

Technical Challenges Encountered

I ran into several issues early on with React Router and component setup. The app rendered a blank screen due to incorrect routing and component import errors. I also experienced a slightly frustrating issue with Firebase configuration. Basically I had a duplicate "const app" declaration that caused a crash. It was a super simple issue, but it was difficult for me to trace the issue. Lastly, integrating the dictionary API was challenging since responses can vary in structure.

Solutions Implemented

To address the routing and blank screen issues, I debugged the file structure, confirmed component exports, and simplified the initial routing setup. For the Firebase issue, I cleaned up the configuration file and removed the duplicate initialization code. I also added proper error handling to the dictionary API fetch to manage cases where words were misspelled or returned no results. I am currently depending on the computer system functionality of catching misspelled words rather than having the application do it. Lastly, I used `useEffect` and `useState` to manage both remote data and component state.

Changes from Original Proposal

My initial wireframes suggested a flow where users would first search a word, then view it on a separate "Word Detail" page to add notes and tags. I allow users to search, tag, and save from a single form (the AddWord screen). This change keeps the flow simpler. Plus, the wireframe I created is more suitable for a mobile app design, I found that having a separate page is actually more simple for a web design. Part of my initial issue with the wireframes is that I am so used to designing for mobile apps, but once I started coding and realized that pages are required as a part of this project anyway, it actually makes more sense to have a separate page (at least for a simpler version, I do think in the future it will be interesting to see a design that allows to add words not on a separate page but instead on the same page with the function building on top of others).

Instructor Guidance Needed

I'm considering adding a separate "edit" flow where users can update notes and tags later from a detailed word view. I am wondering whether it is better to have this as a separate route or page or if it can be handled on the same page as the home page? What would you guys recommend I do?