**Firebase Notes**

**Intro**

* Firebase is a backend as a service.
* This means it provides backend services such as a database, authentication, file storage, cloud functions, hosting, and many other features.
* It is an alternative to setting up our own backend infrastructure with mongodb and nodejs

**Firebase 9 vs 8**

* The major change is that firebase 9 now adopts a more modular and functional approach which means we only import the firebase functions that we need.
  + Ex: version 9 project
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    - Notice we only imported the getAuth and onAuthStateChanged functions
* In contrast, firebase 8 used a more object-oriented approach where we directly called those firebase methods on firebase objects.
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    - Notice we imported everything from firebase auth.
* By using a more modular approach, we can take advantage of tree-shaking. Tree shaking is where any unused code/functions can be removed from the final bundled JavaScript file. To do that, we will need to use a module bundler such as webpack

**Setting up webpack**

* In order to take advantage of tree shaking in firebase, we need to use a module bundler such as webpack.
* A module bundler is a tool that takes pieces of JavaScript and their dependencies and bundles them into a single file, usually for use in the browser.
* It is that js bundle that we link to in our html page.
* If we create an app using a cli tool such as ‘create-react-app’, then a modular bundler is often automatically setup for you. In those cases, we don’t need this section and can just start using firebase.
* However, if we are making an application using just html and vanilla JS, we need a modular bundler.
* Set up the following folder
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* Make sure you have node js installed
* Make sure the project folder name is valid (has no spaces)
* Inside the project folder, the folder that contains dist and src, type in the cmd line: npm init -y
* Run: npm i webpack webpack-cli -D
* Create a webpack.config.js file in the project folder. Inside the folder is where we config what we want the webpack to do. We want it to look at our src/index.js file and any other imports and bundle all of that code into a single bundle file.
* To do this, we need to export an object that represents our webpack configuration by copy pasting the following into the webpack.config.js file:
  + <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/iamshaunjp/Getting-Started-with-Firebase-9/lesson-2/webpack.config.js>
  + Text

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* Module.exports exports an object from the file and this object has properties that represents the configuration of webpack.
* The mode property can be production or development. Since we are developing, we choose development.
* The entry property is the path to an entry file. This path tells webpack where to look for our index.js file.
* The output property is an object.
  + This object has a property called path which is the path to where we want the output file to be put into. We want it inside the dist folder. In order to create this path, we need to use path module which we require in line 1. This is a core node module. We cannot use a relative path here, we must have an absolute path which is why we need node.
  + The object has a property called filename which is just the filename of the output file.
* The watch property is true which means that when we run webpack, every change we make is going to bundle up the new code into the bundle.js file.
* Now, we want to run webpack which we can do by running a custom script in our package.json file.
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* We didn’t have to name it build, we could have named it whatever wanted.
* Now, when we run the build command, the webpack command is ran which runs webpack according to our configuration.
* We can test that our webpack is working properly by adding a console.log(“hi”) to our index.js file.
* Then, in cmd: npm run build
* Recall that build was the name of the script
* This script will make webpack take our source code and bundle it into the bundle.js output file in the disc folder. As well, it will also be watching our index.js file for changes so that it rebundles every time we make a change and then save the file.
* Note that we also need to link to the new bundle.js file in the index.html file.

**Setting up firebase**

* Sign up for a firebase account
* Go to Firebase console at console.firebae.google.com which is where all of our firebase projects are listed.
* Generally, each different application we create will have a new firebase project for it
* Create a new project, type in any project name you want, you can remove google analytics (having google analytics is optional), click create project, and then click continue to go to the dashboard for that project
* We need to create a frontend project to connect with the dashboard which will manage the backend of the project
* We can create a web app so click the web app icon right under the project name, give it any name you want, we don’t need to check the set up firebase hosting, click register app, then click continue to console.
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* Notice that 1 app icon which represents the app we just registered. This is the app that our frontend will connect to. Click on 1 app then click on the cog to go to settings then scroll down and toggle config to get the config object.
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* This config object contains information about our firebase project that will allow our frontend to connect to our backend
* In index.js, paste in the config object.
* However, while this config object contains information, we are not doing anything with the information. Thus, we first need to install firebase by running in a new cmd terminal (not the webpack run build terminal): npm install firebase
* Now, we can use some firebase functions to initialize our app.
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**Firestore Setup**

