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Handbook of computer networks: v.1: Key concepts, data transmission, and digital and optical networks; v.2: LANs, MANs, WANs, the Internet, and global, cellular, and wireless networks; v.3: Distributed networks, network planning, control, management, and new trends and applications, ed. by Hossein Bidgoli. Wiley, 2008. 3v bibl index afp; ISBN [9780471784616](#), \$750.00. Reviewed in 2008jul CHOICE.

This three-volume encyclopedia is edited by Bidgoli (California State Univ., Bakersfield), who has been responsible for several other IT-related encyclopedic works along with numerous books, manuals, and articles. The 202 articles in this handbook are written by over 270 experts from academia and industry and cover areas related to computer networks and telecommunications. All articles have been peer-reviewed, and each has a consistent format that includes an outline, introduction, conclusion, glossary, cross-references, and a bibliography of print/online resources. The three volumes are divided into major topic areas: "Key Concepts," "Hardware, Media, and Data Transmission," "Digital and Optical Networks," "LANs, MANs, and WANs," "The Internet, Global Networks and VoIP," "Cellular and Wireless Networks," "Distributed Networks," "Network Planning, Control, and Management," and "Computer Network Popular Applications and Future Directions." Each volume has its own detailed subject index. A single index to the entire set would have provided better access, and indexing the glossary terms would have been helpful. The articles are generally 10-40 pages long and written at several levels of expertise, from basic to advanced. Well written and well edited, they provide readers with a state-of-the-art-report. Numerous illustrations reinforce the text, and cross-references allow readers to follow threads of similar topics. An encyclopedia of this nature would benefit from being available online; however, an online version was not available at the time of this review. This work will be useful for libraries that support programs in computer science, computer engineering, information technology, or management information systems. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through professionals/practitioners. -- *M. Knee, University at Albany, SUNY*