



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 April 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



For info click here
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Galveston County Daily News reports the U.S. Department of Labor cited Valero Energy Corp.'s Port Arthur, Texas, refinery for 16 safety violations and proposed penalties of \$101,750. Thirteen of the 16 citations are classified as "serious," meaning they have the potential to cause death or serious injury. (See item [3](#))
- According to the Associated Press, waves have eaten a chunk five feet deep and ten to 12 feet wide in the Montegut Marsh Management levee in Louisiana. Terrebonne Parish levee officials have set aside \$35,000 to plug the hole with rocks before the winds change and waters rise higher. (See item [35](#))

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. *April 17, Hess Corporation* – (International) **Oil prices reach new highs.** Oil prices Thursday have reached new highs of above \$115, following falls in U.S. oil stocks as well as the continued weakening of the dollar. Crude futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange stood at \$115.23 Thursday morning, after touching a peak of \$115.45. One analyst told Agence France-Presse that prices could easily reach the \$120 per barrel level within one week. The most recent price surge is due to the latest figures from the U.S. government that indicate that there has been a 2.3 million barrel fall in crude inventories across the country, a larger drop than analysts had expected.

Source: <http://www.hessenergy.com/common/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleId=18556075>

2. *April 17, Reuters* – (National) **Bush urges halt of CO2 emission growth by 2025.** The U.S. president on Wednesday called for halting the growth of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. He offered broad principles and said coal-burning electric utilities need to find high-tech ways of trapping greenhouse gases. His proposal – aimed at influencing upcoming U.S. debate of mandatory carbon dioxide rules in June – rejects new taxes, abandoning nuclear power, and adopting trade barriers. “The wrong way is to raise taxes, duplicate mandates, or demand sudden and drastic emissions cuts that have no chance of being realized and every chance of hurting our economy,” he said. Two U.S. senators who co-wrote the pending climate change legislation praised the president’s principles and denied it would hurt efforts to pass a bill in June.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN1518272120080417?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

3. *April 16, Galveston County Daily News* – (Texas) **Valero cited for safety lapses.** The U.S. Department of Labor cited Valero Energy Corp.’s Port Arthur refinery for 16 safety violations. The citation and proposed penalties of \$101,750 are among the first under a program that emphasizes safety in chemical processes at petroleum refineries. The Labor Department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration said the refinery did not ensure inspections were being conducted for alarms, indicators, and controls. Of the 16 citations, OSHA classified 13 citations as “serious,” meaning they have the potential to cause death or serious injury. A spokesman for Valero said the violations and penalties have not been finalized, and he said the plant is operating safely.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=e7fddc332b345681&-session=TheDailyNews:42F942510a28800DD5Ggl17D10DF>

4. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Company receives hundred of ‘smelly’ gas calls.** National Fuel Gas Distribution Corp. (NFG) says too much mercaptan was added to natural gas, prompting hundreds of calls from residents concerned about gas leaks. Mercaptan is a substance added so people can “smell” natural gas, which is odorless and colorless in its natural state. The utility started getting calls Monday night, and through Tuesday had logged some 850 complaints. By law, the company had to send crews to each home to make sure the problem was just too much mercaptan and not an actual gas leak. NFG officials say crews did find small leaks at a few homes but, in most cases, the extra mercaptan was to blame for the smell.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/16/ap/strange/main4021179.shtml>

5. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Owner, 2 employees charged with manslaughter in Pennsylvania coal mine explosion.** R&D Coal Co.’s co-owner and two employees were charged Monday in connection with the October 2006 methane gas explosion at the company’s Buck Mountain Slope Mine in Schuylkill County that killed a miner. The grand jury found that the co-owner and one employee were responsible for dangerous conditions in the mine. The other employee did not follow safety procedures before a detonation that set off the explosion, the state attorney general said. The

