Starting and Stopping MySQL

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Abstract

This is the Starting and Stopping MySQL extract from the MySQL 6.0 Reference Manual.

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Chapter 1. Installing MySQL from `tar.gz` Packages on Other Unix-Like Systems

This section covers the installation of MySQL binary distributions that are provided for various platforms in the form of compressed `tar` files (files with a `.tar.gz` extension). See MySQL Binaries Compiled by Sun Microsystems, Inc., for a detailed list.

To obtain MySQL, see How to Get MySQL.

MySQL `tar` file binary distributions have names of the form `mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz`, where *`VERSION`* is a number (for example, `6.0.12`), and *`OS`* indicates the type of operating system for which the distribution is intended (for example, `pc-linux-i686`).

In addition to these generic packages, we also offer binaries in platform-specific package formats for selected platforms. See Standard MySQL Installation Using a Binary Distribution, for more information on how to install these.

You need the following tools to install a MySQL `tar` file binary distribution:

- GNU `gunzip` to uncompress the distribution.
- A reasonable `tar` to unpack the distribution. GNU `tar` is known to work. Some operating systems come with a preinstalled version of `tar` that is known to have problems. For example, the `tar` provided with early versions of Mac OS X, SunOS 4.x and Solaris 8 and earlier are known to have problems with long file names. On Mac OS X, you can use the preinstalled `gnutar` program. On other systems with a deficient `tar`, you should install GNU `tar` first.

If you run into problems and need to file a bug report, please use the instructions in How to Report Bugs or Problems.

The basic commands that you must execute to install and use a MySQL binary distribution are:

```
shell> groupadd mysql
shell> useradd -g mysql mysql
shell> cd /usr/local
shell> gunzip < /path/to/mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz | tar xvf -
shell> ln -s full-path-to-mysql-VERSION-OS mysql
shell> cd mysql
shell> chown -R mysql .
shell> chgrp -R mysql .
shell> scripts/mysql_install_db --user=mysql
shell> chown -R root .
shell> chown -R mysql data
shell> bin/mysqld_safe --user=mysql &
```

> **Note**
>
> This procedure does not set up any passwords for MySQL accounts. After following the procedure, proceed to Post-Installation Setup and Testing.

A more detailed version of the preceding description for installing a binary distribution follows:

1. Add a login user and group for `mysqld` to run as:

   ```
   shell> groupadd mysql
   shell> useradd -g mysql mysql
   ```

   These commands add the `mysql` group and the `mysql` user. The syntax for `useradd` and `groupadd` may differ slightly on different versions of Unix, or they may have different names such as `adduser` and `addgroup`.

   You might want to call the user and group something else instead of `mysql`. If so, substitute the appropriate name in the following steps.

2. Pick the directory under which you want to unpack the distribution and change location into it. In the following example, we unpack the distribution under `/usr/local`. (The instructions, therefore, assume that you have permission to create files and directories in `/usr/local`. If that directory is protected, you must perform the installation as `root`.)

   ```
   shell> cd /usr/local
   ```

3. Obtain a distribution file using the instructions in How to Get MySQL. For a given release, binary distributions for all platforms are built from the same MySQL source distribution.

4. Unpack the distribution, which creates the installation directory. Then create a symbolic link to that directory:

```
shell> gunzip < /path/to/mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz | tar xvf -
shell> ln -s full-path-to-mysql-VERSION-OS mysql
```

   The tar command creates a directory named mysql-*VERSION-OS*. The ln command makes a symbolic link to that directory. This lets you refer more easily to the installation directory as /usr/local/mysql.

   With GNU tar, no separate invocation of gunzip is necessary. You can replace the first line with the following alternative command to uncompress and extract the distribution:

```
shell> tar zxvf /path/to/mysql-VERSION-OS.tar.gz
```

5. Change location into the installation directory:

```
shell> cd mysql
```

   You will find several files and subdirectories in the mysql directory. The most important for installation purposes are the bin and scripts subdirectories:

   - The bin directory contains client programs and the server. You should add the full path name of this directory to your PATH environment variable so that your shell finds the MySQL programs properly. See Environment Variables.
   - The scripts directory contains the mysql_install_db script used to initialize the mysql database containing the grant tables that store the server access permissions.

