

Email 1: Mark (Product Manager, prospective customer)

Hi there,

I'm setting up SSO for an external service provider we use called SparkNova, and I'm trying to configure WorkOS to act as our Identity Provider (IdP) in the SAML flow. I've looked through the docs but wasn't able to find how to retrieve the IdP metadata XML from WorkOS.

Can you point me to the right documentation for using WorkOS as our IdP?

Thanks,
Mark

Response:

Hi Mark,

Thanks for reaching out. I would be happy to help!

WorkOS cannot retrieve the IdP metadata XML in this case because we don't serve as an IdP. With WorkOS, you will provide the IdP metadata to us from your selected IdP, as we work as the SSO Service Provider (SP). We provide the [ACS URL](#), [SP Entity ID](#), and [SP Metadata URL](#), which can help you obtain more information when using us as the Service Provider. These are all readily available in your Connection Settings in the WorkOS Dashboard.

Since we do not act as an IdP, you can't point third-party apps like SparkNova at us to make us your IdP while using them as your SP. Our SSO service is compatible with any IdP that supports either the SAML or OIDC protocols. Therefore, I recommend using us as your all-in-one SSO SP, as we integrate well with all common and custom IdPs. For this reason, you won't find anywhere to retrieve IdP metadata XML from WorkOS in our docs or our dashboard.

More information on IdP-initiated SSO in WorkOS can be found here:

<https://workos.com/docs/sso/login-flows/idp-initiated-sso/configure-idp-initiated-sso>

More information on SP to IdP in WorkOS can be found here:

<https://workos.com/docs/sso/saml-security/sp-to-idp-security-features>

More information on IdP to SP can be found here:

<https://workos.com/docs/sso/saml-security/idp-to-sp-security-features>

If you need to use SparkNova to trust an IdP, you can configure an IdP (such as Okta/Entra/Google/...). Once you do this, WorkOS can still power SSO for your app, but we will not be able to act as that IdP for SparkNova as an SSO SP.

More information on this can be found here:

<https://workos.com/docs/sso/2-configure-a-redirect-uri/identity-provider-initiated-sso>

To simplify the process, I recommend looking into our [AuthKit](#) product. AuthKit is a complete authentication platform that leverages Single Sign-On functionality out of the box, following best practices, and all implemented via WorkOS, so you can keep things organized and simple.

Please let me know if you have any other questions!

Best,

Michael Fogel (Developer Success Engineer)