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### professional raconteur and man-about-town

[« Enabling PHP on Mac OS X 10.4 "Tiger" | Main | Administering the MySQL Database »](#)

**23 May 2005**

#### Getting MySQL Running on Mac OS X 10.4 "Tiger"

Now that we have PHP (4.3.10) and Apache (1.3.33) talking, you will want to do something useful with them, usually meaning work that uses a database. Most PHP developers prefer working with **MySQL**. The current version of **MySQL** (4.1.2 as of the time of this writing) works fine on Tiger. You can get it at [the MySQL Developer Zone](#). The "Standard" installer should be fine for most purposes, and I recommend pulling the Mac OS X "Installer package" version for Mac OS X v10.3 (which will likely start having some reference to Tiger in the near future) over compiling from source.

You will want to install (all via double-click) (1) the **MySQL** package (presently `mysql-standard-4.1.12-apple-darwin7.9.0-powerpc.pkg`), (2) the **mysql** startup item (presently `MySQLStartupItem.pkg`), and (3) the **MySQL** prefpane (presently `mysql.prefPane`), which lets you start and stop the **MySQL** server from the GUI. The `ReadMe.txt` includes useful information, particularly for those running Mac OS X Server, but if you are on a fresh install of Tiger, you should be fine with the directions given so far.

Go ahead and reboot now so that everything is somewhat sane.

Now, the command-line needs to be used to do some setup of **MySQL**. First, we want to be able to see the commands, so we have to add the **MySQL** binaries to our path. For the bash shell that is the default, we open a Terminal window and in our home directory (where we should be by default) we execute

```
vi .profile
```

If this file is empty, we just add the line (in vi, hit **i** to insert text)

```
PATH="/bin:/sbin:/usr/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/local/mysql/bin"
```

and save and quit (in vi, **escape**, then **:wq**). For the shell to see these commands, we should close the current terminal window and open a new one (or you can type `sh .profile` from the command line).

Now, we want to set up **MySQL** securely. At the shell, type

```
mysql_secure_installation
```

The following is the interaction sequence I had with this "wizard" - yours will vary, based off of the password you choose. There probably is not a password when you start, so when it asks for the current password, just press **enter**.

**NOTE: RUNNING ALL PARTS OF THIS SCRIPT IS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL MySQL SERVERS IN PRODUCTION USE! PLEASE READ EACH STEP CAREFULLY!**

In order to log into **MySQL** to secure it, we'll need the current password for the root user. If you've just installed **MySQL**, and you haven't set the root password yet, the password will be blank, so you should just press enter here.

```
Enter current password for root (enter for none):  
OK, successfully used password, moving on...
```

Setting the root password ensures that nobody can log into the **MySQL** root user without the proper authorisation.

```
Set root password? [Y/n] y
New password: yourpassword
Re-enter new password: yourpassword
Password updated successfully!
Reloading privilege tables..
... Success!
```

By default, a **MySQL** installation has an anonymous user, allowing anyone to log into **MySQL** without having to have a user account created for them. This is intended only for testing, and to make the installation go a bit smoother. You should remove them before moving into a production environment.

```
Remove anonymous users? [Y/n] y
... Success!
```

Normally, root should only be allowed to connect from 'localhost'. This ensures that someone cannot guess at the root password from the network.

```
Disallow root login remotely? [Y/n] y
... Success!
```

By default, **MySQL** comes with a database named 'test' that anyone can access. This is also intended only for testing, and should be removed before moving into a production environment.

```
Remove test database and access to it? [Y/n] y
- Dropping test database...
... Success!
- Removing privileges on test database...
... Success!
```

Reloading the privilege tables will ensure that all changes made so far will take effect immediately.

```
Reload privilege tables now? [Y/n] y
... Success!
```

Cleaning up...

All done! If you've completed all of the above steps, your **MySQL** installation should now be secure.

Thanks for using **MySQL**!

You can make sure you are up and running with the command:

```
mysqladmin -u root -p status
```

Posted on 23 May 2005 at 05:19 PM in [Apple](#), [Computers](#) | [Permalink](#)

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## Comments

Oh, my head is spinning.

Posted by: [Tvindy](#) | [24 May 2005 at 03:36 AM](#)

Don't be shy Tvindy! This isn't for your typical user, more for the webmaster folk, who are not scared of digging into the command line. But I think you may have been slightly tongue in cheek with your thankfulness for Windows. I would say this stuff is much more of a pain to get running there. The instructions I gave here would apply specifically to Mac OS X Tiger, but will also probably cover most of the issues for Linux users. Though they may have to download and compile Apache, PHP, and **MySQL**, and figure out where things belong, etc. I like that Mac OS X takes a few of those mysteries away...

Posted by: [Bill Stevenson](#) | [24 May 2005 at 05:43 PM](#)

That's a relief. I was afraid this was something every mac user had to do after upgrading.  
:>

Posted by: [Tvindy](#) | [25 May 2005 at 05:36 AM](#)

Hi. ok, I installed as above no problem. But I get 'command not found' when I mysql\_secure\_installation. At **mysql.com**, it says that the script was left out. How do I get the script, install it and where does it go. Thanks.....

