

Back up and restore MySQL databases using MySQL Workbench 6 or 8

How do I backup and restore a MySQL databases using MySQL Workbench 6 or 8?

MySQL Workbench is a powerful visual tool for administering your MySQL database. It replaces MySQL's previous GUI tools, such as MySQL Administrator and MySQL Query Browser, allowing you to configure, maintain, and backup your database in one place.

How long will it take me?

- Around 10 minutes

What will I need?

- Your Database name and IP address. Available within your control panel.
- A Database username and password
- A copy of MySQL Workbench 6 or 8, [available here](#).

Before backing up your database

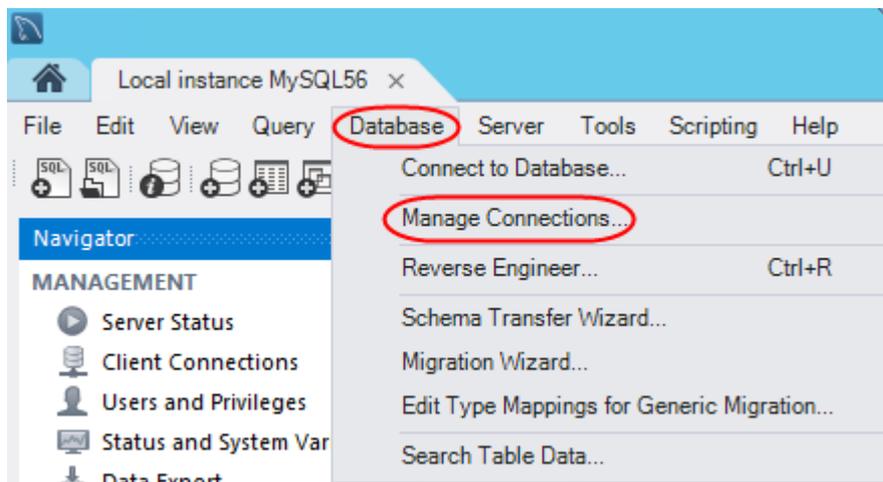
We strongly recommend that you create regular backups of your database so it can be easily and quickly recovered in the unlikely event that your data is lost or becomes corrupted.

To backup your database using the methods described in this article you will need to have a copy of MySQL Workbench, an application developed by the producers of MySQL. You can find more information and download the software from <https://www.mysql.com/products/workbench/>.

Connecting to your database

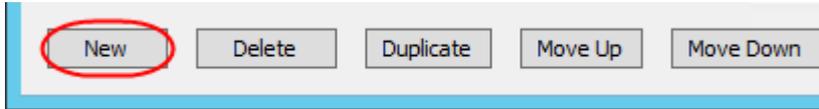
Step 1

Open MySQL Workbench and select *Manage Connections* from the **Database** menu.



Step 2

You will see a list of any stored MySQL connections you may have. Click the **New** button at the bottom of this window.

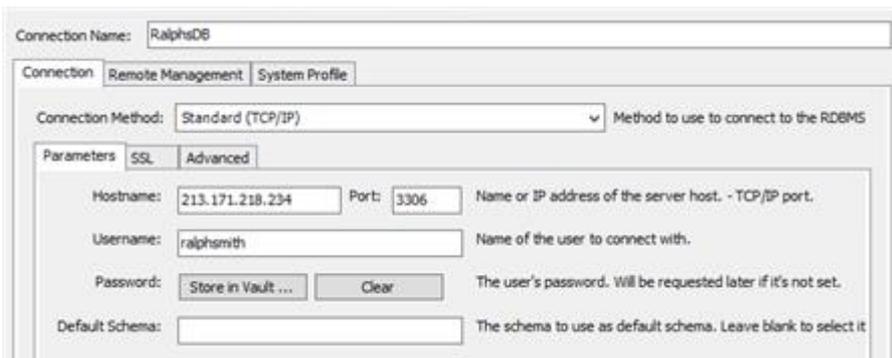


Step 3

In the boxes provided fill out the following details:

- **Connection Name:** Give your new connection a meaningful name.
- **Connection Method:** Leave this set to *Standard (TCP/IP)*.
- **Hostname:** Enter the IP of your database
- **Username:** Enter the username of your database user.
- **Password:** Select **Store in Vault** and enter your password in the prompt that appears.

Not selecting to store your password in the vault will cause MySQL Workbench to prompt for your password on each connection.

