



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 11 August 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Sacramento Bee reports credit card thieves are now targeting self-checkout lanes in major retail stores, where speed and convenience have made the most basic fraud deterrent — checking IDs — nearly obsolete. (See item [7](#))
- The Associated Press reports a U.S. health official said Thursday that the number of West Nile virus cases has tripled since last week and will likely top last year's record total. (See item [18](#))
- The Associated Press reports that a computer hacker gained access to private files at Acxiom Corp. and was able to download sensitive information about some customers of the company's clients. (See item [24](#))
- CNN reports the U.S. State Department is concerned that 5,000 French passports, stolen last month, may end up in the hands of traffickers or terrorists. (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](#)

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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. *August 08, Government Accounting Office* — Report-GAO-03-583: Opportunities exist to improve the budgeting, cost accounting, and management associated with the stockpile life extension program. As a separately organized agency within the Department of

Energy (DOE), the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) administers the Stockpile Life Extension Program, whose purpose is to extend, through refurbishment, the operational lives of the weapons in the nuclear stockpile. NNSA encountered significant management problems with its first refurbishment. NNSA has begun three additional life extensions. This study was undertaken to determine the extent to which budgetary, cost accounting, and other management issues that contributed to problems with the first refurbishment have been adequately addressed. GAO recommends that NNSA undertake a number of actions for improvement, (1) including the Stockpile Life Extension Program as a formal program in NNSA's annual budget; (2) establishing a cost accounting process that accumulates, tracks, and reports the full costs of each refurbishment; and (3) implementing a series of management actions related to improving planning, organization, and oversight of cost and schedule. NNSA recognized the need to change how the program is managed and agreed with GAO's recommendations.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03583high.pdf>

- 2. *August 08, The Los Angeles Times* — Bush team makes federal lands more open to oil, gas drilling. The Bush administration on Thursday, August 7, directed government land managers to remove environmental and procedural obstacles that are slowing development of oil and gas resources in several areas in the West that have high potential for energy production.** The new policies, which take effect immediately and do not require congressional review, are the latest in a series of administration moves intended to boost oil and gas production on federal lands. The policies are directed at areas managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management in Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, Wyoming's Powder River and Green River basins, Utah's Uinta Basin, Colorado's Piceance Basin and New Mexico's San Juan Basin. The new policies give land managers the option to review existing leases for oil and gas drilling and reduce existing requirements on companies to protect the environment.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/la-na-energy8aug08.0.5749452.story>

- 3. *August 08, Reuters* — Alaskan natural gas could slake U.S. energy thirst. There is a drilling experiment in Anchorage, AK, that officials there say could help answer the U.S.' long-term energy needs. Pumps clustered in clearings are tapping what developers say is a huge but neglected resource — methane gas from Alaska's enormous coal reserves.** Alaska has 40 percent more coal than all the contiguous 48 U.S. states combined, and its coal beds could hold a 1,000 trillion cubic feet of methane gas, enough to fuel the entire country for decades, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Currently, about 9 percent of U.S. gas production comes from coal bed methane (CBM). But output is growing and some expect that level could rise to 20 percent of total U.S. gas production over the next decade. CBM shipments from Alaska would also be possible if a pipeline were built to ship natural gas to the 48 contiguous states. The North Slope holds 80 percent of Alaska's estimated CBM, a supply that could feed a proposed \$20 billion 3,500-mile (5,630 kms) conventional natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay, officials say.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030808/bizfeature_alaska_methane_1.h.tml

