



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 April 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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

- According to WJLA 8 Washington, a Mesa Airlines pilot's laptop, filled with top secret security information, was reported missing on April 17 at Dulles Airport, District of Columbia. Seventeen airports were forced to make emergency changes to access codes at Dulles, Atlanta, Phoenix, Chicago's O'Hare, and San Antonio. (See item [17](#))
- MSNBC reports the head of Interpol said Friday that there is a "real possibility" that the Beijing Olympics will be targeted by terrorists or that anti-China groups could attack athletes. (See item [35](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste;](#)
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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping;](#)
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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 25, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil prices rise after Nigeria pipeline attack.** Oil prices rebounded Friday from the previous session's steep drop, fueled by supply concerns after a Nigerian militant group reported that it sabotaged another oil pipeline. Oil prices had initially extended Thursday's decline of more than \$2 a barrel, with a stronger U.S. dollar prompting investors to book profits. But after oil dipped below \$115 a barrel, news of the new threat to supplies put it back on the upward track. Light, sweet crude for June delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 74 cents to \$116.80 a barrel in electronic trading by late afternoon in Singapore. Brent crude futures rose 95 cents to \$115.29 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

Investors remain concerned about tight supplies of oil amid growing global demand, they say. “Supply concerns will still underpin oil pricing,” said an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080425/ap_on_bi_ge/oil_prices;_ylt=AvtkH9SphHXyDL1yY09G9ums0NUE

2. *April 25, Associated Press* – (New York) **Con Ed proposes \$17M settlement in 2006 blackout.** Consolidated Edison critics are split over whether a plan to compensate customers for a 2006 summer blackout amounts to anything more than a slap on the wrist for the utility. Residential customers who lost power for up to ten days during the blackout would get a one-time payment of \$100 under a settlement Con Ed proposed Thursday. The \$17 million plan includes payments of \$350 for some large businesses, according to paperwork filed with the state Public Service Commission (PSC). State regulators said about 174,000 people lost service or experienced low voltage during the crisis, caused by the simultaneous failure of several major electrical feeder cables. Some accused the utility of failing to maintain its aging electrical network properly and mismanaging its response to the blackout in Queens. A regulatory complaint against the utility would be dropped in exchange for the payments. As part of the settlement, Con Edison also promised not to seek a rate hike to cover the cost of \$40 million in upgrades performed after the blackout. The settlement needs the PSC’s approval.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--queensblackout0425apr25,0,3671383.story>
3. *April 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Coast Guard must secure terror targets.** The U.S. House Thursday approved a bill making the U.S. Coast Guard enforce security zones around eight liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and any arriving tankers – all potential terrorism targets. The White House has complained that the requirement would divert the Coast Guard from other high-priority missions and provide an “unwarranted subsidy” for LNG owners. The 395-7 vote margin on the \$8.4 billion Coast Guard bill was well beyond the two-thirds needed to override a presidential veto. After the vote, the White House praised the passage of an amendment to the bill that permits the Coast Guard to take into account agency, state, and local government security resources when deciding on security plans for LNG sites.
Source: <http://www2.nysun.com/article/75282>
4. *April 25, TheState.com* – (South Carolina) **SCANA says nuclear expansion will help control costs.** If SCANA Corp.’s two planned nuclear reactors come online on time, the power company will emit fewer green house gases in 2020 than in 1995, its chief executive said. Plus, increasing nuclear generation was the best way for the power company to control expenses, he told shareholders at SCANA’s annual meeting Thursday. The cost upfront will not be cheap, but over the next several decades, new nuclear generation will cost less than if it built a new coal or natural gas fired power plant. Increasingly strict environmental regulations make operating coal plants expensive over their lifespan, he said. “Coal was pretty much off the table for us,” he said.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/business/story/385737.html>

