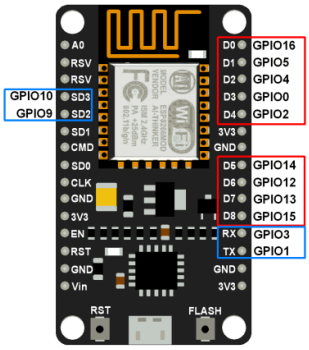
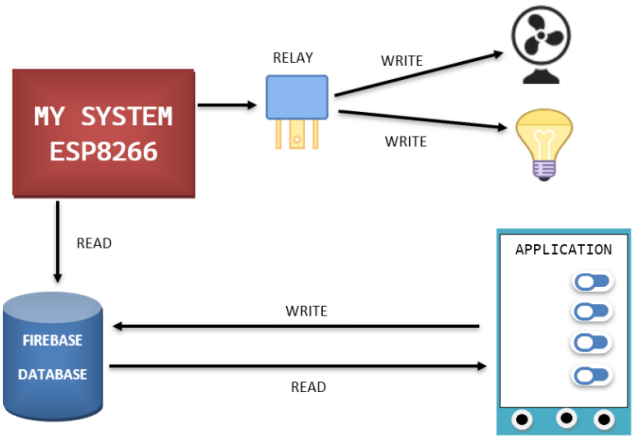
Home Automation Explained

A Complete Guide to Home Automation using ESP8266 Module with Basic Android Application





SHUBHAM TIWARI

(Author)

FIREBASE & (NODEMCU)ESP8266 MODULE COMMUNICATION

In this topic, we will learn about how to make commutation between your **(NodeMCU) ESP8266-12E** Module and **Firebase Realtime Database.**

We'll also learn about updating, fetching, removing values from Realtime database.

Realtime Database?

As per my point of view, A database which is capable of updating values of its corresponding fields very fast on a user response without need to refresh the page is known as Realtime database.

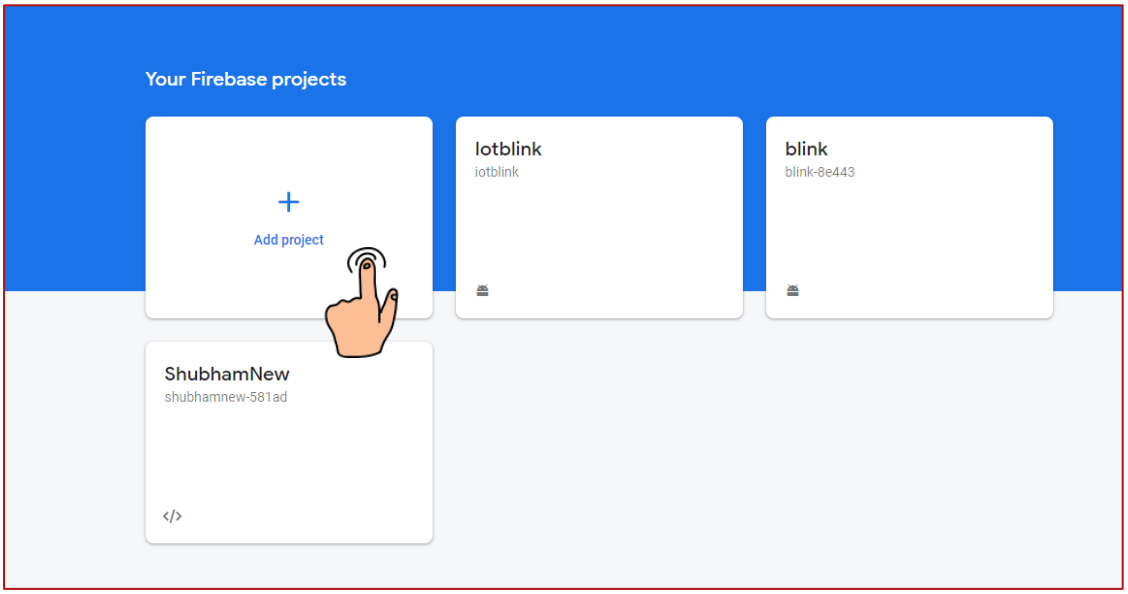
Video Link : See Demo

Why Firebase?

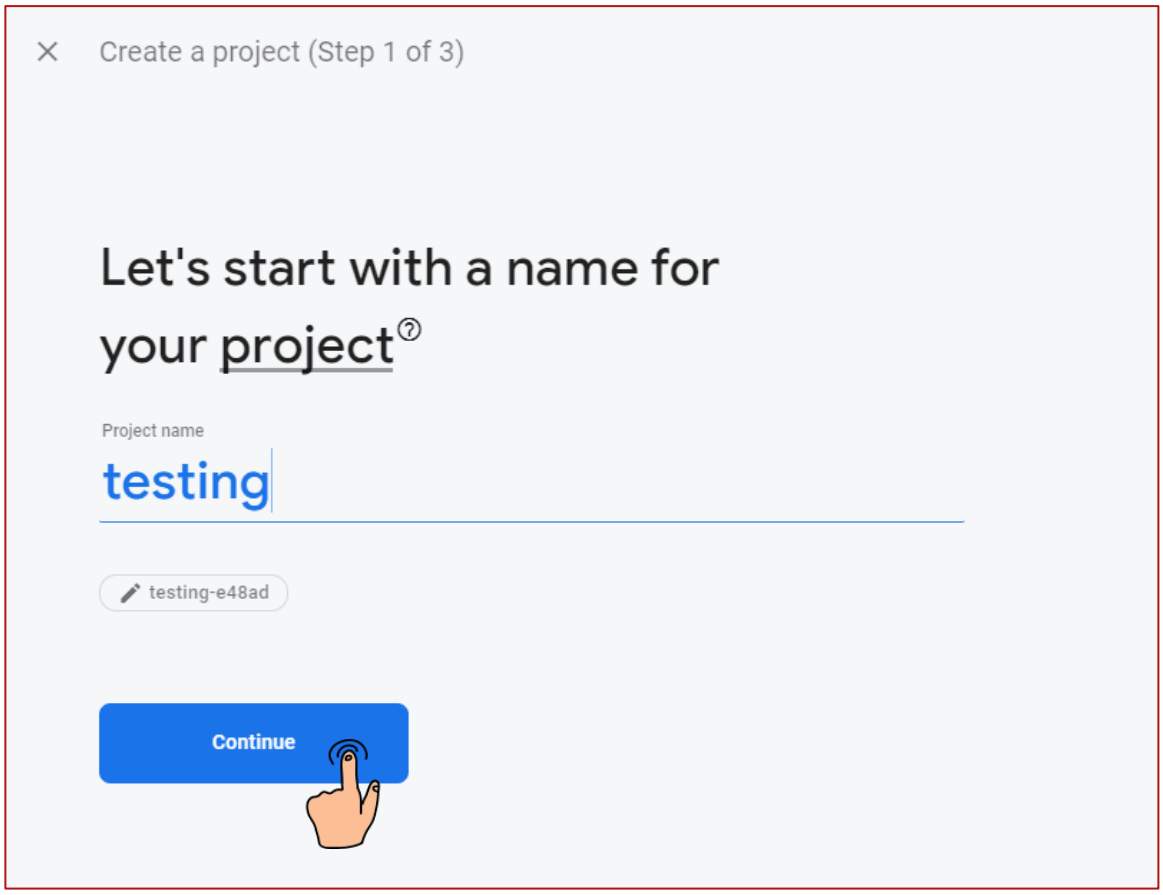
Firebase provide facility of Realtime & cloud databases and it has very user-friendly interface and easy to use after some learning that's why we use firebase which is a trusted service offered by Google.

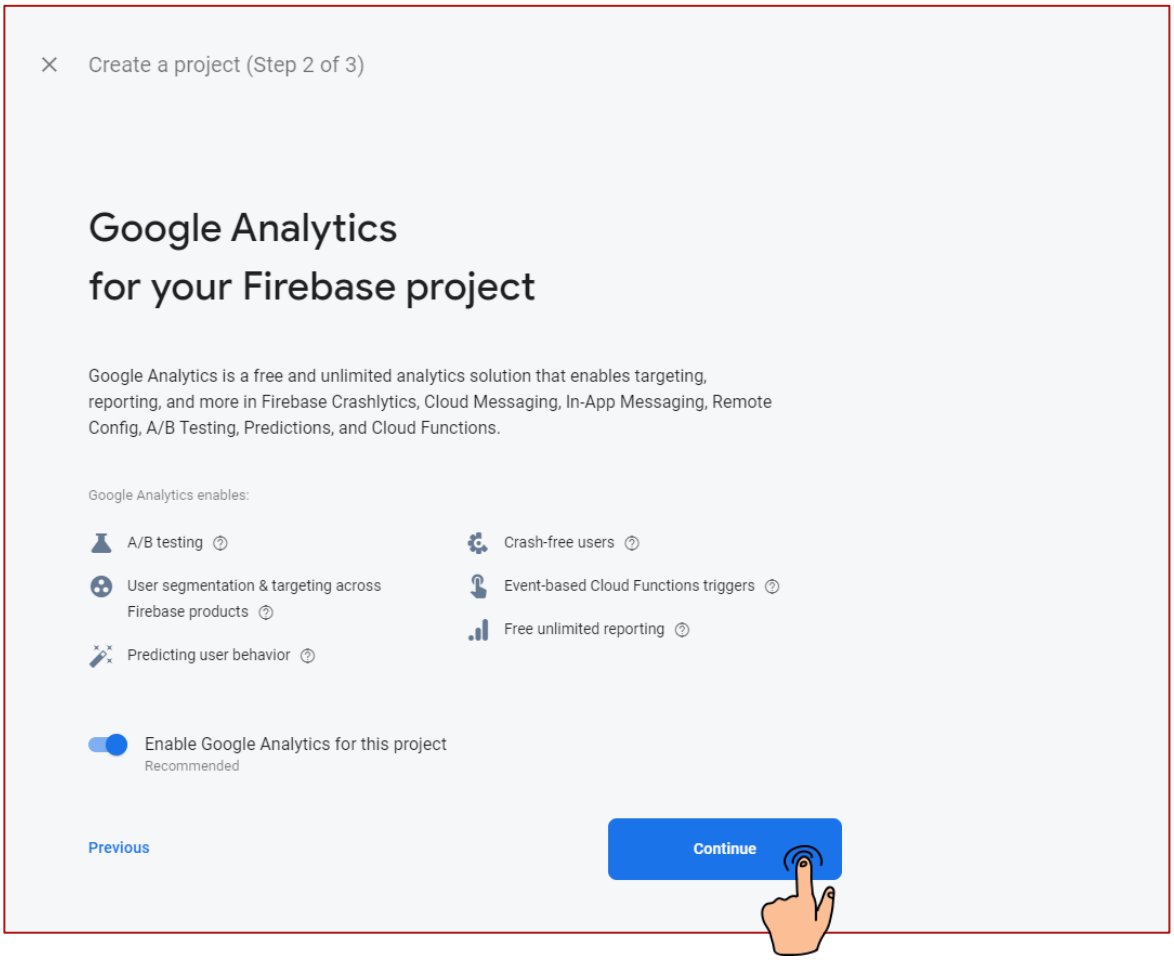
How to Create Firebase Realtime Database ?

1. Go to https://console.firebase.google.com/
2. Click on **Add project**

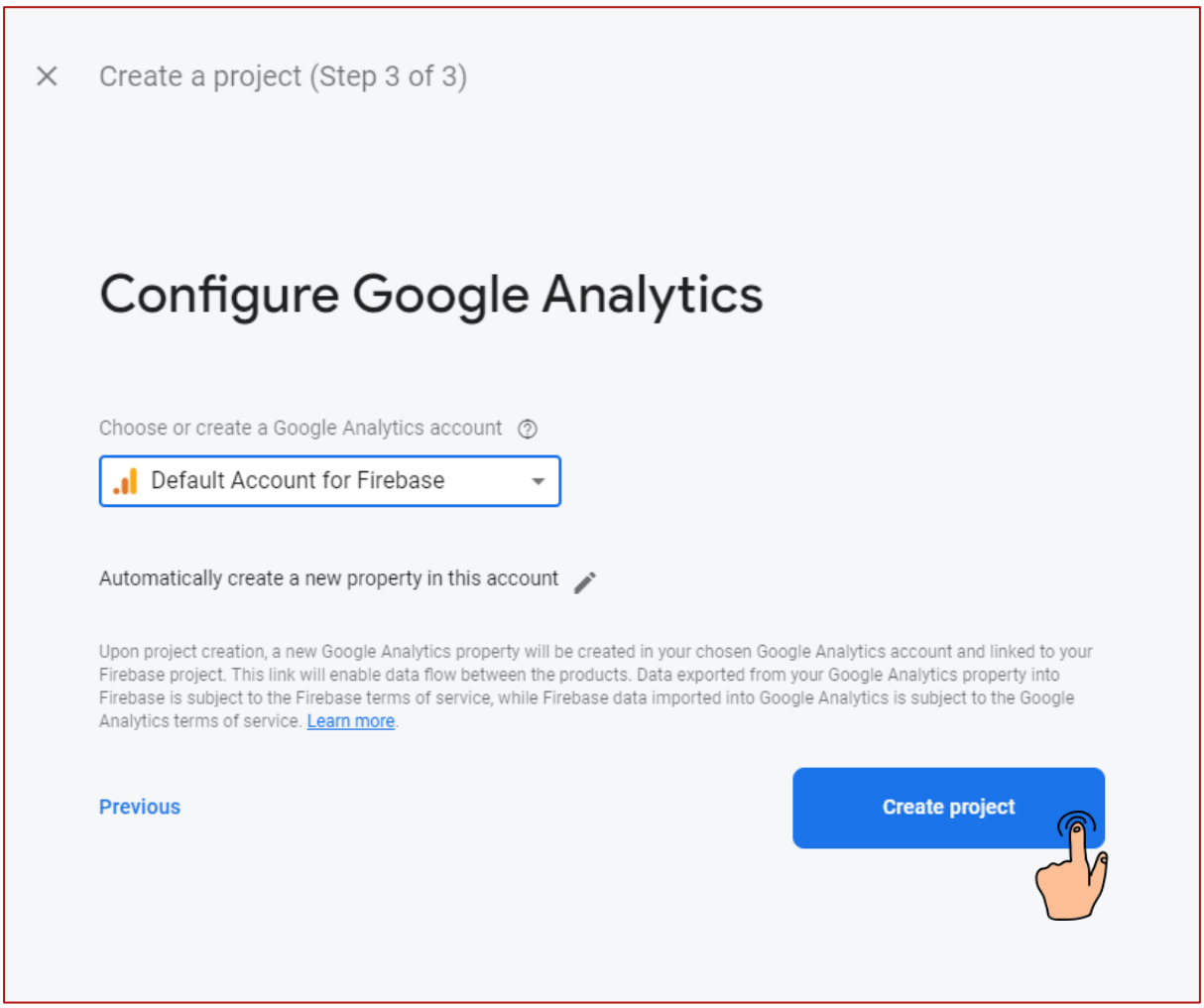


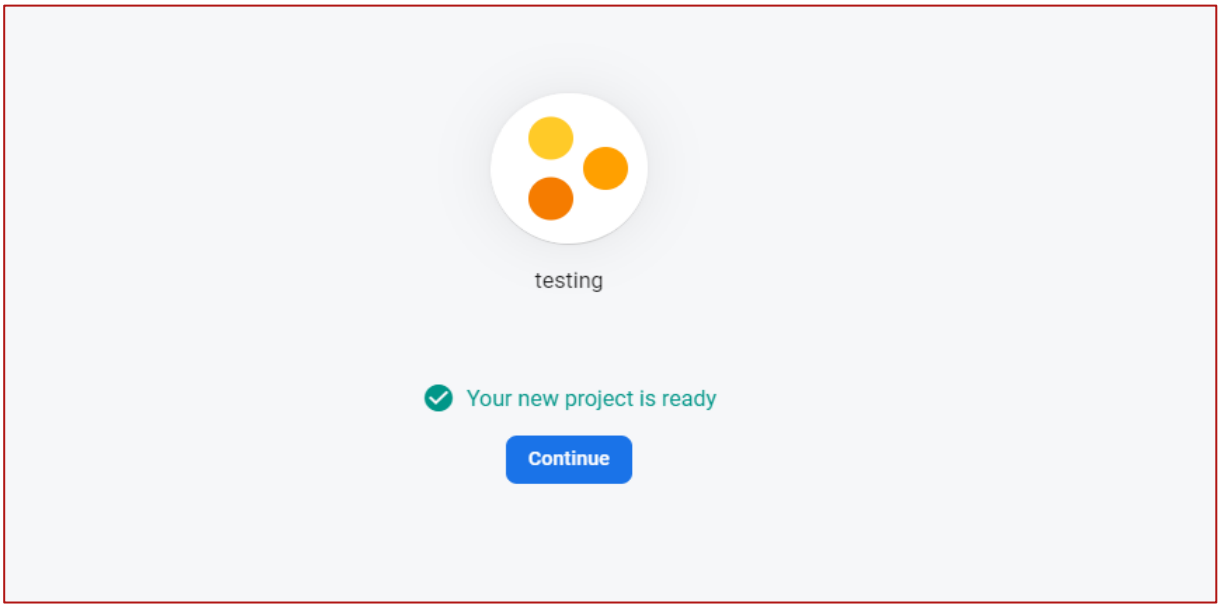
3. Enter **Project Name** and click on **continue** & again click on **continue**.





