

TechNote: 7-WordPress Install - MySQL Database And User Setup

Introduction:

The final step before installing WordPress, and any template you are using, is to setup MySQL so that WordPress can “talk to” its database via its user.

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Prerequisites:

TechNote: 0-WordPress Install Sequence On XP Pro plus Reference Links

Note: If you are reading this install series for XP Pro and IIS 5.1 for the first time, it is highly recommended that you at least scan through the prior “pre-req” documents.

My Development Environment:

See TechNote: 0-WordPress Install Sequence On XP Pro plus Reference Links

Special Notes:

Trademark Note: the inclusion of screenshots, in this or other documents without a Trademark™ symbol by my “FromTheRanks” Blog-site Title or Logo does not imply these are not Trademarked. They are. These are early in-development screenshots taken before the™ was added.

Format Change: to accelerate the release of the WordPress TechNote series on www.fromtheranks.com, from TechNote 5a on I have changed the post content format. I have elected to provide basic introductory



information only in the on-line post and the entire post (text and images) in the PDF version. Doing so allows me to publish (and update) the series far more quickly.

Homework:

This install document presumes the use of MySQL 5.1, however the basic concepts should be true for any database server/engine you use.

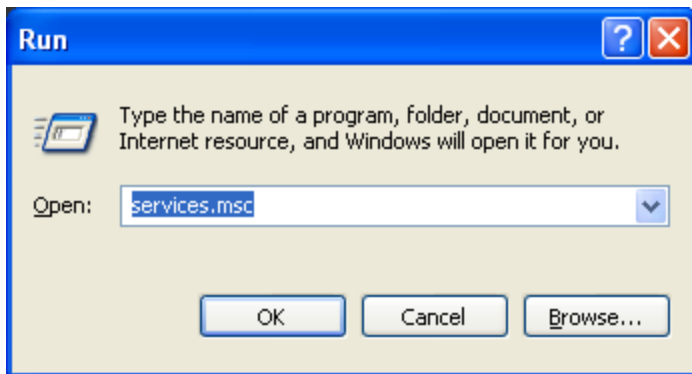
All install documents I've found so far used the MySQL command line, or phpMyAdmin to do these steps. However, having "grown up with" DB Artisan for years and years, I prefer a GUI interface. And. Since MySQL has now provided MySQL Administrator (see the earlier install document), rather than install yet another application (such as phpMyAdmin), I decided to use this tool.

As a final note, in the production environment on your web host's site, you will most likely NOT have 'root' access to your MySQL database. They will setup an account and password for you that gives you full access to YOUR WordPress database, only. This is a good reason to accept the "vanilla flavor" configurations as much as possible when building your MySQL database, although this is not a guarantee your host has done so. Just be aware that there may be slight "tweaks" that you'll have to make once you move to production.

Bring Up MySQL:

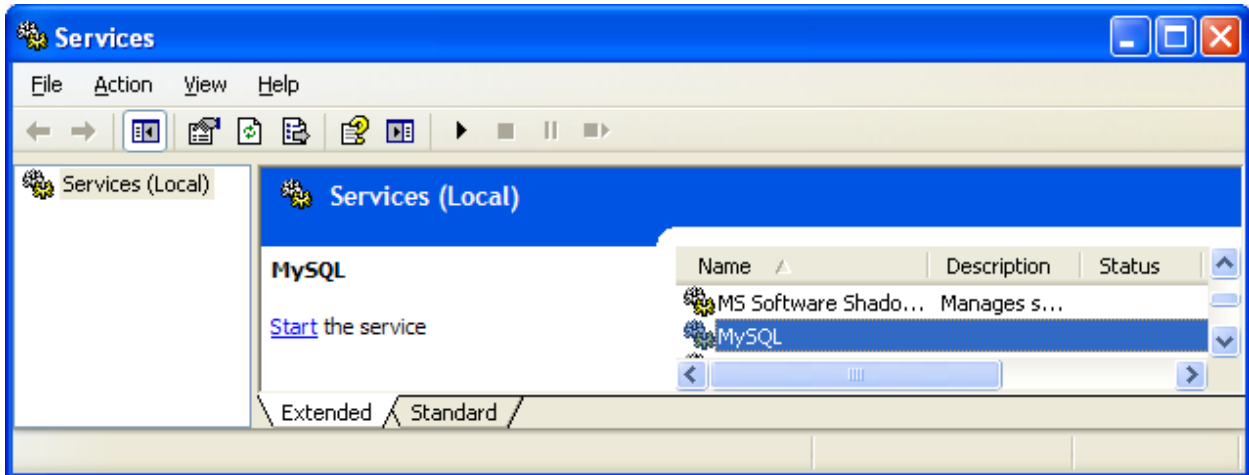
If, like me, you did not have the MySQL service started automatically, remember to start it up:

Run → services.msc

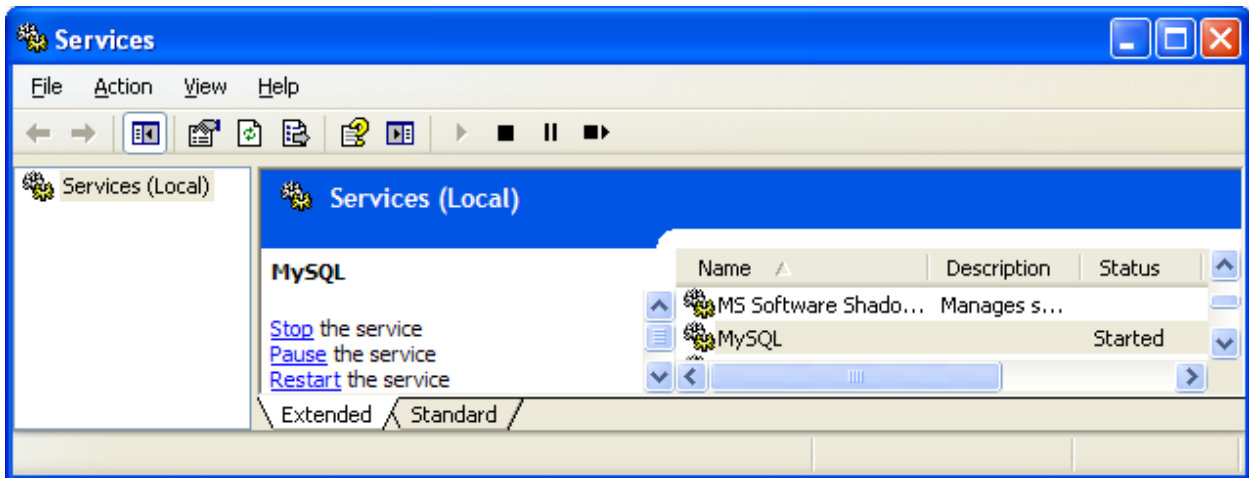


Find "MySQL" in the Services list and then click on "Start the service", or right-click on "MySQL" and click on "Start":





