

This concept is similar to the way relative and absolute paths work in Windows. For example, if a path begins with a backslash, such as `\Windows\System32\dns`, the path is absolute. However, a path that doesn't begin with a backslash, such as `System32\dns`, uses the current folder as its starting point. If the current folder happens to be `\Windows`, `\Windows\System32\dns` and `System32\dns` refer to the same location.

In many cases, relative and fully qualified domain names are interchangeable because the software that interprets them always interprets relative names in the context of the root domain. That's why, for example, you can type `www.wiley.com` — without the trailing dot — rather than `www.wiley.com.` to go to the Wiley home page in a web browser. Some applications, such as DNS servers, may interpret relative names in the context of a domain other than the root.

Working with the Windows DNS Server

The procedure for installing and managing a DNS server depends on the network operating system you're using. This section is specific to working with a DNS server in Windows 2019. Working with a DNS server in a Linux or Unix environment is similar but without the help of a graphical user interface.

You can install the DNS server on Windows Server 2019 from the Server Manager (choose Server Manager on the taskbar). After you install the DNS server, you can manage it from the DNS management console. Here, you can perform common administrative tasks, such as adding additional zones, changing zone settings, or adding new records an existing zone. The DNS management console hides the details of the resource records from you, thus allowing you to work with a friendly graphical user interface instead.

To add a new host (which is defined by a DNS record called an A record) to a zone, right-click the zone in the DNS management console and choose the Add New Host command. This action opens the New Host dialog box, as shown in Figure 6-6.

Here, you specify the following information:

- » **Name:** The host name for the new host.
- » **IP Address:** The host's IP address.
- » **Create Associated Pointer (PTR) Record:** Automatically creates a PTR record in the reverse lookup zone file. Select this option if you want to allow reverse lookups for the host. (A *reverse lookup* determines the domain name for a