



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 November 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- TechWorld reports that weeks after Microsoft added anti-Zeus Trojan detection to its free Malicious Software Removal Tool, it is unable to detect the latest versions of the malware designed to steal banking information, a rival security company has claimed. (See item [22](#))
- Missing security features designed to prevent terrorism on the new rail line linking Loudoun County, Virginia, to the Washington D.C. region's Metro system were identified in a triennial audit, according to the Washington Post. (See item [28](#))

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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. *November 8, Associated Press* – (Northeast) **Storm brings mix of rain and snow to New England.** A powerful coastal storm packing rain, snow, and sleet and wind gusts topping 60 mph knocked power out to tens of thousands of homes and businesses, shut down dozens of schools, and slowed the morning commute November 8 across New England. More than 60,000 homes and businesses were in the dark November 8 in Maine alone, with 15,000 outages in New Hampshire, and sporadic outages elsewhere

across the region. Central Maine Power Co. (CMP) officials monitored the storm over the weekend, but it was more powerful than expected when it crossed into the state, said a CMP spokeswoman. Numerous trees and branches fell onto power lines, and more than 40 utility poles had been toppled as of November 8, she said. The Maine governor signed an emergency declaration to allow power crews from other states to come to Maine, and to extend the number of hours crews can work in a stretch restoring power.

Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gnKEZk-O_61YeI-dE4lpgEzIYp7g?docId=d6f3fc4694bd405b9bc309c817549762

2. *November 7, Aberdeen American News* – (South Dakota) **Power failure darkens Aberdeen, South Dakota-area towns.** Nearly 20 Aberdeen, South Dakota-area towns were without power November 6 after an electric substation went down in Redfield. NorthWestern Energy customers in Doland, Conde, Miranda, Loyaltown, Brentford, Redfield, Raymond, Rockford, Orient, Tulare, Chelsea, Northville, Zell, Cresbard, Athol, Frankfort, Mellette, and Ashton all lost power around 5:30 p.m., said the communications coordinator for NorthWestern. By 9:45 p.m., power had been restored to everyone. Many towns were back online within a few hours. Tulare and half of Redfield were the last to see electricity return. A cause for the outage was still being investigated the night of November 6. While the towns lost power when the substation in Redfield went down, the issue could have occurred elsewhere in the system. Extra crews were brought in to try to identify the cause. But because of the darkness, it was a difficult task. “It could be something as simple as an animal in a substation,” the coordinator said.
Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4646584>
3. *November 7, WKYC 3 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Cleveland Heights: Power restored for thousands of customers.** Power has been restored for nearly 5,000 residents in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, after a outage November 6 evening. First Energy told Channel 3 News that there was a “broken crossarm” on a pole at an area substation. According to a representative from FirstEnergy, the conductors at the station malfunctioned, causing the substation to go down around 4 p.m. November 6. Crews were able to restore the power just after 6 p.m.
Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=157073&catid=3>
4. *November 7, Foxborough Country Gazette* – (Massachusetts) **Probe into unodorized propane behind Norfolk, Massachusetts explosion is concluded.** Findings of a probe into the source of unodorized propane gas identified as the cause of a deadly explosion at the Village at River’s Edge July 30 have been released by the Massachusetts Attorney General and state fire marshal. The review, conducted by an independent propane expert, found unodorized propane gas was potentially distributed throughout the state and in other states from distributor DCP Midstream’s (DCP) Westfield facility, starting in May 2010. Authorities began an investigation into the distribution of unodorized propane gas following the July 2010 explosion in Norfolk which claimed the life of a 48-year-old resident of Blackstone. The explosion occurred while the victim and fellow construction workers were at work on a condominium unit at the

Village at River's Edge of Rockwood Road in Norfolk. Two firefighters, a resident and four construction workers also suffered some injuries from the explosion. Workers reported at the time they had no indication there was a propane leak in the condo unit, since the distinctive odor that is supposed to have been added to the supply was not present — propane gas is naturally odorless and state and federal law require an odorous additive to be put into supplies so it can be detected if there is a leak.

Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/foxborough/news/x1775214243/Probe-into-unodorized-propane-behind-Norfolk-explosion-is-concluded>

5. *November 6, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Customers without electricity in western Arkansas.** Authorities said thousands of homes and businesses in western Arkansas lost electricity November 6. KFSM-TV reported November 6 that more than 8,000 Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) and Arkansas Valley Electric customers from Huntington to Waldron were affected. The Sebastian County Sheriff's Office said a transformer may have blown in Mansfield, causing several grass fires in the area. SWEPCO officials said they did not know what caused the outage, but utility crews were sent to the scene. The utility company had no estimate for when power would be restored. A spokesman for Sebastian County Emergency Management said if power was off for more than 24 hours, the Red Cross would be asked to provide shelter and assistance to those affected.

Source: <http://www.wxvt.com/Global/story.asp?S=13457712>

6. *November 6, Ventura County Star* – (California) **Ammonia leaks at Oxnard power plant.** A small ammonia leak from an Oxnard, California, power plant sent fumes wafting across a towing yard November 6, but no injuries or damages were reported. A smell coming from the Capital Power plant at 550 Diaz Ave. was reported shortly before 11:30 a.m. A problem with a process in which ammonia is used to clean air emissions before they are vented led to the incident, the Oxnard Fire Department said. Only a few people were on duty at the power plant at the time, the department said. The leak forced a nearby towing business to close for the day. Two engines, a hazardous materials crew and a battalion chief were on the scene before the problem was rectified. The incident was cleared shortly after 2 p.m.

Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/nov/06/nxxfcoxammonia07/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. *November 6, CBS4 Denver* – (Colorado) **Chemical scare investigated in Adams County, Colorado.** Neighborhoods near 80th and Rosemary in Adams County, Colorado, were evacuated for 2 hours because of a hazardous materials situation stemming from an unknown liquid leaking out of above-ground storage containers the evening of November 5. The evacuation area boundaries were 80th to 86th and Monaco to Brighton Boulevard and included about 210 people. The evacuation was cleared just

before 9 p.m. Some liquid coming out of the storage containers in a fenced-off area near a closed chemical plant prompted the hazmat investigation. There is also an unknown odor in the area believed to be connected to the barrels. The Red Cross had set up an evacuation center at DuPont Elementary School at 7970 Kimberly Street. Union Pacific Railroad confirms their train tracks run through the area, but said the hazmat is not involving a train or their tracks. One train had been stopped on the tracks because of the investigation. When investigators showed up at the site a group of men were there but fled. Police are searching for the men. They believe the men were stealing metal seals from storage tanks and selling the material.

Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/news/hazmat.hazardous.materials.2.1998550.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *November 8, Reuters* – (New York) **Entergy's Indian Point reactor unit shut by explosion.** An explosion on Entergy Corp's main transformer November 7 shut the 1,020-megawatt Unit 2 at the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York, the second shutdown at the company's nuclear plants within 1 hour. The company has also shut its 605-megawatt nuclear plant in Vernon, Vermont due to a system pipe leakage. The reactor is known to have leaked tritium twice this year and the Vermont Senate has voted to permanently shut the plant in 2012. News of the two shutdowns arrive at a time when Entergy faces a civil investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice into the way the power utility operates its transmission system and power plants in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas. There were no casualties or injuries associated with the November 7 explosion at the Indian Point reactor and no resulting fire, a company spokesman said.
Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKSGE6A707A20101108>
9. *November 8, Seacoastonline.com* – (New Hampshire) **NRC to hold Seabrook Station hearing in Portsmouth.** The current operating license for Seabrook Station in Portsmouth, New Hampshire will not expire until 2030, but the process of granting the nuclear plant a 20-year extension to that license is moving swiftly. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced November 5 its Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), the body that adjudicates issues involving licensing of nuclear plants, will hear oral arguments of those opposed to extending Seabrook's license. The arguments will be heard from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. November 30 in the Levenson Community Room at Portsmouth Public Library on Parrott Avenue. Two requests to intervene in future hearings on extending the nuclear plant's license will be heard. The first is a joint request from the Washington, D.C.-based Beyond Nuclear, the Portsmouth-based Seacoast Anti-Pollution League, and the Concord-based New Hampshire Sierra Club. The second is from Massachusetts-based nuclear safety groups Friends of the Coast, and the New England Coalition. In its November 5 order, the ASLB said it will hear only one speaker representing each request at the hearing. In

addition, testimony will be taken from a representative of Seabrook operator NextEra Energy Seabrook LLC, and counsel for NRC staff, the order indicates.

