If you are getting "too many connections" errors in MySQL you can change the max\_connections setting to allow more connections, assuming you have enough RAM to handle the increased number. This post looks at how to update the max\_connections setting in MySQL.

The default setting for max\_connections is 100. You can see what the current setting is by running the following SQL command from the MySQL command line:

**show variables like "max\_connections";**

This will return a resultset like this, showing you what your current max connections setting is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variable\_name** | **Value** |
| **max\_connections** | **100** |

You can change the setting to e.g. 200 by issuing the following command without having to restart the MySQL server (obviously it will only work if the user you are logged in as has sufficient permissions to do this):

**set global max\_connections = 200;**

This will take effect immediately, but will be forgotten the next time MySQL is restarted.

To make the change permanent you need to edit the **my.cnf** configuration file.

On CentOS, RedHat and similar distributions this is at **/etc/my.cnf**; other distros will store it elsewhere.

**Under the [mysqld] section add the following setting:**

**max\_connections = 200**

Now when you restart MySQL the next time it will use this setting instead of the default.

Note that increasing the number of connections that can be made will increase the potential amount of RAM required for MySQL to run. Increase the max\_connections setting with caution.