SVVE 432 - Web Application Development

Fall 2021



George Mason University

Dr. Kevin Moran

Week 5: Persistence & Microservices



Administrivia



Quiz #3 - Grades Available on Blackboard,
 will discuss in class today

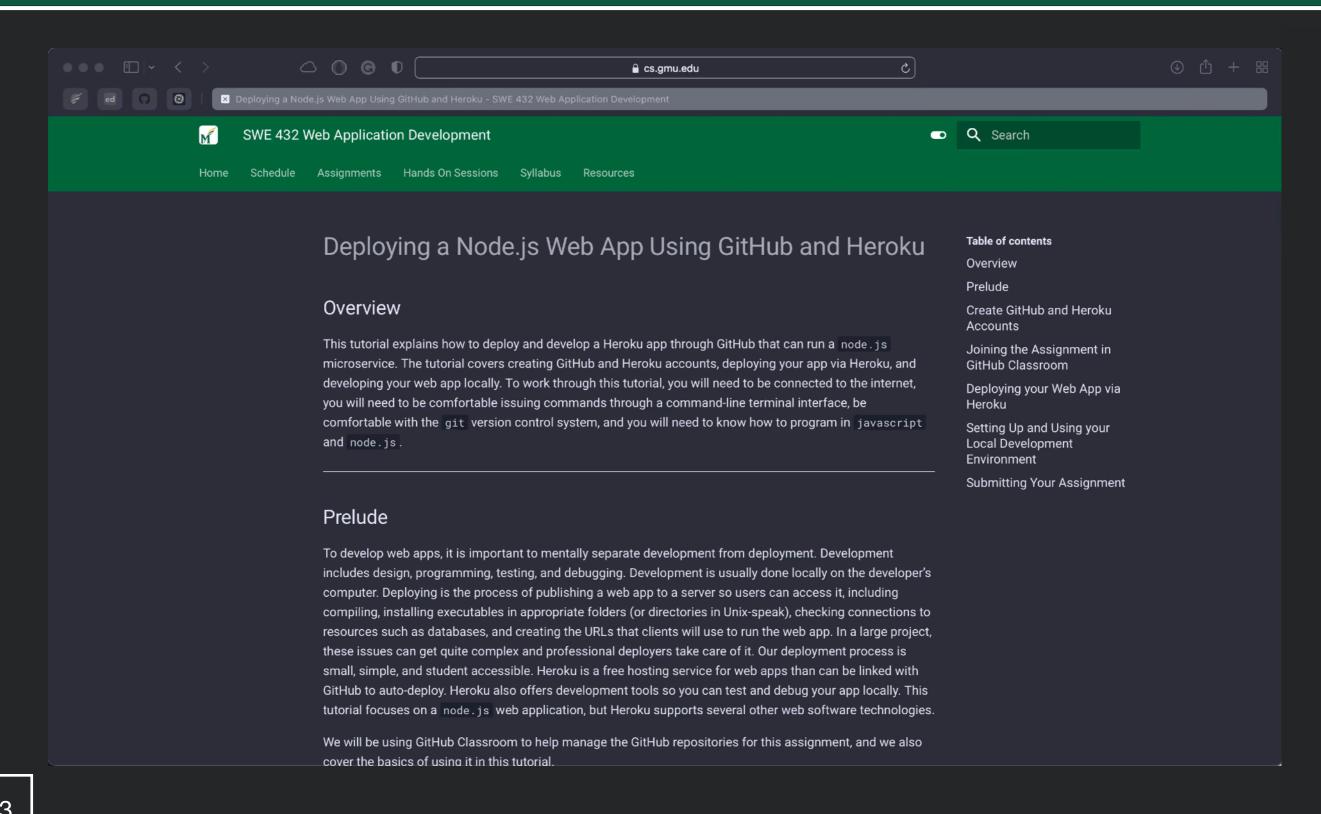
HW Assignment 2 - Due September 28th
 Before Class

Sign Up on GitHub Classroom today!!



HW2 Tutorial

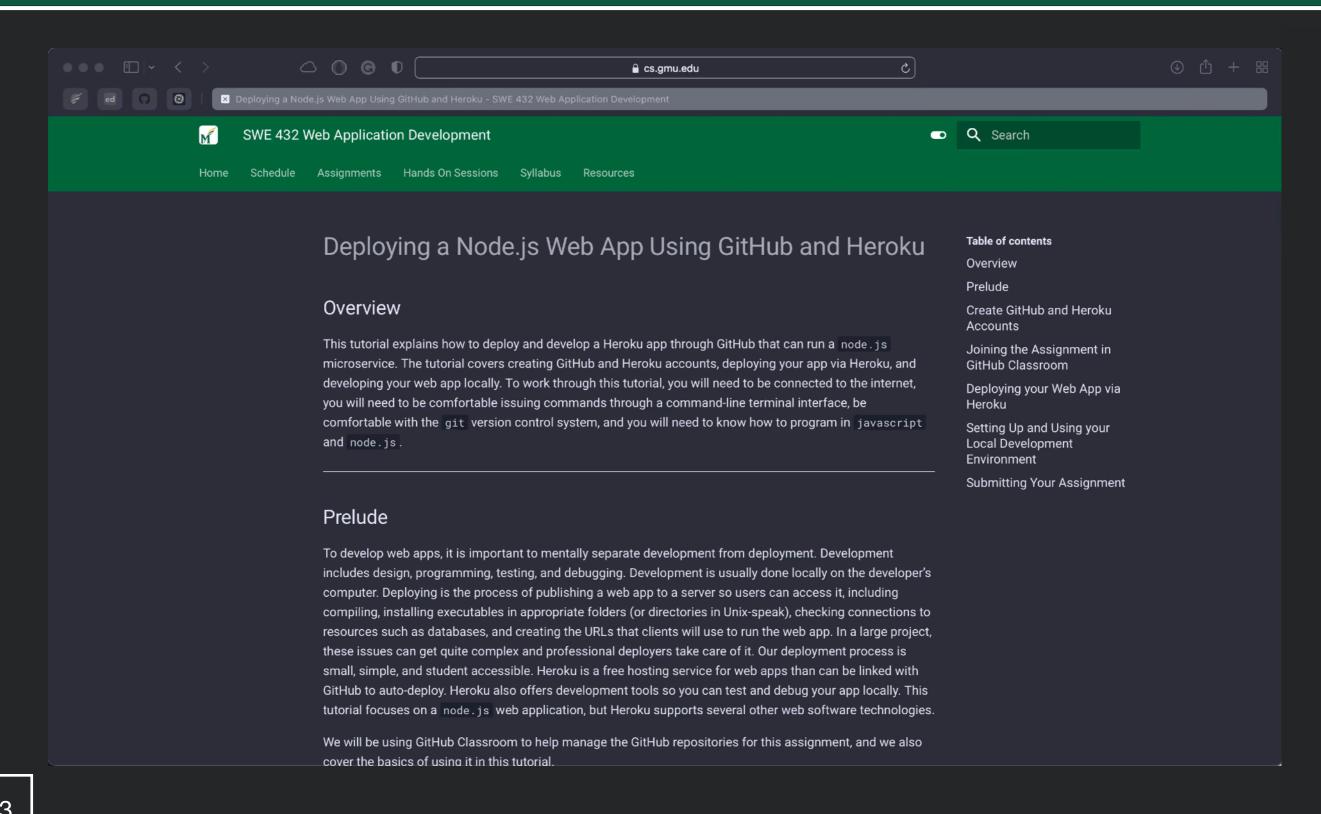






HW2 Tutorial







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Quiz 3 Review



 Question 1: What is one way in which asynchronous programming is different in JavaScript than in other languages like Java?

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Quiz 3 Review

 Question 2: What is one way in which asynchronous programming is similar in JavaScript compared to other languages like Java?

Quiz 3 Review



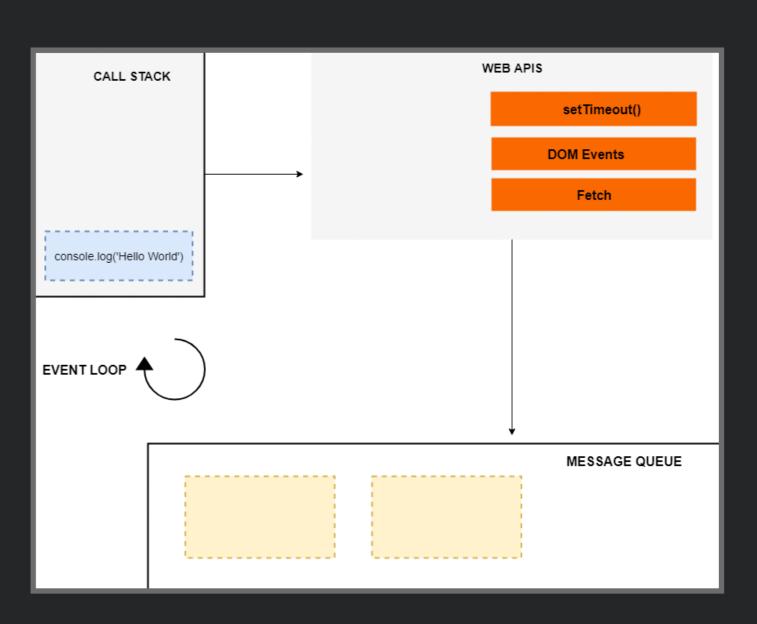
Question 3: When should a function return a promise rather than a value?



A Brief Review of Asynchronous JavaScript

```
const networkRequest = () => {
    setTimeout(() => {
        console.log('Async Code');
    }, 2000);
};

console.log('Hello World');
networkRequest();
console.log('The End');
```

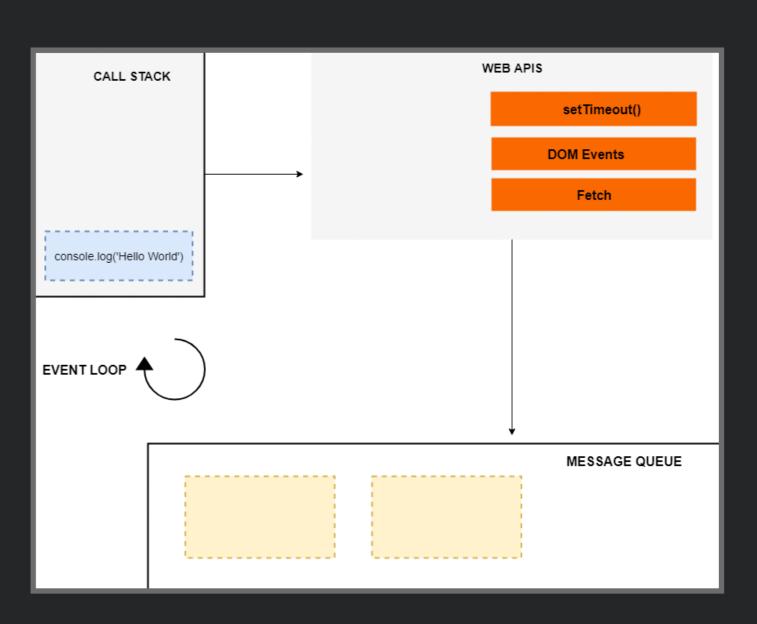




A Brief Review of Asynchronous JavaScript

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const networkRequest = () => {
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console.log('Hello World');
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Class Overview



Part 1 - Microservices & Persistence: Storing and

Manipulating Data in Web Applications.

