FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New remote e-mail access option (IMAP) announced by NU Information Technology

Are you a frequent traveler who uses WebMail as your main e-mail client? Do you typically access e-mail from more than one computer? If the answer to either question is “yes,” you may want to think about configuring your e-mail software for IMAP (Internet Mail Access Protocol).

“IMAP makes sense for anyone who accesses mail from more than one computer on a regular basis,” said Tom Board, director of NUIT Technology Support Services. “This might include faculty who travel frequently and use WebMail as a main mail client, or students who may not own computers and access their e-mail from NU computing labs.”

By default, Northwestern’s e-mail system uses POP (Post Office Protocol). E-mail software configured for POP downloads mail off the host server to an individual’s computer (such as when the “Check Mail” command is used in Eudora).

With IMAP, e-mail remains on the server and the user can determine which messages will be downloaded or deleted. Unlike POP, however, IMAP allows users to create and manipulate folders or mailboxes on the servers; view message headers, subject lines and senders; and search for messages by keyword.

“If you’re using a POP client and are satisfied with it, there’s no need to switch,” Board said. “We're making IMAP available for those members of the NU community who need it, especially those who travel.”

All University-supported e-mail applications can be configured for either POP or IMAP. Each user can determine which protocol is appropriate for his/her needs.

IMAP will be available July 15 on merle and on the other main mail servers on or before August 15. More information is available at www.it.northwestern.edu/email/pop_imap.html. Direct questions to the NUIT Help Line, 847-491-HELP, or consultant@northwestern.edu.

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