

Starting and Stopping MySQL

Abstract

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Preface and Legal Notices

This is the Starting and Stopping MySQL extract from the MySQL 5.1 Reference Manual.

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Chapter 1 Installing MySQL on Unix/Linux Using Generic Binaries

Oracle provides a set of binary distributions of MySQL. These include generic binary distributions in the form of compressed `tar` files (files with a `.tar.gz` extension) for a number of platforms, and binaries in platform-specific package formats for selected platforms.

This section covers the installation of MySQL from a compressed `tar` file binary distribution. For other platform-specific package formats, see the other platform-specific sections. For example, for Windows distributions, see [Installing MySQL on Microsoft Windows](#).

To obtain MySQL, see [How to Get MySQL](#).

MySQL compressed `tar` file binary distributions have names of the form `mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz`, where `VERSION` is a number (for example, `5.1.73`), and `OS` indicates the type of operating system for which the distribution is intended (for example, `pc-linux-i686` or `winx64`).

Warning

If you have previously installed MySQL using your operating system native package management system, such as `yum` or `apt-get`, you may experience problems installing using a native binary. Make sure your previous MySQL installation has been removed entirely (using your package management system), and that any additional files, such as old versions of your data files, have also been removed. You should also check for configuration files such as `/etc/my.cnf` or the `/etc/mysql` directory and delete them.

If you run into problems and need to file a bug report, please use the instructions in [How to Report Bugs or Problems](#).

On Unix, to install a compressed `tar` file binary distribution, unpack it at the installation location you choose (typically `/usr/local/mysql`). This creates the directories shown in the following table.

Table 1.1 MySQL Installation Layout for Generic Unix/Linux Binary Package

Directory	Contents of Directory
<code>bin, scripts</code>	<code>mysqld</code> server, client and utility programs
<code>data</code>	Log files, databases
<code>docs</code>	MySQL manual in Info format
<code>man</code>	Unix manual pages
<code>include</code>	Include (header) files
<code>lib</code>	Libraries
<code>share</code>	Miscellaneous support files, including error messages, sample configuration files, SQL for database installation
<code>sql-bench</code>	Benchmarks

Debug versions of the `mysqld` binary are available as `mysqld-debug`. To compile your own debug version of MySQL from a source distribution, use the appropriate configuration options to enable debugging support. See [Installing MySQL from Source](#).

To install and use a MySQL binary distribution, the command sequence looks like this:

```
shell> groupadd mysql
shell> useradd -r -g mysql -s /bin/false mysql
```

```
shell> cd /usr/local
shell> tar zxvf /path/to/mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz
shell> ln -s full-path-to-mysql-VERSION-OS mysql
shell> cd mysql
shell> chown -R mysql .
shell> chgrp -R mysql .
shell> scripts/mysql_install_db --user=mysql
shell> chown -R root .
shell> chown -R mysql data
# Next command is optional
shell> cp support-files/my-medium.cnf /etc/my.cnf
shell> bin/mysqld_safe --user=mysql &
# Next command is optional
shell> cp support-files/mysql.server /etc/init.d/mysql.server
```

Note

This procedure assumes that you have [root](#) (administrator) access to your system. Alternatively, you can prefix each command using the [sudo](#) (Linux) or [pfexec](#) (OpenSolaris) command.

Note

The procedure does not assign passwords to MySQL accounts. To do so, use the instructions in [Securing the Initial MySQL Accounts](#).

A more detailed version of the preceding description for installing a binary distribution follows.

Create a mysql User and Group

If your system does not already have a user and group to use for running [mysqld](#), you may need to create one. The following commands add the [mysql](#) group and the [mysql](#) user. You might want to call the user and group something else instead of [mysql](#). If so, substitute the appropriate name in the following instructions. The syntax for [useradd](#) and [groupadd](#) may differ slightly on different versions of Unix, or they may have different names such as [adduser](#) and [addgroup](#).

```
shell> groupadd mysql
shell> useradd -r -g mysql -s /bin/false mysql
```

Note

Because the user is required only for ownership purposes, not login purposes, the [useradd](#) command uses the [-r](#) and [-s /bin/false](#) options to create a user that does not have login permissions to your server host. Omit these options if your [useradd](#) does not support them.

Obtain and Unpack the Distribution

Pick the directory under which you want to unpack the distribution and change location into it. The example here unpacks the distribution under [/usr/local](#). The instructions, therefore, assume that you have permission to create files and directories in [/usr/local](#). If that directory is protected, you must perform the installation as [root](#).

```
shell> cd /usr/local
```

Obtain a distribution file using the instructions in [How to Get MySQL](#). For a given release, binary distributions for all platforms are built from the same MySQL source distribution.

Unpack the distribution, which creates the installation directory. Then create a symbolic link to that directory. [tar](#) can uncompress and unpack the distribution if it has [z](#) option support:

```
shell> tar zxvf /path/to/mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz
shell> ln -s full-path-to-mysql-VERSION-OS mysql
```

The `tar` command creates a directory named `mysql-VERSION-OS`. The `ln` command makes a symbolic link to that directory. This enables you to refer more easily to the installation directory as `/usr/local/mysql`.

