Over the years, Apple has refined how users are able to view and manage multiple windows and applications. In Lion, a number of these technologies have come together in an extended desktop metaphor that melds the best from previous versions of Mac OS X with some iOS flavor. These technologies, which are now all seamlessly part of this extended desktop metaphor, include:

- Mission Control
- Spaces
- Dashboard

The Extended Desktop

In Lion, Apple has introduced Mission Control, which ties Spaces and Dashboard together into a seamless extended desktop (Figure 4–1) and replaces the Exposé features. Using keyboard shortcuts you can easily navigate from view to view; however, this extended desktop metaphor really comes together through the use of a multitouch trackpad or touchscreen device, which lets you scroll from one view to another using (by default) the three-finger scroll.
Figure 4–1. In Lion, Mission Control, Dashboard, Spaces, and full-screen applications are seamlessly integrated into an extended desktop.

While these are all tied together, each technology has its own unique purpose and features, so we will look at these one by one beginning with Mission Control.

NOTE: We will not specifically be discussing any full-screen applications in this chapter, other than to mention that when an application is being run in full-screen mode, the application will occupy its own space.

Mission Control

Exposé was introduced in Mac OS X 10.3 Panther to help users more easily work with windows. It allowed users to move, shrink, and highlight windows in ways that are incredibly useful, especially when working with many open windows at once. When Spaces was introduced in Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, Exposé was tweaked to reveal spaces as well as windows.

Originally, Exposé provided three distinct views: All Windows view, Application Windows view, and Desktop view. In Lion, among other changes, most of these views and the functions they provided have been simplified into the new Mission Control app.