If you need to know only which files are directories and which are executable files, you can use the **-F** option.

If you give the pathname to a directory, **ls** lists the directory but it does *not* change your working directory. The **pwd** command in the following example shows this:

```
$ ls -F /users/andy
calendar    goals    ideas/
ch2         guide/   testpgm*
$ pwd
/etc
$
```

ls -F puts a / (slash) at the end of each directory name. (The directory name doesn't really have a slash in it; that's just the shortcut **ls -F** uses to identify a directory.) In our example, *guide* and *ideas* are directories. You can verify this by using **ls -l** and noting the "d" in the first field of the output. Files with an execute status (**x**), such as programs, are marked with an ***** (asterisk). The file *testpgm* is an executable file. Files that aren't marked are not executable.

ls -R ("recursive") lists a directory and all its subdirectories. This can make a very long list—especially when you list a directory near the root! (Piping the output of **ls** to a pager program solves this problem. There's an example in the section "Piping to a Pager" in Chapter 5.) You can combine other options with **-R**: for instance, **ls -RF** marks each directory and file type.

On Linux and other systems with the GNU version of **ls**, you may be able to see names in color. For instance, directories could be green and program files could be yellow. Like almost everything on Unix, of course, this is configurable. The details are more than we can cover in an introductory book. Try typing **ls --color** and see what happens. (It's time for our familiar mantra: check your documentation. See Chapter 8—especially the **man** command for reading a command's online manual page.)

Exercise: exploring the filesystem

You're now equipped to explore the filesystem with **cd**, **ls**, and **pwd**. Take a tour of the directory system, hopping one or many levels at a time, with a mixture of **cd** and **pwd** commands.