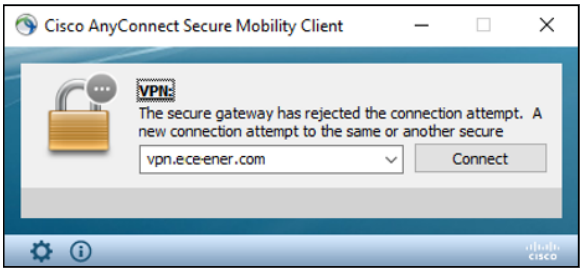

FIGURE 24-4: A VPN client.

TIP

A VPN client can also be a hardware device, like another security appliance. This is most common when the VPN is used to connect two networks at separate locations. For example, suppose your company has an office in Pixley and a second office in Hooterville. Each office has its own network with servers and client computers. The easiest way to connect these offices with a VPN would be to put an identical security appliance at each location. Then you could configure the security appliances to communicate with each other over a VPN.

Connecting with Remote Desktop Connection

Remote Desktop Connection (RDC) is designed to let you log into a Windows computer from a remote location. This is useful for accessing your work computer from home (or vice versa), as well as for managing virtual servers that have no physical console.

Note that in order to remotely connect to a computer on a domain, your computer must have access to the domain. The easiest way to accomplish that is to connect to the domain with a VPN. When you're connected with the VPN, the Remote Desktop client will be able to find the computer you're trying to connect to.

TECHNICAL STUFF

Remote Desktop Connection utilizes a protocol called *Remote Desktop Protocol* (RDP). Strictly speaking, RDP refers to the protocol and not the connection itself. However, the term *RDP* is often used as a substitute for RDC. For example, here's how you would use it in a sentence: "I don't really feel like driving to work today, so I think I'll just RDP in." If your boss approves of your plan, you can work this way for days without showering.

In the following sections, you'll learn how to enable and use Remote Desktop Connection to connect to work remotely.