

# PANIC, The ALBA Alarm System



**Package for Alarms  
and Notification of Incidences  
from Controls**

*Sergi Rubio Manrique, ALBA Synchrotron, Barcelona*



- Less than 15 km. from Barcelona downtown.

- 3 GeV Lightsource, in operation since 2010

- 7 Beamlines open to users since 2012, 2 more in construction.

- Member of the Tango Collaboration.

- 4000+ Tango Devices, 160+ IOC's, 40+ virtual machines

- 90% of our devices are Python devices (PyTango)

- 99% of our graphic applications are PyQt (TAURUS)

- In active collaboration with all members of the Tango community in many projects:

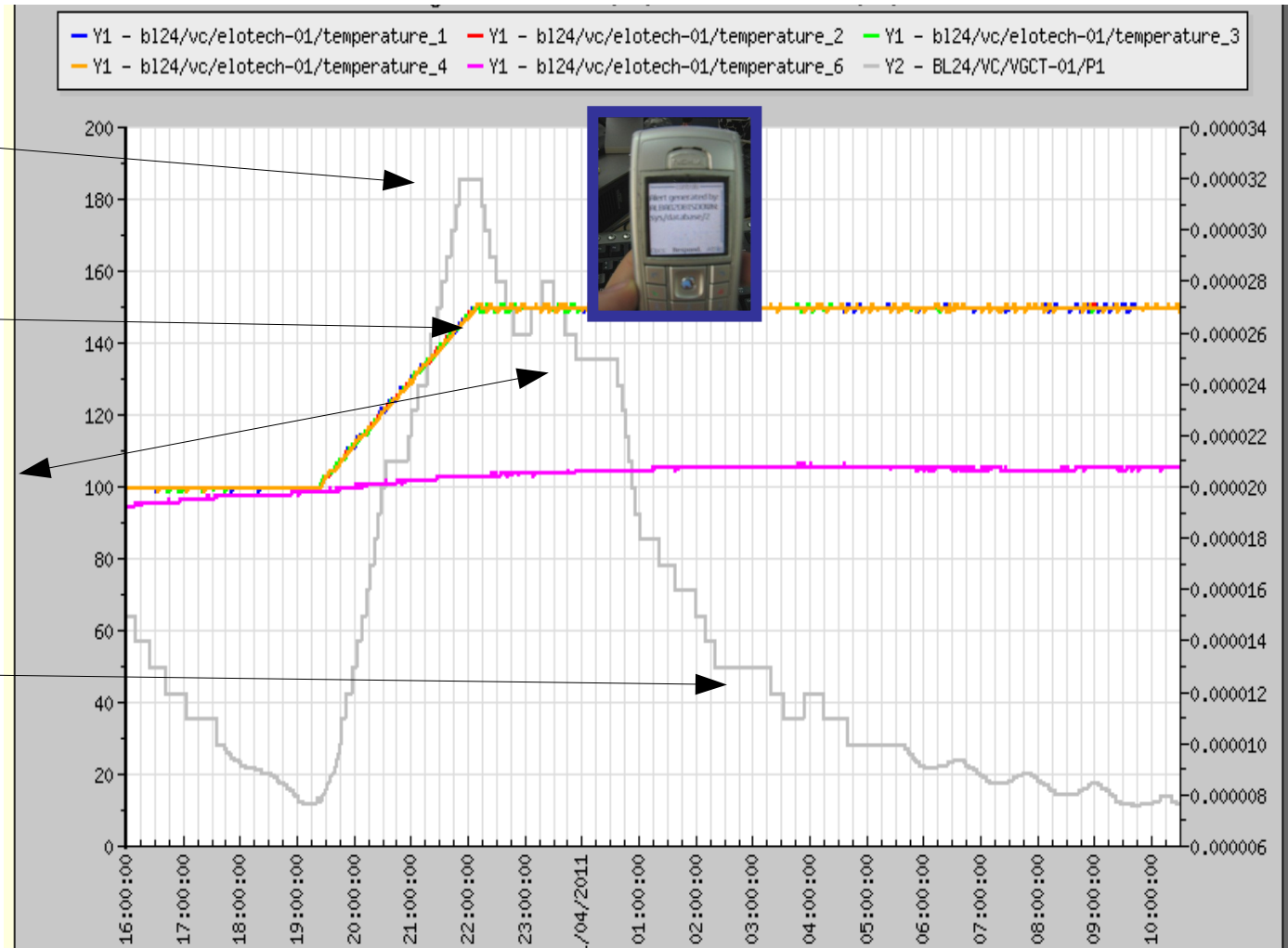
Tango, PyTango, Taurus, Sardana. Tango Archiving, Lima, Icepap, MxCube, **PANIC**

What an Alarm System should do:

- Verification of a set of conditions.
- Notification.
- Keep a log of what happened.
- Take automatic actions?
- Tools for configuration/visualization.

- TAG/Description: CIRCE\_PRESSURE, Beamline pressure is high
- **Receivers:** [circe@cells.es](mailto:circe@cells.es), SMS:+34333222111, ACTION(...
- Condition: CIRCE\_PRESSURE:BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1>3e-5

- Incidence
- **ALARM**
- Logging
- **RECOVER**
- **REMINDER**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE**
- **RESET (Auto)**
- Logging
- Further Actions?



