Welcome!

We are pleased you have selected Northwestern University (NU). A substantial part of your academic life at NU will involve using computers to explore resources on both Northwestern’s network (NUNet) and the Internet. Our organization, Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT), is here to help you use and learn about technology. You can get started on this journey by visiting our Web site at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/student.html.

The goal of this newsletter is to explain the University’s computing standards, to introduce you to your new electronic community, and to assist you in purchasing a computer. Our goal is to connect all students to our network prior to the first week of school. The computer purchasing guidelines contained in this newsletter will give you the information necessary to ensure your connectivity to NUNet.

A comprehensive list of online services for students can be found on the NU Information for Students page at http://www.northwestern.edu/student/. Frequently used University services can be found on the HereAndNow student home page at http://hereandnow.northwestern.edu/. HereAndNow offers centralized links to services that affect students’ everyday lives both on and off campus.

This newsletter also provides exciting information about NUNet’s community, such as Virtual Private Networking (VPN), which allows you to connect to NUNet from off campus; wireless capabilities, which are available in many buildings and areas across campus; and NUTV, the innovative NUIT system that delivers television options to undergraduate residence halls via the network and students’ computers.

Northwestern is committed to supporting your exploration of digital resources within your electronic community. Suggestions and comments are encouraged at gettingconnected@northwestern.edu.
welcome!

Northwestern University Information Technology
New Student Checklist

Information about these items can be found in this “Getting Connected” publication.

Before you arrive on campus…

- Have you activated your NetID? (page 5)
- Have you accessed your Northwestern e-mail account? (page 5)
- Have you visited the online virtual store? (page 3)
- Have you checked your school’s computing requirements? (page 11)
- Have you reviewed purchasing guidelines and minimum operating systems supported? (page 12)
- Have you determined which (if any) computer you are bringing to campus and ensured it will be compatible with University resources? (page 3)

Once you’re on campus…

- Have you met your ResCon? (page 6)
- Have you registered your computer on the network? (page 6)
- Have you installed NU’s Symantec anti-virus software? (page 4)
- If you have a wireless laptop, have you accessed the network using wireless? (page 7)
- Have you registered for your classes using CAESAR? (page 8)
- Have you checked to see if your classes are in the Course Management System? (page 8)
- Have you visited the “Get Control” Web site so you can learn how to protect your data and computer when on campus? (page 4)
- Have you checked out the popular student Web sites “Plan-It Purple,” and “HereAndNow?” (page 9)
Buying a Computer

For a list of what to shop for, go to page 12. A new computer will allow you to take full advantage of streaming video, NUTV, and wireless capabilities. Those of you who are bringing laptops with wireless cards can use the wireless network on campus. To make computer purchasing easier, refer to the Computer Purchasing Guidelines (page 12), and access the NU Virtual Store at http://www.virtualstore.northwestern.edu/.

Bringing an Older Computer

If you plan on bringing an older computer to school, please review the minimum supported configurations below. If your computer does not meet our minimum specifications, consider upgrading it or purchasing a new one. Outdated or less powerful computers may frustrate you or hamper your ability to perform necessary tasks. The NU Virtual Store is a convenient electronic resource to help the Northwestern community find information and possible sources for purchasing computer and networking equipment, in addition to software. Northwestern does not endorse any particular vendors. By purchasing a computer through the virtual store, you can take advantage of educational discounts.

Computers that operate below the minimum supported configurations may work within the University’s network environment, but we will not be able to support them fully. Again, we recommend you upgrade your computer to meet the minimum requirements or take this opportunity to buy a new computer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Supported Configurations</th>
<th>PC</th>
<th>Macintosh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processor</strong></td>
<td>Pentium III, Pentium 4, or Celeron</td>
<td>Power Macintosh with PowerPC G4 processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>processor (or equivalent)</td>
<td>533 MHz or faster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAM</strong></td>
<td>128 MB*</td>
<td>128 MB*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard disk</strong></td>
<td>20 GB*</td>
<td>40 GB*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CD-ROM</strong></td>
<td>32x or better CD-ROM (or 4x or better</td>
<td>CD RW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DVD-ROM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating System</strong></td>
<td>Microsoft Windows 2000*</td>
<td>Mac OS 10.x*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethernet</strong></td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet card</td>
<td>Built-in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Equivalent or better
Transporting a computer to campus

We strongly recommend that you bring your computer to campus with you. If this is not possible, you may ship your computer to the University Computer Warehouse (not your residence hall) at the address below. Computers should be shipped to this address between September 1 and 19 only. More information is available at http://www.univsvcs.northwestern.edu/pcsend.html.

