

**Department of Homeland Security
Information Analysis and Infrastructure
Protection
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 17 April 2003**

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Washington Post reports a sharp drop in crude oil prices in the past month is finally showing up at U.S. gasoline pumps, and the national average price of a gallon of regular gas has fallen from \$1.72 on March 14 to a \$1.60. (See item [1](#))
- CNNmoney reports American Airlines has won approval from its flight attendants for a concession labor pact Wednesday evening, allowing the world's largest airline to dodge a bankruptcy filing for the third time in less than a month. (See item [7](#))
- The New Scientist reports a cluster of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome patients in Hong Kong, with unusual symptoms, has prompted concern among doctors that the virus causing the disease is mutating and becoming more severe. (See item [13](#))
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, following a review of intelligence and an assessment of threats by the intelligence community, and in consultation with the Homeland Security Council, has made the decision to lower the threat advisory level to an elevated risk of terrorist attack, or "yellow level." (See item [15](#))
- Microsoft has released "Security Bulletin MS03-013: Buffer Overrun in Windows Kernel Message Handling (Important)," and a patch is available at the Microsoft website. (See item [19](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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

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Energy Sector



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

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

1. *April 16, Washington Post* — **Gas prices continue to fall.** A sharp drop in crude oil prices in the past month is finally showing up at U.S. gasoline pumps. **The national average price of a gallon of regular gas has fallen from \$1.72 on March 14 to a \$1.60, according to data compiled by AAA. In the Washington area, the average price has fallen from \$1.71 to \$1.65.** John C. Felmy, chief economist for the American Petroleum Institute, said prices may fall more because the full extent of the drop in oil prices has not yet been fully reflected at the pump. **Crude oil accounts for 40 to 50 percent of the price of a gallon of gasoline. When crude moves up or down by \$1 a barrel, the price at the pump typically changes by 2.4 cents a gallon.** Crude oil reached \$37.82 a barrel on March 12, a week before the war in Iraq began. It closed yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange at \$29.29, up 66 cents.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A33614-2003Apr 15.html>
2. *April 15, BBC* — **Half of fuel used at U.S. nuclear plants comes from Russia, official says . Half of nuclear fuel used in the United States' 108 commercial nuclear reactors is of Russian manufacture,** Russian Atomic Energy Ministry spokesman Nikolay Shingarev told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday [15 April]. **"The low-enriched uranium supplied to the United States earns the Russian treasury R15bn [481m dollars] a year.** Overall proceeds from the Atomic Energy Ministry's export activities average about 3bn dollars a year," Shingarev said. "The ministry uses its revenues to enhance the safety of Russian nuclear power plants, develop technologies and address ecological issues." **The agreement on using 500 tons of Russian low-enriched uranium was concluded in 1993 for a period of 20 years. The value of the contract is 12bn dollars.** "So far 175 tons of highly enriched uranium has been processed, which is equivalent to the elimination of 7,000 nuclear warheads," Shingarev said.
Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3772402
3. *April 14, Daily News Bulletin; Moscow* — **Kalinin nuclear power plant to full capacity operations in March 2004 . Russia's Kalinin Nuclear Power Plant, located in the Tver region, is expected to begin working in full capacity in March 2004,** Rosenergoatom Director Oleg Sarayev told reporters on Monday. "The safety of this plant fully meets all modern requirements. As far as its automatic safety system is concerned, this plant is the best in the world," Sarayev said. **Sarayev also said that Rosenergoatom will do everything it can to launch the fifth unit of the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant in the first half of 2005. The first unit of the plant is already operating at full capacity, Sarayev said.** "Right now it is profitable to invest in industry development," he said. He said that Rosenergoatom is going to buy a storage facility to store spent nuclear fuel in the Krasnoyarsk Chemical Plant.
Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3773701

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *April 16, U.S. Department of Defense* — **National Guard and Reserve mobilized as of April 16, 2003.** This week, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps each announce an increase of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. The net collective result is 2,017 more reservists than last week. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. **Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 148,701; Naval Reserve 11,748; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 37,356; Marine Corps Reserve, 20,986; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 4,412. This brings the total Reserve and National Guard on active duty to 223,203** including both units and individual augmentees.

