

Technical Document

Vykon^{AX} Alarm Service Guide

July 25, 2007



Vykon^{AX} Alarm Service Guide

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PREFACE

Preface

This Preface includes the following sections:

- [Document Change Log](#)
- [About This Document](#)

Document Change Log

Updates (changes/additions) to this *Vykon*^{AX} Alarm Service Guide document are listed below.

- Published July 25, 2007

About This Document

Welcome to the *Vykon*^{AX} Alarm Service Guide. This manual is intended to help you use the VykonAX Alarm Service (VAS) application to manage alarms.

This preface includes the following sections:

- [“Intended Audience”](#)
- [“Document Summary”](#)
- [“Related Documentation”](#)

Intended Audience

This document is intended for users of the VykonAX Alarm Service (VAS). You do not have to be a system engineer, system integrator, or system designer to understand the concepts and instructions in this document—or to use VAS application.

Document Summary

This document contains the following chapters:

- [“Getting started with VykonAX Alarm Service”](#)—Topics include system requirements, as well as information about installing, starting, and configuring VAS.
- [“About the VAS user interface”](#)—This chapter describes the application graphic user interface and common controls and features that are used throughout the application.
- [“About Alarms”](#)—Provides information about the basic alarming concepts. These concepts are important for understanding terminology and procedures relative to how VAS is used.
- [“VAS panes, views, and dialog boxes”](#)—This chapter includes descriptions of various views and dialog boxes that are used for managing alarms in VAS.
- [“VAS Alarm portal tasks”](#)—This chapter includes procedural task descriptions for some of the more common tasks that are done using VAS.

Related Documentation

The following documents are related to the content in this document and may provide additional information on the topics it covers:

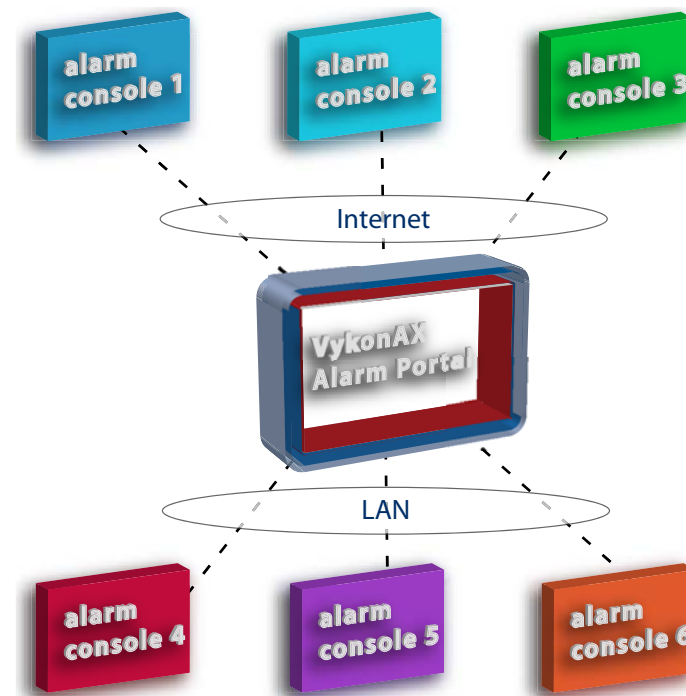
- *NiagaraAX Browser Access Guide*
- *NiagaraAX User Guide*

CHAPTER 1

Getting started with VykonAX Alarm Service

The VykonAX Alarm Service (VAS) runs as a stand-alone NiagaraAX application and allows you to easily monitor alarms from multiple locations using a single portal display hosted on a networked PC. The illustration in [Figure 1-1](#) shows a conceptual example of an alarm portal collecting alarms from six remote alarm consoles.

Figure 1-1 VykonAX Alarm Service portal communicates with multiple alarm consoles



This chapter includes the following topics that are provided to help get you started with VAS:

- “Contents of the VykonAX Alarm Service package”
- “Host PC Requirements”
- “Installing the VAS software”
- “Starting and setting up a VAS portal”

Contents of the VykonAX Alarm Service package

Included in the VAS package you should find the following items:

- One VykonAX Alarm Service installation CD.
- A unique license key that you can use to get and install the VAS license on your PC.
- This document, *Vykon^{AX} Alarm Service Guide*.

Note: You cannot run the VAS application until you have an appropriate license file. After completing the VAS software installation you must obtain a properly configured license file (`license.properties`) that specifies that you are licensed for the VykonAX Alarm Service. With an Internet connection at the installation host, licensing is automatically initiated and completed. Alternatively, you may receive a license as an email attachment after you submit a license request to the license authority for your host PC. For more details see, “[VykonAX Alarm Service licensing considerations](#)” on page 1-6.

Host PC Requirements

The *minimum* PC requirements for an the VykonAX Alarm Service are as follows:

- PC platform with Intel or¹ AMD CPU, 400 MHz or higher.
- Windows XP Professional or Windows Server 2003² operating system.
- 512 MB or more RAM
- 1 GB or more of available hard drive space.
- Ethernet 10/100 Mbit NIC (network interface card).
- For the initial loading of software, a CD-ROM drive, along with keyboard, mouse, and monitor.

Before beginning installation, the PC's Windows OS should be configured for TCP/IP networking support. A standard Java-enabled browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, should be installed and tested as operational. The latest Windows OS security updates and patches should also be installed.

Installing the VAS software

At the VAS installation PC, you need a CD-ROM drive and local console (keyboard, mouse, and monitor) for the initial software installation.

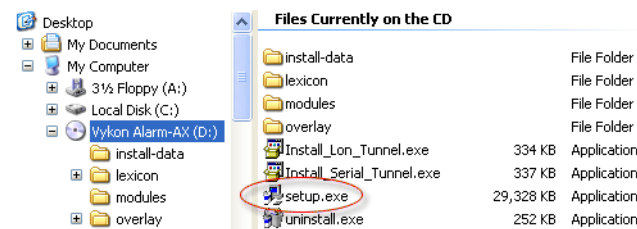
By default, VAS software installation creates a Niagara home directory on drive C: and copies all files needed under it. During installation, you can designate another target installation directory, including a different drive partition (for example drive D:) if desired.

To install VAS

To install VAS on a host computer, do the following:

- Step 1** Close all open applications.
- Step 2** Insert the VykonAX Alarm Service Installation CD into the PC's CD drive. If the autorun feature launches and the **Installation** dialog box displays, go to step 5 in this procedure, otherwise proceed to Step 3.
- Step 3** Using Windows Explorer, navigate to the VAS Installation CD drive and locate the `setup.exe` file in the root directory, as shown in [Figure 1-2](#).

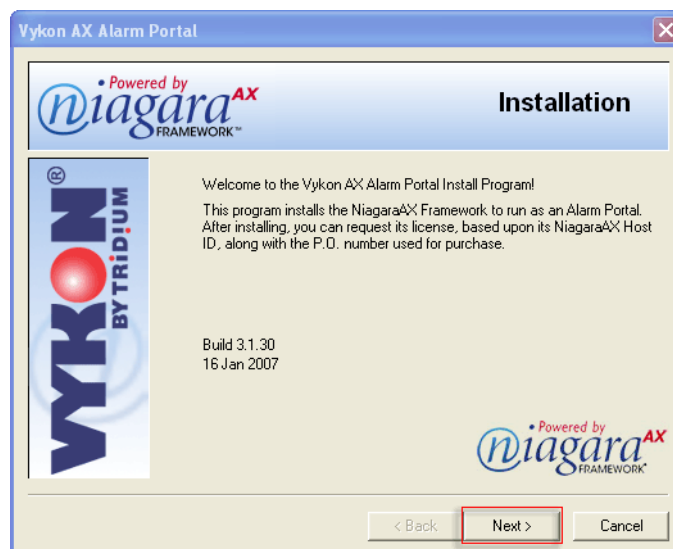
Figure 1-2 Installation setup file



- Step 4** Double-click on the `setup.exe` file to launch the installation wizard. The installation wizard displays, as shown in [Figure 1-3](#).

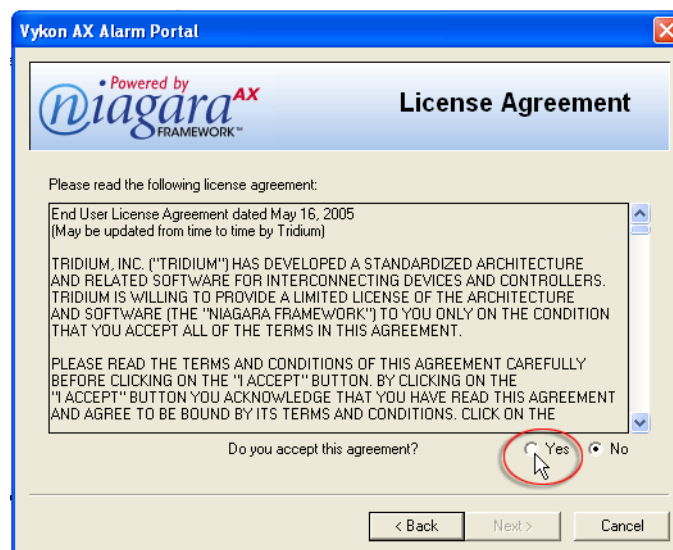
1. Recommended processors. Processor must be compatible with the Windows operating system. Please note that a “multiple processor PC” will *not* provide a performance gain in Niagara.
2. Other Windows OS may work, but have not been tested or validated by Tridium. If using Windows Server 2003, then the IIS server should be disabled to prevent conflicts with the UI-SP-SJ web server that normally runs on HTTP port 80.

Figure 1-3 Installation wizard

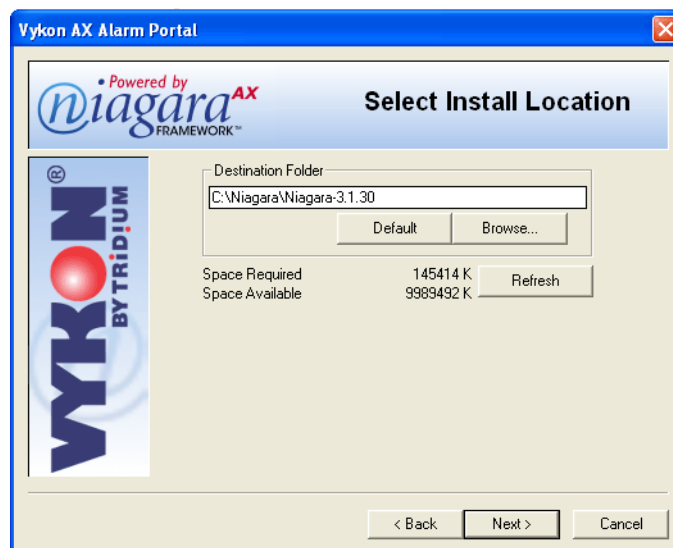


Step 5 In the **Installation** dialog box, read the installation message and click the **Next** button. The **License Agreement** dialog box displays, as shown in [Figure 1-4](#).

Figure 1-4 Installation wizard — license agreement



Step 6 In the **License Agreement** dialog box, read the license agreement, select the **Yes** option to continue the installation process, and click the **Next** button. The **Select Install Location** dialog box displays, showing the default installation location, as shown in [Figure 1-5](#).

Figure 1-5 Installation wizard — select installation location

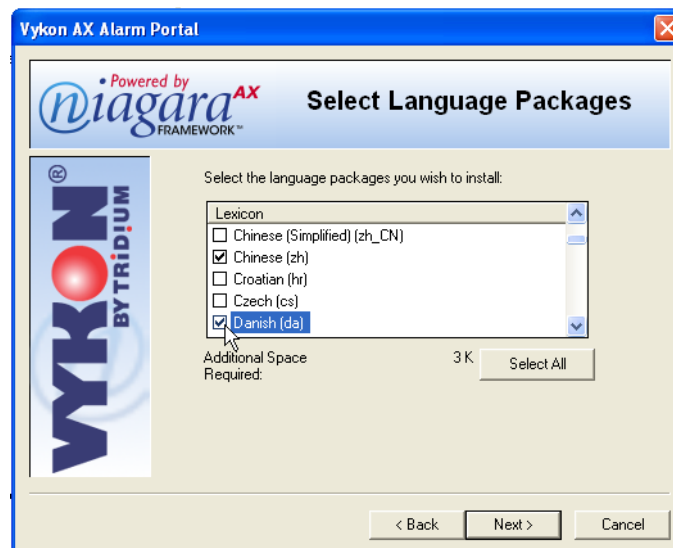
Step 7 To install the VAS application in a location other than the *default* location (as displayed in the **Select Install Location** dialog box) click the **Browse** button and define a different installation location.