Ship to:

Student name (NOT PARENTS’ NAME)
c/o Northwestern University Computer Warehouse
2020 Ridge Avenue, Dock #1
Evanston, Illinois 60208-4303

When you arrive on campus, go to the warehouse with a photo ID to claim your computer. Parents who wish to claim a computer for their Northwestern student will be asked to show a photo ID and a paid invoice with shipping information. Assistance will be available for those transporting computers to student residences. After Tuesday, September 23, call Ellen Barnes to schedule an appointment for pick up and delivery.

The warehouse is open at these times during New Student Week:

Friday and Saturday, September 19-20 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 21 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday, September 22-23 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns about transporting your computer, please call Ellen Barnes at 847/491-3274 or University Services at 847/491-7568.

Microsoft Student Select

NUIT will be contracting with an Internet-based e-commerce provider to handle the software licensing and delivery process for students who want to purchase certain Microsoft software products at a discount. At that time, you will be able to access the site, identify yourself with your Northwestern NetID and password, agree to the license terms, and provide a credit card for the fee. You will be sent this CD via registered mail. For more information about this program see http://elms.e-academy.com/northwestern/.

Computer Virus Protection

Computer viruses are a threat to us all. NUIT provides anti-virus software licenses at no charge to all members of the Northwestern University community. This software is available either via the NUIT Anti-virus/e-mail CD, or by downloading the software from the network. If you have other virus protection software on your computer, you must uninstall it before installing the free Symantec software provided to you. Once you install Symantec, you will need to keep your virus definitions updated and set your computer to autoscan for viruses weekly. For more information about virus protection at Northwestern, please see http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/virus/.

Any concerns about viruses or setting up your anti-virus software should be directed to the NUIT Information Center at 847/491-HELP (1-4357).

Get Control (Internet Safety 101)

Since most of us spend time online daily, there are many things to consider when on the Internet. From virus protection and spam prevention to privacy/security and harassment, this Web site offers information on a variety of Internet safety topics. It offers tips on avoiding addiction to the Internet and how to secure your machine, and also warns users of potential virus threats with Virus Alert updates. For guidance in conducting yourself on the Internet, check out http://www.it.northwestern.edu/getctrl/.

There are many ethical dilemmas you may confront when using the Internet. At Northwestern, you are responsible for upholding the standards of the University. Please familiarize yourself with the “NUIT Rights & Responsibilities for the Use of Central Network and Computing Resources” policy at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/policies/itpolicy.html.

NUIT Anti-virus/e-mail CD 2003

NU provides software tools that can assist you with maintaining a secure computing environment. E-mail software (Eudora) and virus protection (Symantec), for both Mac and PC, is offered on a CD. You can download the latest versions of the software over the network at http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/installer/. If you live in a residence hall, you will receive the CD in a packet when you arrive on campus. Otherwise, you can pick up the CD from the Information Center, located at Kresge Centennial Hall, Room 56, on the Evanston campus. Note: We highly recommend you use the CD if you are connecting to the network with a 56 Kbps modem.
E-mail
Northwestern students are automatically eligible for a University e-mail account. You can activate your account and use e-mail over the summer.

There are several ways you can access e-mail at Northwestern. Although many computers are bundled with e-mail software such as Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express, NUIT recommends Eudora, available free of charge to the NU community. Eudora, which has been in use at Northwestern for a number of years, has an easy-to-use interface, multi-platform support, and useful word processing and filtering features.

NUIT also provides access to your NU e-mail account via WebMail (http://www.northwestern.edu/webmail/). If you have a Web browser such as Internet Explorer or Netscape, you can access your e-mail account from anywhere in the world. Be sure to check your e-mail periodically this summer for news and information from NU.

Your Electronic Identity
A NetID is your electronic identity at NU, and is automatically assigned to you when you enter the University. You should carefully guard your NetID password, as it is the gateway to University resources and your personal information. A range of services is associated with NetIDs, including e-mail, the electronic NU directory (Ph), login access to computers in NUIT-managed labs, and access to personal information such as grades. You can activate your NetID prior to your arrival at NU, and use it to access your e-mail, as well as other NU resources.

