

Department of Homeland Security
Information Analysis and Infrastructure
Protection
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 22 April 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The New York Times reports the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will meet on Thursday amid worries that if it does not scale back its extra production soon, oil prices will fall beneath the group's ideal price range. (See item [2](#))
- Bank Systems & Technology reports online merchants will soon be able to shift fraud liability to issuing banks by participating in new customer authentication programs from Visa and MasterCard. (See item [3](#))
- The Associated Press reports two men were arrested after police saw them videotaping the Ambassador Bridge, the busiest U.S.–Canada border crossing, and found dynamite, a collapsible baton and shotgun shells in their car. (See item [6](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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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 21, East Bay Business Times* — **Nigeria's woes loom over oil market.** While most of the world focuses on the Iraq war – and the destiny of the world's second–largest oil reserves – **the petroleum industry is keeping one eye on Nigeria, the world's eighth–largest exporter.** Nowhere are those eyes more watchful than in San Ramon, the corporate headquarters of ChevronTexaco Corp., which does business in Nigeria, 39 other African nations and 139 other countries around the world. **ChevronTexaco, which relies on Nigeria for 7 percent of its worldwide oil–equivalent production, already has been forced to curtail operations once this year because of violence associated with this month's federal and state elections in**

Africa's most populous nation. That shut-in reportedly cost ChevronTexaco, Nigeria's third-largest foreign equity producer behind Royal Dutch/Shell Group and ExxonMobil Corp., millions in lost production from its Niger Delta fields and shipping from its 340,000 barrel-per-day Escravos terminal. Production is returning to normal amid fears of new violence, and military intervention, triggered by election strife.

Source: <http://eastbay.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2003/04/21/story1.html>

2. *April 21, New York Times* — **With the war largely over, OPEC fears oil price drop.** When the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries met five weeks ago to set its spring export levels, it faced an uncertain world, one clouded by the prospect of a war in Iraq. When it meets again on Thursday, it will face more uncertainty now that the main fighting is over. **Before the war, most of OPEC's members pumped oil at maximum levels to make up for an expected curb in Iraqi exports — something that in fact occurred — and prices moved higher.** On Thursday, the last trading day before the Easter holidays, the price of crude oil rose \$1.37, or 4.7 percent, to \$30.55 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. **Still, OPEC worries that if it does not scale back its extra production soon, oil prices will fall below \$20 a barrel, beneath the group's ideal price range of \$22 to \$28. Despite the currently robust prices, OPEC is concerned in large part because of a belief among oil traders, shaped by optimistic forecasts by the United States government, that Iraqi exports could resume in weeks. Combined with the additional OPEC production, this reasoning goes, that could create a glut.** Yet most oil experts agree that it is too early to tell when Iraqi exports might return and at what quantities, given the tangle of technical, financial and diplomatic issues that must be sorted out by the American authorities now running Iraq. **It is not even clear who might represent Iraq, an OPEC member, at this week's meeting in Vienna or whether it will even remain in OPEC, a seemingly distant issue that already concerns other members.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/21/business/worldbusiness/21OIL.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. *April 16, Bank Systems & Technology* — **Card issuers face e-commerce liability shift.** Online merchants will soon be able to shift fraud liability to issuing banks by participating in new customer authentication programs from Visa and MasterCard. **Beginning April 1, online merchants will be able to shift liability automatically simply by attempting to use either of**

the two authentication schemes, Verified by Visa and—in selected regions outside the U.S.—SecureCode from MasterCard. "Even if the cardholder isn't enrolled, or even if the issuing bank is not enrolled in the program, the merchant will no longer bear the liability if it attempts to verify a transaction," said Katherine Hutchison, vice president of marketing for ClearCommerce, an Austin, Texas-based e-commerce software company. Merchants need only install a plug-in on their e-commerce servers in order to shift liability for chargebacks to the issuing banks. On the other side, issuing banks can deploy corresponding "access control servers" that respond to such merchant requests for authentication. Merchants never gain access to customers' PINs during the authentication process. Instead, they request the issuing bank to authenticate its own customer. Regardless of whether the issuing bank can do so, the bank will be responsible if and when a customer repudiates a transaction, even if neither bank nor customer were participants in the authentication program.

