



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 August 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday that Meatpacker Excel Corp. is recalling more than 400,000 pounds of beef because it was mislabeled. (See item [18](#))
- The Washington Post reports that computer–security experts working with law enforcement officials in the United States and Canada were able to contain the Sobig.F computer worm before it could launch a new attack Friday. (See item [24](#))
- The Japan Times reports delegates at United Nations disarmament talks have warned that chemical and biological weapons falling into the hands of individuals or small bands of terrorists is as much a threat as nuclear weapons being developed by rogue states. (See item [30](#))

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 21, The News & Observer (NC)* — **Rats suspected in power outage in downtown Durham.** Rats gnawing on underground cable are the suspected cause of a power outage in downtown Durham, NC, on Tuesday, August 19. **According to Scott Gardner, Duke's district manager for business and government relations, a common problem in the**

downtown area are rats chewing through the insulation that protects power lines, allowing water to seep in and cause the exposed line to corrode. When it can no longer conduct its electrical load, it burns out, tripping circuit breakers in a cascading failure. About 1,500 Duke Power customers were affected, including city and county governments. Generators and battery powered systems kicked in when the power went out to preserve data for some businesses and government facilities. Power was restored by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder_2003_08_21_krtbn_0000-0175-RA-POWER-OUTAGE&SMContentSet=0

2. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Technology key to anticipating power outages. One answer to the nation's transmission grid problem may be new technologies that could, for instance, get smart enough to anticipate a growing tree branch about to rupture a power line. Sensors could also detect an insulator about to break, allowing crews to make repairs before equipment overheats.** "Our vision of the grid of the future is what we are calling the self-healing grid," said Luther Dow, director of power delivery and markets at the industry-funded Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, CA. "It's one that monitors itself, measures itself and even takes corrective action to eliminate reliability problem." A self-healing grid is still a decade away, though Dow said technologies to anticipate failure are already being tested by some 10 utilities. Other technologies include advanced computing systems that are now being tested that can help operators see the big picture rather than have to simultaneously watch separate displays for specific lines and substations, and having graphical displays of raw data instead of presenting it in tabular columns, which are harder for humans to digest and analyze.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29176-2003Aug_21.html

3. *August 21, Electric Light & Power* — **California commission says no to petroleum pipeline from Texas to California. The California Energy Commission has adopted a report that recommends against building a pipeline to bring gasoline and other petroleum products to the State from refineries in Texas and the Gulf Coast. The study finds that the Gulf Coast area will not have enough supplies of the type of gasoline used in California to merit construction of the pipeline. The study does recommend that the Longhorn pipeline — now proposed for construction between Houston and El Paso, TX — be completed, however.** Once the Longhorn project is in place, the study encourages increasing the capacity of the pipeline from El Paso, TX, to Phoenix, AZ. Building additional pipeline capacity to Arizona, and adding a pipeline from Phoenix to Las Vegas, NV, would allow those markets now dependent on California for fuel to receive more product from the Gulf Coast. Such a move would indirectly increase gasoline supplies for California, because Arizona gets nearly 70 percent of its gasoline from California. The study is available at

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/fuels/pipeline/documents>.

Source: http://uaelp.pennnet.com/articles/article_display.cfm?Section=ONART&Category=PRODJ&PUBLICATION_ID=22&ARTICLE_ID=185081

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Chemical Sector

4. *August 22, WCPO – Channel 9 News (Cincinnati, OH)* — **Crews work to clean up ammonia leak at AK Steel. HAZMAT crews are currently on the scene of an ammonia leak at the AK Steel plant in Middletown, OH. The Butler County Emergency Management Agency said there is product leaking from a truck on the AK Steel property (Friday).** There is no threat anyone outside the plant, as none of the product has left that area of the plant. AK Steel representatives said they have the spill under control and the is leak contained — crews just have to clean it up.

