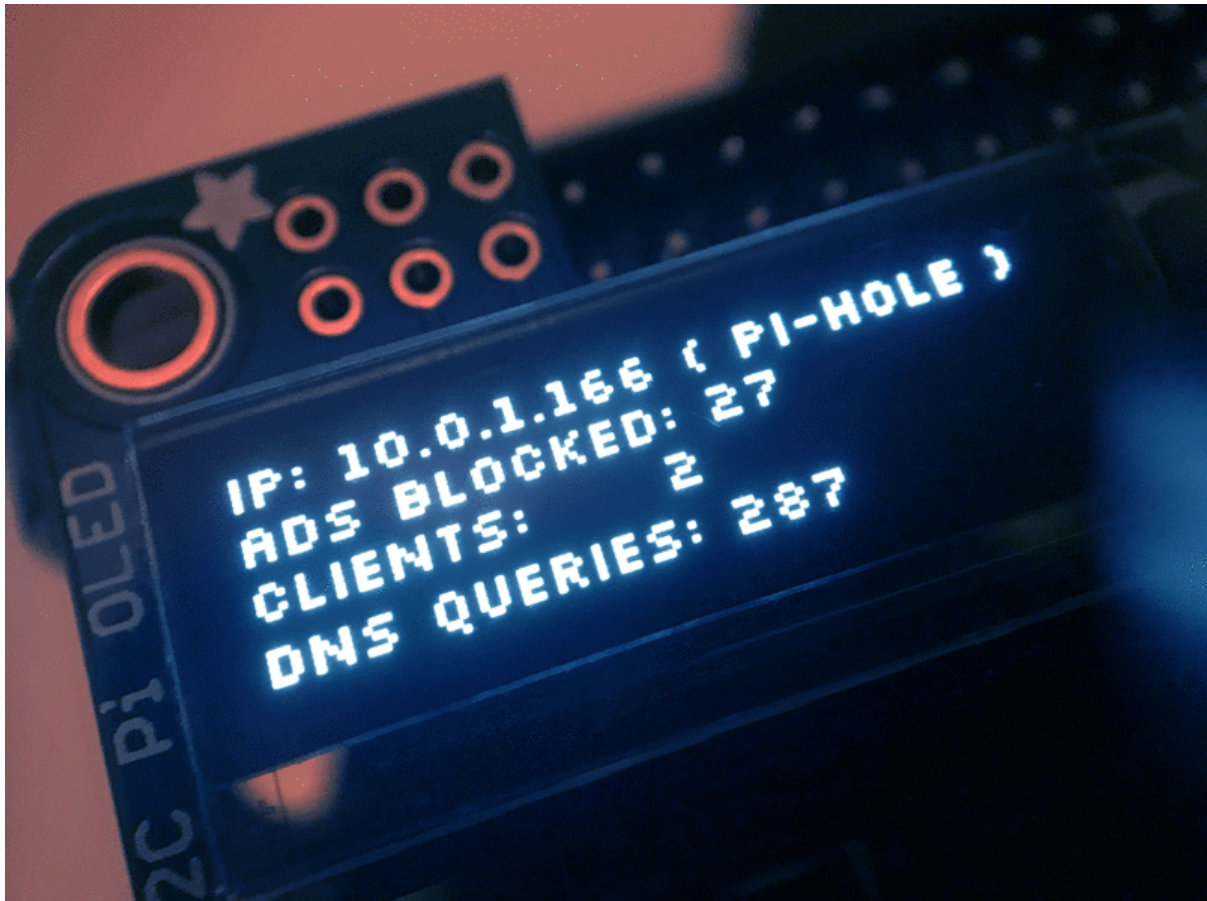




# Pi Hole Ad Blocker with Pi Zero W

Created by lady ada



<https://learn.adafruit.com/pi-hole-ad-blocker-with-pi-zero-w>

Last updated on 2023-01-17 07:01:54 PM EST

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# Overview

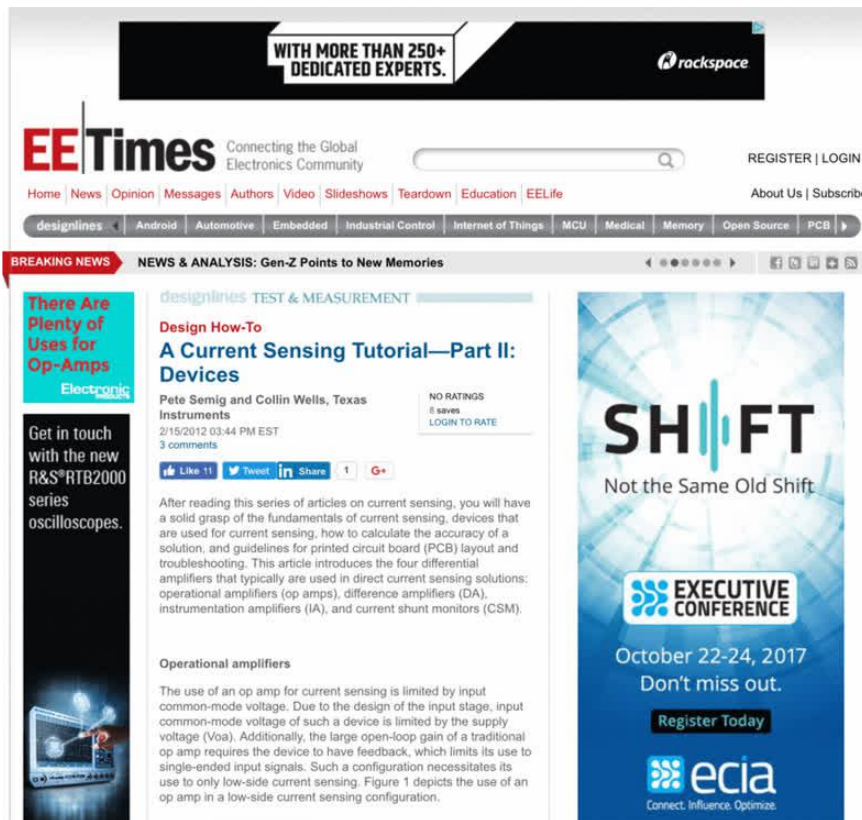


A long time ago we made a Pi into a WiFi gateway that also blocked ads but the Pi Hole project does a way better job!

This project will make your Pi Zero W act as a DNS (Domain Name Server) The kind of device that tells you that adafruit.com is known as IP address 104.20.38.240.

Except Pi Hole DNS will do a special trick, when it is asked for the IP address of ads.adserver.com (for example) it will return nothing! So you will never even connect to the ad server and get the ad. Your connection will be faster, less data, and no intrusive ads. It works great on computers, tablets, phones, etc. Even if you cannot run an ad-blocker plugin on your phone or tablet, this will work and ad-blocker-detectors can't tell you're running it.

