

Profile Picture Save Fix - Version 2

Issue Summary

The profile picture save functionality was hanging indefinitely with a “Saving...” spinner even though the picture was successfully uploaded to the database. The root cause was a **502 Bad Gateway** error when attempting to update the NextAuth session at `/api/auth/session`.

Root Cause Analysis

What Was Happening:

1. Profile picture uploaded successfully to database (Status 200)
2. Session update failed with 502 Bad Gateway error
3. The `update()` function from next-auth threw an error
4. Even with try-catch error handling, the `router.refresh()` call was still blocking
5. The dialog never closed, leaving the “Saving...” state active

Error Details:

```
POST https://ncc-1701.io/api/auth/session 502 (Bad Gateway)
[next-auth][error][CLIENT_FETCH_ERROR] Unexpected token '<' is not valid JSON
```

Solution Implemented

Strategy: Immediate UI Feedback + Background Session Update

The fix implements a **non-blocking, fail-safe approach**:

1. **Immediate Success Feedback:** Close the dialog and show success toast as soon as the upload succeeds
2. **Background Session Update:** Attempt session update in a `setTimeout` after 100ms (non-blocking)
3. **Graceful Fallback:** If session update fails, force a page reload to display the new image
4. **Early Return:** Exit the function immediately after handling to prevent duplicate execution

Benefits of This Approach

1. **Better User Experience:** Immediate feedback instead of waiting for session update
2. **Resilient to Failures:** Works even when session endpoint is down
3. **Non-Blocking:** Doesn't freeze the UI while session updates
4. **Fail-Safe:** Guarantees the new image will be displayed (via reload if needed)
5. **Maintains Data Integrity:** Picture is always saved to DB before closing dialog

Production Status

- **Deployed to:** <https://ncc-1701.io>

- **Status:** LIVE
- **Last Updated:** November 5, 2025
- **Checkpoint:** “Profile picture save fix v2”

Testing Instructions

1. Log in to <https://ncc-1701.io/dashboard>
2. Click user profile dropdown
3. Select “Update Profile Picture”
4. Choose an image file
5. Click “Save Changes”

Expected Behavior:

- Success toast appears immediately
- Dialog closes right away
- Page refreshes or reloads automatically
- New profile picture is visible in the UI
- No hanging “Saving...” state

Related Files

- `/home/ubuntu/data_retriever_app/nextjs_space/components/profile-edit-dialog.tsx`
- `/home/ubuntu/data_retriever_app/nextjs_space/app/api/user/profile-picture/route.ts`