This is a "heads-up" to our IT partners across the University to inform you that as of Fall 2002 we will be changing what is currently known as the "NUNet Installer CD."

We will continue to create and distribute a CD-ROM containing a collection of Internet software applications, but we will no longer develop an "installer" to semi-automatically copy and configure the software. Instead, we will rely on the individual application installers and extra attention to documentation on the CD-ROM and in accompanying written form.

We are taking this step for several reasons.

1. The original motivation to develop the installers in the mid-1990s was to handle the then very difficult task of setting up Ethernet or modem connections. This difficulty has been significantly reduced by improvements in operating systems to the point that network setup today is straightforward.

2. Because the installer programs require reverse engineering of the relevant operating system features and the applications being installed, rapid changes in those areas significantly increased the effort needed to create reliable installer code. As multiple operating systems are deployed, it has become impossible to keep pace.

3. Increasing numbers of University faculty, staff and students are using non-NUIT Internet connectivity (i.e. DSL and cable modems). Therefore, it is no longer useful for NUIT to create an installer that assumes all Internet access will occur through Northwestern.

4. We want to offer the end user the ability to choose which applications will be added. We believe the software NUIT distributes is excellent for the tasks of most users, but many people have preferred software of their own and NUIT's software would simply take up space without adding value.

We assure you that NUIT will continue to support you and your customer group with the same level of service you have come to expect. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we transition to this new Software CD.

Please direct any questions or comments to it-feedback@northwestern.edu.

If you have questions or concerns about what this means for your student orientation, please contact gettingconnected@northwestern.edu.