



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 02 April 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- USA Today reports EBay said on Monday that federal prosecutors are claiming the company's PayPal operation violated a part of the USA Patriot Act that deals with transmission of funds connected to criminal activity, and thus might have to forfeit the amounts it received in connection with online gambling activities, as well as be subject to criminal liability. (See item [6](#))
- The Associated Press reports union officials have said about 2,500 American Airlines pilots will lose their jobs over the next year as part of the union's \$660 million in annual concessions to save the airline from bankruptcy. (See item [7](#))
- The Atlanta Journal–Constitution reports hackers invaded a computer at Georgia Tech and copied names, addresses and — in some cases — credit card information for 57,000 patrons of the Ferst Center for the Arts in Atlanta. (See item [27](#))
- The Associated Press reports the Salt Lake City–based Internet service provider Network Connections became the unwitting tool of hackers attacking Arab television network al–Jazeera, and then was itself struck by a retaliatory attack, possibly from anti–war hackers. (See item [28](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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

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

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

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector



Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: HIGH, Cyber: HIGH**

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

1. *March 31, Reuters* — **PPL seeks to deactivate units at Connecticut power plant. PPL Corp. said on Monday it plans to temporarily deactivate four of the five units at the 225 megawatt (MW) Wallingford power plant in Connecticut for two to four years.** "Current prices in the region do not justify continued operation of these Wallingford units and our internal projections show that the right economic decision is to deactivate them for at least two years, and perhaps as long as four," Paul Champagne, president of PPL EnergyPlus, PPL's electricity marketing company, said in a statement. "PPL cannot continue to run these units when the prices we expect to receive for the electricity will not even cover our costs of keeping the facility in operation," Champagne added. **The plant, which can produce enough power for about 225,000 homes, is not profitable in part because of the high price of natural gas, which is burned at the plant to generate electricity.** "Deactivation is not our first choice," said Champagne. "We remain hopeful that FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) will approve cost-based rates for these units, which would likely avoid the need to deactivate them." "We understand that electricity is needed in this region of Connecticut and we stand ready to help provide supply as long as we can do so in a way that doesn't have a negative impact on the shareholders of PPL," said Champagne. **The southwest Connecticut suburbs of New York City, where Wallingford is located, are in critical need of additional power supplies due to the region's rapid growth, while power plant and transmission line construction lagged.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3743574

2. *March 31, St.Petersburg Times* — **Florida county close to making energy of landfill fumes.** Buried somewhere in the 42-acre Taylor Road Landfill are enough chicken bones and cantaloupe rinds to light up a small town. **Now, county and utility officials hope a new generating device that can turn waste gas from garbage into energy -- the environmental equivalent of turning lead into gold -- is the first step in harnessing that power in the next 10 years.** The \$120,000 microturbine generator, managed by Tampa Electric Co. (TECO) can convert potentially hazardous methane gas into clean electricity. It already pumps out enough juice to power 13 homes per month, but there's enough methane in the old landfill for up to 1,000. It's the first application of this kind of technology in Florida. Researchers at the University of South Florida will study the refrigerator-size microturbine during the next year to determine whether it's effective in renewing energy. **If so, TECO and the county may install more microturbines in order to harness all of the methane leaking from the landfill. Currently, about 750 cubic feet of methane escape from the landfill each minute -- nearly 38 times what one microturbine can handle.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3743688

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *April 01, New York Times* — **Pentagon plans to extend its use of commercial planes for troops.** As it prepares to send 100,000 additional troops to the Persian Gulf, the Pentagon plans to extend the mobilization of a fleet of commercial aircraft that has been used to transport military personnel and equipment, airline industry officials said on Monday. **The Pentagon expects to use the commercial planes, called the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, for an additional 60 days, according to a memorandum the Air Force sent Friday to airlines and charter carriers that are taking part in the program.** For now, the military does not plan to widen its use of aircraft beyond the Stage 1 mobilization, which was carried out in February, according to the memorandum from Maj. Gen. Roger A. Brady of the Air Force, the coordinator of the program at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. **Under that call-up, charter and commercial airlines, including American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United and US Airways, provided 47 planes to the Pentagon.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/01/international/worldspecial/01FLEE.html>