6. Ensure that the distribution contents are accessible to mysql. If you unpacked the distribution as mysql, no further action is required. If you unpacked the distribution as root, its contents will be owned by root. Change its ownership to mysql by executing the following commands as root in the installation directory:

```
shell> chown -R mysql .
shell> chgrp -R mysql .
```

   The first command changes the owner attribute of the files to the mysql user. The second changes the group attribute to the mysql group.

7. If you have not installed MySQL before, you must create the MySQL data directory and initialize the grant tables:

```
shell> scripts/mysql_install_db --user=mysql
```

   If you run the command as root, include the --user option as shown. If you run the command while logged in as that user, you can omit the --user option.

   The command should create the data directory and its contents with mysql as the owner.

   After creating or updating the grant tables, you need to restart the server manually.

8. Most of the MySQL installation can be owned by root if you like. The exception is that the data directory must be owned by mysql. To accomplish this, run the following commands as root in the installation directory:

```
shell> chown -R root .
shell> chown -R mysql data
```

9. If you want MySQL to start automatically when you boot your machine, you can copy support-files/mysql.server to the location where your system has its startup files. More information can be found in the support-files/mysql.server script itself and in Starting and Stopping MySQL Automatically.

10. You can set up new accounts using the bin/mysql_setpermission script if you install the DBI and DBD::mysql Perl modules. See mysql_setpermission. For Perl module installation instructions, see Perl Installation Notes.

11. If you would like to use mysqlaccess and have the MySQL distribution in some non-standard location, you must change the location where mysqlaccess expects to find the mysql client. Edit the bin/mysqlaccess script at approximately line 18. Search for a line that looks like this:

```
$MYSQL     = '/usr/local/bin/mysql';    # path to mysql executable
```

   Change the path to reflect the location where mysql actually is stored on your system. If you do not do this, a Broken pipe error will occur when you run mysqlaccess.

After everything has been unpacked and installed, you should test your distribution. To start the MySQL server, use the following command:

```
shell> bin/mysqld_safe --user=mysql &
```

If you run the command as root, you must use the --user option as shown. The value of the option is the name of the login account that you created in the first step to use for running the server. If you run the command while logged in as mysql, you can omit the --user option.

If the command fails immediately and prints mysqld ended, you can find some information in the *host_name*.err file in the data directory.

More information about mysqld_safe is given in Section 4.2, “mysqld_safe — MySQL Server Startup Script”.

> **Note**
>
> The accounts that are listed in the MySQL grant tables initially have no passwords. After starting the server, you should set up passwords for them using the instructions in Post-Installation Setup and Testing.

Chapter 2. Starting the Server for the First Time on Windows

This section gives a general overview of starting the MySQL server. The following sections provide more specific information for starting the MySQL server from the command line or as a Windows service.

The information here applies primarily if you installed MySQL using the `Noinstall` version, or if you wish to configure and test MySQL manually rather than with the GUI tools.

The examples in these sections assume that MySQL is installed under the default location of `C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 6.0`. Adjust the path names shown in the examples if you have MySQL installed in a different location.

Clients have two options. They can use TCP/IP, or they can use a named pipe if the server supports named-pipe connections.

MySQL for Windows also supports shared-memory connections if the server is started with the `--shared-memory` option. Clients can connect through shared memory by using the `--protocol=MEMORY` option.

For information about which server binary to run, see Selecting a MySQL Server Type.

Testing is best done from a command prompt in a console window (or "DOS window"). In this way you can have the server display status messages in the window where they are easy to see. If something is wrong with your configuration, these messages make it easier for you to identify and fix any problems.

To start the server, enter this command:

```
C:\> "C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 6.0\bin\mysqld" --console
```

For a server that includes `InnoDB` support, you should see the messages similar to those following as it starts (the path names and sizes may differ):

```
InnoDB: The first specified datafile c:\ibdata\ibdata1 did not exist:
InnoDB: a new database to be created!
InnoDB: Setting file c:\ibdata\ibdata1 size to 209715200
InnoDB: Database physically writes the file full: wait...
InnoDB: Log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile0 did not exist: new to be created
InnoDB: Setting log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile0 size to 31457280
InnoDB: Log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile1 did not exist: new to be created
InnoDB: Setting log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile1 size to 31457280
InnoDB: Log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile2 did not exist: new to be created
InnoDB: Setting log file c:\iblogs\ib_logfile2 size to 31457280
InnoDB: Doublewrite buffer not found: creating new
InnoDB: Doublewrite buffer created
InnoDB: creating foreign key constraint system tables
InnoDB: foreign key constraint system tables created
011024 10:58:25  InnoDB: Started
```

When the server finishes its startup sequence, you should see something like this, which indicates that the server is ready to service client connections:

```
mysqld: ready for connections
Version: '6.0.12'  socket: ''  port: 3306
```

The server continues to write to the console any further diagnostic output it produces. You can open a new console window in which to run client programs.

