# Cognito for Access to CSDA Data in Earthdata Cloud

The Commercial Smallsat Data Acquisition (CSDA) Program requires multifactor authentication (MFA) of approved users for access to data through Earthdata Cloud infrastructure. CSDA utilizes the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cognito service for this multifactor authentication.

1. Becoming an Approved User

To access CSDA data, requestors must first be authorized. Please fill out the CSDA Data Authorization Request Form (https://csdap.earthdata.nasa.gov/signup). Additional information and End User License Agreements for each vendor can be found on the CSDA webpage (https://earthdata.nasa.gov/csda).

2. Receiving Temporary Cognito Credentials

Approved users will receive login instructions for each requested vendor. For those data that will be downloaded from Earthdata Cloud, temporary Cognito credentials will be provided. The Cognito username will be the same as the user's URS Earthdata login username, if provided, and the password will be a random 12-digit code. If the user does not have a URS Earthdata login username, the Cognito username will be first name initial followed by the last name. The username and password along with instructions will be provided by email. **Note the temporary password will expire after 24 hours of the email being sent.**
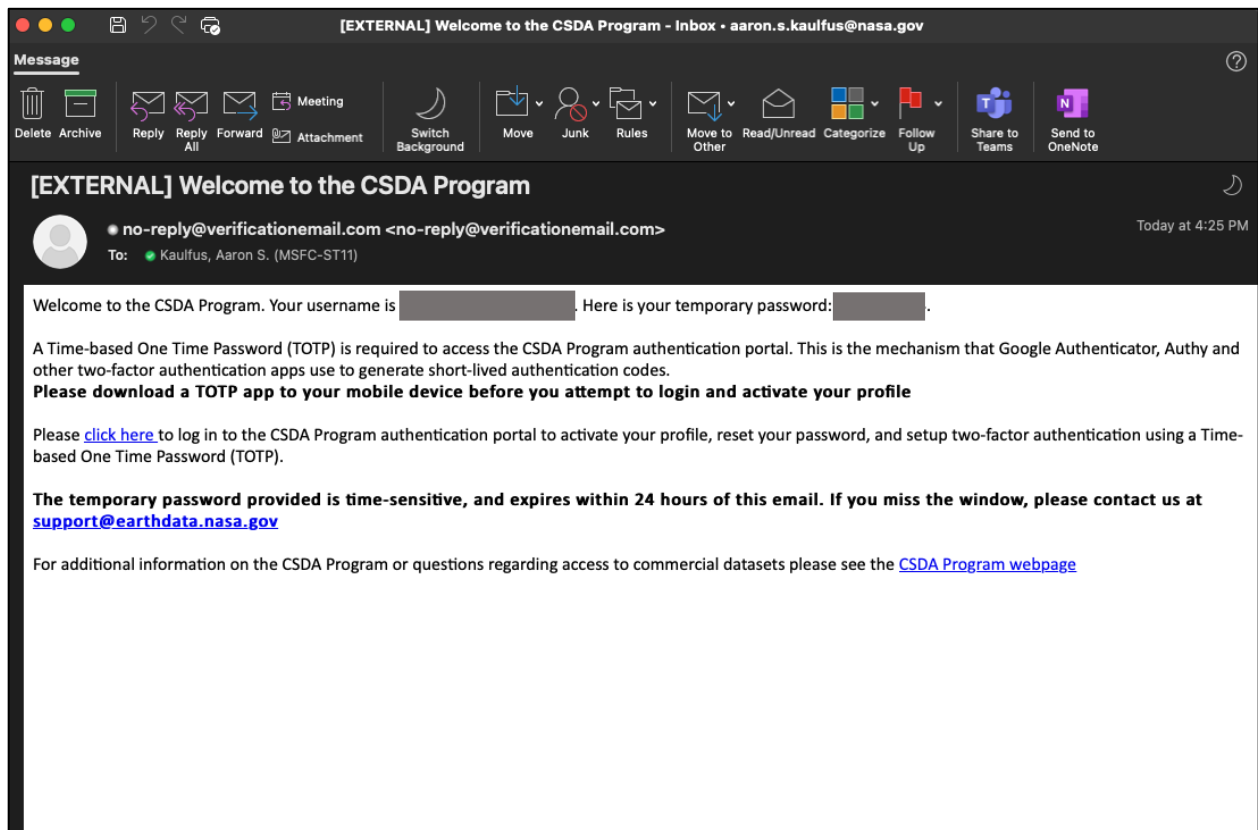
3. Sign in

