

List USB Devices Linux – Linux Hint

By Shahriar Shovon

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In the world of USB computer peripherals, almost everyone uses some sort of USB devices in their computer. These days there are USB webcams, USB hard drives, USB stick also known as PenDrive etc. Almost every device has a USB version of it. So if you're using Linux, listing what USB device is connected to your system might be necessary at some point.

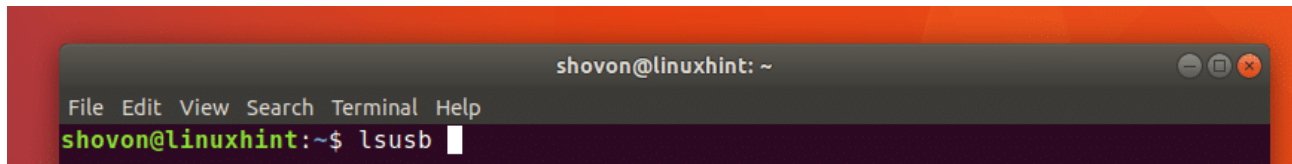
There are many programs and many ways to list USB devices on Linux.

In this article, I will show you how to list USB devices on Linux. I am using Ubuntu 18.04 Bionic Beaver for the demonstration, but these commands are available on every Linux distribution. So let's get started.

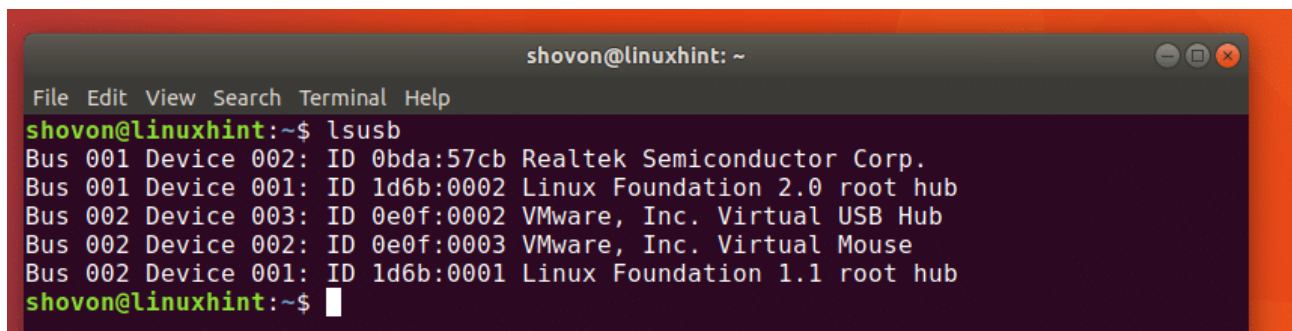
Listing USB Devices using lsusb Command

The widely used **lsusb** command can be used to list all the connected USB devices in Linux.

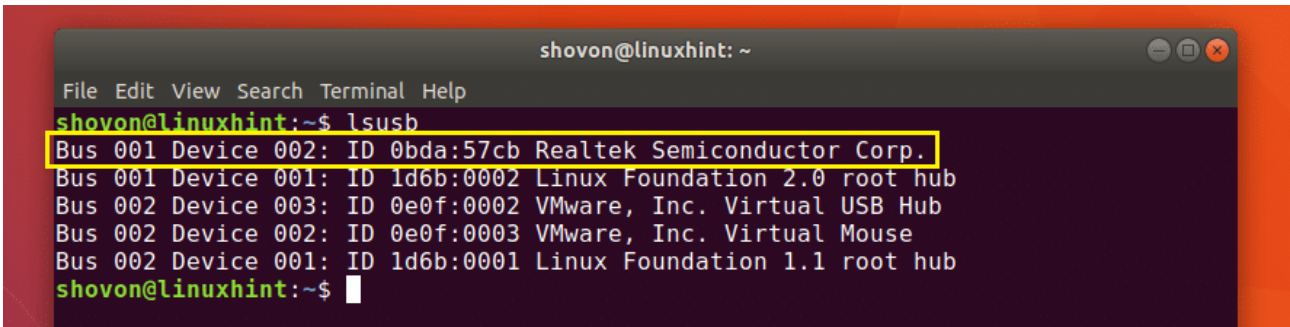
\$ lsusb



As you can see from the output of the **lsusb** command in the screenshot below, all the connected USB device is listed. The Bus ID, Device ID, USB ID, and a title is displayed in the output of **lsusb** command.



