

LogMateAMS™ - Success Story

Mirant Energy



Mirant Resolves Operator Loading Issues Using LogMateAMS

Mirant's Dickerson Generating Plant is a coal, gas, and oil fired facility that produces 853 megawatts of electricity, primarily servicing Montgomery County, Maryland, in the Washington, DC area. Management at the plant knew that operators were confronted with too many alarms. The reams of paper from console printers offered little as a way to develop a solution.

Successes

- Quickly found and resolved the operator loading issue
- Created a site-wide archive of alarms and events
- Eliminated costly, noisy alarm printers
- Secured open access to alarm assessment tools
- Established a continuous program of alarm optimization



Mirant implemented LogMateAMS to replace their logging printers and to provide the ability to fully evaluate site alarm activity. The site-wide archive and unlimited, thin-client access proved critical to the effort, providing every member of the project team access to meaningful data and useful evaluation tools.

The immediate benefit was the removal of the printers. Almost too quickly, the noise, paper consumption, and maintenance problems were gone. With only a few days of data collected, management began evaluating alarm activity to try and find the source of the overload.

Analysis showed that many of the alarms being displayed to operators had nothing to do with operations, they were maintenance alerts. Following a more thorough evaluation, the data confirmed that almost 70% of the alarms displayed on the operator consoles were actually maintenance messages. A minor configuration change allowed Mirant engineers to clearly distinguish maintenance alerts from alarm messages and direct data to the appropriate personnel.

LogMateAMS has been incorporated into the operations strategy at Mirant to ensure that maintenance messages continue to be sent to the appropriate destination, and to assist the ongoing effort to optimize alarm settings.

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About Process Alarm Management:

The purpose of an alarm is to inform operations of an abnormal condition and assist in its resolution. Alarms are a critical part of automation; a direct communication of plant condition. Unfortunately, the lack of management of the alarm system has led to an overabundance of alarms that are vague, activate inappropriately, and in many cases are simply ignored - assumed to be irrelevant.

An alarm management "problem" manifests itself over time. It is not created intentionally and it can be corrected by applying sound engineering practices.

About Mirant:

Mirant is a competitive energy company that produces and sells electricity in the United States, the Caribbean, and the Philippines. Mirant owns or controls more than 17,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity globally. They operate an integrated asset management and energy marketing organization from their headquarters in Atlanta.

About TiPS:

TiPS Incorporated is The Alarm Management Company™. Since introducing our alarm management software package - LogMate™ - in 1990, TiPS has continued to deliver process alarm management products, services, and knowledge to manufacturers worldwide. Our goal is to educate the market about the value of alarm management, and how an optimized alarm system improves operations, including reduced downtime, fewer and more subdued upsets, increased safety, and higher quality output.

About LogMateAMS:

LogMateAMS is a complete solution for alarm management, including site-wide archival, viewing, activity analysis, configuration optimization, alarm rationalization, and change management. LogMateAMS is compatible with a wide range of control systems and is a true thin-client application. A standard Internet Explorer web browser provides access to every LogMateAMS client tool.

LogMateAMS improves a manufacturer's profitability by leveraging the value of alarms and events. LogMateAMS evaluates data to pinpoint areas where applying basic engineering practices will increase safety, asset life, product quality, and productivity.

LogMateAMS Benefits:

- Establish a continuous, site-wide event archive
- Monitor and evaluate alarm activity
- Prune alarms for better operator presentation
- Ensure alarm settings match intended design
- Reduce the difficulty of incident and batch review
- Eliminate the waste and noise of logging printers