

Frequently Asked Questions

The EverAlert platform is a comprehensive, innovative visual display and campus-wide notification system for buildings and facilities that bolsters and extends routine institutional messaging and emergency communications. It delivers the functions of three systems in one, keeping building occupants safe, informed, and on-time.



Emergency Notification

Continuously monitors existing fire panel and lockdown circuits, as well as online weather information, and instantly displays emergency alerts in rooms and hallways when alarms are detected by the system.



Digital Signage

Custom messages can be created, scheduled or instantly sent campus-wide, by building, or to individual rooms, using the EverAlert management portal message builder.



Synchronized Clock

Clock images are synchronized with other displays throughout the building, the EverAlert management portal bell scheduler, network computers and other online devices.



Emergency Notification

1. How are emergency alarm activations detected?

Emergency alarm switch closures are detected by the EverAlert integrator, which creates internet messages that communicate change of switch status to the online EverAlert management portal. EverAlert reacts almost instantly to emergency switch closures by deploying pre-configured alerts to designated displays. Priority of displaying simultaneous multiple alerts (i.e. lockdown followed by fire alarm) is user-configurable. EverAlert does not activate emergency systems such as sprinklers and door locks, or other notification appliances such as alarms or strobes.



2. How is EverAlert connected to existing fire and lockdown systems?

The EverAlert emergency communication platform integrators are physically wired directly to existing fire panels, lockdown switches, or any other electrical "normally open switch" for maximum reliability and the fastest possible automated response. Each EverAlert integrator has inputs for two switches and up to five integrators (capable of monitoring 10 switches) may be used for each EverAlert site.

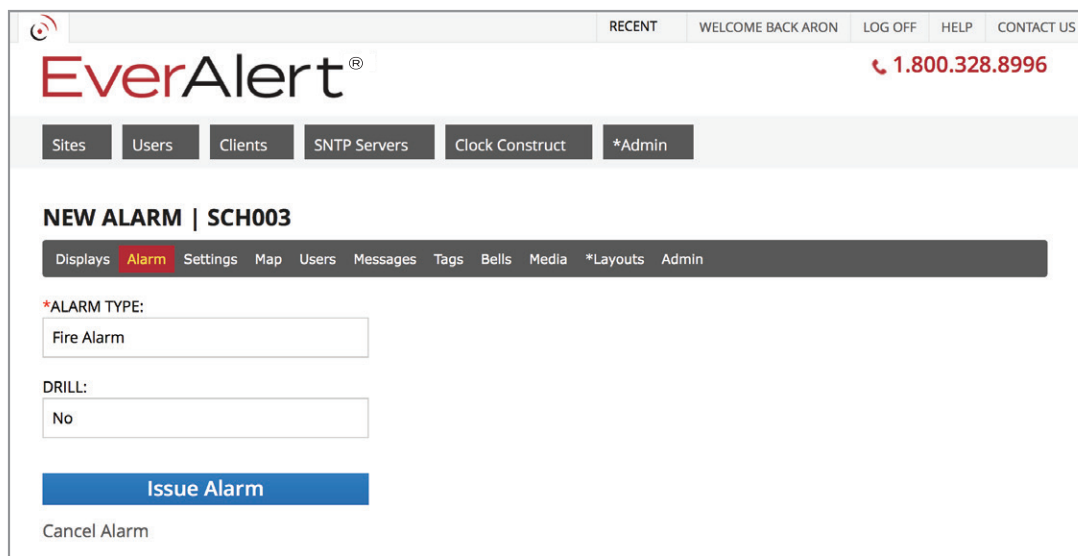


3. How does EverAlert detect severe weather notifications?

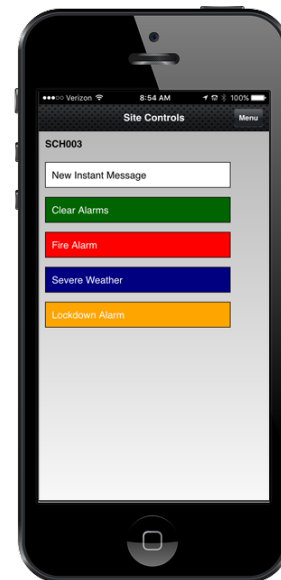
The EverAlert management portal continuously monitors the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, or National Weather Service) severe weather notification system for the installation's geographical area. EverAlert emergency notification displays are triggered from a user-specified list of official NOAA severe weather watches and warnings.

4. Can staff members manually trigger emergency alert displays?

Alerts are manually triggered through the EverAlert management portal from either the full user interface on their laptop, or from a mobile device. Authorized staff who trigger alerts from their mobile devices use a password protected, streamlined version of the full user interface, allowing them to view, initiate and cancel alerts, and issue instant messages from their smartphones. This greatly multiplies the number of people who can take action when safety threats are observed.



