January 11, 2025

Action Needed: VPN required to access select services

As we welcome faculty, staff, and students back for the spring semester, we continue to seek ways to strengthen the security posture across the Purdue University system. Effective immediately, we will now require connection to a Virtual Private Network, or VPN, before off-campus Purdue Fort Wayne users can access the Central Authentication Service, or CAS.

CAS services include, and are not limited to:

- Microsoft 365
- Access to I: drive files
- Brightspace
- StarRez housing software
- People Directory
- Handshake
- Meal plan information and fund management
- Scholarship Universe
- Banner administration
- Cognos reporting software
- Alertus contact information
- OneDrive employee self-service
- Advising and TutorTrac
- Degree Audit
- Navigate advisor software

Connecting to VPN:

- If you already have VPN access for PFW, you can continue to follow whatever process you have used previously.
- New VPN users will need to follow the following instructions under the Employees section of the Purdue IT Knowledge Base article "**How to connect to the Purdue Fort Wayne VPN**" to download, install, and connect to the VPN.

Additional steps to keep data secure:

- Update your account password. Passwords remain the first line of defense against all cyber threats. According to National Institute of Standards and Technology best practices, user passwords should be both long and unpredictable and should not match passwords used in other systems. View the KB article "**Purdue Fort Wayne – How to change your Account Password**" for detailed instructions.
- Recognize and stop phishing scams. These attacks are intentionally sneaky and seemingly trustworthy, often appearing to be sent by someone affiliated with Purdue, possibly in your contacts. Be aware that just because an email is from a purdue.edu address, it does NOT necessarily mean it is legitimate or safe. Purdue IT will never ask for your credentials. Cybersecurity updates, FAQs, and training videos are available through the online **Cybersecurity Awareness hub**.

Please note: Students also received notification regarding these changes. However, faculty and staff are encouraged to communicate these changes with their students as a reminder.

For further assistance, please contact the Purdue IT Service Desk located in Kettler Hall, Room 206, **submit a ticket online**, or call 260-481-6030.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Purdue Information Technology

Links referenced above:

How to connect to the Purdue Fort Wayne VPN
Purdue Fort Wayne – How to change your Account Password
Online Cybersecurity Awareness Hub
Submit a ticket online

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