has already unearthed novel genes that may underlie resistance to current drugs against the disease. The study reveals striking variation within the pathogen's genome, including an initial catalog of nearly 47,000 specific genetic differences among parasites sampled worldwide. That's more than double the expected level of diversity in the parasite's DNA. These differences lay the foundation for dissecting the functions of important parasite genes and for tracing the global spread of malaria.
Abstract: <http://www.nature.com/ng/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/ng1930.html>
Source: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2006/malaria.html>
30. *December 06, Johns Hopkins University* — **Hospitals should discharge their healthiest patients during major health crisis.** A nationwide blue-ribbon panel of health care experts recommends that hospital plans for a surge of disaster victims should begin with a strategy to empty their beds of relatively healthier patients. Led by Gabor Kelen, M.D., head of emergency medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and director of the Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response, the panel concluded that all hospitalized patients at any given time should be routinely ranked according to how sick they are and assigned a constantly updated "score" based on their vital signs, present condition and prognosis. That number would put them at a moment's notice into risk groups that would rapidly inform decisions to discharge them or send them to another facility should a major disaster occur. In one common disaster response, medical centers would set up additional beds wherever they can. But, concerned that staffing levels could not expand to care for so many new patients, the authors of the study, in the latest issue of the journal *Lancet*, say "disposition classification" is a must. "Without this sort of system in place, the worry is that a hospital's resources would be quickly overwhelmed in a major crisis," says Kelen.

Source: http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/Press_releases/2006/12_06_06.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

31. *December 12, Columbus Telegram (NE)* — **Nebraska school board approves security cameras.** A two-year look at tightening security at city schools came into focus Monday night, December 11, with the Columbus Public Schools' approval of a \$163,000 camera surveillance plan. The board of education voted 6-0 to approve a security plan, including dozens of cameras and an intercom door unlocking system for the district's high and middle schools and five city elementary schools. The security plan has been under discussion, in consultation with board members, administration officials and school principals, for about two years, said Leonard Kwapnioski, executive director of technology for the district. The security systems will record who enters the buildings and activity on the perimeter and in parking areas. Inside cameras will focus on main entrances, re-entry doors, faculty entrances and hallways. The intercom systems will be tied into each school's main telephone system, allowing a visitor to buzz the office and talk to someone inside before entering the building.

Source: http://www.columbustelegram.com/articles/2006/12/12/news/new_s2cpsboard.txt

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

32. *December 11, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Disaster survival for animals takes planning.** The sight of animals injured or abandoned in the wake of a disaster brings out an emotional response in people seeking safety and shelter for their pets. A better solution for the animals, however, is for the owners to plan their care well in advance of the need. Such a solution for animal care is the focus of a disaster response plan directed at pets and livestock by the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and emphasized by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Being prepared to evacuate and take care of family pets during an emergency requires planning," says Dr. Jim Watson, Mississippi state veterinarian. "Prepare early. Don't wait for an evacuation order and don't leave your pets behind." Whether you have large animals or family pets, it's wise to write a disaster plan that includes a list of needed supplies, tools, feed and water, and first aid equipment.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=32067>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *December 12, Reuters* — **Survey: Text messaging traffic set to double by 2010.** Text messages sent to and from mobile phones will more than double over the next five years to 2.3 trillion messages sent by 2010, a survey said on Tuesday, December 12. The number of messages transmitted over short message service (SMS) systems in 2005 was estimated at 936

billion, according to British market research group Gartner. Total revenues from text messaging is forecast to grow to \$72.5 billion in 2010 from \$39.5 billion in 2005. Gartner said new messaging services are needed, including instant messaging, picture messaging and video messaging, but they would only match the popularity of SMS if they are simple to use and affordable, which are the reasons behind SMS success.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2071518.00.asp>

34. *December 11, eWeek* — **Search engines less risky, but problems remain, study shows.** An updated report by McAfee shows search engine users continue to run the risk of clicking through to Websites that can compromise their online safety. The study, conducted by McAfee SiteAdvisor, analyzed the five major U.S. search engines -- Google, Yahoo, MSN, AOL and Ask -- and found that although the overall chance of clicking through to a risky site fell by 12 percent, consumers click through to risky sites more than 268 million times each month. On average, 4.4 percent of search results link to risky Websites, according to the study. Adult search terms are twice as likely to lead to unsafe results as non-adult search terms. Forty-one percent of the risky ratings are due to e-mail sign-ups that result in spam, while risky downloads and scams each account for a quarter of the results. In addition, McAfee officials said the rankings of the search engines changed, with Google, AOL and Ask now returning safer results, and Yahoo and MSN returning riskier ones.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2070861.00.asp>

35. *December 11, Security Focus* — **Market research company receives spyware allegations.** Market research company comScore Networks has allegedly been found installing its market research software without a user's consent. In a report published on Forbes.com, spyware researcher Ben Edelman and anti-virus researcher Eric Howes from Sunbelt Software allege that the company is effectively operating as spyware. Edelman says he has documented more than a dozen examples where the software is installed without permission. A critical aspect of spyware, which has long been software of questionable legality, is that a user's permission is not clearly obtained before it is installed through a browser -- which is typically, but not limited to, Internet Explorer. Spyware companies work with third party "middlemen" that install their spying software and receive payment for their efforts. Some types of spyware are known to have virus-like capabilities that steal passwords and other private information from a user's computer.

Report: http://www.forbes.com/security/2006/12/07/internet-security-research-tech_cx_ll_1208comscore.html

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/381>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6699 (napster), 4207 (vrml-multi-use), 44113 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 10416 (---), 1027 (icq), 4672 (eMule), 1028 (---)
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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.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

36. *December 12, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **Police to monitor public with video cameras.** Video cameras will be monitoring the public at various places throughout Sacramento, CA, as part of a pilot project to be launched Tuesday, December 12, by the Sacramento Police Department. The closed-circuit television system, which is intended to help provide better security during the holiday season, is similar to surveillance programs in other cities. Recently, one of the system's cameras at the K Street Mall captured images of a drug deal, which were watched and recorded by officers some distance away. A passing patrol car was contacted and two men were arrested on drug charges. Images caught on camera will be monitored and recorded at the police communication center. If the pilot project is successful there are plans to expand and make the system permanent in selected areas throughout the city.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/91328.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

37. *December 12, Associated Press* — **Interpol joins ex-spy death probe.** Interpol has joined the investigation into the killing of former Russian agent Alexander Litvinenko, Russian news agencies reported Tuesday, December 12. "Cooperation through Interpol channels has already started, as several countries are involved in this case," said Timur Lakhonin, the head of Interpol's Russia division, according to the RIA-Novosti news agency. The investigation so far has pulled in witnesses in three countries: Britain, where Litvinenko fell sick and died after being poisoned with polonium-210, Russia, and Germany. Some of the men who met with Litvinenko on November 1 -- the day he is believed to have fallen ill -- traveled to London from Moscow and Hamburg. The involvement of Interpol, the largest international police organization, should ease the way for investigators in each country to obtain evidence and testimony. Interpol, which has 186 member nations, coordinates cross-border police cooperation.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/12/12/russia.spy.ap/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

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