

MySQL vs MySQLi

Introduction

MySQL and MySQLi are PHP database extensions implemented by using PHP extension framework. PHP database extensions are used to write PHP code for accessing the database. They expose database API to provide interfaces to use database functions.

Main Differences

The *mysqli* extension, or as it is sometimes known, the MySQL *improved* extension, was developed to take advantage of new features found in MySQL systems versions 4.1.3 and newer. The *mysqli* extension is included with PHP versions 5 and later.

The *mysqli* extension has a number of benefits, the key enhancements over the *mysql* extension being:

- Object-oriented interface
- Support for Prepared Statements
- Support for Multiple Statements
- Support for Transactions
- Enhanced debugging capabilities
- Embedded server support

Table

MySQL	MySQLi
MySQL extension added in PHP version 2.0. and deprecated as of PHP 5.5.0.	MySQLi extension added in PHP 5.5 and will work on MySQL 4.1.3 or above.
Does not support prepared statements.	MySQLi supports prepared statements.
MySQL provides the procedural interface.	MySQLi provides both procedural and object-oriented interface.
MySQL extension does not support stored procedure.	MySQLi supports store procedure.
MySQL extension lags in security and other special features, comparatively.	MySQLi extension is with enhanced security and improved debugging.
Transactions are handled by SQL queries only.	MySQLi supports transactions through API.
Extension directory: ext/mysql.	Extension directory: ext/mysqli.