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Chemical Sector

4. *August 08, Government Executive Magazine* — **Government not doing enough to protect chemical plants, critics contend. Despite public promises and alarms, the administration has taken almost no action to improve security at any of the nation's 15,000 facilities — including chemical manufacturing plants, petroleum tank farms, and pesticide companies — that contain large quantities of potentially deadly chemicals.** And, such dangers are far from theoretical: An accidental leak at a more than 3,800 people in 1984, and, according to some reports, has since claimed an additional 12,000 lives. Closer to home, an accidental chlorine gas leak at a Honeywell refrigeration plant in Baton Rouge, LA, on July 20, sent four workers to the hospital and forced 600 residents to stay indoors. **Counterterrorism experts shudder to think about the number of deaths an intentional release of a toxic chemical could cause. "These chemical plants have a vulnerability which has a catastrophic characteristic ... that could approximate the World Trade Center,"** Rand Beers, a former White House counterterrorism adviser, told National Journal.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0803/080703nj3.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *August 08, The Washington Post* — **Military has high hopes for new eye in the sky. The Office of Naval Research in Arlington, VA, is advocating the use of sensor-equipped airships for various missions, including detecting chemical attacks, tracking submarines or other underwater threats, identifying military targets for attack, aiding in search-and-rescue operations and finding drug laboratories.** Airplanes must keep circling to stay atop a target area, and hovering in a helicopter is a bone-shaking, fuel-consuming ordeal. Blimps can loiter with little noise and vibration — conditions ideal for sensors — and cost much less to operate than planes and helicopters. **Blimps are not the easy target they might intuitively seem to be. Since most of their surface consists of lightweight fabric, blimps put out a limited "signature" and are difficult to detect with radar.** Airships are inflated with helium, a stable and nonflammable gas. Because it is not highly pressurized, a blimp won't pop if hit by bullets or even a rocket-propelled grenade, and descends slowly if punctured.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31642-2003Aug 7.html>
6. *August 07, Federal Computer Week* — **Army gets integration help. The Army Enterprise Integration Oversight Office last week awarded a contract to help develop policies and guidance for defining information technology systems across the Army enterprise.** The purpose of the office is to provide policy and guidance for IT definitions and implementations across the Army, and work with rest of the Defense Department. The office's top priority is ensuring that the Army's business systems — which include personnel, logistics and finance — have integrated transformational initiatives and legacy systems, and work together across the functional domains.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0804/web-aeioo-08-07-03 .asp>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 08, The Sacramento Bee* — **Credit card fraud goes high-tech. Credit card thieves are now targeting self-checkout lanes in major retail stores.** Speed and convenience have made the most basic fraud deterrent -- checking IDs -- nearly obsolete. Crooks know this, police say, and are abusing the technology with frequency. Experts say popular retail gadgets, such as self-checkout systems, are contributing to a rise in fraud rates and will continue to do so unless retailers become proactive in protecting themselves and customers. **One security measure is for retailers to have the machines print dual receipts and to provide an assisting clerk for the self-checkout lanes who compares the signature on the receipt to that on the credit card and, if necessary, checks ID.** Most credit card companies and retailers don't reveal their fraud numbers because if consumers knew how much fraud really occurs, they might lose faith in the credit system and the technology that accompanies it, said a spokesperson for a leading manufacturer of point-of-sale terminals. The company reports that payment systems fraud is growing at an alarming rate in many countries, including the United States.

Source: http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/crime/story/7183911p-8130_833c.html

8. *August 08, The Las Vegas Sun* — **Las Vegas men charged in fraud case. Five people, including two Las Vegas attorneys and a former New York lawyer have been indicted in connection with a multimillion dollar stock securities scheme. The indictment alleges more than \$12 million was taken by the men through mail fraud, securities fraud, money laundering, racketeering and other crimes, after taking over schemes begun in the early 1990s by two Las Vegas businessmen.** The group is alleged to have formed shell corporations and then arranged for the shells to be merged with private companies. The conspirators would then sell securities they held without disclosing the hidden control of the stock, according to the indictment. In essence the group created a "secret" monopoly of the entire supply of a public company's securities, according to the indictment. **Dan Bogden, U.S. attorney for District of Nevada, said prosecuting securities fraud has become a priority in the state.**

Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/business/2003/aug/08/515452118.html>

