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# MySQL Storage Engines

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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, in 6.0 FALCON, and since 6.0.6 MARIA. ARCHIVE, CSV and FEDERATED were added in version 5.0.3, and ISAM was removed. Some other engines are listed [here](#).

SHOW ENGINES lists engines loaded in your installation. The `default_storage_engine` setting ([Appendix B](#)) in `my.cnf/ini` determines the engine to use when a `CREATE TABLE` statement specifies no engine. If you specify an unavailable engine, MySQL chooses the closest possible match. For physical tables requiring FULLTEXT indexing, MYISAM and MARIA are the only choices; otherwise INNODB is the best current choice for foreign keys and transactions. MARIA and FALCON are expected to be viable ACID options in 2009.

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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