FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Usenet News Service will be retired August 31, 2003

Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) will be discontinuing its current Usenet news service with the retirement of the central news server on August 31, 2003.

The server, known as either "news.nwu.edu" or "news.northwestern.edu," has seen dramatically reduced local usage as the Web and other collaboration tools have been developed. The decision to end this service is part of NUIT’s efforts to contain costs and increase network security.

Faculty who use Usenet news for class-related purposes can use NU’s Course Management System (CMS) in a similar manner. Direct questions to course-management@northwestern.edu. For detailed information, visit https://course-management.northwestern.edu.

An electronic mailing list (listserv) can also be used as an alternative to newsgroups. A listserv is a list of people and e-mail addresses; when someone sends e-mail to the list, everyone subscribed to that list receives it. Visit http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/conferencing/listserv/ for detailed information about listservs at Northwestern.

For those who use the NU news server to read newsgroups such as nwu.general, nwu.forsale, and nwu.comp.announce, there are also alternatives available. Many Internet Service Providers (ISPs), such as AOL, offer tools to help their members search, subscribe, and read newsgroups. If your ISP does not offer a newsgroups service, you will need to configure your newsreader program to point to an alternate news server.

There are several Web sites that list numerous free and subscription-based news servers. Examples of these sites are:

- http://www.newsservers.net/free_news_servers/
- http://directory.google.com/Top/Computers/Usenet/Web_Based/

Please direct questions to it-feedback@northwestern.edu.