explosion was caused by a dangerous buildup of methane gas in the mine due to inadequate ventilation. The company failed to conduct pre-shift mine inspections and properly monitor the mine's methane levels. The company also lied to state regulators when it said a 2004 explosion that seriously injured two miners was caused by ruptured air and water lines, the attorney general said. The co-owner ordered employees not to discuss that incident and altered the scene to give mine inspectors the impression that the explosion was not caused by methane, he said. The state Department of Environmental Protection forced the company to close in January 2007 and revoked its mining permit.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/nation/17826484.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *April 17, Polymerupdate* – (Texas) **Texas based chlor-alkali plant of Dow Chemical resumes production.** A chlor-alkali plant operated by Dow Chemical at Freeport, Texas, has resumed production after carrying out planned maintenance at the facility. A source said, “the chlor-alkali unit was shut down on March 27th and remained offstream for over two weeks. Dow operates chlor-alkali plants in Freeport, Texas.

Source: <http://www.polymerupdate.com/polymer-petrochemical-news/checkbreak.asp?id=61537&types=brk>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *April 17, Daily Californian* – (California) **Lawrence Lab to lay off 535 employees.** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will lay off 535 employees beginning as early as mid-May, officials announced Tuesday. The lab will release full-time employees who largely work in administration, in addition to scientists and engineers, a spokesperson said. On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration approved the involuntary layoffs, which mark the latest cost cutting measure prompted a \$280 million increase in the institution's operating costs, a spokesperson said. The cost increases partly stem from new tax costs. The lab offered 750 employees voluntary buyouts last month, but only 215 accepted them, according to the spokesperson. It had also released more than 500 employees belonging to its temporary workforce. The lab received \$100 million less from Congress this year

Source:

http://www.dailycal.org/article/101344/lawrence_lab_to_lay_off_535_employees

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *April 17, Strategy Page* – (National) **B-1B bested by B-52.** The availability rate of U.S. Air Force 67 B-1B bombers has dropped from 56 percent five years ago to 51 percent.

While the B-1B is twice as expensive to operate (per hour in the air) than the B-52, the B-1B can move more quickly to a new target. B-52s are not only cheaper to maintain, they have a higher availability rate (65 percent.) As a result, the Air Force wants to keep 76 B-52s in service. With the development of GPS guided bombs, heavy bombers have become the most cost-effective way to deliver support to ground forces. The B-52 is the cheapest American heavy bomber to operate. The well maintained B-52s are quite sturdy and have, on average, only 16,000 flying hours on them. The Air Force estimates that the B-52s will not become un-maintainable until they reach 28,000 flight hours.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htmurph/articles/20080417.aspx>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *April 17, IDG News Service* – (National) **CEO subpoena scam fires up anew.** After tricking several thousand executives into downloading malicious software earlier this week, online scammers started up their subpoena phishing scam again Wednesday, but on a much smaller scale. The phishers send a small number of e-mail messages to senior executives within companies, often CEOs, telling them that they have been subpoenaed for a federal court case. The e-mails direct the victim to a Web site that is very similar to a legitimate California federal court page, but ending in "...uscourts.com," rather than the "...uscourts.gov," the Web domain actually used by federal courts. Verisign, which estimates that about 2,000 people were tricked by the scam on Monday, believes that Wednesday's attack was on a much smaller scale. As of late Wednesday the company's iDefense group had tracked only about 100 infections, said the director of iDefense's Rapid Response Team. By Tuesday, security experts had managed to get the first phishing Web site taken down, only to have the second one pop up on Wednesday. Late Wednesday, antivirus companies were not blocking this latest version of the malware, said a security researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and volunteer at the [SANS Internet Storm Center](#).

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/144746/ceo_subpoena_scam_fires_up_a_new.html

10. *April 16, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Company warns of security breach.** Customers of Brookings, south Dakota,-based Fishback Financial Corporation are getting letters advising them to watch their accounts for identity theft. The company says a third party recently had unauthorized access to a computer database that includes people's names, addresses and Social Security numbers. The letter says there is no evidence the information was stolen or has been used by anyone, but customers are advised to check their banking and credit card statements. Fishback Financial has banks or branches in 11 communities in South Dakota and one in Minnesota.

