

Installing Query MCP on Your Mac for Claude Desktop

This guide will walk you through setting up the Query MCP server on your Mac so you can use it with Claude Desktop to query your PostgreSQL databases. Don't worry if you're not technical - we'll go step by step!

What You'll Need

- A Mac computer
- Claude Desktop app (we'll help you get this if you don't have it)
- A PostgreSQL database you want to query
- About 10-15 minutes

Step 1: Install Claude Desktop

If you don't already have Claude Desktop:

1. Go to claude.ai in your web browser
2. Look for a "Download" or "Desktop App" link
3. Download and install Claude Desktop like any other Mac app
4. Open Claude Desktop and sign in with your Anthropic account

Step 2: Install Node.js (Required for the MCP server)

Node.js is a tool that lets your computer run the MCP server. Here's how to install it:

1. Go to nodejs.org in your web browser
2. Click the big green button that says "Download Node.js" (it will detect you're on Mac)
3. Once downloaded, double-click the `.pkg` file to install
4. Follow the installation wizard (just keep clicking "Continue" and "Install")
5. When prompted, enter your Mac password to allow the installation

To verify it worked:

1. Open the Terminal app (press `Cmd + Space`, type "Terminal", and press Enter)
2. Type `node --version` and press Enter
3. You should see something like `v20.x.x` - this means Node.js is installed!

Step 3: Configure Claude Desktop (The Easy Way)

Claude Desktop has a built-in way to configure MCP servers:

1. **Open Claude Desktop**
2. **Click on the "Claude" menu** in your Mac's menu bar (top-left corner of your screen)
3. **Select "Settings..."** - This opens Claude Desktop settings, not your Claude account settings
4. **Click "Developer"** in the left sidebar
5. **Click "Edit Config"** - This will create and open your configuration file automatically

If the file doesn't open automatically, don't worry - we'll find it manually in the next step.

Step 4: Add the Query MCP Configuration

Now you'll see a configuration file (or a blank file if this is your first MCP server).

Replace the entire contents of the file with this configuration:

```
json
{
  "mcpServers": {
    "query-mcp": {
      "command": "npx",
      "args": ["-y", "query-mcp", "postgresql://localhost:5432/your_database_name"]
    }
  }
}
```

Important: You need to replace `your_database_name` with your actual database name.

If your database requires a username and password, use this format instead:

```
json
{
  "mcpServers": {
    "query-mcp": {
      "command": "npx",
      "args": ["-y", "query-mcp", "postgresql://username:password@localhost:5432/your_"]
    }
  }
}
```

Common database URL examples:

- Local database: `postgresql://localhost:5432/myapp`
- Database with login: `postgresql://myuser:mypassword@localhost:5432/myapp`
- Remote database: `postgresql://myuser:mypassword@database.example.com:5432/myapp`

Save the file and close the text editor.

Step 5: Restart Claude Desktop

1. Completely quit Claude Desktop (press `Cmd + Q` while Claude is open)
2. Wait a few seconds
3. Open Claude Desktop again

Step 6: Test Your Setup

1. Start a new conversation in Claude Desktop
2. Look for a **hammer icon** (🔨) in the bottom-right corner of the input box - this means MCP tools are available!
3. Click the hammer icon to see available tools
4. You should see Query MCP tools like:
 - `list_tables` - List all tables in your database
 - `describe_table` - Get details about a specific table
 - `run_query` - Execute SQL queries
 - `generate_sql` - Generate SQL from natural language

Try asking Claude:

- "What tables are in my database?"
- "Show me the structure of the users table"
- "Generate a SQL query to find all active customers"

Troubleshooting

If you don't see the hammer icon:

1. **Restart Claude Desktop completely** (Cmd + Q, then reopen)
2. **Check your database connection** - Try connecting to your database with another tool first
3. **Verify your configuration** - Make sure the database URL is correct
4. **Check the logs** - Open Terminal and run: `tail -f ~/Library/Logs/Claude/mcp*.log`

If tools appear but don't work:

1. **Database connection issues** - Verify your database is running and accessible
2. **Permission issues** - Make sure your database user has read permissions
3. **Network issues** - Check if your database server is reachable

Test your database connection manually: Open Terminal and try:

```
bash
```

```
npx -y query-mcp postgresql://your_connection_string_here
```

This will test if the MCP server can connect to your database.

Still having issues?

- Make sure PostgreSQL is running on your system
- Double-check your database connection string
- Try restarting your Mac
- Ensure you have a stable internet connection (for downloading the MCP server)

What's Next?

Once installed, you can use Claude to:

Explore your database:

- "What tables do I have in my database?"
- "Show me the schema for the orders table"
- "What are some sample records from the customers table?"

Generate and run queries:

- "Find all customers who made purchases last month"
- "Show me the top 10 selling products"
- "Generate a query to calculate monthly revenue"

Manage business definitions:

- "Store a definition for 'LTV' as 'Lifetime Value of a customer'"
- "What does 'MRR' mean?" (if you've stored definitions)

The Query MCP provides intelligent SQL generation using your actual database schema, making it much easier to work with your data through natural language!

Updating the MCP Server

The great thing about using `npx` is that it automatically gets the latest version each time Claude starts. You don't need to manually update anything!

Need more help? Make sure your Claude Desktop app is up to date and that you have a stable internet connection.