* Now that we connected our frontend to the firebase backend, we can set up a database
* First, we need to enable that database
* The database we will be using is the Firestore database. There is an older realtime database, but Firestore will be used instead.
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* Click create database, start in test mode, then click next. Choose a firestore location, click enable, and now, we have a database created for us.
* This database is split up into collections and documents.
* We can have a collection of certain datatypes. For example, we could have a datatype called books and they would all be in a collection called books.
* To make a collection, click start collection, give it a collection id/name such as books.
* Then, we need to create our first document inside that collection. Each document has to have a document id so if we need to grab a document from the database, we can use the id. We can click auto-id to automatically generate an id.
* Inside the document, we have different properties/fields and values. For example, a field could be title and its value could be harry potter. We can also specify the datatype to be a string, number. We could have another field to be author and its value could be jk rowling.
* Then, we can click save and that’ll create a new id inside the firestore database.
* We can also create some more dummy data.

**Fetching firestore data**

* Firstly, we need to initialize the firestore service on the frontend so we can connect to it.
* To do that, import: getFireStore. Note that this naming convention of getService is common for many firebase services
* We can execute the getFireStore function to initialize the firestore service. Thus, we say const db = getFireStore(). This db constant will represent our database connection. Anytime we reach out to get data, we’re going to use the db constant.
* Now, we need to get a reference to a specific collection in our database.
* We will import a function called collection that will enable us to get a reference to a specific collection. This collection function takes in two arguments. The first argument is the database we will be looking in which in our case is db. The second argument is the collection we will be looking for such as ‘books’. This function returns a collection reference. Note that the collection we are looking for – the second argument – does not have to exist in the database. For example, we could say const ref = collection(db, ‘random\_stuff’) and it would not raise an error.
* We can import the getDocs function that will enable us to get the collection data. We pass in a collection reference as argument. In our example, we pass in colRef to the argument of the getDocs. This getDocs returns a promise. We can then add a .then method which takes in a snapshot object of that collection in that moment in time when we reach out to get it. We can then simply log out snapshot.docs and this docs is a property of snapshotl which represents all of the documents.
* As of now, our code can might look like the following:
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* The console would log the following:
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* We probably don’t need all of these properties, we probably just want the data and the id.
* The data is grabbed by using a data function. We can grab the id from the id property.
* We can now go through each document in snapshot.docs and then use the spread operator to get all the fields of the data along with the id property.
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**Adding and Deleting Firebase Documents**

* Firstly, we can add a form to our html file that will allow the user to add information/delete information.
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* To add documents, we need to import the addDoc function from firebase which will allow us to add a new document to a specific collection.
* Then, we can use that function by executing it. The function takes in two arguments, the first is a collection reference which is the collection we want to add to. The second argument is an object that represents the new document that we want to add to the particular collection. Note that the first argument, the collection reference does not need to reference an existing collection. It can reference a collection with a new name which means a document will be added to the database under a new collection name.
* This addDoc function is asynchronous so we can attach a .then method. Inside the .then method, we can reset the fields of the form to be empty for better use experience.
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* To delete documents, we need to import the deleteDoc and doc functions from firebase.
* The doc function is similar to the collection function in the sense that we get a reference. However, instead of getting a reference to a collection which is what the collection function does, the doc function gets us a reference to a doc. The doc function takes in 3 arguments. The first argument is a database. The second argument is the collection. The third argument is the id of the document that we want to reference to.
* Now that we have a refence to a specific document by using the doc function, we can now delete the document by using the deleteDoc function.
* The deleteDoc function takes in 1 parameter which is a reference to a document that we want to delete. We can execute the function. Moreover, this function is asynchronous so we can add a .then method. Inside the .then method, we can reset the fields of the form to be empty for better use experience.
* Note that if we delete all the documents inside a collection, the collection does not get deleted. Rather, the collection is just empty.
* Note that if we try to delete a document that does not exist, nothing happens, there is no error.

**Realtime Collection Database**

* If we add/delete data, in order to see the new data, we’d have to refresh the page.
* Thus, if we were using something like react to render that data, in order for the rerender to occur, we would need to refresh the page which is not ideal. Instead, it should automatically rerender.
* Thus, we can set up a realtime listeners (aka a subscription) to the firestore collection which listens for changes to that collection and sends back the updated data inside the collection once the change happens.
* Currently, our getDocs function as shown below only runs once:
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* Instead of using getDocs, we will import the onSnapshot from firebase.
* The onSnapshot function takes two arguments. The first is a collection refence to a collection which is the collection that we want to listen to changes to. The second argument is a function that executes every time there is a change in the collection. As well, this function executes once initially as well. This function takes in a snapshot as a parameter much like how the .then method attached to the getDocs method takes in a snapshot.
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* Now notice whenever we change our books collection, the updated data is logged to the console.

