



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is
ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports a man who told Kansas City International Airport security that the \$70,000 in cash causing his pants pockets to bulge were Muslim "prayer books" could soon face charges of mortgage fraud. (See item [11](#))
- University of Kansas researchers say many water reservoirs across Kansas are shrinking, leading to taste and odor problems in drinking water for communities dependent upon them. (See item [24](#))
- The Federal Communications Commission wants to set aside radio frequencies for a nationwide radio system for various public safety agencies that would be based on advanced Internet Protocol broadband technologies and built in partnership with a private company. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

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. *December 21, Energy Information Administration* — EIA releases new State Energy Profiles. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) recently released State Energy Profiles, a new gateway to EIA's state energy data, plus individual State Profiles that present key facts and

statistics about State energy markets and industries. Current features of the State Energy Profiles include: energy maps that display State energy infrastructure and renewable energy potential; “Quick Facts” that provide the most important State energy information; and data tables that provide the most current state-level statistics from EIA surveys. New features for 2007 will include “Written Overviews”, which will explain how fossil fuels, renewables, and alternative energy sources affect each state’s energy markets, and expanded energy maps. State Energy Profiles: <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/>
Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press278.html>

2. *December 21, Christian Science Monitor* — **Canada's cutting-edge energy model.** The new Eastern Kings Wind Farm on Prince Edward Island (PEI) in Canada, will generate 30 megawatts of electricity by harnessing the strong winds that buffet the island's northern shore. More than an isolated project, the wind farm is part of an ambitious plan to enable PEI — which has no significant coal, petroleum, natural gas, or hydro resources — to meet most of its electricity and 30 percent of its total energy needs from its own renewable resources by 2016. If successful, government officials say, this remote rural province will find itself at the cutting edge of the world's fastest growing energy sector. PEI's government is backing the creation of a hydrogen-powered village as well as expansions to existing wind farms on the northwestern tip of the island. Private companies are building plants to produce ethanol from locally grown sugar beets and residential heat from forestry and farming waste. Hydrogen-powered buses and boats may follow. PEI's small size is what makes it appealing for the emerging renewable-energy industry to conduct pilot projects, says Jamie Ballem, minister of environment and energy.
Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1221/p06s01-woam.htm>
3. *December 20, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC finalizes ‘white’ finding for Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant over shipment of radioactively contaminated equipment.** The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant will receive additional oversight from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) based on a violation involving a shipment of radioactively contaminated equipment. The violation stems from a shipment that went from Vermont Yankee in Vernon, VT, to the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Salem Township, PA, last summer. During transit, discrete highly radioactive particles shifted to the bottom of the package, resulting in the radiation levels in excess of the Department of Transportation (DOT) limits. “The actual condition did not involve an exposure or hazard to the public, but it had the potential to adversely affect personnel who would normally receive the package or respond to an incident involving the package since responders could have a reasonable expectation that the package conformed with DOT radiation limits,” NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins wrote. The Vermont Yankee violation has been determined to be “white,” which signifies the issue is of low to moderate safety significance. The finding is based on an inspection the NRC carried out from September 6 through October 6, 2006.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-065i.html>
4. *December 20, Tri-City News (Canada)* — **Hydro looks for lessons in storm’s destruction.** Canada's BC Hydro will consider a range of options — including more use of underground transmission lines — to reduce the Lower Mainland power grid’s vulnerability to future storms. Spokesperson Elisha Moreno said the company will carry out a detailed examination of what was done right in last week’s wind storm that at its height left 250,000 homes without power,

and what can be done better to prepare in advance and react when lines come down. Moreno hopes homeowners will be less resistant now when BC Hydro crews want to remove or trim trees that are hazardously close to power lines. She said it's too early to say whether crews will take a more aggressive stance on removing potentially unsafe trees. One of the clearest lessons, she said, is that urban residents simply aren't ready for extended power outages, let alone a more serious disaster. Desperate for power, some used generators — in some cases improperly. Moreno said one area of success was the first use during this storm of a Telus system that let BC Hydro send automated phone messages to homes in areas where lengthy power outages were expected.

