



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 November 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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

Top Stories

- A package containing “GE 68,” a radioactive material, has disappeared in transit, according to WGN-TV 9 Chicago. The package was shipped by FedEx from Fargo, North Dakota, to Knoxville, Tennessee. When the package was opened, the GE 68 was missing. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has notified public safety agencies. (See item [13](#))
- According to a report by the Associated Press, the Saginaw Water Treatment Plant in Michigan discharged 10 million gallons of untreated or partially treated sewage into the Saginaw River between November 22 and 23. The release happened after a 1.75-inch rainfall that caused 4 retention basins to overflow. (See item [18](#))

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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 26, Dow Jones Newswires* – (Texas; California) **Refinery status: Exxon Beaumont refinery operating after small fire Wednesday.** ExxonMobil’s Beaumont, Texas, refinery experienced a small fire in a processing area November 24. It was

extinguished quickly and the refinery continued to operate, a company representative said. ExxonMobil November 24 reported a flaring event at its Torrance, California, refinery to state environmental regulators; the cause of the release was unknown, the filing said. LyondellBasell said November 23 a small fire broke out at its Houston refinery but caused no major damage. It was extinguished within 20 minutes; there were no injuries. Operations at the plant had just returned to normal November 22, after a power outage caused a loss of steam forcing the shutdown of all process units.

Source: <http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201011261020dowjonesdjonline000394&title=refinery-statusexxon-beaumont-refinery-operating-after-small-fire-wednesday>

2. *November 25, Wicked Local Middleborough* – (Massachusetts) **Outage occurs after high winds blow down decaying wooden electricity towers in Middleboro.** In Middleboro, Massachusetts, the 70-foot tall wooden structures that toppled November 24 were built decades ago for temporary use and rotted before snapping under high winds. NStar's stanchions fell about 8 a.m. November 24 in winds of up to 35 mph. The towers, according to the police chief, went up about 40 years ago and appeared to be rotting at the top. When the stanchions came down, the heavy transmission lines hit smaller lines that feed Middleboro Gas & Electric customers, causing a domino effect that knocked out power to a good portion of east Middleboro homes, including more than 1,000 in the retirement village of Oak Point. Crews restored power quickly for most of the area. There was a tense period when a blaze underneath the power lines began spreading as the wind shifted, helping the fire spread to more than 2 acres. The fire chief said firefighters could not get under the transmission lines because the power was still flowing, so a barrier was set up to prevent the blaze from reaching homes on Plain Street. By noon the fire was smoldering but under control.
Source: <http://www.wickedlocal.com/middleborough/news/x1104625022/Outage-occurs-after-high-winds-blow-down-decaying-wooden-electricity-towers-in-Middleboro>
3. *November 25, KTLA 5 Huntington Beach* – (California) **Thousands lose power on Thanksgiving Day.** An underground electrical cable failed November 25 and left some 5,000 Huntington Beach, California, residents without power on Thanksgiving Day. A Southern California Edison spokesman said crews were working to determine why the cable failed and to restore power as quickly as possible. The area affected by the outage was bordered by Yorktown Avenue on the north, Beach Boulevard on the west, Indianapolis Avenue on the south and Magnolia Street on the east. Crews were able to restore power to most of the affected customers by 4 p.m.
Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-oc-power-outage,0,3421857.story>
4. *November 24, WSBT 22 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Gas leak near Indiana 933 and Auten Road causes traffic delays.** Holiday travelers headed through South Bend, Indiana, November 24 probably encountered some delays. Indiana 933 from Cleveland to Auten Road was shut down for nearly 11 hours because of a hit gas main. It all began at about 4 a.m. November 23. A subcontractor installing fiber optic cable was attempting to bore under the road along 933 when the crew hit a three-inch gas main pipe. Nearby businesses could not open for the day, and two hotels were evacuated. But 933, a major

thoroughfare into South Bend had to be closed down so NIPSCO crews could safety work on the pipe. NIPSCO crews worked throughout the morning to shut the gas off, which finally happened around noon. The contracting company that caused the leak, Vaughn Underground, is investigating how the leak happened. According to Indiana's 8-1-1, the company did call to have the utilities in that area marked.

Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20101124/News01/101129553/1130>

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 26, Bloomberg* – (National) **U.S. nuclear output as Exelon starts Illinois reactor.** U.S. nuclear production rose to its highest level in eight weeks as Exelon Corp. started a Dresden unit in Illinois and the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Co. switched on a reactor, a November 26 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) report showed. Output from U.S. plants increased by 667 megawatts to 92,945 megawatts, or 92 percent of capacity, the highest level since October 1, according to the report from the NRC and data compiled by Bloomberg. Seven of 104 plants were offline. Chicago-based Exelon started its 867-megawatt Dresden 3 reactor, located about 9 miles (14 kilometers) east of Morris, Illinois, after shutting it on November 1 for refueling and maintenance. The unit was running at 1 percent of capacity. Another reactor at the site, Unit 2, was operating at full capacity. South Texas Project switched on its 1,410-megawatt South Texas 2 reactor after an electrical failure caused a shutdown on November 3. The reactor is running at 30 percent of capacity.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-26/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-as-exelon-starts-illinois-reactor.html>