Source: <http://www.wcpo.com/news/2003/local/08/22/leak.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *September 01, National Defense Magazine* — **Army and Marines weigh pros and cons of hybrid–electric vehicles.** While the commercial hybrid vehicle market is geared toward fuel efficiency, reducing fuel consumption is not a driving factor in the military's pursuit of alternatively fueled tactical vehicles. **The benefit of military hybrid vehicles, officials say, is the ability to generate power and reduce heat and sound signatures, rather than fuel economy.** The Army, Navy and Marine Corps are interested in acquiring a hybrid–electric version of the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, or Humvee. In these vehicles, pneumatic and hydraulic systems are replaced by cleaner and more efficient electric devices, said Mike Gallagher, program manager for Marine Corps expeditionary power systems. The payoff for military hybrids is their ability to generate power for on and off board uses and to reduce the vehicle's thermal and acoustic signature, said Scott Doudna, of the Army Tank – Automotive and Armaments Command. Different versions of hybrid–electric vehicles are currently being tested.

Source: <http://nationaldefense.ndia.org/article.cfm?Id=1191>

6. *August 22, Associated Press* — **Military deploying new–look strike force from San Diego, California.** Seven heavily armed warships departed from San Diego on Friday, August 22, combining troops, ships and weaponry in a new–look Navy and Marine Corps strike force that military officers say will be more powerful and versatile than traditional arrangements. **The Expeditionary Strike Group One is the first of its kind and is being called a part of the military's larger effort to emphasize flexibility along with intimidating firepower and cooperation between various branches.** Similar groups are planned for both Pacific and Atlantic fleets. About 5,000 sailors and Marines overall will be deployed for eight months on the troop–carrying ships, cruiser, destroyer, frigate and attack submarine. The Navy usually deploys its ships either in larger aircraft carrier groups or three–ship task forces carrying Marines but less firepower. The new configuration will get significant Marine forces and powerful missiles to emerging combat locations faster than before.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/08/22/state0824EDT0042.DTL>

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 23, KUAM News (Guam)* — **Group of Japanese nationals arrested for running credit card scam.** Federal officials arrested five Japanese nationals in Hawaii recently for using fake credit cards to purchase high-end merchandise. **Officials believe the five people are connected to a sophisticated Japanese ring targeting Honolulu and Guam.** The rings are believed to recruit groups of about five people by offering them US\$100,000 and a one-week all expense paid shopping spree in Hawaii. The case is also similar to that of the recent arrest of seven Japanese and Chinese nationals in the territory of Guam.
Source: <http://www.kuam.com/news/story.asp?headline=6944>

8. *August 21, eSecurityPlanet* — **One in three companies lack disaster recovery strategy. About 30% of companies lack a formal disaster recovery strategy, and 64% of companies say their data backup and disaster recovery (DR) plans have significant vulnerabilities,** according to a recent national survey sponsored by Imation Corp., a developer, manufacturer and supplier of magnetic and optical removable data storage media. **The lack of a sound DR strategy leaves those companies vulnerable to potential data loss as a result of natural disasters, viruses, employee sabotage, and terrorist threats.** While 87% of companies surveyed have a formal data backup and storage plan implemented, when it comes to protecting a company's data, a data backup plan is not a disaster recovery plan. A disaster recovery plan is often integrated into a data backup plan, but a disaster recovery plan specifically addresses how to restore data after a catastrophic event such as a fire, hurricane, or tornado. A data backup plan encompasses issues such as the frequency of backups, what to back up, and how long to keep backed-up data, and it also includes an onsite and offsite storage strategy. A disaster recovery plan includes the continuity of the business and the steps involved to fully restore its operational capabilities.
Source: <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/article.php/3066641>

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Transportation Sector

9. *August 22, The Sedalia Democrat (MO)* — **Emergency agency set to buy super RV. The Sedalia-Pettis County (MO) Emergency Management Agency plans to spend another \$300,000 in grant money on a mobile command post and other equipment designed to respond to terrorist acts.** The Pettis County Commissioners approved EMA Director Tim Mosier's request Thursday to advertise for bids for the equipment. Commissioners will open bids September 4. The money will come from a grant from the federal Office of Domestic Preparedness. The department expects to spend about \$160,000 on a mobile command post, a 32-foot long recreational vehicle packed with communication and safety equipment. Mosier said that it would hold about 20 people to coordinate rescue efforts after a terrorist attack, a biological crisis or a natural disaster such as a tornado. Trained Citizen Corps volunteers will staff it. Mosier also plans to buy a portable analyzer to inspect liquids or powders and determine whether they are hazardous. He said that the device could be used by the Sedalia Fire Department hazardous material team at drug labs or when someone encounters an unknown material. **The HazMat Team may use the device whenever it needs to, not just if it**

responds to a terrorist attack, said Greg Harrell, team leader. Through the EMA grants, Harrell said, "We're able to buy equipment we just couldn't afford."

