

Getting started with MySQL on a Mac or PC

1. Download the latest version of [MySQL Community Server](#) for your system.
2. On Windows:
 - a. Perform a typical install with standard configuration and choose the option to set MySQL up as a service: a step-by-step guide is available [here](#).
 - b. It varies slightly in different versions of Windows, but In Windows Task Manager, you should see 'mysqld.exe' running as a system process. Visiting **Control Panels > Administrative Tools > Services** should now show 'MySQL' in the main list, which can be stopped, paused or restarted.
3. On Mac OS X:
 - a. Download and open the .dmg file, then perform a standard install.
 - b. [Install the included preference pane](#); this makes it very easy to control MySQL from System Preferences. There's also a .pkg to install if you want [MySQL to start with your computer](#).
 - c. Opening Activity Monitor (**Applications folder > Utilities folder**), you should see 'mysqld' running in the process list.
4. Download and install the latest version of [Navicat Premium Essentials](#) (which they hide under Navicat Premium). Alternatively, try another GUI like [Sequel Pro](#) (Mac only) or [MySQL Workbench](#).
5. Connect to your MySQL Server.
 - a. A few ways to do this. Icons and buttons can change position between versions, so visit the menus. File > New Connection > MySQL... on the Windows version or Connection > New Connection... > MySQL on the Mac Version
 - b. The Host Name/IP Address to connect to is going to be *localhost* or *127.0.0.1*
 - c. You may have set up a new username/password combination during the MySQL install.
 - d. If not, the default username is *root* with a blank password.
 - e. Other programs like Sequel Pro may give you the option to create a "socket"

connection, which is ultimately the same thing.

6. Start creating new databases. In Navicat for Windows, right-click in the Connections pane to get New Database option. On a Mac, the same option is under the Database menu item. Your tables and saved queries exist there.