

# Connection problems: Error no. 2003: Can't connect...

The error message

Error No. 2003: Can't connect to MySQL server on 'localhost' (or some other host)

simply means that connection is not possible for one of the following (or similar) reasons:

- \* There is no MySQL server running at the specified host
- \* Connection to the MySQL server is not allowed using TCP-IP. Check the 'skip-networking' setting in the MySQL configuration file (my.ini on Windows, my.cnf on Unix/Linux). It shall be commented out like '#skip-networking'. If it is not commented out, then do it and restart the MySQL server for the change to take effect. SQLyog needs to connect using TCP-IP.
- \* Some networking issue prevents connection. It could be a network malconfiguration or a firewall issue. We have experienced sometimes that some firewalls (ZoneAlarm in particular) is blocking TCP-IP connections even if it claims to be disabled. Most often it will help to uninstall and reinstall the firewall.
- \* When trying to connect to a MySQL server at an ISP this error message often indicates that direct connection to MySQL has been blocked. You must then use [HTTP-tunneling](#) or [SSH-tunneling](#) to connect.
- \* Also [this FAQ](#) may have relevant information. It describes some more special situations when connection to MySQL on Linux.

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