



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 29 January 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Seattle Post–Intelligencer is reporting that the Internet worm struck Washington state's leading businesses, disrupting thousands of Washington Mutual Inc. automated teller machines, infecting The Boeing Co. and even invading Microsoft Corp.'s own operations. (See item [14](#))
- Newly proposed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations would mandate transport aircraft transponder changes arising from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but compliance wouldn't be required for more than two years. (See item [16](#))
- Associated Press reports that the weekend attack on the Internet by the "SQL Slammer" worm crippled some sensitive corporate and government systems, including banking operations and 911 centers, far more seriously than many experts believed possible. (See item [29](#))
- The Internet Security Systems Security Center has reduced their AlertCon from level 3 to level 2. See the Internet Alert Dashboard.
- The SecurityFocus Deep Sight Analysis site has reduced its threat level from 2 to 1. See the Internet Dashboard.
- Editors Note: Due to some technical problems, we were not able to pull the top 10 attacked ports today. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes. That list can of course be found at the following URL: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>

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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. *January 28, The New York Times* — **Closed or not, Indian Point and its perils won't vanish. Gov. George E. Pataki faces a Friday deadline to certify the evacuation plan required by federal officials to keep the plant in operation. As that day approaches, opponents of the plant here, 35 miles north of Midtown Manhattan, feel they are closer than ever to achieving something never before done: persuading the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission to force the permanent closure of an operating nuclear plant.** In fact, with the press of a button, technicians can drop carbon rods down inside the nuclear reactors at Indian Point, ending the splitting of atoms and the generation of electricity. Despite the widespread post-9/11 security concerns that have made Indian Point the subject of enormous anxiety across New York's northern suburbs, its future is dependent on a complicated web of safety and economic issues, with or without the possibility of a calamitous terrorist attack. **Even if the plant stops generating energy, it will remain the repository for tons of spent radioactive fuel, which must be stored and protected at great cost, and will remain a potential terrorist target for the foreseeable future. Ending electricity generation at the plant, which provides at least 10 percent of the entire state's power, could carry enormous costs.**
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/28/nyregion/28INDI.html?ntem=ail1>
2. *January 28, Associated Press* — **Venezuelan strike may be weakening .** Striking Venezuelan oil executives acknowledged Tuesday that daily production surpassed 1 million barrels, signaling that President Hugo Chavez may be regaining control of the nation's key industry. The statement by dissident executives at the state monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., or PDVSA, came as opposition leaders debated whether to ease the 57-day-old strike against Chavez. **Dissident PDVSA executives said Tuesday that output by the world's fifth-largest exporter was 1.05 million barrels. Chavez claimed last week that daily production topped 1 million barrels. That remains well below pre-strike levels of 3.2 million barrels per day, but well above the 150,000 barrels per day produced during the strike's early days.** The oil industry provides half of government income and 70 percent of export revenue. Rodriguez, a Chavez ally, said more dismissals are forthcoming as the government takes advantage of the strike to downsize the company and eliminate dissent. **PDVSA had almost 40,000 employees and the government claims most have returned to work. Strike leaders deny this, saying the government has increased output by focusing on new oil wells, where it is easier to extract crude oil.** They insist the strike, called Dec. 2, will continue in the oil industry despite the government's progress on bring operations back online. The government is struggling with the strike's impact on the economy. **The strike has cost Venezuela at least \$4 billion so far and the Santander Central Hispano investment bank has warned that the economy could shrink by as much as 40 percent in the first quarter of 2003.**
Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/5046640.htm>
3. *January 28, Reuters* — **Vermont must upgrade its electric lines, build more power plants or start conserving energy better to avoid future power shortages, according to the people who run the state's high voltage power grid.** "We've seen a big increase in summer demand over the past three years, but no major power plants or lines have been built in Vermont for about 20 years," Tom Dunn, a project manager at the Vermont Electric Power Co (VELCO), said on Tuesday. Dunn travels throughout the state trying to win support for a plan that calls for spending \$150 million to upgrade the main lines carrying electricity into Vermont. **"Before**

2001, we were a winter peaking state, but the combination of unusually hot summers and mild winters have changed Vermont into a summer peaking state.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3601929

- 4. *January 28, The Charlotte Observer, N.C* — More than a month after an ice storm robbed 2 million North Carolinians of power, the Charlotte City Council directed the city manager to recommend the best method to start burying power lines.** Most of the outages were the result of ice-laden tree limbs knocking down overhead lines. Power companies already bury lines in dense, urban areas such as Charlotte's uptown and in new subdivisions. Council members acknowledged Monday it's unrealistic to try to bury all the lines in Mecklenburg County. **At an average cost of \$1 million per mile, that would cost about \$3.8 billion. Councilman James Mitchell suggested burying lines in areas with high concentrations of senior citizens, since they have a particularly hard time during power outages.** The council also asked City Manager Pam Syfert to investigate the best way to pay for the project. A Charlotte Observer poll earlier this month showed three of every four Charlotte-area residents say they're willing to pay an extra \$3 per month to bury overhead power lines and reduce storm-related outages.

