



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

05 December 2014

Top Stories

- Honda announced December 3 that it will expand its recall of vehicles equipped with airbags manufactured by Takata to include all 50 States due to the potential for the airbag inflators to shatter and send shrapnel into vehicles' cabins. – *Washington Post* (See item [4](#))
- A fire at the American Appliance Factory in Newport, Tennessee, December 3 caused around \$1 million in damage and stopped work at the facility. – *WVLT 8 Knoxville* (See item [5](#))
- A U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General report found that a former-operator of the FEBG Bond Fund operated the fund as a Ponzi scheme that defrauded around 130 individuals of over \$30 million. – *Tribune News Service* (See item [7](#))
- Eight workers at a U.S. Postal Service processing center in Bethpage, New York, were charged December 3 for allegedly stealing illegal shipments of marijuana and conspiring to deal the drugs which held an estimated street value of up to \$930,000. – *New York Daily News* (See item [12](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *December 4, New Orleans Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **BP oil spill claims adjuster pleads guilty to \$257,400 wire fraud.** A former LaPlace adjuster for the Gulf Coast Claims Facility pleaded guilty December 3 to filing 6 fraudulent claims totaling \$257,400 in exchange for keeping \$30,000 for individuals who were not impacted by the 2010 BP oil spill. The former adjuster recruited people to pose as commercial fishing workers who lost their jobs or income due to the spill in order to file the false claims.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2014/12/bp_oil_spill_claims_adjuster_pleads_guilt_to_257400_wire_fraud.html

For another story, see item [34](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

2. *December 3, San Luis Obispo Tribune* – (California) **NRC tentatively downgrades safety designation at Diablo Canyon.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission informed the operators of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant the week of December 1 that it was tentatively downgrading the plant's safety designation from 'green' to 'white' due to unauthorized changes in the plant's emergency warning procedures for boats 5-10 miles offshore.

Source: http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/12/03/3379873_diablo-canyon-safety-designation.html

3. *December 3, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Missouri nuclear plant shuts down; no public risk.** The Callaway nuclear power plant near Fulton experienced an unplanned shutdown December 3 due to an electrical equipment failure. The cause of the shutdown was being investigated and posed no threat to the public or electrical power distribution.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/missouri-nuclear-plant-shuts-public-risk-27344046>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

4. *December 3, Washington Post* – (National) **Honda expands Takata air bag recall to**

all 50 states. Honda announced December 3 that it will expand its recall of vehicles equipped with airbags manufactured by Takata to include all 50 States due to the potential for the airbag inflators to shatter and send shrapnel into vehicles' cabins. The announcement could result in the recall of several million vehicles.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/honda-expands-takata-air-bag-recall-to-all-50-states/2014/12/03/e2c9e3f4-7b14-11e4-b821-503cc7efed9e_story.html

5. *December 3, WVLT 8 Knoxville* – (Tennessee) **Fire shuts down work at Newport factory.** A fire at the American Appliance Factory in Newport, Tennessee, December 3 caused around \$1 million in damage and stopped work at the facility. The fire was believed to have started in a paint room at the factory.

Source: <http://www.local8now.com/home/headlines/Fire-shuts-down-work-at-Newport-factory-284662001.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Financial Services Sector

6. *December 4, Softpedia* – (International) **Critical PayPal bug left all accounts vulnerable to hijacking.** A security researcher identified and reported a cross-site request forgery (CSRF) vulnerability that could have been used with other flaws to allow an attacker to link their email address to a victim's account by capturing a reusable authentication token that was valid for all PayPal accounts. The vulnerability was fixed by PayPal before the researcher publicly disclosed his findings, and the researcher was awarded \$10,000 from PayPal's Bug Bounty program.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Critical-PayPal-Bug-Left-All-Accounts-Vulnerable-to-Hijacking-466500.shtml>
7. *December 3, Tribune News Service* – (Florida) **Investigation reveals how Florida man ripped off DEA.** A report from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General found that a now-deceased Jacksonville man who ran the FEBG Bond Fund operated the fund as a Ponzi scheme that defrauded around 130 individuals of over \$30 million, more than half of whom were current or former Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) employees or connected to DEA employees. The report found that some DEA personnel exercised poor judgment in giving the man access to DEA personnel and facilities and receiving gifts from the man.
Source: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/other/investigation-reveals-how-florida-man-ripped-off-dea-agents/ar-BBgigCn>
8. *December 3, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina; South Carolina) **Charlotte man**

pleads guilty to role in Wax House scheme. A Charlotte, North Carolina man pleaded guilty December 3 for his role in the \$75 million Operation Wax House mortgage and investment fraud scheme in North Carolina and South Carolina. The man was charged with laundering over \$200,000 in loan proceeds through his Perry Masonry Construction company and for working as a promoter to recruit straw buyers.

