

Response to cybersecurity changes for teaching assistants

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¹ Recently, Queen's University Information Technology Services (ITS) implemented a new policy to control how teaching assistants can access digital resources, including employee email and course administration (OnQ). This resulted in many TAs being locked out of their accounts. As TAs, we can no longer access these services on our personal devices without security compromises. The current options to ensure access are as follows:

1. Request a Queen's Funded Device (QFD). These devices are setup to access Queen's resources without further action. Other physics department TAs have obtained QFDs by contacting the department office through Julie at jmm27@queensu.ca. Note: these devices are controlled by Queen's University, so it is recommended that the device's use is limited to TA work, rather than personal or research activities.
2. Use protected access, either by using the Microsoft Edge web browser or the virtual desktop which can be found at <https://windows365.microsoft.com/ent> or <https://windows.cloud.microsoft/#/devices> after logging in with your employee credentials.
3. (Not recommended) using endpoint assessment, which is a software that surrenders control of your personal device to ITS and allows them to disable the device.

PSAC 901 is working to respond to these changes. You can read their statement from the summer here. If you have comments on the changes, or concerns that you would like their response to focus on, you can submit these to the union here, or if you want to help form the response, sign up for the working group here. Responses bolster the union's grievance against the university, providing more leverage against this encroachment on our digital privacy rights.

Please email Nick or Paul with these or any other concerns regarding your employment as a TA in this department.

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¹ This letter and all hyperlinks can be found in the Union section of the Graduate Physics Society Webpage in the Physics department website. QR codes can be found on the reverse.



(a) Information on protected access



(b) Windows virtual desktop



(c) Statement from PSAC 901