Transcript: Summer Prep Tech Tips, June 4, 2009

**Mary:** Hello, and welcome to the latest NUIT to Go podcast. My name is Mary. I'm a member of the NUIT Communications team, and today joining me is Matt Kelsey, a Distributed Support Specialist here in NUIT. Welcome Matt.

**Matt:** Thanks, good to be back.

**Mary:** OK, today, we are tackling summer prep. I know a lot of you probably have some great summer trips planned, and for some of you lucky students you're graduating, so there are a few things to think about, whether you're graduating or just taking a summer break that you need to keep in mind that are IT-related. So let's start with the graduates, Matt. What do those students need to be aware of before putting on the cap and gown?

**Matt:** Well first of all, there's some information that you should know about your u.northwestern e-mail account, assuming you want keep it, which I hope you do. You want to make sure that you know your actual username and account password, which are separate from your NetID and NetID password. When you log into your u.northwestern account, you can see your username in the top-right corner, it’s usually first name, last name, year of graduation, and then it doesn’t include the u.northwestern.edu. So for me, for example, it’s MatthewKelsey2010. And you also want to make sure that you know your password. A lot of people log in with their NetID and password, and they don’t remember what their actual username and password are. So you really want to make sure you know those, and if you don’t know your password, you can change it by going to umail.northwestern.edu/manager. You want to do this before your NetID and password expire, because after your NetID and password expire, you don’t have access to log in and change your password.

**Mary:** Right.

**Matt:** Now if at some point in the future you do forget your u.northwestern password, you can e-mail alumni-admin@u.northwestern.edu, and they can help you out.

**Mary:** Right, and I think all that information is outlined on the IT website.

**Matt:** That’s right.

**Mary:** What else do we need to be aware of?

**Matt:** You should also get your copies of unofficial transcripts, which you can get by logging into Caesar with your NetID and password. Once again, after your NetID expires, you’re not going to be able to get in and save those, so make sure you go in and do that. And the last thing that you’ll want to do is purchase any discounted hardware and software that you
need before your NetID expires and you’re no longer a student here. For example, the Apple store and I think Dell, they also offer educational discounts on hardware, and you can just go to their main shopping websites and they will have a link for their education store. One thing you do want to keep in mind is that when you purchase, for example, from any of those stores, they may charge sales tax, which could offset the benefits of just buying through an online vendor that doesn’t charge sales tax, so just something to keep in mind. For software, if you go to our website, www.it.northwestern.edu/software, there are links where you can purchase heavily-discounted software packages, like Microsoft Office is 50 or 60 bucks, and a lot of Adobe products have substantial discounts as well-

Mary: Huge.

Matt: And so that’s something that you definitely want to do.

Mary: OK, great. What about us lucky faculty and staff and non-graduating students who are just taking a summer break, not graduating yet. What do we need to know?

Matt: Well first of all, that I envy you for being able to take some time off. Second of all, I recommend that if you’re going to be travelling and accessing your e-mail or any sensitive sites while you’re travelling in an Internet cafe or you’re using a public Wi-Fi hotspot, is get VPN set up so that you can establish a secure connection with Northwestern and send all of your data through that, and it reduces the chances that someone will be eavesdropping on your data. You should definitely, if you’re taking your laptop or netbook, you should back that up and make sure you have a copy of your files at home, safe and sound, and I believe there’s more information about that on our website.

Mary: Definitely yeah, I’ll put a link up to the backup page and VPN connection on our podcast page.

Matt: And for those of you who are going to be travelling abroad with your smartphone, make sure you check with your cell provider about voice and data roaming plans, because if you take, for example, your iPhone over to Europe, it’s still going to be trying to check for e-mail and whatnot automatically, and the data charges for roaming abroad are very very high, and they could run you into the thousands of dollars if you don’t have a plan. So get in touch with your service provider about that.

Mary: Yeah, you don’t want any shocking bills coming when you get back from your vacation.

Matt: Definitely not.

Mary: What else, Matt?

Matt: That's all I have for you today.
Mary: Oh, that’s it! OK, well we’ve hit all the hot spots for your hot summer vacation. Again, if you have any questions, feel free to contact the NUIIT Support Center. We are here for you over the summer, whether you’re on vacation or not, but Matt, thanks again for joining us! We appreciate all of your valuable information!

Matt: No problem.

This has been a presentation from the Northwestern University Information Technology Support Center. Please e-mail future topic suggestions to NUIIT Communications at it-communications@northwestern.edu.

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