

**Table 6.17 Plugin and Library Names for Windows Authentication**

Plugin or File	Plugin or File Name
Server-side plugin	<code>authentication_windows</code>
Client-side plugin	<code>authentication_windows_client</code>
Library file	<code>authentication_windows.dll</code>

The library file includes only the server-side plugin. The client-side plugin is built into the `libmysqlclient` client library.

The server-side Windows authentication plugin is included only in MySQL Enterprise Edition. It is not included in MySQL community distributions. The client-side plugin is included in all distributions, including community distributions. This permits clients from any distribution to connect to a server that has the server-side plugin loaded.

The Windows authentication plugin is supported on any version of Windows supported by MySQL 8.0 (see <https://www.mysql.com/support/supportedplatforms/database.html>).

The following sections provide installation and usage information specific to Windows pluggable authentication:

- [Installing Windows Pluggable Authentication](#)
- [Uninstalling Windows Pluggable Authentication](#)
- [Using Windows Pluggable Authentication](#)

For general information about pluggable authentication in MySQL, see [Section 6.2.17, “Pluggable Authentication”](#). For proxy user information, see [Section 6.2.18, “Proxy Users”](#).

## Installing Windows Pluggable Authentication

This section describes how to install the Windows authentication plugin. For general information about installing plugins, see [Section 5.6.1, “Installing and Uninstalling Plugins”](#).

To be usable by the server, the plugin library file must be located in the MySQL plugin directory (the directory named by the `plugin_dir` system variable). If necessary, configure the plugin directory location by setting the value of `plugin_dir` at server startup.

To load the plugin at server startup, use the `--plugin-load-add` option to name the library file that contains it. With this plugin-loading method, the option must be given each time the server starts. For example, put these lines in the server `my.cnf` file:

```
[mysqld]
plugin-load-add=authentication_windows.dll
```

After modifying `my.cnf`, restart the server to cause the new settings to take effect.

Alternatively, to load the plugin at runtime, use this statement:

```
INSTALL PLUGIN authentication_windows SONAME 'authentication_windows.dll';
```

`INSTALL PLUGIN` loads the plugin immediately, and also registers it in the `mysql.plugins` system table to cause the server to load it for each subsequent normal startup without the need for `--plugin-load-add`.

To verify plugin installation, examine the `INFORMATION_SCHEMA.PLUGINS` table or use the `SHOW PLUGINS` statement (see [Section 5.6.2, “Obtaining Server Plugin Information”](#)). For example: