



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 1 April 2008

Current Nationwide



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- The Daily Record reports two people were detained near Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. Authorities are investigating photos taken around the area of the base late Sunday afternoon by two individuals who then fled the scene. (See item [24](#))
- According to Fox News, the FBI considers eco-terrorism the number one domestic terrorism threat. Law enforcement has made strides prosecuting cells, but it has been unable to end the arsons that have plagued developments encroaching on rural lands in the West. The FBI currently has 180 ongoing eco-terror investigations and over the last several years has tied them to some 1,800 criminal acts. (See item [32](#))

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](#)

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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. *March 31, Hess Corporation* – (Alaska) **Alaska seeks oil audit.** State officials in Alaska are seeking an engineering firm to carry out a fully comprehensive audit of oil and gas facilities across the state. According to Reuters, the state is seeking to review all production centers, pipelines, and oil and gas fields in a bid to ensure their safety. It is hoped that such an audit will start in June of this year, with the riskiest areas being assessed first. “There’s been risk assessments done all over the place by the different parties – BP, Conoco, us – but no one’s ever taken a system-wide look,” said a program manager for the Alaska department of environmental conservation’s division of spill

prevention and response. She added that the review is expected to take a total of two years and could cost up to \$4.1 million.

Source: <http://www.hessenergy.com/common/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleId=18529116>

2. *March 30, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **PBS Coals Inc. to close unused Somerset County mine.** PBS Coals Inc. is closing one of its unused mines in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had urged the Friedens-based company to shut down the Barbera mine. It has not been used in six years. PBS had been applying for a renewal permit even though the mine is empty. A DEP district mining manager said PBS had sought to keep the mine open because it has entryways to another site. He said reclamation work on the unused mine will begin in the spring.
Source:
http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/pennsylvania/20080330_ap_pbscoalsinctocloseunusedsomersetcountymine.html
3. *March 30, Seattle Times* – (National) **Air Force leads push to liquefied coal fuel.** Squeezed by the soaring cost of oil-based jet fuel, the Air Force is converting its gas-guzzling fleet of aircraft to synthetic fuels and encouraging the creation of a liquefied coal industry that could tap the nation's vast coal reserves. Air Force officials think their long-term energy strategy lies in liquefied coal because the fossil fuel is so abundant in the U.S. This could mean a lucrative new market for coal-producing states, but advocates of liquefied coal face a counterattack from environmentalists in the debate over global warming and must prove that they can produce an ecologically friendly product with a low carbon footprint. Another challenge that coal advocates face is the hefty cost and manufacturing logistics of converting the mineral to liquid. The Air Force tentatively plans to lease underused property at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana for the construction of a coal-to-liquid fuel plant. By partnering with private enterprise, Air Force officials hope to foster the development of subsequent plants, to create a full-fledged coal-to-liquid industry that could supply military and commercial aviation.
Source:
http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2004315533_coalpower30.html

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *March 31, WKRG 5 Mobile* – (Alabama) **State docks chemical leak.** Mobile Fire Department hazardous materials crews were called to the Alabama State Docks Monday morning just before 3:00 a.m. for a small chemical leak. A container filled with chloroacetic acid was being offloaded from a ship onto the docks when it overturned. The container was uprighted around 6:30 a.m. A Mobile Fire Department spokesperson said the leak was due to overfilling the container and was very small. There was no outside threat to the public at any time. One worker was transported to a local hospital for precautionary reasons.
Source:
http://www.wkrg.com/news/article/small_hazardous_spill_at_state_docks/12184/

5. *March 30, WebWire* – (Missouri) **EPA halts illegal waste handling at Lake Road Warehouse in St. Joseph, Mo.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is stopping the illegal handling of hazardous wastes at a St. Joseph, Missouri chemical warehouse and storage facility, citing serious, long-term neglect of the environment and public health. The EPA's administrative order issued Sunday against Lake Road Warehouse Co. requires the business to immediately cease all solid and hazardous waste handling activity at its location, and complete an inventory of all chemical materials stored there. The business also must develop within 30 days a longer-term comprehensive plan to clean up any releases of hazardous wastes on its property and investigate whether those wastes have migrated beyond its facility boundary. During a recent inspection of Lake Road Warehouse, EPA Region 7 personnel found 69 different waste chemicals in corroded, torn, or leaking containers, many with unreadable labels or no labeling at all. Inspectors also discovered multiple instances of chemicals or wastes being improperly stored together.

