



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 February 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing a big increase in spending to protect the U.S. food and agriculture system from terrorist threats and other disasters in fiscal year 2009, while seeking somewhat less money for avian influenza control efforts. (See item [16](#))
- Organized criminal hackers are waging a highly sophisticated war by exploiting vulnerabilities in end users' web browsers using drive-by downloads, security experts warn. During the past 18 months, Google has found more than three million unique URLs on over 180,000 sites automatically installing malware. IBM reported that criminals are directly attacking web browsers in order to steal identities, gain access to online accounts, and conduct other illicit activities. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

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

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

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. *February 12, Reuters* – (National; International) **Venezuela softens tone on U.S. oil cutoff threat.** Venezuela softened its tone on Tuesday over a threat by President Hugo Chavez to stop oil sales to America, with crude prices coming off a spike after a top official said a supply cut would be undesirable. Chavez said he could halt oil exports to the U.S. over a legal offensive by Exxon Mobil, which has won temporary court rulings freezing up to \$12 billion in Venezuelan assets in a fight over payment for a nationalized

heavy crude project. Curtailing supplies is “feasible,” but would hurt both nations’ economies, said the deputy minister at Venezuela’s state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA). The deputy minister’s pragmatism reinforced analysts’ views Chavez is likely to keep shipping oil, even as the country repeated its conditional threat and vowed to get tough with Exxon Mobil. Oil prices fell as fears eased of Venezuelan action and on forecasts for an increase in U.S. crude inventories. Despite its legal attack, Exxon Mobil said on Tuesday it was interested in holding talks with Venezuela to negotiate fair compensation for the seizure of the project. On Tuesday, Venezuela’s oil minister said PDVSA was considering suing Exxon Mobil for damages – compensation would be less than \$6 billion.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080212/bs_nm/exxon_venezuela_dc_3

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

Chemical Industry Sector

2. *February 13, Engineer Online* – (National) **Toxic metals detector.** The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has developed a new and inexpensive detection system that identifies personal exposures to toxic lead and other dangerous heavy metals. PNNL’s portable analyzer system can detect toxic metals in blood, urine, and saliva samples and is aimed at high-risk populations, including industrial workers, children, and people living in polluted areas. The device can use two classes of sensors for detecting lead and other heavy metals. The first is based on a flow injection system using a mercury-film electrode to analyze metals in a sample. To eliminate the use of toxic mercury in conducting the analysis, the second class of the sensor uses a mercury-free approach of nanostructure materials developed at PNNL. This involves use of either Self-Assembled Monolayers on Mesoporous Supports or functionalized magnetic nanoparticles that provide above average detection sensitivity at a parts-per-billion level. The new detection system is field-deployable with plug-and-play features that allow different sensors to be easily exchanged to detect a variety of heavy metal toxins. The entire system is battery-operated and requires about one and one-half times the power of a typical laptop computer. The system also delivers measurements within a two to five minute analysis period. Early production cost estimates indicate that the device may be as much as ten times less expensive than existing plasma mass spectrometry systems, which PNNL say lack field portability and require samples to be returned to the lab for analysis.

Source: <http://www.theengineer.co.uk/Articles/Article.aspx?liArticleID=304575>

3. *February 12, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **State offers settlement to Mesquite chemical plant.** The state Environment Department has offered to settle allegations of air quality violations at Helena Chemical Co.’s fertilizer plant in Mesquite, New Mexico, for \$270,600. The state in November notified Helena Chemical of 15 violations, including two labeled major. The department has offered to settle 11 violations, and withdrew the other four. The Collierville, Tennessee-based company has 30 days to accept or decline the offer dated February 8. Company officials said in a statement that it believes the remaining violations are in record keeping. The violations, discovered during routine inspections between last March 30 and June 15, include

failure to enclose emissions, failure to control dust emissions, and poor record-keeping. “Helena Chemical fails to understand the gravity of its past environmental violations and continues to disregard the welfare of residents by its lax behavior,” the Environment Department’s deputy secretary said in a statement.

Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci_8240007

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

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *February 14, New York Times* – (Texas) **Nuclear application delayed.** Hearings on the first application in 30 years for an operating license for a nuclear reactor have been delayed indefinitely, because the applicant is not ready, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Wednesday. NRG Energy filed an application in September 2007 for permission to build and operate two reactors adjacent to the South Texas Project, southwest of Houston. The reactor design is by General Electric, and similar plants are already operating in Japan. But the NRC – after accepting the application and giving opponents until later this month to file their objections – has concluded that the application is not complete enough to proceed, an NRC spokesman said.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/14/business/14nuke.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1202997968-8IOSvIr6wIt/HQjIUJme4g
5. *February 14, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Better nuclear monitoring sought.** Duxbury selectmen want to meet with state health officials to argue that the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts, needs a better system to monitor potential radiation leaks. Town officials said their examination of the systems designed to monitor releases of radiation into the air and water shows that the system is not up to current industry practices and does not use the latest technology. While Pilgrim’s monitoring system meets the requirements of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, those standards are not high enough to protect public safety, critics said. The town wants the state to do more monitoring of its own and to pressure Pilgrim to improve its system, selectmen said. A Pilgrim spokesman said the plant goes beyond federal regulatory requirements by providing a “ring monitoring system” that reads data on radiation in the air in real time and reports it to the state public health department. The selectmen recognize the new monitor well system installed at Pilgrim and the state health department’s role in analyzing samples taken from the wells, but contends that tests should cover a greater range of radioactive materials beyond gamma and tritium.
Source:
http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/02/14/better_nuclear_monitoring_sought/
6. *February 13, Treasure Coast Palm* – (Florida) **Fire rescuers in Indian River County prepare in case of nuclear leak.** If radioactivity suddenly leaked from the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant in Florida, Indian River County fire rescue officials feel confident they would know what to do. That confidence stems from an emergency evacuation drill that took place Wednesday morning at the North County Aquatic Center in Sebastian.

“As part of our comprehensive emergency plan, the pool is used as a holding area,” said the battalion chief. “Florida Power & Light requires us to show proficiency in monitoring 20 percent of the population within a ten-mile radius of the power plant, which in this case, would be about 36,000 residents.” The drill is held every two years and is monitored by Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state of Florida. The North County Aquatic Center serves as the evacuation site because of its proximity to Interstate 95 and its indoor shower facilities. In the case of a nuclear accident, residents would be urged to get to the evacuation center. There, they would be assessed for exposure to radiation through a CV-700 detector, which is similar to a Geiger counter and detects gamma radiation. If the results are positive, residents would shower and be screened a second time for radiation exposure. If the resident still tests positive, they would be transported to the local hospital by EMS crews. Representatives from the Indian River County Health Department would also be on hand to administer doses of potassium iodine to residents to protect their thyroid glands. An assistant chief said the evacuation drill is just one of many different training exercises that are conducted regularly by the fire department. “We’re here today doing this drill for a nuclear event but we take classes at the Emergency Operations Center on a regular basis,” he said. About 40 Indian River County fire and rescue personnel are trained in basic and advanced radiation detection.

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/feb/13/30gtfire-rescuers-prepare-in-case-of-nuclear/?partner=yahoo>

7. *February 13, KULR 8 Billings* – (Montana) **Mishandling radioactive material.** A Department of Emergency Service official says he is surprised Mattingly Testing in Yellowstone County, Montana, is being investigated for mishandling radioactive material. The official says the county has more radioactive material than the community might be aware of, especially in hospitals and survey firms. He says county officials are prepared to respond to any emergency involving radioactive material.