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2014/12/03/5359034/charlotte-man-pleads-guilty-to.html>

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Transportation Systems Sector

9. *December 4, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **Construction worker struck and killed on Route 422 in Chester County.** Route 422 West in North Coventry Township was shut down for 5 hours as authorities investigated after a construction worker was struck and killed by a vehicle while setting up traffic cones for a lane closure and line painting December 3.

Source: <http://6abc.com/news/construction-worker-struck-and-killed-on-chester-co-highway/421589/>

10. *December 3, WCBS 2 New York City* – (New York) **\$20,000 in loot allegedly taken from checked luggage by JFK bag handlers.** Seven bag handlers at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City were arrested December 3 and indicted for allegedly stealing electronics, jewelry, and other items from checked baggage at Terminals 4 and 7 between March 2012 and June 2014 with the total value of stolen goods estimated at over \$20,000.

Source: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2014/12/03/7-jfk-bag-handlers-charged-with-stealing-jewelry-electronics-from-checked-luggage/>

11. *December 3, KRON 4 San Francisco* – (California) **Bad weather cancels more than 100 flights at SFO.** Strong winds and heavy rain prompted the cancellation of 112 flights at San Francisco International Airport December 3.

Source: <http://news.kron4.com/news/more-than-100-flights-cancelled-at-sfo/>

12. *December 3, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Postal workers on Long Island busted for stealing pot packages.** Eight workers at a U.S. Postal Service processing center in Bethpage were charged December 3 on federal charges for allegedly stealing illegal shipments of marijuana and conspiring to deal the drugs. Federal agents seized 129 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of up to \$930,000.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/postal-workers-busted-stealing-pot-packages-article-1.2032179>

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Food and Agriculture Sector

13. *December 4, Columbia Daily Tribune* – (Missouri) **Fire department responds to**

small blaze at Quaker Oats factory. Officials are investigating a December 3 fire at the PepsiCo-owned Quaker Oats production facility in Columbia, Missouri, that is believed to have started in a rice cake processing machine and was contained by an automatic sprinkler system that was activated during the blaze. The factory was evacuated and closed for about 2 hours, while one employee was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Source: http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/local/fire-department-responds-to-small-blaze-at-quaker-oats-factory/article_7d3d9664-0c39-5a96-8d95-3d366c3a6dc3.html

14. *December 3, Reuters* – (Idaho) **Idaho authorities seek missing cows amid rise in cattle rustling.** Authorities are investigating after 66 cow-calf pairs, a total of 132 animals, were reported missing from 2 grazing allotments near Idaho Falls during the week of December 1. The Idaho State Brand Inspector reported that while there is reason to believe the cattle may have been stolen there is a possibility that the animals may have roamed and joined herds grazing nearby and were inadvertently herded by other ranchers.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-usa-cattle-idaho-idUSKCN0JI01M20141204>

15. *December 3, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **Overhill Farms voluntarily recalls Open Nature Chile Cheese Enchiladas sold at Safeway stores nationwide due to possible Salmonella contamination.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced December 3 that Overhill Farms, Inc., issued a recall for its Open Nature Chile Cheese Enchiladas after a third party supplier informed the company that the organic cilantro contained in the frozen food product may be contaminated with Salmonella. The product was sold in 9-ounce packages at Safeway-owned stores nationwide between October 9 and December 1.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm425648.htm>

16. *December 2, Racine County Journal Times* – (Wisconsin) **Grain bin corn flares up again.** A fire broke out December 1 within the outside dryer portion of a grain bin at a farm in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, and caused between \$30,000 and \$50,000 in damage to the silo and the drying fan that was rendered a total loss. Firefighters returned to the scene December 2 after receiving reports of another corn fire flare-up where some of the corn in the drying floor needed to be cooled with water.

Source: http://journaltimes.com/news/local/grain-bin-corn-flares-up-again/article_29bb25ee-7255-5535-b809-30b27ae606e2.html

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Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

17. *December 3, KTLA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **Ocean polluted by urban runoff from storm; beachgoers advised to avoid water.** The Los Angeles County

Department of Public Health issued a rain advisory for all beaches in Orange County December 3 recommending beachgoers to avoid contact with the water for at least 72 hours after ongoing rains end due to high levels of bacteria flowing in runoff water.