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Transportation Sector

9. *August 08, TheBostonChannel.com* — **Lawmakers want smaller cargo screened for explosives.** Massachusetts Rep. Edward Markey said a huge loophole exists that allows unscreened cargo to be carried aboard passenger aircraft. **Twenty-three months after the September 11 terrorist attacks, 22 percent of all air cargo is shipped aboard passenger planes and is not screened for explosives, only checked against shipping lists.** "It is commercial cargo, it is unseen and unscreened, it is taken right off these trucks and it is loaded right onto passenger planes right under the feet of passengers who have just taken off their shoes to have them screened," said Markey. **On Friday, Markey asked the administration to reverse its stance against automatic screening of all cargo on passenger planes, from mail to freight. Given the heightened terror alert, Markey said the risks outweigh any added costs.** Markey pointed out the danger in the current practice that allows the unscreened shipping

of any package 16 ounces or less, and said the shoe bomb worn by Richard Reid was only 10 ounces — enough explosives to blow up the 767 aircraft he was traveling on.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/2391852/detail.html>

10. *August 08, USATODAY.com* — **Pilots, Congress complain about delays in arming pilots.**

Fewer than 100 pilots were certified to carry guns on commercial flights in the eight months after Congress approved the idea, and pilots are blaming the slow pace on th (TSA). **The pilots say that with the TSA freezing hiring in the air marshal program and the government warning al Qaeda may try more suicide hijackings, it's more important than ever to get weapons in the cockpit. Some are urging the TSA to turn over the program to the private sector. Pilots are lobbying to move it to another agency, preferably the FBI.** Owen Mills, owner of a private firearms training facility in Paulden, AZ, said he would charge about \$3,000 per pilot for a week of training. The TSA says it costs about \$6,200 for training, testing and background checks.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2003/08/07-guns.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *August 08, Associated Press* — **New Jersey mail center set for anthrax cleanup. U.S. Postal Service officials said Thursday they plan to start fumigating a New Jersey mail center in November, almost two years after the building was closed because of anthrax.** Mail could be processed there by early summer 2004 if all goes according to plan, said Thomas G. Day, the postal service's vice president for engineering. The building was sealed as a hazardous site in October 2001, after at least four anthrax-laden letters bearing Trenton postmarks were processed there. The 282,000 square-foot office is the second major mail center to be fumigated, after the Brentwood facility near Washington, DC. That process ended in March after five months. **The cleanup is expected to cost about \$55 million, Day said.**

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/30-08072003-138240.html>

12. *August 07, Computer World* — **USPS researches smart mail.** A presidential commission studying ways to make the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) more efficient has recommended that the agency work with the Department of Homeland Security to develop sender identification technology for all U.S. mail. **In a final report released July 31, the commission said sender identification technologies such as "personalized stamps" that embed digital identification information would not only improve mail tracking and delivery operations but would also enhance the security of the entire mail system.** A spokesperson for the USPS said that although the development of intelligent mail is a big issue for the service, the commission report is still under review and it would be premature to discuss future plans. **The USPS in January formed a committee with the help of the private sector to study intelligent-mail technologies and infrastructure requirements and has since established a corporate plan for intelligent-mail implementation.** The agency has moved ahead with the program despite privacy concerns by some in Congress, including senior members of the House Government Reform Committee. That committee, shortly after the 2001 anthrax attacks, asked the General Accounting Office to study the implications of intelligent mail.

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/privacy>

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Agriculture Sector

13. *August 08, New Scientist* — **Britain could resume eating older cattle. Britain could drop its ban on eating cattle over 30 months old without significantly raising the risk of variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob Disease (vCJD) in humans, according to an epidemiological analysis. Currently, all older British cattle are incinerated to stop Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE) entering the human food chain. In the rest of Europe, cattle are tested for BSE at slaughter. The epidemiologists calculate adopting this approach in Britain would most probably cause no extra vCJD deaths over the next 60 years.** The over 30 months (OTM) rule was introduced in 1996, when scientists realized that eating BSE–infected cattle caused the lethal human disease vCJD. Almost no cattle infected with BSE get sick before this age, so the infectious agent is thought to be at low levels in young cattle, making them safe to eat. **The OTM rule has sent more than six million cattle to the incinerator. The British government compensates farmers and disposes of the carcasses, at a cost of £420 million per year.** The incidence of BSE in British cattle has fallen steadily since 1996, leading the UK Food Standards Agency to start reviewing the OTM rule in 2002.

