



Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 2 March 2012

Top Stories

- An Australian man and his company were charged in a scheme to export components for drones, torpedoes, missiles, and other military technology from the United States to Iran February 29. – *Associated Press* (See item [7](#))
- A federal grand jury in California indicted a woman on charges of bilking investors out of \$75 million while running a nationwide \$129 million Ponzi scheme. – *San Francisco Chronicle* (See item [8](#))
- Written Congressional testimony from the Inspector General at NASA indicated hackers — ranging from organized criminals to foreign governments — hit the agency more than 5,000 times the past 2 years. – *Softpedia* (See item [30](#))
- Microsoft’s Azure cloud infrastructure and development service experienced a worldwide outage with performance problems likely to continue, the company said February 29. – *IDG News* (See item [37](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: LOW, Cyber: LOW

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Refinery continues to clean up chemical spill.** February 29, crews were packing a trench with clay to meet a deadline for completing an underground wall to hold back contaminated groundwater from an oil refinery in Denver, the Associated Press reported March 1. Petroleum dissolved in groundwater beneath Suncor Energy was continuing to seep into the bottom of Sand Creek near the confluence with the South Platte River and the company has until March 1 to complete the trench. The pollution continues 3 months after state regulators ordered an intensified cleanup of northeastern Colorado's main waterway. According to the Denver Post, Suncor has also expanded a hose system blowing air bubbles into Sand Creek attempting to expel the pollution from the refinery.
Source: http://www.coloradodaily.com/our-take/ci_20078082#axzz1nsNtSiID
2. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Storm causes school closings, hazardous conditions.** A storm dumped up to 18 inches of wet snow on northern and central Wisconsin February 29, causing as many as 14,000 people to lose power and dozens of residents in Verona to evacuate their homes after lightning ruptured an underground natural gas main. A Wisconsin Public Service spokesman said wind and heavy snow affected power lines causing thousands of outages. The Verona fire chief said lightning ruptured an underground natural gas main and some residents had to be evacuated for 3 hours. The severe weather also forced dozens of schools to close and created treacherous driving conditions. The state department of transportation said several northern and central highways were covered in snow and ice. The storm started February 28 in some areas and dropped anywhere from 2 inches in Green Bay to 18 inches in Minocqua by February 29.
Source: <http://www.htrnews.com/article/20120301/MAN0101/203010583/Photos-story-Storm-causes-school-closings-hazardous-conditions?odyssey=nav%7Chead>
3. *February 29, KMSP 9 Minneapolis-Saint Paul* – (Minnesota) **Xcel Energy: Storm left 33,000 without power.** A snowstorm in Minnesota February 29 caused outages affecting nearly 33,000 Xcel energy customers. As of the evening of February 29, about 900 were still without power. The weight of the ice and snow snapped a tree branch early in the morning, pulling a power line from a nearby home. The electricity in that line caused an arc to the flexible gas line and sparked a fire. The ice also affected a local elementary school, forcing it to close. Xcel deployed extra crews ahead of the storm to places they expected to be the worst areas for outages. Those crews remained on standby throughout the night.
Source: <http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/minnesota/xcel-energy-power-outages-feb-29-2012>
4. *February 29, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **GAO: Improved public-private collaboration required to ensure cybersecurity of electric grid.** The federal government can improve the cybersecurity of the electric grid by coordinating oversight of industry compliance with voluntary security standards, implementing an

effective information-sharing system with the electric industry, and encouraging companies to build security into “smart” grid devices, a new government report found. Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigators presented the results of their study to a House panel February 28. They also presented previous recommendations that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should improve its coordination with other government regulators in the monitoring of cybersecurity compliance by electric companies. Without sharing and coordinating their observations, federal agencies have no way of knowing if voluntary standards are effective, experts warned in their report, “Cybersecurity: Challenges in Securing the Modernized Electricity Grid.” The FERC, the primary oversight agency for the electric industry, also lacks an effective information-sharing mechanism to communicate with companies, said the GAO director of information security, and GAO director of natural resources and environment, before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee. The electric industry has an information-sharing center, but it has not used it to address the sharing of cybersecurity information.

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/briefings/daily-news-briefings/single-article/gao-improved-public-private-collaboration-required-to-ensure-cybersecurity-of-electric-grid/284b68512ed3b1582194c162fa800af4.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *February 29, Daily Cortlandt* – (New York) **Transformer fix shuts down Indian Point Unit 3.** A buildup of combustible gases inside a transformer that routes electricity from Buchanan, New York’s Indian Point Unit 3 to the grid essentially shut down the nuclear plant February 29. The plant stopped sending power to the grid after the shut down. During routine maintenance, operators discovered a buildup of combustible gases inside the oil of the transformer; a buildup of this kind can indicate transformer degradation. The plant was running at about 13 percent power, according to officials at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company’s plan was to remove from service the affected auxiliary transformer and temporarily supply all plant busses from another auxiliary transformer. An NRC inspector was at the plant to monitor the situation. NRC officials said the inspector did not identify any immediate safety concerns. A spokesperson for the NRC said there was not a set date when the reactor will return to full operation.

