

operating system user; this is no different from running MySQL in a standard (non-Cluster) environment. The `mysql` system account should be uniquely and clearly defined. Fortunately, this is the default behavior for a new MySQL installation. You can verify that the `mysqld` process is running as the `mysql` operating system user by using the system command such as the one shown here:

```
shell> ps aux | grep mysql
root      10467  0.0  0.1   3616  1380 pts/3    S      11:53   0:00 \
/bin/sh ./mysqld_safe --ndbcluster --ndb-connectstring=localhost:1186
mysql     10512  0.2  2.5  58528 26636 pts/3    Sl     11:53   0:00 \
/usr/local/mysql/libexec/mysqld --basedir=/usr/local/mysql \
--datadir=/usr/local/mysql/var --user=mysql --ndbcluster \
--ndb-connectstring=localhost:1186 --pid-file=/usr/local/mysql/var/mothra.pid \
--log-error=/usr/local/mysql/var/mothra.err
jon       10579  0.0  0.0   2736   688 pts/0    S+     11:54   0:00 grep mysql
```

If the `mysqld` process is running as any other user than `mysql`, you should immediately shut it down and restart it as the `mysql` user. If this user does not exist on the system, the `mysql` user account should be created, and this user should be part of the `mysql` user group; in this case, you should also make sure that the MySQL data directory on this system (as set using the `--datadir` option for `mysqld`) is owned by the `mysql` user, and that the SQL node's `my.cnf` file includes `user=mysql` in the `[mysqld]` section. Alternatively, you can start the MySQL server process with `--user=mysql` on the command line, but it is preferable to use the `my.cnf` option, since you might forget to use the command-line option and so have `mysqld` running as another user unintentionally. The `mysqld_safe` startup script forces MySQL to run as the `mysql` user.



Important

Never run `mysqld` as the system root user. Doing so means that potentially any file on the system can be read by MySQL, and thus—should MySQL be compromised—by an attacker.

As mentioned in the previous section (see [Section 23.5.17.2, “NDB Cluster and MySQL Privileges”](#)), you should always set a root password for the MySQL Server as soon as you have it running. You should also delete the anonymous user account that is installed by default. You can accomplish these tasks using the following statements:

```
shell> mysql -u root

mysql> UPDATE mysql.user
-> SET Password=PASSWORD('secure_password')
-> WHERE User='root';

mysql> DELETE FROM mysql.user
-> WHERE User='';

mysql> FLUSH PRIVILEGES;
```

Be very careful when executing the `DELETE` statement not to omit the `WHERE` clause, or you risk deleting *all* MySQL users. Be sure to run the `FLUSH PRIVILEGES` statement as soon as you have modified the `mysql.user` table, so that the changes take immediate effect. Without `FLUSH PRIVILEGES`, the changes do not take effect until the next time that the server is restarted.



Note

Many of the NDB Cluster utilities such as `ndb_show_tables`, `ndb_desc`, and `ndb_select_all` also work without authentication and can reveal table names, schemas, and data. By default these are installed on Unix-style systems with the permissions `wxr-xr-x` (755), which means they can be executed by any user that can access the `mysql/bin` directory.