Source:

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101108/NEWS/11080341/-1/NEWSMAP>

10. *November 8, BBC News* – (International) **German nuclear waste train reaches final destination.** A train carrying nuclear waste across Germany, which has been held up by a series of protests by anti-nuclear activists, reached its destination in the north of the country, November 8. The waste, which was reprocessed in France, will be unloaded in Dannenberg and taken by road to a nearby disused salt mine in Gorleben for storage. Police removed 3,000 protesters from the tracks who tried to stop the train. More demonstrators gathered along the road to Gorleben. From midnight, police removed thousands of demonstrators from the railway line, and the train finally got moving again just after dawn, said a BBC reporter in Germany. Earlier, the train, which is made up of 14 wagons containing 123 tons of reprocessed waste in glass and steel containers, was halted after activists lowered themselves on ropes from a bridge over the tracks. On November 7, activists fought running battles with the police near Dannenberg, which is between Hamburg and Berlin, in an attempt to halt the train. Officers used batons, pepper spray, tear gas, and water cannon to disperse at least 1,000 protesters who were trying to sabotage railway tracks. The protesters hurled fireworks and set a police car on fire.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11709320>

11. *November 7, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vt. nuke plant closes after radioactive water leak.** Technicians at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant are getting into the section of the plant where a pipe began leaking radioactive water, forcing the Vernon, Vermont plant to shut down. A plant spokesman said November 8 technicians had begun checking repair options and trying to determine how long the plant will be offline. The reactor was shut November 7 after the leak was spotted during routine surveillance. The cause was unknown. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the public was not in danger. It was the second shutdown within 1 hour at a plant owned by New Orleans-based Entergy Corp. A transformer exploded at a nuclear power plant north of New York City, forcing an emergency shutdown. No one was injured and no radioactive materials leaked.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j2iEnkuCw7AlhkdiMAKUP6a-wO3A?docId=102bef213be848efada97029a4a89271>

12. *November 6, Associated Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont Yankee sale faces hurdles.** Entergy Corp. has less than 17 months to find a buyer for the troubled Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, close on a sale, and get approval for the plant's new owner from federal and state regulators. New Orleans-based Entergy announced the week of November 1 what many had expected: It wants to sell its small New England nuclear plant that has become a giant headache. The plant needs a license extension to operate past 2012, but a poisoned political environment for Entergy makes state

approval look unlikely. That would leave Entergy faced with the prospect of covering the cost of mothballing the plant instead of making money from the energy it generates. The company faces a March 21, 2012, deadline. If it has not won the needed state and federal approvals for its request to continue operating the Vernon reactor for another 20 years or sold the plant to a new owner, it must shut down.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20101106/NEWS02/11060302/Vermont-Yankee-sale-faces-hurdles>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

13. *November 7, Associated Press* – (International) **Qantas CEO: Oil leaks in 3 engines of its A380s.** Tests have uncovered oil leaks in three Rolls-Royce engines on Qantas' grounded Airbus A380s, the Australian airline's CEO said November 8, as engineers tried to zero in on the cause of an engine failure on board one of the carrier's superjumbo jets. Engineers conducted 8 hours of extensive checks on each engine and discovered oil leaks in the turbine area of three engines on three different A380s. "The oil leaks were beyond normal tolerances," the CEO told reporters. "So Rolls-Royce and our engineers have looked at what we have gathered as an accepted level and they have passed that threshold." Because of that, he said, all of the airline's A380s will be grounded for at least an additional 72 hours. All three affected engines have been removed from the planes for further testing. Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines, the other airlines that fly A380s fitted with Rolls-Royce's Trent 900 engines, also briefly grounded their planes last week, but resumed services after completing checks. Rolls-Royce Group PLC, a London-based aerospace, power systems and defense company separate from the car manufacturer, has said the investigation is in its early stages.

Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Qantas-finds-new-issues-with-3-A380-engines-801823.php>

14. *November 5, KGTV 10 San Diego* – (California) **Kearny Mesa plant evacuated after fuel leak.** A leak of jet fuel at Hamilton Sundstrand Power Systems, a San Diego, California, manufacturing plant, prompted a several-hour evacuation of a building at the complex November 5 and forced a hazardous-materials cleanup effort. Officials of the company, which manufactures turbine engines, said an estimated 80 gallons of fuel had flowed into storm drains that empty into a nearby ravine. Workers at the facility halted the leak and captured about 30 gallons of the liquid compound before reporting the mishap to the city shortly after noon. Emergency crews cleared all workers out of the building where the spill occurred. Hazardous-materials personnel, state fish and game experts, and a private cleanup firm were called in to assess and mitigate the pollution.

Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/25651005/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

15. *November 6, WHNT 19 Huntsville* – (Alabama) **Amtec responds to OSHA citations regarding deadly explosion.** The Amtec Corporation is responding to six U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) violations totaling \$134,400 in fines and proposed fines handed down to them after a deadly May 2010 explosion on Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. Amtec’s attorney said the company has never had a safety violation with OSHA in more than 30 years of business. According to the attorney, the report issued by OSHA does not tell the whole story of the explosion that claimed the lives of two contractors. “The report that was just issued emphasizes certain things that in many respects have nothing whatever to do with the accident itself and therefore are somewhat misleading,” he said. He said that what the contractors were doing the day of the accident, trying to extract components from old rocket fuel to be used in new rocket fuel, was part of a research and experimental process which does not warrant the same guidelines as a manufacturing process.

Source: <http://www.whnt.com/news/huntsvilleandmadisoncounty/whnt-amtec-citation-osh-explosion-arsenal,0,1476465.story>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *November 8, InformationWeek* – (National) **Financial data at risk in development: A call for data masking.** An Informatica sponsored study conducted by the Ponemon Institute surveyed 437 senior IT professionals in the financial services industry whose firms have been engaged in application testing and development in order to better understand if the risk of using real data in development is being addressed. An overlooked privacy risk is the vulnerability of personal and business information used for testing and application development. During the test and development phase of new software, real data — including financial records, transactional records, and other personally identifiable information (PII) — is being used by as many as 80 percent of organizations. Further, test environments are less secure because data is exposed to a variety of unauthorized sources, including in-house testing staff, consultants, partners and offshore development personnel. The study found security decision-making may be motivated more by achieving business objectives than by addressing data security risks. Given the potential for heavy fines and penalties, customer churn, reputation damage, and overall costs associated with a data breach, financial services firms should proceed with great caution before outsourcing to third parties. This should include a vigorous evaluation of prospective partners’ security policies and procedures, and implementation of detailed contractual provisions.

