

## Database servers

A *database server* is a server computer that runs database software, such as Microsoft's SQL Server 2019. Database servers are usually used along with customized business applications, such as accounting or marketing systems.

## Application servers

An *application server* is a server computer that runs a specific application. For example, you might use an accounting application that requires its own server. In that case, you'll need to dedicate a server to the accounting application.

## License servers

Some organizations use software that requires licenses that are distributed from a centralized license server. For example, engineering firms often use computer-aided design (CAD) software such as AutoCAD that requires a license server. In that case, you'll need to set up a server to handle the licensing function.

# Choosing a Server Operating System

If you determine that your network will require one or more dedicated servers, the next step is to determine what network operating system those servers should use. If possible, all the servers should use the same network operating system (NOS) so that you don't find yourself supporting different operating systems.

Although you can choose from many network operating systems, from a practical point of view, your choices are limited to the following:

- » Windows Server 2019 or 2016
- » Linux or another version of Unix

For more information, see Chapter 11.