suffer a performance penalty. If so, increasing the permitted in-memory temporary table size may improve performance; see Section 8.4.4, “Internal Temporary Table Use in MySQL”.

Limiting Common Table Expression Recursion

It is important for recursive CTEs that the recursive `SELECT` part include a condition to terminate recursion. As a development technique to guard against a runaway recursive CTE, you can force termination by placing a limit on execution time:

- The `cte_max_recursion_depth` system variable enforces a limit on the number of recursion levels for CTEs. The server terminates execution of any CTE that recurses more levels than the value of this variable.
- The `max_execution_time` system variable enforces an execution timeout for `SELECT` statements executed within the current session.
- The `MAX_EXECUTION_TIME` optimizer hint enforces a per-query execution timeout for the `SELECT` statement in which it appears.

Suppose that a recursive CTE is mistakenly written with no recursion execution termination condition:

```
WITH RECURSIVE cte (n) AS
(
  SELECT 1
  UNION ALL
  SELECT n + 1 FROM cte
)
SELECT * FROM cte;
```

By default, `cte_max_recursion_depth` has a value of 1000, causing the CTE to terminate when it recurses past 1000 levels. Applications can change the session value to adjust for their requirements:

```
SET SESSION cte_max_recursion_depth = 10;      -- permit only shallow recursion
SET SESSION cte_max_recursion_depth = 1000000; -- permit deeper recursion
```

You can also set the global `cte_max_recursion_depth` value to affect all sessions that begin subsequently.

For queries that execute and thus recurse slowly or in contexts for which there is reason to set the `cte_max_recursion_depth` value very high, another way to guard against deep recursion is to set a per-session timeout. To do so, execute a statement like this prior to executing the CTE statement:

```
SET max_execution_time = 1000; -- impose one second timeout
```

Alternatively, include an optimizer hint within the CTE statement itself:

```
WITH RECURSIVE cte (n) AS
(
  SELECT 1
  UNION ALL
  SELECT n + 1 FROM cte
)
SELECT /*+ SET_VAR(cte_max_recursion_depth = 1M) */ * FROM cte;

WITH RECURSIVE cte (n) AS
(
  SELECT 1
  UNION ALL
  SELECT n + 1 FROM cte
)
```