• 10 minute Break

 Part 2 - Even More Microservices: A Few More Concepts and a Demo

Part3 - In Class Activity: Building on a Microservice for Jokes

More Microservices





Building a Microservice

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

GET /cities

GET /populations



API: Application Programming Interface

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

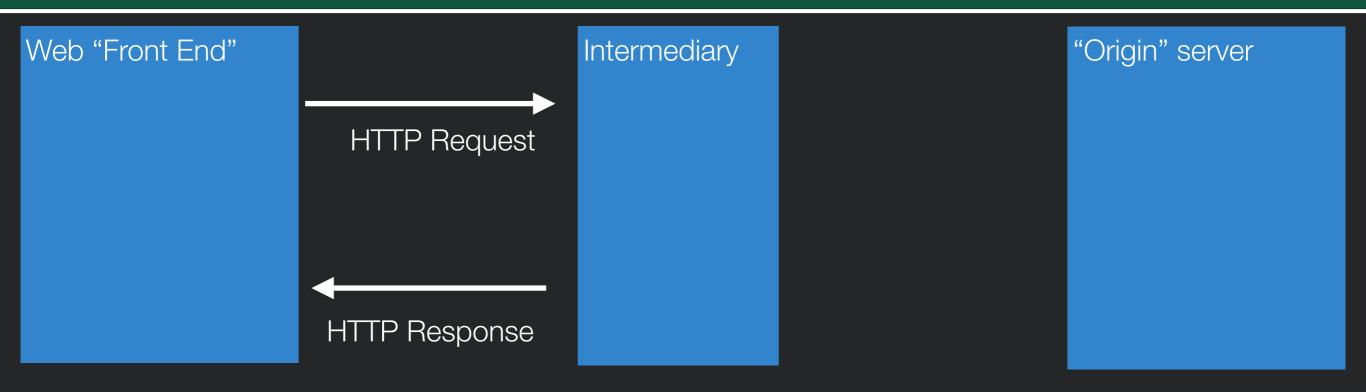
GET /cities
GET /populations

- Microservice offers public interface for interacting with backend
 - Offers abstraction that hides implementation details
 - Set of endpoints exposed on micro service

- Users of API might include
 - Frontend of your app
 - Frontend of other apps using your backend
 - Other servers using your service

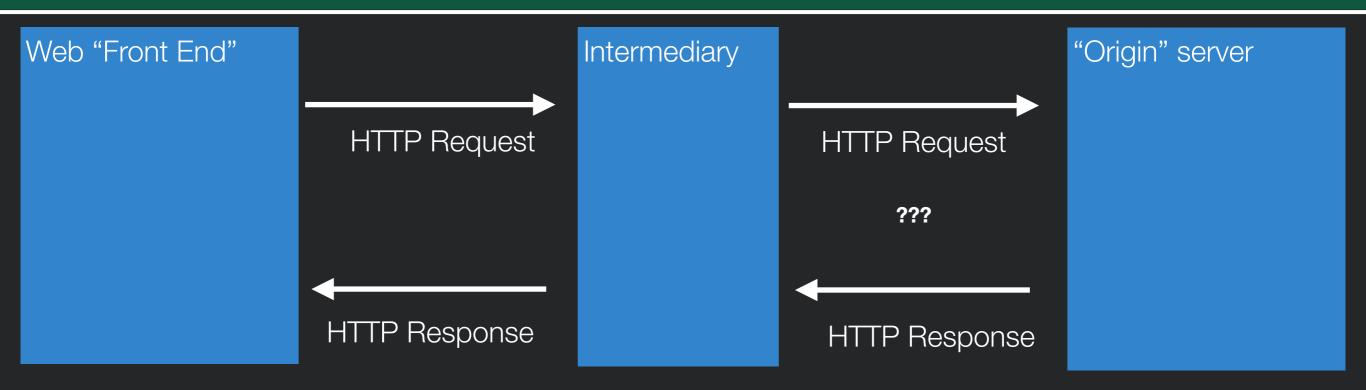


Intermediaries



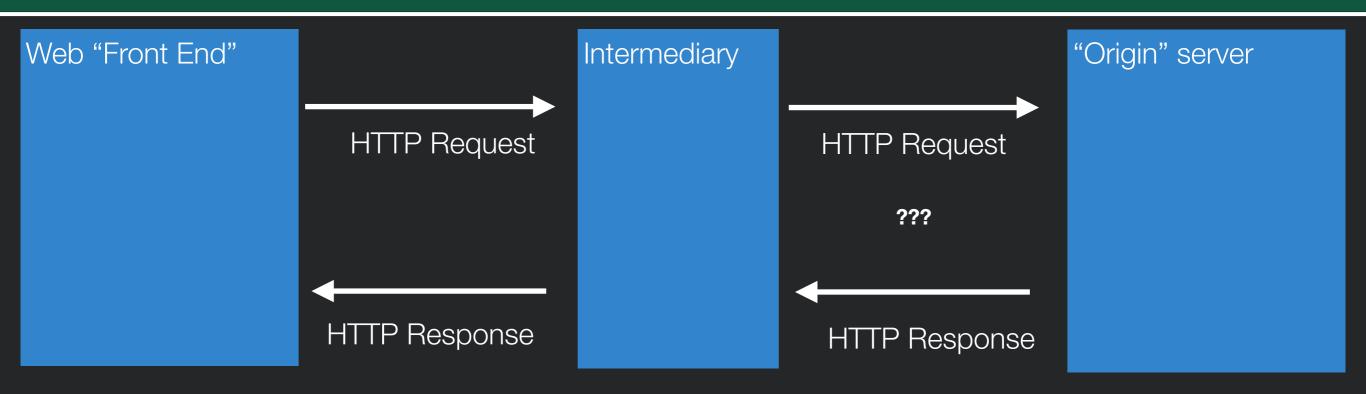


Intermediaries





Intermediaries

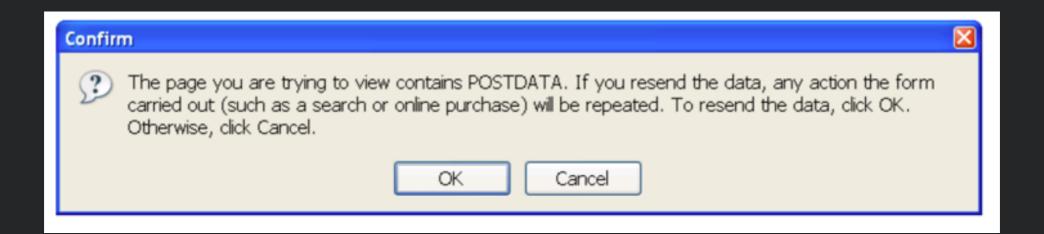


- Client interacts with a resource identified by a URI
- But it never knows (or cares) whether it interacts with origin server or an unknown intermediary server
 - Might be randomly load balanced to one of many servers
 - Might be cache, so that large file can be stored locally
 - (e.g., GMU caching an OSX update)
 - Might be server checking security and rejecting requests

HTTP Actions



- GET: safe method with no side effects
 - Requests can be intercepted and replaced with cache response
- PUT, DELETE: idempotent method that can be repeated with same result
 - Requests that fail can be retried indefinitely till they succeed
- POST: creates new element
 - Retrying a failed request might create duplicate copies of new resource





Support Scaling

- Yesterday, cityinfo.org had 10 daily active users. Today, it was featured on several news sites and has 10,000 daily active users.
- Yesterday, you were running on a single server. Today, you need more than a single server.

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

GET /cities

GET /populations



Support Change

- Due to your popularity, your backend data provider just backed out of their contract and are now your competitor.
- The data you have is now in a different format.
- Also, you've decided to migrate your backend from PHP to node.js to enable better scaling.

 How do you update your backend without breaking all of your clients?

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

GET /cities

GET /populations



Support Change

- Due to your popularity, your backend data provider just backed out of their contract and are now your competitor.
- The data you have is now in a different format.
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cityinfo.org

Microservice API

GET /cities.jsp

GET /populations.jsp

Versioning



- Your web service just added a great new feature!
 - You'd like to expose it in your API.
 - But... there might be old clients (e.g., websites) built using the old API.
 - These websites might be owned by someone else and might not know about the change.
 - Don't want these clients to throw an error whenever they access an updated API.



Cool URIs don't change

- In theory, URI could last forever, being reused as server is rearchitected, new features are added, or even whole technology stack is replaced.
- "What makes a cool URI?
 A cool URI is one which does not change.
 What sorts of URIs change?
 URIs don't change: people change them."
 - https://www.w3.org/Provider/Style/URI.html
 - Bad:
 - https://www.w3.org/Content/id/50/URI.html (What does this path mean? What if we wanted to change it to mean something else?)
- Why might URIs change?
 - We reorganized our website to make it better.
 - We used to use a cgi script and now we use node.JS.

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URI Design

- URIs represent a contract about what resources your server exposes and what can be done with them
- Leave out anything that might change
 - Content author names, status of content, other keys that might change
 - File name extensions: response describes content type through MIME header not extension (e.g., .jpg, .mp3, .pdf)
 - Server technology: should not reference technology (e.g., .cfm, .jsp)
- Endeavor to make all changes backwards compatible
 - Add new resources and actions rather than remove old
- If you must change URI structure, support old URI structure and new URI structure

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Nouns vs. Verbs

- URIs should hierarchically identify nouns describing resources that exist
- Verbs describing actions that can be taken with resources should be described with an HTTP action

- PUT /cities/:cityID (nouns: cities, :cityID)(verb: PUT)
- GET /cities/:cityID (nouns: cities, :cityID)(verb: GET)

 Want to offer expressive abstraction that can be reused for many scenarios



Support Reuse

You have your own frontend for <u>cityinfo.org</u>.
 But everyone now wants to build their own sites on top of your city analytics.

Can they do that?

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

GET /cities

GET /populations



Support Reuse

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

/topCities GET /topCities/:cityID/descrip PUT, GET

/city/:cityID GET, PUT, POST, DELETE
/city/:cityID/averages GET
/city/:cityID/weather GET
/city/:cityID/transitProvders GET, POST
/city/:cityID/transitProvders/:providerID GET, PUT, DELETE



What Happens When a Request has Many Parameters?

