This message is intended for NU faculty and staff who connect to NUNet, the University network, from home through either DSL or cable modem. If you use a modem to connect from home, this message does not apply to you. However, it may be of interest if you are considering switching to DSL or cable modem service.

New VPN clients available for Macintosh, Windows NT Workstation

Northwestern University Information Technology announces support for new Virtual Private Network (VPN) client software for Windows NT Workstation and Macintosh. Detailed information is available at <http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/>.

The initial February 20 announcement of VPN service was limited to Windows 95/98; the new clients expand the number of systems now supported. NUIT continues to test VPN software for Windows 2000 Professional and Windows Me. However, neither are ready for support. NUIT will notify the NU community when those versions are released.

VPN seminars offered March 15, 16

NUIT is offering informational seminars in conjunction with the latest VPN software release. The seminars will be conducted by Julian Koh, network operations engineer for NUIT Telecommunications and Network Services. No reservations are required, and the sessions are free of charge to the NU community.

CHICAGO CAMPUS: Thursday, March 15, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Room 339, Arthur Rubloff Building, 375 E. Chicago Ave.

EVANSTON CAMPUS: Friday, March 16, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Room G-15, Annenberg Hall, 2115 N. Campus Drive

What is VPN?

VPN is a combination of client software in your home computer and a server within the University network. This client software is very closely designed to your computer operating system.

VPN solves a problem of access to certain specialized University services. The use of proprietary or licensed data assets of the University is limited to members of the NU community. For instance, University Library has special collections and services (e.g. Oxford English Dictionary online) that fall into this category.

VPN service could be important to you because many faculty and staff are migrating from modems to much faster DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) or cable modem Internet access. However, since Northwestern does not provide cable modem or DSL service, those users...
appear to be on the Internet at large. As a result, they may be unable to access the specialized University resources mentioned above. Using VPN allows those users full access.

When you access the NU modem pool, you are verified as a member of the NU community via NetID / password authentication. VPN makes the same authentication process available for users accessing NUNet from anywhere in the world.

Because the data assets in question may not be of interest to everyone, using VPN is elective, not required. VPN is _not_ required to access the University email system or most NU Web sites.

Is VPN difficult to install?
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Installing and configuring VPN software is straightforward, but somewhat more complicated than installing standard commercial applications. Directions on how to download and install software for your system are available at <http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/>.

If you have questions about the installation and configuration process, please call the IT Information Center at 847-467-4877.

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This message was sent via the NU IT bulkmail facility to bulk facultyandstaff with urgent priority.