



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

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- Webuser reports that according to anti-virus company Sophos, a new variant of the Mmail worm attempts to trick users of online payment company PayPal into giving out their credit card details. (See item [6](#))
- CTV Canada reports the state of security at Montreal, Canada's water treatment plants is being reviewed after a serious breach at the city's Atwater filtration facility. (See item [14](#))
- The Associated Press reports the nation's biggest known outbreak of hepatitis A is causing people to line up by the thousands for antibody shots, and many say they are no longer eating out. (See item [16](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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## Energy Sector

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

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

1. *November 14, Reuters* — **California energy crisis over.** California's energy crisis, which led to blackouts and bankruptcies, is officially over. **California's Governor Gray Davis officially rescinded on Thursday, November 13, the state of emergency signed in January 2001. On Friday the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) backed that view, with a report showing a dramatic improvement in the outlook for the western U.S.** "WECC (Western Electricity Coordinating Council) is showing the greatest increase in projected

capacity margin," said George Bartlett of NERC said, referring to the region which covers the Western United States and parts of Western Canada. Bartlett, who chairs a NERC subcommittee which monitors grid reliability across the whole of North America, attributed the improvement to the construction of a large fleet of new power plants, a factor which Davis also highlighted. California was hit by blackouts and the bankruptcy of its largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, as power prices skyrocketed in 2000 and early 2001.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40945-2003Nov\\_14.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40945-2003Nov_14.html)

- 2. *November 14, North American Electric Reliability Council* — NERC issues 2003/2004 winter assessment.** The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) released its 2003/2004 Winter Assessment on Friday, November 14. **"Generating resources will be adequate to meet the demand for electricity throughout North America this winter,"** said **Michehl R. Gent, NERC President and CEO.** "We have not identified any significant areas of concern for the upcoming season," he added. **New generating resources have been added in several Regions since last winter, and generating capacity margins are greater than those projected for last winter in most NERC Regions. The assessment states that transmission systems are expected to perform reliably this winter.** However, operating experience shows that market conditions can, at times, cause large and widely varying flows. If these conditions occur this winter, congestion management procedures will need to be invoked to maintain transmission system security. The assessment is available at [ftp://www.nerc.com/pub/sys/all\\_updl/docs/pubs/winter2003-04.pdf](ftp://www.nerc.com/pub/sys/all_updl/docs/pubs/winter2003-04.pdf)  
Source: [ftp://www.nerc.com/pub/sys/all\\_updl/docs/pressrel/11-14-03-WA-PR.pdf](ftp://www.nerc.com/pub/sys/all_updl/docs/pressrel/11-14-03-WA-PR.pdf)

- 3. *November 13, Associated Press* — Nevada denies water rights. Nevada is again denying water rights to Yucca Mountain, the site the federal government plans for a national nuclear waste repository. "The building of a nuclear waste repository is not a beneficial use,"** state Engineer **Hugh Ricci** said Thursday, November 13, of his decision to deny permanent groundwater rights to the Department of Energy (DOE). **Ricci's ruling, dated November 7, has no immediate effect because a court order currently allows enough water for maintenance and scientific activities at the site 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.** Ricci cited "overwhelming opposition in Nevada" to the DOE's plan and called the Yucca Mountain repository "detrimental to the public interest." The federal government can challenge Ricci's ruling, although DOE spokesperson Allen Benson said Thursday in Las Vegas that no decision had been made. "It's under review," Benson said. A federal judge in Las Vegas got lawyers for the state and federal governments to agree in December to allow pumping a limited amount of water from underground aquifers to refill storage tanks and serve restrooms and emergencies at Yucca Mountain. That interim agreement does not provide enough water to build, open and operate the repository.  
Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2003/nov/13/111310226.html>

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## **Chemical Sector**

- 4. *November 14, Associated Press* — Chemical scare in Pascagoula, MS. Toxic chemical spills were found yesterday inside an abandoned cleaners and at the former business owner's home in Pascagoula.** Firefighters first discovered the hazardous chemicals outside Danny