Source:

- 5. *January 28, Daily Press, Newport News* — Dominion Virginia Power is fixing glitches that caused both generating units at the Surry Nuclear Power Station to shut down Saturday.** The company expects to have the plant operating normally by midweek at the latest. "No electric customers are being affected by this," said Dominion spokesman Rick Zuercher. Each unit can produce up to 800 megawatts of power enough to supply the electricity needs of 400,000 customers. **"When the water level is not right, the plant senses it, and it's built to automatically and safely shut down until it's fixed," Zuercher said. Typically, Zuercher said, the plant's units operate more than 400 days before they are taken down for a planned refueling.**

Source:

- 6. *January 27, BBC Monitoring Newsfile* — Pakistan "saboteurs" reportedly blast gas pipeline. The main gas pipeline to the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] from Sui was blown up again on Sunday [26 January] night as the blast completely damaged two supply pipes of 30 inch and 20 inch diameter.** The incident took place inside Balochistan, a few kilometres away from Sui. Initial reports suggested the saboteurs dug out the subsurface supply line and blew it up with a bomb. This main supply line catered to around 45 per cent needs of the total gas requirement of the Punjab and the NWFP. The channels supply 600m cubic feet from the total of 1000 mc/ft of gas every day to Punjab and the NWFP. The big explosion was followed by a huge fireball, which could be seen from miles. The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline [SNGPL] teams were despatched to the spot and the restoration work was underway. The SNGPL officials believed the gas supply could be restored within a day or so. The extent of the on-the-spot damage could not be estimated as the restoration operations were on. However, the dried pipes will cause loss in millions as the entire gas-dependant industry in Punjab and the NWFP would be affected. **The suspension of gas from Sui fields will result in a financial loss of around 60m rupees per day to the SNGPL, while the loss of the general industries as well as CNG stations will also go into millions of rupees.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/gasnews/gn_article.cfm?id=3597331

7. *January 26, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* — **Holland experiments with urban windmills. Hi-tech turbines, which feed kilowatts to local power grids, are now poised to conquer a new frontier — the modern city center, often fused into building designs and barely noticeable from a distance. They are lighter, quieter and often more efficient than their lumbering rural counterparts, and built to take advantage of the extreme turbulence and rapid shifts in direction that characterize urban wind patterns.** Germany, Finland and Denmark have also been experimenting with the technology, but the ever-practical Dutch are natural pioneers in urban wind power "mainly because of the lack of space here," said Sander Mertens, a wind energy researcher at the Delft University of Technology. The new windmills pay for themselves in about five years, according to the Dutch manufacturer Prowin. The smallest models weigh roughly 440 pounds and can be installed on a roof in a few hours. Many of the new urban turbines can begin spinning with wind speeds as low as 5 mph. With fewer moving parts than their rural kin, urban turbines generally require less maintenance. And because the energy they generate is close to where it is consumed, less electricity dissipates while crossing transmission lines. Problems remain, however: notably public safety concerns. Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3597274

8. *January 26, The Times (Munster IN)* — **Hammond electricity plant to buy pollution credits. The State Line electric generating station on Lake Michigan will meet new U.S. Environmental Protection agency mandates on air pollution by purchasing pollution credits on the open market. State Line Energy, the station's operator, has determined purchasing nitrogen oxide credits — basically buying a license to pollute — will be more cost-effective than installing the expensive equipment needed to fully meet the EPA's pollution reduction requirements, according to Bill Patzin, State Line station director.** Since June 2002, State Line Energy has been owned by Dominion, a Richmond, VA.-based energy company. Under an amendment to the Clean Air Act, companies that reduce pollution below the EPA's requirements can sell the excess reduction on the open market in the form of "credits." The credits can be bought by companies that have not met EPA requirements. The credits for nitrogen oxide are currently running close to \$5,000 per ton. That steep price is encouraging many plants to opt for reducing emissions rather than purchasing credits, according to state regulators. Nitrogen oxide is a key ingredient in smog and acid rain. According to the most recent data from the EPA, the State Line plant was releasing 5,445 tons of nitrogen oxide annually. **That ranked it 18th among the state's top polluters when it comes to nitrogen oxide and would make its credit bill more than \$27 million. All of the top 25 are coal-fired generating plants. The State Line plant generates 515 megawatts of electricity. All of the electricity produced at State Line is sold to ComEd under a long-term contract.** Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3596808

9. *January 24, Corpus Christi Caller Times* — **Domestic oil and gas rig count up by 17 this week. The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States increased by 17 this week to 862. Of the rigs running nationwide, 726 were exploring for gas, 133 were looking for oil and three were listed as miscellaneous, Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday. A year ago, the rig count was 859. Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Oklahoma gained eight rigs, New Mexico gained six, Texas gained two**

and Wyoming gained one. Louisiana lost three rigs, California lost one while the number of rigs in Alaska was unchanged. Baker Hughes has kept track of the count since 1944. The tally peaked at 4,530 on Dec. 28, 1981, during the height of the oil boom, but set several record lows in 1999, bottoming out at 488 on April 23, 1999.

