Platforms for Networked Communities

Introduction to the Google Cloud Platform

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1. Introduction

- The objective of “Platforms for Networked Communities” is to learn to develop **conversational agents**
- For that, we use the **Google Cloud Platform** (GCP):
  - GCP is a suite of cloud computing services provided by Google
  - These services includes computing, data storage, data analytics, machine learning, etc.

Google Cloud

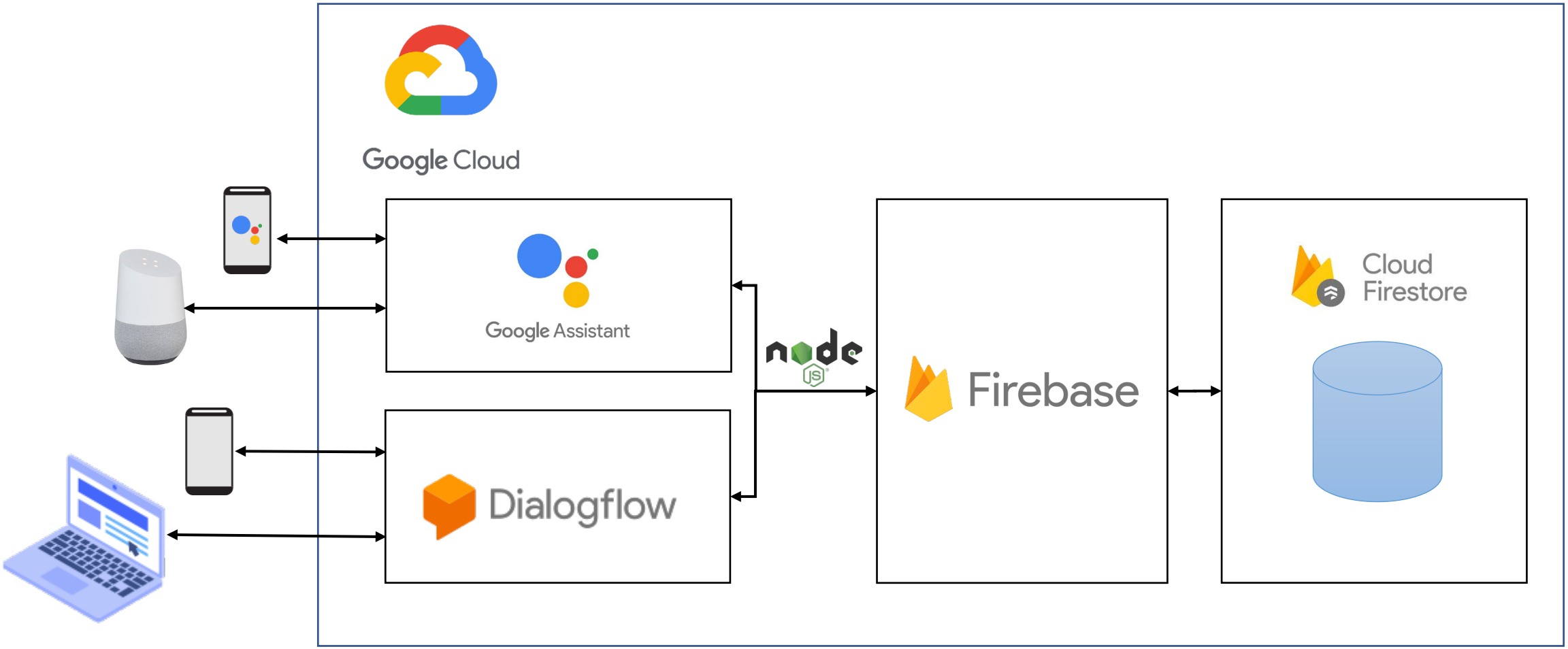
https://cloud.google.com/

2. Main technologies

- We will use the following components of GCP in this course:

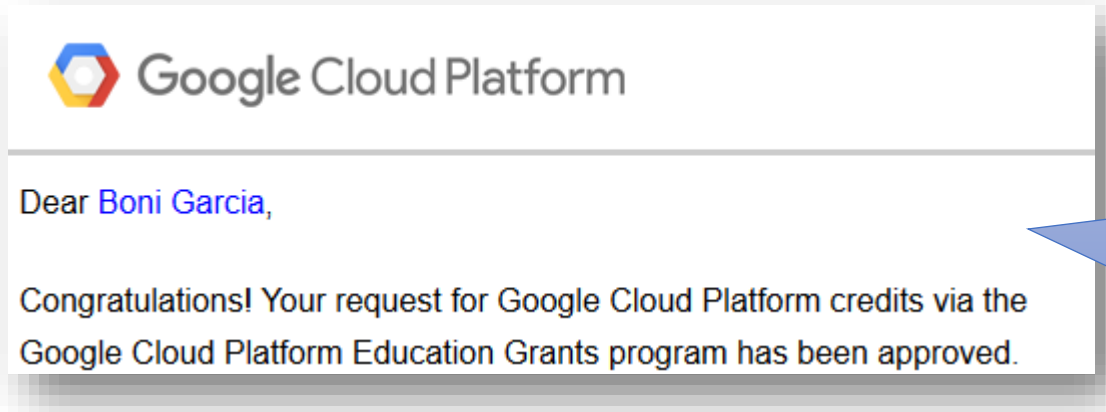
- Google Assistant: Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered virtual assistant developed by Google
- Dialogflow: Dialog engine based on Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms
- Firebase: Platform developed by Google for creating mobile and web applications (backend-as-a-service, BaaS)
- Firestore: NoSQL cloud database
- …

2. Main technologies



3. Projects

- Problem: GCP is not free (it follows a *pay-as-you-go* pricing structure)
- For small projects (like ours) this is not very expensive (even free, using the free tier)
- But even using this free tier, to use some of the GCP services, we need to include some bank account or credit card info in our Google account
- To avoid that, we requested several coupons using the **Google Cloud Platform Education Grant**



To use these coupons, first we need to create some **GCP projects**. Each project will be assigned to a group of students (composed by 3 or 4 people)