Category

Data & AI

Data Literacy for Dashboards, Alerts & Operational Monitoring Playbook

Designing dashboards and alerts people actually trust and act on, not tune out

- Practitioner
- Intermediate
- Template Included

- Mithun A. Sridharan

- 09 June 2021
- 4 minute(s)

Overview

A framework for building data literacy around dashboard and alert design — signal-to-noise ratio management, alert fatigue prevention, and designing monitoring that genuinely supports action rather than passive observation — addressing the common failure mode where extensive monitoring infrastructure produces dashboards and alerts that get ignored.

Is dashboard and alert design primarily a technical or UX

concern rather than a data literacy issue? Presentation matters, but the deeper issue is often a data literacy gap — knowing what genuinely warrants an alert versus normal variation, designing appropriate thresholds, and understanding signal-to-noise trade-offs — which

shapes dashboard and alert design as much as visual presentation does.

What's the most common cause of alert fatigue?

Alert thresholds set too sensitively, triggering on normal variation rather than genuine anomalies, training recipients to ignore or dismiss alerts over time — a data literacy problem (poor threshold calibration) more than a technical one.

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Author

Mithun A. Sridharan Thought Leader

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