Source: <http://www.kxmb.com/News/229288.asp>

11. *April 16, Forbes* – (National) **Badge fraud.** According to a lawsuit filed by the Texas Attorney General's office in February against Thornbrooks Shapiro, LLC , its president scammed people of thousands of dollars a month by tricking them into sending checks

for make-believe invoices for a good cause: the widows and orphans of officers killed on duty. The man has done business selling ‘advertising’ for *The Sheriff’s Journal*, *Police Publications*, *Municipal Officer’s Magazine*, *Law Enforcement Quarterly*, *First on Patrol Magazine*, and *The Deputy Defender*, according to court records. He allegedly had access to specific decision-makers at small businesses and had assured confused or naive employees with authorization to write checks that advertising had already been approved, according to court records. However, the scammer is just the latest of 14 people in seven months to be indicted in Houston for so-called badge fraud schemes. Using the hard-sell techniques of telemarketers, badge fraud preys on the emotions of benevolent Americans (who gave \$295 billion to charities in 2006, according to the Giving USA Foundation). Badge fraud feeds off small businesses with poor internal communication, where victims’ accounts payable departments often pay without question. Authorities say the man’s enterprise sent sham invoices (for as much as \$600) stamped “PAST DUE.” While charitable solicitations rank No. 20 on the Federal Trade Commission’s list of consumer fraud complaints, most victims are not aware they have been duped. That makes badge fraud hard to track.

Source: http://www.forbes.com/personalfinance/philanthropy/2008/04/16/badge-fraud-law-tech-security-cz_jb_0416fraud.html

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Transportation Sector

12. *April 17, Washington Post* – (National) **Railroads directed to analyze safety and security of routes.** The U.S. Transportation Department issued a rule yesterday that orders railroads to extensively analyze security risks in choosing the routes on which they ship hazardous chemicals. Railroads will be required to do a safety and security risk analysis of primary routes and any practical alternatives they might use, the department said. By September 2009, they must route trains with dangerous chemicals based on the studies. Those that do not use the safest routes could be fined up to \$10,000 a day and ordered to reroute trains. In their analyses, railroads will be required to consider 27 risk factors such as trip length, population density, and volume and types of hazardous materials being moved, Transportation secretary said. They also must consider information provided by communities.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/16/AR2008041603373.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

13. *April 17, Associated Press* – (National) **More planes grounded because of missed inspections.** Federal airline regulators said Wednesday that 24 jets operated by commuter airline company Trans States Airlines were grounded because they do not meet safety standards. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the airline reported the problem Tuesday and the aircraft were being checked. A Trans States spokesman said 45 flights had been canceled by Wednesday evening because of the problem. He estimated that all the planes would be checked and back in service by Thursday night. The airline had not properly checked an electrical switch that controls steering of the nose wheel. The switches must be inspected every 6,000 flight hours or 36 months, the FAA official said. The airline discovered the problem during a self-audit

as it prepared for federal inspections, she said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-04-17-trans-states_N.htm

14. *April 16, Science Daily* – (National) **Airport security from chaos.** A Department of Homeland Security-sponsored research project out of the University of Southern California (USC) will increase security at LAX airport in Los Angeles, and it could soon be used across the country to predict and minimize risk. Here is how it works: Computer software records the locations of routine, random vehicle checkpoints and canine searches at the airport. Police then provide data on possible terrorist targets and their relative importance. These data may change from one day to the next, or if there have been any security breaches or suspicious activity. The computer give the police a model of where to go and when. The software uses mathematical algorithms to generate random decisions that are based on calculated probabilities of a terrorist attack at those locations. The software makes it extremely difficult to predict police operations.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080416161215.htm>

15. *April 16, WXIA 11 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Smoke forces plane evacuation at Hartsfield.** The passengers of ASA Flight 4399 were evacuated from the airplane at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport Wednesday afternoon after the flight crew discovered some smoke in the cockpit, a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said. The plane was headed to Milwaukee when the discovery was made. Passengers were returned to the terminal via ground transportation while the aircraft was examined. No injuries were reported.