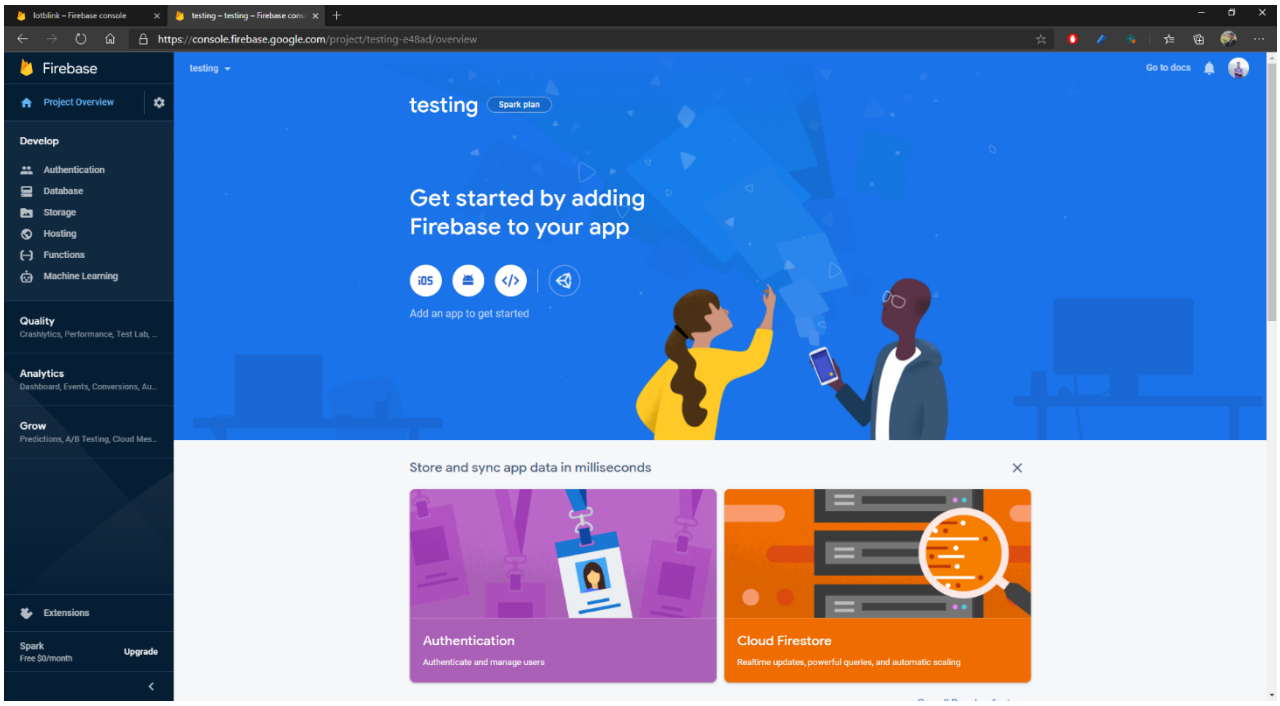
4. Select **Default Account for firebase** and click on **create project**.





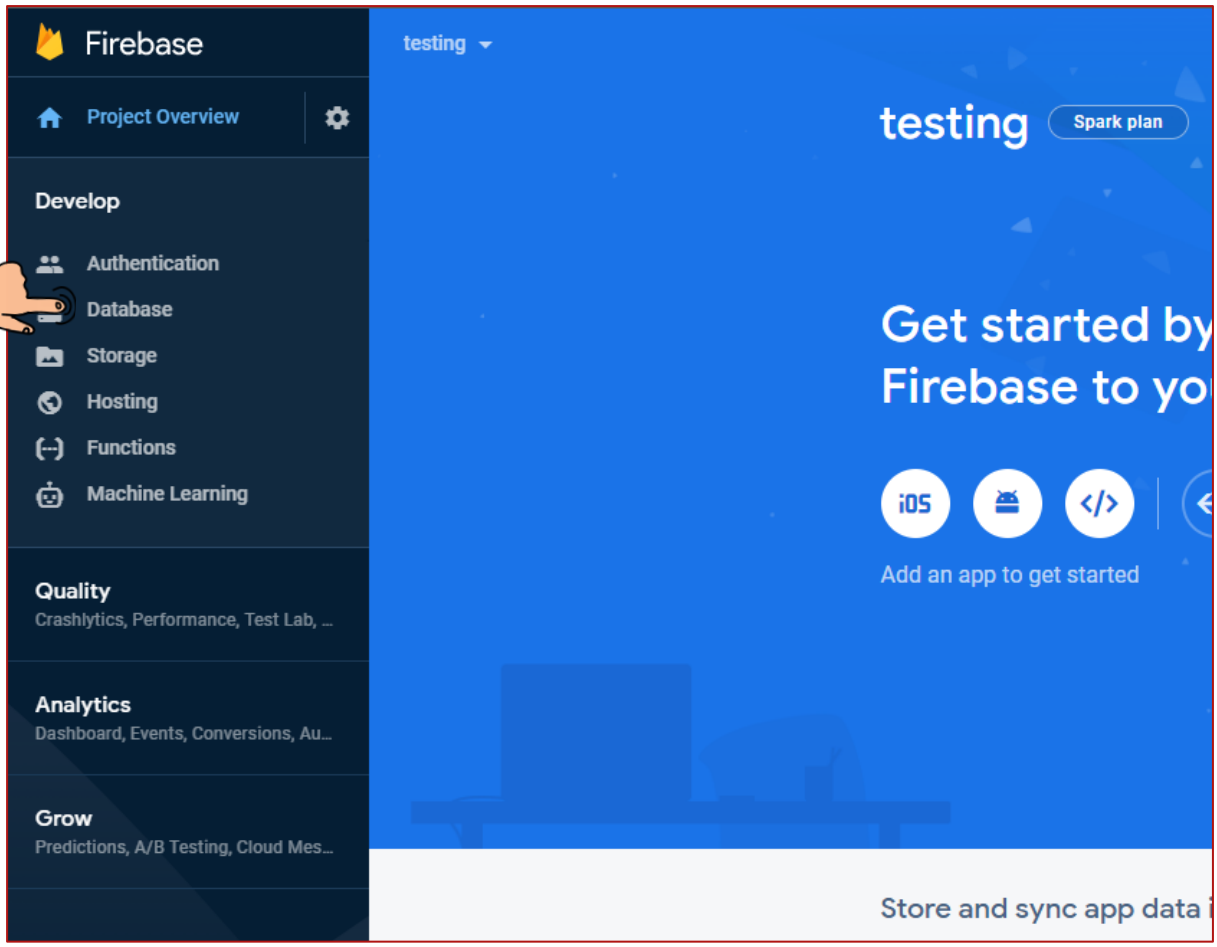
Wait until your project is created!

Now we'll get Screen Like this!

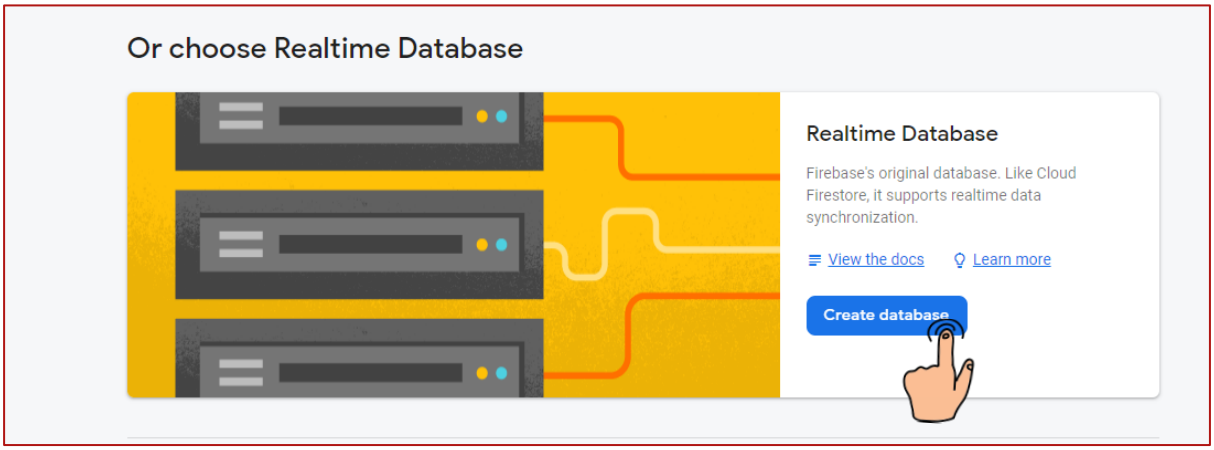


Now we'll create Realtime Database Schema

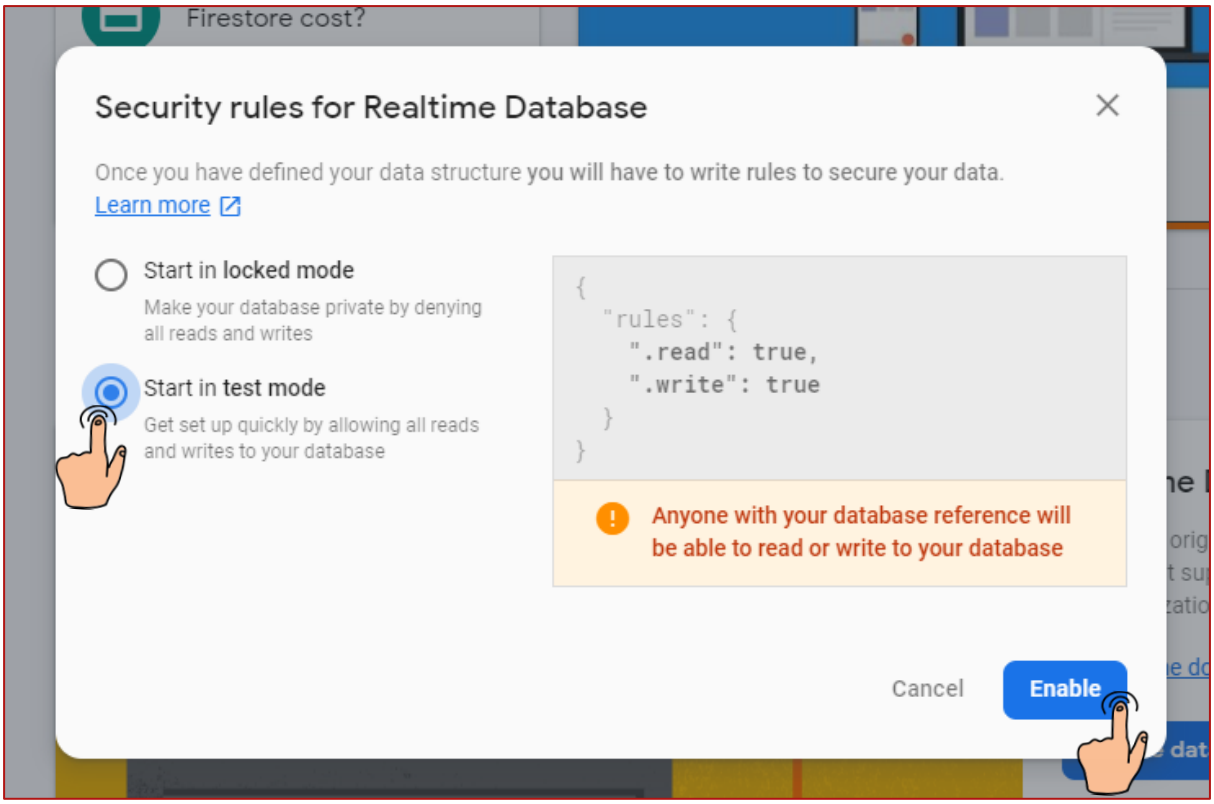
1. Click on Database.