Source: http://www.caller.com/ccct/home/article/0,1641,CCCT_800_1696_699,00.html

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *January 27, Defense News* — Zakheim: DoD wants \$240B for programs to aid transformation. U.S. defense officials will set aside about \$240 billion during the next six years for a slew of programs to foster military transformation, the Pentagon's top financial officer said Jan. 28. The Pentagon will present the 2004–2009 plan as part of its 2004 defense budget request to the U.S. Congress, Pentagon Comptroller Dov Zakheim said at an aerospace and defense industry conference organized by investment banking firm Bear Stearns, New York. **He said the \$240 billion will be spread across different categories that match the five broad transformation goals laid down by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.**

Source: http://www.defensenews.com/pgt.php?htd=i_story_1537347.html&tty=worldwide

11. *January 27, Aviation Week & Space Technology* — Pentagon targets bandwidth expansion. The requirement for bandwidth grows in every war the U.S. has fought. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the need has increased eight–fold in Central Command due to the war in Afghanistan and pursuit of terrorists in the region. Net–centric operations are expected to put a higher demand on bandwidth than previous means of operating, because collaboration and Internet–style communications are involved. **John P. Stenbit, assistant Defense secretary for command, control, communications and intelligence, says network–centric information will require the defense establishment to move from its current "broadcast" information system to more of an Internet–style environment where users get on the network and access what they need whenever they want to. Prior to the 1990s, the U.S. operated with "switched systems" such as the use of the telephone. This required the recipient to be in place to take the call.** Today, defense agencies such as the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) or the National Security Agency broadcast information they find of interest to fusion centers which are then looking at multiple broadcasts simultaneously. Stenbit calls this a "smart–push" information system where the decision on what gets sent is made by the agency sending it. But he notes these centers have gotten big and complex and that forwarding data to those who need it, over–the–horizon, is presenting problems. **The Defense Dept. goal now is to create a new type of architecture where all of the information will be stored one time on a network, allowing anyone with authorization to pull it off at any time. This works much the way the Internet does now as a "smart–pull" system where users collect the data they want whenever it suits them. But in order to deliver such a system, the Defense Dept. will need**

more bandwidth. With one file of a product posted on the network and many people accessing it at different times, there will be more communications activity. NIMA, for instance, would just post an image rather than disseminating it in a push service to several fusion centers. To achieve the required growth in capacity, the Defense Dept. is investing \$1 billion in the global information grid (GIG) bandwidth extension project. The GIG is the worldwide information network that includes all information capabilities, processes, storage, dissemination and information management used by warfighters, policy makers and support personnel.

Source: <http://www.awstonline.com/cgi-bin/authenticate.pl?destination=docs/issues/20030127/aw57.htm>

12. *January 27, Aviation Week & Space Technology* — **Industry could gain \$1 billion from NIMA.** A commercial remote-sensing order from the Pentagon's National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) could mean as much as \$1 billion in business for two U.S. satellite operators over the next five years. **Space Imaging and DigitalGlobe each received contracts from the military mapping agency capped at \$500 million for five years. The contracts also carried generous guaranteed minimum satellite-data buys for the next three years. The contracts mark a shift in U.S. government use of commercial satellite data to free classified intelligence spacecraft for more specialized tasks.** Under the new "Clearview" agreements, Space Imaging is guaranteed \$120 million over the next three years—\$48 million in the first year and \$36 million for the next two years—for worldwide data from its three-year-old Ikonos satellite. DigitalGlobe's newer QuickBird satellite will draw a guaranteed \$48 million in the first year, and \$12 million in each of the following two years. Both contracts include two one-year options and the \$500-million five-year cap. **One objective of the Clearview contract is to ensure "a viable, internationally dominant U.S. remote-sensing industry,"** stated NIMA Director James R. Clapper. The deals mark the culmination of an effort launched last year by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet to expand the use of high-resolution commercial satellite imagery for military mapping.

