


How to enable MySQL Query Log?

 stackoverflow.com/questions/6479107/how-to-enable-mysql-query-log

Asked 10 years, 9 months ago

Modified [4 months ago](#)

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289



How do I enable the MySQL function that logs each SQL query statement received from clients and the time that query statement has submitted? Can I do that in phpmyadmin or NaviCat? How do I analyse the log?

[mysql logging](#)

asked Jun 25, 2011 at 16:41

3,16133 gold badges1616 silver badges1111 bronze badges

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15 Answers

335



First, **Remember that this logfile can grow very large on a busy server.**

For mysql < 5.1.29:

To enable the query log, put this in `/etc/my.cnf` in the `[mysqld]` section

```
log    = /path/to/query.log  #works for mysql < 5.1.29
```

Also, to enable it from MySQL console

```
SET general_log = 1;
```

See <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.1/en/query-log.html>

For mysql 5.1.29+

With mysql 5.1.29+ , the `log` option is deprecated. To specify the logfile and enable logging, use this in my.cnf in the `[mysqld]` section:

```
general_log_file = /path/to/query.log
general_log      = 1
```

Alternately, to turn on logging from MySQL console (must also specify log file location somehow, or find the default location):

```
SET global general_log = 1;
```

Also note that there are additional options to log only slow queries, or those which do not use indexes.

edited May 30, 2017 at 12:48



Firze

3,51155 gold badges4242 silver badges6161 bronze badges

answered Jun 25, 2011 at 16:54



Gryphius

71.2k66 gold badges4545 silver badges5252 bronze badges

- 1

This is not working in MySQL 5.6.19. Did they change it again? – Alex R Jul 24, 2014 at 14:14

- 5

general_log = on general_log_file=/path/to/query.log worked for me – Kiren S Jun 29, 2015 at 11:25 ✎

- 32

This worked for me (MySQL 5.6.12 on Windows) : `SET global general_log_file='c:/Temp/mysql.log'; SET global general_log = on; SET global log_output = 'file';` – youen Jul 7, 2015 at 7:51 ✎

- Make sure that the mysql user access permissions for the log file, or it will return a 'not found' error when setting the general_log parameter in the MySQL console – Will R. Feb 2, 2016 at 19:51 ✎
- For 5.6.22 @youen got it exactly right. Thanks! The only thing to make sure is that the directory and file being written to exists and is writable by mysql. – NightOwlPrgmr Sep 28, 2018 at 19:10

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218



Take a look on this answer to another related question. It shows how to enable, disable and to see the logs on live servers without restarting.

Log all queries in mysql

Here is a summary:

If you don't want or cannot restart the MySQL server you can proceed like this on your running server:

- Create your log tables (see [answer](#))
- Enable Query logging on the database (Note that the string 'table' should be put literally and not substituted by any table name. Thanks [Nicholas Pickering](#))

```
SET global general_log = 1;  
SET global log_output = 'table';
```

View the log

```
select * from mysql.general_log;
```

Disable Query logging on the database

```
SET global general_log = 0;
```

Clear query logs without disabling

```
TRUNCATE mysql.general_log
```

12

2

- 26

Should be noted that 'table' is meant to be entered literally, and not replaced with a table name in your database. – [Nick Pickering](#) Aug 25, 2013 at 7:43

- 1

On Mac OS X, the MySQL software installer seems to have automatically created the general_log table, with the type CSV. This means that I can also tail the corresponding CSV file: `sudo tail -f -n 250`

`/usr/local/mysql/data/mysql/general_log.CSV` – [Jay Sheth](#) Jun 12, 2014 at 15:40 ✎

- After SETing global log_output = 'table'; is slow query will be writing to a file? I think after SET global general_log = 0; you should set previous 'log_output' value, it probable be 'FILE' – [user2602807](#) Sep 27, 2016 at 7:58

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80



This was already in a comment, but deserves its own answer: Without editing the config files: in mysql, as root, do

```
SET global general_log_file='/tmp/mysql.log';  
SET global log_output = 'file';  
SET global general_log = on;
```