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2003/b04162003_bt250-03.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *April 15, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury Department announces second set of regulations implementing the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.** These regulations address the disclosure requirements, the "make available" requirements, and the participation of state residual market insurance entities and state workers' compensation funds under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. Treasury has submitted these regulations for publication in the Federal Register. Insurers and other interested parties will have the opportunity to submit comments during the comment period, which will last for 30 days from the date of publication. **The interim final rule on the disclosure and "make available" requirements largely incorporates previously issued interim guidance that was designed to assist insurers in determining how they may comply with certain immediately applicable provisions of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act prior to the issuance of regulations by the Treasury. The interim final rule clarifies statutory conditions for federal payment that require insurers to make certain disclosures to policyholders within specified time periods. Treasury continues to stress that insurers should follow normal business practices in complying with the disclosure requirements contained in the interim final rule.** The interim final rule also incorporates and clarifies statutory requirements that insurers must "make available" coverage for insured losses resulting from an act of terrorism as defined by the Act. Consistent with previously issued interim guidance, Treasury has maintained a reliance on state laws as it relates to requirements for insurance coverage in this interim final rule.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js192.htm>

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Transportation Sector

6. *April 16, Department of Transportation Office of Public Affairs* — **Federal Transit Administration partners with the Transit Industry, the American Red Cross and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to launch emergency preparedness campaign.** Jennifer

L. Dorn, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the American Red Cross and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to launch a partnership designed to ensure that transit passengers are prepared for emergencies of all types. **"Security is a top priority of the Bush Administration and Secretary Mineta," said Administrator Dorn. "Our Nation's transit agencies are better prepared and more secure today than they have even been, and this partnership is an important next step in the industry's efforts to ensure that public transportation passengers are as prepared as they can be while riding the subways, buses and all other forms of transit."**

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fta0903.htm>

7. *April 16, CNNmoney* — **All three AMR unions agree to deal.** American Airlines won approval from its flight attendants for a concession labor pact Wednesday evening, allowing the world's largest airline to dodge a bankruptcy filing for the third time in less than a month. **The rank-and-file of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants voted in favor of the six-year labor pact designed to save the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline \$340 million a year in labor costs, the airline and union confirmed.** The first vote by the 26,000-member union Tuesday had resulted in a narrow 51 percent vote to reject the tentative labor pact. But the union leadership, which had recommended the agreement to members as a way of avoiding bankruptcy, convinced management to extend its original deadline to file for bankruptcy. **After the flight attendants' vote, the CEO of American Airlines parent AMR Corp called the concessions from the three unions "unprecedented in the history of the U.S. airline industry."**

Source: http://money.cnn.com/2003/04/16/news/companies/amr_passes/index.htm

8. *April 14, New York Times* — **Slump in plane travel grounds Wichita.** Families all over Wichita, KN share a similar plight: with its four commercial and general aviation plane makers, Boeing, Cessna, Raytheon and Bombardier Aerospace, the city calls itself the Air Capital of the World. One in four of its workers, about twice the national average, works in a factory, two-thirds making planes. The aircraft workers earn an average of \$55,642 a year. **But the plunge in air travel since Sept. 11, 2001, worsened in recent weeks by war, has struck Wichita especially hard, coming on top of the general economic downturn and the periodic slowdowns normally experienced by the aircraft industry.** Now the distress at the aircraft plants, which include Wichita's three biggest employers, is rippling through the city, affecting not just the laid-off workers but a multitude of companies that supply and service the industry. **In that sense, this city of 350,000, much of it still glowing from the growth and newfound wealth of the 1990's, represents the extreme of ailing local economies. Yet it provides a window into the kinds of disruptions and uncertainties afflicting many pockets of the country as the long-awaited economic recovery seems stalled and people look to President Bush for answers.** Here social services and charities are starved, some stores have closed, paychecks are gone and layoffs are spreading from one sector to the next.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/16/national/16ECON.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