Source: <http://www.tricitynews.com/portals-code/list.cgi?paper=74&cat=23&id=796601&more=>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *January 01, National Defense* — **Weapon makers contend with decline in U.S.**

manufacturing. Manufacturers of military hardware worry that a shortage of skilled labor in the United States is impinging on their ability to deliver high-tech equipment to the Department of Defense (DoD). The situation progressively has worsened during the past five years, when nearly 3 million U.S. manufacturing jobs have vanished, experts noted. In a recent survey of defense contractors, 70 percent of the companies cited shortages of skilled labor as an impediment in serving their customers, said John S. VanKirk, president and executive director of the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM), in Latrobe, PA. DoD established the NCDMM in 2003 to help military agencies and defense contractors improve manufacturing processes and inject new technology into production facilities. While manufacturing jobs are down, the demand for skilled labor in the defense sector is way up, VanKirk said in an interview. “We are not filling the current demand.” The decline in U.S. manufacturing also has resulted in a diminishing pool of expert technicians who can assemble components that are made of new materials such as aluminum alloys and plastics, which are replacing steel in modern weapon systems, VanKirk said.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/January/WeaponMakers.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *December 21, Washington Post* — **Banks lose millions in real estate scheme. A man convicted of swindling banks and investors in an elaborate mortgage scam in Washington, DC, was sentenced on December 8 to 24 years and five months in prison and ordered to pay more than \$6 million in restitution and forfeitures. Charles E. Hall was convicted in August of eight**

felonies, including bank fraud and money laundering. Authorities said the sentence was among the toughest in recent memory for a white-collar crime. Former Enron executive Jeffrey K. Skilling, who was at the center of a national debacle, received a sentence of 24 years and 6 months, one month longer than Hall's. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Hall targeted more than 30 District homes in 2002 and 2003 in a "flip sales" scheme, in which homes are resold quickly at inflated prices. Hall bilked banks out of \$5 million and investors out of tens of thousands of dollars. Six other people — a real estate agent, two loan underwriters, a real estate settlement agent, a bogus appraiser, and a property speculator — have pleaded guilty in the scandal.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/20/AR2006122000640.html>

7. *December 21, Sophos* — **German gang jailed for creating \$15.8 million Trojan horse.** SophosLabs reports the sentencing of two German men who infected more than 100,000 computers with a Trojan horse that generated more than US \$15.8 million. The scheme subverted innocent Internet users' PCs with a Trojan horse that dialed premium rate 0190 phone numbers to contact a pornographic Website. The men netted income from the premium rate phone calls made via infected PCs' modems between July 2002 and September 2003. This past summer, two other men were jailed in connection with the case.
Source: http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/12/dial_gang.html
8. *December 20, Associated Press* — **Man suspected of stealing identities.** David Dright was charged with stealing the identities of 27 Lake County residents, and is suspected of stealing the identities of almost 90 Major League Baseball players, according to Lake County, IL, authorities. A search of Dright's home Tuesday, December 19, turned up personal information on retired and current ball players, including Chicago White Sox slugger Jim Thome and New York Mets outfielder Moises Alou. The information apparently came from trash bins outside Northbrook, IL-based SFX Baseball Inc., a sports agency that deals with Major League Baseball. Dright allegedly went into trash bins outside SFX and took the personal information. Evidence found in Dright's home included Social Security numbers, dates of birth, canceled paychecks, obituaries and infant death records.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4865763>
9. *December 19, eWeek* — **SEC freezes assets of pump-and-dump schemer.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reported Tuesday, December 19, that it has frozen the assets of Estonian company Grand Logistic and its operator Evgeny Gashichev, believed to be responsible for carrying out online pump-and-dump schemes. Such pump and dump tactics have become increasingly widespread as hackers use compromised brokerage trading accounts to touch off interest in a particular stock, and then attempt to manipulate share prices for profit. The complaint contends that Gashichev purchased shares of small, thinly-traded companies with low stock prices through an online trading account he opened in the name of Grand Logistic at an Estonian financial services company. Within minutes of his initial share purchases, the SEC claims Gashichev would use stolen usernames and passwords to gain unauthorized access to other online brokerage accounts to buy more of the stock and drive up its share price. The SEC said that the defendant also attempted to use electronic means to cloak his identity and conceal the manner in which he infiltrated the compromised brokerage accounts.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2074743.00.asp>

