

It wasn't a great leap to make the distinction between public and private types of services. At this point, the name *public switched telephone network* (PSTN) began to be used to characterize the circuit-switched network. Eventually, the PSTN would be referred to by the telecommunications industry as simply the *switched network*. The DS name stuck with the network that provided private dedicated transport services. Eventually, the DS network would be referred to as simply the *dedicated network*.

Figure 2-4 illustrates the physically separate PSTN and DS networks.

POTS telephony continues to use circuit-switched protocols that don't packetize telephony signals. (See Chapter 1 for an explanation of packets.) POTS signals travel from one line to the next line on a given circuit of lines, just like in the fifth-grade science experiment using tin cans and a string. Another good way to understand circuit-switched protocols is to think about a railroad system. Trains must switch tracks along a circuit of tracks based on the destination of the railroad cars traveling over the tracks. The direction of the train is determined by the physical tracks that the train uses. Figure 2-5 illustrates such a circuit-switched train.

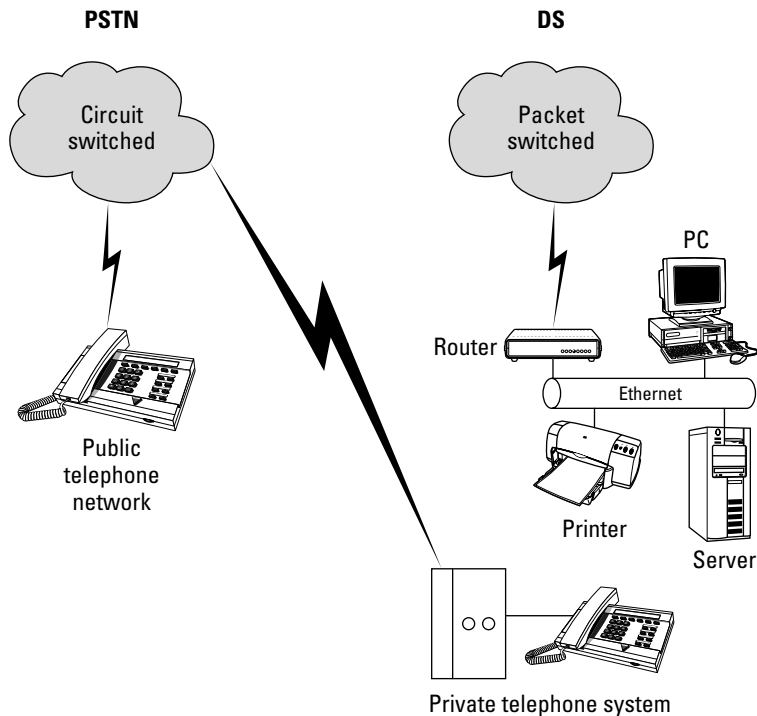


Figure 2-4:
Noncon-
verged
PSTN
and DS
networks.