Source: http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=114534

16. *April 16, Grand Rapids Press* – (Michigan) **Plane at Ford International Airport stuck in grass as pilots taxi for takeoff.** Passengers on a Continental Express regional jet had to de-board this morning on a taxiway after the plane became stuck in grass before takeoff. The plane's wheels went off the concrete about 6 a.m. at Gerald R. Ford International Airport, in Michigan, after the plane's crew apparently cut a corner too close. An airport spokesman said the plane did not affect other landings or takeoffs.

Source: http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/2008/04/plane_at_kent_county_internati.html

17. *April 16, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Continental Express jet makes emergency landing at Bush.** A small passenger plane landed safely after its landing gear malfunctioned at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, on Wednesday evening. The Continental Express jet took off just before 6:30 p.m. but its landing gear did not retract, so it returned to the airport, said a Continental spokeswoman. The plane landed safely around 7 p.m., and no one was injured.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/headline/metro/5707283.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **2 more explosives damage mailboxes in southwestern Wisconsin.** Two more mailboxes in southwestern Wisconsin have been

damaged by explosives. Jackson County officials are investigating two mailboxes blown up early Sunday. They say one was at a high school principal's home. That brings the number of explosives found or blown up in southwestern Wisconsin mailboxes to five. La Crosse County authorities are investigating three incidents. No one has been injured in any of the blasts so far.

Source: <http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=8175111>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *April 17, Associated Press* – (National) **New study advances method to make energy from farm waste.** Washington University engineers have found that vigorous mixing helps microorganisms turn farm waste into alternative energy. Hog and cow manure is a persistent pollutant from industrial-sized barns and feed lots, but can become a useful source of fuels like methane when broken down by bacteria. The researchers used imaging technology to study how microorganisms break down manure and found that vigorous mixing aids the process. The goal is to produce a simple method that farmers can use to treat waste and generate energy. "Each year livestock operations produce 1.8 billion tons of manure," a researcher said. "Treating manure (with microorganisms) gets rid of the environmental threats and produces bioenergy at the same time."

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j7SBLnEtt_N5iWVL4_8T9QoyXMQQD903FE400

20. *April 16, Reuters* – (National) **USDA may OK farm bill extension with conditions.** Agriculture officials are likely to recommend that the U.S. president approve a one-week extension of the current farm bill, if lawmakers make "significant progress" in brokering a new law, the Agriculture Department secretary said on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the House passed a one-week extension to the current law, and senators were expected to take up the same measure later in the day. That reprieve, if approved by the White House, would give lawmakers more time to finally strike a deal on the umbrella agriculture law, which is months behind schedule. A short-term extension of some agricultural programs expires on Friday, creating an informal deadline for action.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSN1630402420080416>

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Water Sector

21. *April 17, Associated Press* – (California) **Roadblock for Delta water plan in California.** A federal judge has ruled that water regulators did not consider the effects of global warming and other environmental issues related to disappearing California salmon when they approved increased pumping of the state's Delta region. The judge tossed out a study prepared in 2004 by federal regulators, saying it was scientifically inadequate. The study had concluded that more water could be taken from the Central Valley to quench residential and agricultural thirsts throughout the state. The plan was

already on hold because of a similar ruling the judge made about the U.S. presidential administration's failure to address effects on Delta smelt species.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/17/us/17brfs-ROADBLOCKFOR_BRF.html?ref=us

22. *April 17, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **What's in your water?** Since city officials have never tested the city water supply for pharmaceuticals and other unregulated chemicals despite mounting concern, two Chicago newspapers hired an independent lab, which found tiny amounts of an anti-seizure drug, a common painkiller, caffeine, and two chemicals used to make Teflon and Scotchgard in samples taken from a water supply that serves seven million people. The findings echo what authorities have detected in tap water supplies elsewhere in the country: dozens of prescription and over-the-counter drugs as well as chemicals from personal-care products, food packaging, clothing, and household goods. The tests do not show that drinking water is unsafe. But they do raise important questions for regulators and city officials aware of growing concerns about potential health effects from long-term exposure to drugs in our drinking water, even at very low levels.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-chicago-water-testapr17,0,6323835.story>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *April 17, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **Researchers chart how new flu strains travel.** Researchers have now concluded that new flu strains emerge in eastern and southeastern Asia, move to Europe and North America six to nine months later, then travel to South America where they disappear forever. The new findings should help researchers pick the correct flu strains for each year's vaccine, a process that must be carried out a year ahead of time. The group charged with making the decisions about vaccines has been right about 80 percent of the time, said the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the new findings should lead to an even higher success rate. Influenza strikes up to 15 percent of the world's population each year, killing on average about 250,000 to 500,000 people, according to the World Health Organization.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-flu17apr17,1,1623801.story>

