

This tutorial walks you through a **MySQL import database** on Linux, this is non distro specific so should work on any version of Linux. The tutorial assumes you have already completed a backup of your database with [my](#) [sqldump](#) and have exported it to a file.

```
Copyright (c) 2000, 2011, Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.  
  
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affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective  
owners.  
  
Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.  
  
mysql> source database-backup.sql
```

## How to perform a basic MySQL Import of a Database

To perform the following MySQL import you will require shell (command line) access to your server and have permissions to the database you are attempting to import into, if you are in doubt and you are the admin it's easier to use the root account for database imports. In the examples below I am using the root account to import databases.

The first option is by far the most easiest, transfer the database to the server login over SSH and import the database.

To transfer the MySQL dump file from your Linux server to the new MySQL server run the following command:

```
scp /path/to/database-backup.sql user@new-mysql-server.com:/home/user/ mysql -u
```

## MySQL Import Database

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`username -p -h localhost database-name MySQL import sql.gz dump file`

If your dump file ends in the extension `.gz` it has been compressed using `gunzip` compression you have two options, uncompress the database and then import it or uncompress and import it on the fly using a single command - both MySQL import examples are below:

To extract and then import use the following commands:

```
gunzip database-name.sql.gz
```

Then import the SQL database with:

`mysql -u username -p -h localhost database-name` To uncompress and import at the same time (a lot faster) then use the following command:

```
zcat database-backup.sql.gz | mysql -u root -p database-name
```

Note, you must have created the database prior to running the import commands above on the new server, follow our guide [here](#) for a tutorial on MySQL create database.

## Import database directly from the MySQL Shell

To import a `mysqldump` file from the `mysql` CLI, first change to the directory where your dump file resides in Linux and then execute the following:

Select the database you wish to import the dump file into with:

```
shell> mysql database-name
```

Import the database with the following command:

```
shell> source database-backup.sql
```

You should now see a verbose output scrolling up the page as the db data is imported. This is my preferred method of importing large MySQL databases, you can get a rough idea of progress and if the import fails you can normally see the error caused. (FYI, in my experience most MySQL imports fail due to corrupt database exports from PHPmyAdmin, caused by the `php.ini` max memory usage being too low to complete the dump via the web interface).