Install and Configure MySQL Workbench on Ubuntu 16.04

Updated Tuesday, August 8, 2017 by Linode

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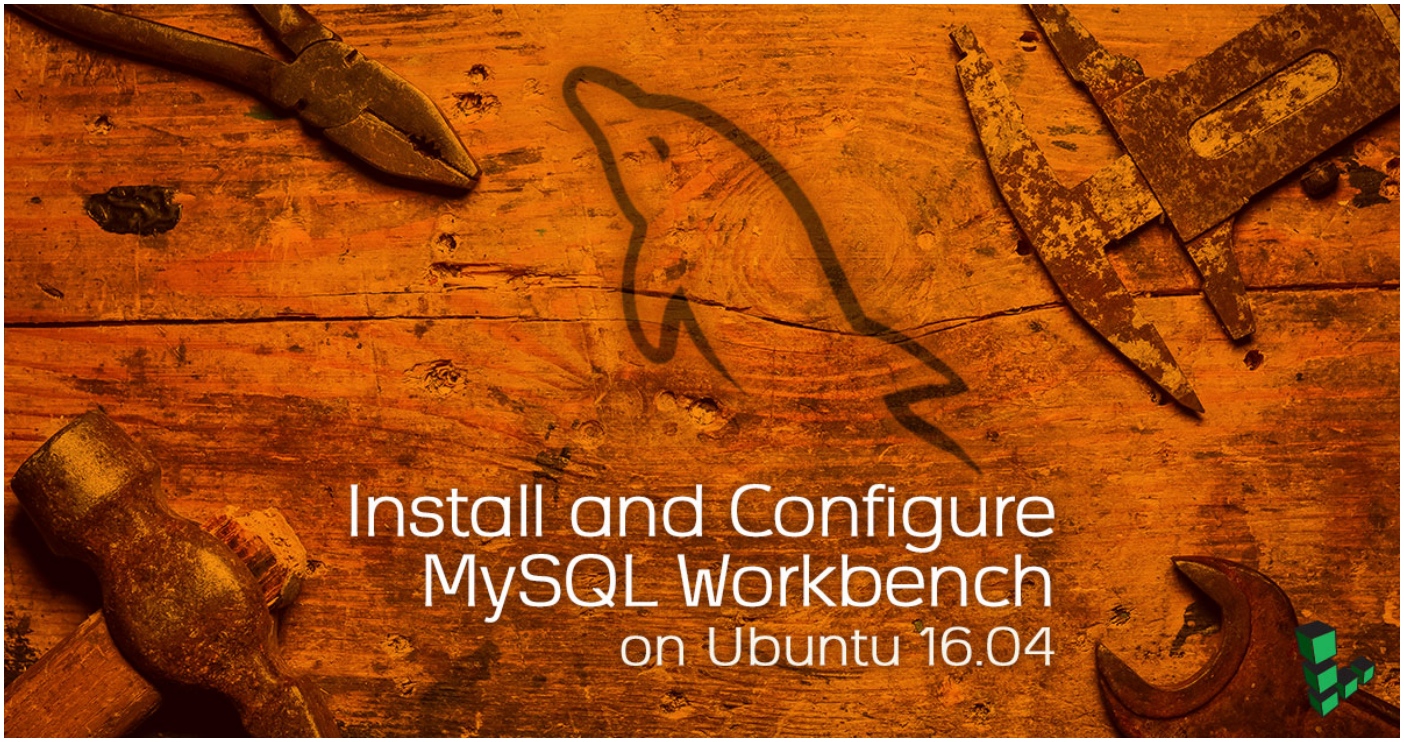
MySQL Workbench is a feature-rich graphical tool used to model data, build SQL queries, manage MySQL servers, and more. This guide will show you how to install Workbench using the Ubuntu package manager.