Using Cognito will require a MFA client, or app, on a mobile device in order to authenticate. There is no specific MFA app recommended; however, free options that have been utilized successfully include Authenticator, SecurID, RSA SecurID Authenticate, and Duo Mobile. This does not exclude the use of other free or paid MFA apps.

a. Activating your Profile

The provided email will provide a link to the authentication portal. Clicking the link will redirect the authentication portal. On the portal (shown below) you activate your profile, reset the temporary password, and set up the two-factor authentication.
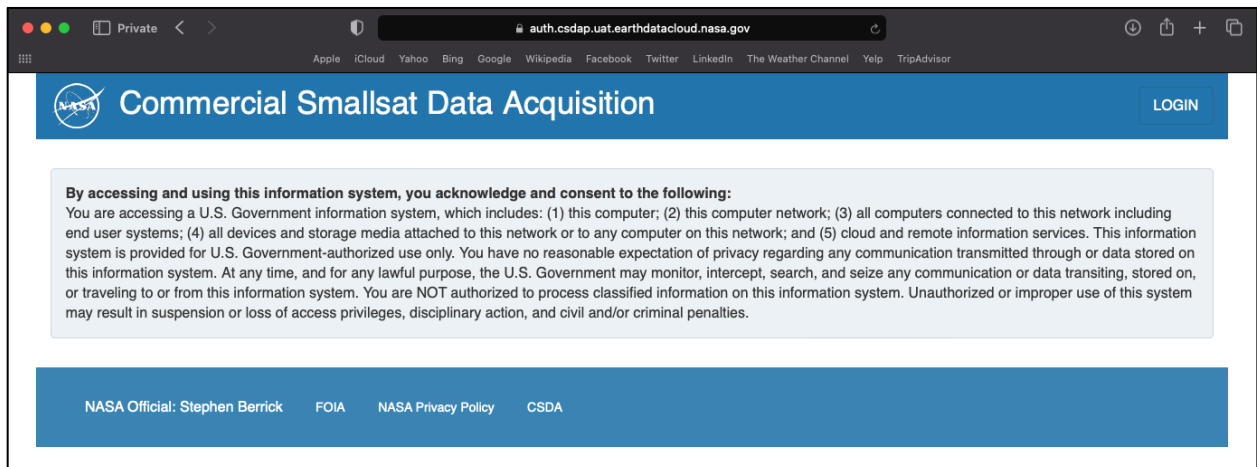
Select "Login" to the top right of the page. This will redirect and prompt for the username and password provided to you in the email
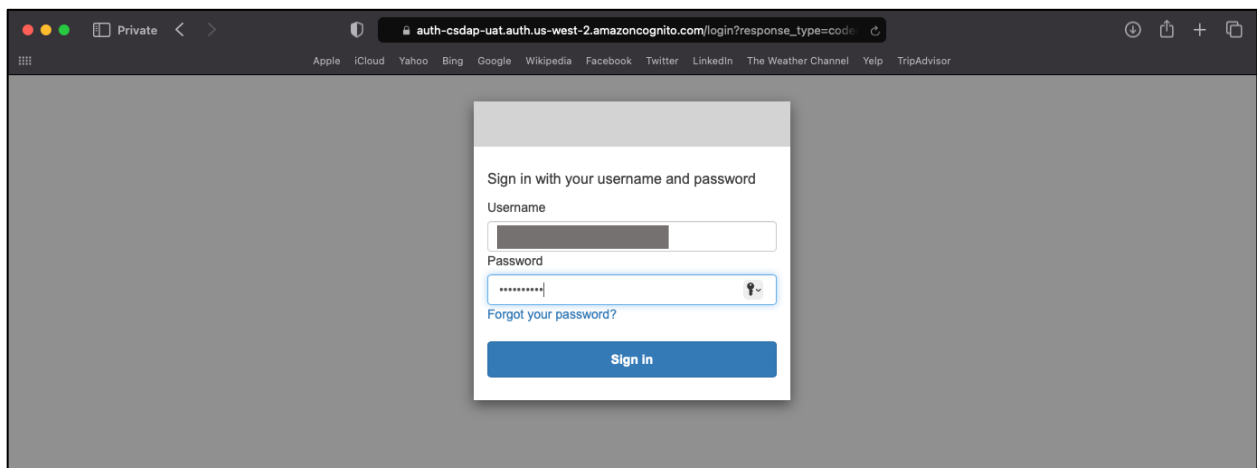
After entering this information, you will be prompted to reset the password. This reset only occurs on the first login attempt.