Note: The *Space Required* and the *Space Available* display fields provide information about the file storage space on the drive that you define in the *Destination Folder* field. If you change the *Destination Folder* field, (for example, from C: to D:) you need to click **Refresh** to update the space available figure for the new drive.

Click the **Next** button to install the application to the displayed *Destination Folder*.

Note: If the target folder does not currently exist, a **Warning** dialog box appears to ask you if you want the installation process to create the designated folder.

The **Select Language Packages** dialog box displays, as shown in [Figure 1-6](#).

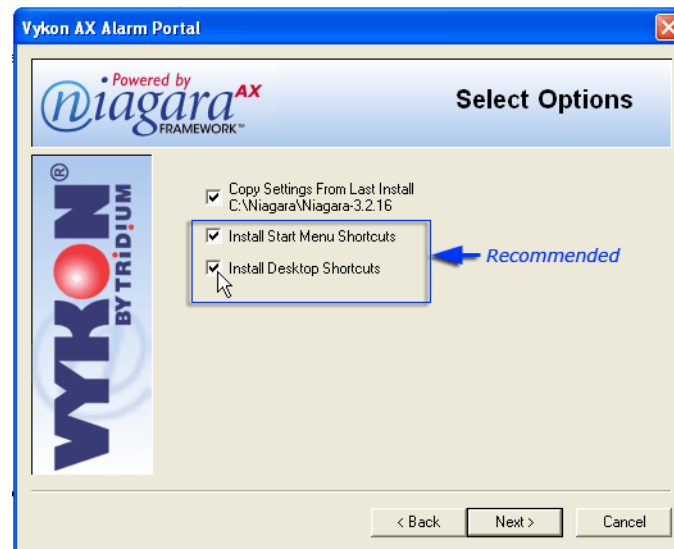
Figure 1-6 Installation wizard — select language packages

Step 8 In the **Select Language Packages** dialog box, choose any desired language packages and click the **Next** button.

Note: Language packages are installed in the *Lexicon* folder under the application directory.

The **Select Options** dialog box displays, as shown in [Figure 1-3](#).

Figure 1-7 Installation — select options



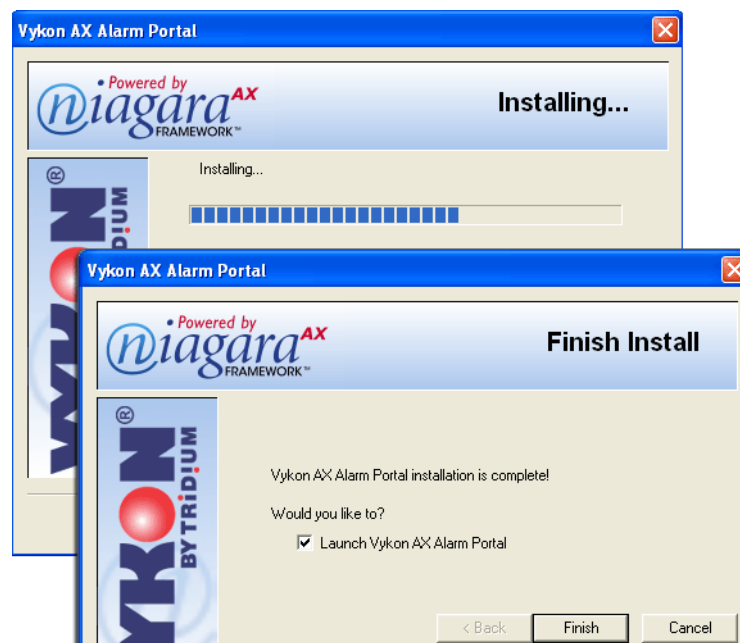
Step 9 In the **Select Options** dialog box, choose any of the three options, as follows, and click the **Next** button.

Note: Be sure to select at least one shortcut option for starting VAS.

- **Copy Settings From Last Install**
This option is only available if you have a previous installation on the target host. Otherwise the option does not display. The “copied settings” include user preferences and options from the latest *previous* NiagaraAX software installation.
- **Install Start Menu Shortcuts**
When checked, this option installs a Windows **Start** menu entry for the VAS application.
- **Install Desktop Shortcuts**
When checked, this option installs a **Shortcut** on the Windows Desktop of the target host.

After you click the **Next** button the **Installing...** dialog box appears temporarily and displays a progress bar until the **Finish Install** dialog box displays, indicating that installation is complete (see Figure 1-3).

Figure 1-8 Installation wizard — installing

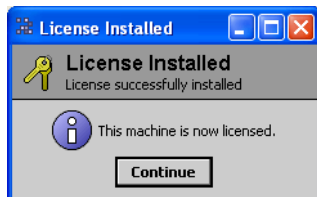


Step 10 In the **Finish Install** dialog box, select or clear the **Launch Vykon AX Alarm Portal** option box, as desired, and click the **Finish** button to complete the installation process.

The **Finish Install** dialog box disappears and the software installation is complete except for licensing. If the automated licensing process is successful, the **License Installed** dialog box appears, as shown in [Figure 1-3](#).

Note: The VAS licensing function attempts to connect to the NiagaraAX licensing server and license the new installation over the Internet (current Internet connection required). If initial licensing is unsuccessful, refer to the “[VykonAX Alarm Service licensing considerations](#),” page 1-6 for alternate licensing methods.

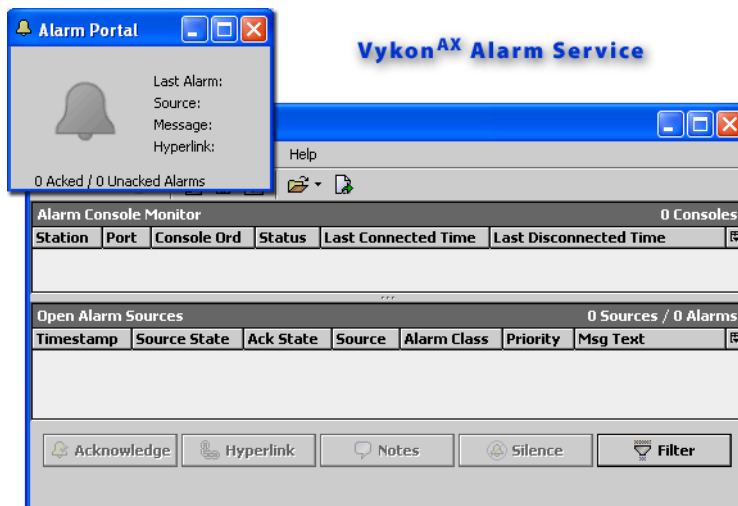
Figure 1-9 Installation wizard — license installed



Step 11 In the **License Installed** dialog box, click the **Continue** button.

If you selected the Launch Vykon AX Alarm Portal option in the previous step, then the portal automatically launches, appearing with the alarm popup, as shown in [Figure 1-10](#).

Figure 1-10 Installation wizard — license installed



VykonAX Alarm Service licensing considerations

The following sections provide VykonAX Alarm Service license details:

- [About the VykonAX Alarm Service license](#)
- [Submitting a license request](#)
- [Manually checking host ID and submitting license request](#)
- [Manually installing the VykonAX Alarm Service license](#)

About the VykonAX Alarm Service license

The VykonAX Alarm Service requires a valid license file for operation. Each license file is specific to the installed host (in this case a specific PC), by its “host ID”, which NiagaraAX uniquely calculates for any device. The host ID is in the first line of the license file (a digitally-signed text/xml file). Your VykonAX Alarm Service PC host ID cannot be determined until *after* the NiagaraAX software is installed.

However, when you buy VAS, a license file is *started* for it—and also stored on the licensing server. In this “unbound” license, there is a “license key” entry, a hexadecimal number that is also printed and shipped along with your VAS CD. See [Figure 1-11](#) for a license key example (FF01-0000-AF15-008B-7799).

Figure 1-11 Example sheet showing unique License Key

10-Nov-2006

Order Information	
Organization:	Aardvark Controls Inc.
Customer:	Metropolis University
Project:	West Campus
Sale Order Number:	PO# BR549-007

License	
License Key:	FF01-0000-AF15-008B-7799
Item Number:	VAS-XX-AX
Options:	
DR-BAC-AX	BACnet Client IP driver for any JACE
UI-SP-SJ	User Interface Station Pack for SoftJACE - AX
EC-SP-SJ	Enterprise Connectivity Station Pack for SoftJACE - AX

After you install the VAS software, you can submit an *online form* to the licensing server, on which your NiagaraAX-calculated host ID appears. You enter your license key *and* the “item number”, along with your name and email address. Using this “self serve” process, the licensing server can immediately *finish* your license, where it is then available for VAS commissioning (when using your host PC). Also, the license file is emailed back to you as an attachment. See “[Submitting a license request](#)” on page 1-7.



Caution

Never edit the contents of license file! A license file is a digitally-signed text/xml file, which you can open and read with Notepad or Internet Explorer, and even rename if desired. However, if you make any changes to contents, your VykonAX Alarm Service will not operate! Contact your license authority if you need any changes, so that your license can be updated properly.

Submitting a license request

Subsequent to initial software installation, if your VAS PC has Internet connectivity and you have your license key ([Figure 1-11](#) on page 7), you can submit a form to the licensing server. This can immediately “finalize” (bind) your unbound license file, whereby you automatically retrieve it when starting VAS, and also have the license emailed to you.

Note: *If the VAS PC does not have Internet connectivity, see “[Manually checking host ID and submitting license request](#)” on page 1-9.*

To submit a VAS license request

At the VAS PC, do the following

- Step 1** From the Windows **Start** menu, click **All Programs > Vykon AX Alarm Portal > Console**. The Niagara Command Line console window appears.
- Step 2** At the command prompt, enter: `wb`
A series of license related popup dialogs display, as shown in [Figure 1-12](#).
- Step 3** Within a few seconds, a **License Request** form appears in the default browser, in which the Niagara-calculated host id for the VykonAX Alarm Service is already entered. See [Figure 1-13](#) for an example.
- Step 4** In the form, enter your license key *and* the item number from the sheet shipped with the VykonAX Alarm Service. Also enter your name, company, and email address (“Sales Order Number” and “Sold To” can be left blank).
- Step 5** After completing the form (double-check your license key), click **Request License**.
The licensing server searches for a matching license key and, when it finds the key, binds and finalizes the license. A **License Binding Successful** page appears in the form (see [Figure 1-14](#)).
Your license is now available from the licensing server when commissioning the VykonAX Alarm Service, and it is also emailed to you as a license file attachment.