Source: http://www.newscientist.com/hottopics/bse/bse.jsp?id=ns99993_839

14. *August 08, Nature* — **Test distinguishes infected and vaccinated foot–and–mouth cattle. A new test can distinguish cattle infected with or vaccinated against foot–and–mouth disease (FMD). It could allow future outbreaks to be curtailed by immunization rather than by culling, researchers suggest. Around one in eight of the six million–plus farm animals slaughtered in 2001 as Britain struggled to contain the spread of FMD were cows. Vaccination was ruled out because the blood of dosed and infected animals was indistinguishable.** The fast, low–tech lab test reliably sorts the two groups, say Armin Saalmüller at the Institute for Immunology of the Federal Research Center for Virus Diseases of Animals in Germany. Should another outbreak occur, the assay could identify infected animals, says Saalmüller, making vaccination an option. "It could easily be made into a strip test," says FMD expert David Paton of the Institute for Animal Health in the UK. Animals could then be checked quickly in the field. Called an enzyme–linked immunosorbent assay, or ELISA, the test correctly recognized blood samples from 50 infected and 1,000 vaccinated cows. It also distinguished different strains of the FMD virus, which is prone to mutation.

Source: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/030728/030728–11.html>

15. *August 07, Franklin Favorite* — **Tobacco crop mold. A blue mold outbreak has been reported in Simpson, KY, tobacco fields, threatening to cause major damage to the \$2.5 million burley crop.** Simpson County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources Jeff Watt said blue mold was first spotted in late July and was followed immediately by heavy rains and high winds that spread the disease. **He said as much as 50 to 75 percent of the 460–acre Simpson County burley tobacco crop could be affected by the disease that eats away at the leaf tissue. Blue mold is most devastating to burley tobacco but can also cause damage to dark leaf, Watt said.** About 400 acres of dark tobacco are in local fields. **"It has the potential to eat up 90 to 100 percent of the burley tobacco crop if left untreated."** He

said if blue mold is caught in time, the plant can be saved; however, without proper treatment, the disease can spread rapidly. Watt said blue mold apparently started in Georgia and made its way up to eastern Tennessee and Kentucky. It was first noticed in nearby Robertson County, TN and has reportedly spread to Logan and Todd counties in Kentucky as well.

Source: http://www.franklinfavorite.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?/200308/07+mold8-7-03_news.html+20030807+news

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Food Sector

16. *August 08, Associated Press* — **North Dakota company recalls beef. A West Fargo, ND, meat company is recalling about 332,000 pounds of fresh and frozen ground beef that may be contaminated with E. coli, the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) said Thursday. Quality Meats and Seafood sold the meat under several product names to grocery stores and restaurants,** officials at the department's Food Safety and Inspection Service said. The company on Wednesday said it was conducting a "voluntary market withdrawal." That announcement covered fewer products than the USDA's announcement on Thursday. The USDA said case of E. coli that sickened one person in North Dakota prompted the recall.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/6484443.htm>

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Water Sector

17. *August 08, Associated Press* — **California agency warns of ocean water risks. Companies are lining up to help California squeeze salt from sea water in its quest for new water sources, but the agency that would approve the projects says tapping the ocean could pose serious problems for the coastline.** In a report to its board of directors, the California Coastal Commission warns that allowing desalination plants to proliferate could threaten marine life, spur development in sensitive habitats, and turn the ocean into a commodity. Some water companies say the report stems from an anti-privatization bias. **Desalination is expected to provide only a tiny fraction of the state's water in the next decade.** But the commission says that amount could increase, and it's not too soon to take a look at the issue. **About a dozen desalination plants now operate along California's coast, with 20 more being considered.** At least six of those are proposed by private companies or public-private partnerships. Most of the new projects remain in the planning stage and have yet to come before the commission.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20030808_183.html

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Public Health Sector

18. *August 08, Associated Press* — **West Nile cases triple. The number of West Nile virus cases has tripled since last week and will likely top last year's record total, a U.S. health official said Thursday. "The numbers are starting to change very, very quickly,"** said Dr. Julie

