Distributed Systems: Google Cloud

Kristof Jannes

17 October 2023



Recap lab sessions

- Remote communication: completed
 - » Deliverables: report (20 Oct)
- Distributed cloud applications
 - » Mandatory Level 1
 - >> Optional Level 2

Google Cloud Platform

Intro GCP



Google Cloud Platform

Competitors:











Intro GCP: Compute



Application

Runtime

Guest OS

Hypervisor

OS

Hardware

IaaS



Application

Runtime

Container

Container Engine

OS

Hardware

IaaS





Engine

Application

Runtime

Sandbox

Sandbox Engine

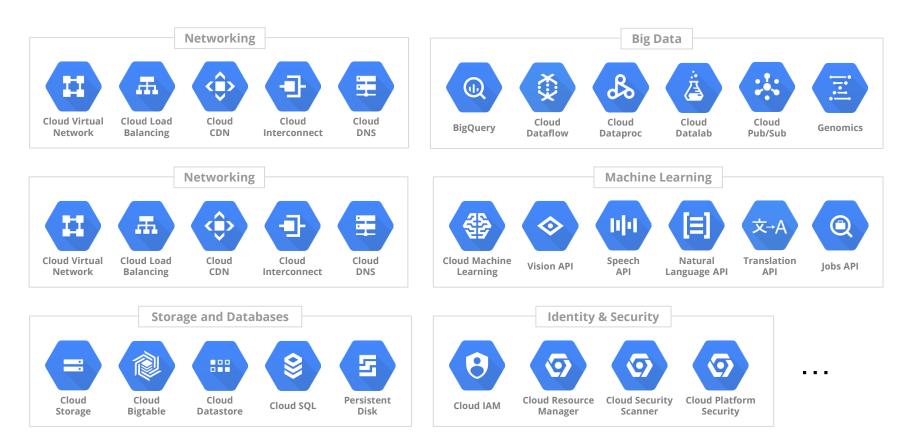
OS

Hardware

PaaS

Intro GCP: Other services





Topics for today

- Google App Engine
- Firebase Authentication
- Cloud Pub/Sub
- Cloud Firestore
- Spring Boot
- Lab sessions: Cloud

Google App Engine

What is Google App Engine?



- Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)
 - >> Fully managed serverless application platform
 - Server infrastructure and software installation is managed by Google
- Automatic scaling and load balancing
- Pay only for what you use
 - Free developer quota available
- Comparable to:



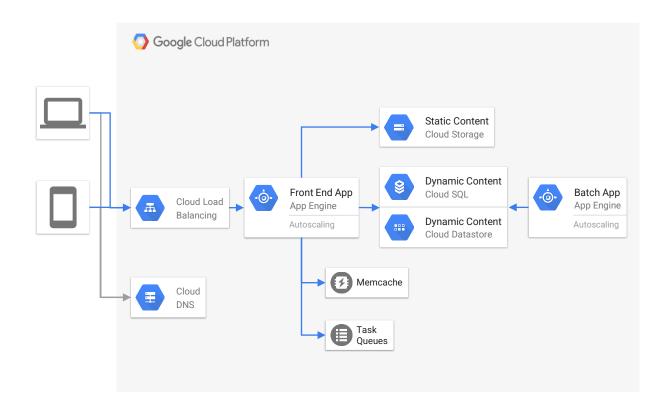


Deploy your code in the cloud

- Choose one or more regions (39 available)
- One application is fixed to a region



Example App Engine Deployment



Programming languages

- Managed languages: zero configuration
 - » Java, Go, PHP, Node.js, Python, Ruby
- Custom containers



» .NET, Rust, Erlang, Haskell, Cobol, ...



Restrictions

- Sandbox environment
 - ›› Limited access to underlying platform
 - » Can only write to /tmp
 - » Isolated from other applications
- App must not respond slowly
 - >> Web requests must be handled within 10 minutes

Automatic scaling

- > Instances are created on demand to handle requests
- Automatically turned down when idle
- > Low latency ← costs
 - >> Cold-start problem: starting a new instance takes some time (seconds)
- In-memory state might not be present at the next request



Writing Your 1st Java 17 Web Service (1/3)

Directory structure:

```
pom.xml
src/
   main/
      appengine/
          app.yaml
      java/
          com/example/appengine/springboot/
             SpringbootApplication.java
```

https://cloud.google.com/appengine/docs/standard/java-gen2/building-app/writing-web-service