Breazeale's home when they found a leak in a 20-gallon drum filled with an unknown substance. **There also was a 55-gallon drum filled with tetrachloroethylene, a highly flammable cleaning solvent and carcinogen.** After cleaning up the leak at the home, firefighters and environmental quality officials went to the business and found more of the toxic carcinogen leaking from a 55-gallon drum outside the business, with another leak in a drum filled with an unknown liquid. **Four other drums outside were filled with the highly toxic chemical perchloroethylene.** The toxic liquids also were found on the floors inside the business. Earl Etheridge, on-site coordinator for the state Department of Environmental Quality, says officials will have to determine if the old cleaners should be declared a hazardous waste site.

Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=1525032>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *November 13, GovExec.com* — **Navy to shift workers to meet shortfall in high-skilled positions. Navy officials plan to step up efforts to move around workers with highly technical skills in order to keep on top of construction and maintenance demands, officials with the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) said** Thursday, November 13. The service needs to change its personnel practices due to a "critical shortfall" of highly-skilled workers to build, repair and maintain ships, said Rear Admiral William Klemm, deputy commander of NAVSEA's logistics, maintenance and industrial operations directorate. The Navy will tap military and civilian workers with advanced skills at its four shipyards in Portsmouth, NH, Pearl Harbor, HI, Bremerton, WA, and Portsmouth, VA, and at its two largest commercial shipyards – General Dynamics' Electric Boat division in Groton, CT, and Northrop Grumman's Newport News, VA, unit. **Under the Navy's Fleet Readiness Plan, the service is moving from a "rotational force" to a "surge force." Klemm said maintaining a surge force requires the Navy to identify the key tasks that need done -- regardless of where they are in the world -- and then quickly deploy the right workers with the right skills.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1103/111303c1.htm>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *November 14, Webuser* — **Virus targets PayPal customers.** A new variant of the Mimail worm attempts to trick users of online payment company PayPal into giving out their credit card details. According to anti-virus company Sophos, **Mimail.I spreads via e-mail with the subject "Your PayPal.com Account Expires," and an attachment named "www.paypal.com.scr."** The new worm asks Web users to provide detailed information about their credit cards, claiming that PayPal is "implementing a new security policy." Victims are advised not to send any bank details via e-mail and not to enter their bank details to a PayPal form. Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Sophos, said, "The e-mail even includes a realistic-looking checkbox, which users are expected to tick in order to confirm that the details they have entered are correct."

Source: <http://www.web-user.co.uk/news/47158.html>

7. *November 14, Dow Jones Business News* — **U.S. suspends tax-exempt status of terror-linked charities.** The U.S. Treasury has suspended the tax-exempt status of three charities with alleged links to terrorist funding, Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service said Friday, November 14. Treasury said its latest actions affect the following foundations: **Benevolence International Foundation Inc., Global Relief Foundation Inc., and Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development.** The change means that contributions to these organizations are no longer deductible for federal tax purposes. All three charities have been designated previously as terror-linked organizations under an executive order from President George W. Bush, which allows the U.S. to seize any assets they hold in the U.S. financial system. Any contributions since they were designated are not tax deductible, Treasury said.

Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031114/1443000909\\_2.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/031114/1443000909_2.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *November 14, The Wi-Fi Technology Forum* — **FCC adopts proposals for broadband by satellite on vessels.** The Federal Communications Commission has initiated a proceeding proposing rules for satellite services on vessels, including broadband services. **The proposals implement the results of the 2003 World Radiocommunications Conference and seek to establish a new framework for the licensing of earth stations on vessels (ESVs) in the United States.** This initiative advances the Commission's goals for market-driven deployment of broadband technologies, innovation, efficient use of spectrum and regulatory certainty **ESVs offer consumers the benefits of broadband services while on vessels, including cruise ships and government, cargo and other vessels.** To date, in the United States, ESVs have been operating under special temporary authority. The Commission's proposals seek to provide regulatory certainty to both terrestrial fixed service and fixed satellite service operators in the Ku-band and C-band. Specifically, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) requests comment on rules and procedures to license ESV networks for operation over fixed satellite service satellites in those bands.

