Journal

In this exploration, I decided to look into Google’s Firebase service. Firebase is defined as a Backend-as-a-Service application that can be used in numerous ways. In this exploration, I decided to use Firebase to host the webpage that I created in my first exploration assignment. You can follow my research in the following text.

First, I visited the google firebase website at the link below.

[Firebase Link](https://firebase.google.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=1001467%20%7C%20Firebase*%20Brand%20GENERIC%20%7C%20US%20%7C%20en%20%7C%20Desk%2BTab%2BMobile%20%7C%20Text%20%7C%20BKWS%20%5B2017%5D&utm_term=%7Bkeyword%7D&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIvf2j2onE1gIVRCaGCh2hogKAEAAYASAAEgJon_D_BwE)

Once there, I watched the introduction video that is posted on their landing page to get a general understanding of Firebase is used for. In that video, I discovered that this software can be used to ease the production and deployment of the applications that you create.

Following that, I followed the “Get Started” Link where it then leads you to a page that prompts you to view a sample application or start your own. I decided to view the sample application to get an idea of what a generic sample application looked like and was unimpressed with my findings. The sample only shows you the general layout of your application and does not have any running sample code or any files in it.

From there I decided to create my own “project”, which I had named Exploration 2. At that point I decided that I was going to host a web application since this is a Web Development course. To do this I clicked on the tab labeled “Hosting” and followed the given tutorial on how to host a web application on their servers.

I found that the tutorial that the give you is less than helpful so I decided to try to find one elsewhere. I was able to find an awesome tutorial on YouTube at the URL <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gl-qlxfTJHE>. Simply follow this tutorial and you will have no issues getting your webpage hosted. The Steps taken to get this set up are all listed below.

Initial Set Up Steps:

1) Download latest version of nodejs from nodejs.org

2) use command npm install -g firebase-tools on your cmd prompt local machine

3) firebase login then click Y and visit website to login

4) go to the folder that holds the code you wish to host

5) open a command prompt window from that folder and type firebase init

6) Set desired settings

7) ran into issues becuase my functions folder was not installed

8) go to functions folder that was created from firebase init

9) open new command prompt window and type npm install

10) go back to your project folder and type firebase deploy

11) you can now visit your site online

After completing all of these steps you can visit your webpage at the URL that they provide. Mine can be found at <https://exploration2-a624e.firebaseapp.com/>.

Following this I wanted to see how easy it would be to update or redeploy your webpage to determine its usefulness for updating versions. To do this I simply created another webpage differing slightly from my index.html file and named it pagetwo.html. To add this file to my hosted site all I had to do was initialize and redeploy my code using the following commands.

1. Firebase init
2. Firebase deploy

After using these commands, you can now visit my second webpage at this link <https://exploration2-a624e.firebaseapp.com/pagetwo.html>. I was very pleased with how simple it was to upload your new version of code.

After completing this I decided to look into what else the firebase software can be used for. I found that it is commonly used for creating mobile applications. These mobile applications can be for the IOs or Andriod platforms, depending on your preference of development. I didn’t decide to create a android or IOs application given the fact that I have never used android developing software before. However, I did find a useful YouTube tutorial on how to create a simple application that can be hosted on the firebase software. In this string of tutorial videos, they show you how to create a mobile blog application and with this application you learn how to set up a database, reference the database in real time and save host your application on their servers. I found this all to be very interesting and this string of videos can be found at this URL <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-gZAYBMuBs&list=PLGCjwl1RrtcTXrWuRTa59RyRmQ4OedWrt>.

All in all I found this software to be fun to mess around with as well as useful for what I need for this course. It is fast, easy, and free to host web applications using the firebase system they have created.