Unlike our WiFi gateway demo, you do not have to set up the Pi as your access point, you will only use it as a DNS ad blocker so it will not act as a bottleneck



We upgraded our Pi Zero Pi Hole with a little display, that makes setting up clients easy and also gives you some nifty stats!

Follow along with this guide to DIY your own

---

## Project Parts

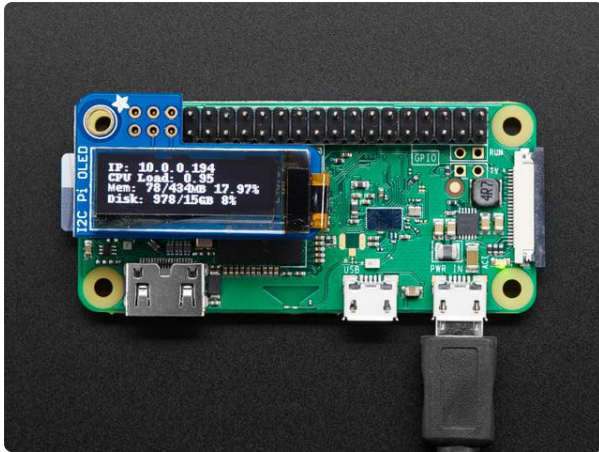
This project can be done with any Raspberry Pi, but for the most adorably compact version we're using a Pi Zero W - this has enough power to do what we want, and has built in WiFi too!

## Pi Zero W base parts

Its easiest if you pick up a Pi Zero W budget pack as it contains most everything you need







### Adafruit PiOLED - 128x32 Monochrome OLED Add-on for Raspberry Pi

If you're looking for the most compact li'l display for a Raspberry Pi (most likely a <https://www.adafruit.com/product/3527>

If you are using a Pi Zero W you'll need to add 2x20 headers too

#### 1 x [2x20 Male Header](https://www.adafruit.com/product/2822)

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/2822>

Solder this in to plug in Pi HATs, GPIO cables, etc as you would into a normal Pi. Requires soldering

---

or

#### 1 x [2x20 No-Solder Hammer Headers](https://www.adafruit.com/product/3413)

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3413>

If your soldering isn't quite up to scratch, or you just don't own a soldering iron yet, then these nifty hammer headers from Pimoroni might be just what you need.

---

## Other things you may need...

You also need a way to burn that SD card!



### USB MicroSD Card Reader/Writer - microSD / microSDHC / microSDXC

This is the cutest little microSD card reader/writer - but don't be fooled by its adorableness! It's wicked fast and supports up to 64 GB SDXC cards! Simply slide the card into...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/939>

# Using a Pi 3 Instead of Pi Zero W

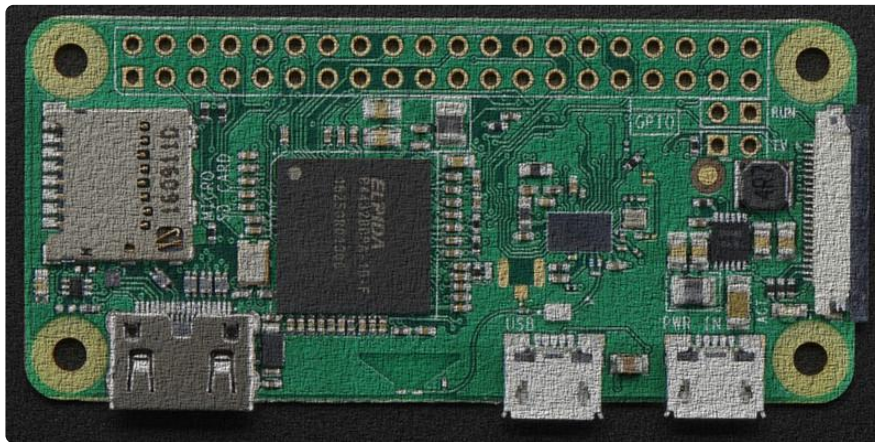
Instead of a Pi Zero W you can directly substitute in a Pi 3 which also has built in WiFi, you won't need the 2x20 header in that case

1 x [Raspberry Pi 3](#)

Raspberry Pi 3 with WiFi built in!

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3055>

## Prepare the Pi



The Pi Zero W is a very minimal computer, so it requires a little work to get it up and running.

We have a guide on how to set up your Pi Zero W 'headless' which is how we recommend you get started. Check out the guide for how to do that!

[Set up your Pi Zero W](#)

Here's the quick-start for people with some experience:

1. Download the [latest 'Lite' Raspbian \(\)](#) to your computer
2. [Burn the Lite Raspbian to your micro SD card \(\)](#) using your computer
3. [Re-plug the SD card into your computer \(don't use your Pi yet!\) and set up your wifi connection by editing supplicant.conf \(\)](#)
4. [Activate SSH support \(\)](#)
5. Plug the SD card into the Pi Zero W
6. If you have an HDMI monitor we recommend connecting it up via the mini HDMI adapter we provide in the budget pack - so you can see that it's booting OK

7. Plug in power to the Pi Zero W - you will see the green LED flicker a little. The Pi Zero will reboot while it sets up so wait a good 10 minutes
8. [If you are running Windows on your computer, install Bonjour support so you can use .local names, you'll need to reboot Windows after installation \(\)](#)
9. [You can then ssh into raspberrypi.local \(\)](#)

---

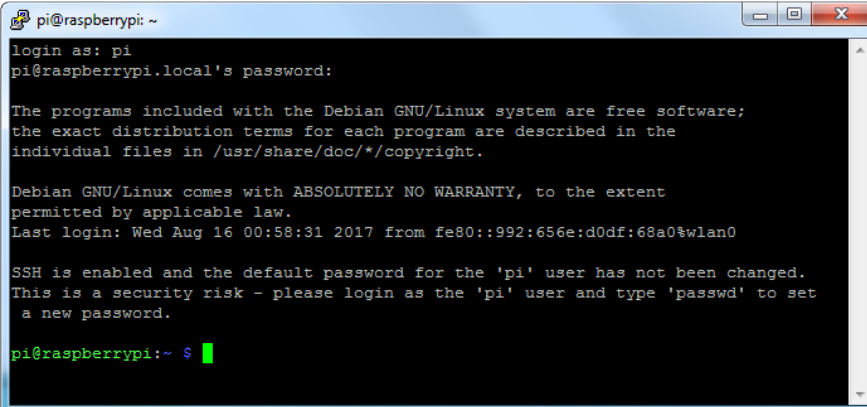
## Install Pi Hole

Use the following instructions to install Pi Hole:

<https://github.com/pi-hole/pi-hole/#one-step-automated-install> ()

## Pre-Check

OK once you have set your Pi up and the WiFi is connecting to your home or office network, and you can `ssh` into it, continue with these easy steps! If you cannot connect via `ssh` yet, go back and read some of our guides until you are able to log into your Pi.