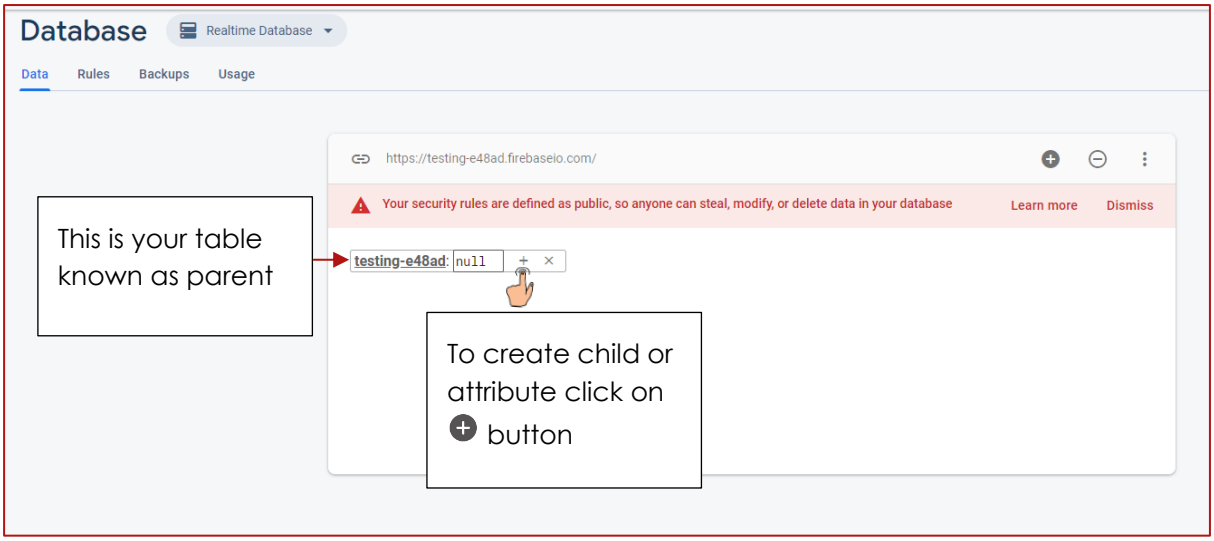
2. Scroll Down and find Realtime Database and click on create Database button



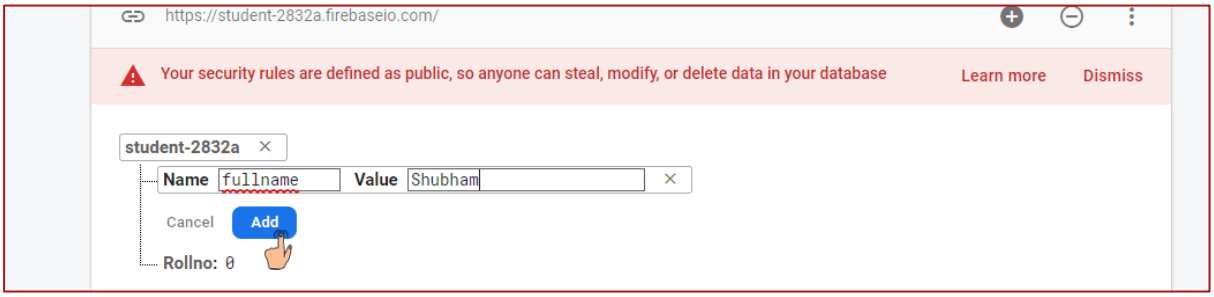
3. Choose **start in test mode** and click on **Enable**.



4. You'll have to create Schema for your database in the form of **tree like structure** or I can say in the form of parent-child schema.
For example, your **table name is said to be parent** comes at top of the schema and **attributes corresponding to your table is known as child** of the parent.
See this Picture Demonstration



For example: Here is the example of student table/Database.

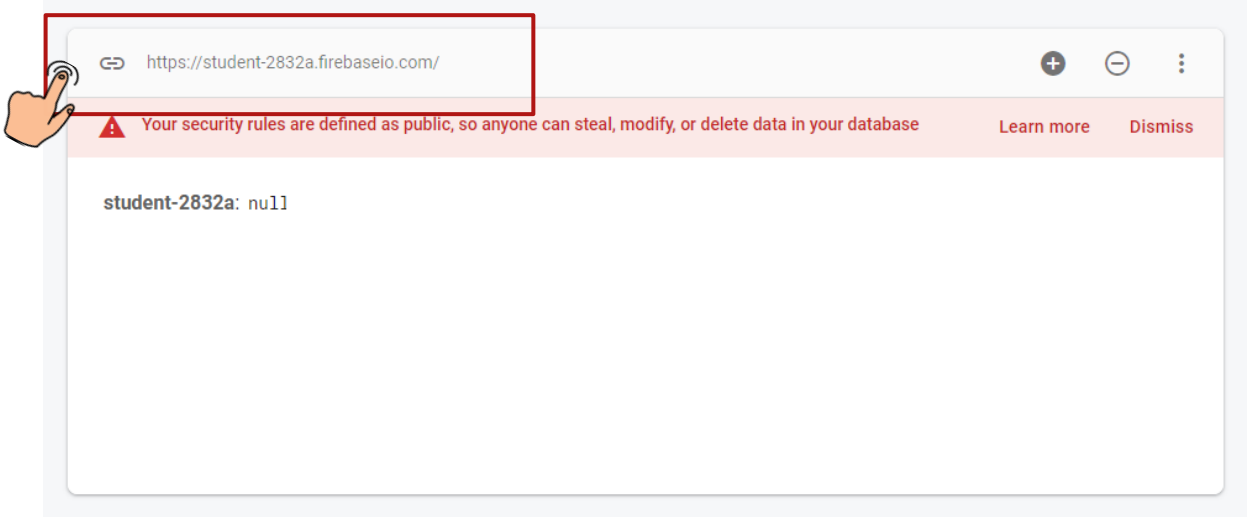


Things to Remember:

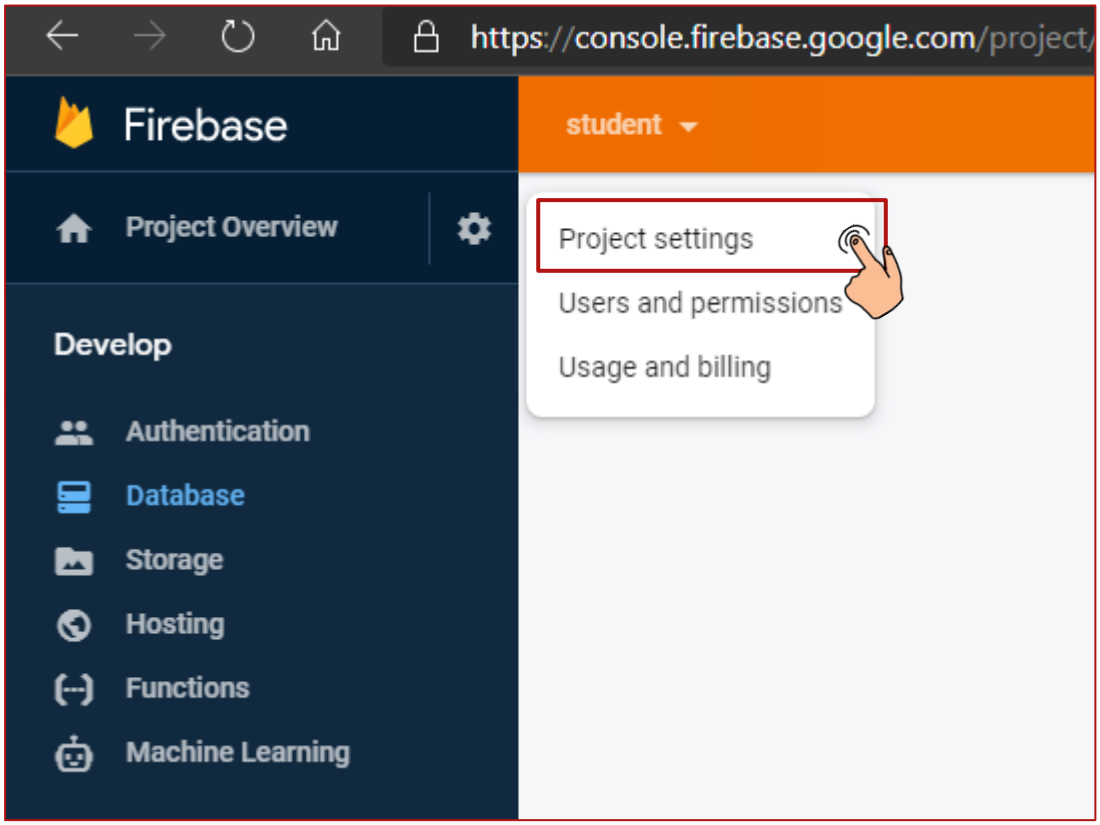
In order to perform linking you should know some basic Keywords, settings and procedure.

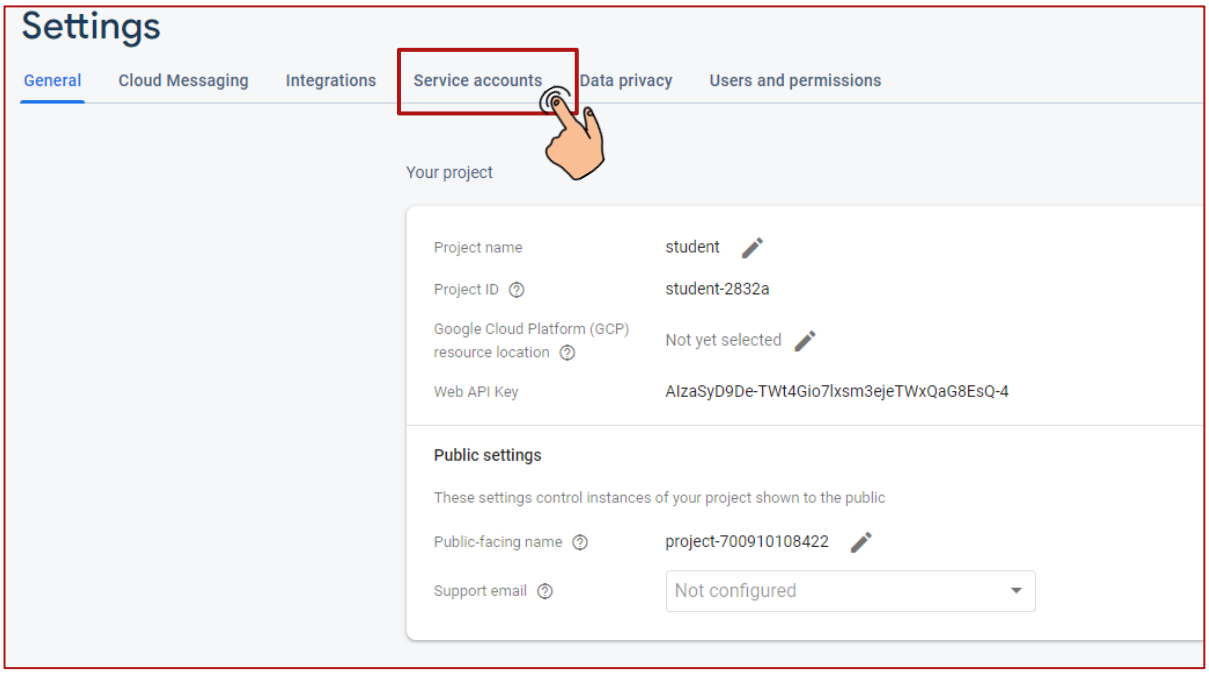
Here you need these three things:

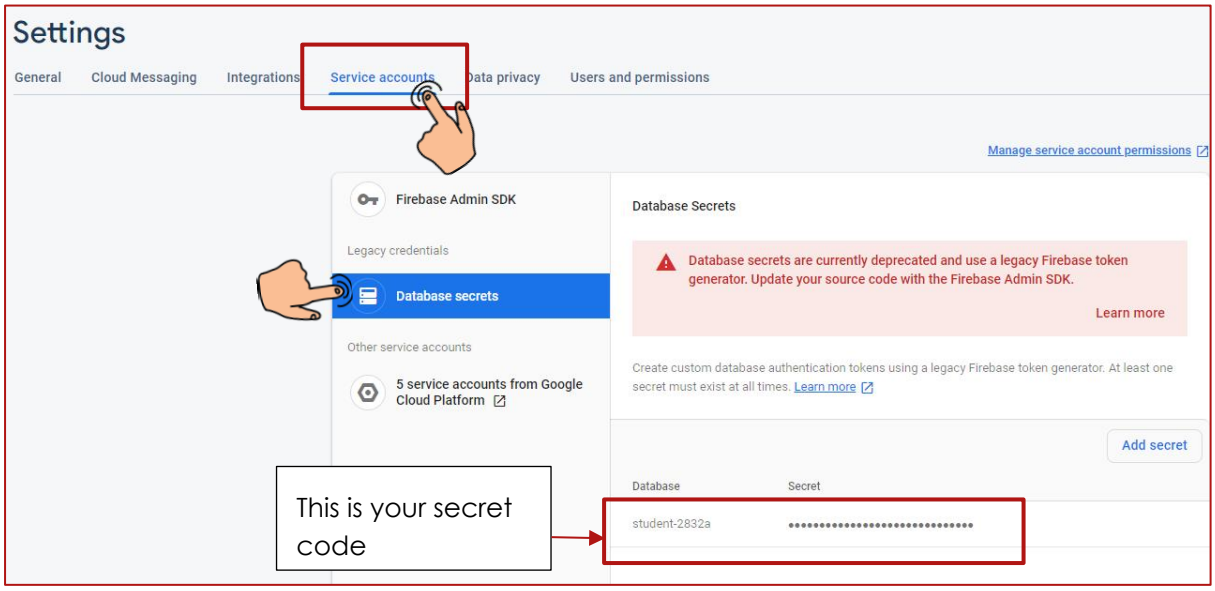
- **Firebase Host**: Hostname for your database shown in the picture.



- **Firebase Auth** : You'll need some sort of token or secrete code for authorization purpose and this code is used by your software to communicate with your corresponding database. **Please refer to this image**
  Click on Project Setting >> Service Account Tab >> Database Secret.

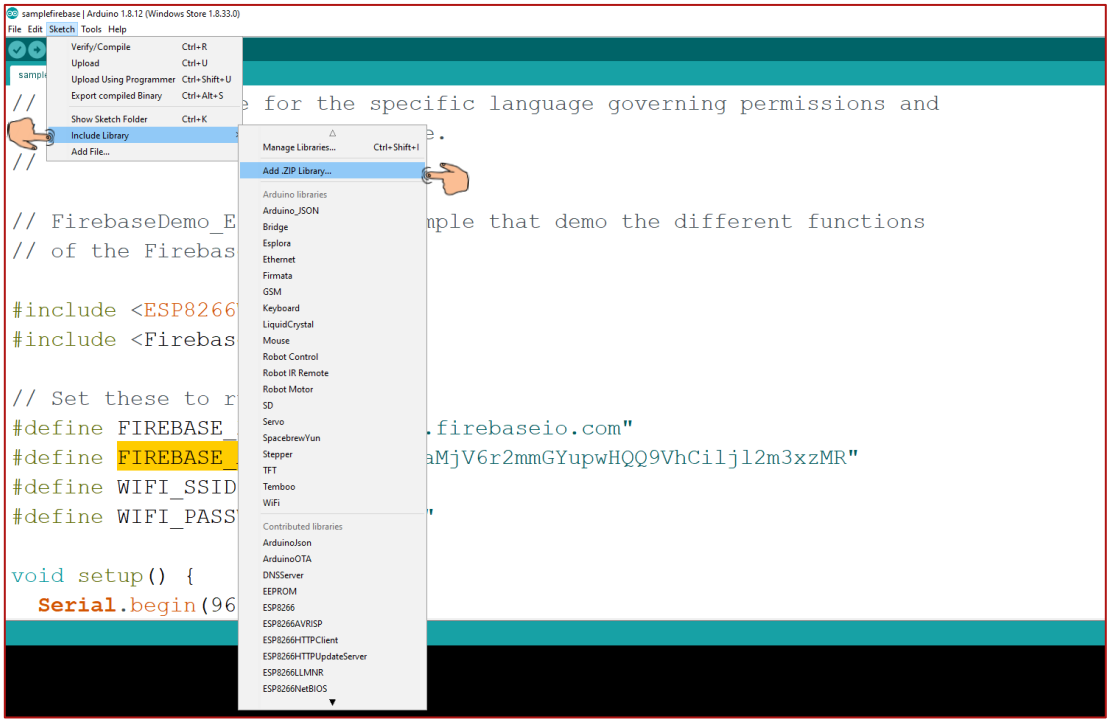

https://console.firebase.google.com/project/
Firebase
student
Project Overview
Project settings
Users and permissions
Usage and billing
Develop
Authentication
Database
Storage
Hosting
Functions
Machine Learning