Figure 1-12 License check dialogs resulting from wb command in console

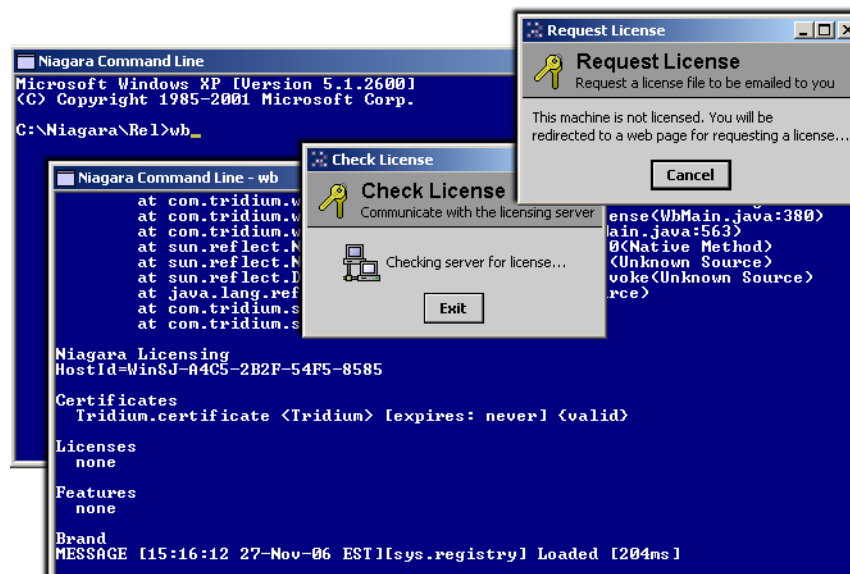


Figure 1-13 License request form with host id already entered

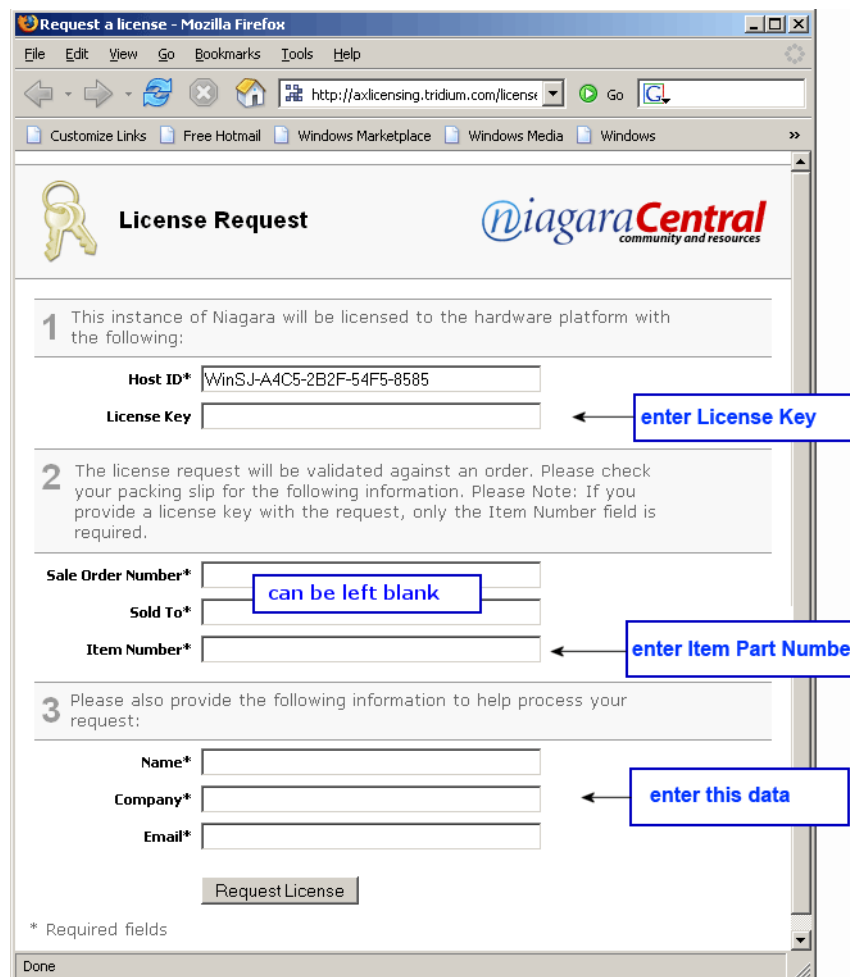
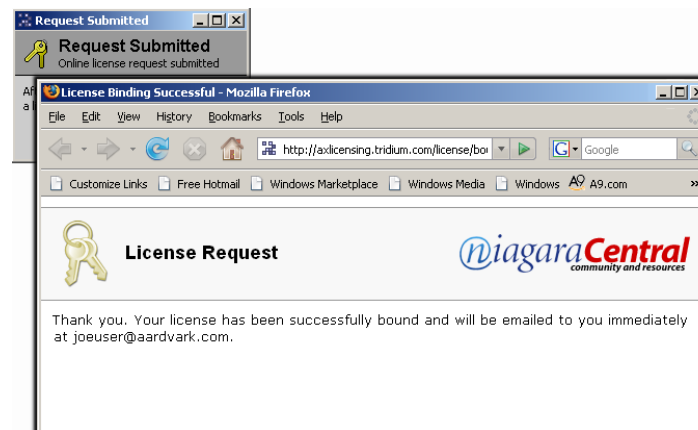


Figure 1-14 License binding successful



Manually checking host ID and submitting license request

If your VAS PC does *not* have Internet connectivity, you can use the following two procedures to determine your VAS host ID, then *manually* submit a license request. In this case, when you submit the license request (from another PC that *does* have Internet and email access), you supply the host ID of your VAS PC, along with your license key, item number, and contact information.

To determine your host ID

At the VAS PC, do the following to determine its Niagara host ID:

- Step 1** From the Windows **Start** menu, click **Programs > Vykon AX Alarm Portal > Console**. The Niagara Command Line console window appears.
- Step 2** At the prompt, enter: `nre -hostid`
The host ID displays, for example: `Win-F605-1D5C-8846-5B2F`.
- Step 3** Carefully record the host ID string, and then close the console window.

To manually submit a license request

From another PC with Internet connectivity, do the following to manually submit a VykonAX Alarm Service license request:

- Step 1** Open a browser and enter the following URL:
`http://axlicensing.tridium.com/license/request`
A blank **License Request** form appears, similar to that shown in [Figure 1-13](#) on page 8.
- Step 2** In the form, enter your VykonAX Alarm Service host ID, along with the license key *and* the item number from the sheet shipped with the VykonAX Alarm Service. Also enter your name, company, and email address ("Sales Order Number" and "Sold To" can be left blank).
- Step 3** After completing the form (double-check your host ID and license key), click **Request License**. The licensing server searches for a matching license key, and when found binds and finalizes the license. A **License Binding Successful** page appears in the form (see [Figure 1-14](#) on page 9).

Your license is now available from the licensing server and it is also emailed to you as a license file. You can automatically license the VAS PC (if it gains Internet connectivity) or you can manually install the license, (received by email), as described in ["Manually installing the VykonAX Alarm Service license"](#).

Manually installing the VykonAX Alarm Service license

When you make a license request, you may receive an email reply from the licensing server, with a `Vykon.license` file as an attachment. When you receive this license file, you can install it on the proper VAS PC by simply copying and pasting the file into the license directory. For example, if you have access to the license file (say, on a diskette or thumb-drive), simply copy the `Vykon.license` file into the `licenses` subdirectory of the Niagara-3.x.xx installation directory, typically:

`Niagara-3.x.xx\licenses`

Starting and setting up a VAS portal

The following section provides instructions that describe how to start and configure a VAS portal. These instructions include the following basic procedures:

- [“To start the VAS portal”](#)
- [“To configure the VAS portal”](#)

To start the VAS portal

There are two primary ways to start the VAS portal: (1) shortcut method (Windows desktop shortcut or a shortcut from the **Start** menu) (2) a command line instruction. If you did not install a shortcut in your Windows **Start** menu or on your desktop, you may need to use this method.

Both methods are described in the following list:

- **Shortcut method:**
 - From the Windows **Start** menu, click **Programs > Vykon AX Alarm Portal > Alarm Portal**
The VAS application opens and the VAS alarm console and alarm popup display.
OR
 - From the Windows desktop view, double-click the Alarm Portal shortcut icon.
The VAS application opens and the VAS alarm console and alarm popup display.
- **Command Line method:**
 - Open a Windows console. For example, from the Windows **Start** menu, select **Run...**
The **Run** dialog box displays.
 - In the **Run** dialog box, type **cmd** and press the Enter key.
The Windows console displays.
 - In the Windows console, change directories so that the current directory is the location of the VAS installation. For example, if VAS is installed in the C:\Niagara\Niagara-3.1.30 directory, type the following command at the C: prompt:

```
cd Niagara\Niagara-3.1.30
```


The command line prompt changes to the new directory.
 - In the Windows console, at the command line prompt, type the following command:

```
wb_w.exe -profile:alarm:AlarmPortalProfile
```


The VAS application opens and the VAS alarm console and alarm popup display.

To configure the VAS portal

The alarm portal must be running and configured to include all desired alarm consoles before it can be used to acknowledge alarms from those consoles. This procedure is written with the assumption that the VAS portal is running. Refer to [“To start the VAS portal”](#) page 1-10 for details about starting the portal.

- Step 1** In the top portion of the Alarm Portal view, right-click in the Alarm Console Monitor area.
The **popup** menu, appears.
- Step 2** Select **Add Alarm Console**.
The **Add Alarm Console** wizard appears.
- Step 3** Complete the **Add Alarm Console** wizard by entering or choosing the following:
- Host address information, as needed (IP or dialup)
 - Credentials information (username and password)
 - Select the “Remember these credentials” option, if desired
- Step 4** Click the **Next** button.
The **Add Alarm Console** dialog box appears, displaying a list of one or more alarm consoles that are available for adding from the designated IP address.
- Step 5** From the **Add Alarm Console** dialog box, select a single alarm console to add (only one console may be added at a time).
- Step 6** Click the **Finish** button to complete the **Add Alarm Console** wizard.
The alarm console appears in the **Alarm Console Monitor** table (top portion of the Alarm Portal view). Any alarms will appear in the **Open Alarm Sources** table (bottom portion of the Alarm Portal view).

Note: Repeat this procedure to add more alarm consoles to your alarm portal.

CHAPTER 2

About the VAS user interface

VAS provides a “portal” interface for alarms that are routed within the NiagaraAX framework environment. This portal allows you to view and acknowledge alarms from many different stations using the single portal viewer.

From the VAS portal you can double click on any alarm listed in the alarm sources pane to see the alarm details dialog box and the alarm record dialog box, as described in [“About the open alarm sources pane”](#) on page 4-3.

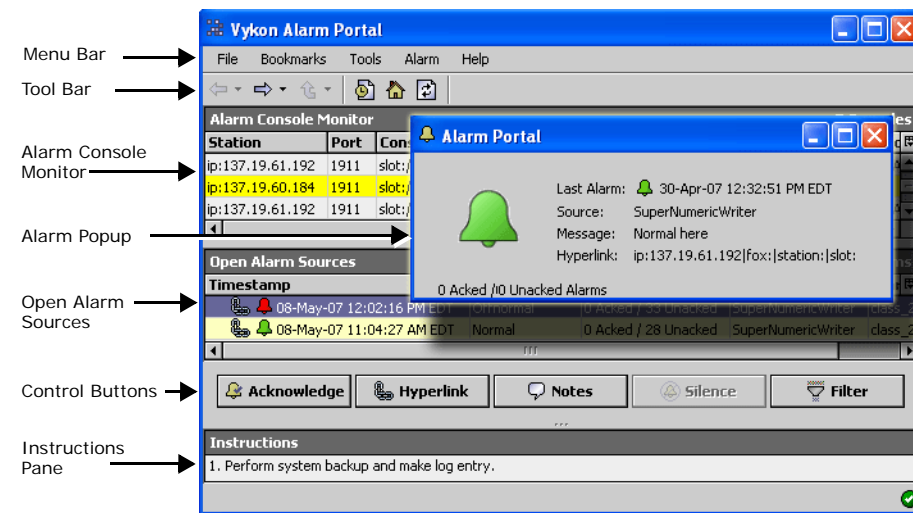
The following sections describe the VAS user interface and how to use it for monitoring and acknowledging alarms.

- [Tour of the VAS GUI](#)
- [Customizing the VAS environment](#)

Tour of the VAS GUI

When you start VAS, you will see the alarm portal screen, as shown in [Figure 2-1](#).