Gerberding, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "That is very concerning." **State health officials report seven elderly people have died from the virus. Nationwide, the CDC said at least 164 people in 16 states are infected, an explosion of the virus in just a week.** That doesn't include 39 new cases in Colorado, which the CDC had not verified. **A week ago, 59 people nationwide had the virus.** Health officials had expected the disease to spread this year to all corners of the country, invading Western states previously unscathed. But they appeared somewhat surprised at its speed. **The new numbers compare with 112 cases in four states for this date last year.** Last year, 4,156 people caught the virus, and 284 died. The United States also suffered the largest reported outbreak of West Nile encephalitis in the world in 2002.

Source: http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0.1406.KNS_350_2166934.00.html

19. *August 08, Washington Times* — **Net link to warn DC of bioterror. The Washington, DC Department of Health is setting up a computerized system to link area health clinics and other agencies in an early warning system for a bioterrorist attack.** The system would depend heavily on the Internet and wireless communications to receive reports of any unusual biological activity and coordinate an emergency response. "The project will be done in phases," said John Davies–Cole, chief epidemiologist for the DC Department of Health. **"Phase 1 will be completed in November. This is a multiyear initiative with several different implementation phases that are still currently in development."** The Washington Automated Disease Surveillance System is one of dozens of disease early warning systems being developed in cities and states nationwide under guidance and funding by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **The DC Health Department is enlisting schools, hospitals, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, and others. They would put their regular activity records into "a controlled and secure access Web interface,"** Davies–Cole said. The system would file the records into a central database operated by the health department. **The software would be programmed to note any unusual activity.**

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20030807-100846-3912r.htm>

20. *August 08, Guardian* — **Measles cases surge in UK. According to research published Friday measles outbreaks in England and Wales have grown since 1998 as more parents have refused the MMR vaccine for their babies.** Infection can lead to such complications as croup, bronchitis, pneumonia, hepatitis, and encephalitis. Before mass vaccination in 1968, measles used to cause around 100 deaths a year in Britain. "My hope is that this is a warning signal for the parents," said Vincent Jansen of Royal Holloway, University of London, who led the research. **"We are approaching the danger zone where measles could once again become an endemic disease in the UK. We are not yet there, but we are going that way."** He and his colleagues matched the drop in vaccinations against the increasing numbers of victims in single measles outbreaks, and found a correlation. **The researchers used statistical techniques to arrive at a value for the "reproductive number" of the virus. Between 1995 and 1998 this number was 0.47. Between 1999 and 2002 it was 0.82. The closer the number gets to 1.0, the higher the risk of an epidemic. Beyond 1.0 the virus becomes a permanent menace.** "If vaccination continues to decline, the situation is likely to get worse," Professor Jansen said.

Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1014325,00.html

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Government Sector

21. *August 08, MSNBC News* — **States, cities struggle with security.** Despite the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, **the real burden of protecting America's towns, bridges, reservoirs, pipelines, factories, power plants and ports falls to state and local officials, who, short of money, training and personnel, find themselves unable to meet Washington's security mandates.** In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the White House promised cash-strapped state and local jurisdictions some \$7 billion, but hasn't completely delivered on that promise. **The National Conference of State Legislators figures that homeland security mandates from Washington cost states \$4 billion last year.** Administration officials blame Congress for the shortfall, saying national lawmakers stripped out most of the president's request of \$3.5 billion in new funds earmarked for homeland security, leaving only \$1.3 billion for new anti-terrorism initiatives. **A survey of 122 mayors by the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that while three-quarters of those surveyed thought their plans for reacting to a terrorist act were satisfactory, fewer than a third had confidence in their ability to detect a threat in the first place, equip emergency workers to handle the threat or even communicate effectively with residents, businesses or health workers in the event of a terrorist strike.**

