



Selecting a MySQL Database Using USE Statement

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to select a database in the `mysql` program and MySQL Workbench by using the `USE` statement.

Selecting a MySQL database using the mysql client tool

When you log in to a MySQL database server using the `mysql` client tool without specifying a database name, MySQL server will set the current database to NULL.

First, log in to MySQL using the `root` user account:

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



MySQL will prompt you for a password:

```
Enter password:
```

To log in, you need to provide the correct password of the `root` user account and press `Enter`. To display the current database, you use the following statement:

```
SELECT database();
```

It'll return the following:

```
+-----+
| database() |
+-----+
| NULL      |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

It means the current database is not set. If you issue a statement, MySQL will issue an error. For example:

```
SELECT * FROM t;
```

Error:

```
ERROR 1046 (3D000): No database selected
```

To select a database to work with, you use the `USE` statement:

```
USE database_name;
```

For example, the following statement uses the `USE` statement to set the current database to `classicmodels`:

```
USE classicmodels;
```

If you see the following message, it means that you have changed the database to `classicmodels` successfully:

```
Database changed
```

To verify it, you can use the `select database()` statement:

```
SELECT database();
```

It'll return something like:

```
+-----+
| database() |
+-----+
| classicmodels |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

If the classicmodels database doesn't exist, you'll get the following error after executing the `USE` statement:

```
ERROR 1049 (42000): Unknown database 'classicmodels'
```

In this case, you need to find which databases are available on your server by using the `show databases` statement:

```
SHOW DATABASES;
```

The output may look like the following:

```
+-----+
| Database          |
+-----+
| information_schema |
| mysql              |
| performance_schema |
| sys                |
+-----+
4 rows in set (0.02 sec)
```

Selecting a database when you login

If you know which database you want to work with before you log in, you can use the `-D` flag. For example, the following command connects to the `classicmodels` database with the user account `root`:

```
mysql -u root -D classicmodels -p
```

In this command, we specify the database `classicmodels` after the `-D` flag.

After entering the password and logging in successfully, you can check the current database:

