To the Northwestern community:

For the past two weeks, Northwestern University Information Technology (NUIT) has been working to secure Northwestern’s network against the recent widespread computer worms and viruses that are attacking networks nationwide. We anticipate that these attacks will continue thus, the Northwestern community must be vigilant in its efforts to minimize the impact.

To protect the integrity of the Northwestern network, NUIIT will disconnect from the network any computers that are discovered to be infected and not permit them to reconnect until the infection is removed.

All computers that access the Northwestern network must have a current version of anti-virus software installed and activated. NUIIT distributes Symantec Norton Anti-virus software for all faculty, staff, and students at:
http://aquavite.northwestern.edu/it-services/browse.cgi?s=Symantec%20Norton%20AntiVirus

Once installed “Live Update” should be run on a regular basis to load the latest anti-virus definitions. This will provide the latest protection available against these threats. When the general media highlights the emergence of a new threat, we recommend that you run “Live Update” on a daily basis.

Current virus writers are using creative methods to disguise their attacks. The recent outbreak of “MyDoom” (also dubbed “Novarq” or “Shimgapi”) is designed to entice the recipient of an e-mail to open .exe, .scr, .zip or .pif attachments by using e-mail addresses or subject lines that seem to be legitimate. Once clicked upon these attachments release a program that can allow attackers unauthorized access to the computer. If you receive an e-mail that appears to be suspicious, you should not be afraid to contact the sender to verify its legitimacy before clicking on the attachment. In most cases, deleting the infected message without opening the attachment will ensure the containment of the virus.

NUIT always has the latest information regarding network threats available on the “Get Control” Web site at http://www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/index.html. In the event a computer is infected you will also find infection removal tools and other information on the site. We suggest that you bookmark this web site in your web browser for future reference.

For additional information or assistance with handling network threats contact your local technical support person, call the NUIIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357), or e-mail consultant@northwestern.edu.

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This message was sent using the NU Bulkmail service to Entire NU Community with normal priority.