The last command can provide current and historical data concerning users logging into  
and out of your system. To display the information, simply type **last** at the command line.  
However, because there is potentially a great deal of information to display, it’s a good idea  
to pipe the output into a pager, like less

The data displayed comes from the /var/log/wtmp file. The last command displays  
the newest data first. Therefore, you should see any users currently logged into the  
system, denoted by the still logged in tag. The date and time shown in each user  
record indicates when a user logged into the system and when they logged out. In some  
cases, a user was logged into the system when the system shut down, as indicated by the  
down keyword.

Be aware that the /var/log/wtmp file may be rotated by the logrotate utility (see Chapter 7 for more information on logrotate). If you need to view  
older /var/log/wtmp file versions, you can use the -f option on the last  
command. For instance, if you rotate your wtmp file and an older version  
you want to view is named /var/log/wtmp.1, you should type **last**  
**-f /var/log/wtmp.1** at the command prompt.