



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 January 2008

Current Nationwide



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- The Houston Chronicle reported that a Government Accountability Office report found that the Coast Guard lacks the resources to meet its own security standards to protect against terrorist assaults at American ports, even as the nation is to dramatically expand imports of liquefied natural gas. Among its recommendations, the GAO urged the Department of Homeland Security, which includes the Coast Guard, to develop a national plan to balance the need to meet its new LNG security burdens while also handling all of its existing security responsibilities. (See items [13](#))
- According to Computerworld, Microsoft Corp. urged Windows Vista users to download a new security tool that automatically disables suspicious or malicious “gadgets,” the small applets that mimic the “widgets” popular on Mac OS X. There are no known vulnerabilities in any existing gadgets, claimed a director in the Windows client product management group, stressing that Microsoft knows of no purposefully malicious gadgets, either. (See item [25](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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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. *January 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Oil prices fall on economic worries.** Oil futures skidded lower Thursday on growing concerns that a U.S. economic slowdown is

imminent and will depress demand. A tepid jobs report and weak holiday sales figures from several large retailers added to worries stoked by Goldman Sachs' Wednesday prediction that the economy will fall into recession this year. Demand for crude oil and petroleum products, meanwhile, fell last week for the third week in a row, according to the Energy Information Administration. Oil prices fell 66 cents Wednesday as traders shrugged off a larger than expected decline in crude oil inventories and focused on unexpected increases in supplies of gasoline and heating oil. At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices fell 0.4 cent Thursday to a national average of \$3.10 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. If crude prices continue falling, as many analysts now expect, gas prices will likely retreat below \$3 a gallon before rebounding as usual in the spring. Many analysts and the EIA expect gas prices to set new records ranging from \$3.50 to \$3.75 a gallon or higher by summer. Thursday's economic data added to growing concerns about the economy. While the number of people filing for unemployment benefits fell slightly and unexpectedly last week, Labor Department analysts said the decline had more to do with the difficulty of adjusting data during a holiday-shortened week, than with any fundamental improvement in the employment picture. Also Thursday, several big retail chains said holiday sales were weaker than expected, raising new worries about consumer spending.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080110/ap_on_bi_ge/oil_prices:_ylt=AsCcBqzlhreIM44iKwDO7XSs0NUE

2. *January 10, Indianapolis Star* – (Indiana) **Public offers opinions on gas pipeline plan.**
About 40 people gathered at Greenwood High School on Wednesday to discuss the environmental impact of a proposed natural gas pipeline that would run through Indiana. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission solicited public comment on the draft environmental impact statement of Rockies Express East, a proposed 639-mile pipeline that would stretch from Missouri to Ohio and through nine Indiana counties. The pipeline is part of the Rockies Express project, which will run more than 1,600 miles from Colorado to Ohio. Issues discussed included the effects of the pipeline on wildlife and the pipeline's path, which will run through Decatur, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan, and Shelby counties. Residents' concerns will be considered before a final environmental impact statement is issued, which could be early this year. After the statement is submitted, the commission will consider the Rockies East proposal. Rockies Express hopes to have Rockies East running by June 2009.
Source:
<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080110/LOCAL0402/801100478>
3. *January 10, Intelligencer Journal* – (National) **Alert for fuel rig stolen in Denver, PA.**
A nationwide security alert has been broadcast for a diesel fuel tanker truck stolen this weekend from a Lancaster County oil company. The Leffler Oil truck was stolen between 4 p.m. Friday and 6:30 a.m. Monday, said the general manager of Leffler Oil. The 3,200-gallon fuel tank was about a third full, he said. The highway diesel fuel inside has a street price of about \$3.50 per gallon, he said. The manager does not suspect the truck was stolen for terrorist use. Homeland Security broadcasts a national alert

whenever there is a fuel theft of such magnitude, he said. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security broadcast an alert about the truck Monday afternoon to all police departments in the country.

