



# Article

## Strategies for when return to work is right

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### Product focus

## Strategies for when return to work is right



STid - Bluetooth-enabled readers

Last month as we were speaking with STid, we were awaiting Boris Johnson's decision on whether the UK could finally get back to normality after 15 months of covid disruption. The outcome: wait a few more weeks. Regardless, covid vaccines are rapidly rolling out in the UK. Gordon Mackay, STid UK and Ireland sales director, says colleagues and partners are all feeling better about returning to their offices once they have their vital two jobs.

I am talking to so many business partners who are optimistic for getting back to work in the office. We will no longer be housebound and will even be able to, once again, travel to each others offices and meet F2F for what seems like a lifetime. I miss face to face meetings and exhibitions terribly (yes, especially ST21). We've all become experts in Teams, Skype and Zoom but we now all want to return to a physical meeting room, and drink tea-coffee together and enjoy each other's company.

#### QR codes

Each day I talk with security directors, facility managers and business leaders who are all planning return-to-work strategies and preparing for when the time is right to get back in the office. For numerous reasons this is proving a difficult task as there is no official manual for re-opening offices and the situation is changing daily. We know things will look, feel and function differently post-covid and even though we've all had our two vaccinations, employees and indeed customers have concerns for their health and safety. For our business, security and facility management leaders, the number one question they must consider is: *what will make my employees, customers more comfortable with returning to the office?* Our businesses must learn

from other sectors that have already adapted their working environments. Let's look at restaurants for example. They have thrown out traditional printed menus in exchange for QR codes laminated to tables. This new process lets customers access digital menus therefore reducing multi-menu-contact. STid also saw this as an opportunity within the workplace. Office managers need to issue visitor cards or hourly meeting room access. Traditionally this would be accomplished by issuing cards at a reception desk; however now, this will not be acceptable. We need less contact both physical and multi-touching of plastic RFID cards.

#### Access control

This is where STid can play a major role, by helping organisations with contactless methods of access with our range of Bluetooth-enabled readers. The latest being the Architect RFID, NFC and Bluetooth reader with a QR code module. Access control systems with QR code offer a cost-effective and reliable solution to visitor management within an office or facility. QR Codes can be generated by existing systems and software and used in paper format or onto the smartphone (by email, virtual cards, and so on). This offers one effective and yet secure way to easily

manage user profiles such as visitors, employees, drivers, deliveries and so on, with simplicity, and security!

#### ID modes

STid Mobile ID also offers several market USPs. The product comes with our six identification modes: tap-tap, hand slide, card, remote buttons, hands-free and now ground breaking voice control. Simply walk towards the door and say 'Siri, open the door' and you're granted entry .... and securely. STid employ extreme and robust methods of identification encryption and exchange mechanisms that are identical to all current global banking apps and payment authentication methods. This alone is giving our customers huge comfort knowing that health, safety and indeed security certification bases are all not only covered, but exceeded.

#### About the firm

STid, one of the leading developers of contactless identification solutions, have been developing STid Mobile ID which digitalises traditional access control since 2015. Their solutions are in use by hospitals, banks, police departments and campuses. ☐

● To learn more about STid, contact Gordon Mackay direct: [g.mackay@stid.com](mailto:g.mackay@stid.com).