/topCities/:cityID/descrip PUT

- Shouldn't this really be something more like
 - /topCities/:cityID/descrip/:descriptionText/:submitter/:time/



Solution I: Query strings

```
var express = require('express');
var app = express();

app.put('/topCities/:cityID', function(req, res){
    res.send(`descrip: ${req.query.descrip} submitter: ${req.query.submitter}`);
});
app.listen(3000);
```

- Use req.query to retrieve
- Shows up in URL string, making it possible to store full URL
 - e.g., user adds a bookmark to URL
- Sometimes works well for short params



Solution 2: JSON Request Body

- PUT /topCities/Memphis
 { "descrip": "Memphis is a city of ...",
 "submitter": "Dan", "time": 1025313 }
- Best solution for all but the simplest parameters (and often times everything)
- Use body-parser package and req.body to retrieve

```
$npm install body-parser

var express = require('express');
var bodyParser = require('body-parser');

var app = express();

// parse application/json
app.use(bodyParser.json());

app.put('/topCities/:cityID', function(req, res){
    res.send(`descrip: ${req.body.descrip} submitter: ${req.body.submitter}`);
});

app.listen(3000);
```

Data Persistence



Persistence



- The user sent you some data.
- You retrieved some data from a 3rd party servcie.
- You generated some data, which you want to keep reusing.

Where and how could you store this?



What forms of data might you have

- Key / value pairs
- JSON objects
- Tabular arrays of data
- Files



Options for backend persistence

- Where it is stored
 - On your server or another server you own
 - SQL databases, NoSQL databases
 - File system
 - Storage provider (not on a server you own)
 - NoSQL databases
 - BLOB store



Storing state in a global variable

```
• Global variables

var express = require('express');
var app = express();
var port = process.env.port || 3000;

var counter = 0;
app.get('/', function (req, res) {
    res.send('Hello World has been said ' + counter + ' times!');
    counter++;
});

app.listen(port, function () {
    console.log('Example app listening on port' + port);
});
```

- Pros/cons?
 - Keep data between requests
 - Goes away when your server stops
 - Should use for transient state or as cache

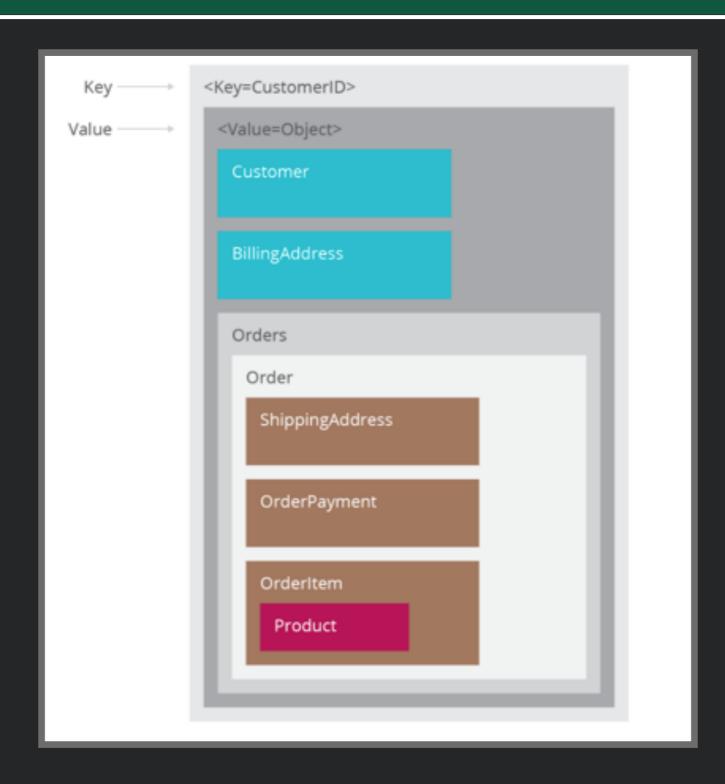
NoSQL



- non SQL, non-relational, "not only" SQL databases
- Emphasizes <u>simplicity</u> & <u>scalability</u> over support for relational queries
- Important characteristics
 - Schema-less: each row in dataset can have different fields (just like JSON!)
 - Non-relational: no structure linking tables together or queries to "join" tables
 - (Often) weaker consistency: after a field is updated, all clients eventually see the update but may see older data in the meantime
- Advantages: greater scalability, faster, simplicity, easier integration with code
- Several types. We'll look only at key-value.



Key-Value NoSQL



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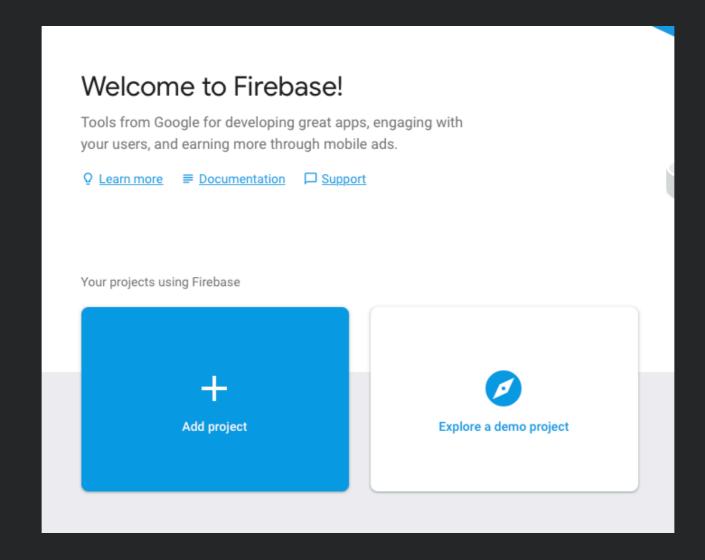
Firebase Cloud Firestore

- Example of a NoSQL datastore
- Google web service
 - https://firebase.google.com/docs/firestore/
- "Realtime" database
 - Data stored to remote web service
 - Data synchronized to clients in real time
- Simple API
 - Offers library wrapping HTTP requests & responses
 - Handles synchronization of data
- Can also be used on frontend to build web apps with persistence without backend



Setting up Firebase Cloud Firestore

- Detailed instructions to create project, get API key
 - https://firebase.google.com/docs/firestore/quickstart





Setting up Firebase Realtime Database

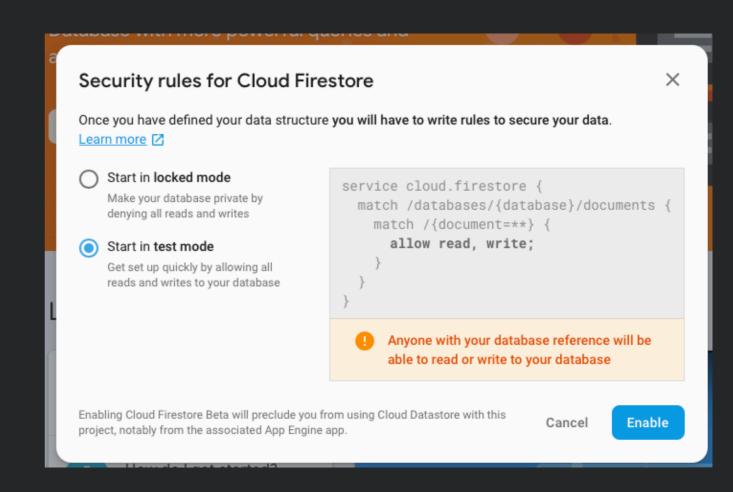
- Go to https://console.firebase.google.com/, create a new project
- Install firebase module npm install firebase-admin --save
 - Go to IAM & admin > Service accounts, create a new private key, save the file.
 - Include Firebase in your web app

```
const admin = require('firebase-admin');
let serviceAccount = require('path/to/serviceAccountKey.json');
admin.initializeApp({
   credential: admin.credential.cert(serviceAccount)
});
let db = admin.firestore();
```





- "Test mode" anyone who has your app can read/write all data in your database
 - Good for development, bad for real world
- "Locked mode" do not allow everyone to read/write data
 - Best solution, but requires learning how to configure security

