

Advanced Mobile Application Development

Week 15: Android and Firebase

Firebase

Firebase approaches all platforms – iOS, Android, and Web with similar patterns. The main difference is in the setup.

<https://firebase.google.com/docs/android/setup>

We're going to use the same Recipes Firebase project that we used for iOS. Since we won't be implementing authentication we need to make it public so our app can read and write.

In the Firebase console chose your database and then go into Authentication and in sign-in method disable all the sign-in providers.

Also back in Database go to the Rules tab and make sure they're public with read and write both set to true so our app can access the database.

```
"rules": {  
  ".read": true,  
  ".write": true  
}
```

Android Studio

New project called Recipes

Basic Activity template

RecipeMainActivity

Uncheck create fragment

Tools | Firebase to go into the Firebase Assistant

Open realtime database | Save and Retrieve data or

<https://firebase.google.com/docs/database/android/start/>

1. Connect to Firebase

Chose existing Recipes database or create a new one

Once connected go on to step 2

2. Add the Realtime Database to your app

This will add the follow dependencies and Google services plugin to your gradle files:

build.gradle (project-level)

```
Add Firebase Gradle buildscript dependency  
classpath 'com.google.gms:google-services:3.1.0'
```

app/build.gradle

```
Add Firebase plugin for Gradle  
apply plugin: 'com.google.gms.google-services'
```

```
build.gradle will include these new dependencies:  
compile 'com.google.firebase:firebase-database:11.0.4'
```

The plugin should be at the BOTTOM of the file.

You will need to add other dependencies for other Firebase functionality.

For now go into the Firebase console and under Authentication disable Google sign-in.

In Database rules make sure anyone can read or write to your database.

```
{
  "rules": {
    ".read": true,
    ".write": true
  }
}
```

Layout

Look at the activity_recipe_main.xml and look what the template has provided. Notice how it includes the layout content_recipe_main and look at that xml file.

We just need a listview to show our list of recipes so replace the textview in content_recipe_main.xml with a listview. Use any layout you want.

<ListView

```
    android:layout_width="0dp"
    android:layout_height="0dp"
    android:id="@+id/listView"
    android:layout_marginStart="8dp"
    app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
    android:layout_marginEnd="8dp"
    app:layout_constraintRight_toRightOf="parent"
    android:layout_marginTop="8dp"
    android:layout_marginBottom="8dp"
    app:layout_constraintLeft_toLeftOf="parent"
    app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent" />
```

Model class

Go into your project's Java folder and click on the top folder and add a new Java class called RecipeItem for our model.

```
public class RecipeItem {
    private String id;
    private String name;
    private String url;

    public RecipeItem(){
        // Default constructor required for calls to DataSnapshot.getValue(RecipeItem.class)
    }

    public RecipeItem(String newid, String newName, String newURL){
        id = newid;
        name = newName;
        url = newURL;
    }

    public String getId() {
        return id;
    }
}
```

```

public String getName(){
    return name;
}

public String geturl(){
    return url;
}

//the string representation of a recipe name
public String toString(){
    return this.name;
}
}

```

We'll do the rest in RecipeMainActivity.java

Read from Firebase

<https://firebase.google.com/docs/database/android/read-and-write>

To access your Firebase database add the following references:

```

// Firebase database instance
FirebaseDatabase database = FirebaseDatabase.getInstance();
//Firebase database reference
DatabaseReference ref = database.getReference();
//Firebase database recipe node reference
DatabaseReference reciperef = database.getReference("recipes");

```

We also need an arraylist and an arrayadapter.

```

//array list of recipes
List recipes = new ArrayList<>();
//array adapter
ArrayAdapter<RecipeItem> listAdapter;

```

```

import com.google.firebase.database.DataSnapshot;
import com.google.firebase.database.DatabaseError;
import com.google.firebase.database.DatabaseReference;
import com.google.firebase.database.FirebaseDatabase;
import com.google.firebase.database.ValueEventListener;

```

```

import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.List;

```

Update onCreate() to set an event listener for any data changes in the database.

```

ListView recipeList = (ListView) findViewById(R.id.listView);
listAdapter = new ArrayAdapter<RecipeItem>(this, android.R.layout.simple_list_item_1, recipes);
recipeList.setAdapter(listAdapter);

```

```

// Read from the database
ValueEventListener firebaseListener = new ValueEventListener() {
    @Override
    public void onDataChange(DataSnapshot dataSnapshot) {
        // This method is called once with the initial value and again
        // whenever data at this location is updated.

        //empty the arraylist
        recipes.clear();
        for(DataSnapshot snapshot : dataSnapshot.getChildren()){
            // gets the item id
            String newId = snapshot.getKey();
            //get recipe from the snapshot
            RecipeItem recipeItem = snapshot.getValue(RecipeItem.class);
            //create new RecipeItem object
            RecipeItem newRecipe = new RecipeItem(newId, recipeItem.getName(), recipeItem.geturl());
            //add new recipe to our array
            recipes.add(newRecipe);
        }
        //update adapter
        listAdapter.notifyDataSetChanged();
    }

    @Override
    public void onCancelled(DatabaseError error) {
        // Failed to read value
        Log.w("oncreate", "Failed to read value.", error.toException());
    }
};

//add listener to the database recipe node reference
recipeRef.addValueEventListener(firebaseListener);

```

You should now be able to run your app and see all your Firebase data. If you make any changes through the console your app should automatically update.

