"Technology For You" is a publication of Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) featuring *important* technology-related announcements, updates and other news of interest. For more information about NUIT services and support, please visit us at http://www.it.northwestern.edu.

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E-MAIL DEFENSE SYSTEM LAUNCHED: Sit back, relax and watch most of your junk e-mail disappear! NU's new E-mail Defense System (EDS) was launched University-wide on October 3. If you have a Northwestern e-mail account and use a northwestern.edu e-mail address, the EDS will filter your e-mail. With far fewer annoying junk messages to deal with, you'll be able to manage your e-mail more quickly and easily. EDS will also help keep you safe and secure on the network by screening viruses (which it's been doing for the past several months), as well as most "phishing" attempts and malicious high-risk attachments. To learn more about the E-mail Defense System, visit http://www.it.northwestern.edu/security/eds/.

NO NETWORK EXTENSIONS OR "SOFT PHONES:" Hubs, switches, and other multi-port devices may be convenient to use and relatively inexpensive to own. However, the use of any device with routing or switching capabilities that extends the NU Network is not permitted anywhere on campus, regardless of whether you're in a residence hall or an administrative office.

NUIT's "Policy Restatement and Enforcement Plan for Unapproved Campus Network Extensions" at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/policies/extensions.html provides a complete explanation. This policy was created to ensure network security and reliability. The NUIT policy also extends to other devices with routing or switching capabilities such as non-NUIT voice service hardware extensions. Residence hall users with these devices installed who encounter problems will be required to disconnect them before they can receive ResNet support services.

In addition, NUIT strongly recommends against using software from non-NUIT providers to enable computer-based voice service. These software clients are not supported by NUIT and do not support Emergency 911 (E911) service. NUIT provides telephone service to NU residence halls, and recommends buying a land-line telephone for your room to insure compatibility with 911 service as well as to facilitate communication with faculty, staff, and other students. More information about NU residence hall phone service is available at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/telephone/student/.
SOFTWARE SAVINGS FOR STUDENTS: You may know NUIT offers students academic discounts on site-licensed software, but did you know our prices are the lowest on campus? For instance, you can buy Microsoft Office Professional 2003 for under $70. In addition to Office Professional and other software available through the Microsoft Student Select Licensing Program, NUIT offers a variety of other applications including Maple and Mathematica. Find more information at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/students/discount/.

YOUR PASSWORD IS A HOT COMMODITY: If your password is a single word or something easily guessed, hackers are looking for you! Your password is your first line of defense against hacking. A weak password puts you at a real risk of being victimized by malicious individuals who are looking for opportunities to use your identity while they do damage to systems or steal information for illegal activities. Use a passphrase to beef up your password and make it harder to crack!

Take a sentence or phrase that only you know (a passphrase) and use the first letter of each word to make a completely unique password that protects your personal information, your computer, and the University's network and resources. The most secure passphrases/passwords are 1) a mix of upper and lower case letters and numbers, 2) contain punctuation, 3) are at least eight characters long, and 4) are changed frequently. Bookmark NUIT's new and ongoing "Security Awareness Tip of the Month" at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/security/tip-of-the-month/ to keep up on the latest in safe computing!

"HORROR STORIES" (TECH TALK): Learn how to avoid sneaky spyware, creepy phishing scams, worms, bots, and sniffers at "Horror Stories," NUIT's October Tech Talk! Join us at noon on Friday, October 14 in the Forum Room at University Library; the Tech Talk will also be videoconferenced to Wieboldt Hall on the Chicago campus. NUIT presents a variety of *free* Tech Talk presentations on new technology and technology-related issues each quarter. For more information about this and other upcoming Tech Talks, please visit http://www.it.northwestern.edu/calendar/.

SAV 10.0.1 FOR WINDOWS: If you live off-campus, use Windows, and haven't updated your antivirus software lately, NUIT recommends downloading and installing the latest version of Symantec AntiVirus for Windows, SAV 10.0.1. This important upgrade features "real-time" protection against spyware and enhanced tampering protection that guards against unauthorized access and attacks by viruses that attempt to disable security measures. For more information about SAV 10.0.1, available at no charge from NUIT, visit "What's New & Changing with Technology @ NU" at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/transitions/2005/sav_1001.html.

Find a complete online version of our Fall 2005 "Technology For You" for students at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/newsletter/students/.

Northwestern University Information Technology

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This message was sent using the NU Bulkmail service to TGS Students The Grad School, and Undergraduates (currently registered) with normal priority.