Here are some additional details about network names:

» **Every person who can use the network has a username (sometimes called a _user ID_).** You need to know your username to log on to the network. You also need to know the usernames of your buddies, especially if you want to steal their files or send them nasty notes.

You can find more information about usernames and logging on in the section "Logging on to the Network," later in this chapter.
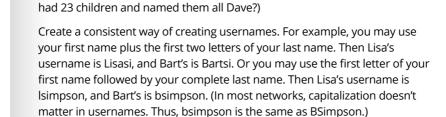
» **Letting folks on the network use their first names as their usernames is tempting but not a good idea.** Even in a small office, you eventually run into a conflict. (And what about Mrs. McCave — made famous by Dr. Seuss — who had 23 children and named them all Dave?)

Create a consistent way of creating usernames. For example, you may use your first name plus the first two letters of your last name. Then Lisa's username is Lisasi, and Bart's is Bartsi. Or you may use the first letter of your first name followed by your complete last name. Then Lisa's username is lsimpson, and Bart's is bsimpson. (In most networks, capitalization doesn't matter in usernames. Thus, bsimpson is the same as BSimpson.)

» **Every computer on the network has a unique computer name.**

You don't have to know the names of all the computers on the network, but it helps if you know your own computer's name and the names of any server computers you need to access.

The computer's name is sometimes the same as the username of the person who uses the computer, but that's usually a bad idea because in many companies, people come and go more often than computers. Sometimes the names indicate the physical location of the computer, such as office-12 or back-room. Server computers often have names that reflect the group that uses the server most, like acctng-server or cad-server.

Some network nerds like to assign techie-sounding names, like BL3K5-87a. And some like to use names from science-fiction movies; HAL (from _2001: A Space Odyssey_), M5 or Data (from _Star Trek_), or Overmind (from _Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles_) come to mind. Cute names like Herbie aren't allowed. (However, Tigger and Pooh are entirely acceptable — recommended, in fact. Networks are what Tiggers like the best.)

Usually, the sensible approach to computer naming is to use names that have numbers, such as computer001 or computer002.

» **Network resources, such as shared disk folders and printers, have names.** For example, a network server may have two printers, named `laser` and `inkjet` (to indicate the type of printer), and two shared disk folders, named `AccountingData` and `MarketingData`.