If you omit the `--console` option, the server writes diagnostic output to the error log in the data directory (`C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 6.0\data` by default). The error log is the file with the `.err` extension.

> **Note**
>
> The accounts that are listed in the MySQL grant tables initially have no passwords. After starting the server, you should set up passwords for them using the instructions in Post-Installation Setup and Testing.

Chapter 3. The Shutdown Process

The server shutdown process takes place as follows:

1. The shutdown process is initiated.

   Server shutdown can be initiated several ways. For example, a user with the `SHUTDOWN` privilege can execute a `mysqladmin shutdown` command. `mysqladmin` can be used on any platform supported by MySQL. Other operating system-specific shutdown initiation methods are possible as well: The server shuts down on Unix when it receives a `SIGTERM` signal. A server running as a service on Windows shuts down when the services manager tells it to.

2. The server creates a shutdown thread if necessary.

   Depending on how shutdown was initiated, the server might create a thread to handle the shutdown process. If shutdown was requested by a client, a shutdown thread is created. If shutdown is the result of receiving a `SIGTERM` signal, the signal thread might handle shutdown itself, or it might create a separate thread to do so. If the server tries to create a shutdown thread and cannot (for example, if memory is exhausted), it issues a diagnostic message that appears in the error log:

   ```
   Error: Can't create thread to kill server
   ```

3. The server stops accepting new connections.

   To prevent new activity from being initiated during shutdown, the server stops accepting new client connections. It does this by closing the network connections to which it normally listens for connections: the TCP/IP port, the Unix socket file, the Windows named pipe, and shared memory on Windows.

4. The server terminates current activity.

   For each thread that is associated with a client connection, the connection to the client is broken and the thread is marked as killed. Threads die when they notice that they are so marked. Threads for idle connections die quickly. Threads that currently are processing statements check their state periodically and take longer to die. For additional information about thread termination, see `KILL` Syntax, in particular for the instructions about killed `REPAIR TABLE` or `OPTIMIZE TABLE` operations on `MyISAM` tables.

   For threads that have an open transaction, the transaction is rolled back. Note that if a thread is updating a non-transactional table, an operation such as a multiple-row `UPDATE` or `INSERT` may leave the table partially updated, because the operation can terminate before completion.

   If the server is a master replication server, threads associated with currently connected slaves are treated like other client threads. That is, each one is marked as killed and exits when it next checks its state.

   If the server is a slave replication server, the I/O and SQL threads, if active, are stopped before client threads are marked as killed. The SQL thread is allowed to finish its current statement (to avoid causing replication problems), and then stops. If the SQL thread was in the middle of a transaction at this point, the transaction is rolled back.

5. Storage engines are shut down or closed.

   At this stage, the table cache is flushed and all open tables are closed.

   Each storage engine performs any actions necessary for tables that it manages. For example, `MyISAM` flushes any pending index writes for a table. `InnoDB` flushes its buffer pool to disk, unless `innodb_fast_shutdown` is 2, writes the current LSN to the tablespace, and terminates its own internal threads.

6. The server exits.

Chapter 4. MySQL Server and Server-Startup Programs

This section describes `mysqld`, the MySQL server, and several programs that are used to start the server.

4.1. `mysqld` — The MySQL Server

`mysqld`, also known as MySQL Server, is the main program that does most of the work in a MySQL installation. MySQL Server manages access to the MySQL data directory that contains databases and tables. The data directory is also the default location for other information such as log files and status files.

When MySQL server starts, it listens for network connections from client programs and manages access to databases on behalf of those clients.

The `mysqld` program has many options that can be specified at startup. For a complete list of options, run this command:

```
shell> mysqld --verbose --help
```

MySQL Server also has a set of system variables that affect its operation as it runs. System variables can be set at server startup, and many of them can be changed at runtime to effect dynamic server reconfiguration. MySQL Server also has a set of status variables that provide information about its operation. You can monitor these status variables to access runtime performance characteristics.

