



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

23 December 2013

Top Stories

- A security researcher reported that payment card information stolen from a recent breach at Target stores has begun appearing for sale on underweb marketplaces. – *Krebs on Security* (See item [6](#))
- A Statesville, North Carolina, man was indicted for allegedly running a \$44 million Ponzi scheme where he defrauded more than 200 investors. – *Charlotte Observer* (See item [10](#))
- Three buses were involved in unrelated crashes in southern California, leaving one dead, injuring dozens, and closing portions of Interstate 15 for several hours. – *USA Today* (See item [15](#))
- Heavy snowfall and freezing rain led Salt Lake City International Airport to temporarily suspend service for about 2 hours, resulting in hundreds of canceled and delayed flights. – *USA Today* (See item [16](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *December 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (West Virginia) **Energy company to pay \$3.2M penalty to resolve Clean Water violations in West Virginia.** Chesapeake Appalachia, a Chesapeake Energy subsidiary, agreed to a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Justice to spend an estimated \$6.5 million to restore 27 sites in West Virginia damaged by unauthorized discharges of fill material into streams and wetlands, in addition to paying a civil penalty of \$3.2 million for violations of the Clean Water Act.
Source: <http://www.wateronline.com/doc/energy-company-to-pay-m-penalty-to-resolve-clean-water-violations-0001>

For another story, see item [21](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

2. *December 20, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **Chemical spill, fire at Tulsa County's Sulzer Chemtech forces evacuation of nearby businesses.** A nitric acid-fueled fire at Sulzer Chemtech in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, forced the evacuation of nearby businesses and residences December 19. Officials contained both the fire and chemical spill and are investigating the cause.
Source: <http://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/sapulpa/chemical-spill-fire-at-tulsa-county-sulzer-chemtech-forces-evacuation-of-nearby-neighborhood>
3. *December 19, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **Thousands in chemicals stolen from two plants.** Police reported that thieves stole tens of thousands of dollars' worth of chemicals from two chemical facilities in Blakely and Arlington, Georgia. Officials are investigating the cases, which are thought to be connected.
Source: <http://www.walb.com/story/24266451/thousands-in-chemicals-stolen-from-two-plants>
4. *December 18, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Exide ordered to clean up toxic substances near Vernon plant.** The California Department of Toxic Substances ordered Exide Technologies, a battery recycler, to clean up lead and other metals deposited near a plant in Vernon, California by January 31, 2014. Officials believe the elevated concentrations of the materials are an immediate threat to human health and view the cleanup as urgent to avoid winter rains washing the metals into the Los Angeles River.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-exide-20131219,0,7030357.story>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

Nothing to report

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

5. *December 19, KLTV 7 Tyler* – (Texas) **8 fire departments respond to fire at Mt. Pleasant factory.** A fire that broke out December 18 at the Big Tex Trailers factory in Mount Pleasant, Texas, caused heavy damage to the building and affected one production line.
Source: <http://www.kltv.com/story/24260115/8-fire-departments-respond-to-fire-at-mt-pleasant-factory>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Financial Services Sector

6. *December 20, Krebs on Security* – (International) **Cards stolen in Target breach flood underground markets.** A security researcher reported December 20 that payment card information stolen from a recent breach at Target stores has begun appearing for sale on underweb marketplaces for between \$20 and \$100 per card.
Source: <http://krebsonsecurity.com/2013/12/cards-stolen-in-target-breach-flood-underground-markets/>
7. *December 20, Manteca Bulletin* – (California) **Ripon Police seize 550 fake credit cards.** Police in Ripon arrested three individuals December 18 after a search of their vehicle and homes for unrelated charges uncovered over 550 fraudulent payment cards.
Source: <http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/29/article/93670/>
8. *December 19, KOMO 4 Seattle* – (Washington) **Two charged in Microsoft insider trading scheme.** A former Microsoft Treasury Group employee and a day trader were charged December 19 with 35 counts of insider trading for allegedly using the former Microsoft employee's access to nonpublic information to make almost \$400,000 in illicit profits.
Source: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Two-charged-in-Microsoft-insider-trading-scheme-236610661.html>
9. *December 19, Pensacola News Journal* – (National) **Calif. woman pleads guilty to mortgage fraud scheme.** A Los Angeles woman pleaded guilty December 19 to mortgage fraud and money laundering charges for her role in a fraud scheme that

