

## *New Option for Accessing the eIRB System from Remote Locations*

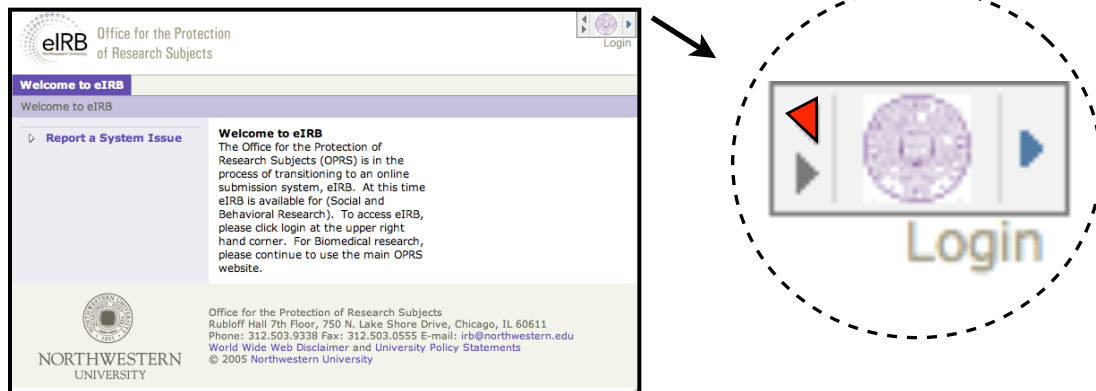
IRB Panel Members now have an alternative to VPN when accessing eIRB remotely. The new service is a Web-based VPN (also known as SSL VPN). Currently, eIRB users must use VPN software to access the system from home, any other off-campus location, or from the NU “nuwlan” wireless network. Web-based VPN allows users to establish a secure connection to the NU network through almost any browser connection, without using VPN software. Users must be registered to use the service, as described below.

To use Web-based VPN, one does the following:

1. Go to website [www.vpn.northwestern.edu](http://www.vpn.northwestern.edu)
2. Enter NETID/password, which will direct the user to a launch page.
3. Select eIRB.
4. Select login (in the upper right-hand corner), and enter NETID/password. (In future, the requirement for two sign-ons will be eliminated.)

Note: *The SSL VPN service has a toolbar that may partially or completely obscure the eIRB login button.* Please see the diagram below. (Unfortunately, due to base system configurations, changes to the default orientation of the eIRB login button and/or the VPN toolbar are not practicable.) You can reposition the toolbar by selecting the left arrow (indicated in red below), which will send the toolbar to the left side of the window.

If you accidentally select the close feature of the toolbar, your session will terminate, and you will see the following message: **Your session has ended. For increased security, please close your browser.** If this happens, select the **Click here to sign in again** link.



### **Benefits**

1. Eliminates the need for special software or software features on your local machine.
2. Provides more stable sessions than regular VPN (fewer dropped sessions).
3. Works with almost any browser/operating system, as long as the browser is SSL-capable (most current browsers are compatible). No separate instructions for Mac/Windows; no compatibility issues for multiple versions of operating systems.)
4. Avoids compatibility problems with some home routers/networks.

### **Caveats**

1. Users must be added to the Web-based VPN user group in order to use the service. Michael Kelley or Andrew Ellis can add users to this group.
2. This is a pilot program. Thus, NUIT Help Desk personnel may not have support information yet. If you encounter any problems accessing the system, contact Michael Kelley or Andrew Ellis for support.
3. During the initial implementation, eIRB may be the only application available on your Web-based VPN launch page. The traditional VPN software (Cisco client or Windows functionality) will still be required for other NU resources that require a secure connection (e.g., NU Library services).

### **Support contacts**

Send an email request to [eirbsystem@northwestern.edu](mailto:eirbsystem@northwestern.edu) or contact the following IRB Staff during regular office hours:

1. Michael Kelley  
312-503-0126  
[m-kelley@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-kelley@northwestern.edu)
2. Andrew Ellis  
(847) 467-1723  
[a-ellis2@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-ellis2@northwestern.edu)

Revised 09-19-2007