Overview

Short Description

The application is a Web application making use of cloud services to track the whereabouts of almost any type of physical asset (unit).

Potential users are fleet managers who would subscribe to the service for keeping track of their assets.

Features

- Enables users to track business assets containing GPS devices showing current and historical asset locations in tables and Google Maps.
- Enables users to define landmarks that can be used for issuing notifications upon asset arrival and departure.
- Implemented to use JSON Web Token security.
- Implemented as a single application to manage many accounts, where user management is separately controlled by the account managers.
- Developed to work with both small and large screen sizes.
- Lightweight serverless implementation taking advantage of Google cloud services.
- Allows application administrators to limit individual account utilizations by parameters such as time, transaction load, etc.

Devices

An android application, LayTrax, has been developed to work with this application, no OBD GPS devices, are currently available.

Supported Browsers

Google Chrome

Operational Costs

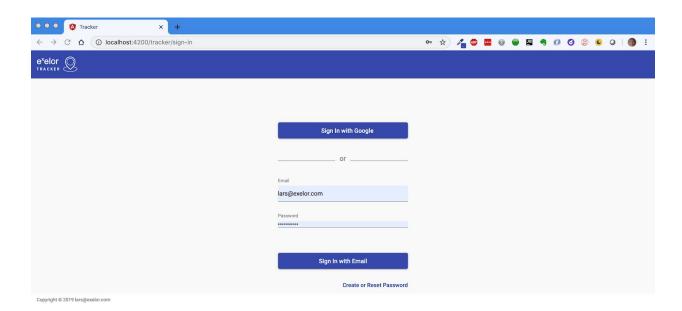
Google's Firestore charging algorithms take database writes, reads, storage, and network egress into account.

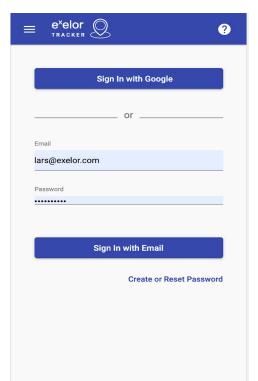
Income Potential

Customers pay for time-limited account service subscriptions. Customers may also be given free trial periods with strict resource limitations.

User Access

Sign In



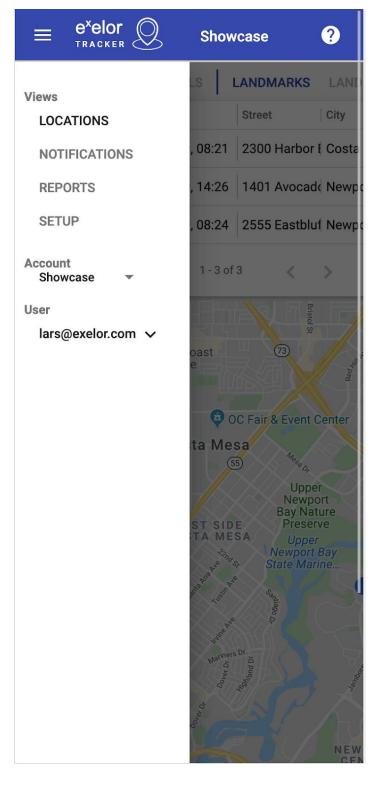


Having been given account access by an account administrator users can sign in with Google or by using their email addresses. First-time users signing in with email must use the Create or Reset Password link to create their initial passwords. When creating or resetting the passwords, it is necessary that the users have access to the email account for the email address.

In addition to providing a user with access to the account, the administrator also specifies the user's role permissions, such as read, create, and update.

A given user may be given access to multiple accounts and with different role permissions on the different accounts.

