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NUIT Implements Second Step in northwestern.edu Domain Name Migration

On February 5, 2002, NU Information Technology will implement the second step in the migration of the University's Internet domain from nwu.edu to northwestern.edu (originally announced in March 2000). More detailed information is available at www.tss.northwestern.edu/reference/northwestern-edu.html.

As described at the above Web site, this step only affects reverse DNS (domain name system) lookup functions used by servers. Reverse lookup uses an IP (Internet Protocol) address to find a domain name. Forward lookup uses an Internet domain name to find an IP address -- such as when you type a URL in your Web browser.

Currently, the forward-lookup service exists for all hosts for both nwu.edu and northwestern.edu. However, the reverse-lookup service returns names in the nwu.edu domain. On February 5, the reverse lookups will be changed to return names in the northwestern.edu domain.

This change will not affect the vast majority of computers on campus. However, users with software that relies on the domain name system should verify that the software operates using a northwestern.edu domain name.

In another aspect of the overall plan, NUIT will only be registering new DNS host names in the northwestern.edu domain for both forward and reverse lookups. There will not be a corresponding nwu.edu entry defined for new host addresses after February 5.

Existing nwu.edu host names will remain in the DNS system until 2005. The Web site explains in detail how the nwu.edu domain will be removed from service in stages between 2004 and 2005.

Please address any policy or technical questions to consultant@northwestern.edu.