

Azure Guidance for Large Classes

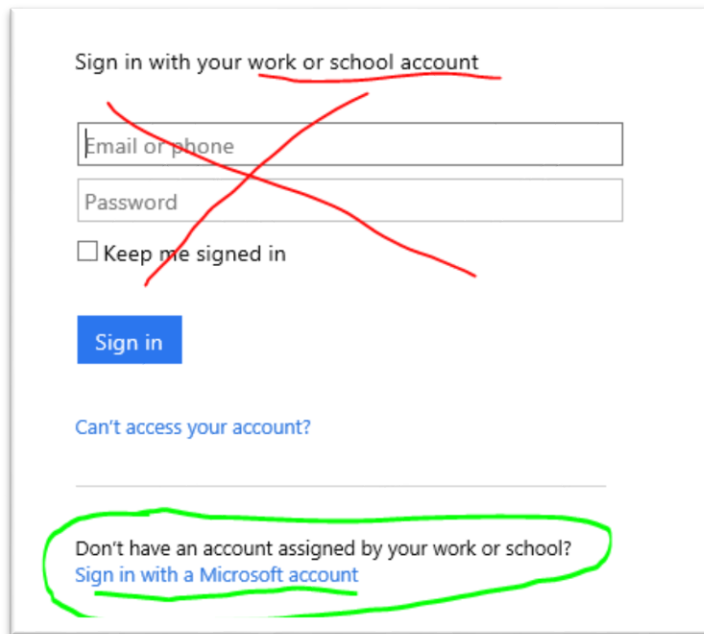
The Azure accounts that students activate through DreamSpark.com are fully-functional small-instance commercial accounts, and therefore all the regular security features are implemented. Their use in college courses creates some unique situations due to the possibility of multiple account-creation activity originating from a limited range of IP addresses, which is a fraud flag. There are also some Azure semantics that can be confusing to students and cause frustration unless guidance is provided. This guide should help faculty and students avoid the likely problems encountered in using Microsoft Azure in university course scenarios.

Microsoft Services with Fraud Detection

The sites for signing up for a Microsoft Account, DreamSpark, and Azure all have monitoring systems in place that trigger blocking, or slowing when accessed by multiple accounts from the same network IP address or a narrow range of addresses. In the case of Microsoft Accounts, only five accounts can be created from the same IP address in 24 hours before that IP address is blocked. The other services are not as strict, but both DreamSpark and Azure will slow down and eventually stop if hundreds of students access the domains from the same IP address in a 24-hour period. The easiest solution is to request that your students complete the account creation activity at their homes, dorms, apartments, or somewhere else on campus before the main lecture or workshop. This spreads the sign-up activity over time and location so no flags are raised. Alternatively, we have found that most people are able to create their accounts in class using the browser on their mobile phones, as long as they are using their mobile data plan and not the campus wireless network. In cases where account creation in advance isn't feasible or desired, particularly with large classes or workshops, you can contact a Microsoft Technical Evangelist (see <http://www.mis-laboratory.com/AzureInIS/contact.aspx>) who can assist in getting a classroom, auditorium or other venue network "white-listed" with the various Microsoft organizations.

Signing into Azure

One of the common problems that students will have is that they will sign into Azure, but then won't be able to find their subscription. This happens because there are several ways to sign into Azure, and the default sign-in button prompts users to sign in with a work or school account, not a Microsoft account. Many students use their school e-mail address for their Microsoft account, and hence the confusion. The solution is to tell students to be aware of the sign in options and select the correct one as shown below:



Sign in with your work or school account

☐ Keep me signed in

[Sign in](#)

[Can't access your account?](#)

Don't have an account assigned by your work or school?
[Sign in with a Microsoft account](#)

The image shows a sign-in interface. The title 'Sign in with your work or school account' is underlined in red. Below it are two input fields: 'Email or phone' and 'Password'. A red 'X' is drawn over these fields. Below the fields is a checkbox labeled 'Keep me signed in'. Below that is a blue 'Sign in' button. Further down is a link 'Can't access your account?'. At the bottom, a green oval highlights a section that says 'Don't have an account assigned by your work or school?' followed by a link 'Sign in with a Microsoft account'.

Figure 1 Default Prompt to Sign in with Incorrect Work or School Account

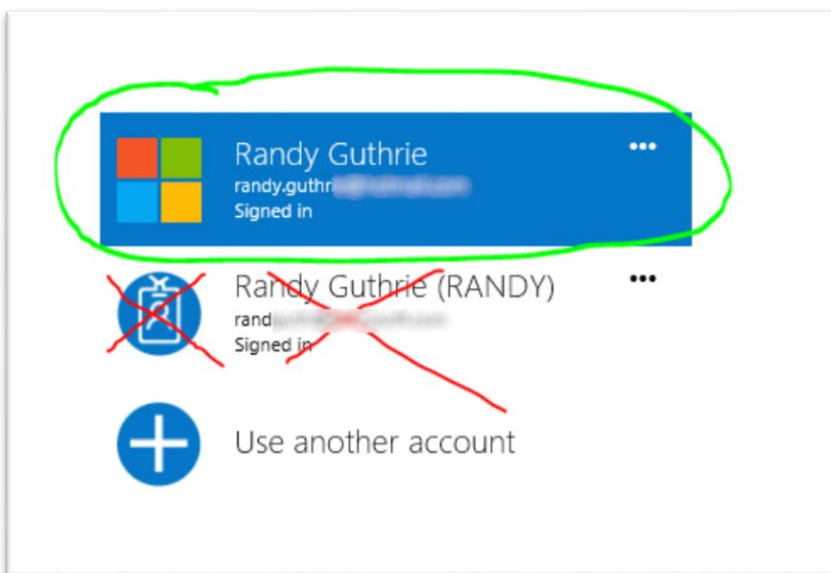


Figure 2 Correct Microsoft Account as Default; incorrect school Account as Second Option

[Microsoft, DreamSpark and Azure Account Creation](#)

[Signing up for Azure \(short version\)](#)

[How to Create an Azure Website \(assumes account already created\)](#)