Source: <http://www.thedailycortlandt.com/news/transformer-fix-shuts-down-indian-point-unit-3>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

6. *March 1, Soundings Trade Only* – (Missouri) **Storms damage Tracker Marine plant in Missouri.** The Tracker Marine facility in Lebanon, Missouri, was among those damaged February 29 by a series of storms that carved a path through Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois, according to media reports. A portion of the facility's roof was damaged, but the company expects to be building boats again the week of March 5, a company spokesman said. There were about 300 boats damaged by the storm.

Source: <http://www.tradeonlytoday.com/home/518976-storms-damage-tracker-marine-plant-in-missouri>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *February 29, Associated Press* – (International) **Man charged in plot to export military technology.** An Australian man and his company were charged February 29 in a scheme to export to Iran components for drones, torpedoes, missiles, and other military technology. A five-count indictment returned in Washington, D.C., accuses the man of knowingly skirting a federal trade embargo with Iran and plotting to export the technology without the required authorization. Prosecutors said the man and his company, ICM Components, Inc., ordered aircraft parts and other goods from U.S. companies on behalf of a representative of an Iranian trade company. The man concealed the fact the goods were intended for shipment to Iran, sometimes placing orders through a Florida-based broker, and duped manufacturers, shippers, and distributors about their intended end-use, the indictment alleges. The man, identified by prosecutors as the general manager of ICM, remains at large and is believed to be living in Australia. The company is also named in the indictment. The company representative who worked with the man, identified in court papers only as "Iranian A," would not have been able to directly purchase the goods from the United States on his own, prosecutors said. The alleged export scheme spanned about 2 years starting around March 2007. The indictment charges the ICM general manager with four separate exports or attempted exports, including two separate shipments of mounted light assemblies for use on helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft; a shipment of precision pressure inducers that can measure altitude and record barometric pressure; and a shipment of emergency flotation kits, which can help a helicopter landing in water or on soft desert terrain. The indictment charges the man and the company with conspiracy, and with four counts of illegally exporting goods to an embargoed nation. Source: http://www.times-standard.com/ci_20071950

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 1, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **American Canyon woman indicted in Ponzi scheme.** A federal grand jury in California indicted a woman on charges of bilking investors out of \$75 million while running a nationwide \$129 million Ponzi scheme. The woman and an accomplice were indicted February 21 on charges of conspiracy, mail fraud, and wire fraud, a U.S. attorney said February 29. The pair promised investors a 16 percent return on their investment, but did not invest the money overseas as promised, the attorney said. Instead, they used new investments for their own gain and to make interest payments to earlier investors. As of March 2009 when the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) shut down the scheme, investors had lost more than \$75 million. The woman, who ran the pair's investment office in Napa, has been arrested while her partner, who controlled the three dummy investment funds, has fled to Canada, where he is a citizen. They could each face 30 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million for each count of conspiracy, mail fraud, and wire fraud. The woman was also charged with filing a false tax return, making false statements, and obstructing justice.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/03/01/BA321NE3RB.DTL>
9. *March 1, The Register* – (International) **Tick-like banking trojan drills into Firefox, sucks out info.** A new banking trojan, called Neloweg, is spreading in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, Symantec has warned. The trojan operates much like its more famous cybercrime toolkit predecessor Zeus, but with a couple of subtle twists. "Like Zeus, Neloweg can detect which site it is on and add custom JavaScript. But while Zeus uses an included configuration file, Neloweg stores this on a malicious Web server," a Symantec analyst explained. The malware is designed to snatch online log-in credentials, primarily (but not exclusively) those for online banking sites. It infects machines by tricking Microsoft Windows users into installing it via a drive-by-download, spam or targeted e-mail, or with the help of other malware. Neloweg also targets browsers that utilize the Trident (Internet Explorer), Gecko (Firefox), and WebKit (Chrome/Safari) browser engines.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/03/01/neloweg_banking_trojan/
10. *February 29, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon; Washington; Wisconsin) **Feds turn up nearly \$2 million in cash in Portland family's plot to knock off armored car.** A man accused of plotting with his parents to commit a series of thefts — most notably staging a \$3 million armored car hijacking in Portland, Oregon — told federal investigators the week of February 21 where to find nearly \$2 million that he had stashed in a safe deposit box in Bellevue, Washington. He pleaded guilty February 29, admitting he had conspired to commit bank larceny and launder money. On December 6, 2005, the father, a driver for Oregon Armored Services, let his son take two sealed bags from his armored car, each containing \$1.5 million in \$100 bills. Then, the father reported he was the victim of a gunpoint robbery. The family is accused of retrieving the money carefully over the years and hiding it through a series of transactions involving phony identities, money orders, and credit cards. Government prosecutors have also accused the three of playing roles in two similar acts in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: the 1995 theft of \$150,000 from an armored car driven by the father, and a 1998 theft of more than \$700,000 from a vault at American Security Corp., where the

son worked.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2012/02/feds_turn_up_nearly_2_million.html

