version of Windows the client is running). Then select the TCP/IP protocol and click the Properties button. This action opens the TCP/IP Properties dialog box, as shown in Figure 6-4. To configure the computer to use DHCP, select the Obtain an IP Address Automatically and Obtain DNS Server Address Automatically options. Click OK, and you're done.

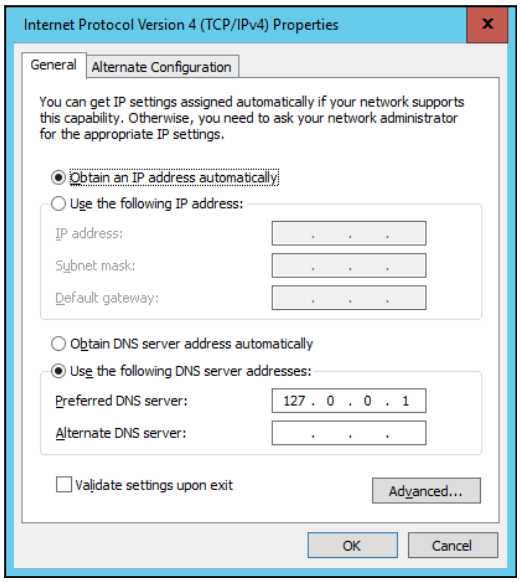

FIGURE 6-4: Configuring a Windows client to use DHCP.

Using DNS

DNS (Domain Name System) is the TCP/IP facility that lets you use names rather than numbers to refer to host computers. Without DNS, you'd buy your books from `99.84.233.99` rather than from `www.amazon.com` and you'd sell your used furniture at `104.78.128.48` rather than on `www.ebay.com`.

Understanding how DNS works and how to set up a DNS server is crucial to setting up and administering a TCP/IP network. The rest of this chapter introduces you to the basics of DNS, including how the DNS naming system works and how to set up a DNS server.

Domains and domain names

To provide a unique DNS name for every host computer on the Internet, DNS uses a time-tested technique: divide and conquer. DNS uses a hierarchical naming system that's similar to the way folders are organized hierarchically on a Windows