Source: [http://www.wi-fitechnology.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=N  
ews&file=article&sid=685&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0](http://www.wi-fitechnology.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=685&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0)

9. *November 14, KXAN (Austin, TX)* — **More travelers expected for Thanksgiving.** The American Automobile Association (AAA) predicts 36 million Americans will travel more than 50 miles from home this Thanksgiving holiday. That's up 2.5 percent from just last year. And even though gas prices have fallen 24 percent from the highs this summer, the AAA says that they're still up compared to 2002. But that's not the only hassle drivers will deal with. "That Wednesday afternoon rush hour before Thanksgiving, you have last-minute shoppers. You have your commuters and your holiday travelers on the road together. It can be a really rotten day on the roadway," Justin McNaull, a spokesman for AAA, said. **The Transportation Security Administration reports that the combination of business and holiday travelers could lead to backup at airports as well.** The AAA predicts the greatest number of travelers will originate in the southwest and in the west.

Source: <http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=1525291>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

10. *November 14, DM News* — **USPS: Product redesign changes.** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) expects to complete much of its product redesign effort by May so that the changes can be included in the next rate case, which could be filed next fall and implemented in January 2006. Begun in 2001, the product redesign initiative aims to bring sweeping changes to postal products and services. Goals include developing flexible cost-based presort, preparation and entry; defining work-sharing opportunities; improving value to customers; driving costs out of the system through incentive-based practices; and having prices and products that generate growth in volume and revenue. **Additionally, by the end of the year, the USPS hopes to publish a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would permit co-palletization and co-mailing of mixed classes of flat-size mail. This change will allow Periodicals, Standard Mail pieces and Bound Printed Matter flats to be placed on the same pallets or in the same bundles.** This would leave the USPS with fewer pallets and bundles to handle and let mailers get deeper drop-ship discounts with existing rates. Source: [http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article\\_id=2560\\_6](http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=2560_6)

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## **Agriculture Sector**

11. *November 14, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **More deer farms quarantined in CWD investigation.** Three more whitetail deer herds have been quarantined in the investigation of chronic wasting disease (CWD) on a Portage, WI, hunting preserve. According to State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt, owners of the recently quarantined herds are believed to have bought animals from a farmer that were on his farm at the same time as a buck that he later sold to Buckhorn Flats Game Farm. That deer tested positive for CWD in October. A quarantine does not mean that disease is present. Quarantines are issued to stop movement of live animals off farms while authorities examine records, talk with the owners, and determine whether the animals have been exposed to disease. **There are now 16 Wisconsin herds under quarantines related to CWD. Seven are related to the three CWD cases found at Buckhorn Flats; two are herds that received elk from a Minnesota herd later found to be infected; seven are farms that lie within the Department of Natural Resources disease eradication zone in southwestern Wisconsin.**

Source: [http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1369\\_&yr=2003](http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=1369_&yr=2003)

12. *November 14, Reuters* — **Japan to ban cattle backbone use in food products.** Japan has decided to ban the use of cattle backbone in food products and the sale of beef with backbone from countries that have reported cases of mad cow disease, a Health Ministry official said on Friday. The decision by a ministry panel will mostly apply to domestic products as Japan has already suspended beef imports from countries that have reported cases of the disease formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). **The ban will**

probably be put in place around February after preparatory steps are completed, the official said. BSE is believed to be carried mostly in nervous tissue, notably that in the animal's spine. "It is not the whole of the backbone that is dangerous, but it is difficult to just remove the part that is considered risky," the official said. Earlier this month, Japan confirmed a new case of mad cow disease, the ninth since the brain-wasting illness was first discovered in the country in September 2001.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/T298587.htm>