You use Ph to look up phone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses, and other information for University faculty, students, and staff. NU students may view and modify billing, current and permanent addresses through CAESAR (page 8). For incoming students, before August 1, 2003, you should send address changes to admit@northwestern.edu. After that date, you can view and modify your addresses on CAESAR.

If you have other changes, you can update your NetID and learn more about NetID-managed services at https://snap.it.northwestern.edu. Further explanation and documentation is at https://snap.it.northwestern.edu/it/snap/ph-user-doc.html#intro. If you have further questions about your NetID, call the NUIT Help Line at 847/491-HELP (1-4357).
Residence Hall Access

Student Telephone Services
NUIT provides telecommunications services to University residence halls and some fraternities and sororities. Service is available as soon as you check in, and there are no installation fees or deposits necessary. Some features include unlimited calling to other NUIT network phones on both the Evanston and Chicago campuses, call waiting, discounted long distance, and the ability to use calling cards. Charges are billed to individuals, so you won’t have to divide charges with your roommates.

You or one of your roommates will need to provide a touch-tone telephone, and, if desired, an answering machine. Information about campus telephone service will be mailed to you later in the summer. For further information, visit http://www.northwestern.edu/housing/telephone-bill_use.html.

Ethernet
Every student living in the residence halls benefits from the “port per pillow” concept; each has a switched 10 MB Ethernet connection to the network. Ethernet is a widely implemented local area networking (LAN) standard that supports data transfer rates of 10 Mbps (megabits per second) and allows for more direct connections between hosts. This allows students to view advanced digital media with ease, and work online at a fraction of the time it takes with a traditional dial-up connection. It is important that you remember to purchase an Ethernet cable to connect your computer in the residence halls. This cable costs approximately $25, and can be purchased at any computer store. The cable should be a 25-foot 10BaseT Ethernet cable. A cable longer than 25 feet may cause connection problems.

Residential Networking Assistance
Our residential networking program’s goal is to help you take advantage of NUNet by assisting you with connecting your computer to the network. Residential Networking Consultants (ResCons) will help you use the network, protect against viruses and connect to NUTV. For more information, see http://www.resnet.northwestern.edu.

Get to Know Your ResCon
If you are having difficulties getting connected to the NU network, you can contact a Residential Networking Consultant (ResCon). Our ResCons can help resolve most network-related problems, as well as answer questions you may have about setting up NUIT software, including Eudora and Symantec Anti-virus. These fellow students are dedicated to getting you connected so you can quickly be productive online. They are completely backed by NUIT professional staff. If you cannot locate your residence hall’s ResCon, dial 1-HELP from any on-campus phone to place a request for help. For more information, see http://www.resnet.northwestern.edu/about/.

Over the summer if you have questions about your Northwestern e-mail account, call 847/491-HELP (1-4357) or write to consultant@northwestern.edu.

NetReg
In Northwestern’s residence halls you are connected to NUNet, the data network that connects your computer to University resources. A network registration system (NetReg) is used to register your computer with NUNet the first time you connect. This system automatically directs you to a Web page where you will enter your NetID and password. After you have completed this one-time registration of your computer, you will have full access to NUNet.

NetReg allows NUIT to improve communication with a student in the event the student’s computer becomes a source of technical concern. An example of this is a problem detected by NUIT systems, such as symptoms of a virus. NetReg functions by creating a record of the hardware address of the computer interface (also known as the MAC address), and associating it with the NetID and IP address assigned by Northwestern.

More information about NetReg can be found at http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/reference/netreg/.
make a connection

Access Outside Residence Halls

Wireless
Northwestern’s computing environment is constantly changing with the times. In 2001, wireless computing was introduced to the Northwestern community. Wireless access allows you to utilize the NU network without being tied to your desk in your dorm room or apartment. You can use wireless networking in numerous locations both on and off campus. Wireless computing requires Virtual Private Network (VPN) authentication, which means it is a secured environment.

As of spring 2003, there are over 40 wireless locations on the Chicago and Evanston campuses. These locations were chosen to assist in student collaboration, and include Norris University Center, parts of the main library and some residence hall eating areas. See http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/wireless/locations.html for a complete list of wireless locations at Northwestern.

Remember, if you have problems setting up either VPN or wireless, you can always call 847/491-HELP (1-4357) or contact ResNet for support.

Cable Modems and DSL
If you live off campus, there are a number of ways to get connected to the Internet and NU Net. These days, the preferred method is either Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) or cable modem access, rather than modem dial-up access over a phone line.