Source: http://www.informationweek.com/whitepaper/Risk-Management-Security/Privacy/financial-data-at-risk-in-development-a-call-for-wp1288885160847;jsessionid=GKHQN5E55EBILQE1GHPCKH4ATMY32JVN?cid=whome_wp_Risk+

17. *November 8, PrisonPlanet.com* – (National) **ATMs crash across the country after ‘Bank Holiday’ warning.** Following rumors of a “bank holiday” that could limit or prevent altogether cash withdrawals later the week of November 8, Twitter and other Internet forums were raging November 7 about numerous ATMs across the United States that crashed early November 7, preventing customers from performing basic transactions. It is unknown whether the crashes were partly a result of a surge of people trying to withdraw money in preparation for any feared bank shutdown, or if mere technical glitches were to blame. The fact that the problem affected numerous different banks in different parts of the United States would seem to indicate the former. The Orange County Register reported that the problems were “part of a national outage” which prevented people from performing simple transactions such as cashing checks and withdrawing money. “Computer issues” were blamed for similar issues in Phoenix, Arizona, while in Birmingham, Alabama, Wells Fargo customers’ online banking accounts and ATMs displayed incorrect balances. The banks primarily affected were Wells Fargo, Chase, and Bank of America, but according to a blogger who studied Twitter feeds and other Internet message boards that were alight with the story, numerous other financial institutions were also affected, including US Bank, Compass, USAA, Sun Trust, Fairwinds Credit Union, American Express, BB&T on the East Coast, and PNC.
Source: <http://www.prisonplanet.com/atms-crash-across-the-country-after-bank-holiday-warning.html>
18. *November 8, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio State bank robber suspected in another holdup.** The FBI said a woman suspected of robbing several banks, including one at Ohio State University, appears to have struck again. A Special Agent said the latest hold-up was at a Charter One Bank branch November 7 inside a Kroger supermarket in Columbus, Ohio. The woman approached the teller counter while appearing to talk on a cell phone. She then told the teller she needed cash and was robbing the bank. The FBI said the teller gave the woman some money though there was no sign of a weapon. The Special Agent said the same woman is suspected in seven other robberies around Columbus since January 2006, including three earlier this year. The last was October 20 at a US Bank branch inside Ohio State’s new student union building.
Source: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/ohio-news/ohio-state-bank-robber-suspected-in-another-holdup-997799.html>
19. *November 8, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Police: Robber barricades self in hotel before surrender.** A bank robbery suspect in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was arrested after barricading himself in a hotel room for 2 hours, police said November 8. Surveillance video shows the heist of the bank on North May Avenue. Oklahoma City police said they worked closely with the FBI to track down the suspect. Investigators said they found the suspect hiding in a southwest Oklahoma City hotel November 8. Police said the suspect barricaded himself inside one of the rooms at the hotel near Southwest 8th Street and MacArthur Boulevard. After 2 hours, police said, the suspect surrendered inside the hotel room. Investigators said the robbery was not the suspect’s first crime. In the 1980s, he spent time in a state prison for armed robbery. Police said

the suspect also faces time for escaping from prison.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/r/25669571/detail.html>

20. *November 6, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Computer glitch hits Wells Fargo customers.** Wells Fargo & Co., Birmingham, Alabama's third-largest bank by deposits, said November 6 that computer problems that afternoon led to some account information not being displayed correctly on the Internet and on automated teller machines. "We had some issues that affected some customers across our operating area," the spokesman said. The San Francisco-based banking giant operates nationwide. The spokesman said the problems meant the company did not correctly reflect the account balances of some customers. "We are sorry for the inconvenience and are now back up and running at 100 percent," the spokesman said at 7:30 p.m., November 6. Other banks, including Bank of America, also were affected by a computer glitch November 6, according to a report by the Orange County Register.

Source: http://blog.al.com/businessnews/2010/11/computer_glitch_affects_wells.html

21. *November 5, Denver Post* – (Colorado) **Bank robber's bomb threat bogus.** A well-dressed robber left what he claimed was a bomb on the counter of an Edgewater, Colorado bank November 4. The metal box, however, contained nothing dangerous, the Jefferson County bomb squad determined. The robbery happened just before 9:30 a.m. at a TCF Bank at 1709 Sheridan Blvd., when a man in a dress shirt, slacks and a tie entered the bank and took the metal box from his backpack, Edgewater police told 9News. He told a bank teller, "This is a bomb. Touch it, it will go off," police said. He jumped over a counter, took cash, reminded bank employees the box would explode if they touched it, then left the bank on a purple bicycle, police said. The man was described as black, 25 to 30 years old, about 5 feet, 8 inches tall and about 150 pounds. Witnesses said his black hair contained some gray, and he had "spotty facial hair," the FBI said.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_16528461

22. *November 5, TechWorld* – (International) **Zeus Trojan defeats Microsoft security tool.** Only weeks after Microsoft added anti-Zeus Trojan detection to its free Malicious Software Removal Tool (MSRT), it is unable to detect the latest versions, a rival security company has claimed. The analysis by Trusteer is a reminder that ordinary users face a battle to keep state-of-the-art Trojans such as Zeus (or Zbot or Wnspoom), which targets online bank accounts, off their PCs. According to Trusteer, MSRT detected and removed Zeus version 2.0 about 46 percent of the time in its tests, but failed to spot updated versions, which are now circulating. The company also thinks that such Zeus detection is seriously flawed because it relies on the user downloading and running a tool when it might already be too late — Zeus typically steals banking logins soon after infection. Ironically, because MSRT's effectiveness is still superior to many antivirus products, it might cause criminals to up their game once again, shortening the infection-to-theft period and even attacking MSRT itself.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/110510-zeus-trojan-defeats-microsoft-security.html>

For another story, see item [53](#)

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Transportation Sector

23. *November 8, Lee Newspapers* – (Iowa) **Lansing bridge closed briefly over weekend after being struck by barge.** The bridge over the Mississippi River at Lansing, Iowa, was closed a portion of the weekend of November 6 and 7 after being struck by a barge November 6. Both lanes of the bridge were closed, and motorists were advised to cross the river at either La Crosse, Wisconsin or Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The bridge was reopened November 7 at noon, according to the Crawford County Sheriff's Department. It is the second time this year the bridge has been closed after being hit by a barge. The bridge was closed briefly in July when a 15-barge tow struck a nearby protective pier.
Source: <http://www.westbytimes.com/articles/2010/11/08/thisjustin/05leadthis.txt>
24. *November 7, KTVU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **Two injured in Sonoma plane crash.** Two men were injured after their plane crashed November 6 in an industrial park in Sonoma, California, according to the sheriff's office. Sheriff's deputies, along with Sonoma police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel responded at 1:16 p.m. and found a single engine Quall aircraft in a grassy area between a series of warehouse buildings. The pilot and a passenger were extricated from the plane and airlifted to separate hospitals with moderate injuries. It appeared the plane crashed nose first almost immediately after departing from Sonoma Skypark Airport, according to the sheriff's office. A cyclone fence was broken, but there was no damage to any nearby buildings. Witnesses described the engine noise as being under low power, according to the sheriff's office. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/25663086/detail.html>
25. *November 7, 24-7PressRelease.com* – (National) **FMCSA bans truckers from texting.** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has issued a formal rule banning truck and bus drivers from texting while driving. Carriers are also prohibited from requiring or allowing texting by their drivers. The ban codifies current federal enforcement practices and follows up on guidance the FMCSA issued earlier in the year. The rule affects commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers who operate within interstate commerce. Sanctions for violators include a \$2,750 fine for drivers and \$11,000 fine for carriers. Drivers can also be disqualified from operating CMVs in interstate commerce.
Source: <http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/fmcsa-bans-truckers-from-texting-179926.php>
26. *November 6, Associated Press* – (International) **Saudis warned U.S. of package bomb plot weeks ago.** Western officials are crediting a Saudi intelligence tip they received in early October, nearly 3 weeks before terrorists in Yemen managed to smuggle mail

bombs onto airplanes, with heading off what could have been a series of catastrophic explosions on jets. The Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility November 5 for sending the two bombs addressed to synagogues in the U.S. and intercepted in Dubai and Britain. The group also said it was responsible for the crash of a UPS cargo plane in Dubai in September, and threatened even more attacks on passenger and cargo aircraft. Investigators said they believe the UPS crash was an accident, not a terror attack, but they are not discounting the al-Qaeda claim. The Saudi tip contained no mention of cargo planes, or any details of the plot carried out last week, said U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss classified matters. But they said it gave the U.S. and other Western officials enough of a warning to know what to look for when another Saudi tip arrived last week. A CIA spokesman cited several allies that have provided key intelligence about terrorist activities.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-11-05-al-qaeda-bomb-plot_N.htm