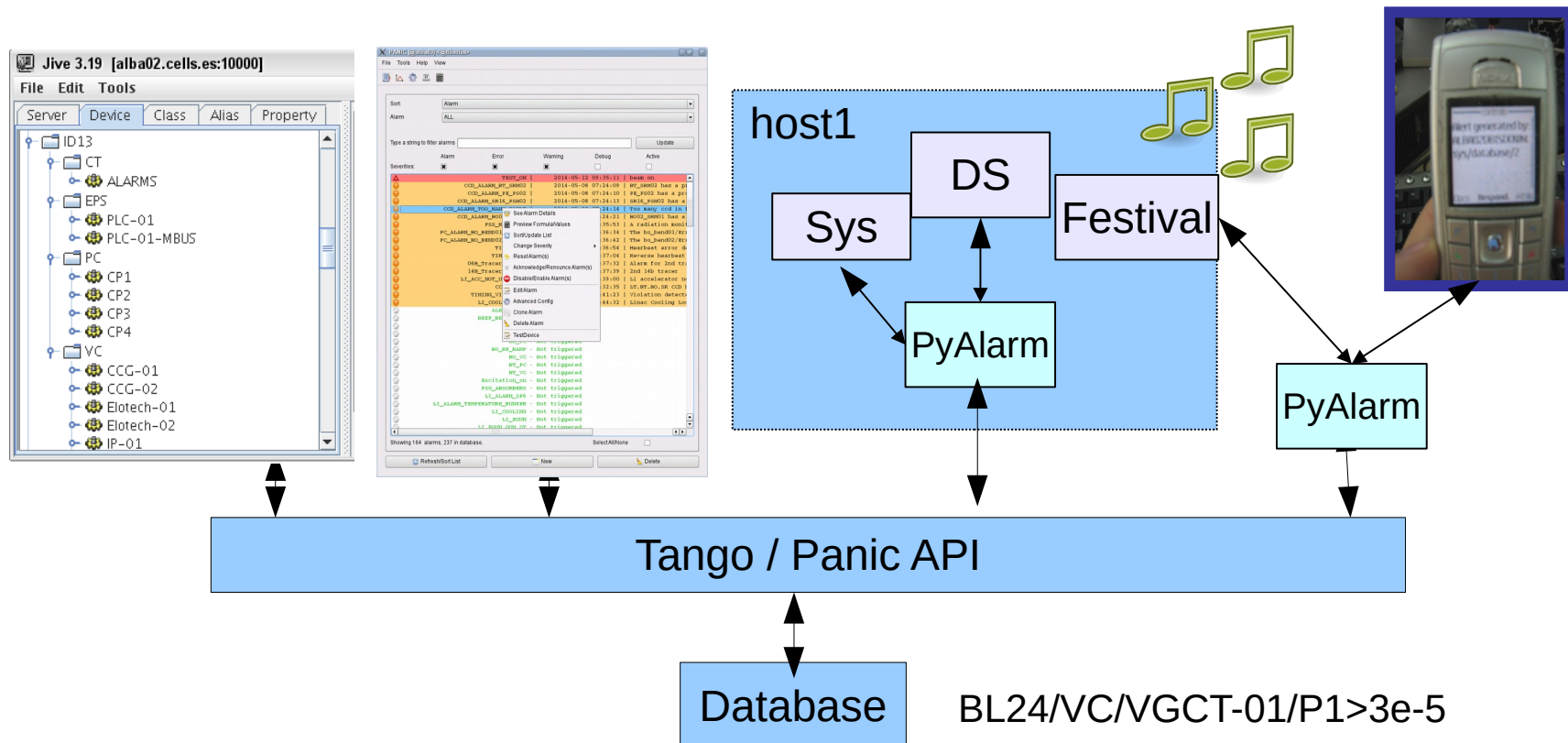


## Package for Alarms and Notification of Incidences from Controls

- Based on **PyAlarm** Tango Device
- Each device evaluates a list of pseudo-**python** formulas
- Triggers actions/notifications associated to each alarm
- Evaluation is tuneable for each PyAlarm device
- Boolean attributes created for each Alarm, available to Archiving and other clients.
- Panic Client allow to manage, log and test alarms (2011)
- Mostly used by Vacuum and Accelerators groups.
- In operation at ALBA since 2007, 1200+ alarms declared.
- Running at MaxIV Linac since 2014.



- Distributed in PyAlarm Device Servers, Panic **API** provides a **single view** of the system.
- Devices within a PyAlarm Server share the API and Eval objects, including caches.
- Configuration is stored in the **Tango Database**, common for all Alarms of a same device.
- Each PyAlarm device performs locally **both Logging and Notification (email/SMS)**
- **Additional actions** are passed to **external devices** (SnapArchiver, Speech, Pop-ups)
- Persistent **Alarm logging** is stored in the Tango **Snapshotting database**.



Each Alarm is defined by:

- TAG,
- Formula,
- Description,
- Receivers,
- Severity,
- DeviceConfiguration

Those are stored using **device properties** of PyAlarm devices.

The screenshot shows a configuration window for an alarm. The 'Name' field is 'CIRCE\_PRESSURE'. The 'Device' is 'bl24-circe/ct/alarms'. The 'Description' is 'Chamber pressure exceeds limit'. The 'Receivers' field contains '%VACMV,%CTRLMV,%VIRGINIA,%CTRL2'. Below this, there is a list of device configurations with two entries: 'tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1' and 'tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P2', both with a severity of '3e-5'. The interface includes buttons for 'Add Expression', 'Add Relation', 'Raw Edit', 'Clear', 'Edit', 'Save', and 'Cancel'. A 'Close' button is at the bottom right.

## Alarm formulas:

CIRCE_LOST:	BL24/VC/VGCT-01/State == <b>UNKNOWN</b>
CIRCE_TEMP:	BL24/EPS/PLC-01/T1.quality == <b>ATTR_ALARM</b>
CIRCE_PRESSURE:	<b>tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1 &gt; 3e-5</b>
CIRCE_VALVE:	FE24/VC/PNV-01/State. <b>delta</b> !=0 #just moved!
CIRCE_CPU:	max(sys/profile/tbl2401/load_avg)>0.5
CIRCE_ERROR:	BL24/VC/VGCT-01/State.exception <b>OR</b> BL24/VC/VGCT-01/State.time < now-3600

Regular expressions allow to apply wildcards to “Extended” Tango Attribute URLs:

`[tango:host/][device/]Attribute[.value/quality/delta/time/exception/all]`

FIND, GROUP are pre-parsing Macros, applying in-place replacement before the formula is evaluated.

**`any([t>85 for t in FIND(ID13/EPS/PLC-01/TTAP*_VAL)])`**

**`any([min(t)<50 and 70<max(t)<1000 for t in  
[FIND(ID13/VC/Elotech*/Temperature_[0-9])])])`**

**`any([t==ATTR_ALARM for t in  
FIND(ID13/VC/Elotech*/Temperature_[0-9].quality)])`**

**`GROUP(BL24/CT/ALARMS/CIRCE_*)`**

*But!, Protect yourself against FIND(\*) queries!*



- Condition: CIRCE\_PRESSURE:BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1>3e-5

