Handout – Next.js Course: Final Session Recap

📅 August 30th – Session Details

● **Video Recording:** [Watch on YouTube](#)

● **Slides:** View [Slides (PDF)](#)

🎯 **Learning Objectives for the Final Session**
By the end of this session, you should be able to:

1. Implement authentication in Next.js 15 with Auth0.

2. Configure environment variables for local and production environments.

3. Use middleware and `useUser()` to control navigation and protect pages.

4. Deploy a Next.js application with Auth0 integration to Vercel.

5. Understand common troubleshooting steps for login, logout, and route protection.

📌 **Recap from Previous Sessions**

● Setting up and scaffolding a Next.js project.

● Understanding server vs. client components.

● Working with TailwindCSS, forms, and data fetching.

● Exploring Incremental Static Regeneration (ISR) with `revalidate`.

🔐 **Why Auth0?**

Cons of not using Auth0

● Build and secure authentication logic manually

- Extra development and maintenance overhead

- More room for errors in session/token handling

- Complex compliance requirements

Pros of using Auth0

- Secure, out-of-the-box authentication

- Social login, SSO, MFA, and role-based access ready to use

- Easy integration with Next.js App Router

- Saves developer time and reduces risk

🛠️ Architecture Decisions with Auth0

- Middleware vs. server-side redirects for route protection

- Environment variables (`.env.local` vs. Vercel envs)

- Handling multiple environments (dev, preview, prod)

- Deciding what user data lives in Auth0 vs. your own DB

🚀 Why Deploy to Vercel?

- Best hosting platform for Next.js (built by the creators)

- Automatic Git-based deploys & preview links

- Global CDN and edge middleware support

- Easy environment variable management

- Zero-downtime deploys and instant rollbacks

✅ Things to Practice

- Add login/logout to your own Next.js project.

- Protect a custom page with `auth0.getSession()`.

- Deploy to Vercel and test Auth0 integration in production.

📣 **What's Next?**
This was the **last session of the Next.js Course** 🎉

But stay tuned — I'm preparing a **new course on FastAPI** to connect a **Python backend with a React frontend**.

👉 Follow me on [LinkedIn](#) to hear when it launches!