

[How-To] Change the Default Data Directory for MariaDB Server

Purpose

This documentation will focus on the process of changing the default data directory from its mysql default to a desired location. This will not focus on how to create the remote directory or how to mount it to the db server.

Prerequisites

List of prerequisites:

- Root user or sudo user
- MariaDB Server
- MariaDB admin creds

Changing the default MySQL/MariaDB Data Directory

Note: We are going to assume that our new data directory is `/mnt/mysql-data`. It is important to note that this directory should be owned by `mysql:mysql`.

```
# mkdir /mnt/mysql-data
# chown -R mysql:mysql /mnt/mysql-data
```

For your convenience, we've divided the process into 5 easy-to-follow steps:

Step 1: Identify Current MySQL Data Directory

To begin, it is worthy and well to identify the current data directory using the following command. Do not just assume it is still `/var/lib/mysql` since it could have been changed in the past.

```
# mysql -u root -p -e "SELECT @@datadir;"
```

After you enter the MySQL password, the output should be similar to.

Step 2: Copy MySQL Data Directory to a New Location

To avoid data corruption, stop the service if it is currently running before proceeding. Use the **systemd** well-known commands to do so:

----- **On SystemD** -----

```
# systemctl stop mariadb
# systemctl is-active mariadb
```

----- **On SysVinit** -----

```
# service mysqld stop
# service mysqld status
```

OR

```
# service mysql stop
# service mysql status
```

If the service has been brought down, the output of the last command should be as follows:

Then copy recursively the contents of `/var/lib/mysql` to `/mnt/mysql-data` preserving original permissions and timestamps:

```
# cp -R -p /var/lib/mysql/* /mnt/mysql-data
```

Step 3: Configure a New MySQL Data Directory

Edit the configuration file (`my.cnf`) to indicate the new data directory (`/mnt/mysql-data` in this case).

```
# vi /etc/my.cnf
OR
# vi /etc/mysql/my.cnf
```

Locate the `[mysqld]` and `[client]` sections and make the following changes:

Under [mysqld]:

```
datadir=/mnt/mysql-data
socket=/mnt/mysql-data/mysql.sock
```

Under [client]:

```
port=3306
socket=/mnt/mysql-data/mysql.sock
```

Save the changes and then proceed with the next step.

Step 4: Start the MariaDB Service

```
# systemctl start mariadb  
# systemctl is-active mariadb
```

Now, use the same command as in **Step 1** to verify the location of the new data directory:

```
# mysql -u root -p -e "SELECT @@datadir;"
```

Step 5: Create MySQL Database to Confirm Data Directory

Login to MariaDB, create a new database and then check `/mnt/mysql-data`:

```
# mysql -u root -p -e "CREATE DATABASE tecmint;"
```

Congratulations! You have successfully changed the data directory for MySQL or MariaDB.

Documentation derived from: [How to Change a Default MySQL/MariaDB Data Directory in Linux \(tecmint.com\)](#)

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