10. *December 18, Federal Computer Week* — **Military, agencies to phish their workers.** The military services and some agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Veterans Affairs, can now launch diagnostic phishing attacks against their own workers. The government-sanctioned attacks will be designed to test how well federal workers adhere to organization's e-mail security policies. The agencies will launch the attacks with IMPACT software that will keep track of how many employees click on the malicious links. With that information, agencies can gauge the effectiveness of their IT security education program. Organizations also can use the penetration testing software for spear phishing, a highly specialized form of phishing attack that targets information relevant to the organization under attack. Other agencies with plans for using the Core Security software include the Labor, Energy and Agriculture departments, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Courts and the U.S. Postal Service.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97147-12-18-06-Web>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *December 21, Associated Press* — **Man arrested after trying to hide \$70,000 from airport screeners.** A man who told airport security that the \$70,000 in cash causing his pants pockets to bulge were Muslim "prayer books" could soon face charges of mortgage fraud. Federal officials said Don A. White Jr. of Sacramento, attempted to board a Southwest Airlines flight to San Diego last week at the Kansas City International Airport. After White made two unsuccessful passes through a metal detector, security personnel patted him down and noticed "bulky solid items" in his cargo pants pockets. White, 27, reportedly told the security officer that he was a Muslim carrying prayer books. He later acknowledged he was Christian but still refused to let security personnel touch his prayer books. After security supervisor Lowell Brashears recommended White put the prayer books in a tray, let the tray go through the X-ray machine and then get them on the other side, White agreed and stepped up to the X-ray machine, court documents said. Officers said White then ran out of the terminal. He was then arrested with the cash in his pockets. Federal agents claim he told them that the money came from a mortgage fraud scheme in the Kansas City area where loans were obtained using inflated property appraisals.
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-12-21-flier-arrested-after-\\$70,000-found-said-muslim-prayer-books_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-12-21-flier-arrested-after-$70,000-found-said-muslim-prayer-books_x.htm)

12. *December 21, Crain's New York Business* — **FAA to maintain flight limits at LaGuardia.** Federal regulators ordered that New York's LaGuardia Airport must continue limiting flights to 75 an hour, however the agency said it would not force big airlines to fly larger planes or regulate which destinations they serve. The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) ruling will allow large airlines like Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, and other major carriers to continue flying small jets out of LaGuardia Airport, and temporarily protects them from a plan that would open up certain slots for new entrant airlines. The FAA's decision trumps a proposal crafted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the land, the gates and the buildings. The agency, which had previously charged that the FAA's proposal to transfer

flight slots exceeds its jurisdiction, said it would respond by December 29. This order continues the existing rules until a permanent resolution is made. LaGuardia's current flight limitations had been slated to expire on January 1.

Source: <http://www.newyorkbusiness.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061221/FREE/61221017/1066>

13. *December 21, 680News (Canada)* — Pearson International Airport security under scrutiny.

Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Canada, is prepping for one of its busiest times of the year with passenger volume expected to be up by about 25 per cent this weekend, but the security of the airport has come under scrutiny. CBC's The National reports that for several days in October, a labor dispute disrupted the baggage screening procedures. In the four days after Thanksgiving, airport screeners working for the private security company, GARDA, were on a work-to-rule campaign. The screeners say their managers stepped in to tackle the long lines, and demanded they speed things up. As a result, carry-on baggage was not properly screened and sometimes, not screened at all. This was the case for about 250,000 passengers.

Source: http://680news.com/news/local/article.jsp?content=20061221_073909_4596

14. *December 21, Associated Press* — Midwest, SkyWest sign service contract. Midwest Airlines Inc. on Thursday, December 21, said it chose SkyWest Airlines Inc. to operate a 50-seat regional jet service beginning in April 2007. Midwest Airlines said the five-year deal would allow it to add new destinations, increase frequency on existing routes and upgrade several regional routes to all-jet service. The contract calls for St. George, Utah-based SkyWest to operate a minimum of 15 and up to 25 Canadair regional jets for Midwest Airlines out of the carrier's current hubs in Milwaukee and Kansas City. The SkyWest jets will fly as Midwest Connect and carry Midwest colors, but SkyWest will provide the aircraft, flight crews and maintenance services. Midwest Airlines will handle route planning, scheduling, marketing and sales for the new flights.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061221/midwest_airlines_contract.htm?v=1

15. *December 21, CNN* — International airline to allow cell phone calls on planes. In January, Emirates airline plans to launch mobile phone usage in its planes, making it the first airline to allow passengers to make cell phone calls on its flights. And Australian carrier Qantas plans to start evaluating technology that lets fliers use their cell phones and PDAs during flight early next year. Fliers have long been able to keep in touch with those on the ground by using phones built into the backs of airplane seats. But the costs of those seatback phones can be upwards of \$10 a minute, plus a connection fee. In contrast, the cost of calls made in-flight on Emirates will be in line with international roaming rates, the airline said. Those rates vary by mobile carrier and by location but can be as low as \$1 to \$2 a minute. U.S. carriers don't allow in-flight cell phone calls, although the Federal Aviation Administration is reviewing the safety concerns associated with mobile calls made in the air. The regulatory agency has asked a committee to conduct a study looking at whether portable electronic devices like cell phones interfere with aircraft navigation systems. Findings of the study are due at the end of December.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/12/21/wired.airlines/index.html>

