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Error 1044 Access denied for user to database: when your file tries to create the database

Connection & SQL Errors

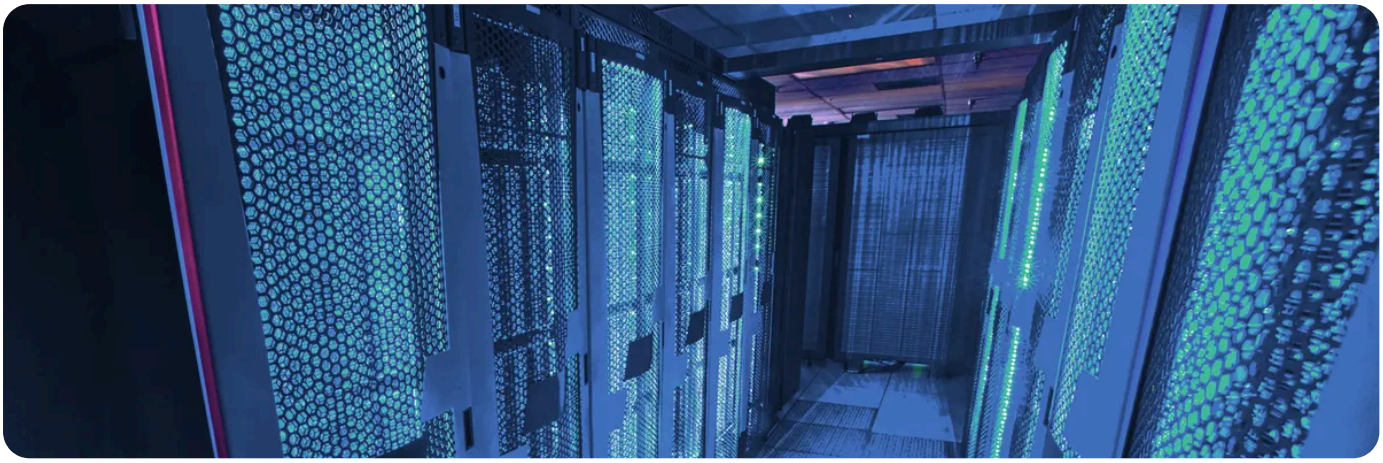
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Error 1044 Access denied for user to database: when your file tries to create the database

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



The **1044** nearly always turns up when you **import** an `.sql` file. It says that the user, already accepted, **has no permission on that database**. It looks like this: `#1044 - Access denied for user 'abc_user'@'localhost' to database 'other_db'`. Look at the name at the end: if it is not the database you are importing into, you have found the culprit.

On a shared hosting account, databases are not created with SQL statements: they are created in cPanel, under **MySQL Databases**. A file that comes from another server very often carries lines that try to do exactly that, and the database refuses.

What is usually in the file

The line in the file	Why it fails here
`CREATE DATABASE ...`	The account's user cannot create databases through SQL. The database already exists: you made it in cPanel.
`USE `other_db`;`	It orders work in a database with the source's name, which does not exist here or is not yours. The commonest case of the 1044.
`DROP DATABASE ...`	Dropping a whole database is not allowed through SQL either. Empty it from phpMyAdmin if that is what you want.
`DEFINER=...` **on views, triggers or routines**	It points to a user who is not you. It usually gives a different number (1227), but the cure is the same: remove the clause or change it to your user.
`GRANT ...` **or** `CREATE USER ...`	Users and privileges are created in cPanel, not through SQL.

Fixing it, step by step

1. **Create the database and the user in cPanel,** and join them under **Add User To Database** with all privileges. See **creating a database user and giving it the right privileges**.

2. **Copy the file** and open the copy in a proper text editor. Big files need an editor built for it; Notepad can choke.

3. **Look for the troublesome lines:** `CREATE DATABASE`, `USE`, `DROP DATABASE`. With SSH, `grep -n "CREATE DATABASE" file.sql` tells you which line they are on.

4. **Delete those lines** (or put `--` in front of them, which turns them into comments) and save.

5. **In phpMyAdmin choose the right database in the left column** before importing. That is the one that receives the tables. The file size limit has its own article: **importing with phpMyAdmin**.

A different prefix is not a file error.
If the tables carry another installation's prefix (say `wp_` at the source and something else in the `wp-config.php` here), the site sees an empty database. Do not confuse it with permissions: check the application's prefix.

File too big to open?
Split the job: import over SSH, where the file does not pass through the browser and the bad lines can be removed with one command. See **importing a large database over SSH**.

NEED A HAND?

Cleaned the file and the 1044 is still there? Tell us the name of the target database and the whole message.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Importing with phpMyAdmin, and the size limit that stops you** →
- **Importing a large database over SSH** →

Creating a database user and giving it the right privileges →

Error 1045: the causes, in order →

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