

Echo

Live Chat

Native App Case Study by: Caleb Dalrymple

The Challenge

To build a chat app for mobile devices using React Native. The app will provide users with a chat interface and options to share images and their location.

[Click here to watch a live demo!](#)

The Tech

The Build

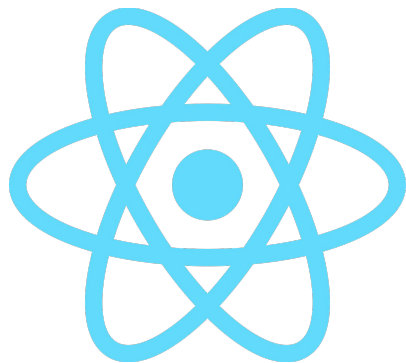
Storage

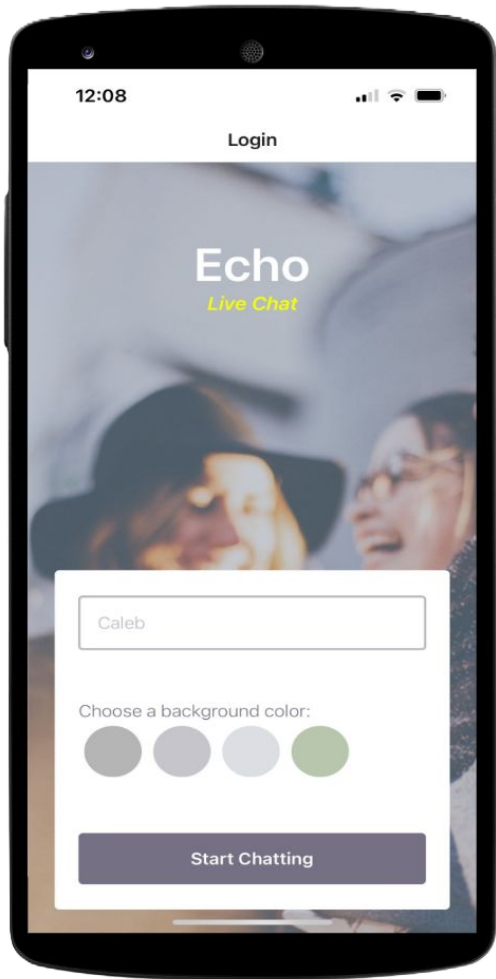
Testing

React Native/Expo

Firestore/AsyncStorage

Android Studio/iPhone



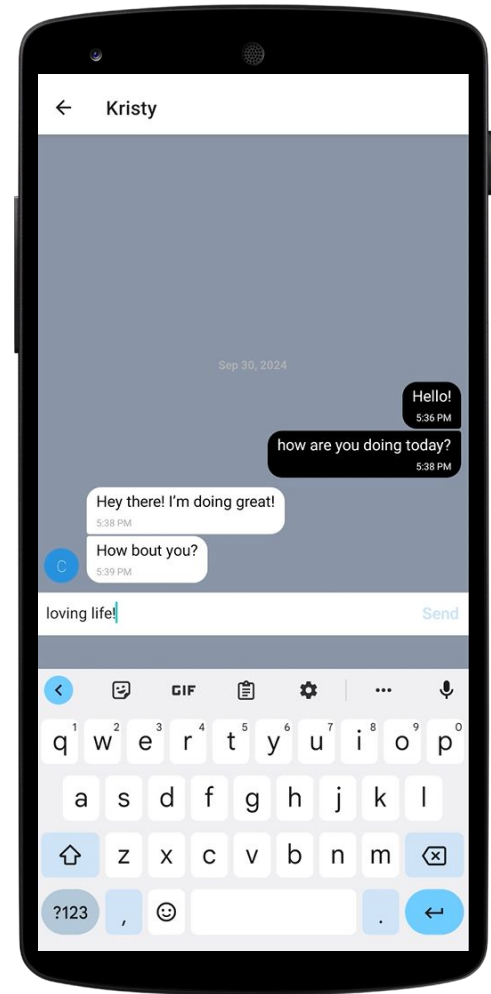


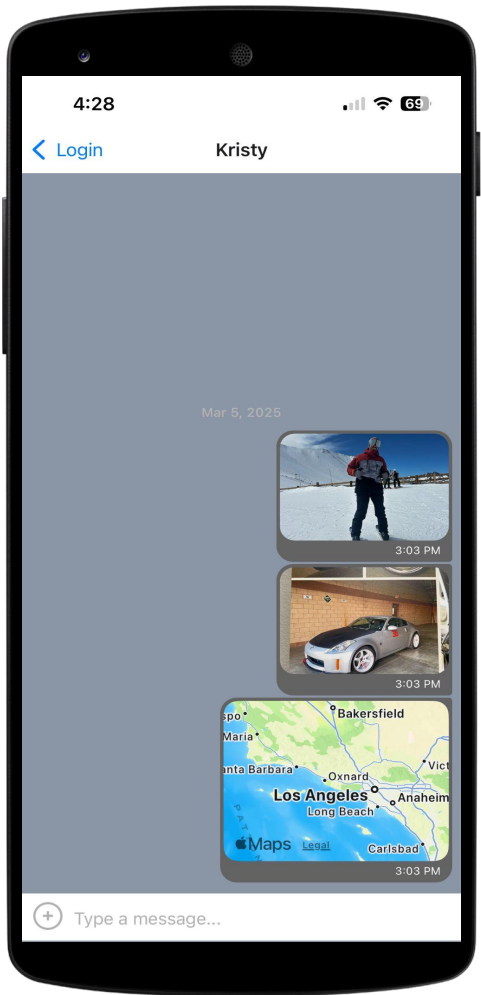
Step 1: Login

The first step was to create and appealing login screen where users can log into their own account and choose a chat screen background color.

Step 2: Gifted Chat

The second step was to develop a simple chat screen where the user's name is displayed and they have the ability to send and receive text messages.





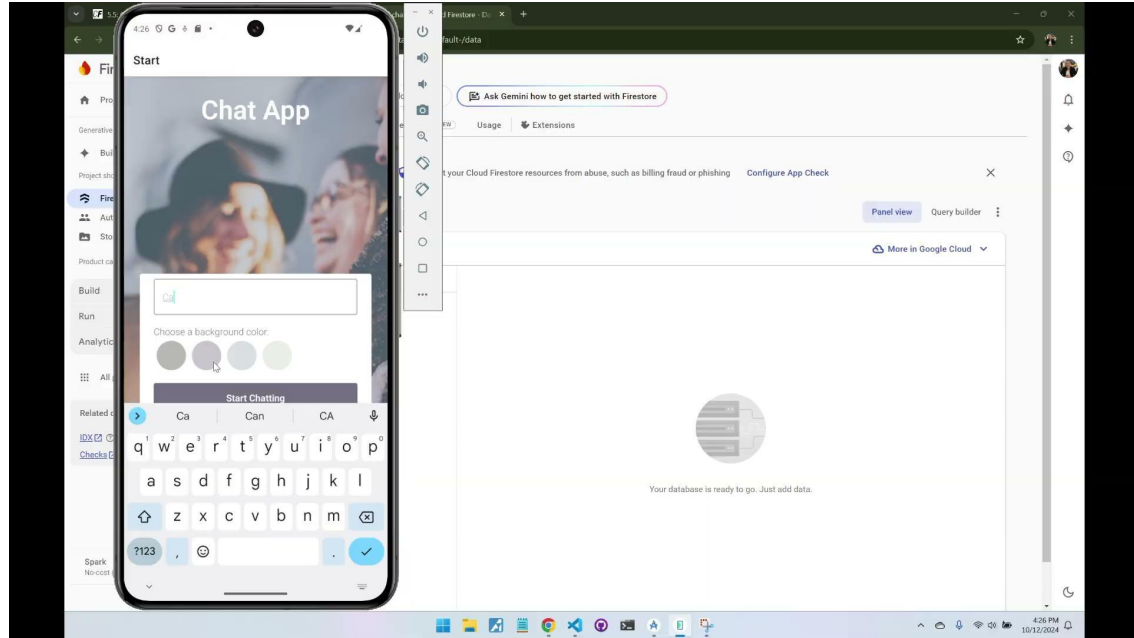
Step 3: Photo/Location

Next, I added the following functionalities:

- Send photos from album
- Take photos directly from the chat screen
- Send current location

Step 4: Firestore

Finally the video on the right shows the app's full functionality. Firestore database is used to store past conversations and photos. AsyncStorage and NetInfo are used to provide a limited offline experience.



Click on the video above to watch a live demo!

Reflections

This was one of my favorite projects and was the first native app that I developed. I really enjoyed the process because by this point in my classes I already had a good understanding of React, JavaScript, and StyleSheets.

The project was delivered in a similar fashion as to what it would be like working directly with a designer at a real company. Having the user stories, technical requirements, and screen design laid out gave me clear direction and I had a lot of fun executing the specific requirements. With this being my first native app, I was intrigued by the difference in real estate that comes with the smaller screen sizes.

After completing the project, I really started to shift my focus and target roles that work with native app languages and frameworks.