By Sami
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Setting, Changing And Resetting MySQL Root Passwords

This tutorial explains how you can set, change and reset (if you've forgotten the password) MySQL root passwords. Time and again I see problems like `mysqladmin: connect to server at 'localhost' failed error: 'Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost' (using password: YES)'`. So I thought it's time to remind you how to solve MySQL related password problems. If you are just looking for a quick fix **how to reset a MySQL root password** you can find that at the bottom of this tutorial.

mysqladmin Command To Change Root PasswordMethod 1 - Set up root password for the first time

If you have never set a root password for MySQL, the server does notrequire a password at all for connecting as root. To set up a rootpassword for the first time, use the `mysqladmin` command at the shell prompt asfollows:

```
$ mysqladmin -u root password newpass
```

If you want to change (or update) a root password, then you need to use the following command:

```
$ mysqladmin -u root -p oldpassword newpass
```

```
 Enter password:
```

If you get...

```
 mysqladmin: connect to server at 'localhost' failed
 error: 'Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost' (using password: YES)'
```

then follow the instructions below on how to recover your MySQL password.

Change MySQL password for other users

To change a normal user password you need to type:

```
$ mysqladmin -u user-name -p oldpassword newpass
```

Method 2 - Update or change password

MySQL stores usernames and passwords in the user table inside the MySQL database. You can directly update a password using the following method to update or change passwords:

1) Login to the MySQL server, type the following command at the shell prompt:

```
$ mysql -u root -p
```

2) Use the `mysql` database (type commands at the `mysql>` prompt):

```
mysql> use mysql;
```

3) Change password for a user:

```
mysql> update user set password=PASSWORD("newpass") where User='ENTER-USER-NAME-HERE';
```

4) Reload privileges:

```
mysql> flush privileges;

mysql> quit
```

This method you need to use while using PHP or Perl scripting.

Recover MySQL root password

You can recover a MySQL database server password with the following five easy steps:

Step # 1: Stop the MySQL server process.

Step # 2: Start the MySQL (mysqld) server/daemon process with the `--skip-grant-tables` option so that it will not prompt for a password.

Step # 3: Connect to the MySQL server as the root user.

Step # 4: Set a new root password.

Step # 5: Exit and restart the MySQL server.

Here are the commands you need to type for each step (log in as the root user):

Step # 1 : Stop the MySQL service:

```
# /etc/init.d/mysql stop
```

Output:

```
 Stopping MySQL database server: mysqld.
```

Step # 2: Start the MySQL server w/o password:

```
# mysqld_safe --skip-grant-tables &
```

Output:

```
[1] 5988
Starting mysqld daemon with databases from /var/lib/mysql
mysqld_safe[6025]: started
```

Step # 3: Connect to the MySQL server using the MySQL client:

```
# mysql -u root
```

Output:

```
Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or g.
Your MySQL connection id is 1 to server version: 4.1.15-Debian_1-log

Type 'help;' or 'h' for help. Type 'c' to clear the buffer.
```

```
mysql>
```

Step # 4: Set a new MySQL root user password:

```
mysql> use mysql;

mysql> update user set password=PASSWORD("NEW-ROOT-PASSWORD") where User='root';

mysql> flush privileges;

mysql> quit
```

Step # 5: Stop the MySQL server:

```
# /etc/init.d/mysql stop
```

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Output:

```
Stopping MySQL database server: mysqld
STOPPING server from pid file /var/run/mysqld/mysqld.pid
mysqld_safe[6186]: ended

[1]+  Done                    mysqld_safe --skip-grant-tables
```

Start the MySQL server and test it:

```
# /etc/init.d/mysql start


# mysql -u root -p
```