Source: <http://www.banktech.com/story/BNK20030416S0002>

4. *April 16, Bank Systems & Technology* — **Banks in quandry over anti-terror compliance.** Financial institutions are wrestling with the stringent identification and verification standards of the USA PATRIOT Act. The need to screen customers and transactions against growing lists of known or suspected terrorists is straining recordkeeping and IT resources. **Under the law, banks are required to accurately verify the identity of foreign nationals, who often carry either non-standardized, easily-forged identification documents from other countries, or U.S.-issued documents that fail to indicate country of origin. In an October report to Congress, the Treasury noted several challenges involved with customer identification programs at financial institutions.** Banks are also required to retain copies of the identification documents received during account opening. "Maintaining a copy of a driver's license doesn't sound too bad unless you have over 15 million customers," said Don Temple, industry expert at Mantas, based in Fairfax, VA, and a former special agent with the IRS. **At a minimum, U.S. citizens will be asked to provide name, address, taxpayer ID and date of birth. Foreign nationals can substitute a passport number, alien identification card or other government-issued document in lieu of a taxpayer ID.**

Source: <http://www.banktech.com/story/BNK20030416S0003>

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Transportation Sector

5. *April 21, Washington Post* — **Amtrak's Top Gunn has revived a railroad and won respect from politicians and employees.** As David L. Gunn approaches the end of his first full year as president and chief executive of Amtrak, his speed and decisiveness in **getting the ailing national passenger railroad back on track have at least slowed the Bush administration's determination to restructure it into far smaller form. He has won over some longtime Amtrak foes in Congress and especially among beaten-down Amtrak employees, some of whom have printed up "Proud to Be Working Under the Gunn" T-shirts.** Gunn's warning last summer that Amtrak would shut down, and take some commuter services with it, unless it got more money left hard feelings in the administration and some commuter agencies. But he has also given Amtrak's many critics what they wanted. The blunt talk, independence and quick action that got him pushed out of at least three other jobs earlier in his career may, at least so far, be the biggest things working for him at Amtrak.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A58517-2003Apr 19.html>

6. *April 21, Associated Press* — **Men with dynamite arrested near U.S.–Canada bridge. Two men were arrested after police saw them videotaping the Ambassador Bridge, the busiest U.S.–Canada border crossing, and found dynamite, a collapsible baton and shotgun shells in their car.** Officers saw the men during a routine patrol late Sunday, police spokeswoman Bernadette Najor said. The men, who were not identified, were being questioned by the FBI, she said. "Even though the homeland security level has been lowered, we're still patrolling our borders, and we're not taking any chances with our city," she said. **Police were holding the men, ages 26 and 30, on a felony charge of possessing a dangerous weapon because the officers found a collapsible baton – similar to one carried by police – in their car, Najor said.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-04-21-bridge-arrest_s_x.htm

7. *April 20, USA TODAY* — **Haulers blast federal Safe Explosives Act. U.S. railroads have stopped transporting commercial explosives because of confusion over whether a new federal law will require thousands more background checks for those who handle materials ranging** industry officials say. The Safe Explosives Act, which President Bush signed in November and takes full effect May 24, is among scores of new federal policies aimed at improving homeland defense. Under current regulations, those who work at explosives companies, distributors of explosives and buyers of large amounts of such material must undergo background checks by the U.S. government. Rich Moskowitz, assistant general counsel for the American Trucking Associations, says **member companies often have no way to determine whether their drivers could be among those prohibited from possessing explosives under the new law. The law expands the list of people who may not possess explosives — which had included felons, the mentally ill, drug addicts and others — to also include illegal immigrants, people dishonorably discharged from the military and those who have renounced their citizenship.** "Some (trucking companies) have just stopped (transporting explosives) because they feel it's not worth the risk," Moskowitz says.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-04-20-explosives-us_at_x.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

