

# NativeSPInitialTesting

## Initial Testing

You can test to ensure that the SP is running properly and the surrounding environment is correct by accessing <https://localhost/Shibboleth.sso/Status> from the actual web server machine. You **MUST** use "localhost" as the hostname or it WILL NOT WORK by default. If this test is successful, then the software is ready for further configuration.

You can also access the Status handler from other clients or using a non-localhost name, but **only** if you change the `ac1` parameter in the configuration to permit your client address or remove it entirely to open up access to anybody. The ACL is present by default because the Status handler can return some arguably sensitive information about your configuration.

Now you can progress to the [Getting Started](#) material, or if you're in the very early stages of evaluation, try a more controlled scenario by using the [TestShib IdP](#). (Note that before using the TestShib IdP, you'll need to complete the first step from [Getting Started](#), setting the `entityID` attribute in the `ApplicationDefaults` element of `shibboleth2.xml`.)

Once you've actually configured the SP with its own settings and metadata from at least one IdP, in order to check that the SP is "working":

1. Protect a directory by requiring a Shibboleth session. Usually, this is already done by default for the location `/secure`.
2. Next, you typically place a script inside the protected directory that dumps the web server environment. With PHP for example you could in the easiest case just place a script there with the following:

```
<?php print_r($_SERVER) ?>
```

- A more advanced version of such a script can be found [here](#).
3. Make sure that the Shibboleth-supplied variables are present. If there is a non-empty variable called **Shib-Application-ID**, you successfully authenticated and have a valid session. However, you also should check if there are other non-empty Shibboleth variables defined in the [attribute-map.xml](#) file. If there are no variables like **mail** or **givenName** or **surname**, the IdP either released no attributes, or the attribute request failed (the latter usually only applies when using an older IdP). In this case, have a look at the `shibd.log` file.