24. *April 16, U.S. News and World Report* – (National) **Study of chemical in plastic bottles raises alarm.** The U.S. government's National Toxicology Program yesterday agreed with a scientific panel that recently expressed concern about physiological changes that occur in people when they ingest Bisphenol A (BPA), a compound in hard, clear polycarbonate plastics that can leach from plastics into their food. The Canadian government is even considering declaring the chemical toxic, the New York Times reported. This could set the stage for banning it from plastic baby bottles, water bottles, and food containers. BPA has raised concerns because it appears to mimic the effects of estrogen, interfering with hormone levels and cell signaling systems. Previous studies

have shown that people exposed to high levels of BPA have a greater risk of developing uterine fibroids, breast cancer, decreased sperm counts, and prostate cancer. Babies and children are thought to be at greatest risk from the exposure.

Source: <http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/living-well-usn/2008/04/16/study-of-chemical-in-plastic-bottles-raises-alarm.html>

25. *April 17, Canadian Press* – (International) **EU says China is the source of half of all dangerous goods seized in 2007.** The European Union (EU) says China supplied half of all dangerous products seized by European authorities last year. The EU's executive office says consumer confidence in Chinese goods has fallen dramatically after high-profile toxic toy recalls last year. It says in a report released Thursday that the EU's rapid alert system flagged up 1,605 dangerous products last year – up 53 percent from 1,051 the previous year. National authorities in the EU's 27 countries use the system to share information on toxic goods and product recalls.

Source:

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iuQRZPA3BDHiSUAore8Yfub-3DA>

Government Facilities Sector

26. *April 16, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Two Murray schools evacuated after bomb threat.** Students at Murray High School and Horizon Elementary School were evacuated after a caller told police there were bombs in both schools and Murray City Hall around 11 a.m. A spokeswoman for the school district says the elementary students were sent to a nearby church, then allowed back into the school after the building was searched. The high school students went outside to the football stadium, then were sent home for the day. City Hall was also evacuated, but reopened after police searched the building and did not find any evidence of a bomb.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_8946752

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *April 17, WFMY 2 Greensboro* – (North Carolina) **Disaster drill prepares crews for terrorist attack.** Disaster response crews from North Carolina and surrounding states are in town April 16 to April 19 for the 2008 Disaster Medical Preparedness Conference at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. On Thursday, April 17, emergency teams will conduct a disaster drill, complete with mannequins as 'victims,' and a 50-bed field hospital with electronic communications. According to Moses Cone Health System, the event, which is sponsored by North Carolina Office of EMS, is the first of its kind for North Carolina.

Source:

http://www.digtriad.com/news/local_state/article.aspx?storyid=101919&catid=57

28. *April 16, Air Force Print News* – (Oklahoma) **Did you say CSI or AFOSI?** First

responders at Vance Air Force base in Oklahoma received training April 15 from an Air Force Office of Special Investigations crime scene investigator on how to process a hazardous materials incident. A special agent and forensic science consultant for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations came to Vance to teach people from bioenvironmental, AFOSI, security forces, and the fire department how to preserve and process a chemical or weapon-of-mass-destruction scene that may be a result of criminal activity. The course was designed for first responders who know what they do individually, but not necessarily with an eye on treating it like a crime scene.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123094707>

29. *April 16, Omak Okanogan County Chronicle* – (Washington) **Broken fiber optics line disrupts...911 service in Ferry County.** Ferry County was thrown into a communications blackout Tuesday afternoon, April 15, when a work crew broke a fiber optics line, officials say. The incident affected Internet, cell phone service, and long-distance telephone capabilities for nearly 24 hours. The sheriff's department was in contact by radio. The state Emergency Operations Center and Okanogan County Sheriff's Office handled 911 calls for Ferry County, officials said. "When they went down we acted as a secondary PSAP – public safety answering point," said the sheriff of Okanogan County. "Their 911 calls were routed to Okanogan County during the outage. We are not sure of how long they were down; we know it was several hours."

