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Review of WhatIs.com, edited by Margaret Rouse and Ivy Wigmore, et al.

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WhatIs.com, from TechTarget; ed. by Margaret Rouse and Ivy Wigmore et al. Internet Resource. Reviewed in 2013feb CHOICE.

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/> [Visited Nov'12]

WhatIs.com <http://whatis.techtarget.com/> is a comprehensive computing and information technology dictionary containing over 7,500 entries. It was originally developed by IBM technical writer Lowell Thing and is currently operated by TechTarget, an online technology media company. Many of the terms in *WhatIs.com* are derived from TechTarget's other websites. The site is continually updated with current terminology. Definitions range in length from four or five sentences to four or five paragraphs. Most entries include a list of related terms with a link to the related term's definition. Terms used within definitions are also linked to their own definitions. This allows users to have immediate access to additional information and to obtain a more complete explanation. Users may access *WhatIs.com* by searching, browsing alphabetically, and browsing by topic. The search function tries to locate not only the exact word or phrase of interest, but also every occurrence of the word or phrase within the website. Browse Definitions by Alphabet is an A-Z listing (including non-alphabetic characters and numbers) of all terms defined. Browse Definitions by Topic groups like terms together, going from broad to narrower terms. *WhatIs.com* also includes 10 Newest Terms, Word of the Day, Hottest Terms, a quiz, and a comprehensive list of file extension names or suffixes. It is very similar to another free site, *Webopedia* <http://www.webopedia.com/> (CH, Apr'06, 43-4392); however, each resource has many unique entries. Accordingly, users may need to consult both resources. A weakness of *WhatIs.com* is the advertisements, which from time to time pop out without any apparent action. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general audience. -- M. Knee, University at Albany, SUNY