Hosting Platforms - Top 3

| **Feature** | **Firebase (Google)** | **Supabase** | **AWS Amplify** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Free Tier** | Spark Plan: Includes 1GB Firestore storage, 50K reads/day, 20K writes/day, 10GB hosting bandwidth, 100 simultaneous Realtime DB connections, and 50K MAUs for authentication. | Free Plan: Offers 500MB Postgres DB, 1GB storage, 5GB bandwidth, 50K MAUs, 500K Edge Function invocations, and 2M realtime messages. | Free Tier: Provides 1,000 build minutes/month, 5GB storage, 15GB bandwidth, 500K SSR requests, and access to services like Cognito (auth), DynamoDB (data), S3 (storage), and Lambda (functions). |
| **Pricing (Beyond Free)** | Blaze Plan: Pay-as-you-go. Firestore storage at **$0.026/GB/month (R0.49)**, hosting bandwidth at **$0.15/GB (R2.85)**, and Cloud Functions at **$0.40/million invocations (R7.60)**. | Pro Plan: Starts at **$25/month (R475)**, includes 8GB DB, 100GB storage, 250GB bandwidth, 100K MAUs. Additional compute options available. | Pay-as-you-go: Build minutes at **$0.01/min (R0.19)**, hosting at **$0.15/GB served (R2.85)**, storage at **$0.023/GB/month (R0.44)**. Backend services like Cognito, DynamoDB, and Lambda have separate pricing. |
| **Database Tools** | Firestore (NoSQL), Realtime Database (NoSQL), Cloud Functions for backend logic. | PostgreSQL with full SQL support, real-time subscriptions, and Edge Functions for serverless logic. | DynamoDB (NoSQL), AppSync for GraphQL APIs, Lambda for serverless functions, and integration with other AWS services. |
| **Authentication** | Firebase Authentication supports email/password, phone, Google, Facebook, and more. Free up to 50K MAUs. | Supabase Auth supports email/password, social logins, and third-party OAuth providers. Free up to 50K MAUs. | Amazon Cognito supports email/password, social logins, and SAML. Free tier includes 50K MAUs. |
| **Storage** | Firebase Storage offers 5GB free, then **$0.026/GB (R0.49)**. | Supabase Storage provides 1GB free, then **$0.021/GB (R0.40)**. | Amazon S3 offers 5GB free, then **$0.023/GB (R0.44)**. |
| **Payment Integration** | No built-in payment gateway; requires integration with third-party services like Stripe or PayPal. | No built-in payment gateway; requires integration with third-party services like Stripe or PayPal. | No built-in payment gateway; requires integration with third-party services like Stripe or PayPal. |
| **Other Tools** | Includes Analytics, Crashlytics, Performance Monitoring, Remote Config, and A/B Testing. | Offers real-time subscriptions, Edge Functions, and a SQL editor. | Provides CI/CD pipelines, hosting, and integration with AWS services like CloudWatch and AppSync. |

**Firebase (by Google):**

Firebase is designed not exclusively for, but with alot of focus on mobile apps. It has built-in tools for authentication, so email and login setup is easier, real-time databases and other features. It’s easy to use and integrates with Android apps, so it will be great for a smaller scale app like ours, and helps, considering our dev group rn, no offence to us, without worrying too much about backend infrastructure. **PS: REMOVE LINE IF DOC IS GOING TO HighWay Hospice**.

**Why Firebase?**

Firebase is good because our app is android only. We get auth built in, easy DB integration, file storage if we decide to add the images for the auction, or so that users can get donation certificates for tax , and can scale too. Plus, the learning curve is low, which is important since Highway hospice doesn't have an in house IT dept. Firebase works with Zapper and Payfast so payment gateways is easier to add too.

| **Feature / Criteria** | **Firebase** |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hosting & Scalability** | Auto-scaling is great for mobile apps |  |  |
| **Database Options** | Firestore (NoSQL), Realtime DB |  |  |
| **Ease of Use** | Very beginner-friendly |  |  |
| **Realtime Capabilities** | Built-in with Firestore |  |  |
| **Auth & Security** | Built-in with Firevase Auth |  |  |
| **Payment Integration** | We will have to manually add it with third party tools but most good DB tools are the same |  |  |
| **Learning Curve** | Low, so easy for students and non-IT people to learn |  |  |
| **Pricing** | Has SPARK PLAN which gives a large number of free perks, also has BLAZE PLAN which not only is pay as you go, but also gives u all the free perks, then only you pay. Firebase also allows us to calcutlae how much blaze will cost us, oonce we have our Firestroe and DB numbers sorted. |  |  |
| **Backup & Export** | Limited, if we choose not to use Firestore, otherwise easily possible |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |