Chapter 9

Searching Your Phone and Using Speech

One of the goals of the team that built Windows Phone 7 was to make finding information as easy and quick as possible. The team knew that, for most information, people do not want to be moving through apps, menus, buttons, and who knows what else—they just want to find the information ASAP! For that reason, the team dedicated an entire button on the device to searching: the **search** button.

**Understanding the Search Button**

If you’ve used any previous version of Windows Mobile, then you know that the operating system underpinning it was radically re-created in Windows Phone 7. You also know that prior versions of Windows Mobile had a search capability that wasn’t as useful as it sounded. Like the **Search** feature in Windows XP, it took time to complete, and it didn’t always behave as expected. The **Search** feature in Windows Phone 7 is different; it behaves much like the **Search** feature on a Windows Vista or Windows 7 machine. Follow these steps to access and use the **Search** feature on your Windows Phone 7 device:

1. The **search** button is your first line of attack for many information-seeking activities. To initiate a search, turn on and unlock your phone.

2. Press the **search** button. If this is the first time you’ve searched for something, you may get a message asking whether it is OK for the **Search** feature to use your physical location data to aid in its searches. If you do not turn this feature on, you won’t be able to get local search information.
3. After accepting or declining the request to use your physical location, you’ll get a screen similar to the one shown in Figure 9–2, with a background by Microsoft Bing. You’re now ready to start searching.

Figure 9–1. Allowing the Search feature to use your location.