RFiD JOURNAL

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Developing an RFID Strategy for Manufacturing

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Infrastructure vs Point Solution

- A point solution solves one problem:
    - Controls access to restricted area, speeds up payment, automates a specific ta

- Infrastructure can be used for many applications
    - Think of cell networks
   (calls, texting, web surfing, etc.)
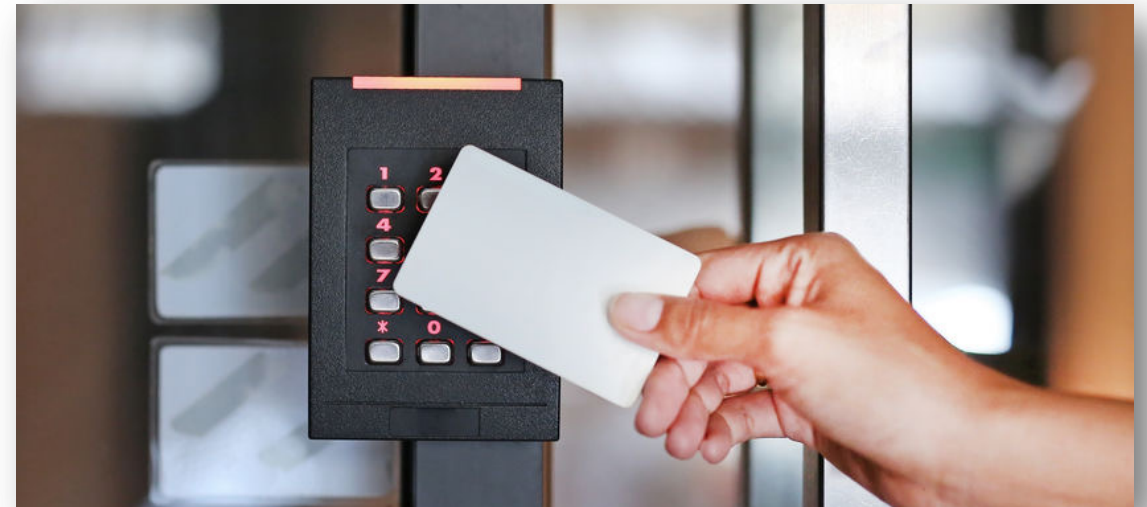
Think infrastructure

- Each company's goal should be to build an RFID infrastructure that:
  - Enables collection of data on everything mobile within the enterprise (tools, people, containers, etc.)
  - Supports multiple applications and integrates into multiple backend systems
  - Enhances the company's overall goals (such as to be the low-cost provider)
  - Is able to scale and adapt to changing needs

Create a cross functional team

- All stakeholders must be involved to ensure that the RFID infrastructure meets their needs, including:
    - Manufacturing
    - Operations
    - Engineering
    - Supply chain
    - Sales and marketing
    - After sales support
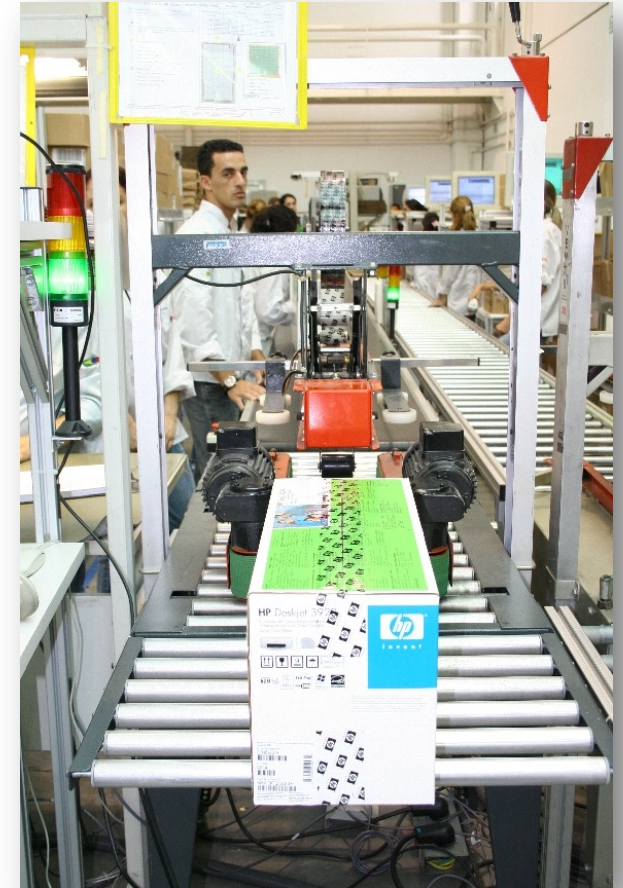
Educate stake holders

- Providing an understanding of the following will help committee members make better decisions:
    - What are others in our industries doing with RFID?
    - What other industries are employing RFID in similar ways and what benefits are they getting?
    - What types of RFID are available and how do they match up with our requirements?

Map out common processes

- What are the processes in our manufacturing facility from receipt of materials to shipping of product?