Before You Begin

Update repositories and upgrade if necessary:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade
```

Install MySQL Workbench

Install MySQL Workbench using the APT package manager:

```
sudo apt install mysql-workbench
```

Run MySQL Workbench

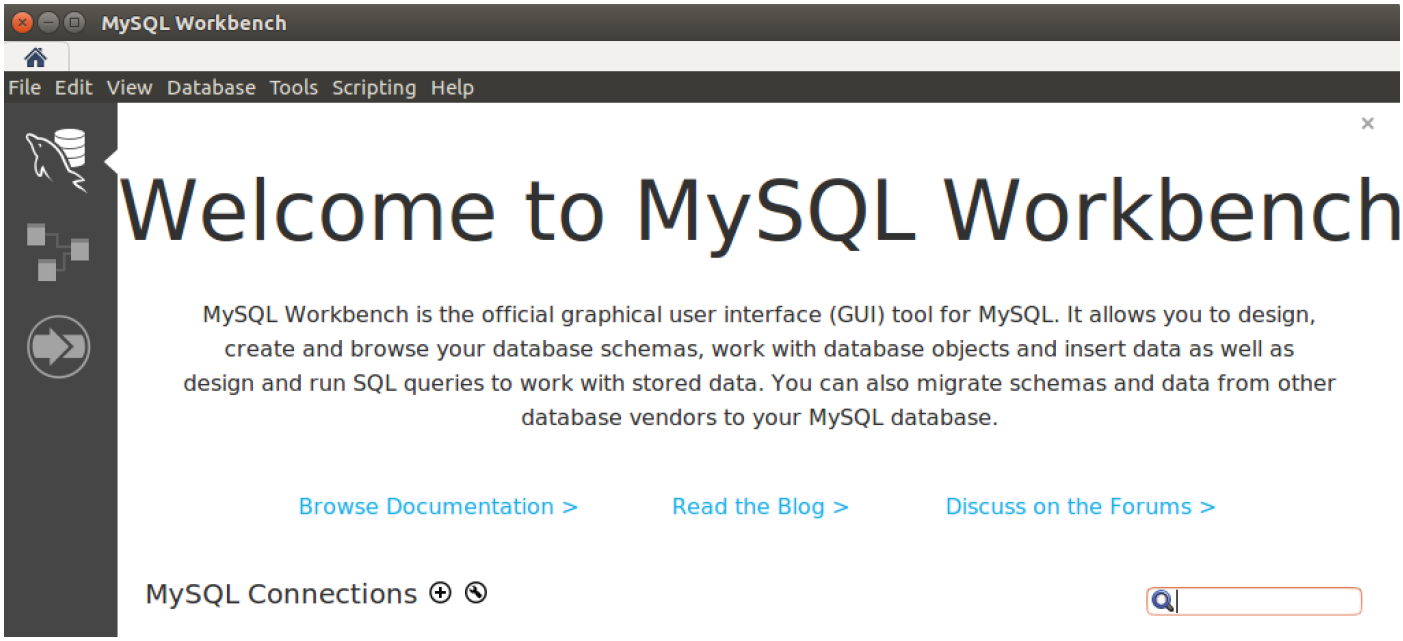
Launch MySQL Workbench from the terminal:

```
mysql-workbench
```

To view more launch options from the command line interface, use the `--help` option:

```
/usr/bin/mysql-workbench --help
```

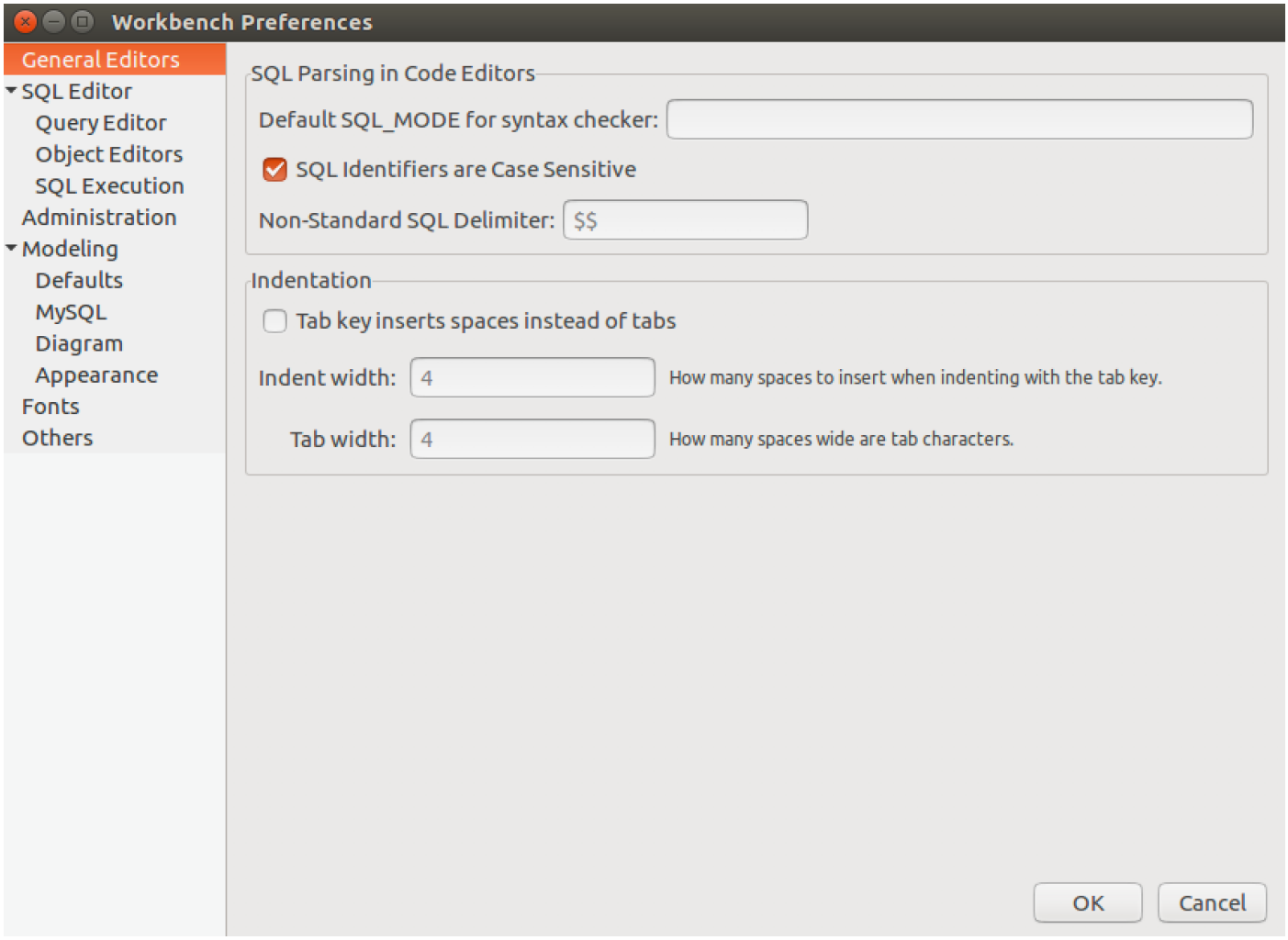
MySQL Workbench shows this welcome screen on first run:



Configure MySQL Workbench

Use the built-in Workbench Preferences to adjust settings such as targeted MySQL server version, font color, code completion, and others.

To open the preferences, click on `Edit`, then `Preferences` in the main menu:



Optional: Load a Sample Database into MySQL Server

See the guide on how to Install a MySQL server on Ubuntu 14.04 (/docs/databases/mysql/install-mysql-on-ubuntu-14-04/) or Debian 8 (/docs/databases/mysql/how-to-install-mysql-on-debian-8/) for more information on creating or logging into a MySQL server.

