Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2005

To: ITCC_CIO, IT_all, UNITS (plus a select user list)

From: NUIT Communications <it-communications@northwestern.edu>

Subject: Limits to allowable punctuation within e-mail addresses

To help improve the overall reliability of e-mail delivery, and to permit deployment of additional e-mail capabilities in the future, Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) has revised the allowable punctuation within e-mail addresses in incoming messages.

As of April 3, the hyphen, underscore, and period will be the only supported non-alphanumeric characters permitted within e-mail aliases (e.g., j-doe, j_doe, or j.doe@northwestern.edu). After that date, incoming e-mail directed to an alias-based address with any other punctuation (e.g., j=doe@northwestern.edu) will be returned to the sender as an unknown address. One major benefit of this change is the limitation it imposes on the number of false addresses junk e-mailers could create to target the University community.

Statistics show that less than 3/100th of one percent of e-mail messages arriving at Northwestern will be affected by this change. If you have publicized your e-mail address with punctuation other than a hyphen, underscore or period, please change that publicity immediately and inform your correspondents to use a valid form of your e-mail alias.

For additional information, please contact your departmental/school technical support person, call the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357), or e-mail consultant@northwestern.edu.

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