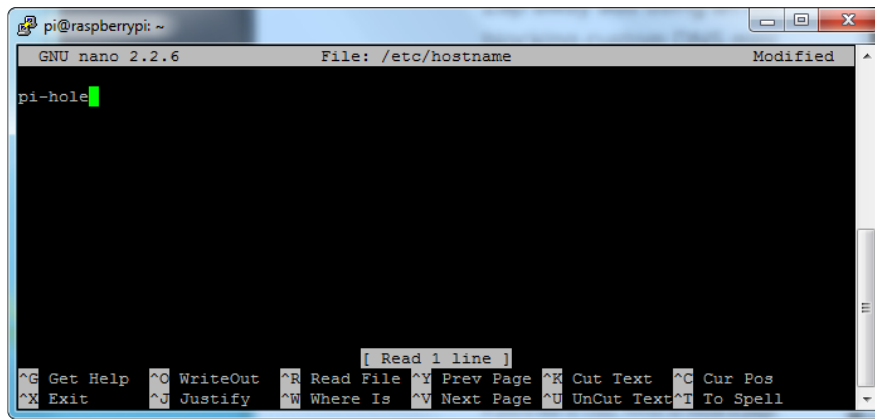
```
pi@raspberrypi: ~  
login as: pi  
pi@raspberrypi.local's password:  
  
The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;  
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the  
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.  
  
Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent  
permitted by applicable law.  
Last login: Wed Aug 16 00:58:31 2017 from fe80::992:656e:d0df:68a0%wlan0  
  
SSH is enabled and the default password for the 'pi' user has not been changed.  
This is a security risk - please login as the 'pi' user and type 'passwd' to set  
a new password.  
  
pi@raspberrypi:~$
```

## Change Hostname

I like to do this first so I don't get confused between all the different Pi's in the house

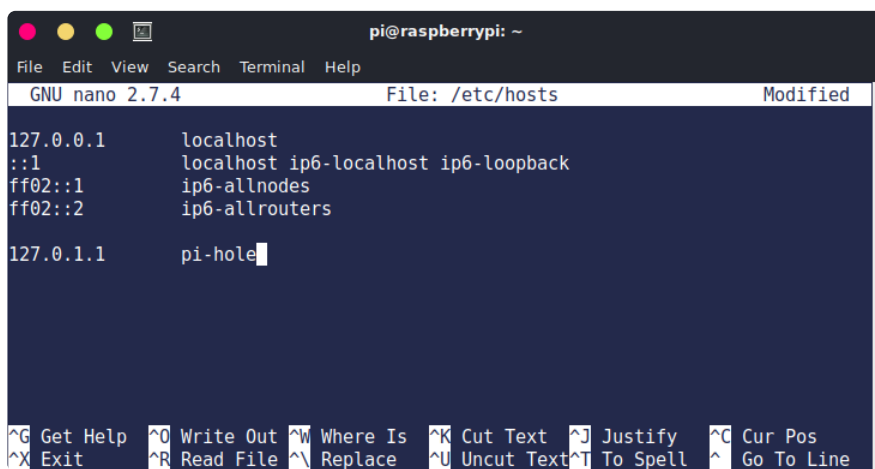
Edit the hostname with `sudo nano /etc/hostname` and put something else on that first line, like pi-hole





```
pi@raspberrypi: ~
GNU nano 2.2.6 File: /etc/hostname Modified
pi-hole
[ Read 1 line ]
^G Get Help ^O WriteOut ^R Read File ^Y Prev Page ^K Cut Text ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit ^J Justify ^W Where Is ^V Next Page ^U Uncut Text ^T To Spell
```

Also change it in the hosts file with `sudo nano /etc/hosts` to match the same name. It's probably the last line:



```
pi@raspberrypi: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
GNU nano 2.7.4 File: /etc/hosts Modified
127.0.0.1 localhost
::1 localhost ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
ff02::1 ip6-allnodes
ff02::2 ip6-allrouters
127.0.1.1 pi-hole
^G Get Help ^O Write Out ^W Where Is ^K Cut Text ^J Justify ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit ^R Read File ^L Replace ^U Uncut Text ^T To Spell ^G Go To Line
```

Reboot and when you ssh in again, use `pi-hole.local`

Now's also a good time to change the Pi's password with `passwd`

## Run Pi Hole Installer

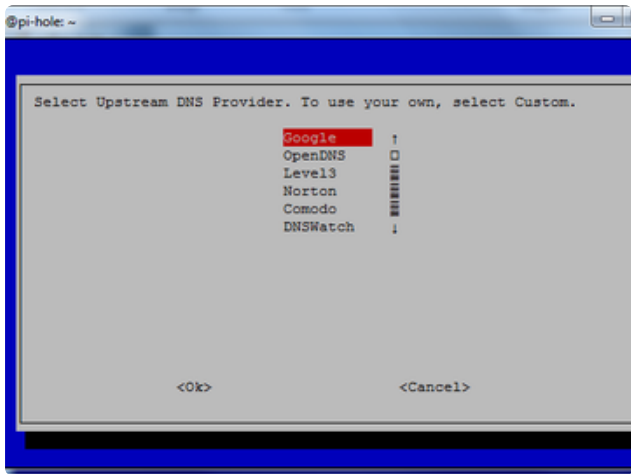
There's more information on how installation at <https://pi-hole.net/> - as of the writing of this guide, its easier to just run:

```
curl -sSL https://install.pi-hole.net | bash
```

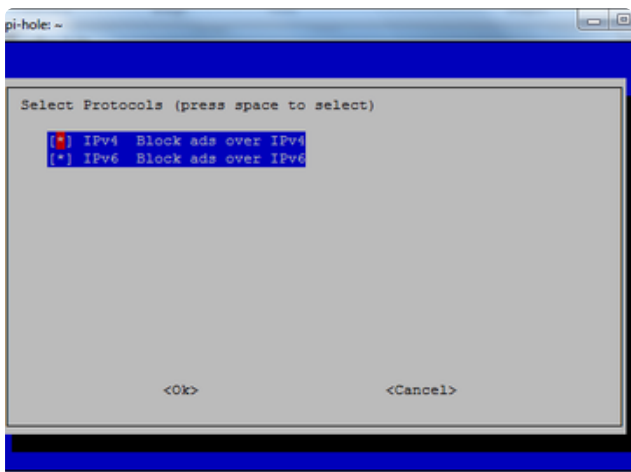
It will take quite a while to install, and may seem to 'hang' at points. Just let it do its thing for about 20 minutes!