Source: <http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/15572952.html>

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

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *February 14, Associated Press* – (National; International) **U.S. to shoot down errant satellite.** The Pentagon is planning to shoot down a broken spy satellite expected to hit the Earth in early March, U.S. officials say. The Associated Press has learned that the option preferred by the Bush administration will be to fire a missile from a U.S. Navy cruiser, and shoot down the satellite before it enters Earth’s atmosphere. The head of the U.S. Northern Command said last month that the size of the satellite suggests that some number of pieces will not burn up as the orbiting vehicle re-enters the Earth’s atmosphere and will hit the ground. The satellite launched in December 2006 but almost immediately lost power and cannot be controlled. It carried a sophisticated and secret imaging sensor, but the satellite’s central computer failed shortly after launch.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/space/02/14/spy.satellite.ap/index.html>

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

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *February 14, Statesman Journal* – (Oregon) **Police warn of scam involving sex-offender list.** The Aumsville Police Department in Oregon is warning residents of a suspected scam of a caller attempting to sell a list of sex offenders, police said Wednesday. A civilian police employee received a call Friday from someone selling a list of registered sex offenders, an Aumsville police official said. On Tuesday, police received a report of another call made to an Aumsville resident, who said the caller had asked for personal information such as a credit-card number, he said. A database of registered sex offenders in Oregon is maintained by the Oregon State Police and is available online at no cost. Aumsville police also has forwarded the information to the Oregon Department of Justice, which tracks scams statewide, the official said. If residents receive a similar call, they should report it to their local law enforcement agency.
Source: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080214/NEWS/802140345/1001>
10. *February 13, Kansas City Star* – (Kansas) **Independence officials warn of scam.** Independence, Kansas, officials are warning residents of a telephone scam involving a person who claims to be with the city's power and light company. Residents are being told that their utility bill is delinquent and that their power will be shut off unless they give their credit card number. City officials say that they never make such calls regarding delinquent accounts.
Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/story/488514.html>
11. *February 13, KVUE 24 Austin* – (Texas) **Democratic official: Beware of debate ticket scam.** Austin is gearing up to host a presidential debate next week. But officials are warning about scam artists pretending to sell tickets. On Craigslist.com, some offered to pay up to \$1,000 just for a shot at tickets. The only problem is those tickets do not even exist, at least not yet. A Texas Democratic Party spokesman says he is closely monitoring possible scams. He says on Monday, an e-Bay poster, claiming to have two tickets to sell, was asking \$995. "More than likely, they are not real tickets," he said. The official says the Texas Democratic Party will only have 100 seats available to the public, but those have not been released yet. He says they will be distributed through a drawing.
Source: <http://www.kvue.com/news/top/stories/021308kvuede debate-bkm.bcea6ee1.html>

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

Transportation Sector

12. *February 14, Journal News* – (National) **Inflation means worse roads and bridges, transportation chief says.** With the cost of road construction soaring 40 percent from 2005 to 2006, New York may be unable to stop the deterioration of roads and bridges unless taxpayers contribute more to maintenance projects, the New York transportation

commissioner warned lawmakers on Wednesday. A commissioner told lawmakers at a hearing that because of the fast-rising costs of petroleum, steel, and other materials, costs escalated 19 percent in 2005 and 21 percent in 2006. She said even if inflation retreats to its average for the last five years – just over 9 percent – the \$10 billion set aside for road and bridge repairs and improvements for the 2005-2010 period will deliver only \$8 billion in improvements. She said that long delays in getting projects approved – an average of 13 years for major new highways, according to a federal study – has made the inflation problem worse.