To install MySQL from a compressed `tar` file binary distribution, your system must have GNU `gunzip` to uncompress the distribution and a reasonable `tar` to unpack it. If your `tar` program supports the `z` option, it can both uncompress and unpack the file.

GNU `tar` is known to work. The standard `tar` provided with some operating systems is not able to unpack the long file names in the MySQL distribution. You should download and install GNU `tar`, or if available, use a preinstalled version of GNU `tar`. Usually this is available as `gnutar`, `gtar`, or as `tar` within a GNU or Free Software directory, such as `/usr/sfw/bin` or `/usr/local/bin`. GNU `tar` is available from <http://www.gnu.org/software/tar/>.

If your `tar` does not have `z` option support, use `gunzip` to unpack the distribution and `tar` to unpack it. Replace the preceding `tar` command with the following alternative command to uncompress and extract the distribution:

```
shell> gunzip < /path/to/mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz | tar xvf -
```

Perform Postinstallation Setup

The remainder of the installation process involves setting distribution ownership and access permissions, initializing the data directory, starting the MySQL server, and setting up the configuration file. For instructions, see [Postinstallation Setup and Testing](#).

Chapter 2 Starting the Server for the First Time on Windows

This section gives a general overview of starting the MySQL server. The following sections provide more specific information for starting the MySQL server from the command line or as a Windows service.

The information here applies primarily if you installed MySQL using the [Noinstall](#) version, or if you wish to configure and test MySQL manually rather than with the GUI tools.

Note

The [MySQL Notifier](#) GUI can be used to start/stop/restart the MySQL server at any time.

The examples in these sections assume that MySQL is installed under the default location of [C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.1](#). Adjust the path names shown in the examples if you have MySQL installed in a different location.

Clients have two options. They can use TCP/IP, or they can use a named pipe if the server supports named-pipe connections.

MySQL for Windows also supports shared-memory connections if the server is started with the [--shared-memory](#) option. Clients can connect through shared memory by using the [--protocol=MEMORY](#) option.

For information about which server binary to run, see [Selecting a MySQL Server Type](#).

Testing is best done from a command prompt in a console window (or “DOS window”). In this way you can have the server display status messages in the window where they are easy to see. If something is wrong with your configuration, these messages make it easier for you to identify and fix any problems.

To start the server, enter this command:

```
C:\> "C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.1\bin\mysqld" --console
```

For a server that includes [InnoDB](#) support, you should see the messages similar to those following as it starts (the path names and sizes may differ):

```
InnoDB: The first specified datafile c:\ibdata\ibdata1 did not exist:
InnoDB: a new database to be created!
InnoDB: Setting file c:\ibdata\ibdata1 size to 209715200
InnoDB: Database physically writes the file full: wait...
InnoDB: Log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile0 did not exist: new to be created
InnoDB: Setting log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile0 size to 31457280
InnoDB: Log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile1 did not exist: new to be created
InnoDB: Setting log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile1 size to 31457280
InnoDB: Log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile2 did not exist: new to be created
InnoDB: Setting log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile2 size to 31457280
InnoDB: Doublewrite buffer not found: creating new
InnoDB: Doublewrite buffer created
InnoDB: creating foreign key constraint system tables
InnoDB: foreign key constraint system tables created
011024 10:58:25 InnoDB: Started
```

When the server finishes its startup sequence, you should see something like this, which indicates that the server is ready to service client connections:

```
mysqld: ready for connections
Version: '5.1.73' socket: '' port: 3306
```

The server continues to write to the console any further diagnostic output it produces. You can open a new console window in which to run client programs.

If you omit the `--console` option, the server writes diagnostic output to the error log in the data directory (`C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.1\data` by default). The error log is the file with the `.err` extension, and may be set using the `--log-error` option.

Note

The accounts that are listed in the MySQL grant tables initially have no passwords. After starting the server, you should set up passwords for them using the instructions in [Securing the Initial MySQL Accounts](#).

Chapter 3 The Server Shutdown Process

The server shutdown process takes place as follows:

1. The shutdown process is initiated.

This can occur initiated several ways. For example, a user with the [SHUTDOWN](#) privilege can execute a `mysqladmin shutdown` command. `mysqladmin` can be used on any platform supported by MySQL. Other operating system-specific shutdown initiation methods are possible as well: The server shuts down on Unix when it receives a [SIGTERM](#) signal. A server running as a service on Windows shuts down when the services manager tells it to.

2. The server creates a shutdown thread if necessary.

Depending on how shutdown was initiated, the server might create a thread to handle the shutdown process. If shutdown was requested by a client, a shutdown thread is created. If shutdown is the result of receiving a [SIGTERM](#) signal, the signal thread might handle shutdown itself, or it might create a separate thread to do so. If the server tries to create a shutdown thread and cannot (for example, if memory is exhausted), it issues a diagnostic message that appears in the error log:

```
Error: Can't create thread to kill server
```

3. The server stops accepting new connections.

To prevent new activity from being initiated during shutdown, the server stops accepting new client connections by closing the handlers for the network interfaces to which it normally listens for connections: the TCP/IP port, the Unix socket file, the Windows named pipe, and shared memory on Windows.