27. *November 6, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Vermont Railways pays \$120,000 to settle waste law case.** Vermont Railways has agreed to pay \$70,000 in fines, and \$50,000 to pay for firefighting equipment and training to settle claims that the company violated Vermont's hazardous waste management laws, the Vermont Attorney General's Office said November 5. State regulators said 2008 inspections revealed Vermont Railway did not properly store, label and manage hazardous waste at its Burlington and Rutland facilities. Vermont Railways agreed to pay the fine and enact measures to prevent hazardous spills at its facilities. The company will also buy firefighting materials and spill response equipment for four fire departments in areas of high rail traffic in Vermont. The rail company will also pay for a training exercise involving a simulated release of hazardous materials from a rail car.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20101106/NEWS01/11060316/Vermont-Railways-pays-120-000-to-settle-waste-law-case/>

28. *November 4, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Metro's Silver Line in need of post-9/11 security upgrade.** Missing security features on the new rail line linking Loudoun County, Virginia, to the Washington D.C. region's Metro system were identified in a triennial audit by the Tri-State Oversight Committee. Released last month, the nearly 300-page report noted dozens of problems at Metro, but it also highlighted the lapse in planning for the new rail line to include the "additional processes, design features, and equipment necessary in a 'post-9/11' environment." The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which oversees Reagan National and Dulles airports, is supervising construction, but Metro will own and operate the line. Rail project officials said they are awaiting word from Metro about what security elements to include. Among those missing features and policies cited in the audit: closed-circuit televisions currently in use at all Metro stations; technology used to detect weapons of mass destruction and outside intruders on rail tracks; and routine threat and vulnerability assessments, which are used by Metro to gauge how likely or imminent an attack is. A full accounting of Metro's required security features, which are now being updated, is not publicly available because of its highly sensitive content, officials said. But the failure to include

Metro's security construction and technical guidelines in the plan for the Silver Line could have a substantial impact on the project's ballooning costs.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/04/AR2010110406989.html?hpid=newswell>

For more stories, see items [13](#), [29](#), and [65](#)

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Postal and Shipping Sector

29. *November 5, CBS/Associated Press* – (International) **Al Qaeda group takes credit for mail bomb plot.** A Yemen-based al Qaeda group is claiming responsibility for the international mail bomb plot uncovered the week of October 25. A week after authorities intercepted packages in Dubai and England that were bound for the United States, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula issued a message November 5 saying it will continue to strike American interests. Both mail bombs were wired to detonators that used cell phone technology. U.S. officials have said they believe it was the Yemen group. The claim was reported by the private SITE Intelligence Group. On November 4, the French Interior Minister said the bomb was defused at England's East Midlands airport just 17 minutes before it was due to go off. The White House said November 4 they could not confirm that.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/11/05/world/main7026751.shtml>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

30. *November 8, Kalamazoo Gazette* – (Michigan) **Equine encephalitis toll reaches 133: Economy contributes to horse deaths from EEE in Southwest Michigan.** Michigan has reported a final tally for one of the worst outbreaks of eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in 30 years — by veterinarians' counts 133 horses were stricken, with all but four killed by the mosquito-borne disease, most in Southwest Michigan. At 55 confirmed EEE cases, 2010 is tied with 1981 for having the second highest number on record, the Michigan Department of Agriculture state veterinarian said. In 1980, there were 93 confirmed cases.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/living/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/11/equine_encephalitis_toll_reach.html

31. *November 7, Richmond Palladium-Item* – (National) **Death by grain entrapments at record high.** Grain bin entrapment has set a record in 2010. The Purdue University Agricultural Safety and Health Program reported 46 entrapments nationwide this year, the most since the university began tracking farming accidents in 1978. The 2010 record tops the record of 42 set in 1993. Twenty-five of the 46 entrapments resulted in death. Of the entrapments, 33 were on farms and 13 were at commercial grain facilities.

The increase was expected in part due to the late harvest and poor crop conditions in 2009, which created moldy and caked grain in bins, a Purdue farm safety specialist said. Because many non-fatal grain-related entrapments go unreported, he estimated the total number of actual cases could be 20 percent to 30 percent higher nationwide. Illinois has had 10 entrapments, Minnesota had eight, and Iowa and Wisconsin each had five.

Source: <http://www.pal-item.com/article/20101107/NEWS01/11070308/1008>

32. *November 6, Food Safety News* – (National) **Cilantro problem prompts Trader Joe's recalls.** Cilantro in several Trader Joe's products may be contaminated with Salmonella. The company has alerted its customers to a recall of: Cilantro Dressing with a sell-by date of February 9, 2011, sold nationwide in all Trader Joe's stores; Spicy Peanut Vinaigrette with a sell-by date of January 9, 2011 sold nationwide in all Trader Joe's stores; Cilantro Pecan Dip with sell-by dates of November 20, 2010 and November 24, 2010 sold in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Washington Trader Joe's stores; Spicy Thai Pasta Salad with sell-by dates of October 30, 2010 through November 6, 2010, sold in the chain's California stores and in one Trader Joe's location each in Tucson, Arizona and Carson City, Nevada. The potentially contaminated cilantro prompted APPA Fine Food of Corona, California, to recall approximately 7,325 pounds of ready-to-eat chicken pasta salad, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced November 5.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/11/pasta-recalled-due-to-possible-salmonella/>

33. *November 5, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Costco pulls cheese linked to 23 E. coli cases.** The Arizona Department of Public Health has issued a health alert for a Bravo Farms cheese set sold at Costco during October because of possible E. coli contamination. "There were several varieties of cheeses that were available at the road show for tasting and for purchase," the state foodborne disease epidemiologist said. The Bravo Farms set includes a variety of cheddar, pepper jack, and chipotle cheeses on a cutting board. A representative of the Arizona Health Department said 11 people became sick with the bacteria after eating the cheese during a promotion from October 15 to 17. The health department has another 11 cases that are incubating now to see if they test positive. Twenty-three people across the Southwest have become ill with the same strain of E. coli, according to the health department.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/25638792/detail.html?source=pho>

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Water Sector

34. *November 8, WOOD 8 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Drinking water ban ends near Kalamazoo River.** Residents living near the Kalamazoo River, in Michigan, affected by this summer's Enbridge oil pipeline spill, can now drink water from their wells. The Calhoun County Public Health Department has rescinded the bottled water advisory,

which was issued July 29 as a precautionary measure. At that time, there was a large quantity of crude oil in the Talmadge Creek and Kalamazoo River, creating conditions that could have affected ground water quality. A ground water study required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency examined the potential impacts of the released oil on any ground water with the potential to be a source of drinking water. To date, the study and water sampling indicate no groundwater contamination has resulted from the pipeline release.

