DECO1013: Sound Design and Sonification - Assignment 1

Introduction

The scenario that I have chosen was for a Office Complex. I imagined a complex where there would be many people inside with corridors and rooms, welcome desks and a large IT sector. The Alarm functions that I have chosen are - Fire Alarm, Intruder Alarm, Welcome tone, Low battery alarm, Security Breach.

Purpose of each sound

1. **Fire Alarm**
   The purpose of this alarm is to alert people inside the complex that there is a "Fire" inside the complex. The priority of this alarm is very high.

2. **Intruder Alarm**
   The purpose of this alarm is to alert people / security that there has been a breach into a prohibited area or an intruder inside the complex during afterhours etc. The priority of this alarm is high.

3. **Welcome Tone**
   The purpose of this tone is to notify the information desk staff that someone has entered the premises and also lets the person entering feel a bit more welcomed. The priority of this alarm is medium.

4. **Low Battery**
   The purpose of this tone is to inform people within the complex that the alarm hardware is running low on battery. The priority of this alarm is very low and is purposely designed not to be too noticeable, to reduce the annoyance level.

5. **Security Breach**
   The purpose of this alarm is similar to the intruder alarm, but the priority can be rated as to be a bit higher than the intruder alarm as it is of higher frequency and the modulation of pitch creates more uneasiness in the listeners. This alarm was designed with a picture of a "Hacker Alert" display being shown on the computer screens.
Design Features of each sound

1. Fire Alarm
   a. Slow Up and down modulation of pitch, like a conventional alarm
   b. TalkBox says “Fire Fire”
   c. EQ 31-Band was used to increase the frequency at 10K to make the “fire” speech more comprehensible.

2. Intruder Alarm
   a. Slow pulses of beeps.
   b. Slightly detuned one of the VTOs to create more of a “Filled” sound
   c. Drive level set to middle to create uncomfort amongst listeners
   d. A different pitch was used from the fire alarm

3. Welcome tone
   a. Major chord, giving the person a happy/warm welcome
   b. Removed much of the fuzzy sound to get a nice warm tone. A High Cut Filter was applied with the EQ31-Band to create a warmer tone.
   c. Again the high tone was slightly detuned

4. Alarm Low battery
   a. Short click sound curving up at the end catching user attention
   b. Not very noticeable

5. Security Breach (e.g. Hacker alert)
   a. Pitch modulation by an octave to immediately create alertness amongst listeners