Topics explored:

In this exploration I decided to research Google’s Firebase software. Firebase is defined as a Backend-as-a-Service system that provides various services. These services include a realtime Database management tool, Crash Reporting tool, Authentication tool, Cloud Functions tool, Cloud Storage tool, Hosting tool, Test Lab for Android tool, and a Performance Monitoring tool. The servicethat I spent most my time exploring was its webpage hosting service. You are able to host your own web application on their servers so you do not have to pay for a server from AWS. I was able to do this after following a tutorial I found on YouTube fairly quickly. Another service I looked into was its realtime database tool. With this tool you are able to store and sync data between users and devices in realtime using a cloud-hosted noSQL database. I did not create an application that used this tool, but I did find a video series on YouTube that walked you through how to create a simple mobile application that would utilize this feature that they offer. I found these videos easy to understand and follow and have no doubt if I was given more time it would be something easy to learn.

Trouble Shooting Tidbits:

* Before you start using the services watch the video that explains what Firebase is on its landing page.
* Download nodejs to your machine before using the Hosting service.
* Watch the YouTube video listed below on how to setup your first hosted web application. The instructions provided by Firebase are not clear.
* Organize the files you plan to have hosted on their servers before using.
* Be sure to install the functions folder before trying to deploy your code.