Important changes compared to GRUB Legacy include the following:  
■ The title keyword is replaced by menuentry.  
■ The menu title is enclosed in quotation marks.  
■ An opening curly brace ({) follows the menu title, and each entry ends with a closing  
curly brace (}).  
■ The set keyword precedes the root keyword, and an equal sign (=) separates the root  
keyword from the partition specification.  
■ The rootnoverify keyword has been eliminated; you use root instead.  
■ Partitions are numbered starting from 1 rather than from 0. A similar change  
in disk numbering is *not* implemented. This change can be very confusing if  
you’re used to GRUB Legacy, but it makes partition-numbering mix-ups when  
“translating” from Linux-style partition numbering less likely. The most recent  
versions of GRUB 2 also support a more complex partition identification scheme  
to specify the partition table type, as in (hd0,gpt2) to specify that the second GPT  
partition should be used or (hd1,mbr3) to specify that the third MBR partition  
should be used.  
GRUB 2 makes further changes in that it employs a set of scripts and other tools that  
help automatically maintain the /boot/grub/grub.cfg file. The intent is that system  
administrators need never explicitly edit this file. Instead, you would edit files in /etc/  
grub.d, and the /etc/default/grub file, to change your GRUB 2 configuration. After  
making such changes, you must explicitly rebuild the grub.cfg file, as described shortly.  
Files in /etc/grub.d control particular GRUB OS probers. These scripts scan the system  
for particular OSs and kernels and add GRUB entries to /boot/grub/grub.cfg to support  
those OSs. You can add custom kernel entries, such as those shown in Listing 5.2, to the  
40\_custom file to support your own locally compiled kernels or unusual OSs that GRUB  
doesn’t automatically detect.  
The /etc/default/grub file controls the defaults created by the GRUB 2 configuration  
scripts. For instance, if you want to adjust the timeout, you might change the  
following line:  
GRUB\_TIMEOUT=10  
A distribution that’s designed to use GRUB 2, such as Ubuntu, will automatically run  
the configuration scripts after certain actions, such as installing a new kernel with the  
distribution’s package manager.  
If you need to make changes to the GRUB 2 configuration file yourself, edit either the  
/etc/default/grub file or the files in the /etc/grub.d folder, and then use the update-grub  
or grub-mkconfig command (depending on your Linux distribution) to move the changes to  
the /boot/grub/grub.cfg file.