For a full description of MySQL Server command options, system variables, and status variables, see The MySQL Server. For information about installing MySQL and setting up the initial configuration, see Installing and Upgrading MySQL.

4.2. `mysqld_safe` — MySQL Server Startup Script

`mysqld_safe` is the recommended way to start a `mysqld` server on Unix and NetWare. `mysqld_safe` adds some safety features such as restarting the server when an error occurs and logging runtime information to an error log file. Descriptions of error logging and NetWare-specific behaviors are given later in this section.

`mysqld_safe` tries to start an executable named `mysqld`. To override the default behavior and specify explicitly the name of the server you want to run, specify a `--mysqld` or `--mysqld-version` option to `mysqld_safe`. You can also use `--ledir` to indicate the directory where `mysqld_safe` should look for the server.

Many of the options to `mysqld_safe` are the same as the options to `mysqld`. See Server Command Options.

Options unknown to `mysqld_safe` are passed to `mysqld` if they are specified on the command line, but ignored if they are specified in the `[mysqld_safe]` group of an option file. See Using Option Files.

`mysqld_safe` reads all options from the `[mysqld]`, `[server]`, and `[mysqld_safe]` sections in option files. For example, if you specify a `[mysqld]` section like this, `mysqld_safe` will find and use the `--log-error` option:

```
[mysqld]
log-error=error.log
```

For backward compatibility, `mysqld_safe` also reads `[safe_mysqld]` sections, although you should rename such sections to `[mysqld_safe]` in MySQL 6.0 installations.

Table 4.1. `mysqld_safe` Option Reference

Format	Config File	Description	Introduction	Deprecated	Removed
--autoclose	autoclose	On NetWare, mysqld_safe provides a screen presence			
--basedir=path	basedir	The path to the MySQL installation directory			
--core-file-size=size	core-file-size	The size of the core file that mysqld should be able to create			
--datadir=path	datadir	The path to the data directory			
--defaults-extra-file=path	defaults-extra-file	The name of an option file to be read in addition to the usual option files			

Format	Config File	Description	Introduction	Deprecated	Removed
--defaults-file=file_name	defaults-file	The name of an option file to be read instead of the usual option files			
--help		Display a help message and exit			
--ledir=path	ledir	Use this option to indicate the path name to the directory where the server is located			
--log-error=file_name	log-error	Write the error log to the given file			
--mysqld=prog_name	mysqld	The name of the server program (in the ledir directory) that you want to start			
--mysqld-version=suffix	mysqld-version	This option is similar to the --mysqld option, but you specify only the suffix for the server program name			
--nice=priority	nice	Use the nice program to set the server's scheduling priority to the given value			
--no-defaults	no-defaults	Do not read any option files			
--open-files-limit=count	open-files-limit	The number of files that mysqld should be able to open			
--pid-file	pid-file	The path name of the process ID file			
--port=number	port	The port number that the server should use when listening for TCP/IP connections			
--skip-kill-mysqld	skip-kill-mysqld	Do not try to kill stray mysqld processes			
--skip-syslog	skip-syslog	Do not write error messages to syslog; use error log file			
--socket=path	socket	The Unix socket file that the server should use when listening for local connections			
--syslog	syslog	Write error messages to syslog			
--timezone=timezone	timezone	Set the TZ time zone environment variable to the given option value			
--user={user_name|user_id}	user	Run the mysqld server as the user having the name user_name or the numeric user ID user_id			

`mysqld_safe` supports the options in the following list. It also reads option files and supports the options for processing them described at Command-Line Options that Affect Option-File Handling.

- `--help`

  Display a help message and exit.

- `--autoclose`

  (NetWare only) On NetWare, `mysqld_safe` provides a screen presence. When you unload (shut down) the `mysqld_safe` NLM, the screen does not by default go away. Instead, it prompts for user input:

  ```
  *<NLM has terminated; Press any key to close the screen>*
  ```

If you want NetWare to close the screen automatically instead, use the `--autoclose` option to `mysqld_safe`.

- `--basedir=path`

  The path to the MySQL installation directory.

- `--core-file-size=size`

  The size of the core file that `mysqld` should be able to create. The option value is passed to `ulimit -c`.

- `--datadir=path`

  The path to the data directory.