Source: <http://local.lancasteronline.com/4/214901>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *January 9, Army News Service* – (National) **Army destroys half of chemical stockpile.** As of December 10, the U.S. Army has safely destroyed 50 percent of the United States' chemical-agent stockpile since beginning to comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) of April 29, 1997. The CWC is a treaty among more than 170 nations to ban the development and use of chemical weapons and to destroy existing stockpiles and production facilities in countries that have ratified it. The nation's first chemical demilitarization facility, located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii on Johnston Atoll, completed its mission in 2000. The Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Aberdeen, Maryland, destroyed another 5 percent of the stockpile in 2006. Both facilities have since closed. The five remaining Chemical Materials Agency chemical destruction facilities are currently operating and are scheduled to destroy more than 78 percent of the U.S. stockpile by 2017. That, added to the chemical agent destroyed at Johnston Atoll and Aberdeen, will bring the total amount of agent destroyed by CMA to 90 percent. The final 10 percent of the U.S. stockpile will be destroyed by disposal facilities presently under construction in Pueblo, Colorado, and near Richmond, Kentucky, under a separate Department of Defense program.
Source: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2008/01/09/6930-army-destroys-half-of-chemical-stockpile/>

5. *January 9, KYW 3 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Hazmat drill conducted at Philadelphia business.** A drill simulating a chemical spill was conducted at a Philadelphia packaging company Wednesday. The drill, which was conducted at the Altivity Packaging Company, simulated a spill involving ammonium hydroxide, which can cause burns if exposed to the skin and death if inhaled. Firefighters and medic units were at the scene as the business was evacuated as if there was a chemical leak.
Source: <http://cbs3.com/topstories/Hazmat.Altivity.Packaging.2.626206.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *January 10, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Yucca nuclear dump site is laying off employees due to funding cuts.** The Energy Department is cutting operations and the chief contractor is laying off its staff at the desert site where the government plans to build a national nuclear waste repository, officials said this week. "The tunnel is closed," a Yucca Mountain project and Energy Department spokesman said Tuesday, attributing the moves to cuts in congressional funding for the repository, about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Entry to the site's underground tunnel will be restricted to a

skeleton staff of technicians and maintenance workers, he said. The project has seen a series of setbacks since Congress in 2002 approved entombing as much as 77,000 tons of the nation's most radioactive military, industrial, and commercial waste in tunnels 1,000 feet below the ancient volcanic ridge.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,5143,695242763,00.html>

7. *January 10, Times-Journal* – (National) **Nuclear waste is coming.** Nuclear waste will be shipped through DeKalb County, Georgia, beginning in May. The National Nuclear Security Administration held an introductory meeting at the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department Wednesday to prepare local law enforcement and emergency responders for the hazardous waste that will be transported through DeKalb County to an out-of-state disposal containment facility. According to the sheriff, emergency personnel will be trained to deal with potential security issues, which could include possible terrorist threats. "Nuclear waste will be transported from a facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to a disposal facility in New Mexico," said DeKalb's under sheriff. The material would either be transported along Interstate 59 on a truck or by railway using Norfolk-Southern rail cars. With the possibility of security threats involving hazardous and possibly radioactive materials, the mayor of Fort Payne, Alabama, said any city would be wise to consider the risks that transportation poses. DeKalb's under sheriff said the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, facility where the nuclear waste would likely originate had once been a top secret facility built in the late 1940s. The NNSA will oversee the transportation to an underground storage and disposal facility in New Mexico, with the route passing through DeKalb County.

Source: <http://times-journal.com/story.lasso?ewcd=4e268b2f0388f29f&-session=FPTJ:42F949E102a9c2A77BpQY35A9E21>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *January 10, Bloomberg News* – (National) **Air Force finds structural flaws in F-15s.** About 40 percent of the Boeing F-15 fighters grounded after a November crash have major structural components that do not meet original manufacturing specifications, the U.S. Air Force said Wednesday. Air Force inspectors determined 183 of 442 aircraft that remain grounded have at least one structural component known as a longeron "that does not meet blueprint specifications." Still, "deviations" in the longerons "determined not to meet blueprint specifications will be analyzed by the Air Force Air Logistics Center over the next month," the news release said. Once the analysis is complete, the Air Combat Command "will be able to better determine which aircraft will need further inspection or repair before returning to flight," the service said.

Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/boeingaerospace/2004116751_fighter10.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *January 10, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Police warn of scam.** Pacific Grove Police are warning the public of a telephone recovery scam where a caller claims to be an agent with the U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security. The scammer tells the victim they have retrieved cash funds following the arrest of people who were attempting to defraud others and the U.S. Department of Justice will be refunding some of the money to the victims. The scammer informs the victim that he or she needs to pay a recovery fee of \$1,4500 made payable to the Merchant Bank of Jamaica and the money should be in the form of a Western Union Moneygram.
Source:
<http://thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080110/NEWS01/80110005/1002>
10. *January 9, Computerworld* – (National) **Citibank antifraud move draws cashflow conspiracy chatter.** A Citibank spokesman today dismissed outright suggestions in the blogosphere that a recent decision by the company to quietly reduce the daily ATM cash withdrawal limits of some of its customers had something to do with Citibank's cash-reserve position. Rather, the move was a purely precautionary one prompted by fraudulent ATM activity in the New York City area, said a spokesman for the bank. Citibank's new caps on ATM withdrawals for some of its customers started in mid-December, but came to light only last week after the New York Daily News carried a story on it. Since then, the only official explanation from the company has been in the form of a brief two-paragraph statement, which said the Citibank had "temporarily lowered ATM withdrawal limits on a small population of customers," because of "isolated fraudulent activity." The statement offered no details on the nature or scope of the problem, how many customers might have been affected, what the lowered daily caps were, or even if only customers in New York City had been affected, as suggested by media reports. The relatively sparse information from Citibank so far appears to be stoking some concern in the blog world over the real cause for the lowered daily limits, especially in light of the financial troubles the company is currently facing.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=spam__malware_and_vulnerabilities&articleId=9056638&taxonomyId=85

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Transportation Sector

11. *January 10, CTV Canada* – (International) **Nine injured on diverted Air Canada flight.** Air Canada has confirmed that one of its planes, en route from Victoria to Toronto, was diverted to Calgary, Canada, on Wednesday after some passengers were injured during the flight. An Air Canada spokesman would not confirm reports that the injuries were caused by flight turbulence. The Airbus A319 landed safely at Calgary Airport at 8:30 a.m. local time and emergency crews were on scene to care for the injured. In total, 83 passengers and five crew members were on board, said the official. In a press release, the Calgary Emergency Medical Services said it was "assessing a total of 10 patients at this time." A CTV reporter in Calgary said as many as 40 others may have suffered minor injuries. "The Calgary Airport Authority has told us that they are

treating this as a first-class emergency,” he said. “We are told that at this point most injuries are very serious but no fatalities.” Meanwhile, an Air Canada Jazz flight between Halifax and Fredericton was forced to make an emergency landing at Stanfield International Airport on Wednesday evening. The plane, which was experiencing mechanical problems, landed safely without incident.

Source:

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080110/landing_plane_080110/20080110?hub=TopStories

12. *January 10, CBS and Associated Press* – (Florida) **Florida interstate still closed after crash.** A stretch of Interstate 4 between Tampa and Orlando remains closed Wednesday morning, a day after a major pileup that killed four and injured 39, five critically. Officials say dense fog and smoke from a brush fire in the area has seriously limited visibility. CBS News reported that 10 different pileups occurred, 70 vehicles in all, as drivers were blinded by smoke from a planned burn that blew out of control and thick fog that no one could predict. At least 20 of those vehicles were semi-tractor trailers. Some vehicles caught fire. There were other major road closings in the area this morning due to fog, including U.S. 17 north and south bound.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/01/10/national/main3695314.shtml>

13. *January 9, Houston Chronicle* – (National) **Study doubts ports’ security.** The Coast Guard lacks the resources to meet its own security standards to protect against terrorist assaults at American ports, even as the nation is to dramatically expand imports of liquefied natural gas, the Government Accountability Office has found. The GAO, in a report made public Wednesday, noted that while U.S. intelligence officials know of no specific threat to American ports, captured terrorist training manuals have cited seaports as potential targets. And terrorism trainees are instructed to try to obtain surveillance information on ports for use in a possible attack. However, “despite considerable efforts to protect ports and the energy traffic in them, the level of protection is not where the Coast Guard believes it should be,” the report said. “At some ports, Coast Guard units are not meeting their own levels of required security activities.” Ports are inherently vulnerable, the report said, because they are often sprawling facilities, close to major urban centers like Houston, and with access by both land and sea. Ships are likewise targets, since they travel along known routes, often through waters that do not allow room to maneuver away from potential threats, the report noted. Among its recommendations, the GAO urged the Department of Homeland Security, which includes the Coast Guard, to develop a national plan to balance the need to meet its new LNG security burdens while also handling all of its existing security responsibilities.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/5442123.html>

