

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Step # 1: Login to mysql 2

 Step 2: Delete column First see table description: desc tableName Use the following syntax at mysql> ALTER TABLE 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

How to: MySQL Delete Column

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

How do I delete a column from an existing MySQL table using UNIX / Windows / Linux mysql command line utility sql syntax?



You need to use the **ALTER TABLE** syntax to change the structure of an existing table. For example, you can add or delete columns, create or destroy indexes, change the type of existing columns, and much more with ALTER TABLE.

Step # 1: Login to mysql

Type the following command:

```
mysql -u user -p databasename
```

Step 2: Delete column

First see table description:

```
desc tableName
```

Use the following syntax at mysql>

```
ALTER TABLE tableName DROP columnName;
```

For example, see t1 table description, enter:

```
DESC t1;
```

Sample outputs:

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Field | Type          | Null | Key | Default | Extra |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| c1    | int(11)       | YES  |     | NULL    |       |
| c2    | varchar(30)   | YES  |     | NULL    |       |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Delete column c2, enter:

```
ALTER TABLE t1 DROP c2;
DESC t1
```

Sample outputs:

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Field | Type          | Null | Key | Default | Extra |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| c1    | int(11)       | YES  |     | NULL    |       |
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>

URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/mysql-drop-column-syntax/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/mysql/>

Copyright © 2006-2010 [nixCraft](#). All rights reserved. This print / pdf version is for personal non-commercial use only. More details <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright>.