Source: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/879030.asp?cp1=1>

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *August 08, Government Executive Magazine* — **Localities short on homeland security personnel. Even as federal dollars start to roll in, many states and localities are experiencing a strange dilemma: They have a lot of shiny new equipment, but can't afford to hire anyone to use it.** And regardless of whose responsibility it is — federal, state, or local — to fill the gap, the budget deficit is translating into a homeland-security capacity deficit. "Without question, the single largest challenge is that we are unable to really hire people to support a lot of the federal equipment we're being asked to deploy," says Clifford Ong, director of Indiana's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council. **In Seattle, a \$60 million deficit meant the loss of 75 positions from the police department—25 officers and 50 support staff. Though the cuts were achieved through attrition, not layoffs,** they still leave Seattle's police chief Gil Kerlikowske down 25 officers, not to mention the 30 additional he had hoped to hire. And Kerlikowske is not alone. Los Angeles estimates it has 1,000 fewer police officers than it needs.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0803/080803nj1.htm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

23. *August 08, Federal Computer Week* — **GAO to study foreign IT outsourcing. The General Accounting Office will study the effects of offshore outsourcing of information technology**

jobs. Rep. Adam Smith (D–WA) made the request as part of a larger effort to examine the U.S. job market. **The outsourcing of tech jobs to workers overseas raises several issues that Smith wants examined, including: the impact of federal "Buy American" policies on companies that use overseas labor, competitiveness of American companies and the treatment of outsourcing in American trade policy.** Smith wants the GAO to research trends and identify the major risks and benefits.

Source: <http://fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0804/web-gao-08-08-03.asp>

24. August 07, Associated Press — Hacker gets Acxiom customer information. A computer hacker gained access to private files at Acxiom Corp., one of the world's largest consumer database companies, and was able to download sensitive information about some customers of the company's clients, the company said Thursday, August 7. Jennifer Barrett, the company's chief privacy officer, said **about 10 percent of the company's customers were affected** and that, "it would include some of our larger customers." Acxiom's Website says **the company serves 14 of the top 15 credit card companies, seven of the top 10 auto manufacturers and five of the top six retail banks.** The individual in police custody is a former employee of one of Acxiom's clients and gained access by hacking encrypted passwords from clients who access the server. Barrett said much of the information taken from the server was encrypted and that the risk of identity theft is slim.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31921-2003Aug7.html?referrer=email>

25. August 07, Wired — New security woes for e-vote firm. A hacker has come forward with evidence that he broke the security of a private Web server operated by Diebold Election Systems and made off last spring with the company's internal discussion-list archives, a software bug database and software. The company is one of the largest electronic voting systems vendors, with more than 33,000 machines in service around the country. Director of Communications John Kristoff said **the stolen files contained "sensitive" information**, but he said Diebold is confident that the company's electronic voting system software has not been tampered with.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/privacy/0,1848,59925,00.html>

26. August 07, Government Computer News — OMB guides agencies to meet IT security law. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) set guidelines for agencies to report their progress in securing IT systems Wednesday, August 6. In a letter to agency executives, OMB director Joshua Bolten outlined how agencies should implement the Federal Information Security Management Act, which became law as a provision in the E–Government Act of 2002 last December. Bolten also laid out the criteria for agencies to earn a green score on the spotlight scoring system the White House uses to grade agencies in meeting the President's Management Agenda. Agencies will not improve their scores in e–government under the PMA unless they improve their scores in the security subsection first, Bolten said. **OMB grades agencies quarterly on how they implement their security plans**, he added. The letter is available here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/m03-19.pdf>.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/23078-1.html

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: PE_BUGBEAR.DAM 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	445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 139 (netbios-ssn), 113 (ident), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 135 (epmap), 0 (---), 25 (smtp) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