Figure 2-1 VykonAX Alarm Service portal



The VAS portal is comprised of a primary portal window and a popup window that display separately. The following list provides a brief description of the major display areas of these two alarm portal windows:

- **Alarm Console Monitor**
The Alarm Console Monitor is located in the top pane of the primary portal window directly below the toolbar area in the VAS portal window. It contains information about Alarm Console connections. Refer to [“About the alarm console monitor pane”](#) on page 4-2 for more details about the Alarm Console Monitor.
- **Open Alarm Sources**
Open Alarm Sources is a table located in the pane directly below the Alarm Console Monitor in the primary portal window. This table contains a list of Open Alarms from alarm consoles listed in the

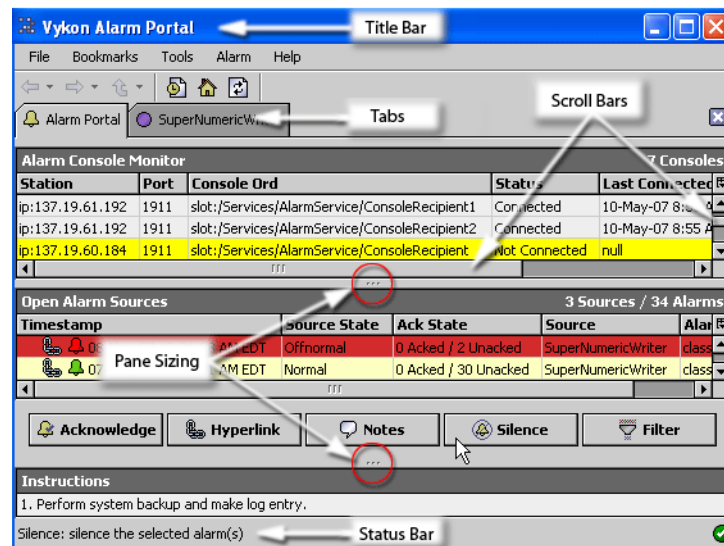
Alarm Console Monitor. Refer to “About the open alarm sources pane” on page 4-3 for more details about Open Alarm Sources.

- **Instructions pane**
This bottom pane of the primary portal window may be displayed or hidden, as desired. It is located below the VAS portal control buttons. Refer to “About alarm instructions” on page 3-6 for more details about Instructions.
- **Alarm popup**
This is an optional window that displays independently from the main alarm portal window. Refer to “About the alarm popup” on page 4-6 for more details about the Alarm popup.

About VAS portal display controls

The VAS display window provides typical Windows-type controls (maximize, minimize, close, and others) plus features unique to the VAS portal, as shown in Figure 2-2.

Figure 2-2 VAS portal display controls



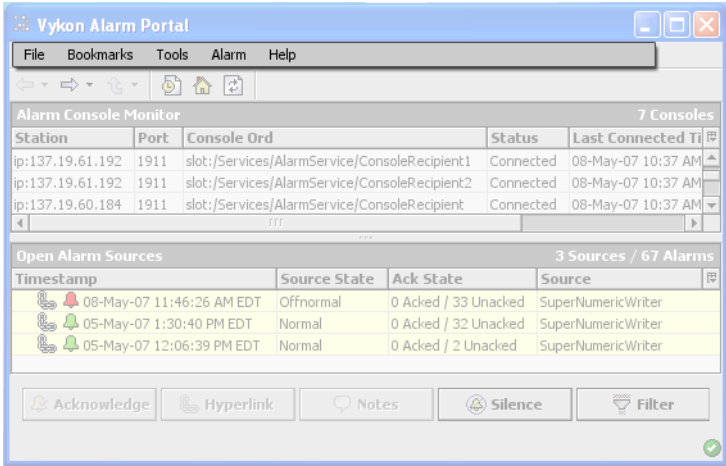
You may create additional windows after starting VAS—all have these basic features:

- **Title bar**
This is a standard Windows title bar that includes windows name and icons to minimize, maximize, and close. Double-click the title bar to toggle between maximized and a sizable window.
- **Pane resizing**
As needed, drag any outside border to resize the entire window. Drag the inside border between the side bar and view areas, or (if shown) the console area to change their relative sizes.
- **Scroll bars**
Scroll bars appear in window areas when some content portions are not visible. They are along the right and/or bottom portions of a window area (side bar, view, or console). Simply drag a scroll slider to scroll quickly. Or, click an ending scroll arrow to move in small increments.
- **Status bar**
At the bottom of the VAS window is a status bar. When you hover the mouse cursor over an area of the portal window, the status bar displays a description for many areas, including toolbar buttons and alarm table entries.

About the menu bar

The menu bar is the row of pulldown menus located along the very top of the VAS GUI, as shown in Figure 2-3. You may use these menus to perform operations throughout the VAS GUI. Many of the menus on the menu bar are context-sensitive and only appear when certain views are active.

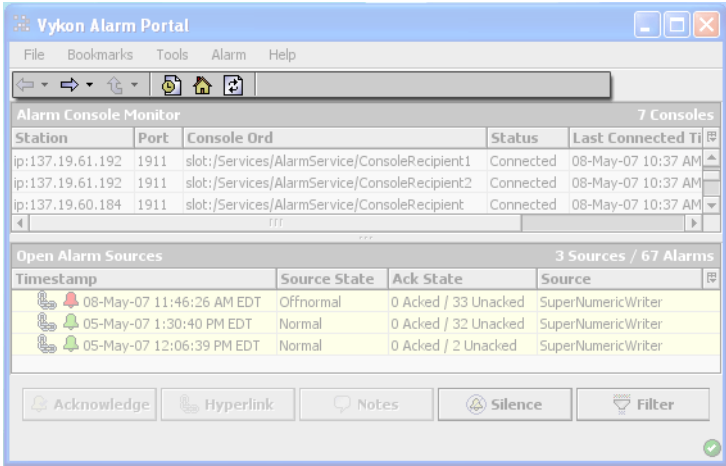
Figure 2-3 Menu bar



About the toolbar

The toolbar is the row of icons, just below the menu bar, as shown in Figure 2-4. The toolbar provides menu choices for objects that appear in the view pane. Usually, toolbar icons provide single-click access to many of the most commonly used features of VAS.

Figure 2-4 Toolbar



In addition to the primary (always visible) toolbar, additional toolbar icons may appear when different views are active. When a toolbar icon is dimmed, it is unavailable.

Types of popup menus

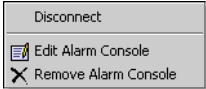
The VAS portal provides view-specific, or context-specific commands for editing components in many of the views. Following, is a list of the standard VAS portal popup (right-click) menus.

- Alarm Console Monitor
- Open Alarm Sources dialog box
- Property sheet

About the Alarm Console Monitor popup menu

The Alarm Console Monitor popup menu, shown in Figure 2-5, displays command options when you right-click on an row in the alarm console monitor table.

Figure 2-5 Alarm console monitor popup menu



The following commands are available from the alarm console popup menu:

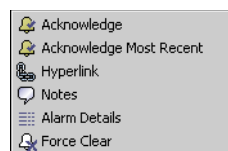
- **Disconnect / Connect**
This command is context-sensitive. The **Disconnect** command displays when you right-click on a connected console row. The **Connect** command displays when you select right-click on a disconnected console row. Selecting either command initiates a disconnect or connect action, as appropriate.
- **Edit Alarm Console**
This command opens the **Edit Alarm Console** dialog box. Use this dialog box to set host connection parameters including IP address and user credentials. Changes made to these parameters are followed by display of the **Edit Alarm Console** dialog box, which allows you to choose a single console to connect to (if more than one console is available).
- **Remove Alarm Console**
This command deletes the selected alarm console from the Alarm Console Monitor table. Any alarms associated with the deleted Alarm Console are removed from the Open Alarm Sources pane when the Alarm Console is deleted.

Note: The menu display is context-sensitive, if you click on an empty area of the table, the **Add Console** popup menu displays, with its single action: **Add Alarm Console**.

About the Open Alarm Sources popup menu

Figure 2-6 shows the **Open Alarm Sources** popup menu. This menu is available when you right-click on a row entry in the Open Alarm Sources pane.

Figure 2-6 Open Alarm Sources popup menu



Commands available from the **Open Alarm Sources** popup menu include:

- **Acknowledge**
This command initiates the acknowledgement of all alarms associated with the selected point.
- **Acknowledge Most Recent**
This command initiates the acknowledgement of the most recent alarm associated with the selected point.
- **Hyperlink**
This command is a link that changes the current view to a view that is linked to the alarm.
- **Notes**
This command opens the **Notes** dialog box which allows you to add notes to selected alarms.
- **Alarm Details**
This command opens the **Alarm Record** dialog box for the selected alarm record.
- **Force Clear**
This command clears an alarm— even if it is still “open”. If a point is currently in an alarm state and is acknowledged, it is still “open”. If you want to remove the open alarm from the console, click the **Force Clear** command.

About the Add Alarm Console popup menu

Figure 2-7 shows the Add Alarm Console popup menu. The only command on this menu is the **Add Alarm Console** command. Open this menu by right-clicking in an unpopulated area of the Alarm Console Monitor pane. Selecting this command initiates the **Add Alarm Console** wizard, which allows you to set the address parameters and designate the Alarm Console that you want to add.

Figure 2-7 Add alarm console popup menu



Types of data-presentation controls and options

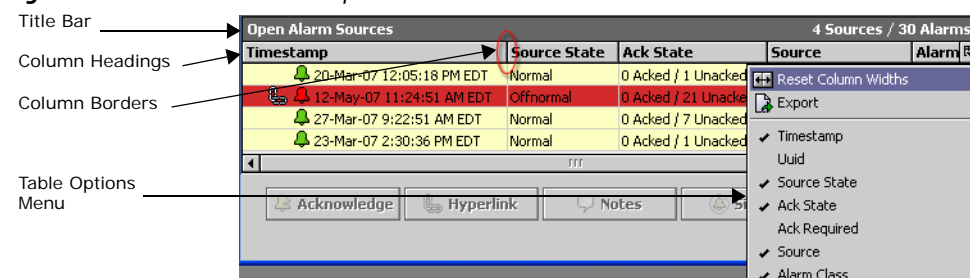
VAS views often present information in text fields, charts, or tabular layouts. Similar views share many of the same types of controls and options features. Those common features are described, by category, in the following lists:

- **Table controls and options**
These controls affect the display of information in a table view. For details see “Table controls and options” on page 2-5.
- **Batch editing**
Batch editing is available in many table views. For details see “Batch editing (or batch processing)” on page 2-5.

Table controls and options

Many views that present information in a table have one or more of the following display features and use one or more of the controls and options described in the following list:

Figure 2-8 Table controls and options



- **Title bar**
This area of the table displays the name of the data collection on the left side of the title bar and in some tables displays the total number of records in the table on the right side of the title bar.
- **Column headings**
Each column of data has a title that indicates the data type.
- **Column boundaries**
Each column has a movable column boundary that can be used to re-size the column using the mouse control. Stretch or shrink column width by dragging the column boundary, as desired. Use the [Reset column widths](#) menu item to reset all column widths to their default size.
- **Table Options menu**
This menu is located in the top right corner of the table and provides one or more of the following controls and options. The standard **table options** menu includes the following items:
 - **Reset column widths**
This menu item sets all columns in the table to their default widths. This is useful if you manually changed widths of columns, and now some contents are hidden (even after scrolling).
 - **Export**
This menu item opens the **Export** dialog box where you can choose to export the table to PDF, text, HTML, or CSV (comma separated variable).
 - **Context-sensitive menu items**
Additional context-sensitive menu items appear in the **table options** menu, depending on the table that you are viewing. These additional menu items allow you to select or deselect the item in order to display or hide the column data in the table.

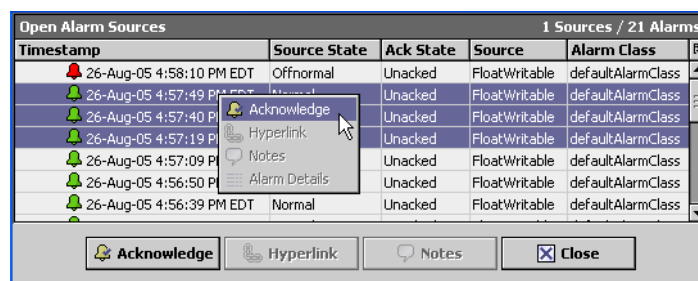
Batch editing (or batch processing)

Batch editing is available in many of the table views in VAS. This is a process of editing or processing more than one record at a time and typically includes the following general steps:

- Select multiple rows in a table by pressing the Ctrl or Shift key while clicking the desired rows.
 - Use the popup (right-click, context-sensitive) menu or a toolbar icon to select an editing command that performs an action or opens a dialog box editor that is appropriate for the view.
 - Edit appropriate fields if a dialog box is used and click the **OK** button to process the edits.
- Note:** Some actions, such as editing certain types of fields, are not appropriate for batch editing. In these cases – even though you can select multiple rows in the table, the action will be performed on only one (usually the top, or highest) selected record in the table.

