getServerSideProps

If you export a function called `getServerSideProps` (Server-Side Rendering) from a page, Next.js will pre-render this page on each request using the data returned by `getServerSideProps`.

```
export async function getServerSideProps(context) {
  return {
    props: {}, // will be passed to the page component as props
  }
}
```

When does getServerSideProps run

`getServerSideProps` only runs on server-side and never runs on the browser. If a page uses `getServerSideProps`, then:

- When you request this page directly, `getServerSideProps` runs at request time, and this page will be pre-rendered with the returned props
- When you request this page on client-side page transitions through `next/link` or `next/router`, Next.js sends an API request to the server, which runs `getServerSideProps`

`getServerSideProps` returns JSON which will be used to render the page. All this work will be handled automatically by Next.js, so you don't need to do anything extra as long as you have `getServerSideProps` defined.

You can use the next-code-elimination tool to verify what Next.js eliminates from the client-side bundle.

`getServerSideProps` can only be exported from a **page**. You can't export it from non-page files.

Note that you must export `getServerSideProps` as a standalone function — it will **not** work if you add `getServerSideProps` as a property of the page component.

The `getServerSideProps` API reference covers all parameters and props that can be used with `getServerSideProps`.

When should I use getServerSideProps

You should use `getServerSideProps` only if you need to pre-render a page whose data must be fetched at request time. Time to First Byte (TTFB) will be higher than `getStaticProps` because the server must compute the result on every request, and the result can only be cached by a CDN using `cache-control` headers (which could require extra configuration).

If you do not need to pre-render the data, then you should consider fetching data on the client side.

getServerSideProps or API Routes

It can be tempting to reach for an API Route when you want to fetch data from the server, then call that API route from `getServerSideProps`. This is an unnecessary and inefficient approach, as it will cause an extra request to be made due to both `getServerSideProps` and API Routes running on the server.

Take the following example. An API route is used to fetch some data from a CMS. That API route is then called directly from `getServerSideProps`. This produces an additional call, reducing performance. Instead, directly import the logic used inside your API Route into `getServerSideProps`. This could mean calling a CMS, database, or other API directly from inside `getServerSideProps`.

Fetching data on the client side

If your page contains frequently updating data, and you don't need to pre-render the data, you can fetch the data on the client side. An example of this is user-specific data:

- First, immediately show the page without data. Parts of the page can be pre-rendered using Static Generation. You can show loading states for missing data
- Then, fetch the data on the client side and display it when ready

This approach works well for user dashboard pages, for example. Because a dashboard is a private, user-specific page, SEO is not relevant and the page doesn't need to be pre-rendered. The data is frequently updated, which requires request-time data fetching.

Using getServerSideProps to fetch data at request time

The following example shows how to fetch data at request time and pre-render the result.

```
function Page({ data }) {
  // Render data...
}

// This gets called on every request
export async function getServerSideProps() {
  // Fetch data from external API
  const res = await fetch(`https://.../data`)
  const data = await res.json()

  // Pass data to the page via props
  return { props: { data } }
}
```

```
export default Page
```

Does getServerSideProps render an error page

If an error is thrown inside `getServerSideProps`, it will show the `pages/500.js` file. Check out the documentation for 500 page to learn more on how to create it. During development this file will not be used and the dev overlay will be shown instead.

Related

For more information on what to do next, we recommend the following sections:

getServerSideProps API Reference Read the API Reference for getServerSide-Props