

# Getting the most from this book

Either you're reading sample chapters or you bought *Get It Done With MySQL 5&Up* at [www.artfulsoftware.com/](http://www.artfulsoftware.com/).

This edition covers MySQL 5.0 through 8.0, and the withdrawn 6.0.

You wonder what happened to 6.0? Sun/MySQL withdrew it in 2009. Did they announce that in the way MySQL has usually announced new release info, on MySQL lists and fora? No. They buried the news in the guts of a *release strategy revision document*. They said a new 6.0 would appear in early 2010. It didn't happen. We've kept coverage of vanished 6.0 features that seem likely to re-appear in future versions. Meanwhile the latest production release is 8.0.

To install *Get It Done* on your computer, use *WinRAR* under Windows, or *RAR* under Mac/ Linux/UNIX, to unpack the archive to a convenient location. To install or update the book on your tablet, copy the unpacked files to a folder where your tablet's PDF reader can find them. For file links to work, all book files must be in the same folder.

Of the free and good PDF readers available for Linux and Windows, we like *Foxit* best once its toolbar, help and ads are disabled in File->Preferences->General.

To update your copy of the book, make sure you are subscribed for updates, then download the update archive from [www.artfulsoftware.com](http://www.artfulsoftware.com) by clicking on *Update* in the *MySQL Book* submenu, and unpack the update archive over your current installed copy of *Get It Done With MySQL 5&Up*.

## The plan

The book has six sections ...

- Databases and MySQL (chapters 1-5)
- Working with MySQL (chapters 6-9)
- Programming with MySQL (chapters 10-16)
- MySQL Administration (chapter 17-19)
- Advanced Topics (chapters 20-22)
- Appendices (A-E)

plus an index. Some *Get It Done* chapters are meant to be read start to finish. Some are mainly packed with documentary facts, and are meant mostly for looking stuff up—you'd need to be a bit bent to read them front to back.

The bits meant for reading are ...

1. An account, from scratch, of relational databases
2. A brief history of MySQL
5. Writing a Specification

- 9. Writing and designing queries in MySQL
- 10 through 16: MySQL APIs, ODBC, PHP, Perl, Java, .NET and C.
- 17. Database administration
- 19. Security
- 20. Working with Graphs in MySQL
- 21. Working with MySQL and Visual Studio 2005
- 22. Time in MySQL
- Appendix D for the Java-challenged.

The bits meant for looking things up are ...

- 3. MySQL installation
- 4. SQL and MySQL data types
- 6. MySQL command syntax
- 7. MySQL table types
- 8. Syntax for MySQL built-in and stored procedures and functions
- 18. Syntax for MySQL administrative utilities
- Appendix A. Glossary
- Appendix B. System Variables
- Appendix C. Reference Data
- Appendix E. Source code

If your itch to get started with MySQL exceeds your itch for background information, explanation and understanding, begin with *Chapter 3*, and once you have proved your installation is sound, follow the links in the *Getting Started* section of that chapter.

## Read

The TOC page, *mysqled1.pdf*, links to all chapters and the index, so a desktop shortcut to the TOC page is all you need for quick access.

All chapters up to and including Appendix C are PDFs. Appendices D and E are HTML files.

If you have enough screen real estate, grow your PDF reader window to show a whole page at a time and in **Preferences** set page view to single page, non-continuous. Failing that, select Fit Visible. Each chapter begins and ends with links to the TOC, the previous chapter, and the next chapter. The top of every chapter (except the index) lists main topics and bookmarks. Hyperlinks in the text are in italics. They may point to bookmarks in the same chapter, to other chapters, or to the web.

You can peel off code or any other text from a PDF chapter by selecting it.. Navigating to bookmarks in the same chapter is straightforward; if your reader window is sized to show a lot less than a full page, you may have to scroll the page a bit to see the target you clicked on.

Current PDF generators do not reliably link to specific pages or bookmarks in other chapters (PDFs), so if a link points to a specific section of another chapter (PDF), we show it as a chapter link followed by a bookmark name in parentheses, for example *Chapter 1* (Operations on sets), which means you should first

- click on the Chapter 1 link, and once there
- click on Operations on sets in that chapter's leading list of bookmarks.

Alternatively, once you've navigated to the linked chapter, open your PDF reader's Bookmarks tab and select the desired bookmark from there.

Having read what you want, clicking on the little back-navigation arrow in the PDF reader's header returns you to where you were. (You may wonder why PDF readers can return you to a specific spot in a local PDF, but don't reliably do the same trick in a forward direction. So do we.)

## **Index**

At the beginning and end of the index are links to all page ranges. Look up the item you are searching for in the index, go to the top or bottom of the index and click on the matching page range, and go to the page using your PDF reader's page navigator button in the Reader's header.

## **Contribute**

If you find errors or wish to contribute suggestions, feedback or text, please write us at <mailto:mysqlbook@artfulsoftware.com>. If you do contribute, your name will go onto the acknowledgements list unless of course you prefer otherwise.

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