Source: <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=62265>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *March 29, Columbia Daily Tribune* – (Missouri) **Leak at nuke plant causes soil erosion.** Repairs were expected to be completed Friday night of a leak in a water pipeline at the Callaway Nuclear Plant that was discovered earlier Friday, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR). An AmerenUE official at about 8 a.m. Friday notified the agency of the leak, which occurred in a water-intake pipeline that supplies the plant with cooling water from the Missouri River. The leak did not result in the release of any radiation or contamination, but environmental response crews found significant soil erosion into nearby creeks and ditches. DNR personnel were not aware of how long the pipeline had been leaking. A DNR specialist will remain at the site to monitor soil erosion controls.

Source: <http://www.columbiatribune.com/2008/Mar/20080329News007.asp>

7. *March 28, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **NRC says TVA using old river data to support new reactors.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) used a decade-old computer model to forecast river flooding in its application to build and operate a new nuclear plant in Alabama. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited TVA for "quality assurance" violations in its bid for a Bellefonte plant license. The NRC says TVA used a 1998 computer model that was supported by data from 1963 to predict how fast the Tennessee River could rise after heavy rains near the proposed plant in Scottsboro, Alabama. The computer model failed to reflect modifications to the upstream Chickamauga Dam, the effects of a new Chickamauga Lock, or even valley wide flooding in 2003. TVA says it will work to resolve the issue with the regulatory agency.

Source: <http://www.wate.com/Global/story.asp?S=8087303>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *March 30, Strategy Page* – (National) **Fractal camo for ships and planes.** Aircraft, armored vehicles, and even ships are now using the new “fractal” camouflage patterns that have proven so useful for ground troops. Also called “digital camouflage,” this technique uses “pixels” instead of just splotches of different colors. Naturally, this was called “digital camouflage” when it was first invented three decades ago. This pattern proved considerably more effective at hiding troops than older methods. In tests, it was found that soldiers wearing digital pattern uniforms were 50 percent more likely to escape detection by other troops. Many nations are trying digital patterns on vehicles in the belief that the same “visual disruption” effect will be present. There has not been a lot of research in this area yet, but that is not stopping many vehicles adopting the new paint scheme.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htmurph/articles/20080330.aspx>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 31, Reuters* – (International) **Lehman sues Marubeni to get back \$352 million from scam.** U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers said it had filed a lawsuit on Monday to get back \$352 million from the Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp. in the wake of a finance scam. Lehman blames Marubeni staff for the swindle, which a source with direct knowledge of the matter said involved forged documents and an imposter at the trading company’s offices. “The fraud by these employees is believed to have been perpetrated against several financial institutions and other parties, including Lehman Brothers,” said the head of corporate communications Asia-Pacific at Lehman Brothers. The scam is tied to loans made last year to finance a revamp of hospitals and lease medical equipment via Asclepius, a now bankrupt unit of drug firm LTT Bio-Pharma Co. The loans were arranged through Marubeni staff, said a source, who declined to be identified due to the legal action taking place. When repayment of the loans fell due on February 29, the U.S. investment bank was told by Marubeni that its contract was void because it had been signed with a forged seal, the source said. Seals are used for business and legal transactions in Japan. Lehman Brothers also believed that one of the people it had discussed the loans with had been an imposter, the source said. Lehman said its claim was filed at the Tokyo District Court on Monday morning
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080331/bs_nm/marubeni_fraud_dc_7

10. *March 29, News Tribune* – (Missouri) **Revenue department warns of scam.** The Missouri Department of Revenue announced Friday that it has received reports that Missourians are being targeted by scam artists. The scammers reportedly tell citizens they are with the revenue department and then they attempt to obtain personal information from taxpayers. The calls have come from individuals and from recorded messages, the revenue department said Friday, noting the caller will request bank account routing numbers or Social Security information from citizens. The message indicates that the information is needed to debit accounts for payments due to the

Department of Revenue. The department wants citizens to know it will not call individual taxpayers to request personal banking, Social Security information, or credit card numbers to process an income tax refund.

