To all NUIT staff:

Over the past year, NUIT has tested the security of active NetID passwords and found that, by making minor changes, password security and the overall security of the NU Network can be significantly increased. As a result, NUIT will strengthen the content requirements for NetID passwords effective immediately.

The most significant change is that users can no longer use information from their NU Directory records, or common words or phrases in NetID passwords. Passwords containing this type of information present a high risk to network security. The changes have no effect on existing passwords; however, when a user's NetID password expires, his or her new password will be subject to the new requirements.

For more information about the new password criteria, visit "What's New and Changing with Technology @ NU?" at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/transitions/2006/passwordrequirements.html.

Please direct questions about NetID password requirements to the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or consultant@northwestern.edu.

Visit the NUIT Web site at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/accounts/ for more information about NetID passwords and password security.