8. *April 21, Federal Register* — **Coast Guard establishes temporary safety zones in Maine waters.** The Coast Guard is establishing temporary safety zones in the waters of the Back River, Montsweag Bay, between Bailey Point and Foxbird Island in Wiscasset, Maine, and around the transport barge during its transit to sea. **These safety zones are needed to protect persons, facilities, vessels and others in the maritime community from the safety hazards associated with the handling, loading, and transportation of a major component of the Decommissioned Maine Yankee Nuclear Plant that is classified as Class 7 Hazardous Waste.**

Source: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-9722.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

9. *April 21, Reuters* — **Belgium reports two new suspected bird flu cases. Two new suspected cases of the highly contagious bird flu disease have been discovered in Belgian farms near the Dutch border, a spokesman for the national food safety agency said on Sunday.** The disease has spilled over into Belgium from the neighboring Netherlands, where some 11 million birds have been slaughtered since late February in an effort to control it. **"We strongly suspect two new cases of bird flu in Belgium," Pascal Houbaert, spokesman for the food safety agency AFSCA said, adding that all poultry within a three kilometer radius of the affected farms would be slaughtered.** This could amount to 270,000 birds on top of the 250,000 Belgium has already slaughtered after a first case was discovered in the eastern region of Limburg on Wednesday.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story23420/sc_nm/health_belgium_birdflu_dc

10. *April 21, Edmonton Journal* — **Egg-to-chick advance hatched by researcher.** Baby chicks are getting some high-tech help with survival. Gaylene Fasenko of the University of Alberta, in Canada, uses her expertise to increase their chances of making it from egg to chicken. **An agriculture professor specializing in embryology, she is working to undo damage from genetic selection that produced fast-growing super chickens but reduced the percentage of eggs that hatch into chicks.** These aren't the same birds that my uncle had on his farm 20 years ago," she says. "When you make them grow and put on more weight faster, other changes happen that have a negative impact on their hatchability rate. I'm trying to change that."

Source: <http://www.canada.com/technology/story.html?id=6D109A63-5713-4862-A09A-8BB1890CCA8B>

11. *April 21, Reuters* — **Dutch veterinarian's death linked to bird flu virus. A Dutch veterinarian has died of pneumonia after catching the poultry disease bird flu, officials said on Saturday, raising fears that a mutated version of the virus could cause a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) type epidemic in people.** The 57-year-old man died on Thursday in the southern city of Den Bosch, the Health Ministry said. He fell ill two days after working on a farm infected with bird flu. **"Because the bird flu virus was detected in the lungs and there is no other possible clinical explanation, there are strong indications that the man died as a result of the bird flu virus,"** the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story23420/sc_nm/health_dutch_birdflu_dc

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

12. *April 21, Associated Press* — **State lacks resources to track safety of drinking water.**

Indiana spends less than any of its neighboring states to monitor the safety of drinking water. As a result, people often have no idea what may be in the water they drink, an environmental official said. "What you don't know can get you sick. If you're not inspecting, you wouldn't know if there was bacteria contamination or some other acute health risk," said Charlene Denys, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has repeatedly warned the state that its program was inadequate. **The \$2.6 million annual budget for Indiana's program is about half of Kentucky's and about one-fourth of Ohio's. That works out to 12 cents per person, or about one-third what other Midwestern states spend to monitor their water, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management said. Most violations are discovered through routine samples collected by those who own or operate systems. Indiana officials conduct inspections an average of once every five years, compared with every three years in other states.**

Source: http://www.hoosiertimes.com/stories/thisday/news.0421-HT-A2_PJR27477.sto

13. *April 21, Associated Press* — **Bacteria database could help clean water.** A graduate student at South Dakota State University is collecting animal manure from around the state in an effort to compile a database of profiles of local bacteria. **By matching bacteria from samples of contaminated water to the DNA database, Erick Jorgenson hopes the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be able to determine what kind of animal the fecal contamination is from.** New technology has made it possible to conduct what scientists call bacterial source tracking. **By finding the likely source of bacteria, the technique will help clean up streams and rivers which are currently unfit for swimming and other recreational use. It also might help improve drinking water.**

