Information Sharing & Analysis Center

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, OVER THE ROAD BUS, & SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

OVER-THE-ROAD-BUS INTELLIGENCE AWARENESS DAILY (OTRBIAD) REPORT

December 18, 2024

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Metro Transit Officer Stabbed While Stopping Metrobus Fare Evader At Gallery Place
WJLA, 12/17/2024

[Washington D.C.] A Metro Transit police officer was stabbed in the wrist while stopping a man trying to avoid paying bus fares at a Gallery Place stop shortly before noon Tuesday, according to Metro officials. The officer was among several who attempted to stop a person trying to avoid paying the Metro bus fare at around 11:30 a.m. Police said the suspect tried to run away but later pulled out a knife as officers tried to detain the suspect. The suspect stabbed the officer in the wrist and ran away again before being stopped and caught by Metro Transit police and D.C. police, officials said. The suspect was arrested and the officer was taken to the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. https://wjla.com/news/local/metro-dc-transit-officer-stabbed-bus-evader-gallery-place-knife-ran-away-avoid-security-measure-fare-metrobus-chinatown-downtown-washington-non-life-threatening

Man Found With Loaded Shotgun In Coat After Trying To Fare Evade On A Metro X2 Bus
WJLA, 12/12/2024

[Washington D.C.] A man taken into Metro Transit police custody for trying to avoid paying a Metrobus fare was found with a loaded shotgun under his coat, according to police on Wednesday. Police said the man was stopped on an X2 route bus by plainclothes officers and refused to comply with officers. While the man was taken into custody, Metro Transit police said they found the loaded shotgun and several pieces of ammo. Undercover officers are part of Metro's recent efforts to crack down on fare evasion on its bus system, but not a major part according to Metro's General Manager. The crack-down mostly involved officers standing at bus bays and busier bus stops and refusing entry to those who did not pay. https://wjla.com/news/local/fare-evade-metro-bus-shotgun-coat-fare-evade-plain-clothes-undercover-loaded-weapon-dc-maryland-virginia-arrest-evasion-crime-ammo-transit-police

Man Shot With Paintball Gun On CTA Bus On Chicago's North Side
CBS News, 12/17/2024

[Chicago, Illinois] A man was injured by a paintball gun on a CTA bus in Lincoln Park Monday night. Just after 9:30 p.m., police a 38-year-old man was on the No. 74 bus, in the 1300 block of Fullerton Parkway, when he got into an argument with another man. The other man pulled out a paintball gun and fired several times, hitting the victim in the back of the head. The 38-year-old man was treated at Illinois Masonic Hospital, where he was listed in fair condition. No other commuters were injured in the attack. https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/cta-bus-chicago-lincoln-park-paintball-attack/

Man Stabbed At CTA Red Line Station In Fuller Park: Chicago Police
ABC 7, 12/17/2024

[Chicago, Illinois] A man was stabbed at a South Side CTA Red Line station on Tuesday afternoon, Chicago police said. Police said the stabbing happened at the 47th Street station in Fuller Park just before 3 p.m. A 35-year-old man was arguing with someone when that person took out a "cutting instrument" and swung at him, police said. Police said the victim, cut in the face and hand, was transported to the University of Chicago Medical Center in good condition. There is no one in custody, and Area One detectives are investigating. https://abc7chicago.com/post/man-injured-fuller-park-chicago-stabbing-cta-red-line-station-47th-street-fire-department-says/15668529/

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

What Data Tells Us About 2024 School Shootings In The US
ABC News, 12/16/2024

Three people are dead, including the shooter, after a student opened fire at a Christian school in Wisconsin. The shooting took place 12 years and two days after one of the most notorious school shootings in US history: the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut where 26 people were killed. The incident in Wisconsin was the 323rd school shooting in the US this year. So far, 2024 has seen the second-highest number of US school shootings since 1966, which is far back as the data goes. The K-12 school shooting database monitors school shootings across the United States. The highest number of shootings on record happened in 2023 when there were 349. The shootings in 2024 resulted in the deaths of 69 victims and 12 shooters. The majority of those deaths were male students, accounting for 21 of the fatalities. https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-17/us-school-shootings-2024-in-numbers/104734714