4. *April 01, National Defense* — **War buildup stresses transportation system.** A report completed more than two years ago—called Mobility Requirements Study 2005—concluded that the United States needs to be able to move the equivalent of 54.5 million ton-miles per day to meet the Bush administration's national security strategy, outlined in the 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review. **The war on terrorism that started in September 2001 made the results of the MRS 2005 obsolete. That is why the Defense Department should set a more realistic requirement, likely to be much higher than 54.5 million ton-miles per day, said Handy. The MRS 2005 study essentially was overtaken by events, TRANSCOM Commander General Handy told National Defense. It predates the September 11 attacks, the creation of the Northern Command, and a "good number of decisions the nation has made since 9/11."** Million ton-miles a day is a standard metric used to gauge the capability to push cargo. The 54.5 figure, Handy said, "is exactly the wrong number. We don't know yet what the right number is. It is going to be larger." Meanwhile, said Handy, "We have asked for a new study and are waiting for the endorsement of the Defense Department." Handy said that TRANSCOM never has been able to meet the 54.5 million ton miles a day, so mobility shortfalls will deepen after the requirement is revised upwards. **The requirement set in the MRS 2005 study could be met if TRANSCOM had a fleet of 222 C-17 Globemaster and 52 refurbished C-5 Galaxy heavy-lift airplanes, said Handy. The current fleet has 89 C-17s, 118 outdated C-5s and 69 cold-war era C-141s, which eventually will be replaced by C-17s.**

Source: <http://nationaldefense.ndia.org/article.cfm?Id=1067>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *April 01, New York Times* — **First Data is said to be near deal to buy A.T.M. operator.** The First Data Corporation, a leading processor of credit card transactions and the owner of Western Union, is nearing a deal to acquire Concord EFS Inc., which operates a large network of automated teller machines, for slightly more than \$7 billion, executives close to the negotiations said yesterday. **The deal would consolidate much of the nation's financial activity in First**

Data, which suffered a blow recently when Bank One said it would take its card processing business elsewhere. Executives close to the transaction said that the combination would create "hundreds of millions of dollars in annual savings" as behind-the-scenes costs are eliminated and processing charges fall. Competition for card transactions has been fierce as Concord, First Data and Visa U.S.A., which operates a network for debit cards called Interlink, have all lowered the fees they charge to banks and stores to process customer purchases in an effort to gain market share.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/01/business/01DEAL.html>

6. *April 01, USA Today* — **EBay says PayPal didn't violate law, acted in good faith.** EBay said Monday that federal prosecutors are claiming the company's PayPal operation violated a part of the USA Patriot Act that deals with transmission of funds connected to criminal activity, according to its annual report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, PayPal might have to forfeit the amounts it received in connection with online gambling activities, and it also might be subject to criminal liability, the filing said. **EBay said Monday the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Missouri offered a complete settlement of all possible claims and charges covering a purported amount of earnings plus interest that PayPal derived from online gambling merchants from October 26, 2001, to July 31, 2002. The filing didn't provide information on the amount of earnings claimed in the letter.** EBay, which is based in San Jose, CA, said PayPal acted in good faith and believes that it didn't violate the USA Patriot Act. The company said PayPal calculated that the amount of its earnings from online gaming activities was less than what was asserted in the U.S. attorney's letter.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2003-03-31-ebay-paypal_x.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

7. *April 01, Associated Press* — **2,500 American Airlines pilots to lose jobs.** About 2,500 American Airlines pilots will lose their jobs over the next year, some through retirement, as part of their union's \$660 million (all figures U.S.) in annual concessions to save the company from bankruptcy, union officials said today. **As part of an agreement reached with the airline Monday, pilots' salaries will be slashed 23 per cent in the first year, beginning May 1, and 17 per cent in each subsequent year of the six-year pact, said John Darrah, president of the Allied Pilots Association.** American has 12,000 pilots on its payroll. They have 14 days to ratify the contract. "I don't think anybody's thrilled with the significant pay cuts and furloughs . . . but the alternative clearly would be even worse," said union spokesman Gregg Overman. In return for the pay cuts, the agreement gives pilots profit-sharing of up to 15 per cent and stock options. They will retain medical disability insurance but will see some changes in health-care coverage. **The Association of Professional Flight Attendants tentatively agreed to \$350 million in concessions and the Transport Workers Union accepted \$620 million in givebacks.** The tentative accords still must be voted on by union members, a process expected to take two weeks.