14. *January 9, WJLA 7 Washington, D.C.* – (National) **Report finds broken windows are common on airplanes.** Each day, there are nearly 30,000 flights in the air, according to the National Air Traffic Controller’s Association. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, cracked windshields happen fairly often and most of those flights do not require an emergency landing. Over the last five years, airlines have reported 516 cracked windshields for an average of one every three and a half days. According to the

FAA, the causes of the cracks range from broken heating elements in the glass to hitting something in the air.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0108/486544.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *January 10, CanWest News Service* – (International) **Chemical trace leads U.S. to ban Tofino salmon.** U.S. Food and Drug Administration tests have found traces of malachite green, a carcinogenic agent that was used to kill fungus on fish eggs, but was banned in food processing in 1992, in chinook salmon fillets from Creative Salmon, a Vancouver Island fish farm. It was the third test done on those fish by the FDA and the first two tests came back clear. Harvesting at the site where the fish originated has since been suspended. The company is working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture and will not resume work until further samples come back clear.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/business/story.html?id=a91cb77a-3906-4c69-84e6-645d3f2f6a59>

16. *January 10, Tri-Town News* – (New Jersey) **Senators trying to acquire more gypsy moth funding.** In response to a report from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture that the 2008 gypsy moth infestation in New Jersey could be drastically worse than last year's, two New Jersey senators are pressing the acting U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to use his discretion to allot more funding for gypsy moth suppression programs that allow the federal government to match local funding for spraying. According to a press release from the senators, last year's gypsy moth infestation was the worst in 20 years. In 2007 the moths killed 14,000 acres of trees in New Jersey, and this year they could kill 45,000 acres, according to the state Department of Agriculture. Last year, the Forest Service spent \$9 million nationally on gypsy moth spraying and those funds will be there again this year. However, with these new estimates, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture is advocating the spraying of more than 112,000 acres in New Jersey, which would require much of the overall national budget for gypsy moth suppression, according to the senators.

Source: http://tritown.gmnews.com/news/2008/0110/Front_Page/005.html

17. *January 8, eFluxMedia* – (Michigan) **Beef tainted with E. coli bacteria recalled by Detroit company.** Mark's Quality Meats Inc. of Detroit has voluntarily recalled about 13,150 pounds of various cuts of ground beef and steak products that may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced Saturday. According to officials, the steaks and

ground beef were produced at Mark's Quality Meats Inc. on December 20, 21, 24, or 26 and were distributed to restaurants in the metropolitan Detroit area. Officials from the Food Safety and Inspection Service said they have no reports of illness related to these products so far.

Source:

http://www.efluxmedia.com/news_Beef_Tainted_with_E_Coli_Bacteria_Recalled_by_Detroit_Company_12574.html

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Water Sector

18. *January 8, Inside Bay Area* – (California) **Rains wash pollutants into area waters.** In the aftermath of recent storms, pollutants, the overflows and leaks from sewage systems, animal waste, road grease, pesticides, and fertilizers, have ended up in San Francisco Bay Area waterways, creating what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cites as among the largest collective sources of pollutants of the nation's waters. On Monday, worries over high bacteria levels from human and animal waste topped the list of immediate concerns by local water quality managers. "In wet weather, a large portion of the Bay will fail to meet (state) standards," for water quality, said the executive director of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, citing data from Heal The Bay, a Santa Monica organization which monitors water quality at beaches statewide, among other activities. "You have all these (pathogens) building up during the dry season, above the creek line," the director of Environmental Health for San Mateo County said. "So when you get the first storms, it will wash away this material into the creeks." The creeks then feed into lakes, the Bay and the ocean.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_7911092?source=most_email