As you can see in the marked section of the screenshot below, **Realtek Semiconductor Corp.** with ID **0bda:57cb**, this is my USB Webcam.



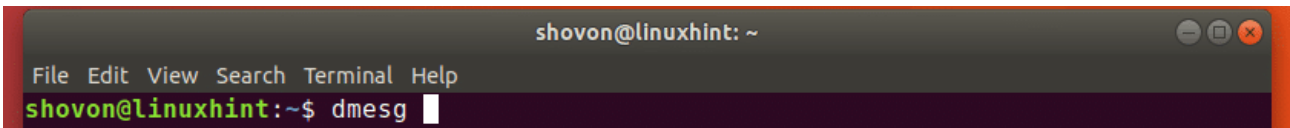
```
shovon@linuxhint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
shovon@linuxhint:~$ lsusb  
Bus 001 Device 002: ID 0bda:57cb Realtek Semiconductor Corp.  
Bus 001 Device 001: ID 1d6b:0002 Linux Foundation 2.0 root hub  
Bus 002 Device 003: ID 0e0f:0002 VMware, Inc. Virtual USB Hub  
Bus 002 Device 002: ID 0e0f:0003 VMware, Inc. Virtual Mouse  
Bus 002 Device 001: ID 1d6b:0001 Linux Foundation 1.1 root hub  
shovon@linuxhint:~$
```

You can't tell that it's a Webcam by looking at the output of **lsusb** command, Can you? Nope! So how do I know this? It's because I checked the output of the **lsusb** command before and after connecting the USB Webcam and once I compared the outputs, the newly added row is the USB device I connected. Plain! But there are ways to find out what the USB device is.

You can use the **dmesg** command to find out more information about the connected USB devices. The last connected USB device is the easiest to find with **dmesg** command. It is more widely used for debugging purpose. You will shortly see why.

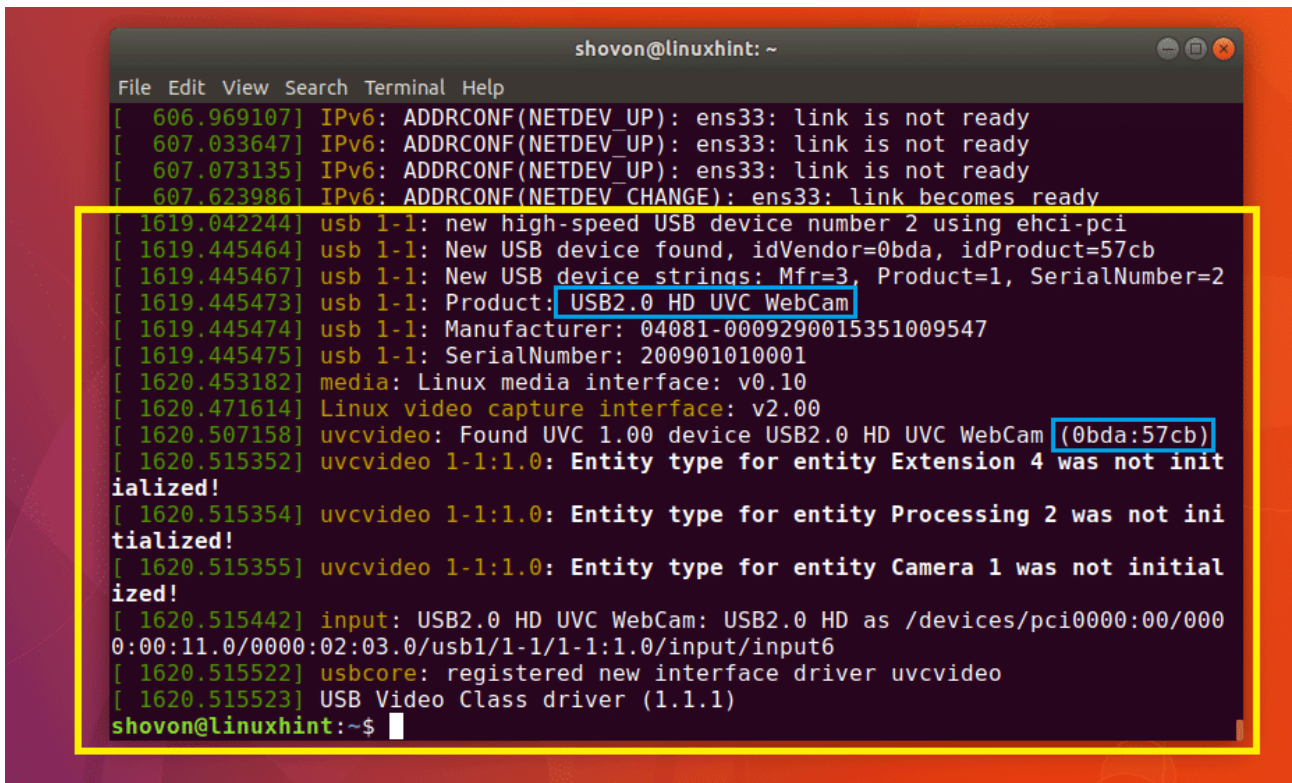
You run **dmesg** command as follows:

```
$ dmesg
```



```
shovon@linuxhint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
shovon@linuxhint:~$ dmesg
```