Figure 2-9 shows an example of batch processing three alarms by selecting three rows in a table view and using the popup menu. In this case all three alarms are acknowledged when the **Acknowledge** command is selected.

Figure 2-9 Batch processing (acknowledging) multiple alarms



Customizing the VAS environment

You can customize your VAS user interface, as well as many of the settings in the VAS environment. Some settings require an acknowledgement via the **OK** button on a dialog box, while others are invoked immediately and saved automatically on exit from VAS. For example, when you exit VAS with four tabbed windows in your view pane, those same four windows will be displayed the next time you open VAS.

You can customize many of the VAS user interface controls and displays by using preference and option settings that are described in the following sections:

- [Creating Additional Windows](#)
- [Creating tabs in the view pane](#)
- [General VAS options](#)
- [Alarm portal options](#)
- [Alarm console options](#)

Creating Additional Windows

VAS allows you to create and use multiple fully functioning VAS windows. Selecting **File: > New Window** from the menu bar creates a duplicate of your current VAS window.

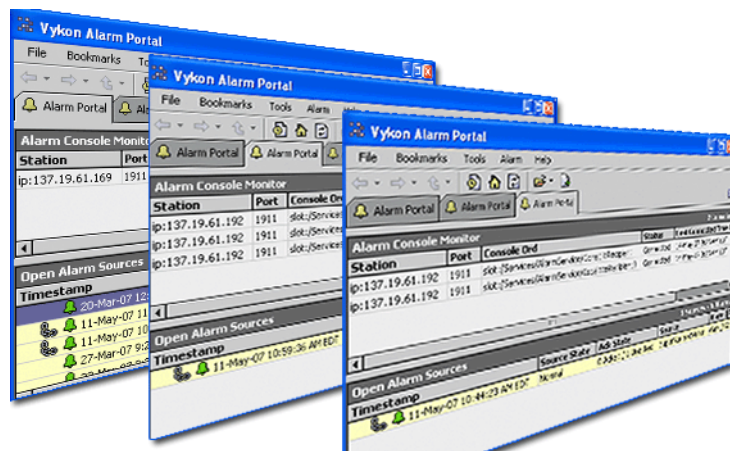
After you create multiple windows, you can then customize each individual window, as needed, to access different information, allowing you to see multiple concurrent views.

Creating tabs in the view pane

VAS allows you to create multiple tabbed views within the view pane of a VAS window, as shown in [Figure 2-10](#), by doing one of the following:

- From the menu bar, select **File: > New Tab**.
 - If tabs already exist, right-click on a tab and select **New Tab** from the popup menu.
- The new tab has a view identical to the previous one.

Figure 2-10 Three different tab views from a single window



As needed, you can use each tab to display a different view within the same VAS window. When you select a tab (make it *active*), the menu and tool bars update to show appropriate options for the current view.

Note: The VAS application always starts with only a single pane display, even if you closed the application with multiple tabs open. The last “saved” or “changed” tab (not necessarily the last displayed tab) displays on restart.

Only one tab may be active at a time. In addition to simply clicking on a tab to make it active, you can select **File: > Next Tab** from the menu bar to move to the next tab, moving left to right, or you can move to the last tab by choosing **File: > Last Tab** from menu bar.

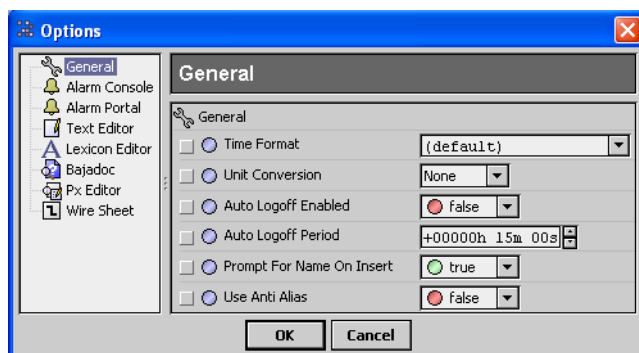
To close a tab, do any of the following:

- Right-click a tab and choose **Close Tab** to close that tab, or
 - Right-click a tab and choose **Close Other Tabs** to close all tabs *except* that tab.
 - From the menu bar, choose **File: > Close Tab**.
- The currently active tab is closed.

Types of VAS options

Use the VAS **options** dialog box, shown in [Figure 2-11](#), to customize your VAS GUI and to set other preferences. Open this dialog box by selecting **Tools > Opt-ions** from the menu bar.

Figure 2-11 Options dialog box



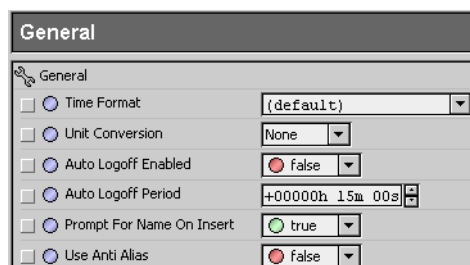
The following options are available in the options dialog box:

- [General VAS options](#)
- [Alarm console options](#)
- [Alarm portal options](#)
- [Other options](#)

General VAS options

General VAS options, shown in [Figure 2-12](#), include settings for a variety of VAS display and behavior options.

Figure 2-12 General VAS options



Note: The **Time Format** and **Unit Conversion** parameters affect values that are displayed when connected to a station using VAS—regardless of the User preferences (set under User Manager). The User preferences that are set under the User Manager are in effect when connected to a station by a browser.

- **Time Format**
Choose a format option to set the way that VAS time values are displayed by default.
- **Unit Conversion**
Choosing the **English** or **Metric** option converts values that are displayed in VAS to the chosen unit type. Selecting **None** leaves units in the state that is assigned at the point facet.

- **AutoLogoff Enabled**
Setting this parameter to `True` will activate the AutoLogoff feature. When activated, the AutoLogoff feature will automatically log off a user from a platform when there is no activity detected in VAS for the period specified in the AutoLogoff Period field. Setting this parameter to `False` will disable the AutoLogoff feature.
- **AutoLogoff Period**
Time until VAS logs off a user when AutoLogoffEnable is set to `True`.
- **Prompt For Name On Insert**
When set to `True`, VAS displays a **Name** dialog box, when a new item is added to the workspace.
- **Use Anti Alias**
Anti-aliasing causes text to look crisper or smoother on the screen. When this parameter is set to `true`, any editable text (for example a label or a text block) is anti-aliased.

Alarm console options

Alarm console options, shown in [Figure 2-13](#), allow you to customize both the appearance and behavior of the alarm console.

Figure 2-13 Alarm console options

Option	Value
Notes Required On Ack	false
Sounds Enabled	true
Default Sound File	module://alarm/com/tridium/alarm/ui/sounds/
Continuous Alarm	false
Continuous Alarm Delay	+00000h 00m 10s
Low Priority Color	#ffdfbf
Mid Priority Color	#ffa040
High Priority Color	red
Time Zone Display	Console
Alarm Class Mapping	Mapping >>
Alarm Ack Responses	>>
View Instructions	false

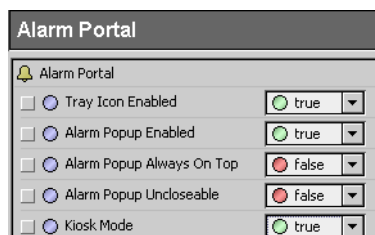
Alarm console options include the following:

- **Notes Required on Ack**
When set to `true`, all alarms must be acknowledged by this console before they are removed from the alarm table.
- **Sounds Enabled**
When set to `true` – causes a sound to accompany an alarm.
- **Default Sound File**
Sets the path to the sound file that you want to use as the default sound.
- **Continuous Alarm**
When set to `true`, causes an alarm to repeat continually, until it is acknowledged or cleared.
- **Low Priority Color**
Choose a color to designate a low priority alarm.
- **Mid Priority Color**
Choose a color to designate a mid priority alarm.
- **High Priority Color**
Choose a color to designate a high priority alarm.
- **Alarm Class Mapping**
Provides a way for you to create alarm classes and map specific alarms to classes.
- **Time Zone Display**
This property presents two options for displaying alarm times. Select the `Source` option to display timestamp data in the time zone of the originating control point. Select the `Console` option to display timestamp data in the time zone of the console that is currently displaying the alarm data.
- **Alarm AckResponse**
This property provides a way to enter, delete and edit text that appears in an option list associated with the **Notes** dialog box. When acknowledging alarms that require a note on acknowledge, these pre-loaded notes are available as an option for quickly entering the required note.
- **View Instructions**
When set to `true`, the alarm instructions pane displays any alarm instructions that are associated with an alarm. The alarm instructions pane is located across the bottom of the VAS display.

Alarm portal options

Alarm portal options, shown in [Figure 2-14](#), allow you to customize both the appearance and behavior of the alarm console.

Figure 2-14 Alarm portal options



Alarm Portal	
Alarm Portal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tray Icon Enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> true
<input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Popup Enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> true
<input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Popup Always On Top	<input checked="" type="radio"/> false
<input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Popup Uncloseable	<input checked="" type="radio"/> false
<input type="checkbox"/> Kiosk Mode	<input checked="" type="radio"/> true

Alarm console options include the following:

- **Tray Icon Enabled**
When set to **True**, this option displays an alarm icon in the Windows system tray when the alarm portal is active.
- **Alarm Popup Enabled**
When set to **True**, this option displays the alarm popup window when the alarm portal is active.
- **Alarm Popup Always On Top**
When set to **True**, this option causes the alarm popup window to stay on top of other windows when the alarm portal is active.
- **Alarm Popup Uncloseable**
When set to **True**, an open alarm popup window cannot be closed while VAS is open (running).
- **Kiosk Mode**
When set to **True**, the VAS user interface opens in Kiosk mode the next time the application is launched. When set to **False**, the VAS user interface opens in normal Windows mode the next time the application is launched. For details about Kiosk mode, refer to [“About Kiosk mode”](#).

Other options

The following options appear in the **General Options** dialog box but do not significantly affect views that are available to the VAS Alarm Console user.

- Text editor options
- Lexicon editor options
- Bajadoc options
- Px editor options
- Wiresheet options

About Kiosk mode

Kiosk mode is available when you set the **Kiosk Mode** option to **True** and restart the VAS Alarm Console application. When this mode is active, the alarm console user interface fills the display console and does not include the typical windows controls. For example, the **maximize**, **minimize**, and **close** buttons are not visible or functional in Kiosk mode.

Using Kiosk mode helps prevent accidental closure of the VAS Alarm Console from the user interface. The Kiosk mode also is useful for ensuring that the maximum screen display area is being used. To exit from the application when in Kiosk mode, use the **Close** or **Exit** menu item under the **File** menu on the **Main Menu** bar. The Kiosk mode does not affect the Alarm Popup.

CHAPTER 3

About Alarms

Alarms notify personnel that a predefined set of parameters has been met. Also, alarm records “record” certain conditions or system properties that are present when any monitored point is out of “normal” parameters. The “normal” parameters for an individual point are properties that may be set and edited, as desired, by a user with proper access and privileges. Typically, an alarm provides some visual and audible indication that a limit or value is met or exceeded. Alarm notifications may be routed and displayed in a variety of recipients, including the alarm portal that is provided by the VykonAX Alarm Service. An alarm portal allows you to simultaneously monitor alarms from one or more remote stations.

