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THE MICROSOFT MFA MANDATE

YubiKeys enable secure, seamless authentication on Microsoft platforms and services

In an effort to strengthen security and prevent data breaches, Microsoft mandated multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all Microsoft Azure and Microsoft Entra ID sign-ins. This comes at a time when the need for MFA is more critical than ever as cyber attacks become more costly and damaging to organizations, and cyber criminals become more efficient and emboldened by technological advances such as machine learning and generative AI. Deploying YubiKeys organization-wide offers both a user-friendly solution for complying with Microsoft's MFA mandate and the most secure protection against phishing and other social engineering attacks.

$4.88
million USD

The average cost of a data breach in 2023, a 10% increase from the previous year and the highest it has been since the pandemic[1]

292
days

The average time it takes to identify and contain breaches involving stolen credentials[2]

99.2%
protection

of account compromise attacks can be blocked by MFA[3]

The risks of inadequate MFA in your Microsoft ecosystem

Having any MFA is better than relying on passwords alone, but weak or poorly implemented MFA can still leave organizations vulnerable to attacks. Push and mobile-based one-time passcodes are still hackable, and offer a frustrating user experience. In some work environments such as shared workstations, remote work, and mobile-restricted environments, complex or unreliable MFA systems may be difficult or impossible to access, negatively impacting productivity.

If MFA is not strong enough, the risks of noncompliance and potential penalization under OMB M-22-09[4] and other national-based regulations increase. Not only can this expose organizations to potential fines and penalization, but also jeopardize working relationships with government agencies.

Inefficient security
Weak or poorly implemented MFA leaves vulnerabilities in an organization's defenses

Inconsistent access
Some MFA methods may be inaccessible in certain work environments

User frustration
Poor user experience causes annoyance and impacts buy-in

Increased cybersecurity insurance costs
Weak or inadequate MFA significantly raises costs for coverage

Regulatory noncompliance
Not adhering to new regulatory requirements can come with legal and financial consequences

YubiKey supports MFA across the Microsoft ecosystem

Why choose the YubiKey for phishing-resistant authentication?

- Reduce risk of credential theft by 99.9% and stops account takeovers while delivering 203% ROI[5]
- Reduce password reset related help desk costs by up to 75%,[6] and help lower cyber insurance premiums by 30%[7]
- Provide secure user access at scale on any device with the best user experience
- Deploy the most secure device-bound passkey that is purpose-built for security, FIPS 140-2 validated and AAL3 of NIST SP800-63B (Certificate #3914) compliant
- Bridge the gap to modern passwordless with multi-protocol support for Smart Card/PIV, FIDO2/WebAuthn, FIDO U2F, OTP and OpenPGP on a single key
- Secure both legacy and modern environments across devices using USB-A, USB-C, NFC, and Lightning form factors
- Meet Microsoft's MFA requirements without the hassle of authenticator apps or one-time passcodes

YubiKey and Microsoft applications and services work seamlessly together

The YubiKey is a purpose-built, hardware security key that fast-tracks modern enterprises to passwordless with phishing-resistant MFA. It is the most secure and user-friendly option for protecting all users across business units, providing authentication that moves with users across devices, applications, and systems. Seamless integration with Microsoft platforms and services including Azure, Windows, Entra ID, GitHub, Linkedin and more provides a robust and convenient authentication experience compliant with Microsoft's MFA mandate. Equipping everyone in the organization with YubiKeys builds the highest-assurance foundation to combat evolving threats while enforcing the best security and providing a simplified user experience.

The YubiKey 5 Series–from left to right: YubiKey 5 NFC, YubiKey 5C NFC, YubiKey 5Ci, YubiKey 5C, YubiKey 5 Nano and YubiKey 5C Nano.

[1] https://www.ibm.com/reports/data-breach
[2] https://www.ibm.com/reports/data-breach
[3] https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/core-infrastructure-and-security/microsoft-will-require-mfa-for-all-azure-users/ba-p/4140391
[4] https://www.yubico.com/solutions/executive-order-hub/
[5] https://www.yubico.com/resource/tei-forrester-report/
[6] https://www.yubico.com/resource/tei-forrester-report/
[7] https://www.yubico.com/resources/reference-customers/afni-case-study/

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