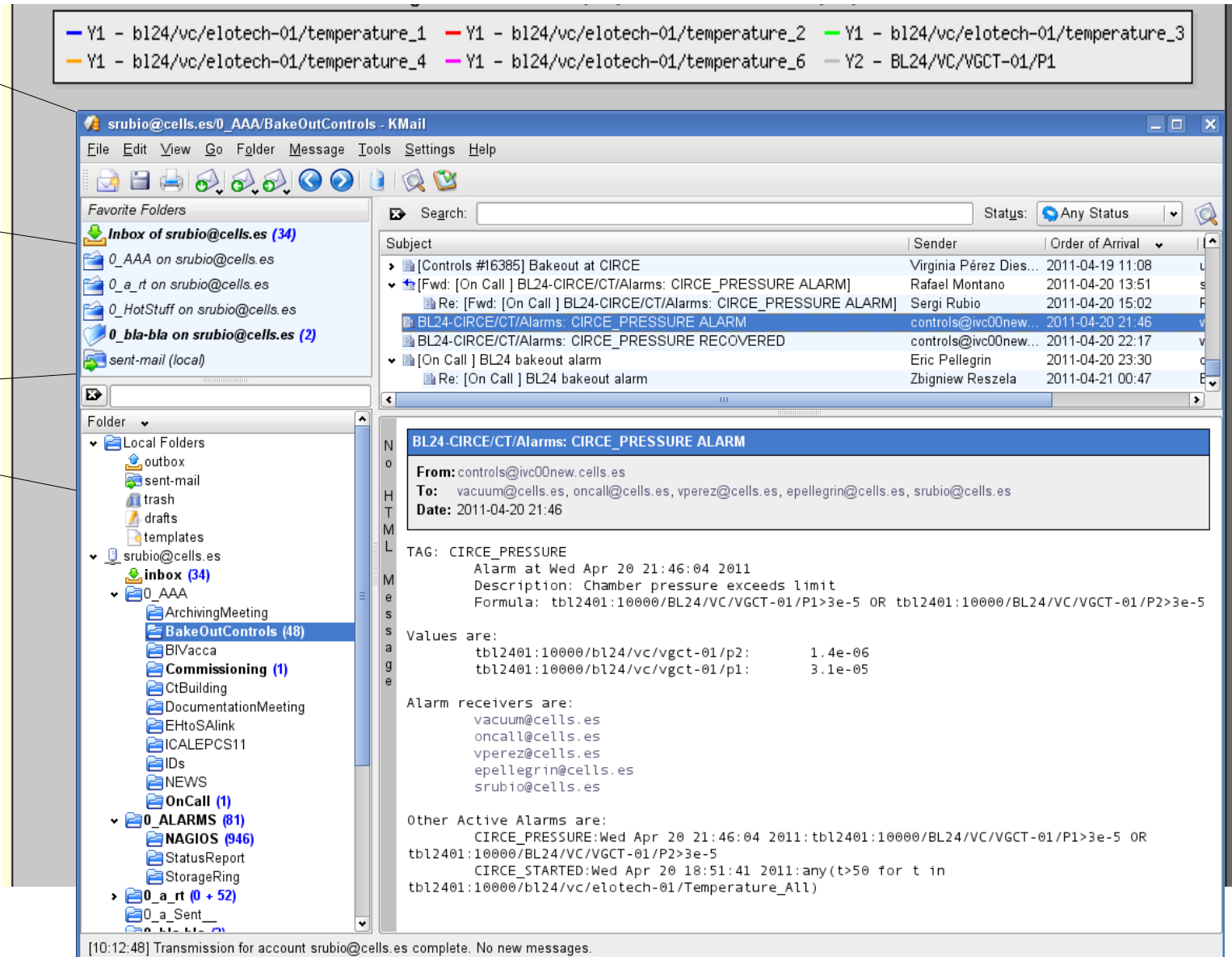
- Incidence  
- Notification  
- Archiving

- Recovery  
- Reminder

- Acknowledge

- AutoReset

- Actions?



The screenshot shows a KMail window titled "srubio@cells.es/0\_AAA/BakeOutControls - KMail". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Go, Folder, Message, Tools, Settings, Help), a toolbar, and a sidebar with "Favorite Folders" and "Folder" lists. The main pane displays a list of emails, with the selected email titled "BL24-CIRCE/CT/Alarms: CIRCE\_PRESSURE ALARM". The email details show it was sent from "controls@ivc00new.cells.es" to a distribution list including "vacuum@cells.es", "oncall@cells.es", "vperez@cells.es", "epellegrin@cells.es", and "srubio@cells.es" on 2011-04-20 21:46. The body of the email contains the following information:

**BL24-CIRCE/CT/Alarms: CIRCE\_PRESSURE ALARM**

**From:** controls@ivc00new.cells.es  
**To:** vacuum@cells.es, oncall@cells.es, vperez@cells.es, epellegrin@cells.es, srubio@cells.es  
**Date:** 2011-04-20 21:46

**TAG:** CIRCE\_PRESSURE  
 Alarm at Wed Apr 20 21:46:04 2011  
 Description: Chamber pressure exceeds limit  
 Formula: tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1>3e-5 OR tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P2>3e-5

**Values are:**

Parameter	Value
tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/p2:	1.4e-06
tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/p1:	3.1e-05

**Alarm receivers are:**  
 vacuum@cells.es  
 oncall@cells.es  
 vperez@cells.es  
 epellegrin@cells.es  
 srubio@cells.es

**Other Active Alarms are:**  
 CIRCE\_PRESSURE:Wed Apr 20 21:46:04 2011:tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1>3e-5 OR  
 tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P2>3e-5  
 CIRCE\_STARTED:Wed Apr 20 18:51:41 2011:any(t>50 for t in  
 tbl2401:10000/BL24/VC/elotech-01/Temperature\_All)

[10:12:48] Transmission for account srubio@cells.es complete. No new messages.

Receivers are stored in the AlarmReceivers Device property.

Aliases for most common used receivers can be created using the PyAlarm.Phonebook Class Property in the Tango Database.

Default formats are: email, SMS, ACTION(command/attribute, ...)

`%BEEP:ACTION(alarm:command,mach/alarm/beep/play,$DESCRIPTION)`

`%CONTROLROOM:operators@cells.es,SMS:+34646.....`

`%CTRLMV:oncall@cells.es,SMS:+34682.....`

`%CTRLBL:oncall@cells.es,SMS:+34682.....`

`%PLCMV:plc@cells.es,SMS:+34638....`

AlarmsList:

**BL\_FE\_OPEN:**

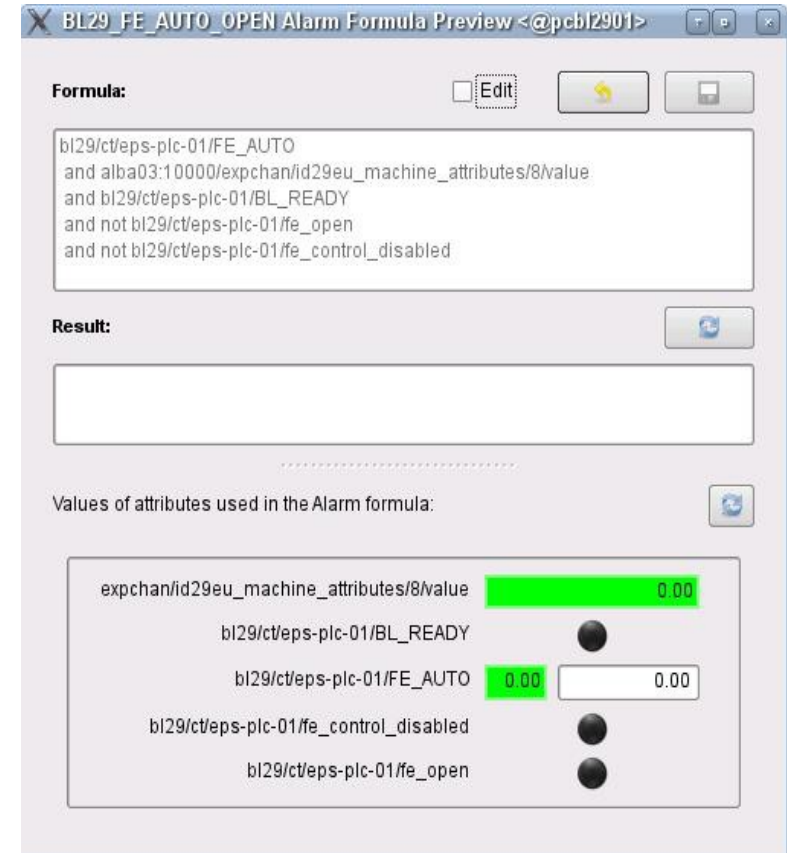
bl/ct/plc-01/FE\_AUTO and  
**host:10000**/chan/ct/fe/value and  
 bl/ct/plc-01/BL\_READY and  
 not bl/ct/plc-01/fe\_open and  
 not bl/ct/plc-01/fe\_control\_disabled

