

Running MySQL on a non-standard data directory

BV

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1 Why do this

A MySQL server had an issue where the backups did not capture recent database activity. Luckily the DB directory on the server was still available. However, a replacement running on backup was already put in place. The hope is to use the old copy to dump the particular database tables and load them on the running system.

To avoid setting up a full system with an OS-provided `mysqld`, let's try to set this up as a user.

2 Prepare

Unpack the tar file for the old `/var/lib/mysql` somewhere as user

3 Run `mysqld` server

The system `mysqld` command line on Debian looks like:

```
/usr/sbin/mysqld --basedir=/usr --datadir=/var/lib/mysql --plugin-dir=/usr/lib/mysql/p
```

Tweak that for this directory:

```
$ /usr/sbin/mysqld --basedir='pwd' --datadir='pwd'/mysql --plugin-dir=/usr/lib/mysql/p
140613  9:19:40 [Warning] Using unique option prefix key_buffer instead of key_buffer_
140613  9:19:40 [Warning] One can only use the --user switch if running as root
```

4 Client

```
$ mysql --protocol=TCP -uroot -P3307 -hlocalhost -p
```

Use password from old server. The protocol must be set explicitly or else the client defaults to the OS mysqld.

5 Dump

Dump the databases of interest:

```
$ mysqldump --protocol=TCP -uroot --port=3307 -hlocalhost -p edg_smw > edg_smw.mysqldump
$ mysqldump --protocol=TCP -uroot --port=3307 -hlocalhost -p edg_smw_priv > edg_smw_priv.mysqldump
```

6 Load

Copy these over to the server

```
$ mysql -uroot -hlocalhost -p edg_smw < edg_smw.mysqldump
$ mysql -uroot -hlocalhost -p edg_smw_priv < edg_smw_priv.mysqldump
```

7 Semantic MediaWiki

If the tables are for MediaWiki, as these are, go to **Special:SMWAdmin** page and "Intialise or upgrade tables" and then "Data repair and upgrade".