- `--defaults-extra-file=path`

  The name of an option file to be read in addition to the usual option files. This must be the first option on the command line if it is used. If the file does not exist or is otherwise inaccessible, the server will exit with an error.

- `--defaults-file=file_name`

  The name of an option file to be read instead of the usual option files. This must be the first option on the command line if it is used.

- `--ledir=path`

  If `mysqld_safe` cannot find the server, use this option to indicate the path name to the directory where the server is located.

- `--log-error=file_name`

  Write the error log to the given file. See The Error Log.

- `--mysqld=prog_name`

  The name of the server program (in the `ledir` directory) that you want to start. This option is needed if you use the MySQL binary distribution but have the data directory outside of the binary distribution. If `mysqld_safe` cannot find the server, use the `--ledir` option to indicate the path name to the directory where the server is located.

- `--mysqld-version=suffix`

  This option is similar to the `--mysqld` option, but you specify only the suffix for the server program name. The basename is assumed to be `mysqld`. For example, if you use `--mysqld-version=debug`, `mysqld_safe` starts the `mysqld-debug` program in the `ledir` directory. If the argument to `--mysqld-version` is empty, `mysqld_safe` uses `mysqld` in the `ledir` directory.

- `--nice=priority`

  Use the `nice` program to set the server's scheduling priority to the given value.

- `--no-defaults`

  Do not read any option files. This must be the first option on the command line if it is used.

- `--open-files-limit=count`

  The number of files that `mysqld` should be able to open. The option value is passed to `ulimit -n`. Note that you need to start `mysqld_safe` as `root` for this to work properly!

- `--pid-file=file_name`

  The path name of the process ID file.

- `--port=port_num`

  The port number that the server should use when listening for TCP/IP connections. The port number must be 1024 or higher unless the server is started by the `root` system user.

- `--skip-kill-mysqld`

  Do not try to kill stray `mysqld` processes at startup. This option works only on Linux.

- `--socket=path`

  The Unix socket file that the server should use when listening for local connections.

- `--syslog`, `--skip-syslog`

  `--syslog` causes error messages to be sent to `syslog` on systems that support the `logger` program. `--skip-syslog` suppresses the use of `syslog`; messages are written to an error log file.

- `--syslog-tag=tag`

  For logging to `syslog`, messages from `mysqld_safe` and `mysqld` are written with a tag of `mysqld_safe` and `mysqld`, respectively. To specify a suffix for the tag, use `--syslog-tag=tag`, which modifies the tags to be `mysqld_safe-tag` and `mysqld-tag`.

- `--timezone=timezone`

  Set the `TZ` time zone environment variable to the given option value. Consult your operating system documentation for legal time zone specification formats.

- `--user={user_name|user_id}`

  Run the `mysqld` server as the user having the name `user_name` or the numeric user ID `user_id`. (“User” in this context refers to a system login account, not a MySQL user listed in the grant tables.)

If you execute `mysqld_safe` with the `--defaults-file` or `--defaults-extra-file` option to name an option file, the option must be the first one given on the command line or the option file will not be used. For example, this command will not use the named option file:

```
mysql> mysqld_safe --port=port_num --defaults-file=file_name
```

Instead, use the following command:

```
mysql> mysqld_safe --defaults-file=file_name --port=port_num
```

The `mysqld_safe` script is written so that it normally can start a server that was installed from either a source or a binary distribution of MySQL, even though these types of distributions typically install the server in slightly different locations. (See Installation Layouts.) `mysqld_safe` expects one of the following conditions to be true:

- The server and databases can be found relative to the working directory (the directory from which `mysqld_safe` is invoked). For binary distributions, `mysqld_safe` looks under its working directory for `bin` and `data` directories. For source distributions, it looks for `libexec` and `var` directories. This condition should be met if you execute `mysqld_safe` from your MySQL installation directory (for example, `/usr/local/mysql` for a binary distribution).
- If the server and databases cannot be found relative to the working directory, `mysqld_safe` attempts to locate them by absolute path names. Typical locations are `/usr/local/libexec` and `/usr/local/var`. The actual locations are determined from the values configured into the distribution at the time it was built. They should be correct if MySQL is installed in the location specified at configuration time.