4. The server terminates current activity.

For each thread associated with a client connection, the server breaks the connection to the client and marks the thread as killed. Threads die when they notice that they are so marked. Threads for idle connections die quickly. Threads that currently are processing statements check their state periodically and take longer to die. For additional information about thread termination, see [KILL Syntax](#), in particular for the instructions about killed [REPAIR TABLE](#) or [OPTIMIZE TABLE](#) operations on [MyISAM](#) tables.

For threads that have an open transaction, the transaction is rolled back. If a thread is updating a nontransactional table, an operation such as a multiple-row [UPDATE](#) or [INSERT](#) may leave the table partially updated because the operation can terminate before completion.

If the server is a master replication server, it treats threads associated with currently connected slaves like other client threads. That is, each one is marked as killed and exits when it next checks its state.

If the server is a slave replication server, it stops the I/O and SQL threads, if they are active, before marking client threads as killed. The SQL thread is permitted to finish its current statement (to avoid causing replication problems), and then stops. In MySQL 5.1.34 and earlier, if the SQL thread was in the middle of a transaction at this point, the transaction was rolled back; in MySQL 5.1.35 and later, the server waits until the current replication event group (if any) has finished executing, or until the user issues a [KILL QUERY](#) or [KILL CONNECTION](#) statement. See also [STOP SLAVE Syntax](#).

If the slave is updating a nontransactional table when it is forcibly killed, the slave's data may become inconsistent with the master.

5. The server shuts down or closes storage engines.

At this stage, the server flushes the table cache and closes all open tables.

Each storage engine performs any actions necessary for tables that it manages. For example, **MyISAM** flushes any pending index writes for a table. **InnoDB** flushes its buffer pool to disk (unless **innodb_fast_shutdown** is 2), writes the current LSN to the tablespace, and terminates its own internal threads.

6. The server exits.

Chapter 4 MySQL Server and Server-Startup Programs

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This section describes `mysqld`, the MySQL server, and several programs that are used to start the server.

4.1 `mysqld` — The MySQL Server

`mysqld`, also known as MySQL Server, is the main program that does most of the work in a MySQL installation. MySQL Server manages access to the MySQL data directory that contains databases and tables. The data directory is also the default location for other information such as log files and status files.

When MySQL server starts, it listens for network connections from client programs and manages access to databases on behalf of those clients.

The `mysqld` program has many options that can be specified at startup. For a complete list of options, run this command:

```
shell> mysqld --verbose --help
```

MySQL Server also has a set of system variables that affect its operation as it runs. System variables can be set at server startup, and many of them can be changed at runtime to effect dynamic server reconfiguration. MySQL Server also has a set of status variables that provide information about its operation. You can monitor these status variables to access runtime performance characteristics.

For a full description of MySQL Server command options, system variables, and status variables, see [The MySQL Server](#). For information about installing MySQL and setting up the initial configuration, see [Installing and Upgrading MySQL](#).

4.2 `mysqld_safe` — MySQL Server Startup Script

`mysqld_safe` is the recommended way to start a `mysqld` server on Unix and NetWare. `mysqld_safe` adds some safety features such as restarting the server when an error occurs and logging runtime information to an error log file. Descriptions of error logging and NetWare-specific behaviors are given later in this section.

Note

In MySQL 5.1.20 (only), the default error logging behavior with `mysqld_safe` is to write errors to `syslog` on systems that support the `logger` program. This differs from the default behavior of writing an error log file for other versions.

In 5.1.20, logging to `syslog` may fail to operate correctly in some cases; if so, use `--skip-syslog` to use the default log file or `--log-error=file_name` to specify a log file name explicitly.

`mysqld_safe` tries to start an executable named `mysqld`. To override the default behavior and specify explicitly the name of the server you want to run, specify a `--mysqld` or `--mysqld-version`

option to `mysqld_safe`. You can also use `--ledir` to indicate the directory where `mysqld_safe` should look for the server.

Many of the options to `mysqld_safe` are the same as the options to `mysqld`. See [Server Command Options](#).

Options unknown to `mysqld_safe` are passed to `mysqld` if they are specified on the command line, but ignored if they are specified in the `[mysqld_safe]` group of an option file. See [Using Option Files](#).

`mysqld_safe` reads all options from the `[mysqld]`, `[server]`, and `[mysqld_safe]` sections in option files. For example, if you specify a `[mysqld]` section like this, `mysqld_safe` will find and use the `--log-error` option:

```
[mysqld]
log-error=error.log
```

For backward compatibility, `mysqld_safe` also reads `[safe_mysqld]` sections, but to be current you should rename such sections to `[mysqld_safe]`.

`mysqld_safe` supports the options in the following list. It also reads option files and supports the options for processing them described at [Command-Line Options that Affect Option-File Handling](#).