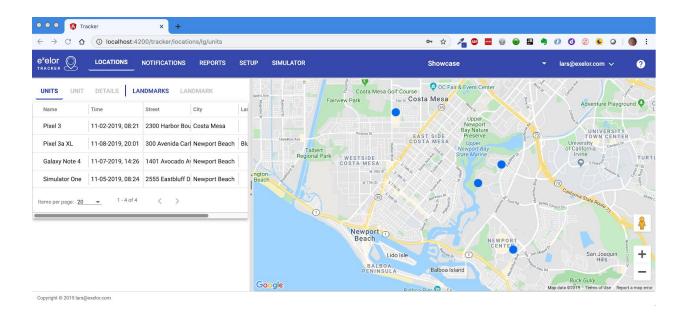
Mobile Device Interface

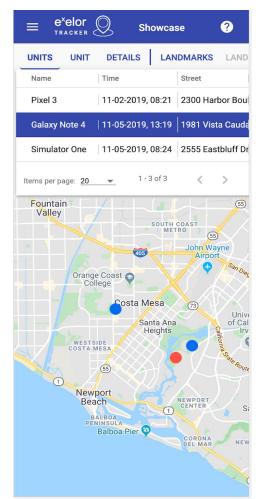


To accommodate smaller devices the user interface is made to respond to the screen width. In such cases, the items on the top navigation bar may appear inside a collapsible side drawer and tables and maps may be stacked vertically as opposed to be positioned side by side.

Locations Module

Unit Locations View





Showing the current location of all units for account Showcase.

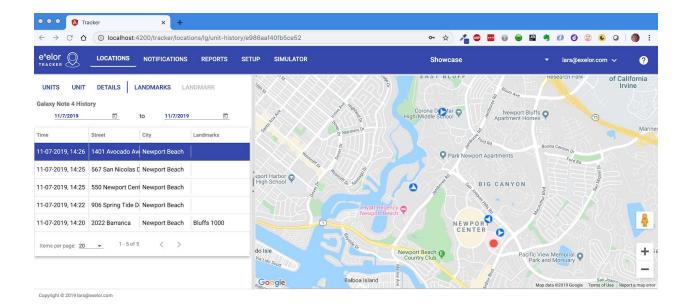
The selected unit has the red marker on the map.

[Work is needed to, instead of PNGs, create an SVG marker, which can be pointed correctly with respect to the bearing from one map point to the next (some issues with SVGs and the map library). Also, the selected marker should have the color of the selected row.]

A double-click on the table row for a given unit brings up the Unit History View for that unit.

Users with access to multiple accounts can switch between their accounts using a drop-down menu on the top navigation bar.

Unit History View



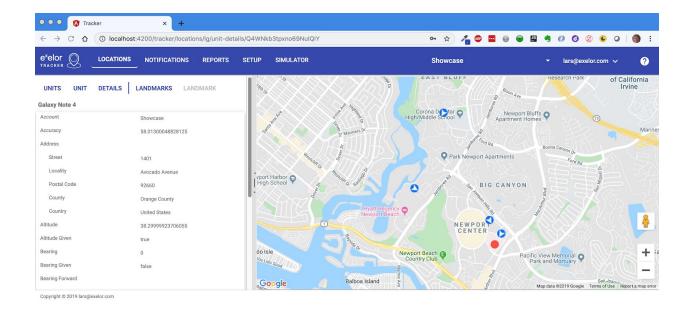


Showing a particular unit's whereabouts over time.

The table content is filtered by date range, is paginated, and, in addition to time and location, shows any landmarks visited.

A double-click on the table row for a given history point in time brings up the Unit Details View for that unit.

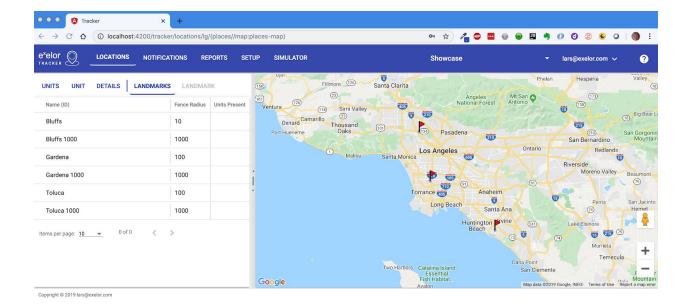
Unit Details View

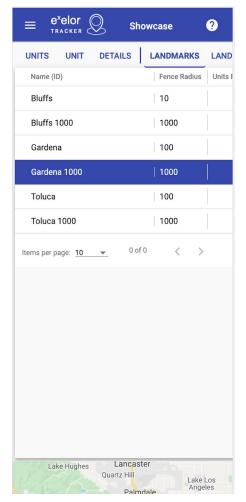




The table shows all data received from the device transmitting from the unit at a particular time of the monitored history.