As you can see in the yellow marked box in the screenshot below, these are information about the USB device I connected last, which was my USB Webcam. You can see in one of the blue marked box, the USB device I connected is a **HD UVC WebCam** and its ID is **0bda:57cb**.

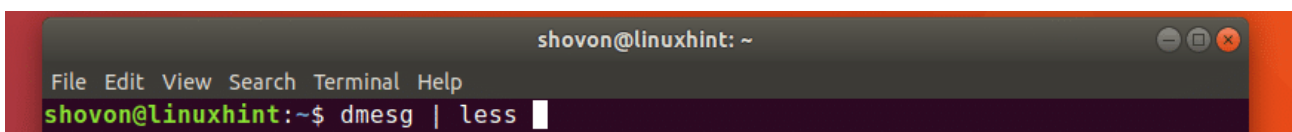


By now you may have found out that the output of **dmesg** command is system log messages. Well yes, it is.

You can also search for a specific USB device by its ID in the **dmesg** system log.

Run the following command to open the output of **dmesg** command with **less** text pager:

```
$ dmesg | less
```



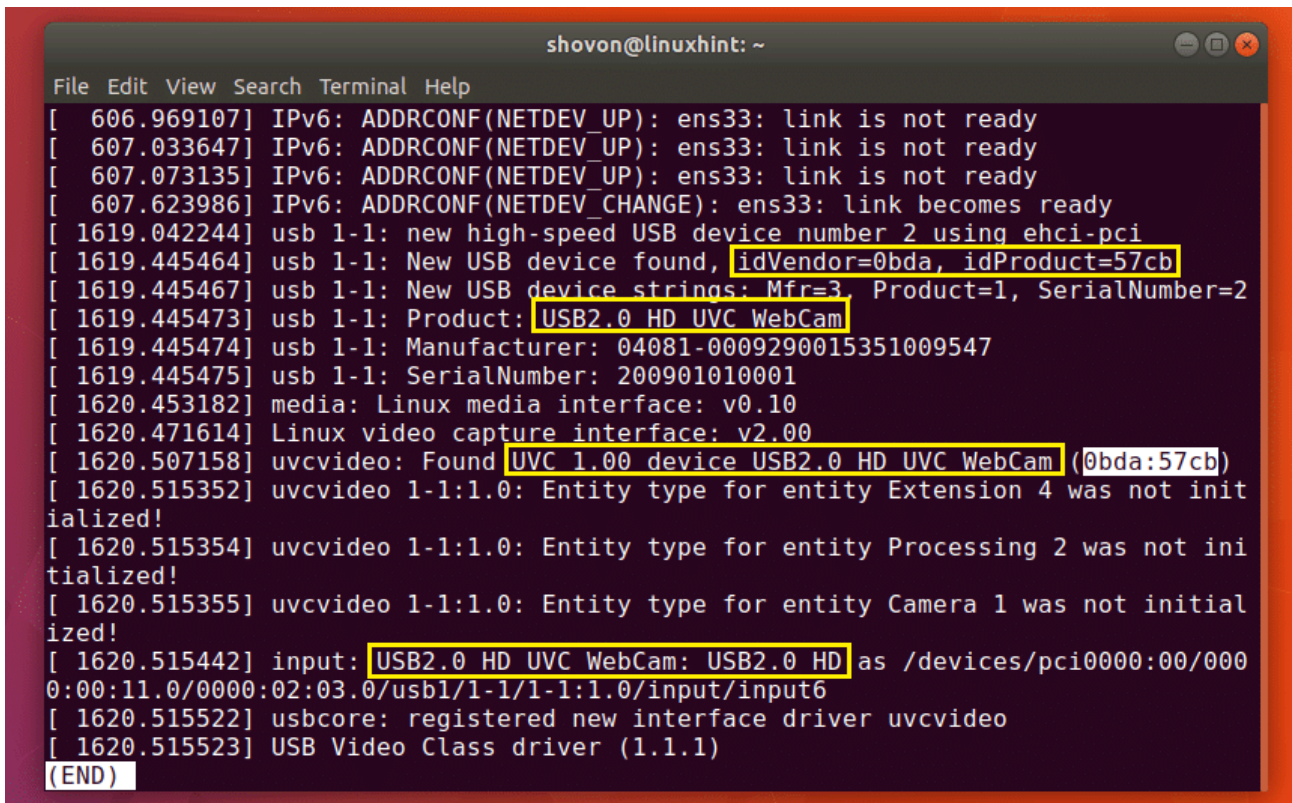
You should see the following window:

```
shovon@linuxhint: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[ 0.000000] Linux version 4.15.0-10-generic (buildd@lgw01-amd64-036) (gcc ver
sion 7.3.0 (Ubuntu 7.3.0-3ubuntu1)) #11-Ubuntu SMP Tue Feb 13 18:23:35 UTC 2018
(Ubuntu 4.15.0-10.11-generic 4.15.3)
[ 0.000000] Command line: BOOT_IMAGE=/boot/vmlinuz-4.15.0-10-generic root=UI
D=1e284bf6-0330-4155-8ca9-dee37347f4f6 ro quiet splash
[ 0.000000] KERNEL supported cpus:
[ 0.000000] Intel GenuineIntel
[ 0.000000] AMD AuthenticAMD
[ 0.000000] Centaur CentaurHauls
[ 0.000000] Disabled fast string operations
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Supporting XSAVE feature 0x001: 'x87 floating point regi
sters'
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Supporting XSAVE feature 0x002: 'SSE registers'
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Supporting XSAVE feature 0x004: 'AVX registers'
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: xstate_offset[2]: 576, xstate_sizes[2]: 256
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Enabled xstate features 0x7, context size is 832 bytes,
using 'standard' format.
[ 0.000000] e820: BIOS-provided physical RAM map:
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x0000000000000000-0x00000000000009e7ff] usable
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x00000000000009e800-0x00000000000009ffff] reserved
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x0000000000000dc000-0x0000000000000fffff] reserved
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x0000000000100000-0x000000000007fedffff] usable
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x000000000007fee0000-0x000000000007fefeffff] ACPI data
:
```