When it has correctly started you will see something like:



Logging in to MySQL:

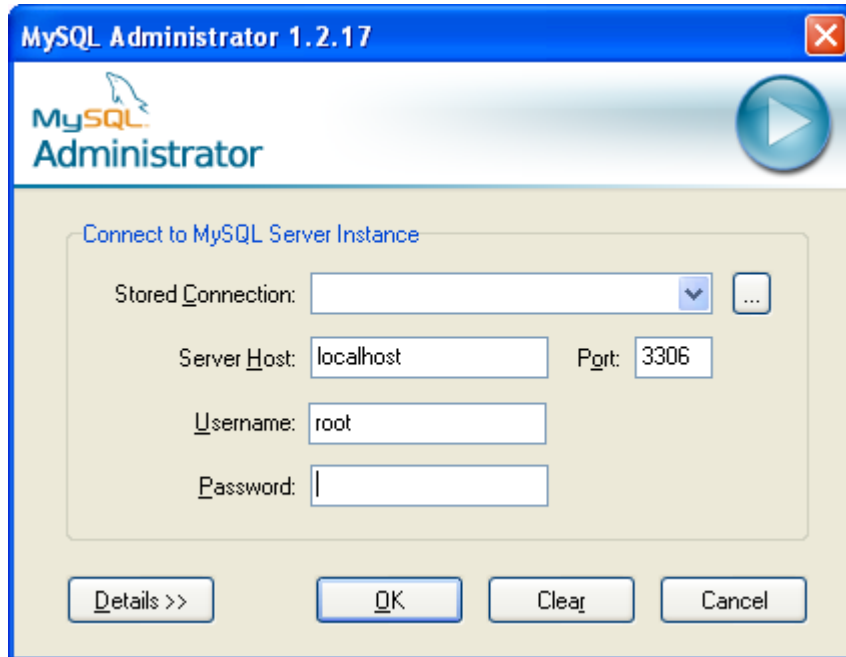
Now that it is running, to log in to the MySQL database do the following:

Start → Programs → MySQL →

Click on MySQL Administrator to open the login window.

At the login window enter the following, including YOUR password for 'root':

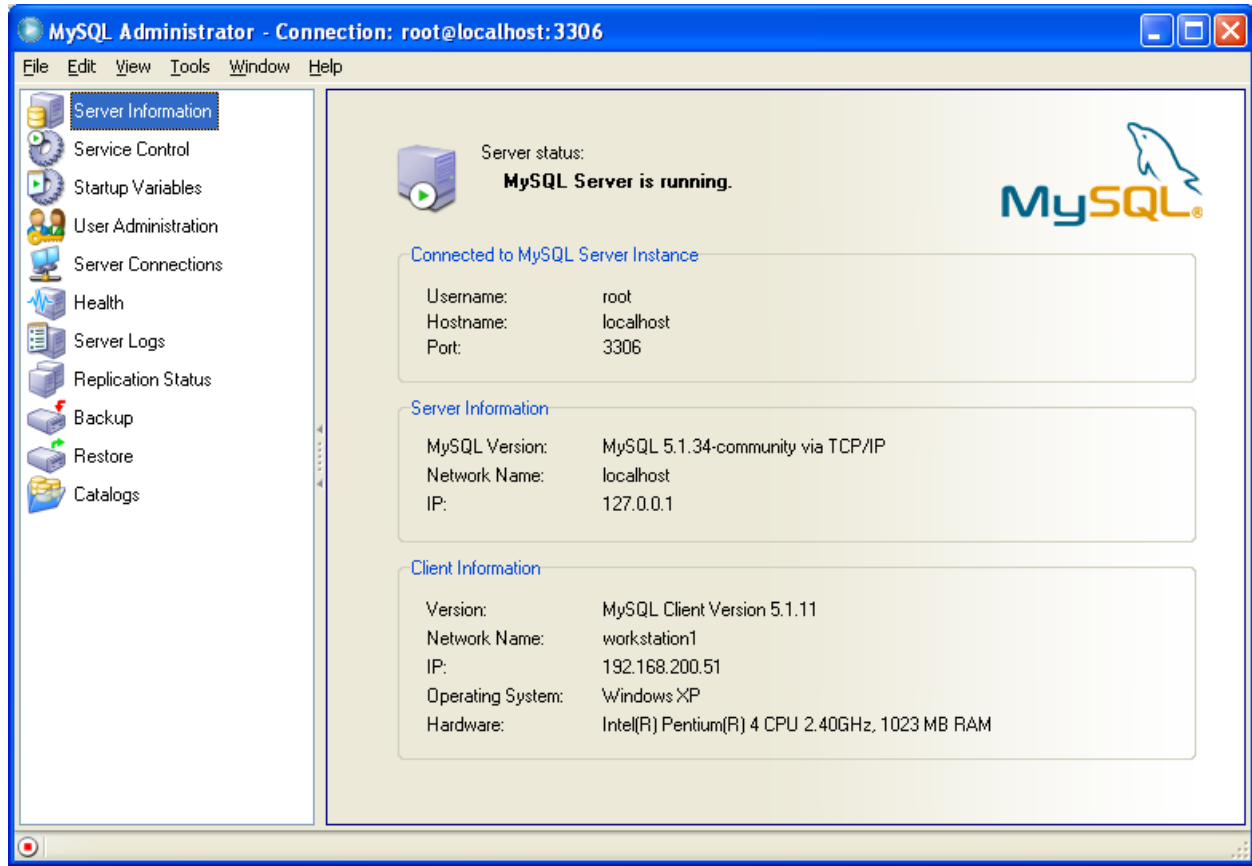




Hopefully you kept track of your “root” password for MySQL. If not, you’re going to have to go back and redo the install. I’ve heard there is code that will reset this password but I haven’t tried it and, frankly, such code is suspect because it could potentially open your database to hackers everywhere.