Landmarks View





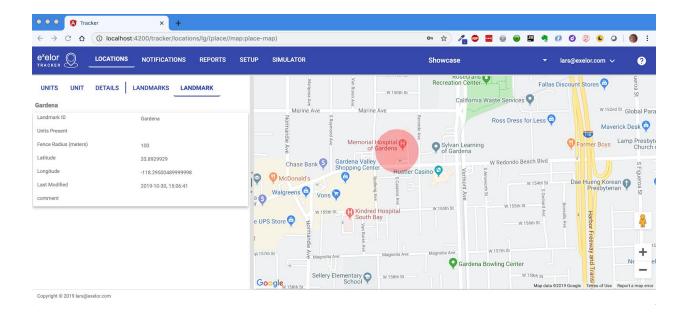
Showing all landmarks defined for the account. Selecting a landmark row in the table makes the map flag bounce a few times and assume the color of the selected row.

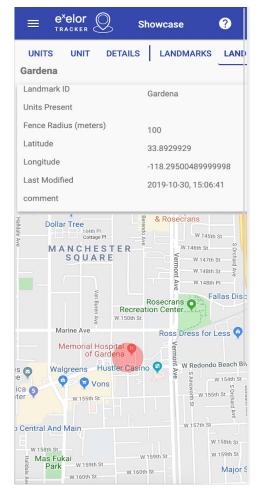
All landmarks are circular with colors and radius lengths controlled by the users.

The number of units present, if any, at the landmarks are shown in the table.

For further details on a selected landmark, click the LANDMARK link.

Landmark View

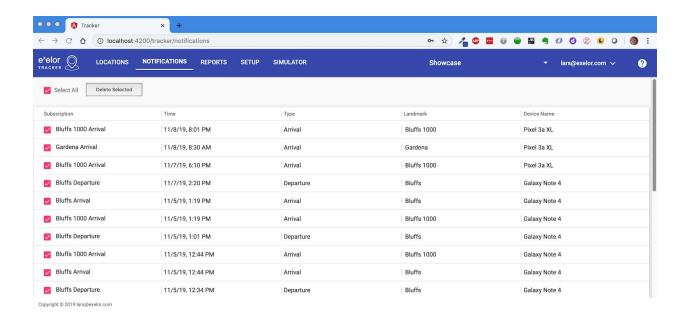


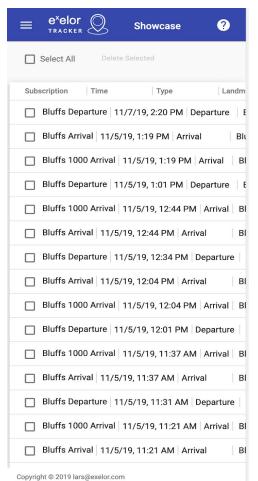


Showing the details for the selected landmark.

Notifications Module

Notifications





Showing notifications issued based upon conditions specified by users.

Currently, only landmark arrival and departure notifications are supported.

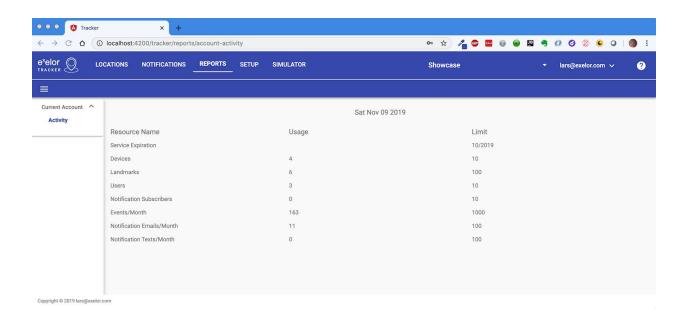
Notifications may also be issued in the form of email and text messages.

