Back-End as a Service (BaaS)

Full-Stack applications need a front-end and back-end. Using a Back-End as a Service (BaaS) like Firebase you get all the benefits of a back-end without the complications of setting one up from scratch.

> **We'll cover the following** ∧
>
> - API's allow us to communicate with our back-end
> - The Firebase API
> - Benefits of using the Firebase BaaS

API's allow us to communicate with our back-end

In order to set up a back-end, without Firebase, you would have to configure a server, database, and **API**. This is challenging and time-consuming.

We communicate with back-ends using an **application programming interface (API)**.

With Firebase you will use a preconfigured **API** but will not have to configure a server, database or even have to worry about the environment that the server runs in.

The Firebase API

Using the **Firebase API** is as easy as accessing the `firebase` object. This object contains many methods, each one representing a different service. By invoking the `firestore` method you can get access to Cloud Firestore. It's a database that you can use to store and retrieve information.
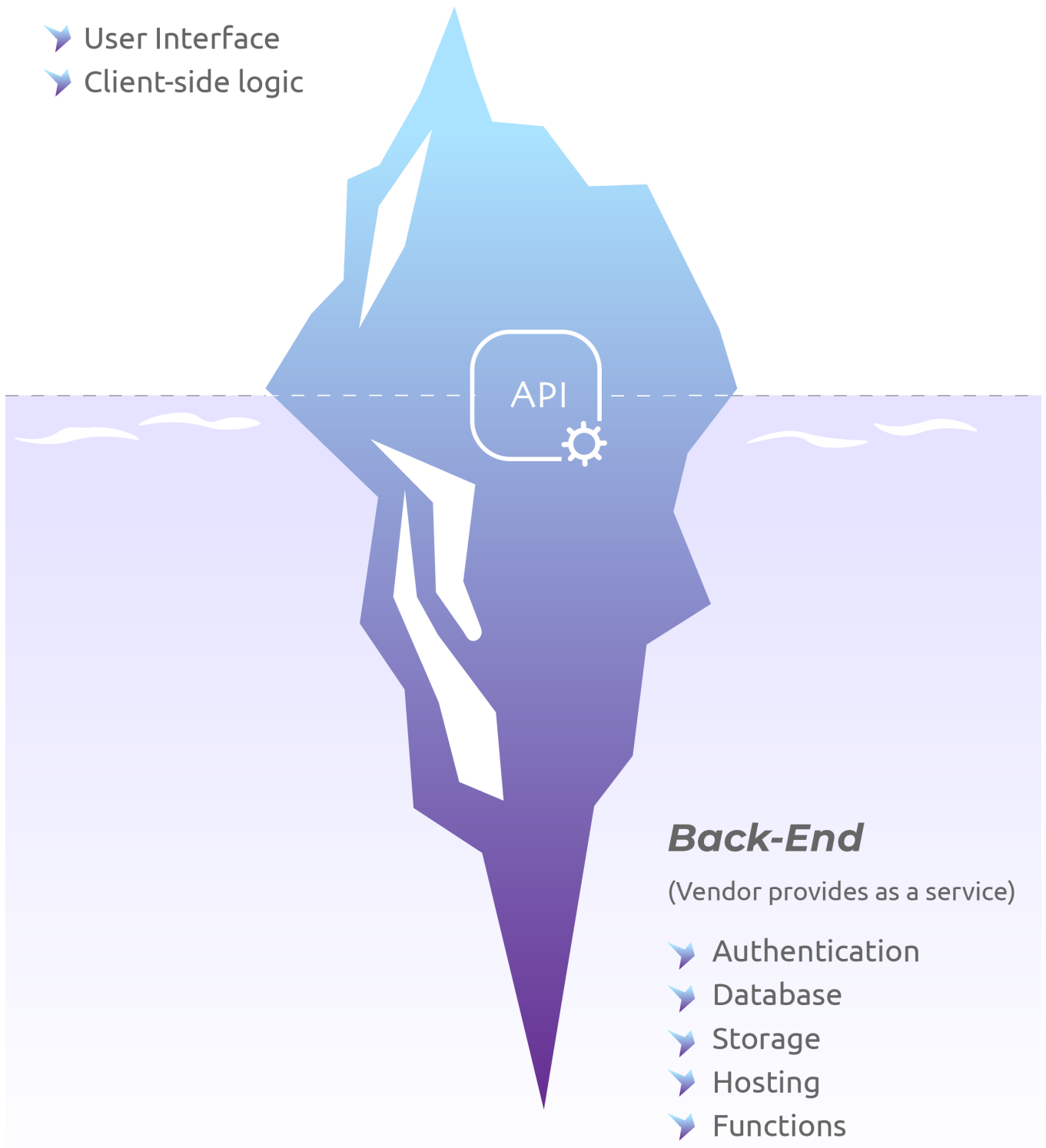
API

firebase.firestore()

Service

Front-End

(Developer Builds)

- User Interface
- Client-side logic

API

Back-End

(Vendor provides as a service)

- Authentication
- Database
- Storage
- Hosting
- Functions

Benefits of using the Firebase BaaS

Save Time

If fully functioning applications is your end goal then using Firebase as your back-end gets you where you need to go.
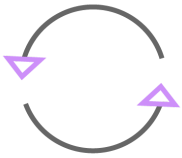
Security

With built in comprehensive security you will not need to lose sleep over hackers. Configure rules specific to your app.

Speed

Solid state drive (SSD) caching for your deployed apps makes site loading time extremely fast.

Realtime

The database updates all connected clients in realtime. This is excellent for many types of apps including realtime chats.