$ **lsmod**  
Module Size Used by  
isofs 35820 0  
zlib\_inflate 21888 1 isofs  
bluetooth 433970 5 bnep  
nls\_iso8859\_1 5568 1  
nls\_cp437 7296 1  
vfat 15680 1  
fat 49536 1 vfat  
sr\_mod 19236 0  
ide\_cd 42848 0  
  
The most important column in this output is the first one, labeled Module. This column  
specifies the names of all of the modules that are currently loaded. You can learn more about  
these modules with modinfo, as described shortly, but sometimes their purpose is fairly  
obvious. For instance, the bluetooth module provides access to external wireless devices.

The Used by column of the lsmod output describes what’s using the module. All of the  
entries have a number, which indicates the number of other modules or processes that  
are using the module. For instance, in the preceding example, the isofs module (used to  
access CD/DVD filesystems) isn’t currently in use, as revealed by its 0 value, but the vfat  
module (used to read VFAT Windows hard disk and USB stick partitions) is being used, as  
shown by its value of 1.

If one of the modules is being used by another module, the using  
module’s name appears in the Used by column. For instance, the isofs module relies on  
the zlib\_inflate module, so the latter module’s Used by column includes the isofs module name. This information can be useful when you’re managing modules. For instance, if  
your system produced the preceding output, you couldn’t directly remove the zlib\_inflate  
module because the isofs module is using it, but you could remove the isofs module, and  
after doing so, you could remove the zlib\_inflate module. (Both modules would need to  
be added back to read most CD/DVDs, though.)