Now to search for a string, press / key on your keyboard. And you should the a / appear on the bottom of terminal window as marked in the screenshot below.

```
shovon@linuxhint: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[ 0.000000] Linux version 4.15.0-10-generic (buildd@lgw01-amd64-036) (gcc ver
sion 7.3.0 (Ubuntu 7.3.0-3ubuntu1)) #11-Ubuntu SMP Tue Feb 13 18:23:35 UTC 2018
(Ubuntu 4.15.0-10.11-generic 4.15.3)
[ 0.000000] Command line: BOOT_IMAGE=/boot/vmlinuz-4.15.0-10-generic root=UI
D=1e284bf6-0330-4155-8ca9-dee37347f4f6 ro quiet splash
[ 0.000000] KERNEL supported cpus:
[ 0.000000] Intel GenuineIntel
[ 0.000000] AMD AuthenticAMD
[ 0.000000] Centaur CentaurHauls
[ 0.000000] Disabled fast string operations
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Supporting XSAVE feature 0x001: 'x87 floating point regi
sters'
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Supporting XSAVE feature 0x002: 'SSE registers'
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Supporting XSAVE feature 0x004: 'AVX registers'
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: xstate_offset[2]: 576, xstate_sizes[2]: 256
[ 0.000000] x86/fpu: Enabled xstate features 0x7, context size is 832 bytes,
using 'standard' format.
[ 0.000000] e820: BIOS-provided physical RAM map:
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x0000000000000000-0x00000000000009e7ff] usable
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x00000000000009e800-0x00000000000009ffff] reserved
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x0000000000000dc000-0x0000000000000fffff] reserved
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x0000000000100000-0x000000000007fedffff] usable
[ 0.000000] BIOS-e820: [mem 0x000000000007fee0000-0x000000000007fefeffff] ACPI data
/
```

Now type in the USB device ID. For example, earlier when I listed the connected USB devices with lsusb command, one of the USB device had ID **0bda:57cb**

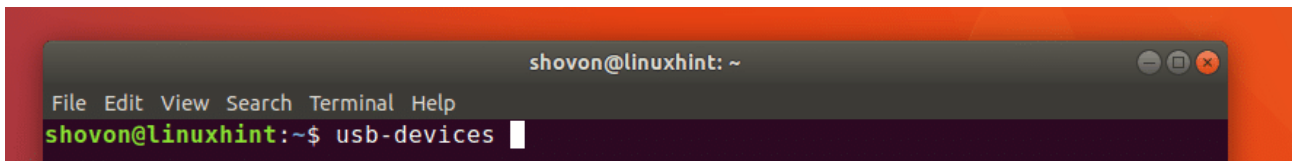


```
shovon@linuxhint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
[ 606.969107] IPv6: ADDRCONF(NETDEV_UP): ens33: link is not ready  
[ 607.033647] IPv6: ADDRCONF(NETDEV_UP): ens33: link is not ready  
[ 607.073135] IPv6: ADDRCONF(NETDEV_UP): ens33: link is not ready  
[ 607.623986] IPv6: ADDRCONF(NETDEV_CHANGE): ens33: link becomes ready  
[ 1619.042244] usb 1-1: new high-speed USB device number 2 using ehci-pci  
[ 1619.445464] usb 1-1: New USB device found, idVendor=0bda, idProduct=57cb  
[ 1619.445467] usb 1-1: New USB device strings: Mfr=3, Product=1, SerialNumber=2  
[ 1619.445473] usb 1-1: Product: USB2.0 HD UVC WebCam  
[ 1619.445474] usb 1-1: Manufacturer: 04081-0009290015351009547  
[ 1619.445475] usb 1-1: SerialNumber: 200901010001  
[ 1620.453182] media: Linux media interface: v0.10  
[ 1620.471614] Linux video capture interface: v2.00  
[ 1620.507158] uvcvideo: Found UVC 1.00 device USB2.0 HD UVC WebCam (0bda:57cb)  
[ 1620.515352] uvcvideo 1-1:1.0: Entity type for entity Extension 4 was not initialized!  
[ 1620.515354] uvcvideo 1-1:1.0: Entity type for entity Processing 2 was not initialized!  
[ 1620.515355] uvcvideo 1-1:1.0: Entity type for entity Camera 1 was not initialized!  
[ 1620.515442] input: USB2.0 HD UVC WebCam: USB2.0 HD as /devices/pci0000:00/0000:00:00:11.0/0000:02:03.0/usb1/1-1/1-1:1.0/input/input6  
[ 1620.515522] usbcore: registered new interface driver uvcvideo  
[ 1620.515523] USB Video Class driver (1.1.1)  
(END)
```

