



**In this edition:**

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband: FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable 'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic 'hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans 'irresponsible'](#)

[Cisco shares plummet](#)

**Welcome**

Welcome to the Case Communications November 2010 Newsletter.



**BT's fibre broadband: FTTH or FTTC**

While very high speed broadband technology has been common in the Far East for years, BT is only now taking the first steps to providing commercial fibre broadband services in the UK.

[Read more...](#)

**Britain in 'sustained cyber attack' warning**

Britain is under "sustained cyber attack" according to a government report that ranks online threats as one of the "highest priority national security risks" in the UK.

[Read more...](#)

**Adobe security issue**

Adobe announces the existence of a critical vulnerability in certain versions of Adobe Flash Player and Adobe Reader for Windows, Macintosh, Linux and Solaris operating systems. But there is a fix.

[Read more...](#)

**Broadband to enable 'better public services'**

Superfast broadband will enable better public services, improved business productivity, and job creation, says the government's National Infrastructure Plan.

[Read more...](#)

**Feedback**

**Tell us your thoughts**

If you have something interesting to say or comments about the newsletter, please feel free to email them to us: [Email feedback/Enquiry](#)

### **US web traffic 'hijacked by China'**

Web traffic for top US government departments was briefly 'hijacked' and rerouted via China last year, according to a US government report.

[Read more...](#)

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### **Tory broadband plans 'irresponsible'**

Tory policy is "exactly the opposite of what a responsible government should be doing as we strive for growth and economic recovery," says Labour's shadow culture secretary Ivan Lewis.

[Read more...](#)

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### **Cisco shares plummet**

At least three brokerages lowered their ratings and eight others cut their price targets on the shares of the company when Cisco Systems lost 17.3 percent of its market value in a single day.

[Read more...](#)

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#### In this edition:

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband: FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable 'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic 'hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans 'irresponsible'](#)

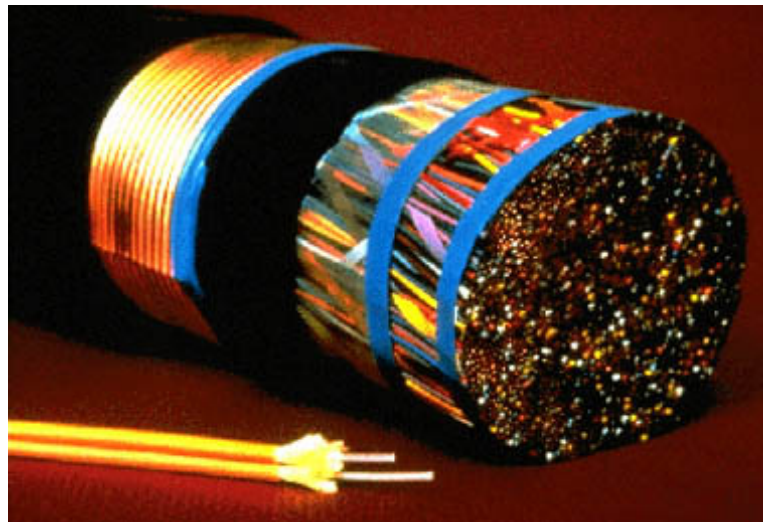
[Cisco shares plummet](#)

#### Other newsletters:

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## BT's fibre broadband: FTTH or FTTC

Very high speed broadband technology has been common in Far East nations such as Hong Kong and South Korea for years but, in the UK, BT is only now taking the first steps to roll out commercial fibre to the home (FTTH) broadband services.



After installing full fibre in a new housing development in Ebbsfleet, Kent, a few years ago, BT has not rushed into a mass rollout of FTTH. Instead it has focused on limited trials in Milton Keynes and London this year.

Even though FTTH is the fastest of BT's upcoming superfast broadband offerings – it supports up to 100Mbps – FTTH will also be the minority technology in its rollout. A quarter of BT's planned fibre rollout will be FTTH versus three-quarters fibre to the cabinet (FTTC), which supports a 40Mbps service.

