

NEXTAUTH_URL Environment Variable Update Guide

Overview

This guide provides detailed, step-by-step instructions for updating the `NEXTAUTH_URL` environment variable from the old `.abacusai.app` domain to your new custom domain `app.genesisprovenance.com`.

What is NEXTAUTH_URL?

This environment variable tells NextAuth.js (the authentication library) where your app is hosted. It's critical for:

- Login/logout redirects
- OAuth callback URLs
- Session cookie domain
- Authentication security

Why update it?

Your app is now deployed at `https://app.genesisprovenance.com`, so NextAuth needs to know about the new domain to work correctly.

Quick Summary

What to change:

```
# OLD (current)
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://genesisprovenance.abacusai.app

# NEW (required)
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com
```

Where: `/home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space/.env`

Time required: 5-10 minutes

Step-by-Step Instructions

Method 1: Using nano (Text Editor) - RECOMMENDED

This is the easiest method for beginners.

Step 1: Navigate to the project directory

```
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space
```

Expected output:

```
# Your terminal prompt changes to show the directory
# Example: ubuntu@server:~/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space$
```

Step 2: Open the .env file in nano

```
nano .env
```

What you'll see:

- A text editor opens showing your environment variables
- You'll see multiple lines like `DATABASE_URL=...`, `STRIPE_SECRET_KEY=...`, etc.

Step 3: Find the NEXTAUTH_URL line**1. Look for this line:**

```
bash
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://genesisprovenance.abacusai.app
```

2. Navigate to it:

- Use **Arrow Keys** (↑↓) to move up/down
- You can also use **Ctrl+W** to search:
 - Press `Ctrl+W`
 - Type: `NEXTAUTH_URL`
 - Press `Enter`
 - nano will jump to that line

Step 4: Edit the value**1. Position your cursor:**

- Move to the line with `NEXTAUTH_URL`
- Use **Right Arrow** (→) to move to the part you need to change

2. Delete the old domain:

- Position cursor after `https://`
- Press `Ctrl+K` to delete everything after cursor on that line

3. Type the new domain:

```
bash
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com
```

Final result should look like:

```
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com
```

Step 5: Save and exit nano

1. Save the file:

- Press `Ctrl+O` (Write Out)
- nano will ask: "File Name to Write: .env"
- Press `Enter` to confirm
- You'll see: "[Wrote XX lines]" at the bottom

2. Exit nano:

- Press `Ctrl+X`
- You'll return to your terminal prompt

Success! The file is now saved with your changes.

Method 2: Using sed (Command Line) - ADVANCED

For users comfortable with command-line tools.

```
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space
sed -i 's|NEXTAUTH_URL=https://genesisprovenance.abacusai.app|NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com|g' .env
```

Explanation:

- `sed -i` : Edit file in-place
- `'s|OLD|NEW|g'` : Search and replace (globally)
- `.env` : Target file

Verify the change:

```
cat .env | grep NEXTAUTH_URL
```

Expected output:

```
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com
```

Method 3: Manual Edit with vim - EXPERT

For vim users:

```
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space
vim .env
```

1. Press `/` to search
2. Type `NEXTAUTH_URL` and press `Enter`
3. Press `i` to enter insert mode
4. Edit the line to: `NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com`
5. Press `Esc` to exit insert mode
6. Type `:wq` and press `Enter` to save and quit

✅ Step 6: Verify Your Changes

Check the file contents

```
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space
cat .env | grep NEXTAUTH_URL
```

Expected output:

```
NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com
```

✅ If you see this, you're done!

❌ If you see the old domain or an error:

- Go back to Step 2 and try again
- Make sure you saved the file (Ctrl+O in nano)
- Check for typos in the new URL

🔄 Step 7: Rebuild and Deploy (If Local Development)

⚠️ **IMPORTANT:** Changes to `.env` require a rebuild for the app to use the new value.

