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Get Geared for @u.northwestern.edu

May 2007

By now you’ve heard about Northwestern’s partnership with Google featuring the @u.northwestern.edu accounts. These accounts are similar to Google's freely available Gmail product, but they have been customized for Northwestern students. Undergraduate and certain School of Continuing Studies’ certificate- and degree-seeking students can look forward to using several of the improved services in early June:

- E-mail: Gmail with over 2 gigabytes of storage
- Calendar: Standard Google calendar system
- Google Talk: Instant messaging and Google to Google voice service
- Google Docs: Convenient online document sharing
- Security: Student data will not be protected and not used for marketing purposes
- Personalization: When activating the service, students will be assigned an account name with the option to create additional nicknames if desired

What to Expect

You can look forward to an opt-in invitation right before summer break. If you plan to opt-in, you can begin preparing by saving any old information from your existing @northwestern.edu account to an outside source, such as your hard drive or another e-mail account.

Once you opt-in, you will have three weeks to “clean out” what want to keep from your merle, lulu, hecky, or casbah account before your account on the mail server will be deleted. Students who opt-in will be able to keep the account post-graduation.

More information regarding the upcoming launch will be available in the coming weeks.
School’s (almost) out for summer. Sure, your classes are winding down and the flip flops are in permanent rotation, but what’s your computer supposed to do this summer?

When you travel, it can be convenient to ignore software update reminders on your laptop, but your machine is vulnerable to attack if you put them off. Instead, set your updates to run automatically. For PCs, go to My Computer / Properties / Automatic Updates; for Mac OS X, go to Apple / System Preferences / Software Update.

Does your computer get antivirus updates from off campus? It may currently access updates from campus servers, but when away from campus, your computer could be vulnerable to viruses. Get Symantec/Norton LiveUpdate while off campus by using the switch tool.

What is Mail Forwarding and Mail Redirection?

Did you know that you can receive all incoming e-mail addressed to your standard NU e-mail address by forwarding or redirecting your mail this summer? Sometimes it seems like forwarding and redirecting are identical, but they are actually quite different.

Forwarding your e-mail is more of a temporary e-mail solution. If you’d prefer to have your Northwestern e-mail sent to your home e-mail address while away this summer, you should forward your mail. If you’re graduating or would prefer to sporadically use your Northwestern e-mail address, you should redirect your mail. More specified forwarding and redirecting scenarios are available on the forwarding and redirecting page.

Are You Graduating?

Stay connected to Northwestern post-graduation by signing up for your Northwestern alumni e-mail account. Remember, your NetID and current @northwestern.edu account becomes inactive 90 days after your last class as a Northwestern student.

Your permanent alumni account allows you to forward mail to any external e-mail account, as well as redirect mail from your student address – and it’s free!

To activate your alumni account:

1. Visit the Northwestern Alumni Association page and sign up for a free alumni account.
2. Before your NetID expires, redirect your existing student account to this new address, or any other personal address, on the Edit Directory page.
Moving Off Campus?

If you plan to make the move off campus this summer or fall, be sure to look into the variety of Internet service providers available for accessing the Northwestern University network. Find the best plan for your needs; Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) provides information you need to make an educated choice. Check out the NUIT Web site for Internet connection comparisons and provider information.

Connecting from Off Campus

Find options for accessing the NU Network from off campus.

VPN (Virtual Private Network)

Configure your computer for VPN connection.

Student Software Discounts

Remember to take advantage of the least expensive software option on campus through NUIT before you leave.* All registered students using student-owned computers for the purpose of University-related business, academics, or research are eligible. Software offerings include Microsoft Office, EndNote, and Mathematica.

*Prices are subject to change.

Student Software

Check this page for discounted software and a variety of applications available at no additional cost.

Get Control

Computer security threats such as viruses, worms, spyware, and hackers have the potential to cause major damage to your personal data, your computer, and the entire Northwestern network. Remember to keep control of these threats before your computer takes control from you.

Five Steps to Get Control

Bookmark this page for step-by-step instructions for computer and network security.

For more information, contact the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or consultant@northwestern.edu
Wireless on Campus: Time to Switch
May 2007

More convenient access to the campus wireless network is available – are you taking advantage of it?

Switch to the network called "Northwestern" and you'll get access without a VPN login and improved security.