Table 4.1 `mysqld_safe` Options

Format	Description	Introduced
<code>--autoclose</code>	On NetWare, <code>mysqld_safe</code> provides a screen presence	
<code>--basedir</code>	Path to MySQL installation directory	
<code>--core-file-size</code>	Size of core file that <code>mysqld</code> should be able to create	
<code>--datadir</code>	Path to data directory	
<code>--defaults-extra-file</code>	Read named option file in addition to usual option files	
<code>--defaults-file</code>	Read only named option file	
<code>--help</code>	Display help message and exit	
<code>--ledir</code>	Path to directory where server is located	
<code>--log-error</code>	Write error log to named file	
<code>--mysqld</code>	Name of server program to start (in <code>ledir</code> directory)	
<code>--mysqld-version</code>	Suffix for server program name	
<code>--nice</code>	Use <code>nice</code> program to set server scheduling priority	
<code>--no-defaults</code>	Read no option files	
<code>--open-files-limit</code>	Number of files that <code>mysqld</code> should be able to open	
<code>--pid-file</code>	Path name of process ID file	
<code>--port</code>	Port number on which to listen for TCP/IP connections	
<code>--skip-kill-mysqld</code>	Do not try to kill stray <code>mysqld</code> processes	
<code>--skip-syslog</code>	Do not write error messages to syslog; use error log file	5.1.20
<code>--socket</code>	Socket file on which to listen for Unix socket connections	
<code>--syslog</code>	Write error messages to syslog	5.1.20
<code>--syslog-tag</code>	Tag suffix for messages written to syslog	5.1.21
<code>--timezone</code>	Set TZ time zone environment variable to named value	
<code>--user</code>	Run <code>mysqld</code> as user having name <code>user_name</code> or numeric user ID <code>user_id</code>	

- `--help`

Display a help message and exit.

- `--autoclose`

(NetWare only) On NetWare, `mysqld_safe` provides a screen presence. When you unload (shut down) the `mysqld_safe` NLM, the screen does not by default go away. Instead, it prompts for user input:

```
*<NLM has terminated; Press any key to close the screen>*
```

If you want NetWare to close the screen automatically instead, use the `--autoclose` option to `mysqld_safe`.

- `--basedir=dir_name`

The path to the MySQL installation directory.

- `--core-file-size=size`

The size of the core file that `mysqld` should be able to create. The option value is passed to `ulimit -C`.

- `--datadir=dir_name`

The path to the data directory.

- `--defaults-extra-file=file_name`

The name of an option file to be read in addition to the usual option files. This must be the first option on the command line if it is used. If the file does not exist or is otherwise inaccessible, the server will exit with an error.

- `--defaults-file=file_name`

The name of an option file to be read instead of the usual option files. This must be the first option on the command line if it is used.

- `--ledir=dir_name`

If `mysqld_safe` cannot find the server, use this option to indicate the path name to the directory where the server is located.

- `--log-error=file_name`

Write the error log to the given file. See [The Error Log](#).

- `--mysqld=prog_name`

The name of the server program (in the `ledir` directory) that you want to start. This option is needed if you use the MySQL binary distribution but have the data directory outside of the binary distribution. If `mysqld_safe` cannot find the server, use the `--ledir` option to indicate the path name to the directory where the server is located.

- `--mysqld-version=suffix`

This option is similar to the `--mysqld` option, but you specify only the suffix for the server program name. The base name is assumed to be `mysqld`. For example, if you use `--mysqld-version=debug`, `mysqld_safe` starts the `mysqld-debug` program in the `ledir` directory. If the argument to `--mysqld-version` is empty, `mysqld_safe` uses `mysqld` in the `ledir` directory.

- `--nice=priority`

Use the `nice` program to set the server's scheduling priority to the given value.

- `--no-defaults`

Do not read any option files. This must be the first option on the command line if it is used.

- `--open-files-limit=count`

The number of files that `mysqld` should be able to open. The option value is passed to `ulimit -n`.

Note

You must start `mysql_safe` as `root` for this to function properly.

- `--pid-file=file_name`

The path name of the process ID file.

- `--port=port_num`

The port number that the server should use when listening for TCP/IP connections. The port number must be 1024 or higher unless the server is started by the `root` system user.

- `--skip-kill-mysqld`

Do not try to kill stray `mysqld` processes at startup. This option works only on Linux.

- `--socket=path`

The Unix socket file that the server should use when listening for local connections.

- `--syslog, --skip-syslog`

`--syslog` causes error messages to be sent to `syslog` on systems that support the `logger` program. `--skip-syslog` suppresses the use of `syslog`; messages are written to an error log file. These options were added in MySQL 5.1.20.

When `syslog` is used, the `daemon.err` syslog facility/severity is used for all log messages.

- `--syslog-tag=tag`

For logging to `syslog`, messages from `mysql_safe` and `mysqld` are written with identifiers of `mysql_safe` and `mysqld`, respectively. To specify a suffix for the identifiers, use `--syslog-tag=tag`, which modifies the identifiers to be `mysql_safe-tag` and `mysqld-tag`. This option was added in MySQL 5.1.21.