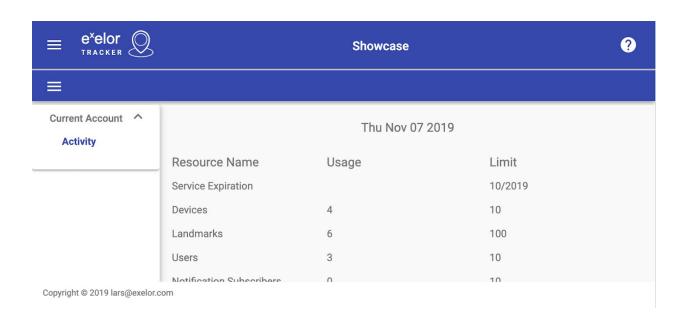
Reports Module

This module is intended to support various reporting functions. Report may be displayed on the screen and/or exported as CSV files.

Report implementations may be restricted on mobile devices.

Account Activity

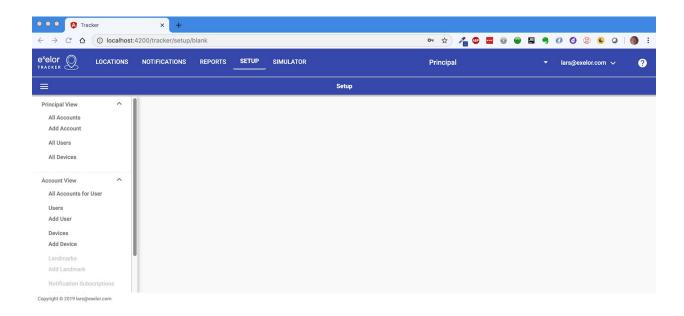




Setup Module

The Setup Module is used for creating and setting up user accounts. The user interface supports both desktop and mobile size screens, but we will show only the desktop screenshots in the following.

Principal Account

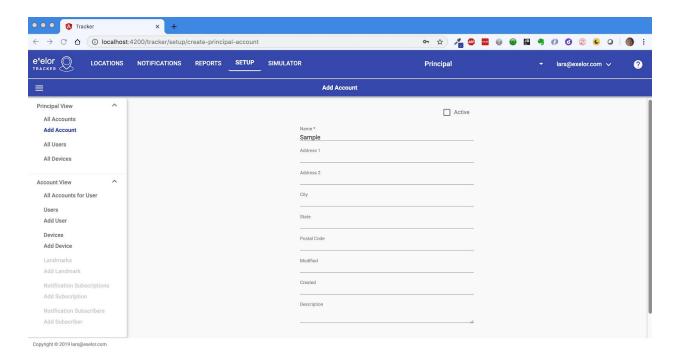


The two views, Principal and Account, separates system users from account users. Only Principal account users with special user roles can create new accounts and deactivate existing accounts. A Principal user must also create the initial account administrator for a new account.

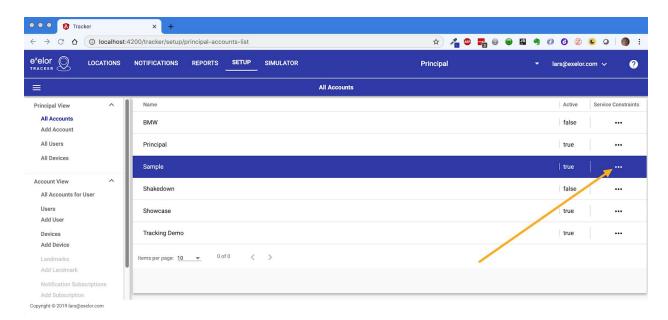
Other than that, Principal users can view all accounts as well as all users and devices regardless of their user account assignments.

Add Account

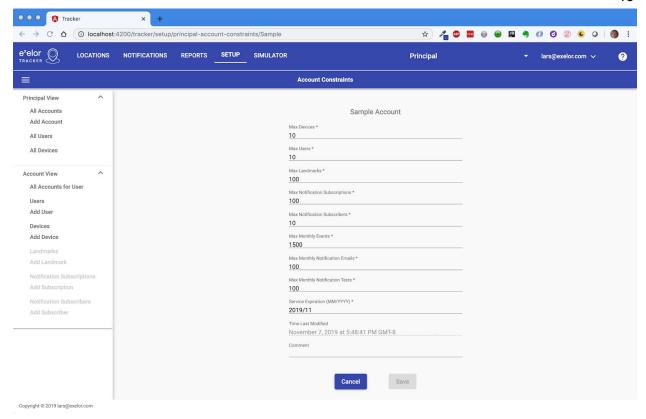
The following steps are needed to create a new account.



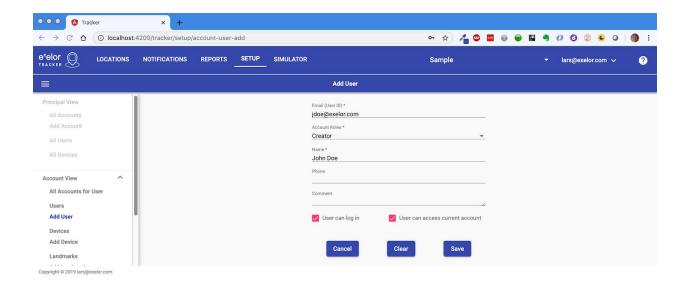
After Save the new account appears in the account list:



Click the "more' button in the Service Constraints column to view and edit the service constraints for the account. The application will refuse requests that exceed the set resource limits.



Finally, switch to the new account and create a user that can act as an administrator for the account:



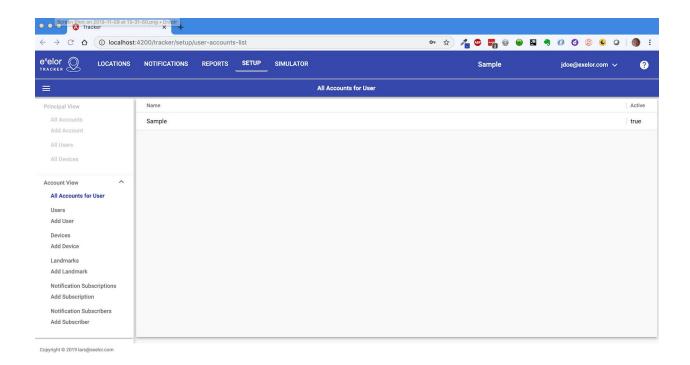
Clicking Save creates the new user and, if the user is not already a member of another account, switches the login to this user. The user is now able to manage the account.

Note that, since the Principal account is no longer selected, the sidebar selections for Principal are no longer enabled. They could alternatively be hidden altogether.

User Accounts

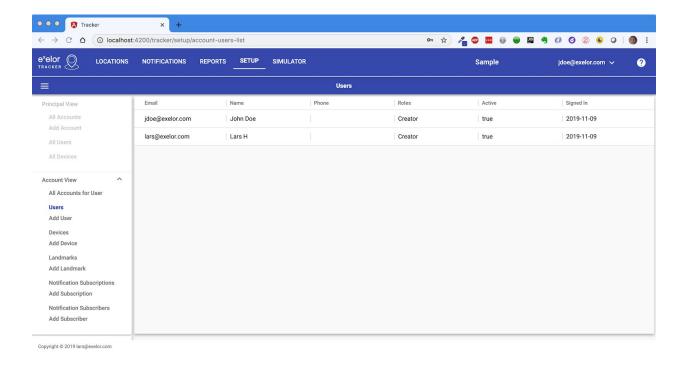
Each user account has its own set of users for monitoring units and landmarks and administrators for managing the accounts.

All Accounts for User

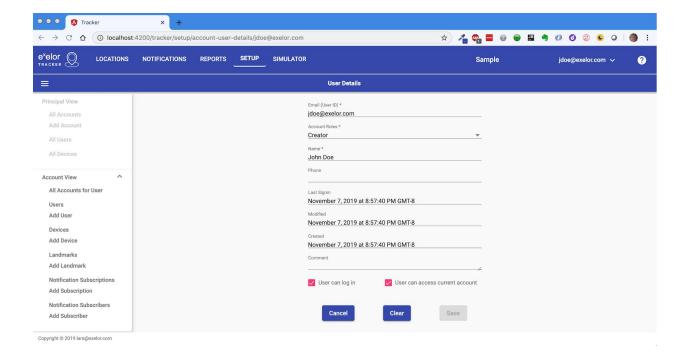


Showing all accounts for the currently signed in user. A double-click on a table row will bring up the previously shown details form for that account.