AlarmsReceivers:

**BL\_FE\_OPEN:**

**ACTION(alarm:attribute,bl/ct/plc-01/OPEN\_FE,1),**

**ACTION(alarm:command:test/notif/blmachine/popup  
 ,\$ALARM,\$DESCRIPTION,15)**



BL29\_FE\_AUTO\_OPEN Alarm Formula Preview <@pcb12901>

Formula:

bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/FE\_AUTO  
 and alba03:10000/expchan/id29eu\_machine\_attributes/8/value  
 and bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/BL\_READY  
 and not bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe\_open  
 and not bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe\_control\_disabled

Result:

Values of attributes used in the Alarm formula:

expchan/id29eu_machine_attributes/8/value	0.00
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/BL_READY	0.00
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/FE_AUTO	0.00
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe_control_disabled	0.00
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe_open	0.00

AlarmsList:

**BL\_FE\_OPEN:**

bl/ct/plc-01/FE\_AUTO and  
**host:10000**/chan/ct/fe/value and  
 bl/ct/plc-01/BL\_READY and  
 not bl/ct/plc-01/fe\_open and  
 not bl/ct/plc-01/fe\_control\_disabled

AlarmsReceivers:

**BL\_FE\_OPEN:**

**ACTION(alarm:attribute,bl/ct/plc-01/OPEN\_FE,1),**

**ACTION(alarm:command:test/notif/blmachine/popup  
 ,\$ALARM,\$DESCRIPTION,15)**

BL29\_FE\_AUTO\_OPEN Alarm Formula Preview <@pcb12901>

Formula: ☐ Edit

```
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/FE_AUTO
and alba03:10000/expchan/id29eu_machine_attributes/8/value
and bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/BL_READY
and not bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe_open
and not bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe_control_disabled
```

Result:

Values of attributes used in the Alarm formula:

expchan/id29eu_machine_attributes/8/value	0.00
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/BL_READY	<input type="radio"/>
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/FE_AUTO	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 0.00 <input type="text" value="0.00"/>
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe_control_disabled	<input type="radio"/>
bl29/ct/eps-plc-01/fe_open	<input type="radio"/>

**BL\_FE\_OPEN**



Beamline ready for  
experiment!

- Pro: It just needs the TANGO database (or a no-db file) to work.
- Cons: It is filling the Tango database with a lot of ugly information.
- Merging with Elettra's database has been delayed for years.

Thanks to Panic API the device server and the GUI are completely independent from the database. It will allow us to adapt our servers to some tools developed by Elettra, Soleil, Max IV, ...

*Sergi Rubio Manrique*

Panic contains the python AlarmAPI for managing the [PyAlarm](#) device servers from a client application or a python shell. The panic module is part of the Panic bliss package.

```
import panic
alarms = panic.api()
```

## Browsing existing alarms

The AlarmAPI is a dictionary-like object containing Alarm objects for each registered Alarm tag. In addition the AlarmAPI.get method allows caseless search by tag, device, attribute or receiver:

```
alarms.get(self, tag='', device='', attribute='', receiver='')
```

```
alarms.get(device='boreas')
Out[232]:
[Alarm(BL29-BOREAS_STOP:The BakeOut controller has been stop),
 Alarm(BL29-BOREAS_PRESSURE_1:),
 Alarm(BL29-BOREAS_PRESSURE_2:),
 Alarm(BL29-BOREAS_START: BL29-BOREAS bakeout started
 ...]
```

```
alarms.get(receiver='eshraq')
Out[234]:
[Alarm(RF_LOST_EUROTHERM:),
 Alarm(OVEN_COMMS_FAILED:Oven temperatures not updated in the last
 5 minutes),
 Alarm(RF_PRESSURE:The pressure in the cavity exceeds Range),
 Alarm(OVEN_TEMPERATURE:The Temperature of the Oven exceeds
 Range),
 Alarm(RF_EUROTHERM:),
 Alarm(RF_LOST_MKS:),
 Alarm(RF_TEMPERATURE_MAX2:),
 ...]
alarms['RF_LOST_MKS'].receivers
Out[237]: '%SRUBIO,%ESHRAQ,%VACUUM,%LOTHAR,%JNAVARRO'
```

**Panic API**

Package for Alarms and Notification of Incidences from Controls

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**Panic API**

panic – The Package for Alarms and Notification of Incidences from Controls

class panic.AlarmAPI(filters='PyAlarm/\*')

Panic API is a dictionary-like object

load(filters=None)

Reloads all alarm properties from the database :param filters: is used to specify which devices to be loaded

purge(device, tag, load=False)

Removes any alarm from a device matching the given tag. Database must be reloaded afterwards to update the alarm list.

remove(tag, load=True)

Removes an alarm from the system.

rename(tag, new\_tag='', new\_device='')

Renames an existing tag, it also allows to move to a new device.

save\_tag(tag)

Shortcut to force alarm update in database

panic.SetProxy

The \_proxies object allows to retrieve either DeviceProxy or DeviceServer objects.