Source: <http://www.omakchronicle.com/nws/n080416b.shtml>

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Information Technology

30. *April 17, vnunet.com* – (National) **Apple patches critical Safari holes.** Apple has patched four security vulnerabilities in Safari affecting the Mac OS X and Windows versions of the web browser. The vulnerabilities range from cross-site scripting to remote code execution. For Windows XP and Vista users, the update addresses four flaws. Two of the vulnerabilities, a memory overflow error in the browser itself and a buffer overflow in the JavaScript component, could be exploited by an attacker to remotely install and execute malware on a target system. Another flaw in the browser could allow for a URL to be displayed without the page itself being loaded. Apple warned that this could be exploited by an attacker to spoof legitimate sites by displaying normal URLs with forged web pages. The fourth vulnerability is a flaw in the browser's WebKit component. An attacker could use a malformed URL to exploit the vulnerability and perform a cross-site scripting attack. Mac users will receive updates for just two of the four flaws. Apple patched the JavaScript remote code execution flaw as well as the cross-site scripting vulnerability in the OS X version of the Safari patch. Users can download the Safari update through Apple's Software Update application or from the company's [Safari download site](#).

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2214507/apple-patches-safari-holes>

31. *April 17, Associated Press* – (National) **Most computer users repeat passwords, at their peril.** Using the same password for multiple Web pages is the Internet-era equivalent of having the same key for your home, car, and bank safe-deposit box. Even

though a universal password is like gold for cyber crooks because they can use it to steal all of a person's sensitive data at once, nearly half the Internet users queried in a new survey said they use just one password for all their online accounts. At the same time, 88 percent of the 800 people interviewed in the U.S. and the U.K. for the survey by the Accenture consultancy, which is to be released Thursday, said personal irresponsibility is the key cause of identity theft and fraud. Researchers say the findings suggest that many users underestimate the growing threat from organized cyber criminals who can reap big profits from selling stolen identities. "There's a lot of confusion out there – a lot of people don't think there's a problem," said a senior executive in Accenture's global security practice. He said the problem with repeating passwords is that a hacker who successfully breaks into one account then has an easy time guessing how to get into all the user's other accounts.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080417/ap_on_hi_te/techbit_password_peril;_ylt=AnKf5Jj8hmkE4G9HTD.qDFoRSLMF

32. *April 17, BetaNews* – (National) **Latest Firefox update causes crashes, possible hole.**

While there is no evidence of an exploit as of yet, Mozilla is taking a proactive measure to fix the issue before it could be. A problem with stability which resulted in crashes and evidence of memory corruption was remedied in Firefox 2.0.0.13, however apparently the fix did not completely close any holes. In fact, it seems as if it introduced new stability issues, where crashes occurred during JavaScript garbage collection. That feature allows a developer to reclaim the memory occupied by strings, objects, arrays, and functions that are no longer in use. "We have no demonstration that this particular crash is exploitable but are issuing this advisory because some crashes of this type have been shown to be exploitable in the past," Mozilla said in an advisory. Thunderbird is also affected, however, JavaScript needs to be enabled. By default, this is not, and Mozilla said it discourages users from running scripts within mail. JavaScript garbage collection problems have cropped up in the past. In February 2006, Mozilla addressed several issues within Firefox 1.5 which also posed a memory corruption and arbitrary code risks.