The screenshot shows the EverAlert web interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for RECENT, WELCOME BACK ARON, LOG OFF, HELP, and CONTACT US. The EverAlert logo is prominently displayed, along with the phone number 1.800.328.8996. Below the logo, there are tabs for Sites, Users, Clients, SNTIP Servers, Clock Construct, and *Admin. The main content area is titled 'NEW ALARM | SCH003' and contains a sub-menu with options like Displays, Alarm, Settings, Map, Users, Messages, Tags, Bells, Media, *Layouts, and Admin. The 'Alarm' tab is selected. The form includes a field for '*ALARM TYPE:' with 'Fire Alarm' entered, and a 'DRILL:' field with 'No' entered. There are 'Issue Alarm' and 'Cancel Alarm' buttons at the bottom.



5. Can I tailor general emergency displays for specific rooms or parts of the building?

Yes! Customized, recorded voice or evacuation instructions for fire, lockdown or weather emergency alert displays, tailored for individual rooms or zones of a building, is a unique feature of EverAlert that supports more effective facility and campus safety protocols. This feature communicates critically relevant emergency information to employees, students and staff in specific parts of the building and is a supplement to, or replacement for, broadcasting all-call messages over the building intercom.

6. Does EverAlert support outbound emergency notifications?

Outbound notifications with pre-configured messages are e-mailed or texted to a carefully selected list of administrative staff and campus or community safety and security officials when alarms are detected by EverAlert. This process can dramatically reduce the time to initiate appropriate responses, as recipients of emergency notifications will already know exactly what actions to take before alerts are triggered. Up to 100 on and off-site subscribers, authorized by school officials, can instantly receive notifications.

Digital Signage

1. Do all displays show the same information?

Only if that's what you want; relevant content creation is a key benefit of EverAlert. The site administrator can set up three levels of user access. For instance, campus-level, or site administrators, can display the same message throughout the campus, and building-level administrators can set up the same message for display throughout an individual facility. Users with individual room-level access can create messages for their employees or students, or deliver content based on groups such as specific messages for facility locations, corporate departments or rooms.

2. How is current weather displayed?

Current, local weather information, based on data from the National Weather Service, is displayed continuously and updated hourly. Advisories are configured as banners at the bottom of the display, as opposed to emergency weather alerts that pop up over the entire screen.

3. How do I set up my messages?

Messages are created and managed in the EverAlert management portal. Messages can be instant or scheduled, and messaging templates automatically scale font size for maximum visibility. Messages can be synchronized with bell schedules or other events, and audible content from pre-recorded MP3 files may be associated with messages. American Time provides online, step-by-step tutorials and resources for message creation.

4. What happens to routine digital signage if an emergency alert is triggered?

Fire, lockdown, and emergency weather alerts have highest priority and automatically pop up over any other display image. Displays revert to clock image and digital signage when emergency notifications are cleared by the site administrator or authorized staff.

Synchronized Clock

1. How are the clocks synchronized with each other and with other devices in the building?

EverAlert clock displays are synchronized together and with other internet-connected devices through Simple Network Time Protocol (SNTP), which includes daylight saving time support. This way, all EverAlert clocks display exactly the same time without any adjustments by maintenance staff.

2. Is a digital countdown feature available?

In countdown configuration, routine message and current weather information remain on display in the background, and room access-level management portal users can initiate a digital timer for tests or other timed activities.

3. What does the display look like in hallway/common area mode?

The EverAlert hallway countdown feature can eliminate the need for separate, expensive LED-based digital clocks while still providing emergency notification and digital signage. In hallway countdown configuration, large, brightly lit digital clock segments are displayed that can be synchronized with passing bell schedules. Countdowns in other common areas are synchronized with lunch or other event schedules. At the end of countdown, the display reverts to normal clock and digital signage.

EverAlert Displays

1. How are displays powered?

Each display is powered by a 110 VAC/12 VDC "brick," or power supply, similar to laptop computers. A power-down mode can be scheduled to save energy at night, during weekends, and days when the building is not normally in use.



2. What are my mounting options?

Two mounting options are offered; one allows mounting directly on wall surfaces for new construction, and another covers the backbox where legacy clocks were located in retrofit applications. Both mounting kits include a tamper-resistant tilting display bracket and integrated "brick holder". The retrofit kit includes a short 110 VAC power cord on the "brick," with Molex connector for easy integration with legacy clock power. Both mounting options allow landscape or portrait orientation.



3. How are displays connected to the internet?

The EverAlert management portal is typically connected to displays using the school 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi network. An Ethernet port is available for 10/100M wired applications where needed. Status of network connectivity is communicated to the portal, with notification of outages via e-mail and text messages.



4. How are speakers connected?

EverAlert displays are equipped with built-in speakers. An audio output jack allows connection to an external, powered speaker that broadcasts much higher volume in hallways or common areas.