Source: <http://ktla.com/2014/12/03/ocean-polluted-by-urban-runoff-from-storm-beachgoers-advised-to-avoid-water/>

18. *December 2, MLive.com* – (Michigan) **280 gallons of sanitary sewage discharged from manhole near Kalamazoo** Approximately 280 gallons of sanitary sewage was discharged from a manhole east of downtown Kalamazoo December 2. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Kalamazoo County Environmental Health and Community Service office were notified of the incident.
Source:
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/12/280_gallons_of_sanitary_sewage.html

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Healthcare and Public Health Sector

19. *December 3, KKCO 11 Grand Junction* – (Colorado) **Bed bugs force closure of VA clinic in Montrose.** The Montrose Veterans Affairs Clinic in Colorado was closed for cleaning and extermination December 2 and will reopen December 5 after a patient with bed bugs was admitted to the clinic. Staff transferred the patient to a local hospital after noticing the bed bugs and began the decontamination process.
Source: <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/Bed-Bugs-force-closure-of-VA-Clinic-in-Montrose-284671631.html>
20. *December 3, KSWB 69 San Diego* – (National) **Businessman pleads guilty to wire fraud.** A businessman from San Diego pleaded guilty December 3 to bilking victims out of more than \$200,000 by selling imaging and diagnostic systems that he failed to deliver or only partially provided through his two companies, Advance Functional Imaging and Green Screen Labs between 2007 and 2009.
Source: <http://fox5sandiego.com/2014/12/03/businessman-pleads-guilty-to-wire-fraud/>

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Government Facilities Sector

21. *December 4, Harrisburg Patriot-News* – (Pennsylvania) **Gas leak evacuates East Pennsboro Elementary School.** Students were evacuated and classes were dismissed at East Pennsboro Elementary School in Pennsylvania December 4 due to a gas leak outside the building.
Source:
http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/12/gas_leak_evacuates_east_pennsb.html
22. *December 3, Reuters* – (Puerto Rico) **FBI raids Puerto Rico highways authority,**

arrests treasurer. The U.S. Attorney's office reported that the treasurer of Puerto Rico's Highways and Transportation Authority (HTA) was arrested by the FBI December 3 in connection to alleged bribery in programs using federal funds involving 3 unnamed HTA contractors.

Source: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/fbi-raids-puerto-rico-highways-authority-arrests-treasurer/ar-BBgixIL>

23. *December 3, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Transformer explosion forces evacuation of UAB dental school.** Classes and patient clinics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Dentistry were cancelled December 3 following a transformer explosion that caused an evacuation when power was knocked out and smoke filled the building.

Source:

http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2014/12/transformer_explosion_forces_e.html

24. *December 3, KFOR 4 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Crooked Oak Public Schools canceled today due to bus barn fire.** Seven buses were damaged due to a fire in a bus barn in Oklahoma City prompting the cancellation of classes for Crooked Oak Public Schools December 3. Fire crews believe the fire began in front of one of the buses.

Source: <http://kfor.com/2014/12/03/crooked-oak-public-schools-canceled-today-due-to-bus-barn-fire/>

25. *December 2, NH1 News Network* – (New Hampshire) **Thousands of names, social security numbers of people getting unemployment in NH leaked.** The New Hampshire State Employment Department reported December 2 that an internal computer error caused the personal information, including Social Security numbers and the amount of claimed benefits, of 2,700 unemployed individuals to be inadvertently distributed to about 1,100 employers.

Source: <http://www.nh1.com/news/thousands-of-names-social-security-numbers-of-people-getting-unemployment-in-nh-leaked/>

For additional stories, see items [7](#) and [34](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *December 3, Portsmouth Herald* – (New Hampshire) **Phone outages impact police departments.** Service for several Portsmouth area police department phone lines, including the city's 9-1-1 service, were down for 4 hours December 3 due to a network problem with FairPoint. Emergency calls were rerouted while crews repaired the issue.

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/article/20141203/NEWS/141209641>

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Information Technology Sector