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/5681153.htm>

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Public Health Sector

14. *April 21, Vancouver Sun* — **SARS spreads at New West hospital. A third suspected case of secondary transmission of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) at New Westminster's Royal Columbian Hospital, in Canada, led to a ban on visitors Sunday from an entire floor of the facility.** Also on the weekend, Health Authority officials extended the isolation period for those thought to have been in contact with SARS to 12 days from 10. That leaves Royal Columbian down 38 health-care workers, because 10 who would otherwise have returned to work Sunday will now stay home until Tuesday. Twenty-eight won't return until April 29. Royal Columbian's latest case, which involves a patient, marks the fourth time the hospital is thought to have been hit by SARS. The patient was treated by a nurse who was identified Thursday as having suspected symptoms of severe acute respiratory syndrome. **While Vancouver's chief medical health officer Dr. John Blatherwick, had earlier said emergency steps would have to be taken if secondary transmissions started to occur in British Columbia, he said Sunday there is no current need to follow emergency protocol because, so far, the secondary transmissions have only occurred within hospital settings.**

Source: <http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=7CC71666-2170-4291-A311-85CE2E5ADBE7>

15. *April 21, Ivanhoe Newswire* — **Some more susceptible to staph infections. A new study shows people with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop a deadly staph infection.** Researchers from Michigan State University tested 250 people who suffered from an invasive *Staphylococcus aureus*, or staph, infection. **Results show patients on hemodialysis are 257–times more likely to contract the infection. Others at risk include those infected with HIV, organ transplant recipients, and cancer patients. Researchers also found elderly patients, as well as those with hypertension, renal failure, and diabetes, are more likely to die from a staph infection.** Staph infections are very common. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 2 million hospital patients in the U.S. contract an infection every year. **A vaccine for staph is now being tested. The study is important because it helps doctors determine who should be vaccinated.**

Source: <http://drkoop.com/template.asp?page=newsdetail966>

16. *April 20, Associated Press* — **80 at Nevada volleyball tournament report mystery illness.** Health officials are investigating a mystery illness that affected dozens of players, coaches and parents at a girls' regional volleyball tournament. **Eighty tournament participants staying at the Reno Hilton reported flu–like symptoms Sunday, said Bob Sack, director of environmental health at the Washoe County District Health Department.** Of those, about 25 sought treatment at the Washoe Medical Center emergency room and "a few" were admitted overnight, said hospital spokeswoman Judy Davis. "We aren't even close to having a guess on the cause," Sack said. **"The only commonality is they stayed at the Hilton and are associated with a large volleyball tournament." Health officials plan to inspect the Hilton's kitchen and water systems on Monday as part of their investigation.**

Source: http://www.rgj.com/news/stories/html/2003/04/20/39986.php?sp_1=rgj=Umbrella

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

17. *April 21, Boston Globe* — **Tight, high–tech security to monitor Marathon.** The federal threat level for terrorism has been ratcheted back from orange to yellow, security will not be relaxed on Monday for the Boston Marathon, officials said. **For the first time, officials at the state's emergency management center in Framingham will have a bird's–eye view of the course, which will be guarded again by more than 1,500 police officers and 400 National Guard troops. Officials in the bunker will have a direct video feed from cameras on at least one State Police helicopter patrolling the course from Hopkinton to Boston.** A phalanx of law enforcement officers will secure the race: the State Police, FBI, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the state Department of Public Health, local police and fire, and the Federal Aviation Administration, which will monitor the airspace over the event.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/111/metro/Tight_high_tech

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

18. *May 01, Wired* — **What if GPS fails? Eighteen of the 28 satellites in the GPS constellation are operating past their intended lifespan or suffering from equipment failure.** There have been three launch incidents in the past five years, and the Air Force, which maintains the 20-year-old network, is overburdened with competing space priorities. According to John Petersen, director of the Arlington Institute, a scenario-planning outfit in Virginia, **"If GPS were to fail completely...civil aviation, trucking, shipping, and telecommunications would be worst hit."** Internet activity would slow to a crawl, because many backbone operators rely on precise GPS time stamps to route data. The \$12 billion market for GPS devices would be sent reeling, and **the arrival of location-based wireless services would be set back years.** However, Owen Wormser of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense says **GPS can withstand the loss of several satellites before becoming completely dysfunctional.** "The system would degrade slightly, rather than seize up," he says.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.05/start.html?pg=6>

