

Database Connectivity in Python (SQLite3 & PyMySQL)

◆ Introduction

Database connectivity allows Python applications to **store, manage, and retrieve data** efficiently using structured query language (SQL).

Python provides powerful libraries like **SQLite3** and **PyMySQL** that make database operations simple and consistent, regardless of whether you're working with a **local file-based database** (SQLite) or a **remote server-based database** (MySQL).

✿ SQLite3 — Lightweight Embedded Database

SQLite3 is a built-in Python module used for working with **SQLite databases**, which are **serverless, self-contained, and zero-configuration**.

It is ideal for smaller applications, local storage, or development testing because it stores data in a **single .db file** on disk.

Key Features:

- No installation or server setup required (built into Python).
- Data stored locally in a file — perfect for testing or standalone applications.
- Supports all standard SQL commands like CREATE, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE, and SELECT.
- Fast and secure with minimal resource usage.

Example Workflow:

1. Import the sqlite3 module.
 2. Connect to a database (creates the file if it doesn't exist).
 3. Create a cursor object to execute SQL queries.
 4. Use SQL statements to create tables or manipulate data.
 5. Commit changes and close the connection.
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✿ PyMySQL — MySQL Database Connector for Python

PyMySQL is a third-party Python library that allows connection to a **MySQL database server** using Python code.

It is used for projects where a **multi-user environment** or **large-scale data storage** is required.

Key Features:

- Connects to remote or local MySQL servers using credentials (host, user, password, database name).
- Fully supports SQL operations (DDL, DML, and DQL).
- Enables Python to interact with enterprise-level MySQL databases used in web apps or data systems.
- Provides exception handling and secure transactions.

Example Workflow:

1. Install the library using `pip install pymysql`.
2. Import the module and connect to the MySQL server using credentials.
3. Create a cursor object to execute SQL statements.
4. Execute queries (e.g., INSERT, UPDATE, SELECT).
5. Commit changes and close the connection to prevent data loss.

Executing SQL Queries in Python

Python acts as a **bridge** between the user and the database through these connectors. After establishing a connection:

- SQL queries are written as **strings** inside Python code.
- These queries are executed using a **cursor object**.
- The results are fetched, displayed, or stored in Python variables for further use.

Example of Basic SQL Operations:

Operation	SQL Command	Python Method
Create Table	CREATE TABLE students(...)	cursor.execute()
Insert Data	INSERT INTO students VALUES(...)	cursor.execute()
Fetch Data	SELECT * FROM students	cursor.fetchall()
Commit Changes	-	connection.commit()
Close Connection	-	connection.close()

Importance of Using Connectors

Using SQLite3 or PyMySQL allows Python developers to:

- Automate database operations.
- Reduce manual SQL work.
- Integrate back-end databases into real-world applications.
- Maintain data integrity and consistency.
- Support scalability — from small local apps to enterprise-level solutions.