

PHP MySQL Database

With PHP, you can connect to and manipulate databases.

MySQL is the most popular database system used with PHP.

What is MySQL?

- MySQL is a database system used on the web
- MySQL is a database system that runs on a server
- MySQL is ideal for both small and large applications
- MySQL is very fast, reliable, and easy to use
- MySQL uses standard SQL
- MySQL compiles on a number of platforms
- MySQL is free to download and use
- MySQL is developed, distributed, and supported by Oracle Corporation
- MySQL is named after co-founder Monty Widenius's daughter: My

The data in a MySQL database are stored in tables. A table is a collection of related data, and it consists of columns and rows.

Databases are useful for storing information categorically. A company may have a database with the following tables:

- Employees
- Products
- Customers
- Orders

PHP + MySQL Database System

- PHP combined with MySQL are cross-platform (you can develop in Windows and serve on a Unix platform)

Database Queries

A query is a question or a request.

We can query a database for specific information and have a recordset returned.

Look at the following query (using standard SQL):

```
SELECT LastName FROM Employees
```

The query above selects all the data in the "LastName" column from the "Employees" table.

To learn more about SQL, please visit our [SQL tutorial](#).

Download MySQL Database

If you don't have a PHP server with a MySQL Database, you can download it for free here: <http://www.mysql.com>

Facts About MySQL Database

MySQL is the de-facto standard database system for web sites with HUGE volumes of both data and end-users (like Facebook, Twitter, and Wikipedia).

Another great thing about MySQL is that it can be scaled down to support embedded database applications.

Look at <http://www.mysql.com/customers/> for an overview of companies using MySQL.

PHP Connect to MySQL

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PHP 5 and later can work with a MySQL database using:

- **MySQLi extension** (the "i" stands for improved)
- **PDO (PHP Data Objects)**

Earlier versions of PHP used the MySQL extension. However, this extension was deprecated in 2012.

Should I Use MySQLi or PDO?

If you need a short answer, it would be "Whatever you like".

Both MySQLi and PDO have their advantages:

PDO will work on 12 different database systems, where as MySQLi will only work with MySQL databases.

So, if you have to switch your project to use another database, PDO makes the process easy. You only have to change the connection string and a few queries. With MySQLi, you will need to rewrite the entire code - queries included.

Both are object-oriented, but MySQLi also offers a procedural API.

Both support Prepared Statements. Prepared Statements protect from SQL injection, and are very important for web application security.

MySQL Examples in Both MySQLi and PDO Syntax

In this, and in the following chapters we demonstrate three ways of working with PHP and MySQL:

- MySQLi (object-oriented)
- MySQLi (procedural)
- PDO

MySQLi Installation

For Linux and Windows: The MySQLi extension is automatically installed in most cases, when php5 mysql package is installed.

For installation details, go to: <http://php.net/manual/en/mysqli.installation.php>

PDO Installation

For installation details, go to: <http://php.net/manual/en/pdo.installation.php>

Open a Connection to MySQL

Before we can access data in the MySQL database, we need to be able to connect to the server:

Example (MySQLi Object-Oriented)

```
<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";

// Create connection
$conn = new mysqli($servername, $username, $password);

// Check connection
if ($conn->connect_error) {
    die("Connection failed: " . $conn->connect_error);
}
echo "Connected successfully";
?>
```

PHP is an amazing and popular language!

Note on the object-oriented example above: `$connect_error` was broken until PHP 5.2.9 and 5.3.0. If you need to ensure compatibility with PHP versions prior to 5.2.9 and 5.3.0, use the following code instead:

```
// Check connection
if (mysqli_connect_error()) {
    die("Database connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error());
}
```

Example (MySQLi Procedural)

```
<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";

// Create connection
$conn = mysqli_connect($servername, $username, $password);

// Check connection
if (!$conn) {
    die("Connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error());
}
echo "Connected successfully";
?>
```

Example (PDO)

```
<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";

try {
    $conn = new PDO("mysql:host=$servername;dbname=myDB", $username,
$password);
    // set the PDO error mode to exception
    $conn->setAttribute(PDO::ATTR_ERRMODE, PDO::ERRMODE_EXCEPTION);
    echo "Connected successfully";
}
catch(PDOException $e)
{
    echo "Connection failed: " . $e->getMessage();
}
?>
```

Notice that in the PDO example above we have also specified a database (myDB). PDO require a valid database to connect to. If no database is specified, an exception is thrown.

Tip: A great benefit of PDO is that it has an exception class to handle any problems that may occur in our database queries. If an exception is thrown within the try{ } block, the script stops executing and flows directly to the first catch(){ } block.