Source:

http://www.newstribune.com/articles/2008/03/30/news_state/277state15scam.txt

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Transportation Sector

11. *March 31, WFTV 9 Orlando* – (Florida) **Port Canaveral to get tighter security in TSA anti-terrorism measure.** Travelers will soon see more security officers at Port Canaveral in Brevard County, Florida, but they will not see all of the new security measures. Customs and immigration teams will work with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement groups as part of a new transportation security plan. At Port Canaveral the focus is the cruise line industry, but new security measures will not always be visible. "The hope is that terrorists... would not know what to expect the next time they come into this area. They would not know if there was going to be a large, visible presence. They wouldn't know if we're going to be behind the scenes," said the federal security director for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The team also includes security experts to catch fake travel documents, suspicious behavior, and thoroughly screen passengers. In the past 18 months, the TSA has led similar security missions at ports in Tampa and Jacksonville.

Source: <http://www.wftv.com/news/15748935/detail.html?rss=orlc&psp=news>

12. *March 31, Newsday* – (New York) **Schumer urges federal air passenger rights bill.** A U.S. senator from New York said he was disappointed, but not surprised, that a New York State bill that would guarantee severely delayed airplane passengers new rights when stuck on a tarmac for hours was shot down by a federal appeals court last week. The rejection of the Airline Passengers' Bill of Rights makes a federal law that his Senate colleagues introduced over a year ago that much more important, the senator said yesterday. "While the Federal Aviation Administration takes a 'hear no evil, see no evil' approach to addressing the unbearable flight delays crippling New York City area airports, it's the passengers who feel the pain," he said. "We're making a major push for federal passage." A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Transportation said the department has formed a task force to deal with the issue. The senator said he understood why the federal court struck down New York's bill, because he said any law should recognize the interstate nature of air travel.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-lischu315633033mar31,0,3305387.story>

13. *March 30, USA Today* – (National) **TSA tries soothing screening process.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) hopes to create a kinder, gentler screening process and will test it soon at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. Other U.S. airports could see it later this year. "This is the first significant change to the checkpoint since the 1970s," the TSA chief said. The checkpoint to be tested in May at one terminal in Baltimore is based on a simple premise: serenity adds security. Mauve lights glow softly, soothing music hums, and

smiling employees offer quiet greetings and assistance. “A chaotic, noisy, congested checkpoint is a security nightmare. Chaos gives camouflage,” the chief said. “A chaotic environment puts subtle pressure on (screeners) to rush the job.” He has sought to “calm the passenger” as he has focused the TSA on intercepting terrorists before they get to checkpoints, where they could slip plastic explosives past X-ray machines. About 1,200 screeners at 70 large airports specialize in passenger observation and pick out people who appear suspicious for closer questioning or pat-downs.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-03-30-tsa_N.htm

14. *March 30, Associated Press* – (California) **Note found in bathroom prompts bomb scare, partial evacuation at LAX airport.** Authorities say a portion of Los Angeles International Airport has been evacuated after a message was found saying there was a bomb in the ladies room. The airport police spokesman says the area has been checked for explosives and cleared Sunday morning. Police say a passenger apparently went into the men’s room at Terminal 2 and saw the message on a wall that said there was a bomb in the ladies room.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/03/30/america/LAX-Bomb-Scare.php>

15. *March 30, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Aloha Airlines ending passenger flights.** Aloha Airlines announced Sunday that it will shut down all interisland and transpacific passenger flights Monday. The airline said it would operate its schedule with the exception of flights from Hawaii to the West Coast and flights from Orange County to Reno and Sacramento, and Oakland to Las Vegas. Aloha Air officials said they made arrangements for the flight crews stranded at the end of their trips. United Airlines and other airlines are prepared to assist and accommodate, said the airline in a press release. Aloha’s chief executive officer said that, “despite the groundswell of support from the community and our elected officials, we simply ran out of time to find a qualified buyer or secure continued financing for our passenger business. We had no choice but to take this action.” Aloha also announced that its air cargo and aviation services units will continue to operate as usual while the U.S. Bankruptcy Court seeks bids from potential buyers.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/money/15746095/detail.html>