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Quick search

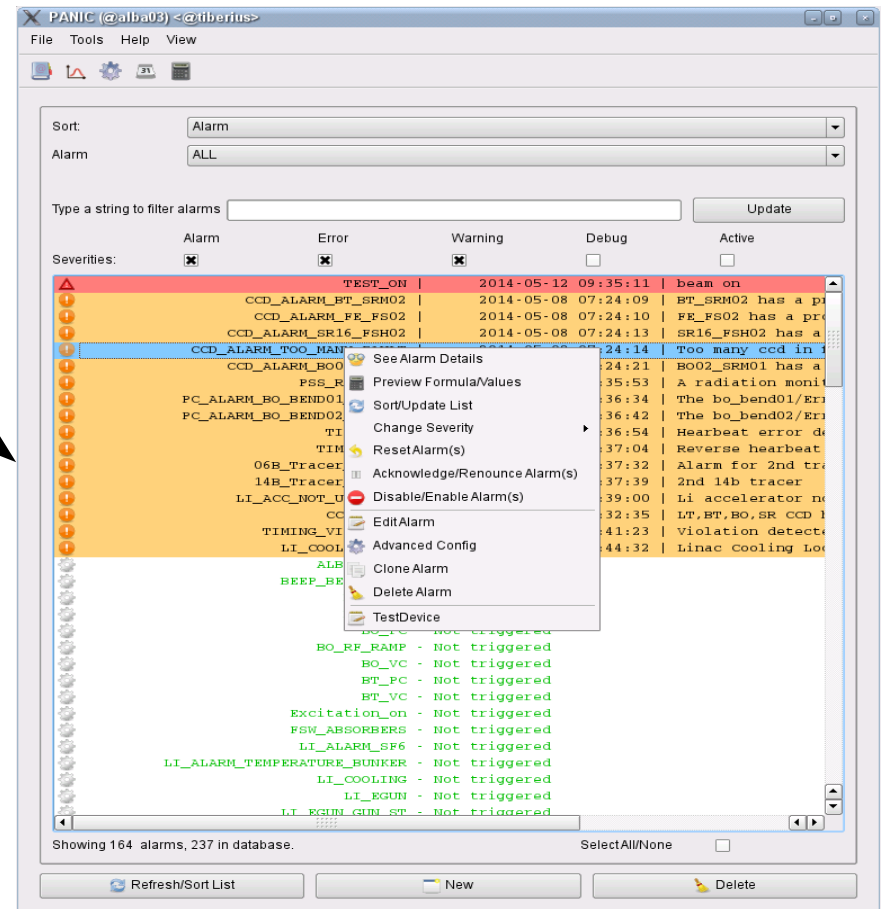
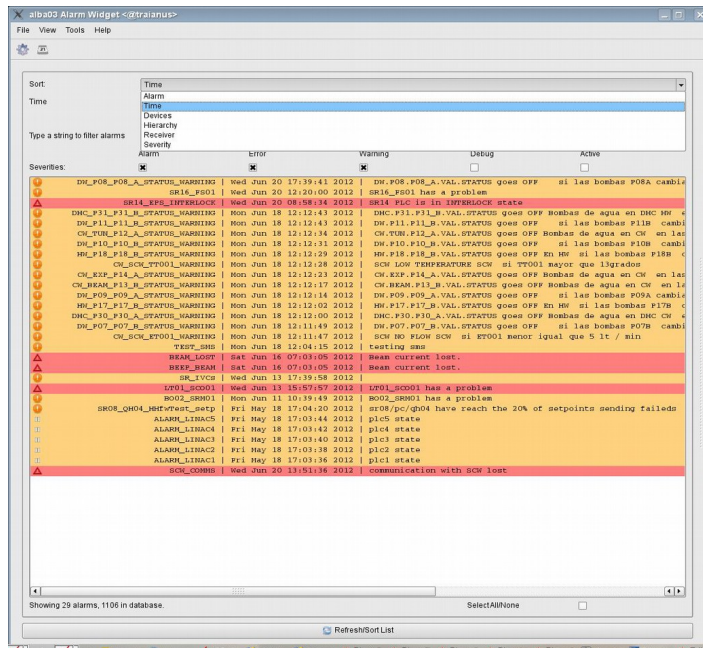
Enter search terms or a module, class or function name.



The Panic tool shows the list of active or declared alarms. It provides several filters to search alarms: by state (active/inactive), severity, subsystem, receiver or historic values.

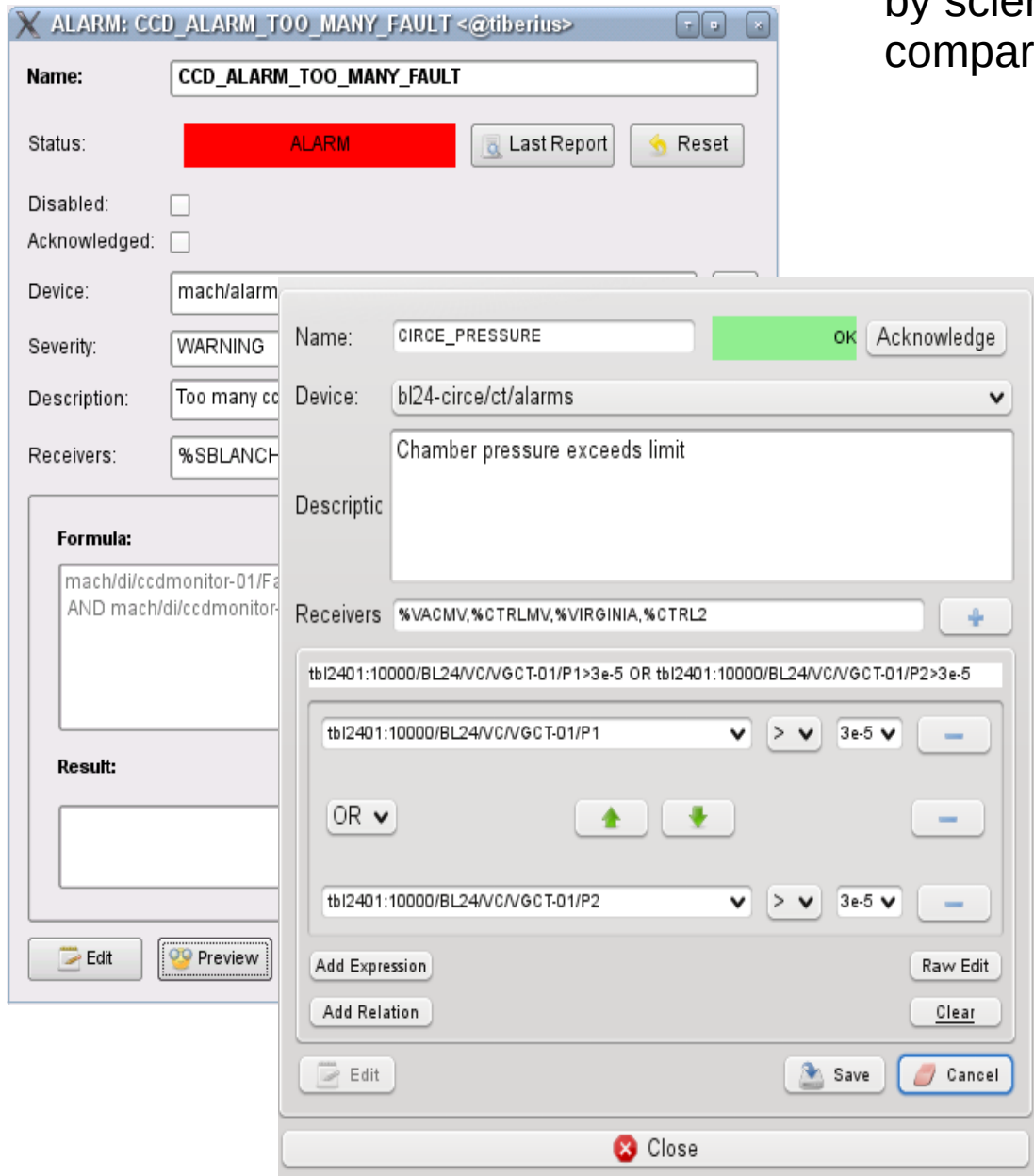
Alarms are sorted by severity: ERROR, ALARM, WARNING, INFO, DEBUG

A text search is also provided that allow to locate alarms by any of the attributes used in formula or words used in description (soon available as Taurus Search Bar).