Source: <http://www.sedaliademocrat.com/News/356448183481753.htm>

10. *August 22, Vineyard Gazette (MA)* — **SSA governors approve high speed ferry license; service begins next year. Amid a complicated tangle of legal maneuvers and financial acrobatics, Steamship Authority (SSA) governors voted yesterday to ink a deal that will allow a private operator to begin running high-speed passenger service between New Bedford, CT, and the Vineyard next summer. The deal is contingent on an elaborate plan to convert the passenger ferry Schamonchi to a private operation, and also a final agreement with the city of New Bedford to share the profits from parking revenues.**

Converting the Schamonchi to a private operation will allow the boat line to make an end-run around the Pacheco Act, the state privatization law that now applies to the SSA. "I feel confident that what we are doing here is conservative financially, but I also know we are doing something radical," said Vineyard boat line governor Kathryn A. Roessel. SSA governors voted 4-0 with one abstention to sign a license agreement with New England Fast Ferry, a private consortium, to run year-round high-speed ferry service between the Whaling City and the Vineyard. The vote ends months of negotiations and six years of tug-of-war between the Vineyard and New Bedford over opening up a new ferry service.

Source: http://www.mvgazette.com/news/2003/08/22/ssa_approves_high_speed.php

11. *August 22, Associated Press* — **Beleaguered United Airlines has "turned the corner," executive says. United Airlines has "turned the corner" in its battle to boost revenues and stanch losses, a top executive said. "The revenue turnaround has begun," said John Tague, executive vice president for customers. "We're seeing the company's financial situation gain a great deal of stability."** Tague, in Denver Wednesday for a sales meeting, declined to predict when the airline would return to profitability. It aims to come out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy in mid-spring. Tague said United's unit revenue – what the carrier earns flying each seat per mile – will grow 5 percent to 10 percent above 2002 for the rest of this year. He said cash flow has improved dramatically and United has no near-term concerns about meeting covenants of the loans that keep it in business while under bankruptcy court protection. The carrier lost \$623 million in the second quarter as revenues dropped 18 percent. Analysts predict a loss of more than \$300 million in the quarter ending September 30, even as the industry shows signs of improvement. **United still must line up billions of dollars in exit financing, potentially rebid for a government-guaranteed loan, address a massive pension shortfall and develop a detailed business plan, Ash said.**

Source: http://www.islandpacket.com/24hour/business/story/976852p-68_50164c.html

12. *August 22, The Washington Times* — **Ridership gains drive Amtrak funding bid. Amtrak's recent performance will help it make a strong argument for continued funding when Congress returns from its August recess to consider restructuring the national passenger railroad. In each of the past three months, Amtrak has set 32-year records for the number of riders it carried.** "Slowly but surely, we are making improvements, and we are beginning to see results," Amtrak President David L. Gunn said in a statement. "With public support to bring our infrastructure, trains and stations to a state of good repair, Amtrak will continue to build on this success." **The railroad credited the improvements to marketing, schedule changes and better economic conditions in some regions.** The Pennsylvanian, for

example, a train that runs between New York and Pittsburgh, increased ridership by 98 percent after discarding its mail-carrying and freight business. Now the train operates on a faster schedule, carrying only passengers. **Amtrak improved Los Angeles-to-San Diego ridership 32 percent in the past year by agreeing with Metrolink, the Southern California commuter-rail agency, to honor each other's passenger tickets.**

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/business/20030821-100540-3781r.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *August 22, Associated Press* — **Postal Service begins scaling back hours. The U.S. Postal Service is cutting back hours at nearly three-quarters of its Maine offices as part of a cost-saving effort throughout the Northeast. Of 425 offices statewide, 197 have reduced their hours in recent months and another 99 have posted notices describing pending cuts.** The changes came after studies determined lulls in cash-register transactions at post offices measured during half-hour periods. "It's because nobody was coming in, anyway," said Michael Doyle, the service's consumer affairs manager in Maine. "Generally we look at neighboring communities to make sure that there is a post office available at lunchtime, for instance. If we're closing one office, we don't want to close the one down the street." The reduced hours typically do not affect when patrons can access post office boxes. **The reduction in hours is unrelated to a presidential commission's report suggesting that many small, unprofitable post offices should be closed. That report will be the subject of hearings when Congress reconvenes in September.**