Source: <http://www.awstonline.com/cgi-bin/authenticate.pl?destination=docs/issues/20030127/aw32.htm>

13. *January 24, Defense News* — **New U.S. office aims to blur intel, operations.** The organizational details of the Pentagon's new high-ranking intelligence office are becoming clearer, as are two of its main goals – boost spending on intel, and get better information to troops more quickly. The new Office of the Defense Undersecretary for Intelligence, which was created at Rumsfeld's request last fall in the 2003 defense authorization bill, will oversee the entire U.S. defense intelligence apparatus, from space programs to the Defense Intelligence Agency. **It also may take on the duties of chief information officer (CIO). Top Pentagon officials have met twice in January to discuss the possibility of folding into the new office the staff of the assistant defense secretary for command, control, communications, intelligence, said John Stenbit, who currently holds that post. Stenbit said Jan. 22 that the potential move is being considered to focus the Pentagon's intelligence gathering and processing efforts.**

Source: http://www.defensenews.com/pgt.php?htd=i_story_1530674.html&tty=topnews

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *January 28, Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, — **Internet worm infects state's big businesses.** The latest Internet worm struck Washington state's leading businesses, disrupting thousands of Washington Mutual Inc. automated teller machines, infecting The Boeing Co. and even invading Microsoft Corp.'s own operations. **Around Seattle, the worm created some of the greatest problems and consumer headaches yesterday at Washington Mutual, where customers were unable to pay certain bills online, transfer funds over the telephone or even withdraw cash from bank machines.** Consumers likely felt the greatest pinch at financial institutions. Nationwide, up to 2,000 Washington Mutual ATMs were affected at any one time, bank spokeswoman Libby Hutchinson said yesterday. On Queen Anne Hill, one ATM screen stated: "Sorry, I'm out of commission right now." **The savings and loan said it hoped to have its services fully operational wednesday morning, adding that it concluded the worm didn't violate private customer data. On tuesday, customers were able to visit branches to get cash and perform other banking transactions, Hutchinson said.** Washington Mutual was far from alone, as the attack crippled some sensitive corporate and government systems far more seriously than many experts believed possible. Pillars of the financial community, such as American Express Co. and Bank of America Corp., also faced problems. Not all banks suffered, however. KeyBank and Wells Fargo & Co. were among the financial institutions that reported no problems
Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/106129_worm28.shtml

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Transportation Sector

15. *January 28, USA Today* — **Emergency checks ordered on 368 commuter planes.** The **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Monday ordered emergency inspections of flight controls on 368 commuter planes** similar to the one that crashed earlier this month in Charlotte. In its first major action since the Jan. 8 crash that killed 21 people, **the FAA also ordered airlines that use small aircraft to weigh some passengers and their baggage.** Currently, the FAA allows airlines to estimate the weight of people and their bags. The agency wants to be certain those estimates are accurate. **The crash investigation is focused on flight control panels known as elevators, which raise and lower the nose, and on the plane's weight and balance.** US Airways Express Flight 5481 crashed seconds after taking off from Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Instead of taking off at a gradual incline, the plane's nose shot skyward. The plane lost speed and plunged to the ground. All 19 passengers and both pilots died. **Preliminary evidence suggests a repair two days before the accident left the elevators dangerously out of adjustment, sources familiar with the probe say. The plane was almost fully loaded, and the bulk of the weight was located near the tail. Though apparently within legal limits, the combination of high loads and elevator problems may have made the plane unstable.**
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-01-28-faa-usat_x.htm

16. *January 27, Aviation Week and Space Technology* — **FAA launches rulemaking on**

transponder hijack mode. Newly proposed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations would mandate transport aircraft transponder changes arising from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but compliance wouldn't be required for more than two years. **Under a notice of proposed rulemaking issued Jan. 14, passenger and cargo airlines would have to modify transponders so that pilots or copilots could activate 7500, the international code alerting air traffic controllers to a hijacking, in a single, simple action. After that, the transponder would have to keep broadcasting the hijack code, thwarting attempts to change the code, deactivate the transponder or cut off its power.** Air traffic control (ATC) was slow to understand what was happening on Sept. 11, 2001, partly because none of the flight crewmembers on the hijacked aircraft was able to switch to the hijack code, and the transponders on three of the four aircraft stopped replying to ATC interrogations minutes after the aircraft left their assigned routes. As transponders are currently designed and installed, the FAA estimates that it would take a flight crewmember 5–10 sec. to dial a new code into the transponder control panel manually under normal circumstances, but considerably longer under the stress of a hijacking. If an intruder reached the flight deck, it might not be possible to change the code at all. And there is nothing to prevent an intruder from putting the transponder on standby or pulling its circuit breaker, even if the code has been changed to 7500. **Under the proposed rule, the 7500 code would be turned on by a "single action," using a device protected against unintentional activation—for example, by lifting a guarded switch or breaking a frangible wire. The cockpit crew would get visual confirmation of activation, a requirement arising from a recent incident in which an aircraft began a flight with the hijack alert code activated.** The FAA said it would prefer an as-soon-as-possible deadline for modifying the 7,394 aircraft it estimates would be affected by the rule, but it backed off this approach considerably in order to "minimize the financial burden" for cash-strapped airlines. **It chose Mar. 29, 2005, as the compliance date,** coinciding with the existing deadline for equipping aircraft with terrain awareness and warning systems (or enhanced ground proximity warning systems). This would enable airlines to install both modifications in the same downtime, during regularly scheduled heavy maintenance.