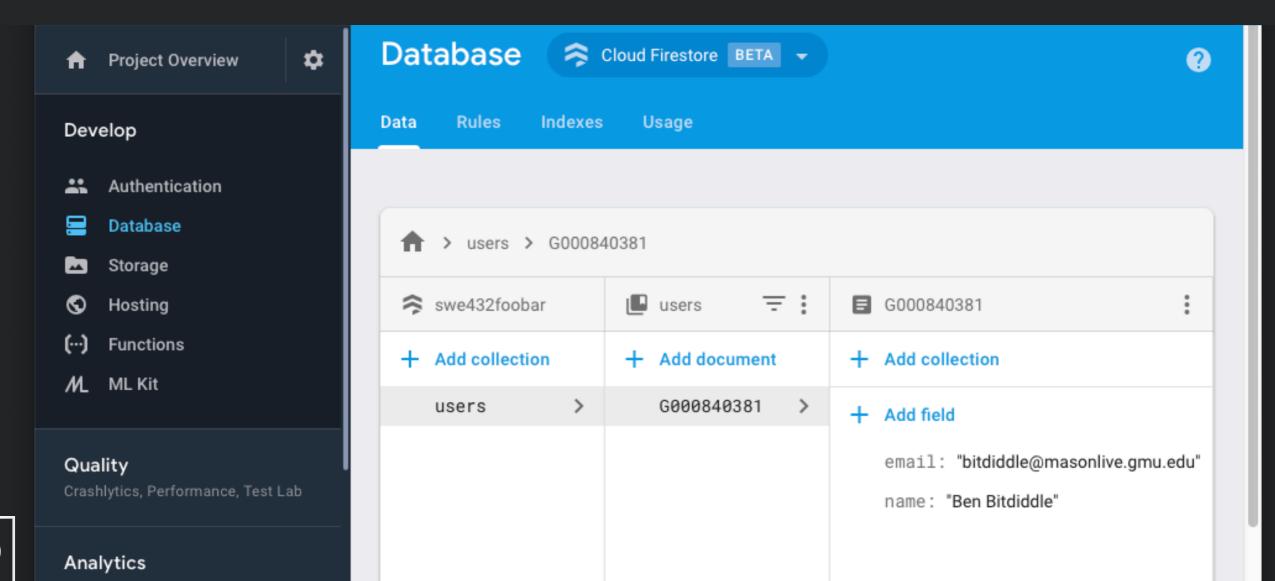




Firebase Console

- See data values, updated in realtime
- Can edit data values

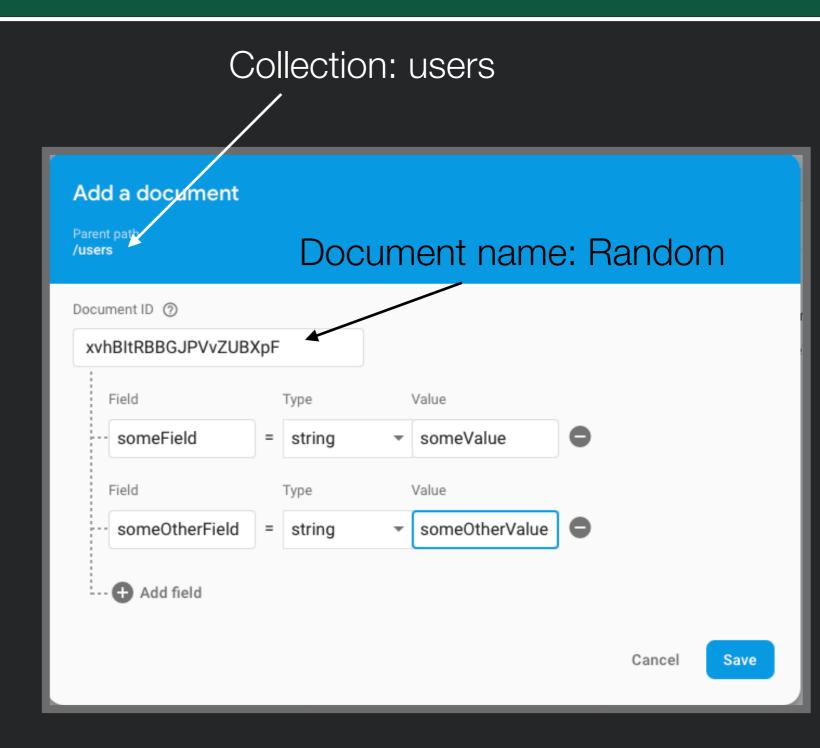
https://console.firebase.google.com





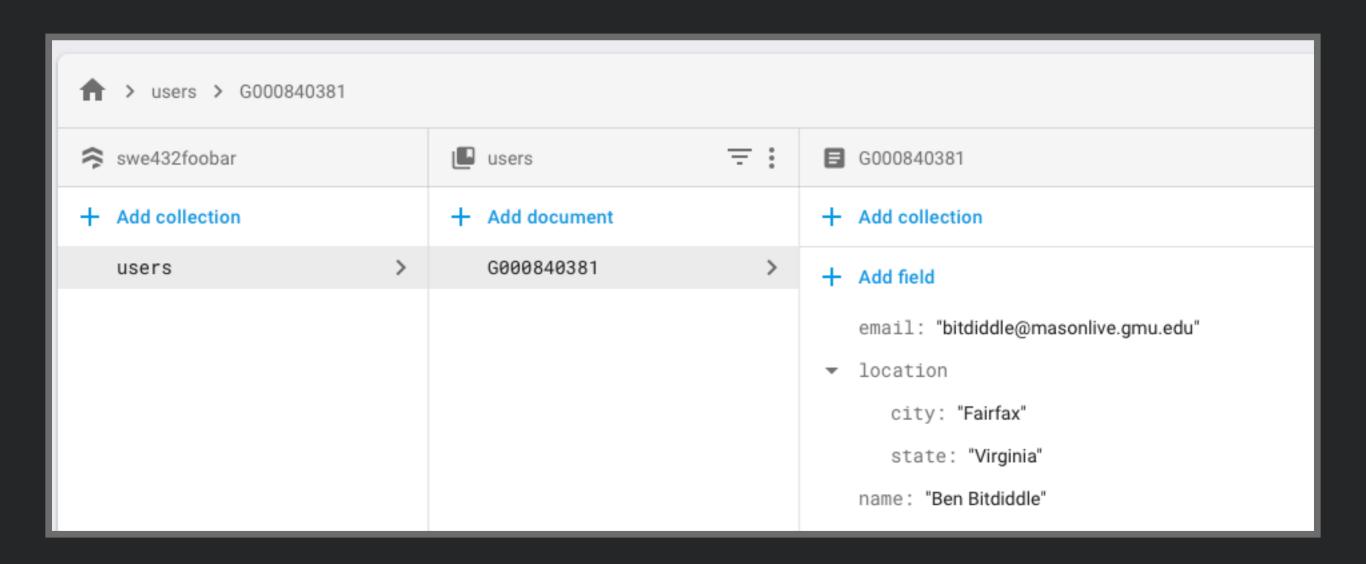
Firebase Data Model: JSON

- Collections of JSON documents
 - Hierarchic tree of key/ value pairs
 - Can view as one big object
 - Or describe path to descendent and view descendent as object





JSON is JSON...

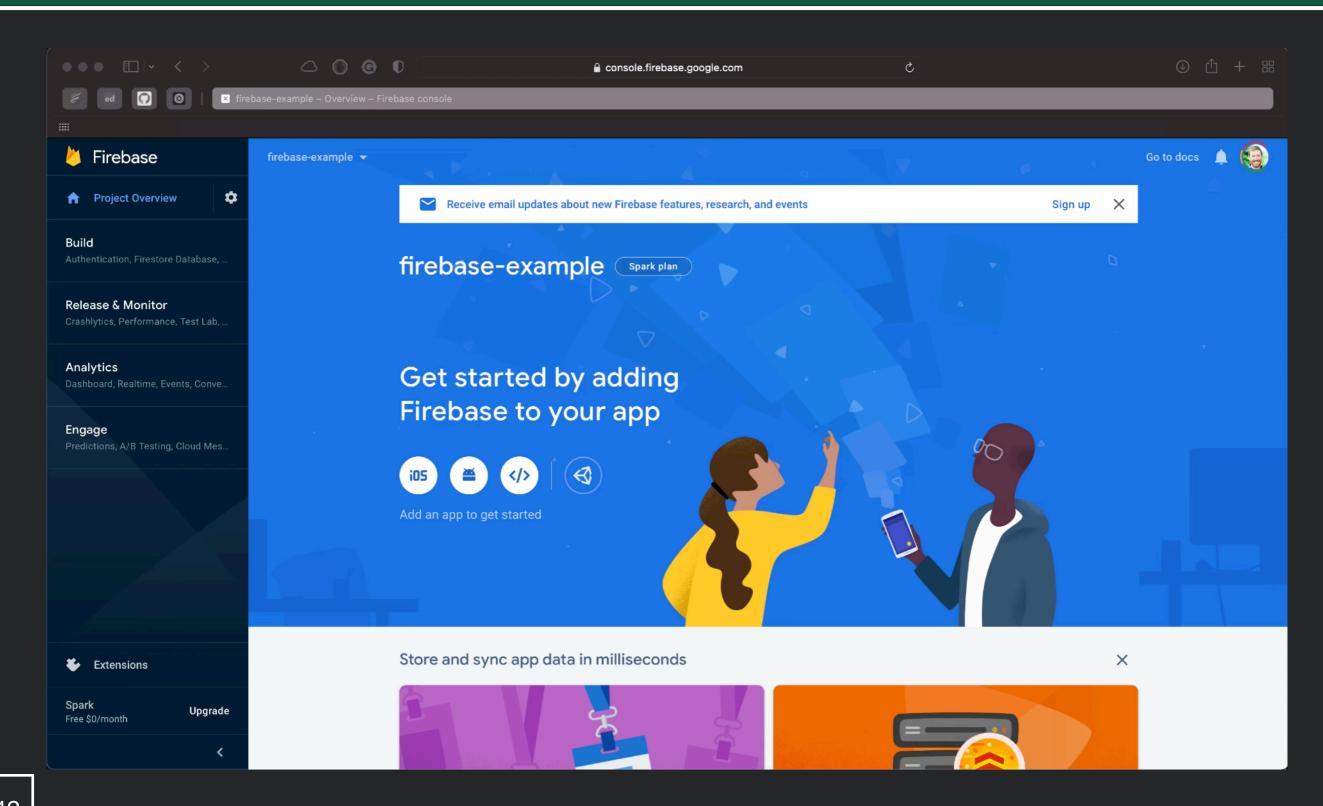




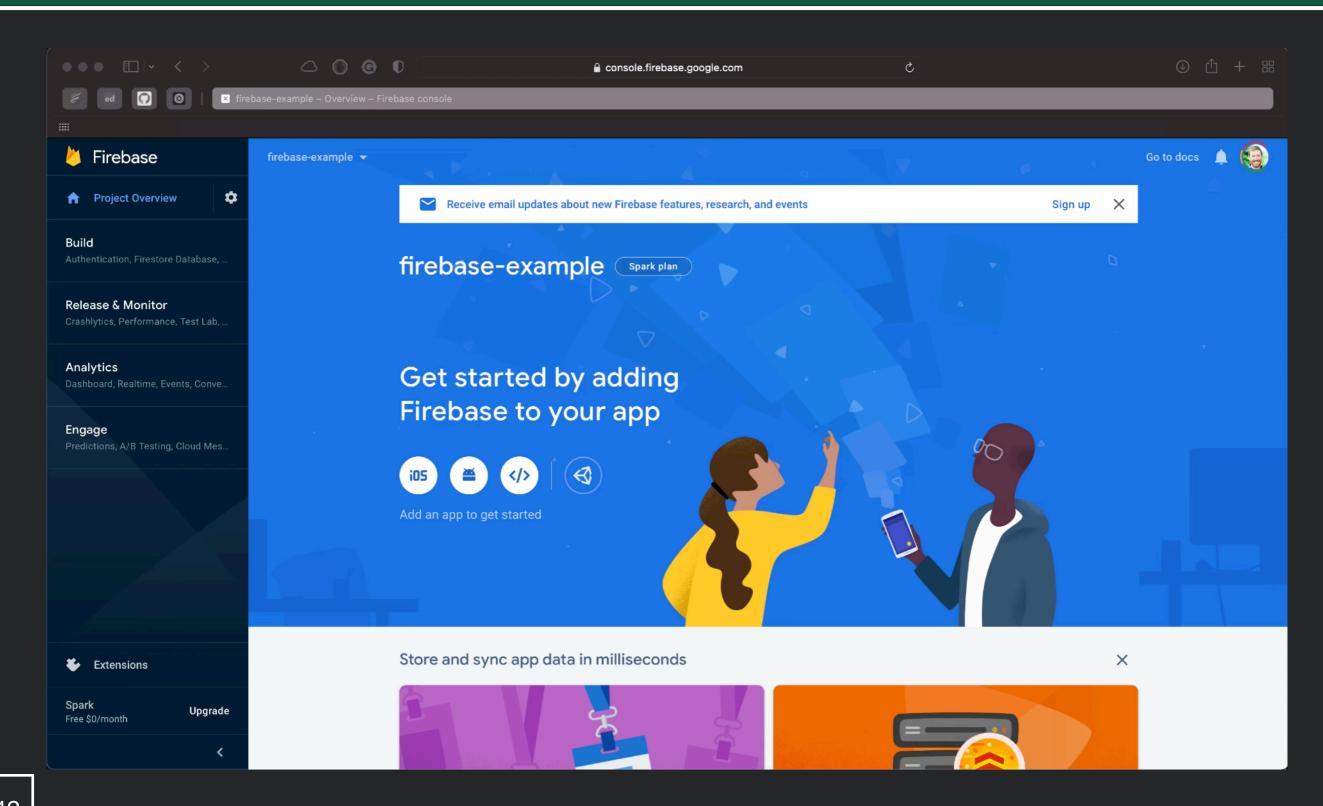
 After successfully completing previous steps, should be able to replace config and run this script. Can test by viewing data on console.

```
const admin = require('firebase-admin');
let serviceAccount = require('[YOUR JSON FILE PATH HERE]');
admin_initializeApp({
    credential: admin.credential.cert(serviceAccount)
});
let db = admin.firestore();
let docRef = db.collection('users').doc('alovelace');
let setAda = docRef.set({
    first: 'Ada',
    last: 'Lovelace',
    born: 1815
});
```