ANALYST COMMENTARY: The Daily Dot, an online news site, reported that immediately following the school shooting at the Abundant Life private school in Madison, Wisconsin on 16 December 2024, the social media channel Discord lit up with conversations asking the deceased shooter if she was

responsible. Other similar conversations were observed on the suspect's 'X' social media page, with an associate of the suspect posting a small section of a manifesto they claimed was authored by the female suspect. The posted comments have not yet been verified by law enforcement but they express rage and a desire to harm. The Daily Dot also reports that a social media account on 'Tumblr' that belonged to the same suspect, had many comments about the Columbine and Sandy Hook shootings. It is noteworthy that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting took place on 14 December 2012. Accounting for the weekend (14 December 2024 was a Saturday), the attack in Madison took place 12 years and two days after the Sandy Hook attack, almost on the anniversary of Sandy Hook, which may have had symbolic meaning to the Madison attacker. In March 2021, the National Threat Assessment Center, which is a division of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and is run by the U.S. Secret Service (USSS), issued an analysis report titled "Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools." The evidence in the recent Madison school shooting validates the USSS thesis that "Individuals contemplating violence often exhibit observable behaviors, and when community members report these behaviors, the next tragedy can be averted." Threat assessments frequently suggest that identifying vulnerable people who are at risk of becoming radicalized to violence and intervening before an attack is the best practice for preventing targeted school violence. The USSS also noted that "students are best positioned to identify and report concerning behaviors displayed by their classmates." It appears to be consistent with the Madison suspect's social media network in that her associates (especially online) were likely aware of her intentions and grievances before the attack occurred. The Madison shooting was the 326*th* school shooting of 2024 according to a database called the "K-12 School Shooting Database" that has been set up to track available data regarding school shootings from 1966 to the present. Of note, the database includes data for any shooting that takes place involving a school and thus includes smaller-scale incidents, such as shootings between individuals on school properties that stem from a preexisting criminal nexus. The K-12 School Shooting database can be viewed at: https://k12ssdb.org/all-shootings. The USSS study specific to active shooter attacks on schools can be found at: https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence.2021.03.pdf

Arizona Man Associated With Online Terror Network Arrested For Production Of Child Sex Abuse Material And Cyberstalking
Homeland Security Today, 12/18/2024

[Tucson, Arizona] Baron Martin, 20, of Tucson, Arizona, was arrested on Dec. 11 for producing child sexual abuse material and cyberstalking offenses carried out as part of his participation in online violent terror networks known as 764 and CVLT. "764 remains a dangerous network of violent extremists who systematically target children and weaponize child sexual abuse material for the purpose of furthering an accelerationist agenda, destroying civilized society, and causing the collapse of the U.S. Government," said Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew G. Olsen. "The Department of Justice is

fully committed to stopping 764's acts of terrorism and disrupting the 764 network." https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/arizona-man-associated-with-online-terror-network-arrested-for-production-of-child-sex-abuse-material-and-cyberstalking/

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 28 June 2024, law enforcement in Baltimore Maryland was alerted to an online chat on a Telegram channel by a group calling itself "764." The group was calling for a "terror week" to occur the following month in July, that would involve "vandalism using 764 iconography, assaults, swattings, extorting minors to participate in more extreme activities such as shootings, 'brickings,' or killing animals or people." A law enforcement analyst defined the group "764" as, "an online 'gore network' (*involving extreme violence, mutilation, and death*) with significant Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremist (RMVE) participation with a history of advocating for social unrest and the downfall of the current world order. Members of 764 work in concert with one another towards a common purpose of destroying civilized society through the corruption and exploitation of youth." Satanism and ritualistic violence are frequently associated with 764 and sub-culture "com" groups which operate under the anonymity of the internet, often on dark-web chat rooms and bulletin boards. On 13 December 2024, the Department of Justice announced that they had arrested Baron Martin, 20, of Tucson, Arizona, who participated in 764 and was producing child sexual abuse material (CSAM) for the group. Executive Assistant Director Robert Wells of the FBI's National Security Branch emphasized the graphic horror of the case as Martin tortured children and caused satanic symbols to be carved into them. In May 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice began "Project Safe Childhood," which is a nationwide effort to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. To learn more about the initiative and how to help, see: https://www.justice.gov/psc.

