one of the most common questions people

ask me is how do I come up with a good

idea for a side project maybe something

that looks good in my portfolio

something that makes money or both it's

not very easy to build something that

stands out so today I present you a

seven somewhat random and unusual app

ideas and you're free to use these ideas

to make money off them as long as you

subscribe and hit the like button

now before we get into the ideas there's a

few things you need to know. ideas are

cheap execution is everything. when you

come up with a great idea it's probably

not unique there's going to be hundreds

if not thousands of other developers out

there with the same idea. what's not

cheap is the execution that takes

real-time intelligence and money. now

with that in mind I'm also going to show

you the architectural patterns and

technologies you can use to execute

these ideas and we'll also talk about

how to monetize them.

my first idea falls into the category of data aggregation

where you start with some data or

information and add value to it in the

United States there's a very obvious

schism and the way the news is reported

at any given moment you can pull up CNN

in one tab and Fox News on the other and

you'll often find headlines that seem to

come from two different universes this

app idea will archive the content from

both CNN and Fox News every 15 minutes

allowing a user to historically scroll

through the news and see how it's

reported on these two different sites. so

it's kind of similar to the Wayback

Machine web archiving service but

obviously a much more specific use case.

and now the question becomes how do we

execute this idea. I would set up a

scheduled pub/sub cloud function with

firebase that would allow us to run a

background job every 15 minutes with no

js' inside that function I would use

puppeteer which is a headless chromium

browser to scrape the content from both

Fox and CNN I would take a screenshot

and then also scrape the text so we can

search through it this data would then

be saved in a storage bucket and at that

point all you have to do is create a

client-side app to view the content and

that could be as simple as a calendar

that allows your user to navigate to any

day in history easy enough but how do

you monetize something like this you

could display advertisements although I

think copyright ownership might be an

issue here I think this idea should fall

under fair use but check with your

lawyer first if you're more concerned

about making money you might offer web

archiving as a service to companies that

want to view a history of their web

deployments you could bill your

customers with a monthly subscription

fee and my stripe course can help you do

that

let's move on to idea number two

which falls under the broad category of

building something data-driven

understanding how to work with and

visualize data is extremely valuable

but unless you're a massive tech company

acquiring high quality data can be

difficult one of the best free sources

is Kaggle there's all kinds of open

source datasets and every year they have

a big competition for March Madness

basketball for this idea we use

historical data to build a predictive

model for next year's tournament the

data of course can be visualized and

would make an awesome portfolio project

you could do all of this directly in

kaggle or you could add your data to a

data warehouse like bigquery once you

have the data there you can visualize it

and create a Python Jupiter notebook in

the cloud in the case of bigquery you

can run machine learning models directly

on this data without any ml knowledge

yourself and this can all be done in a

Jupiter notebook and made available on

the web you could monetize it by

offering a premium report for people who

play fantasy sports or for Vegas now

let's move on to idea number three which

falls into the very popular category of

photo editing this idea is especially

geared towards developers building

native mobile apps the idea is an app

that can take an image and apply

artistic photo filters based on ASCII

characters I was actually looking for an

app like this recently and they're out

there but I just wasn't satisfied with

the results so there might be an

opportunity to build a better app here

it could work just like any other photo

filter app that converts the pixels into

ASCII characters or maybe you could even

use emojis here here's one way you might

build it I would start with a flutter

app there are multiple plugins you can

use to capture images from an iOS or

Android device once you capture an image

you can think of it as a matrix of

values that range from 0 to 255 then you

just need a simple algorithm that

converts a pixel value to an ASCII

character or emoji you can then tweak

that algorithm to make multiple filters

you can then monetize it by selling

premium filters as micro transactions or

in-app purchases and that brings us to

idea number four which falls under the

game category a web-based game I really

like is geoguessr it takes you to a

street view somewhere in the world and

you have to guess where you are by

finding that point on the map the closer

you are the more points you get the only

problem is that after you play a few

games you'll have to upgrade to a

membership you should definitely support

independent game developers but as an

alternative you might just reverse

engineer the entire game one way you

