



## Chapter 1

# Windows Server 2003 Overview

IF YOU LIVED THROUGH the change from NT 4 Server to Windows 2000 Server, then you might be a bit gun-shy about Windows Server 2003; how much more will you have to learn, and how hard will it be? If so, then I have good news: while Server 2003 offers a lot of new stuff, there's not nearly as *much* new stuff—if 2000 was a tsunami, 2003 is just a heavy storm. (If, however, you're an NT 4 guy getting ready to move to 2003, then yes, there's a whole *lot* of new stuff to learn. But don't worry, this is the right book, and I'll make it as easy as is possible!)

Clearly explaining what Server 2003 does is the job of the entire book, but in this chapter I'll give you a quick overview of what's new. I'm mainly writing this chapter for those who already know Windows 2000 Server and are looking for a quick overview of what's new in 2003, so if you're just joining the Microsoft networking family then don't worry if some of this doesn't make sense. I promise, in the rest of the book I'll make it all clear.

### Four Types of Server

Once, there was just one kind of NT Server. Under 3.1 it was called NT Advanced Server 3.1, which confused people—was there a cheaper “basic” server available?—and so Microsoft just renamed it NT Server 3.5 for its second outing, and it stayed that way through NT Server 3.51. But with NT 4 came a slightly more powerful (and expensive) version called Enterprise Edition, which offered a different memory model and clustering but not much else, so not many chose it.

### Pre-Server 2003 Varieties

Under Windows 2000, the basic server was just called Windows 2000 Server, and Enterprise became Windows 2000 Advanced Server. It offered a bit more incentive to buy it than Enterprise had, but not much; its most enticing feature was a new tool called Network Load Balancing Module, something that Microsoft had purchased and decided to deny to the buyers of basic Server. (But it's now shipped in the basic Server, thankfully.)