Source: http://www.cmonitor.com/stories/news/newengla2003/me_postal_cutbacks_2003.shtml

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Agriculture Sector

14. *August 22, Calgary Sun* — **Canadian cattle will head to Vietnam. Alberta, Canada has signed a deal to export live cattle to Vietnam, a move officials hope will put pressure on major trading partners to follow suit.** A memorandum of understanding was brokered by Learning Minister Lyle Oberg and Tory backbencher Hung Pham during a recent leadership summit in the Asian country. But officials couldn't confirm last night when Vietnam's official beef ban will be lifted and experts questioned the viability of the fledgling market. "We potentially have no market for our cows right now and I certainly think we can develop a market in Vietnam," Oberg said. "Vietnam is not much further than Japan. I think (the market) could potentially be huge." **Vietnam closed its border to Canadian beef after May 20. Several countries, including the U.S. and Mexico, have since opened their borders to some Canadian beef products, but live cattle remain banned.**

Source: <http://www.canoe.ca/CalgaryNews/cs.cs-08-22-0026.html>

15. *August 22, Associated Press* — **USDA offers farmers relief from dumping. Farmers who grow crops or raise fish or livestock can apply for a share of \$90 million if prices for their**

products dropped significantly because of a jump in cheap imports. Officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Thursday that if farmers apply for compensation, they must show that imports caused market prices for their products to fall at least 20 percent below the average price over the past five years. Department economists at the agency will study each claim and determine whether a flood of imports caused prices to tumble, the department said. Congress created the trade program last year, backing it with a budget of \$90 million annually from this year to 2007. Senator Kent Conrad said that although the program won't prevent the dumping of cheap foreign goods, it will provide some relief for producers. Dumping occurs when a company exports a product at a price lower than it normally charges in its home market.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Aug/08222003/business/86006.asp>

- 16. August 22, Purdue University — Newly found gene resistant to wheat disease. Bread wheat plants carrying a newly discovered gene that is resistant to economically devastating leaf blotch can reduce the amount of grain lost to the pathogen, according to Purdue University researchers.** The scientists used bread wheat species to find the gene and the markers, or bits of DNA, that indicate presence of the naturally occurring gene. The fungus causes wheat crop damage worldwide with yield losses of 50 percent or more in some places. **In the United States the disease is widespread in the Pacific Northwest, the northern Great Plains, and the eastern Midwest soft wheat region, and experts estimate annual losses at \$275 million.** "The goal of our work is to find additional resistance genes to the fungus *Mycosphaerella graminicola* so we can use the lines carrying these genes in our wheat to avoid the breakdown of resistance in the plants," said Stephen Goodwin, associate professor of botany and plant pathology and U.S. Department of Agriculture–Agricultural Research Service (USDA–ARS) scientist. "Having the markers greatly speeds up the breeding process for resistant plants."

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/08/030821072453.htm>

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Food Sector

- 17. August 22, USAgnet — USDA to launch food safety training centers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will create new regional training centers designed to bring comprehensive workforce training programs to the Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) field employees throughout the country.** "This Administration remains committed to improving our meat inspection systems," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "Training for inspectors is an important part of our efforts to ensure that all our systems effectively protect the public health." FSIS is establishing regional training centers in five field locations: Atlanta, GA, Dallas, TX, Philadelphia, PA, Des Moines, IA, and Boulder, CO. **In addition, FSIS will be conducting interactive and on-site training sessions that will be easily accessible to its field employees.** On July 20, FSIS released a vision document to guide continuing food safety initiatives, including revamping its education and training programs to better prepare field employees to implement and enforce new food safety regulations. FSIS is focused on strengthening its public health emphasis by recruiting scientifically trained employees and training its current employees in scientific and technical principles.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/news-search.cfm?Id=909>

18. *August 21, Associated Press* — **Beef recall. Meatpacker Excel Corp. is recalling more than 400,000 pounds of beef because it was mislabeled, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday.** Emmpak Foods Inc., an Excel division, is recalling 362,890 pounds of ready-to-eat beef products made in Nebraska and 102,319 pounds of ready-to-eat beef processed in Wisconsin because they contain an undeclared ingredient, hydrolyzed soy protein, the department said. The products also are labeled as containing MSG or hydrolyzed corn gluten, even though they don't, department officials said. They were sold to grocery stores in Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The beef products were processed between May 24 and August 14.