Source: http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type135780232679geid=968332188492

8. *April 01, Reuters* — **House panel clears airline aid plan. A key House of Representatives committee approved \$3.2 billion in aid for the struggling airline industry on Tuesday, soon after a Senate panel cleared a \$3.5 billion package.** Both airline measures were approved by appropriations committees in each chamber and attached to separate versions of legislation to pay for Iraq war–related costs. **The airline initiative working its way through the House would authorize the government to reimburse carriers for certain security related expenses, while the Senate version would also cover some of those costs.** The Senate bill would also help the airlines pay for high–end liability insurance and provide new benefits for unemployed airline workers. Unless changes are made before final votes on the war–spending bills by the full House and Senate, negotiators from both chambers will iron out any differences on airline aid and other issues during conference committee negotiations.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/030401/airlines_aid_5.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

9. *April 01, Financial Times* — **Premiums on shipping soar.** The war in Iraq, higher oil prices, and China's rapidly growing economy have all helped push shipping rates to their highest level in years, a cost that is expected to be passed ultimately to customers, including aid agencies sending supplies to Iraq. **The war has pushed insurance costs for some large vessels docking in the Gulf from the thousands into the millions of dollars, as underwriters raise premiums on routes near the war–zone.** The 40 per cent rise in the price of crude oil over the past 12 months has brought a similar rise in the price of bunker fuel. China, and to a lesser extent Japan and other east Asian countries, have increased booking for much of the world's available cargo vessels because of strong demand for raw materials such as iron ore, coal, copper, and nickel. **The key index for dry cargo, the term used for bulk commodities such as grains, coal, and steel, is up more than 11 per cent so far this year. A sharp increase in tanker rates has seen the cost of transporting crude oil from the Gulf to the U.S. more than double to about \$3.50 a barrel, according to brokers.** Mike McClure, vice–president at U.S. shipping group Navios, said although the war had increased rates for ships visiting the Gulf, shipping rates for dry cargoes in the rest of the world were affected by extra demand from China.
Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory48313348582>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

10. *April 01, Washington Post* — **A heaping helping of food security.** The food industry's plate will be full when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) completes four new security measures that will, for the first time, allow the federal government to keep tabs on virtually all food that is produced or imported in U.S. **The two rules proposed so far require registering almost all articles of food made domestically or imported, and giving FDA prior notice of imports. Two yet to come will deal with detention procedures for suspect shipments and recordkeeping requirements for companies. The prospect of complying has the food industry worried that the demands and complexity of the rules will overwhelm the industry and the FDA.** "We strongly support a rigorous food security system to protect the nation's food supply, and we supported the Bioterrorism Act passed last year. Our desire is to enhance our nation's food security without unnecessarily burdening either the food industry or FDA. We don't think that FDA is there yet," said Richard N. Jarman, vice president of regulatory affairs for the National Food Processors Association.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63480-2003Mar 31.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

11. *April 01, Associated Press* — **Las Vegas cracking down on water use.** By next year, many Las Vegas, NV golf courses will have to take out some of their precious turf or let the grass turn brown in order to meet new watering restrictions. It's part of a new, tougher stance on conservation in one of the driest cities in the West. Homeowners also face new restrictions, and new homes soon may not be allowed to have grass in their front yards. But water managers are also going after golf courses, some of the most visible users of water even though their actual consumption is far below that of suburban lawns. Thus far, Las Vegas has shown little enthusiasm for restricting water use. **Officials are still assuring developers water shortages should have no effect on the booming growth of the metro area of 1.5 million people in the middle of a desert. But Lake Mead, fed by the Colorado River and the source of southern Nevada's drinking water, has dropped 60 feet in the last two years, to its lowest level since 1972. And last year, for the first time, Las Vegas exceeded its 300,000 acre-feet allotment from the Colorado.** The valley will probably have to tap into groundwater reserves before the end of the year.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/stories/484/3794890.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

