When you are mounting a filesystem you need to be able to tell Linux how to find that device. There are different ways to do this. The first is to refer to the device, such as /dev/sda1.

This works on a small scale, but if you add or remove hardware the device names can change.

To get around this unpredictable naming, information can be stored inside the superblock of the filesystem to identify that particular filesystem. The two elements used are the filesystem label and the universally unique identifier ([UUID](gloss01.html#gloss_478)). The label is a human generated name that should be unique across all disks, while the UUID is generated when the filesystem is made and should always be unique.

You can see your label and UUIDs with the **blkid** command:

[**Click here to view code image**](ch09_images.html#p270pro01a)

# blkid  
/dev/sda1: UUID="4d2b8b91-9666-49cc-a23a-1a183ccd2150" TYPE="ext4"  
/dev/sda3: LABEL="flubbers" UUID="bab04315-389d-42bf-9efa-  
b25c2f39b7a0" TYPE="ext4"  
/dev/sda4: UUID="18d6e8bc-14a0-44a0-b82b-e69b4469b0ad" TYPE="ext4"

Here, you can see that each filesystem has a UUID to identify it, and the second one was also assigned a label of “flubbers”.