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>Xircom:</td>
<td>PC Card model CWE1130-NA 128BIT WEP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mac:</th>
<th>Apple:</th>
<th>AirPort cards for AirPort-ready laptops (Mac OS 9.0.4 or higher required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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

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/

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/ 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: Setting up the Extended Service Set ID (ESSID)

CISCO setup:
1. Select Start => Programs => Cisco Systems, Inc. => ACU.
2. Select Commands => Edit Properties, then select the System Parameters tab. In the SSID1 field, type nuwlan, then click OK.

XIRCOM setup:
1. Select Start => Programs => Xircom => WECU.
2. Select Commands => Edit Properties, then select the System Parameters tab. In the SSID1 field, type nuwlan, then click OK.
3. Select the RF Network tab. Uncheck the Enable WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) checkbox.

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 for installation instructions.

• Select Start => Programs => Cisco Systems VPN Client => VPN Dialer. A window similar to the following will appear:

   ![Main VPN Client window](image1)

   ![VPN Client – User Authentication window](image2)

   - Select nuvpn from the Connection Entry: drop-down menu, then click Connect. You will see the VPN Client – User Authentication window.
   - 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 the following will appear:

     ![VPN Connected window](image3)

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