Alarm examples

The following are examples of possible ways that alarms are used:

- **Out of operating range notification (offNormal)**
An alarm is most commonly used to indicate that some value is not within an appropriate or expected range. For example, normal operating temperature range of a device may be 70 to 100 degrees F. You can set the “out of range” parameters to generate an “alarm” if the operating temperature exceeds the upper limit or goes below the lower limit of this range.
- **Advisory notification (alert)**
You may use an alarm in situations to report on a parameter that does not really have a “normal” state. For example, a motor may require lubrication after every 400 hours of operation (this is not an “out of range” condition). Using the alert function, a system integrator can setup a control point that monitors accumulated device run-time and sends an email *alert* notification at or before the 400 hours run-time has occurred.
- **Device fault notifications (fault)**
Some devices may report values that are so far out of range that it is obvious that there is a device or system “fault” that needs attention. For example, if a device with a normal operating temperature of between 70 to 100 degrees reports a temperature of 0 degrees F or 1000 degrees F, then it is probable that there is a device or system fault and that the reported temperature is not the actual temperature at the device. The system engineer or supervisor can set parameters and enable alarms for a separate notification for values that are judged to be “faults” as opposed to simply “out of range”.

Alarm concepts

When you are working with alarms, it is important to understand the following alarm concepts:

- [Types of alarms](#)
- [Types of alarm source states](#)
- [Types of alarm ack states](#)
- [About alarm data](#)
- [About alarm class](#)

Types of alarms

Alarms may originate from different types of control points, using different types of data and may represent an alarm state for a variety of reasons. The following list provides a short description of different types of alarms:

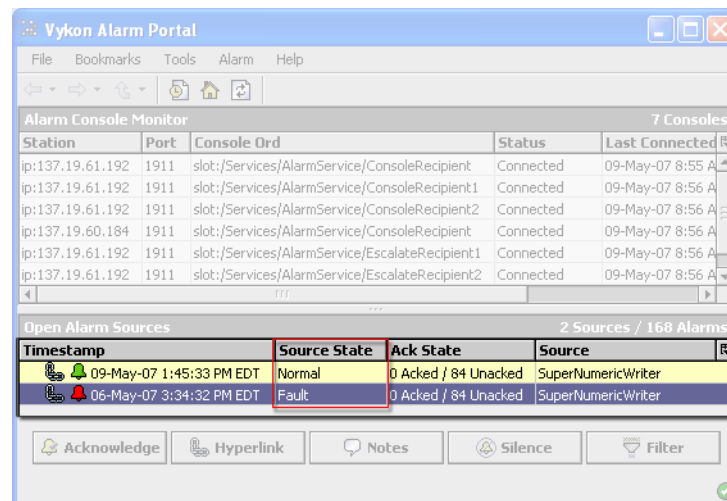
- **Out of range (numeric)**
This type of alarm provides alarming based upon numeric high and low limits that you set. For example, temperature values that are outside of a defined temperature range may generate an alarm when alarming is enabled for that point.

- **Change of state (boolean)**
This type of alarm provides alarming based upon one of two possible values (state) as an alarm condition. For example, any time a device is turned off, the state change from ON to OFF could generate an alarm, if alarming is enabled for that point.
- **Command failure (boolean)**
This type of alarm provides alarming based upon a mismatch between a commanded value and actual (sensed) value. For example, if a device is commanded to turn on but does not come on (or is sensed to have not come on) an alarm is generated.
- **Change of state (enum)**
This type of alarm provides alarming based upon one of several possible values (state) as an alarm condition. For example, any time a device is commanded to change state, the state change from OFF to LOW, Medium, or High (for example) could generate an alarm, if alarming is enabled for that point.
- **Command failure (enum)**
This type of alarm provides alarming based upon a mismatch between a commanded value and actual (sensed) value. For example, if a device is commanded to change from a Low to High state but the device does not change that state (or is sensed to have not changed to the correct state) an alarm is generated.
- **Status**
Provides alarming based upon any one or more specified status flags. For example, a Status Alarm can be generated if any one or more of the following status conditions are specified as “offnormal” or “fault” conditions: disabled, fault, down, alarm, stale, overridden, null, unacknowledged (unacked) alarm.

Types of alarm source states

An alarm source has a set of “states” that indicate the *current* device status, based on the actual values at the device and the alarm parameters set in the point’s alarm properties. These alarm source states are displayed under the “Source State” column in the Alarm Console, as shown in Figure 3-4.

Figure 3-1 Source state listings



Possible source states include the following:

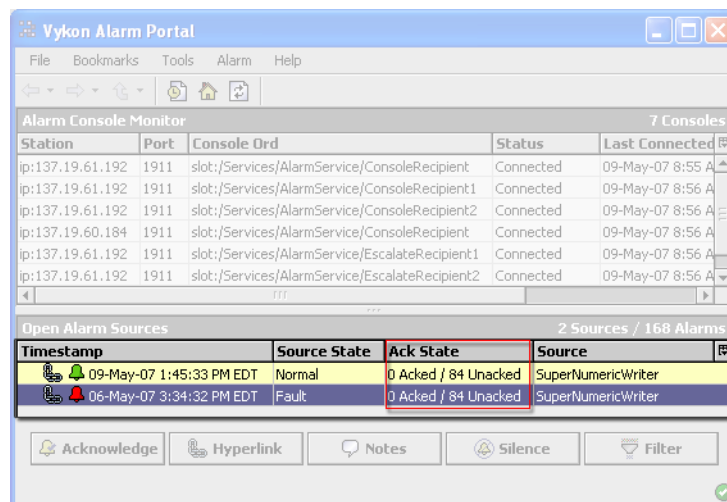
- **Normal**
The normal state of an alarm source indicates that the monitored values on that point are within the specified “normal” range.
- **Offnormal**
The Offnormal state of an alarm source indicates that the monitored values on that point are out of the specified “normal” range.
- **Fault**
The Fault state of an alarm source indicates that the monitored values on that point are outside of a range specified for “non-fault” values.
- **Alert**
An alert state is used for alarm sources that do not have a “normal” state. For example accumulated run-time or change of state count.

- **Loop alarm**
This is a sliding alarm limit that is used with a LoopPoint based upon a controlled process deviation from setpoint.
- **Elapsed time**
Provides alarming based upon accumulated runtime (elapsed active time).
- **Change of state count**
Provides alarming based upon accumulated changes of state.

Types of alarm ack states

Alarm records are stored in a special alarm database that is maintained or managed by a user that has the proper access and privileges. Each alarm is a single record in the alarm database that changes throughout the alarm record life cycle. An alarm has “states” that directly relate to the alarm notification itself. These are listed in the “Ack State” column of the Open Alarm Sources pane in the Alarm Console (and other views), as shown in Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2 Alarm ack state listings



The following ack states are possible:

- **Unacked (unacknowledged)**
The unacked state is the initial state of an alarm. This state remains in effect until the alarm is acknowledged. Unacknowledged alarms typically demand the most attention by repeating an audible alert and blinking until they are acknowledged. System designers can use a variety of methods to present or deliver an alarm notification in order to maximize or minimize the alarm’s visibility.
- **Acked (acknowledged)**
The Acked state is achieved after an alarm is acknowledged. The record of the alarm remains in the database but the visual and audible signals stop when the alarm is acknowledged.
- **Ack Pending**
While in the Unacked state, an alarm may report that an acknowledgment is pending by displaying the “Ack Pending” state. This means that a user has initiated an acknowledgement by clicking the **Acknowledge** button, or other means. Depending on network connections, an Ack Pending state may display only momentarily, if at all. However, for some situations, with slower communications, the “Ack Pending” state could display for a while after acknowledgment is initiated.

About alarm data

Alarm record data is displayed in various places, including in tabular form in the Alarm Console and the Alarm Record dialog box, as shown in Fig Figure 3-3.

Figure 3-3 Alarm record dialog box

timestamp	09-May-07 4:06:06 PM EDT		
uuid	8b724f3e-6532-469a-b845-fa565e8be0f1		
sourceState	Offnormal		
ackState	Unacked		
ackRequired	true		
source	local: station: slot: Drivers/SnmpNetwork/localDevice/points/SuperName -> ip:137.19.60.184 fox:1911 station: slot: Services/AlarmService/Con:		
alarmClass	defaultAlarmClass		
priority	255		
normalTime	null		
ackTime	null		
user	admin		
alarmData	alarmValue	99.3	
	instructions	Perform system backup and make log entry.	
	sourceName	SuperNumericWriter	
	fromState	Fault	
	msgText	Off Normal High Limit here	
	Count	95260	
	status	{alarm} @ 10	
	presentValue	99.3	
	toState	highLimit	
	highLimit	90.0	
alarmTransition	deadband	0.0	
	offnormalValue	99.3	
	hyperlinkOrd	ip:137.19.61.192 fox: station: slot: Drivers/SnmpNetw	
	TimeZone	EST (-5/-4)	
	escalated		
lastUpdate	06-May-07 6:28:22 PM EDT		

Buttons: Acknowledge, Hyperlink, Notes, Close

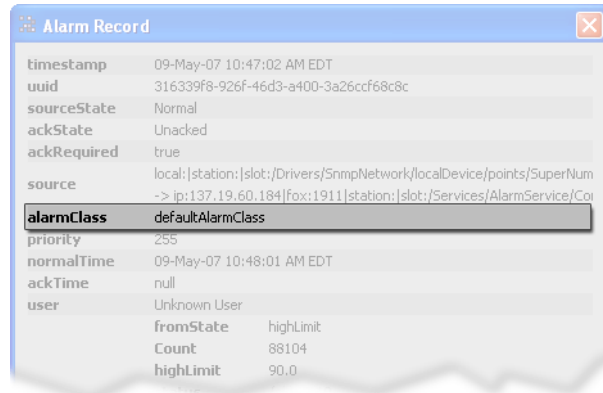
The following list provides a brief description of the alarm data:

- **Timestamp**
This data field is the time that the alarm record is created.
- **UUID**
This data field displays the unique universal identifier (UUID) of the alarm record.
- **Source State**
This data field displays the status of the listed alarm source; for example, “High Limit” or “Normal”.
- **Ack State**
This data field displays either “Aked” or “Unacked” to indicate whether the alarm has been acknowledged or not.
- **Ack Required**
This data field displays either “True” or “False” to indicate whether or not an acknowledgement is required for this alarm.
- **Source**
This data field displays the alarm source name.
- **Alarm Class**
This data field identifies the name of the alarm class that the extension is assigned to (defaultAlarmClass or other class).
- **Priority**
This data field displays the priority number of the alarm.
- **Normal Time**
This data field displays the time that the alarm went to normal (if applicable)
- **Ack Time**
This data field displays the time that the alarm was acknowledged (if applicable)
- **User**
This data field identifies the name of the user that acknowledged the alarm. An unacknowledged alarm will display “unknown” in this field.
- **Alarm Data**
This data field includes a list of data values associated with a specific alarm record. In tabular views the data may be more difficult to read, as it is presented in a single column.
- **Alarm Transition**
This data field displays the last transition type of the alarm.
- **Last Update**
This data field displays the time of the last alarm update.

About alarm class

Every point that is monitored for alarms has an associated *alarm class*. This alarm class contains properties that designate alarm routing for all alarms that are associated with it. Alarm class properties also specify which alarms require an acknowledgement and provide the basis for how alarms are grouped in the alarm console. You can see alarm class assignment in the **Alarm Record** dialog box, as shown in Figure 3-4.

Figure 3-4 AlarmClass listed in the Alarm Record dialog box

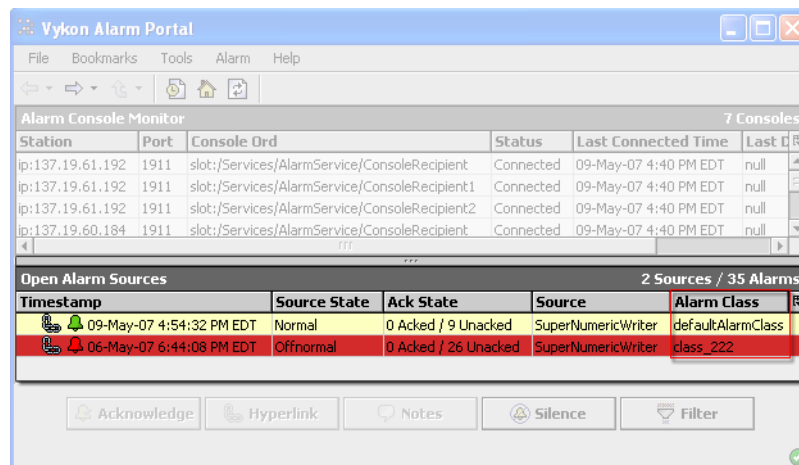


Systems can have multiple alarm classes in order to have a variety of alarming and routing options available for selection by the system integrator or system engineer. For example, you may have an alarm class that routes alarms to the alarm console and to a remote station, while you may use another alarm class that routes alarms only via email.