6. *November 25, Associated Press* – (Vermont, Tennessee) **Vermont Yankee ships tainted water for cleanup.** The Vermont Health Department said efforts to clean a radioactive isotope from groundwater at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant have been completed. Officials said 300,000 gallons of water contaminated with tritium is being shipped to a treatment facility in Tennessee. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) spokesman told the Brattleboro Reformer that the NRC's final inspection report, which will contain the official findings of the inspection, is due out within 45 days. Officials said the contaminated water leaked into the soil from underground pipes. Technicians removed 309,000 gallons of groundwater from beneath the plant, 9,000 of which was cleaned and returned to the plant's reactor system.

Source:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20101125/NEWS02/101125002/Vermont-Yankee-ships-tainted-water-for-cleanup>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *November 25, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Boeing 787 is set back as blaze forces fix.** Boeing Co. is modifying portions of the electrical system on its forthcoming Dreamliner, after an in-flight fire aboard a test plane the week of November 8 again threw the timetable for the flagship program into doubt. The move marks just the latest setback for the Dreamliner, which is running nearly three years behind schedule and is in danger of again missing a key milestone: its first delivery to a customer, which Boeing has projected for early next year. Boeing did not provide a new delivery or flight-certification timetable. The Chicago-based company said November 24 it was assessing how long it would take to implement “minor design changes” and software upgrades and what effect that would have on the overall program. The company said it expected to have a new schedule in the next few weeks. Boeing has suspended test flights since the fire.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703678404575636761747594370.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Boston man sentenced in mortgage fraud scheme.** A Boston man has received a jail sentence and been ordered to pay \$100,000 restitution for his role in a mortgage fraud scheme. Prosecutors say the 39-year-old mortgage broker was sentenced this week to a year in jail, with all but one month suspended for a probationary period of three years. He pleaded guilty to charges including multiple larceny counts. The attorney general’s office says the man was one of six people involved in the scheme, in which investors interested in buying multifamily homes in the Boston area were lured in with inflated appraisals of 26 distressed properties. The buyers were then left with properties not worth the loans obtained to purchase them. The convicted man’s lawyer did not immediately respond to a call for comment on November 26.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=12249356>

9. *November 25, Department of Justice* – (Ohio) **Ohio woman charged in identity theft and fraudulent credit card scheme.** A grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging a 35-year-old woman, who hails from Macedonia, Ohio, with aggravated

identity theft and fraud in relation to use of access devices, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, announced November 25. The indictment alleges that the suspect used the personal identifiers of 14 real people, including their Social Security numbers and dates of birth, to open 14 credit card accounts with Capital One. The indictment also alleges that suspect then used those fraudulent credit cards to obtain things of value totaling more than \$1,000.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/364958/ohio_woman_charged_in_identity_theft_and_fraudulent_credit_card_scheme.html

10. *November 24, Bank Info Security* – (National) **ATM outage stirs debate.** Several financial institutions saw their ATM and online banking channels taken offline over the weekend of the daylight saving time change. The institutions allegedly affected by the outage, including Bank of America, Chase, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo, Compass, USAA, Suntrust, Chase, Fairwinds Credit Union, American Express, BB&T on the East Coast, and PNC, reportedly blamed the downtime on a computer glitch related to the time-zone change. But a senior analyst at Aite Group LLC who covers banking and payments fraud, says more is likely going on behind the scenes. In fact, she says the outage could have been related to anything from a widespread malware attack to outdated technical infrastructures. “Infrastructure is certainly a problem with banks,” the analyst says. “They acknowledge it.” And given the proprietary nature of most banking institutions’ code, she says it is unlikely that a bug related to the time-zone would simultaneously hit all of these institutions, or at least within the same relative timeframe. “That just doesn’t seem like a plausible reason for me,” she says. “I think malware is probably the most likely culprit, or some sort of coordinated attack.”

Source: http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3127

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Transportation Sector

11. *November 26, THonline.com* – (Illinois) **Crews clean up after train derails in East Dubuque.** Crews from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway spent Thanksgiving cleaning up from a train derailment that took place the evening of November 24 in East Dubuque, Illinois. The regional public affairs director for BNSF said 12 cars derailed around 6:30 p.m. near the Fourth Street crossing. She said the train was traveling from Minneapolis to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Fifty-two of the 66 cars were loaded, with 50 carrying sand, one carrying corn syrup, and one carrying molasses. She said the train derailed off main line No. 2 onto main line No. 1. She said line No. 2 was set to open the afternoon of November 26, and line No. 1 by midnight after 200 to 300 feet of it is rebuilt. The Fourth Street crossing was still closed the evening of November 26. She said the cause of the derailment remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=303519>

