Dear UNITS Representatives,

In an effort to support current industry standards, NUIT has added L2TP over IPSec as the preferred connection protocol for on- and off-campus VPN (Virtual Private Networking) connections. This replaces PPTP as the preferred protocol. Mac OS X and Palm OS users are excluded from this announcement.

New users should configure their VPN clients for L2TP over IPSec connections, and existing users should modify their settings to use the new connection protocol. Instructions for setting up an L2TP over IPSec VPN connection are now posted on NUIT’s VPN Web pages at <http://www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/vpn/>.

Mac OS X users should currently continue using the PPTP connection method. Current versions of the OS X native VPN client can not connect to a Cisco VPN concentrator via L2TP over IPSec when behind a NAT (Network Access Translation) device. Apple and Cisco are aware of this issue. NUIT will make a separate announcement when applicable updates have been available and tested.

Pocket PC 2003 users previously using Movian VPN to authenticate to NUIT’s VPN servers may now connect using L2TP over IPSec with the native VPN client. Instructions for setting up a Pocket PC VPN connection have been updated at <http://www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/vpn/native/native-config-ppc.html>.

There is currently no timetable for the retirement of PPTP, as Mac OS X and Palm OS (Mergic) VPN users still rely on the technology. All other users are encouraged to update their VPN connection to L2TP over IPSec as soon as possible.

The Cisco IPSec VPN client remains an option for Mac OS X and Windows users who do not want to use the native L2TP over IPSec or PPTP clients. The Cisco client is the only VPN client available for Linux or Solaris users. More information is available at <http://www.it.northwestern.edu/oncampus/vpn/>.

For more information, please contact the NUIT Support Center at (847) 491-HELP (4357) or e-mail consultant@northwestern.edu.

Thank you.

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