might tweak it is to run the games on a

timer so everybody can play against each

other in real time so my idea here is to

create an MMO version of geoguessr that

might sound a little more difficult than

some of my previous ideas it's actually

easier than you might think

the first step is to build a web

application that integrates that Google

Maps draw

script SDK from there you can use

firebase and firestore to create a

real-time instance of a game in your

database that everybody can listen to

you could then use a scheduled cloud

function or back-end server to flip a

game to active and then calculate all

the scores in the background if you do

build this app you'll definitely want to

monetize it because Google Maps and

Street View is very expensive to use at

a large scale you can start by

monetizing with ads but that likely

won't be enough so you'll probably want

to add a membership or something along

those lines

in fact if you're interested in building

a real-time game and david east and i

will be doing exactly that on his

channel next week using spelt and

firebase so make sure to set up a

notification on his channel another

great way to come up with app ideas is

to look at what various api is out there

offer one of my favorites is Twilio

because it lets you do all kinds of

creative things with voice text and fax

the cool thing about their SMS API is

that you can send text messages to your

users or have your app serve as a

middleman so users can exchange messages

without actually exchanging real numbers

so here's my idea an app that allows you

to anonymously text someone based on

their geographic proximity imagine

you're at a large event and you want to

text somebody without actually meeting

or knowing who that person is in real

life the app would allow you to send and

receive messages anonymously with other

users who are within a 1 mile radius to

implement something like this you could

start with firebase phone authentication

that would give you a phone number to

work with then whenever two users start

a conversation you provision your own

Twilio number that maps those two

numbers together now in your client-side

application like flutter for example you

would be keeping track of the user's

geographic location when the users are

no longer within a mile radius of each

other you destroy the mapping so they

can no longer exchange messages an app

like this could be monetized by limiting

the number of messages that a user can

send they might get the first 10

messages for free then after that have

to buy credits to send additional

messages now let's segue into idea

number six which falls into a broad

category of specialized calculators

people love to fill out surveys and get

useful information return back to them

examples include things like net worth

calculators or inia grams where you fill

out a survey and get some analysis about

your personality and other apps like

social blade will retrieve data from a

third party API then create an analysis

about a social media account so here's

my idea now more than ever companies

need to save money you could develop a

survey that takes in information about

the cloud services that

company is currently using you could

then compare those inputs across

multiple clouds like AWS Asher and GCP

this could help a company implement a

multi cloud strategy that offers the

lowest possible pricing implementing

something like this mostly just comes

down to the front end you'd likely want

to start with a single page application

framework like angular react review and

then build a highly polished set of form

inputs to collect the users data once

you have that data you can make a

request to the cloud billing API to

fetch the latest pricing now this idea

might be somewhat difficult to monetize

directly but it could be a great way to

generate leads for consulting contracts

and now we're ready for ID number seven

the world is currently a crazy place and

there's a ton of people working from

home I'm sure the current crisis will

end in the not so distant future however

I don't think the trend of people

working from home is going anywhere

it'd be almost impossible for an

individual developer to build an app

that competes with something like slack

or discord

however these platforms allow you the

developer to extend their software by

building your own app they're pretty

easy to build and there's a great

opportunity to help out businesses that

are scrambling to get everybody to work

from home so here's my idea it's a video

conferencing app that allows you to hold

a synchronous meetings a person can

start a meeting over video and then

other users can respond with video as

well when the meeting is over all the

video clips get combined together so

other users can watch it later so it's

kind of like the Marco Polo app but more

business-oriented and directly

integrated into slack if I were to build

an app like this today I'd start by

looking into the AWS amplify video

plug-in it seems to provide a very easy

path for getting real-time video

integrated into a web or mobile app and

that's likely to be a very valuable

thing for a lot of developers going

forward I'm gonna go ahead and wrap

things up there if you end up building

one of these apps please let me know so

we can feature it on the channel and if

you want to learn how to build an app

from scratch consider becoming a pro

member at fire ship IO thanks for

watching and I will see you in the next

one