

Debugging Guide: Next.js + Express Errors

PART 1: Fixing 'Invalid Host Header' in Next.js

This error happens when you're accessing your frontend via an external URL.

Fix it by doing the following:

1. Modify `next.config.js`:

```
module.exports = {
  devServer: { allowedHosts: 'all' }
}
```
2. Update `package.json`:

```
"scripts": {
  "dev": "next dev -H 0.0.0.0"
}
```
3. Optional next.config:

```
const nextConfig = {
  reactStrictMode: true,
  webpackDevMiddleware: (config) => {
    config.watchOptions = {
      poll: 1000,
      aggregateTimeout: 300,
    };
    return config;
  },
};
```

PART 2: Debugging `useGetExamsQuery` Errors

1. Check if `examApiSlice.js` is correct and exports the hook.
2. Confirm the import path in the component:

```
import { useGetExamsQuery } from '../slices/examApiSlice';
```
3. Verify store.js contains:

```
reducer: {
  auth: authSlice,
  [apiSlice.reducerPath]: apiSlice.reducer
}
```
4. Wrap <Provider> in _app.js or index.js with the store.
5. Clear build cache:

```
rm -rf node_modules .next .vite
npm install
```
6. Check backend endpoint via Postman or browser:

```
http://localhost:5000/api/exams
```
7. Match API base URL in `apiSlice.js`:

```
baseQuery: fetchBaseQuery({ baseUrl: 'http://localhost:5000/api' })
```

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Debugging Cheat Sheet

Issue	Ask Yourself
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Hook is undefined	Is it exported and imported properly?
Hook returns error	Is backend reachable? Correct baseURL?
Invalid Host Header	Is dev server accepting external host?
Page crashes	Check browser console logs.

Commands:

- Clear cache: `rm -rf node_modules .next .vite`
- Fix host header: `devServer.allowedHosts = 'all'`
- Enable external host: `"dev": "next dev -H 0.0.0.0"`