Settings
General
Cloud Messaging
Integrations
Service accounts
Data privacy
Users and permissions
Your project
Project name
student
Project ID
student-2832a
Google Cloud Platform (GCP) resource location
Not yet selected
Web API Key
AIzaSyD9De-TWt4Gio7lxsm3ejeTWxQaG8EsQ-4
Public settings
These settings control instances of your project shown to the public
Public-facing name
project-700910108422
Support email
Not configured


Settings
General
Cloud Messaging
Integrations
Service accounts
Data privacy
Users and permissions
Manage service account permissions
Firebase Admin SDK
Legacy credentials
Database secrets
Other service accounts
5 service accounts from Google Cloud Platform
Database Secrets
Database secrets are currently deprecated and use a legacy Firebase token generator. Update your source code with the Firebase Admin SDK.
Learn more
Create custom database authentication tokens using a legacy Firebase token generator. At least one secret must exist at all times. Learn more
Add secret
Database
Secret
student-2832a
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
This is your secret code

Requirements

- **ArduinoFirebase Library** Offline Link Online Link



Click on **sketch** >> **include library** >> **Add Zip Library** >> select the Downloaded Zip File

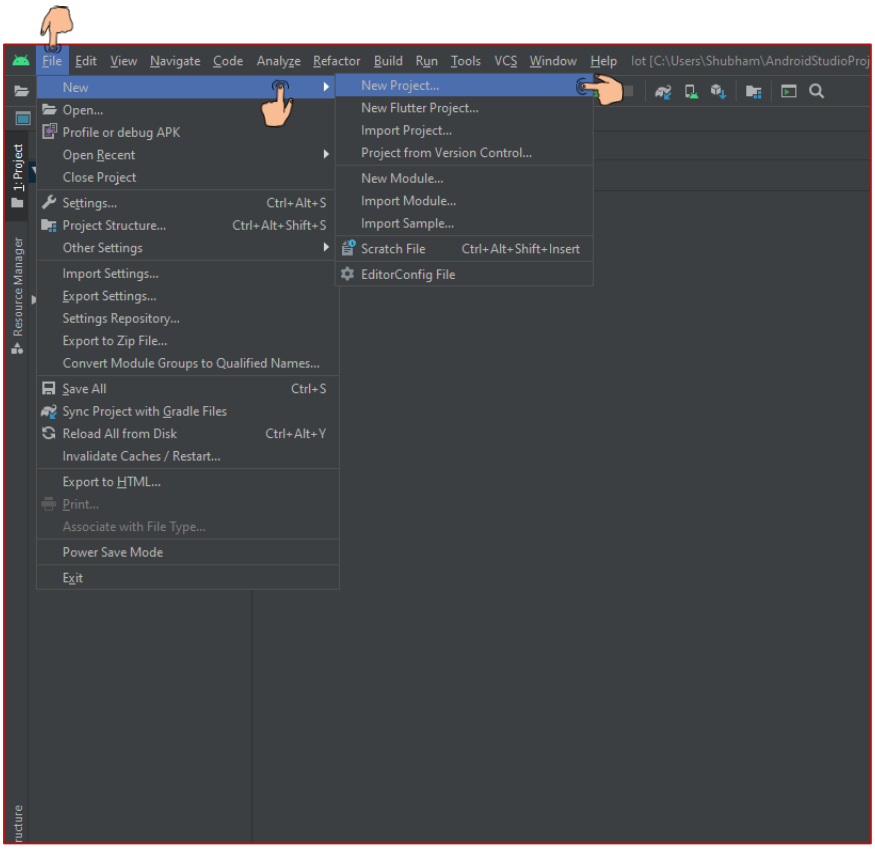
- **NodeMCU-ESP8266**
- **Firebase Database (Read Earlier)**

Now let's Understand Whole thing by a sample Code.

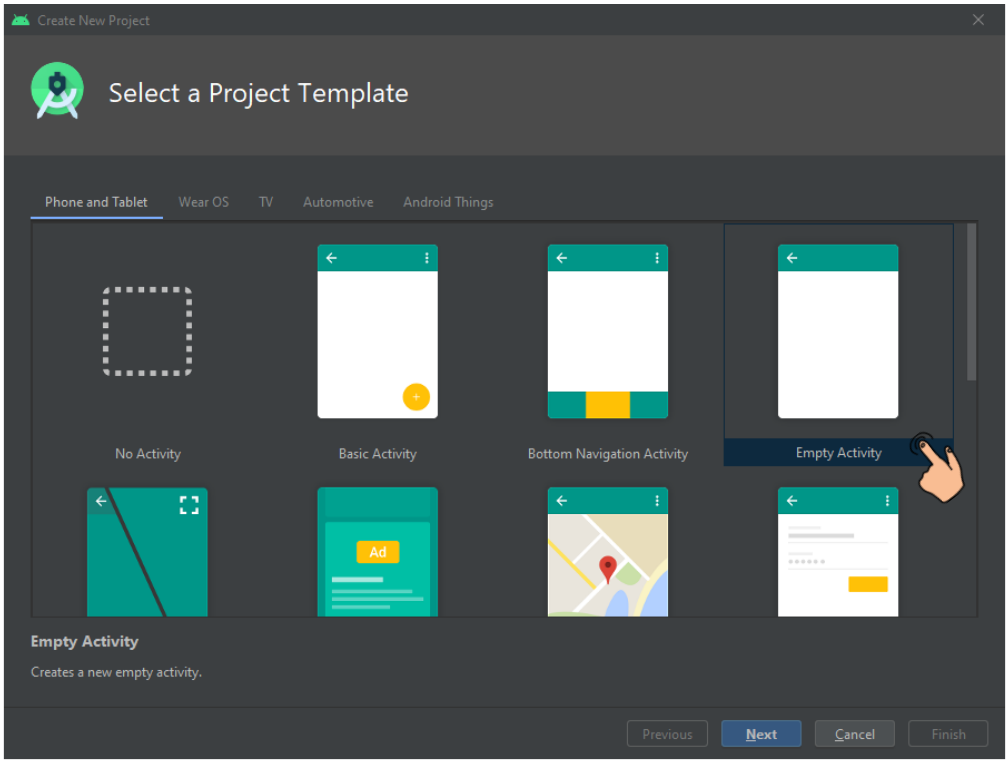
```
#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>

#include <FirebaseArduino.h>

// Set these to run example.
#define FIREBASE_HOST "example.firebaseio.com"
#define FIREBASE_AUTH "token_or_secret"
#define WIFI_SSID "SSID ( Name of Your WIFI )"
#define WIFI_PASSWORD "PASSWORD"

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);

  // connect to wifi.
  WiFi.begin(WIFI_SSID, WIFI_PASSWORD);

  Serial.print("connecting");
  while (WiFi.status() != WL_CONNECTED) {
    Serial.print(".");
    delay(500);
  }
  Serial.println();
  Serial.print("connected: ");
  Serial.println(WiFi.localIP());

  Firebase.begin(FIREBASE_HOST, FIREBASE_AUTH);
}

int n = 0;

void loop() {
  // set value
  Firebase.setFloat("number", 42.0);
  // handle error
  if (Firebase.failed()) {
      Serial.print("setting /number failed:");
      Serial.println(Firebase.error());
      return;
  }
  delay(1000);

  // update value
  Firebase.setFloat("number", 43.0);
  // handle error
  if (Firebase.failed()) {
      Serial.print("setting /number failed:");
      Serial.println(Firebase.error());
      return;
  }
  delay(1000);

  // get value
  Serial.print("number: ");
  Serial.println(Firebase.getFloat("number"));
  delay(1000);
```

```
  // remove value
  Firebase.remove("number");
  delay(1000);

  // set string value
  Firebase.setString("message", "hello world");
  // handle error
  if (Firebase.failed()) {
      Serial.print("setting /message failed:");
      Serial.println(Firebase.error());
      return;
  }
  delay(1000);

  // set bool value
  Firebase.setBool("truth", false);
  // handle error
  if (Firebase.failed()) {
      Serial.print("setting /truth failed:");
      Serial.println(Firebase.error());
      return;
  }
  delay(1000);

  // append a new value to /logs
  String name = Firebase.pushInt("logs", n++);
  // handle error
  if (Firebase.failed()) {
      Serial.print("pushing /logs failed:");
      Serial.println(Firebase.error());
      return;
  }
  Serial.print("pushed: /logs/");
  Serial.println(name);
  delay(1000);
}
```

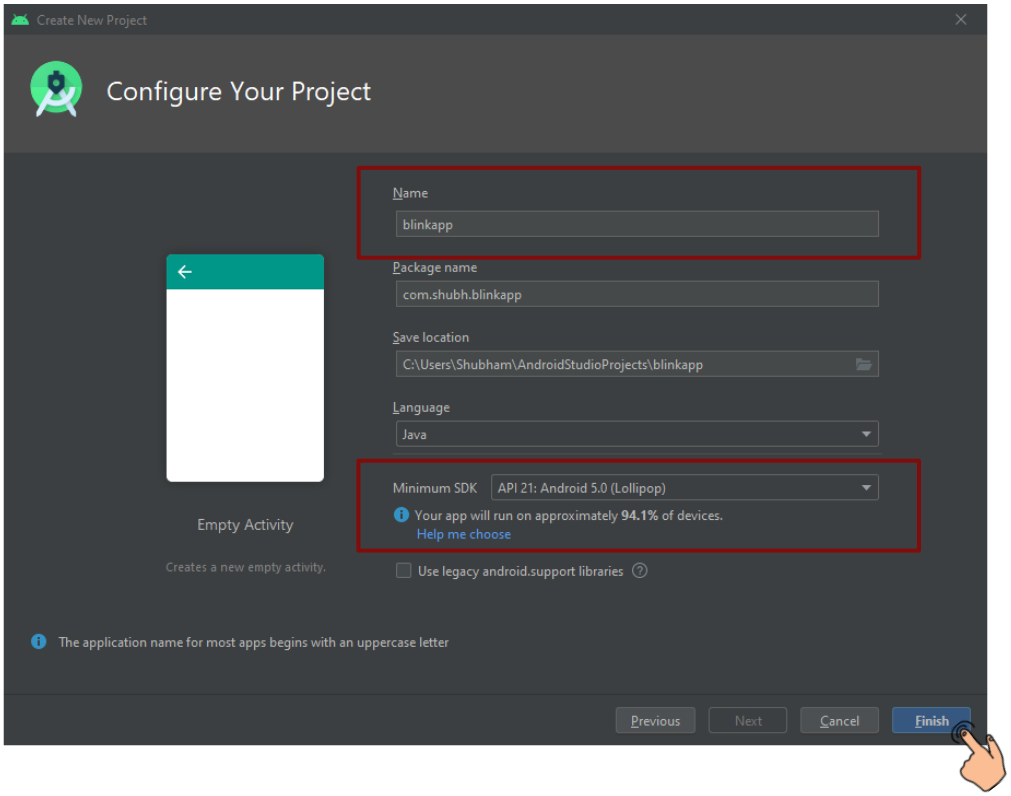
1. Open Android Studio and Create a New Project **File >> New >> New Project**



2. Select Empty Activity



3. Fill Project name & Select android Version above 5.0 to run across all the devices and click on finish.

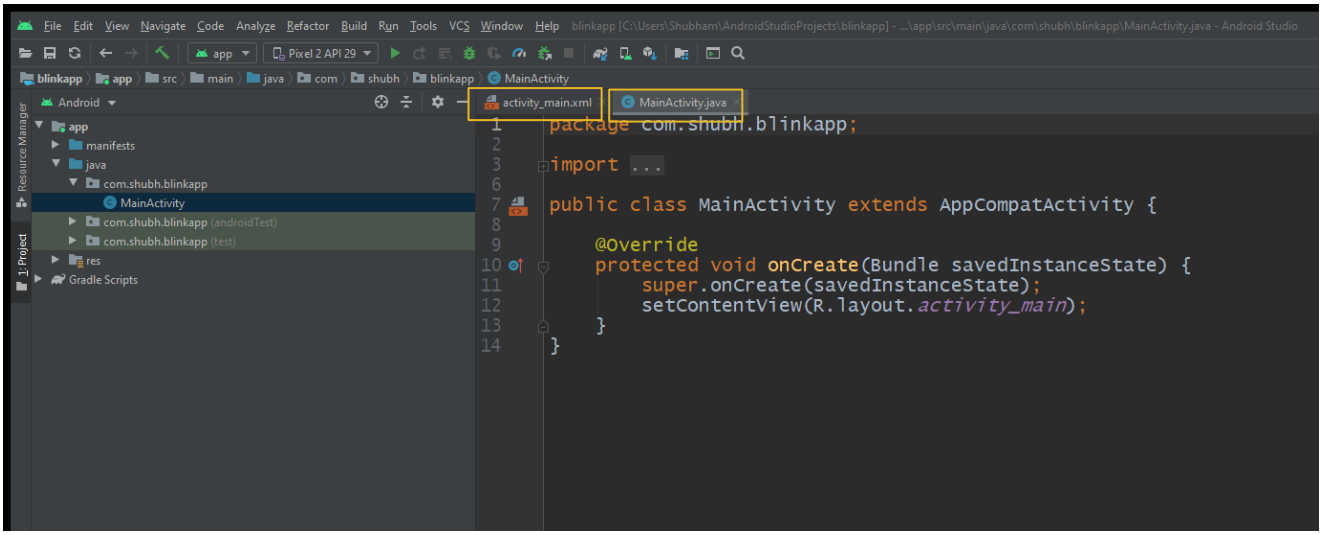


4. Wait, it will take some time to load your project when your project is loaded, you'll get the screen like this and there you find 2 files with the names
   i. Activity_main.xml
      - This File is responsible for Interface or Design of our Android App
   ii. MainActivity.java
      - This File is the backend for our Interface

Note :

In context of web Development, there also we need two languages **HTML** for Design & **PHP** for backend,

In similar way here **xml** is used for designing and **java** is used for backend.



5. Now Design a simple interface from Activity_main.xml file by using drag and drop feature.

Task : Create & configure a firebase database named **home** with attribute **status** can have either **0** or **1** in its value, Create a button in Android that will update status attribute of led database when it is Pressed but first you have to check that previous value which is already present there in the status attribute of the led database and then update its complement value.

For example :

If 0 is already present in the status attribute of home database you have to update that value to 1, if user pressed that button and vice versa changes should take place.

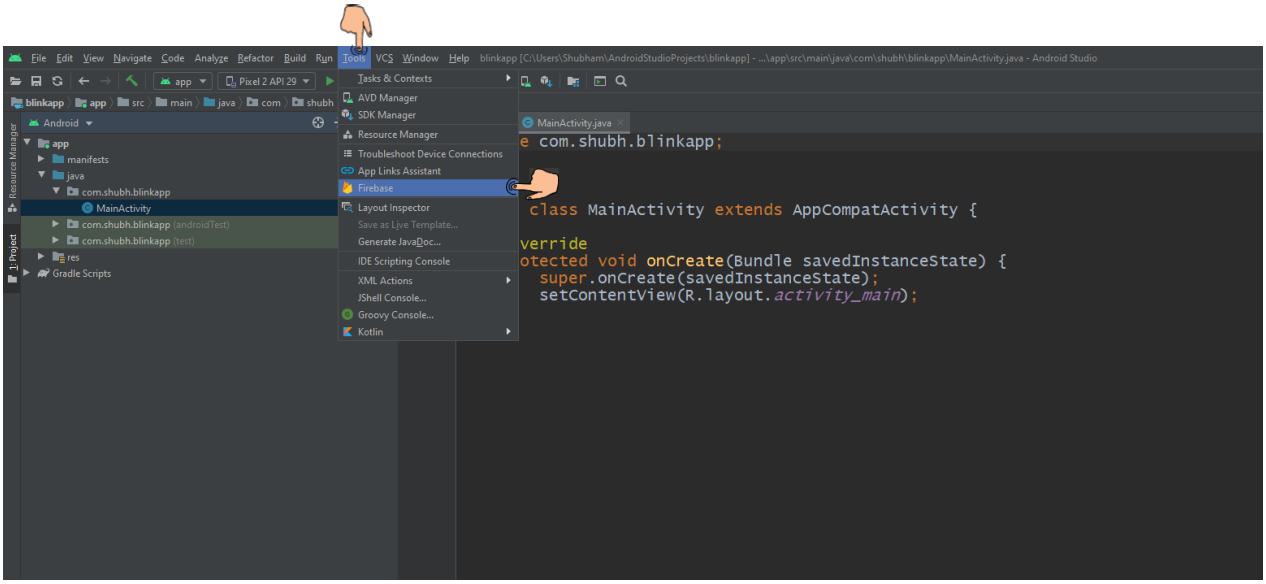
[See Demo video]

Solution : I have divided this problem into 3 Steps.