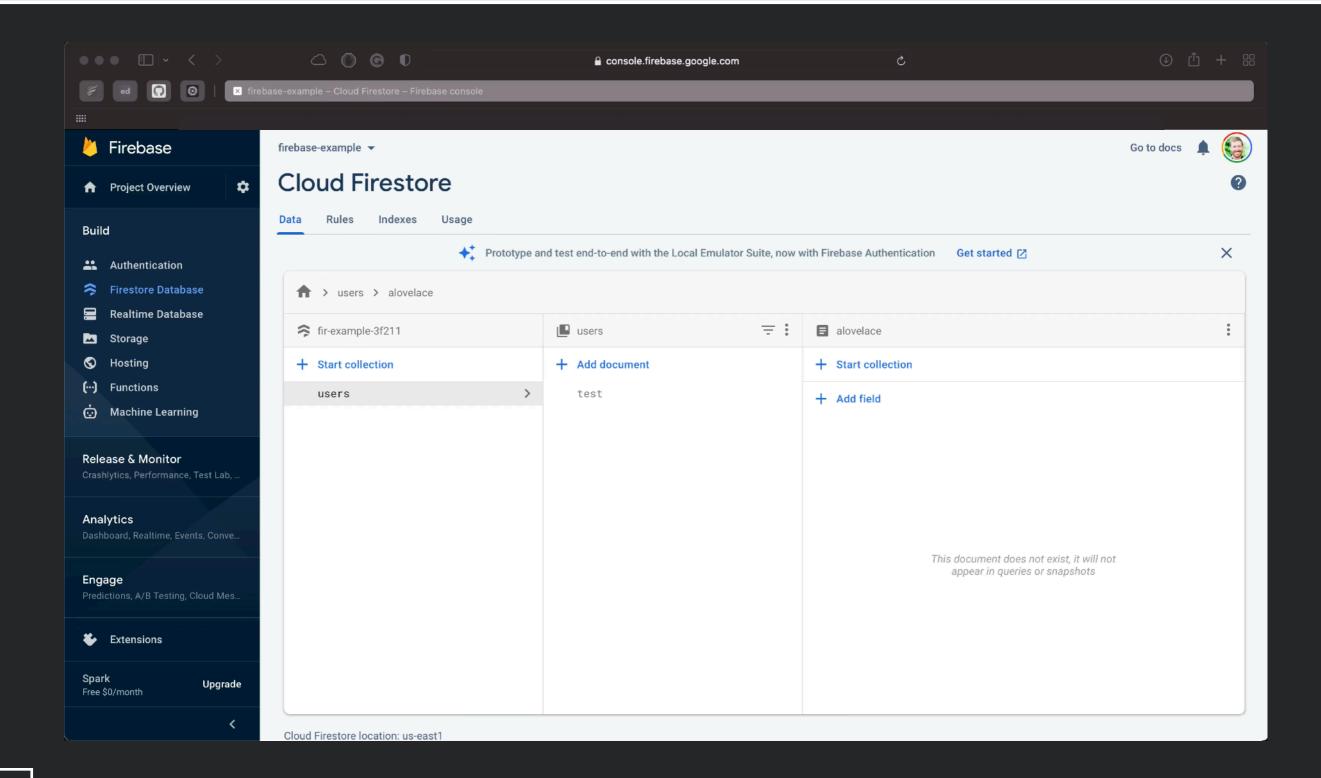


```
Firebase-Example — -bash — 88×21
Last login: Tue Sep 21 14:35:25 on ttys000
Legacy:Firebase-Example KevinMoran$
```

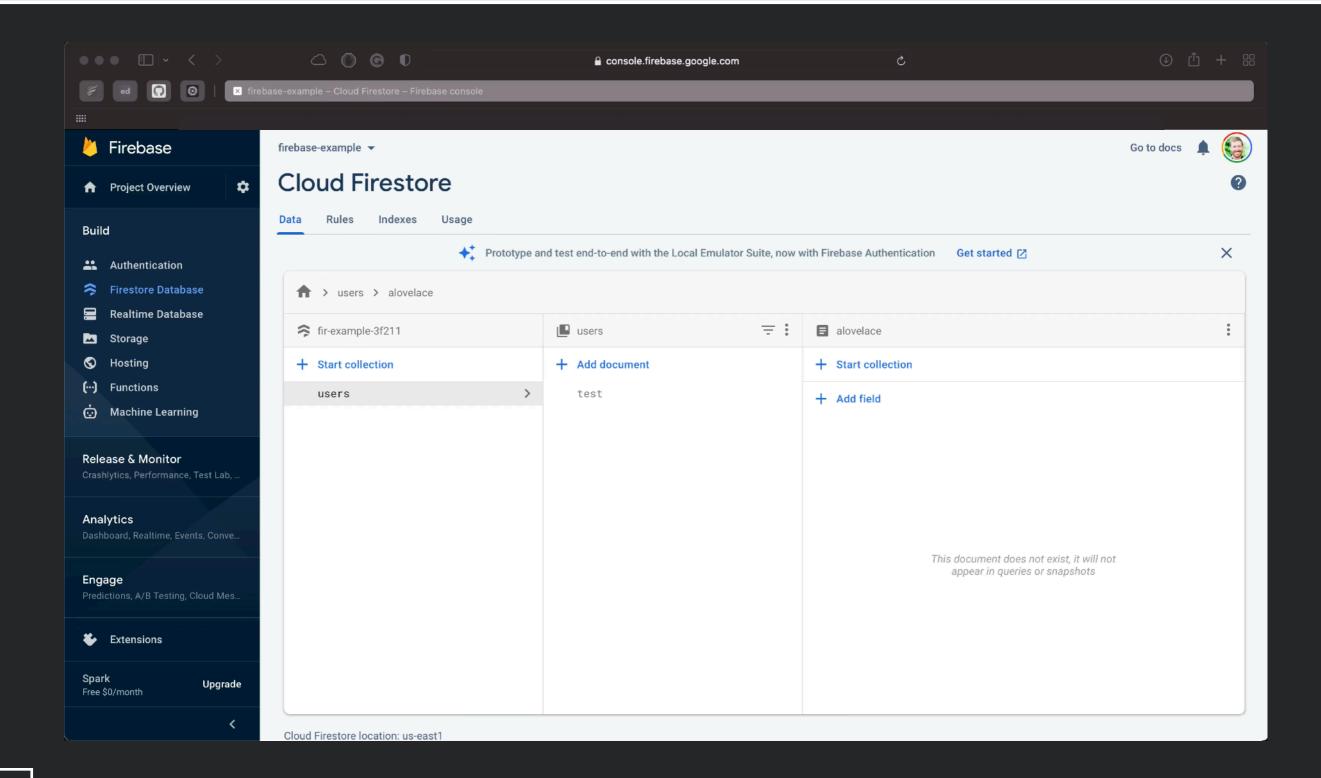


```
Firebase-Example — -bash — 88×21
Last login: Tue Sep 21 14:35:25 on ttys000
Legacy:Firebase-Example KevinMoran$
```











Structuring Data

- I want to build a chat app with a database
- App has chat rooms: each room has some users in it, and messages
- How should I store this data in Firebase? What are the collections and documents?



Structuring Data

- Should be considering what types of records clients will be requesting.
 - Do not want to force client to download data that do not need.
- Better to think of structure as lists of data that clients will retrieve



```
async function writeUserData(userID, newName, newEmail) {
    return database.collection("users").doc(userID).set({
         name: newName,
         email: newEmail
    });
}
```



(because firebase is asynchronous)

```
async function writeUserData(userID, newName, newEmail) {
    return database.collection("users").doc(userID).set({
         name: newName,
          email: newEmail
     });
}
```



(because firebase is asynchronous)

Get the users collection

```
async function writeUserData(userID, newName, newEmail) {
    return database.collection("users").doc(userID).set({
         name: newName,
          email: newEmail
    });
}
```

 ↑ users > G000840381

 ⇒ swe432foobar
 □ users
 □ G000840381

 + Add collection
 + Add collection

 users
 > G000840381
 > + Add field

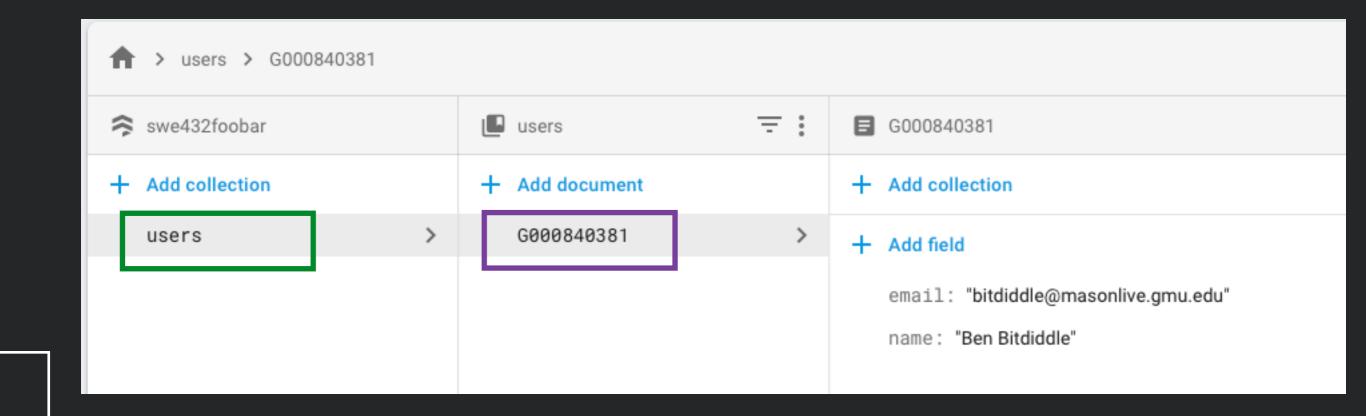
 email: "bitdiddle@masonlive.gmu.edu"
 name: "Ben Bitdiddle"



(because firebase is asynchronous)

async function writeUserData(userID, newName, newEmail) {
 return database.collection("users").doc(userID).set({
 name: newName,
 email: newEmail
 });
 }

Get the users collection
Create this one user
by ID





Get the users collection

async function writeUserData(userID, newName, newEmail) {
 return database.collection("users").doc(userID).set({
 name: newName,
 email: newEmail
 });
 Create this one user
 });
}