11. *February 29, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **FBI: ‘Insistent Bandit’ strikes again.** FBI officials said February 29 that the bank robber dubbed the “Insistent Bandit,” apparently has struck again. The robbery of a Wells Fargo bank in Rolando, California, February 28 is believed to have been the sixth in a series committed by the man since January 17, a FBI special agent said. The thief walks into the bank, displays a handgun, and demands cash. He got his name due to the way he asks the tellers to hand over the money, the special agent said.
Source: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/feb/29/fbi-insistent-bandit-strikes-again/>
12. *February 28, Associated Press* – (New York; International) **Online poker middleman pleads guilty in NYC.** A Canadian citizen pleaded guilty to U.S. conspiracy charges in a U.S. district court in Manhattan, New York, February 28 in connection with an investigation of Internet poker gambling that shut down the three largest online poker companies in the United States. He admitted to serving as a middleman between poker companies and brokers who tricked banks into processing money for the gambling businesses. From 2007 to mid-2010, he said, he helped poker companies circumvent U.S. laws meant to prevent banks from processing online gambling proceeds. He said he operated from Canada as he helped financial brokers who used fake companies and made false statements to the banks to trick them into processing payments. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit tax fraud and violation of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, accepting funds in connection with Internet gambling, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. The charges carry a potential penalty of up to 30 years in prison. They stem from a prosecution that shut down the U.S. operations of Absolute Poker, Full Tilt Poker, and PokerStars in the spring of 2011.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57387034/online-poker-middleman-pleads-guilty-in-nyc/
13. *February 28, KXII 12 Sherman* – (Oklahoma) **Employee pleads guilty to Ada bank robbery.** An Ada, Oklahoma bank employee who helped her boyfriend rob her employer pleaded guilty, KXII 12 Sherman reported February 28. The U.S. attorney’s office in Muskogee said the former employee pleaded guilty in federal court for the October 21, 2011 robbery of the Citizens Bank in Ada. The employee and her boyfriend were arrested October 21 when police found \$78,000 in cash in the attic of the couple’s home, but a federal indictment states they stole more than \$150,000. A third man has also been charged with robbery. The employee and her boyfriend face up to 20 years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.
Source:
http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/Employee_pleads_guilty_to_Ada_bank_robbery_140782183.html

14. *February 27, Forbes* – (California; New York; International) **Wells Fargo Bank gives scammer three tries.** December 2011, an unidentified scammer tricked Wells Fargo into wiring \$2.1 million to a bogus bank account in Hong Kong, Forbes reported February 27. He sent Wells Fargo's Corporate Trust Services department in San Francisco two faxes asking that money be wired from an escrow account, maintained for California's largest hospital chain, Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), to two banks in New York and Hong Kong. After those banks rejected the transfers on the grounds the recipient accounts did not exist, the scammer sent a third fax asking Wells to transfer money from the same escrow account to a third bank in Hong Kong. Wells complied and the money was moved. CHW wanted to move its escrow account from WestAmerica Bank to Wells Fargo and needed the approval of the Merced County Board of Supervisors. The board put the item on its official agenda for February 15, 2011, posting a partial copy of the escrow agreement on the county Web site, including the signatures of the Merced County director of public health and CHW's chief financial officer (CFO). The scammer's faxes included what appeared to be written authorizations from the health director and CFO, however their signatures were copied and pasted from the contract the county had posted.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/janetnovack/2012/02/27/wells-fargo-bank-gives-scammer-three-tries/>

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Transportation Sector

15. *March 1, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Route 608 reopened after semi crash that sent plastic pellets everywhere.** Route 608 between Ensign Road and Route 322 in Claridon Township, Ohio, was closed for nearly 6 hours February 29. It reopened March 1 after a tractor trailer crash closed the roadway. According to cleanup crews, the truck was hauling recycled plastic pellets north on 608 when the driver drove off the side of the roadway. The truck went into a deep ditch, hit a fence and came to rest on its side. The trailer was heavily damaged and most of the pellets spilled out coating the area with what looked like snow. Crews had to bring in a dumpster to clean up all of the pellets. Heavy machinery also had to be used to remove the truck and trailer from the ditch.
Source: http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/oh_geauga/route-608-reopened-after-semi-crash-that-sent-plastic-pellets-everywhere
16. *March 1, KMGH 7 Denver* – (Colorado) **No explosives found on United plane after bomb threat.** Authorities said no explosives were found after a bomb threat was reported involving a United Airlines plane at Denver International Airport in Denver. The FBI said the bomb threat was called in March 1, but officials said they did not know who took the call. Because the threat had specific information about the flight, officials took the threat very seriously. The Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) initially said passengers were evacuated and the plane was moved from Concourse B to an area next to an airport fire station. However, TSA then corrected

that statement, saying passengers were never on the plane, but they were moved to another area away from the concourse. It is not clear if the passengers and their carry-on luggage were re-screened. There the plane was searched, but no explosives were found. TSA officials said the passengers were put on another airplane for the flight to San Francisco.

Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/30578201/detail.html>

17. *February 29, Kennewick Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Corps: Ice Harbor mooring ‘dolphin’ declared hazardous.** A mooring structure 1 mile up from Ice Harbor Dam in Washington state was declared extremely hazardous after a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inspection February 28. Advanced American Constructing Inc. was expected to remove it March 3 under a \$33,000 contract. Boats were warned to steer clear in the meantime. Six mooring structures, called dolphins, make up the mooring facility on the north shore of the Snake River near Ice Harbor. They are used to secure commercial barges waiting to use the navigation lock and to provide moorage for commercial river traffic in bad weather. The fourth dolphin, which was installed in 1973, is close to structural failure and could be dislodged from its piling if it is hit by a barge or boat, according to the Corps. It, and the third and fifth dolphins were declared unsafe for use in February 2009 and marked with signs. The first, second and sixth dolphins remain safe for use, according to the Corps.

Source: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2012/02/29/2415559/corps-ice-harbor-mooring-dolphin.html>

18. *February 28, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association* – (Pennsylvania) **NTSB: Action needed on ECi cylinders.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) require repetitive inspection of some cylinder assemblies on Teledyne Continental Motors Model 520 and 540 engines not covered by existing airworthiness directives issued following engine failures. In a February 24 safety recommendation, the NTSB said it wants the FAA to “require repetitive inspection of Engine Components, Inc. cylinder assemblies produced between May 2003 and October 2009 (serial numbers 7709 through 52884) installed on Teledyne Continental Motors model 520 and 550 engines and removal of these cylinder assemblies once they reach the engine manufacturer’s recommended normal time (hours) in service between overhauls.” The letter said that since 2000, the NTSB has examined numerous ECi cylinder assemblies that failed because of fatigue cracking on Lycoming and TCM engines, in some cases resulting in fatal accidents. The letter said that in most cases when fatigue cracks reached a critical size they caused fracture and separation of the cylinder heads, “resulting in catastrophic engine failure.” At a January 2011 meeting of the FAA, NTSB, and ECi, the company recommended the FAA issue an AD requiring inspection and replacement of any “discrepant” cylinders. The FAA has not done so, the NTSB’s safety letter said. Since design improvements were made in October 2009, there have been no new reports of the failures on TCM 520 and 540 engines. But the NTSB said the existence in service of a “large population of potentially discrepant cylinder assemblies” without required corrective action made the recommendation necessary.

Source: <http://www.aopa.org/aircraft/articles/2012/120228ntsb-says-action-needed-on-eci-cylinders.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Florida) **US Postal truck bursts into flames in SW Fla.** A U.S. Postal Service truck burst into flames following a fender-bender in Naples, Florida February 29. The Naples Fire battalion chief said the mail truck was making a left turn when it bumped into a pickup truck. While the postal service driver was checking on the pickup's driver, the vehicle caught fire. The Naples Daily News reported by the time firefighters arrived 8 minutes after the 9-1-1 call, the truck was fully engulfed. Postal officials were working to identify recipients of the mail that burned on the truck.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/03/01/2669179/us-postal-truck-bursts-into-flames.html>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *March 1, Food Safety News* – (National) **Campylobacter cases from raw milk outbreak reach 80.** The Pennsylvania Department of Health confirmed more cases of Campylobacter infections in an outbreak tied to contaminated unpasteurized milk from Your Family Cow dairy in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The latest cases bring the outbreak toll to 80 confirmed illnesses, Food Safety News reported March 1. This is the largest foodborne illness linked to raw milk in Pennsylvania history, affecting individuals in four states. The breakdown of cases by state is as follows: Pennsylvania (70 illnesses), Maryland (5), West Virginia (3), and New Jersey (2). Since 2007, Pennsylvania raw milk dairies have been linked to at least 7 outbreaks, now resulting in a total of 287 illnesses. Illness onset dates for the current outbreak range from January 17 to February 1. At least nine people have been hospitalized. Although the Your Family Cow dairy temporarily halted sales upon discovery of the outbreak, the farm was allowed to resume production February 6, after passing a health inspection.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/03/campylobacter-cases-from-pa-raw-milk-outbreak-reach-80/>

21. *March 1, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* – (New York) **Fire destroys meat processing plant in Seneca Falls.** A meat processing facility was destroyed in a fire February 29 in the Town of Seneca Falls, New York. Flames were shooting through the roof when the Seneca Falls police and fire departments arrived. The fire quickly engulfed the building and spread to an adjacent storage barn because of windy conditions. It was ruled accidental and was sparked by a meat smoker used earlier in the day. The property was uninsured and both buildings were a total loss. At least 10 fire departments responded.