- entered into contracts for homes in California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas, and obtained more than \$5.6 million in loans for just five properties in Florida.
Source: <http://www.pnj.com/article/20131220/NEWS11/312200015/Calif-woman-pleads-guilty-to-mortgage-fraud-scheme>
10. *December 19, Charlotte Observer* – (North Carolina) **Statesville man indicted in connection with \$44M Ponzi scheme.** A Statesville man was indicted December 18 for allegedly running a \$44 million Ponzi scheme where he defrauded more than 200 investors by inducing them to invest in entities he controlled.
Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/12/19/4555503/statesville-man-indicted-in-connection.html>
 11. *December 19, Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* – (International) **Millions lost to ‘slick’ south Florida investment fraud ring.** Fourteen south Florida men were charged with allegedly operating a boiler room scheme that defrauded around 130 investors in the U.S. and Canada of around \$4 million. Eight of the accused have been arrested while the others remain at large.
Source: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-boiler-room-20131212_0,2708609.story
 12. *December 18, Fox Business* – (New York) **SAC portfolio manager convicted of insider trading.** A portfolio manager at SAC Capital was convicted of five counts of insider trading December 18 for obtaining nonpublic information relating to Dell and Nvidia and making trades based on that information.
Source: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2013/12/18/sac-portfolio-manager-steinberg-convicted-insider-trading/>
 13. *December 18, Reuters* – (International) **ConvergEx to pay more than \$150 mln to settle U.S. charges.** Brokerage company ConvergEx Group LLC agreed to pay more than \$150 million to settle U.S. Department of Justice charges that some of the company’s subsidiaries in Bermuda and two former employees overcharged clients millions of dollars in fees and then lied to hide the fraudulent charges.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/18/convergex-enforcement-idUSL2N0JX27A20131218>

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Transportation Systems Sector

14. *December 20, KJRH 2 Tulsa* – (Oklahoma) **'VW Bandit,' three others arrested as part of white collar crime spree across Tulsa area.** A man known as the “VW Bandit” and three others accused of stealing large amounts of mail around the Tulsa area were arrested December 19. Postal investigators recovered more than 1,000 pieces of stolen mail and about 20 gifts from the homes of the suspects, who will likely face State and federal charges.
Source: <http://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/vw-bandit-and-three-accomplices-accused-of-financial-crime-that-stretches-across-multiple-cities>

15. *December 19, USA Today* – (California) **One dead, dozens hurt in three Calif. bus crashes.** Three buses were involved in unrelated crashes in southern California December 19, leaving one dead and injuring dozens. Through wet roadways were present in each instance, officials are investigating the causes of the crashes, two of which caused portions of Interstate 15 to close for several hours.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/19/california-bus-crashes/4136401/>
16. *December 19, USA Today* – (Utah) **Flights resume at Salt Lake City airport.** Heavy snowfall and freezing rain led Salt Lake City International Airport to temporarily suspend service for about 2 hours December 19, resulting in approximately 200 canceled flights and the delay of more than 100 others.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/todayinthesky/2013/12/19/flights-halted-at-salt-lake-city-airport-amid-winter-storm/4125775/>
17. *December 19, Norwalk Citizen* – (Connecticut) **School bus disabled on RR tracks nearly hit by train.** A school bus broke down while crossing railroad tracks December 18 in Norwalk, leading to an emergency evacuation of about 40 elementary school students and the driver. The engineer of an approaching train avoided collision and halted the train 10 feet from the disabled vehicle.
Source: <http://www.norwalkcitizenonline.com/news/article/School-bus-disabled-on-RR-tracks-nearly-hit-by-5078200.php>
18. *December 18, New York Daily News* – (New York) **Postal worker arrested for robbing Manhattan post office at knifepoint.** A United States Postal Service employee robbed a New York City post office after pulling out a knife and tying up one of two workers with packaging tape. The suspect fled with approximately \$2,000 from the post office before being arrested hours later.
Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/postal-worker-arrested-robbing-post-office-article-1.1552360>

