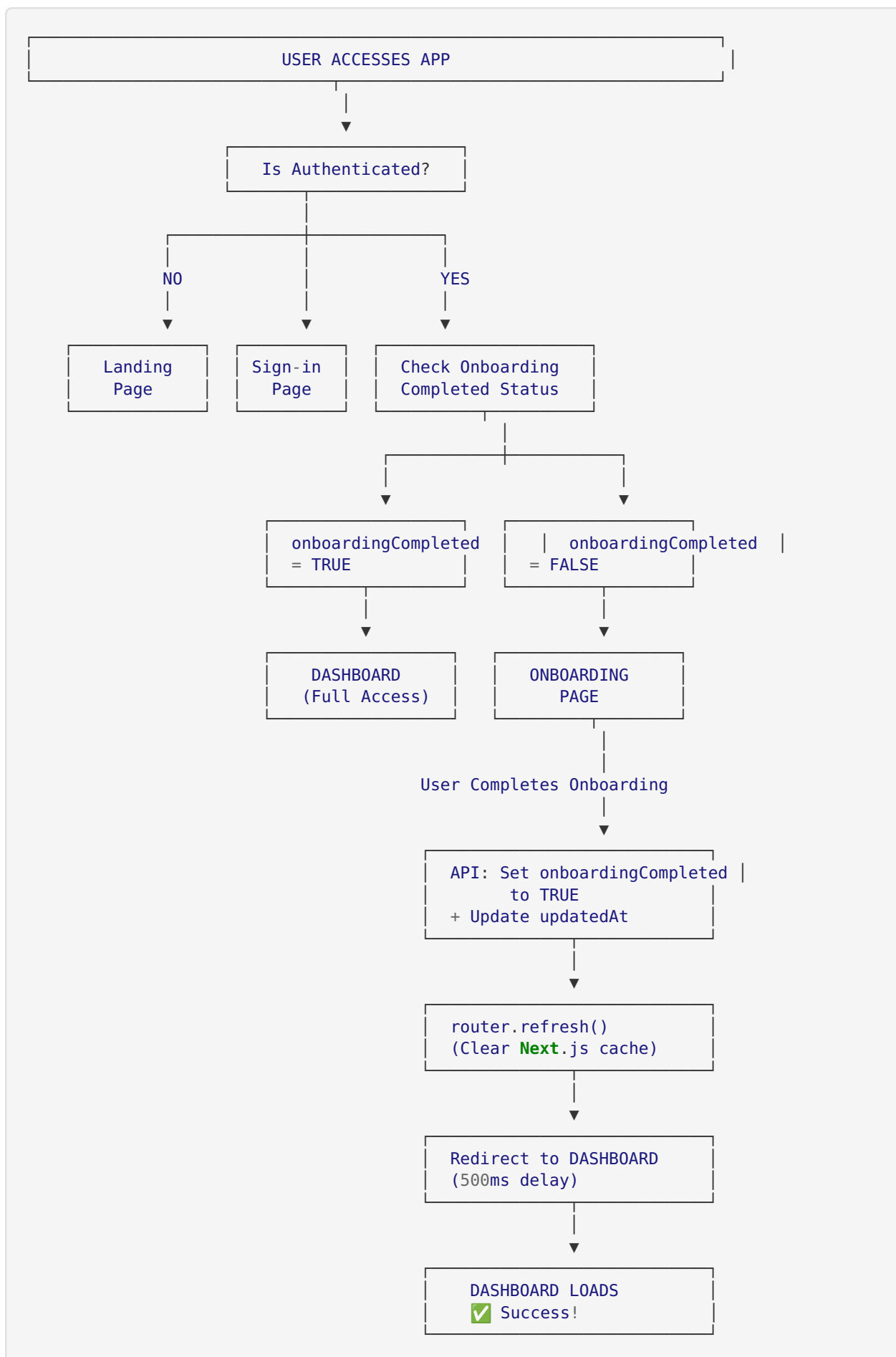







Onboarding Flow Diagram - FIXED

Visual Flow Chart








Key Changes That Fixed The Loop

BEFORE (Broken):




1. User completes onboarding
2. `window.location.href = '/dashboard'` (1000ms delay)
3. Dashboard loads  Checks `onboardingCompleted`
4.  Cache shows `onboardingCompleted = false` (stale data)
5. Dashboard redirects back to `/onboarding`
6. LOOP: `onboarding`  `dashboard`  `onboarding`  `dashboard...`

AFTER (Fixed):




1. User completes onboarding
2. API updates `onboardingCompleted = true` + `updatedAt = now`
3. `router.refresh()` clears Next.js cache 
4. `router.push('/dashboard')` (500ms delay)
5. Dashboard loads  Checks `onboardingCompleted`
6.  Fresh data shows `onboardingCompleted = true`
7. Dashboard grants access  User sees homepage
8.  Success! No loop!