Source:

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20120301/NEWS01/303010019/seneca-fall-fire-meat-processing-plant?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Local News>

22. *February 29, U.S. Department of Labor* – (Georgia) **Georgia’s AGrowStar cited by U.S. Department of Labor’s OSHA for combustible dust and other hazards; more than \$74,000 in fines proposed.** The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cited AGrowStar LLC for 22 safety and health violations, including combustible dust accumulations, following an inspection that began in September 2011 after the agency received a complaint about the company’s grain handling facility in Fort Valley, Georgia. Proposed penalties for serious violations total \$74,375, the OSHA said February 29. The company was cited with 20 serious violations for allowing combustible dust to accumulate, and failing to: develop and implement lockout/tagout procedures for energy sources; develop a housekeeping program for areas where wheat, corn, and soybean were stored; train industrial truck operators; prevent amputation hazards by guarding machinery; develop an emergency action plan; train on an annual basis employees who are exposed to fire or explosion hazards; secure a permit prior to entering a confined space to perform maintenance; conduct atmospheric testing before entering silos; list chemicals in the hazard communication program; provide fall protection; and properly install and repair electrical equipment.

Source:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=21903

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Water Sector

23. *February 29, Osawatomie Graphic* – (Kansas) **Wastewater treatment plant in need of repairs.** The waste water treatment plant headworks facility in Osawatomie, Kansas, is failing, an engineer informed city council members February 23, the Osawatomie Graphic reported February 29. He said something must be done sooner rather than later. The problem, he and the city manager explained, lies with the auger-like spiral screen responsible for sifting and lifting solid materials from the waste water as it is processed through the plant. The manager said the screen is worn and broken in many areas, and subsequent quick fixes have only helped the facility limp along. To rectify the situation, the city is looking to form a plan to address the necessary repairs, which could cost from \$400,000 to \$600,000. While officials hope proper cost management and financing will help minimize the impact felt by community members, the manager said there was a possibility the city may need to raise sewer rates in the future to accommodate the needed repairs.

Source: <http://www.kccommunitynews.com/osawatomie-graphic-news/30568103/detail.html>

24. *February 29, West Chester Daily Local News* – (Pennsylvania) **Sewage plant operator admits violations.** A Pennsylvania man, who has been in trouble in the past for violating the state’s wastewater plant regulations, will spend an extra 4 months on

house arrest after pleading guilty to probation violations February 29. The man appeared before a common pleas judge to accept his punishment for violating the terms of his November 2008 sentence of 3 years probation for not having a current license to operate wastewater treatment facilities. The violation stemmed from his guilty plea in January in Common Pleas Court in Delaware County to charges he failed to complete proper tests of sewage treatment plants there. His attorney said his client had become “burned out” on the daily tasks of his business, and lied about completing the multiple required daily samplings and recordings at the Fox Valley Community Sewage Treatment Plant in Concord Township. Failing to complete the tests is a violation of the state’s clean streams law. The sentence was similar to the one imposed on the man in January. Authorities said daily sampling and recording of pH, oxygen, and chlorine levels is required for all treatment plants.

Source: <http://dailylocal.com/article/20120229/NEWS01/120229562/-1/news/sewage-plant-operator-admits-violations>

25. *February 29, Nashville Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Upgrading Franklin’s wastewater plant will cost \$206M, water plant \$20M.** Franklin, Tennessee, needs to spend around \$206 million on its wastewater operation, including building a new Goose Creek plant, and an additional \$20 million to improve its Harpeth River water plant to draw more water from the river, according to a new consultants’ report, the Nashville Tennessean reported February 29. While fees for new users and grants could help cover some costs, Franklin would look to further escalate its water and sewer rates with additional amounts to pay for the projects in the next 30 years. The city’s sewer bills, which are currently around \$36.21 for typical customers, would jump to around \$60 by 2014. Water bills, which are typically around \$32.74 would climb to little more than \$40 by 2014. The proposal comes after years of study, including detailed financial and computer river modeling by consultants at CDM Smith. Franklin currently has around 17,000 water customers, which includes residential and commercial users, and around 22,000 sewer customers.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120229/WILLIAMSON01/120229012/Study-Upgrading-Franklin-s-wastewater-plant-will-cost-206M-water-plant-20M->

26. *February 29, KNSD 7 San Diego* – (California) **SD sewage pumps need new generators.** When the power went out in a massive outage in the San Diego region in 2011, millions of gallons of raw sewage poured into the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay, KNSD 7 San Diego reported February 29. Now, at the urging of state and federal agencies including Homeland Security, the city is moving to buy two 2,000-kilowatt portable diesel generators for Station 64, two for Pump Station 1 — from where nearly 1 million gallons of sewage went into San Diego Bay — and three more for other sewage facilities without emergency backup power. The facility that broke down when electrical service failed does not have an emergency backup generator because city officials decided not to install one a decade ago. For several hours after the outage, a 2.6 million-gallon tide of waste flooded through into the ocean at Torrey Pines State Beach, spreading for 5 miles in each direction. The area had to be quarantined for days. The total cost of equipment, land, and installation will be about \$17 million. According to a city staff report, the generators are expected to arrive on-site by late-May. The

financing will come out of a city utilities reserve account. But the city may face millions of dollars in fines for water-quality violations. As for the cause of the regional power blackout, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is expected to present findings sometime between April and the end of June.