Source: <http://www.awstonline.com/cgi-bin/authenticate.pl?destination=docs/issues/20030127/aw47.htm>

- 17. *January 24, Transportation Security Administration* — TSA announces new additions to the TSA management team.** Under Secretary of Transportation for Security Adm. James M. Loy announced several key additions to the Transportation Security Administration management team. These appointments will drive continued operational, security and workplace improvements. These new team members include **Vice Adm. John E. Shkor as the new associate administrator/chief operating officer, and Gale Rossides, formerly associate under secretary for training and quality performance, as the associate administrator/chief support systems officer. Additional team members include Carol DiBattiste as the new chief of staff for TSA, Kimberly Walton as the TSA ombudsman, and Dr. Cory de Groot Whitehead as the acting associate administrator for training and quality performance.** TSA is continuing its efforts to create a Model Workforce Group to promote high performance and good management practices. The new members of the TSA team, along with others including the Office of Civil Rights, will be intimately involved with this new Model Workforce Group to ensure that issues confronting TSA screeners as well as other employees will have a voice in Adm. Loy's office as TSA continues to strive to create a world-class workplace.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/tsa0703.htm>

18. *January 24, Detroit Free Press* — **Customs quick lane now open on bridge.** The Ambassador Bridge, on the Michigan – Canada border, opened a U.S. Customs express lane for regular commuters Thursday that federal officials say will alleviate traffic while allowing inspectors to concentrate on more suspicious cars and people. **The NEXUS lane allows pre-approved drivers to bypass routine questioning by U.S. Customs Service officials. Once they cross the bridge and reach a customs booth, drivers and passengers wave a card that transmits computerized information to a customs official.** The official can still pull the driver over for questioning. Commuters must apply for the cards and be approved by the U.S. or Canadian governments after passing a background check, officials said. **About 2,000 commuters are enrolled in the Ambassador Bridge program,** said Kevin Weeks, West Great Lakes director of field operations for the U.S. Customs Service. "I would characterize it as an extremely important program," said Weeks, adding that **the program allows customs inspectors to "facilitate traffic and at the same time focus on high-risk travelers and high risk vehicles."** A similar lane for trucks was opened on the bridge Dec. 16.

Source: http://www.freep.com/news/roadwork/ebridge24_20030124.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *January 28, New York Times* — **Europe acts against U.S. effort on ports.** The European Union is taking legal action against four member countries for breaking ranks and signing up for a United States program meant to prevent the use of cargo containers by terrorists. The program, called the Container Security Initiative, provides for American customs officers to be stationed in foreign ports and work side by side with local inspectors to screen containers bound for the United States for any weapons or hazardous materials that might be used by terrorist groups. **The European Union is moving against Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium, all of which reached agreements with the United States to take part in the program, and it is considering action against three more: Britain, Italy and Spain.** The union's complaint is that **the deals effectively give cargo passing through participating ports preferential treatment, and that shippers will start to divert America-bound cargo to those ports from others in the European Union. Under its rules, the union argues, individual members are not allowed to make such deals; the same trade preferences must apply to all 15 members and not be negotiated individually.** "Unfortunately, it is another example of a rift," said a European Union spokesman, Jonathan Todd. "Given the stakes, we sincerely hope that we can achieve a constructive outcome, because it is in the interests of both sides to work together."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/01/28/business/worldbusiness/28S HIP.html>

20. *January 27, Memphis Business Journal* — **Cargo services portal launched by major carriers.** Three major cargo carriers have launched an online cargo computer system called Cargo Portal Services. The cargo divisions of Northwest, Air Canada and United Airlines say **the Internet-based portal is now live and will enable freight forwarders to more easily book and manage shipments through their lifecycles on these carriers, while reducing transaction costs.** In mid-December, selected freight forwarders used the service to make the

first test bookings directly onto the operational systems of the partner carriers. Since then, all final system and site details have been developed and tested further for quality control. Cargo Portal Services is available to forwarders free-of-charge. Interested forwarders should visit <http://www.cargoportalservices.com> .

Source: <http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2003/01/27/daily4.html>

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Agriculture Sector

21. *January 28, Pioneer Press* — **Elk oversight may change. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health would regulate all farmed elk and deer in the state under a legislative proposal to help stop the spread of chronic wasting disease. The proposal by a broad-based task force would have the board operate a mandatory registration and chronic wasting disease surveillance program.** The legislative report, which also recommends giving the board \$600,000 a year to operate the program, was prepared over the past nine months by agencies and organizations dealing with the state's farmed cervidae or wild deer herds. The proposals are aimed at helping the state stop the disease, which is fatal to elk and deer, from spreading among the state's elk population and into the wild deer herd. So far, it's been found in two farmed elk but no wild deer. **Oversight is now split, with the board regulating 319 herds of deer, elk and other cervidae. The DNR regulates game farms, including 452 with cervidae such as deer and elk. The board is generally considered to have tighter rules and standards and, because of its livestock background, to be better equipped to manage farmed animals.** Now, 227 farms participate in the board's voluntary program, agreeing to register the animals, to report any deaths, and to submit brain samples for testing. Under the new proposal, all 771 farms would have to participate.

Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/5045141.htm>

22. *January 27, Knight Ridder* — **Lobstermen finding shrinking stocks, diseased catches. In once-productive Rhode Island and New York waters, the lobsters either aren't there or have been hit by a shell disease that makes them unmarketable.** Around 100 Massachusetts lobstermen set pots in Area 2 waters, stretching from Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts to the New York area, including between 30 and 50 fishermen from Cape Cod and the islands. **Lobster is the No. 1 commercial species in the state and in the region, with more than \$254 million in landings in the Northeast in 2001. Lobstermen in Buzzards Bay have seen their catches dwindle from more than 2.5 million pounds in 1997 to around 1.5 million in 2001. In all of Area 2, landings have dropped from 8 million pounds in 1999 to around 2.8 million pounds in 2001.** The situation is so dire that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will meet at the end of February to look at emergency measures to replace a lobster management plan instituted just last year. It's now thought those regulations are inadequate to bring the lobster stock out of steep decline. 'The technical info is pretty grim. There's been a pretty sharp drop-off over the past five years,' said Bob Beal, the commission's coordinator of interstate fishery management plans. Massachusetts state Division of Marine Fisheries director Paul Diodati didn't really want to go with a Perfect Storm analogy, but he couldn't come up with any better metaphor to describe the confluence of fishermen catching more than 80 percent of adult lobsters, the warming trend in waters south of the Cape that may be playing havoc with lobster biology and the rise in shell disease. "It's a crisis situation," he said. **No one knows**

exactly why a shell-eating bacteria took hold in Buzzards Bay lobsters seven years ago and then spread to Rhode Island and Long Island Sound lobsters. The bacteria causes pits and deformities in the shells, and can cause the shell to become paper thin, leaving the lobster vulnerable to enemies and disease. While the meat is unaffected, it's not exactly appealing fare for the live lobster trade, which is the bulk of lobster business.

Source: <http://www.seafood.com/news/current/86275.html>

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Food Sector

23. *January 28, Ivanhoe Newswire* — Early screening may detect staph infection. New research shows patients screened for staph infections when they are admitted to hospitals may help identify potential sources of the infection in intensive care units. Researchers in Paris studied methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections in 14 ICUs for six months. Of 2,347 ICU admissions during the MRSA screening, researchers found 162 patients had the infection. More than half of the infections in these patients were detected through screening specimens only. Of the 2,320 first admissions to the ICU, 96 patients were newly identified MRSA carriers. According to the study, multiple drug-resistant bacteria, such as MRSA, have become prevalent in many countries. In French hospitals, 30 percent to 40 percent of infections overall, and 78 percent of hospital-acquired infections in ICU patients are resistant to methicillin. ICUs are highly likely to receive patients with MRSA, and previous studies found 8 percent to 10 percent of incoming ICU patients had MRSA. **Researchers suggest screening at ICU admission should include nasal swabs and sampling of skin lesions, if any, in addition to collecting clinical specimens.** MRSA is also a major cause of hospital-acquired infections in the United States. **According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 2 million patients in the United States each year contract an MRSA infection from exposure while receiving hospital care. The infection is reportedly associated with a death rate of 10 percent to 25 percent because of its capacity to cause serious complications. The CDC estimates treatment costs for MRSA and other hospital-acquired infections total \$4.5 billion a year.**

Source: http://www.ivanhoe.com/channels/p_channelstory.cfm?storyid=5319

24. *January 27, Reuters* — U.S. seeks child vaccine stockpile. President Bush plans to ask Congress for money to stockpile vaccines to cushion shortages like one that left hundreds of thousands of U.S. children only partly protected from several diseases last year, health officials said late last week. Bush's 2004 budget proposal will call for spending \$707 million between 2003 and 2006 to build a stockpile of vaccines, the officials said. It will also include cash to pay for vaccines for under-insured children. "We have recently gone through some serious vaccine shortages," Dr. Walter Orenstein, head of the National Immunization Program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), told reporters. "We did not have, at the time, a vaccine stockpile to cushion the effect. This will allow us to build one over four years." **Last year's vaccine shortage forced 49 of the 50 U.S. states to ration shots, the General Accounting Office said in a report in September.** The CDC recommends that all babies get 11 routine vaccines in eight shots. Over the past year, there was a shortage of five vaccines—the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine; the pneumococcal vaccine against bacterial meningitis; tetanus and diphtheria vaccines; and

chickenpox.