Source: http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/65880_79.htm

19. *August 19, Journal Inquirer* — **Researchers test ion scanner. A team of University of Connecticut researchers may have found a way for food producers to save significant time and money in detecting pathogenic bacteria in their products. The researchers are testing how well the ion scanners used to detect explosives and drugs at airport checkpoints can find pathogens in food. While their research is not complete, they claim the machines can detect bacteria much quicker than current methods.** The ion scanners work this way: First a very small sample of meat or poultry is placed on a piece of Teflon, then heated to a temperature higher than the boiling point of 212 degrees. The vaporized components then move through an electric field, and the machine measures the speed of the ions. In a minute or so, a pattern of the ions' movement is charted on a graph. In theory, those patterns should identify what kinds of bacteria are in the food because each kind has a unique characteristic. If there is a positive detection, an alarm is activated. The only significant obstacle to this theory, researcher, Robert T. Vinopal says, is trying to differentiate the patterns of bacteria from the patterns of the food. "The food might have volatile components that would compete for picking up charge with the bacterial components."

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=10032771&BRD=985&PAG=461&dept_id=161556&rft=6

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

20. *August 22, Associated Press* — **Red Cross may be fined. The U.S. government is threatening the American Red Cross with thousands of dollars in fines for allegedly violating a court settlement that was supposed to end continuing disputes over blood safety rules.** In April, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reached an agreement to settle charges that the Red Cross had committed "persistent and serious violations" of federal blood safety rules dating back 17 years. **That settlement spelled out changes the Red Cross must make to comply with FDA rules, such as ensuring that no patient receives potentially**

unsafe blood and rejecting donations from improper donors. For the first time, the settlement gave the FDA authority to immediately fine the Red Cross for violations. On June 3, the Red Cross submitted its plans to make some of the required changes. **In a warning letter, dated July 22 but released by the FDA Thursday, the government told the Red Cross that its plans do not fully comply with the court settlement because they leave out some specifically ordered changes. As a result, the FDA said it intends to fine the Red Cross up to \$10,000 a day for every day it was in violation of the agreement.**

Source: <http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1061545170165111.xml>

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Government Sector

21. *August 23, New York Times* — **Deputy security official leaving post. The White House announced today that the No. 2 official at the Department of Homeland Security, Deputy Secretary Gordon England, would return to his previous job as Navy secretary, only seven months after he was confirmed to the domestic security post.** The move surprised many at the Homeland Security Department, where England, a former defense industry executive, was responsible for the logistics of the consolidation of 22 agencies. The new department, which has an estimated 170,000 employees, came into being only a week before England's confirmation by the Senate in January. **England's post at the Navy has been vacant since his departure last winter. The White House said England would remain at the Homeland Security Department until his successor was confirmed.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/23/politics/23HOME.html>

22. *August 22, DCMilitary.com* — **Coast Guard drops an anchor at Bolling for first time in history. For the first time in history, members of the U.S. Coast Guard, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, are receiving permanent change of station orders with Bolling listed as their PCS destination.** Just under 30 Coast Guard members are currently stationed here, helping provide security and safety to Bolling, the Naval District of Washington's Anacostia Annex, District of Columbia residents, guests and mariners along the Potomac waterway north of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Alexandria, VA. **During patrols, Coast Guard members, who are also federal law enforcement officers, work with other agencies to detect and deter any criminal or terrorist activity. Some of those other agencies include the 11th Security Forces Squadron, DC Harbor Police, the U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Energy and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.** Members of the 11th Mission Support Group have been integral in ensuring the Coast Guard contingent at Bolling has the resources it needs to carry out its mission, according to Del Rosso.

Source: http://www.dcmilitary.com/airforce/beam/8_33/features/24758-1.html

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Emergency Services Sector

23.

