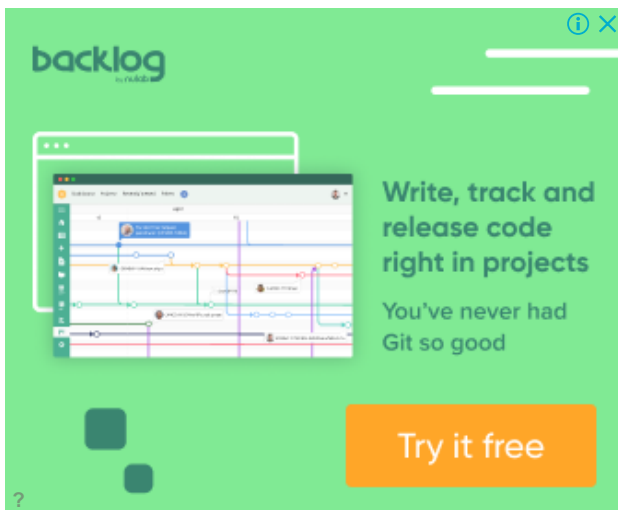


MySQL SHOW TABLES: List Tables In a MySQL Database

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Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the MySQL SHOW TABLES command to query tables in a particular database.

To list tables in a MySQL database, you follow these steps:

1. Login to the MySQL database server using a MySQL client such as `mysql`
2. Switch to a specific database using the `USE` statement.
3. Use the `SHOW TABLES` command.



The following illustrates the syntax of the MySQL `SHOW TABLES` command:

```
SHOW TABLES;
```



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The following example shows you how to list the table in the `classicmodels` database.

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Step 1. Connect to the MySQL database server:

```
>mysql -u root -p
Enter password: *****
mysql>
```



Step 2. Switch to `classicmodels` database:

```
mysql> use classicmodels;
Database changed
mysql>
```



Step 3. Show tables in the `classicmodels` database:

```
> show tables;
+-----+
| Tables_in_classicmodels |
+-----+
| customers                |
| employees                |
| offices                  |
| orderdetails              |
| orders                   |
| payments                 |
| productlines              |
| products                  |
+-----+
8 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```



The `SHOW TABLES` command allows you to show if a table is a base table or a view. To include the table type in the result, you use the following form of the `SHOW TABLES` statement.

```
SHOW FULL TABLES;
```



Let's create a view in the `classicmodels` database called `contacts` that includes first name, last name and phone from the `employees` and `customers` tables for the demonstration.

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`CREATE VIEW contacts`

`AS`

```
SELECT lastName, firstName, extension as phone
FROM employees
UNION
SELECT contactFirstName, contactLastName, phone
FROM customers;
```

Now, you issue the `SHOW FULL TABLES` command:

```
> SHOW FULL TABLES
```



```
+-----+-----+
| Tables_in_classicmodels | Table_type |
+-----+-----+
| contacts                | VIEW      |
| customers               | BASE TABLE |
| employees               | BASE TABLE |
| offices                 | BASE TABLE |
| orderdetails            | BASE TABLE |
| orders                  | BASE TABLE |
| payments                | BASE TABLE |
| productlines            | BASE TABLE |
| products                | BASE TABLE |
+-----+-----+
9 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

As you can see, all the tables are the base tables except for the `contacts` table which is a view.

For the database that has many tables, showing all tables at a time may not be intuitive.

Fortunately, the `SHOW TABLES` command provides you with an option that allows you to filter the returned tables using the `LIKE` operator or an expression in the `WHERE` clause as follows:

```
SHOW TABLES LIKE pattern;
```



```
SHOW TABLES WHERE expression;
```



For example, to show all tables in the `classicmodels` database that start with the letter `p`, you use the following statement:

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> **SHOW TABLES LIKE** `p%`;

```
+-----+
| Tables_in_classicmodels (p%) |
+-----+
| payments                     |
| productlines                 |
| products                     |
+-----+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Or to show the tables that end with the string `'es'`, you use the following statement:

> **SHOW TABLES LIKE** `'%es'`;

```
+-----+
| Tables_in_classicmodels (%es) |
+-----+
| employees                     |
| offices                      |
| productlines                 |
+-----+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

The following statement illustrates how to use the `WHERE` clause in the `SHOW TABLES` statement to list the views in the `classicmodels` database.

> **SHOW FULL TABLES WHERE** `table_type = 'VIEW'`;

```
+-----+
| Tables_in_classicmodels | Table_type |
+-----+
| contacts                | VIEW      |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

Sometimes, you want to see the tables in the database that you are not connected to. In this case, you can use the `FROM` clause of the `SHOW TABLES` statement to specify the database from which you want show the tables.

The following example demonstrates how to show tables that start with 'time' ;

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```
> SHOW TABLES FROM mysql LIKE 'time%';  
+-----+  
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```

```
| Tables_in_mysql (time%) |
```

```
+-----+
```

```
| time_zone |
```

```
| time_zone_leap_second |
```

```
| time_zone_name |
```

```
| time_zone_transition |
```

```
| time_zone_transition_type |
```

```
+-----+
```

```
5 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

The following statement is equivalent to the statement above but it uses `IN` instead of `FROM` .



```
SHOW TABLES IN mysql LIKE 'time%';
```

It's important to note that if you don't have privileges for a base table or view, it won't show up in the result set of the `SHOW TABLES` command.

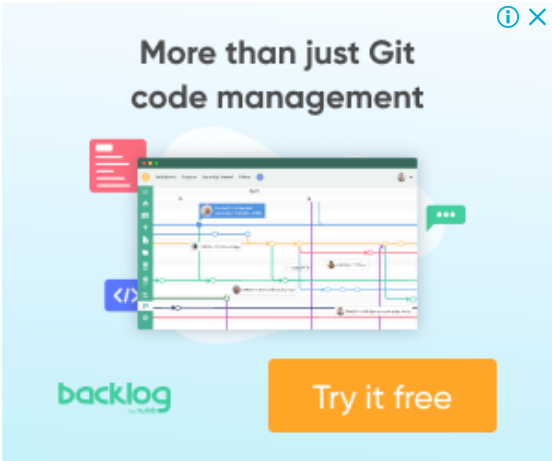

In this tutorial, you have learned how to use the MySQL `SHOW TABLES` statement to list all tables in a particular database.

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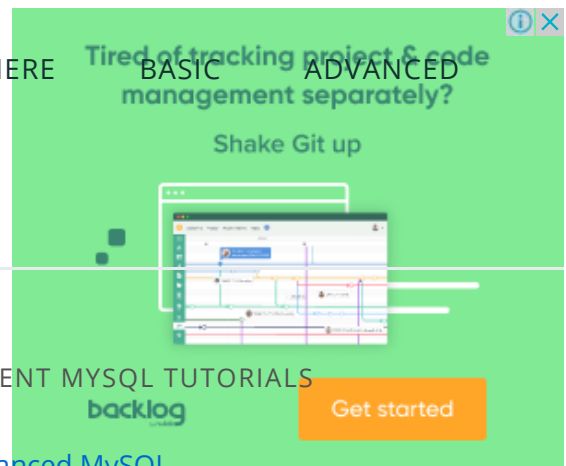
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