

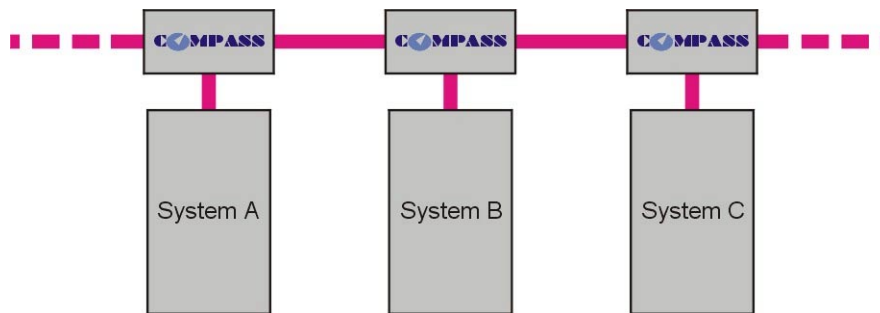
Compass Alarms

Introduction

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The Compass System

Compass is a distributed protocol conversion system, and allows control systems from several different manufacturers to be linked together to form one complete building control system that can share values over a network. The network is made up of nodes, called Compass Points, and each Compass Point connects a particular device or system to the network.



Alarms

Alarms are text messages generated by the systems to inform the user of certain conditions that have occurred. Sometimes alarms are for 'information only'; sometimes they require the user to correct some fault that has occurred. Different systems produce different alarms – the Compass driver converts these alarms to a common 'Alarm Message' format, and can then deliver the alarm message in a variety of ways.

Alarm Messages

All North products have a common format for alarms; this allows alarms to be passed between any of our products. An alarm value consists of six parts:

<SystemLabel>|<ObjectLabel>|<ObjectCondition>|<AlarmPriority>|<Date>|<Time>

Each part of the alarm is divided by the | character.

<SystemLabel> refers to the label of the device or the system generating the alarm.

<ObjectLabel> refers to the item or object within the system that has changed condition.

<ObjectCondition> refers to the new condition that the object has entered.

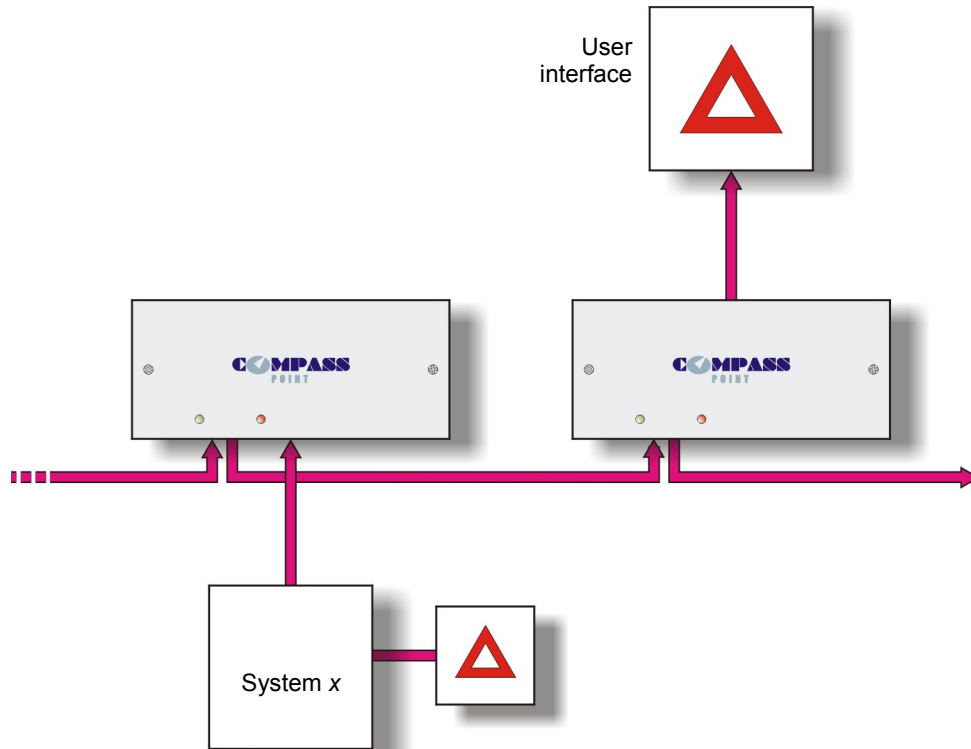
<AlarmPriority> is in the range of 1 to 9, and represents the importance of the condition. Top priority is 1, 2 is the next level down and so on down to priority 9 which is the lowest priority.

<Date> and **<Time>** indicate when the new condition occurred

Other North products, including Compass Points and ObSys modules, can process alarms. For more information on these see "[North Help Assistant](#)" and type 'Alarm' in the search box.

Alarm Delivery

Once a Compass Point has received an alarm from the system that it is connected to it is able to deliver it to several different destinations in variety of ways. The simplest method for alarm delivery is for the Compass Point to be set to send the alarm to one destination. The Compass Point will wait for a 'comms OK' message to return, this is an indication that the alarm has been received.



Having the Compass Point send the alarm to different destinations during a time period expands on the simple style of delivery. For example, in a large building the alarm may be sent to a day office during the day and a security office during the night. It may even have a different destination for weekends.

It is also possible for an alarm to be sent to any alarm destinations that listed within a Compass Point. This could be used to send alarms to any supervisor on the system that is powered on, for example.

Using other North Building Technologies Ltd product's alarms can be sent to personal pagers, and as SMS text messages to mobile phones. Alarms can be printed out to form a hard copy record of alarms generated by a one system or all the systems in a building.