The issue is cost: FTTH is much more expensive to install than FTTC as the fibre has to be laid much further and all installed by hand. While FTTC terminates in BT's street cabinets, FTTH requires the line to run right up to people's doorsteps and on inside individual premises – requiring Openreach engineers to rod and rope cable through street sub-ducts – or hang it overhead from telegraph poles.

The telecoms provider says it is aiming for a mixed economy approach to fibre deployments – installing a mix of both FTTH and FTTC depending on what the local conditions at each cabinet.

▲ [Top](#)



**In this edition:**

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband:  
FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained  
cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable  
'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic  
'hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans  
'irresponsible'](#)

[Cisco shares plummet](#)

**Other newsletters:**

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## Britain in 'sustained cyber attack' warning

Britain is under "sustained cyber attack" according to a government report that ranks online threats as one of the "highest priority national security risks" in the UK.

The National Security Strategy, A Strong Britain in an Age of Uncertainty report – the government's assessment of the main security threats facing the UK – states that Britain is being targeted by criminals and states online.

The report, published today, said: "Government, the private sector and citizens are under sustained cyber attack today, from both hostile states and criminals.

"They are stealing our intellectual property, sensitive commercial and government information, and even our identities in order to defraud individuals, organisations and the government."

To tackle these online threats, the government today pledged £650m of funding, which will be spent on a "transformative programme" led by the Office of Cyber Security to strengthen key government, critical national infrastructure and defence computer systems against cyber attack.

Although the report does not provide figures for UK cyber attacks, the report refers to "estimates" that cybercrime costs "as much as \$1 trillion" of losses and damage globally each year.

It also raises concerns that the London 2012 Olympic Games will be a target for cyber attacks – citing the fact that the Beijing games in 2008 were subject to 12 million cyber attacks per day.

And the threat of malware causing damage to national infrastructure or military equipment is also flagged up, with the report referencing the recently discovered Stuxnet computer worm that was designed to infect and damage industrial control equipment.

The report states that the need to address these threats is more pressing due to the fact that in the last 15 years the number of global web users has risen more than one hundred fold to more than 1.7 billion.

[▲ Top](#)

**In this edition:**[Welcome/Index](#)[BT's fibre broadband:  
FTTH or FTTC](#)[Britain in 'sustained  
cyber attack' warning](#)[Adobe security issue](#)[Broadband to enable  
'better public services'](#)[US web traffic  
'hijacked by China'](#)[Tory broadband plans  
'irresponsible'](#)[Cisco shares plummet](#)**Other newsletters:**[Newsletter Archive](#)

## Adobe security issue

A critical vulnerability exists in Adobe Flash Player 10.1.85.3 and earlier versions for Windows, Macintosh, Linux and Solaris operating systems; Adobe Flash Player 10.1.95.2 and earlier versions for Android; and the authplay.dll component that ships with Adobe Reader 9.4 and earlier 9.x versions for Windows, Macintosh and UNIX operating systems, and Adobe Acrobat 9.4 and earlier 9.x versions for Windows and Macintosh operating systems.

This vulnerability (CVE-2010-3654) could cause a crash and potentially allow an attacker to take control of the affected system. There are reports that this vulnerability is being actively exploited in the wild against Adobe Reader and Acrobat 9.x. Adobe is not currently aware of attacks targeting Adobe Flash Player.

We are in the process of finalizing a fix for the issue and expect to provide an update for Flash Player 10.x for Windows, Macintosh, Linux, and Android by November 9, 2010. We expect to make available an update for Adobe Reader and Acrobat 9.4 and earlier 9.x versions during the week of November 15, 2010.

### Affected software versions

- Adobe Flash Player 10.1.85.3 and earlier versions for Windows, Macintosh, Linux and Solaris operating systems
- Adobe Flash Player 10.1.95.2 and earlier for Android
- Adobe Reader 9.4 and earlier 9.x versions for Windows, Macintosh and UNIX\*
- Adobe Acrobat 9.4 and earlier 9.x versions for Windows and Macintosh\*

Adobe Reader and Acrobat 8.x are not vulnerable and Adobe Reader for Android is not affected by this issue.