Source: <http://lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080214/NEWS05/802140378>

13. *February 13, United Press International* – (National) **New railroad safety rules announced.** New federal regulations are aimed at reducing train accidents and derailments, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced Wednesday. The Federal Railroad Administration has crafted a National Rail Safety Action Plan to help curb train accidents. The rules are designed to hold railroad employees accountable, said the U.S. Transportation Secretary. The Federal Railroad Administration said safety violations may result in fines ranging from \$7,500 to \$16,000.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2008/02/13/new_railroad_safety_rules_announced/5939/

14. *February 13, CNN* – (California) **Officials: Wire could have decapitated Border Patrol agents.** U.S. border officers found a wire between two fences along the U.S.-Mexican border that, when stretched taut, could have seriously harmed or even decapitated Border Patrol agents, Congress was told Wednesday. The wire was about four feet high when pulled tight, or about neck level for an agent on an all-terrain vehicle, officials say. “It was configured in a way so that, if it was pulled, it would take off the head of a Border Patrol agent riding in an open car,” the Homeland Security Secretary said at a House budget hearing. The wire was discovered Saturday when authorities monitoring a surveillance camera saw two people on the north side of the border east of the San Ysidro Port of Entry, in the San Diego sector. Border Patrol agents sent to the area found a thick metal wire tied to a secondary fence. The wire stretched across the border road and led into Mexico through a hole in the primary fence, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Officials said they suspected that drug or illegal immigrant smugglers were involved. No arrests were made on either side of the border. The wire was removed, and no injuries or damage took place, CBP said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/02/13/border.wire/index.html>

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

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *February 13, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **USDA wants to make geospatial data easier to share.** The U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) is seeking information about methods for delivering, disseminating, and integrating large geospatial datasets for its Farm Service Agency (FSA) and other users. USDA is interested in commercial software and/or online mapping interface services that could replace FSA's current systems. Those systems are outdated, allow only limited access, and make it difficult to share information, USDA said in the request for information posted on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site January 25. USDA wants an environment that consists of a centralized, fully integrated architecture. It could potentially be hosted at its National IT Center in Kansas City, Missouri, and Aerial Photography Field Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. Centralizing the hosting of geospatial applications would improve communication between FSA headquarters, state offices, and service centers. By allowing users to access data from a central location, the system would reduce the need to request information from specific service centers. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer also wants the agency to consider moving the major geospatial hardware from county service centers and consolidating the equipment at six data centers, which would reduce the risks to physical and information security.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/online/news/151622-1.html>

16. *February 13, CIDRAP News* – (National) **USDA seeks more funds for food defense.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing a big increase in spending to protect the U.S. food and agriculture system from terrorist threats and other disasters in fiscal year 2009, while seeking somewhat less money for avian influenza. The proposed 2009 budget calls for \$277 million for the various programs in its Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative, a \$91 million increase from estimated spending of \$186 million in fiscal year 2007, which ends September 30. The Food Safety and Defense Initiative is the collective name for various activities under the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. Activities targeted for increases in the budget proposal include: ARS food defense research, from \$9 million this year to \$23 million; ARS agriculture defense research, from \$25 million to \$39 million; surveillance by APHIS for plant pests and animal diseases, from \$63 million to \$98 million; APHIS's National Veterinary Stockpile of vaccines, personal protective equipment, and other supplies, from \$4 million to \$8 million; APHIS efforts related to plant and animal "select agents" [dangerous pathogens] from \$4 million to \$6 million. The USDA budget summary lists \$60 million for avian influenza control efforts by APHIS, down from \$67 million in estimated spending this year.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/biosecurity/food-biosec/news/feb1308usda.html>

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

Water Sector

17. *February 13, Forum* – (North Dakota) **Arsenic higher in rural water.** In North Dakota, hundreds of rural residents still must deal with the consequences: groundwater supplies contaminated by arsenic, a poison used to kill the grasshoppers that were endemic to the area. More than 300 rural North Dakota residents still have drinking wells with arsenic concentrations above the level deemed safe by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): ten parts per billion. A North Dakota senator has been prodding the EPA to move the project up to the top of the Superfund priority list so rural households can get safe drinking water. On Monday, he wrote the head of the EPA, which recently indicated that it may not allocate any money to the project this year. The Superfund site covers 570 square miles in portions of Richland, Sargent, and Ransom counties.
Source: <http://www.in-forum.com/News/articles/191629>

