PoE does not require any special cabling, but special PoE switches are required. PoE switches are more expensive than non-PoE switches. But if you plan on deploying IP phones, Wi-Fi access points, or surveillance cameras, you should consider using PoE switches to power them.

Looking at Three Types of Network Rooms

As a final topic for this chapter, let's have a brief look at three distinct types of rooms where you might put your network's switches:

- **Main point of entry (MPOE):** Every office building has a main electrical room in which services from the outside world, including not just electrical power but also data connections, enter the building. In networking parlance, this room is called the MPOE.

  The MPOE is often the room where your network's connection to the Internet will arrive. As a rule, you want to avoid placing other networking equipment such as switches and routers in this room, because it's usually not air-conditioned.

- **Main distribution facility (MDF):** Your primary computer equipment room, which you might refer to as the *server room,* is usually the room where you'll place your distribution switches. This room is called the MDF. Access switches may also be placed in the MDF if the MDF is close to the users served by the access switches.

- **Intermediate distribution facility (IDF):** For groups of users who are not close to the MDF, you can consider a separate *IDF* that is closer to those users. This room will contain access switches for those users and will be connected via one or more Ethernet cables to a distribution switch in the MDF. (An IDF also commonly called a *wiring closet.*)

  In a multi-story building, it's common to have an IDF on each floor. And if your network spans several buildings on a campus, it's also common to have an IDF in each building.