For Local Development:

```
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space
yarn build
```

Wait for build to complete (about 2-5 minutes)

Expected output:

```
✓ Compiled successfully
✓ Generating static pages (24/24)
```

For Production Deployment:

If your app is deployed on Abacus.AI platform:

1. **The platform will automatically use the updated `.env` file**
2. **No manual rebuild needed** - the deployment system reads `.env` on each deployment
3. **Next deployment will use the new value**

To trigger a deployment:

```
# This will be done via the deployment tools you're already using
# The .env file is already updated and will be used automatically
```

Step 8: Test Authentication

Test 1: Login

1. **Open your browser**
2. **Navigate to:** `https://app.genesisprovenance.com/auth/login`
3. **Enter credentials:**
 - Email: `john@doe.com`
 - Password: `password123`
4. **Click “Sign In”**

Expected result:

- ☒ Login succeeds
- ☒ Redirected to `/dashboard`
- ☒ URL bar shows: `https://app.genesisprovenance.com/dashboard`
- ☒ No errors in browser console

If login fails:

- Check browser console for errors (F12 → Console tab)
- Verify you updated `NEXTAUTH_URL` correctly
- Try clearing cookies and trying again

Test 2: Logout

1. **While logged in, click your profile menu** (top-right)
2. **Click “Sign Out”**

Expected result:

- ☒ Successfully logged out
- ☒ Redirected to `/auth/login`
- ☒ URL bar shows: `https://app.genesisprovenance.com/auth/login`

Test 3: Session Persistence

1. **Log in again**
2. **Close the browser tab**
3. **Open a new tab**
4. **Navigate to:** `https://app.genesisprovenance.com/dashboard`

Expected result:

- ☒ You remain logged in
- ☒ Dashboard loads without requiring login

Test 4: Protected Routes

1. **While logged OUT, try to access:**
`https://app.genesisprovenance.com/dashboard`

```
https://app.genesisprovenance.com/vault  
https://app.genesisprovenance.com/settings
```

Expected result:

- ☒ Automatically redirected to `/auth/login`
- ☒ After login, redirected back to the original page you tried to access

Troubleshooting

Issue 1: “File .env not found”

Cause: You’re in the wrong directory

Solution:

```
# Navigate to the correct directory  
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space  
  
# Verify you're in the right place  
ls -la .env
```

Expected output:

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 ubuntu ubuntu 1234 Dec  2 12:00 .env
```

Issue 2: Login redirects to old domain

Cause: Browser cached old authentication cookies

Solution:

1. **Clear browser cookies:**

- Press `F12` to open DevTools
- Go to “Application” tab (Chrome) or “Storage” tab (Firefox)
- Click “Cookies”
- Delete all cookies for `app.genesisprovenance.com` and `genesisprovenance.abacusai.app`

2. **Close and reopen browser**

3. **Try logging in again**

Issue 3: “Invalid session” or “Authentication failed”

Cause: NextAuth is still using old `NEXTAUTH_URL` value

Solution:

1. **Verify `.env` file was updated:**

```
bash
```

```
cat /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space/.env | grep NEXTAUTH_URL
```

Should show: NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com

1. Rebuild the application:

```
bash
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space
yarn build
```

2. Restart the application (if running locally):

```
bash
# Stop current process (Ctrl+C)
yarn start
```

Issue 4: Changes not taking effect

Cause: Old build cache or environment not reloaded

Solution:

```
cd /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space

# Clear Next.js cache
rm -rf .next

# Rebuild
yarn build

# Restart (if local)
yarn start
```

Issue 5: “nano: command not found”

Cause: nano text editor not installed

Solution: Use an alternative method:

Option A: Install nano

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install nano -y
```

Option B: Use vi instead

```
vi /home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space/.env
# Press 'i' to insert
# Edit the line
# Press Esc, then ':wq' to save
```

Option C: Use echo

```
# Backup first
cp .env .env.backup

# Use sed to replace
sed -i 's|NEXTAUTH_URL=https://genesisprovenance.abacusai.app|NEXTAUTH_URL=https://app.genesisprovenance.com|g' .env
```