12. *April 01, Associated Press* — **Smallpox vaccine bill fails in House vote.** The U.S. House of Representatives voted down a smallpox vaccination compensation bill Monday night. **The bill, HR1463, proposed a lifetime cap of \$262,100 for permanent or total disability, with a yearly cap of \$50,000, with payments subject to the availability of funds.** The legislation, a revision of a proposal presented by the Bush administration earlier this month, failed 206-184. The Department of Health and Human Services set a goal in January to vaccinate 500,000 health-care workers and first responders by March 1 in preparation for potential bioterrorist

attacks. Only 5 percent of the goal has been reached. **Health worker advocates say the vaccinations are unpopular because they carry a degree of risk. For every 1 million people who get the vaccination, one or two people might die and 14 to 52 will experience a severe reaction, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Source: http://www.insidevc.com/vcs/national/article/0,1375,VCS_123_1855645,00.html

13. *April 01, Chicago Sun–Times* — **West Nile was worse than thought. The mosquito–borne West Nile virus hit harder than previously believed, with more than half of hospitalized patients suffering serious nerve damage. Fifty–four percent of patients admitted to three Chicago, IL hospitals last year suffered from symptoms including vision loss, paralysis of more than half the body, muscle weakness, abnormally slow movement, numbness, and an unstable walk, the study released Monday found.** These symptoms are similar to those of Parkinson's disease, stroke, polio, and other diseases that damage nerves. "It was worse than what I was expecting to find," said Dr. Nidhi Watson of Rush–Presbyterian–St. Luke's Medical Center, who presented findings of the study. **With rehabilitation, West Nile patients generally improve, the study confirmed. "You may not get completely back to normal, but you do get better," Watson said.** West Nile, which first appeared in the eastern United States in 1999, is expected to return this summer.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst–nws–nile01.html>

14. *April 01, Associated Press* — **Doctors blamed in drugs' overuse.** Doctors are being more careful about prescribing antibiotics for common ailments, but when they do, they are turning too often to powerful superdrugs, a new study says. **The overuse of broad–spectrum antibiotics for minor infections poses a serious health threat, because it could speed bacterial resistance to valuable and potentially lifesaving drugs, according to the study.** The study reviewed the prescribing behavior of physicians from 1991 to 1999. "The good news is antibiotics are being used less often in situations where they are not needed, such as to treat the common cold and mild bronchitis," said Dr. Michael Steinman of the University of California at San Francisco, lead author of the study. "The troubling news is that when doctors do turn to an antibiotic they are increasingly turning to broad–spectrum agents." **Researchers looked at data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from outpatient clinics and found that the number of antibiotic prescriptions doctors wrote decreased roughly 17 percent from 1991 to 1999. But prescriptions of broad–spectrum antibiotics roughly doubled, from 24 percent to 48 percent for adults and from 24 percent to 40 percent for children.**

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/091/nation/Doctors_blated_in_drugs_overuse+.shtml

15. *April 01, ST. Catherine* — **SARS closes hospitals to visitors. Province–wide restrictions to curb the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS will severely limit visiting at hospitals in Niagara and across Ontario, Canada. Only critically ill patients and young children will be permitted to receive visitors under strict new measures imposed late Monday by Ontario's chief medical officer of health.** And those visitors who are allowed inside hospitals will have to undergo screening to ensure they haven't been in contact with anyone who may be infected with SARS. As the number of probable and suspected cases of the disease climbed in Ontario, the province moved to contain the outbreak by extending hospital restrictions already in place in Toronto and Simcoe County to all hospitals. **In addition to**

restrictions on visitors, the government directed hospitals to limit all elective medical procedures where possible, including surgery and laboratory services.