**Firestore queries**

* Currently with the onSnapshot function, it’s second argument (the function) is executed everytime the data inside the colRef collection reference changes.
* Sometimes, we don’t want every document in a collection, but just certain documents. For example, documents with title === ‘green’.
* To do so, we will use the firestore query to make our collection reference to be a query refence instead.
* We will need to import ‘query’ and ‘where’ functions from firebase
* The query function takes in a collection refence as it’s first argument. The second argument is optional and is the where function. The where function takes in 3 parameters. The first is a property name such as ‘author’. The second is a comparison such as ‘==’. The third is a value to compare with with. Note that we need to use ‘==’ and not ‘===’.
* 
* In this above line of code, q is a query refence to all the documents inside the collection that colRef refences that satisfy the property that the author property of the document is equal to 23.
* Now on the onSnapshot function, we can replace the first parameter of colRef (the entire collection reference), to q(the query reference) so that the second parameter of onSnapshot (the function) is executed only when q changes.
* Thus, when we first load the page, the onSnapshot’s parameter function is executed. In our case, it logs out all the documents inside the query reference. Upon adding/deleting documents that satisfy the query reference where function, the onShapshot’s parameter function is executed again to log the updated document data.

**Timestamps and Ordering Data**

* When we retrieve documents, they documents are sorted by id by default.
* We can also order the documents by properties such as ‘title’.
* To do so, we will import the orderBy function from firestore.
* We can add orderBy as a parameter to the query function. orderBy takes in two arguments. The first is the property we are ordering by. The second is the option and are the values of ‘asc’ or ‘desc’ to indicate if we should order in ascending or descending order. By default, the document’s are sorted in ascending order based on our specified property so we can not include the second argument of the sortedBy function if we want to sort in ascending order.
* Ex: 
* We can also still include the where function as a parameter in the query function if we still want.
* Notice now, when we log the data, it is sorted in ascending order based on the title.
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* We can use the time the data was added as an ordering property.
* To add this property, we cannot use a js Date object. Rather, we need to import the serverTimestamp function from firebase which gives us the time upon executing the function.
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* Notice in the console logs out the updated data twice whenever we add data (doesn’t apply for deleting data).
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* Also notice the value of the createdAt properties are different, as the first log has a value of null, while the second does not.
* This is because we added the serverTimestamp function which takes some time to add the timestamp to the document. When we add a document to firestore, the query reference changes (since there is a new document and our query reference doesn’t have any comparison since we removed that parameter). This new document has a property called createdAt but it’s value is null since it takes firestore some time to add the timestamp. Nonetheless, there is still a change which causes the parameter function of onSnapshot to execute. This logs out the data of the snapshot with the value of the createdAt property being null. Shortly after, firestore adds the time to the createdAt property which is a change to the query reference which causes the parameter function of onSnapshot to execute. This logs out the data of the snapshot with the value of the createdAt property being an actual time.

**Fetching Single Documents**

* Instead of getting an entire collection of documents, we may only want to get a single document.
* To do so, we first need to create a document refence (just like what we did to refence the document we want to delete)
* We can import the getDoc function which is similar to getDocs. Instead of passing in a collection refence which is what getDocs uses, we pass in a document reference to geDoc. Instead of returning a promise with a resolve value of a snapshot of a collection of documents which is what getDocs returns, getDoc returns a promise with a resolve value of a snapshot the document we pass into getDoc as a parameter.
* Instead of using getDoc, we could use a real time database with onSnapShot as shown below. In the below example, we are listening to changes to a single document (refenced by the docRef document reference) and executing a function upon changes (this function just prints out the doc data).
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* Now, if we update the docRef with the specified id in the firebase console, it will cause the parameter function in the onSnapshot function to execute, logging out the updated data of the document that docRef references. Note that changing this one document is also considered a change to the entire collection so the onSnapshot function that listens to changes on the entire collection also executes, logging out all the collection data.
* Ex console output: Text

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**Updating Documents**

* To update a document, we first need a document reference such as: 
* Then we need to use the updateDoc function that we import from firebase. This function takes in a document refence (which is the document we want to update) as its first parameter. The second parameter is an object with properties and values (which represent the fields we want to change and the value we want to change to). Note that we only need to pass in the properties we want to change. The updateDoc function is asynchronous and so we can add a .then method.
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