

Daisy-chaining switches

If a single switch doesn't have enough ports for your entire network, you can connect switches by *daisy-chaining* them, as shown in Figure 7-5. (Note that although you can daisy-chain unmanaged switches, I recommend you use managed switches if your network is large enough to require more than one switch.)

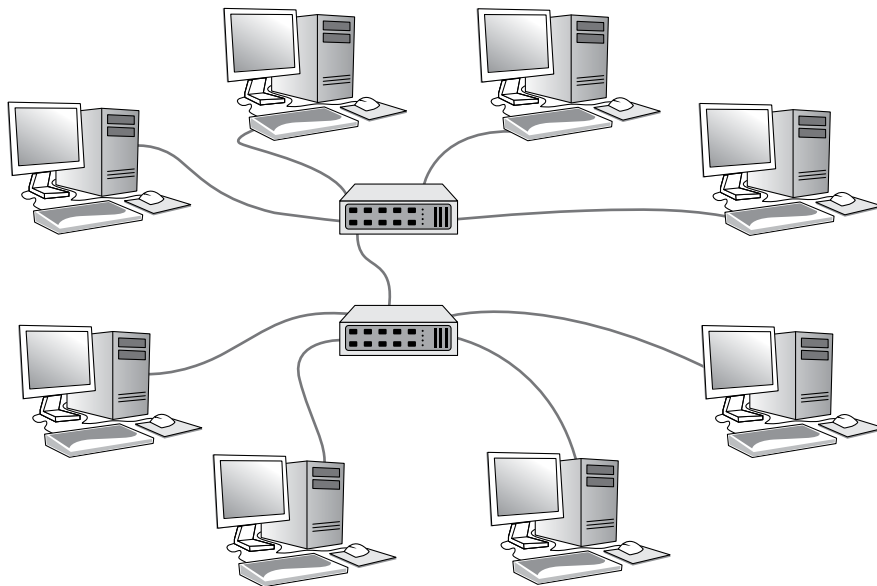


FIGURE 7-5:
You can
daisy-chain
switches
together.

On most switches, it doesn't matter which port you use to daisy chain to another switch. Just pick a port on both switches and use a patch cable to connect the switches to each other via these ports. And if your switch has ports with differing speeds, use the fastest ports to connect the switches to one another.



TIP

If your building is prewired and has a network jack near each desk, you can use a small switch to connect two or more computers to the network by using a single jack. Just use one cable to plug the switch into the wall jack and then plug each computer into one of the switch's ports.

Stacking switches

Some switches, called *stackable switches*, can be expanded by adding additional switch modules that add additional ports to the switch. The additional modules may be in the form of physically separate switches that are connected via special interconnected ports, or they may be modules that can be inserted into a larger