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. *January 10, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Man in China got bird flu from contact with infected son.** A man in China contracted bird flu because he was in close contact with his infected son, although the virus had not mutated into a form that is highly contagious among humans, authorities said Thursday. The 52-year-old man was hospitalized with the potentially deadly H5N1 strain of the virus soon after his son died from it on December 2. He has since recovered. A Chinese health ministry spokesman said the transmission was not technically "human-to-human" because the virus had "no biological features for human-to-human transmission." Like many human cases of bird flu in China, authorities have not been able to identify the source, as neither of the victims had close contact with sick or dead poultry prior to infection, he said. Bird flu has so far infected at least 27 people in China, 17 of whom have died.

Source:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=080110114724.86rgq3ql&show_article=1

20. *January 10, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **H5N1 bird flu virus reassuringly**

stable. The H5N1 virus that causes deadly avian flu has proven remarkably stable and actions to curb outbreaks of the disease are highly effective, the head of the world's paramount agency for animal health said Thursday. "We have never seen a virus which has been so stable for so long. Compared to other viruses, it is extremely stable, which minimizes the risk of mutation" into a pandemic strain, the director general of the World Organization for Animal Health told reporters. He said a system to beef up veterinary surveillance, especially in poor countries, had been a success, enabling outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry flocks to be identified and swiftly eradicated. He added that if disease reservoirs in Indonesia, Egypt, and Nigeria could be eradicated, then "the problem of a pandemic from Asian H5N1 would be resolved."

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5jpPvXJJ3VTHifJCBo7w3zW8DCzsQ>

21. *January 10, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Rabid bat prompts health warning.** City public health officials warned Wednesday that a rabid bat was found in the Marina District of San Francisco, California, and they are searching for anybody who may have come in contact with it. The bat, alive but ill, was found wrapped in a towel on a sidewalk on the evening of January 5. It was picked up by the San Francisco Animal Care and Control, euthanized, tested by the Department of Public Health, and found to have rabies. One to five rabid bats have been found in the city each year since 2004, public health officials said. Exposure to rabid bats is the leading cause of rabies in humans.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/01/10/BAGIVUCJM6.DTL>

Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *January 10, Newsday* – (New York) **MTA tests video screens as emergency alert system.** By the end of the month, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York City is scheduled to begin testing Wi-Fi technology that will communicate with the screens perched atop 80 subway entrances, which now mostly tout television shows. The technology -- installed by the MTA's advertising contract holder, CBS Outdoor -- would allow the agency to override the video ads and transmit messages to passengers during emergencies. If the technology is rolled out it would allow more advertisements to be loaded in the loops. Clients, who now buy one-month spots on the screens, could wirelessly update the ads more frequently for a premium price, translating into more ad dollars for the MTA. Transforming the video billboards into a useful commuter alert system was one of several communication-enhancing recommendations included in a report about how the MTA handled a transit-crippling storm last August. Commuters were stranded with little or no information after flooding shut down almost the entire

system.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/transportation/ny-nyvide105532178jan10,0,2475573.story>

23. *January 10, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **SEPTA gets federal grant to develop emergency communications.** Philadelphia's regional rail system is receiving more than \$600,000 in federal funds to develop a high-tech communication system between trains and first responders including city police. Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority police can currently communicate within the system's tunnels. The new network will help communicate with city police and other emergency workers. The mayor says more funding for the \$10 million system will have to be raised from the state and locally.

Source:

<http://cbs3.com/pennsylvaniawire/22.0.html?type=local&state=PA&category=n&filename=PA--SEPTACommunicatio.xml>

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Information Technology

24. *January 10, IDG News Service* – (National) **Printers vulnerable to spamming attacks.** A U.S.-based security manager in the financial industry has figured out how to send spam to a person's printer from an infected Web page by using a little-known capability found in most Web browsers. Using this, he can make a Web page launch a print job on just about any printer on a victim's network. The website could print annoying ads on the printer and theoretically issue more dangerous commands, like telling the printer to send a fax, format its hard drive, or download new firmware. The security expert described what he calls "cross site printing" in a research paper published Tuesday on the Ha.ckers.org website. He has launched the attack successfully with both Internet Explorer and Firefox browsers. Because the attack only works on network printers, a printer plugged directly into a PC would not be vulnerable. The researcher said concerns that his research might unleash a new blight on the Internet caused him to hesitate before publishing his paper and hold off on publishing the complete exploit code.

