Next, open the terminal window. Using the terminal window, run the "ifconfig -a" command to list all the interfaces on your system, as shown here.

# ifconfig -a

eth0 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0c:29:69:12:7c

 inet addr:172.16.0.108 Bcast:172.16.0.255 Mask:255.255.255.0

 inet6 addr: fc00:660:0:1:20c:29ff:fe69:127c/64 Scope:Global

 inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:fe69:127c/64 Scope:Link

 UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1

 RX packets:9859 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0

 TX packets:1399 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0

 collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000

 RX bytes:1920894 (1.8 MiB) TX bytes:233088 (227.6 KiB)

 Interrupt:19 Base address:0x2000

lo Link encap:Local Loopback

 inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0

 inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host

 UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536 Metric:1

 RX packets:372 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0

 TX packets:372 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0

 collisions:0 txqueuelen:0

 RX bytes:22320 (21.7 KiB) TX bytes:22320 (21.7 KiB)

wlan0 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:c0:ca:85:00:ba

 UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1

 RX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0

 TX packets:0 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0

 collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000

 RX bytes:0 (0.0 B) TX bytes:0 (0.0 B)

The ALFA wireless card is represented by the "wlan0" interface.

In addition to the interfaces shown in the ifconfig output, there is another interface known as the *wireless physical interface*. We can identify this interface by listing the contents of the /sys/class/ieee80211 directory, as shown.

# ls /sys/class/ieee80211/

phy0

The "phy0" interface is the parent interface used to create child interfaces. Note that if you unplug and replug the USB interface, the "phy" interface number will increment by one until you reboot your system.