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"NUTV" Brings Expanded Television Options to Residence Hall Desktop Computers

Expanded television options are scheduled to arrive this fall in Northwestern University's undergraduate residence halls--in a new and innovative way via the University's switched Ethernet data network and students' desktop computers.

Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT), in partnership with the University's Division of Student Affairs, is implementing "NUTV" in response to student requests for access to expanded television options in their individual rooms.

"After a prolonged search and extensive testing during spring quarter, we were able to identify a vendor that could leverage the power of our world-class network in providing this service in an economical manner," said Tom Board, director of Technology Support Services for NUIT.

To access the service, students simply open a Web browser and click a link that takes them to the channel guide and support pages. There is no need to download, set up, or maintain a client utility tool. Twenty television channels are available to students via their Web browsers.

"It was not economically feasible to wire the residential halls specifically for cable television, due mainly to the age of many of the buildings," said Dave Carr, director of telecommunications and network services for NUIT. "Our vendor, VideoFurnace, had technology which made it possible to give students something they'd been asking for without incurring extensive costs. By utilizing multicasting technology, we can deliver high-quality video to each residence hall desktop across the campus."

Computers should conform with the following minimum requirements to view the video:

- Windows 95 / 98 / Me / NT / 2000 / XP (Browser: Netscape Communicator or Internet Explorer, v. 5.0)
- Mac OS 9.1.x-9.2.x (Browser: Internet Explorer, v. 5.0 or higher; select IE as default browser in Internet control panel)
- All platforms: Multicast-enabled network

"We're delighted that we can provide this service to students," said William Banis, vice president for student affairs for Northwestern. "It's something they've wanted for years."

For further information, contact it-communications@northwestern.edu.