9. *April 15, Congress Daily* — **Lawmakers fish for more port security funds.** There is little disagreement that more needs to be done about securing the nation's seaports against possible terrorist attacks, but the money to do it has been slow in reaching the harbor. **Under the Maritime Transportation Security Act, the federal government must conduct vulnerability assessments of every port and by July 2004 approve a security plan for each port, facility and vessel. But the fiscal 2004 budget request contains no money for the added duties because it was drawn up before the new law was passed.** The Coast Guard estimates it will cost some \$1.4 billion to comply with the law in the first year and \$6.5 billion over the next 10 years, according to Coast Guard spokeswoman Jolie Schifflet. Coast Guard Commandant Thomas Collins told a House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee earlier this month that his agency hopes to complete vulnerability assessments on the 55 largest ports by the end of 2004. This more optimistic outlook, last month the projected completion date was 2009, came as a result of coordinating Homeland Security Department and Coast Guard funds, Collins said. **So far, the Coast Guard has completed 13 of the assessments and expects to do another four this year, Collins said.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/041503nj1.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

10. *April 16, Expatica.com* — **Poultry flu spreads to Belgium. The Belgian Food Agency is expected to confirm that poultry flu has spread from the Netherlands to Belgium after hundreds of chickens died at a Limburg province farm this week.** In an effort to block the spread of the disease, the transport of eggs, chickens, chicken manure and other animals originating in farms where chickens are kept has been strictly forbidden across the country. Some 10,500 chickens have already been destroyed at the farm to prevent any further spread of the disease, which is also known as avian flu or poultry pest. A further 13 farms within a 3 kilometer radius have been ordered to cull their chicken stocks.

Source: <http://www.expatica.com/belgium.asp?pad=88.89.>>

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Food Sector

11. *April 14, FoodNavigator.com* — **New tools to toxic bacteria. New methods for the detection of enterotoxins (diarrheal toxins) from Bacillus cereus have been developed by European scientists. The discovery paves the way for the identification of genes responsible for the production of emetic toxins (vomiting toxins).** B. Cereus is a spore-forming food-borne pathogen which causes gastroenteritis, diarrheal syndrome, or emetic syndrome, via several enterotoxins and an emetic toxin. The virulence is highly dependent on the specific strains, and to-date no methods exist to differentiate between these. In the first six months of the study scientists developed new and highly sensitive immunological methods to detect the diarrhoeal toxins. They have also identified the genes responsible for the production of emetic toxins, allowing the development of a Polymerase Chain Reaction method.

Source: <http://www.foodnavigator.com/news/news.asp?id=7441>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

12. *April 16, Associated Press* — **Scientists confirm virus as cause of SARS.** Scientists have confirmed the identity of the virus that causes the disease known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday, marking an important step toward developing new drugs to combat the disease. **In experiments conducted at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands, scientists infected monkeys with the coronavirus suspected of causing of SARS and found that the animals developed the same symptoms of the disease that humans do.** The test was a crucial step in verifying the cause of the disease, which so far has killed 161 people worldwide, mostly in China and Hong Kong, and made 3,293 people ill in 22 countries. **Verifying the cause is important for creating a vaccine, should that be needed, and for refining diagnostic tests to help stop the disease's spread, said Dr. Klaus Stohr, a WHO virologist.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/international/AP-SARS-Virus-Cause.html>

13. *April 16, New Scientist* — **SARS virus is mutating, fear doctors. A cluster of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) patients in Hong Kong with unusual symptoms has prompted concern that the virus causing the disease is mutating.** Doctors fear the changes are making the disease more severe. Scientists in Hong Kong are now urgently sequencing key genes from recently isolated corona viruses to reveal any changes. **Microbiologist Yuen Kwok-yung, at the University of Hong Kong, said on Wednesday that the 300 patients from a SARS hot spot, the Amoy Gardens apartment complex, were more seriously ill than patients who acquired the infection elsewhere. The Amoy Gardens patients are three times as likely to suffer early diarrhea, twice as likely to need intensive care, and less likely to respond to a cocktail of anti-viral drugs and steroids.** Even medical staff who caught the infection from Amoy Gardens patients are more seriously ill, Yuen said. **The much higher rate of diarrhea in Amoy Garden cases supports the idea of an altered tissue preference, meaning a viral strain that can attack the gut as well as the lungs. This switch mirrors effects seen in several animal corona viruses.** A bovine gut corona virus, with some genetic sequences similar to the SARS virus, can also cause severe pneumonia in cattle. And in the 1980s, a pig gut corona virus suddenly mutated into a respiratory infection in pigs.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993637>