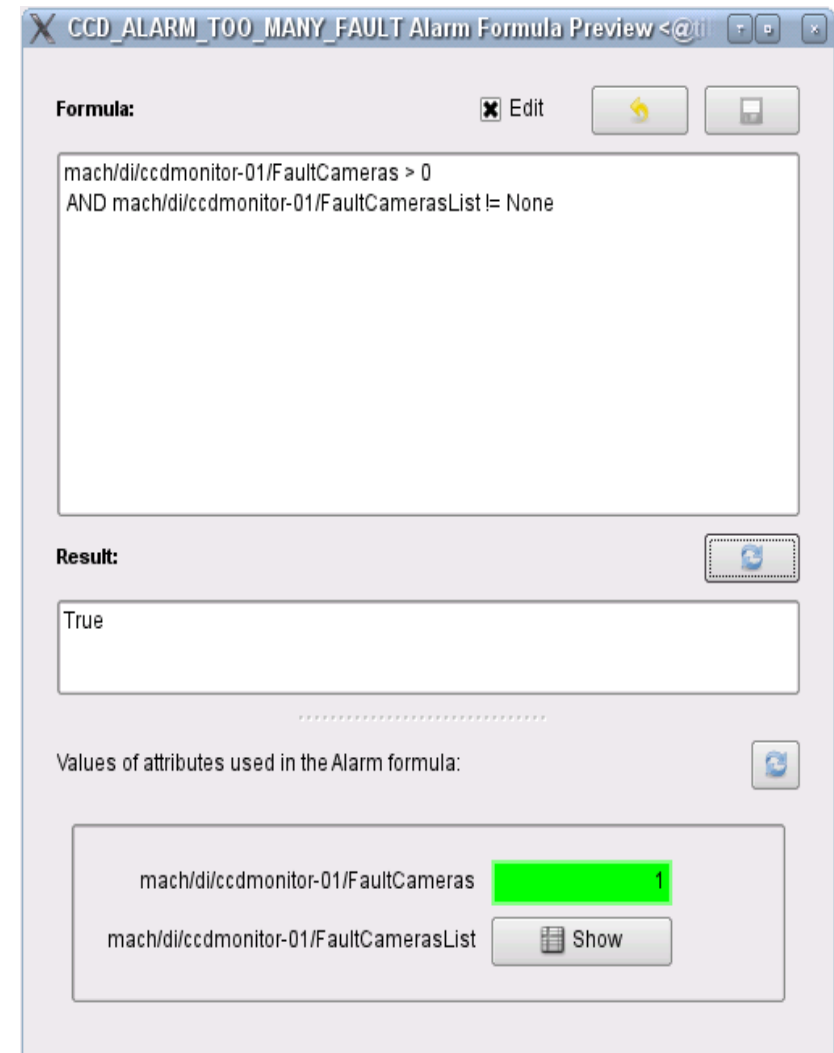


For each alarm the menu allows to Configure, Reset the alarm or show the attribute values that triggered it.

The preview panel is an independent widget, used by scientists as a Tango calculator that allows to compare formula against current system values.



The screenshot shows two overlapping windows from the ALBA UI Editor. The background window is titled "ALARM: CCD\_ALARM\_TOO\_MANY\_FAULT <@tiberius>". It displays the alarm's name, status (ALARM), and various configuration options like "Disabled", "Acknowledged", "Device", "Severity", "Description", and "Receivers". A "Formula:" section is visible at the bottom. Overlaid on top is a smaller window for editing the alarm formula. This window has fields for "Name" (CIRCE\_PRESSURE), "Device" (bl24-circe/ct/alarms), and "Description" (Chamber pressure exceeds limit). It also shows "Receivers" and a complex formula editor with two conditions: "tb12401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1 > 3e-5" and "tb12401:10000/BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P2 > 3e-5", connected by an "OR" relation. Buttons for "Add Expression", "Add Relation", "Raw Edit", "Clear", "Edit", "Save", and "Cancel" are present.



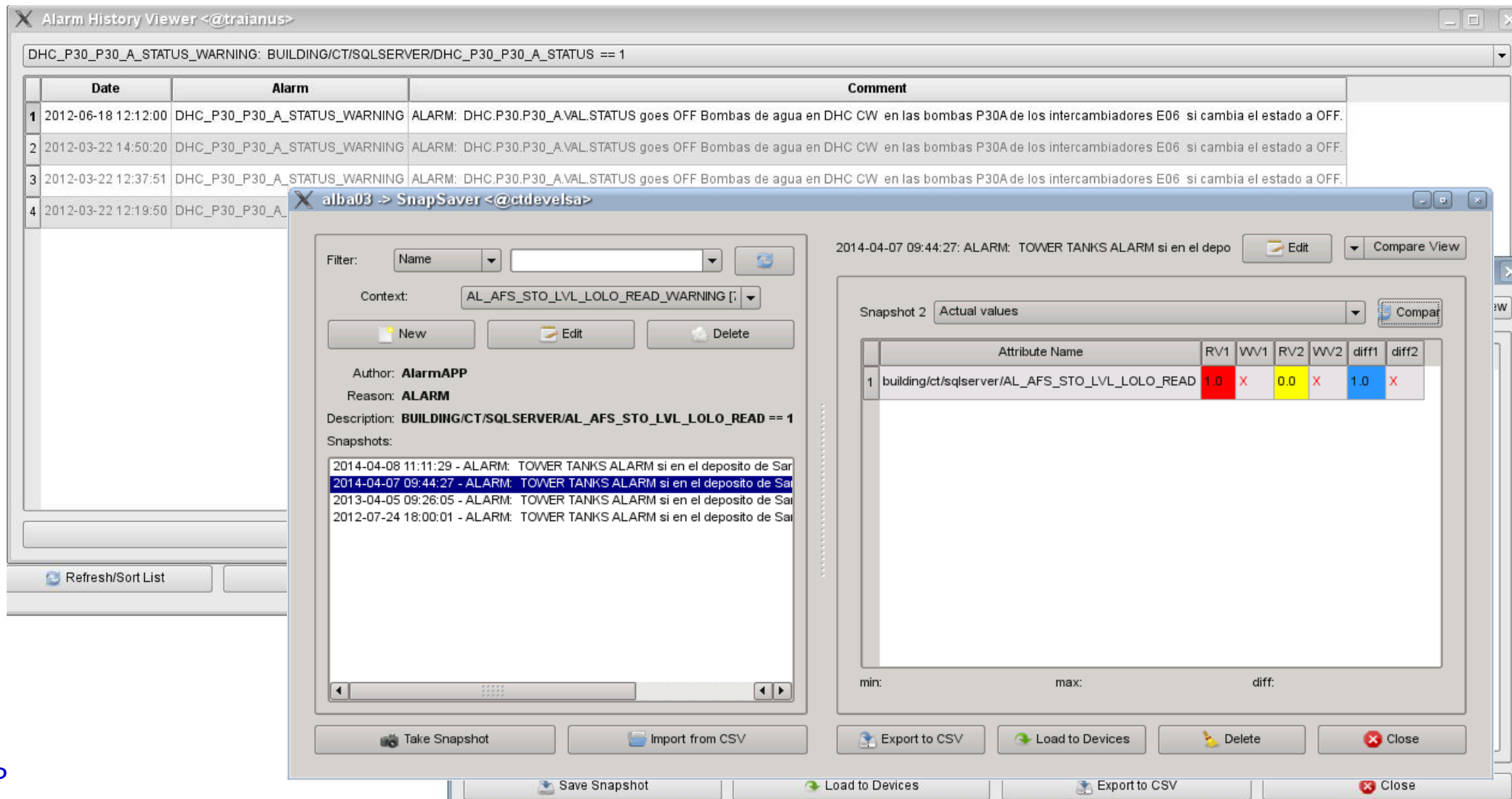
The screenshot shows the "CCD\_ALARM\_TOO\_MANY\_FAULT Alarm Formula Preview <@tiberius>" window. It displays the "Formula:" as "mach/di/ccdmonitor-01/FaultCameras > 0 AND mach/di/ccdmonitor-01/FaultCamerasList != None". Below the formula, the "Result:" is shown as "True". At the bottom, a section titled "Values of attributes used in the Alarm formula:" shows the current values: "mach/di/ccdmonitor-01/FaultCameras" with a value of 1, and "mach/di/ccdmonitor-01/FaultCamerasList" with a "Show" button next to it.

