

# Securing Naftogaz against modern cyber attacks with YubiKeys



70%

of Ukraine's natural gas produced by Naftogaz



12 million

households served



53,000+

employees

## Challenge:

Like other major oil and gas companies globally, Ukrainian state-owned Naftogaz Group is a prime target for both physical and cybersecurity threats. When the full-scale invasion began in February 2022, cyber criminals bombarded Ukraine's state infrastructure, risking the supply of heating gas for Ukrainian citizens and endangering lives.

- As a state-owned organization and the country's primary energy supplier, Naftogaz is frequently targeted by cyber threats
- In the first month of the war, cyber attacks on organizations like Naftogaz rose by over 3,500%
- Despite training staff on how to spot phishing attacks, the human factor was a perpetual cybersecurity threat because Naftogaz relied on passwords



## Solution:

Recognizing the importance of Ukraine's defense against the illegal invasion and the vital role played by cybersecurity professionals, Yubico donated a total of 20,000 YubiKeys to dozens of Ukrainian governmental agencies and critical infrastructure firms, including Naftogaz, through the Secure it Forward program. Naftogaz uses a mixture of YubiKey 5 NFCs and YubiKey 5C NFCs to:

- Eliminate the need for passwords within Naftogaz-Bezreka, the subsidiary focused on security
- Offer enhanced protection for users who require privileged access, as well as enabling safe login for remote workplaces
- Secure authentication for logging into Windows, workstations and other applications like Microsoft Office 365



# YubiKeys containing the highest assurance passkeys deliver phishing-resistant MFA

With employees distributed across Naftogaz's facilities and remote locations, the YubiKey provides phishing-resistant and convenient access to workstations and applications while offering enhanced protection for users who require privileged access.



## Results:

- Passwordless authentication
- Enhanced MFA for privileged users
- Improved user experience
- Seamless integration with Microsoft Azure



You can already see the extremely low probability of phishing attacks within Naftogaz-Bezreka. It is through using YubiKeys and Microsoft Azure, where we link our keys, that users no longer need to use passwords. In my opinion, we are the most secure company in our group.”

**Oleksandr Tarasov** | Head of Security Controls at Security Operation Center | Naftogaz-Bezreka



I think passwords are a thing of the past. We need to look to the future and move with the times. The YubiKey could be compared to the latest iPhone or a Tesla. Passwords are more like using a push-button telephone or driving an old Soviet car. You need to keep moving forward, striving for excellence and innovation—this way users and administrators alike will be happy.”

**Oleksandr Tarasov** | Head of Security Controls at Security Operation Center | Naftogaz-Bezreka



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[yubi.co/energy](https://yubi.co/energy)

Yubico (Nasdaq First North Growth Market Stockholm: YUBICO) is the inventor of the YubiKey, the gold standard in phishing-resistant multi-factor authentication (MFA), and a creator and contributor to FIDO open authentication standards. The company is a pioneer in delivering hardware-based passkey authentication to customers in 160+ countries. For more information, visit: [www.yubico.com](https://www.yubico.com).