

## 2.3.2 Choosing an Installation Package

For MySQL 8.0, there are multiple installation package formats to choose from when installing MySQL on Windows. The package formats described in this section are:

- [MySQL Installer](#)
- [MySQL noinstall ZIP Archives](#)
- [MySQL Docker Images](#)

Program Database (PDB) files (with file name extension `pdb`) provide information for debugging your MySQL installation in the event of a problem. These files are included in ZIP Archive distributions (but not MSI distributions) of MySQL.

### MySQL Installer

This package has a file name similar to `mysql-installer-community-8.0.24.0.msi` or `mysql-installer-commercial-8.0.24.0.msi`, and utilizes MSIs to install MySQL server and other products automatically. MySQL Installer downloads and applies updates to itself, and to each of the installed products. It also configures the installed MySQL server (including a sandbox InnoDB cluster test setup) and MySQL Router. MySQL Installer is recommended for most users.

MySQL Installer can install and manage (add, modify, upgrade, and remove) many other MySQL products, including:

- Applications – MySQL Workbench, MySQL for Visual Studio, MySQL Shell, and MySQL Router (see <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql-compat-matrix/en/>)
- Connectors – MySQL Connector/C++, MySQL Connector/NET, Connector/ODBC, MySQL Connector/Python, MySQL Connector/J, MySQL Connector/Node.js
- Documentation – MySQL Manual (PDF format), samples and examples

MySQL Installer operates on all MySQL supported versions of Windows (see <https://www.mysql.com/support/supportedplatforms/database.html>).



#### Note

Because MySQL Installer is not a native component of Microsoft Windows and depends on .NET, it does not work with minimal installation options like the Server Core version of Windows Server.

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

### MySQL noinstall ZIP Archives

These packages contain the files found in the complete MySQL Server installation package, with the exception of the GUI. This format does not include an automated installer, and must be manually installed and configured.

The `noinstall` ZIP archives are split into two separate compressed files. The main package is named `mysql-VERSION-winx64.zip`. This contains the components needed to use MySQL on your system. The optional MySQL test suite, MySQL benchmark suite, and debugging binaries/information components (including PDB files) are in a separate compressed file named `mysql-VERSION-winx64-debug-test.zip`.