

#### IN THIS CHAPTER

- » Getting a handle on networks
- » Considering why networking is useful (and is everywhere)
- » Telling the difference between servers and clients
- » Looking under the hood at the network operating system
- » Asking “How does it work when a network works if a network works for me?” (Say what?)
- » Assessing how networks change computing life
- » Identifying (and offering sympathy to) the network administrator
- » Comparing servers to clients: What have they got that you don't got?

## Chapter 1

# Let's Network!

Computer networks get a bad rap in the movies. Beginning in the 1980s, the *Terminator* movies featured Skynet, a computer network that becomes self-aware, takes over the planet, builds deadly terminator robots, and sends them back through time to kill everyone unfortunate enough to have the name Sarah Connor. In the *Matrix* movies, a vast and powerful computer network enslaves humans and keeps them trapped in a simulation of the real world. And in the 2015 blockbuster *Spectre*, James Bond goes rogue (again) to prevent the Evil Genius Ernst Blofeld from taking over the world (again) by linking the computer systems of all the world's intelligence agencies together to form a single all-powerful evil network that spies on everybody.