Listing USB devices with `usb-devices` Command

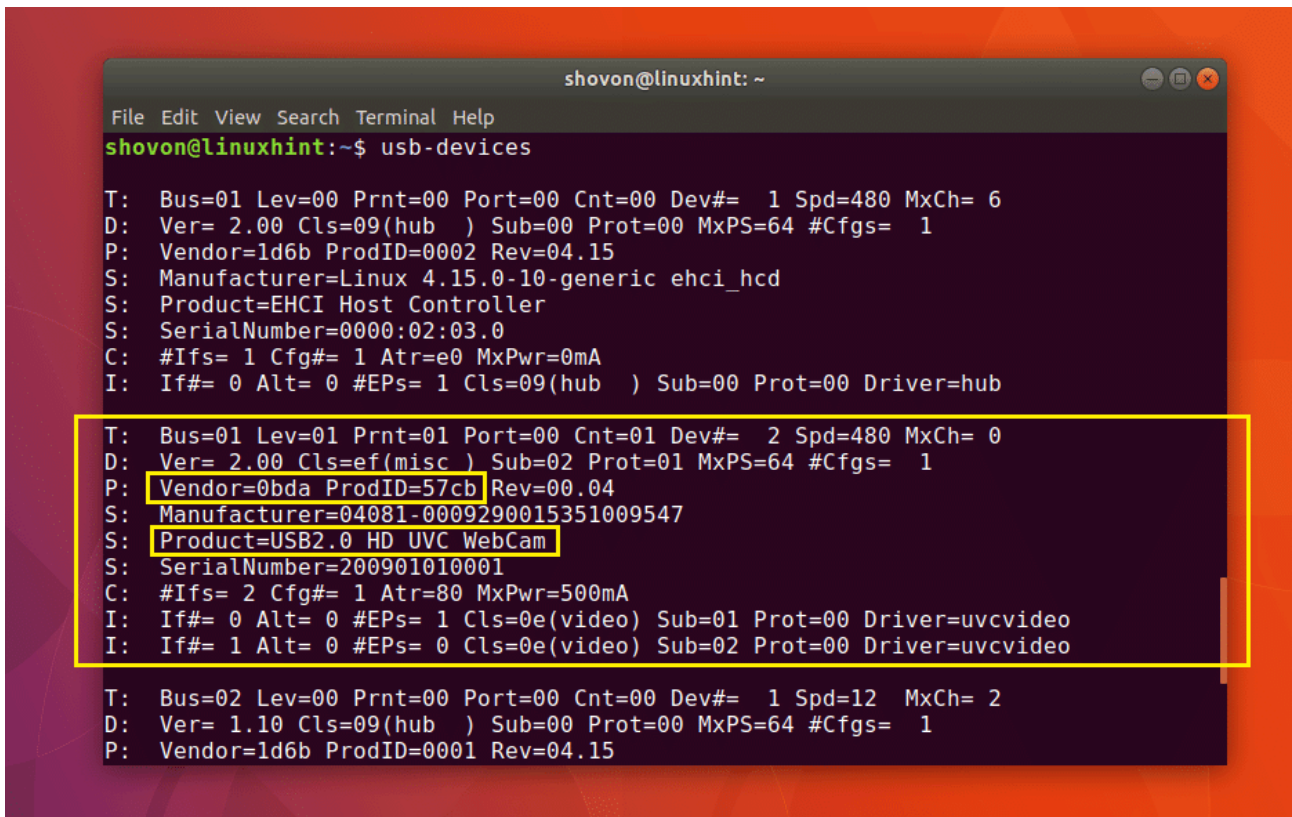
You can run the following command to list all the connected USB devices of your system:

```
$ usb-devices
```



```
shovon@linuxhint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
shovon@linuxhint:~$ usb-devices
```

As you can see in the screenshot below, all the connected USB devices are listed. we can find out pretty much the same information as before with `usb-devices` command.



