

How to Install MySQL 5.5/5.7 on Windows 11 23H2 Without Errors

Problem Background

Installing MySQL 5.5 or 5.7 on Windows 11, especially version 23H2, often fails when using the official MSI installer. Common issues include:

- Compatibility errors with the MSI wizard
- Installation stuck or incomplete
- Missing runtime dependencies
- Permission problems when running the installer
- Legacy MySQL services interfering with new installs

These problems are more frequent on clean systems or environments with strict user permission control (e.g., corporate laptops or restricted admin rights).

Recommended Solution: Use ZIP Package Manual Installation

The most reliable way to install MySQL 5.5 or 5.7 on Windows 11 (including 23H2) is to use the ZIP archive version and perform a manual setup.

1. Download the ZIP Archive:

Visit the [MySQL Archived Downloads](#) page and choose MySQL 5.7 or 5.5 ZIP version.

2. Extract to a Safe Path:

Unzip it to a directory without spaces or non-ASCII characters. Example:

D:\mysql-5.5.5

3. Create Configuration File my.ini:

In the root of the extracted directory, create a my.ini file with the following content:

```
[mysql]
```

```
default-character-set=utf8
```

```
[mysqld]
```

port=3306

basedir=D:/mysql-5.5.5

datadir=D:/mysql-5.5.5/data

character-set-server=utf8

default-storage-engine=INNODB

4. Initialize the Database:

Open cmd, go to the bin folder inside your MySQL directory, and run:

```
mysqld --initialize-insecure
```

5. Install MySQL as a Service:

```
mysqld --install
```

6. Start the Service:

```
net start mysql
```

7. Log in to MySQL:

```
mysql -u root -p
```

Other Required Fixes and Best Practices

1. Ensure Visual C++ Runtime Is Installed:

Install the appropriate version of Visual C++ Redistributable (e.g., Visual C++ 2013) from Microsoft's website.

2. Clean Previous Installations:

- Uninstall all MySQL-related programs
- Delete leftover folders:
 - C:\Program Files\MySQL\
 - C:\ProgramData\MySQL\
- Run services.msc and remove any leftover MySQL services
- Restart your computer before retrying installation

3. Run the Installer as Administrator:

Right-click any installer or executable and select "Run as administrator" to avoid permission errors.

Summary

By avoiding the MSI installer and using the ZIP archive method, you can reliably install legacy versions of MySQL on modern Windows 11 systems—even with security updates and tighter permission settings.

This approach ensures:

- Full control over configuration
- Reduced risk of compatibility issues
- Easier cleanup and troubleshooting