19. *April 21, New York Times* — **AT&T trying to collect bills from the victims of hackers.** The city of East Palo Alto, CA, is battling with AT&T over who is responsible for a \$30,000 long-distance phone bill that resulted from voice mail hacking. **Last summer, hackers in the Philippines and Belgium penetrated the agency's voice mail system, operated by SBC Communications, the local phone service provider, by figuring out system pass codes.** AT&T wants the city to pay the bill for the fraud, which it says was the customer's responsibility to prevent. It offered a settlement in which it would pay 30 percent of the charges, but the city says the company should pay the whole thing. Voice mail hackers have discovered that if voice mail customers do not change their default pass code when the system is set up, they can sometimes break in by figuring out assigned pass codes. **Hackers breaking into the system then change the outgoing message to one that automatically accepts collect calls. Once connected, the hackers can leave the line open for hours, charging up enormous bills.** AT&T now requires that individuals accepting collect calls, besides having to respond "yes" when prompted, also enter a three-digit number.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/21/technology/21SCAM.html>

20. *April 18, Associated Press* — **Law professor will head university's cybersecurity center. Indiana University (IU) law professor Fred Cate will be the inaugural director of the Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research which will research computer and Internet security issues.** Cate, an expert on privacy and information law, said **the center will encourage university partnerships with businesses and with federal and state government agencies.** IU created the center with \$125,000 from a private donor and a matching amount from its own funds, said Michael McRobbie, IU's vice president for information technology and chief information officer. He said the center will be based both in Bloomington and at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. **It will bring together university staff with computer-security duties – from information technology, legal, audit and police departments – with faculty performing research related to cybersecurity,** he said.

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: JS_NOCLOSE.E 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), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 113 (ident), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 53 (domain) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

21. *April 21, Washington Post* — **Global risk seen in South African poisons.** In three days of meetings last July, the man known throughout South Africa as "Doctor Death" astounded U.S. law enforcement officials with tales of how the former government carried out unique experiments with chemical and biological weapons. **Wouter Basson, the bearded ex-commander of South Africa's notorious 7th Medical Battalion, spoke candidly of global shopping sprees for pathogens and equipment, of plans for epidemics. He revealed the development of a novel anthrax strain unknown to the U.S. officials, a kind of anthrax that Basson claimed could fool tests used to detect the disease.** Nearly a decade has passed since then President Frederik W. de Klerk dismantled the biological and chemical weapons program known as Project Coast, of which Basson was the director. In 1993, South Africa declared all the weapons, pathogen strains and documents destroyed. But in reality, South Africa is still struggling to answer basic questions about the kinds of weapons developed in the program, how they were used, and what happened to them, the officials said. **Bacterial strains that supposedly were destroyed continue to turn up in private hands. Law enforcement officials remain concerned that former weapons scientists may share secrets with extremist groups or foreign governments.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64518-2003Apr 20.html>

22. *April 20, Los Angeles Times* — **Hezbollah saber-rattling gets administration's attention.** Hezbollah, a militant Islamic organization backed by Iran and Syria, has issued a new call

to arms against Americans in the Middle East, touching off fears of terrorist attacks and debate within the Bush administration over whether to move more aggressively against the group and its key sponsors. **The military wing of Hezbollah, long considered by the United States to be among the world's most dangerous terrorist groups, has focused largely on Israel because of its past occupation of Hezbollah's homeland in Lebanon and other contested territory. But the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq has triggered a spate of anti-American rhetoric from the Shiite organization and its leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.** Hezbollah's renewed focus on America has sharpened the long-standing debate among U.S. officials over whether the United States can, and should, go after the organization. But any offensive would be fraught with political, diplomatic and economic risks for the United States, some officials say. Hezbollah's close ties with Iran and Syria — the major power broker in Lebanon — underscore the complexities of pressing the war on terrorism when it involves groups backed by governments, they note.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/World/20030420hezbollah6.asp>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

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[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

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