Don't forget to turn it off afterwards:

```
SET global general_log = off;
```

edited Mar 20, 2020 at 13:14



panepeter

2,3112626 silver badges3131 bronze badges

answered Apr 3, 2017 at 13:38



commonpike

9,37644 gold badges6060 silver badges5757 bronze badges

- 2

I've found that under Linux systemd, if you try to log to a file to `/tmp/` , it may be end up somewhere like `/tmp/systemd-private-...-mariadb.service-.../tmp/` – mwfearnley May 1, 2019 at 8:32

- @commonpike: I'd upvote this more often if I could ... I find myself googling your answer about once a month :) – resi Nov 18, 2020 at 12:31

- 1

just to let you know, here I am again :) – resi Dec 3, 2020 at 9:53

- 1

hi mate! here I am again :D. I'm so happy you provided this answer! – resi Aug 26, 2021 at 8:57

- 1

@resi haha, I found myself googling my own answers too :-D – commonpike Jan 28 at 12:55

| Show 1 more comment

61



I use this method for logging when I want to quickly optimize different page loads. It's a little tip...

Logging to a TABLE

```
SET global general_log = 1;  
SET global log_output = 'table';
```

You can then select from my `mysql.general_log` table to retrieve recent queries.

I can then do something similar to `tail -f` on the `mysql.log`, but with more refinements...

```
select * from mysql.general_log  
where event_time > (now() - INTERVAL 8 SECOND) and thread_id not in(9 , 628)  
and argument <> "SELECT 1" and argument <> ""  
and argument <> "SET NAMES 'UTF8'" and argument <> "SHOW STATUS"  
and command_type = "Query" and argument <> "SET PROFILING=1"
```

This makes it easy to see my queries that I can try and cut back. I use 8 seconds interval to only fetch queries executed within the last 8 seconds.

answered Feb 16, 2014 at 13:46



Layke

48.3k1010 gold badges8383 silver badges110110 bronze badges

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15



You can disable or enable the general query log (which logs all queries) with

```
SET GLOBAL general_log = 1 # (or 0 to disable)
```

answered Jun 25, 2011 at 17:37



Jon

411k7575 gold badges715715 silver badges784784 bronze badges

In my case, the general query log cannot be enabled on shared hosting servers. I can only have the slow query log enabled, and the system administrators can provide the entries related to my account on request. – [Feng-Chun Ting](#) Sep 4, 2011 at 4:30 ✎

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11



```
// To see global variable is enabled or not and location of query log
SHOW VARIABLES like 'general%';
// Set query log on
SET GLOBAL general_log = ON;
```

edited May 8, 2019 at 19:35



ahajib

11.1k2626 gold badges6868 silver badges113113 bronze badges

answered May 8, 2019 at 19:10



Sameer Kumar Choudhary

1,1951010 silver badges1212 bronze badges

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10



I also wanted to enable the MySQL log file to see the queries and I have resolved this with the below instructions

1. Go to `/etc/mysql/mysql.conf.d`
2. open the mysqld.cnf

and enable the below lines

```
general_log_file      = /var/log/mysql/mysql.log
general_log           = 1
```

3. restart the MySQL with this command `/etc/init.d/mysql restart`
4. go to `/var/log/mysql/` and check the logs

edited Oct 18, 2018 at 17:38



Sumithran

4,88333 gold badges3333 silver badges4747 bronze badges

answered Jun 21, 2017 at 12:48



shrikant

54455 silver badges1111 bronze badges

It's ok to save those settings in conf file in order to be applied every time that MySQL is started, but you don't need to restart MySQL to apply this configuration. You can set it using 'SET global' like others said. – Angel Apr 8, 2019 at 21:43

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4



On Windows you can simply go to

C:\wamp\bin\mysql\mysql5.1.53\my.ini

Insert this line in **my.ini**

```
general_log_file = c:/wamp/logs/mysql_query_log.log
```

The **my.ini** file finally looks like this

```
...
...
...
socket          = /tmp/mysql.sock
skip-locking
key_buffer      = 16M
max_allowed_packet = 1M
table_cache     = 64
sort_buffer_size = 512K
net_buffer_length = 8K
read_buffer_size = 256K
read_rnd_buffer_size = 512K
myisam_sort_buffer_size = 8M
basedir=c:/wamp/bin/mysql/mysql5.1.53
log = c:/wamp/logs/mysql_query_log.log          #dump query logs in this file
log-error=c:/wamp/logs/mysql.log
datadir=c:/wamp/bin/mysql/mysql5.1.53/data
...
...
...
...
```

edited Jun 16, 2014 at 6:02

answered Apr 4, 2014 at 7:09



[HimalayanCoder](#)

