

## Home Page

## Logo



## URL

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/>

## Subject

Information Technology - Dictionaries

## Accessibility

Free

## Language

English

## Publisher

TechTarget

## Brief History

WhatIs.com was created by IBM technical writer Lowell Thing in the early days of the Internet. In 1999, TechTarget acquired the site and for the last decade site content has been researched and written by editorial director Margaret Rouse and content editor Ivy Wigmore with the assistance of contributors and technical experts from over 60 countries. The website has received many awards and accolades over the years, including recognition from the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, Time Magazine, USA Today, The Washington Times, the

Miami Herald, ZDNet, PC Magazine, Discovery Magazine and the American Society of Business Publication Editors.

### ***Scope and Coverage***

WhatIs.com is a reference and self-education tool about information technology. The site provides readers with definitions for over 10,000 terms and over 1,000 fast references, cheat sheets and quizzes. The site's mission is to help IT professional and the business people they work with to understand each other's highly specialized languages. The definitions are known for explaining technical terms and business concepts clearly and concisely.

### ***Kind of Information***

This dictionary provides etymology, description of terms related to computing and information technology. New terms are added on regular weekend basis. Description of terms is cross referenced for clear understanding. Related terms of a particular term are hyperlinked.

End of each description date of last update, name of contributor, name of the person who posted it are mentioned.

#### **Definition**

#### **abstraction**

Part of the [Programming](#) glossary:

Abstraction (from the Latin *abs*, meaning *away from* and *trahere*, meaning *to draw*) is the process of taking away or removing characteristics from something in order to reduce it to a set of essential characteristics. In [object-oriented programming](#), abstraction is one of three central principles (along with [encapsulation](#) and [inheritance](#)). Through the process of abstraction, a programmer hides all but the relevant data about an [object](#) in order to reduce complexity and increase efficiency. In the same way that abstraction sometimes works in art, the object that remains is a representation of the original, with unwanted detail omitted. The resulting object itself can be referred to as an abstraction, meaning a *named entity made up of selected attributes and behavior specific to a particular usage of the originating entity*. Abstraction is related to both [encapsulation](#) and [data hiding](#).

In the process of abstraction, the programmer tries to ensure that the [entity](#) is named in a manner that will make sense and that it will have all the relevant aspects included and none of the extraneous ones. A real-world analogy of abstraction might work like this: You (the object) are arranging to meet a blind date and are deciding what to tell them so that they can recognize you in the restaurant. You decide to include the information about where you will be located, your height, hair color, and the color of your jacket. This is all data that will help the procedure (your date finding you) work smoothly. You should include all that information. On the other hand, there are a lot of bits of information about you that aren't relevant to this situation: your social security number, your admiration for obscure films, and what you took to "show and tell" in fifth grade are all irrelevant to this particular situation because they won't help your date find you. However, since entities may have any number of abstractions, you may get to use them in another procedure in the future.

This was last updated in *June 2014*

Contributor(s): *Ivy Wigmore*

Posted by: [Margaret Rouse](#)

Some IT related acronyms are also presented here. Such as DAB or digital

audio broadcasting.

There are some references information/resources like Cheat Sheet, Learning Guide, Quizzes, Technology – specific sites are linked with this site. Cheat Sheet includes [XHTML Cheatsheet](#), [AS/400 Cheat Sheets](#), [Delphi Cheat Sheets](#) etc.

An example (under “[XHTML Cheatsheet](#)”) is given below for clear understanding.

### XHTML Cheatsheet

#### XHTML TAGS - CHEATSHEET

Tag	Description
<!--...-->	Defines a comment
<!DOCTYPE>	Defines the document type
<a>	Defines an anchor
<abbr>	Defines an abbreviation
<acronym>	Defines an acronym
<address>	Defines an address element
<applet>	Defines an applet
<area>	Defines an area inside an image map
<b>	Defines bold text
<base>	Defines a base URL for all the links in a page
<basefont>	Defines a base font
<bdo>	Defines the direction of text display
<big>	Defines big text
<blockquote>	Defines a long quotation
<body>	Defines the body element
 	Inserts a single line break
<button>	Defines a push button
<caption>	Defines a table caption
<center>	Defines centered text

### Special Features

- ❖ Word of the day is present here.
- ❖ Buzz word alert is available here.
- ❖ List of hot topics is also shown here.
- ❖ Links to other sites of TechTarget.
- ❖ Facilities of good sitemap, site index is available.
- ❖ Fuzzy searching facility is available.
- ❖ 10 newest terms and recently published terms and topics are

present here.

- ❖ There is a provision for feedback and suggestions from user.

**Arrangement Pattern** Entries are arranged alphabetically. Under an alphabet, the entries which start with that particular alphabet are also arranged alphabetically. For an example mention may be made of DAB, DAC, Daemon, DAFS etc. which come under the alphabet “D”.

In the left side of the home page the categories are arranged such as Application Development, Business Software, Computer Science, Consumer Technology, Data Center, IT Management etc. in alphabetical sequence. The categories are divided into various sub categories which are also arranged alphabetically. For example, under the category ‘Computer Science’ the sub categories like Computing Fundamentals, Electronics, IT Standards and organizations, Mathematics are arranged. Under the sub category terms are arranged alphabetically.

**Remarks** WhatIs.com makes the people acquainted with the world of IT at a glance. Huge number of IT related terms brings the IT world within the fist of every human being be it a computer professional or a layman interested in IT. The easily understandable language is a special bonus. WhatIs.com is updated each weekday and is used primarily by information technology (IT) and business professionals frequently.

**Comparable Tools**

- CSR Acronym Definitions (<http://www.csrstds.com/acro-a-d.html>)
- Acleris Glossary of Communications Terms (<http://www.acleris.com/info/glossary.html>)
- Webopedia (<http://www.webopedia.com/>)

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