



What's Next For Work

How Security Leaders
Can Prepare for a
Post-Pandemic Workplace



Balancing Risk With Remote Work

The Covid-19 pandemic upended the way we get things done. Trends that were once gradual — from automation to remote work — went mainstream almost overnight. Security leaders, who were already tasked with managing a complex array of technologies and risks, suddenly had to focus on **ensuring that their businesses could function** while high-stakes transactions were carried out from personal laptops, at dining room tables.

What will work look like once the pandemic is over, and what can organizations do to prepare? In this eBook, we'll examine the hybrid environments that will eventually replace traditional office spaces — and how to ensure they're both secure and productive.

“We’ve seen two years’ worth of digital transformation in two months.”

Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft

Secure Access Anywhere

Hardly any of the people who've worked from home since the pandemic started expect their offices to be permanently closed. However, few expect to return to them full-time — even after the pandemic is over. Global Workplace Analytics predicts that by the end of 2021, **25 – 30%** of the global workforce will **work from home** multiple days per week. And in surveys that HID Global conducted between September and November 2020, **66%** of security professionals said they expect that workplaces will **continue on a hybrid** model after the pandemic, with employees working partially from home and partially in a centralized workplace.

If you or your business plan to return to work, what does that workplace look like?



Based on 230 security professional responses



WHAT DOES **HYBRID WORK** LOOK LIKE?



Securing the Hybrid Workplace



In the early stages of the pandemic, security teams' top priority was ensuring remote access and authentication. What will happen in the new hybrid workplace, as work-from-home turns into **work-from-anywhere?**

- Physical security will need to support new considerations, from occupancy control to updated access, safety, and screening policies — without straining existing processes or personnel
- Cybersecurity will need to protect a network that's location independent while still enabling employees to access the resources they need — without compromising productivity
- Frictionless access and security policies will need to accommodate a broad range of work environments and fast-changing, unpredictable conditions

70% of cybersecurity professionals expect the Covid-19 pandemic to prompt significant changes to their IT and security environments.



The Path to Seamless Access

Tomorrow's workers need **flexible, secure, seamless access** to physical and digital resources. That's not easy to accomplish with the fragmented systems and protocols that burden many companies. From misplaced badges to forgotten passwords, these systems give rise to multiple points of friction and failure — not to mention vulnerabilities.

Instead, hybrid work environments demand a **unified way of managing security** based on something we all always have: **our identities**. Identity-first solutions consolidate physical and logical access and enable companies to balance access requirements against convenience and usability. They also give security administrators greater visibility into usage and behavioral data — centralizing risk management and making it easier to fine-tune controls.

Implementing a New Security Paradigm

Shifting from traditional physical and cyber access control protocols to an identity-based approach changes how we think about access. It organizes security around the protection of a single identity in both physical and digital environments and enables security leaders to create hybrid workplaces that deliver:

- The **flexibility** workers need to accommodate changing schedules, locations, access points and preferences
- **Seamless access** to the resources that employees, visitors and vendors need, no matter where they are
- **Secure**, centralized and portable **access management protocols** to proactively identify threats and automate the response





Checklist for the Post-Pandemic Workplace



CENTRALIZED POLICY AND CREDENTIAL MANAGEMENT

Why you need it: As people move in and out of the workplace, they need seamless access to physical and digital resources.



UNIFIED IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

Why you need it: Collecting and analyzing data in a central system enhances visibility and powers more precise analysis of risks and vulnerabilities.



PASSWORDLESS AUTHENTICATION

Why you need it: Passwords are easy to breach and easy to forget. They're also resource intensive: up to half of all IT helpdesk calls are for forgotten passwords, while a single password reset costs \$70 per password.



MACHINE LEARNING SECURITY ALGORITHMS

Why you need it: AI and Machine Learning techniques simplify security by automatically detecting and preventing possible fraudulent behavior and workplace access.

Is Your Organization Prepared for the Future of Work?

The pandemic amplified the world’s attention on digital interactions — and the business risks associated with them. As we reclaim the physical workplace, we need security solutions that protect us while we move around in different environments and interact with a variety of devices. Centralized identity management is a powerful concept for this new era, making it easy for security teams to grant and manage access rights, authenticate users, ensure compliance with safety regulations and detect and address risks — while bringing workers the flexibility they need to stay productive in fast-changing conditions.

HID BRINGS YOU CLOSER TO THE FUTURE OF WORK, WITH SOLUTIONS THAT INCLUDE:



Visitor management tools that make it easy to screen employees, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors



Flexible, secure multi-factor authentication for the people who contribute to your business, whether full-time or temporary, on-site or remote



Physical identity and access management tools to control and monitor compliance with corporate policies



Need Help Securing What's Next for Work?

[Speak to one of HID's advanced authentication experts.](#)

MORE FROM HID TO GET YOU CLOSER TO THE FUTURE OF WORK:



Webinar | [Creating Flexible, Future-Ready Workplace Access](#)



eBook | [The Journey to Passwordless Authentication and Zero Trust](#)



eBook | [Securing the Future with Physical Identity and Access Management](#)



Blog post | [How to Boost Employee Safety with Visitor Management](#)



eBook | [The Brave New Workplace: Insights and HID Solutions that Make Workplaces Safer](#)



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