

Glossary of Tech Terms

Layer	Tool(s)	Role in an App
Frontend (Mobile App)	React Native + Expo	The user interface and interactions.
Backend (Server)	Express	Handles app requests and sends data.
Database	SQL	Stores user info, messages, etc.
Cloud Platform	Azure	Hosts everything securely, scales automatically.

SQL

Term	Simple Definition
Database	A collection of organized data (like a digital filing cabinet).
Table	A group of related data in rows and columns (like a spreadsheet).
Row (Record)	One entry in a table (like one line in an Excel sheet).
Column (Field)	A type of data stored in a table (like "Name" or "Age").
Primary Key	A unique ID for each record (like a student ID number).
Foreign Key	A link between two tables (like connecting "Students" to "Classes").
Query	A request to the database to get or change data.
SELECT	Gets data from a table.
INSERT	Adds new data to a table.
UPDATE	Changes existing data.
DELETE	Removes data.
JOIN	Combines data from multiple tables.

Expo

Expo App	A mobile app built using Expo and React Native.
Expo Go	A free app you can install on your phone to preview your Expo projects instantly.
Expo SDK	A collection of prebuilt tools and features (like camera, location, notifications).
EAS (Expo Application Services)	Expo's cloud tools for building, updating, and publishing apps.
App Manifest (app.json / app.config.js)	The file that defines app settings like name, icon, and permissions.
Expo Router	A file-based navigation system (organizes screens like web pages).

Expo Router

React Native

Term	Simple Definition
Component	A building block of the app (like a button or text box).
Props	Settings you pass into a component (like giving a label text).
State	Data that can change while the app is running (like a counter value).
JSX	The special syntax used to write UI that looks like HTML but runs in JavaScript.
View	A container for layout (like a <code>div</code> in web pages).
Text	Used to show text in the app.
StyleSheet	Defines how things look (colors, sizes, fonts).

Hooks (e.g. useState, useEffect)	Built-in tools for managing state and side effects in components.
Navigation	Moving between screens (like from Home to Settings).
Native Modules	Code written in native languages (Swift, Java) that React Native can use.

Azure

Cloud Computing	Running software or storing data on the internet instead of your own computer.
Azure Portal	The main website where you manage everything in Azure.
Virtual Machine (VM)	A computer that runs in the cloud.
App Service	A place to host web apps or APIs.
Azure SQL Database	Microsoft's database in the cloud (uses SQL).
Resource Group	A folder that keeps related Azure resources together.
Subscription	Your Azure account and billing plan.
Function App	Small pieces of code that run on-demand (serverless).
Azure Active Directory (AAD)	Manages users and logins for apps.

Express

Server	A computer (or code) that listens for and responds to requests from users.
Request	A message from the user asking for something (like “show me my profile”).
Response	The data the server sends back.

Route	A specific path or URL your app handles (like <code>/login</code> or <code>/products</code>).
Middleware	Functions that run between the request and the response (like checking if a user is logged in).
API (Application Programming Interface)	A way for apps to talk to each other using requests and responses.
REST API	A common type of API that uses URLs and HTTP methods (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE).
JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)	A format for sending and receiving data (looks like <code>{ "name": "Alice" }</code>).