Setting up a Local Test Environment

When running the server from a local machine, it must be accessible from the internet - for the Connector Platform, such as Facebook Messenger, to call it.

Two options are:

A. [**ngrok**](https://ngrok.com/) can expose a local server behind a NAT or firewall to the internet.

The paid version lets you use a persistent subdomain name.

ngrok http 8080

Where the number is the port on which the local server is running. This exposes a web accessible URL for the local server, e.g.

<https://36096fff.ngrok.io>

This should be used as the <tombot-base-url> in setting up Connector webhooks.

When behind a corporate proxy server, use [cntlm](http://cntlm.sourceforge.net/). Set the following in ~/.ngrok2/ngrok.yml

http\_proxy: "http://localhost:3128

B. [**localtunnel**](https://localtunnel.github.io/www/)

npm install -g localtunnel

Request a tunnel to your local server.

lt --port 8000 --subdomain tombot

The subdomain argument is a request for a named subdomain on the localtunnel server is available (default is random characters).

This will generate a link of the form

<https://tombot.localtunnel.me>

'localtunnel' doesn't appear to support proxy settings at this stage.