Before vs After Comparison

Before Update

```
# Login URL
https://genesisprovenance.abacusai.app/api/auth/signin

# Callback URL
https://genesisprovenance.abacusai.app/api/auth/callback

# Cookie Domain
.abacusai.app
```

After Update

```
# Login URL
https://app.genesisprovenance.com/api/auth/signin

# Callback URL
https://app.genesisprovenance.com/api/auth/callback

# Cookie Domain
.genesisprovenance.com
```

Success Criteria Checklist

Confirm all items before considering the update complete:

File Update:

- [] `.env` file opened successfully
- [] `NEXTAUTH_URL` line found
- [] Value changed to `https://app.genesisprovenance.com`
- [] File saved successfully
- [] Changes verified with `cat .env | grep NEXTAUTH_URL`

Application:

- [] Application rebuilt (if local development)
- [] No build errors
- [] Application restarted/redeployed

Authentication Tests:

- [] Login works at `https://app.genesisprovenance.com/auth/login`

- [] Logout works correctly
 - [] Session persists across browser tabs
 - [] Protected routes redirect to login
 - [] After login, redirects back to intended page
 - [] No authentication errors in console
-



Security Notes

What NEXTAUTH_URL Controls

1. Redirect URIs:

- Where users are sent after login/logout
- Must match your actual domain for security

2. Callback URLs:

- Where OAuth providers send users after authorization
- Critical for Google SSO, OAuth integrations

3. Cookie Domain:

- Which domain can read authentication cookies
- Prevents session hijacking across domains

4. CSRF Protection:

- Used to generate and validate CSRF tokens
- Protects against cross-site request forgery

Why Incorrect NEXTAUTH_URL is a Security Risk

✗ If left pointing to old domain:

- Users might be redirected to old domain after login
- Session cookies might not work properly
- OAuth providers might reject callbacks
- CSRF validation might fail

✓ After updating to correct domain:

- All redirects go to correct domain
 - Session management works properly
 - OAuth integrations work correctly
 - CSRF protection functions as expected
-



Additional Resources

NextAuth.js Documentation

- Environment Variables: <https://next-auth.js.org/configuration/options#environment-variables>
- Deployment: <https://next-auth.js.org/deployment>

Related Genesis Provenance Docs

- `CUSTOM_DOMAIN_MIGRATION_COMPLETE.md` - Complete migration guide
- `DOMAIN_UPDATE_CHECKLIST.txt` - Quick checklist for all domain updates

- `CHECKOUT_TROUBLESHOOTING.md` - Stripe integration with new domain

Still Having Issues?

Check Server Logs

```
# View application logs
tail -f /var/log/nextjs/application.log

# Search for authentication errors
grep -i "auth" /var/log/nextjs/application.log | tail -20
```

Verify Environment Variables at Runtime







Add temporary logging to check if env var is loaded:

1. Open `/home/ubuntu/genesis_provenance/nextjs_space/lib/auth-options.ts`
2. Add at the top:

```
typescript
console.log('[Auth] NEXTAUTH_URL:', process.env.NEXTAUTH_URL)
```
3. Rebuild and check logs
4. You should see: `[Auth] NEXTAUTH_URL: https://app.genesisprovenance.com`

Summary

What you did:

1.  Opened `.env` file in nano
2.  Changed `NEXTAUTH_URL` from old domain to `https://app.genesisprovenance.com`
3.  Saved the file
4.  Verified the change
5.  Rebuilt/redeployed application (if needed)
6.  Tested authentication

Result:

- Your app now uses the correct custom domain for authentication
- All login/logout flows work properly
- Sessions are correctly scoped to your domain
- OAuth integrations will use correct callback URLs

Next Steps:

1. Test all authentication flows thoroughly
 2. Update Stripe webhook URLs (see `STRIPE_WEBHOOK_EVENTS_GUIDE.md`)
 3. Update any OAuth provider redirect URIs (Google SSO, etc.)
 4. Notify users of domain change
 5. Update marketing materials and documentation
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Last Updated: December 2, 2025

App Version: Phase 7A

Auth Library: NextAuth.js v4

Current Domain: app.genesisprovenance.com