When others log on at your computer by using their own usernames, they can't access any of your network files that are protected by your password. However, they *can* access any local files that you haven't protected. Be careful which people you allow to use your computer.

» If you're logging on to a domain network on a Windows computer, you must type the domain name before your username, separated from it by a backslash. For example:

```
lowewriter\dlowe
```

Here, the domain name is lowewriter, and the username is dlowe.

Note that Windows remembers the domain and username from your last login, so ordinarily all you have to enter is your password. To log on to a different domain or as a different user, you must click Switch User. Then you can click the Other User icon and enter a different domain name and username, along with the password for the user you want to log on as.

» Your computer may be set up so that it logs you on automatically whenever you turn it on. In that case, you don't have to type your username and password. This setup makes the task of logging on more convenient but takes the sport out of it. And it's a terrible idea if you're the least bit worried about bad guys getting into your network or personal files.

» Guard your password with your life. I'd tell you mine, but then I'd have to shoot you.

Understanding Shared Folders

Long ago, in the days Before Network (B.N.), your computer probably had just one hard drive, known as the `C:` drive. Maybe it had two — `C:` and `D:`. The second drive might be another hard disk, or possibly a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive. Even to this day, the descendants of those drives are physically located inside your PC. They're your *local drives.*

Now that you're on a network, however, you may have access to drives that aren't located inside your PC but are located instead in one of the other computers on the network. These network drives can be located on a dedicated server computer or, in the case of a peer-to-peer network, on another client computer.

In some cases, you can access an entire network drive over the network. But in most cases, you can't access the entire drive. Instead, you can access only certain folders on the network drives. Either way, the shared drives or folders are known in Windows terminology as *shared folders.*