Northwestern University Information Technology announces the first release of VPN (Virtual Private Networking) software for off-campus NUNet users. VPN makes network traffic appear to originate from on-campus. This benefits faculty, students and staff who access resources restricted to NUNet such as site-licensed software repositories, SMTP relay servers for outgoing email, and partner servers and networks at other institutions.

NUIT recommends VPN if you use a third-party vendor for home Internet access, especially with "broadband" connections such as cable modems or DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), or if you travel and use a local ISP at a remote location.

If you access the Internet through the NU modem pools or through an Ethernet connection in a dorm room, you *do not* need VPN.

Currently, VPN client software is available for Windows 95/98. NUIT is testing software for other platforms and will notify the NU community when other versions are released.

For further information see <http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn>.

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