12. *November 24, Associated Press* – (National) **Powerful storm pummels the Rockies,**

closing roads. A powerful snowstorm pummeled the Rockies on November 24, bringing whiteout conditions to parts of the region and closing roads on one of the busiest travel days of the year. The hectic storm that buried Seattle, Washington, in snow and shut down highways in Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah earlier in the week was expected to push a strong cold front south and east across New Mexico, where wind speeds were to increase steadily through the morning. In northern Arizona, drivers were warned to prepare for wind gusts of 25 to 35 mph with drastically reduced visibility in blowing snow. A blizzard warning was in effect for the Vail, Aspen, and Telluride areas in Colorado, with 6–12 inches of snow forecast and winds expected to gust to 60 mph. The storm moved east to the Colorado mountains November 24, leaving northern Utah in frigid temperatures with little traffic on the roads after a night of 118 traffic collisions and 119 slide-offs, according to a Utah Highway Patrol trooper. By the morning of November 24, Utah Department of Transportation cameras showed most of the state's highways were clear of snow, although some slick spots remained. Highway officials in Idaho reopened Interstate 84 at the Utah border the morning of November 24. In Wyoming, Interstate 80 from Lyman to Evanston, which is on the Utah border, remained closed.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/nov/24/powerful-storm-pummels-the-rockies-closing-roads/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *November 26, WGN-TV 9 Chicago* – (National) **Fedex package with radioactive material missing.** A package containing radioactive material has disappeared in transit. The package, containing material known as “GE 68” was shipped, by FedEx, from Fargo, North Dakota to Knoxville, Tennessee. But when it was opened the GE 68 was missing. A spokesperson from Federal Express told WGN that there should not be any threat to public safety, as long as the package is not tampered with. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has notified public safety agencies. Among those agencies notified of the incident by the NRC include the CDC, the FBI, the EPA, and the Department of Homeland Security.
Source: <http://www.wgntv.com/news/wgntv-fedex-radioactive-package-nov25,0,3949749.story>
14. *November 24, Nextgov.com* (National) **Postal service IG examines cyber incident data.** The inspector general of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is auditing a database that tracks USPS cyber incidents to determine whether the information it has been collecting is reliable, said agency officials in the Office of the Inspector General (IG). The review, which the IG's office launched on November 22, comes at a time when officials are increasingly concerned about a new computer worm, Stuxnet, that has the power to cripple industrial operations on a global scale. For the Postal Service, which has a role in virtually every citizen's life, a systemwide outage could undermine the economic viability of the country, as well as public confidence, security experts said. Its reliance on highly automated distribution and scheduling systems for air mail, truck delivery and rail transport make cybersecurity a critical issue for the agency, a vice president at a

national security consulting firm said. IG officials said they decided to audit USPS incident data in the wake of the White House's call for all agencies and the public to better defend against the growing cyber threat to national security. Cybersecurity is a top priority for the current Presidential administration, said a USOIG spokeswoman, adding audits can last anywhere from three to six months.

Source: http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20101124_2562.php

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Indiana; Ohio) **Indiana residents question Ohio manure imports.** The cleanup of an algae-fouled Ohio lake has angered some Indiana residents who argue a federally backed effort to truck livestock waste across state lines is only moving the problem to their region. An Eastern Indiana resident said the trucks filled with manure are worsening the air quality around his farm, which he said was already thick with ammonia and dust from a nearby dairy. He and other residents worry that runoff from the manure that is applied to fields as fertilizer will harm nearby rivers and streams, just as it has tainted Ohio's largest inland lake, Grand Lake St. Marys. Manure traffic began growing in July after Ohio offered livestock farmers a new incentive under a U.S. Department of Agriculture subsidy program that partially covers the cost of shipping manure out of the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed. Officials took the action after manure runoff from fields was largely blamed for causing the shallow, 13,000-acre lake to become tainted with toxic blue-green algae, making it virtually off-limits to recreation last summer.
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iGW5T0snripK66AXAgCTPF3qapdQ?docId=f9d8fe74a6f8412ba25836743fc66d07>
16. *November 26, Food Safety News* – (Oregon; National) **Organic dark chocolate squares recalled.** Artisan Confections Co., an Ashland, Oregon, organic chocolate maker owned by The Hershey Co., announced a recall November 24 after Salmonella was found in its product. The recall involves 33 cases of small, 0.32 oz tasting squares of its 74 percent cacao Dagoba "New Moon" Organic Chocolate because they may contain Salmonella. The chocolate was sold nationwide online and through natural/specialty food retail outlets after October 27, 2010. The affected products were sold from display boxes labeled with the code 37HLB11, UPC 10474-55509.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/11/salmonella-prompts-recall-of-organic-chocolate/>
17. *November 26, Food Safety News* – (National) **Whole Foods recalls Bravo Farms cheeses.** Whole Foods Market announced November 24 that it has carried many of the products involved in the recall of Bravo Farms cheese. Earlier this week Bravo Farms recalled its entire inventory due to evidence of Listeria and E. coli contamination at their Traver, California, plant. Bravo's products at Whole Foods Market stores in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington are part of the recall; all were cut and packaged in clear plastic wrap and sold with a "Distributed by Whole Foods Market" sticker. The following products are included in the recall: Sage Cheddar, Silver

