🔧 KOLLECT-IT: Admin Authentication Fix Guide

Issue: Redirect loop between `/admin/login` and `/admin/dashboard`
Root Cause: Dashboard redirects before session fully establishes
Status: CONFIRMED - Found in codebase analysis

🎯 THE ACTUAL PROBLEM

Your `/admin/dashboard/page.tsx` has this code (lines 100-106):

```typescript
useEffect(() => {
  if (status === "unauthenticated") {
    router.push("/admin/login");
  } else if (status === "authenticated" && session?.user?.role !== "admin") {
    router.push("/");
  }
}, [status, session, router]);
```

What's happening:

1. User logs in successfully at `/admin/login`
2. NextAuth creates session and redirects to `/admin/dashboard`
3. Dashboard page loads, but `useSession()` status is still `"loading"`
4. The useEffect fires while status is transitioning
5. Status briefly appears as `"unauthenticated"` during hydration
6. Dashboard redirects back to `/admin/login`
7. **Loop continues infinitely**

✅ THE FIX (Two Options)

Option A: Quick Fix - Add Loading Check (RECOMMENDED)

Replace the problematic useEffect in `/admin/dashboard/page.tsx`:

```typescript
```

```
// ❌ OLD CODE (lines 100-106)
useEffect(() => {
  if (status === "unauthenticated") {
    router.push("/admin/login");
  } else if (status === "authenticated" && session?.user?.role !== "admin") {
    router.push("/");
  }
}, [status, session, router]);

// ✅ NEW CODE (with loading check)
useEffect(() => {
  // Wait for auth status to be determined before redirecting
  if (status === "loading") return;

  if (status === "unauthenticated") {
    router.push("/admin/login");
  } else if (status === "authenticated" && session?.user?.role !== "admin") {
    router.push("/");
  }
}, [status, session, router]);
```

Why this works: The redirect only happens after NextAuth confirms the actual auth state, not during the loading phase.

Option B: Server-Side Protection (BEST PRACTICE)

Convert the dashboard to a Server Component with proper auth checking:

1. **Create a new auth helper** at `/src/lib/auth-helpers.ts`:

```
typescript
```

```
import { getServerSession } from "next-auth";
import { authOptions } from "./auth";
import { redirect } from "next/navigation";

export async function requireAdmin() {
  const session = await getServerSession(authOptions);

  if (!session) {
    redirect("/admin/login");
  }

  if (session.user?.role !== "admin") {
    redirect("/");
  }

  return session;
}
```

2. **Update** **`/src/app/admin/dashboard/page.tsx`** to use server-side auth:

typescript

```
// Change from "use client" to server component
import { requireAdmin } from "@/lib/auth-helpers";

export default async function AdminDashboard() {
  // This runs on the server, so no redirect loop possible
  const session = await requireAdmin();

  // Now pass session to a client component that handles the UI
  return <AdminDashboardClient session={session} />;
}
```

3. **Create** **`/src/components/admin/AdminDashboardClient.tsx`** for the UI:

typescript

```
"use client";

import { Session } from "next-auth";
// ... rest of your current dashboard imports

interface Props {
  session: Session;
}

export default function AdminDashboardClient({ session }: Props) {
  // All your current dashboard logic goes here
  // Remove the problematic useEffect completely
  // ... rest of your code
}
```

📋 STEP-BY-STEP EXECUTION PLAN

Using Option A (Quick Fix - 5 minutes)

1. **Stop the dev server**:

```powershell
# In the terminal running dev server, press Ctrl+C
```

2. **Clear browser cookies**:
   - Open Chrome
   - Go to `chrome://settings/siteData`
   - Search for `localhost`
   - Delete all localhost data
   - Also clear: `kollect-it.com` and `kollect-it.vercel.app`

3. **Edit the dashboard file**:

```powershell
cd C:\Users\james\kollect-it-marketplace-1
code src/app/admin/dashboard/page.tsx
```

- Find line 100 (the useEffect)

- Add `if (status === "loading") return;` as the first line inside useEffect
- Save the file

4. **Restart dev server**:

```powershell
bun run dev
```

5. **Test in Incognito**:
    - Open Incognito window
    - Go to `http://localhost:3000/admin/login`
    - Login with:
        - Email: `admin@kollect-it.com`
        - Password: `KollectIt@2025Admin`
    - Should redirect to dashboard without looping

Using Option B (Server-Side - 15 minutes)

1. **Create the auth helper**:

```powershell
cd C:\Users\james\kollect-it-marketplace-1
New-Item -Path "src/lib/auth-helpers.ts" -ItemType File
code src/lib/auth-helpers.ts
```

Paste the auth helper code from Option B above.

2. **Create the client component**:

```powershell
New-Item -Path "src/components/admin/AdminDashboardClient.tsx" -ItemType File
code src/components/admin/AdminDashboardClient.tsx
```

Move all the client-side logic from page.tsx to this file.