A screenshot of the MySQL Workbench connection configuration dialog. The 'Connection Name' field contains 'RalphsDB'. The 'Connection Method' is set to 'Standard (TCP/IP)'. The 'Parameters' tab is selected, showing 'Hostname' as '213.171.218.234', 'Port' as '3306', 'Username' as 'ralphsmith', and 'Password' as 'Store in Vault ...' with a 'Clear' button. The 'Default Schema' field is empty.

Step 4

You can test your connection by clicking on the **Test Connection** button. If you get a connection error see the next session, otherwise click **Close**.

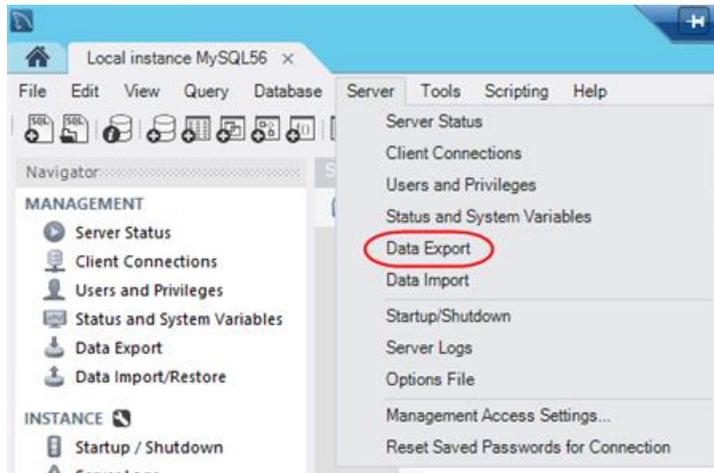


Backup your database

MySQL *Workbench* can export a backup of your database to a file on your local computer. This is also sometimes referred to as a data dump.

Step 1

Click **Data Export** under the *Server tab*.



Step 2

In the left pane, select your database by ticking the checkbox next to it.



Enter your database password if prompted.

Step 3

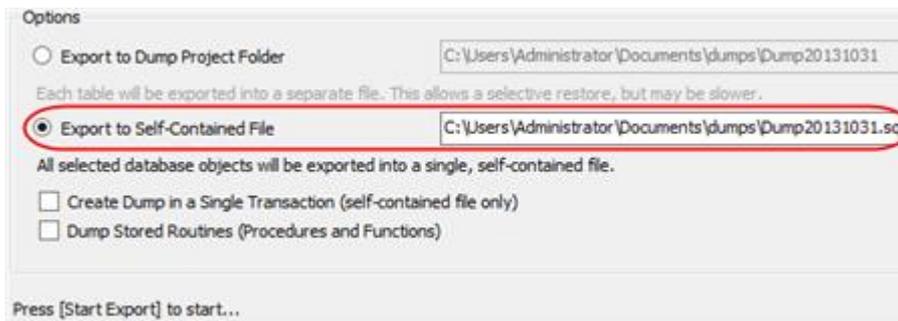
From the right hand pane, select the tables that you want to include in your export.



Step 4

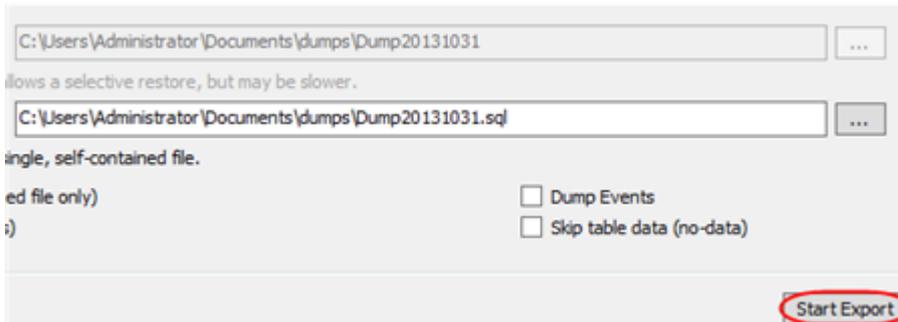
Choose where you would like to save your database backup. There are two options available and you can use either. However, **Export to Self-Contained File** is more commonly used for most Fasthosts customers:

- **Export to Dump Project Folder:** MySQL *Workbench* will create a separate backup file for each table in your database, which will make it possible to store selected tables in the future without the need to restore the entire database.
- **Export to Self-Contained File:** All selected tables will be exported to one single SQL file.