- Ask stakeholders to identify problem areas

- Consider whether RFID can help solve those problems or whether other technology is needed or would be more effective or cheaper

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Draw up a list of key requirements

- What data needs to be collected and where

- Who needs to have access to the data?

- What alerts need to be sent and to whom?

- How much, if any, customization of backend systems is needed?

- Are additional applications needed?

Focus on the data

- Does your company have master data files?

- Does product data need to be cleaned?

- Get all departments to on a single identifier, regardless of the specific provider's part number

- Consider rationalizing procurement

Choose the right technology

- Select the RFID technology that will meet the vast majority of your requirements.

- You might need one active system and one passive system

- For global tracking, RFID systems will need to integrate into a GPS tracking system

Split the cross-functional team into working groups

Each group should focus on 1 of the following:

- IT issues
- Prioritizing pilots/deployments
- Vendor selection (primary and secondary)
- Creating a global RFID policy
- Managing change (including training)
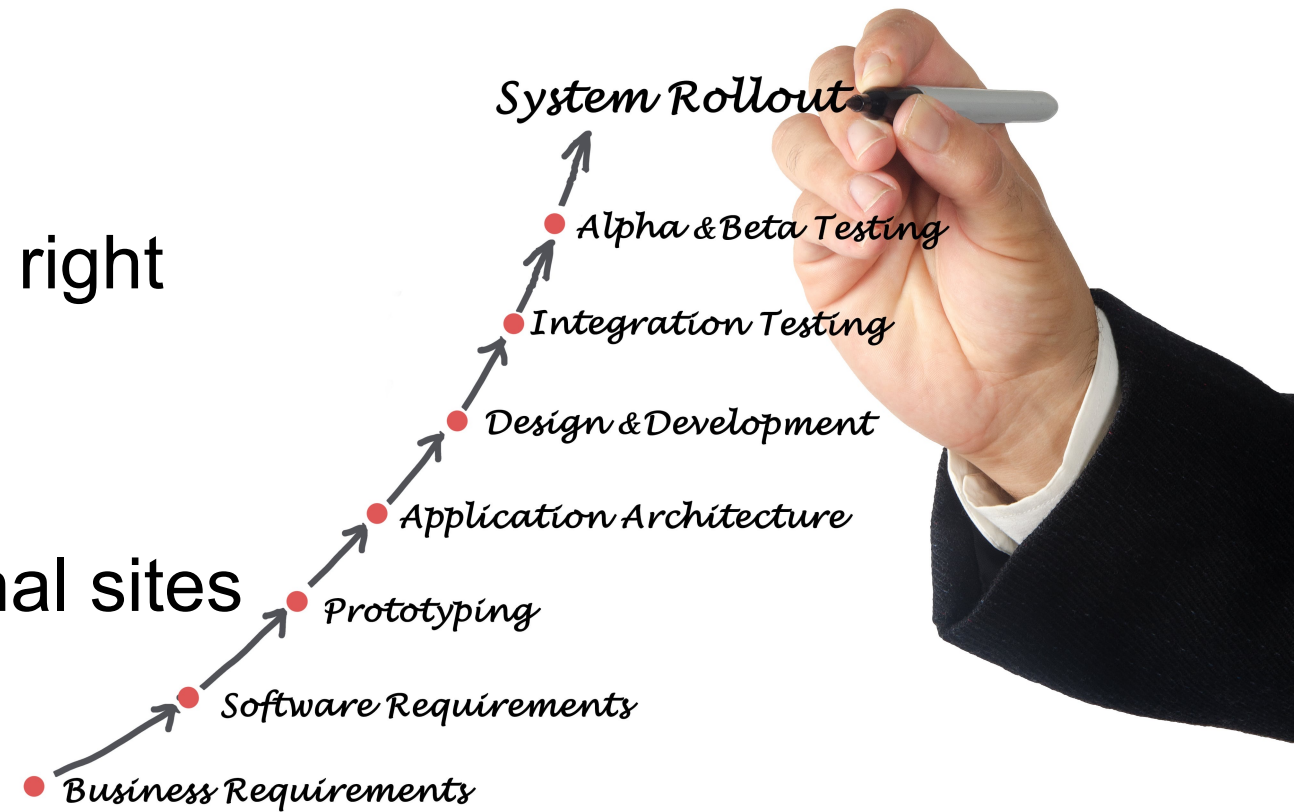- Tech support

How to prioritize projects

Create criteria for prioritizing, including

- Relative ease of the project
- Potential return on investment
- Importance of project to company's primary goals
- Regulatory compliance
- Safety and environmental issues

Begin the rollout in one location

- Make sure the technology works
- Get the integration piece right
- Get the business process change right
- Quantify the benefits
- Document the deployment
- Roll out the application to additional sites
- Repeat until the infrastructure is complete

System Rollout

Alpha & Beta Testing

Integration Testing

Design & Development

Application Architecture

Prototyping

Software Requirements

Business Requirements

Questions?

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THANK YOU