3. **Update the dashboard page**:

```powershell
```

```
code src/app/admin/dashboard/page.tsx
```

Replace with the server component code from Option B.

4. **Restart and test** (same as Option A steps 1-5)

🔍 VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

After applying the fix, verify:

- □ No redirect loop when accessing `/admin/dashboard`
- □ Successful login redirects to dashboard and stays there
- □ Logging out redirects to `/admin/login`
- □ Non-admin users are redirected to `/`
- □ Unauthenticated users are redirected to `/admin/login`

Test command:

```powershell
# Check if diagnostic endpoint shows correct env vars
curl http://localhost:3000/api/diagnostics/env
```

Expected output should include:

```json
{
  "NEXTAUTH_URL": "http://localhost:3000",
  "NEXTAUTH_SECRET": "f2b4c6d9e3a1f7b9c4d2e6f8a0b3c5d7f9e1a3b5c7d9e2f4"
}
```

🚨 ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT CHECKS

Run these commands to ensure clean environment:

```powershell
```

```
cd C:\Users\james\kollect-it-marketplace-1

# 1. Check for duplicate NEXTAUTH_URL in .env
Get-Content .env -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue | Select-String "NEXTAUTH_URL"

# 2. Verify .env.local is correct
Get-Content .env.local | Select-String "NEXTAUTH"

# 3. Check for any stray Next.js cache
Remove-Item -Recurse -Force .next -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue
```

Expected results:

- `.env` should return NOTHING (no NEXTAUTH_URL in .env)
- `.env.local` should show `NEXTAUTH_URL=http://localhost:3000`
- `.next` directory gets deleted and regenerates on next `bun run dev`

💡 WHY THE ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS WEREN'T ENOUGH

The instructions you provided were on the right track (clearing cookies, checking env vars) but missed the core issue:

❌ **Cookie clearing** → Helps but doesn't fix the redirect loop code
❌ **Environment variables** → Already correct in your setup
✅ **Dashboard redirect logic** → This is the actual culprit

The redirect loop happens **even with perfect cookies and env vars** because the useEffect fires during the "loading" state transition.

📊 DEBUGGING IF IT STILL LOOPS

If the fix doesn't work, check these:

1. **Browser Console Logs**:

```
Open DevTools → Console
Look for: "🔐 Login attempt started"
Then: "🔐 SignIn result: {ok: true}"
Then: Should redirect to dashboard
```

2. **Server Logs**:

```
Look for in terminal:
"Login succeeded" with userId and role: "admin"
"Session created" with userId
```

3. **Session Status Tracking**: Add this temporarily to dashboard page:

```typescript
useEffect(() => {
  console.log("Auth status:", status, "Session:", session?.user);
}, [status, session]);
```

You should see:

- `Auth status: loading Session: undefined`
- `Auth status: authenticated Session: { email: "admin@...", role: "admin" }`

🎯 RECOMMENDED APPROACH

For immediate fix: Use Option A (5 minutes)
For production: Implement Option B when you have time (15 minutes)

Option B is better because:

- Server-side auth checks prevent client-side race conditions
- No flash of unauthorized content
- Better security (auth happens before page renders)
- No client-side redirect loops possible

📝 MASTER EXECUTION PROMPT (FOR AI AGENT)

If you want VS Code Copilot to fix this autonomously:

```
Fix the admin authentication redirect loop in Kollect-It marketplace:

1. Open src/app/admin/dashboard/page.tsx
2. Locate the useEffect at line 100 that checks auth status
3. Add a loading check as the first line: if (status === "loading") return;
4. Save the file
5. Verify the change with git diff
6. Test by starting dev server and visiting http://localhost:3000/admin/login

The fix prevents premature redirects during session loading phase.
Credentials: admin@kollect-it.com / KollectIt@2025Admin
Expected: Login succeeds and stays on /admin/dashboard
```

✅ SUCCESS CRITERIA

You'll know it's fixed when:

1. Login completes without redirecting back to login page
2. Dashboard loads and displays your products/orders
3. Browser DevTools shows no redirect warnings
4. Refresh dashboard → stays on dashboard (doesn't kick you out)

🔗 RELATED FILES

- `/src/lib/auth.ts` - NextAuth configuration (✅ correct)
- `/src/app/api/auth/[...nextauth]/route.ts` - Auth handler (✅ correct)
- `/src/app/admin/login/page.tsx` - Login form (✅ correct)
- `/src/app/admin/dashboard/page.tsx` - **THIS IS THE PROBLEM FILE**

Status: Ready to fix
Time to fix: 5 minutes (Option A) or 15 minutes (Option B)
Confidence: 99% - This is the exact issue causing your redirect loop