



Print MySQL Table Description Using Command Line



Asyraf Wahi Anuar - March 14, 2022

<https://codethepixel.com/Print-MySQL-Table-Description-Using-Command-Line>

The database is a crucial back-end component of software applications. Technically, all collected data is stored and managed in the database. When a user login into a web application, or completes an online transaction, a database system records the information in a structured manner in the background. MySQL is a relational database management system (RDBMS), which means that instead of a single repository, it keeps records in several, independent, and highly codified tables. There are numbers of application that is designed to manage MySQL databases and table. However, this tutorial will show how to access MySQL databases and tables using the command line interface.-

The CLI Command

Execute your command prompt. This tutorial uses Windows Power Shell in Windows 11 and XAMPP. The XAMPP application is installed at c:/xampp. To connect to the MySQL database, change the read directory as shown below (depending on your web server installation directory):

```
cd c:/xampp/mysql/bin
```

Once the directory changed, execute the following command to connect into the database:

```
mysql -u root -p -h 127.0.0.1
```

Command explanation:

-u = user (default: root)

-p = password (if null, left it blank with -p)

-h = host (localhost/127.0.0.1/your webserver IP)

Once connected to the MySQL, you can execute the following command to list all available databases:

```
show databases;
```

To select and use a database (eg: edms), use the following command.

```
use edms;
```

Execute the following command to list all available tables in edms database

```
show tables;
```

If you need the table attributes, use the following command to describe the table field, type, null, key, default and extra.

```
describe edms.logs;
```

This is the example of table description.

Field	Type	Null	Key	Default	Extra
id	int(11)	NO	PRI	NULL	auto_increment
user_id	int(11)	YES		NULL	
action	varchar(255)	YES		NULL	
useragent	varchar(256)	YES		NULL	
os	varchar(255)	YES		NULL	
ip	varchar(50)	YES		NULL	
host	varchar(255)	YES		NULL	
referrer	varchar(255)	NO		NULL	
status	int(1)	YES		1	
created	datetime	YES		NULL	
modified	datetime	YES		NULL	

Now you should be able to connect to the MySQL database and print the table description.