TECHNICAL STUFF

If you've never heard of the Cone of Silence, go to YouTube (www.youtube.com) and search for "Cone of Silence." You'll find several clips from the original *Get Smart* series.

Physical Security: Locking Your Doors

The first level of security in any computer network is *physical security.* I'm amazed when I walk into the reception area of an accounting firm and see an unattended computer sitting on the receptionist's desk. Often, the receptionist has logged on to the system and then walked away from the desk, leaving the computer unattended.

Physical security is important for workstations but vital for servers. Any good hacker can quickly defeat all but the most paranoid security measures if they can gain physical access to a server. To protect the server, follow these guidelines:

>> Lock the computer room.

>> Give the key only to people you trust.

>> Keep track of who has the keys.

>> Mount the servers on cases or racks that have locks.

>> Keep a trained guard dog in the computer room and feed it only enough to keep it hungry and mad. (Just kidding.)

REMEMBER

There's a big difference between a door with a lock and a locked door. And locks are quite worthless if you don't use them.

Client computers should be physically secure:

>> Instruct users to not leave their computers unattended while they're logged on and unlocked. Users should always lock their computers whenever they leave their desks, even if only for a moment. (To lock a computer, simultaneously press the Windows key and L.)

>> In high-traffic areas (such as the receptionist's desk), users should secure their computers with the keylock, if the computer has one.

>> Users should lock their office doors when they leave.