

IN THIS CHAPTER

- » Getting a whiff of Ethernet
- » Checking out the different types of network cable
- » Installing twisted-pair cable
- » Working with switches

Chapter 7

Oh, What a Tangled Web We Weave: Cables and Switches

Cable is the plumbing of your network. In fact, working with network cable is a lot like working with pipe: You have to use the right pipe (cable) along with the right valves and connectors (switches).

And network cables have an advantage over pipes: You don't get wet when they leak.

This chapter tells you far more about network cables than you probably need to know. I introduce you to *Ethernet*, the most common system of network cabling for small networks. Then you find out how to work with the cables used to wire up an Ethernet network. Finally, I show you how to work with switches, which create the necessary interconnections so that all your computers can talk to each other.