Faster connections make sense for the Northwestern community—especially students—for a number of reasons. Choosing DSL or cable modem will give you noticeably faster Internet service, access to graphic, video, and sound resources not easily available over a dial-up connection, and does not tie up the phone line or require a second line. In addition, image-heavy Web sites will load much faster and large e-mail attachments will arrive more quickly. NUIT designed an entire Web site full of detailed information on high-speed Internet access options at: http://www.it.northwestern.edu/dsl-and-cable/.

Computer Labs
Lab hours are typically 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but vary depending on location. Hours are extended during Reading and Finals Weeks. There are numerous public labs with both Windows and Macintosh computers available on the Evanston campus. The newest lab, NU MediaWorks, located in the University Library, allows students to work with some of the most powerful digital media applications.

You may find the labs useful for checking e-mail while on campus. When not in use by a class, the labs are open to all members of the Northwestern community as walk-in computing facilities. Because the labs can become extremely busy or may be unavailable, NUIT highly recommends bringing your own computer. For more information, go to http://www.at.northwestern.edu/ctg/labs/.

VPN
When you are on campus, your data will always remain private with Northwestern’s secure and robust network. However, if you are using a wireless connection or connecting to the network from off campus, you are on an insecure network. NU requires that you use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) client that allows you to “tunnel” through the insecure network and make your computer appear as if it’s at Northwestern, making a direct, secure connection to the University network.

VPN clients are available for all NUIT-supported operating systems, whether it’s the native (built-in/part of your operating system) client or additional software you must load on your computer. For Windows users, NU recommends using the native client. For Macintosh users, it is recommended to upgrade to Macintosh OS 10.2 (Jaguar) and use the native client. For more detailed information about VPN at Northwestern, please visit http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/.
Course Management System (Blackboard)

NU’s Course Management System (CMS), powered by Blackboard, provides an efficient way for instructors to communicate with their students. Course handouts, syllabi, week-by-week assignments, and readings can be distributed electronically. In addition, professors can use CMS to stream media, post discussion areas, send course e-mail, and give students access to spreadsheets and other pertinent documents.

CMS offers many benefits to students. Students can share documents online, either within study groups designated by the instructor or with an entire class. Both threaded discussions and e-mail are easily facilitated through forums, so students can collaborate on class projects. Students can also check their grades for any course assignment on a secure, private site.

As CMS services continue to expand, interest also continues to grow. As of fall 2002, 700 courses were registered with Blackboard, and 12,000 students and 900 faculty members used CMS. For more information, see https://courses.northwestern.edu.

CAESAR (online registration)

CAESAR (Computer Assisted Electronic Student Access Route) gives students Web access to Northwestern’s Student Enterprise System. Through CAESAR, students can manage their academic career, allowing them to register for classes, search class schedules and course offerings, view enrollment appointments, view their student accounts, obtain unofficial transcripts, view grades for any term, and more. For more information, see http://www.northwestern.edu/caesar/.

Northwestern students are connected through CAESAR to the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Student Accounts, and the various Financial Aid and Loan offices on campus. CAESAR also offers a range of services from the Financial Aid offices and the Office of Student Accounts. Students are able to check their degree status, financial aid eligibility and awards, and review and pay their bills online using CAESAR. They can also access the Course and Teacher Evaluation Council (CTEC). This allows users to view other students’ opinions of professors and class curriculums while registering, making the registration process more efficient and meaningful.
Plan-It Purple (online calendar)
The Plan-It Purple online calendar ([http://planitpurple.northwestern.edu](http://planitpurple.northwestern.edu)) is an engaging environment where students, faculty, and staff can find all the information they need about activities at Northwestern. Users can view events by location, date, groups, or event type, which includes arts and entertainment, athletics, lectures and meetings, and much more.

Users can view the date, time, cost, and a brief description of each event, plus useful links to related Web pages such as academic calendars, campus maps, and entertainment guides for both NU campuses.

My Plan-It
You can customize Plan-It Purple to create your own “My Plan-It” page tailored to display specific types of events and groups in which you are particularly interested. This option has the same design and database features as Plan-It Purple, but it is customized for you—the user. My Plan-It requires user authentication on a secure server. For more information, see [http://myplanit.northwestern.edu/](http://myplanit.northwestern.edu/).

