



Applications

Smart Alarm Manager

Historically critical alarms were displayed on alarm panels, the expensive of these panels limited their implementation throughout customer plants. This in turn forced a rigid configuration of only the most crucial alarms. With the onset of Distributed Control Systems and the increased number of available alarm parameters they became so common they held little value to the user. Alarms that were duplicated or improperly prioritized were found to distract operators rather than help them.

The manufacturing software and hardware vendors looked for ways to improve the use of system alarms. The next solution implemented was expert systems. This once again worked well for small systems, but as systems grew and the management of the expert system moved from one person to the next it too became a solution that was not only unmanageable put often times incorrectly configured.

This also lead to “alarm showers”, when one failure causes many variables to trip their preset alarm. This result can be catastrophic as the large quantity of alarms masks the real source of the problem causing delays in corrective actions.

That’s where Smart Alarm Manager (SAM) Software and Services comes in. By evaluating your current alarm strategy and configuring your database within the strategic limits you have put forth a system that enables your operators to make comprehensive system decisions.

- ✓ Collects and processes all incoming message data from any host device via serial port, ethernet network or ASCII file.
- ✓ Filter and parse message data
- ✓ Save database on local or remote hard drive
- ✓ View database via the network
- ✓ Provides both real-time and historical data
- ✓ Enhanced tools to perform advanced statistical analysis
- ✓ Data export to Excel

ABB can help you determine your alarm strategy and SAM provides the software that predicts critical conditions, and filters alarm messages. The complete solution of services and software will help in lowering costly disruptions.

Alarm Management Strategies

- Minimize alarm classes
- Alarms for operator action only
- Consider condition-based management
- Establish new/modify alarm process
- Review overall strategy yearly

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