# Downloading & Installing MySQL

A free version of MySQL can be obtained from:

<http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/installer/5.6.html>

Here is what I did to install it on my PC (Windows 7):

From the options for the Windows OS, I chose "Windows Essentials" (176 MB).

<http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/mirror.php?id=412168>

I picked, “No thanks just start my download”

When download is done, I double clicked the .msi file.

Click Next, select Install, Accept, Next,Execute,Next,Developer Default, Execute,Next,Next,Next

You can create a root password for yourself. If you want, you can also add one user (i.e. user1) with default settings. Next.

Uncheck “start mysql at startup”. Next.Next.Next,Next

Your MySql workbench will pop-up.

Now, MySQL is installed in:

C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 5.6

And it takes up about 170 MB.

By no means do you need to follow those exact instructions. I am just saying this is what I did on my PC, and it works. You may choose to follow different steps, download a different Windows option, or use a different OS altogether.

# Starting MySQL

In Windows, MySQL can be launched in two ways:

1. Start Menu Programs MySQL MySQL Server 5.6 MySQL Command Line Client

OR

2) Launch command prompt and type 'mysql'

If you chose not to set a password during setup, ignore the password prompt if you get it.

**Getting Started**

In MySQL, each database you create will get its own folder WITHIN the "data" folder. There exist two already: mysql and test. You can find that out by typing:

mysql> show databases;

Which will give you a list of databases created to date (initially, just 'mysql' and 'test') To create a new database:

mysql> create database xxx;

This will create a new folder within the "data" folder called "xxx". To start working with a database (that is already created) type:

mysql> use xxx

Now, you are ready to create, populate and modify tables and run queries on them, within the 'xxx' database.

Notice that all SQL queries and most MySQL commands must be followed by ';' but some commands don't need it (e.g. the 'use' command.) However, I found that adding ';' never hurts.

To exit:

mysql> quit;

**Documentation**

For more details on all that, the MySQL documentation is available at:

http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.6/en/index.html

Or, in pdf format (7.32 MB), at:

http://downloads.mysql.com/docs/refman-5.6-en.pdf