Writing Your 1st Java 17 Web Service (2/3)

```
src/main/java/com/example/appengine/springboot/SpringbootApplication.java
aSpringBootApplication
∂RestController
public class SpringbootApplication {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    SpringApplication.run(SpringbootApplication.class, args);
  @GetMapping("/")
  public String hello() {
    return "Hello world!";
```

https://cloud.google.com/appengine/docs/standard/java-gen2/building-app/writing-web-service



Writing Your 1st Java 17 Web Service (3/3)

```
src/main/appengine/app.yaml

1 runtime: java17
```

Local development:

```
$ mvn spring-boot:run
```

Open your browser: http://localhost:8080

https://cloud.google.com/appengine/docs/standard/java-gen2/building-app/writing-web-service

What's the difference with FaaS?



- Function-as-a-Service (FaaS)
 - » A single function, not a full application
- Function can run everywhere, close to the user
- Automatic scaling, instantly
- Pay only what you use: fine-grained, i.e., 100 milliseconds
- Comparable to



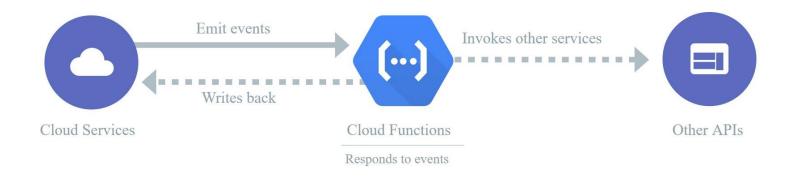




Cloud Functions



One single piece of code, triggered by some event



Can you host it in your own data center?



Xubernetes

- » Open-source container orchestration
- » Built upon the experience of Google with App Engine
- » But only orchestration and deployments
 - >>> No other built-in services

Firebase Authentication

What is Firebase Authentication?



- Identity and Access Management Solution
 - » Secure and scalable identity store
 - » Social identity federation: Google, Facebook, Twitter, …
 - >> Standards-based authentication: OAuth 2.0, OpenID Connect
- Comparable to:
 - Amazon Cognito Azure AD Auth0

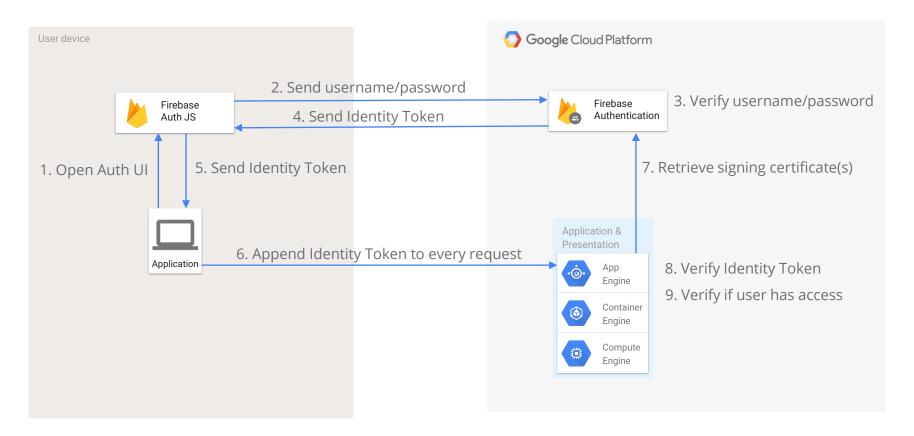




OpenID Connect

- Authentication protocol
 - » Securely login a user to an application
 - >> Built on OAuth 2.0
- Identity token
 - >> Proves identity of a user as verified by the identity provider

