Due to recent major accident events associated with alarm flood, effective alarm management has moved to the top of many plant project lists.

Many currently installed computer control systems provide only limited information regarding abnormal operation. The operator information is often not enhanced by the computer control system, but forced to search out trends and use intuition and experience to evaluate abnormal plant status.

Alarm growth is a natural outcome of the increased information load possible with the modern control system. However, if alarms are not managed in a disciplined manner, uncontrolled alarm growth can result, leading to ineffective and potentially dangerous alarm situations.

A structured approach to alarm management has emerged to increase alarm effectiveness and thereby overall plant safety.