

You can specify a port number for connections to a local server, too. However, as indicated previously, connections to `localhost` on Unix use a socket file by default, so unless you force a TCP/IP connection as previously described, any option that specifies a port number is ignored.

For this command, the program uses a socket file on Unix and the `--port` option is ignored:

```
mysql --port=13306 --host=localhost
```

To cause the port number to be used, force a TCP/IP connection. For example, invoke the program in either of these ways:

```
mysql --port=13306 --host=127.0.0.1
mysql --port=13306 --protocol=TCP
```

For additional information about options that control how client programs establish connections to the server, see [Section 4.2.3, “Command Options for Connecting to the Server”](#).

It is possible to specify connection parameters without entering them on the command line each time you invoke a client program:

- Specify the connection parameters in the `[client]` section of an option file. The relevant section of the file might look like this:

```
[client]
host=host_name
user=user_name
password=password
```

For more information, see [Section 4.2.2.2, “Using Option Files”](#).

- Some connection parameters can be specified using environment variables. Examples:
 - To specify the host for `mysql`, use `MYSQL_HOST`.
 - On Windows, to specify the MySQL user name, use `USER`.

For a list of supported environment variables, see [Section 4.9, “Environment Variables”](#).

4.2.5 Connecting to the Server Using URI-Like Strings or Key-Value Pairs

This section describes use of URI-like connection strings or key-value pairs to specify how to establish connections to the MySQL server, for clients such as MySQL Shell. For information on establishing connections using command-line options, for clients such as `mysql` or `mysqldump`, see [Section 4.2.4, “Connecting to the MySQL Server Using Command Options”](#). For additional information if you are unable to connect, see [Section 6.2.21, “Troubleshooting Problems Connecting to MySQL”](#).



Note

The term “URI-like” signifies connection-string syntax that is similar to but not identical to the URI (uniform resource identifier) syntax defined by [RFC 3986](#).

The following MySQL clients support connecting to a MySQL server using a URI-like connection string or key-value pairs:

- MySQL Shell
- MySQL Connectors which implement X DevAPI

This section documents all valid URI-like string and key-value pair connection parameters, many of which are similar to those specified with command-line options: