
Full MySQL Installation Process on Windows 11

This guide walks you through installing the latest version of **MySQL** on **Windows 11**, configuring the system, and creating a sample database both via CLI and GUI using **MySQL Workbench**.

Step 1: Download the MySQL Installer

1. Open your preferred browser and go to <https://www.mysql.com>.
 2. Navigate to the **Downloads** section.
 3. Scroll down and click on **MySQL Community (GPL) Downloads**.
 4. Select **MySQL Installer for Windows**.
 5. Two versions will be listed:
 - Web installer (~2.1 MB)
 - Full installer (~353.7 MB) – *recommended*
 6. Click **Download** next to the full installer.
 7. On the next screen, click “**No thanks, just start my download.**”
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Step 2: Run the Installer

1. Once downloaded, **right-click** on the installer and choose **Open**.
 2. When prompted, allow the application to make changes to your system.
 3. The MySQL installer will launch. Select the **Custom** installation type (for better control over components).
 4. Click **Next**.
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Step 3: Select Components to Install

1. Under **Select Products and Features**:
 - Expand **MySQL Servers** and select the latest version (e.g., MySQL Server 8.0.4), then click the → **arrow** to move it to the installation list.
 - Expand **Applications**, and add:
 - **MySQL Workbench**

- **MySQL Shell**
2. Once all three components are selected, click **Next**.
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Step 4: Begin Installation

1. Review the selected products and click **Execute** to begin installing.
 2. Wait for all components to install successfully.
 3. Once complete, click **Next**.
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Step 5: Configuration

1. On the **Product Configuration** screen, click **Next**.
 2. **Type and Networking:**
 - Leave default settings (port 3306 is standard).
 - Click **Next**.
 3. **Authentication Method:**
 - Select the **recommended option** (Use Strong Password Encryption).
 - Click **Next**.
 4. **Set Root Password:**
 - This is the admin password. Choose a secure one and **note it down**.
 - Click **Next**.
 5. **Windows Service:**
 - Leave the default configuration for running MySQL as a service.
 - Click **Next**.
 6. Click **Execute** to apply configuration.
 7. Once configuration completes, click **Finish**, then **Next** to complete the installer process.
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Step 6: Set Environment Variables (Optional but Recommended)

1. Go to:
 - C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 8.0\bin
2. Copy this path.
3. Press **Start**, search for **Environment Variables**, and open it.
4. Under **System Variables**, find **Path**, then click **Edit**.
5. Click **New**, then **paste the copied path**.
6. Click **OK** to save.

Step 7: Verify Installation via Command Line

1. Open **Command Prompt (CMD)**.
2. Type the following command and press Enter:
3. `mysql --version`

You should see output like:

```
mysql Ver 8.0.42 for Win64 on x86_64.
```

Step 8: Login to MySQL from Command Line

1. In CMD, enter:
 2. `mysql -u root -p`
 3. Enter the password you previously set.
 4. You are now in the MySQL shell.
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Step 9: Create a Sample Database

1. To list existing databases:
 2. `SHOW DATABASES;`
 3. To create a new database:
 4. `CREATE DATABASE <database_name>;`
 5. Verify creation:
 6. `SHOW DATABASES;`
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Step 10: Using MySQL Workbench (Optional GUI)

1. Launch **MySQL Workbench** from Start Menu.
 2. Create a new connection (use `root` and your password).
 3. Once connected, you can manage databases, write queries, and interact with your server using a GUI instead of CLI.
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