Source: <http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/webapp/sitepages/content.asp?contentid=27612ws>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

16. *April 01, Washington Post* — **Begging, borrowing for security.** Responding to the recently elevated national terror threat level, Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn deployed scores of police officers to secure Los Angeles International Airport, target of a foiled millennium terrorist bomb plot. **But with heightened citywide security costing \$1 million a week and a budget deficit expected to exceed \$200 million, Hahn couldn't do it alone. He asked the state to send in the National Guard.** The state, however, was staggering under a deficit topping \$30 billion. Already, Gov. Gray Davis was moving to raise taxes, lay off thousands of schoolteachers and cut half a million adults off Medicaid. Still, Davis sent 50 National Guardsmen to LAX. Chalk up \$100,000 a week more to cut elsewhere. "Things had to be done for safety," said Bill Fujioka, Los Angeles' chief administrative officer. "But we don't have many options left." **Governors and mayors said they are not skimping on public safety, but as a result, they are skimping on much else. "These responsibilities are unprecedented, and it's an extra cost burden when none of us can absorb it,"** said Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Asked about the burden on states and cities, Department of Homeland Security spokesman Gordon Johndroe said the Bush administration "believes this is a shared responsibility, and we're going to help do much of it." However, he acknowledged that the administration has not figured out what share of the responsibility the federal government is paying — or should pay.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62682-2003Mar 31.html>

17. *April 01, Federal Computer Week* — **Feds demand more vendor clearances.** Agencies are increasingly demanding that the contractors they work with furnish personnel with security clearances. The trend began before Sept. 11, 2001, but accelerated dramatically after the terrorist attacks. And now with war under way in Iraq, agencies are scrutinizing the backgrounds of the people who work on government sites and systems even more closely. **Company officials say that they are being asked to provide clearances for personnel in positions that never required such tight security before. And in many cases in which clearances have been required in the past, the agencies now want higher levels.** "There's an increase even in agencies that don't typically process an abundance of classified data," said Ira Kirsch, president of Unisys Corp.'s U.S. Federal Government Group. **The Office of Personnel Management handles about two million requests a year for some level of background investigation. Although intelligence agencies have almost always required security clearances for contract personnel, civilian agencies and even some defense contracts usually have been more open.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0331/mgt-clear-03-31-03.asp>

18. *April 01, Associated Press* — **Park Service may close Independence Hall.** The National Park Service said it will temporarily close Philadelphia's Independence Hall to tourists if the city goes ahead with plans to reopen the street in front of the landmark building to vehicle traffic

Tuesday. "We are in the middle of a war on terrorism. We need to make sure that people are safe," Park Service spokesman Phil Sheridan said. Despite a personal appeal from Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, Mayor John F. Street said Philadelphia will hold to its plan to reopen the street at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, about 18 months after the Sept. 11 attacks prompted its closure. **He said businesses have been hurt by the street closure and the creation of a large security perimeter around much of Independence Mall, which contains the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, the site where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were created.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63092-2003Mar31.html>

19. *April 01, Washington Technology* — Merging watch lists tops homeland IT agenda.

Consolidating the government's various watch lists of suspected terrorists is the Homeland Security Department's top IT goal, Tom Ridge said on Tuesday. **"We have several departments and units that developed their own watch lists," the Homeland Security secretary said. "Our first IT priority is to consolidate those watch lists so people at the borders and airports and respective agencies can access that broader list of names—the aggregate of these names."** The effort is well under way, Ridge said. "We are moving rapidly to a point where we can tell you it's done. We are not quite there yet, but we will be there shortly," he said. **Ridge spoke at a press briefing where he and British Home secretary David Blunkett unveiled efforts for the two organizations to coordinate counterterrorism programs. At the briefing, Blunkett and Ridge also described their antiterrorism partnership efforts, which will include joint training, R&D and cybersecurity programs.**

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/20397-1.html

20. *April 01, Reuters* — Democrats seek bigger U.S. homeland security budget. Congressional Democrats plan to propose on Tuesday more than doubling homeland security spending above President George W. Bush's emergency request of \$4 billion. **Senate Democrats are expected to seek up to \$10 billion for homeland security needs including aid to cash-strapped states and local governments, port security and protection of infrastructure such as roads and bridges, said a spokesman for Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota.** Democrats in the House of Representatives are also expected to propose homeland security spending increases, when committees in both houses of Congress begin writing the legislation on Tuesday.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N31339589.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

