What is a wireless LAN?
A wireless LAN (WLAN) is a network that allows access to NUNet and the Internet without wires connecting to the user’s machine. There are different types of wireless networks on the market, but the Norris network uses the IEEE 802.11b standard.

Is wireless replacing wired Ethernet at Northwestern?
No. At this point, wireless LANs are only in a few designated areas around campus. Wireless networks offer additional flexibility for laptop users in areas such as libraries and cafeterias. However, wireless is not a replacement for the wired Ethernet environment used in offices, labs and dorms.

Northwestern Recommended Wireless Adapters (Cards must support at least 40 bit WEP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC:</th>
<th>Cisco:</th>
<th>PC Card model AIR-PCM342US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Xircom:</td>
<td>PC Card model CWE1130-NA 128BIT WEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mac:</td>
<td>Apple:</td>
<td>AirPort cards for AirPort-ready laptops (Mac OS 9.0.4 or higher required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucent:</td>
<td>ORiNOCO PC Card (Mac OS 9.0.4 or higher required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional supported wireless adapters, see [http://www.it.northwestern.edu/guidelines/wireless-info.html](http://www.it.northwestern.edu/guidelines/wireless-info.html)

What is ESSID?
The Extended Service Set ID (ESSID) is the name of the network you wish to access. It is used to identify different wireless networks. The ESSID required to use the NU wireless network is nuwlan. The setup instructions on the following pages show you where to use the ESSID.

What is VPN?
Virtual Private Networking (VPN) provides secure, encrypted network communications between a network and a remote host or other remote network over the public Internet, by establishing an encrypted “tunnel” that protects the flow of network traffic from eavesdroppers. VPN makes network traffic appear to originate from on-campus. For wireless connections, VPN is used to authenticate users (via NetID and password) to Northwestern’s wireless network. Further information on VPN can be found at [http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/](http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/)

Special Issues
- Laptop batteries deplete much faster while using the wireless network. A fully charged ThinkPad 570 or 570E battery lasts about 90 minutes while connected.
- If you are outside of the wireless coverage area, you may not be able to connect or may have a slow connection. Be sure your wireless card’s antenna (the plastic that sticks out of the computer) is not blocked.
- If you are covering your antenna or are near a metal structure, you may have trouble connecting to the wireless network or maintaining a decent connection speed.

For Further Support
These setup instructions apply if you have a wireless adapter installed. If you are having trouble installing your adapter, call the NUIT Information Center at (847) 491-HELP (or 1-HELP from on campus) for technical support. See the NUIT Wireless Support site at [http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/wireless/](http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/wireless/) for FAQs and more comprehensive information about NUIT-supported wireless environments around campus.

If you have concerns or suggestions, please email mailto:wireless-support@northwestern.edu.
Step 1: Connect Using Apple’s AirPort Software

- **Select** Applications => Internet Connect.
- **Select** AirPort from the Configuration: drop-down menu. A window similar to Figure 1 will appear:

  ![Figure 1: Internet Connect AirPort Window](image1)

- **Select** Other… from the Choose network pop-up menu. A dialog box similar to Figure 2 will appear.
- **Type** nuwlan in the Name field and leave the Password field blank.
- **Click** OK. If connection is successful, then nuwlan will show up in the Network list, and the Status section of the Internet Connect application will show the signal strength.

Step 2: Authenticating using Virtual Private Networking (VPN)

The following instructions require VPN client software. If you do not have VPN on your computer, see [http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/pc_vpn.html](http://www.tss.northwestern.edu/vpn/pc_vpn.html) for installation instructions.

- **Select** Start => Cisco Systems VPN Client => VPN Dialer. A window similar to Figure 3 will appear:

  ![Figure 3: Main VPN Client window](image2)

- **Highlight** nuvpn in the configurations listing, and then **click** Connect. A window similar to Figure 4 will appear.
- **Type** your NetID into the Username: field.
- **Type** your NetID password into the Password: field, and then **click** OK. When you are connected, a window similar to Figure 5 will appear:

  ![Figure 5: VPN Connected window](image3)

At this point, setup is complete. If you have problems, visit the NUIT Information Center, Kresge Hall 57.