off for both. Turn the firewall off if you're using a separate firewall built into the router that connects your computer or home or work network to the Internet. Turn the firewall on if you don't have a separate firewall.

I also recommend leaving the Notify Me When Windows Firewall Blocks a New Program option enabled. That way, you'll be notified when the firewall blocks a suspicious program.

6. Click OK.

The firewall is enabled.

Note that the Windows firewall includes additional options you can configure. However, I recommend against fiddling with those options unless you've taken an upper–division college course in computer security.

> **⚠ WARNING**
> Do *not* enable the Windows firewall if you're using a separate firewall router to protect your network. Because the other computers on the network are connected directly to the router and not to your computer, the Windows firewall doesn't protect the rest of the network. Additionally, as an unwanted side effect, the rest of the network will lose the capability of accessing your computer.

Providing a Backup Internet Connection

For most businesses, a reliable connection to the Internet is absolutely vital. Consider the consequences of losing your Internet connection:

» **All email stops flowing.** Your users can neither send nor receive emails. Clients, customers, and other business partners can't communicate with you.

» **Access to the web stops.** Your users can't access any websites. If you subscribe to any vital web-based services, such as conferencing sites (like GoToMeeting or Zoom), online banking, or other vital services, those services will be unavailable while your Internet circuit is down.

» **If you use an IP-based phone service such as RingCentral or 8x8, your phones won't work.**

» **If you store data in the cloud, such as on OneDrive, Dropbox, or Google Drive, you won't be able to access your data.**