FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Novell-based IPX routing to be phased out by NUIT

Northwestern University Information Technology has announced that the Novell IPX (Internet Packet Exchange) protocol will be phased out over the next two years.

As of January 2, 2005, Novell IPX will no longer be routed on the Northwestern University network, NUNet. IPX has been superseded by Novell use of TCP/IP. Many Novell campus networks have already moved to TCP/IP.

IPX is the protocol most commonly used to communicate with older Novell NetWare Servers. “Because router vendors don’t see a market for continued IPX support, extending support for that protocol would narrow the vendors available for routers and limit what NU could do with the network,” said Tom Board, director of NUIT Technology Support Services.

Board said that the timeline allows for two budget years plus fall quarter of 2004-05 for conversion to TCP/IP. If IPX traffic is gone earlier, NUIT will stop the routing at that time. In the meantime, NUIT can help University schools and departments discover which networks and servers continue to use IPX.

NUIT recommends current Novell IPX users should migrate to Novell server operating system 5.1 or above in order to use TCP/IP. Additional assistance will be available from NUIT to identify servers using IPX and consult on migration, as well as on moving local servers to NUIT Computing Services facilities and administration or moving Novell networks to MS Win2000.

For further information, contact NUIT Distributed Support Services at dss@northwestern.edu.

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