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## Chapter 26

# Going Hybrid

When most of us hear the word *hybrid*, we think of the Toyota Prius and other similar hybrid automobiles. These cars combine a traditional gasoline-powered internal combustion engine with an efficient electric motor powered by rechargeable batteries to produce a vehicle that is better than pure gasoline-powered cars and pure electric-powered cars: A hybrid vehicle has much better fuel efficiency than a gasoline-only car, and much better range than a battery-only car.

Hybrid cars hit the market in 1999. A few decades later, the term *hybrid* became commonplace in computing as well. These days, many companies — large and small — are touting hybrid as one of their major IT initiatives. In this chapter, I explain just what that means and why it's a good idea. I also tell you how you can dip your toe into the hybrid waters.

## What Is a Hybrid Cloud?

Most organizations today have two distinct IT engines. The traditional IT engine is based on server computers, storage devices, and network components neatly mounted on racks and locked away behind closed doors, operated and maintained by highly paid professionals.