16. *December 19, Department of Transportation* — Streetcar service returns to St. Charles Line. Streetcar service is returning to the historic St. Charles line in New Orleans now that a federally funded project to replace electrical lines used to power the system is complete,

Transportation Secretary Mary Peters announced on Tuesday, December 19. The Secretary noted that the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration provided \$9.2 million to help the local transit agency upgrade power lines and construct three new power substations. She said now that work is finished on the first 1.2 miles of the line, the streetcars could return to service for the first time since the hurricane hit in 2005.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot11806.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *December 21, DM News* — USPS to simplify international shipping options. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) proposed simplifying its international shipping options to try to make it easier for customers to use the products. The proposed changes, published December 20 in the Federal Register, would better align USPS international products with the agency's well-known domestic products: Express Mail, Priority Mail, and First Class Mail. The postal service would merge eight current options into four alternatives by combining products with overlapping service standards and prices. The notice also said the USPS would rename the international products to mirror comparable domestic product names. For example, the USPS has an international product called Global Express Guaranteed for documents and Global Express Guaranteed for non-documents. These products would be combined into one product, Global Express Guaranteed. An international product called Global Express Mail would be changed to Express Mail International. And Global Priority Mail, Airmail Parcel Post and Economy Parcel Post would be renamed Priority Mail International. Enhancements to the postal service's international products would include increasing customer convenience through the use of domestic packaging supplies, offering the popular flat-rate envelope option in Express Mail International and adding the flat-rate box option to Priority Mail International.

Source: <http://www.dmnews.com/cms/dm-news/direct-mail/39473.html>

18. *December 20, USPS News Release* — President Bush signs new postal law. President George W. Bush on Wednesday, December 20, signed into law new postal legislation that will benefit both residential and business customers by ensuring predictable price increases tied to the rate of inflation. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act is the first major change to the Postal Service since 1971. The law enables the organization to continue its transformation efforts and cost-cutting measures. This is the culmination of a 12-year effort by Congress to secure changes to the laws governing the Postal Service. It will link future rate increases to the Consumer Price Index and give the Postal Service more flexibility for pricing competitive products. The Act also reconstitutes the existing Postal Rate Commission into a regulatory body with greater authority and responsibility.

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/2006/pr06_089.htm

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Agriculture Sector

19.

December 21, University of Missouri — **Stink bug numbers growing in Missouri soybean fields.** Wayne Bailey, an associate professor of plant sciences at the University of Missouri, said he is unsure why the number of stink bugs in soybean fields in Missouri is increasing, but if scientists don't get a handle on the problem, the insects could affect yields. Stink bugs are "pod-feeding" insects equipped with a piercing, sucking mouth part that probe plant stems, leaves and pods and suck out their juices, Bailey said. Bailey suspects the increase is due to a combination of factors, including more no-till practices, which allow fields to go undisturbed providing insects such as stink bugs more opportunity to reproduce. Warmer weather and the normal fluctuation of insect populations also might explain the proliferation of the pest. So might farmers planting more glyphosate-tolerant soybeans and allowing weeds to grow later in the spring, giving stink bugs more places to hide and multiply. Bailey said producers can get a jump on stink bugs by scouting their fields every seven to 14 days through the growing season. In general, stink bugs are tough to kill with insecticides because they tend to hide deep in the foliage where sprays often don't reach, Bailey said.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=44699

20. *December 21, Agricultural Research Service* — New dwarf grape type may be a giant of grape research. Pixie, a very small grape, was recently released by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The seeded black fruit of this grape line is not meant for eating. Instead, the variety's novel traits make it ideal for genetics, genomics, breeding and other research that can lead to new breeding lines or cultivars that grape consumers will love. Peter Cousins, the geneticist in the ARS Grape Genetics Research Unit at Geneva, NY, who helped develop it, said that mature clusters of Pixie typically measure slightly less than four inches long. This characteristic reduces by about 50-fold the amount of space needed for grapevine experimentation, as Pixie vines can be grown in the greenhouse to maturity without ever needing to be planted in a vineyard. But what really makes the new grape line special is its ability to initiate fruit year round. In fact, according to Cousins, it's typical to observe flower buds, blooms, immature fruit, and ripe fruit — all on the same vine. While this trait would not be useful for the consumer-grape industry, grape producers prefer to pick their crop just once, it does accelerate research, allowing for year-round studies on flowers and berries at all stages of development.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