- `--timezone=timezone`

Set the `TZ` time zone environment variable to the given option value. Consult your operating system documentation for legal time zone specification formats.

- `--user={user_name|user_id}`

Run the `mysqld` server as the user having the name `user_name` or the numeric user ID `user_id`. ("User" in this context refers to a system login account, not a MySQL user listed in the grant tables.)

If you execute `mysql_safe` with the `--defaults-file` or `--defaults-extra-file` option to name an option file, the option must be the first one given on the command line or the option file will not be used. For example, this command will not use the named option file:

```
mysql> mysql_safe --port=port_num --defaults-file=file_name
```

Instead, use the following command:

```
mysql> mysqld_safe --defaults-file=file_name --port=port_num
```

The `mysqld_safe` script is written so that it normally can start a server that was installed from either a source or a binary distribution of MySQL, even though these types of distributions typically install the server in slightly different locations. (See [Installation Layouts](#).) `mysqld_safe` expects one of the following conditions to be true:

- The server and databases can be found relative to the working directory (the directory from which `mysqld_safe` is invoked). For binary distributions, `mysqld_safe` looks under its working directory for `bin` and `data` directories. For source distributions, it looks for `libexec` and `var` directories. This condition should be met if you execute `mysqld_safe` from your MySQL installation directory (for example, `/usr/local/mysql` for a binary distribution).
- If the server and databases cannot be found relative to the working directory, `mysqld_safe` attempts to locate them by absolute path names. Typical locations are `/usr/local/libexec` and `/usr/local/var`. The actual locations are determined from the values configured into the distribution at the time it was built. They should be correct if MySQL is installed in the location specified at configuration time.

Because `mysqld_safe` tries to find the server and databases relative to its own working directory, you can install a binary distribution of MySQL anywhere, as long as you run `mysqld_safe` from the MySQL installation directory:

```
shell> cd mysql_installation_directory
shell> bin/mysqld_safe &
```

If `mysqld_safe` fails, even when invoked from the MySQL installation directory, specify the `--ledir` and `--datadir` options to indicate the directories in which the server and databases are located on your system.

When you use `mysqld_safe` to start `mysqld`, `mysqld_safe` arranges for error (and notice) messages from itself and from `mysqld` to go to the same destination.

As of MySQL 5.1.20, there are several `mysqld_safe` options for controlling the destination of these messages:

- `--log-error=file_name`: Write error messages to the named error file.
- `--syslog`: Write error messages to `syslog` on systems that support the `logger` program.
- `--skip-syslog`: Do not write error messages to `syslog`. Messages are written to the default error log file (`host_name.err` in the data directory), or to a named file if the `--log-error` option is given.

If none of these options is given, the default is `--skip-syslog`.

Note

In MySQL 5.1.20 *only*, the default is `--syslog`. This differs from logging behavior for other versions of MySQL, for which the default is to write messages to the default error log file.

If `--log-error` and `--syslog` are both given, a warning is issued and `--log-error` takes precedence.

When `mysqld_safe` writes a message, notices go to the logging destination (`syslog` or the error log file) and `stdout`. Errors go to the logging destination and `stderr`.

Before MySQL 5.1.20, error logging is controlled only with the `--log-error` option. If it is given, messages go to the named error file. Otherwise, messages go to the default error file.

Normally, you should not edit the `mysqld_safe` script. Instead, configure `mysqld_safe` by using command-line options or options in the `[mysqld_safe]` section of a `my.cnf` option file. In rare cases, it might be necessary to edit `mysqld_safe` to get it to start the server properly. However, if you do this, your modified version of `mysqld_safe` might be overwritten if you upgrade MySQL in the future, so you should make a copy of your edited version that you can reinstall.

On NetWare, `mysqld_safe` is a NetWare Loadable Module (NLM) that is ported from the original Unix shell script. It starts the server as follows:

1. Runs a number of system and option checks.
2. Runs a check on `MyISAM` tables.
3. Provides a screen presence for the MySQL server.
4. Starts `mysqld`, monitors it, and restarts it if it terminates in error.
5. Sends error messages from `mysqld` to the `host_name.err` file in the data directory.
6. Sends `mysqld_safe` screen output to the `host_name.safe` file in the data directory.

4.3 mysql.server — MySQL Server Startup Script

MySQL distributions on Unix include a script named `mysql.server`, which starts the server using `mysqld_safe`. It can be used on systems such as Linux and Solaris that use System V-style run directories to start and stop system services. It is also used by the OS X Startup Item for MySQL.

To start or stop the server manually using the `mysql.server` script, invoke it with `start` or `stop` arguments:

```
shell> mysql.server start
shell> mysql.server stop
```

Before `mysql.server` starts the server, it changes location to the MySQL installation directory, and then invokes `mysqld_safe`. To run the server as some specific user, add an appropriate `user` option to the `[mysqld]` group of the `/etc/my.cnf` option file, as shown later in this section. (It is possible that you must edit `mysql.server` if you've installed a binary distribution of MySQL in a nonstandard location. Modify it to change location into the proper directory before it runs `mysqld_safe`. If you do this, your modified version of `mysql.server` may be overwritten if you upgrade MySQL in the future, so you should make a copy of your edited version that you can reinstall.)