Source:

http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/kalamazoo_and_battle_creek/drinking-water-ban-ends-near-Kalamazoo-River

35. *November 7, WDTN 2 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Drinking water alert in Auglaize County.** The City of St. Marys, Ohio superintendent of water and wastewater is warning residents and their pets in Villa Nova and Sandy Beach not to drink or have any contact with the water there. Officials said lake water from Grand Lake St. Marys has contaminated the drinking water. Officials said a water main that supplies those areas from the city of St. Marys somehow ruptured. Residents were told boiling should continue until further notice. City crews, with help from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, will be conducting tests to determine if the water is safe.
Source: <http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/drinking-water-alert>

36. *November 5, San Marcos Mercury* – (Texas) **Mishap at Kyle plant spills wastewater into Plum Creek tributary.** San Marcos, Texas City officials said an equipment malfunction caused more than 100,000 gallons of untreated and under-treated wastewater to spill into an tributary of Plum Creek early the week of November 1. A pump at the city's wastewater treatment plant near FM 150 in eastern Kyle did not turn on, causing sewage to accumulate at an intake point to the plant and flow out of a nearby manhole. When the problem was discovered, a contractor turned on booster pumps to send the accumulated sewage through a lift station and into the plant for treatment, a move that caused effluent to spill out the other end into the creek. The spill, which began October 31 and continued into November 1, was reported to the Texas Commissioner on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife department, which dispatched agents to survey the spill. "We have been told by both TCEQ and Parks and Wildlife that there is really nothing that we can do other than continue putting good effluent in the creek and waiting for rain to come into the loop for the stuff that is in the creek," the interim city manager told council members November 3. The plant is operated by Aqua Texas.
Source: <http://smmercury.com/archives/14981>

For another story, see item [14](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

37. *November 8, Infosecurity* – (National) **Private medical practices lag behind hospitals in data security.** According to the 2010 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Security Survey, sponsored by Intel and supported by the Medical Group Management Association, 33 percent of medical practices said they did not conduct a security risk analysis of their electronic health records, compared with only 14 percent of hospitals. Overall, 75 percent of all respondents did conduct a security risk analysis of their organizations. The survey also found 17 percent of medical practices outsourced their information security function; none of the hospitals outsourced information security. Only 40 percent of medical practices used multiple types of controls to manage data access, compared to more than half of the hospitals surveyed. Medical practices were less likely to report that an instance of medical identity theft had occurred within their organization (17 percent), compared to those working for a hospital (38 percent). Overall, 33 percent of respondents said their organization had at least one known case of medical identity theft. The survey polled 272 healthcare IT and security professionals, with one-quarter of them working for medical practices and the rest working in hospitals.
Source: <http://www.infosecurity-us.com/view/13806/private-medical-practices-lag-behind-hospitals-in-data-security/>
38. *November 8, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona) **Assisted living home fire forced hundreds of people to evacuate.** A fire at an assisted living home in Tucson, Arizona forced 150 people to evacuate for a few hours November 7. The fire began around 12:30 p.m. at the Council House Apartments on East 10th Street, near Broadway and Tucson Boulevard. Investigators said a fire began on a stove in one of the units on the third floor and one person was injured. Firefighters found one woman inside the apartment. She tried to escape but was overcome with smoke. Crews carried her out and she was taken to the hospital to get treated. The fire caused \$30,000 in damage.
Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=13461127>
39. *November 7, Seacoastonline.com* – (New Hampshire) **NH Air National Guard holds training drill for anthrax exposure.** Annual flu shots helped approximately 1,000 Air National Guard members prepare for a large-scale outbreak November 6 in New Hampshire. During the 4-hour disaster drill simulated to represent the inhalation of anthrax, Guard members practiced disaster response and the role the group would play as a first responder. A Point of Dispensing (POD) operations unit was set up at the N.H. Air National Guard's Pease base as members were processed through what would be a mass vaccination dispensing scenario, during which 800 members actually received yearly flu vaccinations. The exercise, involving the N.H. National Guard and eight of the state's 15 Public Health Regions, was designed to test the state's Strategic National Stockpile, Cities Readiness Initiative, Multi-Agency Coordinating Entity, and Point of Dispensing plans. Evaluators through the New Hampshire Department of Safety & Homeland Security and Emergency Management observed the drill and will provide a review and improvement plans in about 1 month.
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20101107-NEWS-11070329>

40. *November 7, WFAA 8 Dallas-Fort Worth* – (Texas) **Four-alarm fire at Dallas senior center.** Firefighters battled a four-alarm fire at a senior living center in Northwest Dallas, Texas November 7. The fire was reported just before 2 p.m. on the top floor of the three-story Bentley Manor Assisted Living center at 3344 Forest Lane. When firefighters arrived, they found heavy smoke and fire. Passers-by had already stopped to help evacuate many of the nearly 110 people inside. A number of residents were treated at the scene, but no one required hospitalization. Late that afternoon, firefighters were still going room-to-room making sure everyone was safe. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Four-alarm-fire-at-Dallas-senior-center-106858554.html>

41. *November 6, Charleston Gazette* – (West Virginia) **Medicaid glitch causing headaches for W.Va. pharmacies.** Some West Virginia pharmacists said they are struggling to pay bills because of a problem with Medicaid payments. Pharmacies are paid weekly by the state Medicaid office, said the director of the West Virginia Pharmacists Association. Recently, some pharmacies have been getting only 3 to 4 days worth of payments when they should be getting 7. For small, independent pharmacies, that can cause big problems, he said. Pharmacies must pay wholesalers within 10 days, and in some cases, as soon as they get their shipments. “Given the low level of reimbursement by Medicaid, not being paid in a timely manner creates a cash-flow problem,” he said. In a statement, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) said the reason for the glitch “is not simple.” “It has to do with the amount of money available to pay claims, the number of claims in the system and the age of those claims,” DHHR officials said in the statement. “The fact that a state holiday occurred during the [payment] period may have also affected the payment.”

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/News/201011060415?page=1&build=cache>

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Government Facilities Sector

42. *November 7, Badger Herald* – (Illinois) **Western Illinois receives three bomb threats.** The University of Western Illinois, which is recovering from the shocks of two bomb threats over the past 2 weeks, was the target of a yet another bomb threat November 5. The previous two threats — on October 25 and November 4 — were found to have no immediate danger, a WIU spokesperson said. The target of the bomb threats on all three occasions was Tanner Hall, a student dormitory on the Moline, Illinois, campus that houses over 800 freshmen. All three threats were called into the Tanner Hall clerk’s office, according to a police report. The third bomb threat was reported at 2:30 p.m., and evacuations began almost immediately. According to a police report, Tanner Hall was reopened to student residents at 4:30 p.m. after the office of public safety searched the building and found no danger.

