contain any files or subdirectories; the directory must first be empty. (The **rm -r** command removes a directory and everything in it. It can be dangerous for beginners, though.)

The syntax is:

rmdir *dirname(s)*

If a directory you try to remove does contain files, you get a message like "rmdir: *dirname* not empty".

To delete a directory that contains some files:

1. Enter "**cd** *dirname*" to get into the directory you want to delete.
2. Enter "**rm** *" to remove all files in that directory.
3. Enter "**cd** .." to go to the parent directory.
4. Enter "**rmdir** *dirname*" to remove the unwanted directory.

Problem checklist

I still get the message "dirname not empty" even after I've deleted all the files.

Use **ls -a** to check that there are no hidden files (names that start with a period) other than `.` and `..` (the working directory and its parent). The following command is good for cleaning up hidden files (which aren't matched by a simple wildcard like `*`):

```
$ rm .[a-zA-Z] .??*
```

Files on Other Operating Systems

Chapter 6 includes the section "Transferring Files," which explains ways to transfer files across a network—possibly to nonUnix operating systems. Your system may also be able to run operating systems other than Unix. For instance, many Linux systems can also run Microsoft Windows. If yours does, you can probably use those files from your Linux account without needing to boot and run Windows.

If the Windows filesystem is *mounted* with your other filesystems, you'll be able to use its files by typing a Unix-like pathname. For instance, from our PC under Linux, we can access the Windows file *C:\WORD\REPORT.DOC* through the pathname */winc/word/report.doc*.