Users

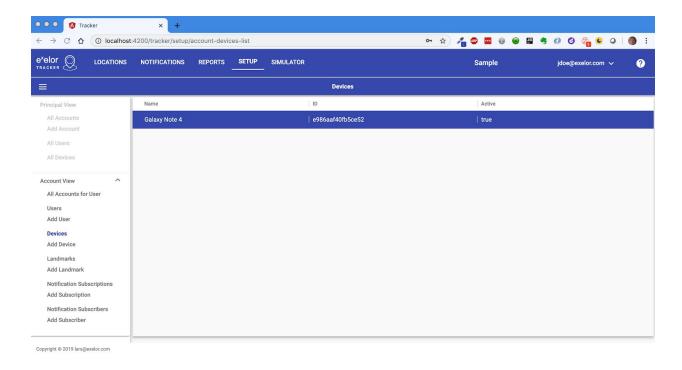


Showing all users having access to the current account. Double-clicking on a table row brings up the user details form, which is also used for adding new users.

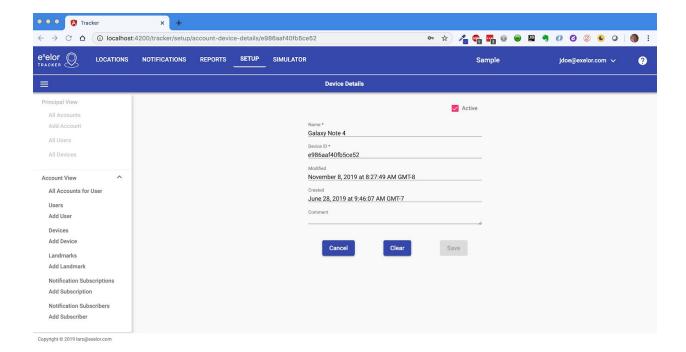


Users have no access rights outside of the account of which they are created, but a given user may be added as user inside any number of accounts.

Devices

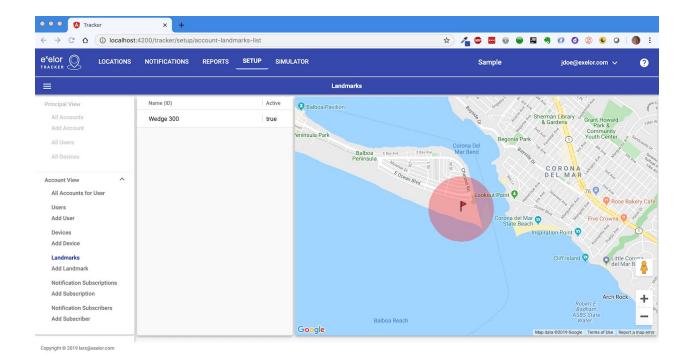


Showing all devices registered with the account. The application will accept input only from registered devices. Double-clicking a device row brings up the details form for that device.

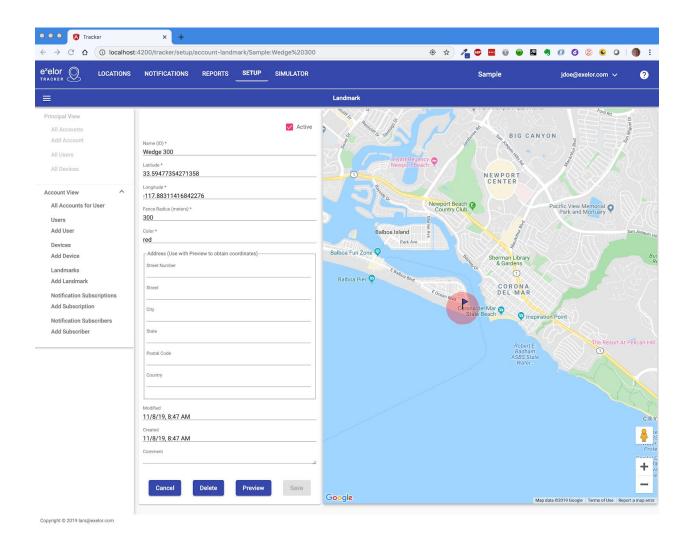


This form is also used for adding new devices to the account.

