

Generally, you should install MySQL on Windows using an account that has administrator rights. Otherwise, you may encounter problems with certain operations such as editing the `PATH` environment variable or accessing the `Service Control Manager`. When installed, MySQL does not need to be executed using a user with Administrator privileges.

For a list of limitations on the use of MySQL on the Windows platform, see [Section 2.3.7, “Windows Platform Restrictions”](#).

In addition to the MySQL Server package, you may need or want additional components to use MySQL with your application or development environment. These include, but are not limited to:

- To connect to the MySQL server using ODBC, you must have a Connector/ODBC driver. For more information, including installation and configuration instructions, see [MySQL Connector/ODBC Developer Guide](#).

**Note**

MySQL Installer installs and configures Connector/ODBC for you.

- To use MySQL server with .NET applications, you must have the Connector/.NET driver. For more information, including installation and configuration instructions, see [MySQL Connector/.NET Developer Guide](#).

**Note**

MySQL Installer installs and configures MySQL Connector/.NET for you.

MySQL distributions for Windows can be downloaded from <https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/>. See [Section 2.1.3, “How to Get MySQL”](#).

MySQL for Windows is available in several distribution formats, detailed here. Generally speaking, you should use MySQL Installer. It contains more features and MySQL products than the older MSI, is simpler to use than the compressed file, and you need no additional tools to get MySQL up and running. MySQL Installer automatically installs MySQL Server and additional MySQL products, creates an options file, starts the server, and enables you to create default user accounts. For more information on choosing a package, see [Section 2.3.2, “Choosing an Installation Package”](#).

- A MySQL Installer distribution includes MySQL Server and additional MySQL products including MySQL Workbench, and MySQL for Visual Studio. MySQL Installer can also be used to upgrade these products in the future (see <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql-compat-matrix/en/>).

For instructions on installing MySQL using MySQL Installer, see [Section 2.3.3, “MySQL Installer for Windows”](#).

- The standard binary distribution (packaged as a compressed file) contains all of the necessary files that you unpack into your chosen location. This package contains all of the files in the full Windows MSI Installer package, but does not include an installation program.

For instructions on installing MySQL using the compressed file, see [Section 2.3.4, “Installing MySQL on Microsoft Windows Using a `noinstall` ZIP Archive”](#).

- The source distribution format contains all the code and support files for building the executables using the Visual Studio compiler system.

For instructions on building MySQL from source on Windows, see [Section 2.9, “Installing MySQL from Source”](#).