13. *November 14, EU Business* — **Researchers find substitute for antibiotics to spur animal growth.** Hungarian researchers on Friday said they have developed a natural food additive that boosts animal growth and can replace antibiotics, which the European Union (EU) plans to ban in farming from 2006. The new product, called Immunovet, is based on wheat germs and meets all EU safety norms, scientists said. "Our researchers have developed a natural nutritional additive that replaces antibiotics in the growth of animals," said Emma Kosa of Hungary's St. Stephen University. **She said using the additive lead to savings of \$6,800 in the raising of 16,000 pigs.** Field studies of Immunovet showed it accelerated growth in pork, poultry, cows, and rabbits while at the same time improving the quality of meat and reducing animal death rates, scientists said.

Source: <http://www.eubusiness.com/afp/031114181742.aafg8mp>

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## Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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## Water Sector

14. *November 14, CTV Canada* — **Water security breach raises concerns. The state of security at Montreal, Canada's water treatment plants is being reviewed after a serious breach at the city's Atwater filtration facility. Last week, a reporter from the French network TQS walked through a hole in the fence surrounding the Atwater plant.** With a camera in tow, he walked past security cameras and found his way into the plant. He managed to gain access to the main control panel, and was filmed dipping his hand into the reservoir. **The security breach comes on the heels of a secret intelligence report that warned terrorists could easily target Canadian water supply systems.** Declassified portions of the document distributed to key federal authorities by the Privy Council Office were obtained by the Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act. **In the report, security officials warn extremists could use lethal substances such as ricin and botulinum in a terrorist campaign.** "Ricin is water-soluble, and water supplies can therefore remain contaminated for a considerable length of time," the report noted. **The official in charge of Montreal's water supply, Alan Desousa, said there was never any real danger.** As city hall considers the expensive prospect of updating its security protocols, the journalist who strolled into the Atwater filtration plant will get off without punishment.

Source: <http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/10687636>

15. *November 13, United Press International* — **Bacterium found to cleanse water.** A Canadian researcher has discovered a new bacterium that can cleanse water of nitrate pollution. **The bacterium, called Nitratireductor aquibiodomus, could eventually be used to treat drinking water with high nitrate levels around the world, researcher Normand Labbe said.** Labbe successfully cultivated the bacterium in 2002 and characterized its metabolic and molecular structure. Nitrate, the most oxidized version of nitrogen, is often found in water. While high levels can occur naturally, these often indicate biological wastes in water or runoff from heavily fertilized fields. Excess nitrate levels can be harmful to humans and marine life. Source: [http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20031113-124051-4620\\_r.htm](http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20031113-124051-4620_r.htm)

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## **Public Health Sector**

16. *November 15, Associated Press* — **Hepatitis outbreak spreads fear. The nation's biggest known outbreak of hepatitis A is causing such a panic that people are lining up by the thousands for antibody shots and no longer eating out. A third person died Friday and nearly 500 others who ate at a Chi-Chi's Mexican restaurant have fallen ill in the outbreak that has prompted the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to send assistance.** Health investigators are focusing on whether contaminated produce — perhaps scallions — caused the outbreak at the restaurant in the Beaver Valley Mall, about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. "We're very concerned. It's very serious and we've sent a team of people out there to assist," said CDC spokesman David Daigle. Health officials Friday met with worried shoppers at the mall to try to squelch rumors that the virus was spreading out of control to other restaurants in the region. State Rep. Mike Veon attended a news conference at the mall and ate a sandwich he bought there. **The Chi-Chi's has been shut down and the restaurant chain removed scallions from kitchens at all its 100 locations, said Bill Zavertnik, chief operating officer of the Louisville, Kentucky-based company.** Infectious-disease experts say finding the source could be challenging because hepatitis A has a long incubation period, meaning the virus could spread to many places before it is detected. Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/conditions/11/15/hepatitis.ou\\_tbreak.ap/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/conditions/11/15/hepatitis.ou_tbreak.ap/index.html)