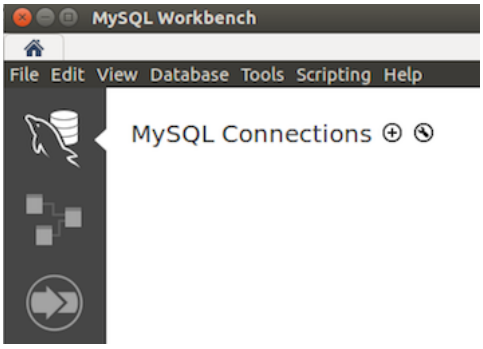
1. Access the MySQL server on your Linode via SSH (/docs/getting-started/#connect-to-your-linode-via-ssh) and download the sample Sakila database provided in the MySQL documentation (http://downloads.mysql.com/docs/sakila-db.tar.gz):

```
wget http://downloads.mysql.com/docs/sakila-db.tar.gz
```

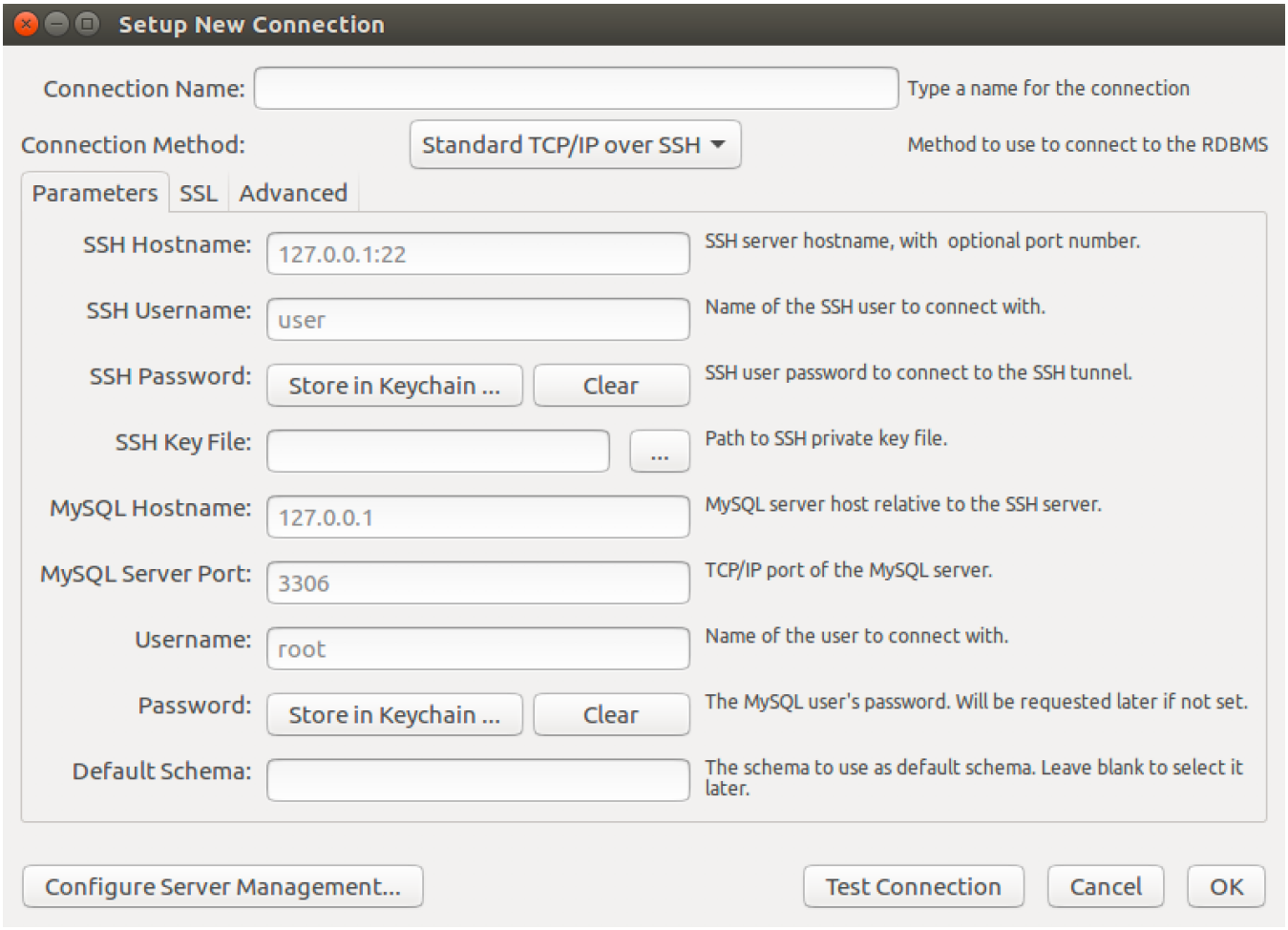
2. Decompress the `tar.gz` file:

```
tar -xzvf sakila-db.tar.gz
```

3. Open MySQL Workbench on your local machine and click `+` to create a new connection:

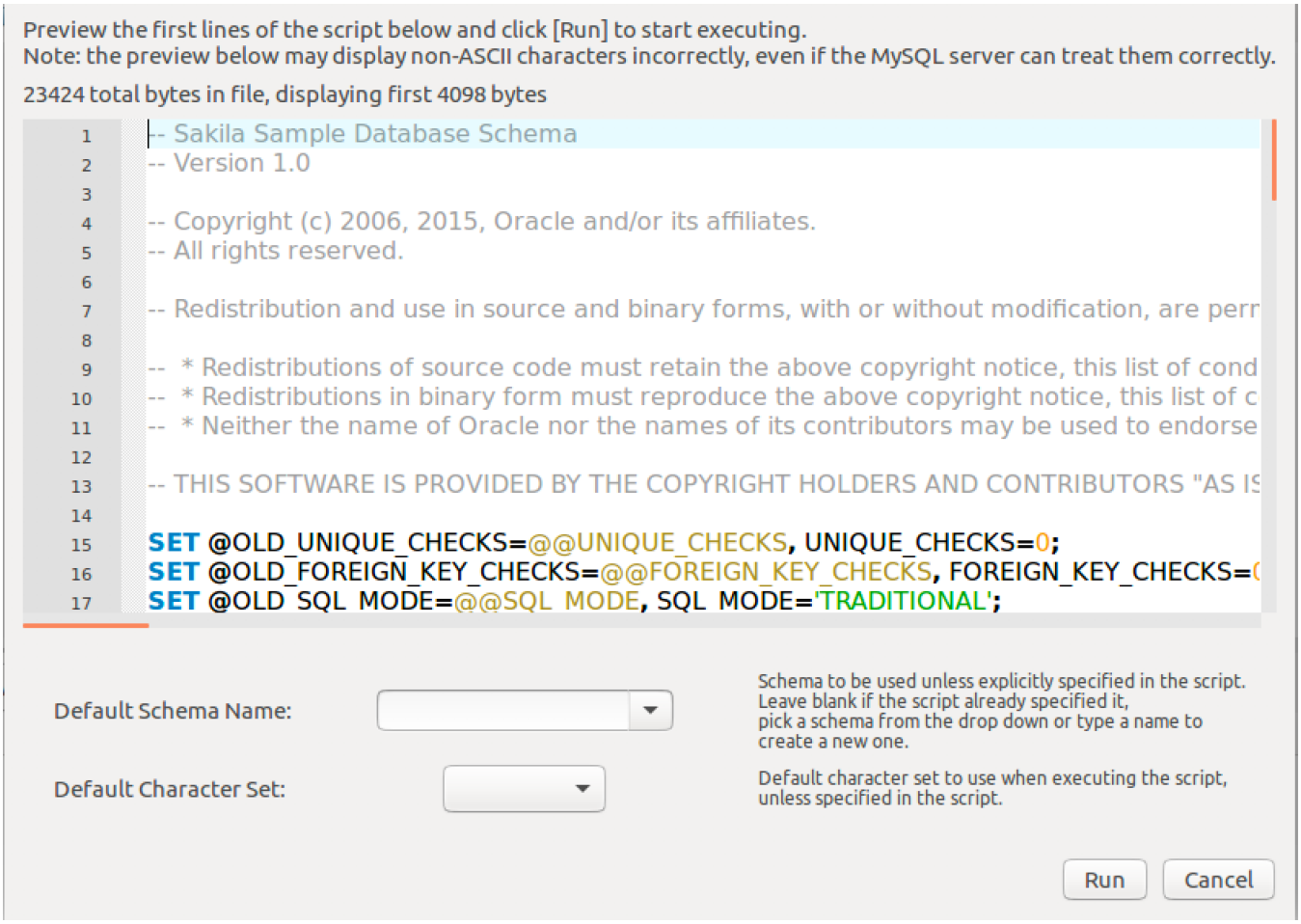


4. Create a **Connection Name**. Click the **Connection Method** dropdown menu and select `Standard TCP/IP over SSH`. Complete the credentials for SSH and MySQL user login:



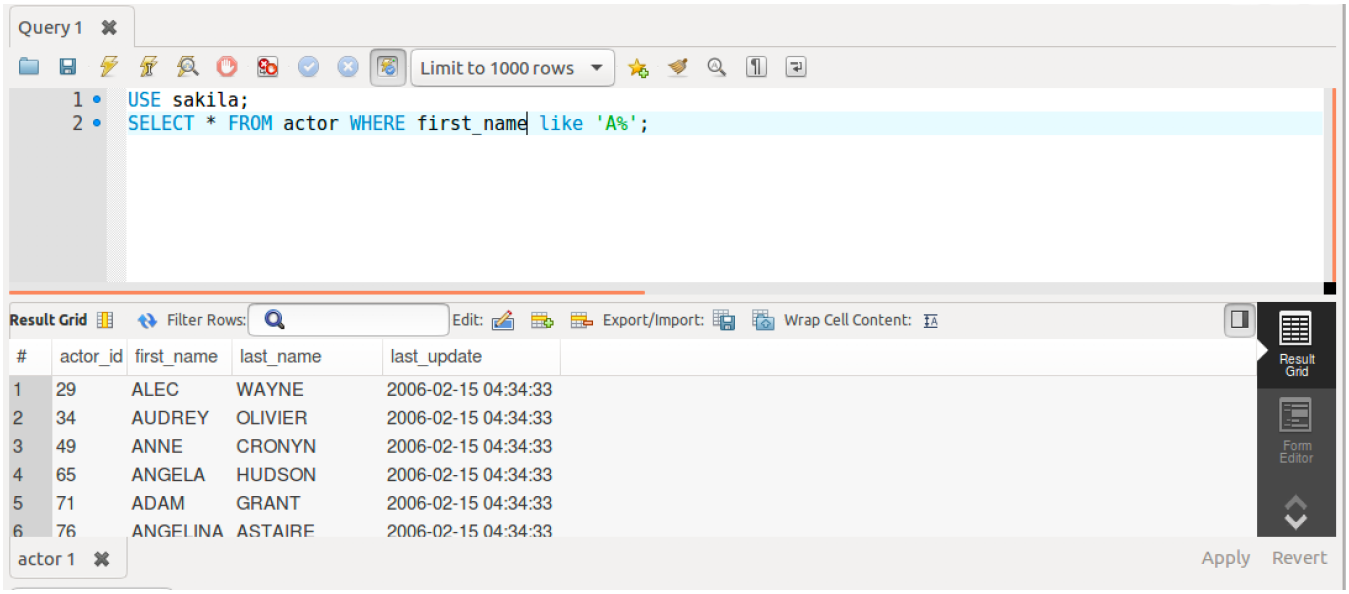