Source:

<http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?newsid=11090&pagtype=all>

25. *January 9, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft preps Vista to thwart rogue gadgets.** Microsoft Corp. today urged Windows Vista users to download a new security tool that automatically disables suspicious or malicious "gadgets," the small applets that mimic the "widgets" popular on Mac OS X. Dubbed "Windows Sidebar Protection," the 1MB download was added to Windows Update on Tuesday and classified as a "high-priority" update. Microsoft customers running Vista RTM -- the initial version that launched in late 2006 to businesses and early 2007 to consumers -- saw the update on the list starting Tuesday. The update is optional, but depending on what settings have been selected in Windows' Automatic Updates, it may be downloaded and installed without any additional user interaction. Windows Sidebar is a Vista-only panel that holds the miniature applications known as gadgets -- small single-purpose tools that, for

instance, display the time and date or RSS feeds. The Windows gadgets are composed of HTML and various scripts. In other words, gadgets could be dangerous, even malicious. The small applications are crafted not only by Microsoft but also by third-party developers and users; Microsoft distributes gadgets on its Web site, but it does not vet them. There are no known vulnerabilities in any existing gadgets, claimed a director in the Windows client product management group, stressing that Microsoft knows of no purposefully malicious gadgets, either. "The update gives us a mechanism to prevent a malicious gadget from being installed first of all, and if it's installed, to block the gadget [from running]," he said. After a gadget has been identified as bad, its icon gets swapped out with one labeled "Bad Gadget." The icon also can't be dragged, and the tool tip shows it as a security risk.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9056539&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

26. *January 9, Security Focus* – (National) **Malware hitches a ride on digital devices.** In the past month, at least three consumers have reported that photo frames -- small flat-panel displays for displaying digital images -- received over the holidays attempted to install malicious code on their computer systems, according to the Internet Storm Center, a network-threat monitoring group. Each case involved the same product and the same chain of stores, suggesting that the electronic systems were infected at the factory or somewhere during shipping, said the director of the Internet Storm Center. The incidents underscore that the proliferation of electronic devices with onboard memory means that consumers have to increasingly be aware of the danger of unwanted code hitching a ride. While many consumers are already wary of certain devices, such as digital music players, USB memory sticks, and external hard drives, that include onboard memory, other types of electronics have largely escaped scrutiny. While a compromise at the manufacturer is the most likely scenario, the director of SANS Institute's Internet Storm Center also pointed to retailers as a possible point of infection. Returned products, which could have been infected by the consumer, are frequently put back on the shelf, if they are in sale-able condition, and attackers could take advantage of a store's poor digital hygiene, he said. Consumers will have to be careful with any device that can be connected to a PC, including USB thumb drives, GPS devices, mobile phones, video players, set top boxes, portable hard drives, memory card readers, and eventually even microwave ovens and other appliances, he said.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/11499>

Internet Alert Dashboard

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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Communications Sector

27. *January 9, InformationWeek* – (National) **Phony iPhone upgrade hides malware.**

Apple iPhones could be infected with potentially malicious Trojan software because of a fake upgrade download, computer security officials with US-CERT warned Wednesday. “This Trojan claims to be a tool used to prepare the device for an upgrade to firmware version 1.1.3,” the US-CERT advisory said. “When a user installs the Trojan, other application components are altered. If the Trojan is uninstalled, the affected applications may also be removed.” The Trojan appears to be timed to exploit rumors that began in early December about new features in an upcoming iPhone firmware upgrade. Various online news sites and blogs cited a report published by CNET France that claimed an imminent iPhone update would feature a disk mode, for using the iPhone as a portable flash drive, and a voice recording mode. Malware authors now regularly craft attacks that play off current news and events. With the Consumer Electronics Show this week and the Macworld Conference & Expo next week, malware masquerading as an iPhone upgrade will likely dupe more people than it would otherwise. On Monday, Symantec identified the malicious software as “iPhone firmware 1.1.3 prep.” In a blog post, a Symantec security researcher observes that installing the software does not appear to have much of an effect on the iPhone, but warned that uninstalling it could overwrite other iPhone applications.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/cmp/20080110/tc_cmp/205601608;_ylt=AryPAOpQ1B3h3Qclm2QezQiDzdAF