Step 5

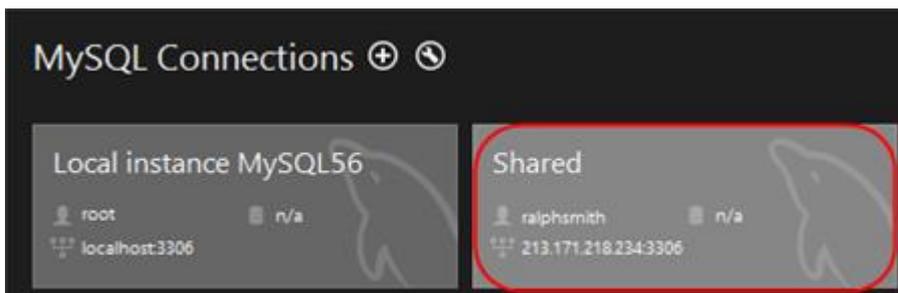
Click **Start Export** and enter the database password if prompted.



Restore your database from a previous backup

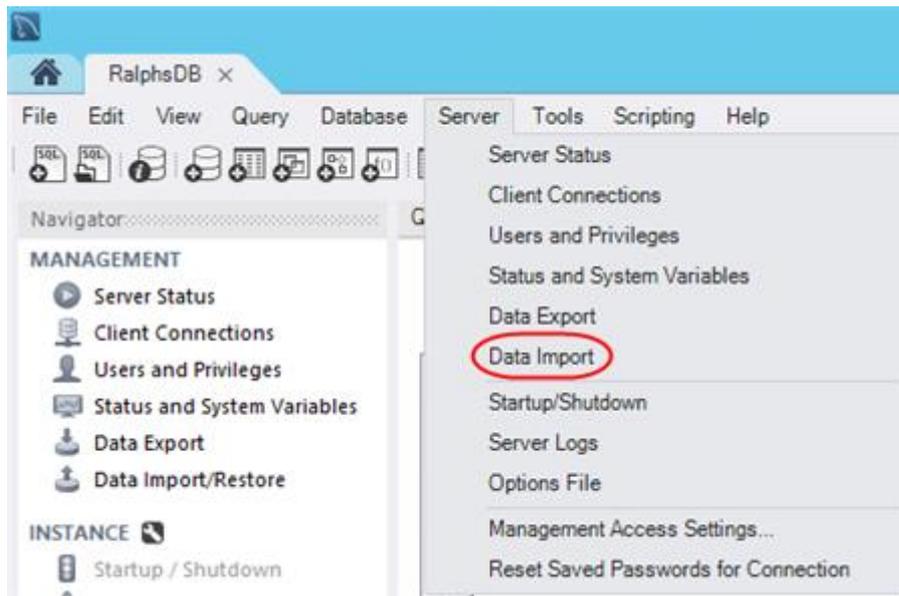
Step 1

Select the database you want to import data in to.



Step 2

Click **Data Import** under the *Server* tab.

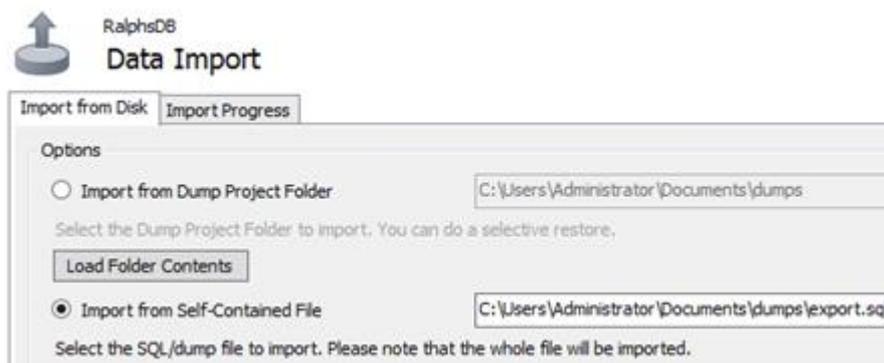


Step 3

Enter your database password if prompted.