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Food and Agriculture Sector

19. *December 20, Associated Press* – (National) **SF Bay Area company recalls sausage products.** California-based Lee Bros. Foodservice Inc. recalled 740 pounds of sausage products that may be contaminated with *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin. The sausages were produced in February and sold in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas as well as online.
Source: <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/sf-bay-area-company-recalls-150241797.html>
20. *December 19, FoodSafety Magazine* – (National) **CDC: Drug-resistant Salmonella**

outbreak from Foster Farms chicken affected 416. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a December 19 report on the multistate outbreak of multidrug-resistant Salmonella Heidelberg infections linked to Foster Farms brand chicken. As of December 18, 416 people in 23 States had been sickened during the outbreak.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/news/cdc-drug-resistant-salmonella-outbreak-from-foster-farms-chicken-affected-416/>

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Water and Wastewater Systems Sector

21. *December 19, KXMC 13 Minot* – (North Dakota) **Oil waste pit might threaten ND town’s water wells.** Oil drilling waste dumping at a pit near Ross and within a half a mile of the town’s water wells was halted for fear of threatening the water supply. The North Dakota health department is investigating.

Source: <http://www.kxnet.com/story/24258058/dumping-stopped-at-oil-waste-sire>

22. *December 19, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Leaking havoc on Jersey City: 5th water main break in 2 days.** A fifth water main break in Jersey City within 2 days left many residents with low water pressure or no water service December 19, closing nine schools early, shutting down multiple businesses, and creating a sink hole. Additional street closures and a boil water notice were issued as emergency crews worked to access and investigate the leaks.

Source: http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2013/12/leaking_havoc_on_jersey_city_5th_water_main_break_in_2_days.html

23. *December 19, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (Connecticut) **West Haven, Conn. fined for illegal sewage discharges.** A settlement between multiple federal and Connecticut agencies and the City of West Haven was reached to reduce the illegal raw sewage overflows from the city’s wastewater collection system into the New Haven Harbor and Long Island Sound. A \$125,000 fine was also imposed against the City of West Haven, which will be used to fund environmentally beneficial projects.

Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/2d3ca9376afcb97c85257c46007ac112?OpenDocument>

For additional stories, see items [1](#) and [4](#)

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Healthcare and Public Health Sector

24. *December 19, KHOU 11 Houston* – (Texas) **H1N1 kills 6 people, leaves 14 critically ill in greater Houston area.** Houston health officials confirmed December 19 that 6 deaths and 14 severe illnesses in the Houston area were caused by the H1N1 flu strain

Source: <http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/H1N1-Kills-6-People-Leaves-14-Critically-Ill-in-Greater-Houston-Area-236657491.html>

25. *December 19, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* – (Texas) **12 injured after explosion prompts partial evacuation of UMC.** Workers using a torch attempting repairs to a water pipe ignited a nearby pure oxygen line at the Texas Tech University Medical Center building in Lubbock December 19, injuring 12 people and evacuating part of the building.
Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2013-12-19/update-12-injured-after-explosion-prompts-partial-evacuation-umc>

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Government Facilities Sector

26. *December 20, WTVF 5 Nashville* – (Tennessee) **Former State employee accused of emailing personal info.** A former employee of the Tennessee Department of Treasury was arrested and charged December 19 with allegedly stealing the personal information of 6,300 teachers and employees of the Metro Nashville Davidson County school system for use in fraud. Computers found at his home contained searches on how to sell personal information and articles on identity theft.
Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/story/24270306/former-state-treasury-employee-charged-with-identity-theft>
27. *December 19, WJZ 13 Baltimore* – (Maryland) **Federal courthouse in downtown Baltimore reopens; man armed with pellet gun taken into custody.** The Baltimore federal courthouse was shut down for 3 hours December 17 after reports of an armed man outside who refused to drop a weapon that turned out to be a pellet gun. After negotiating with FBI agents, the man surrendered and was taken into custody.
Source: <http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2013/12/19/federal-courthouse-in-downtown-baltimore-being-evacuated/>
28. *December 19, KGBT 4 Harlingen* – (Texas) **Court sees rise in bomb threats.** The Hidalgo County courthouse was closed for 2 hours due to a bomb threat December 17, the fourth this year.
Source: <http://www.valleycentral.com/news/story.aspx?id=985541>
29. *December 19, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Lockdown lifted at high school in New Haven after threat.** Hillhouse High School was put on lockdown for 4 hours December 19 after a threat from a pay phone was received by 9-1-1 operators.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/High-school-in-New-Haven-locked-down-after-threat-5078502.php>
30. *December 19, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Undisclosed threat leads east Texas school district to shut down.** Students in all four schools in the Warren Independent School District were released early December 19, due to a nonspecific terrorist threat.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/Undisclosed-threat-leads-East-Texas-school-5078746.php>
31. *December 19, WRC 4 Washington, D.C.* – (Washington, D.C.) **House of Sweden bomb**

threat slows rush hour traffic in Georgetown. Washington D.C. police, fire, and EMS responded to a bomb threat at the House of Sweden, which closed streets for over 3 hours before the facility was cleared.