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Commercial Facilities Sector

28. *January 8, WBTW 13 Florence* – (South Carolina) **Suspicious package causes mall evacuation.** Myrtle Beach Police cordoned off a section of Coastal Grand Mall Tuesday after someone discovered a suspicious package near a service entrance. An explosive ordnance disposal team later detonated the package, which they determined contained books and clothing. Police also evacuated the Dillard’s wing of the mall, and were diverting traffic around a portion of the mall

Source: <http://www.scnow.com/midatlantic/scp/news.apx.-content-articles-BTW-2008-01-08-0006.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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Dams Sector

29. *January 10, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Consultant hired to find ways to bolster Lake Wohlford dam.** In California, a consultant will study Lake Wohlford's dam to determine how to reinforce it so that it can withstand a major earthquake. The bottom part of the Wohlford dam was built in 1895 with rocks, reaching a height of 76 feet. The concern is that portions of the dam added later could liquefy in a major quake, causing it to fail. The lake is a source of water for Escondido and Vista. In 1924, authorities added 24 feet to the height of the dam using silt and sand and reinforced the landward side with similar materials. But the materials were not evenly mixed. Although the dam passed state tests in the intervening years, in May the sand-and-silt portion failed a federal test. Results showed that the addition could crumble in a 7.5-magnitude earthquake. Since then, the city has kept Lake Wohlford at half-capacity so its level stays below the height of the original rock dam, which was shown in the federal tests to be strong enough to withstand earthquakes and floods. The consultant's report should be completed by July.
Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20080110-9999-1mi10wohlf.html>
30. *January 10, Journal and Courier* – (Indiana) **Norway Dam is fine; information was bad.** At 7:18 a.m. Tuesday, the weather service issued a flash flood warning stating failure of the Norway Dam, north of Monticello, Indiana, on the Tippecanoe River, was becoming more likely because of the increased rate that water was flowing through the dam. Officials with Northern Indiana Public Service Co., which owns the dam, scrambled to assure people that the dam was safe, and the weather service pulled back on the advisory within two hours. The weather service says it had incorrect information in its warning system. That problem, a spokesman says, is being fixed and will force a review of the entire warning system.
Source:
<http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080110/NEWS/801100347/1152>
31. *January 9, University of Colorado at Boulder* – (National) **Dam experts issue call to strengthen research on safety and rehabilitation of U.S. dams.** In the aftermath of America's poor infrastructure report card on dams, a group of dam experts is calling for more research funding to develop better investigative and inspection techniques to identify unsafe dams. They want to see more economical and effective rehabilitation of the nation's most deficient dams for the protection of the public and other infrastructure. The group of 25 engineers has wide representation from government, the private sector, and higher education, and most are members of the United States Society on Dams and the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. They endorsed the need to fund basic research to support national dam safety initiatives for the protection of life and property at a University of Colorado at Boulder workshop last fall. As part of its declaration, the Boulder workshop identified earthquakes, aging infrastructure, and floods as the primary risks for dam failure and therefore the major research priorities. CU-Boulder will work with other universities to develop a research plan to be conducted in coordination with the USSD and other industry organizations, which will advise the academic community on its research direction and disseminate the research for cost-effective implementation of dam infrastructure upgrades.

Source: <http://www.colorado.edu/news/releases/2008/8.html>

32. *January 9, WSBT 22 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Levy breaks along Kankakee River.** As many as 3,000 sandbags on Wednesday were still plugging several breaks in a levy along the swollen Kankakee River southeast of Kingsbury. The river was still rising Wednesday from a major rapid snow melt and heavy rains. Further to the east, County Road 500 South is closed leading up to a bridge over the river that officials fear could wash out. “I look for some more levies to break in the days to come,” the LaPorte County Highway Department Superintendent said.

Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/13567302.html>

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