9,08366 gold badges5252 silver badges5959 bronze badges

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3



There is bug in MySQL 5.6 version. Even mysqld show as :

```
Default options are read from the following files in the given order:
C:\Windows\my.ini C:\Windows\my.cnf C:\my.ini C:\my.cnf c:\Program Files
(x86)\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.6\my.ini c:\Program Files (x86)\MySQL\MySQL Server
5.6\my.cnf
```

Really settings are reading in following order :

Default options are read from the following files in the given order:
C:\ProgramData\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.6\my.ini C:\Windows\my.ini C:\Windows\my.cnf
C:\my.ini C:\my.cnf c:\Program Files (x86)\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.6\my.ini
c:\Program Files (x86)\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.6\my.cnf

Check file: "C:\ProgramData\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.6\my.ini"

Hope it help somebody.

answered Mar 30, 2015 at 20:38



[croonx](#)

12911 silver badge66 bronze badges

Is there a bug report somewhere for this bug? – [mwfearnley](#) May 1, 2019 at 8:39

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1



for **mysql>=5.5** only for slow queries (1 second and more) *my.cfg*

```
[mysqld]
slow-query-log = 1
slow-query-log-file = /var/log/mysql/mysql-slow.log
long_query_time = 1
log-queries-not-using-indexes
```

[edited Mar 19, 2015 at 15:57](#)

answered Dec 9, 2014 at 23:19



[Alies](#)

51044 silver badges1010 bronze badges

- 1

This is incorrect - that enables the slow query log, not the query log. – [Sam Dufel](#)
Dec 10, 2014 at 0:33

- I think you have to use dashes. – [AFA Med](#) Oct 28, 2017 at 11:25

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1



To enable the query log in MAC Machine:

Open the following file:

```
vi /private/etc/my.cnf
```

Set the query log url under 'mysqld' section as follows:

```
[mysqld]
```

```
general_log_file=/Users/kumanan/Documents/mysql_query.log
```

Few machine's are not logging query properly, So that case you can enable it from MySQL console

```
mysql> SET global general_log = 1;
```

answered Jan 27, 2016 at 12:48



Kumanan

36811 gold badge33 silver badges99 bronze badges

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1



Not exactly an answer to the question because the question already has great answers. This is a side info. Enabling `general_log` really put a dent on MySQL performance. I left `general_log =1` accidentally on a production server and spent hours finding out why performance was not comparable to a similar setup on other servers. Then I found this which explains the impact of enabling general log.

http://www.fromdual.com/general_query_log_vs_mysql_performance.

Gist of the story, don't put `general_log=1` in the `.cnf` file. Instead use `set global general_log =1` for a brief duration just to log enough to find out what you are trying to find out and then turn it off.

answered Apr 22, 2017 at 16:41



Allen King

2,17033 gold badges3030 silver badges4646 bronze badges

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0



In phpMyAdmin 4.0, you go to Status > Monitor. In there you can enable the slow query log and general log, see a live monitor, select a portion of the graph, see the related queries and analyse them.

answered Aug 23, 2013 at 19:34



Marc Delisle

8,76233 gold badges2727 silver badges2929 bronze badges

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0



I had to drop and recreate the general log at one point. During the recreation, character sets got messed up and I ended up having this error in the logs:

```
[ERROR] Incorrect definition of table mysql.general_log: expected the
type of column 'user_host' at position 1 to have character set 'utf8' but
found character set 'latin1'
```

So if the standard answer of "check to make sure logging is on" doesn't work for you, check to make sure your fields have the right character set.

answered Jun 11, 2017 at 21:37



William Neely

1,68711 gold badge1919 silver badges1919 bronze badges

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0



My OS **Win10**, **MySQL** server version - **5.7**

The path to my.ini

C:\ProgramData\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.7\my.ini

Just add into my.ini file

```
general_log_file      = C:/ProgramData/MySQL/MySQL Server 5.7/mysql.log
general_log           = 1
```

answered Dec 2, 2021 at 9:19



Dmitriy S

32233 silver badges1414 bronze badges

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