You should get a window that looks something like this:



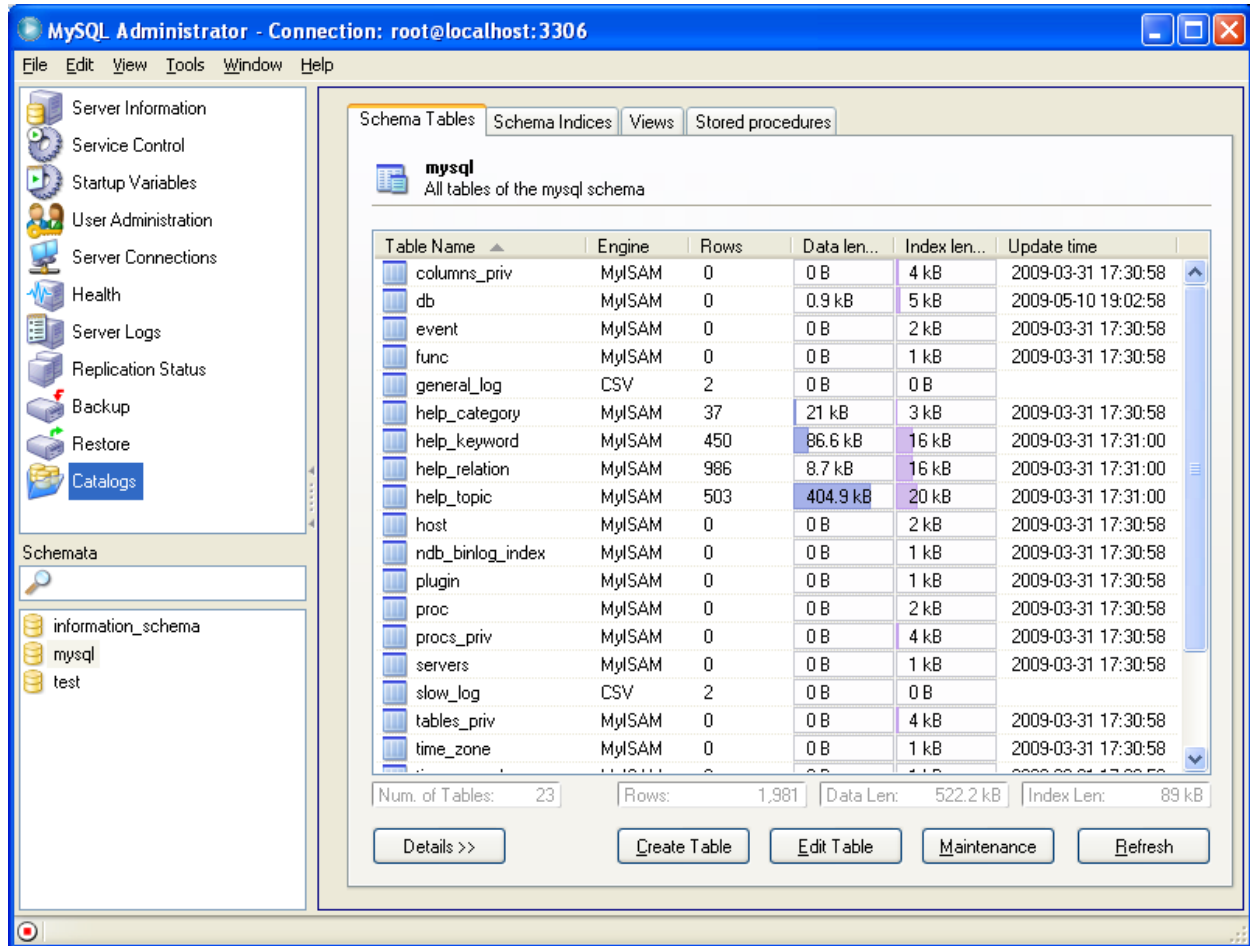


Creating a Database for WordPress on MySQL:

Before you can add a user for WordPress, you need to create a database for WordPress to use.

Click on "Catalogs". It will bring up the following window, displaying whichever database (or Schema) you last had open. As I was exploring the "mysql" schema (or database), it is displayed. Spends some time looking at this database (schema) if you wish:

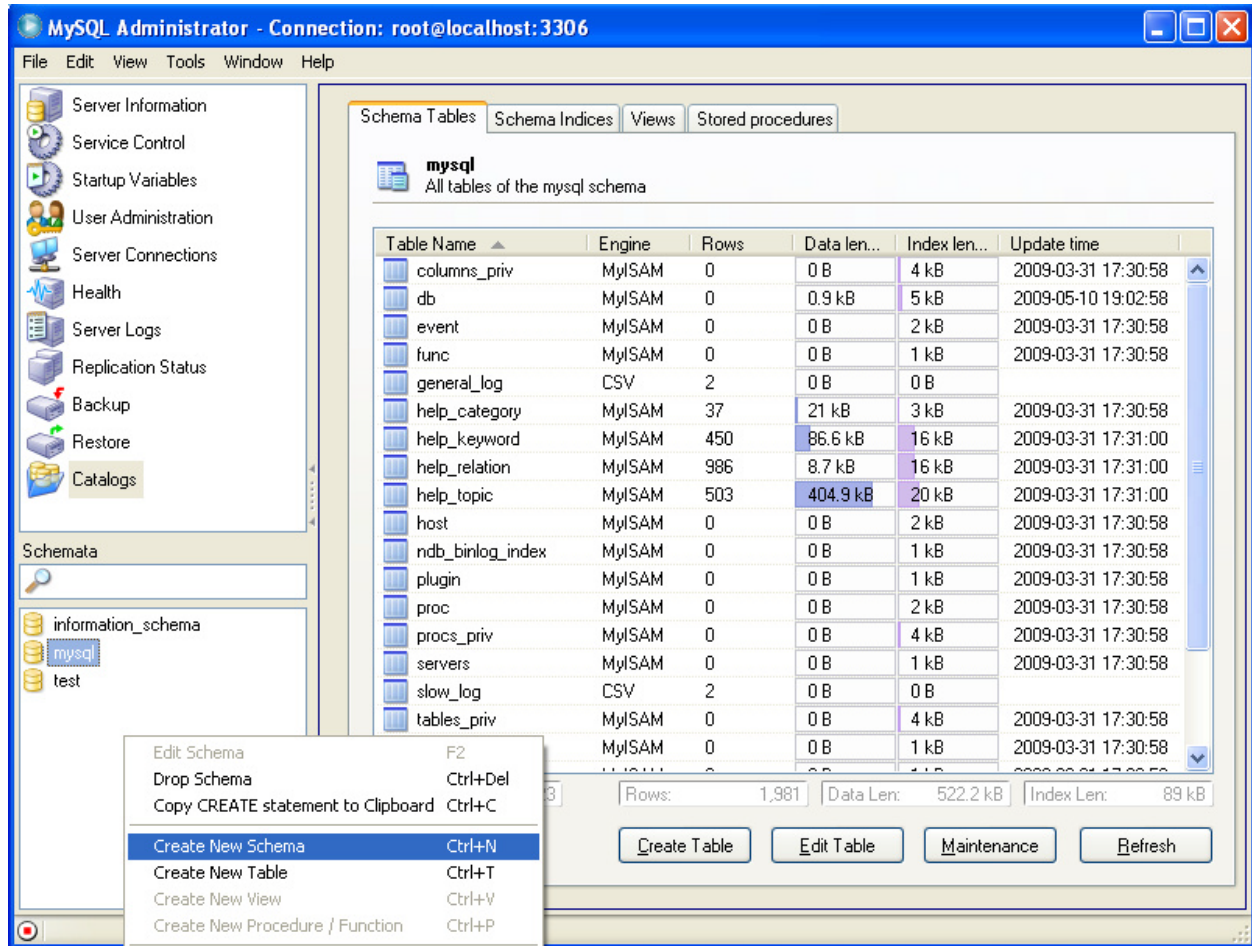




When ready, highlight one of the existing schemas if they are not already. You want the focus of your cursor in the “Schemata” list.

