Journal

In this exploration I decided to further study Google’s Firebase software. In the previous exploration I looked into and practiced using their Hosting services. This time I decided to explore two other features that they offer with their software. These services included their Real Time Database management service as well as their user Authentication service. I was very impressed with both of these features due to the fact that after learning the initial set up using these services were very easy.

To assist me in my research I visited YouTube and watched numerous videos about the different topics to explore with Firebase at the Firebase YouTube channel at the following URL.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Firebase>

Here I looked through some of their tutorials and watched various videos on topics that interested me. In the end I decided to further study and utilize the database and authentication services, as previously stated. I used the video tutorials to get me started and help me set up both of the applications that I created for this exploration. The URL’s for those tutorials can be found below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dz0Aodmrz0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hb85pYZSJaI>

Through trial and error I found that you are not able to locally host an application on your machine and test/utilize the authentication services. To use this service, you have to host your web application online which I was able to do using their hosting services as discussed in my second exploration. So, if you wish to use these services yourself you will have to look into hosting your application their server or a server of your choosing.

I also discovered that GitBash experiences some issues with initializing the Firebase hosting service sometimes. After looking at various forums online I discovered that simply using command prompt works better for using firebase.

In my user authentication application the user is brought to a plain login screen with the options of signing in using a google account or an email account. Upon logging in using one of these services they are brought to another simple page that congratulates them on their login. I was impressed with how simple it was to set up a login using either one of these features. I was further impressed finding that you could also set up a login using facebook, twitter, github, and various other social media providers, just as easily as the one that I had set up. If you wish to look at the code or visit that application, you can follow the links.

In my real time database management system I created a simple web page in which the user could enter their two favorite songs and those songs would be written to the database to be saved and persistent. You can also clear the inputs, write over the database data, as well as load previously stored data. This application was simple, but I was able to see how easy it can be to set up a database using the Firebase software. You can view screenshots of that application at the following link.