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

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *February 14, Chicago Tribune* – (National; International) **FDA never inspected Chinese plant making Baxter's heparin.** A Chinese manufacturing plant near Shanghai that was never inspected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) could be the source of a potentially deadly allergic reaction experienced by hundreds of U.S. patients infused with Baxter International Inc.'s blood thinner heparin. The FDA said it was still trying to determine why the Chinese plant under investigation was not inspected before it was allowed to ship the active ingredient in heparin, an enzyme from pig intestines, to a Baxter-owned plant in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where the drug is finished. "While no inspection of the facility has been conducted to date, preparations are being made to perform an inspection as soon as possible," the FDA said in a statement to the Tribune. "We have already requested expedited access to the facility, facilitated through a recently assigned agreement with the Chinese State Food and Drug Administration." It remains unclear what the cause of the allergic reactions is or whether the active ingredient or the Chinese manufacturing plant is involved. China is the world's largest supplier of active pharmaceutical ingredients, but export safety has become an increasing problem, with reports of Chinese-made toys and food being linked to contaminants. The FDA conducted only 11 inspections of Chinese facilities in 2007 out of more than 170 worldwide, and the number of inspections of Chinese plants actually dipped from a peak of 18 in 2004.
Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chin-baxter_0214feb14,0,2081139.story
19. *February 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Fentanyl painkiller patches recalled.** A Duragesic patches by PriCara (also generically sold by Sandoz Inc. Patches) containing the prescription painkiller fentanyl were recalled Tuesday, because of a flaw that could cause patients or caregivers to overdose on the potent drug inside. The recall includes all 25-microgram-per-hour patches sold in the U.S. with expiration dates on or before December 2009. Some of the patches may have a cut in the lining of the internal

reservoir where the drug is stored in gel form. If the fentanyl gel leaks into the drug's packaging, it could cause a patient or caregiver to come into direct contact with this powerful "opioid" drug. This could result in difficulty breathing and a potentially fatal overdose. In December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) put out its second warning in two years about the dangers of misusing the powerful drug. The drug is intended for chronic pain in people used to narcotics, such as cancer patients, and can cause trouble breathing in people not used to this family of painkillers. Yet the FDA found cases where doctors prescribed it for headaches or post-surgical pain. PriCara estimates that two patches out of every million included in the recall have the defect that causes the leak.

Source: <http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=106&sid=1343983>

Government Facilities Sector

20. *February 14, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Grand Forks police say vehicle explosion appears accidental.** Grand Forks authorities say a vehicle explosion just north of the Grand Forks Air Force Base late yesterday afternoon appears to have been an accident. The regional bomb squad investigated the incident. Authorities say a man suffered minor burns. He has not been identified, but base officials say he is not a member of the military. They say the incident had no effect on base operations. A Grand Forks County Sheriff's sergeant says the vehicle was not stolen. Authorities say propane tanks were inside.

Source: <http://www.kxmb.com/News/209358.asp>

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

Emergency Services Sector

21. *February 13, University of California - San Diego* – (California) **Computer analysis of 911 calls from Calif. wildfires offers potential early warning system.** When confronted with emergencies or natural disasters – such as the wildfires that raged through San Diego and Los Angeles counties last October or the tornadoes that hit the southern U.S. last week – residents often dial 911 as their first course of action. Now, University of California San Diego researchers from the San Diego Supercomputer Center and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, using 911 data from these wildfires and other emergency situations, have devised a method to analyze and visually display these calls to detect specific patterns. Their ultimate goal: to assist in developing an early warning system and coordinate responses on a wider scale that could one day save lives and limit property damage. "Because of the time-critical element within the first responder community, this research could assist emergency service providers and organizations in allocating appropriate levels of both human and financial resources as part of their overall planning," said one of the project's principal investigators. The team developed the pattern-detecting method – a computer algorithm – after analyzing nearly three years of 911 call data from the San Francisco Bay area, and more than 20 months of similar data from throughout San Diego County. By combining the call data with

topographic images from Google Earth, researchers conducted a spatiotemporal analysis – relating both space and time together – of typical call activity in order to set parameters that would automatically alert viewers of abnormally high call rates. These ‘hotspots,’ or clusters of activity within certain areas and within predetermined lengths of time, were then directly correlated to specific events in those areas such as an earthquake, explosion, or fire.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news122130274.html>

