To all UNITS members:

In response to Microsoft's recent decision to downgrade support for its Windows Internet Naming Service (WINS), Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) will retire its central WINS service as of March 1, 2007. WINS provides name resolution for Windows 98 and Windows NT clients and servers.

*Why is this happening?*
NUIT's decision to retire WINS was based on several factors:

--Better alternatives, such as the widely used Domain Name Service (DNS) protocol, are available.

--WINS supports clients on older versions of Windows that are no longer fully supported by NUIT.

--Microsoft is no longer developing WINS, but is supporting it as legacy technology only.

*What action is needed?*
Individuals, departments, or schools with desktop computers, servers, or peripherals set up for WINS will need to reconfigure them for DNS to ensure uninterrupted access to networked servers or other devices.

Easy-to-use instructions are available on NUIT's Web site at <Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.>.

Further information about WINS retirement is available at "What's New & Changing with Technology @ NU": <http://www.it.northwestern.edu/transitions/2006/wins_retire.html>.

Please direct questions to the NUIIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or consultant@northwestern.edu.

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