Example Authentication flow



OpenID Identity Token: raw format

eyJhbGci0iJSUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IjhmYmRmMjQxZTdjM2E2NTEzNTYwNmRkYzFmZWQyYzU1MjI2MzBhODciLCJ0eXAi0iJKV1QifQ.eyJuYW11IjoiS3Jpc3RvZiBKYW5uZXM iLCJpc3Mi0iJodHRwczovL3N1Y3VyZXRva2VuLmdvb2dsZS5jb20vZGlzdHJpYnV0ZWQtc3lzdGVtcy1rdWwtMzI3MDA3IiwiYXVkIjoiZGlzdHJpYnV0ZWQtc3lzdGVtcy1rd WwtMzI3MDA3IiwiYXV0aF90aW11IjoxNjM1MDk4OTUzLCJ1c2VyX2lkIjoiZ2JSSWtSZlViOF1NMUQxZHROMWlWRnBuZ29jMiIsInN1YiI6ImdiUklrUmZVYjhZTTFEMWR0TjF pVkZwbmdvYzIiLCJpYXQi0jE2MzUwOTg5NTQsImV4cCI6MTYzNTEwMjU1NCwiZW1haWwi0iJrcmlzdG9mLmphbm5lc0BrdWxldXZlbi5iZSIsImVtYWlsX3ZlcmlmaWVkIjpmY WxzZSwiZmlyZWJhc2UiOnsiaWRlbnRpdGllcyI6eyJlbWFpbCI6WyJrcmlzdG9mLmphbm5lc0BrdWxldXZlbi5iZSJdfSwic2lnbl9pb19wcm92aWRlciI6InBhc3N3b3JkIn1 9.gZLjVNMHIL-nDXA14bmz0DEjCqIFDG91y5xqRadQnz8kfj02ZiuJvTSy0JJm41gXhoZP7462GVgaYR-_cxiscGydj4B_roxBniaspQ4vFqZFwTTZ2tJo29kS-pxn4Xo7dgHNQYxQcWW15RGqcoUMkdHUDAPtMnRqP4u3lceL9ZsB0JZyXYNmNDQdidUmvxcSr2WnILzonSL98yG7OtuC6UQneH2opvNAy3WAy40li3s9UBLLhE-xtJj3OvNWVB7KJZdICmbHWXSBipS5yBCgSG-Jn9CpXwiHYn584u5 4xIPj-18td28oNjqBh06ryecrfWxtXZ6OVPWUY6sQsFicw

https://jwt.io/ https://jwt.ms/

OpenID Identity Token: decoded

3 parts:

Header

y contains details about how the JWT token is signed

Payload

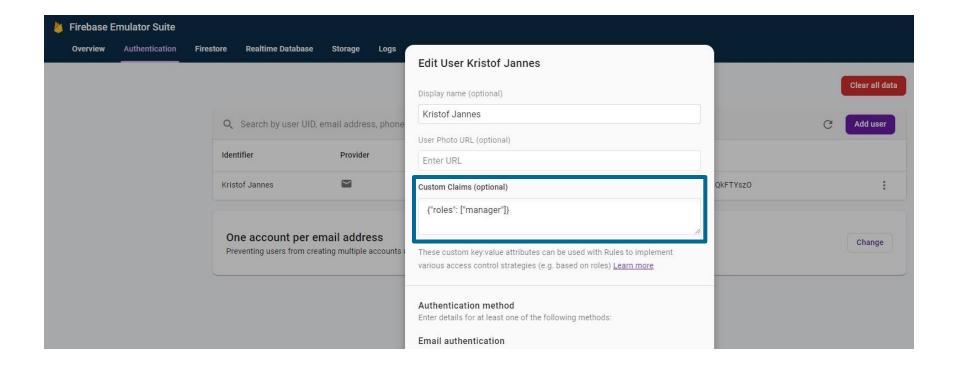
» contains claims

Signature

```
"alg": "RS256",
  "kid": "8fbdf241e7c3a65135606ddc1fed2c5522630a87",
  "typ": "JWT"
  "name": "Kristof Jannes",
  "iss": "https://securetoken.google.com/distributed-systems-kul-327007",
  "aud": "distributed-systems-kul-327007",
  "auth_time": 1635098953,
  "user id": "gbRIkRfUb8YM1D1dtN1iVFpngoc2",
  "sub": "gbRIkRfUb8YM1D1dtN1iVFpngoc2",
  "iat": 1635098954,
  "exp": 1635102554,
  "email": "kristof.jannes@kuleuven.be",
  "email verified": false,
  "firebase": {
    "identities": {
      "email": [
        "kristof.jannes@kuleuven.be"
    "sign in provider": "password"
}.[Signature]
```



