FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2003

NUIT disabling UNIX shell access on e-mail servers

Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) will disable Secure Shell (SSH) connections to the four central e-mail servers on October 22, 2003. This will affect those users who access their e-mail through PINE or ELM and constitutes less than 1% of the over 23,000 users of these hosts. This will also affect users who may ftp files to these servers. There are several reasons for the change.

- Removing the UNIX login to the central e-mail hosts will improve security by eliminating vulnerabilities that could be exploited through the UNIX shell.
- By removing UNIX shell access, system administrators will be able to better tune the servers which will improve performance.
- The WebMail gateway provides a means for travelers to access their e-mail. Previously, only shell access could provide this service.
- The ability to store e-mail on a server is now supported through the IMAP service using the WebMail gateway, Eudora, and Outlook.

PINE or ELM users can transfer their folders to IMAP folder space using the instructions at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/email/config/popimap-elpine.html. Folders must be transferred to IMAP by October 22 or they will be lost.

For assistance with this process, please contact our Information Center (IC) at 847-491-HELP or consultant@northwestern.edu.

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