About alarm class properties

Alarm class properties allow you to apply a common set of control, display, and grouping properties to all alarms that are assigned to the same alarm class. An alarm class has the following properties that are configured or observed by the system engineer or system integrator:

Figure 3-5 AlarmClass listed in the Open Alarm Sources pane



- **Ack required**
This property defines *requirements* for acknowledging an alarm. Four separate transitions (toOffnormal, toFault, toNormal, toAlert) have true/false settings that can require an alarm acknowledgement; a false setting does not require an alarm acknowledgement.
- **Priority**
This property group allows for custom priority levels for each alarm transition type. The priority levels are associated with the alarms and are indicated graphically by colors. Priorities are numerical from 0 to 255, with lower numbering being higher priority. By default, alarms are sorted with highest priorities at top.
- **Total Alarm Count**
This property allows for displaying the total number of alarms that have been assigned to the alarm class from all alarm sources that belong to that class.

- **Open Alarm Count**
This property displays the current total number of open alarms.
Note: An “Open Alarm” is an alarm that is in normal status and is not acknowledged (or acknowledged and in alert status).
- **In Alarm Count**
This property displays the total number of in alarm conditions.
- **Unacked Alarm Count**
This property displays the total number of alarms that have not been acknowledged.
- **Time of Last Alarm**
This property displays the time that the last alarm (assigned to this alarm class) was generated.
- **Alarm escalation properties**
These properties allow for alarms to be sent again to a different “recipient” if they are not acknowledged after a certain amount of time. There are three levels of escalation allowed to help make sure that unacknowledged alarms are not ignored.

Types of alarm recipients

Alarm recipients are linked to an alarm class. Recipients may be configured to receive alarms at certain times of the day, certain days of the week, and to receive alarms of only specified transitions. There are several subclasses of the alarm recipient that allow for alarms to be routed in the following ways:

- to an alarm console
- to another station
- via email
- to line printer

About alarm instructions

Each alarm can have “instructions” assigned to it so that any time an alarm is generated, the instructions are presented with the alarm notification to provide information that may be important or helpful to the user. Instructions are created, assigned, and edited from the Instructions view.

About notes

Notes are simple text entries that are associated with a particular alarm. It is possible to add a Note to one alarm or to multiple alarms. Alarm records that have notes are indicated by a “note” icon. Refer to “Notes dialog box” on page 4 for more information about Notes.

CHAPTER 4

VAS panes, views, and dialog boxes

This section describes views, controls and options that are common to one or more of the VAS views. The following topics are included:

- [Common alarm controls and indicators](#)
- [About the alarm console monitor pane](#)
- [About the open alarm sources pane](#)
- [About the alarm popup](#)

The alarm portal tool, when enabled, also places the alarm icon in your system tray and an alarm popup window, as shown in [Figure 4-9](#).

Common alarm controls and indicators

The following alarm controls and indicators are common one or more alarm panes or dialog box views:

- **Alarm control buttons**

The following buttons appear in one or more alarm views:

-  **Acknowledge**

Use the **Acknowledge** button to acknowledge *all selected* alarms.

-  **Hyperlink**

Use the **Hyperlink** button to change the current view to the hyperlinked target associated with the selected alarm. If no hyperlink is associated with the alarm, the Hyperlink button is not available.

-  **Notes**

Click the **Notes** button to display the **Notes** dialog box and add a note to the selected alarm or alarms.

-  **Silence**

Click the **Silence** button to stop the audible notification associated with the selected alarm.

-  **Filter**






Click the **Filter** button to display the [Filters dialog box](#) for setting filter parameters to limit the alarms that are displayed.




-  **Close**

Click the **Close** button to cancel the current interface actions without saving changes.

- **Alarm icons**

Alarm icons appear with color coding and symbolic images:

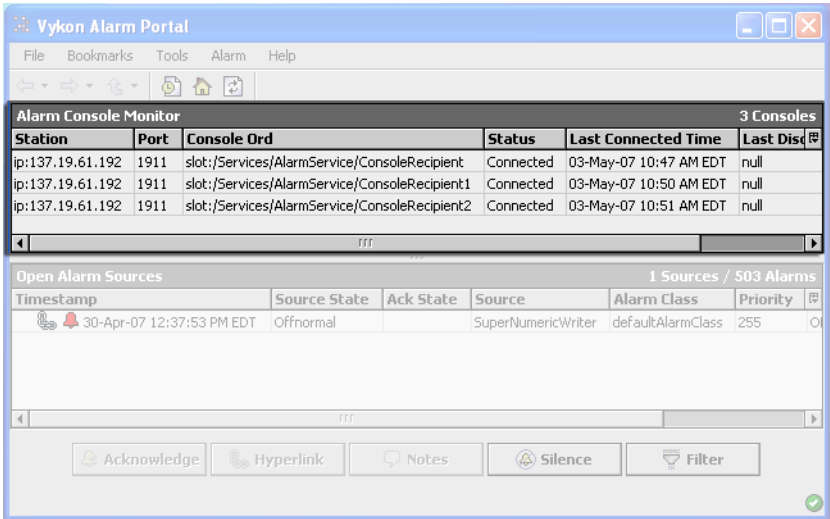
-  A red alarm icon in the table indicates that the current state of the alarm source is not “offnormal” and “not acknowledged”.
-  An orange alarm icon in the table indicates that the current state of the alarm source is “alert” and is “not acknowledged”.
-  A yellow (gold) alarm icon in the table indicates that the current state of the alarm source is “offnormal” and “acknowledged”.
-  A green alarm icon in the table indicates that the current state of the alarm source is “normal” and “not acknowledged”.
-  A white alarm icon in the table indicates that the current state of the alarm source is “normal” and “acknowledged”. This icon may only appear in the alarm database views and in the alarm popup window.

-  A note alarm icon (it may be *any* color) in the table indicates that there is a note associated with the alarm
-  A link icon in the table indicates that the alarm has a link associated with it. When an alarm displays this icon, the **Hyperlink** button is also active.
-  An optional icon may display if it is setup in the alarm properties. If included, this graphic appears at the left end of the alarm record row.

About the alarm console monitor pane

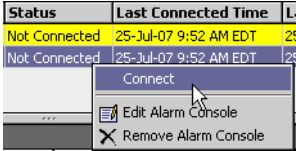
This pane displays information about the consoles that are being monitored and contains the following information areas:

Figure 4-1 Alarm console monitor pane



- **Title bar**
The title bar spans the width of the portal window and displays “Alarm Console Monitor” title on the left and the number of consoles that are connected to the alarm portal on the right side of the title bar.
- **Column headings**
Each column in the table has a title display across the top of the alarm console monitor table.
- **Alarm console list**
Each row in the alarm console monitor listing contains information about alarm consoles that are currently listed as available for monitoring from the alarm console. Station identity information is displayed, as well connection status (connected or disconnected) and connect and disconnect times. A yellow background on a row indicates that a station is not connected.
Note: If a connection to an alarm console is lost (indicated by yellow background), a reconnect is NOT automatic. You must manually reconnect to the console using the popup menu, as shown in Figure 4-2.

Figure 4-2 Reconnecting after connection lost



About the open alarm sources pane

The open alarm sources pane displays a table of all the alarms that have been routed to it. Although the view may be customized, it typically looks like the illustration in [Figure 4-3](#). Alarm records are presented in a table with columns that may be viewed or hidden using the drop-down menu in the top right corner of the column title bar.

This pane displays information about individual alarm sources, as described below. If you double click on a single alarm source, the Open Alarm Sources dialog box opens. This view is described in “[Open Alarm Sources dialog box](#)” on page 4-5.

Figure 4-3 Open alarm sources pane

Open Alarm Sources							4 Sources / 126 Alarms
Timestamp	Source State	Ack State	Source	Alarm Class	Priority	Msg Text	
12-Mar-07 3:13:33 PM EDT	Normal	0 Acked / 28 Unack	AlarmTest	NewAlarmClass	255	Normal - Alarm T	
12-Mar-07 9:25:43 AM EDT	Normal	0 Acked / 12 Unack	Thermostat_Level1	defaultAlarmClass	255	Device is Normal	
08-Mar-07 3:00:47 PM EST	Normal	0 Acked / 3 Unack	AlarmTest	defaultAlarmClass	255	OK	
22-Feb-07 10:49:22 AM EST	Offnormal	0 Acked / 83 Unack	Lynch401: SuperNur	defaultAlarmClass	255	Off Normal High L	

Buttons: Acknowledge, Hyperlink, Notes, Silence, Filter

The alarm console manages alarms on a per-point basis, which means that each row in the alarm console is the *most recent* alarm from a point. To view all the current alarms or to get more details about a particular alarm from that point, double click on a record and use the Open Alarm Sources - details view.

- **Title bar**
Displays “Open Alarm Sources” title on the left and the total number of points that are displayed in the list on the right side of the title bar.
- **Column headings (click column heads to sort)**
Displays the title of each of the columns in the open alarm sources list, including:
 - **Timestamp**
displays the latest time that the point generated an alarm.
 - **Source State**
displays the current state of the point (for example, Normal or Offnormal).
 - **Ack State**
displays how many alarms have been generated at the point and how many of those alarms have been acknowledged.
 - **Source**
displays the path to the point that is generating the alarm.
 - **Alarm Class**
displays the name of the alarm class that the alarm is assigned to.
 - **Priority**
displays the priority (1 to 255) that the alarm is assigned. Highest priority is “1”.
 - **Msg Text**
displays any message text that is associated with the alarm.
 - **others**
other properties are available and may be shown or hidden by using the table options menu.

Filters dialog box

The **Filters** dialog box displays parameters, as shown in [Figure 4-4](#), that you can use to include or exclude alarms from the alarm console by selecting or deselecting parameters. This filter action only affects which alarms display in the alarm console, it does not edit any alarm record data or perform any alarm “maintenance”.

Figure 4-4 Alarm filter dialog box

You can choose, for example, to filter out any alarms in the alarm console that are currently in a “Normal” state by selecting the “Source State” check box and then selecting all states except “Normal” and clicking the **OK** button. This action filters out all alarm records that have “Normal” current Source States. If the source state changes or if you change the settings in the Filters dialog box, the alarm console table will update to change the display, as indicated.

Note: *It is important to remember that the settings do not reset automatically—you must remove any filters that you set in order to view all alarm records.*

Notes dialog box

Use the **Notes** dialog box to add a note to one or more alarms. To add a note to all the alarms from a selected source, open the **Notes** dialog box directly from the alarm console view, using the **Notes** button. If the selected alarm record represents a source with multiple alarms, any note that you add is added to all the alarms associated with that alarm source. When there is more than one alarm associated with an alarm record, the **Notes** dialog box displays a <Multiple Alarms> message, as shown in Figure 4-5.

