

How to Install MySQL on Windows

These handy instructions will article you through installing MySQL on your Windows computer.

1. Installation

This EDUCBA article does a pretty good job of describing how to install MySQL on Windows:

- <https://www.educba.com/install-mysql/>

The following notes provide clarifications/differences for some sections of the article. Please read over these clarifications before continuing.

Steps 1-3

Go directly to the following page to skip Steps 1-3:

<https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/installer/>

Step 8

Select the radio button for "Server only".

Step 17

The **root** user is the administrator: A user with superpowers. The name **root** has a long history in the Unix/Linux world.

Please set the root password to **root**. Then we will all have the same password and no one will have to worry about forgetting their password. (It's a real hassle when that happens!) Since we are installing MySQL on our private computers there are really no security problems if you do this.

Step 25

The main tool you'll be using directly is the MySQL Command Line Client. You should see it if you type "MySQL" in Windows search. You may not see all the other MySQL-related menu items in the article's screenshot.

Done!

Congrats! Once you test your installation as described in the EDUCBA article, you'll have MySQL working on your Windows computer. There are two more things to do that weren't covered in the EDUCBA article.

2. Update Windows Path so MySQL is "Globally Available"

Depending on your version of Windows, MySQL may only be available via Windows search, and not yet from other programs, like an Express server. The following steps will fix that.

1. Open a File Explorer.

2. Navigate to the folder: `C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 8.0` (or similar version number).
3. Hold down the shift key and then right-click on the `bin` folder, then select *Copy as path*.
4. Open the Windows Settings app, and then select *System* and then *About* (at the bottom of the left-hand column).
5. Click on *Related settings* (in the right-hand column) or *Advanced system settings*, depending on your Windows version. This opens the System Properties window.
6. On the *Advanced* tab, click on the *Environment Variables...* button. This will open a new Environment Variables window.
7. Under the *System variables* section, select the variable `Path`, and then click the *Edit* button.
8. If a path similar to the one in #2 above doesn't exist, click the *New* button, and then paste the path of the `bin` folder you copied in #3, then click *OK*.

Now Express should be able to find MySQL.

3. Modify Password Type

Although Express can now find MySQL, we must tell MySQL how Express will try to connect to it.

1. Start the MySQL Command Line Client (via Windows search as above).
2. Enter the following command. (If you have not set your password to `root` then change the end of the command to use your password instead.)

```
ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED WITH mysql_native_password BY 'root';
```

Really Done!

You should be all set now to create an Express server with MySQL DB!