21. *December 20, Department of Agriculture* — USDA proposes indefinite debarment of AWB Limited due to connection to the Saddam Hussein regime. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns Wednesday, December 20, announced the immediate suspension and proposed debarment of AWB Limited, formerly the Australian Wheat Board, and its affiliates from participating in U.S. government programs and contracting with the U.S. government. U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is taking action against AWB Limited, 11 individuals, and a Minnesota-based company because sufficient evidence exists to suspect that they engaged in bribery, kickbacks and similar behavior resulting in payments to the Saddam Hussein regime. Effective immediately, these companies and individuals are barred from participating in any U.S. government procurements as well as many other U.S. government programs such as loan guarantees.

Source: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB/.cmd/a.d/ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/ce/7.2.5JM/p/5.2.4TQ/.d/0/th/J.2.9D/s.7.0.A/7.0.1OB?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2006%2F>

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Food Sector

22. *December 20, Reuters Health* — Trip to food store a risk factor for Salmonella in infants.

Exposure to reptiles and being in close proximity to meat and poultry in the supermarket are two modifiable risk factors for Salmonella infection in infants, according to what may be the largest reported study of infant Salmonella infection. Salmonella is estimated to cause 1.4 million illnesses and 400 deaths each year in the United States. "Rates of Salmonella infection are highest in infants, but little is known about potential sources of infection in this high-risk population," note Dr. Timothy F. Jones of the Tennessee Department of Health in Nashville and colleagues in the journal *Pediatrics* for December. "Compared with healthy controls, infants with Salmonella infection were less likely to have been breastfed and more likely to have had exposure to reptiles, to have ridden in a shopping cart next to meat or poultry, or to have consumed concentrated liquid infant formula during the five-day exposure period," they report. Travel outside the United States was associated with Salmonella infection in infants three to six months and older than six months of age. Attending day care with a child with diarrhea was also associated with infection in infants older than six months of age.

Abstract: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/short/118/6/2380>

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-12-20T200737Z_01_COL071947_RTRUKOC_0_US-FOOD-SALMONELLA.xml&WTmodLoc=NewsHome-C3-healthNews-3

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Water Sector

23. *December 21, Chosun Ilbo (South Korea)* — Conspiracy to supply unsafe drinking water uncovered in South Korea. Water quality test labs and underground water developers stand accused of conspiring to fake test results and providing polluted water to 1,410 nurseries and schools nationwide. Police have arrested individuals associated with 14 test labs they say manipulated water test results of 1,753 sources nationwide of which 1,410 were supplying drinking water. Police say testing agencies certified water contaminated with nitrate-nitrogen as "suitable for drinking", enabling them to win public contracts. Public officials, who are required to be present when the water samplers are collected but weren't, are also implicated in the conspiracy. Underground water developers must pass a water quality test and win approval from local governments. If nitrate-nitrogen in the water resource is over the acceptable limit, they must seal the site and develop another. The testing labs say rejecting the shady deal offered by the developer would have meant failing to win the contract to conduct regular tests required every three years. University test labs are no exception: labs at Daejeon Health Sciences College, Korea University and Sangji University are also implicated in the quality test manipulation. The labs and developers supplied 19 nurseries, 168 schools, 489 homes and 286 community water supply facilities.

Source: <http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200612/200612210.036.html>

24. *December 12, University of Kansas* — **KU researchers say Kansas lakes are filling in and shrinking.** Water reservoirs across Kansas are shrinking, leading to taste and odor problems in drinking water for some communities, according to a research program at the Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas. Even more, the cost to remedy the problem could reach millions of dollars. “Our lakes are filling in,” said Mark Jakubauskas, research associate professor at the biological survey and team leader for the Applied Science and Technology for Reservoir Assessment Initiative. Jakubauskas said the sedimentation is caused in part by soil erosion from farmlands and watersheds that flow downstream and collect at the floor of the reservoir. That shallow water not only lowers the reservoir’s water storage capacity but also promotes the growth of blue–green algae, which diminishes the quality of the drinking water. “Many reservoirs in Kansas have experienced some level of taste and odor problem,” he said. Jakubauskas said to gain more information on the lakes, the biological survey invested in a high–tech echosounding system to measure the depth, or “bathymetry,” of lakes in Kansas. Source: <http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/december/12/lakes.shtml>