Add custom claims to users



Custom claims are added to Identity Token

```
"alg": "RS256",
 "kid": "8fbdf241e7c3a65135606ddc1fed2c5522630a87",
 "typ": "JWT"
 "name": "Kristof Jannes",
 "iss": "https://securetoken.google.com/distributed-systems-kul-327007",
 "aud": "distributed-systems-kul-327007",
 "auth time": 1635098953,
 "user id": "gbRIkRfUb8YM1D1dtN1iVFpngoc2",
 "sub": "gbRIkRfUb8YM1D1dtN1iVFpngoc2",
 "iat": 1635098954,
 "exp": 1635102554,
 "email": "kristof.jannes@kuleuven.be",
 "email_verified": false,
 "firebase": {
   "identities": {
     "email": [
       "kristof.jannes@kuleuven.be"
   "sign in provider": "password"
 "roles": ["manager"
. Signature
```



Verify Identity Token

```
try {
     var kid = JWT.decode(idToken).getKeyId();
      var pubKey = PUBLIC KEYS.get(kid);
      Algorithm algorithm = Algorithm.RSA256(pubKey, null);
      DecodedJWT jwt = JWT.require(algorithm)
                              .withIssuer("https://securetoken.google.com/" + projectId)
                              .build()
                              .verify(idToken);
     var email = jwt.getClaim("email");
    } catch (JWTVerificationException e) {
     // unauthorized
11
12
```

https://github.com/auth0/java-jwt

How difficult is getting API security right?

https://owasp.org/www-project-api-security/

T10 OWASP API Security Top 10 - 2019

API1:2019 - Broken Object Level Authorization	APIs tend to expose endpoints that handle object identifiers, creating a wide attack surface Level Access Control issue. Object level authorization checks should be considered in every function that accesses a data source using an input from the user.
API2:2019 - Broken User Authentication	Authentication mechanisms are often implemented incorrectly, allowing attackers to compromise authentication tokens or to exploit implementation flaws to assume other user's identities temporarily or permanently. Compromising system's ability to identify the client/user, compromises API security overall.
API3:2019 - Excessive Data Exposure	Looking forward to generic implementations, developers tend to expose all object properties without considering their individual sensitivity, relying on clients to perform the data filtering before displaying it to the user.
API4:2019 - Lack of Resources & Rate Limiting	Quite often, APIs do not impose any restrictions on the size or number of resources that can be requested by the client/user. Not only can this impact the API server performance, leading to Denial of Service (DoS), but also leaves the door open to authentication flaws such as brute force.
API5:2019 - Broken Function Level Authorization	Complex access control policies with different hierarchies, groups, and roles, and an unclear separation between administrative and regular functions, tend to lead to authorization flaws. By exploiting these issues, attackers gain access to other users' resources and/or administrative functions.
API6:2019 - Mass Assignment	Binding client provided data (e.g., JSON) to data models, without proper properties filtering based on a whitelist, usually lead to



Cloud Pub/Sub

What is Cloud Pub/Sub?



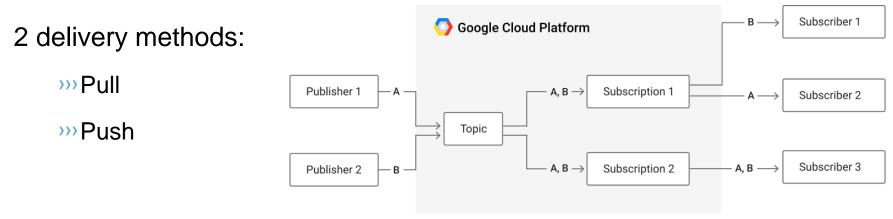
- Indirect communication
- Asynchronous communication, outside user request
- Decouple services (micro-service architecture)
- Scale and parallelize execution: flow control
- Comparable to:
- Amazon SNS Azure Queues RabbitMQ





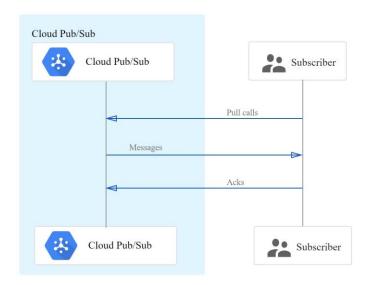
Core concepts

- > **Topic**: unique name
- Publisher: sends messages
- > **Subscriber**: receives messages



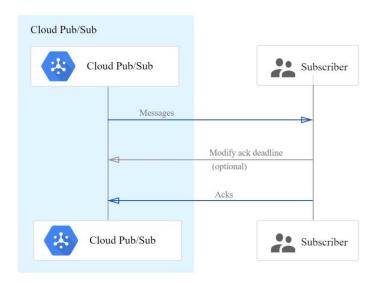
Pull subscription

Application asks Cloud Pub/Sub for next message



Push subscription

Cloud Pub/Sub sends message to pre-defined endpoint



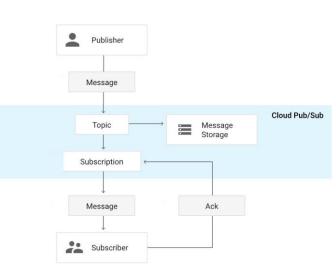
Delivery semantics

- At-least-once delivery
 - » Duplicate messages are possible!
- Subscriber should acknowledge successful processing
 - ›› Otherwise, message is retried (up to 7 days)

How does Pub/Sub guarantee at-least-once delivery?