5. *April 25, Platts* – (Idaho) **Idaho county approves special-use permit to build wind project.** Ridgeline Energy on Thursday said the Bingham County, Idaho, Planning and Zoning Commission has approved its special-use permit to build the 450 megawatt Goshen South wind project near Idaho Falls. While the wind farm will be sited on 20,212 leased acres, the 150 turbines and power equipment only will use about 200 of those acres, said the energy vice president of Ridgeline. Construction is expected to start in 2009. The wind farm would avoid the emission of more than two billion pounds per year of carbon dioxide compared with coal-fired power plants, he said.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/8690736.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

6. *April 24, Reuters* – (Texas) **Texas wind power could stall gas-fired projects.** Rapid growth in the Texas wind power sector could lead several energy companies to reconsider plans to build or expand natural gas-fired plants to fill a looming electric crunch. Texas will have nearly 5,000 megawatts (mw) of installed wind generation this summer, up from less than 3,000 a year ago. New wind power could clash with more than a dozen gas-fired projects on the books of Calpine Corp., Exelon Corp., FPL Group, and others, that together exceed 12,000 mw, experts said. Companies that have proposed new gas plants “are concerned about the uncertainty of the future level of wind generation and the impact of the nodal market,” said a director of Navigant Consulting. Wind generation could prove cheaper in some cases, depending on the abundance of wind and the market price for fuels like natural gas. This could “eat a big hole” in needed supply, he said. And “gas plants could be squeezed” if they are forced to reduce production any time cheaper wind generation is available.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2445449120080424?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to Report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *April 25, Times Daily* – (National) **TVA joins Energy Department in nuclear recycling.** The Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced Thursday a collaboration to develop nuclear fuel recycling. “The information provided and utility perspective offered from this partnership will be vital in departmental decisions on [the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership] and closing the nuclear fuel cycle in the United States,” said the assistant secretary for nuclear energy at

the DOE. The collaboration will help the DOE examine nuclear fuel recycling that will include “conceptual plans, utility perspective, suitable business models and additional research and development,” according to a press release. The goal would be to develop a system of recycling nuclear waste that is even better than what they are doing in France, England, Japan, and Russia today, said a U.S. senator for Alabama.

Source: <http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20080425/NEWS/804250334/-1/COMMUNITIES>

8. *April 25, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **ATL wins safety award for hazardous lab work at Hanford.** Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International (ATL) has become the first small-business prime contractor in the U.S. Department of Energy’s nationwide complex to win DOE’s highest safety recognition. Thursday, DOE gave its Voluntary Protection Program Star to the contractor, which has provided analytical and testing services at Hanford’s 222-S Laboratory since 2005. The lab accepts samples of some of Hanford’s most radioactive and hazardous chemical waste to determine the content of dangerous substances down to parts per trillion. A DOE review team identified only one opportunity for improvement in a two-week onsite evaluation, said the manager of the DOE Hanford Office of River Protection.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/166248.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *April 25, Strategy Page* – (National) **Most F-15Cs being put down.** The U.S. Air Force will retain only 41 percent of its 429 F-15C/D fighters because of the metal fatigue detected in the air frames of many of them. The components subject to this fatigue have been identified, and it costs about \$240,000 per aircraft to make the repairs. But most of the F-15C/Ds are approaching retirement age, and for many that will be moved up a bit.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htatrit/articles/20080425.aspx>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *April 25, KNDO/KNDU 23/25 Yakima* – (Washington) **New e-mail scam hits Yakima Credit Union.** Customers at Yakima Valley Credit Union are dealing with yet another e-mail scam. This time the e-mail that is circulating is using pictures directly from the credit union’s website making them look very authentic. Union employees said this is the most legitimate looking scam they have seen yet, but they say not many of their customers are falling for it this time around. “This particular e-mail is asking members to call a number and they’re telling them that their account has been compromised so they need to call this number and then they’re account will be re-activated,” said the head of the Marketing Department.

