

Arvika Municipality enhances security and undergoes digital transformation in Education with YubiKeys



Case Study



Industry

Public Sector

Benefits

One-size-fits-all security solution

Highest level of security that was cost efficient

Increased teacher productivity while also providing a high sense of security

Protocols

2FA

Products

Security Key Series by Yubico

Deployment info

Teachers & Staff

900+ YubiKeys

2020

Google & Online Partner

About Arvika Municipality

Arvika Municipality is located in Värmland County, in west-central Sweden. In the midst of a digital transformation in education, Arvika Municipality needed to change its ways of working for its 900+ teachers and staff across over 45 schools and pre-schools. With over 4000 students across all age groups, Arvika needed a one-size-fits-all security solution for its digital educational platform. They also needed to ensure the highest level of data and information security was in place to protect sensitive information about their students. At the same time, an increasing number of students are now being educated via distance learning with an increasing amount of sensitive digital data being created every day that resides in the cloud.

The challenge

Arvika municipality knew that they had to find a solution that would work for all teachers and staff, without requiring too much pre-requisite knowledge or training efforts. The ideal solution would uphold the standards of information security legislation and guidelines from government organizations, and provide full, and strict, control over data and information access.

Arvika also realized the importance of providing a solution that would be centered around one system, to avoid having its staff work across multiple systems and platforms.

With other authentication providers requiring staff to use a mobile device for two-factor authentication, Arvika realized this was not an option as it was cost-prohibitive to provide mobile devices to all staff, and they could not require staff to use their personal devices at work.

“ The challenge was to create an easy-to-use IT environment, while also creating a wide sense of security among teachers and staff.

–Mats Liljedahl & Niklas Nord, IT Strategists, Arvika Municipality

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The solution:

Combining Google Workspace with YubiKeys, Arvika was able to provide an easy-to-use cloud environment for all its data and information, protected by YubiKey's strong multi-factor authentication. Together with the Yubico certified reseller and certified Google partner—Online Partner—Arvika is now on the journey to a safer cloud environment.

In order to comply with requirements and guidelines from government organizations, Arvika conducted a thorough risk assessment of cloud-based platforms in regards to information security and relevant legislation. They concluded that Google Workspace provided a level of security that greatly surpassed anything that they could build and manage themselves. And the hallmark strong security of YubiKeys ensured that phishing and other forms of account takeover could be stopped in their tracks. The rollout created a high degree of satisfaction among staff, as teachers previously felt unsafe working in a cloud-based environment, without proper authentication and security.

The results

- More than 450 teachers and staff have enabled two-factor authentication via YubiKey to ensure the highest level of data and information security with another 450+ being enrolled in the future.
- High satisfaction among staff as systems are easy to use and provide a high-sense of security. Knowing their data is safe and secure with the YubiKey, teachers are able to work more productively and confidently as they add sensitive data to the cloud.
- Increased productivity for teachers and other staff, enabling them to focus their attention on providing high-quality education to the students rather than spending time on inconvenient processes and tools.
- Implementation of a single platform now handles cloud, security, and strong authentication in a cost-efficient manner.
- In summary, Arvika's implementation of strong multi-factor authentication (MFA) enabled increased productivity and cost savings, as Yubikeys removed the need to invest in expensive mobile phones for all staff while providing, anytime, anywhere, and always-on authentication.

“ It should be hard to do the wrong thing, and easy to do the right thing.”
—Mats Liljedahl & Niklas Nord, IT Strategists, Arvika Municipality