Lifecycle of a message:

- A publisher sends a message.
- 2. The message is written to **durable storage**.
- Pub/Sub sends an acknowledgement to the publisher that it has received the message and guarantees its delivery to all attached subscriptions.
- 4. At the same time as writing the message to storage, Pub/Sub delivers it to subscribers.
- 5. Subscribers send an acknowledgement to Pub/Sub that they have processed the message.
- 6. Once at least one subscriber for each subscription has **acknowledged** the message, Pub/Sub deletes the message from storage.





Publishing a message

https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/quickstart-client-libraries#publish_messages



Create push subscription

Acknowledgement deadline

https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/create-push-subscription#create_a_push_subscription



Receive message from push subscription

https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/push#receive_push



Anatomy of a message

Base64 representation of the data you published

```
"message": {
        "attributes": {
          "key": "value"
        "data": | "SGVsbG8gQ2xvdWQgUHViL1N1YiEgSGVyZSBpcyBteSBtZXNzYWdlIQ=",
        "messageId": "2070443601311540",
        "message id": "2070443601311540",
        "publishTime": "2021-02-26T19:13:55.749Z",
        "publish time": "2021-02-26T19:13:55.749Z"
11
      },
      "subscription": "projects/myproject/subscriptions/mysubscription"
12
13
```

https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/push#receive_push

Cloud Firestore

What is Cloud Firestore?



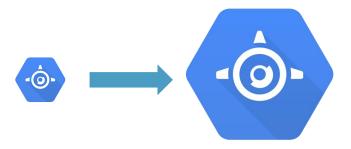
- Fast, fully managed, serverless, cloud-native NoSQL document database
- Highly scalable
- Highly available
- Comparable to:

NoSQL document database

- → relational database management systems (RDBMS)
- Schemaless: no fixed fields
- Fast and scalable
 - » Often weak consistency guarantees (not Firestore)
 - »» Eventual consistency
 - >>> Only transactions on single data items
 - » Often limited query possibilities
- Horizontal scalability

Horizontal scalability

- Vertical
 - » Add resources to single node



- Horizontal
 - >> Add more nodes



Data model

- > Documents ~row
 - » Key-value pairs / very similar to JSON
 - » Unique reference
 - >> No schema
- Collections ~table
 - » Collection of documents
 - » Hierarchical model ~one-to-many





Identifies one unique document

```
■ users
■ alovelace
first : "Ada"
last : "Lovelace"
born : 1815
■ aturing
first : "Alan"
last : "Turing"
born : 1912
```

1 DocumentReference document = db.collection("users").document("alovelace");

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Modifying documents

Add / Edit:

```
Map<String, Object> docData = new HashMap<();
docData.put("first", "Ada");
docData.put("last", "Lovelace");
docData.put("born", 1815);
ApiFuture<WriteResult> future = db.collection("users").document("alovelace").set(docData);
future.get(); // block until operation is completed
```

Delete:

```
db.collection("users").document("alovelace").delete().get();
```

users
alovelace
first: "Ada"
last: "Lovelace"
born: 1815

first : "Alan"
last : "Turing"

born: 1912



Retrieving documents

Single document:

```
db.collection("users").document("alovelace").get().get()
```

All documents:

```
db.collection("users").get().get().getDocuments()
```



alovelace

first : "Ada" last : "Lovelace" born : 1815

aturing

first : "Alan"
last : "Turing"
born : 1912

Queries

- Limited query support
 - » No many-to-many relations
 - » No JOIN queries
 - » No aggregate queries
 - >> Inequality filters are limited to at most one field
- Think about performance
 - >> If you know the ID of a document, a simple get is much faster