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Public Health Sector

25. *December 21, Reuters* — **South Korea says fourth bird flu case confirmed.** A fourth case of H5N1 bird flu has been discovered in South Korea after culling of poultry from earlier cases, a government official said on Thursday, December 21, raising concerns that quarantine measures had failed to control the outbreak. South Korea confirmed in November its first case of the H5N1 strain in about three years. The three initial cases were found in farms in the North Cholla province, around 100 miles south of Seoul. The latest case emerged at a duck farm in Asan, South Chungcheong province. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SEO176409.htm>
26. *December 21, Reuters* — **Bird flu outbreak spreads in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.** Vietnam's first outbreak of bird flu since August has spread to four more areas in the Mekong Delta, where nearly 8,300 birds have been killed by the virus or slaughtered to hold it back, the Agriculture Ministry said. Three outbreaks spotted between December 11 and December 20 in Ca Mau province killed over 2,500 chickens and ducks, while one in neighboring Bac Lieu province killed dozens of ducks, the ministry's Animal Health Department said in a report on Thursday, December 21. The outbreaks of the H5N1 virus were the first in Vietnam since August. The initial eruptions killed around 6,000 newly hatched chickens and ducklings that were not vaccinated against bird flu. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN131133.htm>
27. *December 21, Kyodo News (Japan)* — **Mutation likely behind virus spread in Japan.** The record–breaking nationwide outbreak of gastroenteritis in Japan caused by norovirus may stem from a mutation of the disease, an expert said Wednesday, December 20. The highly contagious virus has typically been transmitted by eating raw oysters and clams, but this season's epidemic comes mostly from human–to–human infections and can best be explained by a possible

outbreak of a new virus strain by, for example, mutation, said Shigeo Matsuno, a senior researcher at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. Some 3,000 medical institutions across Japan reported they treated 65,638 infected patients between November 27 and December 3, a record-high average of 21.8 per institution, compared with 19.8 logged in the preceding week, also a record. Norovirus infection statistics have been compiled since 1981. In previous instances, the number of cases reached a peak after mid-December. With the rapid increase, the institute is concerned that the outbreak of norovirus gastroenteritis may show "the largest-ever spread" and is calling for people to wash their hands with soap as a way to prevent an epidemic.

Source: <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20061221a7.html>

- 28. *December 20, Department of Homeland Security* — DHS awards management contract for National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced Wednesday, December 20, the selection of Battelle National Biodefense Institute to conduct scientific programs and operate the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC), currently under construction at the National Interagency Biodefense Campus in Fort Detrick, MD. The \$250 million contract award includes a five-year period of performance, with the potential for five subsequent one-year extensions, bringing the projected award cost to \$500 million. "Scientific research is fundamental to reducing the high consequences of a biological attack," said Jay M. Cohen, Under Secretary for Science and Technology. "Our threat picture is ever-changing, and this state-of-the-art center will provide an enduring biodefense capability against the biological threats we face." The department's Science and Technology directorate will oversee the management of the NBACC, a federally funded research and development center. Upon completion in 2008, the NBACC will offer a safe and secure bio-containment laboratory space for biological threat characterizations and bio-forensics analyses. The facility will comprise roughly 160,000 gross square feet with a staff of approximately 120.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1166637601561.shtm

- 29. *December 20, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — HHS cancels VaxGen anthrax vaccine contract.** The Government on Tuesday, December 19, canceled its \$877.5 million contract with VaxGen Inc. for a new anthrax vaccine, after problems with the vaccine's stability caused the company to miss a deadline for starting a clinical trial. The contract was the first and largest award under Project BioShield, designed to stimulate the production of medical countermeasures for biological weapons and related threats. The cancellation came the same day President Bush signed new legislation designed to revive the faltering \$5.6 billion program. Because of concerns about the vaccine's stability, the Food and Drug Administration refused to allow VaxGen to start a Phase 2 trial on December 18, as required by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), said Marc Wolfson, a spokesperson for the HHS Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/anthrax/news/dec_2006vaxgen.html

- 30. *December 20, Voice of America* — Fresh outbreak of bird flu alarms Nigerian officials.** Experts say a fresh outbreak of avian influenza in Nigeria is more widespread than thought. The Nigerian Veterinary Association says the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu remains a major problem in Nigeria and warns that the country risks triggering an even bigger round of infection. Veterinary Association spokesperson Bala Mohammed says more states have

reported new cases of the disease, in the last few weeks. "What we considered a resurgence is becoming alarming. From an initial three, then 10 states, almost all the states have been having a recurrence," he said. Nigeria and two other countries are considered the weakest link in the worldwide campaign to stem the disease.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-12-20-voa25.cfm>

