

What do I need to design or redesign my alarm system?

There are several areas where an alarm management software package can assist in the design process:

- Providing a central location for the operating intelligence you will gather as you research alarm design
- Maintaining a journal of design notes and comments
- Automating the selection of alarm priority settings

During the process of reviewing and planning alarm settings you will collect valuable information about your operation, such as a realization that you really don't need an alarm on that flow meter, or a sideways comment from an operator about an alarm that should go to maintenance instead.

Storing these nuggets of feedback and insight is invaluable as an alarm design reference and if made available to operators, can be helpful as operator guidance.

LogMate provides an Alarm Knowledge Base (Alarm KB) that organizes this kind of information into hierarchies of Tags/Points and related alarms. KB entries can be looked up by a design engineer or by operators, through our online browser interface. The Alarm KB will save you hours of debate and rework by saving the background and rationale behind design decisions.

An additional benefit of alarm management software is automation of alarm priority selection. Good design principles support alarm priority distributions where the majority of alarms are in the lower priority range. Good alarm management software not only provides a way for you to view your priority distribution, it also has an on-board facility for automatic priority assignment.

In short, the software allows you to identify categories and degrees of alarm impact, such as Safety and Equipment, and High, Medium, Low. As you select the impact characteristics of alarms, the software uses a calculation to assign recommended priorities. You can then compare your projected priority distribution to a recommended target and adjust accordingly.

The LogMate priority assignment tool is based on EEMUA guidelines and allows for extensive customization for your needs and operation.