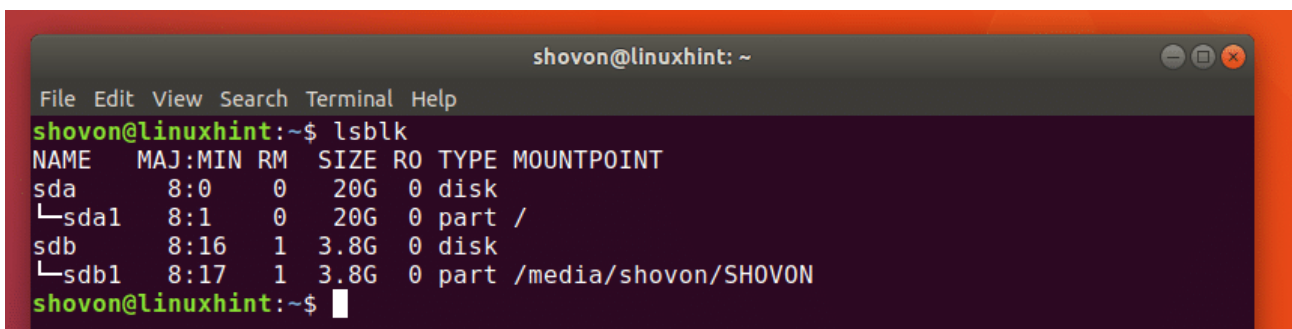
Listing Block USB Devices

If you want to list all the USB block storage devices, that is all the USB storage devices, then you can use the **lsblk** or **fdisk** command to do so.

Listing USB block storage devices with **lsblk**:

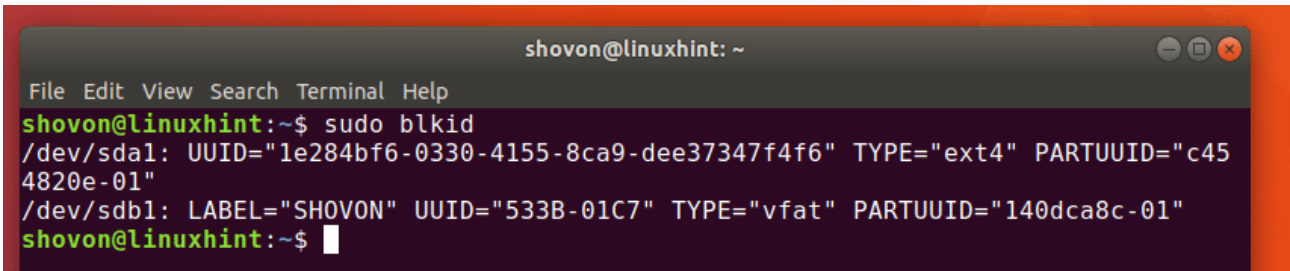
```
$ lsblk
```

As you can see in the screenshot below, all the available block storage devices (including the USB block storage devices) are listed.



You can get almost the same information as **lsblk** command with **blkid** command. But you have to run it as root as follows:

```
$ sudo blkid
```