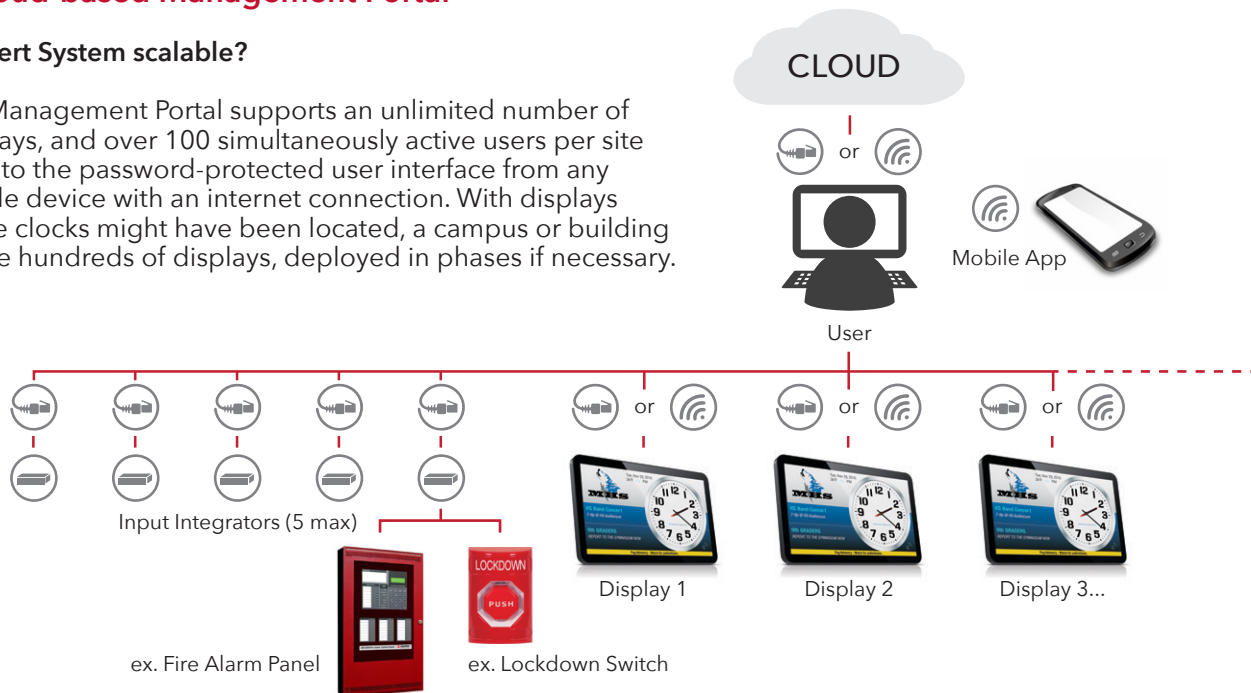
5. Is EverAlert easy to setup?

EverAlert set-up is an extremely simple process using USB or an online process. Site network credentials are either loaded into the display from a USB drive or obtained by the display through connection to a LAN/DHCP network.

EverAlert Cloud-based Management Portal

1. Is the EverAlert System scalable?

The EverAlert Management Portal supports an unlimited number of users and displays, and over 100 simultaneously active users per site who can log onto the password-protected user interface from any laptop or mobile device with an internet connection. With displays mounted where clocks might have been located, a campus or building site may include hundreds of displays, deployed in phases if necessary.



2. Do I have to manage software updates or servers?

No. EverAlert is cloud based, so American Time is responsible for managing software and updates as well as off-site system servers. Your organization avoids the hassle and cost of hosting technology on-site.

3. What is the term of the Software service agreement (SSA)?

EverAlert software service agreements and renewals are available with one, two, or three - year terms, providing access to all management portal features supported by the version of EverAlert devices you have purchased. American Time will provide renewal notification prior to SSA expiration.

4. How many Software Service Agreements do I need?

A valid SSA is needed for each display. Displays revert to synchronized clock image if the SSA is terminated or not renewed.

5. Is technical support included in the SSA?

American Time telephone technical support services are available to EverAlert customers during the term of the SSA.

6. Do I need to designate a site administrator?

Yes. The EverAlert platform site administrator, who has the highest user access, serves as the primary point of contact for day-to-day communications, consultation and decision-making. Site administrators provide day-to-day approvals regarding both software and hardware issues on behalf of the organization, as well as training for building and room-level users. Site administrators with organizational authority, skill, experience and other qualifications to perform these tasks are often members of the information technology department who work closely with security experts in development of emergency protocols.

Frequently Asked Questions

7. Does the site administrator need to develop or approve display content?

Not necessarily. EverAlert's management portal lets the organization's leadership decide who creates and approves content. Emergency alerts are configured at campus and building access levels only, where integration with building, school, campus and community security protocols is critical. Room access level, on the other hand, allows personnel throughout the facility to freely create relevant and timely routine digital signage content, controlled by organizational policy if desired. This distribution of content development greatly reduces site administrator workload compared to traditional digital signage systems, where responsibility for not only server maintenance, but the configuration of all content, is typically concentrated.

To learn more, contact us at: everalert@atsclock.com

From half of the K-12 school districts in the U.S., to the largest corporations in the world, American Time is the recognized leader in integrated, custom timekeeping and notification systems.