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NUIT ANNOUNCES TIMELINE FOR MAC OS 9, WINDOWS ME SUPPORT

Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) has announced deadlines for its support of Macintosh OS 9.x and Microsoft Windows Me.

As of September 1, 2003,NUIT will downgrade support for Mac OS 9.x and Microsoft Windows Me to “reasonable effort” by NUIT support staff. This means help desk personnel will assist, but problems will not be escalated to staff support specialists. NUIT will discontinue support for Mac OS 9.x and Windows Me as of December 31, 2003.

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.

About Mac OS 9.x

NUIT anticipates that advancing functions of the campus network will require Mac OS X. Today’s vendors of advanced applications for the Macintosh are writing programs almost exclusively for OS X. In addition, support for Mac OS 9.x VPN (Virtual Private Networking), essential for wireless network access, will end in September 1, 2003.

NUIT will discontinue support for Mac OS 9.x and Windows Me on faculty and staff computers as of December 31, 2003, but NUIT will discontinue support of Mac OS 9.x for student computers earlier—June 20, 2003. NUIT recommends that departments and schools with Macintosh OS 8.x or OS 9.x systems should carefully plan a migration strategy to OS X.

About Windows Me

NUIT recommends that departments and schools with Windows Me systems upgrade to Windows
XP Professional before September 2003. Because there are minimum hardware requirements for Windows 2000 or Windows XP, NUIT has prepared a Web site to organize information for these upgrade decisions at www.tss.northwestern.edu/windows/compare_win.html.

NUIT provides guidelines for personal and departmental purchases of computers, software and peripherals at www.it.northwestern.edu/guidelines. For details on NUIT’s software support, see www.tss.northwestern.edu/reference/supported_sw.html.

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