Source: http://www.kndo.com/Global/story.asp?S=8224541&nav=menu484_2_7

11. *April 24, IDG News Service* – (Connecticut) **After web defacement, university warns**

of data breach. Two weeks after discovering that its Web site had been used by hackers to flog fancy wedding rings, Southern Connecticut State University is notifying 11,000 current and former students that their Social Security numbers may have been compromised. The personal data was in a file on the university's Web server, which was accessed by criminals who were using the university's site as part of a spam operation, said the university's director of public affairs. "The hackers were using our Web server as a host for their own Web site," he said. Pages on the university's site contained ads for diamond rings, Viagra, and Cialis. After noticing the ads on April 9, IT staff discovered the file containing the sensitive information. The university believes that the hackers came from outside the U.S., and it is working with the Connecticut attorney general's office to investigate, said the official. The file on the Web server contained names, addresses, and Social Security numbers of students who had registered to graduate from the school, dating back to 2002.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/145087/after_web_defacement_university_warns_of_data_breach.html

12. *April 24, Government Technology* – (Missouri) **Missouri AG attempts to stop web site from selling personal information.** A Missouri Attorney General is seeking to shut down A1 Peoplesearch, LLC of Granbury, TX, which does business as www.a1peoplesearch.com, a Web site that permits anyone with a credit card to purchase detailed personal information about Missouri consumers. The Web site provides access to such personal information as Social Security numbers, addresses, dates of birth and criminal records to anyone with a credit card. The AG wants to have the web site's operator fined a significant sum for each violation of state consumer protection laws. The Federal Driver Privacy Protection Act, passed in 1994, and its state counterparts allow individuals and businesses to obtain information contained in an individual's driving record, but only for certain uses specified in law. Anyone who provides this information to third parties is obligated under federal law to ensure that the third party's use of the information is for a legitimate purpose allowed under the law. The AG says A1 Peoplesearch unethically failed to properly verify the use to which its subscribers put the data the defendant sold to them.

Source: http://www.govtech.com/gt/print_article.php?id=299913

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Transportation Sector

13. *April 25, Telegraph* – (International) **Face scans to trial in airports this summer.** Airline passengers will be screened in the United Kingdom using automated facial recognition technology rather than being checked by passport officers in an attempt to improve security in British airports. Border security officials believe the scanning technology could be more effective at preventing identity fraud than humans. The Home Office minister confirmed the plans last night, and added: "We will test them this year and if they work put them at all key ports and airports."

Source:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/04/25/nface125.xml>

14. *April 25, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Plane leaving Memphis returns for emergency landing.** A Delta Connection jet bound for Atlanta turned around and made an emergency landing at Memphis International Airport after reporting engine trouble Thursday afternoon. The flight was being operated by Atlantic Southeast Airlines. The pilot declared an emergency shortly after takeoff because of suspected engine trouble and returned to the airport, making an emergency landing. There were 70 passengers on board but none were injured. The official says maintenance crews are checking the plane to determine the cause of the trouble.
Source: http://www.wztv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tn/2ed6cfc7-www.fox17.com.shtml
15. *April 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Drunk passenger duct-taped on flight.** A group of passengers duct-taped an apparently drunk man to his seat after he attacked a United Airlines flight attendant during a trip from Hong Kong to Los Angeles, authorities said. He was arrested when the plane landed in Los Angeles around 10 a.m. Wednesday. It was not immediately clear what triggered the attack, authorities said.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24301620/>
16. *April 24, Associated Press* – (Texas) **FAA tries again to fix cover-up of safety errors.** The Federal Aviation Administration is trying for a second time in three years to stop its managers in Texas from covering up air safety violations. An FAA chief operating officer said Thursday he had removed the manager and assistant manager of an air traffic control facility in Dallas-Fort Worth. He also announced a series of steps he said would finally put an end to deliberate underreporting or misreporting of incidents in which airplanes fly closer together than they are supposed to. The official acknowledged that the agency had promised to do this in 2005. But a new investigation had made clear — as he put it — that those commitments “were not taken seriously by people in my organization who were responsible to do that.”
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24298055/>
17. *April 24, WJLA 8 Washington* – (Washington D.C.) **Pilot’s missing laptop causes airport security scare.** A pilot’s laptop, filled with top secret security information was reported missing at Dulles Airport, District of Columbia, and the ripple effects were felt across the country. The Mesa Airlines employee could not find the personal laptop he brought with him while co-piloting a United Express flight from Birmingham, Alabama to Dulles International Airport. 17 airports were forced to make emergency changes to access codes at Dulles, Atlanta, Phoenix, Chicago’s O’Hare and San Antonio. Various officials within the airline industry admit that with these access codes, someone who went though security could, with the touch of a few buttons, get onto a plane or get outside, right below a plane. One airline insider tells ABC 7 News the laptop was probably stored in an overhead compartment used by passengers and likely stolen. Media representatives for a number of those airports affected, including Dulles, Phoenix and Akron-Canton said the codes were promptly changed. Meanwhile, a TSA official said the agency “may look at increasing the standards for anyone who stores this type of information on their computers.” A spokesperson for Dulles said airport police are

