Group 6: Vanderbilt Roommate Matching

Installation

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The Vandy Roommate Matcher is based on the FERN web stack, composed of Firebase, Express, React, and Node.

Before starting the installation, ensure you have the following tools installed:

Node.js: Download and install Node.js from nodejs.org.
Git: Install Git from git-scm.com to manage your source code.
Heroku CLI: If you plan to deploy or interact with a Heroku instance, install the Heroku CLI as described at Heroku's official site.
Firebase Account: Ensure you have a Firebase account. Create one at Firebase.

Step 1: Clone the Repository
Clone the code repository from GitHub or any other version control system you are using:

Step 2: Install Dependencies
Navigate into the project directory where package.json is located and install the necessary Node.js dependencies:

Use the command: npm install in the terminal

Step 3: Configure Environment Variables
Set up the necessary environment variables. Create a .env file in your backend directory and include the necessary Firebase and other environment configurations:

backend/.env

NODE_ENV=development

PORT=5000

FIREBASE_API_KEY=your_firebase_api_key

FIREBASE_AUTH_DOMAIN=your_firebase_auth_domain

FIREBASE_DATABASE_URL=your_firebase_database_url

FIREBASE_PROJECT_ID=your_firebase_project_id

FIREBASE_STORAGE_BUCKET=your_firebase_storage_bucket

FIREBASE_MESSAGING_SENDER_ID=your_firebase_sender_id

FIREBASE_APP_ID=your_firebase_app_id

For React (client side), you can set environment variables in a .env file in the root of the client directory:

client/.env

REACT_APP_FIREBASE_API_KEY=your_firebase_api_key

REACT_APP_FIREBASE_AUTH_DOMAIN=your_firebase_auth_domain

Add other firebase or necessary environment variables

Step 4: Run the Application locally

In terminal: cd frontend; then run: npm run dev

In terminal: cd backend; then run: npm run dev

This typically launches the React Application and Backend on localhost 3000 and 5000 respectively.

Testing

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To install dependencies associated with JEST to run tests on the backend, in the terminal run npm install jest.

Then, to run the tests you have to run npm run test.

Deployment

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Log into Heroku through the terminal using: heroku login
Initialize a git repository for both the frontend and backend: git init
heroku git:remote -a your-heroku-app-name
Note: The app name will be different for each the frontend and backend.

Add and commit changes: git init
heroku git:remote -a your-heroku-app-name

Create Heroku app if not done already: heroku create

Push to Heroku: git push heroku master

Set environment variables on heroku as needed (Firebase keys)

After deployment, monitor logs with command: heroku --tail