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Government Sector

31. *December 20, Federal Times* — IG outlines Department of Homeland Security management challenges. Disaster response, acquisition management and financial management remain major challenges for the Department of Homeland Security, according to the department's independent watchdog. In a report released December 20, Inspector General (IG) Richard Skinner writes that almost four years after the government's largest reorganization in a half-century, the department "still has much to do to establish a cohesive, efficient and effective organization." The IG also is conducting reviews of Federal Emergency Management Agency's intake process for evacuees, its management of the national flood insurance program, and its acquisition management structure, the report says..

Report: http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmttrpts/OIG_07-12_Dec06.pdf

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2436458>

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *December 20, IDG News Service* — FCC proposes public-safety wireless band. The U.S. Federal Communications Commission wants to set aside radio frequencies for a nationwide public safety network to be built in partnership with a private company. On Wednesday, December 20, the commission proposed a national radio system for various public safety agencies that would be based on advanced IP (Internet Protocol) broadband technologies. Its idea is to use spectrum already set aside for public safety and set up a public-private partnership to implement the network. Communication problems following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita focused attention on the patchwork of radio systems used by different public-safety agencies in the U.S. Not being able to communicate can hamper critical coordination among federal and local emergency responders.

FCC Website: <http://www.fcc.gov/>

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/20/HNpublicsafetywirelessband_1.html

33. *December 19, Los Angeles Times* — Crime data will be shared. A database that allows the Los Angeles police and sheriff's departments to share crime information useful for analyzing terrorism threats would be expanded to include 45 other law enforcement agencies in the county under a \$7-million contract endorsed Monday, December 18, by elected officials. Despite concern about sensitive information being shared so widely, the Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee recommended that the contracts be approved for a system to be run out of the Joint Regional Intelligence Center in Norwalk. That center is operated by the

Los Angeles Police Department, the FBI, and the Sheriff's Department and already has begun developing a system to share crime data useful in analyzing terrorist leads between those agencies, such as the names of persons arrested, cited or interviewed by officers, or thought to be involved in crimes. Large cities joining the group include Long Beach, Pasadena, Burbank, Beverly Hills, Inglewood and Whittier. The center has received 483 tips and leads on potential terrorism since it opened in July, Leap said. Eventually the Los Angeles County system, called COPLINK, will be connected to similar systems in Orange and San Diego counties.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-terror19dec19.1.2895101.story?coll=la-headlines-california&ctrack=1&cset=true>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *December 21, IDG News Service* — Seagate buys backup services company. Hard drive maker Seagate Technology LLC will buy EVault Inc. for \$185 million in an acquisition designed to bolster Seagate's managed services business, the company said on Thursday, December 21. EVault, based in Emeryville, CA, provides online network backup, recovery and data protection products for small-to-medium size businesses.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/21/Hnseagatebuysevault_1.html

35. *December 21, VNUNet* — Apple fixes QuickTime spyware flaw. The latest security patch for Mac OS X fixes a QuickTime vulnerability that could let attackers capture images from a user's screen and upload them to a remote site. Apple said that the vulnerability does not affect Windows users or versions of Mac OS prior to 10.4. The vulnerability is not related to the QuickTime flaw that spread through social networking site MySpace last week. The new flaw involves QuickTime for Java, a component that lets Java applets display QuickTime movies, and Quartz Composer, a software tool used to render images in Mac OS. According to Apple, an attacker could place JavaScript code on a Website that would use the QuickTime for Java component to obtain screen images and send them to a remote location, possibly allowing the attacker to obtain sensitive information displayed on the screen.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2171378/mac-users-delivered-quicktime>

36. *December 20, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06-354A: Mozilla addresses multiple vulnerabilities. Mozilla has released new versions of Firefox, Thunderbird, and SeaMonkey to address several vulnerabilities. While the impacts of the individual vulnerabilities vary, the most severe could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code on a vulnerable system. An attacker may also be able to cause a denial-of-service. Systems affected: Mozilla Firefox; Mozilla Thunderbird; Mozilla SeaMonkey; Netscape Browser. Other products based on Mozilla components may also be affected.

Solution: These vulnerabilities are addressed in Mozilla Firefox 1.5.0.9, Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.1, Mozilla Thunderbird 1.5.0.9, and SeaMonkey 1.0.7. Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird, and SeaMonkey automatically check for updates by default. Support for Firefox 1.5 is scheduled to end in April 2007. All users are strongly encouraged to upgrade to Firefox 2.