17. *November 14, Reuters* — **U.S. Germ Detection System active in 31 cities. The U.S. government has set up a \$60 million network to help detect a biological attack in 31 cities across the country, Homeland Security officials said on Friday. The BioWatch system collects air samples at about a dozen sites in each of the cities. The samples are then checked for potentially deadly diseases that could be used in a biological attack.** The goal of BioWatch, located mostly in major urban areas such as Washington, New York City and Houston, is to discover if any bacteria or viruses have been released into the air as part of a biological attack. If so, the department would then mobilize public health and law enforcement officials. **Air samples are collected at least once a day and taken to special laboratories where technicians extract DNA samples to do genetic testing for a number of diseases.** Officials said the system covers half the U.S. population, but some experts have questioned the amount of air that is tested. They say sensors need to be correctly positioned to accurately detect

an attack. **BioWatch is funded by Homeland Security, and has been operating since early 2003, when officials grew worried about the threat of biological attack in light of the war in Iraq.**

Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=4&u=/nm/20031114/hl\\_nm/security\\_biowatch\\_dc](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=571&ncid=751&e=4&u=/nm/20031114/hl_nm/security_biowatch_dc)

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## **Government Sector**

18. *November 14, Toledo Blade* — **Coast Guard key in Homeland Security. The role of the U.S. Coast Guard has changed drastically since September 25, 2002. That was the day the Maritime Transportation Act of 2002 was signed into law. On the same day, the Department of Homeland Security was created and placed under the Coast Guard's jurisdiction.** To keep boating educators and marine-enforcement officers abreast of the trends and changes, Ensign Pat O'Donnell, of the Coast Guard's marine-safety office in Toledo, and Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Terry Cleary conducted a workshop on homeland security for recreational boaters, at a statewide boating conference hosted by the Ohio Department of Resources at Maumee Bay State Park's conference center, November 12-14. **Similar to the federal government threat advisory levels, MARSEC (an acronym for Maritime Security) uses different colors as a kind of shorthand to alert boaters to the level of security risk. MARSEC One, signified by green, yellow or blue, is identified as the new normalcy, or average risk level. MARSEC Two, an orange alert, means a heightened risk of a security incident. MARSEC Three is a red alert indicating an imminent attack.** If we go to orange, Donnell said, recreational boaters will have to decide whether to go out on the water.

Source: <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20031114/SPORTS13/111140147>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

19. *November 14, Government Computer News* — **Liscouski takes reins of National Communications System. The Homeland Security Department's Robert Liscouski is adding a new charge to his list of duties as assistant secretary for information analysis and infrastructure protection. He's now the manager of the department's National Communications System (NCS).** NCS operates federal emergency telecommunications systems including the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service, the Wireless Priority Service and the Telecommunications Services Priority. All three services provide agencies preferential telecommunications access in the aftermath of a disaster. Before the creation of Homeland Security, the program was under the aegis of the Defense Department. **As NCS manager, Liscouski will oversee plans for federal telecommunications during emergencies and propose funding for communications emergency preparedness.** He must also act as a liaison with industry and other government agencies for planning emergency telecom services.

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/24171-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24171-1.html)