August 22, Wausau Daily Herald (WI) — **Schools get F in terror response; many cite lack of resources.** More than 50 percent of school-based police officers say they don't have specific, formal guidelines to follow when the Homeland Security Advisory System increases the alert level, for example, from yellow to orange. **"Cities and towns across the country all move to a new level of preparedness, and we have schools that are larger than some of our cities," said association president Curt Lavarello. "Yet they can't adequately prepare that community."** Even though many schools don't have specific plans tied to terror alerts, almost all have more generalized safety plans on the books that could cover terrorist events should they occur, said Berland Meyer, deputy superintendent of the Wausau School District, Wausau, WI. **Those precautions include lockdown plans that close and lock classrooms in case of intruders, security measures that keep people from randomly entering schools and video camera systems that record what happens in the nooks and crannies of school buildings.** Among schools that have plans, a heightened alert often prompts them to tighten access to the campus, monitor parking lots, cut back on field trips, sports travel and after-school activities. Many also restrict locations where employees can open mail and instruct staff to be on alert for suspicious people.

Source: <http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/wdhlocal/279177146905932.shtml>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *August 23, Washington Post* — **Experts race to beat computer worm.** Computer-security experts working with law enforcement officials in the United States and Canada raced Friday, August 22, to contain the Sobig.F computer worm before it could launch a new attack. Experts said that **Sobig instructed infected computers to try to contact one of 20 other computers in Canada, South Korea and the United States to download new instructions every Friday and Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. until September 10, when the worm expires.** But the worm either failed to seek those instructions or it was thwarted from doing so when security experts disconnected 17 of the 20 targeted computers before the anticipated 3 p.m. attack Friday. The worm is thought to have been released originally as a photo on Usenet, an Internet bulletin board, by someone who had an account at Phoenix-based Internet service EasyNews.com. People who clicked on the photo had their PC infected with the virus, which then began to e-mail itself to every address on the infected computer's e-mail address book. Based on the activity from five previous versions of the virus, **experts worry that Sobig could instruct infected PCs to install back doors and programs designed to steal credit card numbers, user names and passwords.** Users to keep their anti-virus programs updated.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A34422-2003Aug 22.html>

25. *August 22, Federal Computer Week* — **Cybersecurity agency to improve patching.** Officials at the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Cyber Security Division (NCSA) want to improve the governmentwide computer patching service so more agencies use it, a senior official said this week. **More than 40 agencies have signed up so far for the Patch Authentication and Dissemination Capability, which tracks vulnerabilities and patches and sends out any tested patches to agencies based on their subscription profile.** However, not all of the agencies that signed up are actually using the service, and officials in the Federal Computer Incident Response Center (FedCIRC) are now looking at how to modify the contract,

said Sallie McDonald, a senior official with the NCSD. The primary change will be to address the shortage of licenses for the dissemination solution. FedCIRC underestimated the number of licenses that would be required, meaning that many agencies are only piloting the solution within small segments of their networks.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0818/web-circ-08-22-03.asp>

26. August 22, Washington Post — **FCC releases new phone, broadband rules. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released new rules Thursday, August 21, designed to promote competition to the major local telephone companies while deregulating their residential high-speed Internet business.** Unless they are blocked by the courts, the rules become effective 30 days after they are published in the federal register — about six weeks from now. At the heart of the new rules is a theory that the local telephone market is still dominated by major local phone companies and therefore needs continued regulation. The FCC found that the high-speed-Internet sector is more competitive and needs less regulation. The cable industry is the current leader in selling residential high-speed Internet access, controlling about two-thirds of the nationwide market. For voice services, the FCC handed state regulators broad authority to regulate the local telephone market. But when it came to data, the FCC usurped states' authority to regulate.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28763-2003Aug 21.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

| Current Alert Levels | |
|---|---|
|  <p>AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net</p> |  <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 3 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</p> |
| Current Virus and Port Attacks | |
| Virus: | #1 Virus in the United States: WORM SOBIG.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 | 135 (epmap), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 137 (netbios-ns), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 36056 (---), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 17300 (Kuang2TheVirus), 38559 (---), 139 (netbios-ssn) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center |

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General Sector

27. August 23, San Mateo County Times — **Radicals torch SUVs at four California dealerships.** Dozens of Hummers and other SUVs were set ablaze at a car dealership Friday and vehicles there, at three other area dealers and parked on streets were painted with slogans such as "Fat,