investigating.

Source: <http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0408/514346.html>

18. *April 24, Newsday* – (New York) **NYPD stepping up presence in subway stations.**

Straphangers now have an extra layer of security in New York City-- police officers armed with MP5 submachine guns and accompanied by bomb-sniffing dogs. Five or six each day will patrol heavily used subway stations and lines as part of Operation TORCH, or Transit Operational Response With Canine and Heavy Weapons. This is not the first time subway riders have seen this show of force, but in the past such patrols were in place only on days when there was suspicion that terrorists might strike. The New York Police Department already has similar patrols above ground. The Hercules teams routinely patrol near landmark buildings and in heavily trafficked parts of the city, such as by Wall Street and the Empire State Building.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/li-nycops0425.0.5905239.story>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *April 25, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Pipe bomb blasts local FedEx.** A pipe bomb blast shattered the glass in the front door of a Federal Express distribution facility Friday and a second pipe bomb was discovered in the parking lot and was safely defused, police said. The blast occurred at 1:47 a.m., according to a San Diego police sergeant. When firefighters arrived, they found a second pipe bomb in the parking lot and safely defused it, the sergeant said. The Metro Arson Strike Team was called to the scene to investigate the bombing. There were no immediate arrests.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/15990775/detail.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *April 24, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **Tobacco sabotage suspected in farm's crop loss.** North Carolina State agriculture officials are investigating an intentional poisoning of tobacco crops at a farm in Sanford. A Lee County farmer told WRAL-TV in Raleigh the plants inside his greenhouse have been destroyed. He noticed the plants were dying when he returned from a vacation last month. He said a concrete block that holds the greenhouse door shut had been moved. The plants would have been used to cover 150 acres of tobacco fields. Officials believe someone put a toxic chemical on the plants, and tests are being done to determine what chemical was used. A Lee County sheriff's official said the motive behind the poisoning is unclear. No arrests have been made.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/1565/story/1048259.html>

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Water Sector

21. *April 24, United Press International* – (National) **Analysis: Energy’s water demands worrisome.** Two Virginia Tech researchers released a study this week examining the water-use requirements for 11 different energy sources, ranking them in terms of efficiency. One of the most important aspects of the study was to raise awareness of the role water plays in energy production, said a recent Virginia Tech graduate who co-authored the study. According to the study, U.S. thermoelectric power plants consume 136 billion gallons of water per day, averaging out to 25 gallons for every kilowatt-hour produced. Energy has a big impact on the quantity of overall water availability, said a member of the Energy-Water Nexus National Lab Team, a group of scientists from a number of national laboratories researching the issue. “In the United States on a daily basis, about 40 percent of our fresh water withdrawals are for energy production,” said a technical staff member at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. Natural gas took the top spot for water efficiency, but researchers ranked the purportedly less carbon intensive fuel sources biodiesel and corn ethanol last. On the power-generation side, however, things look brighter. Hydroelectric power came in first, followed by geothermal and solar power. And this does not include wind or other types of renewable energy that the researchers excluded from the study specifically because their water use is negligible.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Energy/Analysis/2008/04/24/analysis_energy_water_demands_worrisome/5920/