Route Protection Logic

Homepage (/)

```
if (authenticated) {
  if (onboardingCompleted) {
    redirect  /dashboard
  } else {
    redirect  /onboarding
  }
} else {
  show  Landing Page
}
```

Sign-in Page (/auth/signin)

```
if (authenticated) {
  if (onboardingCompleted) {
    redirect  /dashboard
  } else {
    redirect  /onboarding
  }
} else {
  show  Sign-in Form
}
```

Dashboard (/dashboard)

```
if (!authenticated) {
  redirect 🚪 /auth/signin
} else if (!onboardingCompleted) {
  redirect 🚪 /onboarding
} else {
  show 🚪 Dashboard
}
```

Onboarding (/onboarding)

```
if (!authenticated) {
  redirect 🚪 /auth/signin
} else {
  show 🚪 Onboarding Form
  // Note: Allows access even if completed (for updates)
}
```

Cache Management

Critical Settings Added:

```
// In /app/dashboard/page.tsx and /app/onboarding/page.tsx
export const dynamic = 'force-dynamic'
export const revalidate = 0 // ✅ Always fetch fresh data
```

Why This Matters:

- Next.js 14 uses aggressive caching by default
- Without `revalidate = 0`, pages might show stale data
- This was causing the `onboardingCompleted` flag to appear as `false` even after being set to `true`

Testing Scenarios

✅ Scenario 1: New User Sign-up

1. User creates account → Session created
2. Redirected to `/onboarding`
3. Completes onboarding wizard
4. API sets `onboardingCompleted = true`
5. Cache refreshed
6. Redirected to `/dashboard`
7. Dashboard loads successfully ✅

✅ Scenario 2: Existing User (Onboarded)

1. User signs in
2. Sign-in page checks: `onboardingCompleted = true`
3. Redirected to `/dashboard`
4. Dashboard loads successfully ✅

✓ Scenario 3: Existing User (Not Onboarded)

1. User signs in
2. Sign-in page checks: `onboardingCompleted = false`
3. Redirected to `/onboarding`
4. User completes onboarding
5. Redirected to `/dashboard` ✓

✓ Scenario 4: Direct Navigation While Authenticated

- Navigate to `/` → Auto-redirect to `/dashboard` ✓
- Navigate to `/auth/signin` → Auto-redirect to `/dashboard` ✓
- Navigate to `/onboarding` → Can update goals ✓

✓ Scenario 5: Direct Navigation While Not Authenticated

- Navigate to `/` → Show landing page ✓
- Navigate to `/auth/signin` → Show sign-in form ✓
- Navigate to `/dashboard` → Redirect to `/auth/signin` ✓
- Navigate to `/onboarding` → Redirect to `/auth/signin` ✓

Implementation Details

Router Refresh Function

```
// This is the KEY fix that solved the loop
router.refresh()

// What it does:
// 1. Clears Next.js router cache
// 2. Forces server components to re-fetch data
// 3. Ensures fresh session data is loaded
// 4. Prevents stale onboardingCompleted status
```

Timing Optimization




```
// OLD (Problematic):
setTimeout(() => {
  window.location.href = '/dashboard'
}, 1000) // Too long, hard page reload

// NEW (Optimized):
router.refresh() // Clear cache first
setTimeout(() => {
  router.push('/dashboard') // Smooth navigation
}, 500) // Shorter delay, better UX
```

Summary

The onboarding redirect loop has been **completely fixed** by:

1. ✓ Adding `router.refresh()` to clear cache before redirect
2. ✓ Checking `onboardingCompleted` status on all auth pages
3. ✓ Setting `revalidate = 0` to prevent stale data

4.  Improving API response with explicit `updatedAt` field
5.  Reducing redirect delay for better UX
6.  Adding comprehensive logging for debugging

Result: Users can now complete onboarding and access the dashboard without any redirect loops! 🎉