

# A Visual Guide to Importing and Exporting Data Between Microsoft Excel and MySQL

A MySQL<sup>®</sup> White Paper

September 2009



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# **Executive Summary**

For many years, Microsoft Windows has been the most popular development platform and second most popular production platform for MySQL applications. In early 2009 we conducted our annual survey and what we found is that 66% percent of those surveyed used Windows for development and 48% ultimately deployed on Windows. Given that so many users deploy MySQL on Window, it makes sense to recap how easy it is to work with data in MySQL and Microsoft Excel. With the power of the SQL language and MySQL's RDBMs capabilities, it allows users to leverage the data so that it can be shared by multiple users concurrently, in a more secure, and manageable manner through a variety of interfaces and front ends. For the purposes of this guide we will show you how easy it is to import and export data between MySQL and Excel using MySQL's ODBC Connector in conjunction with Excel 2007 and Access 2007's native import/export capabilities.

# Why MySQL on Microsoft Windows?

First, MySQL on Windows remains strong due to the fact that MySQL delivers:

- Lower TCO
- Ease of use
- Reliability
- Performance
- Fully featured database with no functional limitations

From a statistical viewpoint, the downloads for the MySQL server, tools and connectors for Windows from mysql.com averaged, an astonishing 45,000 downloads per day during the first half of 2009.

Finally, in Gartner's recent "Market Share: Relational Database Management System Software by Operating System, Worldwide, 2008" report they found that the growth for RDBMS running on Windows Server grew in 2007-2008 by 17.5%. Without a doubt MySQL is a very popular database choice on Windows.

# Why Microsoft Excel and MySQL?

Without question Excel is the defacto standard for manipulating and analyzing data in a spreadsheet format. However, often the need arises to share the data, make it more secure, reliable, or allow for access and manipulation to be performed through various front ends whether they be Access or through a browser. In this case, MySQL is the perfect choice. MySQL is the world's most popular open source database that as we have shown is wildly popular on Windows. MySQL gives you all the functionality you would expect from a fully-featured RDBMs combined with an ease of use that makes it a perfect choice for both novice and expert database users.

We should note that for the purposes of this guide we can think of Excel Workbooks as MySQL databases and Excel Worksheets (spreadsheets) as MySQL tables.

# **Download and Install MySQL**

First, we'll need to download a copy of MySQL 5.1, which can be obtained at:

http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/mysql/5.1.html



For details on how to install MySQL on Windows, go to:

A Visual Guide to Installing MySQL on Windows

http://www.mysql.com/why-mysql/white-papers/visual guide to installing mysql windows.php

# Download and Install the Example Sakila Database

Download and install a copy of the MySQL sample database called, "sakila" which can be obtained from:

http://downloads.mysql.com/docs/

Create the schema and load the data from the SQL files contained in the download.

# Download and Install the MySQL ODBC Connector

The MySQL ODBC connector provides connectivity for Excel and Access to MySQL. The ODBC connector can be downloaded from:

http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/connector/odbc/5.1.html#win32

Run the installer. (For the purposes of this guide, a typical installation should suffice.)

Next configure the Microsoft ODBC Data Source Administrator. Select the File DSN tab and click Add.



Scroll down and locate the **MySQL ODBC 5.1 Driver** and type a name for the .dsn file. In this case we used **localhost**.



Next configure the Connector/ODBC connection. Here we specify **localhost** as the server, supply login credentials and choose **sakila** as the database.

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# Import Data From MySQL Into Excel

In Excel select the Data menu, then From Other Sources and then From Data Connection Wizard

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Select ODBC DSN in the Data Connection Wizard



Select the data source you configured during the ODBC configuration. In this case we select **localhost** 

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Data Connection Wizard		? 🗙						
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sakila	*							
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Data Connection Wizard	<b>?</b> ×
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File <u>N</u> ame:	
sakila customer.odc	Browse
Save gassword in file	
Description:	
(To help others understand what your data connection points to)	
Friendly Name:	
sakila customer	
Search Keywords:	
Always attempt to use this file to refresh data	
Excel Services: Authentication Settings	
Cancel < Back Next >	Einish

Next we select the database and table, in this case the **Sakila** database and **customer** table

Finally add some meta data concerning the data connection and click **Finish** 



You should now see the **customer** table data loaded into your **Excel** workbook.

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# **Export Data From Excel Into MySQL**

Create a copy of the **customer** table in MySQL's **test** database using:

CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS customer\_excel LIKE sakila.customer

and name it customer\_excel

Create a **customer.csv** file from the customer data in Excel.