20. *November 14, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA announces new flood protection efforts in Houston. Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness & Response, announced grants today totaling \$55.5 million to fund flood protection projects in downtown Houston and the Texas Medical Center.** In June 2001, Tropical Storm Allison dumped up to 36 inches of rain over a five-day period in parts of Houston, about 80 percent of the average annual rainfall total. Allison caused an estimated \$5 billion damage and remains the most costly tropical storm in U.S. history. **The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has joined with the State of Texas, local government partners and the Texas Medical Center to protect the greater Houston area from future flooding.** In the past two years, FEMA has funded nearly \$200 million in flood protection efforts at the Texas Medical Center alone. The Texas Medical Center is the world's largest medical complex, and employs 60,000 employees.  
Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=8156>
21. *November 14, Department of Homeland Security* — **Grant money announced for first responders and first preventers.** The Department of Homeland Security is pleased to announce an additional \$725 million dollars from the FY '04 Budget for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), for grants to urban areas within the United States to help enhance their overall security and preparedness level to prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism. These funds are being made available in addition to the nearly \$800 million that the Department's Office for Domestic Preparedness awarded during FY '03 specifically for urban areas. **"The Department of Homeland Security is pleased to be able to build upon the Administration's vision to enhance security capabilities from the ground up and to form strong regional partnerships to create a foundation of shared leadership and shared responsibility,"** said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge. "The funds will go to the designated states, which will then work with counties and cities to form regions that will work together through mutual aid agreements, interoperable communications, statewide intelligence centers and community and citizen participation. Our goal is to ensure that all of these necessary elements are communicating and coordinating to prevent a crisis and to be ready if one occurs."  
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>
22. *November 14, Jersey Journal* — **Homeland Security: \$17M for Jersey City. Jersey City will receive \$17 million from the federal Department of Homeland Security as part of a program to provide aid to urban areas that may be on the front lines of a potential terrorist attack.** One of two cities in the state – Newark is the other – to be allocated the money out of a \$725 million nationwide appropriation shared by more than 50 urban centers, **Jersey City was chosen based on a formula that takes into account the presence of critical infrastructure, population density and the level of threat.** The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the region's airports, the Hudson River crossings and the PATH train system, received \$1.2 million from the program, known as the Urban Area Security Initiative. The city of Newark received \$15 million. Jersey City Mayor Glenn D. Cunningham said his administration is in the process of creating a municipal Department of Homeland Security, which would likely manage the federal money just allocated. The money can be used for a variety of purposes, such as building physical barricades around sensitive areas, monitoring and surveillance systems, prevention planning and training exercises, and

communications systems for first responders.

Source: [http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?base/news-1/10688\\_20401297560.xml](http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?base/news-1/10688_20401297560.xml)

23. *November 14, KXTV* — **Sacramento gets major Homeland Security grant.** Sacramento will receive \$8 million in federal funds to improve homeland security programs. The money is earmarked for public safety and security-related expenses, including equipment, training, planning, and exercises. **Sacramento's grant is part of \$675 million allocated to urban areas across the nation by the Department of Homeland Security. The funds were disbursed to cities according to their population, critical infrastructure, and potential importance as targets of terrorism.** Ten California cities are the recipients of the latest grant, with amounts ranging from \$28.3 million for Los Angeles to \$7.1 million for Fresno. The other Northern California cities receiving funds are San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose.  
Source: <http://www.kxtv10.com/storyfull.asp?id=5750>

24. *November 14, Worcester Telegram & Gazette (MA)* — **Device turns lights green for fire trucks; now sold on Web. Most emergency vehicles — ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles — across the country have a system that changes traffic lights green on command, allowing them to whisk through busy intersections during an emergency call.** These "pre-emption detector systems" aid emergency vehicles and are controlled by a radio frequency signal. More than 70 cities use the device, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. **Now, traffic engineers are concerned that in today's free market this technological device can be purchased by civilians and used for pleasure, instead of emergency situations. The device is known as mobile infrared transmitter, or MIRT, which is being sold for \$300 to \$600 on the Internet. According to those selling the device over the World Wide Web, only authorized personnel can purchase MIRTs, which are cheaper than some of the other devices used by cities.** Among authorized users are police, fire, doctors, hospital personnel, traffic signal installation workers and funeral homes (for processions).  
Source: <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/wpublisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=34&topicId=17906&docId=1:60827698&start=19>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