Source: http://badgerherald.com/news/2010/11/07/western_ilinois_rece.php

43. *November 6, WJLA 7 Washington D.C.* – (District of Columbia) **Secret Service detains vehicle suspected of explosives at White House entrance.** The U.S. Secret Service detained a suspicious vehicle at a White House entrance November 6 after a dog alerted officers to possible explosives. The vehicle was later cleared and considered to be no threat, a Secret Service spokesperson said. The area around the entrance at 15th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, was cordoned off. The explosive ordinance disposal unit of the D.C. Police and the D.C. Fire Department were called to the scene.
Source: <http://www.tbd.com/articles/2010/11/secret-service-detains-vehicle-suspected-of-explosives-at-white-house-entrance-29537.html>
44. *November 5, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Ohio NASA lockdown spurred by test system glitch.** A NASA research center was locked down and employees hunkered down in their offices for about 1 hour November 5 because a misdirected phone call during a security test led them to believe there was a gunman on campus in Cleveland, Ohio. “There is not - nor has there been - a gunman or shooter here at NASA Glenn Research Center,” the center director said following the scare. “All the employees are safe.” A Glenn employee received an automated phone call at about 9:30 a.m. warning that a shooter was inside the building. That employee has the same last name as a NASA worker at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, which was conducting a test of NASA’s new automated emergency-response system.
Source: <http://www.thestate.com/2010/11/05/1547278/ohio-nasa-facility-under-lockdown.html>
45. *November 5, Florida Times-Union* – (Georgia) **Nuclear drill puts national focus on Kings Bay.** As many as 1,800 military and civilian personnel from across the nation will participate in a simulated nuclear weapon incident at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Camden County, Georgia beginning November 5. While the majority of activity will be on base, residents living near Kings Bay will be affected by the drill. They can expect to see emergency vehicles driving to a local hospital. Residents may also see smoke and hear loud noises coming from the base. The commanding officer at Kings Bay described the drill as a national-level exercise involving all branches of the military, the FBI, local public safety officials, and medical personnel. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency is sponsoring the multi-agency response exercise, Navy officials said.
Source: <http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2010-11-06/story/nuclear-drill-puts-national-focus-kings-bay>
46. *November 5, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Evacuation ends at capitol’s executive tower.** Capitol police in Phoenix, Arizona have let the occupants return to the Executive Tower at the Arizona State Capitol after a suspicious package on the second floor prompted an evacuation November 5. The device was removed and a sweep of the building and grounds was completed, according to Capitol police. The first two floors of the building were evacuated, they said.
Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/25647529/detail.html>

47. *November 5, GenevaLunch* – (International) **US Mission in Geneva evacuated: suspicious package.** The U.S. Mission in Geneva, Switzerland, was evacuated shortly before 4 p.m. November 5 after a suspicious package was found on the premises. The Swiss bomb squad was called to the scene but further details were not available. The incident occurred on a day when the United States had a particularly high-powered team in Geneva for its first-ever Universal Periodic Review by the U.N. Human Rights Council, and a town hall style meeting for non-governmental organizations was organized nearby for 5 p.m.. Bombs were delivered to several embassies and government offices in Europe the week of November 1, and consulates, embassies and other areas are on high alert.

Source: <http://genevalunch.com/blog/2010/11/05/us-mission-in-geneva-evacuated-suspicious-package/>

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Emergency Services Sector

48. *November 8, Florence Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Fire training center becomes go-to with enhanced features.** In just 7 years, the Muscle Shoals Fire Training Center in Alabama has become the regional go-to site for firefighters to be ready for almost anything they could face in the field. This fall, the addition of several new facilities will enhance what the center has to offer, according to the Muscle Shoals fire chief. With an annual budget of between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to make improvements at the center, he said the department takes advantage of things such as old shipping containers. The goal is to repurpose them for use by firefighters from across the area, state, and country. The rappelling towers and combined spaces will be put to use in December when two dozen firefighters come to the area for training. The combined space is broken up into a few distinct areas, including one for response to hazardous materials as well as a confined space for a more specialized, or technical, rescue. There also is a fire pit for use in training on fire extinguishers. Budget cuts have prompted the need for these regional centers that serve each area of Alabama, the chief said.

Source:

<http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20101108/NEWS/101109798/1011/NEWS?Title=Fire-training-center-becomes-go-to-with-enhanced-features>

49. *November 8, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **In drill, bomb explodes, trains crash.** About 100 rescue personnel were involved in the test of coordination among emergency responders with different specialties from Bucks County, Pennsylvania and the region November 7. It appeared an Amtrak car had collided with a Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) train, after a terrorist detonated a bomb on a SEPTA car. About 50 passengers were caught inside the cars. The responders included fire departments, EMTs, and police officers from 10 different local rescue units plus the Bucks County Rescue Squad, SEPTA, Amtrak police, and Albert Einstein Medical Center's physician response team. Police and rescue organizations from other counties and state and federal agencies stood by, watching the scene unfold. SEPTA and Amtrak coordinated the exercise. The Bucks County

Emergency Services command center truck was the base of operations. The truck was full of communications equipment, including radios, Internet, and closed-circuit television to view the situation from a distance.

Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/28/2010/november/08/in-drill-bomb-explodes-trains-crash.html

50. *November 7, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Cherokee 911 back to normal operations.** The Cherokee County, Georgia 911 Center resumed normal operations following an electrical malfunction that lasted several hours, a lieutenant of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said. The incident began around 8:45 a.m. November 7 when the 911 center, near Canton, lost contact with fire and police officials, he said. The center's phone lines were down and no emergency calls could be taken. Communication with fire stations and law enforcement officials was quickly reestablished after a command center was set up outside the 911 center. Officials then contacted Cobb County 911 to reroute emergency calls. The problem was corrected shortly after 7 p.m., the lieutenant said.

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/cherokee/cherokee-911/cherokee-911-back-to-729222.html>

For another story, see item [45](#)

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Information Technology Sector

51. *November 8, IDG News Service* – (International) **Zscaler develops free tool to detect Firesheep snooping.** A security company has developed a free Firefox add-on that warns when someone on the same network is using Firesheep, a tool that has raised alarm over how it simplifies an attack against a long-known weakness in Internet security. Firesheep, which was unveiled at the ToorCon security conference in San Diego October 2010, collects session information that is stored in a Web browser's cookie. The session information is easily collected if transmitted back and forth between a user's computer and an unencrypted Wi-Fi router while a person is logged into a Web service such as Facebook. While most Web sites encrypt the traffic transmitted when logging into a Web site, indicated by the padlock on browsers, many then revert to passing unencrypted information during the rest of the session, a weakness security analysts have warned of for years, particularly for users of public open Wi-Fi networks. Firesheep identifies that unencrypted traffic and allows an interloper to "hijack" the session, or log into a Web site as the victim, with just a few clicks. The style of attack has been possible for a long time, but because of its simple design, Firesheep has given less-sophisticated users a powerful hacking tool. Zscaler's The Blacksheep add-on, however, will detect when someone on the same network is using Firesheep, allowing its users to make a more informed security decision about their behavior while on an open Wi-Fi network, for example.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9195398/Zscaler_develops_free_tool_to_detect_Firesheep_snooping

52. *November 8, Computerworld* – (International) **Danger to IE users climbs as hacker kit adds exploit.** An exploit of an unpatched Internet Explorer vulnerability has been added to a popular crimeware kit, a move that will likely push Microsoft to fix the flaw with an emergency update, a security researcher said November 7. Microsoft has warned users of its IE6, IE7, and IE8 browsers that hackers were already exploiting a vulnerability in the programs by tricking them into visiting malicious or compromised Web sites. Once at such sites, users were subjected to “drive-by” attacks that required no action by them to succeed. Symantec was the first to report the IE bug to Microsoft after the antivirus vendor captured spam posing as hotel reservation notifications sent to select individuals within several organizations. On November 7, the chief research officer of AVG Technologies said an exploit for the newest IE flaw had been added to the Eleonore attack kit, one of several readily-available toolkits that criminals plant on hacked Web sites to hijack visiting machines, often using browser-based attacks. Microsoft has promised to patch the vulnerability, but said the threat didn’t warrant an “out-of-band” update, the company’s term for a fix outside the usual monthly Patch Tuesday schedule. Microsoft will deliver three security updates November 9, but will not fix the IE bug then. Microsoft has urged IE users to enable DEP, or data execution prevention, for IE7, use IE8 or IE9, or run one of its automated “Fix-it” tools to add a custom CSS template to their browsers as protection until a patch is available.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9195380/Danger_to_IE_users_climbs_as_hacker_kit_adds_exploit

53. *November 8, ITWeb* – (International) **PayPal network problems worsen.** PayPal’s recent outage was the result of a network hardware failure, and the problem worsened when the failover systems did not spring into action as designed, reported Fierce CIO. PayPal has more than 87 million active accounts in 24 currencies around the world. It is owned by e-Bay, who acquired the company for \$1.5 billion in 2002. The outage illustrates the challenges inherent to maintaining a cloud-based system in which zero downtime is tolerated, with merchants and customers globally relying on PayPal to be able to complete orders and transfer funds.

