

Getting the most from this book

Either you are looking at the sample chapters, or you bought *Get It Done With MySQL 5&6* at <http://www.artfulsoftware.com>.

This edition covers MySQL 5.0 releases to 5.0.90, 5.1 releases to 5.1.44, 5.4/5.5 releases to 5.5.2-m2, and the temporarily unavailable 6.0. You wonder what happened to 6.0? In June 2009 Sun/MySQL withdrew it. Did they announce that in the way MySQL has usually announced new release info, on MySQL lists and fora? No. They buried the information in the guts of a *release strategy revision document* that seems to need the services of a good copy editor. You probably found out that MySQL 6.0 had disappeared by finding you could no longer download it. For the benefit of MySQL users who wish to continue using 6.0, and in anticipation of 6.0 re-appearing in 2010 as announced, this edition continues to cover MySQL 6.0, with features available only in 6.0 so marked

To install this book on your computer, use *WinRAR* under Windows, or *RAR* under Mac/Linux/UNIX, to unpack the archive to a convenient location. For file links to work, all book files must be in the same folder.

Acrobat® Reader is freely downloadable. Versions 8 and 9 are more user-friendly than earlier versions, even if still imperfect (for example, in the Help window try finding a hint that F9 restores a hidden menu).

To update the book, make sure you are subscribed for updates, then download the update files from <http://www.artfulsoftware.com> by clicking on *Update* in the *MySQL Book* submenu. Simply unpack the update archive over your current installed copy of *Get It Done With MySQL 5&6*.

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 the company MySQL AB
 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

To read this book, you need Acrobat Reader[®] 6.0 or later, available for download without charge from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>, and any reasonably compatible web browser.

The TOC page, *mysqled1.pdf*, links to all chapters and to the index. Do whatever your operating system permits by way of creating a convenient shortcut to make it as easy as possible to open *mysqled1.pdf* no matter what else you are doing.

All chapters up to and including Appendix C are PDFs. Appendices D and E are HTML files. *Changes.html* briefly summarises changes in each edition.

If you have enough screen real estate, expand your Adobe Reader[®] window to show a whole page at a time and set Edit | Preferences | Page Display | Page Layout to Single Page. Failing that, select View / Fit Visible in the Reader menu. 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 underlined. They may point to bookmarks in the same chapter, or to other chapters.

You can peel off code or any other text from a PDF chapter by selecting Tools | Basic | Text from the Adobe Reader[®] menu. You can also copy sample programs directly from Appendix E. Navigating to bookmarks in the same chapter is straightforward except that 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 Acrobat[®] 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 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 cannot 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 the Acrobat page navigator button in the Reader's header.

Print

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