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

New Company Uses Cameras To Inform Public Of Blocked Railroad Crossings
Trains, 12/12/2024

[Elkhart, Indiana] Newly installed cameras that automatically feed real-time information to a website are helping first responders and the general public know when trains are occupying grade crossings near the northern Indiana town of Goshen, Ind., near Elkhart. BlockedCrossings, a private company, recently installed eight cameras at intersections in and south of Goshen, Ind., along Norfolk Southern rail lines. The cameras, mounted on utility poles, focus on crossings' flashing lights. When those warning devices are activated, the cameras capture that information and with software, relay it to a cloud-based server that populates the data to a map on the company's website. On that map, grade crossings display red when a train occupies the crossing and green when grade crossings are clear. The camera images are not posted on the website, as they are used only to feed information to the website and server using programming code. https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/new-company-uses-cameras-to-inform-public-of-blocked-railroad-crossings/

2024 Safety And Security Report
Mass Transit, 12/17/2024

Several high-profile incidents have taken place on public transit systems throughout the U.S. this year, resulting in groups from rider advocacy organizations and unions to elected officials and the federal government calling on the industry to take decisive action. This report focuses on national trends in safety and security incidents and what specific actions agencies are taking to address them. Addressing the safety of frontline workers has been a key focus throughout the year. From 2013 to 2021, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) cited a 120 percent increase in assaults against transit workers as documented by the National Transit Database. In response, the FTA issued a general directive requiring more than 700 transit agencies to take action to protect frontline workers from the risk of assaults. https://www.nxtbook.com/endeavor/masstransit/novemberdecember2024/index.php#/p/14

Year In Reflection: Ice Storm Impacts Linger
Axios, 12/17/2024

[Portland, Oregon] At the start of the year, a series of extreme winter weather systems pummeled Portland and ice rained down from the skies. The big picture: The impact of that event — when hundreds lost power and were trapped in their homes, businesses were forced to close and potholes plagued the streets — has raised questions about how the city will respond to future natural disasters. The Portland Bureau of Transportation estimates that the January storms cost $8 million. The agency budgets only $750,000 per year for storm contingency plans. We asked Sarah Iannarone, the executive director of the transportation advocacy group Street Trust, about what the ice storm taught us about our transit system and how to move forward. "Bad weather events teach us about where the system really breaks down. Safe routes to transit is a gap that we don't ensure that we're going to close for so many people in our region." https://www.axios.com/local/portland/2024/12/17/ice-storm-transportation-impacts

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 13 January 2024, The Oregonian advised TriMet customers that all MAX lines were suspended, as downed trees, and freezing temperatures disrupted service across the transportation system. Weather is a more frequent and significant physical threat to transportation systems than man-made threats. On 18 June 2024, Road XS published a study titled "The Impact of Weather on Public Transport Usage," noting that "Navigating the weather requires both foresight and resilience from public transport systems. Storms may halt operations, while extreme heat or cold can lead to uncomfortable and unsafe conditions for travelers." As an example of a weather-related ripple effect, sustained heat causes energy generation and cooling equipment to run non-stop, which strains the infrastructure. Sustained heat causes buckling in roadways, and the shifting ground causes aging water lines to break. Heat can also cause rail tracks to warp and get out of alignment, which can cause a derailment. Union Pacific Railroad (UP) spokeswoman Kristen South said that in times of intense heat, they impose speed restrictions across the western UP network to reduce the impact on the rails. According to Freight Waves, "slowing down the trains can delay them by at least 30 minutes over a 50-