Source:

http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=38514:paypal-network-problems-worsen&catid=69

54. *November 8, The Register* – (Ohio; National) **Former student jailed for U.S. political hack attacks.** A U.S. student began a 30-month sentence November 5 after he was convicted of using a network of compromised PCs he established to flood the Web sites of conservative politicians and pundits. The convict, 23, of Bellevue, Ohio, had earlier admitted launching denial of service (DoS) attacks against the sites between 2006 and March 2007, Security Week reported. He also copped to launching a DOS attack on the University of Akron, the university where he was enrolled at the time of the March 2007 attack. The assault knocked Akron offline for more than 8 hours, obliging a

subsequent clean-up operation that cost the university \$10,000. The convict was ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution to the university and a further \$40,000 to Billo'Reilly.com. After he gets out of jail, he will spend a further 3 years on parole. The former student also admitted to harvesting personal data from compromised machines including user names, passwords, and credit card numbers. It is unclear how much, if anything, he raked in via fraudulent abuse of this information. It could be the compromised details were used to buy and facilitate his politically motivated hack attacks.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/11/08/us_hacktivist_jailed/

55. *November 8, Techworld* – (International) **Boonana Mac Trojan was ‘not Koobface’, says Microsoft.** The widely-reported “Boonana” Trojan was a new piece of malware and had nothing directly to do with “Koobface,” Microsoft and other security companies reported 1 week after the event. However, according to Microsoft, ESET, and SecureMac, the similarity with Koobface does not appear to stretch beyond its general tactics and the fact that it attacks using Facebook and other social media sites. At a code level, what Microsoft now identifies as Trojan:Java/Boonana is a distinct piece of malware. The main significance of Boonana could be its Java design allows it to attack Windows PCs and Apple Mac computers, and at least run on Linux. Where the software hails from is unknown although one of its first actions on infecting computers is to try to contact a Russian FTP server. The fact Boonana is a distinct family of malware rather than a variant matters in a small but important way. A new branch of malware capable of attacking across operating systems suggests a new direction in malware innovation. If Boonana was a simple variant it might count more as a one-off experiment. Programming and platforms apart, Boonana’s use of Facebook shows social engineering skill is its real forte. Originally pushed with basic “watch this video” lures, the malware has subsequently tried more sophisticated messages, including one based on an apparent suicide notice.

Source: <http://news.techworld.com/security/3247749/>

56. *November 8, Phnom Penh Post* – (International) **Hacker hits state website.** The Web site of the General Department of Mineral Resources of Cambodia has been periodically defaced by hackers, the latest in a number of similar attacks conducted against government Web sites since early 2010. A picture claiming “Hacked by Ashiyane” overlaying an image of Iran appeared on the department’s Web site November 7, before the site returned to normal by early afternoon. The director of ASC Information Security Consulting and Training, said a more aggressive stance by the public and private sectors towards information security would send more “reassuring signals”. Cambodia is presently conducting consultations on a cyber-crime law, but it would be difficult to prosecute hacking in the kingdom until a law was in place, the National ICT Development Authority secretary general said. “Not much can be done yet,” he said. “No law, no crime.” The latest vandalism follows a number of similar attacks staged against Cambodian government Web sites earlier this year.

Source: <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2010110844562/National-news/hacker-hits-state-website.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

57. *November 8, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC warns of looming wireless spectrum shortage.** Mobile data traffic in the United States will be 35 times higher in 2014 than it was in 2009, leading to a massive wireless spectrum shortage if the government fails to make more available, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said in a paper released October 2010. About 42 percent of U.S. mobile customers now own a smartphone, up from 16 percent 3 years ago, and between the first quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2010, data use per mobile line grew by 450 percent, the paper said. The FCC expects smartphone use — and a corresponding increase in mobile data use — to continue to skyrocket, the FCC Chairman said. “If we don’t act to update our spectrum policies for the 21st century, we’re going to run into a wall — a spectrum crunch — that will stifle American innovation and economic growth and cost us the opportunity to lead the world in mobile communications,” he warned. In a national broadband plan released in March 2010, the FCC called for 300 MHz of spectrum to be made available for mobile broadband uses in the next 5 years, and an additional 200 MHz in the subsequent 5 years. Much of that spectrum would come from bands now controlled by the FCC or other government agencies, but 120 MHz would come from spectrum now owned but unused by U.S. television stations. Under the broadband plan, the stations would give back unused spectrum in exchange for part of the profits when the spectrum is sold at auction. The FCC would need congressional approval to hold these so-called incentive auctions.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/352502/FCC_Wireless_Spectrum_Shortage_Looms?taxonomyId=70

58. *November 8, Bend Bulletin* – (Oregon) **Hackers chat for 26 hours on town’s dime.** The city of Coos Bay, Oregon, has learned that hackers accessed the City Hall phone system and racked up more than 26 hours of phone calls to an overseas location last month. The city just found out about the breach two weeks ago. Police say an investigation showed the city’s previous security systems were inadequate but they have since been reinforced.

Source:

http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101108/NEWS0107/11080311/1001/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01

59. *November 6, Gaithersburg Gazette* – (Maryland) **Montgomery Village residents without phone, Internet.** Verizon promised to have 240 landlines and Internet lines back in service by November 7 in Montgomery Village, Maryland. An outside contractor accidentally cut the lines while digging during traffic signal maintenance at Montgomery Village Avenue near Lost Knife Road, at the entrance to Lakeforest mall November 6, a Verizon spokeswoman said. The affected neighborhoods were Stedwick, Whetstone, and South Village. Verizon workers were able to find the completely severed cable about 5 feet underground, after pumping water from two manholes. Workers replaced about 15 feet of cable. The spokeswoman said the area should have been marked prior to digging, but apparently was not.

Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/11062010/montnew90715_32591.php

60. *November 5, IDG News Service* – (International) **Report: Sprint rejected Huawei, ZTE for security concerns.** Sprint Nextel turned down bids from ZTE and Huawei Technologies because of U.S. government concerns over possible dangers to national security from the Chinese vendors building critical infrastructure in the United States, the Wall Street Journal reported November 5. Sprint, the nation's third-largest mobile operator, rejected ZTE and Huawei's bids to modernize its network even though they were lower than those of three rival companies, the Journal reported. The other bidders were Ericsson of Sweden, Samsung Electronics of South Korea, and Alcatel-Lucent, which is based in Paris and incorporates the former U.S. telecom vendor Lucent. Some U.S. lawmakers have expressed concern over letting Huawei or ZTE participate in major infrastructure projects because of concerns over possible links with the Chinese government and military. They worry the Chinese military could use equipment from the companies to disrupt U.S. communications. The Journal reported that the U.S. Secretary of Commerce had called the Sprint CEO the week of November 1 to voice concerns about possible deals between Sprint and the two companies, though not to ask him to reject the companies' bids.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9195278/Report_Sprint_rejected_Huawei_ZTE_for_security_concerns

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Commercial Facilities Sector

61. *November 8, Las Vegas Review-Journal* – (Nevada) **Las Vegas Walmart: Wal-mart evacuated after shot fired, bomb threat.** A Las Vegas, Nevada Walmart was evacuated November 6 after an armed man dropped what appeared to be an explosive device, police said. The incident happened at a store on South Rainbow Boulevard near I-215, Las Vegas police said. Store security had tried to confront a man who wrote a bad check. The suspect struck the security officer with a gun and fled, dropping a

backpack with the device inside, police said. A Las Vegas police lieutenant said the bomb squad removed the device. The suspect got away, but police said he left identification at the store.

