mysqldump

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Everyone Loves Taking a Dump

mysqldump is a command line utility provided with MySQL that automates the process of taking a SQL dump. Read more about SQL dumps here.

How Does mysqldump Work?

A big challenge with mysqldump is that performing a backup takes longer and longer as the data set grows. It also holds table locks and transactions during the entire backup operation which can interrupt users of your database while the backup is taking place. The best use of MySQL dump is to provide a weekly sanity check on database integrity. One advantage of SQL dumps is that they read all of the data in the database and can provide an early warning of problems with your MySQL data store or raw MyISAM files.

Category	Legacy
Archive Type	Disk
MySQL Storage Engines Supported	All
Supported O/S	All
Binlog Backup & Restore	No
Zero Business Interruption (Online Backups)	No
Granular (Table Level) Restore	No (only if you manually edit SQL dump files)
Easy to Use Graphical User Interface	No
Complete Server Protection (Backup All Data or just MySQL?)	No
Backup Type	Full (Incremental with Binary Logs)
Backup Window Length	Long
Server Disk I/O and Load Impact	Heavy