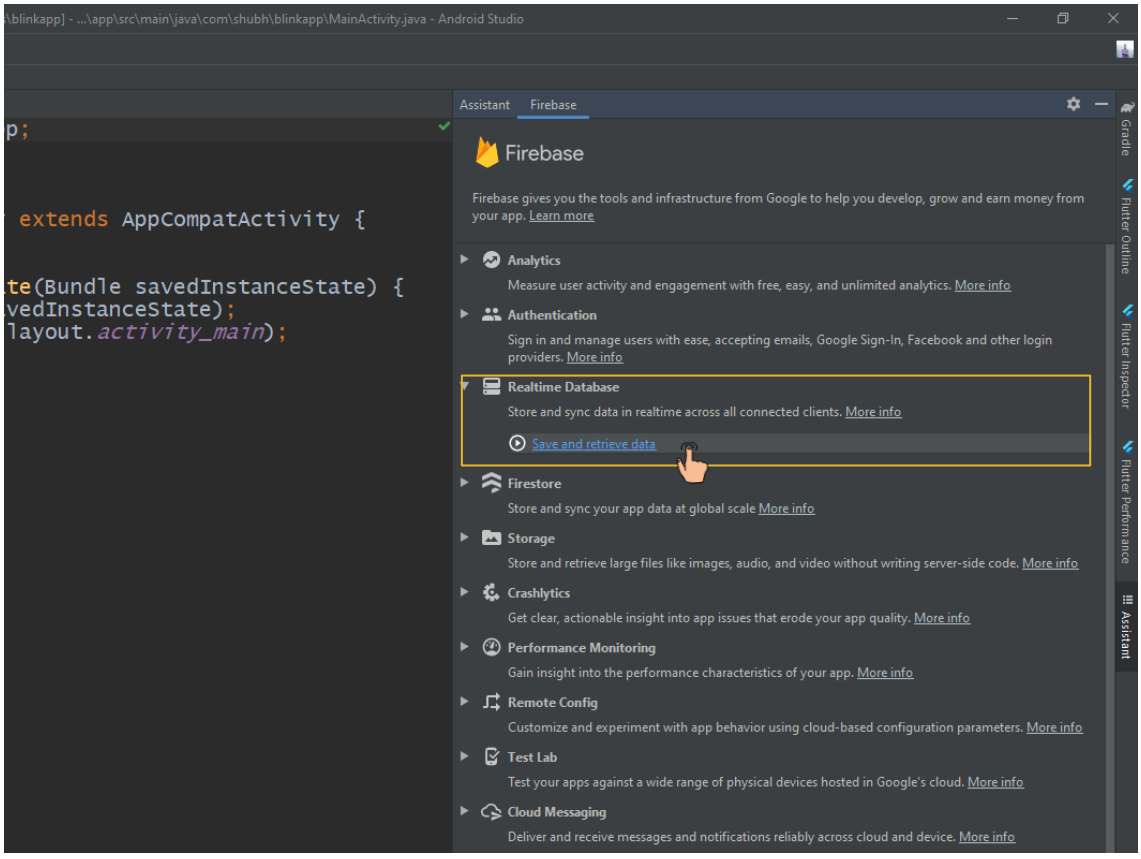
1. **Configure Firebase from Android Studio itself**
2. **Create sample Schema or Databases**
3. **Synchronisation of database with Android Application**

CONFIGURE FIREBASE FROM ANDROID STUDIO

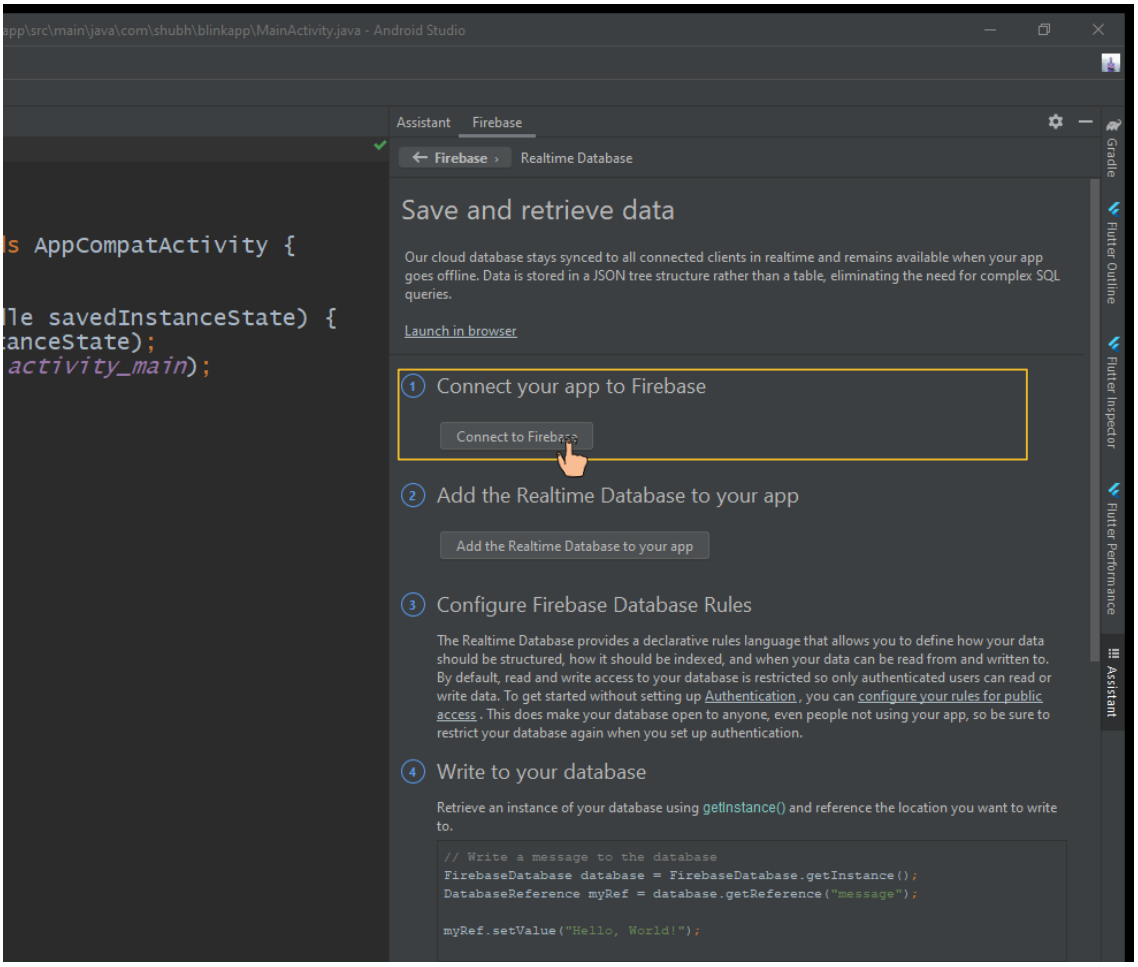
1. Click on Tool >> **Firebase**



2. A new pane/widget should open.
   Find **Realtime Database** option >> Click on **Save and Retreive Data.**



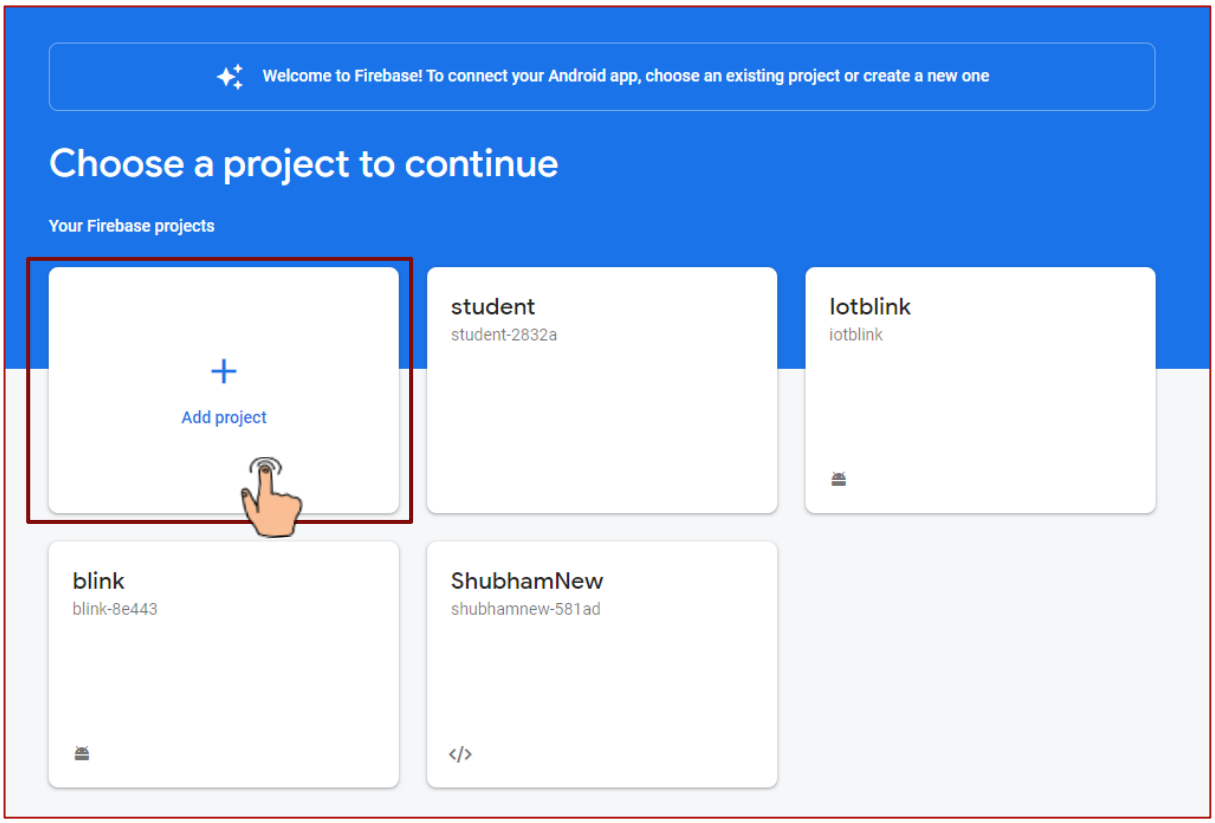
3. Click on **connect to firebase.**


Assistant
Firebase
Firebase
Realtime Database
Save and retrieve data
Our cloud database stays synced to all connected clients in realtime and remains available when your app goes offline. Data is stored in a JSON tree structure rather than a table, eliminating the need for complex SQL queries.
Launch in browser
1 Connect your app to Firebase
Connect to Firebase
2 Add the Realtime Database to your app
Add the Realtime Database to your app
3 Configure Firebase Database Rules
The Realtime Database provides a declarative rules language that allows you to define how your data should be structured, how it should be indexed, and when your data can be read from and written to. By default, read and write access to your database is restricted so only authenticated users can read or write data. To get started without setting up Authentication, you can configure your rules for public access. This does make your database open to anyone, even people not using your app, so be sure to restrict your database again when you set up authentication.
4 Write to your database
Retrieve an instance of your database using getInstance() and reference the location you want to write to.
// Write a message to the database
FirebaseDatabase database = FirebaseDatabase.getInstance();
DatabaseReference myRef = database.getReference("message");
myRef.setValue("Hello, World!");
Gradle
Flutter Outline
Flutter Inspector
Flutter Performance
Assistant

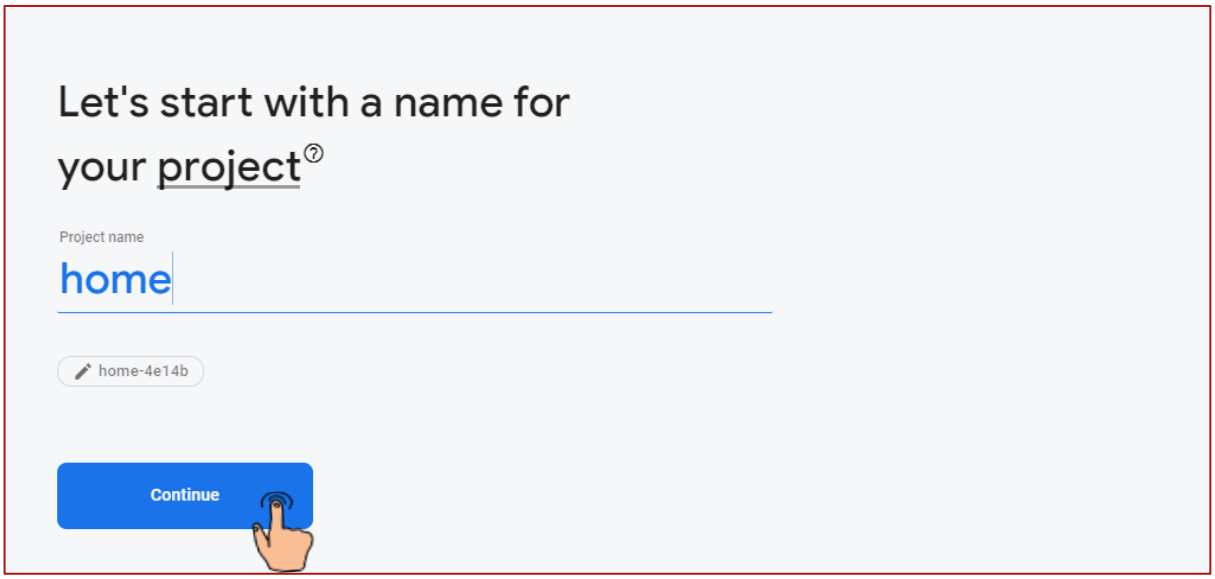
4. A web browser will open, login with your Gmail account and go to firebase console.

Create **Firebase database with name home** with **status attribute** to it.