21. *April 01, Government Executive* — National Guard anti-terror teams unfunded in Bush budget. The absence of funding for a critical National Guard program in President Bush's fiscal 2004 budget will leave 19 states without full-time military teams to respond to chemical attacks or other war-related emergencies unless members of Congress carve money out of the president's supplemental request. Pentagon officials said they could not include money in the 2004 appropriations request because the act was not signed into law until last Dec. 2. **The defense authorization enacted last December called for the Pentagon to certify teams in the 19 states that do not have them, but it did not provide funding or set a**

deadline. In January, 16 senators from those states asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to include money for the teams in the 2004 budget. Undersecretary of Defense David Chu, in a Jan. 31 letter, said the defense authorization came too late. Further details of the Pentagon's plan are expected in a June 2 report to Congress. **The 19 states without certified teams have part-time units, but do not have the money for the equipment, full-time salaries and the 800–1,200 hours of training that the Pentagon pays for, according to the National Guard.**
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/040103cdam1.htm>

22. *March 31, Federal Computer Week* — **Task force to aid homeland planning.** The Council on Foreign Relations on March 27 announced a new task force to help first responders coordinate, plan and get resources for homeland security efforts. The ultimate purpose of the task force is to help federal and local government agencies coordinate homeland security planning and organization, but the group plans to address many specific steps to reach that goal. **The council named Richard Clarke, the former head of critical infrastructure protection for both the Clinton and Bush administrations, as the senior adviser to the task force. The chairman of the task force will be Warren Rudman, former senator from New Hampshire and co-chairman of the U.S. Commission on National Security/21st Century.**
Source: <http://www.few.com/few/articles/2003/0324/web-taskforce-03-28-03.asp>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. *April 01, Government Computer News* — **At DHS, the systems add up. The Department of Homeland Security so far has identified 2,500 mission-critical systems as part of an IT inventory it expects to complete by June,** CIO Steve Cooper said today. He spoke at the Secure E-Biz conference sponsored by the Interoperability Clearing House of Alexandria, Virginia. So far, the department's systems inventory is 40 percent complete, Cooper said. He added that his **staff has counted 50,000 items in its IT infrastructure**, which comprises the assets of 22 agencies. He said **the department's IT team is struggling with two parallel initiatives: bringing an operational capability up to speed and working on a long-range architecture.** "We accept that some [systems] will have to be re-architected or replaced" once the enterprise architecture is final, Cooper said.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21550-1.html

24. *March 31, Federal Computer Week* — **Cyberwarriors guard virtual front. As coalition forces continue to engage the enemy throughout Iraq, the number of battles being fought in cyberspace also has risen,** according to one Army information assurance officer. Col. Mark Spillers, information assurance program manager in the Coalition Forces Land Component Command communications office at Camp Doha, Kuwait, said **"if a device is thought to be compromised, it is immediately isolated, taken off the network and scanned for viruses."** Spillers said he could not go into any details about how the Army is protecting its systems or if any have been compromised. **On the physical battlefield, if troops are in danger of being defeated, procedures are in place to safeguard or even destroy endangered equipment and systems to keep sensitive data from falling into enemy hands.**
Source: http://www.few.com/few/articles/2003/middle_east/web-warrior_s-03-31-03.asp

