HOSTING

Hosting Services

■ At some point we are going to want to provide our website/app/service to other users. We need a host.

- – *Do it ourself.*

- – *Google Cloud Services*

- – *Amazon AWS*

- – *Microsoft Azure*

- – *Github Pages*

- – *Heroku*

- – *Many others*

Heroku

- In the past heroku did not ask for a credit card and had a free tier. Hobby tier allows 7$/month cap on charges.

- https://www.heroku.com

- Getting started with node.js https://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/getting-started-with-nodejs

- Heroku requires npm, node.js, and git

- Has both dashboard and command line interfaces

Render

- Does not ask for a credit card, but has limits for free usage https://www.render.com/

- When you create a project on render, you will select the repo where render will find the apps code.

- When you register, you will need to allow render to install a github app on your github account. This installation can either allow access to all your repos or just selected ones. The advantage of all is that new repos are accessible.

- Documentation https://render.com/docs

Render

■ For us, we will interact with Render via the a dashboard. (Command line access is available, but not at the free level.)

Create a Project on Render

- From the dashboard do New+ (upper right) and select Web services.

- Find the repo you want to use from the list of possible and click Connect. It will autofill many of the settings.

- You need to select a good name for the service.

- You will need to change the build to `npm install`

- You will need to change the start command to `npm start`

- Scroll down and click Create Web Service

Create a Project on Render

■ Render will automatically build and start a service. Unfortunately, for the free level the build times can be 5-10 minutes or more.

■ As it spins up your service, you can see progress messages on the logs.

■ Once it has finished and the server is running, you can access your server from the link in the upper left. It will have the name:

– *https://your-name.onrender.com*

Updating the project

- Any time there is a change in the repo, Render will be triggered and can automatically reinstall the service

- If you change setting, Render will be triggered as well.

Dashboard Overview

■ All of your current services are listed on the dashboard along with their current status

■ If you click on a service, you will get a detail view that along the left side will have

- *Events that have caused changes in your service status*

- *Log of console messages*

- *Environment where env values and secrets can be stored*

- *Settings for the service that you can change.*