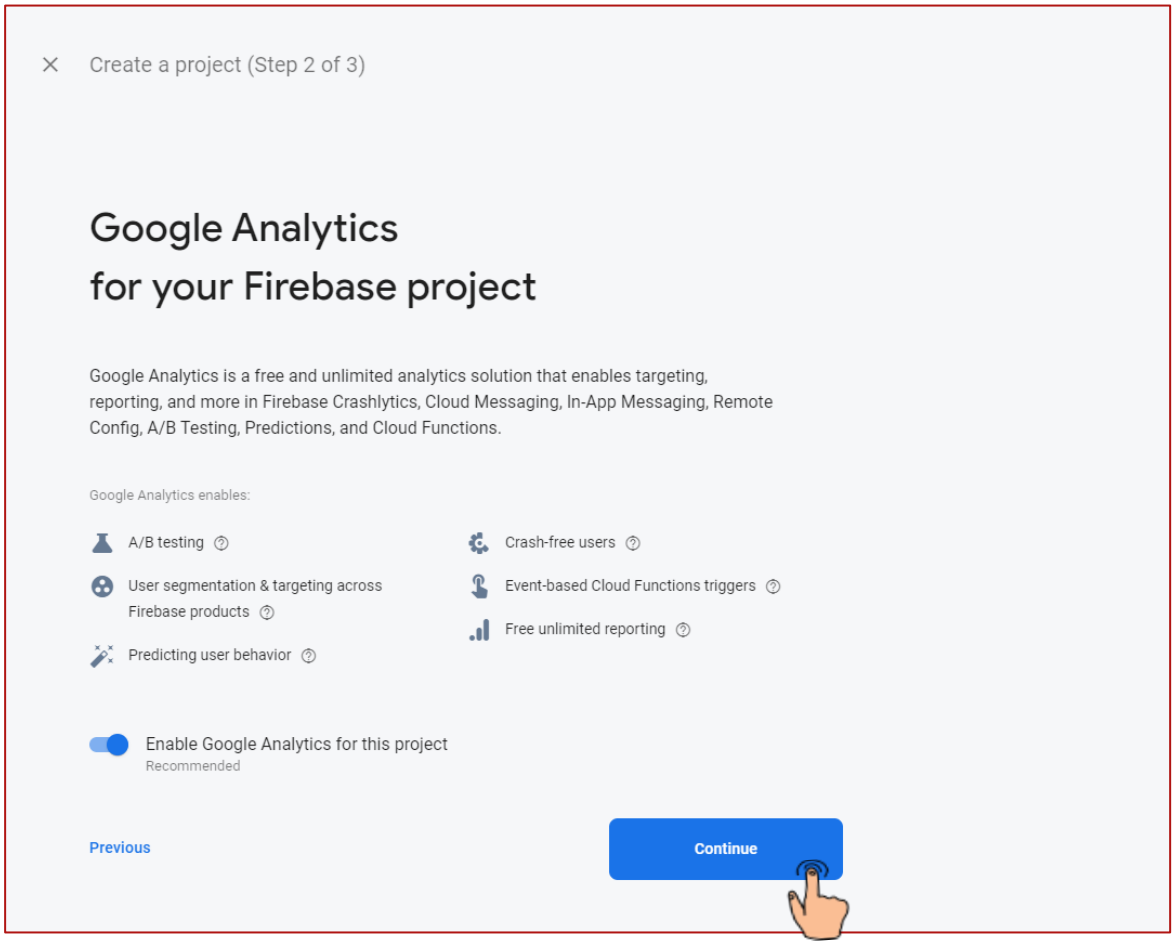
4.1. Click on Add Project

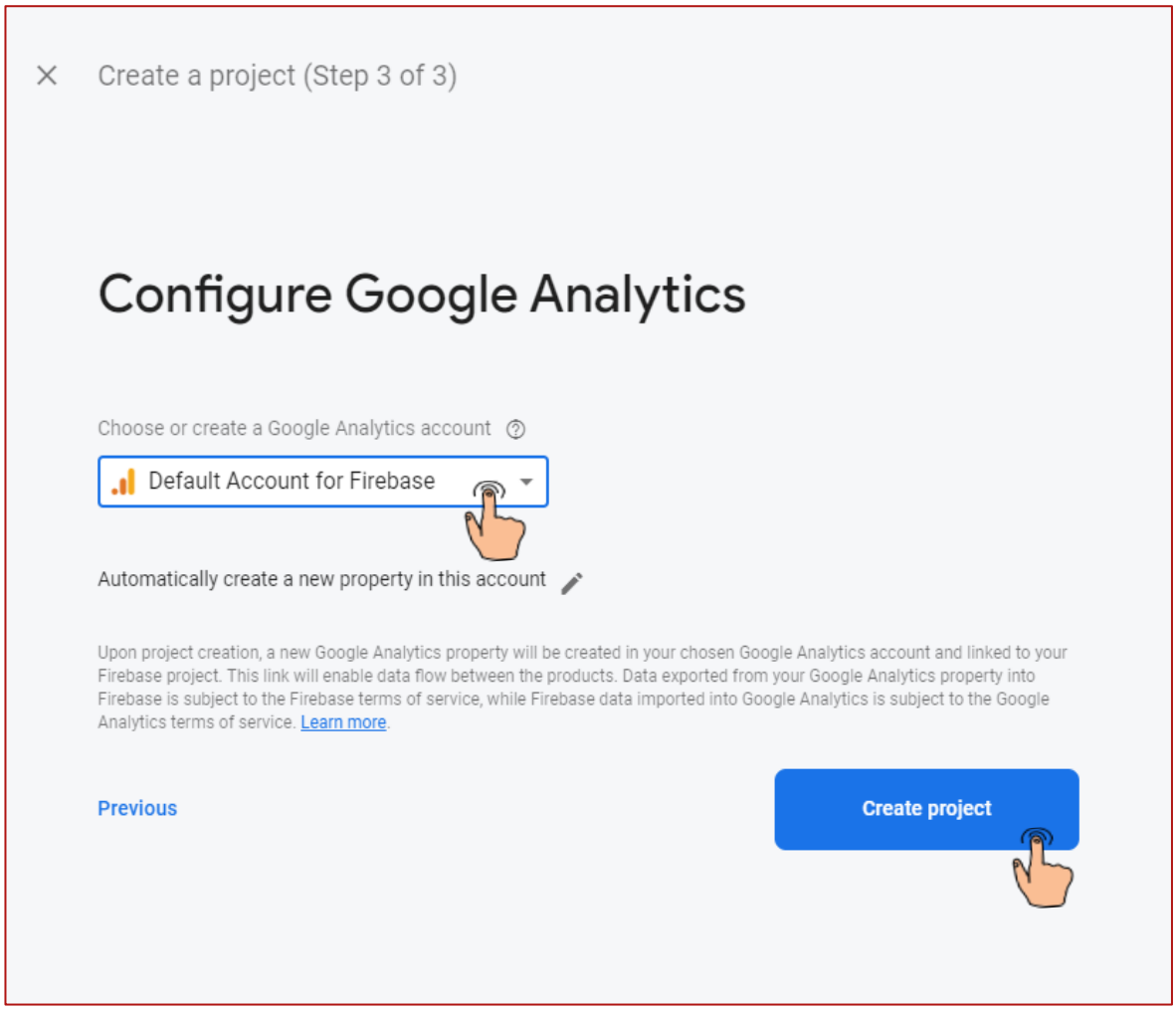


4.2. Enter Project Name home

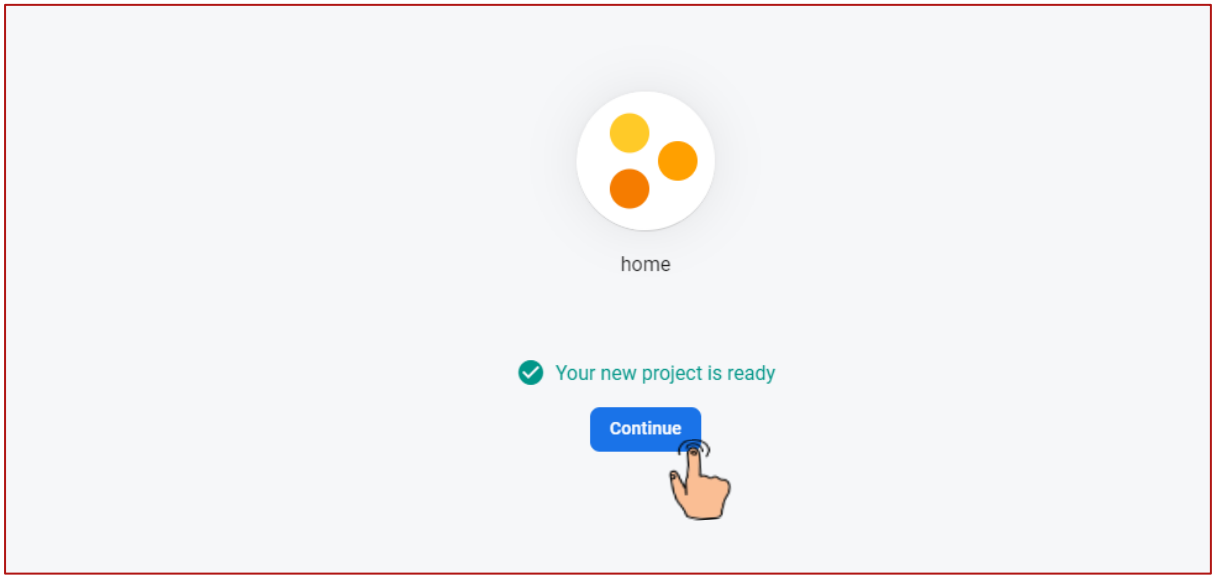


4.3. Click on continue and again continue and then click on create project (As shown in picture).

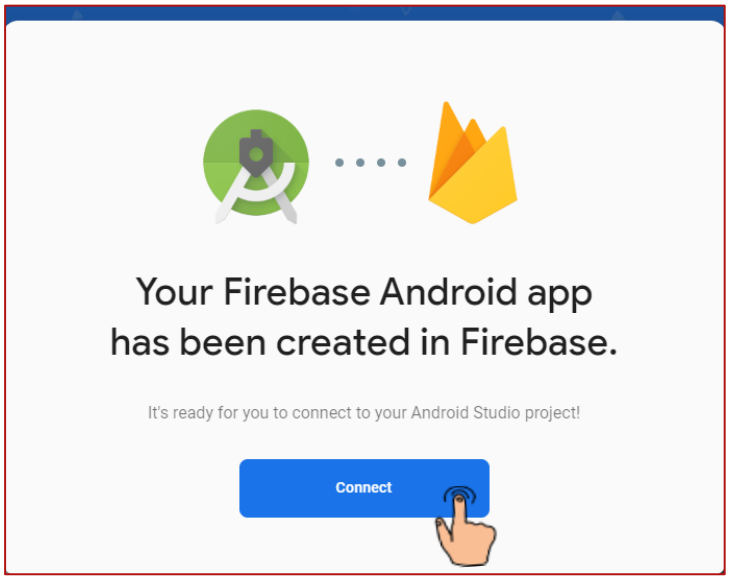

Create a project (Step 2 of 3)
Google Analytics
for your Firebase project
Google Analytics is a free and unlimited analytics solution that enables targeting, reporting, and more in Firebase Crashlytics, Cloud Messaging, In-App Messaging, Remote Config, A/B Testing, Predictions, and Cloud Functions.
Google Analytics enables:
A/B testing
User segmentation & targeting across Firebase products
Predicting user behavior
Crash-free users
Event-based Cloud Functions triggers
Free unlimited reporting
Enable Google Analytics for this project
Recommended
Previous
Continue


Create a project (Step 3 of 3)
Configure Google Analytics
Choose or create a Google Analytics account
Default Account for Firebase
Automatically create a new property in this account
Upon project creation, a new Google Analytics property will be created in your chosen Google Analytics account and linked to your Firebase project. This link will enable data flow between the products. Data exported from your Google Analytics property into Firebase is subject to the Firebase terms of service, while Firebase data imported into Google Analytics is subject to the Google Analytics terms of service. Learn more.
Previous
Create project

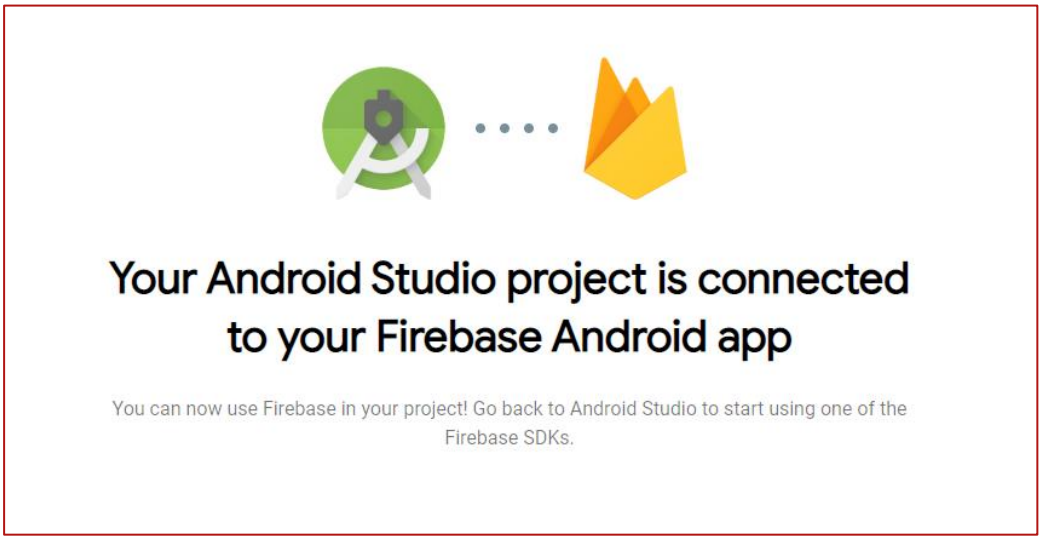
4.4. Now you have successfully created your project **click on continue**.