Mountain Cheddar, Chipotle Cheddar, Premium Block Cheddar, Premium White Chunk Cheddar, Chipotle Chunk Cheddar, and White Black Wax Cheddar. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced November 25 that the number of those confirmed ill with E. coli O157:H7 infections after eating Bravo Farms raw milk Gouda-style cheese has risen to 38. That cheese was served or sold at Costco warehouses in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, and the San Diego area.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2010/11/whole-foods-recalls-bravo-farms-cheese/>

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Water Sector

18. *November 26, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **10M gallons of sewage released into Saginaw River.** Facility officials say the Saginaw Water Treatment Plant has discharged 10 million gallons of untreated or partially treated sewage into the Saginaw River. Officials tell the Saginaw News the release happened between the night of November 22 and the morning of November 23 following a 1.75-inch rainfall that caused four retention basins to overflow. Water treatment officials at the mid-Michigan plant say they pretreated the sewage with hypochloride. They also allowed solids to settle before discharging overflow. Officials tested for E. coli at two points along the river. Results are pending.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-sewagedischarge-s,0,6154850.story>

19. *November 26, WFOR 4 Miami* – (Florida) **North Lauderdale remains under boil water order.** Residents of North Lauderdale remained under a boil water order the morning of November 26 as officials announced they had found bacteria in one of the city's drinking water wells. City water officials say E. Coli bacteria was found in the well which is used primarily as a back-up well and does not routinely pump to the water treatment plant. The well has been shut down and is not supplying water to the distribution system. Now city officials are trying to determine the source of the contamination and take corrective measures to ensure the water supply is protected against contamination.

Source: <http://cbs4.com/local/North.Lauderdale.Boil.2.2023990.html>

20. *November 26, WLWT 5 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Hazmat teams sent to Butler Co. chlorine leak.** Hazardous materials units have been called to a chlorine leak at a Butler County water treatment facility. Workers at a Southwest Water District facility were changing one chlorine cylinder to another November 24 when some of the chemical spilled, said the operations manager. The cylinders are shaped like soup cans and are 6 feet long and 3 feet in diameter. No injuries were reported, and no workers were exposed to gas during the incident. The employees left the room where the leak occurred, and the manager said the leak was contained before any chlorine spilled into the water.

Source: <http://www.wlwt.com/r/25911617/detail.html>

21. *November 25, Jamestown Sun* – (North Dakota) **\$4.5 million repair recommended for Jamestown sewer system.** Concluding its study of Jamestown’s sanitary sewer system, Ulteig Engineering recommends a \$4.5 million fix that will hopefully get the city safely through another flood event. The Ulteig engineer in charge of the study took the City Council’s Public Works Committee through details of the system’s flows and inadequacies the week of November 23. This was the second update on the study, dealing with a deficiency evaluation, lift station and pipe capacities, and priorities for handling wastewater throughout the system. He said the city’s system is not all that different from other communities. The biggest problem in Jamestown is the adverse effect of the James River and Pipestem Creek on the sewer system. Of the three alternatives presented, Ulteig’s preferred option offers some ways to mitigate that effect. The alternative calls for running the wastewater from lift station No. 8 near the Second Street Southwest bridge to lift station No. 9 in the Jamestown Business Center parking lot. From there construction of a new force main to lift station No. 1 in the area of Business Loop East would direct the wastewater away areas of high infiltration. Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/184667/group/homepage/>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *November 25, Associated Press* – (New York) **3 sickened by carbon monoxide at NY nursing home.** A fire chief says high carbon monoxide levels have triggered the evacuation of one wing of a nursing home in suburban Rochester, New York, and sickened three residents. Firefighters dispatched to the Latta Road Nursing Home in the suburb of Greece before dawn November 25 detected the poisonous gas in one building at the sprawling complex. The fire chief told the Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester that three of the 39 mostly elderly residents were taken to a hospital and the others were relocated to other sections of the complex. The severity of the injuries was not immediately known. A utility crew was investigating what caused the potential leak. Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP045c152fbb704503bbd9396601fc7234.html>
23. *November 24, Global Security Newswire* – (Massachusetts) **New sensor could detect quickly viral bioterror agents.** Scientists at Boston University have developed a biological sensor that could be used to rapidly detect a wide range of viral pathogens including the lethal Ebola and Marburg viruses, the institution announced November 17. As with other viruses that produce symptoms not necessarily indicative of viral infection, Marburg and Ebola outbreaks can be challenging to diagnose. The situation could be further complicated by the current reliance on diagnostic systems that need substantial supporting infrastructure and require a lengthy period for biological sample preparation. The developmental biodetector, however, is capable of sensing active viruses with “little to no” sample preparation, according to a Boston University press release. “Our platform can be easily adapted for point-of-care diagnostics to detect a broad range of viral pathogens in resource-limited clinical settings at the far corners of the world, in defense and homeland security applications as well as in civilian settings such as airports,” the research team leader said in released comments. “By enabling

ultraportable and fast detection, our technology can directly impact the course of our reaction against bioterrorism threats and dramatically improve our capability to confine viral outbreaks.” The scientists received university funding as well as financing from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory. Through joint research with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, they were able to prove the biodetector’s capability to sense in a typical laboratory environment the presence of hemorrhagic fever virus surrogates and pox viruses such as smallpox or monkeypox. “The new biosensor is the first to detect intact viruses by exploiting plasmonic nanohole arrays (PNAs), or arrays of apertures with diameters of about 250 to 350 nanometers on metallic films, that transmit light more strongly at certain wavelengths,” according to the press release.

