Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) has announced that in an effort to further improve network security, proxy ARP (address resolution protocol) service will be disabled on all network routers at the end of January 2004. Specifically, Proxy ARP will be disabled on Evanston campus routers on January 26 and on Chicago campus routers on January 28.

Proxy ARP allows a router to function as a "go-between" for a network host and a destination machine on a different subnet than the host. However, it has several disadvantages, including an increase of ARP traffic on local area network segments and increased host vulnerability to security attacks.

Most users will be unaffected by this change, specifically those with computers set up to run DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol). However, host machines with statically set IP addresses configured with an incorrect local subnet mask or default gateway may experience connectivity problems, particularly to hosts outside the local subnet. Please ensure that the proper local subnet mask and default gateway specific to your subnet are configured correctly under the Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) Settings before Proxy ARP is disabled.

For questions and/or assistance, please contact the NUIT Support Center at 1-847-491-HELP (4357) or your local technical support person.