### How to deal with the problem

#### Adobe Reader and Acrobat 9.x - Windows

Deleting, renaming, or removing access to the authplay.dll file that ships with Adobe Reader and Acrobat 9.x mitigates the threat for those products, but users will experience a non-exploitable crash or error message when opening a PDF file that contains Flash (SWF) content.

The authplay.dll that ships with Adobe Reader and Acrobat 9.x for Windows is typically located at C:\Program Files\Adobe\Reader 9.0\Reader\authplay.dll for Adobe Reader or C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 9.0\Acrobat\authplay.dll for Acrobat.

#### Adobe Reader 9.x - Macintosh

1. Go to the Applications->Adobe Reader 9 folder.
2. Right Click on Adobe Reader.
3. Select Show Package Contents.
4. Go to the Contents->Frameworks folder.
5. Delete or move the AuthPlayLib.bundle file.

#### Acrobat Pro 9.x - Macintosh

1. Go to the Applications->Adobe Acrobat 9 Pro folder.
2. Right Click on Adobe Acrobat Pro.
3. Select Show Package Contents.
4. Go to the Contents->Frameworks folder.

5. Delete or move the AuthPlayLib.bundle file.

### **Adobe Reader 9.x - UNIX**

1. Go to installation location of Reader (typically a folder named Adobe).
2. Within it browse to Reader9/Reader/intellinux/lib/ (for Linux) or Reader9/Reader/intelsolaris/lib/ (for Solaris).
3. Remove the library named "libauthplay.so.0.0.0."

### **Severity rating**

Adobe categorizes this as a critical issue.

 [Top](#)

**In this edition:**

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband:  
FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained  
cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable  
'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic  
'hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans  
'irresponsible'](#)

[Cisco shares plummet](#)

**Other newsletters:**

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## Broadband to enable 'better public services'

Superfast broadband will enable better public services, improved business productivity, and job creation, says the government's National Infrastructure Plan.

Launched by Prime Minister David Cameron, the plan details the government's aim to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, something already promised by Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt earlier in 2010.

The plan said: "Rolling out superfast broadband in the UK could have a significant positive impact both on gross value added in the economy and on employment in the information and communications technology sector and the wider economy."

It detailed that the "right broadband infrastructure" would allow government to "enable better and more efficient ways of delivering public services". As examples the plan said that broadband could enable better quality in education and healthcare for rural and remote areas.

It also said superfast broadband could "enable improvements in business productivity and growth through more efficient ways of working, and more efficient communication and exchange of information with customers and suppliers."

The National Infrastructure Plan added that new business formation and growth in the technology sector would result in job creation and enable growth.

David Cameron said: "We will unlock some £200bn worth of public and private sector investment over the next five years."

He said: "This is incredibly exciting, and it shows how, together, we can help create the right framework for growth in which British business can thrive and compete with the rest of the world."

The plan addresses infrastructure issues far wider than broadband, providing detail on the £40bn of infrastructure investment announced in the Treasury's spending review.

This included a £30bn investment in transport, investment in a new low carbon economy, and investment in science and research.

Lord Sassoon, commercial secretary to the Treasury, said: "Today's plan represents a broad vision of the infrastructure investment we need to underpin the UK's growth and retain our competitiveness.

"For the economy to flourish, people, goods and information must move freely.

"Reliable infrastructure: energy, water, transport, digital communications and waste disposal networks and facilities, are essential to achieve this. Ensuring these networks are integrated and resilient is vital.

"We recognise the scale of the challenge and the need to encourage new sources of private sector capital. We are targeting government's own investment at a series of bold and critical projects that go to the heart of this vision and support a private sector led recovery."





**In this edition:**

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband:  
FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained  
cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable  
'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic  
'hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans  
'irresponsible'](#)

[Cisco shares plummet](#)

**Other newsletters:**

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## US web traffic 'hijacked by China'

Web traffic for the US Senate, NASA, the US Commerce Department and the Office for the Secretary of Defence was briefly 'hijacked' and rerouted via China last year, according to a US government report.

