Weekly Log # 6

This week I spent my time finding data and beginning to program my app. I decided to build the entire app in React Native, a React framework for mobile app development. The advantage of using React Native is its similarity to javascript, the robust libraries, and it offers a ‘write once, run anywhere’ solution. This will be my first project using any flavor of React, so I know there are challenges I expect to face.

I chose to build my app around Bryce Canyon National Park. I went to the National Parks Service data store to find free layers, and I grabbed five GeoJSONs from NPS. Then, I browsed for a stylish image to build my color palette around. Once I got those, I began organizing my project.

After getting the data and image, I used google’s firebase to build the backend of the app. firebase implements user authentication and a realtime database that is structured using a NoSQL format.

I initiated my app on my computer and built the back end on firebase. It was important to build the app in this order to prevent any errors in the app name on firebase. To initialize the app, I took advantage of a repository on github that was centered around firebase deployment for React Native Apps. After initializing the app and installing the requisite dependencies, I began to play with coding. To date, I’ve built the log in screen. The next intentions are to build the map screen, load and symbolize the available data. While I’m doing that, I’ll also simultaneously construct the database architecture for the CRUD portion of the app. I’ll move on to building the appropriate functions for data manipulation and additional features. Right now, the progress has been slow as I’ve spent much of my time instilling best practices to avoid code duplication.