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

Information Technology

22. *February 13, InfoWorld* – (National) **Attack code posted for Microsoft Works bug.**

Just one day after Microsoft issued a massive set of security patches for its software, hackers have begun posting code showing how to exploit one of the flaws. The proof-of-concept code, posted Wednesday to the Milw0rm Web site, exploits a bug in the Microsoft Works file converter software that is part of Office 2003 and can be used to run unauthorized software on a victim’s computer. The flaw also affects Works 8 and Works Suite 2005. To fall prey to the attack, a victim would first have to open a malicious Works attachment. Hackers have uncovered many of these file-format bugs in recent years, and they are generally not used in widespread attacks. In fact, security vendor Symantec predicts that we will see fewer of these attacks in the months ahead as online criminals increasingly rely on browser bugs to do their dirty work. “The bad guys, they’re looking for different ways to trick people,” said the director of development with Symantec Security Response. “The popular method of choice is to exploit plug-ins in browsers right now.” Still, he expects criminals to try out this latest attack code. “It’s so simple,” he said. “All you have to do is get someone to open the document.” As of Wednesday, Symantec had not seen any signs of attackers taking advantage of any of the flaws that Microsoft fixed this week.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/infoworld/20080213/tc_infoworld/95295;_ylt=Au8bvBmy2_rz3nFGy3R4_MeDzdAF

23. *February 13, vnunet.com* – (National) **Organized crime exploiting browser vulnerabilities.** Organized criminal hackers are waging a highly sophisticated war by exploiting vulnerabilities in end users’ web browsers using drive-by downloads, security experts warn. The extent of the threat was exposed in a recent Google Online Security Blog post and the 2007 Trend Statistics Report from IBM’s X-Force. “It has been 18 months since we started to identify web pages that infect vulnerable hosts via drive-by downloads, i.e. pages that attempt to exploit visitors by installing and running malware automatically,” the Google blog stated yesterday. “During that time we have investigated billions of URLs and found more than three million unique URLs on over 180,000 sites automatically installing malware.” Google’s team also reported that around two percent of malicious websites are delivering malware via advertising. IBM reported recently that criminals are directly attacking web browsers in order to steal identities, gain access to online accounts, and conduct other illicit activities.

Source: www.vnunet.com/2209546

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/>.

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

Communications Sector

24. *February 13, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Phone viruses to spread as telecom, computer worlds merge, say experts.** Viruses and hacking on mobile phones are still rare, but attacks are a looming danger as increasing numbers of people access the Internet and download files with their handsets, experts say. A survey released this week at the industry's Mobile World Congress showed that only 2.1 percent of people had been struck by a virus themselves and only 11.6 percent knew someone who had been affected by one. The poll by IT security specialist McAfee – based on 2,000 people in Britain, the U.S., and Japan – showed that 86.3 percent had had no experience of mobile phone viruses. The survey did suggest however that the more developed the mobile market is, with high use of the Internet and downloads, the more likely people were to be hit by bugs. Virus attacks in Japan, the most developed mobile phone market in the world, were far more commonplace than elsewhere. The website www.mobilephoneviruses.com, which tracks incidents of mobile virus infections, lists a handful of examples such as Skulls, Velasco, and Commwarrior. The latter infected about 110,000 phones in Spain last year, attacking phones running Nokia's Symbian operating system. It spread via MMS messages, text messages containing an audio, video, or picture file. "Viruses aren't a huge issue now but they have the potential to be so in the future when Internet use is more widespread," said a telecom analyst.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080213/tc_afp/telecominternetvirus;_ylt=AqJQPfqhcLq0ruJfsyIC0SaDzdAF