Firefox 1.5.0.9: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/releases/1.5.0.9.html>

Firefox 2.0.0.1: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

Thunderbird 1.5.0.9: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/thunderbird/releases/1.5.0.9.html>

SeaMonkey 1.0.7: <http://www.mozilla.org/projects/seamonkey/>

Disable JavaScript and Java: These vulnerabilities can be mitigated by disabling JavaScript and Java. For more information about configuring Firefox, please see the "Securing Your Web Browser" document: http://www.us-cert.gov/reading_room/securing_browser/#Mozilla_Firefox

Netscape users should see the "Site Controls" document for details:

<http://browser.netscape.com/ns8/help/options-site.jsp>

Thunderbird disables JavaScript and Java by default.

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06-354A.html>

- 37. December 20, Reuters** — **FCC eases way for telephone companies to offer TV.** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a plan on Wednesday, December 20, to shorten the time it takes for companies like AT&T and Verizon Communications to get into the subscription television business. The FCC approved by a 3-2 vote a plan limiting local authorities to 90 days to act on applications by new television providers which already have access to city land to run connections, and 180 days for new entrants to cities and towns. AT&T and Verizon have complained that the process to get licenses from local authorities is too cumbersome and time-consuming. They tried to get similar relief from Congress but lawmakers failed to pass legislation this year. The telephone carriers see offering television as a necessary component to their bundle of communications services to better compete against cable operators, which now offer their own telephone and high-speed Internet services.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2075131,00.asp>

- 38. December 20, eWeek** — **Websense moves into leakage prevention with PortAuthority buy.** Security software maker Websense announced Wednesday, December 20, that it has signed an agreement to acquire data leakage prevention specialist PortAuthority Technologies for approximately \$90 million in cash. Through the deal, Websense is attempting to expand its footprint beyond the malicious content identification sector and offer security tools that provide enterprises with both external protection for IT networks and internal controls to help prevent the loss of sensitive information.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2075123,00.asp>

- 39. December 20, IDG News Service** — **HP will acquire Bitfone to boost iPAQ line.** Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP) moved to strengthen its line of iPAQ handhelds on Wednesday, December 20, by announcing a plan to acquire Bitfone Corp., a developer of software applications that allow cell-phone manufacturers to manage wireless mobile devices. HP will use Bitfone to offer its business customers a better way to manage the cost and security of their mobile IT deployments. This is the third acquisition by HP in recent months.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/20/HNhpbitfone_1.html

- 40. December 20, Information Week** — **DNS provider ZoneEdit downed by denial-of-service attack.** Domain name service (DNS) provider ZoneEdit has suffered a massive denial-of-service attack that has left thousands of customers with intermittent service over at least two days. The attack, which started early Tuesday morning Eastern time and continued Wednesday, December 20, affected four of ZoneEdit's 25 domain name servers, said George DeCarlo, senior VP of marketing for Vancouver, WA-based Dotster, which owns ZoneEdit.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/management/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=196701245>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 15901 (----), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 1027 (icq), 4672 (eMule), 1028 (----), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 37384 (----), 139 (netbios-ssn)
Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center	
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

41. *December 21, Associated Press* — **Blizzard dumps two feet of snow on Colorado.**

Government offices and schools were closed and mail delivery suspended for a second day Thursday, December 21, after a powerful blizzard dumped more than two feet of snow along Colorado's most populous region. Denver, Colorado Springs, and other cities along the Rocky Mountain Front Range were virtually ghost towns, with cars and SUVs slipping, sliding and crawling through thick snow toward the suburbs Wednesday. Some 4,700 people hunkered down overnight at Denver International Airport, where flights in and out were canceled, spokesperson Steve Snyder said. Governor Bill Owens declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard, which assisted dozens of motorists on the highways around Denver and delivered diapers, formula and bottled water to the airport. Long stretches of Interstates 70 and 25, the main east-west and north-south routes through the Mountain West, were closed. Interstate 76 was closed from Denver to Nebraska. Shelters also were open in Fort Collins and Colorado Springs, and the Red Cross provided 140 cots for nearly 350 people stranded at a Greyhound bus station in downtown Denver, Robert Thompson, spokesperson for the Mile High Red Cross chapter said. Weather Service program manager Byron Louis said it was the most powerful storm to hit Colorado since March 2003.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WEATHER/12/21/snowstorm.ap/index.htm>

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