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Storing Data: Add

- Where does this ID come from?
 - It MUST be unique to the document
- Sometimes easier to let Firebase manage the IDs for you it will create a new one uniquely automatically

```
async function addNewUser(newName, newEmail) {
   return database.collection("users").add({
        name: newName,
        email: newEmail
   });
}
async function demo(){
   let ref = await addNewUser("Foo Bar","fbar@gmu.edu")
        console.log("Added user ID " + ref.id)
}
```



Storing Data: Update

 Can either use "set" (with {merge:true}) or "update" to update an existing document (set will possibly create the document if it doesn't exist)

```
database.collection("users").doc(userID).update({
    name: newName
});
```



Storing Data: Delete

```
database.collection("users").doc("ojtp4HrEeGB4Y9jErz0T").delete();
```

```
database.collection("users").doc(userID).update({
    name: firebase.firestore.FieldValue.delete()
});
```

- Can delete a key by setting value to null
 - If you want to store null, first need to convert value to something else (e.g., 0, '')



Storing Data: Delete

```
database.collection("users").doc("ojtp4HrEeGB4Y9jErz0T").delete();
```

Removes a document

```
database.collection("users").doc(userID).update({
    name: firebase.firestore.FieldValue.delete()
});
```

Removes a field

- Can delete a key by setting value to null
 - If you want to store null, first need to convert value to something else (e.g., 0, '')



Fetching Data (One Time)

```
async function getUser(userId){
    return database.collection("users").doc(userId).get();
}
async function demo(){
    let user = await getUser("G000840381");
    console.log(user.data());
}
```

Can also call get directly on the collection



Listening to Data Changes

```
let doc = db.collection('cities').doc('SF');

let observer = doc.onSnapshot(docSnapshot => {
   console.log(`Received doc snapshot: ${docSnapshot}`);
   // ...
}, err => {
   console.log(`Encountered error: ${err}`);
});
```

- Read data by listening to changes to specific subtrees
- Events will be generated for initial values and then for each subsequent update



Listening to Data Changes

```
let doc = db.collection('cities').doc('SF');

let observer = doc.onSnapshot(docSnapshot => {
    console.log(`Received doc snapshot: ${docSnapshot}`);
    // ...
}, err => {
    console.log(`Encountered error: ${err}`);
});
```

"When values changes, invoke function"

Specify a subtree by creating a reference to a path. This listener will be called until you cancel it

- Read data by listening to changes to specific subtrees
- Events will be generated for initial values and then for each subsequent update

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Ordering data

- Data is by, default, ordered by document ID in ascending order
 - e.g., numeric index IDs are ordered from 0...n
 - e.g., alphanumeric IDs are ordered in alphanumeric order
- Can get only first (or last) n elements

```
let firstThree = citiesRef.orderBy('name').limit(3);
```

Can use where statements to query

```
citiesRef.where('population', '>', 2500000).orderBy('population');
```

SWE 432 - Web Application Development



George Mason
University

Instructor:
Dr. Kevin Moran

Teaching Assistant:
David Gonzalez Samudio

Class will start in:

10:00

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Even More Microservices!





Blobs: Storing uploaded files



Blobs: Storing uploaded files

• Example: User uploads picture



Blobs: Storing uploaded files

- Example: User uploads picture
 - ... and then?



Blobs: Storing uploaded files

- Example: User uploads picture
 - ... and then?
 - ... somehow process the file?

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How do we store our files?

- Dealing with text is easy we already figured out firebase
 - Could use other databases too... but that's another class!
- But
 - What about pictures?
 - What about movies?
 - What about big huge text files?
- Aka...Binary Large OBject (BLOB)
 - Collection of binary data stored as a single entity
 - Generic terms for an entity that is array of bytes



Working with Blobs

Module: multer

Simplest case: take a file, save it on the server

```
app.post('/upload',upload.single("upload"), function(req, res) {
    var sampleFile = req.file.filename;
    //sampleFile is the name of the file that now is living on our server
    res.send('File uploaded!');
    });
});
```

 Long story... can't easily have file uploads and JSON requests at the same time

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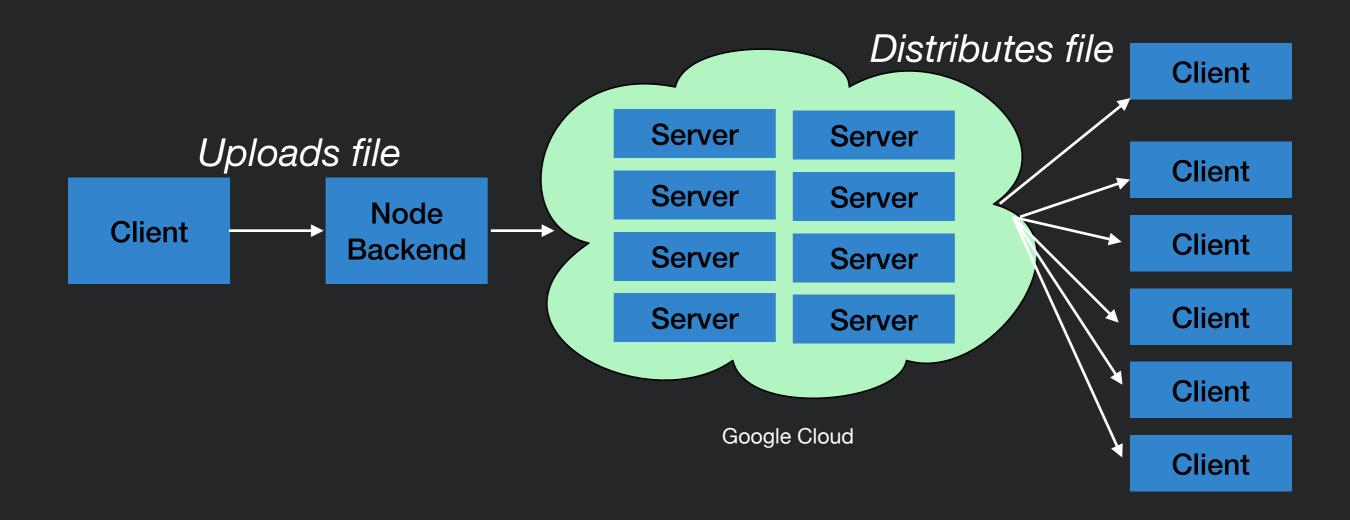
Where to store blobs

- Saving them on our server is fine, but...
 - What if we don't want to deal with making sure we have enough storage
 - What if we don't want to deal with backing up those files
 - What if our app has too many requests for one server and state needs to be shared between load-balanced servers
 - What if we want someone else to deal with administering a server



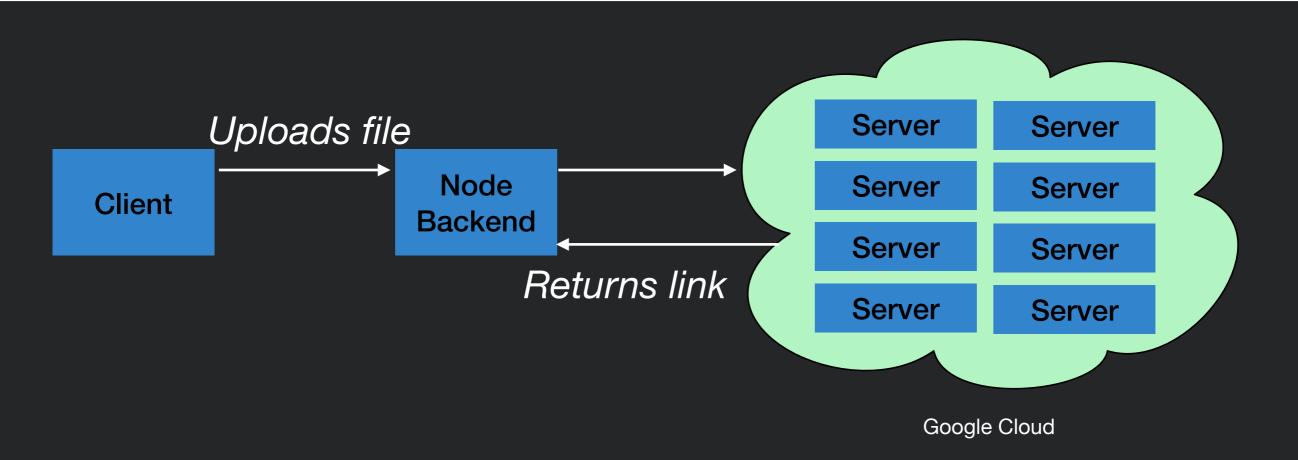


 Amazon, Google, and others want to let you use their platform to solve this!





Blob Stores



Typical workflow:

Client uploads file to your backend Backend persists file to blob store Backend saves link to file, e.g. in Firebase



Google Cloud Storage

- You get to store 5GB for free (but not used in this class)
- Setup

```
npm install --save @google-cloud/storage
```

```
// Imports the Google Cloud client library
const {Storage} = require('@google-cloud/storage');

// Creates a client
const storage = new Storage();

/**
   * TODO(developer): Uncomment these variables before running the sample.
   */
// const bucketName = 'bucket-name';

async function createBucket() {
   // Creates the new bucket
   await storage.createBucket(bucketName);
   console.log(`Bucket ${bucketName} created.`);
}

createBucket();
```



Google Cloud Storage

```
await storage.bucket(bucketName).upload(filename, {
  gzip: true,
  metadata: {
    cacheControl: 'public, max-age=31536000',
 },
});
console.log(`${filename} uploaded to ${bucketName}.`);
const options = {
  // The path to which the file should be downloaded, e.g. "./file.txt"
  destination: destFilename,
};
// Downloads the file
await storage
  .bucket(bucketName)
  .file(srcFilename)
  .download(options);
console.log(
  `gs://${bucketName}/${srcFilename} downloaded to ${destFilename}.`
);
```



- We've now seen most of the key concepts in building a microservice.
- Let's build a microservice!
 - Firebase for persistence
 - Handle post requests
 - Microservice for jokes