Source: <http://reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews=2117383>

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Water Sector

25. *January 28, Associated Press* — **Pollution wastes lots of California's water. More than 70 billion gallons of California ground water is undrinkable because of contamination by just two highly publicized pollutants, a public interest group says in a report being released today.** That's enough to supply 400,000 families for a year, and, if usable, would replace more than a third of the water California is losing because of its inability to cut back on its draw from the Colorado River, according to Environment California. **Backed by the report, state Sen. Nell Soto, D-Pomona, plans to introduce legislation next month to increase water protections and require polluters to replace lost water supplies.** Environment California is a new spin-off from CalPIRG, the state's chapter of the national Public Interest Research Group. The report is the first for the group that officially splits from CalPIRG this week. Its report catalogs estimates of contaminated water from two high-profile ground-water pollutants for which cleanup efforts are already largely underway: MTBE, a gasoline additive that trims air pollution, and perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel.

Source: http://www.insidevc.com/vcs/state/article/0,1375,VCS_122_170_4150,00.html

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Public Health Sector

Nothing to report.

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Government Sector

26. *January 28, Washington Post* — **U.S. to make Iraq intelligence public. After a lengthy debate over what and how much of the intelligence to disclose, President Bush and his national security advisers have decided to declassify some of the information and make it public, perhaps as early as next week, in an effort to garner more domestic and international support for confronting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with military force, officials said.** "The United States possesses several pieces of information which come from the work of our intelligence that show Iraq maintains prohibited weapons," Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said in an interview published yesterday in an Italian newspaper. "Once we have made sure it can be done safely, I think that in the next week or soon after we can make public a good part of this material." **The information was gathered by U.S. intelligence agencies from what officials characterized as an array of sources and methods. The administration believes it shows that senior Iraqi officials and military officers who report to members of Hussein's inner circle have personally directed the movement and camouflage of the weapons or have knowledge of the operations, the sources said.** Administration officials have said for weeks that the United States has intelligence

demonstrating that Iraq maintains banned weapons programs. But they have said they could not disclose the information because doing so would jeopardize U.S. intelligence-collection methods or military operations against possible weapon storage sites in the event of war. **The administration's decision to release even partial accounts of what it believes it has learned would clearly be designed to bolster the U.S. case in the U.N. Security Council, where leading members oppose an early decision to go to war, and among many Americans, who recent polls suggest are not convinced of the need for an immediate military confrontation. Democrats on Capitol Hill recently have increased calls on the administration to make public what it knows.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52135-2003Jan 27.html>

27. *January 28, Associated Press* — **Gov't. begins case against suspected spy.** An FBI agent testifying in a rare spy case in open court said defense contractor Brian Patrick Regan developed an elaborate code to disguise information he was copying from secret documents on missile sites. Steven Carr, who headed the investigation that led to Regan's arrest, said the retired Air Force master sergeant used words to hide the numbered coordinates of Iraqi and Chinese missile sites that had been detected by U.S. military satellites. **Carr was the initial witness Monday in the first spy trial in 50 years that could result in the death penalty. Regan, 40, of Bowie, Md., has pleaded not guilty to charges that he offered classified information to Iraq, Libya and China.** Defense attorney Jonathan Shapiro said Regan was only trying to disguise bank account PINs and certainly would not use such a code to pass classified information. "It would easily be tied to him," Shapiro said. "The evidence will make you wonder if it was a code at all, or just nonsense." **If convicted, Regan could become the first American executed for spying since Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in 1953. The Rosenbergs were convicted of conspiring to steal U.S. atomic secrets for the former Soviet Union.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A53760-2003Jan 28.html>

28. *January 27, Los Angeles Times* — **Warning sounded over security spending plan.** There are growing signs that, contrary to pronouncements of top administration officials, President Bush's budget for the next fiscal year will include comparatively little new money for homeland security and nowhere near what many experts say is needed to minimize chances of another terrorist attack. **Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and White House budget director Mitchell E. Daniels Jr. said last week that the president will seek to boost homeland security spending by a larger percentage than any other category in the federal budget for the fiscal year that begins in October. But aides acknowledged that this includes a substantial chunk of Defense Department spending, a category that independent analysts assert does little to directly bolster the security of Americans at home and work.** Even at face value, the officials' comments suggest that the White House is preparing to ask for an extra \$2 billion to \$3 billion for homeland security. That's less than one-third of what a recent Brookings Institution study said is needed, and barely one-tenth of what a key official with a bipartisan Council on Foreign Relations task force thinks should be spent. And the estimate of \$2 billion to \$3 billion may well be too high. **Preliminary figures the White House shared with Capitol Hill suggest that the increase Bush will propose in tax-funded, nondefense homeland security spending -- a key measure of the extra commitment Washington is ready to make -- will be closer to \$1 billion.**

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-na-homeland27ja n27001447.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