Because `mysqld_safe` tries to find the server and databases relative to its own working directory, you can install a binary distribution of MySQL anywhere, as long as you run `mysqld_safe` from the MySQL installation directory:

```
shell> cd mysql_installation_directory
shell> bin/mysqld_safe &
```

If `mysqld_safe` fails, even when invoked from the MySQL installation directory, you can specify the `--ledir` and `--datadir` options to indicate the directories in which the server and databases are located on your system.

When you use `mysqld_safe` to start `mysqld`, `mysqld_safe` arranges for error (and notice) messages from itself and from `mysqld` to go to the same destination.

There are several `mysqld_safe` options for controlling the destination of these messages:

- `--syslog`: Write error messages to `syslog` on systems that support the `logger` program.
- `--skip-syslog`: Do not write error messages to `syslog`. Messages are written to the default error log file

`.err` in the data directory), or to a named file if the `--log-error` option is given.

- `--log-error=file_name`: Write error messages to the named error file.

If none of these options is given, the default is `--skip-syslog`.

If `--syslog` and `--log-error` are both given, a warning is issued and `--log-error` takes precedence.

When `mysqld_safe` writes a message, notices go to the logging destination (`syslog` or the error log file) and `stdout`. Errors go to the logging destination and `stderr`.

Normally, you should not edit the `mysqld_safe` script. Instead, configure `mysqld_safe` by using command-line options or options in the `[mysqld_safe]` section of a `my.cnf` option file. In rare cases, it might be necessary to edit `mysqld_safe` to get it to start the server properly. However, if you do this, your modified version of `mysqld_safe` might be overwritten if you upgrade MySQL in the future, so you should make a copy of your edited version that you can reinstall.

On NetWare, `mysqld_safe` is a NetWare Loadable Module (NLM) that is ported from the original Unix shell script. It starts the server as follows:

1. Runs a number of system and option checks.
2. Runs a check on `MyISAM` tables.
3. Provides a screen presence for the MySQL server.
4. Starts `mysqld`, monitors it, and restarts it if it terminates in error.
5. Sends error messages from `mysqld` to the *`host_name`*`.err` file in the data directory.
6. Sends `mysqld_safe` screen output to the *`host_name`*`.safe` file in the data directory.

4.3. `mysql.server` — MySQL Server Startup Script

MySQL distributions on Unix include a script named `mysql.server`. It can be used on systems such as Linux and Solaris that use System V-style run directories to start and stop system services. It is also used by the Mac OS X Startup Item for MySQL.

`mysql.server` can be found in the `support-files` directory under your MySQL installation directory or in a MySQL source distribution.

If you use the Linux server RPM package (`MySQL-server-`*`VERSION`*`.rpm`), the `mysql.server` script will be installed in the `/etc/init.d` directory with the name `mysql`. You need not install it manually. See Installing MySQL from RPM Packages on Linux, for more information on the Linux RPM packages.

Some vendors provide RPM packages that install a startup script under a different name such as `mysqld`.

If you install MySQL from a source distribution or using a binary distribution format that does not install `mysql.server` automatically, you can install it manually. Instructions are provided in Starting and Stopping MySQL Automatically.

`mysql.server` reads options from the `[mysql.server]` and `[mysqld]` sections of option files. For backward compatibility, it also reads `[mysql_server]` sections, although you should rename such sections to `[mysql.server]` when using MySQL 6.0.

`mysql.server` supports the following options:

- `--basedir=path`

  The path to the MySQL installation directory.

- `--datadir=path`

  The path to the MySQL data directory.

- `--pid-file=file_name`

  The path name of the file in which the server should write its process ID.

- `--service-startup-timeout=file_name`

How long in seconds to wait for confirmation of server startup. If the server does not start within this time, `mysql.server` exits with an error. The default value is 900. A value of 0 means not to wait at all for startup. Negative values mean to wait forever (no timeout).

- `--use-mysqld_safe`

  Use `mysqld_safe` to start the server. This is the default.

- `--user=user_name`

  The login user name to use for running `mysqld`.

4.4. `mysqld_multi` — Manage Multiple MySQL Servers

`mysqld_multi` is designed to manage several `mysqld` processes that listen for connections on different Unix socket files and TCP/IP ports. It can start or stop servers, or report their current status.