Source: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/House-of-Sweden-Bomb-Threat-Slows-Rush-Hour-Traffic-in-Georgetown-236626061.html>

32. *December 19, WXIN 59 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Federal charges filed against sixth person in alleged Indy Land Bank scheme.** The manager of the Indianapolis Land Bank program and a State employee were charged with wire fraud and conspiracy to defraud Indianapolis taxpayers for allegedly engaging in a kickbacks scheme involving a city contract.

Source: <http://fox59.com/2013/12/19/federal-charges-filed-against-sixth-person-in-alleged-indy-land-bank-scheme>

For another story, see item [22](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *December 20, Associated Press* – (New Jersey) **Ex-fire commissioner accused of theft.** The former fire commissioner of South Brunswick, New Jersey, was charged with theft for allegedly writing \$700,000 worth of checks to his personal accounts over a 3 year period.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/crime/article/Ex-fire-commissioner-accused-of-theft-5081433.php>

34. *December 19, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Coast Guard looking for man who made 11 fake distress calls.** The U.S. Coast Guard offered a reward for information on a person who made 11 fake disaster calls since October originating in the Kent Island area, costing the government over \$45,000 in air and sea searches.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/9857457cb90a4c349899bbd4c1d90658/MD--Coast-Guard-Hoax-Calls>

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Information Technology Sector

35. *December 20, Softpedia* – (International) **Microsoft says cybercriminals behind ZeroAccess have abandoned the botnet.** Researchers at Microsoft reported that the cybercriminals behind the ZeroAccess botnet pushed out an update with a message that appears to signal their abandonment of the botnet and that no additional updates have been seen since that time.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Microsoft-Says-Cybercriminals-Behind-ZeroAccess-Have-Abandoned-the-Botnet-411044.shtml>

36. *December 20, Threatpost* – (International) **Cryptolocker creators infected nearly 250,000 systems, earned \$300k since September.** An analysis of the Cryptolocker ransomware by Dell SecureWorks researchers found that the unknown group behind the malware has infected between 200,000 and 250,000 systems since attacks began in September, bringing in more than \$300,000 in ransom payments.
Source: <http://threatpost.com/cryptolocker-creators-infected-nearly-250000-systems-earned-30m-since-september/103261>

For another story, see item [6](#)

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

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *December 19, Times Union* – (New York) **Flooding damages Troy restaurants.** Restaurants in a historic building in Troy, New York, were suffered at least \$200,000 of damage December 19 when pipes on an upper floor burst and flooded lower floors.
Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Flooding-damages-Troy-restaurants-5079838.php>
38. *December 19, Burlington Free Press* – (Vermont) **Williston Toys R Us evacuated.** Seventy-five people were evacuated for around 2 hours December 18 at a Toys R Us in Williston due to elevated carbon monoxide levels. Two were taken to the hospital while authorities discovered that the source of the gas was a propane-powered floor treatment unit that was used December 17.
Source: <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20131219/NEWS02/312190031/>
39. *December 20, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Deputies: Man damages church trying to steal scrap metal.** East Baton Rouge Police arrested a man for allegedly breaking in and attempting to steal electrical wire and scrap metal from the Community Bible Church December 18, causing around \$2,000 worth of damage.
Source: <http://www.wafb.com/story/24271975/deputies-man-damages-church-trying-to-steal-scrap-metal>

For additional stories, see items [2](#) and [22](#)

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Dams Sector

40. *December 19, Bonny Lake Courier Herald* – (Washington) **New levee to protect people, help salmon.** Construction for a one and half mile setback levee on the Puyallup River in Orting began December 19, which will reduce the risk of floods to the Puyallup River valley and create a better habitat for salmon.

Source: <http://www.blscourierherald.com/news/236636291.html>

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Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@hq.dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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