vtiger CRM
Database UTF-8 Configuration
(For MySQL)

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1 Introduction

vtiger 5.1.0 lets you work with UTF-8 now. We have made our best efforts to provide this support in the entire product.

To have complete support the database used for vtiger should be to handle UTF-8 character set.

This document aims at describing some of the details we gathered during the development.

2 MySQL UTF-8 Support

MySQL database provides several ways to enable UTF-8.

2.1 Server Level

The UTF-8 support can be configured to the entire MySQL server databases. This can prove a bit costly if other application database does not need UTF-8 support.

To achieve this you need to configure MySQL server configuration file (my.ini or my.cnf) with the following details:

```
[mysql]
default-character-set=utf8

[mysqld]
collation_server=utf8_unicode_ci
character_set_server=utf8
default-character-set=utf8
init_connect='SET collation_connection = utf8_general_ci'
init_connect='SET NAMES utf8'
```

NOTE: You should restart MySQL database server after the changes are made. To check if the changes were applied, open command line MySQL. Type SHOW VARIABLES; and verify the values displayed.

2.2 Database Level

You can enabled UTF-8 support for selected MySQL database. This serves as the default value when table is created without specifying the character set.

```
CREATE DATABASE <dbname> DEFAULT CHARACTER SET utf8 DEFAULT COLLATE
utf8_general_ci;
```

If you have an existing database with other character set and collate type:

```
ALTER DATABASE <dbname> DEFAULT CHARACTER SET utf8 DEFAULT COLLATE
utf8_general_ci;
```

NOTE: All tables created after this alter will have utf8 support.
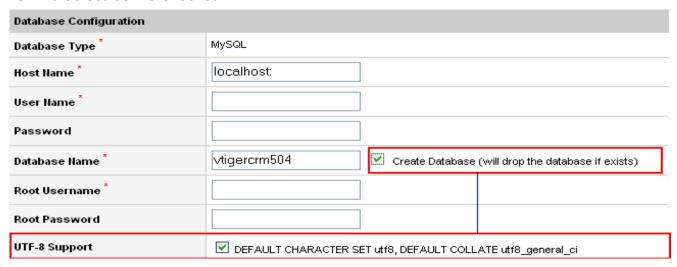
2.3 Table Level

You can enable UTF-8 support just for a single table.

2.4 Column Level

You can enable UTF-8 support for a specific text type column, this will override all other settings.

3 vtiger Installation

If you are creating database during the installation process make sure that Enable UTF-8 select box is checked.

Database Configuration		
Database Type *	MySQL	
Host Name *	localhost:	
User Name *		
Password		
Database Name *	vtigercrm504	☑ Create Database (will drop the database if exists)
Root Username *		
Root Password		
UTF-8 Support	☑ DEFAULT CHARACTER SET utf8, DEFAULT COLLATE utf8_general_ci	

If you are creating database before installation make you enable UTF-8 support at database level as discussed in the earlier section.

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4 vtiger Confirmation Settings

Database UTF-8 support is checked during the settings confirmation step of installation. This check is based on the database character set and collation values.

If the database is detected to support UTF-8 then it is shown as Enabled as shown below:

Database Configuration	
Host Name	localhost:3306
User Name	root
Password	*****
Database Type	mysql
Database Name	vtigercrm504
Database UTF-8 Support	Enabled

If you are using existing database without UTF-8 support it will be highlighted.

Database Configuration	
Host Name	localhost:3306
User Name	root
Password	*****
Database Type	mysql
Database Name	vtesting_503
Database UTF-8 Support	**Not Enabled**

You can continue with the installation but the UTF-8 support will not be completely available.

5 References

http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/charset-connection.html