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NUIT announces quota system for pending e-mail

To help optimize e-mail resources and create a more predictable service environment for Northwestern’s 20,000-plus NetID users, NUIT is implementing a 50Mb inspool quota on the central e-mail servers (casbah, hecky, lulu and merle) effective June 1.

This policy, part of an ongoing e-mail improvement program which began with the launch of the WebMail gateway, will result in more e-mail storage space being allotted to each NetID holder and will provide a more efficient notification process to users exceeding e-mail quotas. Less than 1% of current e-mail users—those who regularly leave messages on the servers after reading them—should be affected.

“Disk storage on the central e-mail servers is an important resource, and effective management of disk space is key to the introduction of future services,” said Tom Board, director of NUIT Technology Support Services. “Overall server performance, cost of operations and equipment, and performance of individual accounts are all influenced by disk storage.”

The servers will be operated with consistent limits of 50Mb for pending e-mail messages within individual accounts. As accounts approach the 50Mb limit, a series of warning messages will be sent prior to archiving the pending e-mail. Accounts that exceed 100Mb in pending message space will no longer receive messages until the space is reduced or the pending messages are archived.

Archived messages can be restored from backup storage for a period of 120 days. If pending e-mail is not kept within the published bounds described on the Web site, it will be moved to secondary storage and a fee will be assessed to restore it.

Detailed information is available at www.it.northwestern.edu/policies/email/inspool.html.
Questions can be directed to consultant@northwestern.edu.

To stay informed on what is changing within Northwestern’s central IT services, visit the NUIT Transitions site at www.it.northwestern.edu/transitions/.