22. *April 24, Press-Enterprise*– (California) **Suspected polluters should replace Rialto water supply, speakers say.** The state of California should force suspected polluters to replace Rialto’s tainted drinking water supply, and the underground reservoir should be added to a nationwide list of contaminated sites, speakers said at a hearing Thursday night. The chemical perchlorate contaminates the Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin, which provides drinking water to both cities. The underground plume of pollution spreads at a rate of six feet per day, contaminating roughly 360 million gallons of Rialto’s drinking water each month. Most of Rialto’s residents get water from either the city’s own utility or from the West Valley Water District. Last month, the city appealed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help relieve the financial burden on residents who have been paying for filters to remove the perchlorate from local wells. Rialto asked the EPA to grant the city a “water replacement order” that would force the alleged polluters to fund replacement water until a settlement is reached. Efforts to find the companies responsible for the perchlorate pollution and liable for its cleanup have been ongoing since 2002.

Source:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_bperch25.234e428.html

23. *April 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Water desalination becoming more realistic.** In a report released Thursday, the National Research Council said that improving technology is making it more realistic to consider desalination of water. “Uncertainties

about desalination's environmental impacts are currently a significant barrier to its wider use, and research on these effects – and ways to lessen them – should be the top priority,” said the chair of the committee that wrote the report and a professor at Clarkson University. “Finding ways to lower costs should also be an objective. A coordinated research effort dedicated to these goals could make desalination a more practical option for some communities facing water shortages,” she said in a statement. There is no overall coordination of federal research on desalination, and the analysis recommended the government work be coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Source:

http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/04/24/desalting.water.ap/index.html?eref=rss_tech

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *April 25, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Indonesia runs massive bird flu drill.** Hundreds of Indonesian villagers and health workers took part in a massive drill Friday to prepare for a potentially devastating outbreak of human-to-human bird flu. The largest bird flu drill ever held in Indonesia, the country worst hit by the virus, involved the simulated outbreak of a pandemic which experts say could rapidly spread across the globe killing millions of people. The three-day drill began at Tukaddaya village on the resort island of Bali, with a man presenting himself to a clinic with the symptoms of deadly avian influenza. More than 50 foreigners including 14 diplomats are taking part in the exercise, which is being covered by more than 50 local and international journalists.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5iB2SZX9N0iuouw3Mp8r6SIEdUjAQ>

25. *April 24, Napa Valley Register* – (California) **Bomb threat locks down Napa hospital.** Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California, went on lockdown for about an hour and a half today after a man called in a bomb threat. Hospital officials immediately set about running through a series of standard procedures, including locking down the hospital on “code yellow” for bomb threat and notifying the Napa County Office of Emergency Services, which in turn notified police, fire, and paramedics. Code yellow also means staff could not leave and the public could not enter. Staff were also ordered to turn off their pagers and cellphones so a bomb would not be set off by electronic traffic. A sweep of the building by hospital employees turned up no suspicious packages or devices.

Source:

<http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2008/04/24/news/local/doc481107e8b7ce7469459526.txt>

26. *April 24, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **FDA found concerns at Merck vaccine plant.** Multiple potentially serious concerns, including contaminated packaging of children's vaccines, were spotted by federal regulators who combed Merck & Co.'s vaccine plant in the Philadelphia suburbs, according to a published report. Unwanted fibers on vaccine vial stoppers also were among the areas of concern cited by inspectors

from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Based on an unpublished FDA report the newspaper obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, the article said inspectors found 49 areas of concern, ranging from failure to follow good management practices to contamination of bulk lots of vaccine. The FDA has not ordered the company to stop production and is reviewing Merck's responses to the report, Merck's director of media relations said. She termed the inspections routine.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24301679/>

27. *April 24, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Officials say 10,000 more at risk in hepatitis outbreak.** The Southern Nevada Health District says another 10,000 people may have been exposed to hepatitis C at an outpatient medical clinic in Las Vegas. District officials announced the updated estimate at a meeting Thursday. It brings to 50,000 the number of people who authorities say might have been infected with hepatitis or HIV through the Endoscopy Center of Nevada. Officials say a review of health insurance records led to the higher number.

