**Hosting Platforms**

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| Feature | Firebase (Google) |
| 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. |
| 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). |
| Database Tools | Firestore (NoSQL), Realtime Database (NoSQL), Cloud Functions for backend logic. |
| Storage | Firebase Storage offers 5GB free, then $0.026/GB (R0.49). |
| Other Tools | Includes Analytics, Crashlytics, Performance Monitoring, Remote Config, and A/B Testing. |

Firebase (by Google):

Firebase is designed not exclusively for, but with alot of focus on mobile apps. It has built-in tools for real-time databases and other features.

Why Firebase?

Firebase is good because our app is android only. We get 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. Firebase works with Zapper and Payfast so payment gateways is easier to add too.

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| --- | --- |
| 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 |
| Payment Integration | We will have to manually add it with third party tools but most good DB tools are the same |
| 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 calculate how much blaze will cost us, once we have our Firestroe and DB numbers sorted. |
| Backup & Export | Limited, if we choose not to use Firestore, otherwise easily possible |
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Payment gateway payfast

For registered NPOs, the fees are typically:

Credit and Cheque Card

The world’s most popular online payment method.

3.2% plus R 2.00

Instant EFT

An electronic funds transfer that gets verified instantly.

2.0% (min R 2.00)

Capitec Pay

A secure and fast payment option for customers who bank with Capitec Bank.

2.0% (min R 2.00)

Apple Pay

A popular mobile wallet that’s linked to an online shopper’s Apple device.

3.2% (min R 2.00)

Samsung Pay

A mobile payment solution for online shoppers with Samsung Galaxy smartphones.

3.2% (min R 2.00)

MoreTyme

A buy now, pay later option with TymeBank.

5.5% plus R 2.00

MukuruPay

A cash payment method that can be used for online purchases.

3.9% plus R 6.00

Masterpass

A digital wallet that streamlines the checkout process.

3.5% plus R 2.00

Store Cards

RCS Store Cards provide customers with the ability to make online purchases.

3.2% plus R 2.00

SnapScan

A free ‘scan to pay’ app for convenient online shopping.

3.5% plus R 2.00

Mobicred

An online account that gives buyers access to credit.

3.2%

Scode

A platform for buyers to pay for online purchases in-store.

4.5% plus R 5.00

Zapper

A free ‘scan to pay’ app for convenient online shopping.

3.5% plus R 2.00

Immediate payout fees are 0.8% excluding VAT, at a minimum amount of R14.00.

We charge a payout fee of R8.70 excluding VAT, regardless of the value of the payout.

Refunds are charged at R2.00 excluding VAT per refund.

Heroku

Eco

Test ideas or run apps that see intermittent use.

~$0.005/hour  
(flat fee of $5/month)

 Eco features

* 1x – 4x compute
* 512 MB RAM
* Deploy with Git and Docker
* Custom domains
* Unified logs
* 2 process types
* Container orchestration
* Automatic OS patching
* Automated certificate management
* Personal accounts only
* Sleeps after 30 minutes of inactivity

Basic

Run small projects and concepts.

~$0.01 per hour  
(max of $7 per month) Prorated to the second

 All Eco features plus Basic features

* Includes all Eco features
* 1x – 4x compute
* 512 MB RAM
* Free SSL
* 10 process types
* Always on

Standard

Run business apps in production.

~$0.03 to $0.06/hour  
(max of $25 to $50/month) Prorated to the second

 Standard features

* Includes all Basic features
* 1x – 4x or 4x – 8x compute
* 512 MB or 1 GB RAM
* Simple horizontal scalability
* [App metrics](https://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/metrics) and threshold alerts
* [Preboot](https://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/preboot) and zero-downtime deploys
* Unlimited process types
* Unlimited [background workers](https://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/concurrency-and-database-connections#background-workers)
* Can combine with Performance dynos