16. *March 29, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Engine problems divert Southwest flight.** A Southwest Airlines plane had engine trouble shortly after departing Saturday and had to return to the airport. The flight departed from Dallas at 4:20 p.m. bound for St. Louis, a Southwest spokesperson said. Shortly after, the aircraft’s pilot realized there was a problem with one of the engines and the plane returned to Dallas. The plane landed safely at Love Field and was taken out of service. The Federal Aviation Administration recently ordered a check of maintenance records at all U.S. airlines following criticism of the agency’s handling of missed fuselage inspections at Dallas-based Southwest.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080330/ap_on_re_us/plane_engine_problem;_ylt=AoLufTeQZczHFIS3Nt5gz2xG2ocA

Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *March 29, Citizens' Voice* – (Pennsylvania) **Lockdown at city hall.** Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, city hall closed for more than an hour Friday morning after an employee in the code enforcement office opened mail which contained a suspicious white powder. The director of the Luzerne County Emergency Agency said tests showed the powder was product from a diet pill. City hall reopened just before noon. Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency, a hazardous material response team from Datom Products environment division in Dunmore, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and Wilkes-Barre police, fire, and health department officials responded to city hall to investigate. The city administration will complete a follow-up investigation to try to find out who sent the envelope to city hall and how the product got in the mail. Source: http://www.citizensvoice.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19435636&BRD=2259&PAG=461&dept_id=455154&rfi=6

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *March 30, USA Today* – (National) **Impact of meat recall beginning to show.** The full costs of the biggest beef recall ever are beginning to emerge six weeks later and they are hitting retailers, meat processors, other businesses, and the government. In California alone, more than \$1.1 million has been spent to destroy the beef and products containing it that were distributed via the federal school lunch program, state officials say. That covers 4.2 million pounds of beef and 155,000 cases of processed food, said a director of nutritional services for the state education department. California was one of 46 states that got beef from now-closed Westland/Hallmark Meat through the National School Lunch Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will reimburse states with credits or commodities to cover lost products and destruction expenses. Hundreds of companies also resold Westland beef or products containing some Westland beef. Each must tell their customers that the products need to be destroyed as ordered by the USDA. Some smaller meat firms may be ruined, said the executive director of the National Meat Association. “They’re talking about losses of millions of dollars and if they have less than \$10 million in sales, that’s a lot,” she said. The USDA says much of the 143 million pounds was consumed pre-recall. But canned products, such as soups and sauces, can last years. The Grocery Manufacturers Association says the scope of the recall — covering two years of production and beef distributed nationwide — is unprecedented and the final cost may reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2008-03-30-meat-recall_N.htm?csp=34
19. *March 30, Shop & Stop Supermarkets* – (National) **Stop & Shop Alerts Customers to Voluntary Recall of Stonyfield Organic Fat Free Blueberry Yogurt.** The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company, following a voluntary recall by Stonyfield Farm, removed from its shelves six ounce cups of Stonyfield Organic Fat Free Blueberry Yogurt

because the product may contain plastic and glass fragments. The product recalled by Stonyfield's has a UPC code # 0-52159-00044 with product codes printed along the cup bottom dated April 13- April 15, 2008 and April 25 –April 26, 2008.

Source: [http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-30-2008/0004782448&EDATE=)

[bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-30-2008/0004782448&EDATE=](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-30-2008/0004782448&EDATE=)

20. *March 30, Salinas Californian* – (California) **Recall issued for Mexican gum containing lead.** Monterey County health officials are warning consumers not to chew the gum included as part of the Dulces Yosi “MEGAPACK” imported from Mexico. Tests by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) found levels of lead in the gum that could cause health problems. The CDPH has determined the gum contains as much as 0.58 parts per million of lead. California considers products with lead levels in excess of 0.10 ppm to be contaminated.

