

How to see a query execution plan using MySQL Workbench?

1. Use MySQL Workbench to execute the SQL query of your choice. You get the results of the query on the Result Grid panel.
2. Scroll down to the “Execution Plan” panel. Figure 1 shows the query and the execution plan of the query “select ename from emp”. The displayed plan is the estimated cheapest plan among the various plans considered by MySQL. In this plan, **full table scan** is used to retrieve all 22 rows from the emp relation and these rows are passed to the output query block. The query cost is shown on top. The smaller the query cost, the cheaper the plan.

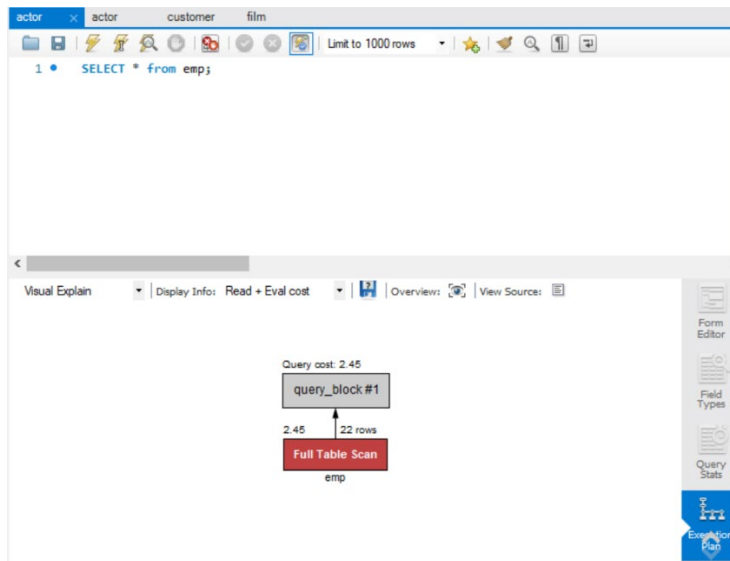


Figure 1. Visualization of MySQL query execution plan

3. Scroll to “Query Stats”. The “Execution time” shown inside the red rectangle is the time MySQL server spent to execute the query. MySQL Workbench sends the SQL query you choose to MySQL server to execute it. The results are sent back to the workbench for display. The Workbench uses the connection configuration you set up to contact the server. You can set the connection configuration to connect to a MySQL server that is located remotely if you know the IP address and the port number of that MySQL server and you have a user account on that server.

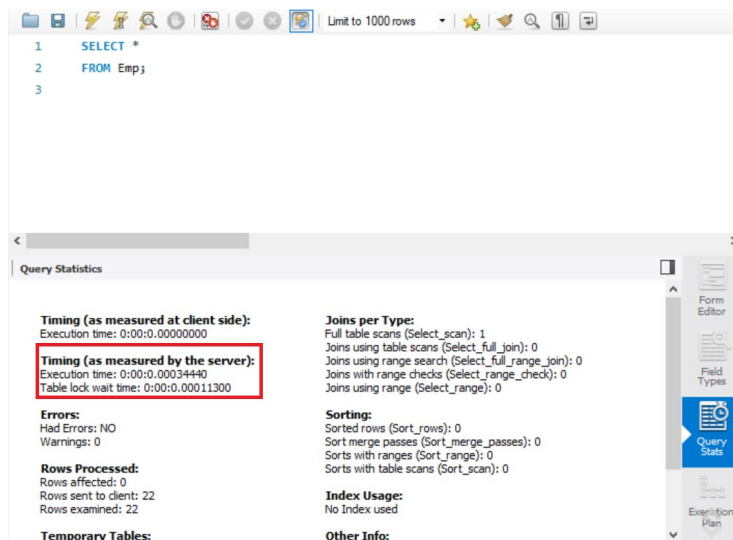


Figure 2. Corresponding query execution time by MySQL server