Note
The MySQL server default port should be `3306` on `127.0.0.1`. If you wish to connect to another server with a different port, update the inputs accordingly. See Deploy MySQL Workbench for Database Administration (/docs/databases/mysql/deploy-mysql-workbench-for-database-administration/) for more information.

5. Under **File**, select **Run SQL Script…**. Select `sakila-schema.sql` then click **Run**:



6. Repeat Step 5 for `sakila-data.sql`.
7. Under the `Query1` tab, use the sample query below to see a **Result Grid** of selected data:

```
USE sakila;
SELECT * FROM actors WHERE first_name LIKE 'A%';
```



The sample database provides a sandbox in which to test configurations and show how to integrate them into your workflow. MySQL Workbench offers a graphical interface to view database models in addition to building queries. While there are plenty of features, free and commercial, lightweight alternatives are available, depending on needs of the user. MySQL Workbench remains a great choice for most database administration tasks.

More Information

You may wish to consult the following resources for additional information on this topic. While these are provided in the hope that they will be useful, please note that we cannot vouch for the accuracy or timeliness of externally hosted materials.

- MySQL Workbench Manual (https://dev.mysql.com/doc/workbench/en/)
- Deploy MySQL Workbench for Database Administration (/docs/databases/mysql/deploy-mysql-workbench-for-database-administration/)

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