# Record/View Alarm History using Snaps

If alarm history is enabled, (**SNAP Receiver** or **UseSnaps+CreateNewContext** property) then attribute values will be recorded every time that the alarm is triggered.

The alarm will create a context in the Tango Snapshotting database with all the attributes that appear in the formula. It can be modified later to include additional attributes.

Alarm history can be viewed either from Panic or PyTangoArchiving.widget.snap widgets.



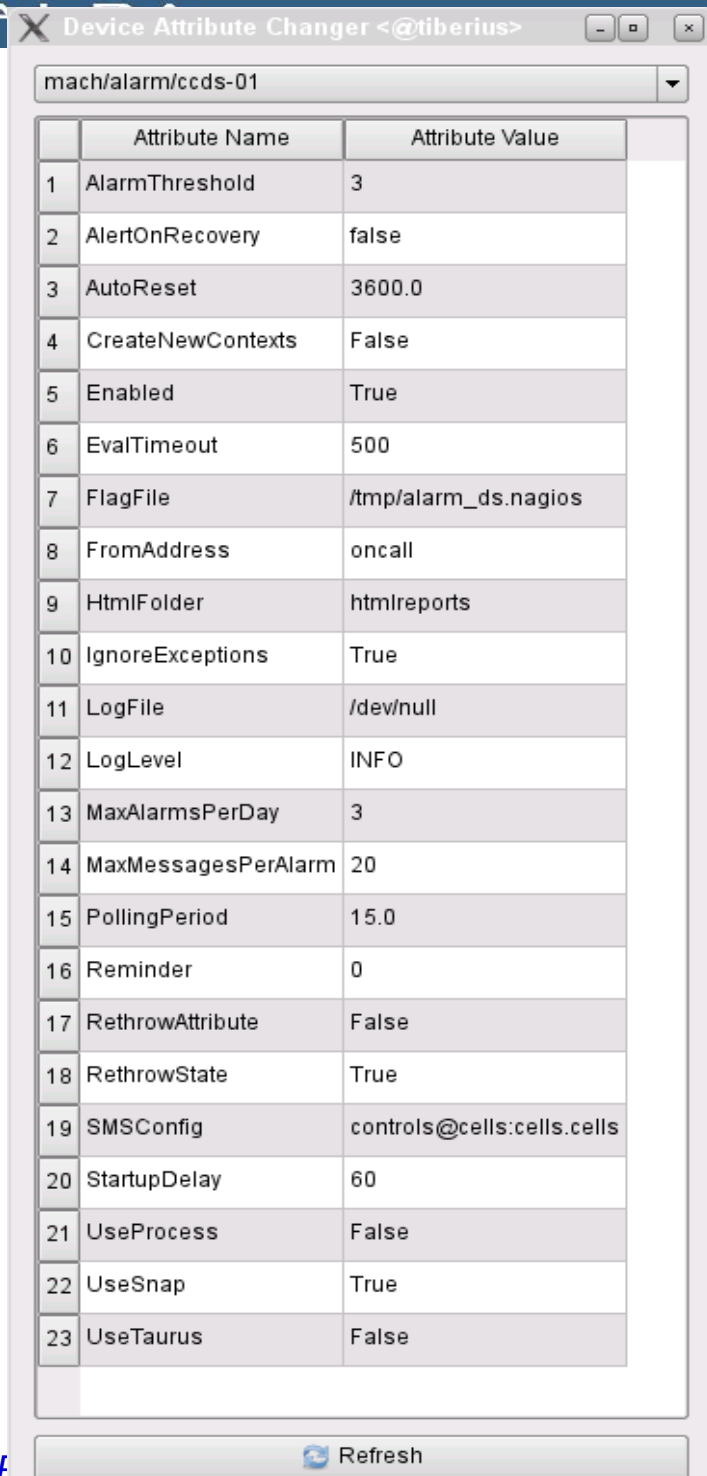
The screenshot displays two overlapping windows from the PyTangoArchiving library. The background window is the 'Alarm History Viewer' for the context 'DHC\_P30\_P30\_A\_STATUS\_WARNING'. It shows a table of alarm events with columns for Date, Alarm, and Comment. The foreground window is the 'SnapSaver' for the context 'AL\_AFS\_STO\_LVL\_LOLO\_READ\_WARNING'. It includes a filter section, a list of snapshots, and a detailed view of a specific snapshot (2014-04-07 09:44:27) showing attribute values and differences.

Date	Alarm	Comment
2012-06-18 12:12:00	DHC_P30_P30_A_STATUS_WARNING	ALARM: DHC.P30.P30_A.VAL.STATUS goes OFF Bombas de agua en DHC CW en las bombas P30A de los intercambiadores E06 si cambia el estado a OFF.
2012-03-22 14:50:20	DHC_P30_P30_A_STATUS_WARNING	ALARM: DHC.P30.P30_A.VAL.STATUS goes OFF Bombas de agua en DHC CW en las bombas P30A de los intercambiadores E06 si cambia el estado a OFF.
2012-03-22 12:37:51	DHC_P30_P30_A_STATUS_WARNING	ALARM: DHC.P30.P30_A.VAL.STATUS goes OFF Bombas de agua en DHC CW en las bombas P30A de los intercambiadores E06 si cambia el estado a OFF.
2012-03-22 12:19:50	DHC_P30_P30_A_STATUS_WARNING	ALARM: DHC.P30.P30_A.VAL.STATUS goes OFF Bombas de agua en DHC CW en las bombas P30A de los intercambiadores E06 si cambia el estado a OFF.