`mysql.server stop` stops the server by sending a signal to it. You can also stop the server manually by executing `mysqladmin shutdown`.

To start and stop MySQL automatically on your server, you must add start and stop commands to the appropriate places in your `/etc/rc*` files.

If you use the Linux server RPM package (`MySQL-server-VERSION.rpm`), or a native Linux package installation, the `mysql.server` script may be installed in the `/etc/init.d` directory with the name `mysql`. See [Installing MySQL on Linux Using RPM Packages](#), for more information on the Linux RPM packages.

Some vendors provide RPM packages that install a startup script under a different name such as `mysqld`.

If you install MySQL from a source distribution or using a binary distribution format that does not install `mysql.server` automatically, you can install it manually. The script can be found in the `support-files` directory under the MySQL installation directory or in a MySQL source tree. Copy it to the `/etc/init.d` directory with the name `mysql`, and then make it executable:

```
shell> cp mysql.server /etc/init.d/mysql
shell> chmod +x /etc/init.d/mysql
```

Note

Older Red Hat systems use the `/etc/rc.d/init.d` directory rather than `/etc/init.d`. Adjust the preceding commands accordingly. Alternatively, first create `/etc/init.d` as a symbolic link that points to `/etc/rc.d/init.d`:

```
shell> cd /etc
shell> ln -s rc.d/init.d .
```

After installing the script, the commands needed to activate it to run at system startup depend on your operating system. On Linux, you can use `chkconfig`:

```
shell> chkconfig --add mysql
```

On some Linux systems, the following command also seems to be necessary to fully enable the `mysql` script:

```
shell> chkconfig --level 345 mysql on
```

On FreeBSD, startup scripts generally should go in `/usr/local/etc/rc.d/`. The `rc(8)` manual page states that scripts in this directory are executed only if their base name matches the `*.sh` shell file name pattern. Any other files or directories present within the directory are silently ignored. In other words, on FreeBSD, you should install the `mysql.server` script as `/usr/local/etc/rc.d/mysql.server.sh` to enable automatic startup.

As an alternative to the preceding setup, some operating systems also use `/etc/rc.local` or `/etc/init.d/boot.local` to start additional services on startup. To start up MySQL using this method, append a command like the one following to the appropriate startup file:

```
/bin/sh -c 'cd /usr/local/mysql; ./bin/mysqld_safe --user=mysql &'
```

For other systems, consult your operating system documentation to see how to install startup scripts.

`mysql.server` reads options from the `[mysql.server]` and `[mysqld]` sections of option files. For backward compatibility, it also reads `[mysql_server]` sections, but to be current you should rename such sections to `[mysql.server]`.

You can add options for `mysql.server` in a global `/etc/my.cnf` file. A typical `/etc/my.cnf` file might look like this:

```
[mysqld]
datadir=/usr/local/mysql/var
socket=/var/tmp/mysql.sock
port=3306
user=mysql
[mysql.server]
basedir=/usr/local/mysql
```

The `mysql.server` script supports the following options. If specified, they *must* be placed in an option file, not on the command line. `mysql.server` supports only `start` and `stop` as command-line arguments.

Table 4.2 `mysql.server` Options

Format	Description	Introduced
<code>--basedir</code>	Path to MySQL installation directory	
<code>--datadir</code>	Path to MySQL data directory	

Format	Description	Introduced
--pid-file	File in which server should write its process ID	
--service-startup-timeout	How long to wait for server startup	5.1.17
--use-manager	Use Instance Manager to start server	
--use-mysqld_safe	Use mysqld_safe to start server	
--user	Run server using this login user name	

- `--basedir=dir_name`

The path to the MySQL installation directory.

- `--datadir=dir_name`

The path to the MySQL data directory.

- `--pid-file=file_name`

The path name of the file in which the server should write its process ID.

- `--service-startup-timeout=seconds`

How long in seconds to wait for confirmation of server startup. If the server does not start within this time, `mysql.server` exits with an error. The default value is 900. A value of 0 means not to wait at all for startup. Negative values mean to wait forever (no timeout). This option was added in MySQL 5.1.17. Before that, a value of 900 is always used.

- `--use-mysqld_safe`

Use `mysqld_safe` to start the server. This is the default.

- `--use-manager`

Use Instance Manager to start the server.

- `--user=user_name`

The login user name to use for running `mysqld`.

4.4 `mysqld_multi` — Manage Multiple MySQL Servers

`mysqld_multi` is designed to manage several `mysqld` processes that listen for connections on different Unix socket files and TCP/IP ports. It can start or stop servers, or report their current status. The MySQL Instance Manager is an alternative means of managing multiple servers (see [mysqlmanager — The MySQL Instance Manager](#)).

