MySQL/MariaDB error on the server with Plesk: Could not increase number of max_open_files to more than 16384

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Applicable to:

- **Plesk for Linux**

Symptoms

- The following error can be seen when checking MySQL/MariaDB status via the

  ```
  systemctl status mariadb
  ```

  command:

  ```
  [Warning] Could not increase number of max_open_files to more than 16384 (request: 32335).
  ```

- MySQL/MariaDB performance is very slow.

Cause

Hard limit of the process exceeded the number set for open files limit (16384) in database server configuration files:

```
#Number of files limit
LimitNOFILE=16384
```

Resolution

1. Connect to the server via SSH
2. Find in which exact file the limit is set by executing the following commands:

   ```
   # egrep -r LimitNOFILE /etc/systemd/system/m*
   ```

   ```
   # egrep -r LimitNOFILE /lib/systemd/system/m*
   ```

   Note: You are looking for a line that does not have a `#` in its beginning. That line contains the configuration that is active.
3. Once you find in which file the line

   ```
   LimitNOFILE
   ```

   is active, edit that file with your favorite command-line text editor and adjust the value:

   ```
   LimitNOFILE=32335
   ```
4. Save the changes and close the file
5. Reload all daemons on the server:

   ```
   # systemctl daemon-reload
   ```
6. Restart the `mariadb` or `mysql` service:

   ```
   # systemctl restart mariadb
   ```

Posted by: Saeed Nobakht - Sun, Aug 24, 2025 at 12:44 PM. This article has been viewed 362 times.

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