14. *April 16, Associated Press* — **Prisons becoming infected with drug-resistant bacteria. Drug-resistant bacteria that cause painful and potentially dangerous skin infections are gaining a foothold in the nation's prisons, health officials say.** Jails in Tennessee and at least five other states have reported outbreaks of drug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a strain of the common staph infection that can give its victims pimples, oozing boils, blood infections, or

pneumonia. Dr. Matthew Kuehnert, an epidemiologist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the disease could be in many more jails but it is uncertain how widespread infections have become. **Most prisons don't track illnesses well and many infections may be going unnoticed**, he said. Until recently, staph infections resistant to antibiotics have been seen almost exclusively in hospitals and nursing homes, where patients weakened by other illnesses are more susceptible. Doctors must use more powerful drugs and in some cases cut away tissue to treat the infections.

Source: http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0.1406.KNS_350_1891384.00.html

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Government Sector

15. *April 16, U.S. Department of Homeland Security* — **Statement by Secretary Tom Ridge on lowering the threat level on April 16th.** Following a review of intelligence and an assessment of threats by the intelligence community, **the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Homeland Security Council, has made the decision to lower the threat advisory level to an elevated risk of terrorist attack, or "yellow level."** While we continue to be at risk to the threat of terrorism at an elevated level, extensive protective measures remain in place throughout our nation. As Secretary Rumsfeld has noted, hostilities from Operation Iraqi Freedom still continue and there is, "a lot of work left to do." **We must be vigilant and alert to the possibility that al-Qaida and those sympathetic to their cause, as well as former Iraqi-regime state agents and affiliated organizations, may attempt to conduct attacks against the U. S. or our interests abroad.**

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re lease_0130.xml

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Emergency Services Sector

16. *April 15, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA releases \$8.6 million to help New York City.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) obligated an additional \$8.6 million to the state of New York on Tuesday to help New York City continue its long-term recovery from the World Trade Center attack. **The new grants totaling \$8,645,249 will reimburse the New York City Mayor's office for telecommunications and computer equipment and services, as well as other supplies and furnishings needed to re-establish the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Alternative Seat of Government in the aftermath of the disaster. Both facilities, which had been located in the WTC complex, were destroyed on Sept. 11. They are currently housed in a temporary location until a new facility is completed.** The latest round of Public Assistance funding will also cover the cost of telecommunications equipment used at the city-managed Family Assistance Center and the EOC/Mayor's Command Center, which were temporarily located at Piers 94 and 92, respectively, in the early months following the disaster.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/diz01/d1391n204.shtm>

17.

April 14, stateline.org — **Budget cuts, anti-terror duties strain policing.** State and local law enforcement agencies have been expected to do more to protect the nation's critical infrastructure and major landmarks from terrorist attacks since Sept. 11, 2001, but budget cuts and increased anti-terrorism responsibilities are straining a ten-year effort by law enforcement to reduce crime rates by putting more police officers on the streets. "[Police agencies] have to pull officers off the street to guard landmarks, bridges, water treatment plants, power plants, and the whole time officers are doing that they can't be on their regular patrols or beats," said Bill Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Officers (NAPO). In addition, cuts to federal funds for community policing programs have a particularly harsh impact on state and local law enforcement efforts. The Justice Department reported that funding for the Clinton-era COPS (Community Oriented Policing Service) program that helped police departments hire 117,000 new officers has been cut in half in the past four years, from \$1.1 billion in 1999 to \$584 million in 2003.

Source: <http://www.stateline.org/story.do?storyId=299455>

18. *April 11, Bureau of Justice Statistics* — 2003 Sample Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies.

