



General Query Log



What is General Query Log ?

- The general query log is a general record of what mysqld is doing.
- The server writes information to this log when clients connect or disconnect, and it logs each SQL statement received from clients.
- The general query log can be very useful when you suspect an error in a client and want to know exactly what the client sent to mysqld.
- Each line that shows when a client connects also includes using `connection_type` to indicate the protocol used to establish the connection.
- mysqld writes statements to the query log in the order that it receives them, which might differ from the order in which they are executed.
- This logging order is in contrast with that of the binary log, for which statements are written after they are executed but before any locks are released.
- In addition, the query log may contain statements that only select data while such statements are never written to the binary log.
- By default, the general query log is disabled.



Enable General Query Log

- To specify the initial general query log state explicitly, use `--general_log[={0|1}]`. With no argument or an argument of 1, `--general_log` enables the log.
- With an argument of 0, this option disables the log.
- To specify a log file name, use `--general_log_file=file_name`.
- To specify the log destination, use the `log_output` system variable
- If you specify no name for the general query log file, the default name is `host_name.log`. The server creates the file in the data directory unless an absolute path name is given to specify a different directory.
- To disable or enable the general query log or change the log file name at runtime, use the global `general_log` and `general_log_file` system variables.
- Set `general_log` to 0 (or OFF) to disable the log or to 1 (or ON) to enable it.
- Set `general_log_file` to specify the name of the log file. If a log file already is open, it is closed and the new file is opened.



Enable General Query Log (contd...)

- When the general query log is enabled, the server writes output to any destinations specified by the log_output system variable.
- If you enable the log, the server opens the log file and writes startup messages to it.
- However, further logging of queries to the file does not occur unless the FILE log destination is selected.
- If the destination is NONE, the server writes no queries even if the general log is enabled. Setting the log file name has no effect on logging if the log destination value does not contain FILE.
- Passwords in statements written to the general query log are rewritten by the server not to occur literally in plain text.