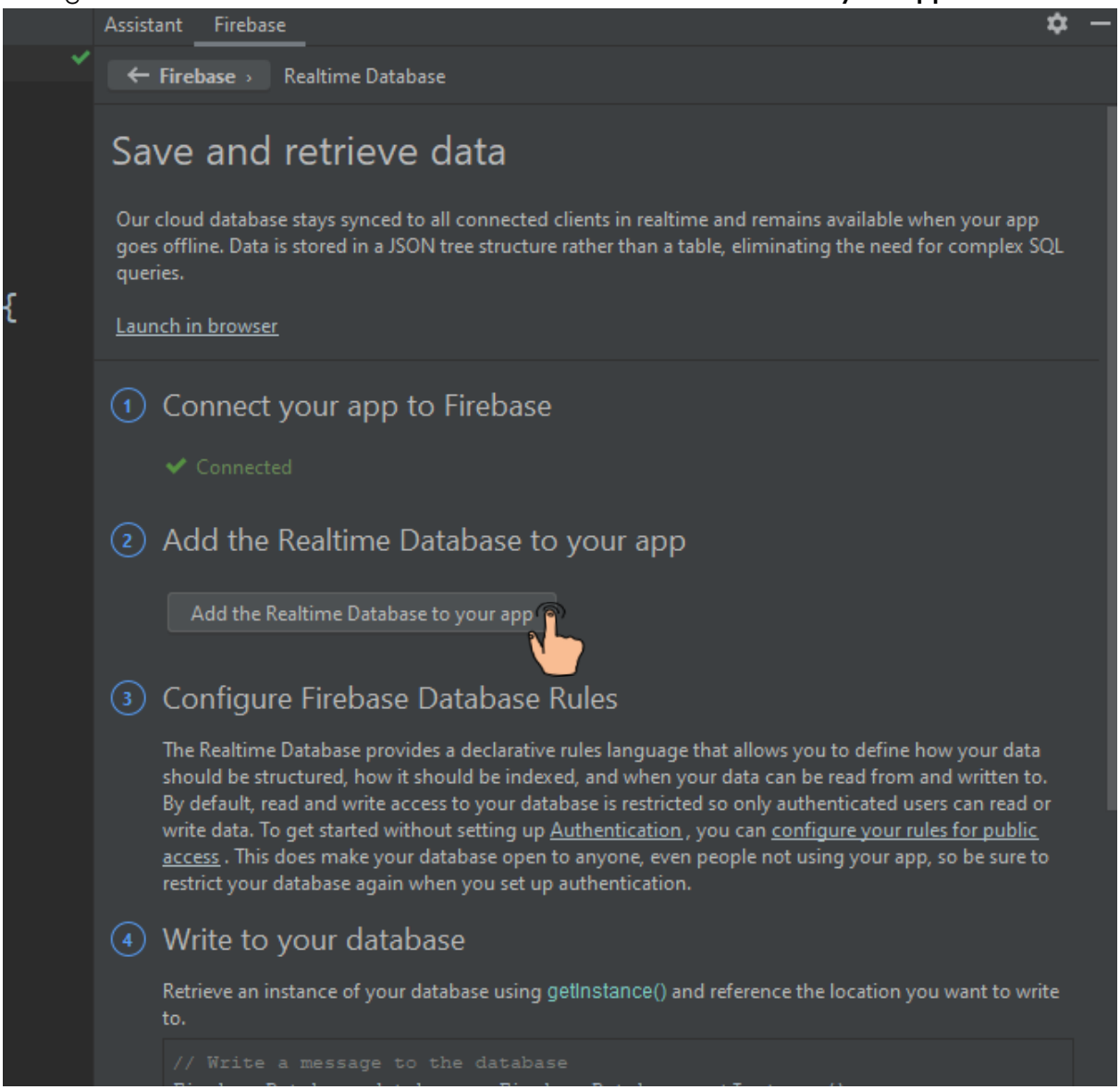
4.5. Now you'll get a message like this, **Click on Connect**.



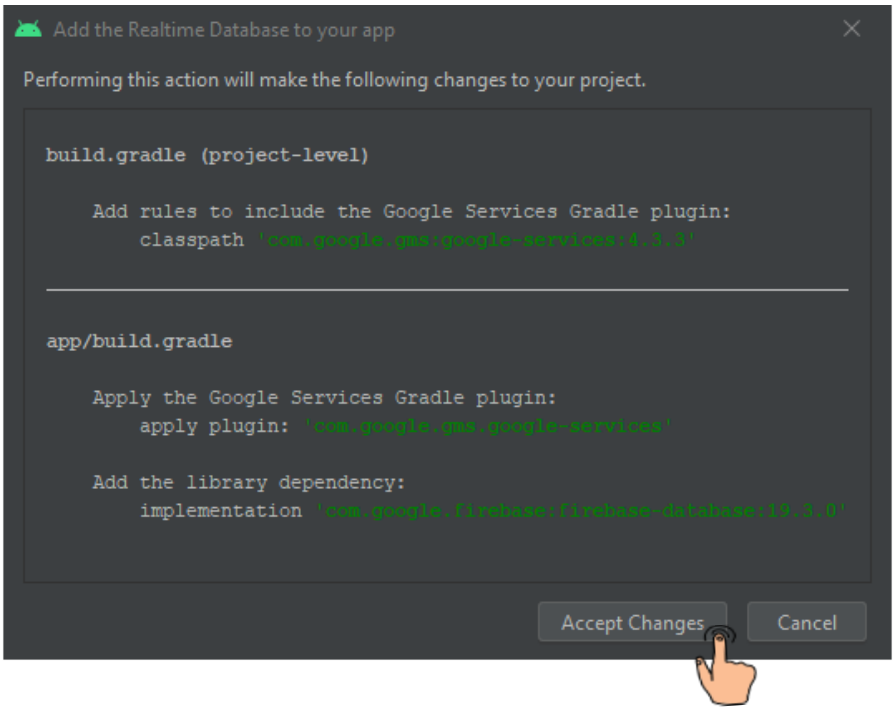
4.6. Now your android project is connected with database and you will be able to see the screen like this.



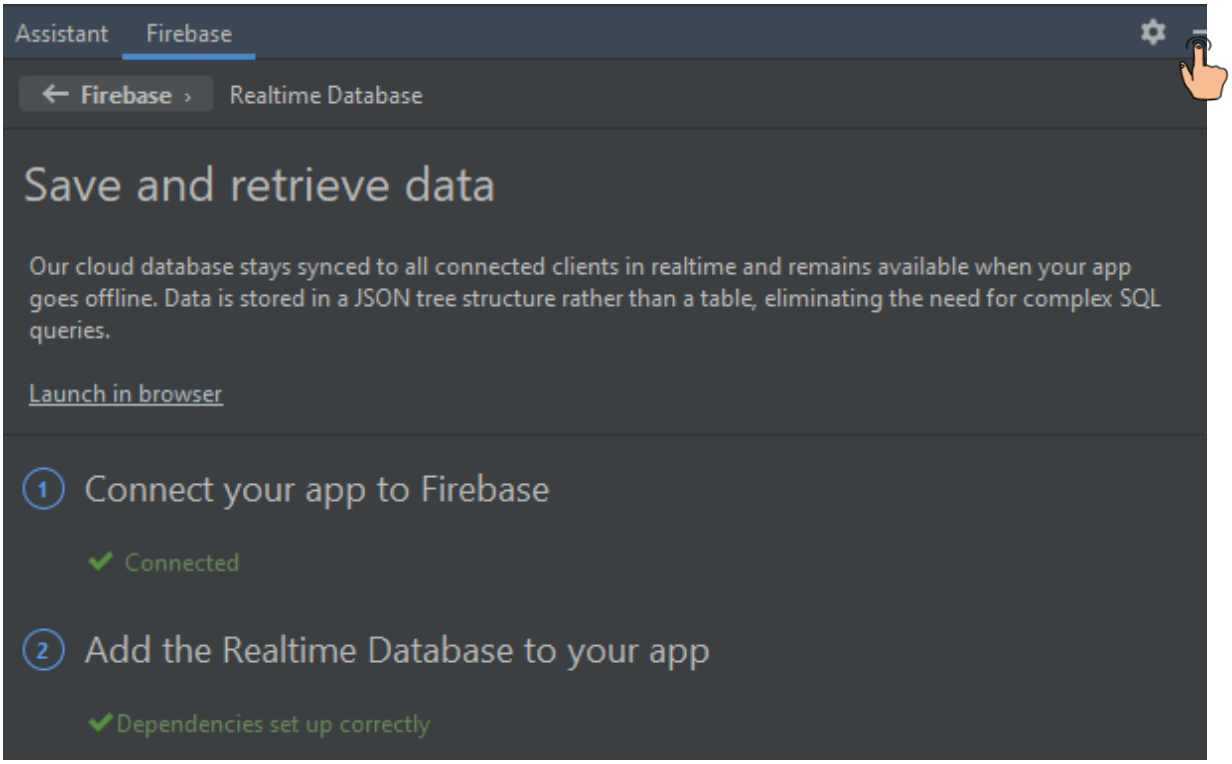
5. Now go to Android Studio and click on **Add the Realtime Database to your app**



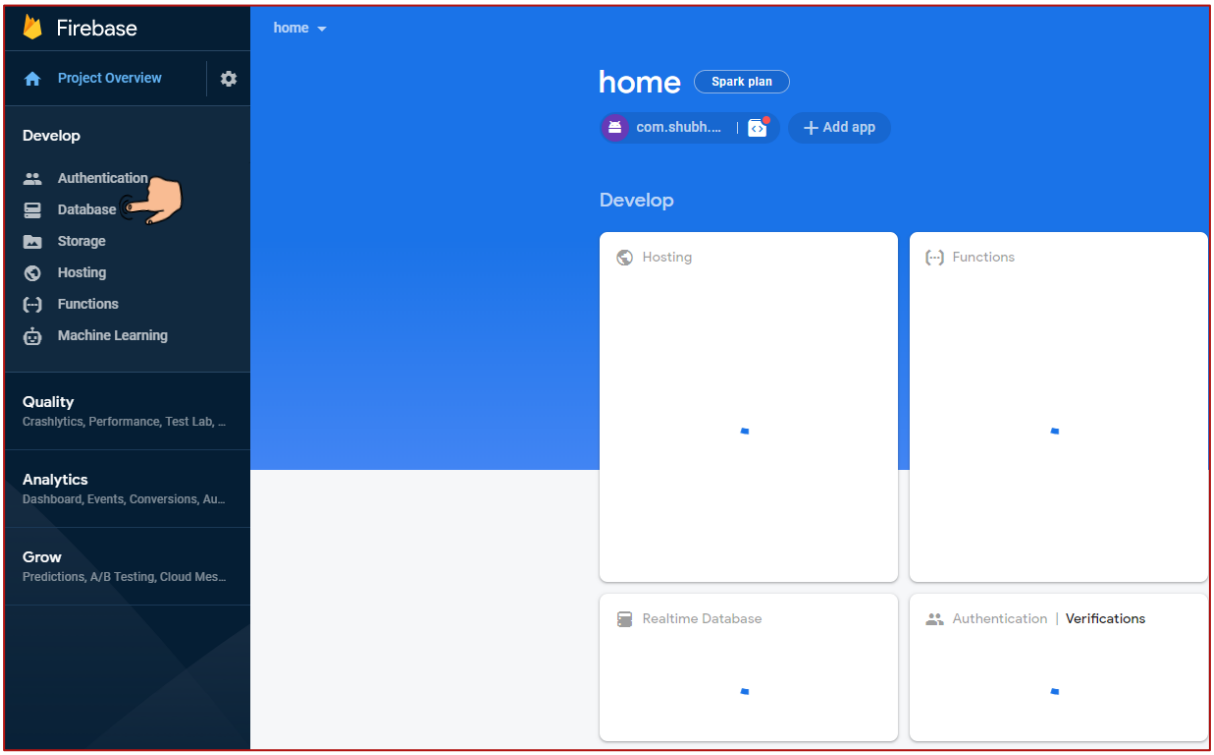
6. **Click on Accept Changes**



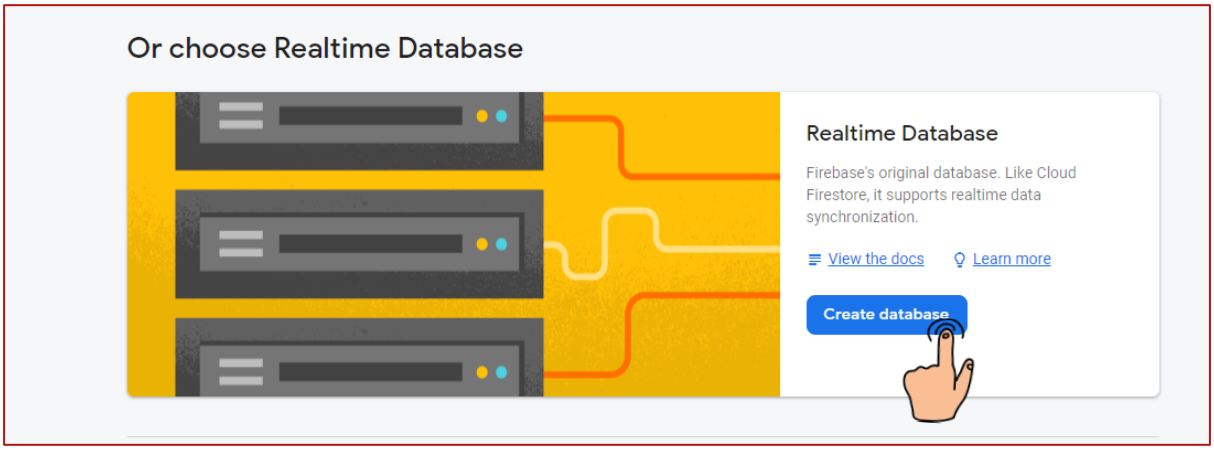
7. It will load for few seconds and you will get a status like this, now close this panel and get back to firebase.



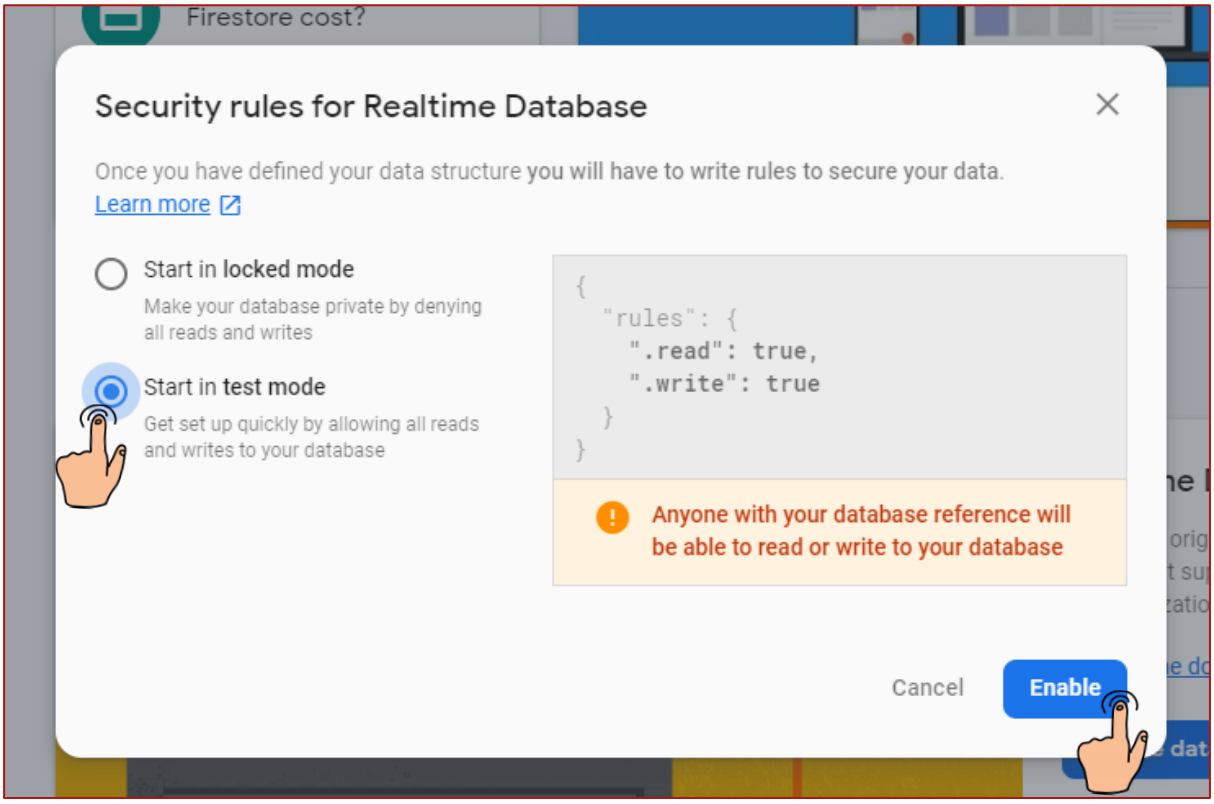
8. Now click on the database.