It is essential that all wireless users switch to this network as soon as possible. As of September 1, 2007, "nuwlan" will no longer appear as an available network in most campus areas for improved security on the NU Network.

However, if your computer is unable to connect to "Northwestern" due to hardware limitations, you will still be able to configure to "nuwlan". Some older systems do not have the necessary hardware or patches to make the switch, so contact your local technical support staff or the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) if you experience difficulties.

It takes just a moment to move your connection from "nuwlan" to "Northwestern" when your computer searches for available networks. For Mac and Vista users, this process is seamless. Windows XP users should first launch the wireless setup wizard from NUIT.

To successfully connect to "Northwestern," your laptop must comply with the network's updated technical standards, 802.1X and WPA2. These standards provide more efficient security for network connections, data, and access control.

If you are unable to connect, check with your laptop vendor for its compatibility with 802.1X/WPA2.

Please direct questions to the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or consultant@northwestern.edu.
NUTV Upgrade Gives Students Improved Service and Channels
May 2007

Better signal - bigger picture - more channels. These improvements recently greeted NUTV viewers returning from spring break and are the result of an upgrade implemented by NUIT and the Division of Student Affairs, in partnership with DIRECTV.

The upgrade responds to student requests to improve viewing quality and add additional channels. The change adds 50 percent more channels than were previously available as well as selected programming chosen from student survey results. With these improvements, NUTV now meets more than 90 percent of residents' programming requests, up from 66 percent.

The improvements come at no additional cost to the University, and the digital signal provided by DIRECTV greatly improves the viewing experience.

Basic NUTV, with four channels, is available to all on-campus NU Network users. You can launch the service from the NUTV Web site. Expanded NUTV is available to paid subscribers and undergraduate students living in residence halls.

To use NUTV, your computer must have a working network adapter card (NIC) and be connected to a multicast-enabled switched Ethernet connection on the NU Network. To view Expanded NUTV, you must be in residence hall with NUTV activated. In addition, your computer must meet certain minimum requirements:

**Windows XP/2000:**

- Pentium III or Celeron CPU (or equivalent), 750Mhz
- Java Virtual Machine
- Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher, or Netscape Communicator

**Mac OS X 10.2.x:**

- PowerPC G4, 533MHz or faster
- OpenGL-capable video card (ATI Rage 128 or Radeon, any nVidia card)
- Safari, Firefox, and Mozilla are the preferred browsers

**RedHat (Intel) Linux 7.3:**

- Intel PIII 850MHz processor
- 24-bit graphics enabled
- Properly configured and enabled audio card/module
- Mozilla v0.9.9/v1.2a with Java Plug-in (i.e., v1.3) enabled.

For more information on how to connect to NUTV, contact the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357) or consultant@northwestern.edu.
Security Awareness: Stay Clear of the RIAA

May 2007

David Kovarik,
Director NUIT Information & Systems
Security/Compliance

Spring is finally upon us, with summer fast approaching, and all thoughts turn to:

- how to get classroom sessions and meetings moved outdoors
- plans for vacation
- ridding your PC of those illegal songs, movies, and other copyrighted materials — and the programs you used to download and share them — so you don’t get busted by the RIAA.

Busted by the RIAA? Hopefully not, but it is a serious possibility if you have been downloading music, movies, or other copyrighted materials without purchasing or otherwise legally acquiring them.

Most recently, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has been aggressively tracking illegal downloading and sharing. The music industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that can easily afford to monitor and track Internet traffic, looking for those (and not just students) who might possibly be infringing on copyright laws.

In addition to their previous practice of notification, the RIAA is now calling for early settlement of claims, which can range from $700 to $5000. For those who elect not to participate in the settlement process, a lawsuit is the next step. The courts have not been kind to those who disregard copyright laws, as guilty parties can be convicted of a felony and punished with fines and incarceration.

Maybe you are wondering what all the fuss is about? Setting aside the David versus Goliath arguments, my thoughts turn to the artists whose livelihood depends on royalty or contract income. I know a few actors who rely on that income, and illegal downloading deprives them of the wages they’ve earned. If you personally depended on royalty income, would you casually dismiss the illegalities with the argument that “everyone does it”?

