

NAME

`mysql_install_db` - initialize MySQL data directory

SYNOPSIS

`mysql_install_db` [*options*]

DESCRIPTION

`mysql_install_db` initializes the MySQL data directory and creates the system tables that it contains, if they do not exist. `mysql_install_db` is a shell script and is available only on Unix platforms. (As of MySQL 5.6, `mysql_install_db` is a Perl script and can be used on any system with Perl installed.)

To invoke `mysql_install_db`, use the following syntax:

```
shell> mysql_install_db [options]
```

Because the MySQL server, `mysqld`, must access the data directory when it runs later, you should either run `mysql_install_db` from the same system account that will be used for running `mysqld`, or run it as root and specify the `--user` option to indicate the user name that `mysqld` will run as. It might be necessary to specify other options such as `--basedir` or `--datadir` if `mysql_install_db` does not use the correct locations for the installation directory or data directory. For example:

```
shell> scripts/mysql_install_db --user=mysql
--basedir=/opt/mysql/mysql
--datadir=/opt/mysql/mysql/data
```

Note

If you have set a custom `TMPDIR` environment variable when performing the installation, and the specified directory is not accessible, `mysql_install_db` may fail. If so, unset `TMPDIR` or set `TMPDIR` to point to the system temporary directory (usually `/tmp`).

`mysql_install_db` supports the following options, which can be specified on the command line or in the `[mysql_install_db]` group of an option file. (Options that are common to `mysqld` can also be specified in the `[mysqld]` group.) Other options are passed to `mysqld`. For information about option files used by MySQL programs, see Section 4.2.6, “Using Option Files”.

- **--help**

Display a help message and exit.

- **--basedir=*dir_name***

The path to the MySQL installation directory.

- **--builddir=*dir_name***

For use with `--srcdir` and out-of-source builds. Set this to the location of the directory where the built files reside.

- **--cross-bootstrap**

For internal use. This option is used for building system tables on one host intended for another.

- **--datadir=*dir_name***

The path to the MySQL data directory.

- **--defaults-extra-file=*file_name***

Read this option file after the global option file but (on Unix) before the user option file. If the file does not exist or is otherwise inaccessible, an error occurs. *file_name* is interpreted relative to the current directory if given as a relative path name rather than a full path name.

- **--defaults-file=*file_name***

Use only the given option file. If the file does not exist or is otherwise inaccessible, an error occurs. *file_name* is interpreted relative to the current directory if given as a relative path

- name rather than a full path name.
- **--force**

Cause **mysql_install_db** to run even if DNS does not work. Grant table entries normally created using host names will use IP addresses instead.
- **--ldata=*dir_name***

A synonym for **--datadir**.
- **--no-defaults**

Do not read any option files. If program startup fails due to reading unknown options from an option file, **--no-defaults** can be used to prevent them from being read.
- **--rpm**

For internal use. This option is used during the MySQL installation process for install operations performed using RPM packages.
- **--skip-name-resolve**

Use IP addresses rather than host names when creating grant table entries. This option can be useful if your DNS does not work.
- **--srcdir=*dir_name***

For internal use. This option specifies the directory under which **mysql_install_db** looks for support files such as the error message file and the file for populating the help tables.
- **--user=*user_name***

The system (login) user name to use for running **mysqld**. Files and directories created by **mysqld** will be owned by this user. You must be the system root user to use this option. By default, **mysqld** runs using your current login name and files and directories that it creates will be owned by you.
- **--verbose**

Verbose mode. Print more information about what the program does.
- **--windows**

For internal use. This option is used for creating Windows distributions.

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SEE ALSO

For more information, please refer to the MySQL Reference Manual, which may already be installed locally and which is also available online at <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/>.

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