Firebase
Project Overview
Develop
Authentication
Database
Storage
Hosting
Functions
Machine Learning
Quality
Crashlytics, Performance, Test Lab, ...
Analytics
Dashboard, Events, Conversions, Au...
Grow
Predictions, A/B Testing, Cloud Mes...
home
home
Spark plan
com.shubh....
Add app
Develop
Hosting
Functions
Realtime Database
Authentication | Verifications

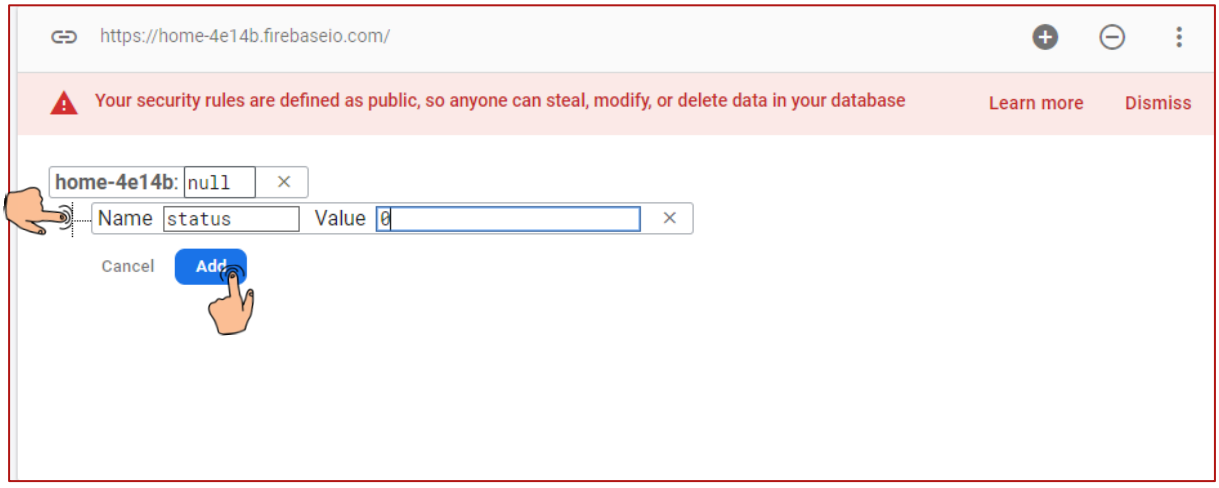
9. Scroll Down and find Realtime Database and click on **create Database** button

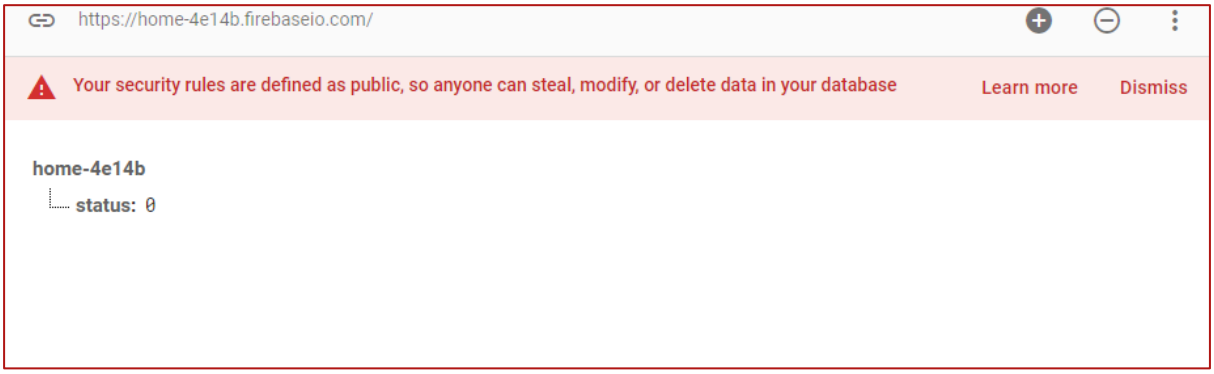


10. Click **start in test mode** and click on **Enable**.

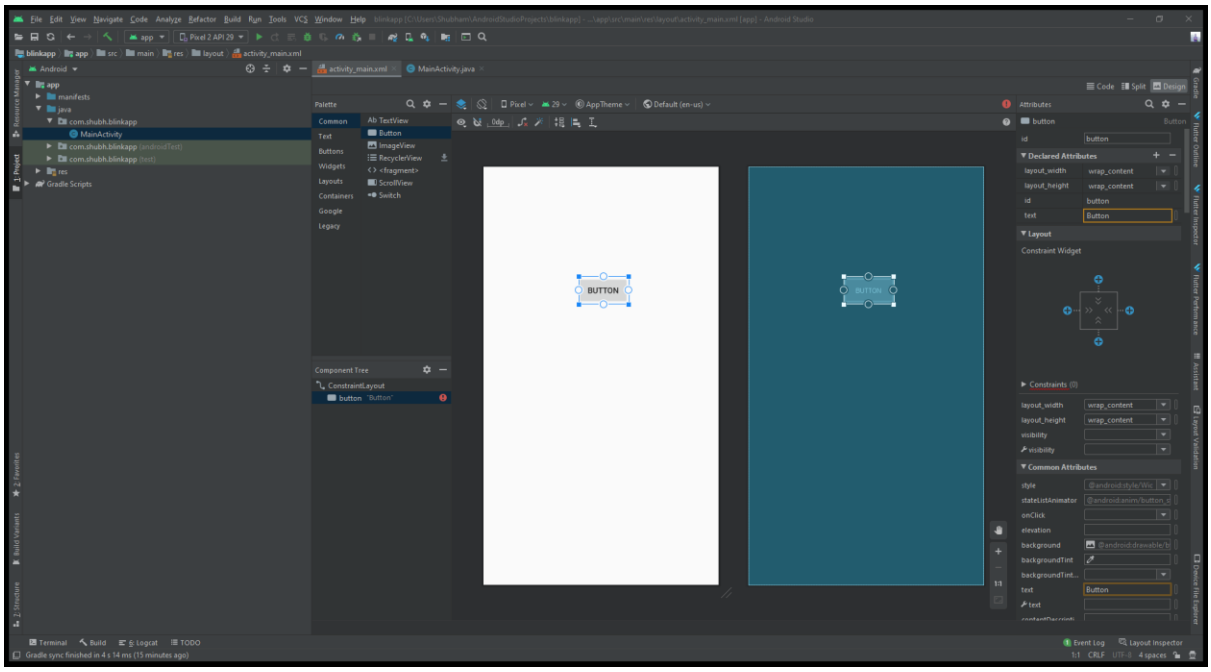


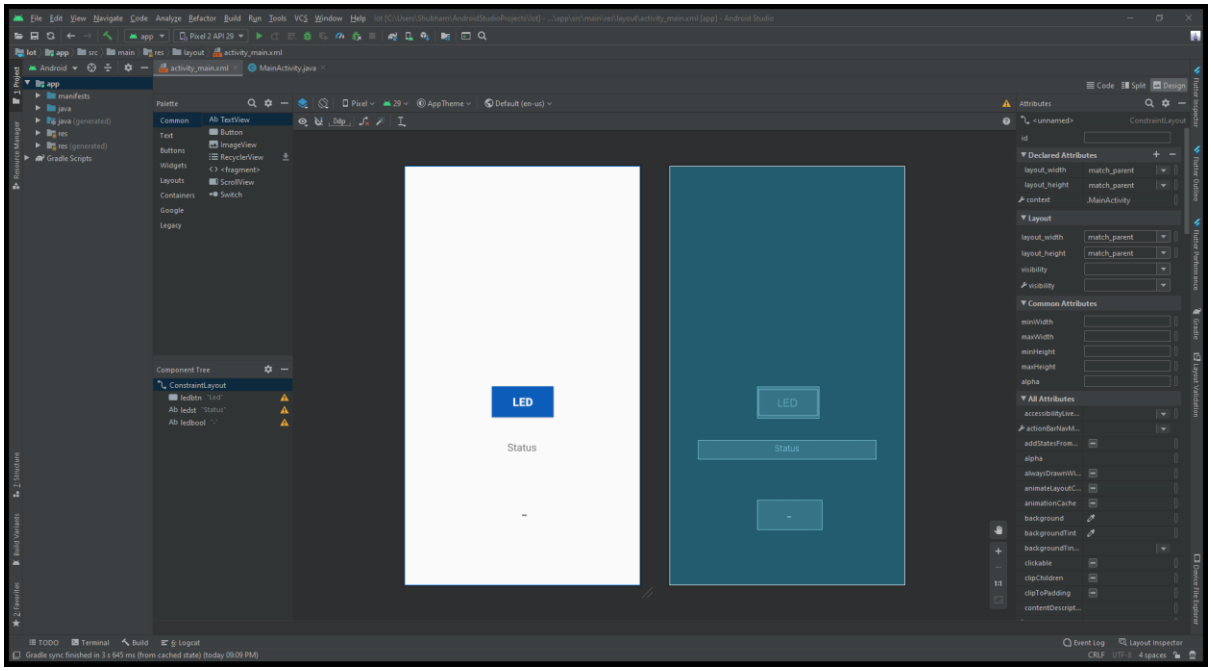
11. Now Create an attribute with name **status** with default value 0 and **click on Add Button** as shown below.



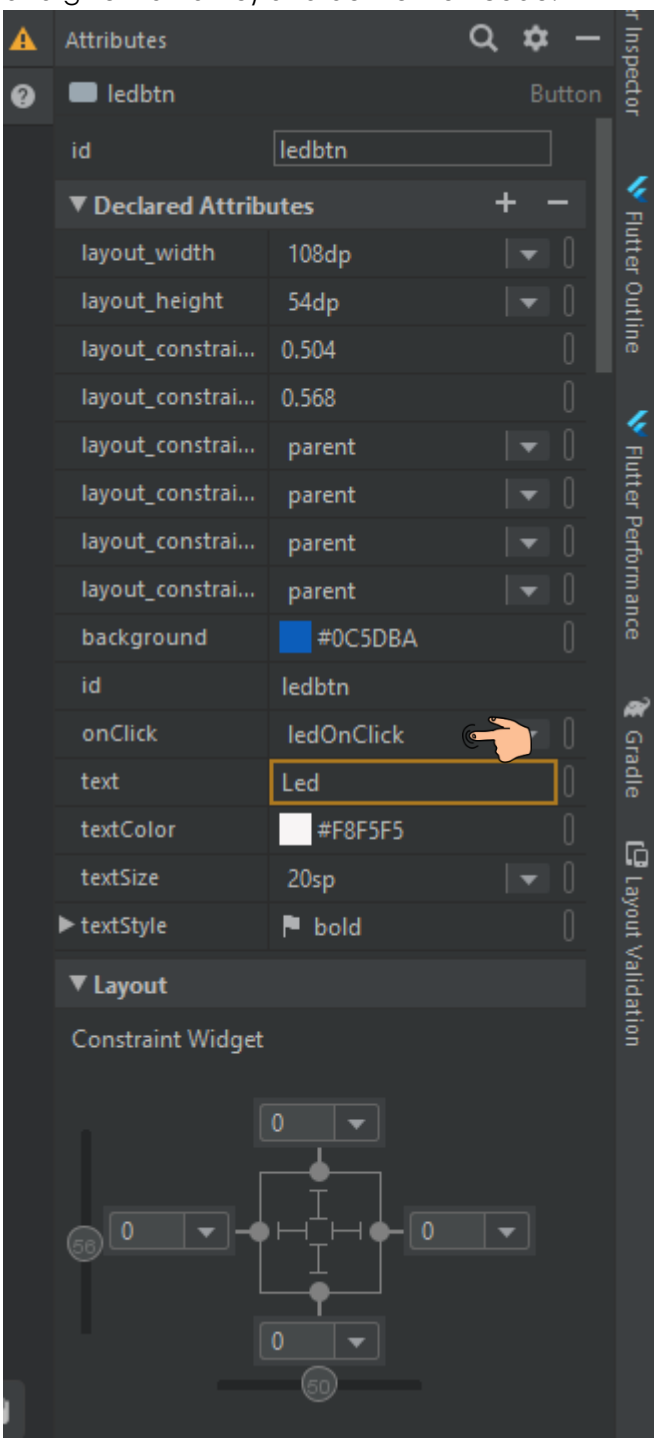


12. Now go back to android studio, we will create basic interface of our android app using drag and drop feature. Shown below.





13. Configure a onclick event on button led (Search **onclick** in attribute panel of button and give it a name) and define it on code.



Code of Activty_main.xml (Above Designing)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout
xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    xmlns:app="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res-auto"
    xmlns:tools="http://schemas.android.com/tools"
    android:layout_width="match_parent"
    android:layout_height="match_parent"
    tools:context=".MainActivity">

    <Button
        android:id="@+id/ledbtn"
        android:layout_width="108dp"
        android:layout_height="54dp"
        android:background="#0C5DBA"
        android:onClick="ledOnClick"
        android:text="Led"
        android:textColor="#F8F5F5"
        android:textSize="20sp"
        android:textStyle="bold"
        app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintEnd_toEndOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintHorizontal_bias="0.504"
        app:layout_constraintStart_toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintVertical_bias="0.568" />

    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/ledst"
        android:layout_width="311dp"
        android:layout_height="33dp"
        android:text="Status"
        android:textAlignment="center"
        android:textSize="18sp"
        app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintEnd_toEndOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintStart_toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintTop_toBottomOf="@+id/ledbtn"
        app:layout_constraintVertical_bias="0.154" />

    <TextView
        android:id="@+id/ledbool"
        android:layout_width="113dp"
        android:layout_height="51dp"
        android:text="-"
        android:textAlignment="center"
        android:textSize="35sp"
        app:layout_constraintBottom_toBottomOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintEnd_toEndOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintHorizontal_bias="0.513"
        app:layout_constraintStart_toStartOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintTop_toTopOf="parent"
        app:layout_constraintVertical_bias="0.857" />

</androidx.constraintlayout.widget.ConstraintLayout>
```

Code of MainActivity.java(Backend)

```
package com.shubh.iot;

import androidx.annotation.NonNull;
import androidx.appcompat.app.AppCompatActivity;

import android.os.Bundle;
import android.util.Log;
import android.view.View;
import android.widget.TextView;

import com.google.firebase.database.DataSnapshot;
import com.google.firebase.database.DatabaseError;
import com.google.firebase.database.DatabaseReference;
import com.google.firebase.database.FirebaseDatabase;
import com.google.firebase.database.ValueEventListener;

public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {
    FirebaseDatabase database= FirebaseDatabase.getInstance();
    TextView obj;
    TextView obj1;

    DatabaseReference reff,reff1;
    int val;

    @Override
    protected void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
        check_status();

    }
    public void ledOnClick(View V){
        obj1=(TextView)findViewById(R.id.ledst);
        reff1=database.getReference("led");
        if(val==0){
            reff1.setValue(1);
            obj1.setText("On Request Sent");
        }else{
            reff1.setValue(0);
            obj1.setText("Off Request Sent");
        }
        check_status();

    }
    public void check_status(){
        obj=(TextView)findViewById(R.id.ledbool);
        reff=FirebaseDatabase.getInstance().getReference();
        reff.child("led").addListenerForSingleValueEvent(new
ValueEventListener() {
            @Override
            public void onDataChange(@NonNull DataSnapshot dataSnapshot) {
                String value=dataSnapshot.getValue().toString();

                val=Integer.parseInt(value);

                if(value.equals("0")){
                    obj.setText("OFF");
                }else{
                    obj.setText("ON");
                }

            }

            @Override
            public void onCancelled(@NonNull DatabaseError databaseError)
{
                obj.setText("Error");
            }
        });
    }
}
```