27. *December 4, The Register* – (International) **Big Blue patches big blooper in Endpoint Manager for mobs.** IBM released a patch for its Endpoint Manager for Mobile Devices product that allowed attackers to gain remote access and compromise mobile devices connected to the network.
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2014/12/04/ibm_endpoint_manager_patch/
28. *December 3, Softpedia* – (International) **Asprox operators have started recruiting for a larger botnet.** Researchers with Malcovery found that the operators of the Asprox botnet began a campaign using spam emails purporting to be order confirmation from major retailers such as HomeDepot, WalMart, CostCo, and Target in order to infect more users and expand the Asprox botnet.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Asprox-Operators-Have-Started-Recruiting-For-a-Larger-Botnet-466482.shtml>
29. *December 3, Softpedia* – (International) **Vulnerability in WhatsApp leads to losing conversations.** Two security researchers reported and released a proof-of-concept (PoC) for a flaw in WhatsApp where an attacker could send a 2KB text containing special characters that would cause the app to crash unless the conversation thread is deleted. The researchers stated that the app affects WhatsApp versions 2.11.431 and 2.11.432 on Android devices.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Vulnerability-in-WhatsApp-Leads-to-Losing-Contacts-and-Conversations-466481.shtml>
30. *December 3, Securityweek* – (International) **DNSimple suffers downtime due to 25 Gbps DDoS attack.** Florida-based DNS provider DNSimple reported that it experienced a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack December 1 that peaked at 25 Gbps and lasted around 12 hours, causing outages for the company and its customers. The company stated that DNSimple was not targeted but was affected by the DDoS attack after domains already under attack were delegated to the company.
Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/dnsimple-suffers-downtime-due-25-gbps-ddos-attack>
31. *December 3, Softpedia* – (International) **LastPass master password can be decrypted.** Researchers presenting at the DefCamp 2014 conference during the November 29-30 weekend demonstrated how an attacker could use a man-in-the-middle (MitM) attack to trick users into running a malicious payload that could expose LastPass password manager passwords under certain conditions.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Saving-LastPass-Master-Password-Locally-Is-A-Bad-Idea-466472.shtml>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <http://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

32. *December 3, Charlottesville Daily Progress* – (Virginia) **Crash disrupts CenturyLink service along U.S. 29 in southern Albemarle.** Cellphone and landline services for CenturyLink customers in southern Albemarle County were disrupted for around 8 hours December 3 when a vehicle crashed on U.S. Route 29 South and struck a box containing CenturyLink fiber optics.

Source: http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/crash-disrupts-centurylink-service-along-u-s-in-southern-albemarle/article_92cf08ce-7b38-11e4-8b10-17928eaf2149.html

33. *December 3, WSBT 22 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Over 18,000 Frontier customers reportedly lose phone service.** Frontier Communications crews worked to restore phone service in the LaPorte, South Bend, and Valparaiso areas after equipment at their main office failed December 3 affecting over 18,000 customers.

Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/Over-18-000-Frontier-customers-reportedly-lose-phone-service/30034428>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *December 4, WNEP 16 Scranton* – (Pennsylvania) **Explosion and fire, one woman dead, buildings destroyed.** A water main break and gas leak in Dunmore December 4 was suspected to have caused a house explosion which damaged the apartment building next to it and prompted about 30 nearby residents to be evacuated. The Lackawanna County Head Start preschool program was also canceled December 4 as a warming center was set up for affected residents.

Source: <http://wnep.com/2014/12/04/breaking-gas-leak-causes-house-explosion/>

35. *December 4, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Middletown blaze displaces apartment dwellers.** Residents from 16 units in the 700 building of the Foxwood Manor apartments in Middletown, Pennsylvania, were temporarily displaced following a December 3 fire that started in or around an artificial Christmas tree. One firefighter and one resident suffered minor injuries.

Source:

http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/news/communities/langhorne/middletown-blaze-displaces-apartment-dwellers/article_3fb83e6f-5ca8-5e4c-848f-7db069c2fbc7.html

36. *December 4, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **1 wounded in shooting at Scottsdale nightclub.** Police are searching for a suspect in connection to a December 4 shooting in the parking lot of Mint Nightclub in Scottsdale that left 1 person injured after an altercation that began inside the nightclub resulted in 2 groups of people being ejected from the business.
Source: <http://www.kpho.com/story/27545512/1-wounded-in-shooting-at-scottsdale-nightclub>
37. *December 4, Whittier Daily News* – (California) **Future of La Mirada's Carriage Coffee Shop remains uncertain after fire.** A December 2 fire at the Carriage Coffee Shop in La Mirada caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage and destroyed the diner's kitchen. It is unclear if the business will reopen due to prior proposals to close the restaurant.
Source: <http://www.whittierdailynews.com/general-news/20141203/future-of-la-miradas-carriage-coffee-shop-remains-uncertain-after-fire>
38. *December 2, Planet Princeton* – (New Jersey) **Thirty people report gastrointestinal illnesses to Princeton health officer after Thanksgiving.** The Princeton Health Department is investigating after at least 30 patrons of the Nassau Inn reported falling ill after eating at the hotel's restaurant November 27 – November 28. The hotel was inspected December 1 and health officials increased surveillance of other restaurants as they investigate the cause of the illness.
Source: <http://planetprinceton.com/2014/12/02/thirty-people-report-gastrointestinal-illnesses-to-princeton-health-officer-after-thanksgiving/>

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Dams Sector

Nothing to report

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