`mysqld_multi` searches for groups named `[mysqldN]` in `my.cnf` (or in the file named by the `--config-file` option). `N` can be any positive integer. This number is referred to in the following discussion as the option group number, or *GNR*. Group numbers distinguish option groups from one another and are used as arguments to `mysqld_multi` to specify which servers you want to start, stop, or obtain a status report for. Options listed in these groups are the same that you would use in the `[mysqld]` group used for starting `mysqld`. (See, for example, [Starting and Stopping MySQL Automatically](#).) However, when using multiple servers, it is necessary that each one use its own value for options such as the Unix socket file and TCP/IP port number. For more information on which options must be unique per server in a multiple-server environment, see [Running Multiple MySQL Instances on One Machine](#).

To invoke `mysqld_multi`, use the following syntax:

```
shell> mysqld_multi [options] {start|stop|report} [GNR[,GNR] ...]
```

`start`, `stop`, and `report` indicate which operation to perform. You can perform the designated operation for a single server or multiple servers, depending on the `GNR` list that follows the option name. If there is no list, `mysqld_multi` performs the operation for all servers in the option file.

Each `GNR` value represents an option group number or range of group numbers. The value should be the number at the end of the group name in the option file. For example, the `GNR` for a group named `[mysqld17]` is `17`. To specify a range of numbers, separate the first and last numbers by a dash. The `GNR` value `10-13` represents groups `[mysqld10]` through `[mysqld13]`. Multiple groups or group ranges can be specified on the command line, separated by commas. There must be no whitespace characters (spaces or tabs) in the `GNR` list; anything after a whitespace character is ignored.

This command starts a single server using option group `[mysqld17]`:

```
shell> mysqld_multi start 17
```

This command stops several servers, using option groups `[mysqld8]` and `[mysqld10]` through `[mysqld13]`:

```
shell> mysqld_multi stop 8,10-13
```

For an example of how you might set up an option file, use this command:

```
shell> mysqld_multi --example
```

As of MySQL 5.1.18, `mysqld_multi` searches for option files as follows:

- With `--no-defaults`, no option files are read.
- With `--defaults-file=file_name`, only the named file is read.
- Otherwise, option files in the standard list of locations are read, including any file named by the `--defaults-extra-file=file_name` option, if one is given. (If the option is given multiple times, the last value is used.)

Before MySQL 5.1.18, the preceding options are not recognized. Files in the standard locations are read, and any file named by the `--config-file=file_name` option, if one is given. A file named by `--config-file` is read only for `[mysqldN]` option groups, not the `[mysqld_multi]` group.

Option files read are searched for `[mysqld_multi]` and `[mysqldN]` option groups. The `[mysqld_multi]` group can be used for options to `mysqld_multi` itself. `[mysqldN]` groups can be used for options passed to specific `mysqld` instances.

As of MySQL 5.1.35, the `[mysqld]` or `[mysqld_safe]` groups can be used for common options read by all instances of `mysqld` or `mysqld_safe`. You can specify a `--defaults-file=file_name` option to use a different configuration file for that instance, in which case the `[mysqld]` or `[mysqld_safe]` groups from that file will be used for that instance. Before MySQL 5.1.35, some versions of `mysqld_multi` pass the `--no-defaults` options to instances, so these techniques are inapplicable.

`mysqld_multi` supports the following options.

- `--help`
Display a help message and exit.
- `--config-file=file_name`

As of MySQL 5.1.18, this option is deprecated. If given, it is treated the same way as `--defaults-extra-file`, described earlier. `--config-file` is removed in MySQL 5.5.

Before MySQL 5.1.18, this option specifies the name of an extra option file. It affects where `mysqld_multi` looks for `[mysqldN]` option groups. Without this option, all options are read from the usual `my.cnf` file. The option does not affect where `mysqld_multi` reads its own options, which are always taken from the `[mysqld_multi]` group in the usual `my.cnf` file.

- `--example`

Display a sample option file.

- `--log=file_name`

Specify the name of the log file. If the file exists, log output is appended to it.

- `--mysqladmin=prog_name`

The `mysqladmin` binary to be used to stop servers.

- `--mysqld=prog_name`

The `mysqld` binary to be used. Note that you can specify `mysqld_safe` as the value for this option also. If you use `mysqld_safe` to start the server, you can include the `mysqld` or `ledir` options in the corresponding `[mysqldN]` option group. These options indicate the name of the server that `mysqld_safe` should start and the path name of the directory where the server is located. (See the descriptions for these options in [Section 4.2, “mysqld_safe — MySQL Server Startup Script”](#).) Example:

```
[mysqld38]
mysqld = mysqld-debug
ledir  = /opt/local/mysql/libexec
```

- `--no-log`

Print log information to `stdout` rather than to the log file. By default, output goes to the log file.

- `--password=password`

The password of the MySQL account to use when invoking `mysqladmin`. Note that the password value is not optional for this option, unlike for other MySQL programs.

- `--silent`

Silent mode; disable warnings.

- `--tcp-ip`

Connect to each MySQL server through the TCP/IP port instead of the Unix socket file. (If a socket file is missing, the server might still be running, but accessible only through the TCP/IP port.) By default, connections are made using the Unix socket file. This option affects `stop` and `report` operations.

- `--user=user_name`

The user name of the MySQL account to use when invoking `mysqladmin`.

