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Is Your Computer Ready For Summer? Stay Connected and Secure

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Congratulations to Lucy Gillespie, winner of a digital camera from NUIT's "STAY Connected & Secure ... All Summer Long" event. The two-day technology awareness campaign at Norris on May 11 and 12 included a computer security quiz to enter to win the digital camera, an iTunes giveaway, and free laptop engraving for safety.

If you missed the event, you can still get essential summer computing tips from the NUIT Web site, including:

Stay Connected and Secure ... All Summer Long

Does your computer get antivirus updates from off campus? It may currently access updates from campus servers, so when you move, your computer could be vulnerable to viruses. Get Symantec/Norton LiveUpdate from off campus by using the switch tool available at:

<http://www.it.northwestern.edu/software/staff/free/antivirus/symantec-faq.html>

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.

Student Software Discounts

Did you know NUIT software is the least expensive software option on campus?* 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 Connected Off Campus

There are a variety of Internet service providers available for accessing the Northwestern University network. But how do you find the best plan for you? 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.

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. Get control of your computer before your computer gets control of 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.

Graduates: Don't Miss Your E-mail

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Is it your time to wear the cap and gown? Then it is also time to get 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.

When you sign up for your permanent alumni account, you can forward mail to any external email account, as well as redirect mail from your student address. Best of all, an @alumni.northwestern.edu account is free to all Northwestern graduates.

All it takes to activate is two easy steps. First, go to the [Northwestern Alumni Association Web site](#) and sign up for a free alumni account. Second, before your NetID expires, redirect your existing student account to this new address, or any other personal address, on the [Edit Directory Web site](#).

Security Awareness: Stay Secure ... All Summer Long

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The "lazy days of summer" prompt us to make vacation plans, but remember that cyber criminals never take a break. Follow these summer security essentials to keep your computer and your information secure when you are away from campus.

Keep Your Passwords Secure

Internet cafés around the world make it possible to check your e-mail and get on the NU Network. But when you use these computers, remember that password secrecy is essential. Do not save any of your passwords on Web browsers, and reject the prompts to save your login information to sites of any kind, especially when you access the NU Network. Be sure to completely close and quit a browser when you're done. Also, consider that a machine in an Internet café may have spyware or key logging software installed, so avoid accessing banking accounts or other sensitive sites. Changing your password more frequently can also provide an enhanced level of protection.

Stay Virus-Free From Off Campus

Arriving on campus in the fall, you downloaded antivirus software to your computer and got LiveUpdates from on-campus servers. When you're away for the summer, you may not regularly access the NU Network to get the required LiveUpdates. Continuing to access the Web without the updates places your computer at risk of infection from literally hundreds of viruses and other types of malware. You can easily minimize your risk by making sure your computer gets offcampus antivirus updates. All it takes is a quick download of Symantec/Norton AntiVirus. Find the LiveUpdate Switch Tool on the [Symantec Reference Page on the NUIT Web site](#).

Make a Backup

Before you take your computer on your summer travels, prepare for the unexpected. A theft or computer accident can quickly rob you of important computer files and data. Make it a practice to back up your information to an external hard drive, server space, Web-based storage, CDs, DVDs, or flash drive, and keep the backups separate and away from your PC. If you absolutely must travel with data that is considered sensitive, consider using some form of encryption. Some USB "thumb" drives store in excess of 1 gigabyte of data and include built-in encryption methodologies. These simple steps can easily protect you from unexpected and potentially embarrassing computer data losses.

Stay Secure with Software Updates

If you travel with your laptop this summer, it can be convenient to ignore software update reminders, but it can also be dangerous. Your computer is vulnerable to attack if you put off installing patches and updates. If you haven't already set your updates to run automatically, [instructions can be found on the NUIT Web site](#) to keep you both safe and free of reminders. All of these tips require your attention and diligence to keep your computer and your personal data secure. As always, **You Are the Key to Information Security**. Have a safe, secure and memorable summer!

Going Somewhere? Stay Connected to the NU Network

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Whether you are moving off campus or just taking a summer trip, you can stay connected to Northwestern this summer. It's easy to get your e-mail and access the NU network from around world or just down the street when you follow a few simple steps.

If you are moving off campus

Moving out of the residence hall? Don't forget to set up your Internet access and then use Virtual Private Network (VPN) for a secure connection to the NU Network:

- **Get Internet access** in your new place by signing up with a residential broadband or dial-up service provider. Consider choosing a high-speed broadband service such as cable modem or digital subscriber line (DSL) for a connection that closely matches on-campus service.
- **Research your options** for providers on NUIT's [Connecting from Off-Campus](#) Web site. It can be overwhelming to pick a provider, so this site outlines available services and makes it easy to research your options and pick the best plan.
- **Use a VPN login** once you have service to access the same University resources of an on-campus connection. VPN establishes a secure "tunnel" that protects you and the NU Network from anyone trying to gain unauthorized access to the data you send and receive. It's easy to configure your laptop for VPN. [Complete instructions](#) are on the NUIT Web site.

If you are leaving campus for the summer

No matter where you go — be it Dubai or downtown Chicago — you can continue to get your @northwestern.edu e-mail.

- **Use Webmail** because it is accessible anywhere in the world via an Internet connection. Be sure to bookmark www.northwestern.edu/webmail.
- **Configure your e-mail client** to work with an off-campus service provider. If you currently get mail only while on campus, your Outlook, Entourage, or Eudora client needs to be configured to access your mail when you are off campus. The [NUIT Web site includes instructions](#) on how to switch the routing of the SMTP outgoing mail server. From this page, select the client you use, click on POP instructions, and look for the instruction on SMTP.

Find more information about [off-campus connections](#), on the NUIT Web site or contact the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357).

Explore IT Research from Gartner

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Need to know more about topics such as "Communication Innovations," "What Matters Now in IT," or "Preparing for the Government of Tomorrow?" You can find those, and hundreds more, on the Gartner Research Web site. NUIT and the University Library have partnered to give the University user community direct, immediate access to Gartner's industry-wide research and news analysis. Gartner is a leading consulting firm that provides expertise and advice to 45,000 information technology clients worldwide.

To access the site from [NUIT's home page](#), select "Gartner Research" under "Educational Resources," then log in with your NetID and password, or visit the [University Library Web site](#).

Please direct questions to the University Library Information Commons at 847-491-7658 or or ic@northwestern.edu.

Get Connected Brochure Now Available

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There are many technology resources available at Northwestern University: computing and collaboration, high-speed networks and wireless access, essential software and online tools. All of these resources expand the possibilities of your experience at Northwestern but they can also seem overwhelming.

NUIT is here to help with the [Get Connected 2006](#) brochure, which outlines all the essentials for using technology on campus. Check it out for topics including:

- Buying a computer
- Getting on the network
- Accessing your e-mail
- Connecting in residence halls or from off campus
- Learning safe computing habits
- Knowing your computing responsibilities
- Finding technical support

Of course, if you can't find what you need here, NUIT is happy to point you in the right direction. Call us directly at 847-491-**HELP** (4357).