Examples:

```
1  Query query = db.collection("users").whereEqualTo("last", "Lovelace");
2  ApiFuture<QuerySnapshot> querySnapshot = query.get();
3  for (DocumentSnapshot document : querySnapshot.get().getDocuments()) {
4   ...
5  }
```

```
1 Query query = db.collection("users").whereLessThan("born", 1900);
2 ApiFuture<QuerySnapshot> querySnapshot = query.get();
3 for (DocumentSnapshot document : querySnapshot.get().getDocuments()) {
4 ...
5 }
```

■ alovelace
first : "Ada"
last : "Lovelace"
born : 1815

first : "Alan" last : "Turing"

aturing

born : 1912

Level 2 51

Transactions

- > Pessimistic concurrency control: locks
- Serializable isolation
 - >> You can assume that the database executes transactions in series
 - >>> Transactions are not affected by uncommitted changes in concurrent operations



```
final DocumentReference docRef = db.collection("users").document("alovelace");
db.runTransaction(transaction → {
   DocumentSnapshot snapshot = transaction.get(docRef).get();
   long oldBalance = snapshot.getLong("balance");
   transaction.update(docRef, "balance", oldBalance + 1);
   return null;
};
```

Level 2 53

Transactions

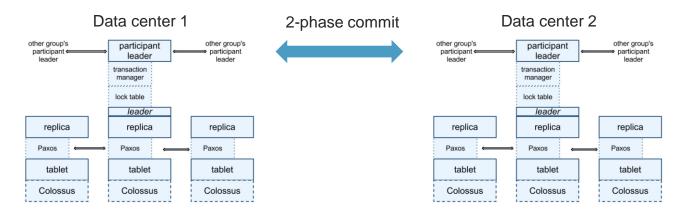
- Limitations:
 - >> Read operations must come before write operations
 - >> A transaction function might run more than once

```
1 db.runTransaction(transaction 
ightarrow ...)
```

- » At most 500 documents
- How to solve resource contention?
 - → Indirect communication → Cloud Pub/Sub (flow control)

How are transactions executed under the hood?

- Documents are distributed across servers and possibly data-centers
 - >> Based on collection and key
- 2-phase commit is needed for transactions across multiple data centers



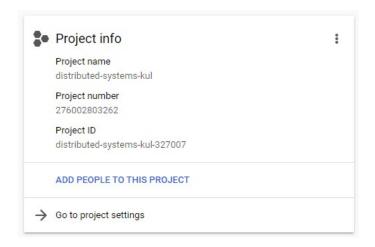
<u>Firestore: The NoSQL Serverless Database for the Application Developer</u>

Spanner: Google's Globally-Distributed Database

Google Cloud Platform Deployment

Google Cloud Project

- Each Cloud resource must belong to a project
- Each project ID is unique across Google Cloud Platform



Select geographic zones and regions

Based on:

- » Geographic proximity
- >> Available services
- >> Compliance
- » Price
- Some services: multi-region
 - » More expensive, but more reliable

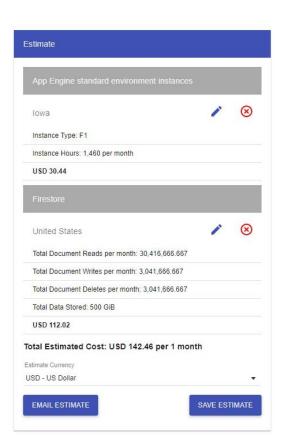


Serving websites

- Each Google App Engine receives a unique URL
 - >> https://ct-id>.<region>.r.appspot.com
- SSL certificate managed by Google
- Possible to buy custom domain

Billing

- To use Google Cloud services,
 you must have a valid Cloud Billing account
 - » Project is linked to one billing account
 - >> We provide credits for the optional lab sessions
- Some services: free quota
- > Planning: Google Cloud Pricing Calculator
 - » https://cloud.google.com/products/calculator





Deploy to Google App Engine

Package all files into a WAR file

```
$ mvn package
```

Upload and deploy to Google Cloud

```
$ mvn appengine:deploy
```

- Other services must be configured through the cloud console
 - » https://console.cloud.google.com

Spring Boot

Component-based development in Java

- Objects and their relations are managed by the framework
- Framework automatically loads correct objects and services
- Dependency injection
 - » Automatically inject correct object based on rules
 - » Decouples part of the application
- Example frameworks:







- Component scanning
 - >> Framework will discover all Spring Components and start them

```
1  @SpringBootApplication
2  public class Application {
3
4      public static void main(String[] args) {
5          SpringApplication.run(Application.class, args);
6      }
7
8  }
```