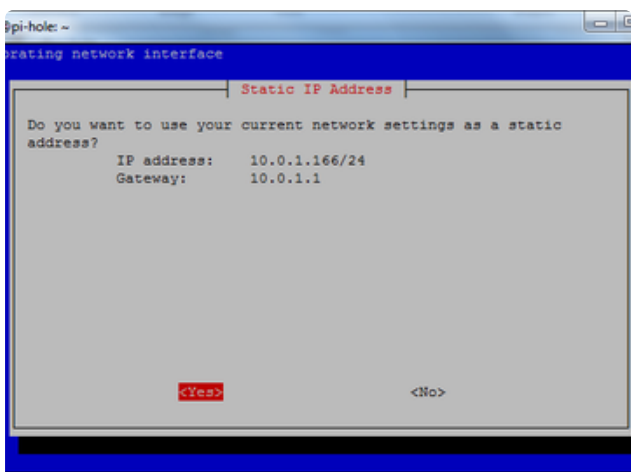
# Configuration



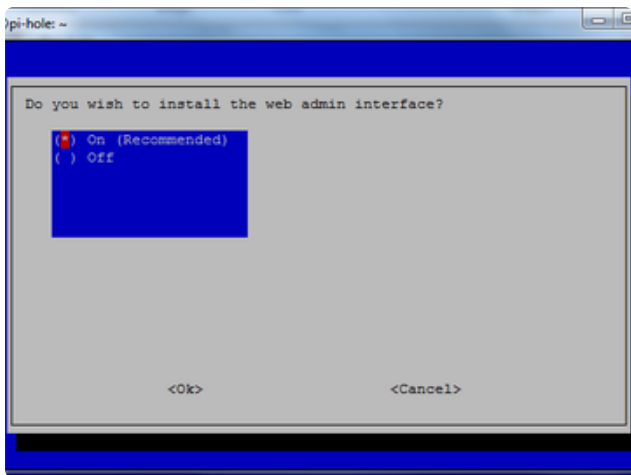
Pick who will be the upstream DNS (for non-ad blocked sites) - Google is fine and will probably be up all the time



99% of people will use IPv4 - if you need IPv6 you'd know!

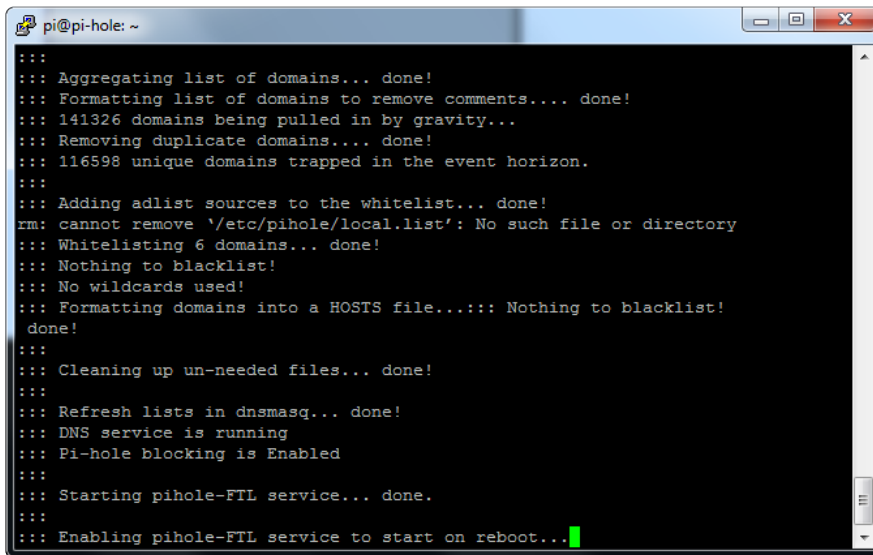


The installer will automatically try to set the dynamic IP address it got from your router to be fixed. This works well enough, if you have an advanced network set up, you can configure a custom IP address

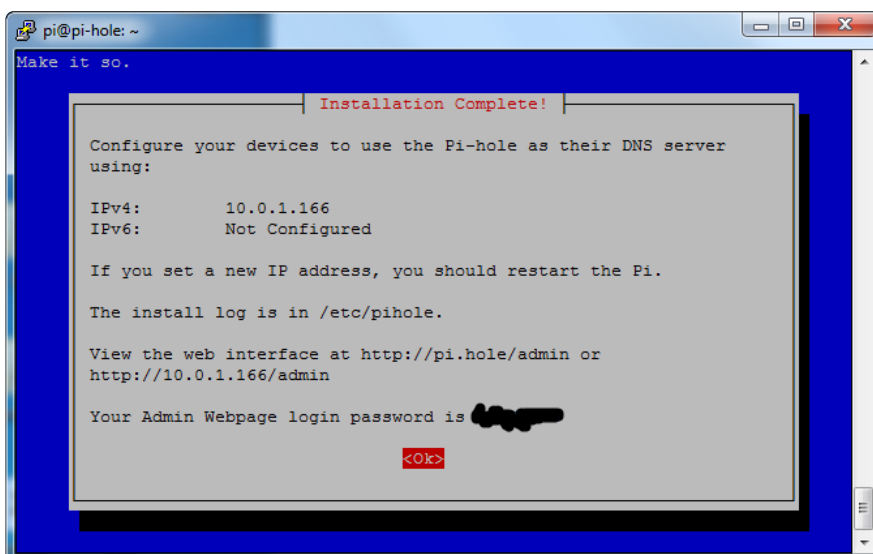


The Web Interface is kinda cool, and is password protected. We'll be showing most of the stats on the little OLED but we still need the API to be running so keep this on

It will keep installing! Just hold tight...

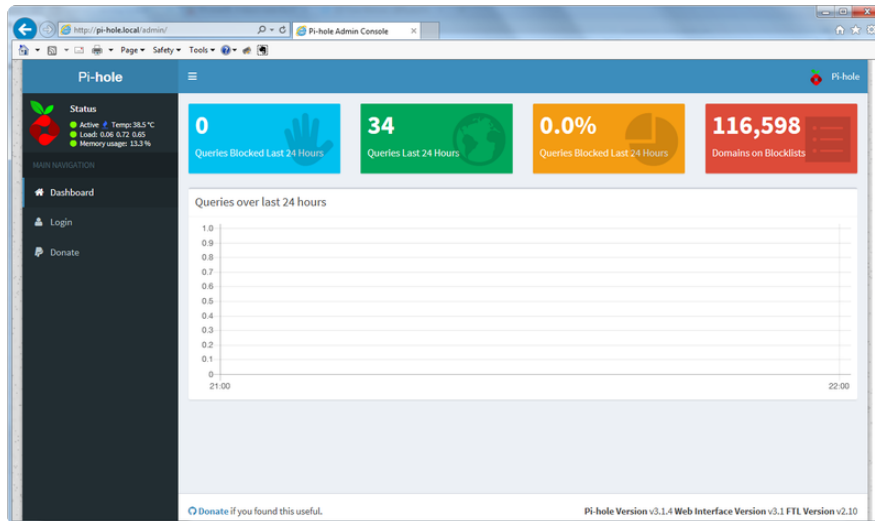


When its done you'll get this final config screen! Copy & paste the password into another window for now