Source: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20080424/NEWS/554985421>

Government Facilities Sector

28. *April 24, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Pipe bomb explodes, causes Hanford High lockdown.** In California, police are investigating the detonation of a small pipe bomb at Hanford High School today that caused a three-hour lockdown. The bomb went off just after noon, said a police officer. It exploded in a gated storage area behind the school's automotive shop. He said no one was injured and that no students or staff were in the area when the explosion occurred. The school was immediately put on lockdown while officers investigated and searched the school grounds to make sure there were no more bombs or other threats to student and staff safety.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/updates/story/549940.html>

29. *April 24, KGMB 9 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Volatile chemicals caused explosives threat.** Police closed parts of Kapahulu Avenue Wednesday night after someone dropped off a box with the jars at the Waikiki fire station. In the box was a total of 15 glass jars containing some volatile chemicals. Some of which include picric acid, which is sometimes found in hospitals and science labs. The Army says it is also a military explosive used as a booster charge to set off another less sensitive explosive. Overtime, unused acids become unstable as salt crystals develop which can be quite explosive. It is also toxic and flammable.

Source: <http://kgmb9.com/main/content/view/5879/40/>

30. *April 24, Associated Press* – (New York) **Central NY school district closed after bomb threat, firecracker incident.** A school district near Ithaca, New York, was closed April 24 after someone blew off a powerful firecracker containing BB-like pellets inside a middle school bathroom. The incident occurred yesterday at Trumansburg Middle School, where a large firecracker known as an M-80 was ignited in a toilet in a

boys' bathroom where a bomb threat was found Tuesday afternoon. A search was conducted at that time, but no bomb turned up and school district officials deemed the threat assessment level to be very low. But after yesterday's incident, another note was found that threatened another incident on Friday. No one was in the bathroom at the time the firecracker went off.

Source: http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=8221228&nav=menu183_2

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *April 25, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) Tank spill funds to stay in Mid-Columbia.

Part of a fine for a spill of radioactive tank waste at Hanford will stay in the community to improve public safety instead of going to Olympia. The state fined DOE \$500,000 for problems that led to the spill of an estimated 85 gallons of diluted high level radioactive waste in July at Hanford. Under the agreement announced Thursday, \$100,000 of the fine will be used to buy new equipment for the Tri-County Hazardous Materials Response Team. "This new equipment will help reduce risk to our surrounding communities by improving the teams' ability to respond to chemical releases," said the nuclear waste program manager for the Department of Ecology. The response team will receive \$100,000 to buy a new truck for towing equipment to the scene of emergencies such as chemical spills. The money also will pay for new equipment, including generators, lighting to be used at emergency scenes, supplied air, or other respirators and kits for patching pipes or containers leaking hazardous materials.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/166239.html>

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Information Technology

32. *April 25, IDG News Service* – (National) Researcher finds new way to hack Oracle

database. A security researcher has released technical details of a new type of attack that could give a hacker access to an Oracle database. Called a lateral SQL injection, the attack could be used to gain database administrator privileges on an Oracle server in order to change or delete data or even install software, he said in an interview on Thursday. He first disclosed this type of attack at the Black Hat Washington conference last February, but on Thursday he published a paper with technical details. In a SQL injection, attackers create specially crafted search terms that trick the database into running SQL commands. Previously, security experts thought that SQL injections would only work if the attacker was inputting character strings into the database, but the paper showed that the attack can work using new types of data, known as date and number data types. The attack targets the Procedural Language/SQL programming language used by Oracle developers. The researcher was not sure how widespread lateral SQL injection vulnerabilities are, but he thinks the attack could cause real damage in some scenarios. "If you happen to be using Oracle and you write your own applications on it, then yes, you could be writing vulnerable code," he said. "The sky is not falling ... but it's certainly something that people should be made aware of." Database programmers

