



How To Set lower_case_table_names In MySQL On Ubuntu – 2024

By Mark Harwood / 17 May 2024

So I wanted to show how to set lower_case_table_names i

This is a really niche issue, I encountered it recently when trying to deploy an application that used MySQL 8.0.36 running on Ubuntu. The issue was that the application required lower case table names, something that MySQL doesn't do by default and is a bit of a pain to rectify.

I'll explain more in the intro!

Before we jump in, I've also written this post on Medium in case you prefer reading over there!

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Introduction

So to explain a bit more, by default MySQL doesn't enable lower case table names. This can be a problem for an application that expects it. And is an even bigger pain to fix, essentially requirement a complete uninstall and reinstall of MySQL.



If you didn't know MySQL is a popular and open-source database system. Efficiently storing and organising your data. It's most widely used in web applications and uses the time proven SQL (Structured Query Language) to manage.

Setup

So a big more about my environment! I'm running MySQL 8.0.36 on Ubuntu 22.04 LTS. I'm going this simple because it offers the best stability and security at the moment.

If you're reading this 5 months into the future, there may be better versions to run. I'd always recommend checking out the provider's website to find out the latest, stable and supported versions of their software.

How To Set `lower_case_table_names` In MySQL On Ubuntu

First things first, we need to stop MySQL:

```
1 | sudo service mysql stop
```

No that MySQL is stopped, we need to move the lib directory for MySQL. Yep, seems extreme but it's not enough to just delete the content of the directory:

```
1 | sudo rm -rf /var/lib/mysql
```

Next, we need to recreate that folder and set the required permissions:

```
1 | sudo mkdir /var/lib/mysql
2 | sudo chown mysql:mysql /var/lib/mysql
3 | sudo chmod 700 /var/lib/mysql
```

Ace, now update your **mysqld.cnf** file to have *lower_case_table_names* set to 1:

```
1 | sudo nano /etc/mysql/mysql.conf.d/mysqld.cnf
2 |
3 | Add 'lower_case_table_names = 1'
```

Now we can initialize MySQL with the new settings plus a flag to set lower case table names:

```
1 | sudo mysqld --defaults-file=/etc/mysql/my.cnf --initialize --lower_case_table_names=1
```

We can now start the MySQL service:

```
1 | sudo service mysql start
```

We'll now set a new root password. To do this, we need to get the randomly generated one from the logs and update it inside MySQL:

```
1 | sudo grep 'temporary password' /var/log/mysql/error.log
2 | #Ji88H!e43
3 | sudo mysql -u root -p
4 | #Enter password here
5 | ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'NewPasswordHere';
6 | exit
```

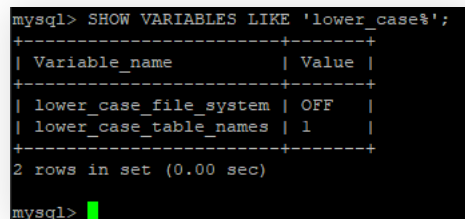
All done! You can now start configuring your MySQL server. Best place to begin is with the secure installation script:

```
1 | sudo mysql_secure_installation
```

Check lower_case_table_names In MySQL On Ubuntu

If you simply want to check if this setting is enabled or to check if the above procedure worked, you can enter your MySQL environment and check it:

```
1 | sudo mysql -u root -p
2 | SHOW VARIABLES LIKE 'lower_case%';
```



```
mysql> SHOW VARIABLES LIKE 'lower_case%';
+-----+-----+
| Variable_name | Value |
+-----+-----+
| lower_case_file_system | OFF   |
| lower_case_table_names | 1     |
+-----+-----+
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql>
```

It'll likely return two items, but we are only concerned about 'lower_case_table_names'.

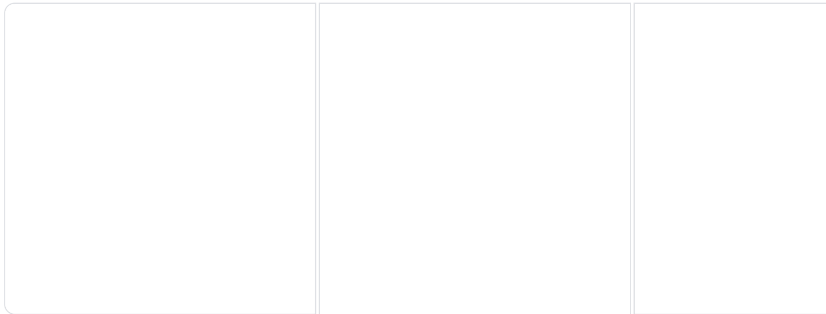
Conclusion

Well that's it. Nice and quick today, I've enjoyed writing this as it's gone back to my roots. When I first started this website, it was focused on the issues I had faced during my technical woes.

I'm glad it's grown into more than that, don't get me wrong. But it's still nice to revisit and do what I love most: writing about tech stuff no one cares about!

Hope you learnt something today.

Enjoy! 🎉



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Smith James

04 July 2024 at 5:27 pm

My guy, THANK YOU!

Reply



Tim

08 July 2024 at 5:39 am

Thank you so much. This saved me a lot of headaches trying to figure this out (I’m a Linux noob).

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