Source: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20101124_7290.php

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Government Facilities Sector

24. *November 25, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **Man at VA threatens president, gets charged.** A 78-year-old veteran and retired New York City fire captain who said he is suicidal has been arrested because he said he would also like to kill the U.S. President, according to an affidavit. According to a Secret Service affidavit, on November 16, the suspect was at the Veterans Affairs clinic in Spartanburg, South Carolina, for a routine checkup. When asked if he was suicidal, he said he was and then told a mental health nurse that he “was thinking of traveling to Washington, D.C., to shoot the president because he was not doing enough to help African Americans,” according to the affidavit. The man allowed the agents to search his home, and according to the affidavit, they found three loaded semi-automatic handguns and a semi-automatic rifle near the man’s bed. They said they also found a loaded short-barrel shotgun near the front door. The agents said in the son’s bedroom they found nine rifles, two shotguns and a handgun.

Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/25910686/detail.html>

25. *November 25, Techworld* – (New York) **College employee says he stole from students to find HIV cure.** A 19-year-old employee of a Rochester, New York, community college stole thousands of dollars from students’ online accounts because he needed the money “to find a cure for HIV,” according to investigators. The suspect was charged the week of November 15 with one count of computer fraud after *allegedly* confessing to a Brighton, New York, police investigator. He said he stole the money “to help find a cure for HIV and because he owed money to others,” according to an affidavit by a U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent, filed in the case. The suspect worked at Monroe Community College’s Electronic Resource Center, where one of his jobs was to help students log into their college accounts. In late October, the school started receiving complaints that some students were not receiving their tuition refunds. More than \$10,000 in refunds was stolen, according to the affidavit.

Source: <http://news.techworld.com/security/3250254/college-employee-says-he-stole-from-students-to-find-hiv-cure/>

26. *November 24, Corvallis GazetteTimes.com* – (Oregon) **Fire at OSU triggers power**

outage, closes campus early. An early-morning fire in a steam tunnel at Oregon State University (OSU) triggered an early start to OSU's Thanksgiving holiday when officials decided to close the campus at noon November 24. *The* fire, which knocked out power to a dozen buildings on campus, could have repercussions that will continue through the next week at OSU. The fire, in a steam tunnel south of Gleeson Hall on the north edge of campus, also knocked out a portion of OSU's fiber-optics system, playing havoc with the university's Internet connectivity. The system also controls heating and fire alarms in a number of campus buildings, an OSU spokesman said.

Source: http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_17a2496e-f7f1-11df-86a9-001cc4c002e0.html

27. *November 24, Associated Press* – (National; International) **Obama administration warns Congress pending WikiLeaks release will damage foreign relations.** The U.S. President's administration said November 24 it has alerted Congress and begun notifying foreign governments that the WikiLeaks website is preparing to release sensitive U.S. diplomatic files that could damage U.S. relations with friends and allies. Officials said the documents may contain everything from accounts of compromising conversations with political dissidents and friendly politicians to disclosures of activities that could result in the expulsion of U.S. diplomats from foreign postings. U.S. diplomatic outposts around the world have begun notifying other governments that WikiLeaks may release these documents in the next few days. The release is expected the weekend of November 26, although WikiLeaks has not been specific about the timing.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/politics/sns-ap-us-wikileaks,0,232568.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *November 24, WTMJ 4 Milwaukee* – (Wisconsin) **Non emergency calls overwhelm dispatchers during tornado.** A lot of people calling with true emergencies during a November 22 tornado in Wisconsin had to wait longer to get help because hundreds of non emergency callers tied up the lines. Instead of helping the victims who placed true emergency calls, dispatchers spent most of their time answering non emergency calls that did not require immediate service. One caller reported hearing a loud noise in his kitchen and did not know what it was. "Is this a common problem?" a WTMJ reporter asked. "It is," the Racine County Communications Manager said. "We're getting five to six thousand calls per month into the 911 center. A very small percent are actually people in need of services." During the tornado, Racine County dispatchers answered 428 calls in 90 minutes. More than half were not emergencies. "It was hard getting emergency service to the people that were truly in need," he said. 911 is not trying to discourage calls, they want people with real emergencies to call. If non emergency police service is needed, the local police department should be called.

