

Checking a Project Before Development

A short environment check prevents installation, folder and service problems from consuming development time.

Environment check

Check	Successful evidence
XAMPP opens	Control Panel loads
Apache runs	<code>http://localhost/</code> opens
MySQL runs	phpMyAdmin opens
Project location	Folder is inside <code>htdocs</code>
PHP processing	A PHP page outputs a variable or calculation
Database access	Practice database is visible
File editing	Saved changes appear after refresh

Diagnostic page

Create `environment-check.php` in the project:

```
<?php
$checks = [
    "PHP is running",
    "Files are served by Apache",
    "Server time: " . date("H:i:s")
];
?>
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en">
```

```
<head><meta charset="utf-8"><title>Environment check</title></head>
<body>
<h1>Environment check</h1>
<ul>
<?php foreach ($checks as $check): ?>
    <li><?= htmlspecialchars($check) ?></li>
<?php endforeach; ?>
</ul>
</body>
</html>
```

Open it through localhost. The example uses iteration to output a list; it is a diagnostic tool, not a complete solution.

Safe working practices

- Use fictional data.
- Keep files in a clearly named project folder.
- Never expose passwords in screenshots or public repositories.
- Stop services cleanly.
- Keep recoverable backups of files and databases.
- Record approved configuration changes.

Record the setup

Record the installation path, project folder, local URL, database name, any approved port changes and the most recent successful check. Do not record real passwords.

Final checklist

- ☐ Diagnostic page opens through localhost.
 - ☐ PHP outputs the server time.
 - ☐ phpMyAdmin displays the database.
 - ☐ Only fictional data is used.
 - ☐ Important folders and URLs are recorded.
 - ☐ Any unresolved problem includes its exact error message.
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