Problem: Uploaded Images Disappear on Render

Why Does This Happen?

When you upload an image and save it in the "public/uploads" folder on your local computer, it works fine. But when you deploy your app on Render (a cloud hosting service), the image disappears after some time. This is because:

- Render does NOT permanently save files in folders like "public/uploads".
- After a server restart or new deployment, Render deletes these files.

So even if your image shows up just after uploading, it will not be available later.

Solution: Use Cloud Storage (Like Cloudinary)

To solve this problem, use a service like Cloudinary. It stores images in the cloud and gives you a permanent link (URL). This link will never disappear.

How to Use Cloudinary with Node.js:

1. Create a free account at https://cloudinary.com/

2. Install the Cloudinary SDK in your backend:

npm install cloudinary multer

3. Configure Cloudinary in your Node.js backend:

```
const cloudinary = require('cloudinary').v2;
```

```
cloudinary.config({

cloud_name: "your_cloud_name",

api_key: "your_api_key",

api_secret: "your_api_secret"

});
```

4. Upload the image to Cloudinary from your backend route:

```
cloudinary.uploader.upload(req.file.path, function(error, result) {

if (error) {

console.error("Upload Error:", error);

} else {

console.log("Image URL:", result.secure_url);

// Save result.secure_url in your MongoDB

}

});
```

5. Use the saved URL to display the image on your frontend.

Benefits of Using Cloudinary:

- Images are stored permanently.

- You get a shareable link.

- No issue with server restarts or hosting platforms.

Summary:

- Don't store uploaded images in "public/uploads" when using Render.

- Use Cloudinary or another cloud service to store images.

- Save the image link in your database and use it to show the image.

This makes your app more reliable and works well with platforms like Render.