The purpose of this notice is to announce a public solicitation to obtain a data collection agent for the 2003 Sample Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies. The purpose of this award is to provide funding to administer the 2003 Sample Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies (SSLEA). **This data collection is part of the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program, a recurring survey series that collects information from a nationally representative sample of law enforcement agencies. The survey will obtain information about law enforcement personnel, equipment, policies and programs, operations, terrorism/mass disaster response, computers and information systems, and other topics.** The initial survey instrument and respondent list will be provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). It is anticipated that approximately 2,000 respondents will answer a 4-page questionnaire, and an additional 1,000 respondents will answer an 8-page questionnaire. BJS anticipates making one award for a 12-month period under this solicitation.

Source: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocke.t.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-8900.htm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

19. *April 16, Microsoft* — Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03-013: Buffer Overrun in Windows Kernel Message Handling could Lead to Elevated Privileges. The Windows kernel is the core of the operating system. It provides system level services such as device and memory management, allocates processor time to processes and manages error handling. There is a flaw in the way the kernel passes error messages to a debugger. **A vulnerability results because an attacker could write a program to exploit this flaw and run code of their choice. An attacker could exploit this vulnerability to take any action on the system including deleting data, adding accounts with administrative access, or reconfiguring the system.** For an attack to be successful, an attacker would need to be able to logon interactively to the system, either at the console or through a terminal session. Also, a successful attack would require the introduction of code in order to exploit this vulnerability. Because best practices recommends restricting the ability to logon interactively on servers, **this issue most directly**

affects client systems and terminal servers. Microsoft has assigned a risk rating of "Important" to this vulnerability. A patch is available at the Microsoft website.

Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-013.asp>

20. *April 15, CNET News.com* — **Alliance takes security call to boardroom.** TechNet, a lobbying group of more than 150 information technology companies, said Tuesday that it would work with the Internet Security Alliance and the four large accounting firms to create guidelines and best practices that they say executives need in order to secure their companies. The accounting firms are KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte & Touche and Earnst & Young. The starting point will be a top-10 list of security steps for executives that the Internet Security Alliance has already created. "We wanted to aim at the top because we believe that at the top, with boardroom involvement and (policy) trickling down, we can get the best results," said John Shaughnessy of the Internet Security Alliance. **President George W. Bush in February 2003 said the United States government would not regulate technology companies, but rather would promote cooperation between the industry and the government to secure infrastructure. The groups plan to release the guidelines and then to set a date by which its membership should comply with the security steps.**

Source: <http://news.com.com/2100-1009-996997.html>

21. *April 15, AtNewYork.com* — **"Internet Insecurity Index" unveiled at conference.** Online encryption firm RSA Monday launched its "Internet Insecurity Index" — a simple one-to-ten scale that measures how secure electronic data is each year. Given the amount of attacks, Jim Bidzos of RSA currently ranks 2003 at about a 6 and a half. **Bidzos pointed to more than 62,000 hacking incidents last year as a rally cry for better safeguards.** In addition to commonplace server strikes, Bidzos said ATM and wireless networks are the new target of hackers. "Part of the price is not having security designed in the first place," Bidzos said. "We found **30 percent of ISPs have no info security plans in place with 33 percent deciding that online security is not a priority.**" The threat index also identifies last year's \$59 billion in data theft as a major impact on how safe the Internet is. The one bright area, according to RSA's index report was the U.S. government. Bidzos said **the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and a national strategy to secure cyberspace marked a turning point in how the government is dealing with online threats. California's move to require companies to publicly disclose security breaches may also have a major impact on how well companies secure their networks and data.**

Source: <http://www.atnewyork.com/news/article.php/2191131>

22. *April 15, Reuters* — **More talk, little action in war on cyber terrorism.** At a time when war in Iraq has heightened fears of terrorism, the technology industry is not moving quickly enough to guard against intrusions from hackers, identity thieves and more concerted attacks by rogue governments, computer experts said Tuesday at the RSA conference in San Francisco. Howard Schmidt, the White House cyber security adviser who is working with the technology industry to improve security, said that work to date had been strong on new ideas to improve security, but slow to execute. **Despite repeated warnings of rogue nations preparing for cyber-attacks that could cripple vital computer-run U.S. infrastructure, no such attacks are known to have occurred to date.** If computer systems have so far been spared a massive terrorist attack, smaller security breaches from hackers and pranksters with no

political agenda occur on a daily basis. The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) tracked some 52,658 online security "incidents" in 2001, more than double the 21,756 reported in 2000, and way up from 9,859 in 1999. Members of the high-tech advocacy group TechNet said that **while the threat of a political-based cyber terrorist attack may have been overstated, random pranksters had the ability to do much damage.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=technologyNews/a>