Landmarks



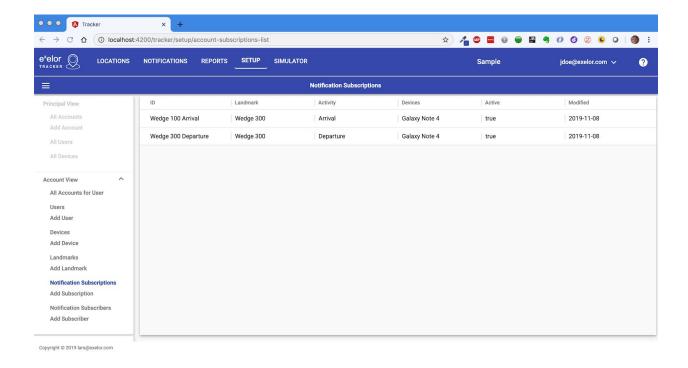
Showing all landmarks defined for the account. Double-clicking a landmark row brings up the details form for that landmark.



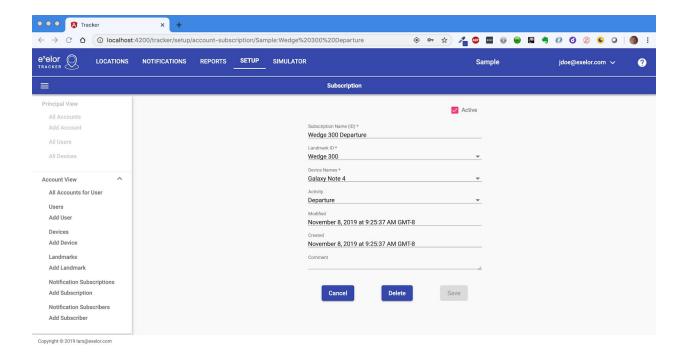
This form is also used for setting up new landmarks. Users can position landmarks either by clicking on a map location or by filling in the address box. Clicking the Preview button will render the landmark on the map.

Any number of landmarks can be overlapping.

Notification Subscriptions

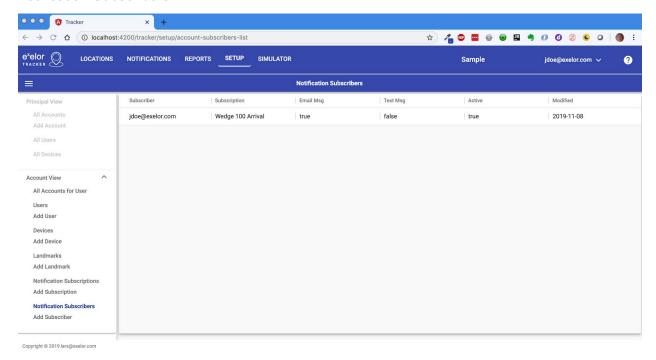


Showing the conditions to be met for the NOTIFICATIONS page to display notifications as the conditions are met. Currently, notifications can be generated only for landmark arrivals and departures. Double-clicking a notification subscription row brings up the details for that subscription.

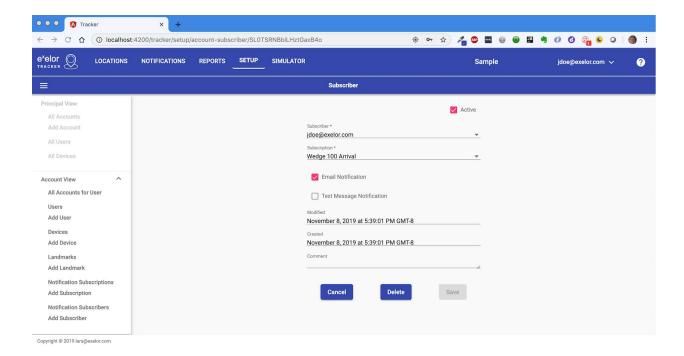


This form is also used for creating new subscriptions.

Notification Subscribers



Showing the notification subscribers list. A notification subscriber is notified personally if a particular condition as defined in Notification Subscriptions has been met. Personal notifications can be sent as email and text messages. Double-clicking a subscriber brings up the details form for that subscription.