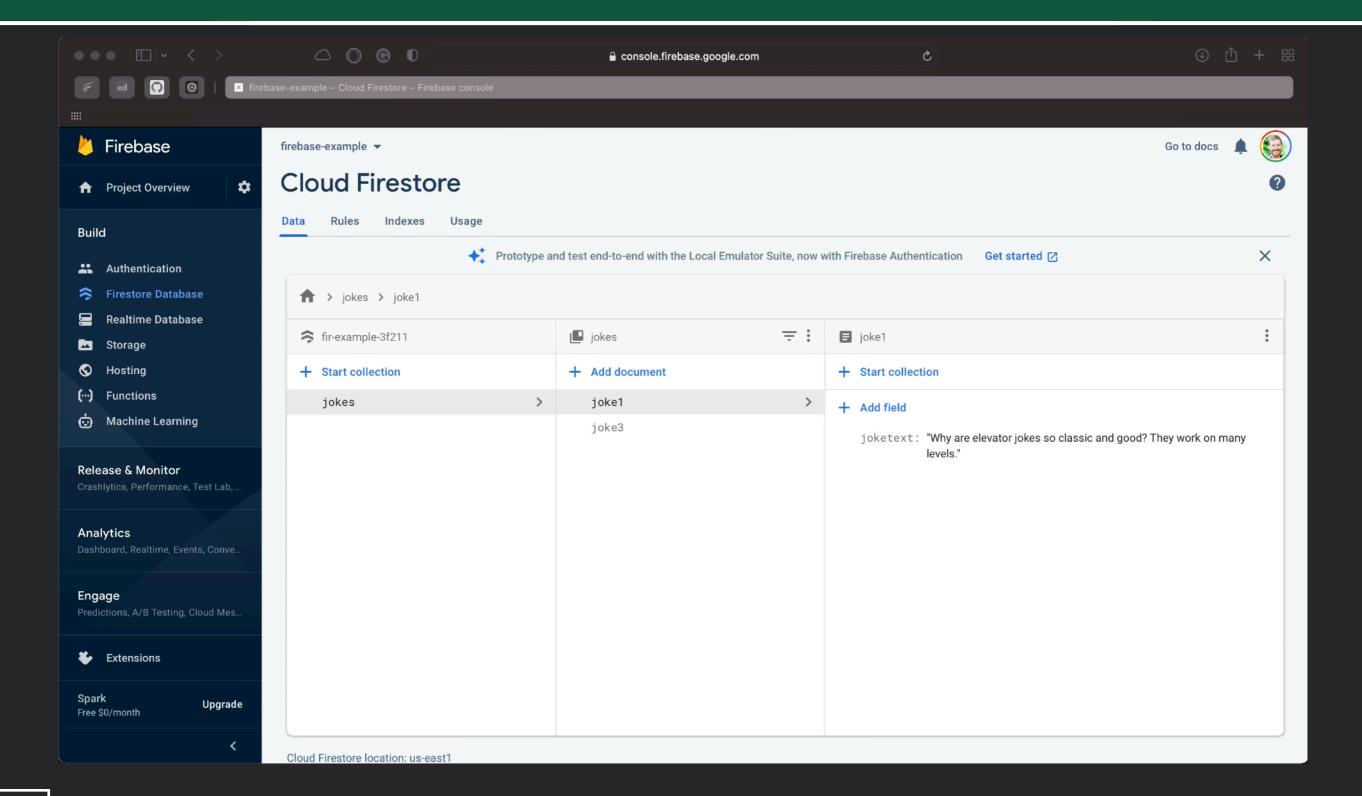


```
const admin = require('firebase-admin');
     const express = require('express');
     const bodyParser = require("body-parser");
     const app = express()
     const port = 3000
 6
     let serviceAccount = require('./firebase.json');
8
     admin.initializeApp({
         credential: admin.credential.cert(serviceAccount)
10
11
     });
12
     let db = admin.firestore();
13
14
15
     app.post('/add-joke',(req,res) => {
16
         let jokeID = req.query.jokeid;
17
         let jokeText = req.query.joketext;
18
         console.log(jokeText)
19
         let docRef = db.collection('jokes').doc(jokeID);
20
         docRef.set({
21
         joketext: [jokeText]})
22
         res.send("Joke Added Successfully!!")
23
     })
24
25
26
27
     app.get('/get-joke', (req, res) => {
       let docRef = db.collection('jokes').doc('joke1'); // Return a single Joke
28
       docRef.get().then((doc) => {
29
         if (doc.exists) {
30
             res.send(doc.data());
31
32
         } else {
             // doc.data() will be undefined in this case
             console.log("No such document!");
34
35
     1) catch((arror) - 1
```

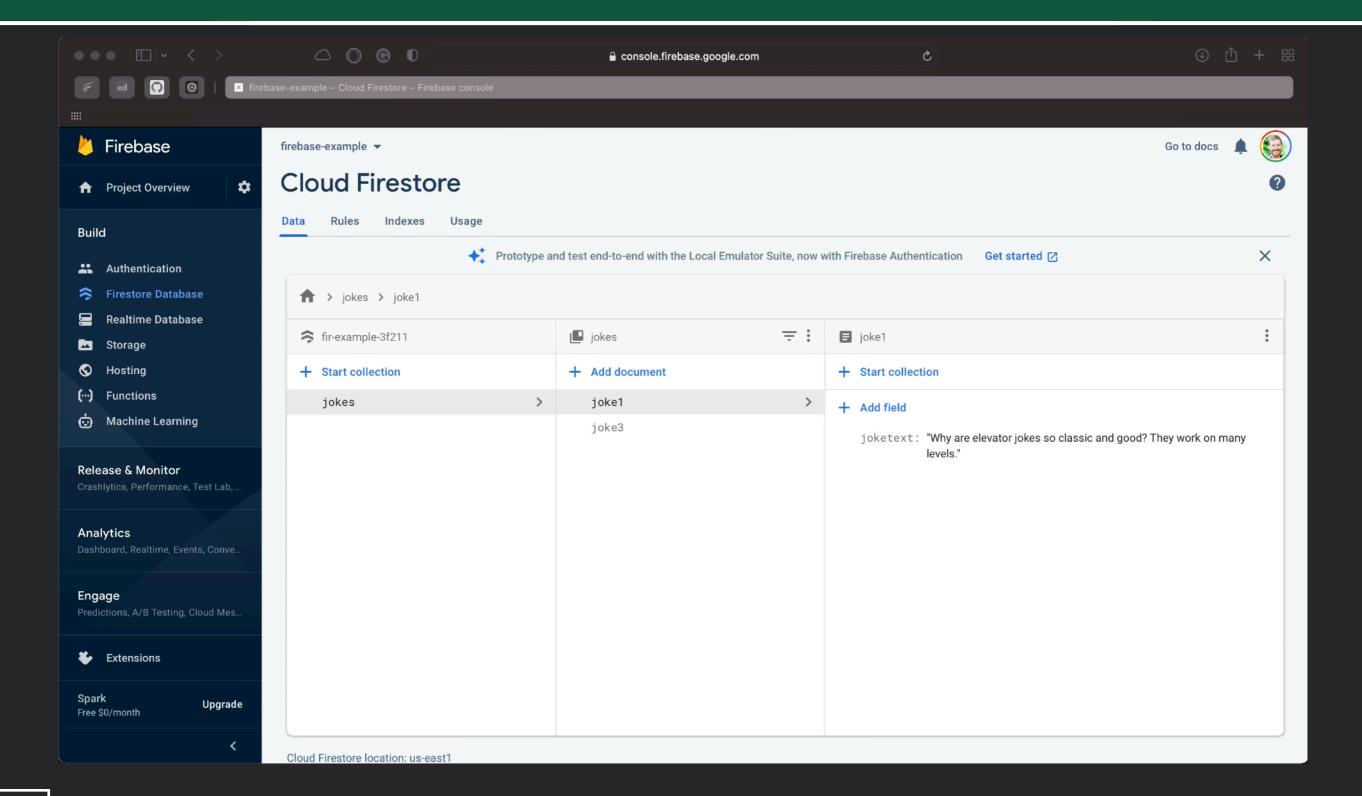


```
});
11
12
     let db = admin.firestore();
13
14
15
     app.post('/add-joke',(req,res) => {
16
         let jokeID = req.query.jokeid;
17
         let jokeText = req.query.joketext;
18
         console.log(jokeText)
19
         let docRef = db.collection('jokes').doc(jokeID);
20
         docRef.set({
21
         joketext: [jokeText]})
22
         res.send("Joke Added Successfully!!")
23
     })
24
25
26
     app.get('/get-joke', (req, res) => {
27
       let docRef = db.collection('jokes').doc('joke1'); // Return a single Joke
28
       docRef.get().then((doc) \Rightarrow {
29
         if (doc.exists) {
30
             res.send(doc.data());
31
         } else {
32
33
34
             console.log("No such document!");
35
     }).catch((error) => {
         console.log("Error getting document:", error);
37
38
     });
39
     })
40
41
42
     app.listen(3000,() => {
43
     console.log("Started on PORT 3000");
44
45
     })
46
```









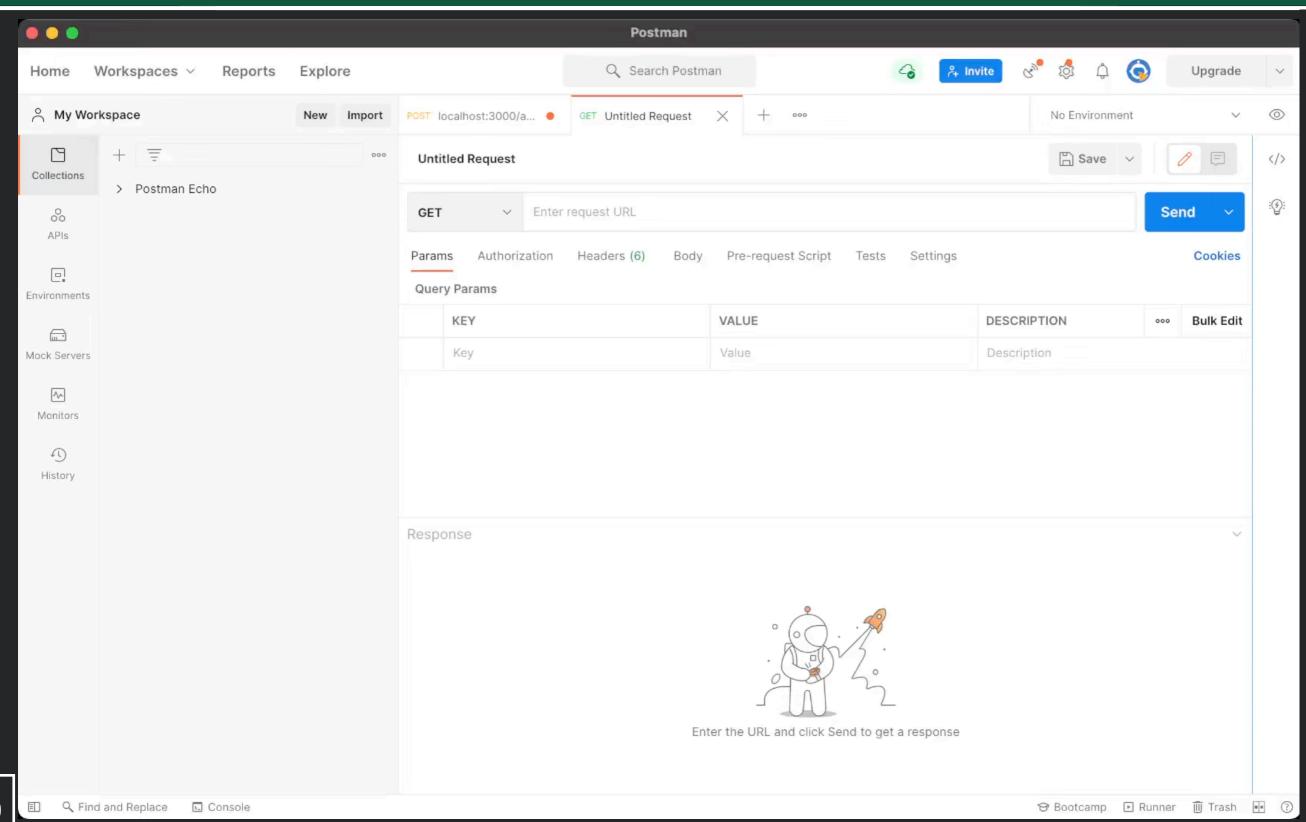


```
Microservice-Example — -bash — 88×21
Legacy:Microservice-Example KevinMoran$
```

