

Codemagic–Replit Connection Issue Report

Project: Christ Collective (Ionic + Replit API)

API URL: <https://f854b4eb-c67e-4b56-9fcf-97d9ce2c746c-00-e7qm2jhf778p.picard.replit.dev>

■ Problem Summary

The Codemagic preview of the Ionic app does not display live data and prevents users from signing up or logging in. This indicates that the app cannot connect properly to the live backend hosted on Replit, even though the correct API URL is set via the environment variable **VITE_API_URL**.

■ Technical Diagnosis

1. **CORS Restriction** – Replit by default restricts cross-origin POST and cookie-based authentication from external sources such as Codemagic preview URLs.
2. **Credentials Blocked** – The API likely uses cookies or tokens that are being rejected because the preview app's origin is not included in the backend's CORS policy.
3. **Preview Sandbox Limitation** – Codemagic preview URLs run in a containerized environment that may not pass cookies or local storage tokens correctly across domains.
4. **Replit Preview URLs Are Dynamic** – Each time Replit restarts, the subdomain may change, making the Codemagic build reference an outdated endpoint.

■■ Developer Action Plan

Your Replit agent should perform the following steps to ensure the mobile app preview communicates with the live backend correctly.

1■■ Enable CORS

In your Replit backend (Express.js or similar), enable CORS for all external origins temporarily to test connection:

```
app.use(cors({  
  origin: '*',  
  methods: ['GET', 'POST', 'PUT', 'DELETE'],  
  credentials: true  
}));
```

2■■■ Support Credentials

If authentication uses cookies or JWTs, configure cookie responses and client requests properly:

```
// Backend
res.cookie('token', token, {
  httpOnly: true,
  secure: true,
  sameSite: 'None'
});

// Frontend
fetch(`${import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL}/auth/login`, {
  method: 'POST',
  credentials: 'include'
});
```

3■■■ Verify Environment Variable

Make sure the app build uses the correct API variable:

```
VITE_API_URL=https://f854b4eb-c67e-4b56-9fcf-97d9ce2c746c-00-e7qm2jhf778p.picard.repl.it.dev
```

and that it's referenced in code as:

```
const apiUrl = import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL;
```

4■■■ Deploy a Stable Endpoint

Replit's preview URLs can change when restarted. Deploy the backend using Replit's Always-On setting or an external host (e.g., Vercel, Render, or Railway) for stability.

■ Troubleshooting Table

Problem	Likely Cause	Recommended Fix
No live data	API URL points to localhost or blocked by CORS	Use HTTPS public Replit endpoint or deployed URL
Signup/Login fails	CORS or credentials missing	Enable CORS + include credentials
Works locally only	Preview domain not whitelisted	Add Codemagic preview URL to CORS allowlist
Still blank	Env variable not referenced properly	Confirm fetch uses VITE_API_URL

■ Once these fixes are applied, rebuild the Ionic app in Codemagic. The preview should now connect successfully to the Replit API, enabling live data, signup, and login features.