Attribute Name	RV1	VW1	RV2	VW2	diff1	diff2
1 building/ct/sqlserver/AL_AFS_STO_LVL_LOLO_READ	1.0	X	0.0	X	1.0	X

# PyAlarm Tuning: Device Properties



Device Attribute Changer <@tiberius>

mach/alarm/ccds-01

	Attribute Name	Attribute Value
1	AlarmThreshold	3
2	AlertOnRecovery	false
3	AutoReset	3600.0
4	CreateNewContexts	False
5	Enabled	True
6	EvalTimeout	500
7	FlagFile	/tmp/alarm_ds.nagios
8	FromAddress	oncall
9	HtmlFolder	htmlreports
10	IgnoreExceptions	True
11	LogFile	/dev/null
12	LogLevel	INFO
13	MaxAlarmsPerDay	3
14	MaxMessagesPerAlarm	20
15	PollingPeriod	15.0
16	Reminder	0
17	RethrowAttribute	False
18	RethrowState	True
19	SMSConfig	controls@cells:cells.cells
20	StartupDelay	60
21	UseProcess	False
22	UseSnap	True
23	UseTaurus	False

Refresh

**PollingPeriod** controls the frequency of update.

**AlarmThreshold** controls alarm triggering and .delta cache  
**AutoReset** time will reset the alarm if condition recovers

**Enabled** can be set to True/False or a time(e.g. 120) to ignore alarms already enabled during startup.

**Reminder/AlertOnRecover** for extra notifications

Alarm history controlled by **CreateNewContexts/UseSnap**  
**UseTaurus** allows to delegate polling/event management to Taurus.core library. ( <http://sourceforge.net/p/sardana> )

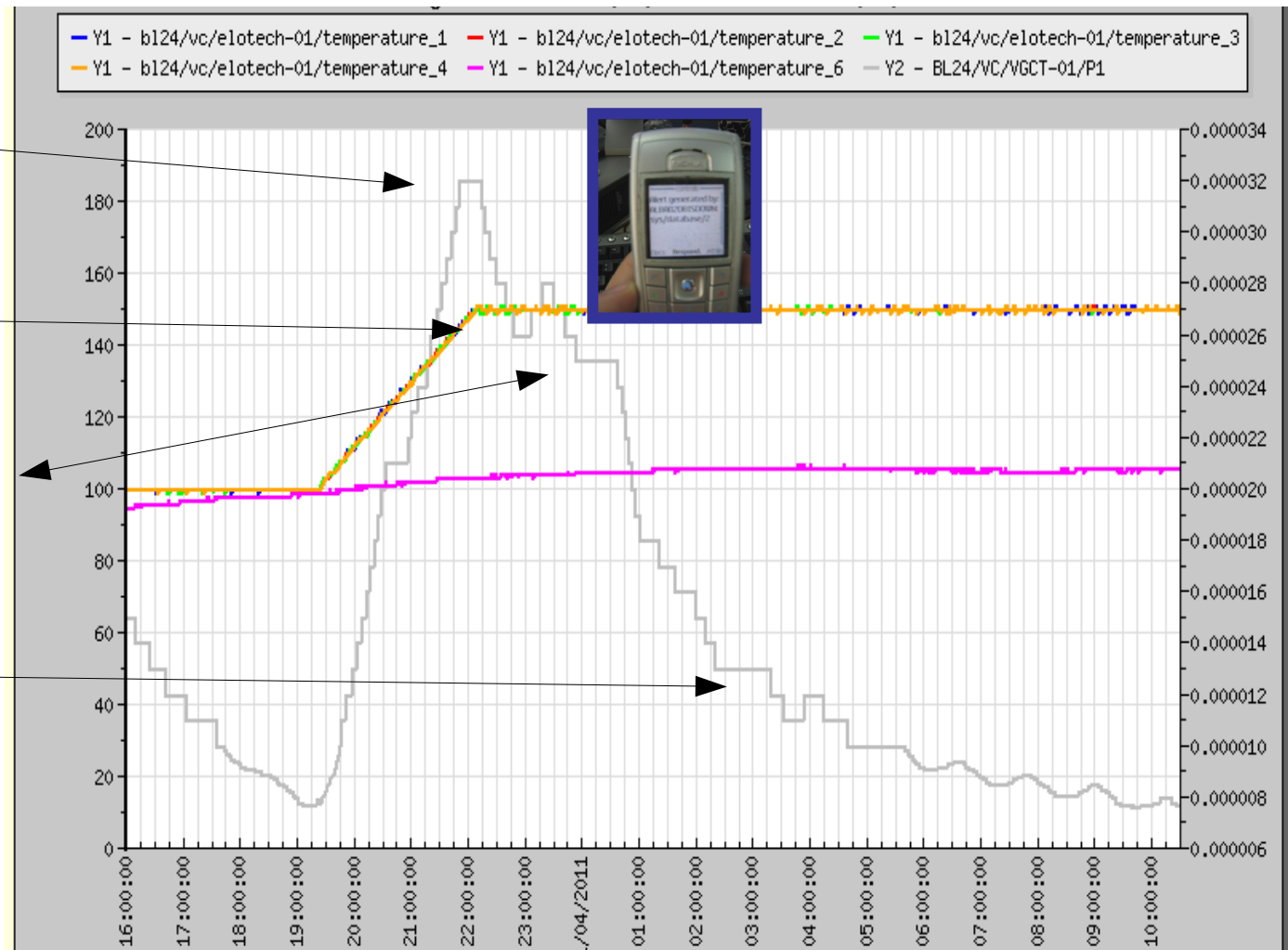
**IgnoreExceptions/RethrowAttribute/State** control whether exceptions should trigger alarm or not or be replaced by None.

**UseProcess** (evaluate formulas in background processes) \ still under development

**FlagFile, HtmlFolder, LogFile** : alternative logging that can be recorded in the local filesystem or NFS mounted folders.

- TAG/Description: CIRCE\_PRESSURE, Beamline pressure is high
- **Receivers:** [circe@cells.es](mailto:circe@cells.es), SMS:+34333222111, ACTION(...
- Condition: CIRCE\_PRESSURE:BL24/VC/VGCT-01/P1>3e-5

- Incidence
- **ALARM**
- Logging
- **RECOVER**
- **REMINDER**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE**
- **RESET (Auto)**
- Logging
- Further Actions?



## ProcessProfiler

- Provides CPU stats (cpuUsage, memUsage, ...)
- Can be used to trigger alarms (complementary to **Nagios** or **Icinga**)

## FestivalDS

- Beeping (using OS services)
- **Speech synthesizer** (using Festival linux package)
- Beep+Speech
- **Pop-up** notifications, using libnotify
- FestivalDS must run with the same user that is managing the desktop

e.g. ACTION(alarm:command:test/notif/controls01/popup,\$ALARM,\$DESCRIPTION,15)

## Fandango.tango.\*

- Caseless **regular expression** parsing/sorting/matching (cached, offline when possible)  
e.g. get\_matching\_[device/attributes/labels/alias/properties/hosts/...](regexp)
- TangoEval (evaluation of alarm-like code; with user-macros like FIND or GROUP)
- Smart singletons: TangoCommand, CachedAttributeProxy, TangoedValues
- ProxiesDict when UseTaurus = False

PyAlarm, PANIC, UI, and these devices are available at:

***<http://sourceforge.net/p/tango-ds/code/>***



- Soleil and Elettra institutes for their Alarm and Archiving Systems, that inspired PANIC.
- The ALBA Accelerators division for the involvement in the development of the PANIC UI
- ALBA Vacuum section for their intensive usage of early PyAlarm
- MaxIV for their development of plugins for PyAlarm and Fandango

## Pending TODO's in Panic:

- Multiprocess
- Use alarms to navigate clients.
- Use own DB for configuration and logging
- Persistent notification history
- Easier alarm-on-dropped-attributes-quality
- Events receiving/filtering/pushing
- Alarms Expiration Date (now using T(date))
- PhoneBook System-Wide
- Alarm based config instead of Device
- Taurus Alarm Toolbar
- Web-based config tool

PANIC still evolving ...

