



# LeapFrog's Award-winning Educational Solution is Powered by MySQL

## Small & Fast Cross-platform Database Allows ISV to Help Teachers Assess Students & Prescribe Individualized Learning Plans

LeapFrog SchoolHouse is a leader in the education technology market. Their simple-yet-sophisticated LeapTrack® Assessment and Instruction System is deployed in over 7,000 classrooms nationwide – helping budget-conscious school districts accurately test K-5 students and prescribe customized instruction in Reading, Math, and Language Arts. At the heart of the LeapTrack software is the MySQL database management system.

The LeapTrack management software is designed to test children in their basic skills during the school year, and then prescribe suitable LeapFrog educational content to teach them in the areas that they need help. It allows teachers to track and customize different learning programs for different students. Even if the class is made up of students of many different levels of ability – which is quite common these days – it means that every student is challenged appropriately. At all times, teachers and parents can gauge their children's progress.

LeapTrack was originally developed as a Windows-only product based on Microsoft Access. However, because the Apple Macintosh is such a popular computer in the educational market, LeapFrog SchoolHouse engineers later produced a Mac version built upon a proprietary database. Soon, it became apparent that even though the two applications shared much of the same code, it was too difficult and expensive to support two separate code-bases.

*"MySQL's cross-platform flexibility and cost-effective licensing make it easier, less expensive, and more reliable to design and distribute our product. It has been the ideal database for embedding into our LeapTrack system."*

**Glen Hamilton**  
Senior Director of Engineering  
LeapFrog SchoolHouse



## MySQL Offers a Lightweight Yet Robust Database Solution



LeapFrog SchoolHouse considered building its own cross-platform, proprietary database in-house. However, they quickly realized that they were better off employing MySQL and focusing their engineers on solving the unique challenges of building education software – not the underlying infrastructure.

### LeapFrog School House Selected MySQL for its Lightweight, Robust Design

**A Major Selling Point to School Districts:** *Thanks to MySQL, LeapTrack runs on their older, non-networked computers – without loss of speed or functionality*

Besides MySQL's cross-platform support, LeapFrog SchoolHouse appreciates MySQL's easily embeddable relational database that allowed them to build a fast, powerful application that works well on newer Internet-enabled machines, as well as older PCs running Windows 98 and basic, no-frills Macs.

*"We were able to get the basic database structure up-and-running and migrated from our prior database engine to MySQL in just a few weeks. Normally, this process would have taken many months."*

**Glen Hamilton**

Senior Director of Engineering LeapFrog SchoolHouse

"Out of the box, MySQL adds levels of functionality to LeapTrack because it can act as either a straightforward, stand-alone database – or a fully-networked relational database server," says Glen Hamilton, the company's senior director of engineering. "MySQL's cross-platform flexibility and cost-effective licensing make it easier, less expensive, and more reliable to design and distribute our product. It has been the ideal database for embedding into our LeapTrack system."

The screenshot shows the LeapTrack software interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'CARTRIDGES', 'REPORTS', and 'MY CLASS'. Below these, there are buttons for 'TEACHER MODE' and 'STUDENT MODE'. The main area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a grid of student names and numbers (1-12) for selection. On the right, there is a 'STUDENT DETAILS' panel for 'Eric Lin', showing 'No Alerts' and a 'Cartridge Overview' table. The table has columns for 'Assessment' and 'Percent Correct'. The assessment listed is 'R52 Reading Survey: Middle-of-Year'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'LOAD CONTENT TO CARTRIDGES', 'VIEW CARTRIDGE CONTENTS', 'LOAD LEARNING PATH', 'ASSIGN ASSESSMENT', and 'CHOOSE ACTIVITY'. The LeapFrog logo and 'Assessment & Instruction System' are visible at the bottom left, and 'ADDITIONAL RESOURCES' is at the bottom right.

Assessment	Percent Correct
R52 Reading Survey: Middle-of-Year	

# Embedding or Bundling MySQL in Your Solution

## Kids Think LeapTrack is Fun, Teachers and Parents Appreciate its Ease and Effectiveness

When LeapFrog SchoolHouse was selecting a database to embed in their market-leading educational software, their needs were very similar to many other OEMs, VARs and ISVs. As a low-cost, easy-to-distribute solution, MySQL met their technical requirements, including:

- ◆ **High-Performance with a Small Footprint** – MySQL is known for its speed, so LeapTrack is fast, even in schools with low-memory, older computers.
- ◆ **Easy to Install, Administer, and Embed** – School teachers are not computer professionals. LeapTrack has to perform well right out-of-the-box, and MySQL helps achieve that goal.

- ◆ **Broad Platform Support** – MySQL supports over 20 platforms, including Linux, Embedded Linux, Windows, Sun Solaris, HP-UX, IBM AIX, Mac OS X, Novell Netware, QNX, and more.
- ◆ **Standalone or Networked Server Version** – MySQL's versatility allows LeapFrog SchoolHouse to offer different implementations of their LeapTrack system, depending on their customers' needs.

## The Easy-to-Administer, Low-Cost, High-Performance and Reliable Database

With more than 6 million active installations, MySQL is a proven high-performance, easy-to-use, and affordable database that provides more flexibility than proprietary technology.

MySQL's embeddable server library is ideally suited for small footprint and embedded database needs. MySQL has a low/zero-administration environment, lowering management costs for both vendors and their customers.

Combined with low-cost, flexible licensing terms, MySQL is the ideal database to distribute with many packaged software and appliance solutions.

MySQL enables OEMs, ISVs, and VARs to:

- ◆ **Focus core engineering resources** on their product rather than building and maintaining a proprietary database.
- ◆ **Win competitive comparisons** by using a popular database that has earned respect for its superior performance and reliability.
- ◆ **Keep a larger share of the customer's budget** by eliminating the need for customers to purchase a separate database product.
- ◆ **Accelerate time-to-market and shorten sales cycles**

## MySQL Powers a Range of ISV and OEM Products

### Software:

- ◆ Monitoring systems
- ◆ Business Intelligence
- ◆ Enterprise ERP and CRM applications
- ◆ Educational software
- ◆ Email, Anti-spam software

### Appliances:

- ◆ Networking equipment
- ◆ Security appliances
- ◆ Retail kiosks
- ◆ Point-of-Sale solutions
- ◆ And more...



## Technical Specifications

### LeapTrack Version 4.0

#### Minimum System Requirements

OS:	Windows 98se or Higher, Mac OS 10.1
RAM:	128 MB for Windows 98se, 256 MB for Windows 2000 or XP, 128 MB for Mac
Free Disk Space:	60 MB (1.2 GB for Network Server version)

#### Development Environment

Database:	MySQL database server
Language:	C++
Database Size:	100 MB

## About MySQL

For over ten years, MySQL has been an attractive choice among leading technology companies worldwide, due to its award-winning speed, scalability and reliability. Our reputation has been built on understanding the needs of OEM customers and delivering the low-cost software, support and services to make them successful. More than 100 companies have embedded or bundled MySQL with their market-leading products, including Adobe, Cisco, Motorola, NEC, Nortel, NetIQ, SAP, SAS, Siemens, Sony, and Symantec.

For more information about MySQL, please go to [www.mysql.com/oem](http://www.mysql.com/oem)



The World's Most Popular Open Source Database

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