Source: <http://www.620wtmj.com/news/local/110533164.html>

29. *November 23, BBC* – (National) **Future 911 system 'may accept text and video**

messages’. The U.S. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is considering updating the 911 emergency call system to accept photo, text, and video messages. Roughly 70 percent of 911 calls are already being made from mobile telephones, said the FCC chairman. But the 911 system does not currently “support the communication tools of tomorrow,” he added. The FCC said the Virginia Tech massacre was an incident when 911 multimedia technology could have been employed. “Some students and witnesses tried to text 911 during that emergency and as we know, those messages never went through and were never received by local 911 dispatchers,” he said. But those multimedia messages may soon be answered due to broadband-enabled Next Generation 911, he said, in a speech at the Arlington County Emergency Center in Virginia. A system that would allow individuals to report crimes without being heard could also be used in situations ranging from kidnappings to robberies. The FCC Chairman added that texting is also a particularly useful form of communication for individuals who are deaf and others with a range of disabilities.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-11824906>

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Information Technology

30. *November 26, The Register* – (International) **Secunia recovers from DNS redirection hack**. Security notification firm Secunia has confirmed that a DNS redirection hack was to blame for the redirection of surfers to a hacker site on November 25. Secunia’s authoritative DNS hosting was redirected for 70 minutes. But because of the way DNS caching works, many surfers were still redirected to a defacement site hours after the Danish firm’s definitive records were straightened out. The attack resulted in a temporary redirection of traffic from all customers of registrar DirectNIC, not just Secunia. The hack was carried out by serial defacer TurkGuvencli, who has used site-redirection techniques in previous attacks and seems to be motivated by bragging rights or pure mischief rather than anything more malign. In a statement, Secunia was keen to stress that the redirection had no impact on any customer data it held from users of its patch management tools.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/11/26/secunia_back_from_dns_hack/

31. *November 25, The Register* – (International) **ZeuS variant only infects super-fast PCs**. Miscreants behind one variant of the ZeuS Trojan have outfoxed themselves in their attempts to outwit anti-virus analysts by releasing a variant of the malware that only infects high-performance PCs. Security firms use automation and virtualization technologies to cope with the growing volume of malware spewed out by cybercrooks every day. VXers are well aware of this and use virtual machine detection and anti-debugging code in their creations. The tactic is designed to frustrate security researchers and in so doing increase the time it takes to detect, develop, and distribute anti-virus updates. Users of the ZeuS crimeware toolkit are very much involved in this cat and mouse game between security researchers and cybercriminals. But one particular group using the crimeware toolkit released a variant whose anti-debugging efforts are so

aggressive it effectively assumes any machine whose CPU is running at lower than 2GHz must be running a debugger. As a result the malware only runs its malicious routines on high-performance machines, remaining inert on lower horsepower boxes. A security analyst at F-secure explains: “With a CPU below 2GHz the sample acts as if it is being debugged, aborts execution and does not infect the system. I tested the sample on an IBM T42 (1.86 GHz) notebook and the system was slow enough to avoid being infected.”

Source:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/11/25/snobby_zeus_variant_avoids_bog_standard_pcs/

32. *November 24, Softpedia* – (International) **Recent Cutwail spam employs complex text obfuscation techniques.** Security researchers from Symantec warn that a new rogue pharmacy spam run uses HTML and CSS techniques to obfuscate text advertisements and avoid detection. Pharma spam has been steadily making a comeback since Spamit, the world’s largest rogue pharmacy affiliate program, closed up shop at the beginning of October. A lot of campaigns seen recently advertise a rogue pharmacy called “Canadian Health&Care Mall” and are being sent by the Cutwail botnet. The latest spam involves emails formatted in HTML, which use CSS floating and color declarations to deobfuscate what looks like random text and show only the relevant parts to recipients. The resulting message reads: “Everyone has heard about lower-cost drugs from abroad drugstore. The difficulty is to find the reliable one. «CanadianPharmacy» is an experienced, trusted and fully-licensed Canadian online drugstore.” In addition to using text obfuscation in order to evade anti-spam filters, the spammers also try to trick URL blocking systems by linking to a Google cached version of the spam site. The resulting link points to a location to a domain called googleusercontent.com, which is possibly whitelisted, instead of a rogue one.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Recent-Cutwail-Spam-Employs-Complex-HTML-Obfuscation-Techniques-168434.shtml>

33. *November 24, Help Net Security* – (International) **34% of all malware ever created appeared in 2010.** According to PandaLabs, in the first ten months of the year the number of threats created and distributed account for one third of all viruses that exist. These means that 34 percent of all malware ever created has appeared in the last 10 months. The company’s database, which automatically detects, analyzes and classifies 99.4 percent of the threats received, now has 134 million separate files, 60 million of which are malware (viruses, worms, Trojans and other threats). In the year up to October, some 20 million new strains of malware have been created (including new threats and variants of existing families), the same amount as in the whole of 2009. The average number of new threats created every day has risen from 55,000 to 63,000. This would all suggest that the cyber-crime market is currently in rude health, although this is also possibly conditioned by the increasing number of cyber-crooks with limited technical knowledge who are turning their hand to these activities. This also means that although more malicious software is created, its lifespan is shorter: 54 percent of malware samples are active for just 24 hours, as opposed to the lifespan of several months enjoyed by the threats of previous years. They now infect just a few systems and

then disappear.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1545

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@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