So here’s the question: why run the risk of tossing away everything you've worked for in exchange for becoming a convicted criminal, subject to fines, and doing a stretch in federal prison? Is it worth it to steal from the very artists you appreciate — especially when most songs cost only 99 cents? Is it worth is when you can be a law-abiding citizen and contribute to the welfare of artists everywhere?

You’re the key to remaining felony-free!
Communication and Collaboration at the Core of NUIT’s Strategic Initiatives
May 2007

In support of Northwestern University’s *Highest Order of Excellence II 2005-2010*, NUIT recently released the 2008-2010 Strategic Plan. Created in collaboration with University leadership, this report highlights the necessary technology initiatives to be carried out by the University in the coming years.

“This is our tenth year of strategic planning with the University and we are excited by the outcomes of these collaborative efforts that make Northwestern University a leader in higher education academics and research, information technology, and high-performance information resources,” said Mort Rahimi, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Northwestern University.

This rolling three-year plan, which is reviewed and updated annually, bring attention to key university initiatives that can positively impact the mission of the University.

**Turning strategy into action**

Technology is becoming easier and easier to use. In fact, technology is an essential part of advancing research, scholarship, and administrative activities on campus.

Key initiatives include:

- enhancing the research computational environment to support the innovative work by our researchers and scholars;
- creating an enterprise Collaboration Services Infrastructure will provide a more efficient and effective collaborative environment;
- creating and deploying a University business portal for easy access to the University’s enterprise systems;
- continuing the commitment to network, data, and information security and compliance with a new risk assessment program, two-factor authentication, central active directory services, and enterprise encryption;
- integrating new methods of communication and facilitating diverse learning styles with expanding teaching and learning spaces;
- unifying and supporting various help desks into a comprehensive customer support environment.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to this report and we invite you to read more in the NUIT Strategic Plan 2008-2010.
In the Queue
May 2007

CAESAR Facelift Coming This Fall

This coming fall, an upgrade to CAESAR will bring improved system navigation along with a new look and feel. Users can look forward to an easy-to-use experience, as well as added functionality such as the new Student Center. This self-service area provides a single point of entry for students to view important information and begin system navigation.

The upgrade is necessary to utilize new technologies from the software vendor, as well as to enable new functionality.

More information about CAESAR improvements will be available in the coming months.
What's New & Changing
May 2007

Contents

- The NUPortal Set for July Launch
- Delay Your Vista Upgrade

The NUPortal Set for July Launch

Get ready for this summer’s launch of the role-based, customizable portal for all Northwestern faculty, staff, and students. On Monday, July 16, you will be able to experience:

- An intuitive interface that mirrors the look and feel of many University Web sites
- The ability to select the services viewable on The NUPortal
- Search features that enable you to find Northwestern people and content
- A News area that provides alerts about topics and services of interest

For more information, visit The NUPortal Set to Launch This Summer in the What's New & Changing section of the NUIT Web site.

Delay Your Vista Upgrade

In March, NUIT recommended that the Northwestern community wait to upgrade to Microsoft’s newest operating system, Windows Vista™, until at least Service Pack 1 is released. As with any new item, whether it is a car, computer, or operating system, it’s a good idea to delay a purchase until all the new kinks are worked out.

Visiting the Windows Vista™: Known Issues page will explain several of the enterprise-level software incompatibilities with Windows Vista™ that NUIT has found.

Windows XP remains a reliable system, so if you’re in immediate need of a new operating system, why not purchase Windows XP Service Pack 2 with the option for a future Windows Vista™ upgrade?

For more information, visit Windows Vista™: Wait to Upgrade in the What's New & Changing section of the NUIT Web site.
Upcoming NUIT Events
May 2007

NUIT Tech Talks

The NUIT Tech Talk series is a chance for you to improve your knowledge regarding new technology and technology-related issues that impact the academic and work environment of the University. Upcoming Tech Talks include:

May 23 – Stay Connected & Secure All Summer Long

Is your computer set for the summer? Did you remember to forward or redirect your e-mail account to ensure effective e-mail delivery? Make sure to keep your computer safe and yourself connected to Northwestern when you are off campus. In this Tech Talk, learn about:

- Best practices for safe computing while traveling
- Connecting to Northwestern from off campus
- E-mail forwarding and redirecting

Register now for this Tech Talk.