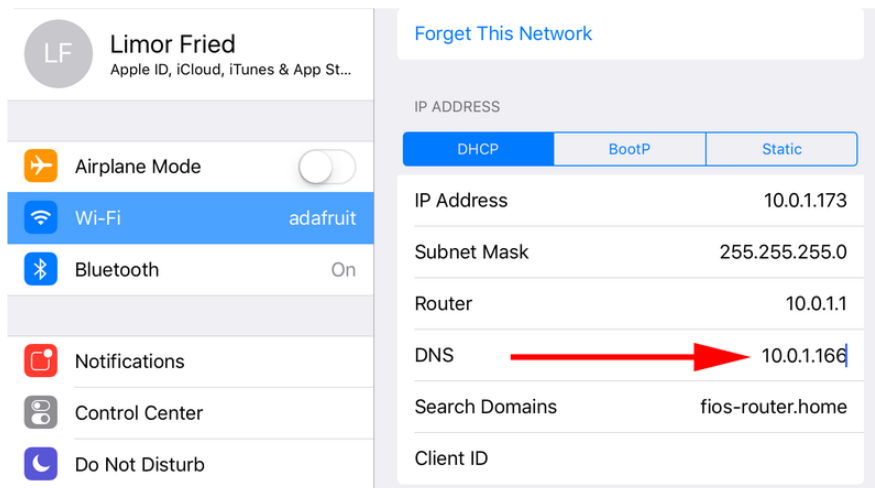
# Test Admin Page

On your desktop computer or tablet, visit <http://pi-hole.local/admin/> () And you should see an administration panel!



# Test Blocking

On your tablet, phone, computer, etc - Set up your DNS server in the network settings to be the IP address of the Pi



You may need to restart your network or browser to have it kick in, also there may be some cached ads so don't worry if not everything is blocked. Visit your favorite site with ads (not adafruit.com cuz we don't have any! :) and see the difference!



The screenshot shows the EE Times website interface. At the top, there is a Rackspace banner with the text "WITH MORE THAN 250+ DEDICATED EXPERTS." and the Rackspace logo. Below this is the EE Times logo and the tagline "Connecting the Global Electronics Community". A search bar is located to the right of the logo. Navigation links include "Home", "News", "Opinion", "Messages", "Authors", "Video", "Slideshows", "Teardown", "Education", and "EELife". A secondary navigation bar lists various technology categories: "designlines", "Android", "Automotive", "Embedded", "Industrial Control", "Internet of Things", "MCU", "Medical", "Memory", "Open Source", and "PCB".

The main content area features a "BREAKING NEWS" section with the headline "NEWS & ANALYSIS: Gen-Z Points to New Memories". To the left, there is a sidebar with two articles: "There Are Plenty of Uses for Op-Amps" and "Get in touch with the new R&S® RTB2000 series oscilloscopes." The central article is titled "A Current Sensing Tutorial—Part II: Devices" by Pete Semig and Collin Wells, Texas Instruments, dated 2/15/2012 03:44 PM EST. The article text discusses the fundamentals of current sensing, PCB layout, and troubleshooting, and lists four differential amplifier solutions: operational amplifiers (op amps), difference amplifiers (DA), instrumentation amplifiers (IA), and current shunt monitors (CSM). A sub-section titled "Operational amplifiers" explains the limitations of op amps for current sensing, such as input common-mode voltage and feedback requirements.

On the right side of the page, there is a large blue advertisement for the "EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE" held from October 22-24, 2017. The ad features the text "SHIFT Not the Same Old Shift" and "Don't miss out. Register Today" with the ecia logo and the tagline "Connect. Influence. Optimize."

Now that you've got that done, lets continue and install the display!

## Install PiOLED

Our little PiOLED add on makes a very cute and easy way to display the Pi Hole stats. We were inspired to add this when we saw this tweet!



**Aidan Cooper**  
@ajcooper72

Follow

My house is now ad-free thanks to @The\_Pi\_Hole - Live stats thanks to my @adafruit PiOLED. Sticker for the case and we're done!



11:31 PM - 11 Aug 2017 from Melbourne, Victoria

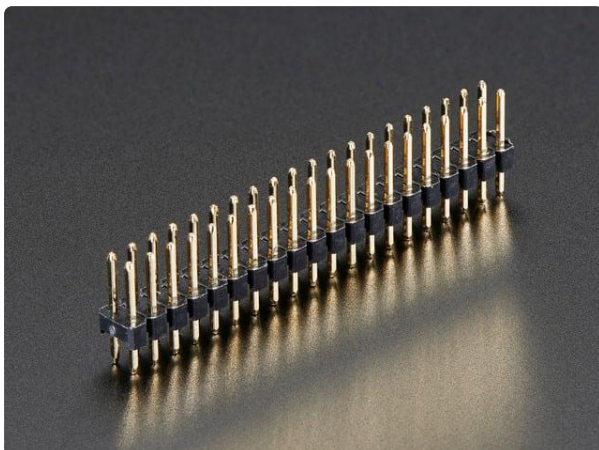
22 Retweets 77 Likes



What a perfect use! Here's how to add it on for some nice stats. It also displays the hostname and IP address so if you forget it you can just look at the display. It will also tick up when its in use so you can tell its working.

## Install 2x20 Header

If you are using a Pi Zero you'll need to solder in or somehow attach a 2x20 header so you can plug in the Pi OLED. Use either a plain 2x20 header and [solder it in using an iron + some solder... \(\)](#)



### Break-away 0.1" 2x20-pin Strip Dual Male Header

If we could eat headers, we'd have them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. But we can't :( So we're making the best of it and selling them! This...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/2822>

Or you can use Hammer headers which do not need soldering!