34. *November 25, Charleston Daily Mail* – (West Virginia) **Metro 911 wants say in outage probe.** Kanawha County, West Virginia’s Metro Emergency Operations Center has petitioned to intervene in the state Public Service Commission’s investigation into the way telecommunications providers notify public safety agencies of service outages. The commission opened an investigation following FiberNet’s October 10 statewide service outage. The Kanawha Commission president requested the probe. He has said that no one from FiberNet contacted Metro 911 about either the October 10 statewide outage or a widespread FiberNet outage that occurred on October 25. Metro 911 said it is the largest so-called “Public Safety Answering Point” in the state. In its petition, filed November 23, the agency said it will be a helpful party to the investigation because it is uniquely situated to discuss the needs of a “Public Safety Answering Point” in knowing when the community is experiencing a telephone service outage.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.com/Business/GeorgeHohmann/201011241231>

35. *November 25, Prescott Daily Courier* – (Arizona) **Suspect arrested on charges of wire theft.** Prescott police recently arrested a man on charges including burglary after he sold copper wire to Yavapai Metal Recycling that he allegedly stole from Qwest. Officers booked the man into the Yavapai County Jail in Camp Verde on charges of burglary and trafficking in stolen property. On October 28, Qwest told police that he misrepresented himself by telling the company that he was subcontracting a work project with Qwest. He allegedly stole about 400 pounds of copper wire from Qwest’s yard at 1445 Masonry Way, Prescott, said a spokesman for the Prescott Police Department. Shortly after the suspect left with the wire, Yavapai Metal Recycling called Qwest to tell them that he sold them copper wire that appeared new and still had Qwest tags. A Qwest representative verified the copper wire as from the Prescott yard and said it was not targeted for recycling. When detectives found the suspect, he allegedly told them he had worked in the telecommunications repair field for 10 years and knew the lingo so he was able to convince Qwest he was authorized to take the copper wire. He also told detectives he stole copper wire from the Qwest yard when no employees were around.

Source:

<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=87847>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *November 26, St. Petersburg Times* – (Florida) **Blaze tears through Florida fragrance company.** Drums containing oil fragrances fueled a fire at the Dade City Business Center in Florida that firefighters say started about 10 p.m. November 24 and burned fiercely well into the next day. The owner of the industrial park said November 25 that a security guard noticed smoke coming from a building that houses All Natural Botanicals, a company that makes incense and other products, and called 911. The oil fragrances are stored in 55-gallon drums. Firefighters responded quickly, but the flames spread through the 30,000-square-foot building just as fast, he said. The building was largely destroyed. About 75 firefighters from Pasco, Hernando, and Zephyrhills worked the fire November 24, officials said. A firefighter said the fire was complicated by thick insulation on the building's walls from the days when the center was the Lykes-Pasco packing plant. He said the dense insulation keeps the interiors of the buildings 10 degrees cooler. But it kept causing spot fires to pop up throughout November 25, he said. He said containing the blaze to the one building was the largest hurdle, because the park's 28 buildings are close together. He said firefighters would remain through the night.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/blaze-tears-through-florida-fragrance-company>

37. *November 26, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Fire forces apartment evacuation.** Firefighters rescued several people from a burning Bristol Township, Pennsylvania, apartment complex November 25 and contained the blaze, which has been ruled an arson, to one third-floor apartment. A fire marshal said that the building's alarm system activated at 6:55 a.m. November 25. When firefighters from Edgely Fire Company arrived at 7:03 a.m., they found heavy smoke and fire pouring from the third floor and many residents hanging out their windows. Soon firefighters from all the Bristol Township companies, Bristol, Falls, and Tullytown were fighting the fire and rescuing residents. The fire chief of the Fairless Hills Fire Company said the firefighters did a great job keeping the fire contained to one apartment, 428, on the third floor. He said the fire was officially ruled an arson, but declined to elaborate. Apartment 428 is vacant and he said there are no signs there were squatters living in the apartment. More than 20 residents were displaced, he said, noting that all 10 third-floor apartments and two second-floor apartments were uninhabitable until they were cleaned up and repaired. There was fire, heat, and smoke damage to the other third-floor apartments and water damage to the two second-floor apartments.

Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/28/2010/november/26/fire-forces-apartment-evacuation.html

38. *November 25, North Jersey Record* – (New Jersey) **Police investigate Kinnelon mall bomb scare after woman finds threat near ATM.** Police are investigating a bomb scare at the Meadtown Mall in Kinnelon, New Jersey, after a bank customer found a threatening note near an ATM machine November 25, police said. A police officer was on patrol at 10:23 a.m. when a woman flagged him down in the mall parking lot, saying

she “had to show him something,” the lieutenant said. Inside the PNC Bank on a counter across from the cash machine was a handwritten note that read, “There’s a bomb in the bank,” he said. The Morris County Sheriff Department’s bomb squad and criminal investigations division were called in but no explosives were found. No one was evacuated because most of the mall stores were closed, he said. The parking lot was secured and authorities are now searching surrounding areas. He said there have been no recent bomb threats in the area.

