Quick Start Guide

MySQL Quick Start Guide

SQL databases provide many benefits to the web designer, allowing you to dynamically update your web pages, collect and maintain customer data and allowing customers to contribute to your website with content of their own. In addition many software applications, such as blogs, forums and content management systems require a database to store their information.

SQL stands for Structured Query Language, which is a standard interactive programming language used for many popular databases.

Before you Start

Before you can start to use your database, you will need to make a note of the following information.

- Database host IP address.
- The name of the database.
- The username you will connect with.
- The password for the user.

Connecting to Your Database from the Command Line

MySQL enables you to access your database through the command-line. This is useful if you want to check your database or perform setup tasks before you start using it.

> *i* **Note:** With most web applications, such as blogging, forums and ecommerce, you don't need to use MySQL's command-line tools.

If you have a Linux web hosting account, you can use SSH to connect to our Linux servers and start using the MySQL command-line tools straight away.
If you have a Windows web hosting account, you can install MySQL on your own PC.

MySQL is available to download for free from http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/.

Step 2	At the command line – either on your own PC or through SSH – log into your database's server.

> **Quick tip:** If you have installed MySQL on your Windows machine, you can open a command prompt window. To do this click on the **Start** menu, select **Run**, and type **cmd**. Then click the **Ok** button.

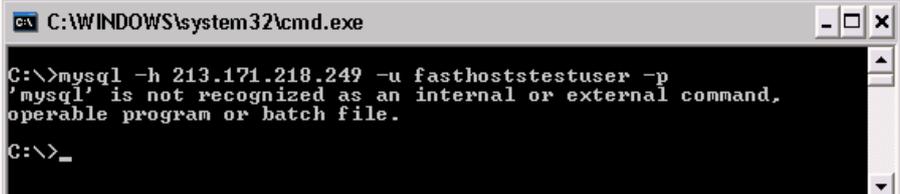Here is an example of what you need to type to connect to your MySQL database.

Example:

```
mysql -h 213.171.218.249 testdatabase -u testuser –p
```

Lets break this example down and explain it in a little more detail:

- **mysql**: Specifies to connect to a MySQL database.
- **-h 213.171.218.249**: This specifies the database server to connect to. This is the IP address of your database, in this example we use *213.171.218.249*.
- **testdatabase**: The name of your database.
- **-u testuser**: The –u flag specifies the username, in this example the username we want to connect with is *testuser*.
- **-p**: This will ensure you are prompted for a password with which to connect to the database.

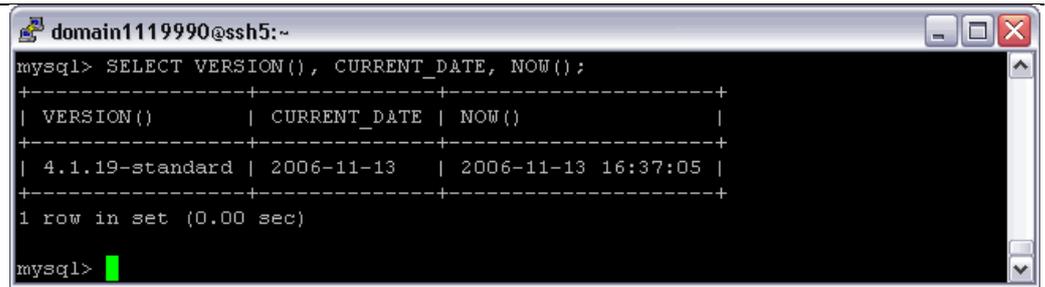> **Note:** If you are running Windows and have not installed MySQL, you will see an error message.
>
>

Step 2	You can check that you have successfully connected to the database by asking for its version and the current date. At the `mysql>` prompt type: `SELECT VERSION(), CURRENT_DATE, NOW();`

> **Note:** More support and advice on using the MySQL Command Line Utility
> is available from the MySQL website, at:
> http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/mysql.html.

Installing phpMyAdmin

The phpMyAdmin project is a web application that makes it easy to create and
manage your MySQL database. You can download it free of charge and install it in
your web space.

You can find out how to install phpMyAdmin by following the guide below, and you can
read more about how to use the software in the project's documentation at:
http://www.phpmyadmin.net/home_page/docs.php

Step 1 Download the most recent stable version of phpMyAdmin from:
http://www.phpmyadmin.net/home_page/downloads.php
phpMyAdmin is available in several languages and archive formats.
If you are using a Windows PC, choose **english.zip**.

Step 2 Once you have downloaded the installation file, extract it using a suitable tool such as
WinZip on Windows or the **unzip** command on Linux and MacOS X.

Step 3 The installation files will be extracted to a folder named **phpMyAdmin-2.9.1-english**,
or similar. Rename this folder to **phpmyadmin**, and then use FTP to upload the entire
folder to your web space's **htdocs** directory.

Step 4 Using a text editor, create a new file and enter the following text:

```php
<?php
$i=0;
$i++;
// your database server's IP address
$cfg['Servers'][$i]['host']='213.171.218.246';
// Authentication method -config, http or cookie
$cfg['Servers'][$i]['auth_type']='config';
// your database username
$cfg['Servers'][$i]['user']='demousername';
// your database user's password
$cfg['Servers'][$i]['password']='trainingpassword';
?>
```

Save this file as **config.inc.php** and upload it into the **phpmyadmin** directory you have just created in step 3.

> **Quick tip:** By default Windows Notepad will save your files with a .txt extension. To save as a .php file, select **All files** from the file type drop-down list while saving.

Step 6   Visit your phpMyAdmin folder through your web browser, and you will see the welcome page and will be able to start configuring your database.

- For example, *http://www.yourdomain.com/phpmyadmin*.

Connecting to your Database Using PHP

Using third party applications

Many third party applications such as forum, blogging and ecommerce software require a connection to a MySQL database. When you configure your software's connection to the database you will need your:

- database server's IP address
- database name
- database username and password.

Connecting from your own scripts

To connect to the database from your own PHP scripts use the mysql_connect () function.

To connect you will need to specify the IP address, name and user details of your database.

For example if we were connecting to a database called **demodatabase**, on `213.171.218.246`, with the username `demousername` and the password `password`, we would use the following script:

```php
<?php
$dbhost = '213.171.218.246';  // your database server's IP address
$dbuser = 'demousername';    // the database username
$dbpass = 'password';        // the database password
$conn = mysql_connect ($dbhost, $dbuser, $dbpass) or die ('error connecting to
your database'); // opens a connection to the server or gives an error
$dbname = 'demodatabase';    // the database name
mysql_select_db($dbname);    // connects to your database
?>
```

Where to get further help and assistance

MySQL maintain a comprehensive support website, which should be able to answer any questions you may have. This is available at:
http://dev.mysql.com/support/index.html

If you need help with the setup and usage of PHPMyAdmin, you can take a look at the support pages on their website at:
http://www.phpmyadmin.net/home_page/docs.php