Chapter **8**

Setting Up a Wireless Network

Since the beginning of Ethernet networking, cable has been getting smaller and easier to work with. The original Ethernet cable was about as thick as your thumb, weighed a ton, and was difficult to bend around tight corners. Then came coaxial cable, which was lighter and easier to work with. Coaxial cable was supplanted by unshielded twisted-pair (UTP) cable, which is the cable used for most networks today.

Although cable through the years has become smaller, cheaper, and easier to work with, it is still *cable.* So you have to drill holes in walls, pull cable through ceilings, and get insulation in your hair to wire your entire home or office.

The alternative to networking with cables is, of course, networking *without* cables . . . also known as *wireless networking.* Wireless networks use radio waves to send and receive network signals. As a result, a computer can connect to a wireless network at any location in your home or office.