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Put on the Monitor's Cap

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Monitoring disk usage
- ▶ Calculating the execution time for a command
- ▶ Collecting information about logged in users, boot logs, and boot failures
- ▶ Listing the top 10 CPU consuming processes in an hour
- ▶ Monitoring command outputs with watch
- ▶ Logging access to files and directories
- ▶ Logfile management with logrotate
- ▶ Logging with syslog
- ▶ Monitoring user logins to find intruders
- ▶ Remote disk usage health monitor
- ▶ Finding out active user hours on a system
- ▶ Measuring and optimizing power usage
- ▶ Monitoring disk activity
- ▶ Checking disks and filesystems for errors

Introduction

An operating system consists of a collection of system software that is designed for different purposes. It is a good idea to monitor each of these programs in order to know whether they are working properly or not. We will also use a technique called logging by which we can get important information in a file while the program is running. The content of this file can be used to understand the timeline of operations that are taking place in a running program or daemon. For instance, if an application or a service crashes, this information helps to debug the issue and enables us to fix any issues.