This week’s focus has been on adding features to my map display. I’ve quickly run into a problem with the standard google maps. I can use react-native-maps to render a google map on my emulator that updates my location, but none of the necessary UI/UX features on the map have been able to render. After a great deal of research through StackExchange and the github for the library, I’ve learned that most people cannot get any of the UI/UX buttons like ‘show my location’ or zoom buttons to appear. Their work around has been to create their own buttons for the map. This is a solution, but I don’t think it’s the correct one. I don’t want to create an unfamiliar user experience. I want the map interactions to be fluid, intuitive, and understandable for the user.

Based on that information, I’ve decided to start playing with mapbox for React-Native. The instant bonus is that I can import any style that I create on mapbox into my app with little effort. The user reports have indicated that all of the buttons are available by default.

Beyond the map, I’ve spent time reading data organizing on firebase and prepping to add the user authentication. I want to have users login to the app to mitigate erroneous user reports. I also want to tie in users to credit them for reporting issues.

Much of the next week will be adding user authentication and getting my map interface working better. I need UI buttons.