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Connecting to your database from Python and Node.js

Remote Access & Code

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Connecting to your database from Python and Node.js

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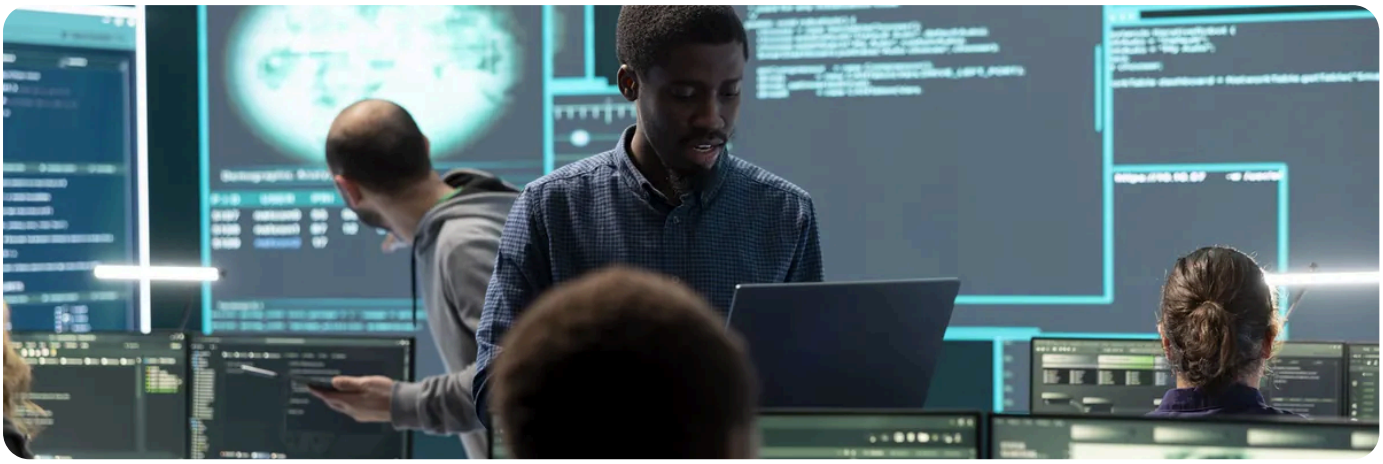

In Python use **PyMySQL** (or `mysql-connector-python`); in Node.js use **mysql2**. In both the host is `localhost`, the database and user names carry the account prefix, and the password goes in an **environment variable**, not in the code. The application runs through the «Setup Python App» and «Setup Node.js App» tools in cPanel.

Python

1. Create the database and the user in cPanel. See **creating a user and the privileges**.

2. In **Setup Python App**, open your application. At the top is the command that enters the virtual environment. Run it in the Terminal and install the library: `pip install pymysql`. See **virtual environments and pip**.

3. In the code:

```
import os, pymysql
link = pymysql.connect(host='localhost', user=os.environ['DB_USER'],
password=os.environ['DB_PASS'], database=os.environ['DB_NAME'], charset='utf8mb4')
with link.cursor() as cur:
cur.execute('SELECT NOW()')
print(cur.fetchone())
```

4. Set `DB_USER`, `DB_PASS` and `DB_NAME` in the application's own **environment variables** in cPanel, and restart it.

Node.js

1. In **Setup Node.js App** choose the version and use the install-dependencies button after adding `mysql2` to `package.json`. See **choosing the version and using npm**.

2 In the code:

```
const mysql = require('mysql2/promise');
const pool = mysql.createPool({host: 'localhost', user: process.env.DB_USER, password:
process.env.DB_PASS, database: process.env.DB_NAME, charset: 'utf8mb4'});
const [rows] = await pool.query('SELECT NOW() AS now_time');
```

3 Use a **pool** and not a new connection on every request. Environment variables are set on the application's page, just as in Python.

Symptom	Likely cause
Access denied for user	Name without the account prefix, wrong password, or user not linked to the database.
Can't connect to MySQL server on 'localhost'	The application tried a network address instead of `localhost`. Do not use the server IP.
Too many connections	The application opens connections and never closes them. See **the max_user_connections error**.
Server has gone away	A connection left idle for a long time and then reused. See **the causes, in order**.

Do not write the password in the code.
In a repository, a secret written once stays in the history forever. See **environment variables and secrets**.

Reusing connections

In both languages, opening a connection is the expensive part. On a site with visitors, a new connection on every request uses up the available connections and slows everything down. In Python keep one connection per application process, or use a pool (SQLAlchemy ships one). In Node create the pool **once**, at start-up, and use `pool.query` on each request. And remember: after changing the code or the environment variables, **restart the application** in the cPanel tool itself, or it keeps running the old version.

PostgreSQL instead of MySQL?
In Python swap the library for `psycopg2-binary`, in Node for `pg`, and the port becomes 5432. The pool logic is the same.

NEED A HAND?

The application starts but never reaches the database? Tell us which tool it is (Python or Node) and the exact error and we will look.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Connecting to MySQL from PHP: mysqli and PDO** →
- **Getting a Node.js application running** →
- **Getting a Django application running** →

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