Weekly Log 7

This week’s focus has been on adding a working map to the app and getting the map to populate the data. Unfortunately, I only got one of those goals completed. The app has a working map but I haven’t yet got data to populate on the map. The lack of accomplishment hasn’t been due to difficult, but a lack of time. The COVID-19 preparations being made by the military have taken much of my time.

To get the map to work, I’ve stuck with using React Native’s map functionality. The native map mimics whatever platform the app is run on. On android, the device the I’m testing, it loads Google Maps.

Once I get the data to load, the bulk of the work remains to be storing and retrieving data online. Fortunately, there are a great number of tutorials using Firebase as a platform to storing and retrieving data via their real time database structure. The NoSQL and redundancy in their approach is novel to me, so I’ve been listening to and watching plenty of videos on data storage architecture in Firebase’s real time database storage. The main concept is flattening data and even storing copies of data because storage is virtually free. These conventions fly in the face of SQL database structures where data is stored based on relationships and redundant data is viewed as anathema.

As we move on to week 8, I’m hoping to dedicate considerable time to storing data and building the database structure in firebase. I’ll be researching CRUD operations using firebase and react native. From there, adding forms for different use is just a matter of creating new views and linking the functionality. It will be tedious but hopefully I can find ways to refactor my code and reuse components as opposed to writing only slightly different code over various screens and functions.