29. *January 27, Associated Press* — **Internet attack's disruptions more serious than many thought possible. The weekend attack on the Internet by the "SQL Slammer" worm crippled some sensitive corporate and government systems, including banking operations and 911 centers, far more seriously than many experts believed possible.** President Bush's No. 2 cyber–security adviser, Howard Schmidt, acknowledged Monday that what he called "collateral damage" stunned even experts who have warned about uncertain effects on the nation's most important electronic systems from mass–scale Internet disruptions. **The White House and Canadian defense officials confirmed they were investigating how the attack could have affected ATM banking and other important networks that should remain immune from traditional Internet outages.** Investigators are now looking for clues about its origin and the identity of the worm's author. **Complicating the investigation was how quickly the attack spread across the globe, making it nearly impossible for researchers to find the electronic equivalent of "patient zero," the earliest infected computers.** Experts said **blueprints of the attack software were similar to a program published on the Web months ago by David Litchfield, a British security expert who discovered the flaw in Microsoft's database software last year.** The attack software also was similar to computer code published weeks ago on a Chinese hacking Web site by a virus author known as "Lion," who publicly credited Litchfield for the idea. Litchfield said he deliberately published his blueprints for computer administrators to understand how hackers might use the program to attack their systems. Still, **Litchfield's disclosure was likely to reignite a simmering dispute among security researchers and technology companies about how much information to disclose when they discover serious vulnerabilities in popular software.**

Source: <http://ap.tbo.com/ap/breaking/MGAPX0P2HBD.html>

30. *January 27, Reuters* — **Hacker insurance market boosted by cyberattacks.** The "SQL Slammer" worm that attacked the Internet this weekend provided a boost to the emerging market for hacker insurance, experts said on Monday. **Hacker insurance, also known as "network risk insurance," has been on the market for about three years, but is expected to explode from a \$100 million industry to a \$2.5 billion industry by 2005,** according to insurance industry projections. Companies are currently tallying the economic cost of the attack, which continues to grow as businesses become more dependent on Internet infrastructure to conduct their business. At the same time, some **security experts questioned whether insurance policies would be effective, given that many of them exclude more incidents than they cover, given the unpredictability of where and how an attack could come.** However, when many existing commercial general liability policies expired on January 1, they were replaced by policies that contain explicit exclusions for hacker–related losses, attorney Robert Steinberg of Los Angeles wrote in a recent brief: **"Particularly given the**

post-September 11 climate, fears about how such vulnerabilities and attendant magnitudes of loss might impact on national security have reached a critical mass." The SQL Slammer virus, which was a deceptively small and short program that could be easily overlooked, also **underscored the increasing sophistication and unpredictable nature of attacks, making it virtually impossible to quantify their impact**, experts said. Although the economic implications of hack attacks are poorly understood, Steinberg said, **the Bush administration has pushed insurers to work with businesses to establish a security baseline for critical infrastructure in the private sector.**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/financeNewsArticle.jhtml?type=governm entFilingsNews/a>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 www.securityfocus.com
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: PE_FUNLOVE.4099 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	[fetch Target Ports (auto)]

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General Sector

31. *January 28, Reuters* — **Indonesia ties Jemaah Islamiah to Bali bombing. Indonesia's police chief on Tuesday for the first time directly tied the Southeast Asian militant Muslim network, Jemaah Islamiah, to last October's bomb attacks on Bali island that killed at least 193 people. Speaking before parliament, General Da'i Bachtiar said Jemaah Islamiah chiefs decided at a meeting in Bangkok in February last year to attack U.S. interests in Indonesia and Singapore.** That eventually resulted in a plan to target two nightclubs on Bali island, which bore the brunt of the devastating bombings and left mainly foreign tourists dead. It was the worst attack since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Bachtiar said a Malaysian explosives expert designed and supervised the making of a car bomb which did most of the damage. "Jemaah Islamiah was present in the Bali bombings," Bachtiar said. "We know this firstly from the JI operational plan which was decided in Bangkok in the middle of February 2002, with the objective of attacking the interests of the United States and its allies in Indonesia and Singapore." **Bachtiar said the Jemaah Islamiah leader, Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, had given his "blessing" to the operations** —

although he did not make clear if he was referring to the general attack on U.S. interests or the specific plan to bomb Bali. While Bashir is under arrest on treason charges in Jakarta in connection with church bombings in 2000, police have not linked him to the Bali blasts. The silver-bearded Bashir has denied all wrongdoing or knowledge of Jemaah Islamiah. Until now, Bachtiar and other leaders have only said some of the 20 Indonesian men arrested over Bali were members of Jemaah Islamiah, but not that the group itself was directly involved.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A53367-2003Jan 28.html>

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NIPC Products & Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

[NIPC Advisories](#) – Advisories address significant threat or incident information that suggests a change in readiness posture, protective options and/or response.

[NIPC Alerts](#) – Alerts address major threat or incident information addressing imminent or in-progress attacks targeting specific national networks or critical infrastructures.

[NIPC Information Bulletins](#) – Information Bulletins communicate issues that pertain to the critical national infrastructure and are for informational purposes only.

[NIPC CyberNotes](#) – CyberNotes is published to support security and information system professionals with timely information on cyber vulnerabilities, malicious scripts, information security trends, virus information, and other critical infrastructure-related best practices.

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