27. *August 10, Chicago Sun Times* — **No relief in sight for overheated Europeans.** Temperatures across Europe soared and may break records in coming days as a heat wave led to some of the worst fires to rage in Portugal in two decades and boosted Italian ice cream sales. **Around Europe, about 40 deaths have been blamed on the sizzling temperatures, which have been stuck around 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for days. It's been the hottest two weeks in France since 1947, Meteo France said. Wildfires fanned by hot winds have eaten up territory in Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Croatia and the Netherlands. In Italy, authorities battled 24 fires Saturday, with the worst in the regions of Tuscany, Piedmont, Liguria, Lazio and Campania.** In Britain, 15 million motorists were expected to be on the roads this weekend, with many heading to the beach, as hot weather disrupted rail services, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported. **No quick relief is coming: Germany is expected to swelter until midweek; France is counting on at least another week of abnormally high temperatures, and weather experts in Italy expect the country to be roasting until September.**

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-heat10s1.html>

28. *August 09, CNN* — **Stolen passports in France raise concerns. The U.S. State Department says it fears some 5,000 French passports stolen last month may end up in the hands of traffickers or terrorists.** French officials notified U.S. authorities that the passports were stolen from the Marseilles, France, national passport office. The passports numbers have been given to border security posts. A State Department official said passport theft is a common occurrence and it is standard procedure for countries whose passports have been stolen to alert other governments about the theft.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/08/09/passports.stolen/index.html>

29.

August 08, The Christian Science Monitor — **Terrorists see, adapt, attack. The attack on the Jakarta Marriott Tuesday, August 5, demonstrates that terrorism against American interests abroad has shifted from "hard" targets like embassies and military installations to "soft" ones like the Marriott.** Analysts say other five–star hotels with American ties were probably considered but discarded as targets, because workers either habitually checked cars for explosives or because the hotels were set far back from the road. But the Marriott allowed cars to pull up without being inspected and approach within 20 feet of the lobby. A Jakarta–based security consultant says that **the general theory employed to deal with the emerging terrorist threat isn't to make a building impregnable, but to make it look hard enough that a terrorist will move on.** "Why bomb a hotel with tougher security when an easier one will do?" he asks.

Source: <http://csmonitor.com/2003/0808/p01s04-woap.html>

30. *August 08, Reuters* — **Two dead, three missing as typhoon Etau hits Japan. Two people were killed and three others are missing after a typhoon hit western Japan with torrential rain and strong winds on Friday, August 8.** Typhoon Etau, packing winds of 90 mph, hit Kochi on the island of Shikoku, around 390 miles west of Tokyo, at around 9 p.m., the Meteorological Agency said. More than 30 other people have been injured, five of them seriously, Kyodo news agency said. **Around 14,000 households in western Japan are without electricity due to the storm, NHK said. Hundreds of flights and ferry sailings to and from western Japan have been canceled.**

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=3246533>

31. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Feds charge suspect with aiding al Qaeda.** A Pakistani man, Uzair Paracha, was charged Friday, August 8, with conspiring to provide material support and resources to al Qaeda. Prosecutors said in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that **Paracha agreed to help an al Qaeda associate obtain documents that would let him enter the United States and help him obtain legal immigration status.** "This case demonstrates that al Qaeda will go to great lengths to enlist support here in the United States," Attorney General John Ashcroft said in a statement. The government alleged that, while in the United States, **Paracha placed telephone calls on behalf of the al Qaeda associate to immigration authorities and to a bank where the associate held an account.** A search of Paracha's belongings revealed that **he had a Maryland driver's license and a bank ATM card in the associate's name,** prosecutors said.

Source: http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/breaking_news/6489153.htm

32. *August 08, Associated Press* — **Teams assess damage for cities to receive relief funding. Governor Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency in Palm Beach County on Friday, August 8,** after a tornado damaged or destroyed 500 homes, flipped semitrailers, knocked out power to thousands and displaced 200 residents of a mobile home park. No one was killed or seriously hurt, but **Thursday night's tornado blew two railroad boxcars off the tracks and tore the roof off a Pepsi plant. Some 400 homes remained without power Friday,** officials said, down from about 30,000 originally. The heaviest damage appeared to be at the A Garden Walk mobile home park, where several of the 420 units were destroyed. Others lost their roofs or sustained damage when old oak trees crashed onto them, trapping some residents until they were rescued. **A gas leak forced 200 people to be evacuated.**

Source: http://www.palmbeachpost.com/weather/content/weather/tornado_main.html

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