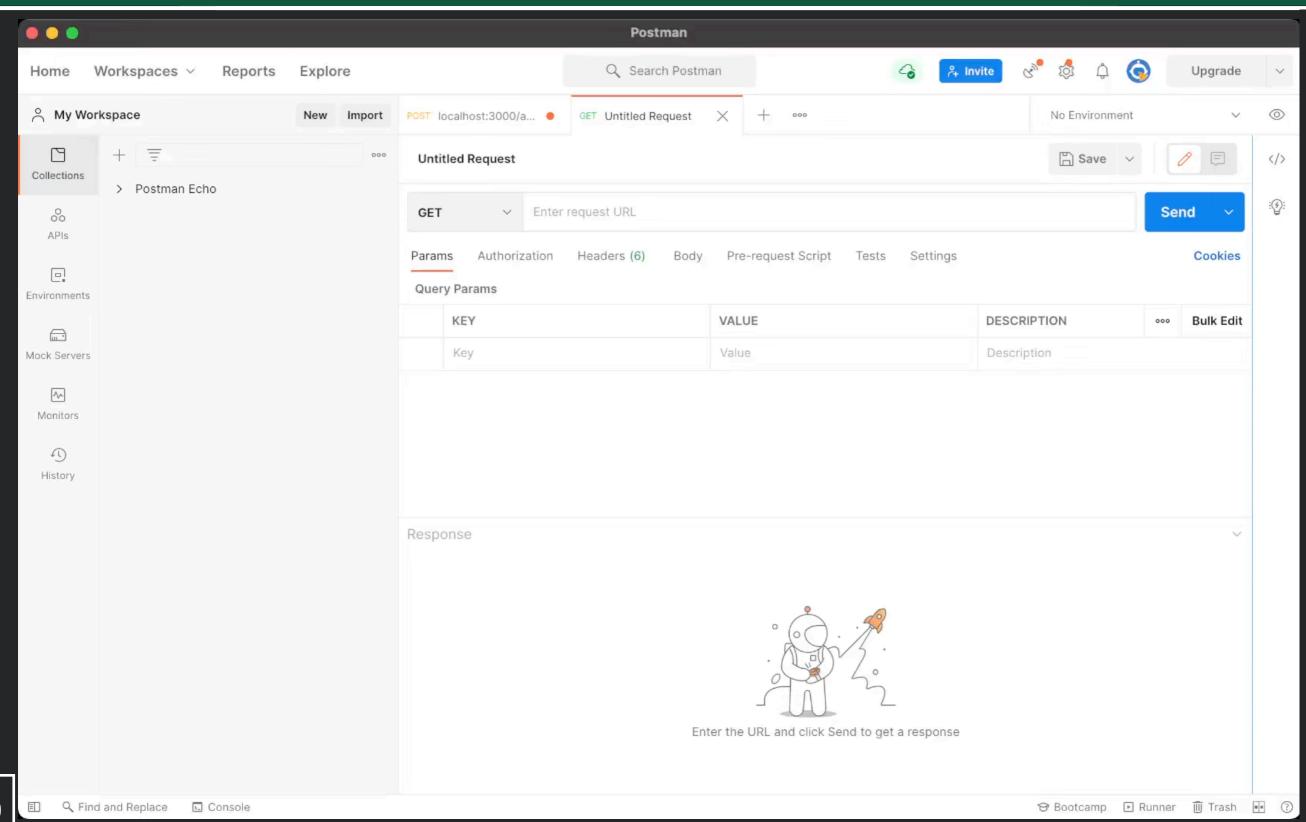


```
Microservice-Example — -bash — 88×21
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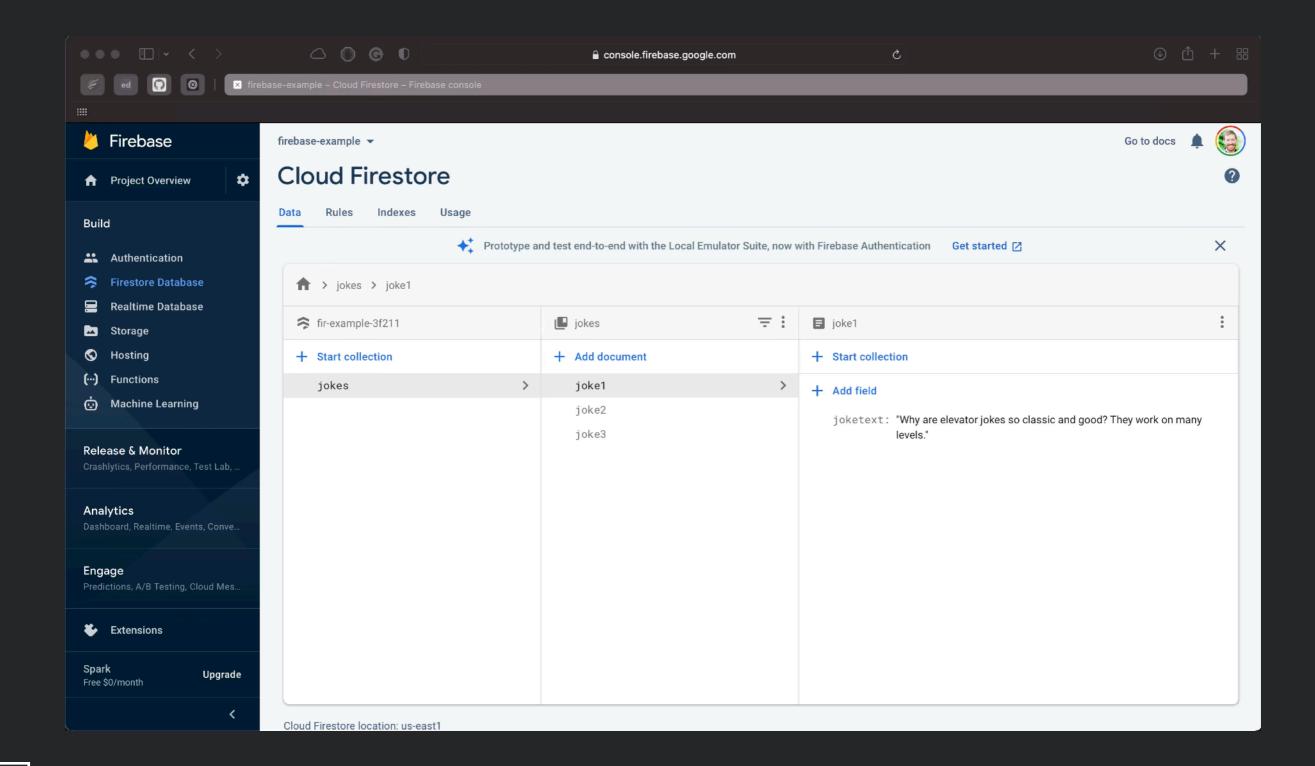




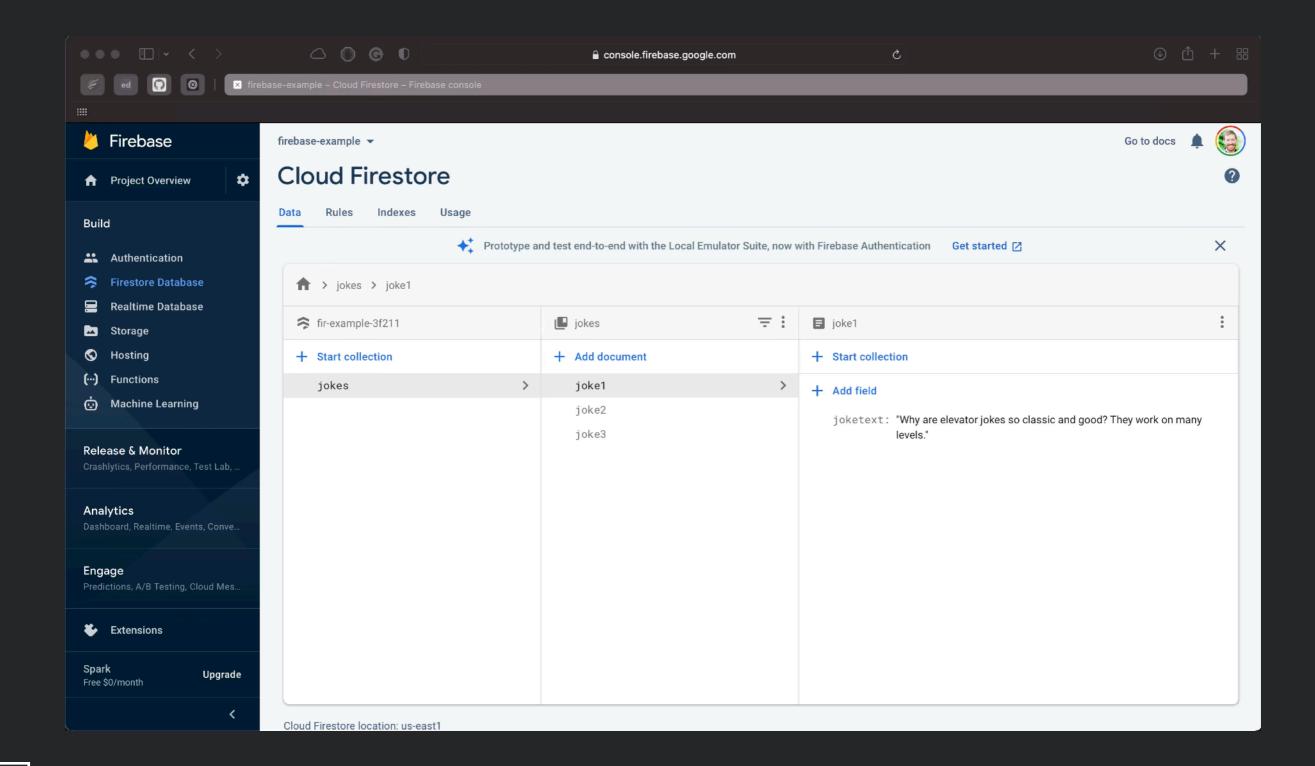














In Class Activity: Modifying this MicroService

- Try implementing some new features:
 - Make the GET request return a random joke
 - Add support for different types of jokes with different fields
 - e.g. knock-knock, etc.
 - Allow for updating punchlines separate from setups
 - Use JSON request body instead of query parameters

I will post the base code to Ed!



Acknowledgements

Slides adapted from Dr. Thomas LaToza's SWE 632 course