

Whether you use a firewall appliance or a firewall computer, the firewall must be located between your network and the Internet, as shown in Figure 9-1. Here, one end of the firewall is connected to a network switch, which is, in turn, connected to the other computers on the network. The other end of the firewall is connected to the Internet. As a result, all traffic from the LAN to the Internet (and vice versa) must travel through the firewall.

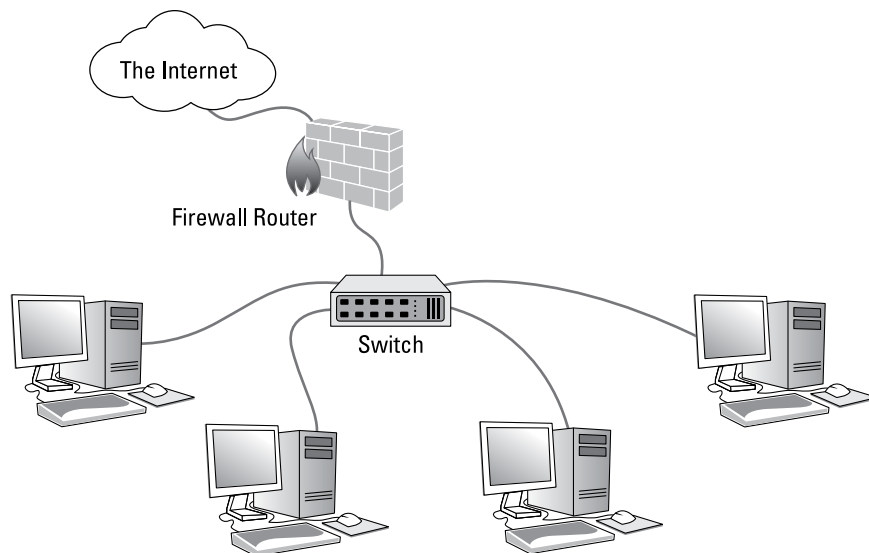


FIGURE 9-1: A firewall router creates a secure link between a network and the Internet.

The term *perimeter* is sometimes used to describe the location of a firewall on your network. In short, a firewall is like a perimeter fence that completely surrounds your property and forces all visitors to enter through the front gate.



WARNING

In large networks, figuring out exactly where the perimeter is located can be a little difficult. If your network has two or more Internet connections, make sure that every one of those connections connects to a firewall — and not directly to the network. You can do this by providing a separate firewall for each Internet connection or by using a firewall with more than one Internet port.



TIP

Some firewall routers can also enforce virus protection for your network. For more information about virus protection, see Chapter 20.