### [GPIO Hammer Headers - Solderless Raspberry Pi Connectors](https://www.adafruit.com/product/3413)

If your soldering isn't quite up to scratch, or you just don't own a soldering iron yet, then these nifty hammer headers from <https://www.adafruit.com/product/3413>

Either way, you'll want to end up with something like this:



## Install CircuitPython Libraries

This guide assumes that you've gotten your Raspberry Pi up and running, and have CircuitPython installed. If not, check out the guide:

[CircuitPython Installation Guide](#)

To [install the library for the Pi OLED \(\)](#), enter the following into the terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install python3-pip
sudo pip3 install adafruit-circuitpython-ssd1306
```

We also need PIL to allow using text with custom fonts. There are several system libraries that PIL relies on, so installing via a package manager is the easiest way to bring in everything:

```
sudo apt-get install python3-pil
```

And let's also make sure the requests module is installed:

```
sudo pip3 install requests
```



A nice font really helps with this little OLED display, something other than the default PIL font. First thing I did is update the font so its a little clearer. [I used Kottke's free Silkscreen font which looks great on small screens. \(\)](#)

It's easy to install on your Pi, run

```
cd ~
wget http://kottke.org/plus/type/silkscreen/download/silkscreen.zip
unzip silkscreen.zip
```



```
pi@pi-hole: ~  
pi@pi-hole:~ $ cd ~  
pi@pi-hole:~ $ wget http://kottke.org/plus/type/silkscreen/download/silkscreen.zip  
--2019-03-28 17:15:54-- http://kottke.org/plus/type/silkscreen/download/silkscreen.zip  
Resolving kottke.org (kottke.org)... 162.247.141.135, 2605:f980:a100:6135::1  
Connecting to kottke.org (kottke.org)[162.247.141.135]:80... connected.  
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 301 Moved Permanently  
Location: https://kottke.org/plus/type/silkscreen/download/silkscreen.zip [following]  
--2019-03-28 17:15:54-- https://kottke.org/plus/type/silkscreen/download/silkscreen.zip  
Connecting to kottke.org (kottke.org)[162.247.141.135]:443... connected.  
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK  
Length: 12646 (12K) [application/zip]  
Saving to: 'silkscreen.zip.1'  
  
silkscreen.zip.1  100%[=====] 12.35K  --.-KB/s   in 0.003s  
  
2019-03-28 17:15:55 (3.45 MB/s) - 'silkscreen.zip.1' saved [12646/12646]  
  
pi@pi-hole:~ $ unzip silkscreen.zip  
Archive: silkscreen.zip  
  inflating: readme.txt  
   creating: _MACOSX/  
  inflating: _MACOSX/readme.txt  
  inflating: slkscr.ttf  
  inflating: _MACOSX/_slkscr.ttf  
  inflating: slkscrb.ttf  
  inflating: _MACOSX/_slkscrb.ttf  
pi@pi-hole:~ $
```

## Update stats.py program

Here's the new stats.py code which uses the PiOLED.

Create a new file with nano `~/pi/stats.py` and paste this code below in! Then save it.

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2017 Limor Fried for Adafruit Industries  
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2017 Tony DiCola for Adafruit Industries  
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2017 James DeVito for Adafruit Industries  
#  
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT  
  
# Copyright (c) 2017 Adafruit Industries  
# Author: Ladyada, Tony DiCola & James DeVito  
#  
# Permission is hereby granted, free of charge, to any person obtaining a copy  
# of this software and associated documentation files (the "Software"), to deal  
# in the Software without restriction, including without limitation the rights  
# to use, copy, modify, merge, publish, distribute, sublicense, and/or sell  
# copies of the Software, and to permit persons to whom the Software is  
# furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions:  
#  
# The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in  
# all copies or substantial portions of the Software.  
#  
# THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR  
# IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY,  
# FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE  
# AUTHORS OR COPYRIGHT HOLDERS BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES OR OTHER  
# LIABILITY, WHETHER IN AN ACTION OF CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM,  
# OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN  
# THE SOFTWARE.  
  
# This example is for use on (Linux) computers that are using CPython with
```



```

# Adafruit Blinka to support CircuitPython libraries. CircuitPython does
# not support PIL/pillow (python imaging library)!

# Import Python System Libraries
import json
import subprocess
import time

# Import Requests Library
import requests

# Import Blinka
from board import SCL, SDA
import busio
import adafruit_ssd1306

# Import Python Imaging Library
from PIL import Image, ImageDraw, ImageFont

API_TOKEN = "YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE"
api_url = "http://localhost/admin/api.php?summaryRaw&auth="+API_TOKEN

# Create the I2C interface.
i2c = busio.I2C(SCL, SDA)

# Create the SSD1306 OLED class.
# The first two parameters are the pixel width and pixel height.  Change these
# to the right size for your display!
disp = adafruit_ssd1306.SSD1306_I2C(128, 32, i2c)

# Leaving the OLED on for a long period of time can damage it
# Set these to prevent OLED burn in
DISPLAY_ON = 10 # on time in seconds
DISPLAY_OFF = 50 # off time in seconds

# Clear display.
disp.fill(0)
disp.show()

# Create blank image for drawing.
# Make sure to create image with mode '1' for 1-bit color.
width = disp.width
height = disp.height
image = Image.new('1', (width, height))

# Get drawing object to draw on image.
draw = ImageDraw.Draw(image)

# Draw a black filled box to clear the image.
draw.rectangle((0, 0, width, height), outline=0, fill=0)

# Draw some shapes.
# First define some constants to allow easy resizing of shapes.
padding = -2
top = padding
bottom = height - padding
# Move left to right keeping track of the current x position
# for drawing shapes.
x = 0

# Load nice silkscreen font
font = ImageFont.truetype('/home/pi/slkskr.ttf', 8)

while True:
    # Draw a black filled box to clear the image.
    draw.rectangle((0, 0, width, height), outline=0, fill=0)

    # Shell scripts for system monitoring from here :
    # https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/119126/command-to-display-memory-

```

```

usage-disk-usage-and-cpu-load
cmd = "hostname -I | cut -d\ ' \ ' -f1 | tr -d '\\\n\'"
IP = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "hostname | tr -d '\\\n\'"
HOST = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "top -bn1 | grep load | awk " \
    "'{printf \"CPU Load: %.2f\", $(NF-2)}'"
CPU = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "free -m | awk 'NR==2{printf " \
    "\"Mem: %s/%sMB %.2f%\"", $3,$2,$3*100/$2 }'"
MemUsage = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "df -h | awk '$NF==\"/\\"{printf " \
    "\"Disk: %d/%dGB %s\", $3,$2,$5}'"
Disk = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")

# Pi Hole data!
try:
    r = requests.get(api_url)
    data = json.loads(r.text)
    DNSQUERIES = data['dns_queries_today']
    ADSBLOCKED = data['ads_blocked_today']
    CLIENTS = data['unique_clients']
except KeyError:
    time.sleep(1)
    continue

draw.text((x, top), "IP: " + str(IP) +
    " (" + HOST + ")", font=font, fill=255)
draw.text((x, top + 8), "Ads Blocked: " +
    str(ADSBLOCKED), font=font, fill=255)
draw.text((x, top + 16), "Clients: " +
    str(CLIENTS), font=font, fill=255)
draw.text((x, top + 24), "DNS Queries: " +
    str(DNSQUERIES), font=font, fill=255)

# skip over original stats
# draw.text((x, top+8), str(CPU), font=font, fill=255)
# draw.text((x, top+16), str(MemUsage), font=font, fill=255)
# draw.text((x, top+25), str(Disk), font=font, fill=255)

# Display image.
disp.image(image)
disp.show()
time.sleep(DISPLAY_ON)
disp.fill(0)
disp.show()
time.sleep(DISPLAY_OFF)

```

Running the OLED for a long period of time without changing the display can cause burn in. For that reason, the version of stats.py above does not show the information constantly.