Right click in the “Schemata” list and then select:



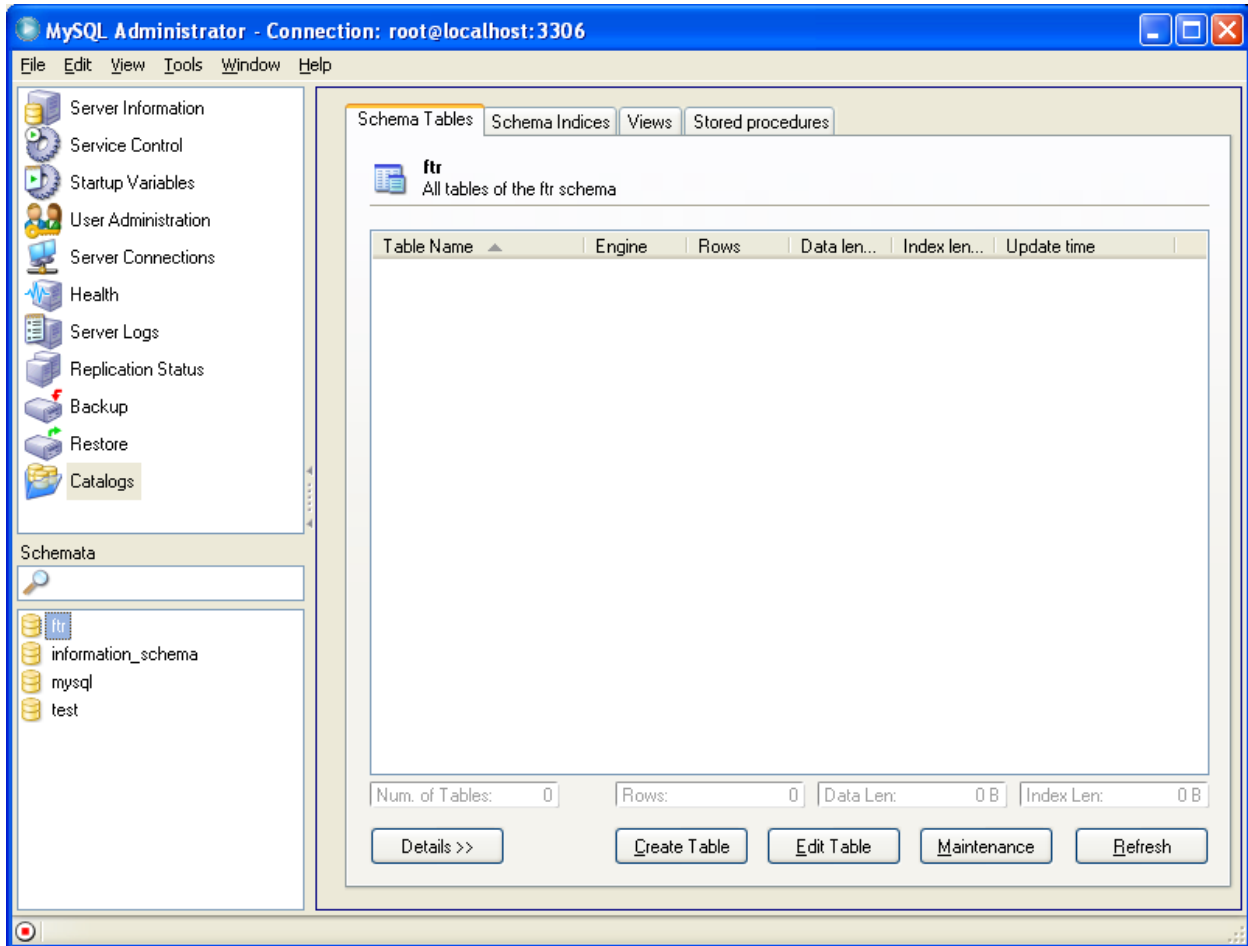


Enter the name of your database.

Note: If you are staying local, “wordpress” as a name is fine. If you could possibly be on a host server where there are numerous WordPress installs – and you will be allowed to have your own database – name it something else. I chose “ftr” for obvious reasons – it’s the abbreviation for “fromtheranks” *and* it is short. Short is especially good when you are writing SQL scripts or embedded code, ex: ftr.dbo.ftr_table_name, is easier than fromtheranks.dbo.ftr_table_name.

Doing so results in the following display (with your schemata name of course):





You, do not have to do anything else to this database at this time. The WordPress install will take care of the next step for you.

Creating a User for WordPress on MySQL:

Now you will need to create a user for WordPress to use when it connects to your new database (schemata). Again, this is for WordPress, not you. And, while we're on the subject, you do NOT want to have 'root' as the connection point for WordPress.

Choose a "user name" and "password" carefully. Everyone and their thirteenth cousin knows that "wordpress" is the sample user name in just about every script known to man or woman when setting up MySQL for WordPress. You can do so, but at your own risk.

Think security when designing your system and you'll likely have less problems with security.

When choosing a password, avoid common words like "password" or "123456" or words in the dictionary – a common form of brute attack. Use a mixture of characters, numbers and symbols. Here is an excellent link on the subject: <http://www.blogherald.com/2007/05/08/protect-your-blog-with-a-solid-password/>