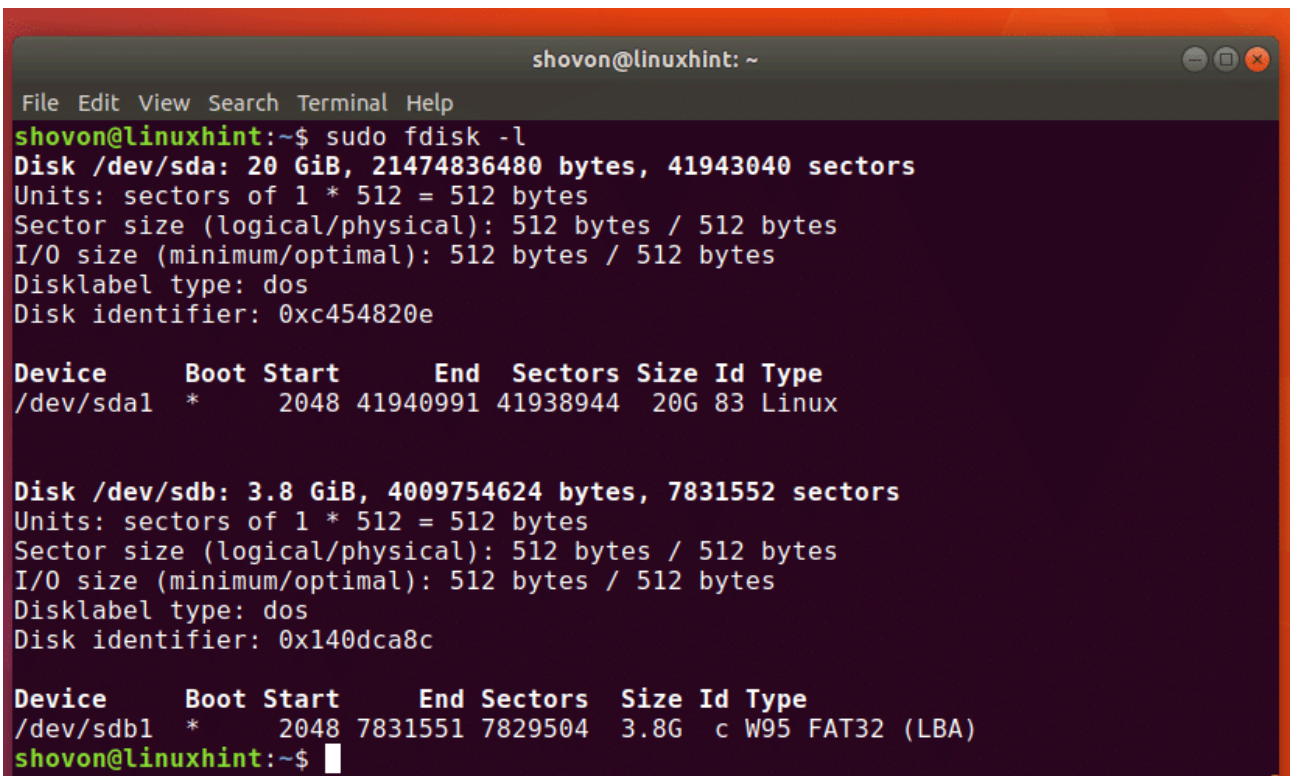


```
shovon@linuxhint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
shovon@linuxhint:~$ sudo blkid  
/dev/sda1: UUID="1e284bf6-0330-4155-8ca9-dee37347f4f6" TYPE="ext4" PARTUUID="c454820e-01"  
/dev/sdb1: LABEL="SHOVON" UUID="533B-01C7" TYPE="vfat" PARTUUID="140dca8c-01"  
shovon@linuxhint:~$
```

You can also use **fdisk** command to list all the USB block storage devices as follows:

```
$ sudo fdisk -l
```

As you can see in the screenshot below, the connected block storage devices (including the USB devices) are listed.



```
shovon@linuxhint: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
shovon@linuxhint:~$ sudo fdisk -l  
Disk /dev/sda: 20 GiB, 21474836480 bytes, 41943040 sectors  
Units: sectors of 1 * 512 = 512 bytes  
Sector size (logical/physical): 512 bytes / 512 bytes  
I/O size (minimum/optimal): 512 bytes / 512 bytes  
Disklabel type: dos  
Disk identifier: 0xc454820e  
  
Device      Boot Start      End  Sectors  Size Id Type  
/dev/sda1  *          2048 41940991 41938944  20G 83 Linux  
  
Disk /dev/sdb: 3.8 GiB, 4009754624 bytes, 7831552 sectors  
Units: sectors of 1 * 512 = 512 bytes  
Sector size (logical/physical): 512 bytes / 512 bytes  
I/O size (minimum/optimal): 512 bytes / 512 bytes  
Disklabel type: dos  
Disk identifier: 0x140dca8c  
  
Device      Boot Start      End Sectors  Size Id Type  
/dev/sdb1  *          2048 7831551 7829504  3.8G  c W95 FAT32 (LBA)  
shovon@linuxhint:~$
```

That's how you list all the USB devices on Linux. Thanks for reading this article.