Close the Connection

The connection will be closed automatically when the script ends. To close the connection before, use the following:

Example (MySQLi Object-Oriented)

```
$conn->close();
```

Example (MySQLi Procedural)

```
mysqli_close($conn);
```

Example (PDO)

```
$conn = null;
```

PHP Create a MySQL Database

A database consists of one or more tables.

You will need special CREATE privileges to create or to delete a MySQL database.

Create a MySQL Database Using MySQLi and PDO

The CREATE DATABASE statement is used to create a database in MySQL.

The following examples create a database named "myDB":

Example (MySQLi Object-oriented)

```
<?php  
$servername = "localhost";  
$username = "username";
```

```

$password = "password";

// Create connection
$conn = new mysqli($servername, $username, $password);
// Check connection
if ($conn->connect_error) {
    die("Connection failed: " . $conn->connect_error);
}

// Create database
$sql = "CREATE DATABASE myDB";
if ($conn->query($sql) === TRUE) {
    echo "Database created successfully";
} else {
    echo "Error creating database: " . $conn->error;
}

$conn->close();
?>

```

Note: When you create a new database, you must only specify the first three arguments to the mysqli object (servername, username and password).

Tip: If you have to use a specific port, add an empty string for the database-name argument, like this: new mysqli("localhost", "username", "password", "", port)

Example (MySQLi Procedural)

```

<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";

// Create connection
$conn = mysqli_connect($servername, $username, $password);
// Check connection
if (!$conn) {
    die("Connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error());
}

// Create database
$sql = "CREATE DATABASE myDB";
if (mysqli_query($conn, $sql)) {
    echo "Database created successfully";
} else {
    echo "Error creating database: " . mysqli_error($conn);
}

```

```
mysqli_close($conn);  
?>
```

Note: The following PDO example create a database named "myDBPDO":

Example (PDO)

```
<?php  
$servername = "localhost";  
$username = "username";  
$password = "password";  
  
try {  
    $conn = new PDO("mysql:host=$servername;dbname=myDB", $username,  
$password);  
    // set the PDO error mode to exception  
    $conn->setAttribute(PDO::ATTR_ERRMODE, PDO::ERRMODE_EXCEPTION);  
    $sql = "CREATE DATABASE myDBPDO";  
    // use exec() because no results are returned  
    $conn->exec($sql);  
    echo "Database created successfully<br>";  
}  
catch(PDOException $e)  
{  
    echo $sql . "<br>" . $e->getMessage();  
}  
  
$conn = null;  
?>
```

Tip: A great benefit of PDO is that it has exception class to handle any problems that may occur in our database queries. If an exception is thrown within the try{ } block, the script stops executing and flows directly to the first catch(){ } block. In the catch block above we echo the SQL statement and the generated error message.

PHP Create MySQL Tables

A database table has its own unique name and consists of columns and rows.

Create a MySQL Table Using MySQLi and PDO

The CREATE TABLE statement is used to create a table in MySQL.

We will create a table named "MyGuests", with five columns: "id", "firstname", "lastname", "email" and "reg_date":

```
CREATE TABLE MyGuests (  
id INT(6) UNSIGNED AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,  
firstname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,  
lastname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,  
email VARCHAR(50),  
reg_date TIMESTAMP  
)
```

Notes on the table above:

The data type specifies what type of data the column can hold. For a complete reference of all the available data types, go to our [Data Types reference](#).

After the data type, you can specify other optional attributes for each column:

- NOT NULL - Each row must contain a value for that column, null values are not allowed
- DEFAULT value - Set a default value that is added when no other value is passed
- UNSIGNED - Used for number types, limits the stored data to positive numbers and zero
- AUTO INCREMENT - MySQL automatically increases the value of the field by 1 each time a new record is added
- PRIMARY KEY - Used to uniquely identify the rows in a table. The column with PRIMARY KEY setting is often an ID number, and is often used with AUTO_INCREMENT

Each table should have a primary key column (in this case: the "id" column). Its value must be unique for each record in the table.

