



TIP

When you click OK to dismiss the dialog box, the network connection's Properties dialog box closes and you're returned to the Network Connections page (refer to Figure 2-4). Right-click the network adapter and choose Properties again to continue the procedure.

## 7. Review the list of connection items listed in the Properties dialog box.

The most important items you commonly see are:

- *Client for Microsoft Networks*: This item is required if you want to access a Microsoft Windows network. It should always be present.
- *File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks*: This item allows your computer to share its files or printers with other computers on the network.



TIP

This option is usually used with peer-to-peer networks, but you can use it even if your network has dedicated servers. If you don't plan to share files or printers on the client computer, however, you should disable this item.

- *Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)*: This item enables the client computer to communicate by using the version 4 standard TCP/IP protocol.
- *Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6)*: This item enables version 6 of the standard TCP/IP protocol. Typically, both IP4 and IP6 are enabled, even though most networks rely primarily on IP4.

## 8. If a protocol that you need isn't listed, click the Install button to add the needed protocol.

A dialog box appears, asking whether you want to add a network client, protocol, or service. Click Protocol and then click Add. A list of available protocols appears. Select the one you want to add; then click OK.

## 9. To remove a network item that you don't need (such as File and Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks), select the item, and click the Uninstall button.

For security reasons, you should make it a point to remove any clients, protocols, or services that you don't need.

## 10. To configure TCP/IP settings, click Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4); click Properties to display the TCP/IP Properties dialog box (shown in Figure 2-7); adjust the settings; and then click OK.

The TCP/IP Properties dialog box lets you choose among these options:

- *Obtain an IP Address Automatically*: Choose this option if your network has a DHCP server that assigns IP addresses automatically. Choosing this option dramatically simplifies administering TCP/IP on your network. (See Chapter 6 for more information about DHCP.)