

Appendix C: Other MySQL Reference Data

[information_schema](#) [SHOW STATUS](#) [Error codes and SQLSTATE values](#)

MySQL `information_schema` tables and columns

The MySQL `information_schema`, introduced in version 5.0.3, is a virtual database, a set of Views. Table C-1 lists its current tables and columns. Here we see the power of a 'data dictionary' or 'system catalog'. `information_schema` can document itself. We generated Table C-1 with the following simple query, and `mysql` client output set to `--html`:

```
USE information_schema;
SELECT LOWER(table_name) AS 'Table', LOWER(column_name) AS 'Column',
       ordinal_position AS 'Ordinal Position',
       IF(column_default='', '&nbsp;', column_default) AS 'Default',
       UPPER(data_type) AS 'Type',
       character_maximum_length AS 'Max Len', character_octet_length AS 'Octet Len',
       numeric_precision AS 'Precision', numeric_scale AS 'Numeric Scale',
       is_nullable AS 'Null',
       character_set_name AS 'Character Set', collation_name AS 'Collation'
FROM information_schema.columns
WHERE table_schema = 'information_schema'
ORDER BY table_name, 'Ordinal Position';
```

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