25. *February 13, Marketwire* – (National) **Satellite broadband to serve nearly 1.3 million homes by 2012.** Satellite-based broadband services – a good way to get broadband access to hard-to-reach rural areas – could be serving nearly 1.3 million U.S. households by the beginning of 2012, market research provider Pike & Fischer estimates. But that will represent only about 11 percent of total rural homes, P&F notes. In a new report, "The Satellite Broadband Market Opportunity," P&F sites a few satellite companies making strides in the broadband market, including Hughes, WildBlue, and ViaSat. Those companies are narrowing the digital divide by delivering broadband services to rural locations not served by cable and DSL (digital subscriber lines). But the satellite companies face some significant challenges in gaining market traction, the Silver Spring, MD-based research house concludes. For example, the high costs of launching satellites will make it difficult for satellite broadband providers to keep pricing competitive while still achieving a suitable return on investment. In addition, satellite

companies could simply encounter lower-than-expected demand for their services.

Source: <http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release.do?id=820809>

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

Commercial Facilities Sector

26. *February 13, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans officials say security ready for NBA All-Star weekend.** Soon after the NBA announced that the All-Star Game would be played in New Orleans, some questioned whether the city, still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, was ready for such a big event. NBA players' union director had expressed doubts that New Orleans could accommodate the league's showcase game. "The NBA security team has visited the city at least 20 times," said New Orleans's mayor. "We had been able to get a behind the scene look at plans for that event, and then come back and see it in motion," the NBA vice president said. New Orleans police have worked 12 to 16 hour days for 23 of the first 45 days of the year covering special events, said a police superintendent, whose department has long prided itself on its ability to host major events. Security inside the New Orleans Arena, home to most of the events, will be tight, a spokesman promised. The security plan for the city, away from the arena, includes closing off vehicular traffic to the French Quarter and making sure pedestrians are safe.

Source:

<http://sports.espn.go.com/nba/allstar2008/news/story?id=3244457&campaign=rss&source=NBAHeadlines>

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

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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

Dams Sector

27. *February 13, Associated Press* – (New York) **New regulations, more inspectors to protect against dam failures.** New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has proposed new dam regulations that would require owners of the 5,000 dams in New York to keep detailed design and modification records, as well as operation, maintenance, and emergency action plans available for state inspection. Citing a high-profile dam failure and some dangerous deficiencies found the past few years, the agency said it has increased dam safety staff statewide from three to 20, and the proposal clarifies that its enforcement authority applies even to smaller dams. For larger dams, owners will have to schedule inspections by a professional engineer at least every ten years to determine if their classification remains accurate. The DEC said its staff has completed inspections the past few years of all 389 high hazard dams, those whose failure would pose a serious threat to downstream communities.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--damregulations0213feb13,0,4340509.story>

28. *February 13, Appeal-Democrat* – (California) **Sutter’s levee timeline to 2017.** In California, the directors of the Sutter-Butte Flood Control Agency were told to devise a game plan to get work started. “In the next few months, we ought to have a strategy emerge here,” the interim director said at the agency’s meeting Wednesday. The session included a workshop on major issues, including a federal study of Sutter County flood problems. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study to improve flood protection in Sutter County will proceed in April after years of inaction due to lack of money. But fixes for Sutter County’s levee problems can not wait until the Army Corps’ Sutter Basin Feasibility Study is finished in 2011, said the interim director. He suggested the board figure out some fast-track projects that would be required no matter what the Army Corps decides to improve flood protection.

Source: http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/flood_60271_article.html/sutter_county.html

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

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389
Distribution Information:	Send mail to NICCRReports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

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

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.