Now that your password is reset, multifactor authentication using the MFA software must be configured. Using the software of your choice, scan the QR code or enter in the secret key provided. Your device will register a new profile and provide you a 6-digit passcode to enter. Once this passcode is accepted, registration is complete and you are ready to access data. You may close the webpage.
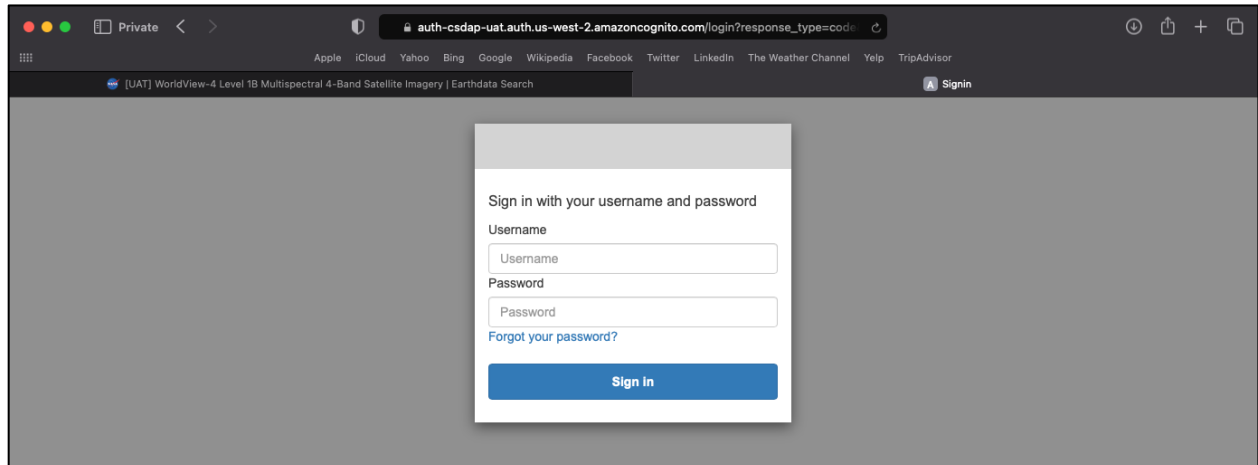
b. Subsequent Sign In – Data Downloads

Once registered, you will be required to complete MFA every time data is accessed. Upon initiating a download request, you will be prompted for a username/password combination followed by the 6-digit code from your MFA application. Download will start once this information is provided.
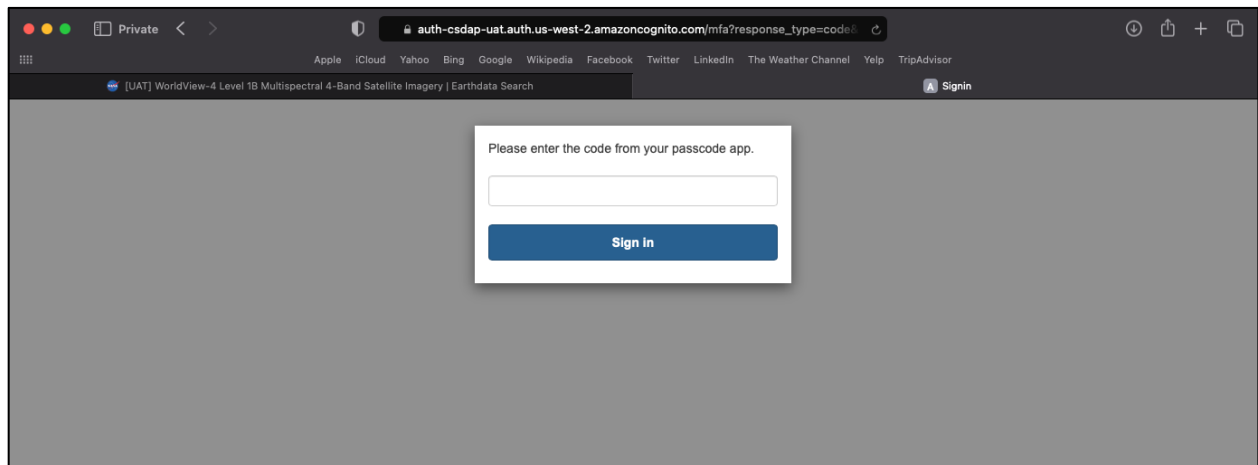

4. Support

If there are issues or questions in using the Cognito credentials, please contact the CSDA Data Management Team (csdap@uah.edu).