HereAndNow Online
HereAndNow Online (HAN) ([http://hereandnow.northwestern.edu](http://hereandnow.northwestern.edu)) is a student-run Web site that provides important resources for students’ online needs. Its main function is to provide links to Web sites that are relevant to undergraduates: the University Registrar, CAESAR, WebMail Gateway, and Course Management System; local and campus entertainment and maps; news; and search engine. Other features include dynamic content, such as updated local weather, breaking news, and upcoming campus events. There are community links for students such as an area restaurant guide, current movies, and a bulletin board of services. Students can search the online Ph directory, take part in book exchanges, and find information on apartment sublets, and post “For Sale” or “Wanted” classifieds.

HAN offers student groups the ability to publicize their events on Plan-It Purple. This is updated each day, with events advertised to thousands of people.

While HereAndNow provides links to both frequently used University and community resources, a more comprehensive list of NU resources is available on the NU student page at [http://www.northwestern.edu/student/](http://www.northwestern.edu/student/).
**NUTV**

NUIT, in partnership with Student Affairs, implemented NUTV in response to student requests for expanded television access in their individual rooms. NUTV is an innovative system of delivering these options to undergraduate residence halls via the University’s switched Ethernet data network and students’ desktop computers.

To access the service, simply open a Web browser, go to the NUTV home page, and connect directly to any of the available channels in the channel guide. Channels are determined by student vote. Announcements are updated regularly on the home page, and a link to FAQ’s is also available. There is no need to download, set up, or maintain a client utility tool to access the service.

For more information on NUTV, see [http://www.northwestern.edu/nutv/](http://www.northwestern.edu/nutv/).

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**Student Videoconferencing**

Northwestern’s network connections enable high-quality videoconferencing from our campuses to hundreds of research universities around the world. As of summer 2003, student videoconferencing is available via a workstation in the NU MediaWorks lab, located on the lower level of the University Library. Students can use the videoconferencing units for everything from job interviews and class presentations or projects to chats with friends and family. Non-educational use is accommodated as long as it does not conflict with academic activities.

The videoconference unit is set up in a private, enclosed area within MediaWorks. Students are encouraged to schedule videoconference times, but the unit is also available on a “walk-in” basis if it is not already scheduled. Students who would like to schedule a videoconference or who have questions about videoconferencing should e-mail [video@listserv.it.northwestern.edu](mailto:video@listserv.it.northwestern.edu).

For more information on Northwestern’s videoconferencing services, see [http://www.at.northwestern.edu/ctg/videoconf/index.html](http://www.at.northwestern.edu/ctg/videoconf/index.html).
The following is a list of schools that may have additional specific computer requirements. These requirements tend to meet or exceed NUIT’s expectations for new computer purchases. Please see the guidelines on page 12 for more information.

**McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science**
The McCormick school requires computer use by all students. Computer ownership is very strongly recommended for McCormick students. McCormick students are responsible for their own computing needs, including word processing, Internet access, and other tasks. For more information, see [http://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/](http://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/).

**Medill School of Journalism**
Windows and Macintosh computers are used in various journalism classes at Medill. Specialized software for class-specific projects is available for student use in Medill’s computer labs. For more information, see [http://www.medill.northwestern.edu](http://www.medill.northwestern.edu).

**School of Communication**
The School of Communication encourages entering students to use computers. Students will arrive to find a highly interconnected community of scholarship where computers are used in day-to-day classroom and research activities. Computers are important for communicating with faculty and advisers, and many classes will use computers for both course materials and also for direct production of student work—written, artistic, and scientific. Most students in the School of Communication find it convenient to have their own computer. For more information including suggested computer configurations, see [http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/comp2003.htm](http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/comp2003.htm).

**School of Education and Social Policy**
The School of Education has no specific guidelines other than what NUIT recommends. Please use page 12 for your reference.

**School of Music**
The School of Music maintains both Windows and Macintosh platforms in its labs with a rich array of music software installed. In addition, the School recommends strongly that all entering students have a personal computer. The core curriculum in music theory and history makes extensive use of the Internet and streamed audio files from central servers at Northwestern; a personal computer that is equipped to play back streamed media with software such as QuickTime and RealAudio is encouraged to allow preparation for courses that demand a fair amount of listening. A good pair of headphones or a small sound system is recommended. For keyboard skills work and for many other courses, a small MIDI keyboard would be a plus. Music printing software to augment the usual word processing titles would be helpful in preparing papers. For more information, see [http://music.northwestern.edu/indexf.html](http://music.northwestern.edu/indexf.html).

**Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences**
The Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences encourages all students to use computers. Computer connectivity, including Web and e-mail fluency, is vital for communicating with faculty and advisers, for obtaining information on academic programs and courses, for course registration and review of academic records, for completing course work, and for receiving important announcements from the Dean’s Office and academic departments. Computer ownership is strongly recommended. For more information, see [http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu](http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu).

### Table 1. Recommended PC Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Desktop</th>
<th>Laptop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Processors and Speed</strong></td>
<td>2.53 GHz or faster Pentium 4, or equivalent processor</td>
<td>2.4 GHz or faster Pentium 4, or equivalent processor; 1.6 GHz or faster Pentium M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAM</strong></td>
<td>at least 256 MB</td>
<td>at least 256 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard disk</strong></td>
<td>at least 60 GB</td>
<td>at least 20 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CD/DVD</strong></td>
<td>CD-RW or combo drive</td>
<td>CD-RW or combo drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating System</strong></td>
<td>Microsoft Windows XP Professional (on or off campus) or Windows XP Home Edition (off campus only)</td>
<td>Microsoft Windows XP Professional (on or off campus) or Windows XP Home Edition (off campus only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethernet Cards</strong></td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wireless Cards</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>802.11b built-in or separately purchased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modem</strong></td>
<td>56 Kbps</td>
<td>56 Kbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Recommended Macintosh Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Desktop</th>
<th>Laptop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Processors and Speed</strong></td>
<td>iMac G4 800 MHz, eMac G4 800 MHz, or PowerMac dual-G4 1.25 GHz tower or faster processor</td>
<td>iBook G3 800 MHz, or PowerBook G4 867 MHz or faster processor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RAM</strong></td>
<td>at least 512 MB</td>
<td>at least 256 MB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hard disk</strong></td>
<td>at least 60 GB</td>
<td>at least 30 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CD/DVD</strong></td>
<td>RW, combo drive, or SuperDrive</td>
<td>CD-RW, combo drive, or SuperDrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating System</strong></td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.2 “Jaguar”</td>
<td>Mac OS X 10.2 “Jaguar”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethernet Cards</strong></td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
<td>10/100 Mbps Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wireless Cards</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>802.11b built-in or separately purchased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modem</strong></td>
<td>56 Kbps</td>
<td>56 Kbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** These are the minimum recommended requirements. Purchasing guidelines are updated periodically by NUIT. For the latest recommendations, please visit the purchasing guidelines Web site at [http://www.it.northwestern.edu/guidelines/](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/guidelines/).

1. The wireless Local Area Network (LAN) is available in some areas of the campus. For more information see [http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/wireless/](http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/wireless/).
2. A wireless card is not a substitute for a standard Ethernet card.
3. 802.11b is the standard for this environment. Future releases of the 802.11 standard are not currently supported by NUIT.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Computer Viruses
Q: How does Northwestern handle computer viruses?
A: We provide every student with anti-virus software. If you get a computer virus, we have trained consultants who will come to your room on campus to assist you with cleaning and updating your virus definitions. Even though viruses are rampant, some common sense will help keep your computer clean. First, update your virus definitions regularly—set your anti-virus software to update them at least once a week. Second, if you get e-mail from an unknown person or a strange e-mail from someone you know, delete it. Last, if you check your e-mail using WebMail, you can delete an e-mail containing a virus before it ever enters your machine. Northwestern’s Get Control Web site offers information on a variety of Internet safety topics including up-to-date virus protection information at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/getctrl/.

E-mail Access
Q: What type of e-mail access does Northwestern offer?
A: Every student at Northwestern is assigned an e-mail account. You can check your e-mail in many different ways. You can use the e-mail software that came with your computer such as Microsoft Outlook Express or Eudora, the software NU provides. For convenience, you can use WebMail to check your e-mail anywhere in the world. You have ample but limited online (server) space, and will need to move your messages to your personal computer on a regular basis.

Web Hosting
Q: What type of Web hosting does Northwestern provide?
A: Each student has access to 4 MB of space on our community server, pubweb. More information is available at http://pubweb.northwestern.edu/.

Windows or Macintosh
Q: What should I purchase - a Windows-based PC, or a Macintosh?
A: While most students use Windows machines, we support both Macintosh and Windows personal computers. The decision between Windows and Macintosh operating systems is a matter of personal preference. Check the NUIT school requirements (page 11) to see if your program recommends a particular platform.