The following examples shows how to create the table in PHP:

Example (MySQLi Object-oriented)

```
<?php  
$servername = "localhost";  
$username = "username";
```

```

$password = "password";
$dbname = "myDB";

// Create connection
$conn = new mysqli($servername, $username, $password, $dbname);
// Check connection
if ($conn->connect_error) {
    die("Connection failed: " . $conn->connect_error);
}

// sql to create table
$sql = "CREATE TABLE MyGuests (
id INT(6) UNSIGNED AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
firstname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
lastname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
email VARCHAR(50),
reg_date TIMESTAMP
)";

if ($conn->query($sql) === TRUE) {
    echo "Table MyGuests created successfully";
} else {
    echo "Error creating table: " . $conn->error;
}

$conn->close();
?>

```

Example (MySQLi Procedural)

```

<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";
$dbname = "myDB";

// Create connection
$conn = mysqli_connect($servername, $username, $password, $dbname);
// Check connection
if (!$conn) {
    die("Connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error());
}

// sql to create table
$sql = "CREATE TABLE MyGuests (
id INT(6) UNSIGNED AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
firstname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
lastname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,

```

```

email VARCHAR(50),
reg_date TIMESTAMP
)";

if (mysqli_query($conn, $sql)) {
    echo "Table MyGuests created successfully";
} else {
    echo "Error creating table: " . mysqli_error($conn);
}

mysqli_close($conn);
?>

```

Example (PDO)

```

<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";
$dbname = "myDBPDO";

try {
    $conn = new PDO("mysql:host=$servername;dbname=$dbname", $username,
$password);
    // set the PDO error mode to exception
    $conn->setAttribute(PDO::ATTR_ERRMODE, PDO::ERRMODE_EXCEPTION);

    // sql to create table
    $sql = "CREATE TABLE MyGuests (
id INT(6) UNSIGNED AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
firstname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
lastname VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
email VARCHAR(50),
reg_date TIMESTAMP
)";

    // use exec() because no results are returned
    $conn->exec($sql);
    echo "Table MyGuests created successfully";
}
catch(PDOException $e)
{
    echo $sql . "<br>" . $e->getMessage();
}

$conn = null;
?>

```

PHP Insert Data Into MySQL

Insert Data Into MySQL Using MySQLi and PDO

After a database and a table have been created, we can start adding data in them.

Here are some syntax rules to follow:

- The SQL query must be quoted in PHP
- String values inside the SQL query must be quoted
- Numeric values must not be quoted
- The word NULL must not be quoted

The INSERT INTO statement is used to add new records to a MySQL table:

```
INSERT INTO table_name (column1, column2, column3,...)
VALUES (value1, value2, value3,...)
```

To learn more about SQL, please visit our [SQL tutorial](#).

In the previous chapter we created an empty table named "MyGuests" with five columns: "id", "firstname", "lastname", "email" and "reg_date". Now, let us fill the table with data.

Note: If a column is AUTO_INCREMENT (like the "id" column) or TIMESTAMP (like the "reg_date" column), it is no need to be specified in the SQL query; MySQL will automatically add the value.

The following examples add a new record to the "MyGuests" table:

Example (MySQLi Object-oriented)

```
<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";
$dbname = "myDB";

// Create connection
$conn = new mysqli($servername, $username, $password, $dbname);
// Check connection
if ($conn->connect_error) {
    die("Connection failed: " . $conn->connect_error);
}
```

```

$sql = "INSERT INTO MyGuests (firstname, lastname, email)
VALUES ('John', 'Doe', 'john@example.com)";

if ($conn->query($sql) === TRUE) {
    echo "New record created successfully";
} else {
    echo "Error: " . $sql . "<br>" . $conn->error;
}

$conn->close();
?>

```

Example (MySQLi Procedural)

```

<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";
$dbname = "myDB";

// Create connection
$conn = mysqli_connect($servername, $username, $password, $dbname);
// Check connection
if (!$conn) {
    die("Connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error());
}

$sql = "INSERT INTO MyGuests (firstname, lastname, email)
VALUES ('John', 'Doe', 'john@example.com)";

if (mysqli_query($conn, $sql)) {
    echo "New record created successfully";
} else {
    echo "Error: " . $sql . "<br>" . mysqli_error($conn);
}

mysqli_close($conn);
?>

```

Example (PDO)

```

<?php
$servername = "localhost";
$username = "username";
$password = "password";
$dbname = "myDBPDO";

```

```
try {
    $conn = new PDO("mysql:host=$servername;dbname=$dbname", $username,
$password);
    // set the PDO error mode to exception
    $conn->setAttribute(PDO::ATTR_ERRMODE, PDO::ERRMODE_EXCEPTION);
    $sql = "INSERT INTO MyGuests (firstname, lastname, email)
VALUES ('John', 'Doe', 'john@example.com')";
    // use exec() because no results are returned
    $conn->exec($sql);
    echo "New record created successfully";
}
catch(PDOException $e)
{
    echo $sql . "<br>" . $e->getMessage();
}

$conn = null;
?>
```