Linux enables you to load kernel modules with two programs: insmod and modprobe. The  
insmod program inserts a single module into the kernel. This process requires you to have  
already loaded any modules on which the module you’re loading relies. The modprobe  
program, by contrast, automatically loads any depended-on modules, and so it is generally  
the preferred way to do the job.

rmmod operates on a single module. If you try to unload a module that’s  
depended on by other modules or is in use, rmmod will return an error message. (The -w  
option modifies this behavior, as just described.) If other modules depend on the module,  
rmmod lists those modules so you can decide whether to unload them. If you want to unload  
an entire *module stack*—that is, a module and all those upon which it depends—you can use  
the modprobe command and its -r option (modprobe –r)