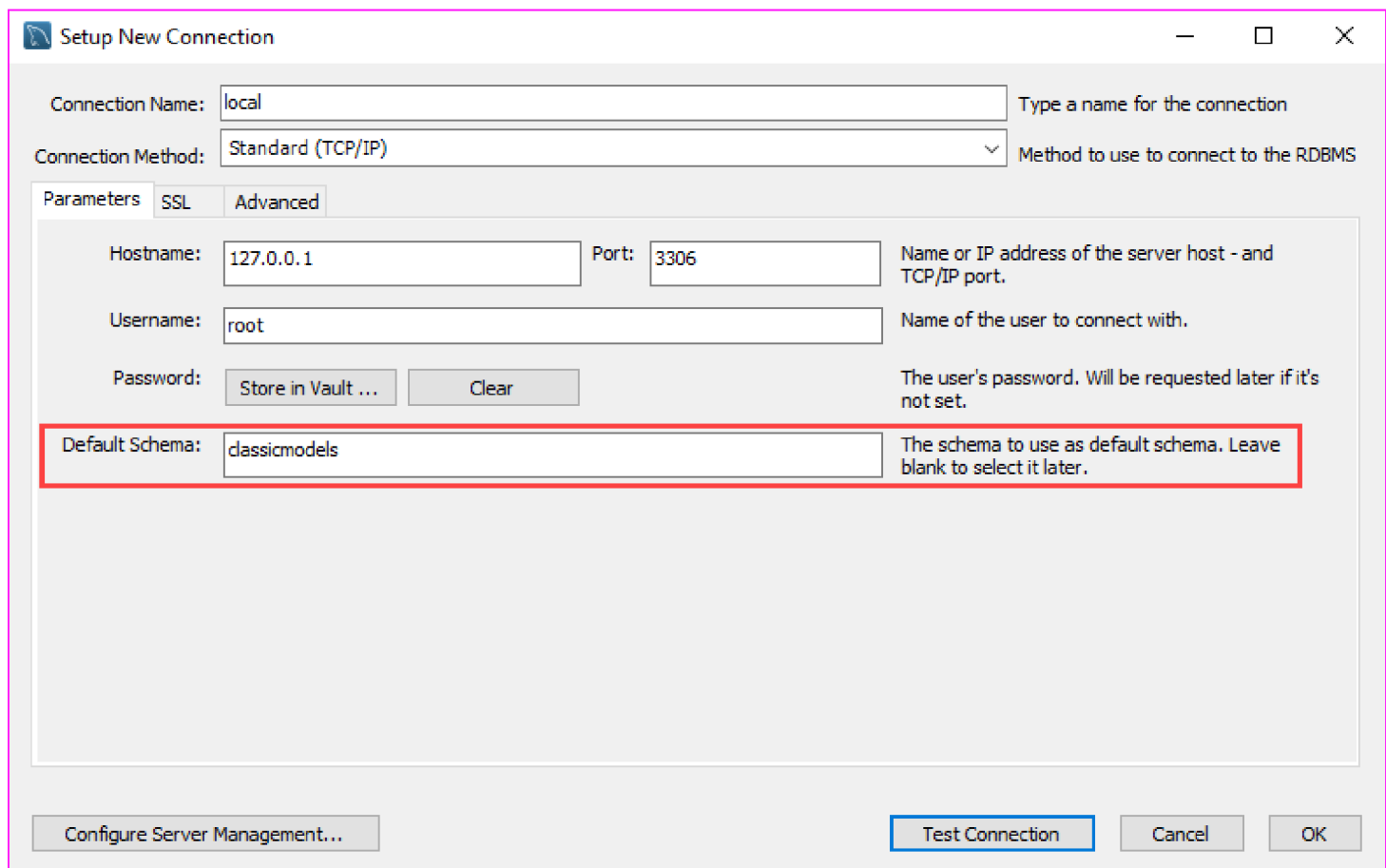
```
SELECT database();
```

Output:

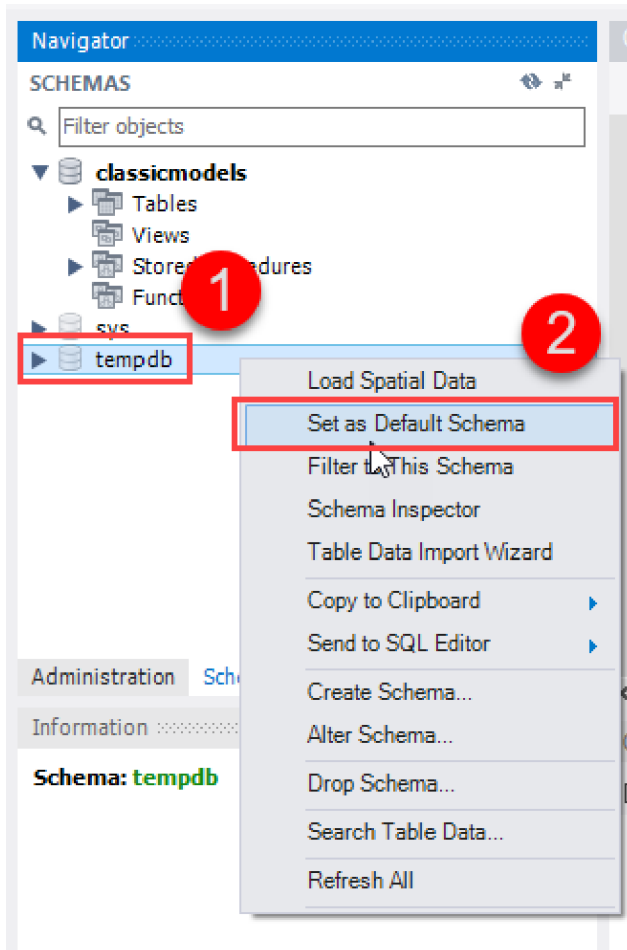
```
+-----+
| database() |
+-----+
| classicmodels |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

Selecting a database in MySQL Workbench

If you connect to a MySQL Server via the MySQL Workbench application, you can select a database when you create the database connection as shown in the following screenshot:



Once logged in, you can select another database by issuing the `USE` statement or use the `Set As Default Schema` feature provided by MySQL Workbench:



In this tutorial, you have learned various ways to select a MySQL database via the `mysql` program and MySQL Workbench application.