should review their code to be sure it is checking to make sure that all of the data it is processing is legitimate, and not injected SQL commands, he said.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/archives/emailPrint.jsp?R=printThis&A=/article/08/04/25/Researcher-finds-new-way-to-hack-Oracle-database_1.html

33. *April 25, IDG News Service* – (National) **Spammers ramp up siege on Google's Blogger via bots.** Spammers are using an automated method to create bogus pages on Google's Blogger service, again highlighting the diminishing effectiveness of a security system intended to stop mass account registrations, according to security vendor Websense. The spammers are sending coded instructions to PCs in their botnets, or networks of computers that have been infected with malicious software, wrote a threat analyst, on Websense's blog. Those sophisticated instructions tell PCs how to register a free account on Blogger. The spammers also figured out a way to solve the CAPTCHA, the warped text that has to be deciphered in order to complete an account registration. The compromised PC sends a request to an external host that tries to solve the CAPTCHA and then sends the answer back to the PC. Websense estimates the process has an 8 to 13 percent success rate. It is unknown how exactly the CAPTCHA gets solved. It has been theorized the process has been outsourced to real humans who get paid for every one deciphered. But researchers have successfully developed methods that enable computers to increase their success rate at solving the puzzles, indicating that hackers have also figured out how to do it. Security vendors and researchers have seen a rapid rise in accounts used for spam on free e-mail services from Microsoft, Yahoo, and Google, indicating current CAPTCHA technology has reached the end its usefulness.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/04/25/Spammers-ramp-up-siege-on-Google-Blogger_1.html

34. *April 24, Dark Reading* – (International) **Securing the Internet's DNS.** The Internet is slowly inching closer to ratcheting up the security of its Domain Name System (DNS) server architecture: The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) plans to go operational with the secure DNS technology, DNSSEC, later this year in one of its domains. ICANN officials said the organization plans to add DNSSEC to its .arpa Internet domain servers, and that the .org domain servers as well as the .uk servers also will go DNSSEC soon. Country domains .swe (Sweden), .br (Brazil), and .bg (Bulgaria) already run the secure version of DNS for their domain servers. DNSSEC, which stands for DNS Security Extensions, digitally signs DNS records so that DNS responses are validated as legitimate and not hacked or tampered with. That ensures users do not get sent to phishing sites, for example, when requesting a legitimate Website. DNS security increasingly has become a concern, with DNS prone to these so-called cache poisoning attacks, as well as distributed denial-of-service (DDOS) attacks like the one last year that temporarily crippled two of the Internet's 13 DNS root servers. But DNSSEC adoption has been slow in coming, mainly due the complexity of managing the keys. Converting .arpa – a domain mostly relegated to Internet research sites – to DNSSEC is not quite the same as securing .com, but it could signal that DNSSEC is finally ready for prime time, experts say. Still, DNSSEC is not completely

useful unless all domains have deployed it.