Source:

http://www.northjersey.com/news/crime_courts/112510_Police_investigate_Kinnelon_mall_bomb_scare_after_woman_finds_threat_near_ATM.html

39. *November 25, Associated Press* – (Delaware) **Man charged in pharmacy bomb threat, hotel robbery.** Delaware State Police have charged a Lewes man accused of making a bomb threat against a Rehoboth pharmacy and robbing a Dover hotel. Police arrested the 26-year-old man on November 24 in connection with the threat called in to the Rite Aid Pharmacy at Rehoboth Mall on October 30. Police say the man was developed as a suspect in the bomb threat during the investigation of the robbery of the Best Western hotel in Dover on October 21. He is charged with robbery, conspiracy, theft, attempted robbery, and two counts of terroristic threatening. He is being held at the Sussex Correctional Institution on \$63,000 secured bail.

Source:

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/northeast/view/20101125man_charged_in_pharmacy_bomb_threat_hotel_robbery/srv=home&position=recent

40. *November 24, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Gas leak forces 2 hotels in N. Indiana to evacuate.** Utility crews needed about eight hours to stop a natural gas leak just north of South Bend, Indiana, that led authorities to close two roads to traffic and to evacuate about 175 people from two hotels. A Northern Indiana Public Service Co. spokesman says the leak was capped about noon November 24. He said the leak started when a contractor accidentally struck the 3-inch line. The St. Joseph County Assistant police chief says a nearby Motel 6 and a Hampton Inn were evacuated because gas was building up in the storm drain and sewers. He says a nearby church also canceled morning Mass. No damage or injuries were reported. Redman said Indiana 933 and Darden Road near the Indiana Toll Road would likely remain closed until at least late afternoon.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-in-southbend-gasleak,0,5892718.story>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *November 24, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Fires in Va. national forest 90% contained.** The U.S. Forest Service says two fires in the George Washington National Forest in Page County are 90 percent contained. WHSV-TV reports that a light drizzle of rain the morning of November 23 aided efforts to control the fires. A fire at Burners Gap has burned 563 acres. The other fire at Kennedy Peak has burned 83 acres. Forest

Service officials hoped to completely contain both fires by the weekend of November 26.

Source: <http://www.wric.com/Global/story.asp?S=13564523>

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Dams Sector

42. *November 26, Eugene Register-Guard* – (Oregon) **Topped crane at Dexter Lake dam could be upright by early next week.** An 80,000 pound crane being used for repairs on Dexter dam in Oregon that toppled onto its side November 5 will not be righted until November 29. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was still investigating what caused the crane, which has a 50-ton lifting capacity, to tip over. No one was hurt in the incident. Between 5 and 10 gallons of fuel or hydraulic oil spilled into Dexter Lake, but most of it has been recovered, said an Army Corps spokeswoman. A boom system will remain in place to contain any additional spill until the crane is removed, she said. The crane's operator was working from the top of the dam west of Lowell. When the crane fell, its arm swung out over the water, while the body of the crane — the cab, motor and chassis — tipped onto its side on the road that runs along the top of the dam. Knight Construction — a Deer Park, Washington, firm — owns the crane, and its crews have been working on getting it upright again. It's a complicated process that involves building a steel support structure around the crane and using hydraulic jacks to safely right the rig. The accident will not delay by much more than a week the repair work to the spillway gates at Dexter, part of ongoing comprehensive repairs to Corps dams on the Willamette and its tributaries.

Source: <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/updates/25587732-55/crane-echols-gates-corps-dam.csp>

43. *November 24, Morris News Service* – (Alaska) **Efforts to stop leak at dam fail.** An attempt by Alaska Electric Light & Power (AEL&P) to stop leaks at its Bart Lake Dam has failed, but now the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the utility say they can live with some seepage from the lake. It was at the insistence of the federal agency that AEL&P took the Lake Dorothy Hydroelectric Project, which included the Bart Lake Dam, off-line last summer for a \$1.6 million try at stopping the leak. The lake was drained to expose a couple of hundred feet of lake bed and an impermeable membrane that extended 100 feet into the lake was extended by another 150 feet. When AEL&P began to refill the lake last summer, it discovered the leaks persisted. "We think that reduced the seepage a bit, but not what we'd hoped that it would," said AEL&P's generation engineer. The water that leaks through the dam does not go into the penstock that takes it to a hydroelectric turbine 1,000 feet below at the water's edge. "Whatever water that flows underneath the dam is water that we don't get to generate power with," he said. During the lake draining process, fissures were found in the lake bed, which were thought to be the source of the leaks. Those were plugged, but the leaks persisted. The leaks are not likely to undermine the safety of the rock-fill dam, he said.

Source: http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/112410/new_741030619.shtml

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