

Your Stylish New Home

NYUHome Version 5.0

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NYU Home version 5.0 is scheduled for release in spring 2005, sporting new capabilities and a fresh look in response to suggestions from the NYU community. The NYUHome team has received a great deal of input via the “Contact NYUHome”

channel and, particularly influential for this release, from the Student Services Committee of the University Senate in March 2004. These suggestions included a variety of good ideas for design improvements, enhanced usability and accessibility of information, increased use

of graphics, and better navigation tools.

Some of these suggestions were implemented in versions 4.5 and 4.6 of NYUHome—for example, single-sign-on to Albert and the option of having up to 20 channels available in the HOME tab. NYUHome version 5.0 goes even further, thanks to invaluable design work from the NYU department of Web Communications and the programming efforts of ITS eServices staff. For purposes of comparison, figure 1 shows version 4.6 and figure 2 provides a glimpse of version 5.0, as presently envisioned.

The basic structure of NYUHome remains the same, with groups of related channels organized into tabs, e.g., HOME, ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, and so on. But there are many differences, both above and below the surface. Immediately noticeable are design changes intended to make NYUHome more attractive, more modern, more compatible with different browsers and types of devices such as PDAs, and easier to use: new colors, button styles, repositioning of elements, and more. In addition, a new tab, NYU LIFE, has been created to hold channels (such as Ticket Central, Student Government, and Residence Guest Registration) that didn't fit well into existing tabs.

Improved site navigation and search capabilities are major goals of this release. The new Channels

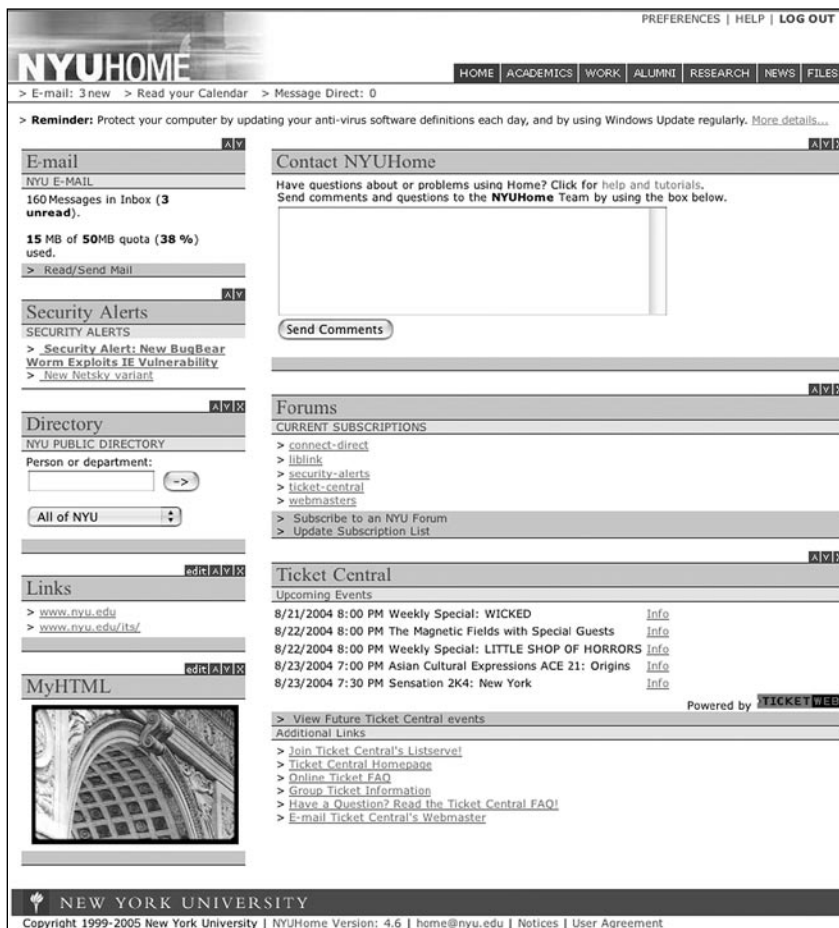


Figure 1. NYUHome v. 4.6

option at the top of the page shows at a glance what channels are available, whether or not they are currently visible, and in which tab they can be found. The search capability, located for immediate use in the top bar of each page, makes it easier to find information within NYUHome, about NYUHome, and out on the Internet.

Behind the scenes, a major restructuring of the NYUHome software has occurred to support these and future enhancements. Most fundamentally, the multi-frame scheme used to format NYUHome pages has been replaced with a style sheet-based approach. This change has three major benefits: more responsive page updates, greater compatibility across web browsers, and the future potential for one-click access to customized design “themes,” allowing for even greater individual choice as to the “look and feel” of NYUHome. Selecting a different NYUHome style sheet will result in markedly different fonts, font sizes, images, and colors.

Keep an eye on NYUHome (<http://home.nyu.edu>) for version 5.0, coming soon, and be sure to let us know what you think!



Figure 2. The current vision for NYUHome v. 5.0, featuring a colorful new design, improved site navigation, and greater web browser compatibility.

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Did You Know?

- > Each month, more than 55,000 different people log into NYUHome. The total number of logins in December 2000 (version 1) was 308,416, about 10,000 per day; in December 2004 (version 4), four years later, there were 2,737,707 logins, nearly 90,000 per day!
- > NYUHome offers more than 60 different channels to members of the NYU community, with their availability customized according to each individual's role(s) at the University.
- > NYUHome runs on two very powerful computer systems, storing information in parallel on two separate sets of disks located in two different buildings. This system was created to maximize service availability to the community.
- > If you don't see a channel, it may simply not be activated! You can turn channels on and off, and set a variety of e-mail features via the Preferences option at the top of the screen. In NYUHome version 5.0, the Channels option will provide even quicker access to channel activation.