Source: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/wal-mart-evacuated-after-shot-fired--bomb-threat-106874013.html?ref=013>

62. *November 8, WTRF 7 Wheeling* – (West Virginia) **Possible explosive devices found at local religious community.** Residents in the New Vrindaban Community in Marshall County, West Virginia, which houses the Palace of Gold, believe they were the target to a hate crime. It was during a festival just after 12:30 a.m. October 31 when someone drove down a community road, threw some sort of explosive device out the window, and onto the community's property. The night guard said he, along with several hundred community members and tourists, were inside the Hare Krishna Temple when he heard a loud boom outside. Some of the remnants are still left on site where witnesses said the explosive device ignited. A piece of tinfoil was found melted on the cement. The guard described the device as a Lipton tea bottle with tinfoil and some sort of chemical inside. Three other devices were found in the surrounding area. He said none of those ignited. The Marshall County sheriff said he wants the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to take a look at the devices.

Source: <http://www.wtrf.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=89122&catid=3>

63. *November 6, KFSN 30 Fresno* – (California) **Bomb scare at Clovis shopping center.** A bomb scare forced several Clovis, California businesses to evacuate November 6. It happened at the Wild West Village Shopping Center near Shaw and Villa. Witnesses reported seeing a pipe with wires sticking out of it — in a trash can in front of a store. Officers from the Clovis Police Department's Bomb Squad responded. They set a small charge on the pipe to destroy it. Nobody was hurt in the incident and there was no major damage. Nearby businesses were evacuated as a precaution.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7768177>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

64. *November 5, WKYT 27 Lexington* – (Kentucky) **Rain slows wildfires in the Red River Gorge.** Conditions in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky have been mainly dry since several wildfires started early in October. But firefighting crews have been getting a little bit of help from Mother Nature the week of November 1. The U.S. Forest Service called in an aerial tanker to drop flame retardant on fires burning in the forest. On November 5, they got more help from the sky as some wet weather moved through the area. The problem is that even though the area looks soaked, there are still prime fire conditions beneath the surface.

Source:

http://www.wkyt.com/news/headlines/Rain_slows_wildfires_in_the_Red_River_Gorge_106791118.html?ref=118

65. *November 5, Greene County Daily World* – (Indiana) **Rash of arson fires threatens historic Viaduct; railroad offers \$1,000 reward for information.** A string of suspicious fires on, under, around and near the Viaduct in Bloomfield, Indiana, this fall has put lives in danger, slowed train traffic, damaged a landmark and attracted the attention of a number of law enforcement officers and investigators who are not taking the incidents lightly. A Greene County sheriff's detective said all of these fires are not accidental, but are suspected to be the work of arsonists. The case has been under an ongoing investigation by the sheriff's department, a fire department, and special agents from the Indiana Rail Road Company since the first incident was reported in early September. A press release from the Indiana Rail Road Company, which owns the trestle, said, "Local law enforcement and special agents are investigating a string of recent fires on the historic Tulip Trestle in rural Greene County. Evidence at the scene of at least two of the incidents indicates the fires were caused by arson. Investigators have identified possible suspects in the case, and the Indiana Rail Road Company is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of those responsible for setting the blazes."
- Source: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1678763.html>

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Dams Sector

66. *November 7, Local Europe* – (International) **Farms, homes evacuated after dam bursts.** A dam burst in Hastberga in southern Sweden November 7, causing floods and forcing residents to evacuate. "We are dealing with huge amounts of water," the emergency director at Osby emergency services told news agency TT. According to police, no one was injured. The alarm about the accident came in at 12.55 p.m. According to the director, a nearby road is completely submerged and a bridge has been completely swept away. "The water is now on its way down towards Osbysjon and further. We have not been able to calculate how large the volume is," he said. No acute floods have been reported by residents in the area. "We have not received these kinds of reports, but we assume that it will happen," he said. Emergency services are now taking stock of the homes in the area. Flights have also been sent to the area to survey the extent of the accident. Police said the flooding is probably the result of a burst hydroelectric dam, causing water to gush out. A road traffic manager of the Swedish Transport Administration's (Trafikverket) southern region confirmed to TT that a bridge had collapsed following the flooding. The power station remains, but the concrete foundation has been washed away. What has caused the burst is still not clear. "We are leaning towards thinking that it collapsed in the edge between the concrete and the levee," said a company spokesperson.
- Source: <http://www.thelocal.se/30072/20101107/>
67. *November 6, Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Flood-control work on target.** The second phase of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, flood-control project around the Big Sioux River and Skunk Creek is on track to be finished at the end of next year. It is good news for the 1,800 homeowners who live in the floodplain and are required to buy

flood insurance unless they do not have a mortgage. A dam near the union of Skunk Creek and the Big Sioux River is the main part of Phase 2 and is two-thirds complete, the principal city engineer said. The \$4 million dam is designed to stop water from going upstream and keep the estimated \$750 million worth of area property and buildings near it dry, the public works director said. It cost the city \$1.2 million to acquire the additional land and to cover the cost of fixing the affected holes. Construction on Phase 3, which includes raising levees at a different location and building a diversion dam, is expected to be finished by the end of next year. The project dates to 2000, when the mayor signed an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for an upgrade to the 1961 flood-control system. Work on the \$55 million project to purchase land and raise the levees at least 5 feet began in 2002. It will take an additional 8 to 12 months after the work is finished to get maps updated with the federal government to reflect the reduction of the flood plain.

Source: <http://www.argusleader.com/article/20101106/NEWS/11060314/1001>

68. *November 5, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **\$4M project under way to fix Lockington Dam.** The Miami Conservancy District in Ohio will begin a \$3.7 million project to reduce seepage under Lockington Dam — the single largest project on a district dam in 90 years. Lockington Dam is on Loramie Creek in Shelby County north of Piqua. It is built on fractured limestone bedrock, said the district's chief engineer. Soil and rock boring tests along with water-pressure testing shows four large areas — both east and west of the spillway — in the dam's foundation that are allowing water to seep. Loramie Creek is a feeder to the Great Miami River. The creek parallels the old Miami Erie Canal system. When water rises behind the dam, it pressures the groundwater and causes it to flow. That can lead to erosion, creating voids, which over time could become larger and lead to dam failure, he said. The contractor, Environmental Barrier Company LLC/Geo-Con will drill through the dam into the foundation and inject grout into the fractured bedrock and sand and gravel glacial deposits to reduce seepage. "The grouting won't stop the seepage completely, but any water that does flow will move so slowly it won't damage the foundation," the chief engineer said. The project is part of a dam safety initiative which began in 1999 to address vulnerabilities — like underseepage — that were not understood back in the early 20th century when the flood protection system was designed. Work is under way at Englewood Dam and should finish in 2012. The Lockington grouting project will begin in December and is expected to take 6 months.

Source: http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/-4m-project-under-way-to-fix-lockington-dam-996234.html?cxttype=rss_local-news

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