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=152032&print=true

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

Nothing to Report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

35. *April 25, MSNBC* – (International) **Interpol: ‘Real possibility’ of attack at Olympics.** The head of Interpol said Friday that there is a “real possibility” that the Beijing Olympics will be targeted by terrorists or that anti-China groups could attack athletes. “In light of recent events, all countries whose athletes will participate and whose citizens will attend the Beijing Olympics must be prepared for the possibility that the groups and individuals responsible for the violence during the global torch relay could carry out their protests at the actual Games,” the police organization’s chief full-time official, said. “These activities could range from disruptive behavior, like blocking major transportation routes or infrastructure or interfering with competitions, to more violent acts like assaulting Olympic officials or athletes or destroying property. Worse yet, we must be prepared for the possibility that al-Qaida or some other terrorist group will attempt to launch a deadly terrorist attack at these Olympics.” Experts say the terrorist threat to China at the Olympics is relatively low, but warn that Beijing faces a growing threat from Islamic separatists among the Uighur population in the western region of Xinjiang. Earlier this month, Chinese police announced that they had uncovered a criminal ring that planned to kidnap athletes, foreign journalists and other visitors at the Beijing Games. An Interpol Major Event Support Team would arrive in Beijing before the Games to train Chinese officers in crisis management and major event operations, added the Interpol Secretary General. “We are also now working with Chinese authorities to implement a system for conducting checks of Interpol’s database of more than 14 million stolen and lost travel documents at Beijing’s airport and other major border entry points. This is absolutely crucial if we want to prevent terrorists or dangerous criminals from entering China.”
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24304961>

36. *April 24, WSBTV 2 Atlanta* – (Georgia) **Live grenade found outside convenience store.** A live grenade was found Thursday morning in a trash can outside a Floyd

County, Georgia, convenience store. Police told a reporter with the WSB-TV Channel 2 that the explosive was outside a store on Highway 20 in the Coosa community. The Floyd County Sheriff's Office bomb squad was called out and discovered the grenade was live and could explode. They took it to a disposal area and blew it up.

Source: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/15977880/detail.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *April 25, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Clean-up under way in Shawnee National Forest.** Crews are working to clean up at least ten illegal dump sites in the Shawnee National Forest. The clean-up efforts in the southern Illinois forest are expected to run through April 29. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency says the work began with the site at Waters Cemetery. Nearly 300 cubic yards of waste was dumped along a half-mile stretch of trail.

Source: <http://www.sj-r.com/extras/breaking/index.asp?ID=5449>

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Dams Sector

38. *April 25, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Seepage near levee worries Hamilton neighbors.** In Novato, California, standing water was discovered several weeks ago in two areas along the 7,200-foot levee. The levee was built in 1997 to provide an earthen barrier separating wetlands from residential and commercial areas. Novato's city manager said the levee is not in jeopardy. The water is coming from either an uncapped electrical conduit, a pipe of some sort, or a storm drain under the runway tarmac, said a Novato civil engineer. The water is clear and clean and likely came from San Pablo Bay, and it should not be considered dangerous, he said. But until the source of the problem is identified and fixed, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials have suspended pumping sludge in a marsh project area that stretches along most of the levee.

Source: http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_9049986

39. *April 25, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps resuming dig near levee leak.** Exploratory excavation is expected to resume today along the 17th Street Canal, as an effort continues to zero in on the source of water dampening a small area near the floodwall that has appeared off and on since Hurricane Katrina. Engineers theorize that stones, rip-rap, or other debris may be trapped underground, providing a path for a minuscule amount of water to seep from one side of the canal to the other. The plan is to dig down, possibly four feet or so, remove any debris, and refill the site with compacted clay. The job started two weeks ago but was halted, first by a gas line, and later by rain.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-6/1209101548155740.xml&coll=1>

40. *April 25, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Plan to raise San Vicente dam is approved.** A \$568 million project to raise the dam at the San Vicente Reservoir by 117

feet was approved yesterday by the San Diego County Water Authority. Authority officials said the higher dam at the reservoir near Lakeside will increase the county's water storage capacity in case an earthquake struck, and provide more capacity to store rainwater. The authority had already received permits to raise the dam by 54 feet for emergency water storage, but decided to raise the dam another 63 feet to increase storage to supplement supplies. The emergency storage at San Vicente is part of a larger project to provide up to six months of water for county residents during a disaster. Water authority officials said the higher dam will mean less frequent spills because the reservoir will have increased capacity.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080425-9999-1m25dam.html>

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