Downloading & Installing `MySQL`

A free version of `MySQL` can be obtained from:

`http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/mysql/4.1.html`

Here is what I did to install it on my PC (Windows XP Home Edition SP 2):

From the options for the Windows OS, choose "Windows Essentials" (16.5 MB).

When download is done, double click the `.msi` file.

Click Next, select Typical, Install, Skip Sign-Up, UNcheck Configure, and finish.

Now: Start Menu → Programs → MySQL → MySQL Server 4.1
                            → MySQL Server Instance Config Wizard

Next → Standard Configuration → Next → Check all three boxes → Next

((I unchecked Security Settings, but you can set a password if you want))

Next → Execute → Finish

Now, `MySQL` is installed in:

`C:\Program Files\MySQL\MySQL Server 4.1`

And it takes up about 60 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. If you have previous `MySQL` experience and can offer helpful advice on specific settings please let me know. My `MySQL` experience does not exceed 24 hours!

Starting `MySQL`

In Windows, `MySQL` can be launched in two ways:

1) Start Menu → Programs → MySQL → MySQL Server 4.1
        → 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.

Documentation

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

http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/4.1/en/index.html

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

http://downloads.mysql.com/docs/refman-4.1-en.pdf