Initialize Cloud Firestore Database
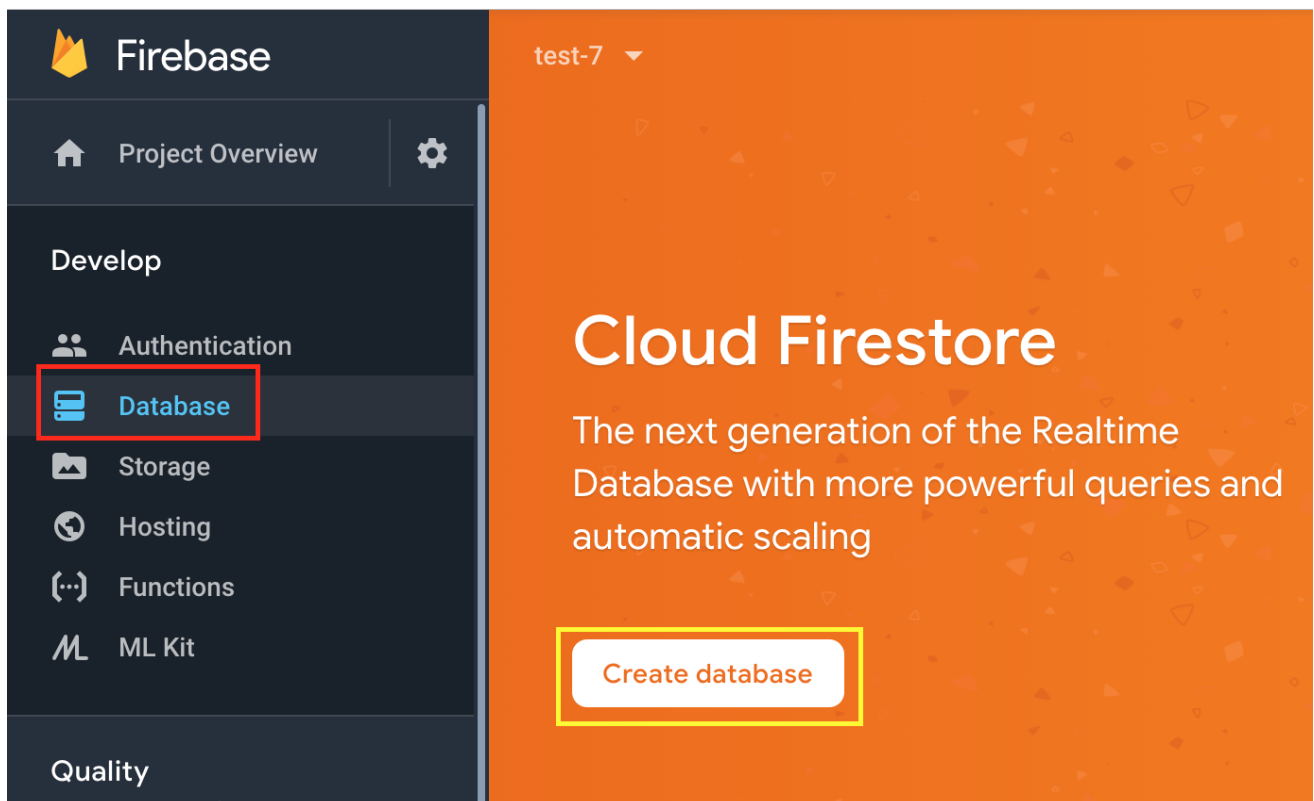
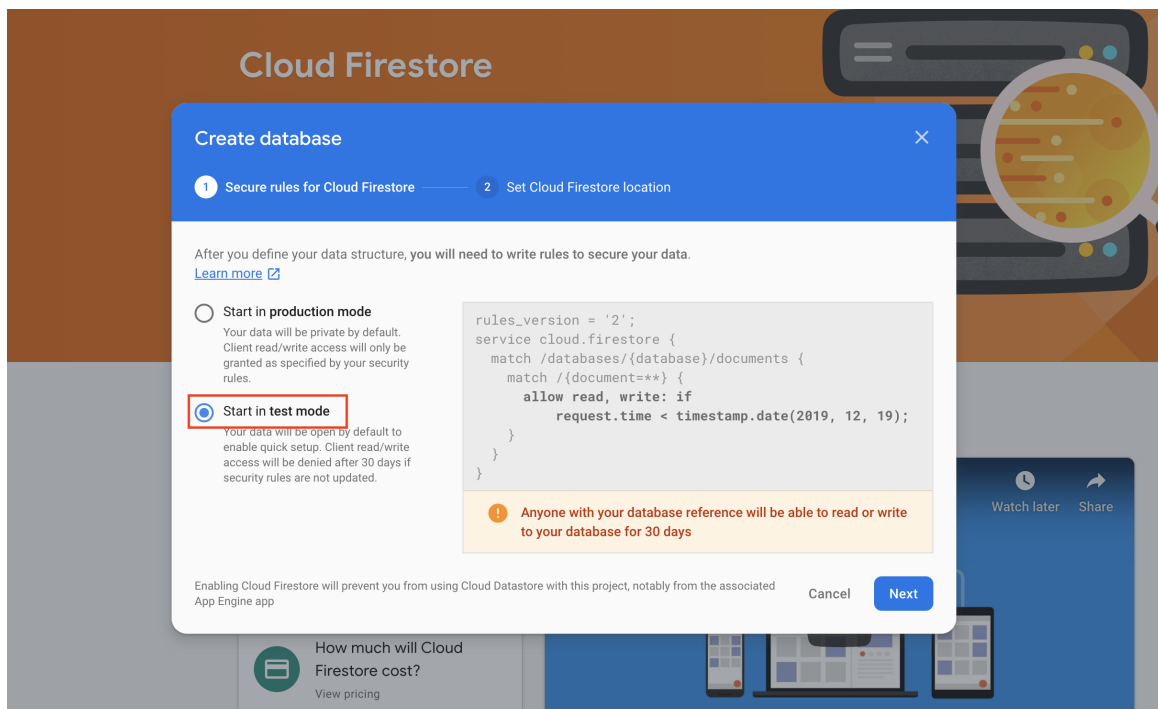This lesson explains how to initialize Cloud Firestore in our project.

Enable in Console

From the Firebase console, select your project. You will see the main sidebar on the left. Click on `Database`. On the right, click on the `Create database` button, which is below the caption "Cloud Firestore".

Test Mode

When you start working with the database, we have to allow read and writes from anyone. This is what Firebase calls **test mode**. It's not secure, but you will learn how to secure your database in the Authentication portion of this course. For now, select the **test mode** option on the pop up you see.

By following those steps you will have a Cloud Firestore database associated with your project that you will be able to start using right away. In order to use it, we have to reference it from our HTML and Javascript files.

Keep in mind that **test mode** expires after 30 days, as Firebase expects you to secure your app at some point. I will cover security with you later. Once you learn it, you can come back to this app and modify the security rules.

Script for HTML file

We will add the Cloud Firestore CDN to the `<head>` element of your HTML file.

```
<script src="https://www.gstatic.com/firebasejs/6.3.0/firebase-firestore.js"></script>
```

Reference Cloud Firestore From our JavaScript

From our JavaScript file, we will reference the `firestore()` method of the Firebase object and store it in a variable called `db` for later. You can use any

variable name you want but this is the convention you see in a lot of Firebase documentation.

```
var db = firebase.firestore();
```

In the next lesson, we will add items to the database by creating our first chat message!