How to auto load kernel module on system boot in CentOS 5

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If you're in need to auto load a kernel module during boot time on CentOS 5 Linux, but you want to do it in the **"proper way"** instead of placing it directly into the good old **/etc/rc.local** .
Then it might be a good idea to know that CentOS is loading it's kernel modules using the wrapper script **/etc/rc.sysinit**
In that script there is a small for loop which instructs the system to load all scripts located in the **/etc/sysconfig/modules/** directory.
Thereafter a quick way to include a new kernel module to auto boot up on startup could be accomplished through:

```
echo "modprobe somemodulename" > /etc/sysconfig/modules/somemodulename.modules
chmod +x /etc/sysconfig/modules/somemodulename.modules
```

Here I'll illustrate with a real life example, let's say you're in need to auto lood during server boot process the kernel module softdog which is a must have in most Linux hardwares since they don't include a hardware watchdog equipped with it.

Execute the commands below to instruct your CentOS to autoload the **softdog kernel module** next time on boot:

```
[hipo@centos-server ~]# echo -e '#!/bin/sh\nMODULES="softdog' >
/etc/sysconfig/modules/softdog.modules
[hipo@centos-server ~]# echo -e "for i in $MODULES ; do\nmodprobe $i >/dev/null 2>&1; done" >>
/etc/sysconfig/modules/softdog.modules
[hipo@centos-server ~]# echo "modprobe watchdog" >> /etc/sysconfig/modules/softdog.modules
[hipo@centos-server ~]# chmod +x /etc/sysconfig/modules/softdog.modules
```

To also load the same module immediately use **modprobe**

```
[hipo@centos-server ~]# /sbin/modprobe softdog
```

This kind of approach to the problem should also work in other Redhat based Linux distributions like Redhat, Fedora, RHEL etc.
A similar article to this could be seen on The really right, modern and clean way to load modules in CentOSÂ 5