Step 4

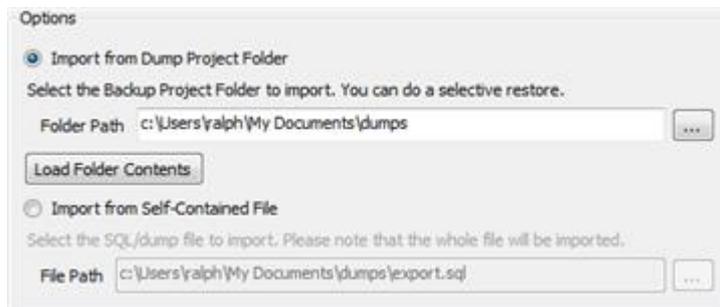
When you created the backup you were presented with the option to export your database tables to a folder or a single self-contained file. This step will differ depending on which option you chose.



Step 5

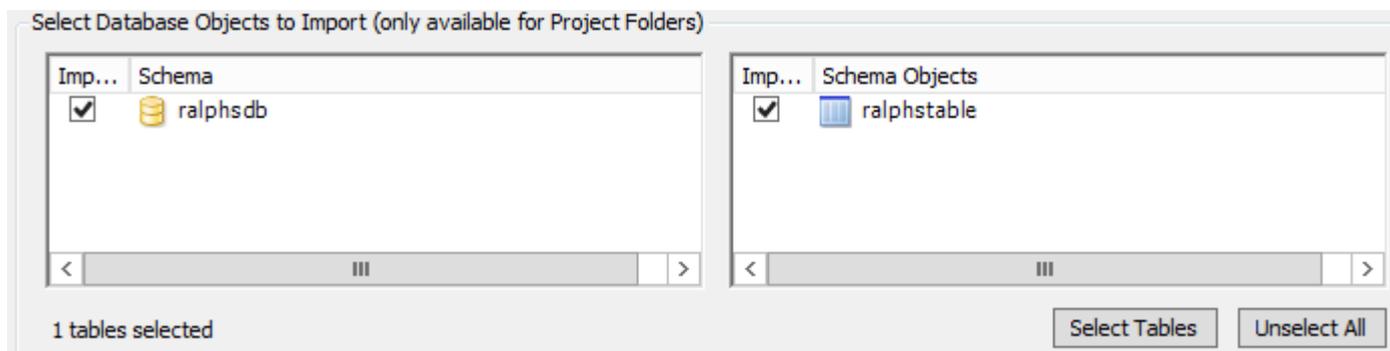
Import from Dump Project Folder

Select **Import from Dump Project Folder** and enter the location in the **Folder Path** text field. Click **Load Folder Contents**.



The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box with the 'Import from Dump Project Folder' radio button selected. The 'Folder Path' text field contains 'c:\Users\ralph\My Documents\dumps'. Below the text field is a 'Load Folder Contents' button. The 'Import from Self-Contained File' radio button is unselected. The 'File Path' text field contains 'c:\Users\ralph\My Documents\dumps\export.sql'.

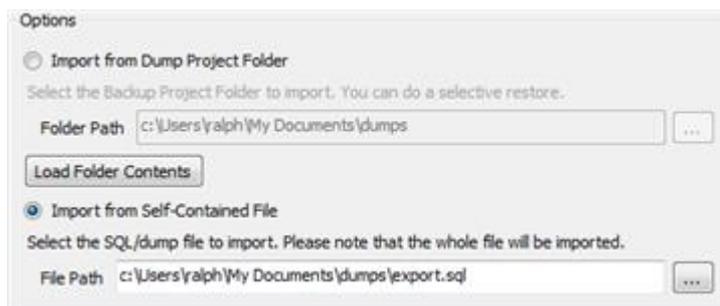
Select which tables from the backup you would like to restore.



The screenshot shows the 'Select Database Objects to Import' dialog box. It has two panes. The left pane, titled 'Schema', shows a table with a checked checkbox and a database icon next to 'ralphsdb'. Below the table is a scroll bar and the text '1 tables selected'. The right pane, titled 'Schema Objects', shows a table with a checked checkbox and a table icon next to 'ralphstable'. Below the table is a scroll bar. At the bottom right of the dialog are 'Select Tables' and 'Unselect All' buttons.

Import from Self-Contained File

Select **Import from Self-Contained File** and enter the location in the **File Path** text field.



The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box with the 'Import from Self-Contained File' radio button selected. The 'File Path' text field contains 'c:\Users\ralph\My Documents\dumps\export.sql'. The 'Import from Dump Project Folder' radio button is unselected. The 'Folder Path' text field contains 'c:\Users\ralph\My Documents\dumps' and has a 'Load Folder Contents' button below it.

Step 6

Click **Start Import** and enter the database password if prompted. This process may take several minutes depending on the size of your database backup.