- `--verbose`

Be more verbose.

- `--version`

Display version information and exit.

Some notes about `mysqld_multi`:

- **Most important:** Before using `mysqld_multi` be sure that you understand the meanings of the options that are passed to the `mysqld` servers and *why* you would want to have separate `mysqld` processes. Beware of the dangers of using multiple `mysqld` servers with the same data directory. Use separate data directories, unless you *know* what you are doing. Starting multiple servers with the same data directory does *not* give you extra performance in a threaded system. See [Running Multiple MySQL Instances on One Machine](#).

- **Important**

Make sure that the data directory for each server is fully accessible to the Unix account that the specific `mysqld` process is started as. *Do not* use the Unix `root` account for this, unless you *know* what you are doing. See [How to Run MySQL as a Normal User](#).

- Make sure that the MySQL account used for stopping the `mysqld` servers (with the `mysqladmin` program) has the same user name and password for each server. Also, make sure that the account has the `SHUTDOWN` privilege. If the servers that you want to manage have different user names or passwords for the administrative accounts, you might want to create an account on each server that has the same user name and password. For example, you might set up a common `multi_admin` account by executing the following commands for each server:

```
shell> mysql -u root -S /tmp/mysql.sock -p
Enter password:
mysql> CREATE USER 'multi_admin'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'multipass';
mysql> GRANT SHUTDOWN ON *.* TO 'multi_admin'@'localhost';
```

See [The MySQL Access Privilege System](#). You have to do this for each `mysqld` server. Change the connection parameters appropriately when connecting to each one. Note that the host name part of the account name must permit you to connect as `multi_admin` from the host where you want to run `mysqld_multi`.

- The Unix socket file and the TCP/IP port number must be different for every `mysqld`. (Alternatively, if the host has multiple network addresses, you can use `--bind-address` to cause different servers to listen to different interfaces.)
- The `--pid-file` option is very important if you are using `mysqld_safe` to start `mysqld` (for example, `--mysqld=mysqld_safe`). Every `mysqld` should have its own process ID file. The advantage of using `mysqld_safe` instead of `mysqld` is that `mysqld_safe` monitors its `mysqld` process and restarts it if the process terminates due to a signal sent using `kill -9` or for other reasons, such as a segmentation fault. Please note that the `mysqld_safe` script might require that you start it from a certain place. This means that you might have to change location to a certain directory before running `mysqld_multi`. If you have problems starting, please see the `mysqld_safe` script. Check especially the lines:

```
-----
MY_PWD=`pwd`
# Check if we are starting this relative (for the binary release)
if test -d $MY_PWD/data/mysql -a \
    -f ./share/mysql/english/errmsg.sys -a \
    -x ./bin/mysqld
-----
```

The test performed by these lines should be successful, or you might encounter problems. See [Section 4.2, “mysqld_safe — MySQL Server Startup Script”](#).

- You might want to use the `--user` option for `mysqld`, but to do this you need to run the `mysqld_multi` script as the Unix superuser (`root`). Having the option in the option file doesn't matter; you just get a warning if you are not the superuser and the `mysqld` processes are started under your own Unix account.

The following example shows how you might set up an option file for use with `mysqld_multi`. The order in which the `mysqld` programs are started or stopped depends on the order in which they appear in the option file. Group numbers need not form an unbroken sequence. The first and fifth `[mysqldN]` groups were intentionally omitted from the example to illustrate that you can have “gaps” in the option file. This gives you more flexibility.

```
# This is an example of a my.cnf file for mysqld_multi.
# Usually this file is located in home dir ~/.my.cnf or /etc/my.cnf
[mysqld_multi]
mysqld      = /usr/local/mysql/bin/mysqld_safe
mysqladmin  = /usr/local/mysql/bin/mysqladmin
user        = multi_admin
password    = my_password
[mysqld2]
socket      = /tmp/mysql.sock2
port        = 3307
pid-file    = /usr/local/mysql/data2/hostname.pid2
datadir     = /usr/local/mysql/data2
language    = /usr/local/mysql/share/mysql/english
user        = unix_user1
[mysqld3]
mysqld      = /path/to/mysqld_safe
ledir       = /path/to/mysqld-binary/
mysqladmin  = /path/to/mysqladmin
socket      = /tmp/mysql.sock3
port        = 3308
pid-file    = /usr/local/mysql/data3/hostname.pid3
datadir     = /usr/local/mysql/data3
language    = /usr/local/mysql/share/mysql/swedish
user        = unix_user2
[mysqld4]
socket      = /tmp/mysql.sock4
port        = 3309
pid-file    = /usr/local/mysql/data4/hostname.pid4
datadir     = /usr/local/mysql/data4
language    = /usr/local/mysql/share/mysql/estonia
user        = unix_user3

[mysqld6]
socket      = /tmp/mysql.sock6
port        = 3311
pid-file    = /usr/local/mysql/data6/hostname.pid6
datadir     = /usr/local/mysql/data6
language    = /usr/local/mysql/share/mysql/japanese
user        = unix_user4
```

See [Using Option Files](#).