To the Northwestern University community:

Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) recently announced deadlines for its support of certain versions of the Macintosh operating systems.

NUIT attempts to support operating systems for slightly longer than announced plans by the manufacturers. In some cases, support plans are influenced by the availability of key features or necessary compatibility with important applications.

As of September 1, 2003, *one year from this coming fall,* NUIT will no longer support the Macintosh OS 8.x operating system.

In addition, it is likely that support for Macintosh OS 9.X will end in 2003, though a firm date has yet to be determined. After that time, NUIT will continue to officially support Macintosh OS X.

NUIT anticipates that advancing functions of the campus network, and especially wireless access, will require Macintosh OS X. Today's vendors of advanced applications for the Macintosh are writing programs almost exclusively for OS X. The timing of this announcement to discontinue OS 8.x / 9.x support comes now because future VPN (Virtual Private Networking) services, which are essential for wireless access, will only be available for OS X from suppliers in September 2003.

Departments and schools with Macintosh systems running under OS 8.x or OS 9.x should carefully plan a migration strategy to OS X during the next 12 months. This will be essential for mobile Macintosh computers by September 2003 to use wireless services.

Please share this information with your staff. NUIT also recommends that you take into account any necessary purchases of Macintosh OS X compliant hardware and software in your budgeting process for future fiscal years.

Please refer to NUIT's software support guidelines at http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/reference/supported_sw.html for details.

NUIT also provides guidelines for personal and departmental purchases of computers, software and peripherals at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/guidelines.

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Northwestern University Information Technology
http://www.it.northwestern.edu

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