



Moving Past Legacy: What You're Missing With Firebase



Firebase Crashlytics and Performance Monitoring are free, lightweight, and popular tools for high-level app performance maintenance. These platforms gather basic performance metrics and crash data, but fall short when compared to next-generation solutions like Instabug, which provides the most in-depth metrics in the industry. Free software has its place; while Firebase is a suitable starter kit, it lacks the insights necessary for scaling mobile app teams to efficiently detect, repair, and improve performance issues beyond the basics. **With Firebase, you get what you're given, rather than what you need.**

A crash by any other name...

...terminates the user experience, no matter what type of error caused it. A variety of problems can induce crash-like behavior, even those not technically recognized as crashes by Crashlytics. Therefore, Firebase can't detect or alert you to all the types of errors that impact the end user's perception of app stability.

Crash types detected by Crashlytics:

- Handled and unhandled exceptions
- NDK and iOS C++ crashes
- ANR (Application Not Responding) errors

Crash types detected by Instabug:

- Handled and unhandled exceptions
- NDK and iOS C++ crashes
- iOS Swift UI exceptions
- Crashes due to network errors
- OOM (Out of Memory) errors
- ANR (Application Not Responding) errors
- App hangs

Faster detection and debugging

Firebase may be free, but it restricts visibility into the actual state of your app performance and lacks insightful coverage of anything that doesn't end in a stack trace. Instabug empowers you with in-depth data that Firebase doesn't collect. **Detailed crash summaries, session profiles, and repro steps** give you full visibility into why a crash happened, including the interactions occurring before the app crashed and the state and timeline of the device (memory, CPU, battery, and connectivity) leading up to the crash. This data helps teams uncover root causes faster and deploy fixes before crashes impact user satisfaction.

Robust data filtering and visualization

With Instabug, you gain access to **powerful filters, charts, and features** unavailable in Firebase. Firebase allows you to filter by basic attributes like country, device, app version, and OS level; Instabug covers additional conditions such as feature flags, user attributes, app status, current view, and other custom or granular data that can reveal additional context about an issue or crash. On your Instabug dashboard, **your filters pick up where you left off**, or you can save sets of filters for quick access, instead of reapplying your criteria every time you visit your dashboard. Instabug sorts dashboard results by impact, highlighting the most severe or widespread issues for **easy prioritization**.

Data ownership and management

With Instabug, you have full ownership and access to your data in real time. You can slice, dice, filter, analyze, and download data right from your Instabug dashboard. Conversely, in order to analyze Firebase Service Data, which is owned by Google, you'll first have to integrate with BigQuery and export the data. Next, you'll need to set up custom keys for each situation you're tracking in order to uncover basic performance insights like version adoption rates or the state of your app leading up to a crash. **Firestore's reliance on BigQuery and custom keys means that if you don't already know exactly what you're looking for, Firestore won't find it.**

Workflow dexterity

Instabug enables developers to **automate wherever possible** to streamline the quality process and keep focus on core development priorities. Using Instabug, you can **designate teams and ownership criteria** for crashes and issues, allowing for automatic alerts and assignment, filtering, and prioritization of incoming issues. Code ownership, team metrics, and issue status markers all contribute to **increased visibility, decreased noise, and reduced manual workload** for teams dealing with crashes. Firestore, on the other hand, does not support these collaborative features. Instabug also supports a wide variety of workflow integrations, ensuring a seamless fit into your pre-existing workflow.

Data privacy and protection

Instabug understands the responsibility developers have to their users to maintain data privacy and security. Your data will never be shared with or sold to third parties for any reason. Instabug is fully compliant with GDPR and other data privacy regulations that Firestore is unable to meet. Instabug holds the industry's strictest security certifications and compliance standards to ensure the protection of your users and data.

Powerful, reliable alerting

Crashlytics offers velocity alerts with limited customization. Instabug allows fully customizable alerts that reveal not only the overall occurrence of crashes, but insights such as the **specific types of crashes, failures, quality thresholds, and occurrence conditions**. Use Instabug's powerful alerting and rules engine to receive notifications about new, emerging, spiking, and regressing issues on your preferred channels, and automatically assign them to the relevant team(s) and member(s).