Lazy Americans" and the initials of a radical environmental group. Another SUV was burned in front of a home. **The press office of the Earth Liberation Front said in an unsigned e-mail to the Associated Press that the incidents were "ELF actions" but added that there had been no communication from the persons responsible. The ELF claimed responsibility earlier this month for burning a San Diego apartment construction site. FBI agents and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were investigating.** Brian Levin, an associate professor of criminal justice at California State University, San Bernardino, **and an expert in domestic terrorism, said the incidents were indicative of a trend toward more violent confrontations by radical environmentalists. This movement is increasingly becoming more brazen, and has crossed the line, particularly in Europe, toward physical violence,** Levin said. The Earth Liberation Front operates as a sort of headless umbrella group, Levin said, encouraging individuals to commit acts of liberation and credit them to ELF.

Source: http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com/Stories/0,1413,87~11268~1_587503,00.html

28. *August 23, Chicago Tribune* — **Environmentalists fear chemical leak from stranded U.S. vessel that ran aground on South Africa's coast. A U.S.-flagged cargo ship blown aground off Cape Town this week is carrying 56 tons of unprocessed uranium bound for the United States and is leaking a flammable chemical, industry officials admitted yesterday.**

Environmentalists said yesterday that the stranded Sealand Express poses no great environmental risk at the moment but were concerned that the ship's cargo had not yet been fully disclosed and that a cold front expected to move in today could bring new storms that might cause breaches in the vessel. **The Sealand Express, which ran aground Tuesday in stormy seas near Cape Town, is carrying 5,000 tons of crude oil, containers of industrial chemicals, including leaking propyl acetate, and 59 sealed drums of uranium oxide, a byproduct of gold mining and the raw material for nuclear fuel rods, port and industry officials said yesterday.** Activists also worry that oil carried aboard the Sealand Express could leak into the sea if the ship, which appears firmly lodged on a sandbar, founders. Yesterday, workers taking advantage of calm seas began pumping the vessel's load of fuel to shore, in an effort to refloat the ship. The process could take days and would probably be stopped if storms picked up again, experts said.

Source: http://www.sunspot.net/news/nationworld/bal-te.heat23aug23.0_2569861.story?coll=bal-nationworld-headlines

29. *August 22, Associated Press* — **France turns attention to farmers devastated in heat wave. France's government turned its attention Friday to farmers whose animals have died and whose crops have withered in an intense heat wave estimated to have killed up to 10,000 people.** Agriculture Minister Herve Gaymard estimated that the damage to French farms was between \$1.1 billion and \$4.4 billion. "Everyone knows the cost is high for farmers, and national solidarity must play a role," he told Europe-1 radio. Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin was to host talks with farmers' representatives later Friday. Jean-Michel Lemetayer, president of the FNSEA farmers union, said agriculture was devastated. On Thursday, President Jacques Chirac made his first comments on the heat wave crisis, promising "everything will be done" to correct failings in the health system that was overwhelmed by victims. **France's longest and hottest heat wave, with temperatures that topped 104 in the first two weeks of August, probably caused some 10,000 deaths, said Hubert Falco, secretary of state for the elderly.** In France, morgues and funeral homes overflowed with bodies and painful questions are being asked about why so many elderly people were left alone.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/08/22/international0640EDT0483.DTL>

30. *August 21, The Japan Times* — **Chemical weapons as much a threat as nuclear proliferation. Chemical and biological weapons falling into the hands of individuals or small bands of terrorists is as much a threat as nuclear weapons being developed by rogue states, delegates at U.N. disarmament talks warned Wednesday.** Speaking on the second day of the four-day United Nations Conference on Disarmament, chemical and biological weapons experts said that since the breakup of the Soviet Union, accounting for the proliferation of such weapons has grown harder. **"Much of the attention in disarmament circles has been on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons,"** said Huang Yu, a director at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. **"But chemical and biological weapons are easy to assemble and much cheaper.** Gennadi Lutay, deputy representative of the Russian Federation to the OPCW, said that while the Biological Weapons Conventions has done well to prevent growth in bioterrorism, it is now imperative that signatories to the pact create a better system to identify and destroy existing chemical weapons. "To combat biological terrorism, a better system of verifying biological weapons stockpiles in all member states is needed," Lutay said. "International cooperation regarding the export and transfer of biological agents needs to be strengthened."

Source: http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn2003082_1b8.htm

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