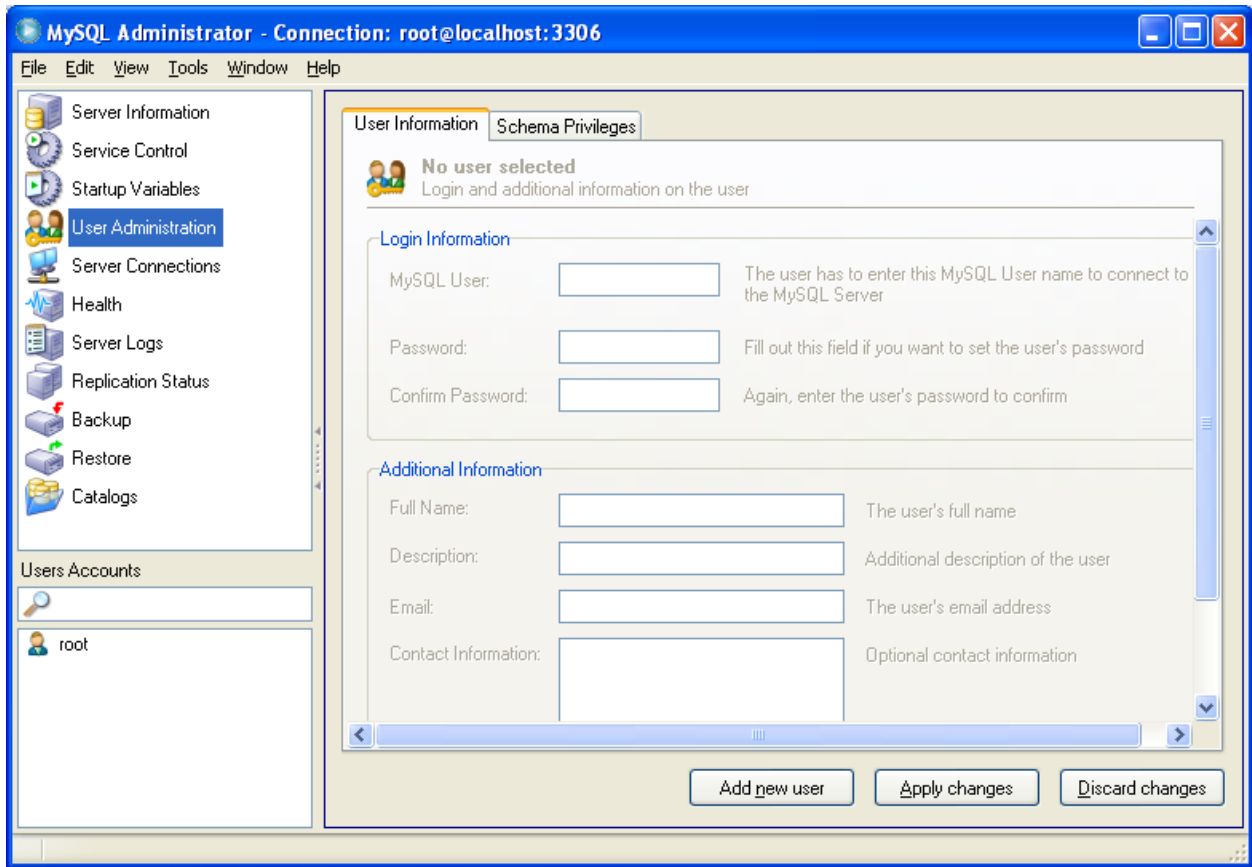


Then WRITE IT DOWN so you don't forget. If you have nowhere else to do so, write it here (on a printed version) and then store it in a secure location:

MySQL WordPress User ID: _____

MySQL WordPress User Password: _____

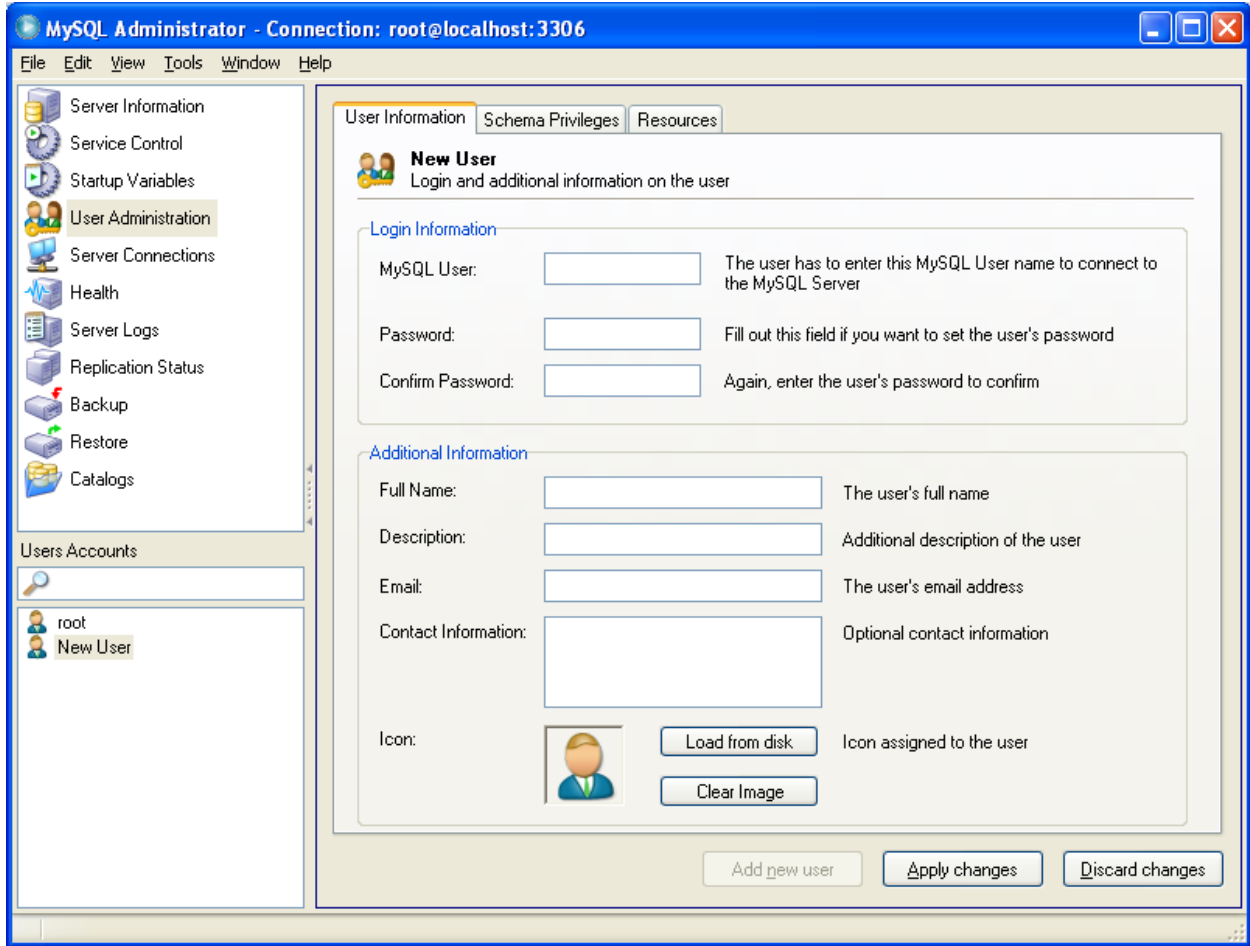
Click on "User Administration":



Note that the "root" user account you created in an earlier installation step is displayed.