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/SD-Sewage-Pumps-Need-New-Generators-140968993.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *February 28, Washington Business Journal* – (Washington, D.C.) **D.C. Medicaid paid \$3.8M in questionable claims in 2009, audit says.** The District of Columbia Medicaid program in 2009 paid out more than \$3.1 million in claims for patients with missing or invalid Social Security numbers, and another \$663,000 in claims for care given after the patient had died, according to an audit published February 16. According to the District of Columbia inspector general, the department of health care finance allowed “potentially erroneous” payments because the administration failed to use its data management system to deny claims when the service occurred after the death, relied on the department of human services’ records to ensure Medicaid eligibility, and did not have procedures in place for supervisory review of payments that required manual intervention. Also, the audit found \$47,324 in overpayments. In their official response to the findings, officials at the health care finance department and the human services department’s income maintenance administration, which verifies Medicaid eligibility, promised to review the noted cases, and move to recoup payments if appropriate.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2012/02/28/audit-dc-medicaid-paid-38m-in.html>

28. *February 28, KIDK 8 Idaho Falls* – (Idaho) **8K in prescription drugs stolen from Driggs Pharmacy.** An estimated \$8,000 worth of prescription, Schedule 2 narcotics, including Methadone, Ritalin, and Oxycodone, were stolen from a pharmacy in Driggs, Idaho, February 28, according to the Teton County Sheriff’s Office. The sheriff’s office said the thief knew exactly what he was looking for, as the bottles were generic white bottles instead of standard prescription bottles.

Source: <http://www.localnews8.com/news/30561595/detail.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *March 1, Rochester Post-Bulletin* – (Minnesota) **Winter storm dumps up to foot of snow.** After going most of the winter without snow, Minnesota dealt with a storm that dumped up to a foot of snow on parts of the state. State offices were closed February 29

in five counties hit particularly hard by the winter snowstorm. The Minnesota Management and Budget commissioner declared a weather emergency and closed executive branch offices in Aitkin, Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, and Lake counties. Courthouses were also closed in those counties, and Duluth city offices also closed. The storm prompted classes to be canceled in dozens of school districts, and University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and Morris also shut down. The National Weather Service said Alexandria and Rush City both received 12 inches of snow. Other reports include 10.5 inches in Cambridge and North Branch, 9 inches in Isanti and 8 inches in Sauk Rapids, Elk River, and Sartell.

Source: <http://www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1488609>

30. *March 1, Softpedia* – (National) **NASA: Hackers targeted us 5,408 times in 2010 and 2011.** Written testimony the Inspector General (IG) at NASA submitted to a Congressional committee said the agency suffered more than 5,000 security incidents in 2010 and 2011, Softpedia reported March 1. They “spanned a wide continuum from individuals testing their skill to break into NASA systems, to well-organized criminal enterprises hacking for profit, to intrusions that may have been sponsored by foreign intelligence services seeking to further their countries’ objectives,” the IG wrote. The intrusions apparently damaged thousands of computing devices, with the total estimated cost to NASA being more than \$7 million. The IG admitted the organization is far behind other agencies when it comes to protecting the laptops utilized by personnel. In the time frame between April 2009 and April 2011, 48 laptops and other mobile devices were stolen. As a result of these incidents, not only was personally identifiable information leaked, but also more important data, such as algorithms used to control the International Space Station, and secret data on NASA’s Constellation and Orion projects. The biggest issue is not that the devices were stolen, instead the problem is that most of them had no form of encryption implemented. Advanced persistent attacks also targeted NASA. In the fiscal year 2011, 47 such attacks were reported, 13 of which were successful.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/NASA-Hackers-Targeted-Us-5-408-Times-in-2010-and-2011-255951.shtml>

31. *February 29, WXXA 23 Albany* – (New York) **Fire at Corning Tower causes evacuations.** Thousands of state workers had to leave the office early February 29 after a fire broke out inside the C-level of the Corning Tower at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York. The Albany Fire executive deputy chief said the fire broke out in an office under the Wadsworth Lab where the New York State Health Department is located. Thousands of state workers could be seen flooding down stairs, escalators, and elevators. Several large, tinted windows were blown out, and fire crews worked to put out the remaining hot spots. The executive deputy chief said, “It burned the office out pretty good we had heavy smoke conditions in several of the hallways downstairs, the crews got right in and knocked the fire down. There’s quite a bit of damage.”