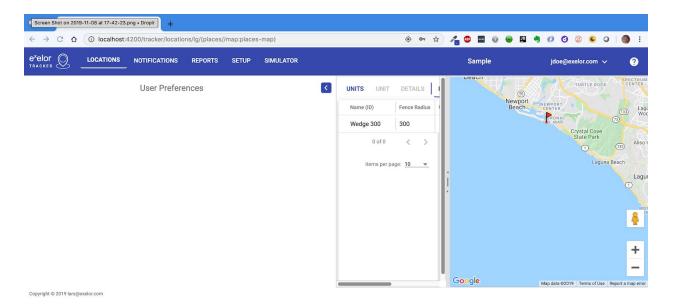


This form is also used for creating new subscribers.

User Preferences

Preferences Drawer

User preferences, such as localization settings are yet to be implemented. However, a currently empty side drawer has been implemented for this purpose. It is reachable from the user drop-down menu on the top navigation bar.

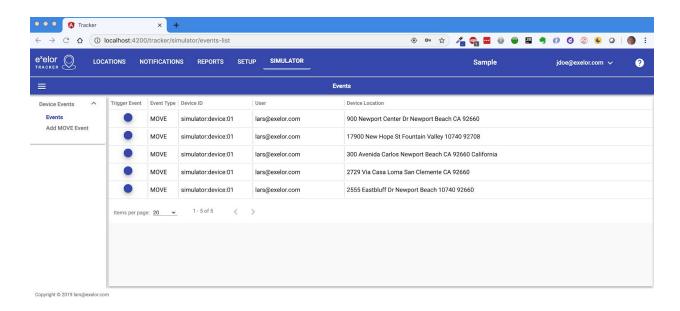


User Documentation

Context sensitive user documentation is displayed by clicking the question mark icon on the top navigation bar.

Simulator

Device Events

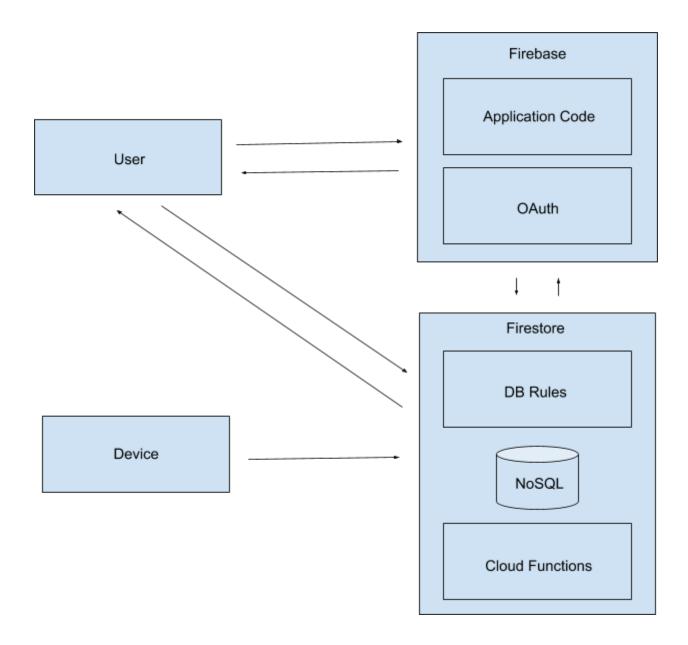


The Simulator can be used for sending device events to the backend for testing purposes. It is available in the development build only.

Architecture

The application is designed for modular development. The Core module provides sign-in capability and basic features for use by other modules. The Setup module manages users and accounts as well as the relationships between these entities. Specific application functionality is implemented through the Units, Places, and Notifications pages.

The application is hosted on Google Firebase but aside from some database functions runs entirely in the user's Web browser. It is written in Angular and makes use of several public libraries developed for Angular. Use of the Firebase OAuth implementation provides both authentication and authorization security.



Registered devices send their events directly into the Firestore NoSQL database, which also holds all configurational data. Database storage requirements are automatically scaled by Google.

The Firestore DB rules handles all device event and user access control as well as the enforcement of all user account service constraints.

The Firestore cloud functions are invoked by Node.js servers to handle individual database requests and are used to augment and measure the requests. Functions of this type can also be defined for regular database management activities.

The application currently makes use of one proprietary user interface control from Kendo UI Core.