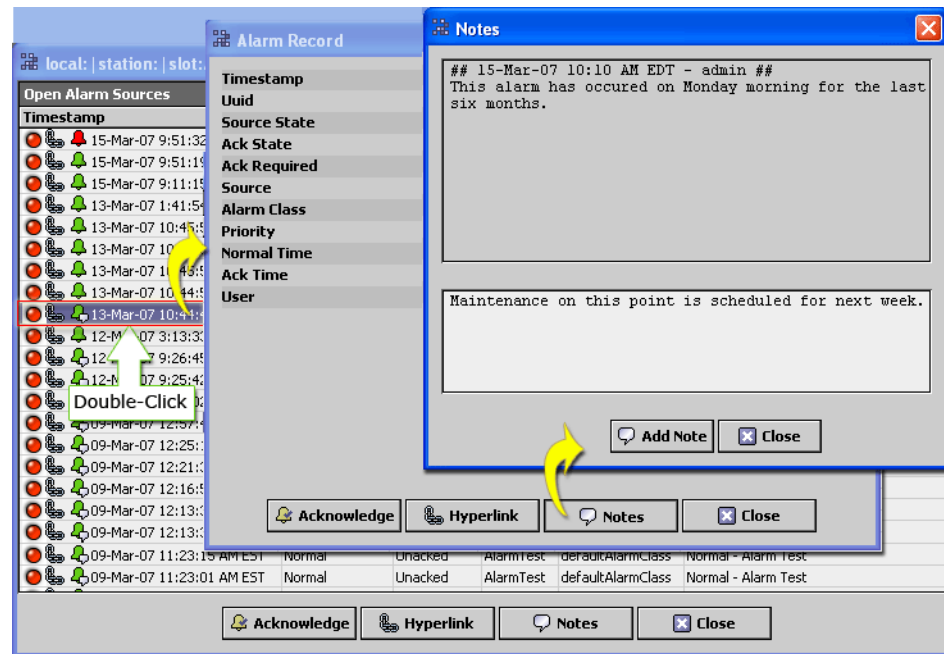
Figure 4-5 Adding a single Note to more than one alarm

The **Notes** dialog box is comprised of the following:

- **Message pane**
The message pane is located in the upper half of the dialog box. It displays the text of any notes that are already associated with the selected alarm record. If multiple alarms are associated with the selected alarm record, the message pane also displays a <Multiple Alarms> notice to alert you to the fact that adding a note adds the note to all the alarms associated with the selected alarm source.
- **Editor pane**
The Editor pane is located in the lower half of the dialog box and is a text field that allows you to type the text for any note that you are adding.
- **Add Note button**
This button saves the note to the alarm record and dismisses the **Notes** dialog box.

- **Close button**
This button closes the **Notes** dialog box without saving any information.
You can also open the **Notes** dialog box from the **Alarm Record** dialog box. Since the **Alarm Record** dialog box displays single alarm records, notes are added to only one alarm at a time using this method.

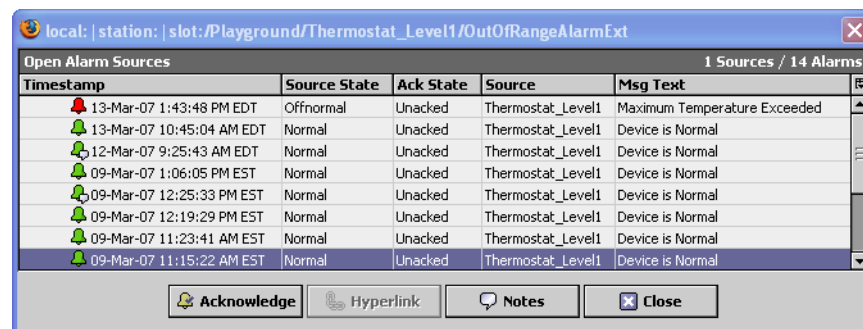
Figure 4-6 Opening the Notes dialog box from the Alarm Record dialog box



Open Alarm Sources dialog box

To view all the open alarms from a particular point, double-click the record in the Alarm Console. The **Open Alarm Sources** dialog box (detail view) appears, as shown in Figure 4-7.

Figure 4-7 Open alarm sources - detail view



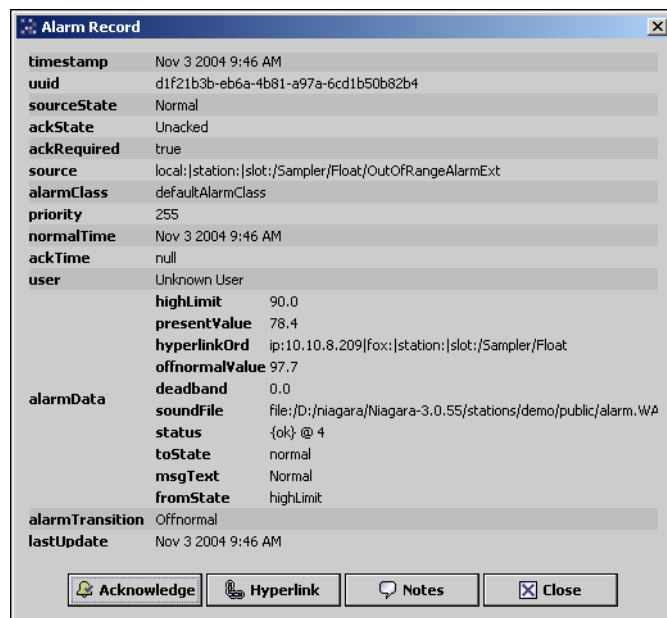
This view has two main display areas:

- **Open Alarm Sources table**
This table occupies most of the view. As with other tables, you can show or hide the columns using the **Table Options** menu in the top right corner of the table (refer to “Common alarm controls and indicators” on page 4-1).
- **Control buttons**
Control buttons are located along the lower edge of the view: Acknowledge, Hyperlink, Notes, and Close. These buttons are described in “Common alarm controls and indicators” on page 4-1. To see alarm data associated with a particular alarm record, double-click on an alarm record to display the **Alarm Record** dialog box.

Alarm Record dialog box

The **Alarm Record** dialog box (shown in Figure 4-8) displays additional detailed information about a specific point alarm record and is accessible from the Open Alarm Sources - detail view, by double-clicking on a single alarm record.

Figure 4-8 Alarm record dialog box



The following control buttons are located at the bottom of the dialog box, below the detailed alarm data information:

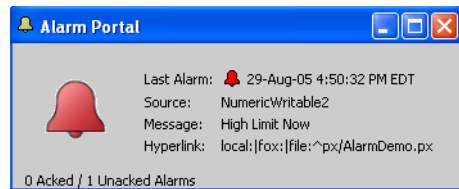
- **Acknowledge**
- **Hyperlink**
- **Notes**
- **Close**

Refer to “[Common alarm controls and indicators](#)” on page 4-1 for details about using these buttons.

About the alarm popup

The VAS interface includes a small dialog box-type display (see Figure 4-9) that pops up to the top of your Windows display whenever the portal receives a new alarm. You can set options that affect the way that the alarm portal displays by using the alarm portal options settings, located in the **Tools > Options** menu, as described in “[Alarm portal options](#)” on page 2-9

Figure 4-9 Alarm portal popup window



CHAPTER 5

VAS Alarm portal tasks

Following, is a list of the VykonAX Alarm Service procedures that are described in this section.

- [To acknowledge alarms from the Open Alarm Sources pane](#)
- [To acknowledge alarms from the Open Alarm Sources dialog box](#)
- [Viewing alarm notes](#)
- [Adding alarm notes](#)
- [Silencing alarms](#)
- [Filtering alarms in the Alarm view](#)
- [Viewing individual alarm record properties](#)
- [Viewing individual open alarm sources](#)

To acknowledge alarms from the Open Alarm Sources pane

Note: Alarms are not removed from the alarm console view until both of the following conditions exist:

- alarm acknowledged
- alarm source is in a normal (not alarm) state

To acknowledge alarms from the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, do the following:

- Step 1 In the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, select one or more alarm sources that contain alarms that you want to acknowledge. Select multiple alarms using the Shift or Ctrl key.

Note: Each record that appears in the alarm console table represents one alarm source and one or more alarms from that source. You may acknowledge either the latest (most recent) alarm or acknowledge all alarms that are reported from that source by choosing either the “Acknowledge” command or the “Acknowledge All” command, as described in the following step.

- Step 2 Acknowledge selected alarm(s) by doing one of the following:

- **Acknowledge ALL alarms at selected sources**
At the bottom of the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, click the **Acknowledge** button (to acknowledge all alarms associated with the selected alarm sources)
The selected alarms are acknowledged.
OR
- **Acknowledge single most recent alarm at each selected sources**
With all desired alarm sources selected, right click on any selected alarm and select **Acknowledge Most Recent** from the popup menu.
The selected alarms are acknowledged.

To acknowledge alarms from the Open Alarm Sources dialog box

Note: Alarms are not removed from the alarm console until both the following conditions exist:

- alarm acknowledged
- alarm source is in a normal (not alarm) state

To acknowledge alarms from the **Open Alarm Sources** dialog box, do the following:

- Step 1 In the **Open Alarm Sources** dialog box, select the alarm records that you want to acknowledge. Select multiple alarms, if desired, using the Shift or Ctrl key.


Note: Each record that appears in the **Open Alarm Sources** dialog box represents a single alarm record. You may acknowledge only alarms that are selected in the table.

- Step 2 Acknowledge selected alarm(s) by doing one of the following:

- At the bottom of the alarm console view, click the **Acknowledge** button.
All selected alarms are acknowledged.

- OR
- With the desired alarms selected, right-click on a selected alarm and select **Acknowledge** from the popup menu.
All selected alarms are acknowledged.

Viewing alarm notes

Any alarm record that has one or more associated notes displays the alarm note icon . Notes are visible from several different views, including the following:

- Open Alarm Sources pane
- Open Alarm Sources - detail view (using **Notes** button or viewing in the properties listing).
- Alarm dialog box

The following steps describe how to view notes in **Notes** dialog box opened from the Alarm Sources pane. Other methods are available and the procedure is similar to the following one.

To view alarm notes, do the following:

- Step 1 In the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, select the desired alarm record.
- Step 2 At the bottom of the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, click the **Notes** button.
The **Notes** dialog box appears with all associated notes displaying in the upper half of the dialog box. You can add more notes to the alarm source, if desired.
- Step 3 Click the **Close** button to dismiss the dialog box without adding note text to the alarm source.
The **Notes** dialog box disappears.

Adding alarm notes

To add alarm notes, do the following:

- Step 1 In the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, select the desired alarm source.
Note: *If you select an alarm record that has multiple alarms, you are adding notes to all alarms. To add alarm notes to a single alarm, select the single alarm record from the Open Alarm Sources - detail view or the Alarm Record dialog box.*
- Step 2 At the bottom of the **Open Alarm Sources** pane, click the **Notes** button.
The **Notes** dialog box appears.
- Step 3 In the text field of the **Notes** dialog box, type any desired information.
- Step 4 Click the **Add Notes** button to add the note text information to the selected alarm source. Click the **Close** button to dismiss the dialog box without adding note text to the alarm source.
The **Notes** dialog box closes.

Silencing alarms

A silenced alarm sounds again if the screen is refreshed.

To silence an alarm, do the following:

- Click the **Silence** button in the Alarm Console view.
The audio alert is silenced for the current session of the Alarm Console view.

Note: *The Silence mode is cancelled if the Alarm Console view is refreshed. This includes any time you use the Filter button to update or change Alarm Console view data.*

Filtering alarms in the Alarm view

To filter alarms in the Alarm view, do the following:

- Step 1 In the Open Alarm Sources pane, click the **Filter** button.
The **Filters** dialog box appears.
- Step 2 In the **Filters** dialog box, set the desired parameters for filtering the alarms and click **OK**.
The **Filters** dialog box disappears and the Alarm Console view is updated to include only those alarms that meet the specifications of the filter parameters.
- Note:** *Filter settings do not automatically reset. To see all alarms again (unfiltered) you must open the Filters dialog box and deselect any filter parameters that you have selected.*
- For more information about the **Filters** dialog box, refer to “[Filters dialog box](#)” on page 4-3.

Viewing individual alarm record properties

To view individual alarm records, do the following:

- Step 1 From the Alarm Console view, double-click the desired alarm source table row.
The **Open Alarm Sources** dialog box appears, displaying all open alarms related to the alarm source.
- Step 2 Double-click on the desired alarm record.
The **Alarm Record** dialog box appears, displaying the alarm source properties.
- Step 3 View properties, as desired and click the **Close** button in all open dialog boxes when finished.
All dialog boxes disappear.

Viewing individual open alarm sources

To view individual open alarm sources, do the following:

- Step 1 From the Alarm Console view, double-click the desired alarm source table row.
The **Open Alarm Sources** dialog box appears, displaying individual open alarms related to the alarm source.
- Step 2 View properties, as desired and click **Close** when finished.
All dialog boxes disappear.

