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Error 1045 Access denied for user: the causes, in order

Connection & SQL Errors

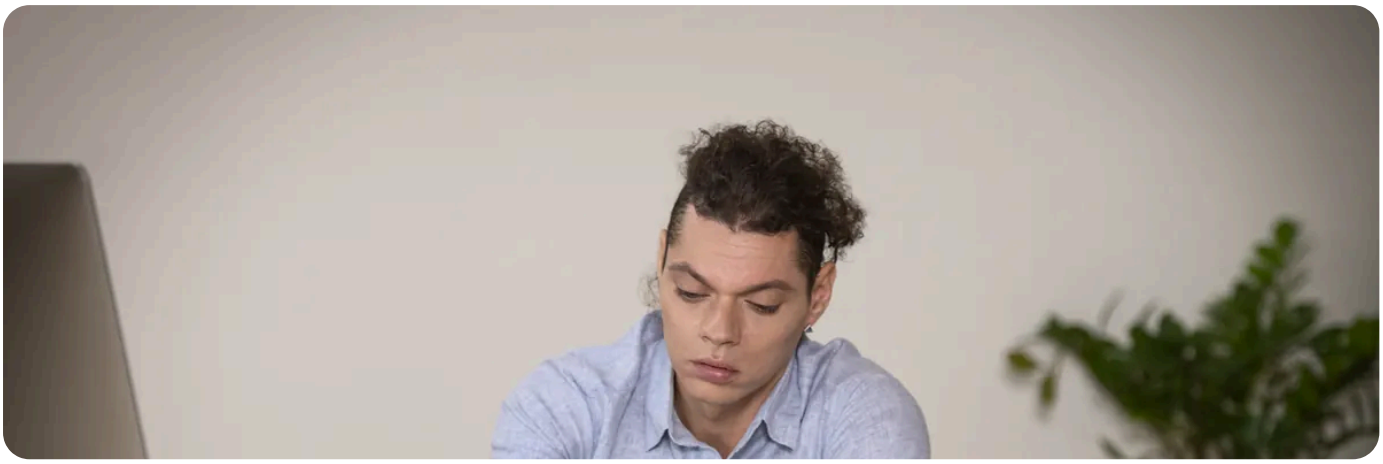
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Error 1045 Access denied for user: the causes, in order

Connection & SQL Errors Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read



Error **1045** means one thing: the connection **reached** the database, and the database **refused the username and password pair**. It is not a server that is down or a closed port: it is a credential that does not match. It nearly always takes ten minutes to fix, provided you look in the right order.

The full message carries two clues worth having: `Access denied for user 'abc_user'@'localhost' (using password: YES)`. The name in quotes is the user the application *actually used*, and the **YES** or **NO** says whether any password was sent at all.

The causes, most likely first

What the message shows	The cause and the fix
A user with no account prefix (for example `user` instead of `abc_user`)	In cPanel both the database name and the user name start with the account name. The application needs the **full** name, exactly as MySQL Databases shows it.
using password: YES	The password sent is not this user's. Someone changed it in cPanel and the configuration file kept the old one, or the copy came from another server with that server's password.
using password: NO	The application sent no password at all: the field is empty, the configuration file was not read, or the environment variable (`.env`) does not exist in this place.
The password contains quotes, `$` , `#` or `@`	The character broke the line of code or the connection address. Generate a new password using only letters and digits rather than fighting with escaping.
The address after the `@` is not `localhost`	The connection is not coming from the account itself. From outside, the database port is closed; see **Remote MySQL** and **the SSH tunnel**.

Fixing it, step by step

1. **Open the file where the application keeps its details** (the list, program by program, is in **where each application keeps its database connection details**). Copy the file before touching it.

2. **Check the database name and user** against what cPanel shows in **MySQL Databases**, letter by letter, prefix included. The host is `localhost`.

3. **Do not guess the password: set a new one.** In MySQL Databases, in the user list, choose to change the password, generate one and keep it. Paste *exactly* that into the file, with no stray spaces at the ends.

4. **Confirm the user is linked to the database.** Under **Add User To Database** join the two and grant the privileges. Without that link the error becomes 1044, described in **Error 1044**.

5. **If you have SSH,** prove the credentials away from the site: `mysql -u abc_user -p abc_database` asks for the password and tells you at once whether it gets in. If it does, the fault is in the application's file and not in the database.

Changing the database password and forgetting the application
is cause number one, and the application then shows "Error establishing a database connection". Always change both sides at the same moment. The whole diagnosis for a site is in **Error establishing a database connection: the causes, in order**.

And on a VPS with your own database server?

The error `Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost'` is one of the most searched. On many installations (Ubuntu and Debian among them) the database **root** user does not log in with a password: it logs in through the operating system, with `sudo mysql`. Anyone typing an invented password gets the 1045. On a VPS these commands and the database server are yours; see how far our help goes in **how far our support goes**.

One user per application
, with the privileges it needs and no more. If a password is ever lost, you change just one. See **creating a database user and giving it the right privileges**.

NEED A HAND?

Rebuilt the user and the password and the 1045 is still there? Send us the full message, with the user name it shows.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Error establishing a database connection: the causes, in order**
- **Creating a database user and giving it the right privileges**
- **Where each application keeps its database connection details**
- **Error 1044: when your file tries to create the database**

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