



FIGURE 18-6:
Select features to
synchronize.

Managing Android Devices

This section is a brief introduction to the Android platform. You find out a bit about what Android actually is, and you discover the procedures for setting up Exchange email access on an Android phone.

Crucial differences exist between Android phones and iPhones. The most important difference — in many ways, the *only* important difference — is that Android phones are based on an open source OS derived from Linux, which can be extended and adapted to work on a wide variety of hardware devices from different vendors. With the iPhone, you're locked into Apple hardware. With an Android phone, though, you can buy hardware from a variety of manufacturers.

Looking at the Android OS

Most people associate the Android OS with Google, and it's true that Google is the driving force behind Android. The Android OS is an open source OS managed by the Open Handset Alliance (OHA). Google still plays a major role in the development of Android, but more than 50 companies are involved in the OHA, including hardware manufacturers (such as HTC, Intel, and Motorola), software companies (such as Google and eBay), and mobile-phone operators (such as T-Mobile and Sprint-Nextel).