Level 1



Declaring components (1/2)

- > aComponent
 - >> Registers a class as a component
 - >> An instance will automatically be created when the application starts

Level 1



Declaring components (2/2)

- > ᠗Bean
 - » Registers the result of a method as a component (also called bean)
 - ›› Object is managed by Spring, and can be injected in other components

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- → ORestController
 - » Is a special component
 - » Remember the REST lab sessions

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Dependency Injection (1/2)

- Inject a component or bean by its name
 - >> Spring will look up the bean, and instantiate it when necessary



Dependency Injection (2/2)

- Inject a component by its type
 - >> Spring will look up the component, and instantiate it when necessary



Dependency injection happens after instantiation

- Constructor is called before any dependencies are injected

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Spring WebClient

```
1 curl -X GET https://reliabletrains.com/trains?key= ...
```

```
WebClient.Builder webClientBuilder; // dependency injection
var trains = this.webClientBuilder

.baseUrl("https://reliabletrains.com")

.build()
.get()
.uri(uriBuilder → uriBuilder
.pathSegment("trains")
.queryParam("key", API_KEY)
.build())

.retrieve()
.bodyToMono(new ParameterizedTypeReference<CollectionModel<Train>() {})
.block()
.getContent();
```

https://docs.spring.io/spring-framework/reference/web/webflux-webclient/

Lab Sessions

Recap lab sessions

- Remote communication: completed
 - » Deliverables: report (20 Oct)
- Distributed cloud applications
 - Mandatory (level 1): 24 Oct, 31 Oct, 7 Nov, 14 Nov
 - >>> Topics: PaaS, Access Control, Indirect Communication, Fault Tolerance, NoSQL
 - » Deliverables: code + report (17 Nov)
 - Optional (level 2): 21 Nov, 28 Nov, 5 Dec
 - >>> Topics: NoSQL, Transactions, Cloud Deployment, Scalability
 - » Deliverables: code + report (8 Dec)

Assignment

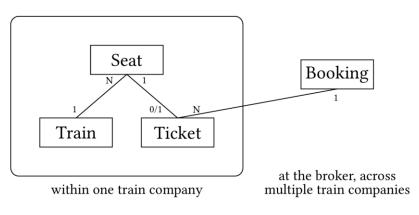
 Build the backend of a booking platform for making reservations across multiple train companies

Comparable to:

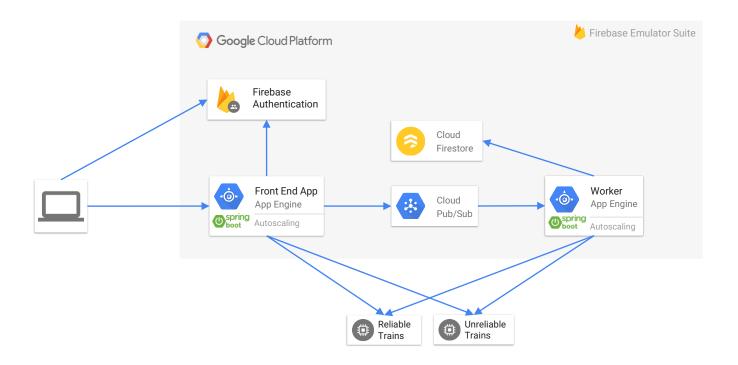


Domain model

- Train Company
 - Train: a train with name and destination
 - » Seat: a specific instance of a train with time and seat number
 - >> **Ticket**: a reservation for a specific seat
- > Booking Platform
 - » Booking: a collection of tickets

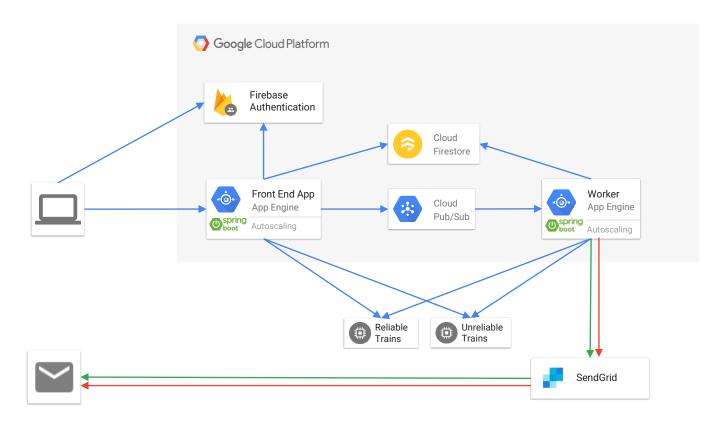


Goal: level 1 (mandatory)



