

## Network and Computer Information for NSF ITR Reviewers

April 12, 2004

The NSF ITR program will provide computers to be used in the panel meetings. If you want to bring your laptop and connect it to our wireless or external Ethernet LAN, you should be aware of NSF laptop scanning policies and technical requirements.

### Laptop Scanning Policies

After you receive your visitor badge from our Visitor and Information Center in Stafford I, you will be sent to NSF's IT Help Central in Room 375 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Stafford I for computer security screening. The NSF FastLane Homepage has an advisory about this screening:

([https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/jsp/homepage/advisory\\_copy.jsp?id=700000000000186](https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/jsp/homepage/advisory_copy.jsp?id=700000000000186)).

The advisory has guidance as to what software you should have on your laptop. This includes both operating system and anti-virus software. **Please read the advisory carefully. If you do not have appropriate anti-virus software with a currently valid license, it will not be possible to obtain a network connection.** Amongst other things, the advisory says that, "If your computer does not have the most current virus protection software (Norton or McAfee), we will be able to update your existing virus protection software, providing you have a current licensed copy of Norton or McAfee. *If you do not have Norton or McAfee anti-virus products, NSF does not have the proper software licensing to install it, or update your computer. A computer without updated software will result in a sticker stating "Network Access Denied" and you will not be able to connect your computer to the NSF External LAN.*" If your anti-virus software has to be updated, this may take time. If you follow the guidance in the advisory, then you should be able to move through the process quickly.

Since our panels begin at 8:30 AM, and the majority of them are in Stafford II, which requires a short walk between the two buildings, you should plan to get to NSF with enough time to go through this process and still get to your panel room by 8:30 AM. Staff will be present to give you your visitor badge and directions to IT Help Central beginning at 7:30 AM each morning.

### Technical Requirements

**If you plan to connect to our wireless LAN, then you will need a wireless card (802.11B) that supports 128-bit encryption.** When you are getting your laptop scanned, tell the technician that you plan to connect to the wireless LAN and s/he will set up your laptop with the correct encryption codes.

If you want to connect to the physical LAN, you will need the standard RJ45 connector and DHCP to obtain an IP address. You must also tell the technician your plans and s/he will come to the panel room to set you up. You should also let your panel moderator know so that s/he is prepared with sufficient hubs and connections as most people will connect through the wireless LAN.