

There is no way you can absolutely prevent such scenarios from ever happening, but with proper security, you can greatly reduce their likelihood. Fortunately, all modern operating systems have built-in security provisions for network security, deterring someone from stealing your files even if he does break down the door.

This chapter provides a brief overview of what's involved when it comes to securing your network. You'll find additional details in the remaining chapters of this part. Chapter 20 dives into the details of using firewalls and antivirus software to protect your users from the dangers of the Internet. Chapter 21 explores methods for preventing the bad guys from penetrating your network via email. And Chapters 22 and 23 look at the tools you'll need to recover in the event of a successful cyberattack or other disaster.

Do You Need Security?

Most small networks are in small businesses or departments where everyone knows and trusts everyone else. Folks don't lock up their desks when they take a coffee break, and although everyone knows where the petty cash box is, money never disappears.

Cybersecurity isn't necessary in an idyllic setting like this one, is it? You bet it is. Here's why any network should be set up with at least some concern for security:

- » Even in the friendliest office environment, some information is and should be confidential. If this information is stored on the network, you want to store it in a directory that's available only to authorized users.
- » Not all security breaches are malicious. A network user may be routinely scanning through files and come across a filename that isn't familiar. The user may then call up the file, only to discover that it contains confidential personnel information, juicy office gossip, or your résumé. Curiosity, rather than malice, is often the source of security breaches.
- » Sure, everyone at the office is trustworthy now. However, what if someone becomes disgruntled, a screw pops loose, and he decides to trash the network files before jumping out the window? What if someone decides to print a few \$1,000 checks before packing off to Tahiti?
- » Sometimes the mere opportunity for fraud or theft can be too much for some people to resist. Give people free access to the payroll files, and they may decide to vote themselves a raise when no one is looking.