**Sign Up for a Heroku Account**

Heroku is a cloud hosting product available from Salesforce.

Heroku will enable you to deploy and host applications written in a variety of languages and stacks, including PHP (standard or Laravel) using MySQL, Java Spring Boot using MySQL, and many of the JavaScript web frameworks.

Sign up for a Heroku account by performing the following steps:

Heroku has changed the process for creating an account and for using their free cloud services. Their cloud services are now credit based (students get $156/year) and they have partnered with GitHub via their Student Developer Pack to enable their services. Students will be required to enter a credit card when they set up their Heroku account. The following steps are required to set up a Heroku account (a new account will need to be set up if you have an existing account):

1. Individuals applying for the offering must sign up for a Heroku account. If you already have an account, log in with your Heroku credentials.
2. The Student Developer Pack is available for all verified students ages 13+, and anywhere in the world where GitHub is available. To use Heroku products, students must be 18 years of age. You can join [here,](http://www.heroku.com/github-students/signup) which prompts you to verify your GitHub Student status with your academic email address. Only current registrants at qualifying institutions will be approved. ONLY sign up as a student (and not as an instructor).
3. If the domain is questionable, GitHub requires supporting documentation of current student status, such as a dated student ID or course registration for the current semester.
4. After validating your student status, verify your Heroku account by providing a valid credit or debit card and verifying your billing information.
5. After submitting billing and credit card information, your platform credits will be applied monthly per the program terms ($13/month for 12 months or $156/year).

This process is fully documented [here.](https://blog.heroku.com/github-student-developer-program) Please completely read the Heroku documentation from the aforementioned link. As a last step, make sure you validate that you have credits applied to your account (see the next section in this document).

Once you are finished using Heroku, it is advised that you either remove all your applications and databases or cancel your Heroku account. This will prevent you from accruing charges in the future once your credits have been exhausted.

**Verification of a Heroku Account**

One you have logged into Heroku, you should validate that credits have been applied to your account by performing the following steps:

1. Sign into the Heroku.
2. Go to your account settings by clicking on the icon in the top right corner of the main dashboard. Click on the *Accounts settings* menu.



1. Click on the *Billings* tab and under Billing Information validate that there are credits in your account. For a new account you should start with a credit balance of $156.00. You should monitor your credit balance periodically to ensure that you will not exhaust your credits. A single small Java Spring Boot application with a MySQL database will consume about $5-6/month in credits.

