/etc/fstab file

The **/etc/fstab** file is a system configuration file that contains all available disks, disk partitions and their options. Each file system is described on a separate line. Each line contains six fields separated by one or more spaces or tabs. If you add a new hard disk or have to repartition the existing one, you'll probably need to modify this file. The **/etc/fstab** file is used by the *mount* command, which reads the file to determine which options should be used when mounting the specified device.

Here is a sample **/etc/fstab** file:

```
suse1:~ # cat /etc/fstab
/dev/sda1              swap                    swap        defaults                  0 0
/dev/sda2              /                       ext3        acl,user_xattr            1 1
proc                   /proc                   proc        defaults                  0 0
sysfs                  /sys                    sysfs       noauto                    0 0
debugfs                /sys/kernel/debug       debugfs     noauto                    0 0
usbfs                  /proc/bus/usb           usbfs       noauto                    0 0
devpts                 /dev/pts                devpts      mode=0620,gid=5           0 0
# /dev/sr0      /cdrom  iso9660 ro,nosuid,nodev,uid=0      0 0
/dev/sdc1              /novi_disk                          ext3        acl,user_xattr,usr
quota,grpquota         2 0
```

As you can see from the output above, each line consists of six fields. Here is a description of each of them:

- **Device** – the first field specifies the mount device. These are usually device filenames. Most distributions now specify partitions by their labels or UUIDs.
- **Mount point** – the second field specifies the mount point, the directory where the partition or disk will be mounted. This should usually be an empty directory in another file system.
- **File system type** – the third field specifies the file system type.
- **Options** – the fourth field specifies the mount options. Most file systems support several mount options, which modify how the kernel treats the file system. You may specify multiple mount options, separated by commas.
- **Backup operation** – the fifth field contains a **1** if the **dump** utility should back up a partition or a **0** if it shouldn't. If you never use the dump backup program, you can ignore this option.
- **File system check order** – the sixth field specifies the order in which *fsck* checks the device/partition for errors at boot time. A **0** means that fsck should not check a file system. Higher numbers represent the check order. The root partition should have a value of **1** , and all others that need to be checked should have a value of **2**.