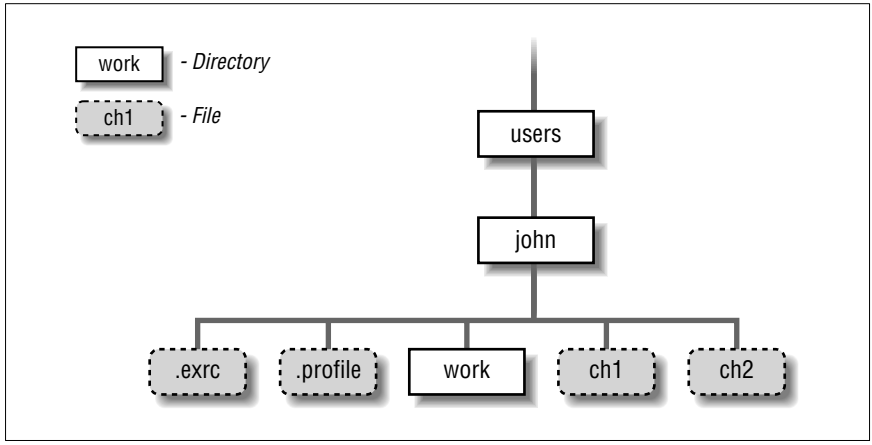

Figure 3-4. Files in the directory tree

Pathnames to files are made the same way as pathnames to directories. As with directories, files' pathnames can be absolute (starting from the root directory) or relative (starting from the working directory). For example, if your working directory is *users*, the relative pathname to the *work* directory below would be *john/work*. The relative pathname to the *ch1* file would be *john/ch1*.

Unix filesystems can hold things that aren't directories or files, such as symbolic links, FIFOs, and sockets (they have pathnames, too). You may see some of them as you explore the filesystem. We don't cover those advanced topics in this little book.

Listing Files with ls

To use the **cd** command, you must decide which entries in a directory are subdirectories and which are files. The **ls** command lists entries in the directory tree and can also show you which is which.

> When you enter the **ls** command, you'll get a listing of the files and subdirectories contained in your working directory. The syntax is:

ls *option(s) directory-and-filename(s)*

If you've just logged in for the first time, entering **ls** without any arguments may seem to do nothing. This isn't surprising because you haven't