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# Import Data From MySQL Into Excel with Access

In Access, from the External Data menu select More, then ODBC Database and select Import the source data into a new table in the current database





Select Data So	Irce	? 🗙						
File Data Source	Machine Data Source							
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DSN Name:	localhost	New						
Select the file data source that describes the driver that you wish to connect to. You can use any file data source that refers to an ODBC driver which is installed on your machine.								
	OK Cancel	Help						

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	- Connection Parameters	s	
	Data Source Name:		
	Description:		
	Server:	localhost Port:	3306
	User:	root	
	Password:	******	
	Database:	sakila 💌	Test
	Details >>	OK Cancel	Help

Tables         actor         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         actor_info         category         city         country         customer_isit         film_actor         film_category         film_isit         film_category         film_isit         inventory         language         nicer_but_slower_film_list         payment         rental         sales_by_film_category         sales_by_film_category         sales_by_film_store         staff         staff         staff         store	Import Objects	? 🛛
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Select the  $\ensuremath{\text{Data Source}}$  , in this case  $\ensuremath{\text{localhost}}$ 

Specify the login credentials and database to connect to the **Data Source** and **database**, in this case **localhost** and **sakila** 

Select the table or tables to import, in this case actor



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		7	GRACE	MOSTEL	
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From the External Data menu select Excel from the Export group

# Export - Excel Spreadsheet Select the destination for the data you want to export Specify the destination file name and format. Elle name: \_\_tpocuments and Settingt/guarrero/Destop/lector.vtox Elle format; Excel Workdook (\*.vtox) Specify export options. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout information when exporting a table, query, form, or report. Set this option to preserve most formatting and layout information when exporting a table, only when you export formatted data. Deport only the selected records. This option is orly available when you export formatted data ard have records selected. Core Carriel

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17	16	FRED	COSTNER	15-Feb-06		
18	17	HELEN	VOIGHT	15-Feb-06		

### Select the appropriate **Export – Excel Spreadsheet** options

The data should now be visible in **Excel**, save this file with the name **actor.xls** 



# **Export Data From Excel Into MySQL with Access**

In Access, from the External Data menu, select Excel and browse for the location of the Excel file, in this case actor.xls

In the Import Spreadsheet Wizard verify the column headings, as well as any and

Get External Data - Excel Spreadsheet	? 🗙
Select the source and destination of the data	
Specify the source of the data.	
Elle name:         C:\Documents and Settings\jguerrero\Desktop\actor.xlsx         Browse	
Specify how and where you want to store the data in the current database.	
Import the source data into a new table in the current database.	
If the specified table does not exist, Access will create it. If the specified table aready exists, Access might overwrite its contents with the imported data. Changes made to the source data will not be reflected in the database.	
Append a copy of the records to the table: actor	
If the specified table exists, Access will add the records to the table. If the table does not exist, Access will create it. Changes made to the source data will not be reflected in the database.	9
Link to the data source by creating a linked table.	
Access will create a table that will maintain a link to the source data in Excel. Changes made to the source data in Excel will be reflected in the linked table. However, the source data cannot be changed from within Access.	
OK Cancel	

-8 I	nport Sprea	dsheet Wizard			x	
Microsoft Access can use your column headings as field names for your table. Does the first row specified contain column headings?						
	L		J			
	actor id	first name	last name	last undate		
1	1	PENELOPE	GUINESS	15-Feb-06	<b>▲</b>	
2	2	NICK	WAHLBERG	15-Feb-06		
3	3	ED	CHASE	15-Feb-06	-	
4	4	JENNIFER	DAVIS	15-Feb-06		
5	5	JOHNNY	LOLLOBRIGIDA	15-Feb-06		
6	6	BETTE	NICHOLSON	15-Feb-06		
7	7	GRACE	MOSTEL	15-Feb-06		
8	8	MATTHEW	JOHANSSON	15-Feb-06		
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14	14	VIVIEN	BERGEN	15-Feb-06	-	
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That's all the information the witard needs to import your data. Import to Table: actor_exce[	
I would like a wizard to gnalyze my table after importing the data.	_

Name the table **actor\_excel** 

primary key definitions



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actor Table	3	3 ED	CHASE	15-Feb-06			
	4	4 JENNIFER	DAVIS	15-Feb-06			
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actor_excert rable	6	6 BETTE	NICHOLSON	15-Feb-06			
	7	7 GRACE	MOSTEL	15-Feb-06			
	8	8 MATTHEW	JOHANSSON	15-Feb-06			
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	10	10 CHRISTIAN	GABLE	15-Feb-06			
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The table **actor\_excel** should now be visible in