Ethernet vs. Modem
Q: My computer already has an internal modem and no Ethernet card. I may only be in a residence hall for one year, and then I plan to move off campus. Will buying an Ethernet card be worth it?
A: Our advice is to use Ethernet, even for one year. The speed difference between Ethernet and modem connections is substantial and will easily make an Ethernet card a worthwhile investment. In addition, you may wish to use DSL or cable modem service when you move off campus, and then you will need an Ethernet card.

AOL or other Internet Service Providers (ISP)
Q: I have been using AOL. Will I be able to continue using it when I am at Northwestern?
A: More often than not, software from other providers cause conflicts when you try to configure your computer for service from another ISP. You may need to remove any other ISP’s Internet software in order to connect to NUNet.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (continued)

**Student Jobs**

*Q: Are there “techie student jobs” available in NUIT?*

*A: NUIT offers a variety of student job opportunities. There is an electronic application and more information about the types of jobs available at [http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/studentjobs/](http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/studentjobs/).*

**Computer Store**

*Q: Is there a computer store on the Northwestern campus?*

*A: No, because the computer market changes so rapidly, and because purchasers are increasingly able and willing to buy over the Internet. If you are interested in purchasing a computer online and taking advantage of educational discounts, you can access the NU Virtual Store at [http://www.virtualstore.northwestern.edu](http://www.virtualstore.northwestern.edu).*

**Help!**

*Q: How can I get help?*

*A: There are various ways to get computing help:

1. If you live in a residence hall contact your ResCon. See posters in residence halls or visit [http://www.resnet.northwestern.edu/rescons/](http://www.resnet.northwestern.edu/rescons/).
2. If your school provides a help desk for computing problems, call them.
3. Contact the NUIT Information Center help desk:
   a. Via e-mail to consultant@northwestern.edu
   b. Via phone at 847/491-HELP (1-4357)
   c. In person at Kresge Centennial Hall, Room 56 on the Evanston campus*
ASG
The Associated Student Government is an organization that represents undergraduate student interests on campus.
http://asg.northwestern.edu

CAESAR
Computer Assisted Electronic Student Access Route. It is the gateway to online student services.
http://www.northwestern.edu/caesar/

CMS
Course Management System. Please see page 8 for more details.

Ethernet
A digital communication standard on dedicated wiring that is capable of transmitting 10 million bits or more per second.

HereAndNow Online
HereAndNow Online (HAN) is the Northwestern University Student Web page. http://hereandnow.northwestern.edu

IP Address
A unique number assigned to a computer on a TCP/IP network. For a machine to be on the Internet, it must have an assigned IP address, e.g., 123.456.789.10.

ISP
Internet Service Provider.

NetID
Network ID. Northwestern’s unique identifier for each person accessing services on NUNet.
https://snap.it.northwestern.edu

NetReg
Network Registration system. A process for registering student computers with the network to provide improved communication when computer problems occur.

Network
In information technology, a network is a series of computers or devices interconnected by communication paths. Networks can interconnect with other networks and contain subnetworks.

NUIT
Northwestern University Information Technology.
http://www.it.northwestern.edu

NUTV
NU television. An innovative system provided by NUIT to deliver television options to students by transmitting channels over NUNet to students’ computers.
http://www.northwestern.edu/nutv/

ResCon
Residential Networking Consultant. A NUIT student employee, generally living in a residence hall or Greek house, who acts as a local expert on network computing. ResCons are trained by NUIT to understand the NUIT Anti-virus/e-mail CD and other aspects of getting connected to the campus network.

ResNet
Residential Networking Program. This program provides full Internet connectivity support to all students living on campus.

URL
Uniform Resource Locator. A name that uniquely identifies a document or service on the Internet. URLs are most commonly associated with Web addresses.

Virus
A self-replicating code that can affect operating systems, applications, or documents. The code is designed so that the infection occurs without the knowledge or permission of the computer user. It propagates itself by infecting other files and passing itself inconspicuously to other computers.

http://www.it.northwestern.edu/getctrl/index.html

VPN
Virtual Private Network (VPN) is used to provide secure, encrypted network communications between a network and a remote host or other remote network over the public Internet. http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/

WildCARD
Northwestern student/faculty/staff photo ID card.

Wireless
Wireless networking allows you to access the Northwestern campus network and the Internet without physically connecting to an Ethernet jack.
http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/wireless/