

# Technically Speaking

Technically Speaking is a monthly PERT Newsletter for residents in Dieterich, Millikan, Franken, and Phillips Halls.

## Firewall Ports? What are They???

By Adam Clark  
Franken Hall PERT

As many students already know, the Northwest network is protected by a firewall. As a result, access to certain websites or services may be limited. A firewall is a system that protects computer networks from outside threats. The firewall consists of many ports that act as doorways. The doorways (ports) can be opened or closed to either allow or deny access to the local network. When these ports are closed, the application or service using that doorway to communicate online will be blocked and a connection will not take place.

For security reasons, most of the ports are closed. If access to a particular port is needed, students, faculty, or staff can submit a request to have the port

opened. Each request will be handled on an individual basis. Requests will not be granted if the port is a known security risk. Ports may be opened if the individual requesting them has not been found to be in violation of Northwest's Computing Policies. In the event of network problems, ports opened by request may be closed without notification.

Requests must be submitted in writing and include the following information:

- The names and room numbers of all students making the joint request.
- The specific port(s) that are requested. Please do not request port ranges (i.e. 2560-

2610) and include the port type: UDP or TCP.

- The name of the software application using the port.
- What type of activity will the port be used for? (i.e. gaming)
- Documentation to support the need for this port to be opened and any other relevant research you have conducted regarding the port.

Your PERT has a submission request form you can use to write up a request. Once the form has been completed, return it to your PERT, who will then submit the form for review. 🐾

## On the Web!



### Fun Links

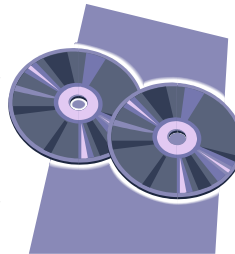
- www.livejournal.com
- Create your own personal blog (an online journal).
- www.imdb.com
- Find out everything about any movie or show ever made.
- www.neopets.com
- Create and raise your own virtual pet online. Play games to earn neopoints so you can buy stuff for your pets.
- www.conquerOnline.com
- Create your own character and interact with people online. Pick a path and grow stronger while playing this world-of-warcraft like game.
- www.popcap.com
- Play your favorite games online. Check out the new and improved sounds and graphics that make these games worth playing.

## Legal Downloadable Music

By Gulshan Lakhani  
Dieterich Hall PERT

Everyone wants to own music, whether it is purchased on CDs or downloaded from the net. Not all the music that is available on the web is legal for downloading; even though many people think otherwise. Most of the songs available online free of charge are illegal and in violation of copyright law. People downloading them are guilty of copyright infringement.

Kazaa, LimeWire, Morpheus, Gnutella, iMesh, and G2 are among the popular ways to download music or other files. Most music and videos available through these programs are illegal and in violation of copyright



law. Note, these programs cause problems with the Northwest network and are prohibited from use on campus.

iTunes, the new Napster, and WalMart.com are examples of services that offer legal downloadable music. If you have difficulty connecting to these services, you may need to complete a request form to have the necessary ports opened (see the above article).

If you have any questions about any of these issues, contact your PERT. 🐾

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## Computer Tips

- Is your computer blocking internet pop-ups that you need to open? If so, you may have pop-up blocking enabled. You can temporarily allow pop-ups by pressing the Ctrl key as you click on the desired link or button.
- Does your computer have a virus? Try the free online scanner at: [www.trendmicro.com](http://www.trendmicro.com)

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Sun 1 pm—10 pm

## Bringing Your Computer to Northwest?

Did you get a new computer during the holiday break? Or perhaps you are a new student planning on bringing your personal computer to campus? In either case, you will need to configure your computer to Northwest's specifications.

Chances are that you will be able to connect your computer to the network and have immediate Internet access. However, your computer will still need to be configured correctly for the Northwest network to keep it from causing problems on the network and to keep you from being found in violation of campus computing policies. The directions for configuring your personal computer are available at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/compserv/clientcomputing/PersonalPC.htm>

## Computer Lingo



### Terms you should know

**LAN-** A LAN (Local Area Network) is a computer network limited to a small area such as an office building, university, or a residential home.

**Firewall-** A computer firewall is a device used to protect a LAN from potentially harmful outside access. The firewall limits the type of data flowing in and out of the network.

**Spyware-** Spyware is software that "spies" on your computer by capturing information like web browsing habits, usernames, passwords, and credit card information and then transmitting this data to another computer over the internet.

## Computer Health 101

### Keeping your computer running at top speed

By Becky Rainford  
Millikan Hall PERT

Owning a computer is a lot like being in a relationship. Your computer does things for you, so in return there are things you need to do for it.



Your computer will give you signs to signal that something is wrong. Have you ever noticed how your computer runs slower and slower the more you use it? Below are several ways to keep your computer going strong.

1. Run virus and spyware scans weekly. Running the scans may take time, but it's worth it. The virus and spyware removal software scans your computer and deletes known, harmful programs. Viruses and spyware can be a source of those annoying pop-up ads that clog your computer screen.
2. Do not download spyware. Spyware may come disguised as other potentially useful programs. Some known offenders are WeatherBug, Comet Cursor, Smiley Central, and search bars. If you have one of these on your computer, remove it immediately using a spyware removal program.
3. Read what you click. Don't just click yes when a window pops up. You may be downloading any or all harmful programs commonly known as viruses or spyware.
4. Be patient. If your computer is taking a long time, multiple clicks will not make it go faster. Wait patiently for the computer to perform the requested task before clicking again.
5. Basic cleaning. Your computer is just like any other space and will become cluttered the more you use it. To clean your computer and remove the clutter, delete old files, Internet cookies, and temporary internet files. Also, remember to empty

the recycle bin. An excessive number of files, such as 5000 songs, may have something to do with your computer lagging.

6. Remove unused programs from your Startup menu. A shorter startup menu will enable your computer to start faster.
7. You should also run Error-checking and Defragmentation on your computer's hard drive monthly. To do this, go to My Computer and right click on your C:\ drive. Select Properties from the pop-up menu. Go to the Tools tab and select the process you want to run. Error-checking and disk defragmentation may take a few hours to complete, but will be worth the invested time.
8. Backup your files. Ask yourself when you save a file how horrible would it be if this file were to disappear. Therefore, you should save it in multiple places. You can print a hard copy and save it to multiple places such as your N:\ drive, a disk, or a jump/flash/pen drive. Multiple copies of the file along with a printout will keep you from potentially losing your file.
9. Be kind to your computer, by shutting it down using the Shut Down option on the Start menu. Using Shut Down on your computer, allows your computer to finish any incomplete tasks that may be running in the background. If your computer is frozen, try pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete to get a menu of options. Use the Task Manager to end any tasks that are not responding. Use the Shut Down option to safely shut down the computer. If Ctrl+Alt+Delete does not produce a window of options, as a last resort push and hold in the power button to turn off the computer.

By completing the above tasks and protecting your computer from harmful programs, you will have a better, happier, more productive relationship with your computer. 🐼

## Preview for Next Month...

Don't miss next month's edition to learn about online scams such as 'phishing'

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