Source:

<http://www.californianonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080330/NEWS01/80330010/1002>

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Water Sector

21. *March 30, United Press International* – (Utah) **Contamination threatens Utah water supply.** The water supply for the Bountiful and Woods Cross areas of Utah are at risk for groundwater contamination due to nearby Superfund sites, officials worry. The contamination risk to the sources of the two Utah cities' water supply is of such great concern that both state and federal regulators are working on a fix, the Deseret Morning News reported Sunday. The water suppliers for both Bountiful and Woods Cross were still providing safe water during recent safety tests, the Utah Division of Drinking Water director said last week. An Environmental Protection Agency official who supervises one of the Superfund sites told the Morning News the cleanup of the contaminated sites could take nearly 15 years.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/03/30/contamination_threatens_utah_water_supply/9484/

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *March 31, National Post* – (International) **Little-known lung infection soars among children: Study.** Rates of empyema, a little-known but potentially fatal lung infection, have soared among young children and climbed significantly in all age groups in recent years, putting a “huge” burden on the health care system, a new Canadian study indicates. No one is sure what is behind the trend, or why children have been hit so hard, but drug resistance among some bacteria linked to the ailment may be at least partly to blame, say respiratory specialists. In the meantime, patients spend an average of three weeks in hospital with the illness, where pus forms in the “pleural” cavity around the

lung and sometimes has to be removed with chest surgery. The study by Canadian researchers found more than 11,000 reported empyema cases across Canada between 1995 and 2003, with rates jumping more than 450 percent among children aged one to four over that period. “We didn’t expect it to be that much,” said the senior surgical resident at the University of British Columbia who headed the research. “It’s pretty dramatic.” Before the advent of antibiotics, half the people who contracted empyema died, though the mortality rate is still about five percent, he added. The study was published in the latest Canadian Respiratory Journal issue. Meanwhile, the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa has had six empyema cases in the past two weeks. Source: <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=411239>

23. *March 31, New York Daily News* – (National) **Doc ties cell phones, cancer.** A top British cancer expert and neurosurgeon says using hand-held phones for 10 years could double the risk of brain cancer. “This danger has far broader public-health ramifications than asbestos and smoking,” the neurosurgeon told the Independent of London. He predicted there will be more fatal brain tumors in coming years, based on 100 studies that he says show a danger of the tumors from cell phone radiation exposure. Nearly 3 billion people worldwide regularly gab on mobile phones, and only 1 billion smoke. Far fewer people are exposed to the deadly effects of asbestos. A mobile-phone industry group dismissed the claims as exaggerated and pointed out that health groups say cell phones are safe.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2008/03/31/2008-03-31_doc_ties_cell_phones_cancer.html

Government Facilities Sector

24. *March 30, Daily Record* – (New Jersey) **2 detained in Picatinny security scare.** Two people have been detained near Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, and authorities are investigating photos taken around the area of the base late Sunday afternoon, a spokesperson from the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office said. Authorities closed a span of Route 15 South around 4:30 p.m., where FBI agents, state, county, and local police gathered around a tan Nissan Pathfinder with New Jersey license plates. The suspect vehicle may have been used by two individuals who fled after being spotted taking photos that piqued the interest of the Department of Defense, said a spokesperson for the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office. The investigation into the content of the photos is ongoing and is being led by the Department of Defense, according to the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office.

Source:

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080330/UPDATES01/80330001/1005/NEWS01>

25. *March 30, TWEAN 8 Austin* – (Texas) **Chemical spill on UT campus.** Emergency crews evacuated the molecular biology building on the University of Texas campus early Sunday night because of a chemical spill. Austin police, fire, hazmat, and emergency service crews all responded to the scene. The Austin Fire Department

reported about 200 milliliters of a flammable and corrosive acid spilled inside the building. The University police department evacuated ten people, and at least one person was affected. Everyone inside the building was evacuated safely.

Source: http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=204248

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *March 31, KPAX 8 Missoula* – (Montana) **Haz-Mat drill held in Bozeman.** Officials held a series of emergency preparedness drills at Montana State University's (MSU) Bobcat Stadium on Friday. Dozens of agencies took part in the training exercise between the Bozeman Fire Department, the Bozeman Police Department, MSU, and the Montana National Guard. An army unit out of Texas was also there to oversee the test of local Haz-Mat capabilities. A mock chemical spill was enacted, but only a few knew it was a drill when they got to the scene. Even the Civil Support team from Helena was given a different story before arriving. The Bozeman/Gallatin County Haz-Mat team suited up, grabbed their masks, and headed up to one of the stadium's skyboxes where the spill occurred. Stadium evacuees who pretended to be exposed to the chemicals were hosed down and medically evaluated by firefighters.

Source:

http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8093203&nav=menu227_3

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Information Technology

27. *March 31, Computerworld* – (National) **Office exploit hits the street.** Attack code that targets a recently patched vulnerability in Microsoft Corp.'s Office suite has gone public, a security company said today as it urged users to update immediately. The exploit, which was posted yesterday to the Milw0rm.com Web site, takes advantage of one of two flaws fixed by Microsoft in its MS08-016 security update. Microsoft issued the update on March 11 as part of a four-bulletin batch. "The exploit that is currently available uses a PowerPoint file to leverage the vulnerability on Office XP SP3," said a Symantec Corp. analyst in an alert to customers of the company's DeepSight threat network. "The payload is designed to execute the 'calc.exe' calculator program on Windows. However, it will not be difficult to modify this exploit to add a malicious payload." According to the analyst, the rigged PowerPoint file triggers the "Microsoft Office File Memory Corruption Vulnerability," one of the two vulnerabilities addressed by MS08-016. Microsoft said earlier this month that the flaw is rated "critical" for users of Office 2000 and "important" for Office XP and Office 2003 on Windows machines and Office 2004 for Mac. However, the company acknowledged that if successful, an attack against any of the four versions could result in the attacker wresting control of the machine from its rightful owner. Microsoft spelled out two possible attack vectors: enticing users to a malicious Web site that hosts a specially rigged file or feeding users malformed files as e-mail attachments. "Customers are strongly advised to install the patches from the bulletin MS08-016 if they are not installed already, especially

considering the availability of this exploit,” said Symnatec.

Source:

http://computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9073399&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

28. *March 31, Macworld.co.uk and IDG News Service* – (International) **Sophos warns of Mac Trojan malware.** Security consultant Sophos is warning of the appearance of money-grabbing Trojan horse malware aimed at Macs. The Imunizator Trojan makes false claims that Macs have privacy problems as part of its attempt to install itself. Sophos advises users not to panic. The Trojan, also known as Troj/MacSwp-B, tries to scare Mac users into purchasing unnecessary software by claiming that privacy issues have been discovered on the computer. “Windows users are no stranger to scareware like this, but it is rarer on the Mac. Nevertheless, the discovery of this Trojan horse does follow fast on the heels of other malware that has been identified on Mac OS X in recent months,” said a senior technology consultant for Sophos. “Cybercrime against Mac users may be small in comparison to Windows attacks, but it is growing. Mac users need to learn from the mistakes made by their Windows cousins in the past and ensure that they have defenses in place, are up-to-date with patches and exercise caution about what they run on their computer.” Sophos experts note that the new Trojan horse is closely related to another piece of Mac scareware, MacSweeper, which was being deployed in an attack via online adverts on ITV.com and the website of the Radio Times last month. Earlier this year Sophos published its annual Security Threat Report, which described how financially motivated hackers had targeted Macs for the first time in 2007.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/archives/emailPrint.jsp?R=printThis&A=/article/08/03/31/Sophos-warns-of-Mac-Trojan-malware_1.html

29. *March 31, Register* – (International) **Apple lags MS in security response.** Apple is far behind Microsoft in security patch responsiveness, according to a study by security researchers from IBM. The two researchers, from IBM’s X-Force security division, analyzed several years of vulnerability disclosures and patching processes from various vendors. They found that Apple is getting worse at dealing with security problems while Microsoft is improving. Apple is experiencing more vulnerabilities, longer patching times, and more attacks on unpatched vulnerabilities, according to the duo, who presented their findings at a presentation entitled 0-day Patch – Exposing Vendors (In)Security Performance at last week’s Black Hat conference in Amsterdam.

