

BLKOUT UK Communications System - Vercel Deployment Guide

Prerequisites

- GitHub account with access to BLKOUTUK organization
- Vercel account (sign up at <https://vercel.com> if you don't have one)
- Repository pushed to GitHub: `BLKOUTUK/comms-blkout`

Deployment Steps

Step 1: Push Code to GitHub

First, ensure your code is pushed to the GitHub repository:

```
cd /home/ubuntu/blkout_comms_app

# Add remote if not already added
git remote add origin https://github.com/BLKOUTUK/comms-blkout.git

# Push to main branch
git push -u origin main
```

Step 2: Connect to Vercel

1. Go to Vercel Dashboard

- Visit <https://vercel.com/dashboard>
- Sign in with your GitHub account (recommended for seamless integration)

2. Import Project

- Click “Add New...” → “Project”
- Select “Import Git Repository”
- Authorize Vercel to access your GitHub account if prompted
- Select the BLKOUTUK organization
- Find and select the `comms-blkout` repository

3. Configure Project

- **Project Name:** `blkout-comms` (or your preferred name)
- **Framework Preset:** Vite (should be auto-detected)
- **Root Directory:** `./` (leave as default)
- **Build Command:** `npm run build` (auto-detected from `vercel.json`)
- **Output Directory:** `dist` (auto-detected from `vercel.json`)
- **Install Command:** `npm install` (auto-detected)

Step 3: Configure Environment Variables

Add the following environment variables in Vercel:

1. Click on “Environment Variables” section during setup

2. Add each variable:

Required Variables:

Variable Name	Value	Notes
VITE_SUPABASE_URL	Your Supabase project URL	Found in Supabase Dashboard → Settings → API
VITE_SUPABASE_ANON_KEY	Your Supabase anon/public key	Found in Supabase Dashboard → Settings → API
VITE_AUTH_DISABLED	true or false	Set to true for development, false for production with auth
VITE_MOCK_USER_EMAIL	admin@blkout.dev	Only used when AUTH_DISABLED=true
VITE_MOCK_USER_NAME	BLKOUT Admin	Only used when AUTH_DISABLED=true

Important: Make sure to select “Production”, “Preview”, and “Development” for each variable unless you want different values per environment.

Step 4: Deploy

1. Click “Deploy” button
2. Vercel will:
 - Clone your repository
 - Install dependencies
 - Build your application
 - Deploy to their global CDN
3. Wait for deployment to complete (usually 1-3 minutes)

Step 5: Access Your Application

Once deployed, you'll receive:

- **Production URL:** <https://blkout-comms.vercel.app> (or similar)
- **Preview URLs:** Generated for each PR and commit

Post-Deployment Configuration

Automatic Deployments

Vercel automatically deploys:

- **Production:** Every push to main branch
- **Preview:** Every push to other branches or pull requests

Custom Domain Setup (`discover.blkoutuk.com`)

Once you're ready to use a custom domain:

1. In Vercel Dashboard:

- Go to your project
- Navigate to “Settings” → “Domains”
- Click “Add Domain”
- Enter: `discover.blkoutuk.com`

2. In Your DNS Provider (e.g., Cloudflare, GoDaddy):

- Add a CNAME record:

- **Type:** CNAME
- **Name:** `discover`
- **Value:** `cname.vercel-dns.com`
- **TTL:** Auto or 3600

OR use A records if preferred:

- Vercel will provide specific A record values after you add the domain

1. Verify Domain:

- Back in Vercel, click “Verify” once DNS is configured
- It may take a few minutes to propagate
- SSL certificate will be automatically provisioned



Security Considerations

Environment Variables

- ✅ `VITE_SUPABASE_URL` and `VITE_SUPABASE_ANON_KEY` are safe to expose (they’re public keys)
- ⚠️ Never commit `.env` file to Git
- ⚠️ Never use your Supabase service_role key in frontend code

Authentication

For production deployment:

- Set `VITE_AUTH_DISABLED=false`
- Ensure Supabase Row Level Security (RLS) is configured
- Test authentication flow before going live



Troubleshooting

Build Fails

- Check build logs in Vercel dashboard
- Ensure all dependencies are in `package.json`
- Verify TypeScript has no errors: `npm run build` locally

Environment Variables Not Working

- Ensure variables are prefixed with `VITE_`

- Variables must be set before build (not at runtime)
- Redeploy after adding/changing variables

Routing Issues (404 on refresh)

- The `vercel.json` file handles SPA routing
- Ensure it's committed to the repository
- All routes should redirect to `index.html`

Supabase Connection Issues

- Verify URL and key are correct
- Check Supabase project is active
- Review browser console for specific errors

Monitoring & Analytics

Vercel provides built-in analytics:

- Visit your project dashboard
- Click "Analytics" tab
- View page views, performance metrics, and errors

Updating Your Deployment

To update the live application:

```
# Make your changes
git add .
git commit -m "Your update message"
git push origin main
```

Vercel will automatically detect the push and redeploy.

Support Resources

- **Vercel Documentation:** <https://vercel.com/docs>
- **Vite Documentation:** <https://vitejs.dev/>
- **Supabase Documentation:** <https://supabase.com/docs>

Quick Checklist

Before deploying, ensure:

- [] Code is pushed to GitHub (`BLKOUTUK/comms-blkout`)
- [] `vercel.json` is committed
- [] You have Supabase credentials ready

- [] Vercel account is set up
- [] GitHub organization access is configured

After deployment:

- [] Test all pages (Discover, Admin Dashboard)
 - [] Verify environment variables are working
 - [] Test responsive design on mobile
 - [] Configure custom domain (when ready)
 - [] Set up production environment variables
 - [] Enable authentication (set `VITE_AUTH_DISABLED=false`)
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Success!

Your BLKOUT UK Communications System should now be live on Vercel!

Next Steps:

1. Share the Vercel URL with your team for testing
2. Configure custom domain when ready
3. Enable Supabase authentication for production
4. Set up monitoring and alerts

Need Help?

- Check Vercel deployment logs
- Review browser console for frontend errors
- Verify Supabase configuration in dashboard