You'll notice its very similar to the original stats.py but we've added PiHole API support. Here's how we did that!

First up, Pi Hole stats are available through the web server, in json format, so we need to add web requests and json parsing to python. Then set the URL for the API access, which is localhost (the same computer) and through the admin page:

```
import subprocess
import json
import requests

api_url = 'http://localhost/admin/api.php'
```

We load up the nice Silkscreen font here, in 8 point type. Note that we have to have the full path of the file.

```
# Load nice silkscreen font
font = ImageFont.truetype("/home/pi/slkscr.ttf", 8)
```

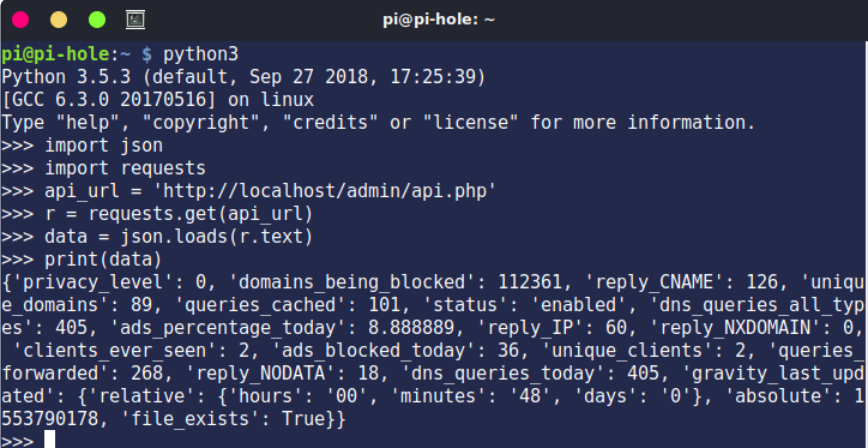
This is where we grab the API data. I put it in a try block, so it would retry in case the API access failed for some reason

```
# Pi Hole data!
try:
    r = requests.get(api_url)
    data = json.loads(r.text)
    DNSQUERIES = data['dns_queries_today']
    ADSBLOCKED = data['ads_blocked_today']
    CLIENTS = data['unique_clients']
except:
    time.sleep(1)
    continue
```

If you want to print out different info, run this small script in python to see what is available:

```
import json
import requests

api_url = 'http://localhost/admin/api.php'
r = requests.get(api_url)
data = json.loads(r.text)
print(data)
```



```
pi@pi-hole: ~
pi@pi-hole:~ $ python3
Python 3.5.3 (default, Sep 27 2018, 17:25:39)
[GCC 6.3.0 20170516] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import json
>>> import requests
>>> api_url = 'http://localhost/admin/api.php'
>>> r = requests.get(api_url)
>>> data = json.loads(r.text)
>>> print(data)
{'privacy_level': 0, 'domains_being_blocked': 112361, 'reply_CNAME': 126, 'unique_domains': 89, 'queries_cached': 101, 'status': 'enabled', 'dns_queries_all_types': 405, 'ads_percentage_today': 8.888889, 'reply_IP': 60, 'reply_NXDOMAIN': 0, 'clients_ever_seen': 2, 'ads_blocked_today': 36, 'unique_clients': 2, 'queries_forwarded': 268, 'reply_NODATA': 18, 'dns_queries_today': 405, 'gravity_last_updated': {'relative': {'hours': '00', 'minutes': '48', 'days': '0'}, 'absolute': 1553790178, 'file_exists': True}}
>>>
```

You can also customize the display printout, but i liked having the IP first, then the pi hole stats below:

```
draw.text((x, top),      "IP: " + str(IP) + "( " + HOST + ")", font=font,
fill=255)
draw.text((x, top+8),   "Ads Blocked: " + str(ADSBLOCKED), font=font,
fill=255)
draw.text((x, top+16),  "Clients:      " + str(CLIENTS), font=font, fill=255)
draw.text((x, top+24),  "DNS Queries: " + str(DNSQUERIES), font=font,
fill=255)
```

## Set API Token

Newer releases of Pi-Hole have [added a authentication requirement \(\)](#) for using the API. An API token must be provided when making an API request. This token was created when Pi-Hole was installed above. It can be found via the Web Admin interface under:

Settings > API > Show API token

Once found, update the stats.py code by changing this line:

```
API_TOKEN = "YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE"
```

and replacing `YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE` with the API token found above. It'll be a big long string of numbers and letters that looks like gibberish. Leave the double quotes so it ends up looking something like this:

```
API_TOKEN = "1234567890ABCDEF1234567890ABCDEF"
```

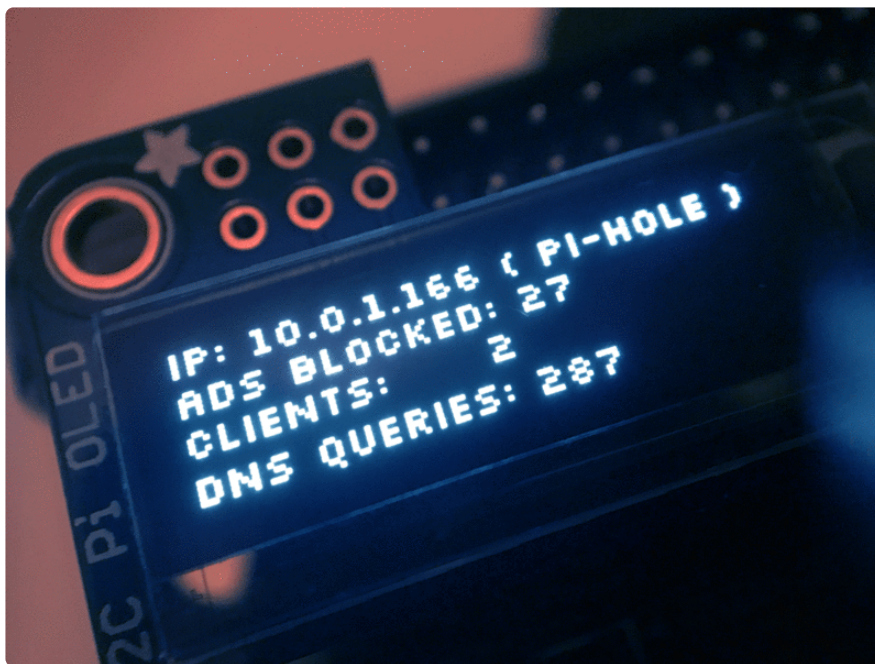
## Test & Stats at Startup

Once you have the script saved, you can run it with `sudo python3 ~/pi/stats.py` and look on the OLED to make sure you see your IP address and such!

