https://odan.github.io/2017/08/13/xampp-replacing-mariadb-with-mysql.html:

XAMPP - Replacing MariaDB with MySQL (odan.github.io)

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As of XAMPP 5.5.30 and 5.6.14, XAMPP ships MariaDB instead of MySQL. MariaDB is not 100% compatible with MySQL and can be replaced with the "orginal" MySQL server.

Contents

Requirements

- Windows
- XAMPP for Windows
- Administrator privileges to restart Windows services

Backup

- Backup the old database into a sql dump file
- Stop the MariaDB service
- Rename the folder: `c:\xampp\mysql` to `c:\xampp\mariadb`

Installation

- Download MySQL Community Server: https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/mysql/
- Goto: Other Downloads > ZIP Archive 5.7.22 (mysql-5.7.22-win32.zip) > No thanks, just start my download.
- Create a new and empty folder: `c:\xampp\mysql`
- Extract `mysql-5.7.22-win32.zip` to: `c:\xampp\mysql`
- Create a new file: `c:\xampp\mysql\bin\my.ini` and copy this content:

```
[mysqld]
# Set basedir to your installation path
basedir=c:/xampp/mysql

# Set datadir to the location of your data directory
datadir=c:/xampp/mysql/data

# Default: 128 MB
# New: 1024 MB
innodb_buffer_pool_size = 1024M
```

Initializing the data directory

- Copy the old `data` directory from `c:\xampp\mariadb\data` to `c:\xampp\mysql\data`

- Start the MySQL server. You can use the XAMPP Control Panel (MySQL > Start) to start the MySQL service.

- Repair all corrupted tables in the `c:\xampp\mysql\data` directory. Press ENTER if your password is empty.

```
cd c:\xampp\mysql\bin
```

```
mysqlcheck.exe -u root -p --auto-repair --all-databases
```

Update structure to latest version:

```
mysql_upgrade.exe -u root -p --force
```

Check the tables for errors:

```
mysqlcheck.exe -u root -p --check --all-databases
```

Notice: If you don't want to copy and migrate the old `data` directory, you can create a fresh directory with this command:

```
c:\xampp\mysql>bin\mysqld.exe --initialize-insecure --basedir=c:\xampp\mysql --datadir=c:\xampp\mysql\data
```

Finished

Known issues

Questions

- I can't start or stop mysql using the XAMPP control panel button
- The XAMPP control panel is crashing while shutting down

Answers

- Make sure you have installed the 32-bit version of MySQL. The MySQL 64-bit version is not compatible with the XAMPP Control Panel.
- This setup is not testet with MySQL 8.x
- Try to fix the directory permissions with this [batch script](#)