Click on "Add new user". You will see a new window with three tabs. We'll start with the first one:





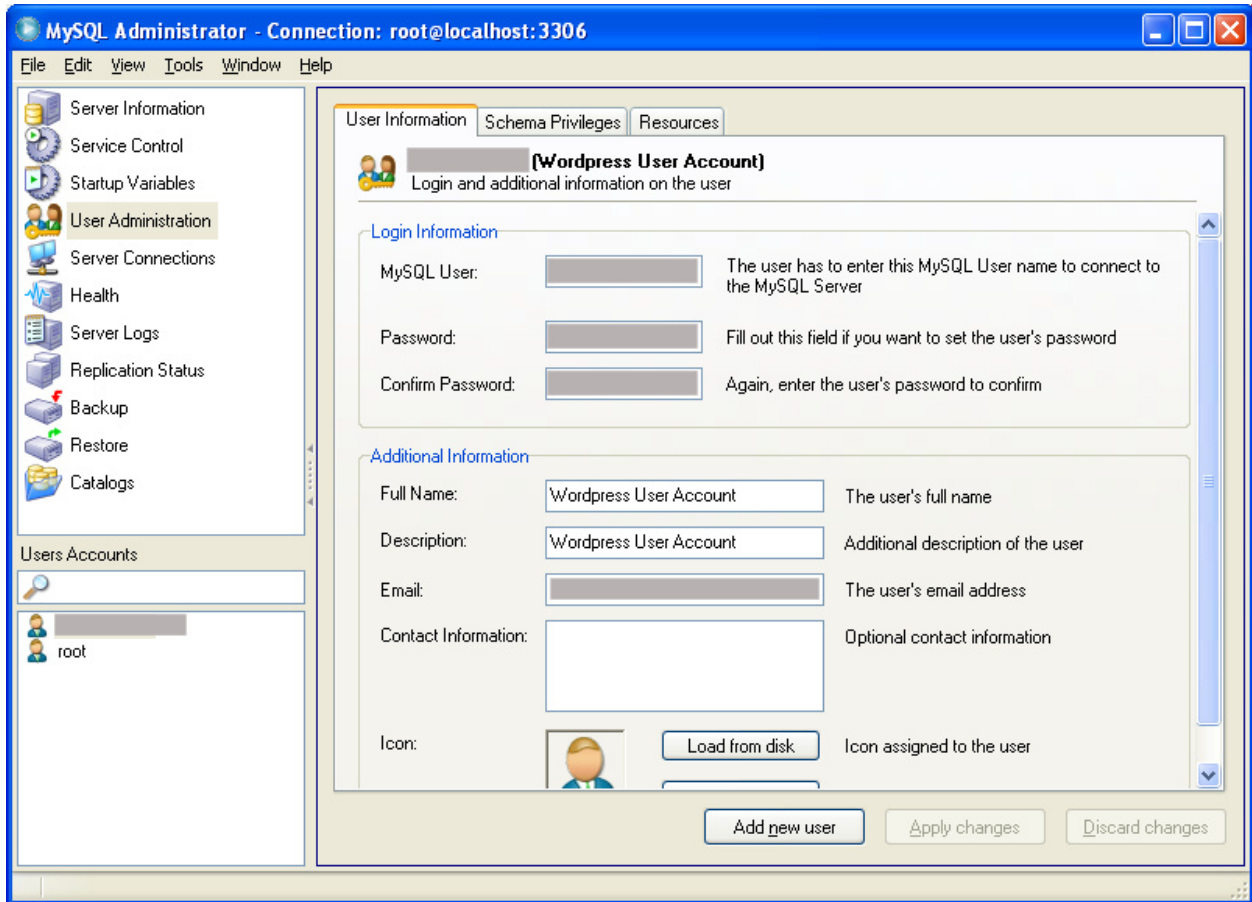
Enter the “MySQL User” ID and Password, then Confirm Password.

Enter a Full Name, Description and even an e-mail address if you wish, but the latter won’t be used here.

Note: from what I understand (subject to correction) anything will do as an e-mail address long as it is of the correct form. For testing purposes (this is a dev setup) I’ve set it to my home e-mail address.

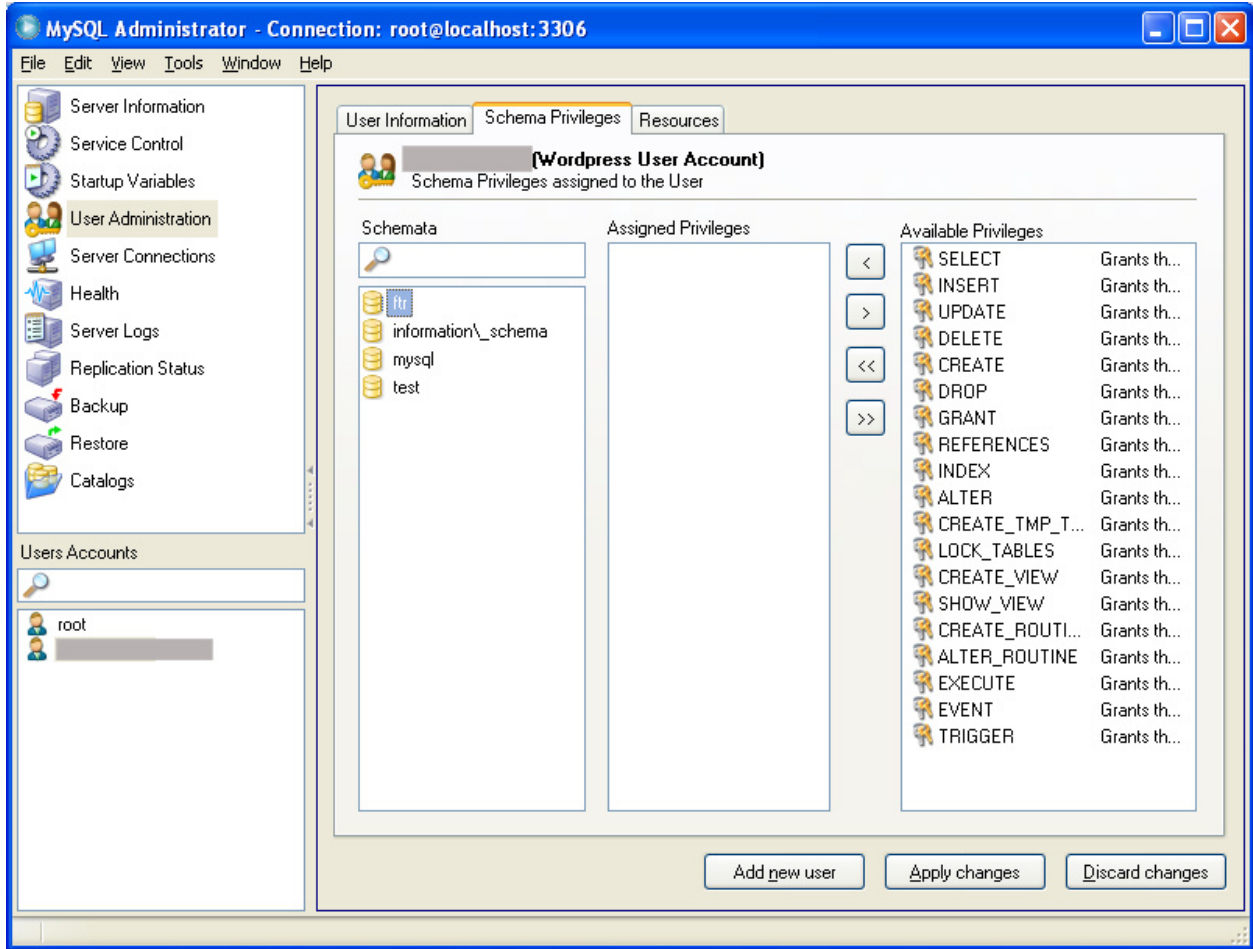
Click on “Apply changes”. Your window will be updated and look something like this:





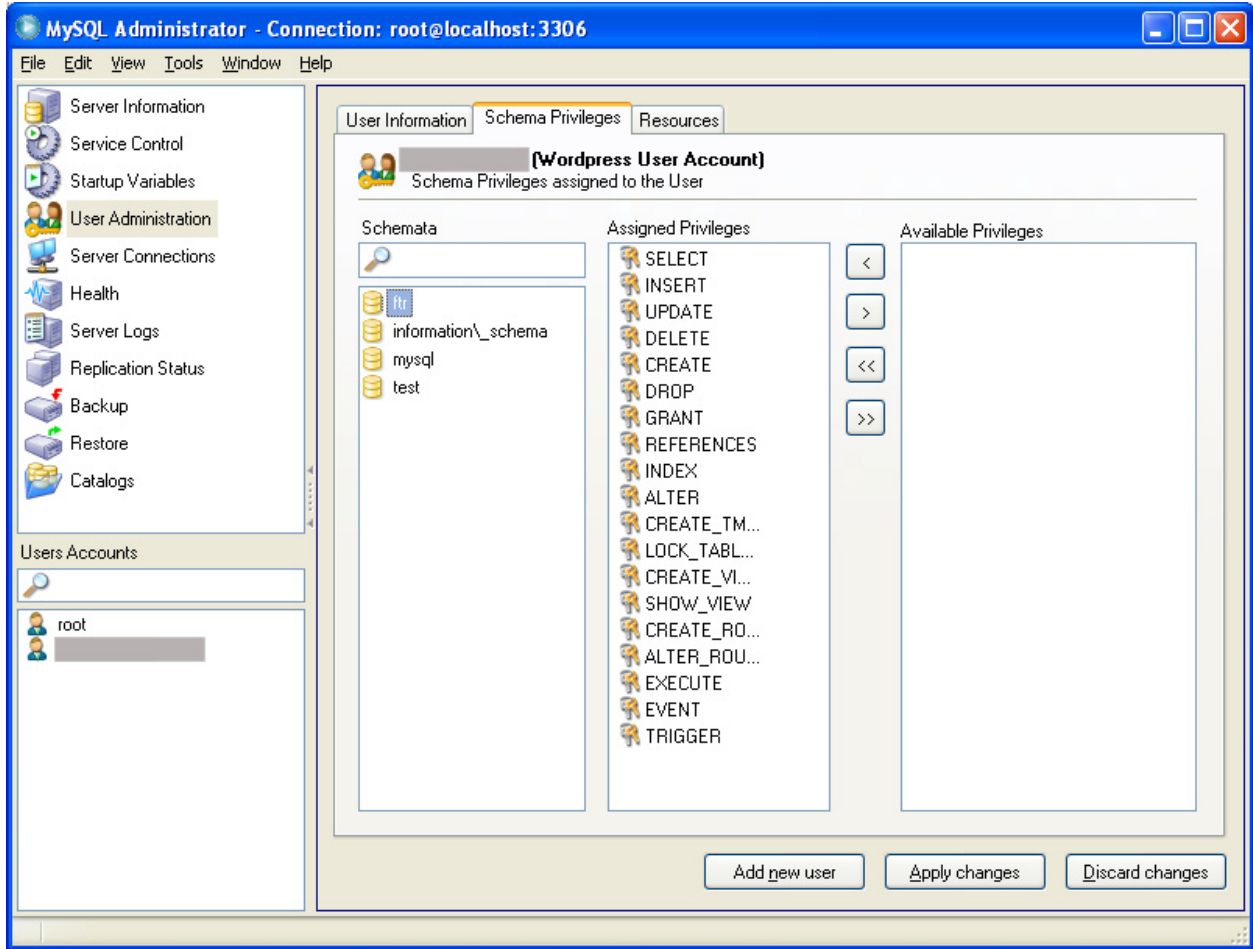
Click on the "Schema Privileges" tab:





You want *this* WordPress user to have all privileges on *this* database. To do so, select your database name, highlight it, then select the double left arrows to assign all privileges. Then click "Apply changes". You should now see something like this:

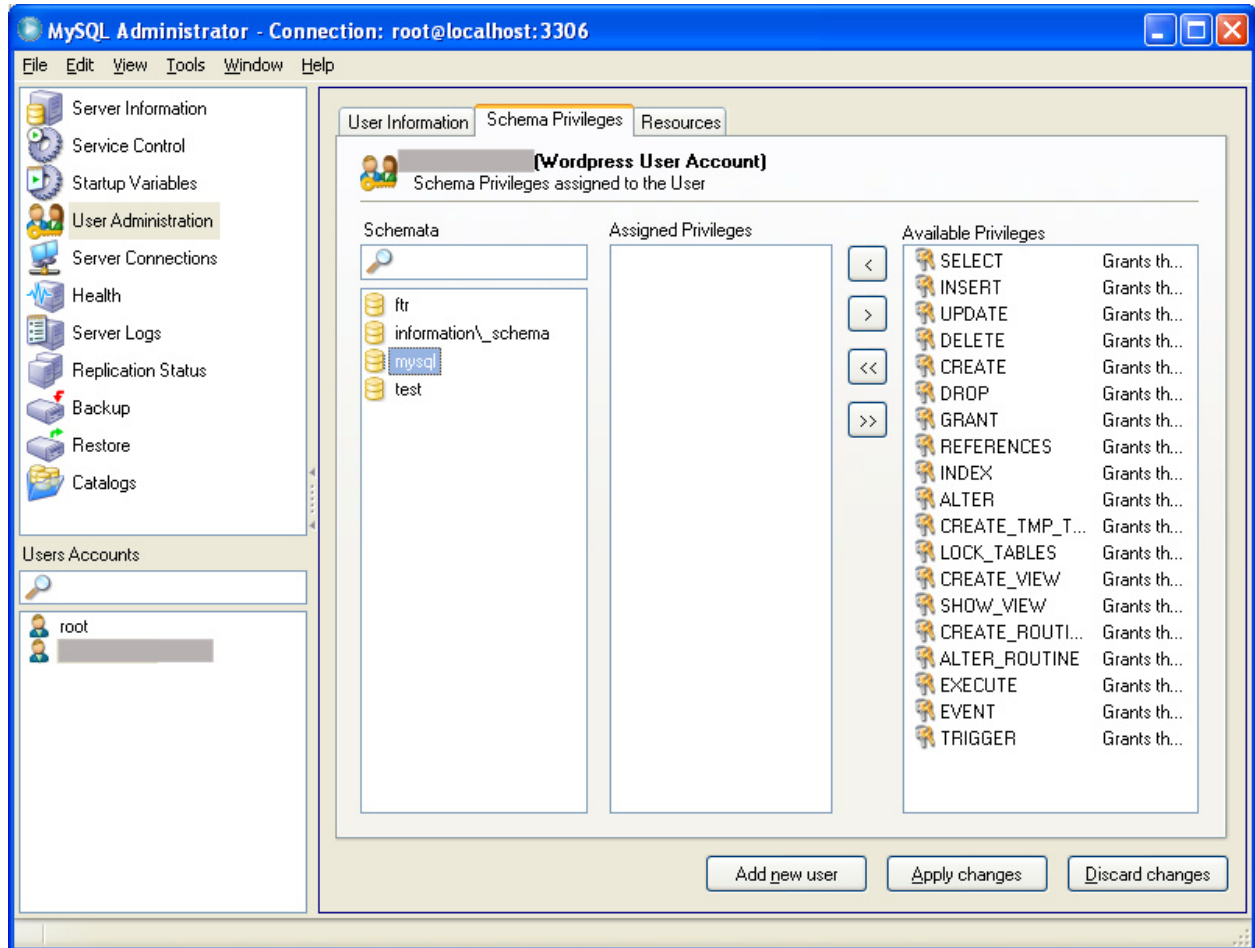




Note: for some reason, when you come back into MySQL Admin, and display the user's privileges, "Event" and "Trigger" are not displayed. I reported this as a bug to MySQL on 5/19/09.

Click on one or two of the other databases (schemata) to ensure you didn't accidentally assign these privileges to the wrong database. The others should be blank, for this user, for example:





This completes the creation of your WordPress database and user. Pretty straightforward. You can close MySQL Administrator, unless you wish to “poke around” some more – just be careful if you do.

Test Your New Database and User:

We’re going to borrow a script from an earlier document to test the connection to the database using your new user account:

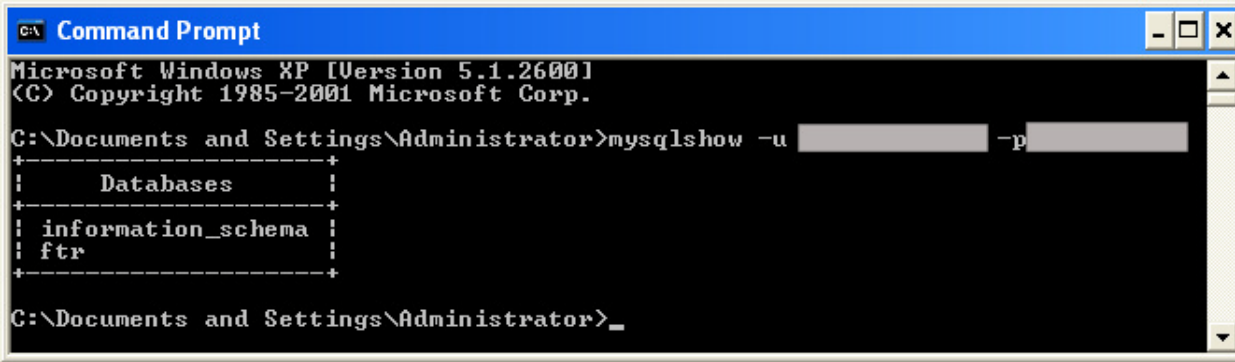
Run → cmd.exe (or get to it from Start → Programs → Accessories → Command Prompt

At the command prompt, enter:

```
mysqlshow -u <your MySQL WordPress user name> -p<your MySQL WordPress password>
```

The results should look something like this:





```
C:\> Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

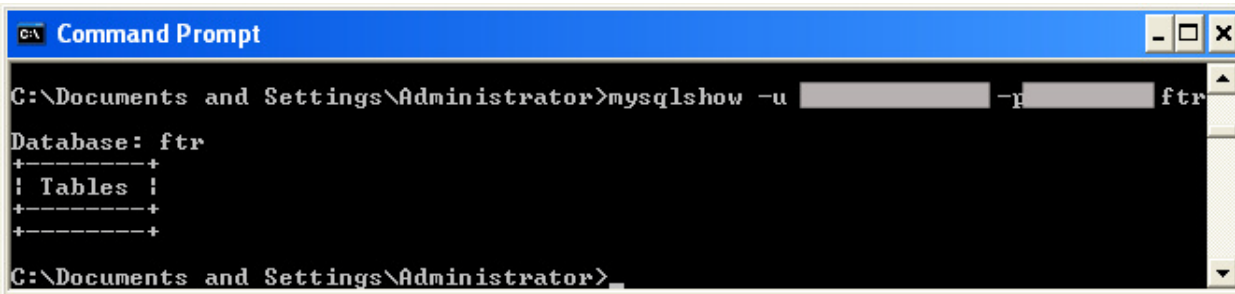
C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator>mysqlshow -u [redacted] -p [redacted]
+-----+
| Databases |
+-----+
| information_schema |
| ftr |
+-----+

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator>_
```

If you wish to jump into a database with content, in the Command Prompt enter:

```
mysqlshow -u <your MySQL WordPress user name> -p<your MySQL WordPress password> <your new MySQL database name>
```

This will give you a list of the Tables in the new WordPress database, which should be empty (of course that will change as you'll see after the install of WordPress):



```
C:\> Command Prompt

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator>mysqlshow -u [redacted] -p [redacted] -f ftr
Database: ftr
+-----+
| Tables |
+-----+

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator>_
```

MySQL should now be ready for your WordPress installation.

Next Step:

The next step will be to do the initial installation of WordPress. See: [TechNote: 8-WordPress Install - WordPress 2-7-1 Setup–Part 1.](#)