A US-China Economic and Security review commission report reveals that the re-routing was recorded for 18 minutes in April 2009.

State-owned China Telecom sent incorrect routing information during that time in a move which the report said "could enable severe malicious activities".



The commission said it was unable to determine whether or not the rerouting was intentional.

China Telecom released a statement saying it "denied any hijack of internet traffic".

As a result, the commission recommended that the US Congress call for a formal investigation into the "volume and seriousness of exploitations and attacks" on sensitive US sites such as those targeted in the China Telecom incident.

The UK's House of Commons Science and Technology select committee heard this week that the UK should focus on defence and resilience to cyber attacks, which are predicted to increase in future.

In evidence, Peter Sommer, from the London School of Economics, said: "The problem with cyber attacks is that it is often difficult to know who is carrying them out, and even if the attacker can be identified, it takes too long to enable retaliation.

"Therefore, cyber efforts need to focus on resilience of networks."

In the Strategic Defence and Security Review the British government pledged £650m towards building cyber defences in the next four years.

[▲ Top](#)





**In this edition:**

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband:  
FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained  
cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable  
'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic  
'hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans  
'irresponsible'](#)

[Cisco shares plummet](#)

**Other newsletters:**

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## Tory broadband plans 'irresponsible'

Labour's approach to broadband has been defended by shadow culture secretary Ivan Lewis after it was claimed their plans would have left Britain in the "economic slow lane".

Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt told parliament that Labour's 2Mbps access promise was not sufficient, adding, "we want to be in the superfast lane".

But Lewis told Publicservice.co.uk: "Far from leaving Britain in the slow lane, Labour would have introduced universal broadband by 2012."

He said: "The Tories opposed the levy to fixed phone lines and have now delayed this commitment until the end of this parliament, leaving millions of homes and businesses without the access they need.

"This is exactly the opposite of what a responsible government should be doing as we strive for growth and economic recovery."

The coalition government is now set to be achieve universal broadband by 2015, along with their more ambitious aim of achieving the best superfast broadband network in Europe (see [Broadband to enable 'better public services'](#)).

Hunt said the government will achieve its objectives with "no phone tax, no increase in the licence fee, and nearly £1bn of investment."

[▲ Top](#)



**In this edition:**

[Welcome/Index](#)

[BT's fibre broadband:  
FTTH or FTTC](#)

[Britain in 'sustained  
cyber attack' warning](#)

[Adobe security issue](#)

[Broadband to enable  
'better public services'](#)

[US web traffic](#)

['hijacked by China'](#)

[Tory broadband plans  
'irresponsible'](#)

[Cisco shares plummet](#)

**Other newsletters:**

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## Cisco shares plummet

Cisco Systems lost 17.3 percent of its market value in frenzied trading on Thursday 11 November 2010, a day after a gloomy revenue outlook left investors jittery, and some brokerages downgraded the stock.



More than \$23.5 billion eroded from the company's market cap with about 370 million shares changing hands by 1240 ET – more than seven times their 50-day moving average volume.

About 200 million shares were traded in the first half hour after opening.

At least three brokerages lowered their ratings and eight others cut their price targets on the shares of the company, which said weak spending by its public sector customers and soft orders from its cable segment hurt its results.

On Wednesday, Cisco Chief Executive John Chambers had warned that Europe would be soft in the near term, but said Cisco would eventually get back on track to achieve its long-term target of 12-17 percent annual revenue growth.

In an interview with CNBC on Thursday morning, Chambers said the shortfall is not a "call on the economy in any way," adding that the world's top manufacturer of routers and switches did not see any unusual price competition.

"We believe that the stock will trade down in the near term and sideways over the next few months with no immediate catalysts," Bernstein Research said.

William Blair and Co said Cisco's size and market-share saturation in the core business of switching and routing, combined with competitive pressures were adding to the stew.

[▲ Top](#)