Source: <http://www.fox23news.com/news/local/story/Fire-at-Corning-Tower-causes-evacuations/jgM5k1zx3U2tqLxphg-sUg.csp>

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *March 1, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **2 New Orleans officers shot; 1 suspect dead, other in custody.** One suspect is dead and two New Orleans police officers and another suspect were wounded after a March 1 traffic stop near City Park developed into a gunfight. The New Orleans police superintendent said both wounded officers required surgery and both were in stable condition about 4 hours after the shooting. The condition of the injured suspect was unknown.
Source: <http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/03/01/10548347-2-new-orleans-officers-shot-1-suspect-dead-other-in-custody>

33. *February 29, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Richmond juvenile detention center making improvements after safety concerns lead to probation.** Richmond, Virginia’s Juvenile Detention Center continues to make changes after being put on probation due to safety concerns, the Associated Press reported February 29. In January, the Virginia State Board of Juvenile Justice put the facility on probation for the second time in 3 years. The center’s superintendent was fired a week later. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that improvements are being made under a \$344,000 emergency contract awarded by the city. The improvements include new cameras and a new intercom system that will go into effect March 5. Additional improvements to the center include a new fencing system and new mandatory training for every staff member.
Source:
<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/f1e289f0c26c4dfc99d59d42cc8134ca/VA--Juvenile-Center/>

34. *February 29, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Riverdale blaze that injured 7 firefighters is ruled as arson.** A wind-fueled fire that ripped through a vacant Riverdale Heights house February 24 and injured seven firefighters — two of them critically — has been ruled arson, the Prince George’s County, Maryland fire chief said February 29. Several agencies, including the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, are investigating. The February 24 blaze gutted a vacant house. Flames had engulfed the basement when trucks from several fire departments arrived. Seven firefighters entered through the front door on the east side of the house. Strong winds out of the west were gusting up to 45 mph, and a blast of wind resulted in a fireball. Officials discovered the house next door had received fire damage weeks earlier. “We do believe the two incidents are related,” the Prince George’s County fire marshal said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/riverdale-blaze-that-injured-7-firefighters-is-ruled-as-arson/2012/02/29/gIQAfXQfiR_story.html

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Information Technology Sector

35. *February 29, Softpedia* – (International) **Multiple vulnerabilities found in Pinterest.** Pinterest, a pinboard social media Web site, was found to contain many vulnerabilities that could allow an attacker to cause serious damage. A security researcher found the site, which has more than 10 million active users, has extremely poor security. He identified a cross-site scripting vulnerability and an iframe injection issue that could allow hackers to hijack user accounts and perform other malicious operations. With the aid of another security researcher, he found a URL redirection flaw that could be leveraged to redirect the site’s visitors to other potentially malicious domains.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Multiple-Vulnerabilities-Found-in-Pinterest-Exclusive-255797.shtml>
36. *February 29, IDG News Service* – (Texas) **Texas man gets prison time for software copyright infringement.** A Texas man who sold supposed backup copies of Adobe Systems, Microsoft, and Autodesk software through multiple Web sites was sentenced to nearly 5 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$402,000 in restitution, the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced. The man, from Wichita Falls, was sentenced February 28 to 57 months in prison. The man offered copies of Adobe software for sale in the mid-2000s, the ICE said. ICE investigators were contacted in May 2007 by Adobe investigators, who said they purchased and downloaded software from TechKappa.com, the agency said. Also in 2007, the FBI received a separate lead from the Wichita Falls Police Department regarding the man’s involvement in selling pirated software, the ICE said. The police department warned the man in 2004 about selling pirated software while investigating him for credit card abuse. It searched his home in 2007 and seized computers and storage media. Law enforcement officials found he operated many Web sites. On them, he offered “backup” software of titles marketed by Adobe, Microsoft, and Autodesk for about one-fifth of the retail price. The man also provided counterfeit product registration codes. Between June 2006 and April 2007, he sold more than 90 infringing copies of Adobe software for more than \$66,000. Between 2004 and 2007, he sold more than \$384,000 worth of software, in more than 3,000 transactions through 17 businesses he set up, according to ICE.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9224766/Texas_man_gets_prison_time_for_software_copyright_infringement?taxonomyId=17

For more stories, see items [4](#), [9](#), [30](#), [37](#), and [38](#)

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

37. *February 29, IDG News* – (International) **Microsoft’s Azure cloud suffers serious outage.** Microsoft’s Azure cloud infrastructure and development service experienced a serious outage February 29, with the system’s service management component going down worldwide. “We are experiencing an issue with Windows Azure ... Customers will not be able to carry out service management operations,” Microsoft said in an initial message on the outage on its Azure service dashboard. The issue has been “mitigated and service management is restored for the majority of customers,” Microsoft said in a message. The incident’s root cause was traced back to a cert issue. Microsoft said less than 3.8 percent of hosted services had been affected, and measures had been taken to stop the problem “from spreading across the production environment.” In addition, Azure customers in the north and south central United States as well as northern Europe may experience performance problems, according to a message on the dashboard. “Deployed applications will continue to run. There is no impact to storage accounts either,” it stated. The SQL Azure Data Sync service was unavailable in six regions around the United States., Europe, and Asia, and various problems were listed for some regions regarding Access Control 2.0, Azure Reporting, Azure Marketplace, and Azure Service Bus. The notifications promised regular updates on the work being done to fix the issues, but no concrete timetables.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/251043/microsofts_azure_cloud_suffer_s_serious_outage.html