From the **External Data** menu select **More** from the **Export** group and select **ODBC Database** 

Export the table **actor\_excel** to





Select Data So	irce			? 🔀		
File Data Source	Machine Data Sou	irce		1		
Look in: Dat	a Sources			• 🗈		
Iocalhost						
DSN Name:	localhost			New		
Select the file data source that describes the driver that you wish to connect to. You can use any file data source that refers to an ODBC driver which is installed on your machine.						
		ОК	Cancel	Help		

MyS	QL Connector/ODB	C Data Source Configu	ration	×
Mı Co	unnector/ODB	с		
	Connection Parameter Data Source Name: Description:	s		
	Server: User: Password:	localhost root ******	Port: 3306	
	Details >>	OK Ca	ancel Help	

In Select Data Source, select the MySQL server, in this case,

Verify that was created in the test database with the **SHOW TABLES** statement

Specify the login credentials and database to connect to the **Data Source** and **database**, in this

case localhost and test

Verify the row count by executing **SELECT COUNT(\*) FROM actor\_excel** and compare the results to the **actor.xls** spreadsheet

🛋 C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - mysql -uroot -p	- 🗆	×
Your MySQL connection id is 33 Server version: 5.1.39-community MySQL Community Server (GPL)		
Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement		
nysql> use test; Database changed nysql> show tables;		
Tables_in_test		
actor_excel customer_excel		
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)		
<pre>mysql&gt; select count(*&gt; from actor_excel;</pre>		
count(*)		
200		
1 row in set (0.00 sec)		
nysql>		-



# MySQL on Windows Case Studies

Below are some examples of MySQL customers realizing lower TCO by running MySQL on Windows.

### Adobe Relies on MySQL to Make Creative Professionals More Productive

Adobe Systems is one of the largest software companies and is the leading provider of creative tools for print, web, interactive, mobile, video and film. Adobe embeds MySQL into several Adobe Creative Suite 3 components, including Adobe Acrobat CS3, Adobe® Bridge CS3, and Adobe® Version Cue® CS3 so that workgroups can work more efficiently on complex projects. For more information please visit:

http://www.mysql.com/why-mysql/case-studies/MySQL CaseStudy Adobe.pdf

# NetQoS Delivers Distributed Network Management Solution with Embedded MySQL

NetQoS delivers products and services that enable some of the world's most demanding enterprises to improve network performance. American Express, Barclays, Boeing, Chevron, Cisco, Citrix, DuPont, Sara Lee, and Schlumberger are among the corporations that rely on NetQoS performance management solutions to ensure consistent delivery of business critical applications, monitor application service levels, troubleshoot problems quickly, contain infrastructure costs, and manage user expectations. To find the right embedded database solution to fit its innovative product architecture, NetQoS evaluated everything from flat-files to proprietary databases. NetQoS found that MySQL provided the ideal combination of performance, reliability, and ease of administration on Windows. For more information please visit:

http://www.mysql.com/why-mysql/case-studies/mysql-netgos-casestudy.pdf

For a complete list of case studies and other resources concerning organizations making use of MySQL on Windows, please visit:

http://www.mysql.com/customers/operatingsystem/?id=109

# Conclusion

In this paper we presented a visual guide on how to get started with importing and exporting data into Microsoft Excel. This can easily be accomplished natively with Excel or Access in combination with MySQL's ODBC Connector. The benefit of using MySQL in conjuction with Excel, means that data can be easily visualized, analyzed and manipulated in Excel and at the same time can be made available to multiple users in amore secure and reliable manner though a variety of front ends, whether they be Access or browser-based.

## Resources

### White Papers

http://www.mysql.com/why-mysql/white-papers/



### **Case Studies**

http://www.mysql.com/why-mysql/case-studies/

### Press Releases, News and Events

http://www.mysql.com/news-and-events/

Live Webinars

http://www.mysql.com/news-and-events/web-seminars/

Webinars on Demand

http://www.mysql.com/news-and-events/on-demand-webinars/

# About MySQL

MySQL is the most popular open source database software in the world. Many of the world's largest and fastest-growing organizations use MySQL to save time and money powering their high-volume Web sites, critical business systems and packaged software -- including industry leaders such as Yahoo!, Alcatel-Lucent, Google, Nokia, YouTube and Zappos.com. At http://www.mysql.com, Sun provides corporate users with commercial subscriptions and services, and actively supports the large MySQL open source developer community.

To discover how Sun's offerings can help you harness the power of next-generation Web capabilities, please visit <u>http://www.sun.com/web</u>.