Posted by: [David](#) | [02 June 2005 at 08:34 AM](#)

**Bill**

Thanks for a great few pages on getting Apache, PHP and **MySQL** all working :-)

I'd like to get PHP GD support enabled now, but I'm not sure if I need to recompile, reconfigure or what! I followed your instructions, so I have the configuration you suggest, I saw something on the Apple site about <http://fink.sourceforge.net/> but I don't want to fiddle too much and spoil the current configuration.

Any suggestions.

Posted by: [Trevor Smeaton](#) | [10 June 2005 at 12:23 PM](#)

**Bill** this rocks! Thanks for putting the instructions out there. One thing I think would help other dudes (David) & dudettes would be to add a step after adding the PATH to the .profile... type ". .profile" (dot, dot profile) so the cmd mysql\_secure\_installation file can be found properly. thanks again!!

Posted by: [SoCal-YLo](#) | [10 June 2005 at 08:45 PM](#)

Hello **Bill**. My problem is that **mysql.sock** is not in /tmp. I have tried several clean installs and it never gets written. Without it, mysql\_secure\_installation or any other **MySQL** command fails. Any thoughts? Thanks.

Posted by: [Elton](#) | [15 June 2005 at 07:27 PM](#)

I have the same problem with the /tmp/socket part.. - Is something changed in Tiger? .. I didn't remember any such problems when installing on panther.

Posted by: [David Pedersen](#) | [24 June 2005 at 12:10 PM](#)

I, too, have a different location for **mysql.sock**:

/private/var/**mysql/mysql.sock**

Interestingly, php reports (with phpinfo()) that the **mysql.sock** is still in /tmp.

Is there a configuration file for php where we can change where it looks for **mysql**?

This is the default installation of Tiger.

Cheers,  
John

Posted by: [John Morrison](#) | [24 June 2005 at 05:48 PM](#)

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!! I have been struggling for hours on this until I stumbled across your instructions. It finally works!!! woo-hoo!!!!!!!

Posted by: [tanya](#) | [17 July 2005 at 10:57 PM](#)

Great article.

I'm in kind of a pickle...perhaps you could help me.

I had to perform an archive-and-install for Tiger yesterday in order to recover from a botched 'upgrade install'.

In the process, all of my **MySQL** databases are now nested within the 'Previous Systems' folder, and I want to move them

back to their proper location.

I have followed your directions for installing **mySQL**, the prefpane and the StartupItem. (Thanks, BTW.)

Could you offer some insight as to how I would migrate the **mysql** user files and other databases?

Posted by: [Dennis Wurster](#) | [19 July 2005 at 12:13 PM](#)

I haven't done this, but <http://dev.mysql.com/doc> has a huge reference manual that no doubt speaks to this sort of thing. I hope you were able to sort your issue out. (emailed to user)

Posted by: [Bill Stevenson](#) | [27 July 2005 at 03:10 PM](#)

After 4 hours of working with this problem, I found your posting and tried to follow it. At the point where I typed "mysql\_secure\_installation", I veered from the expected course. The system said "ERROR 2002: Can't connect to local **mySQL** server through socket '/var/**mysql/mysql.sock**' (2)". I'm using a G4 XServe running the latest version of Tiger. The **MySQL** Admin program says **mySQL** is running. I can start it and stop it. But I can't connect to it from the command line or Navicat. Always gives me the error that root@localhost doesn't have permission (YES). Do I need to set up a "**mySQL**" user in the Workgroup manager? Any help would be appreciated. I'd like to get this problem solved.

Posted by: [Garry Houser](#) | [09 August 2005 at 10:27 PM](#)

The instructions don't work with Mac OS X server. I recommend going to the Apple Discussion Boards. I suppose I should know, but it's not really in my job description and I have very little experience with the server OS in as far as configuring it.

Posted by: [Bill Stevenson](#) | [10 August 2005 at 02:50 AM](#)

Well done in providing a logical order of getting through this toolset containing apache, **mysql** and php.

I seem to have a bit of a problem, in that i've somehow set the password for **mysql**. I tried doing the installation and have found that upon typing:

mysql\_secure\_installation

The terminal subsequently throws this up:

ERROR 1045 (28000): Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost' (using password: YES)

How do I go about resetting the password for this ?

Posted by: [aidee](#) | [20 August 2005 at 09:02 AM](#)

See <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/resetting-permissions.html>

Posted by: [Bill Stevenson](#) | [20 August 2005 at 11:56 AM](#)

Hi **Bill**,

Nice series of posts re setting up web-dev environment for Tiger. I just made the switch up from Panther and you've helped immensely. Was just wondering if you knew of a command line way of checking whether or not **mysql** is running without having to enter any passwords? I know about "mysqladmin -u root -p status" but it still requires use of a password. Any ideas?

Jon

Posted by: [Jon](#) | [25 August 2005 at 08:17 AM](#)

You could try `ps -ax | grep -i mysql` at the command line and see if the **mysql** process is running.

Posted by: [Bill Stevenson](#) | [25 August 2005 at 08:40 AM](#)

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