



# Deployment Guide - Stock Check Tool

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Complete manual deployment guide for updating your PWA.

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## Quick Deployment Checklist

- ☐ Make your code changes
  - ☐ Increment service worker version
  - ☐ Git commit and push
  - ☐ Deploy to Vercel
  - ☐ Verify deployment (optional alias update)
- 



## Step-by-Step Deployment

### Step 1: Make Your Code Changes

Edit whatever files you need (components, styles, features, etc.)

### Step 2: Update Service Worker Version ⚠ IMPORTANT

Open `client/public/sw.js` and increment the version number:

```
// Find this line:
const CACHE_VERSION = '5.2' // UPDATE THIS ON EACH DEPLOYMENT!

// Change to (increment the number):
const CACHE_VERSION = '5.3' // UPDATE THIS ON EACH DEPLOYMENT!
```

**Why?** This forces users to download the new version instead of using old cached files.

### Step 3: Git Commit & Push

```
# Stage all changed files
git add .

# Create commit with descriptive message
git commit -m "Describe what you changed here"

# Push to GitHub
git push
```

### Step 4: Deploy to Vercel

```
# Navigate to client folder (if not already there)
cd client

# Deploy to production with API URL
vercel --prod --yes --build-env VITE_API_URL=https://stockcheck-
api.onrender.com/api
```

**Wait for deployment to complete** (~20-30 seconds)

You'll see output like:

```
Production: https://client-xxxxx-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app
```

## Step 5: Update Vercel Alias (Usually Automatic)

Vercel usually auto-updates the alias, but if you want to manually update:

```
# Copy the deployment URL from Step 4 output
# Then run:
vercel alias set client-xxxxx-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app client-scydom-
chins-projects.vercel.app
```

**Most of the time you can skip this step** - Vercel handles it automatically!

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## Complete Example

Let's say you changed a button color to blue:

```
# 1. Already made changes to Button.jsx

# 2. Open client/public/sw.js and change:
#   const CACHE_VERSION = '5.2'
#   to
#   const CACHE_VERSION = '5.3'

# 3. Commit and push
git add .
git commit -m "Change submit button color to blue"
git push

# 4. Deploy to Vercel
cd client
vercel --prod --yes --build-env VITE_API_URL=https://stockcheck-
api.onrender.com/api
```

```
# 5. (Optional) Manually update alias if needed
vercel alias set client-NEW-URL.vercel.app client-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app
```

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## Understanding Vercel Aliases

What is an Alias?

Every deployment creates a unique URL:

- `client-abc123-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app` (1st deploy)
- `client-def456-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app` (2nd deploy)
- `client-ghi789-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app` (3rd deploy)

An **alias** is a permanent URL that never changes:

- `client-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app` ← **Your stable URL**

Why Use Aliases?

### Benefits:

- ☒ Same URL forever - never changes
- ☒ Render's `CLIENT_URL` stays the same
- ☒ Users don't need new URL every time
- ☒ Alias automatically points to latest deployment

### Without Aliases:

- ☒ New URL every deployment
- ☒ Must update Render's CORS settings every time
- ☒ Users confused by changing URLs

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## What Users Will See

After you deploy:

1. Within **30 seconds**, users will see a **yellow update notification**
2. They click the notification (or refresh page)
3. New version loads with your changes
4. Done! ✨

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## Important Notes

Always Remember:

1. **Increment service worker version** before deploying
2. **Push to GitHub first** before deploying to Vercel
3. **Include API URL** in Vercel deploy command

#### 4. **Test the deployment** after it completes

#### Version Numbering:

- Small fixes: 5.2 → 5.3 (increment decimal)
- Big features: 5.9 → 6.0 (increment major)
- Just be consistent!

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## When to Deploy Backend (Render)

### You only need to update Render if:

- ✗ You changed files in `server/` folder
- ✗ You modified API routes
- ✗ You changed database logic

### You DON'T need to update Render if:

- ☒ You only changed frontend (client) code
- ☒ You updated UI/styles/components
- ☒ You modified client-side logic only

### Most deployments only need Vercel update!

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## Troubleshooting

### Users Not Seeing Update Notification?

- Check service worker version was incremented
- Wait 30 seconds (update checker runs every 30s)
- Ask users to hard refresh: `Ctrl+Shift+R` (Windows) or `Cmd+Shift+R` (Mac)

### Deployment Failed?

- Check if you're in the `client` folder
- Verify `vercel.json` exists in client folder
- Check internet connection
- Try running `vercel login` first

### Alias Not Working?

- Run `vercel alias ls` to see current aliases
- Manually set alias using command in Step 5
- Contact Vercel support if issue persists

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## Quick Commands Reference

```
# Deploy to Vercel
cd client
vercel --prod --yes --build-env VITE_API_URL=https://stockcheck-
api.onrender.com/api

# List deployments
vercel ls

# List aliases
vercel alias ls

# Set alias manually
vercel alias set SOURCE_URL TARGET_ALIAS

# Check deployment logs
vercel inspect DEPLOYMENT_URL --logs

# Git commands
git add .
git commit -m "Your message"
git push
```

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## Learning Resources

- [Vercel Documentation](#)
- [Service Worker Guide](#)
- [Git Basics](#)

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**Last Updated:** December 2025 **Current Version:** 5.2 **Production URL:** <https://client-scydom-chins-projects.vercel.app>