25. *March 31, Washington Post* — **DHS: Chinese hack attacks likely. Chinese hacker groups are planning attacks on U.S.– and U.K.–based Web sites to protest the war in Iraq**, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) warned in an alert Monday. **The hackers are planning "distributed denial-of-service" attacks**, which render Web sites and networks unusable by flooding them with massive amounts of traffic. **They also are planning to deface selected Web sites**, according to the alert, though the government said it did not know when the attacks would occur. The DHS said it got the information by monitoring an online meeting that the hackers held last weekend to coordinate the attacks.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60363-2003Mar31.html>
26. *March 29, Washington Post* — **Computer support staff at home is crucial to war effort**. To a greater extent than any war before it, Operation Iraqi Freedom depends on an elite group of technicians, engineers and other specialists in the United States who are standing by 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist the troops. **Pentagon officials have called this conflict a "network centric" one, with computers and wireless technology linking intelligence from the 250,000 U.S. troops and the drones, tanks, planes and other vehicles** in a way that has compressed decision-making from what in the past might have been days into minutes. **A single mix-up, glitch or crash in the technology could cost lives**. So far, the technology has held up well, and there have been few major problems, according to about a dozen of the contractors who provide technical support services to the military. **Working in classified "safe rooms" or reachable via pagers and cell phones around the country, they have been working behind the scenes to make sure the multitude of software and hardware systems is working properly**.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A44712-2003Mar28.html?referrer=email>
27. *March 28, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* — **Hackers strike Georgia Tech computer, gain credit card data. Computer hackers invaded a computer at Georgia Tech and copied names, addresses and — in some cases — credit card information for 57,000 patrons of the Ferst Center for the Arts in Atlanta**. Tech said the database held credit card records for about two-thirds of the 57,000 people. **The hackers had access to the computer between February 4 and March 14, when the attack was discovered. There's no evidence any credit card numbers have been used by hackers**. Tech sent letters to patrons this week warning of "a potentially serious security breach." Tech's computer security experts discovered the attack through internal monitoring, said Bob Harty, a Tech spokesman.
Source: <http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/business/0303/28hacker.html>
28. *March 28, Associated Press* — **Utah ISP is victim of retaliation following hackers' attack on al-Jazeera. The Salt Lake City-based Internet service provider Network Connections became the unwitting tool of hackers attacking Arab television network al-Jazeera, and then was itself struck by a retaliatory attack, possibly from anti-war hackers**. The original hackers, impersonating an al-Jazeera employee, tricked the Web addressing company Network Solutions into making technical changes that effectively turned over temporary control of the network's Arabic and English Web sites. "We have no idea who the hacker is, but now there is a 'denial-of-service' attack going on against us because of what happened," Ken Bowman, Network's president and chief executive, said late Thursday. Bowman said **the attacks were from all over the world, but seemed concentrated most from nations such as Russia,**

China and France that have among the most vocal opponents of the U.S.–British coalition's attack.

Source: http://www.trib.com/AP/wire_detail.php?wire_num=37813

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_LOVGATE.F Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	80 (www), 137 (netbios–ns), 1434 (ms–sql–m), 25 (smtp), 113 (ident), 445 (microsoft–ds), 139 (netbios–ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 53 (domain), 0 (—) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

29. April 01, Associated Press — Call to jihad raises new terror concern. In the past few days, calls for jihad have been issued across the Middle East. In Egypt, president Hosni Mubarak warned on Monday that if the U.S.–led coalition's war against Iraq drags on, Islamic militancy will rise across the world. "If there is one bin Laden now, there will be 100 bin Ladens afterward," Mubarak said in a speech to army commanders. The calls for jihad – a religious duty for Muslims that includes fighting to defend Islam – do not surprise counterterrorism experts and scholars. **They worry that such calls could incite isolated terrorist attacks on America, but say it's no time to panic.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2003-03-31-call-to-jihad_x.htm

30. April 01, Associated Press — Four terror suspects arrested in Italy. Italian police have arrested an Egyptian, a Somali and two Iraqi Kurds on suspicion of having links with Islamic terrorist groups, anti–terrorism police said Tuesday. The arrests were ordered by Milan prosecutor Stefano Dambroso, who has been leading investigations into suspected Islamic cells in Italy. Bruno Megale of Milan's anti–terrorism police confirmed the arrests but refused to say where or when they were made, saying the investigation was in progress. **Italian dailies Corriere della Sera and La Repubblica said the arrests were apparently carried out Monday evening and the men were suspected of belonging to an extremist Islamic group based in northern Iraq called Ansar al–Islam.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A415-2003Apr1.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 202-324-1129

Distribution Information Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202-323-3204.

DHS/IAIP Disclaimer

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.