23. *April 14, eWEEK* — **Feds mull IT disclosure. Momentum is building in Washington to require all public companies to annually report the performance of their IT security initiatives, not just the financial services and health care industries that face scrutiny now.** The Bush administration considered requiring companies to report on network security during the crafting of the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace. But the idea was unpopular in many enterprises and did not make the final plan, released in February. Last week, former presidential adviser for cyberspace Richard Clarke, who spearheaded the strategy, urged Congress to act quickly to legislate such obligations. **Enterprises object to the suggestion of broad reporting requirements, but some see a certified audit process reflected in annual Securities and Exchange Commission filings as beneficial. Possible requirements include disclosing measures taken to secure systems, identifying IT security auditors and detailing breaches.**

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,3959,1022906,00.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 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	137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 113 (ident), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 3136 (----), 7088 (----), 4662 (eDonkey2000) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

24. *April 16, New York Times* — **'85 hijacker is captured in Baghdad.** American forces in Baghdad on Tuesday captured the leader of a Palestinian terrorist group responsible for the attack in 1985 on an Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro, in which an American was killed.

The terrorist leader, Abu Abbas, led a faction of the Palestine Liberation Front in the 1980's and 1990's and has been living in Baghdad since 2000. He was captured in a raid by Special Forces and is now in American military custody, officials said. Abbas, 54, is the first major terrorist figure found in Iraq by American forces since Hussein's government fell. But American intelligence and law enforcement officials have not made a connection between his Palestinian group and al Qaeda, and said they had no evidence to tie him to terrorist acts in recent years.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/16/international/worldspecial/16CAPT.html>

25. *April 16, The Christian Science Monitor* — **Terrorism kept at bay -- for now.** Most important in preventing attacks, many say, is the U.S. strategy of aggressively pursuing al Qaeda members -- including new cooperation with foreign intelligence agencies. It appears to be bearing big fruit, including the recent capture of top al Qaeda leader Khalid Sheik Mohammed. Almost as important is public vigilance in the U.S., Europe, and elsewhere, which may make it tougher for terrorists to quietly carry out complicated planning for large-scale attacks. Also, certain aspects of the war itself -- including the fact that it was relatively brief -- may be preventing Arab anger from exploding into outright attacks, at least for now. To be sure, the elements that gave rise to recent terrorism -- radical Islam, Arab poverty, global interconnectedness -- haven't changed. And an attack could come at any time. **Yet as the war winds down, America appears to have passed its toughest homeland-security test since September 11.**

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0416/p02s01-ussc.html>

26. *April 16, Los Angeles Times* — **Probe links Syria, terror network.** Syria has functioned as a hub for an al Qaeda network that moved Islamic extremists and funds from Italy to northeastern Iraq, where the recruits fought alongside the recently defeated Ansar al Islam terrorist group, according to an Italian investigation. The investigation, which began last year, could intensify the growing debate about Syria's alleged ties to terrorism. Two weeks ago, Italian police arrested seven alleged al Qaeda operatives. They were charged with sending about 40 extremists through Syria to terrorist bases operated jointly by al Qaeda and Ansar al Islam, whose stronghold in northeast Iraq was recently overrun by Kurdish and U.S. troops. **Transcripts of wiretapped conversations among the suspected operatives and others paint a detailed picture of overseers in Syria coordinating the movement of recruits and money between Europe and Iraq, according to court documents obtained by The Times.** An Italian judicial order dated March 31 said the conversations show that a Kurdish spiritual leader, identified as Mullah Fuad, was the respected "gatekeeper in Syria for volunteers intent on reaching Iraq."

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-war-syria16apr16012419.1.6044347.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dworld>

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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

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