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/03/31/apple_security_response_pants/print.html

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: <http://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

30. *March 31, Fox News* – (International) **Study: Cell phones could be more dangerous than cigarettes.** A study by an award-winning cancer expert shows that cell phone use could kill more people than smoking. According to the U.K.'s *Independent* newspaper, the study shows that there is a growing body of evidence that using handsets for 10 years or more can double the risk of brain cancer. The expert – one of the world's top neurosurgeons – based his assessment on the fact that three billion people now use the phones worldwide. That is three times higher than people who smoke. Smoking kills some five million globally each year. He warned that people should avoid using handsets whenever possible and called on the phone industry to make them safer. France and Germany have already warned against the use of mobile phones, especially by children, it is reported. The study is said to be the most damning indictment of cell phone use. According to the *Independent*, cancers take at least 10 years to develop, which has influenced earlier studies showing relative safety when using cell phones. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,343335,00.html>
31. *March 30, IDG News Service* – (International) **Common mobile security doesn't cut it, hackers say.** The security of the most widely used standard in the world for transmitting mobile phone calls is dangerously flawed, putting privacy and data at risk, two researchers warned at the Black Hat conference in Europe last week. The two researchers showed at Black Hat in the U.S. last month how it was possible to break the encryption on a GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) call in about 30 minutes using relatively inexpensive off-the-shelf equipment and software tools. The hack means they could listen in on phone calls from distances of up to 20 miles (32 kilometers) or farther away. They are still refining their technique, which involves cracking the A5/1 stream cipher, an algorithm used to encrypt conversations. In about another month, they will be able to crack about 95 percent of the traffic on GSM networks in 30 minutes or faster with more advanced hardware. Their research has been motivated in part by the absence of a more secure encryption method despite years of warnings about GSM. "Ultimately we are hoping that the mobile operators actually initiate a move to secure their networks," one said. "They've had about 10 years, and they haven't done it. In my opinion, there is only one language that they speak: that's called revenue. As soon as they lose the revenue, they will actually change." Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/pcworld/20080330/tc_pcworld/143969

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *March 31, Fox News* – (National) **FBI: Eco-terrorism remains No. 1 domestic terror threat.** The torching of luxury homes in the swank Seattle suburb of Woodinville earlier this month served as a reminder that the decades-long war with militant environmentalists on American soil has not ended. "It remains what we would probably consider the No. 1 domestic terrorism threat, because they have successfully continued to conduct different types of attacks in and around the country," said a special agent

with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). For years, officials have battled against members of groups like the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). Law enforcement has made strides prosecuting cells, but it has been unable to end the arsons that have plagued developments encroaching on rural lands in the West. FBI estimates place damages from these attacks at well over \$100 million. It is a problem that is unlikely to go away. Eco-terrorists often operate alone or in small groups, making them extremely difficult to penetrate. They target structures they feel are infringing on nature, leaving low-tech detonators that allow the fires to start after they have left. In the past, ELF members have used everything from milk jugs to electrical ignition devices to set their blazes. Officials for the fire earlier this month said no explosive devices were found amid the remains of the houses. The FBI currently has 180 ongoing eco-terror investigations and over the last several years has tied them to some 1,800 criminal acts. “There’s no way to know or gauge how many people are actually sympathetic to that ideology and will continue to perpetuate it through acts of arson and other violence,” said a retired arson investigator.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,343768,00.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

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Dams Sector

33. *March 31, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Parks director says valve, not dam failure, drained lake.** The Indianapolis Parks director says a faulty valve, not the failure of a dam, caused water to drain from a lake in Eagle Creek Park. Hundreds of fish were killed when water drained from Lilly Lake into Eagle Creek Reservoir on March 23. According to the director, the valve either malfunctioned or someone left it open. The Eagle Creek Park Foundation president says the draining of the lake could have been prevented if repairs had been made on the valve. The director says officials have known for years about the need for repairs at the lake, but there has been no money to do the work.

Source: http://www.wthitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8092170&nav=menu593_2

34. *March 29, Beacon News* – (Illinois) **Big step in Yorkville’s Glen Palmer Dam rework.** A key step in the Glen Palmer Dam reconstruction project was completed Friday. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced Friday that in addition to removing the hydraulic roller below the dam, a fishway has been constructed and is now open on the Yorkville dam. IDNR has been working with the city of Yorkville since 2006 to reconstruct the dam so that it is safer for the public, as well as the fish that swim through this stretch of the Fox River. IDNR officials will be monitoring the new fishway for the first few weeks. If the system is successful, similar fishways could be constructed on other Illinois rivers. The next phase, scheduled for

completion by December 2009, includes removing the south end of the dam and installing a 1,000-foot-long rock channel to allow fish to migrate upstream and downstream.

Source:

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/beaconnews/news/867436,2_1_AU29_DAM_S1_article

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