to 70-mile track route. The impact for freight shippers is that some of their cargo may be delayed or could miss connecting freight train movements." The impact of heat on the train crews working inside a locomotive is also a concern due to the stress it creates on their health. Another impact of sustained heat is fuel delivery. CSX railroad reports increases in shipments of coal to power generating facilities as demand is pushing the price of natural gas significantly higher, and renewable energy sources cannot meet demand. Public transportation companies need to build resilience into their operations and planning and take measures to prepare for extreme weather events likely to be encountered in the geographic region where they operate.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority To Operate Semi-Automated Trains
Transportation Today, 12/17/2024

[Washington D.C.] The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) recently began operating trains in automatic mode. Automatic Train Operation (ATO) is semi-automated and assists train operators with their duties by controlling a train's acceleration, deceleration, and speed while being regulated by safety critical equipment. The equipment is located between the tracks and will send the train signal and speed commands. Humans will be responsible for the safety of passengers and will observe safety concerns and the environment surrounding the train. This includes monitoring door operations, train status, and track conditions. ATO will improve efficiency for customers transferring lines and allow for coordinated arrivals at transfer stations. It will not be used during certain conditions such as when workers are on the roadway, during single tracking, and inclement weather.
https://transportationtodaynews.com/news/34551-washington-metropolitan-area-transit-authority-to-operate-semi-automated-trains/

CYBERSECURITY

Critical Windows Zero-Day Alert: No Patch Available Yet For Users
Hack Read, 12/9/2024

A newly discovered Windows zero-day vulnerability exposes users across multiple Windows versions to credential theft. Discovered by 0patch researchers, this critical security flaw allows attackers to steal NTLM credentials through a deceptive yet simple method. The vulnerability affects a wide range of Windows systems, including: Windows Server 2022, Windows 11 (up to v24H2), Windows 10 (multiple versions), Windows 7 and Server 2008 R2. Technical details of the vulnerability are withheld to minimize exploitation risk until Microsoft issues a fix to minimize any further risk of exploitation. The vulnerability enables attackers to steal a user's NTLM credentials by luring them into opening a malicious file in Windows Explorer. Attackers can trigger the vulnerability through minimal user interaction.
https://hackread.com/windows-zero-day-alert-no-patch-available-for-users/

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ANALYST COMMENTARY: This NTLM zero-day vulnerability is a stark reminder of the ongoing risks associated with legacy authentication protocols like NTLM. While its exploitation appears simple—triggered by actions as basic as opening a malicious file in Windows Explorer—it highlights a deeper issue: the continued reliance on outdated systems and protocols across enterprises. NTLM's weaknesses, combined with its prevalence in older Windows systems, create an enticing target for attackers. Organizations should prioritize replacing NTLM with modern, more secure authentication methods such as Kerberos or leveraging multifactor authentication (MFA) solutions that make stolen credentials less impactful. Beyond addressing this specific vulnerability, organizations must adopt a more robust defense-in-depth strategy. Techniques like network segmentation, strict access controls, and advanced endpoint detection can limit the blast radius of compromised credentials. Also, the use of protective solutions like 0patch micropatches demonstrates the value of third-party tools in mitigating zero-day risks, especially when vendors have yet to issue official patches. For enterprises running older or unsupported Windows systems, this incident also reinforces the importance of proper lifecycle management. Investing in system upgrades or adopting virtualized environments for legacy applications can reduce exposure to unpatched flaws. Finally, fostering a culture of security awareness, where users are cautious about unexpected files and network shares, adds a vital human layer to technical defenses.

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Timely reporting to the **TSA Transportation Security Operations Center** is essential. Reports are made by telephone at **866-615- 5150** and by e-mail at **TSOC.ST@tsa.dhs.gov.**

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