Source:

http://www.betanews.com/article/Latest_Firefox_update_causes_crashes_possible_hole/1208442989

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

33. *April 16, IDG News Service* – (International) **Survey: 12 percent of consumers**

‘borrow’ free Wi-Fi. Although it is illegal in some parts of the world, 12 percent of U.S. and U.K. respondents to an Accenture survey have logged on to someone else’s unsecured Wi-Fi connection. Data that is sent via unsecured wireless routers is unencrypted and could theoretically be read by anyone who had the right network sniffing tools, but many people have tried logging on to unsecure Wi-Fi. Logging on to open Wi-Fi signals is most popular with 18- to 34-year-olds, Accenture said. Nearly a third of them said they had done this at some point. The practice is apparently more common in the U.S., where one in seven have piggybacked on free Wi-Fi networks, than in the U.K., where Accenture found that it was attempted by one in 11. In some parts of the world, Wi-Fi piggybacking is considered to be a form of criminal hacking. In August, police arrested a 39-year-old man for using his laptop to connect to an unsecured Wi-Fi connection as he sat on a garden wall in the London suburb of Chiswick. And in a case that was widely publicized in the U.S., a Sparta, Michigan, man was charged after using a cafe’s wireless connection to check his e-mail.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/pcworld/20080416/tc_pcworld/144727

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *April 16, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Environmental groups, park service agree on beach driving.** Environmental groups and the National Park Service have reached a settlement that would end a federal lawsuit over beach driving rules along the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The settlement was filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Raleigh and must be approved by the district judge before it goes into effect. The settlement restricts beach driving areas between March 15 and July 15 and details areas that are restricted to protect bird nesting areas. Among its requirements: bird nesting areas must stay the same size, even if erosion cuts off vehicle access.

Source:

<http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ%2FMGArticle%2FWSJBasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173355302862&path=!localnews&s=1037645509099>

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Dams Sector

35. *April 17, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Wetlands protection levee breached by rising river.** Waves have eaten a chunk five feet deep and ten to 12 feet wide in the Montegut Marsh Management levee. The 18,000-foot levee helps protect over 33,000 acres of south Terrebonne wetlands. Terrebonne levee officials have set aside \$35,000 to

plug the hole with rocks before the winds change and waters rise higher. The breach will keep some farmers from planting cotton and soybeans in Pointe Coupee Parish, and others have lost wheat and crawfish to floods and heavy rains, the governor told the Agriculture Department secretary in a letter Monday, asking him to declare the parish a disaster area, along with six surrounding parishes. The levee itself is maintained by the Department of Natural Resources.

Source: http://www.tri-parishtimes.com/articles/2008/04/15/news/260_56_wetlands.txt

36. *April 17, News-Leader* – (Missouri) **Table Rock’s dam spillway now closed.** The Table Rock Lake Dam spillway closed at 9 a.m. Wednesday, setting off another flurry of calls and e-mails from business and property owners around the swollen lake system. The lake manager and fellow staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are conducting meetings with landowners this week to answer those questions and ease concerns. The Corps earlier this week opened the floodgates at the dam to lower water levels on swollen Table Rock Lake. The result contributed to flooding of homes and businesses on Lake Taneycomo and lakes downstream in the system.

Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008804170409>

37. *April 16, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **EJ, St. Charles levees’ strength in question.** New data generated by a complex geotechnical computer model has concluded that lake levees in East Jefferson and St. Charles Parish could be at risk for catastrophic failure, thus marking the East Jefferson lakefront levee as inadequate. Though Army Corps of Engineers officials said some experts doubt the accuracy of the new analysis, the agency intends to identify and implement solutions – which could range from entirely rebuilding the levees to constructing a huge rock jetty in front of them. Because the Corps is under the gun to provide an improved hurricane protection system by 2011, officials said they cannot wait for the results of additional studies that might ultimately debunk this new finding.

Source: http://blog.nola.com/updates/2008/04/ej_st_charles_levees_strength.html

38. *April 16, WDSU 6 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Corps of Engineers checks levee leaks.** The Army Corps of Engineers is looking into two damp spots along the floodwall at the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans. The Corps said it has been monitoring the small leaks for weeks now. The Corps started digging in the area just to see if there is some debris that may have caused the seepage. They plan to fill in the holes with “good clay material.” The Corps said that there is no reason for people who live along the floodwall to worry. The Corps is also keeping a close eye on the Mississippi River levees. There have been some reports of seepage along those levees as well. The Corps said that some seepage is common when the river gets so high.

Source: <http://www.wdsu.com/news/15904590/detail.html>

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