MySQL Storage Engines

Archive BDB Blackhole CSV Example Falcon Federated INNODB ISAM Maria Memory MyISAM Merge NDB Cluster Partitions PBXT Performance schema Performance

A MySQL installation has six *layers* (*Chapter 2*, Table 2-1), one of which houses *pluggable database storage engines*. Current community builds typically include the ARCHIVE, CSV, EXAMPLE, FEDERATED, INNODB, MEMORY, MYISAM and MERGE engines. ARCHIVE, CSV and FEDERATED were added in version 5.0.3, and ISAM was removed. MySQL 5.5.3 added the PERFORMANCE_SCHEMA engine. The FALCON and MARIA engines were available only in the now withdrawn 6.0 series.

Since 5.5.5, INNODB is the default storage engine. SHOW ENGINES lists engines loaded in your installation. A `default_storage_engine` setting (*Appendix B*) in *my.cnf/ini* overrides the default setting for when a `CREATE TABLE` statement specifies no engine. For physical tables requiring FULLTEXT indexing, MYISAM was the only choice until 5.6.4, when INNODB implemented FULLTEXT. Now INNODB is the best choice for entity integrity, referential integrity and FULLTEXT.

Table size limits are typically due not to the storage engine but the operating system, e.g. 2GB on Linux 2.3, 2TB on Win NTFS, 4TB on Linux 2.4, 16TB on Solaris 9/10.

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