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Goal: level 2 (optional)



Level 2

Assignment: level 1 (mandatory)

Provided:

- Spring Boot application with Preact
- 2 external train companies with RESTful API

Requirements:

- Implement business logic by using the REST endpoints of the train companies
- ›› Implement authentication and authorization through Firebase Authentication
- Use indirect communication through Cloud Pub/Sub to decouple reservation processing
- » Maintain ACID semantics
- >> Ensure that the platform is fault tolerant even when relying on an unreliable service
- >> Test your application locally

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Provided web-app will use REST to call your service

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```
openapi: 3.0.3
  title: DNetTickets - API
  version: 3.0.0
      summary: Get all trains
        "200":
          description: A list of trains
                  $ref: "#/components/schemas/Train"
                  trainId: de9bdc62-d08c-4ac2-8838-cfba02e556f0
                  name: Thalvs Amsterdam
                  location: Brussels - Amsterdam
                  image: https://reliable-trains.com/amsterdam.jpg
      summary: Get train by ID
          in: query
          description: ID of the train company
```

```
/api/getTrains Get all trains
                                                                                                      /api/getTrain Get train by ID
                                                                                                      \stackrel{\triangle}{=}
/api/getTrainTimes Get all times for a train
/api/getAvailableSeats Get all available seats for a train at a specific time
                                                                                                      △ ∨
/api/getSeat Get seat by ID
/api/confirmQuotes Create a new booking
                                                                                                      /api/getBookings Get bookings from customer
                                                                                                       △ ∨
/api/getAllBookings Get all bookings
/api/getBestCustomers Get the best customer
```



https://editor.swagger.io/

Local development



\$ firebase emulators:start --project demo-distributed-systems-kul

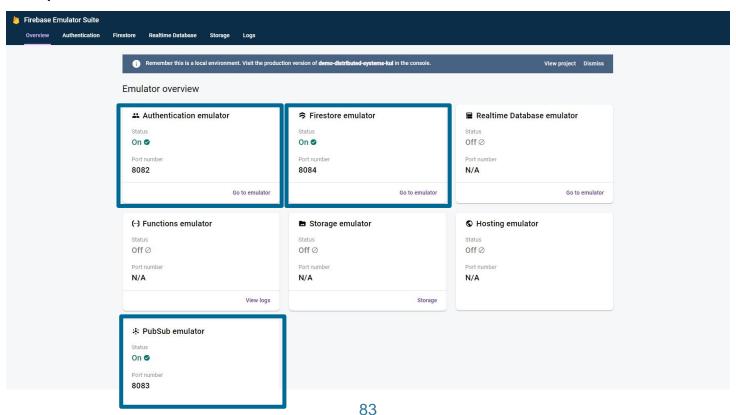
Remember to connect to the emulator

```
⊘SpringBootApplication
public class Application {
    aBean
    public Publisher publisher() throws IOException {
        TransportChannelProvider channelProvider = FixedTransportChannelProvider.create(
                    GrpcTransportChannel.create(
                            ManagedChannelBuilder.forTarget("localhost:8083").usePlaintext().build()));
        CredentialsProvider credentialsProvider = NoCredentialsProvider.create();
        return Publisher
                    .newBuilder(...)
                    .setChannelProvider(channelProvider)
                    .setCredentialsProvider(credentialsProvider)
                    .build();
```

Remember to connect to the emulator

Local development

http://localhost:8081



Demo

How to prepare for Cloud – level 1 (mandatory)?

- > To read:
 - >> Lecture Cloud: Google Cloud: 17/10 slides on Toledo
 - » Assignment text: on Toledo
- To look through:
 - >> Live demo: 17/10
 - Assignment text contains lots of links to documentation use them!
 - ›› Google Cloud Pub/Sub Tutorials: https://cloud.google.com/pubsub/docs/tutorials
- > Theory: Lecture *Indirect Communication*

Questions?

Via distributedsystems@cs.kuleuven.be

- Not an online help desk!
 - ∴ Content questions → only in the lab sessions
 or on the discussion board on Toledo
 - → Administrative issues → via email

DistriNet