38. *February 29, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* – (Alaska) **GCI fiber-optic line problem disrupts cell phone service in Alaska.** A problem with a GCI communications line February 29 was affecting cell phone service throughout Alaska, including parts of Fairbanks. A GCI spokesman said a technician in mid-town Anchorage accidentally severed a fiber-optic line February 29, resulting in lost service to a still-undetermined service area. He said it was unclear whether Fairbanks had been directly affected, or whether local service was only being disrupted when it involved Anchorage-based communications servers. He said some service had been restored, and that the rest would gradually return as hundreds of tiny fiber-sized lines are spliced together. An Alaska Communications spokeswoman said some of its customers were affected, specifically those using 2G wireless data. She said Alaska Communications smartphone users had intermittent Internet service for a few hours.

Source: <http://newsminer.com/bookmark/17698491-GCI-fiber-optic-line-problem-disrupts-cell-phone-service-in-Alaska>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

39. *March 1, University of Tennessee Echo* – (Tennessee) **Fire at Mountain Creek Apartments affects students.** An apartment fire February 27 left about 40 Chattanooga, Tennessee residents homeless, including many displaced University of Tennessee students. The fire was under control in about an hour, but fire crews did not leave the apartment complex until that evening after hot spots were extinguished. According to a fire investigation division lieutenant, an improperly discarded cigarette on or near the balcony of a room on the third floor was likely to blame for the fire. A resident reported being allowed back into his apartment 6 hours later, but only to recover necessary items prior to relocating. Nine apartments were left unoccupied, while others were livable but had smoke damage and a chemical odor.
Source: <http://www.utcecho.com/news/fire-at-mountain-creek-apartments-affects-students-1.2803252#.T0-oTFEhjUQ>
40. *February 29, Associated Press* – (Kansas) **Roof damage forces evacuation at Pittsburg motel.** Strong wind gusts damaged a Pittsburg, Kansas hotel so badly it had to be evacuated, knocked out power to the city’s hospital, and closed its schools. The Joplin Globe reported that wind gusts of up to 70 mph were recorded late February 28, causing roof damage and traffic-snarling power outages. Twenty-five guests were taken to another hotel due to roof damage to Pittsburg’s Econo Lodge. Pittsburg’s Via Christi Hospital began operating on its generator system after losing power. A Via Christi spokesperson said no patients had to be moved, and that the hospital sustained no visible damage. Pittsburg State University and the city’s school district canceled classes because of the damaging winds and power outages. The storm tore off a section of roofing at one elementary school.
Source: <http://www.koamtv.com/story/17046857/roof-damage-forces-evacuation-at-pittsburg-motel>
41. *February 29, KSDK 5 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Four alarm fire at Cedar Ridge Apartments.** Fire officials responded to a four-alarm fire at the Cedar Ridge Apartments in Lake St. Louis, Missouri, February 29. High winds quickly spread the flames from one building to another, making it difficult for firefighters to get a handle on the blaze. No injuries were reported. A total of 16 units were damaged in the fire. The Wentzville assistant fire chief said the wind forced the flames over the fire walls between the buildings.
Source: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/307042/3/Four-alarm-fire-at-Lake-St-Louis-apartment-complex>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

42. *March 1, Associated Press* – (North Carolina) **2nd wildfire burns in western NC national forest.** A second wildfire in under a week has broken out in a western North

Carolina national forest, but firefighters said both blazes are under control. The U.S. Forest Service said a 50-acre wildfire was discovered February 29 in the Nantahala National Forest, 4 days after a much larger blaze began elsewhere in the region. The earlier fire has burned more than 725 acres. Firefighters said rain that fell in the area February 29 helped contain both blazes. No damage to any structures or injuries have been reported from either fire. Investigators are still working to determine the causes of both wildfires.

Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2012/03/01/2690489/2nd-wildfire-burns-in-western.html>

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Dams Sector

43. *February 29, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **\$120 million needed to complete Morganza system.** A new task force of local business owners, government officials and community representatives will convene later in March to help the Terrebonne Levee Board in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, figure out how to come up with the \$120 million still needed to complete the Morganza-to-the-Gulf levee system. According to the Thibodaux Daily Comet February 29, the task force will consider whether to ask voters to approve a new half-cent sales tax to help pay for the remaining work. The levee district began building a scaled-down version of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf project after hurricanes Gustav and Ike flooded the parish in 2008. The district did the work using more than \$200 million in state and local money. The plan includes building 10-foot levees and floodgates from Pointe-aux-Chenes to Dularge along the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed Morganza path to secure immediate hurricane protection for bayou communities. The study is supposed to be finished at the end of this year, but the work still requires as much as \$4 billion in federal construction dollars. That is unlikely to happen in the next decade, if at all, officials said.

Source:

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20120229/ARTICLES/120229554?p=2&tc=pg>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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