

## Mysql: How to disable single database without dropping or renaming it

Author : admin



A colleague of mine working on *MySQL database* asked me **How it is possible to disable a MySQL database**. He is in situation where the client has 2 databases and application and is not sure which of the two databases the application uses. Therefore the client asked one of the database is disabled and wait for few hours and see if something will break / stop working and in that way determine which of the two database is used by application.

My first guess was to backup both databases and drop one of them, then if it is the wrong one to restore from the SQL dump backup, however this wasn't acceptable solution. So second I thought of **RENAME** of database to another one and then reverting the name, however as it is written in MySQL documentation **RENAME database** function was removed from MySQL (found to be dangerous) since version 5.1.23 onwards. Anyhow there is a quick hack to [rename mysql database using a for loop shell script](#) one below:

```
mysql -e "CREATE DATABASE `new_database`;"
for table in `mysql -B -N -e "SHOW TABLES;" old_database`
do
    mysql -e "RENAME TABLE `old_database`.`$table` to `new_database`.`$table`"
done
mysql -e "DROP DATABASE `old_database`;"
```

Other possible solution was to change permissions of Application used username, however this was also complicated from mysql cli, hence I thought of installing and using PHPMyAdmin to make modify of db user permissions easier but on this server there wasn't Apache installed and MySQL is behind a firewall

and only accessible via java tomcat host.

Finally after some pondering what can be done I came with solution to request to disable mysql database using **chmod** in **/var/lib/mysql/data/**, i.e.:

```
sql-server:~# chmod 0 /var/lib/mysql/databasename
```

Where *databasename* is the same as the database is named listable via *mysql cli*.

After doing it that way with no need to restart MySQL server database stopped to appear in **show databases;** and client confirmed that disabled database is no longer needed so we proceeded dropping it.

Hope this little article will help someone out there. Cheers :