`mysqld_multi` searches for groups named `[mysqldN]` in `my.cnf` (or in the file named by the `--config-file` option). *`N`* can be any positive integer. This number is referred to in the following discussion as the option group number, or *`GNR`*. Group numbers distinguish option groups from one another and are used as arguments to `mysqld_multi` to specify which servers you want to start, stop, or obtain a status report for. Options listed in these groups are the same that you would use in the `[mysqld]` group used for starting `mysqld`. (See, for example, Starting and Stopping MySQL Automatically.) However, when using multiple servers, it is necessary that each one use its own value for options such as the Unix socket file and TCP/IP port number. For more information on which options must be unique per server in a multiple-server environment, see Running Multiple MySQL Servers on the Same Machine.

To invoke `mysqld_multi`, use the following syntax:

```
shell> mysqld_multi [options] {start|stop|report} [GNR[,GNR] ...]
```

`start`, `stop`, and `report` indicate which operation to perform. You can perform the designated operation for a single server or multiple servers, depending on the *`GNR`* list that follows the option name. If there is no list, `mysqld_multi` performs the operation for all servers in the option file.

Each *`GNR`* value represents an option group number or range of group numbers. The value should be the number at the end of the group name in the option file. For example, the *`GNR`* for a group named `[mysqld17]` is `17`. To specify a range of numbers, separate the first and last numbers by a dash. The *`GNR`* value `10-13` represents groups `[mysqld10]` through `[mysqld13]`. Multiple groups or group ranges can be specified on the command line, separated by commas. There must be no whitespace characters (spaces or tabs) in the *`GNR`* list; anything after a whitespace character is ignored.

This command starts a single server using option group `[mysqld17]`:

```
shell> mysqld_multi start 17
```

This command stops several servers, using option groups `[mysqld8]` and `[mysqld10]` through `[mysqld13]`:

```
shell> mysqld_multi stop 8,10-13
```

For an example of how you might set up an option file, use this command:

```
shell> mysqld_multi --example
```

`mysqld_multi` searches for option files as follows:

- With `--no-defaults`, no option files are read.
- With `--defaults-file=file_name`, only the named file is read.
- Otherwise, option files in the standard list of locations are read, including any file named by the `--defaults-extra-file=file_name` option, if one is given. (If the option is given multiple times, the last value is used.)

Option files read are searched for `[mysqld_multi]` and `[mysqldN]` option groups.

`mysqld_multi` supports the following options:

- `--help`

  Display a help message and exit.

- `--config-file=file_name`

  This option is deprecated. If given, it is treated the same way as `--defaults-extra-file`, described earlier.

- `--example`

  Display a sample option file.

- `--log=file_name`

  Specify the name of the log file. If the file exists, log output is appended to it.

- `--mysqladmin=prog_name`

  The `mysqladmin` binary to be used to stop servers.

- `--mysqld=prog_name`

  The `mysqld` binary to be used. Note that you can specify `mysqld_safe` as the value for this option also. If you use `mysqld_safe` to start the server, you can include the `mysqld` or `ledir` options in the corresponding `[mysqldN]` option group. These options indicate the name of the server that `mysqld_safe` should start and the path name of the directory where the server is located. (See the descriptions for these options in Section 4.2, "`mysqld_safe` — MySQL Server Startup Script".) Example:

  ```
  [mysqld38]
  mysqld = mysqld-debug
  ledir  = /opt/local/mysql/libexec
  ```

- `--no-log`

  Print log information to `stdout` rather than to the log file. By default, output goes to the log file.

- `--password=password`

  The password of the MySQL account to use when invoking `mysqladmin`. Note that the password value is not optional for this option, unlike for other MySQL programs.

- `--silent`

  Silent mode; disable warnings.

- `--tcp-ip`

  Connect to each MySQL server via the TCP/IP port instead of the Unix socket file. (If a socket file is missing, the server might still be running, but accessible only via the TCP/IP port.) By default, connections are made using the Unix socket file. This option affects `stop` and `report` operations.

- `--user=user_name`

  The user name of the MySQL account to use when invoking `mysqladmin`.

- `--verbose`

  Be more verbose.

- `--version`

  Display version information and exit.

Some notes about `mysqld_multi`:

- **Most important**: Before using `mysqld_multi` be sure that you understand the meanings of the options that are passed to the `mysqld` servers and *why* you would want to have separate `mysqld` processes. Beware of the dangers of using multiple `mysqld` servers with the same data directory. Use separate data directories, unless you *know* what you are doing. Starting multiple servers with the same data directory does *not* give you extra performance in a threaded system. See Running Multiple MySQL Servers on the Same Machine.