Delete data

To delete items through your app we'll present a context menu on a long press.

```

@Override public void onCreateContextMenu(ContextMenu menu, View view,
ContextMenuItem menuInfo){
    super.onCreateContextMenu(menu, view, menuInfo);
    //cast ContextMenu.ContextMenuItem to AdapterView.AdapterContextMenuInfo since we're using an
    adapter
    AdapterView.AdapterContextMenuInfo adapterContextMenuInfo =
    (AdapterView.AdapterContextMenuInfo) menuInfo;
    //get recipe name that was pressed
    String recipename = ((TextView) adapterContextMenuInfo.targetView).getText().toString();

```

```

//set the menu title
menu.setHeaderTitle("Delete " + recipename);
//add the choices to the menu
menu.add(1, 1, 1, "Yes");
menu.add(2, 2, 2, "No");
}

@Override public boolean onOptionsItemSelected(MenuItem item){
    //get the id of the item
    int itemId = item.getItemId();
    if (itemId == 1) { //if yes menu item was pressed
        //get the position of the menu item
        AdapterView.AdapterContextMenuInfo info = (AdapterView.AdapterContextMenuInfo)
item.getMenuInfo();
        //get recipe that was pressed
        RecipeItem selectedRecipe = (RecipeItem) recipes.get(info.position);
        //get recipe id
        String recipeid = selectedRecipe.getId();
        //delete from Firebase
        reciperef.child(recipeid).removeValue();
    }
    return true;
}

```

Register the context menu in onCreate()
registerForContextMenu(recipeList);

Add data

Change the floating action button from email to add in activity_recipe_main.xml

app:srcCompat="@android:drawable/ic_input_add"

Android has a ton of built-in drawables that we can use in our applications.

<http://androiddrawables.com/> listed by version.

In RecipeMainActivity we already have a listener all set up for this button so we'll use that.
In onCreate() we'll replace the Snackbar with an AlertDialog and the logic to add a recipe.

```

FloatingActionButton fab = (FloatingActionButton) findViewById(R.id.fab);
fab.setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
    @Override
    public void onClick(View view) {

        //create a vertical linear layout to hold edit texts
        LinearLayout layout = new LinearLayout(RecipeMainActivity.this);
        layout.setOrientation(LinearLayout.VERTICAL);

        //create edit texts and add to layout
        final EditText nameEditText = new EditText(RecipeMainActivity.this);
        nameEditText.setHint("Recipe name");
    }
}

```

```

layout.addView(nameEditText);
final EditText urlEditText = new EditText(RecipeMainActivity.this);
urlEditText.setHint("URL");
layout.addView(urlEditText);

//create alert dialog
AlertDialog.Builder dialog = new AlertDialog.Builder(RecipeMainActivity.this);
dialog.setTitle("Add Recipe");
dialog.setView(layout);
dialog.setPositiveButton("Save", new DialogInterface.OnClickListener() {
    @Override
    public void onClick(DialogInterface dialog, int which) {
        //get entered data
        String recipeName = nameEditText.getText().toString();
        String recipeURL = urlEditText.getText().toString();
        if (recipeName.trim().length() > 0) {
            //get new id from firebase
            String key = reciperef.push().getKey();
            //create new recipe item
            RecipeItem newRecipe = new RecipeItem(key, recipeName, recipeURL);
            //add to Firebase
            reciperef.child(key).child("name").setValue(newRecipe.getName());
            reciperef.child(key).child("url").setValue(newRecipe.getUrl());
        }
    }
});
dialog.setNegativeButton("Cancel", null);
dialog.show();
}
});

```

When we create the AlertDialog it's in an anonymous function so when implementing the listener, outer class RecipeMainActivity has to be specified to refer to the Activity instance and the keyword this in Java applies to the most immediate class being declared.

You should now be able to add recipes and see them in your listview as well as in Firebase through the console.

Load web page

When the user taps on a recipe we want to load the recipe url in an app that can load web pages like a browser. We're going to use an implicit intent so the user will be prompted to chose an app to load the web page if the device has more than one capable of doing so.

Add to onCreate()

```

//create listener
AdapterView.OnItemClickListener itemClickListener = new AdapterView.OnItemClickListener(){
    public void onItemClick(AdapterView<?> listView, View view, int position, long id){
        //get tapped recipe
    }
}

```

```

RecipeItem recipeTapped = (RecipeItem) recipes.get(position);
//get the recipe url
String recipeURL = recipeTapped.geturl();
//create new intent
Intent intent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_VIEW);
//add url to intent
intent.setData(Uri.parse(recipeURL));
//start intent
startActivity(intent);
}
};
recipeList.setOnItemClickListener(itemClickListener);

```

Now when you tap on a recipe its web page should open in a browser.