25. *November 13, eWEEK* — **Windows exploits released.** Microsoft Corp. released its monthly passel of patches on Tuesday, November 11, including one for a flaw in the Workstation service in Windows 2000 and XP. **A successful exploitation would give the attacker complete control of the compromised PC,** Microsoft said. **Less than 24 hours after Microsoft issued the fix, two members of the BugTraq security mailing list posted exploit code for the vulnerability.** The author of one of the exploits said the code had been tested only on a Windows 2000 machine with Service Pack 4 installed and the FAT32 file system running. The other exploit is designed for machines running Windows XP. However, experts said it would take little effort to adapt the code for other Windows machines. And, more importantly, the Workstation vulnerability appears to be a prime candidate for a worm.  
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,4149,1382271,00.asp>

26. *November 13, FCC* — **FCC makes additional spectrum available for unlicensed use.** In the Report and Order approved Wednesday, November 13, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) made available an additional 255 megahertz of spectrum in the 5.470–5.725 GHz band for use by unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U–NII) devices, including Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs), operating under Part 15 of the FCC's rules. **This increases the spectrum available for use by unlicensed devices in the 5 GHz region of the spectrum by nearly 80%**—and is a significant increase in the spectrum available for unlicensed devices across the overall radio spectrum. This action will also harmonize the spectrum available for these U–NII devices throughout the world, enabling manufacturers to reduce product development costs by allowing the same products to be used in many parts of the world. **The Commission also adopted several allocation changes consistent with the results of the 2003 World Radio Conference and an agreement reached with the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).** These changes will ensure that critical Federal Government operations are protected from harmful interference.

Source: <http://www.fcc.gov/>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 2 out of 4 <a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a>	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 <a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
<b>Virus:</b>	#1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORM_LOVGATE.G</b> Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	135 (epmap), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 27347 (---), 53 (domain), 4444 (CrackDown), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center

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## General Sector

27. *November 15, New York Times* — **Twenty killed in Turkey by truck bombs outside synagogues. Two truck bombs exploded Saturday morning outside a pair of synagogues crowded with families celebrating bar mitzvahs, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 300.** The truck bombs exploded nearly simultaneously, destroying parts of the temples and killing many of the worshipers inside. Both of the synagogues, Beth Israel and Neve Shalom, the city's largest, were jammed with family members and friends at the time of

the explosions. **Both blasts were felt more than a half-mile away, witnesses said. One blast left a gaping crater and the wreckage of a car in front of Neve Shalom, as rescue workers scrambled about the grounds.** The Turkish police said they were not sure if the trucks were driven by suicide bombers or detonated by remote control. Rescue workers toiled into the night, carrying off the dead and the burned and the wounded. The explosions cut off electricity for blocks around the two temples, shrouding both areas in darkness as the rescue teams worked. The scene was illuminated only by the lights of television trucks. **It was not immediately clear who had carried out the attacks. Initial suspicions focused on al Qaeda, which has in the past threatened Turkey, a longtime American ally that maintains strong diplomatic and military ties to Israel.**

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/16/international/europe/16TURK.html?ex=1069563600&en=9c8aa19df5589df4&ei=5062&partner=GOO\\_GLE](http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/16/international/europe/16TURK.html?ex=1069563600&en=9c8aa19df5589df4&ei=5062&partner=GOO_GLE)

**28. *November 14, Associated Press* — Buildings evacuated in Delaware due to crack.**

**Thousands of workers were evacuated Friday, November 14, from three downtown buildings in Wilmington, DE, after a long, narrow crack was discovered in an office tower, city officials said.** The crack was discovered in the 17-story Bank One building, said John Rago, a spokesperson for Mayor James Baker. About 1,200 people were evacuated from that building, an additional 3,500 from the New Castle County Courthouse across the street and about 500 from another nearby building owned by Bank One, Rago said. Engineers were working with the management and owners of the building where the crack appeared, looking at blueprints to determine what the problem was, Rago said. **"Preliminary indications are that we are looking at a possible facade problem," Rago said. Lt. Rick Yancey of the city fire marshal's office said the crack ran from the ninth to 17th floors.**

Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031114\\_960.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/US/ap20031114_960.html)

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