- > **Important**
  >
  > Make sure that the data directory for each server is fully accessible to the Unix account that the specific `mysqld` process is started as. *Do not* use the Unix `root` account for this, unless you *know* what you are doing. See How to Run MySQL as a Normal User.

- Make sure that the MySQL account used for stopping the `mysqld` servers (with the `mysqladmin` program) has the same user name and password for each server. Also, make sure that the account has the `SHUTDOWN` privilege. If the servers that you want to manage have different user names or passwords for the administrative accounts, you might want to create an account on each server that has the same user name and password. For example, you might set up a common `multi_admin` account by executing the following commands for each server:

  ```
  shell> mysql -u root -S /tmp/mysql.sock -p
  Enter password:
  mysql> GRANT SHUTDOWN ON *.*
      -> TO 'multi_admin'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'multipass';
  ```

  See The MySQL Access Privilege System. You have to do this for each `mysqld` server. Change the connection parameters appropriately when connecting to each one. Note that the host name part of the account name must allow you to connect as `multi_admin` from the host where you want to run `mysqld_multi`.

- The Unix socket file and the TCP/IP port number must be different for every `mysqld`. (Alternatively, if the host has multiple network addresses, you can use `--bind-address` to cause different servers to listen to different interfaces.)

- The `--pid-file` option is very important if you are using `mysqld_safe` to start `mysqld` (for example, `--mysqld=mysqld_safe`) Every `mysqld` should have its own process ID file. The advantage of using `mysqld_safe` instead of `mysqld` is that `mysqld_safe` monitors its `mysqld` process and restarts it if the process terminates due to a signal sent using `kill -9` or for other reasons, such as a segmentation fault. Please note that the `mysqld_safe` script might require that you start it from a certain place. This means that you might have to change location to a certain directory before running `mysqld_multi`. If you have problems starting, please see the `mysqld_safe` script. Check especially the lines:

  ```
  ----------------------------------------------------------------
  MY_PWD=`pwd`
  # Check if we are starting this relative (for the binary release)
  if test -d $MY_PWD/data/mysql -a \
     -f ./share/mysql/english/errmsg.sys -a \
     -x ./bin/mysqld
  ----------------------------------------------------------------
  ```

  The test performed by these lines should be successful, or you might encounter problems. See Section 4.2, “`mysqld_safe` — MySQL Server Startup Script”.

- You might want to use the `--user` option for `mysqld`, but to do this you need to run the `mysqld_multi` script as the Unix `root` user. Having the option in the option file doesn't matter; you just get a warning if you are not the superuser and the `mysqld` processes are started under your own Unix account.

The following example shows how you might set up an option file for use with `mysqld_multi`. The order in which the `mysqld` programs are started or stopped depends on the order in which they appear in the option file. Group numbers need not form an unbroken sequence. The first and fifth `[mysqldN]` groups were intentionally omitted from the example to illustrate that you can have “gaps” in the option file. This gives you more flexibility.

```
# This file should probably be in your home dir (~/.my.cnf)
# or /etc/my.cnf
# Version 2.1 by Jani Tolonen
[mysqld_multi]
mysqld     = /usr/local/bin/mysqld_safe
mysqladmin = /usr/local/bin/mysqladmin
user       = multi_admin
password   = multipass
[mysqld2]
socket     = /tmp/mysql.sock2
port       = 3307
pid-file   = /usr/local/mysql/var2/hostname.pid2
datadir    = /usr/local/mysql/var2
language   = /usr/local/share/mysql/english
user       = john
[mysqld3]
socket     = /tmp/mysql.sock3
port       = 3308
pid-file   = /usr/local/mysql/var3/hostname.pid3
datadir    = /usr/local/mysql/var3
language   = /usr/local/share/mysql/swedish
user       = monty
[mysqld4]
socket     = /tmp/mysql.sock4
port       = 3309
pid-file   = /usr/local/mysql/var4/hostname.pid4
```

```
datadir    = /usr/local/mysql/var4
language   = /usr/local/share/mysql/estonia
user       = tonu
[mysqld6]
socket     = /tmp/mysql.sock6
port       = 3311
pid-file   = /usr/local/mysql/var6/hostname.pid6
datadir    = /usr/local/mysql/var6
language   = /usr/local/share/mysql/japanese
user       = jani
```

See Using Option Files.