Lastly we just want to make this run at boot. We'll do that the easy way by editing `/etc/rc.local` with `sudo nano /etc/rc.local` and adding `sudo python3 ~/pi/stats.py &` before `exit 0`

```
pi@pi-hole: ~
GNU nano 2.7.4 File: /etc/rc.local Modified
#
# By default this script does nothing.
# Print the IP address
_IP=$(hostname -I) || true
if [ "$_IP" ]; then
  printf "My IP address is %s\n" "$_IP"
fi
sudo python3 ~pi/stats.py &
exit 0
^G Get Help ^O Write Out ^W Where Is ^K Cut Text ^J Justify ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit ^R Read File ^\ Replace ^U Uncut Text ^T To Linter ^_ Go To Line
```

Then save and you can reboot to test it out

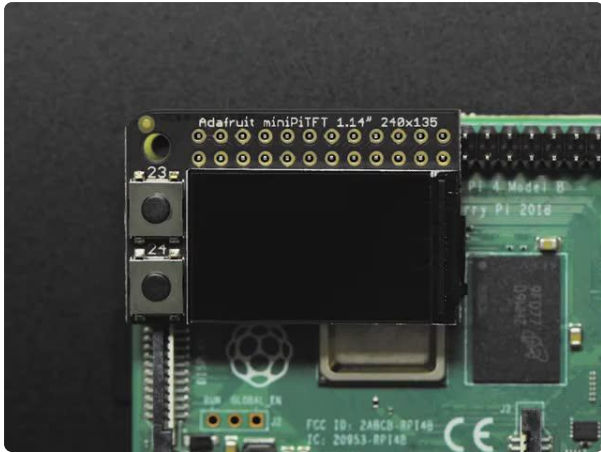


---

## Install Mini PiTFT

We've updated our popular PiOLED script for use with the [Mini PiTFT \(\)](#), a 135x240 Color TFT add-on for your Raspberry Pi. This cute little display has two tactile buttons on GPIO pins that we'll use to make a simple user-interface display for your Pi-Hole.





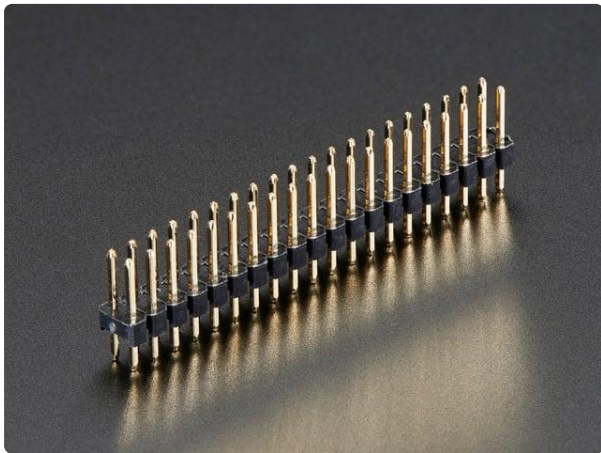
### Adafruit Mini PiTFT - 135x240 Color TFT Add-on for Raspberry Pi

If you're looking for the most compact li'l color display for a Raspberry Pi (most likely a

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/4393>

## Install 2x20 Header

If you are using a Pi Zero, you'll need to solder on or somehow attach a 2x20 header so you can plug in the Pi OLED. Use either a plain 2x20 header and [solder it in using an iron + some solder... \(\)](#)



### Break-away 0.1" 2x20-pin Strip Dual Male Header

If we could eat headers, we'd have them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. But we can't :( So we're making the best of it and selling them! This...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/2822>

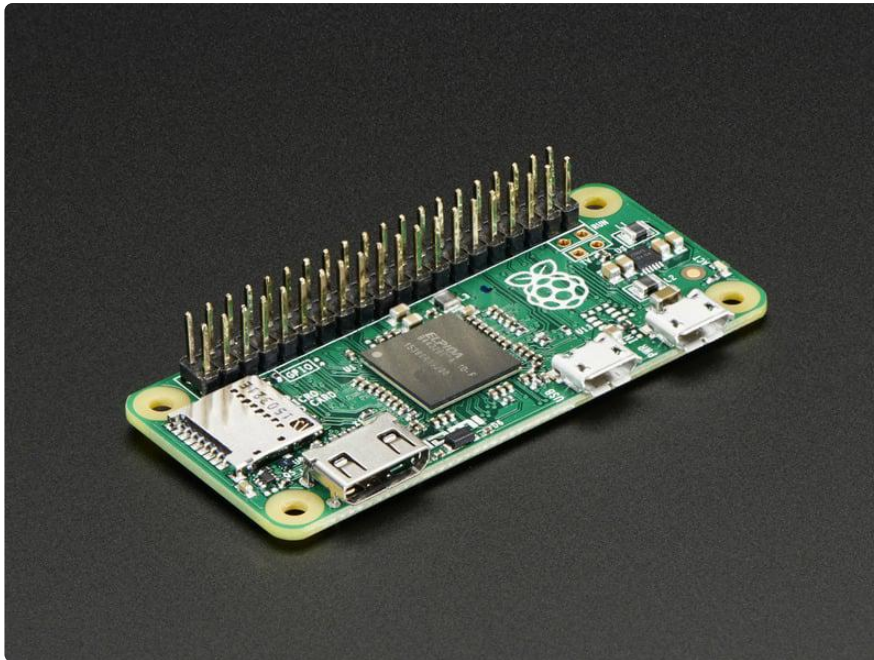
Or you can use Hammer headers which do not need soldering.



### GPIO Hammer Headers - Solderless Raspberry Pi Connectors

If your soldering isn't quite up to scratch, or you just don't own a soldering iron yet, then these nifty hammer headers from <https://www.adafruit.com/product/3413>

Either way, you'll want to end up with something like this:



## Python Setup

This guide assumes that you've gotten your Raspberry Pi up and running, have CircuitPython installed, and have installed CircuitPython libraries for the Mini PiTFT. If not, follow the steps in the guide below and come back to this page when you've completed them.

### Python Setup Guide

If you are getting a `ModuleNotFoundError` error, you may need to install the Python libraries by prepending the `sudo` command before the `pip` command since you will need to run the script as `sudo`.

## Update the stats.py program

Here's the new `stats.py` code which uses the Mini PiTFT.

Create a new file using `nano` `~pi/stats.py` and paste the code below in. Then, save the code.

```
# SPDX-FileCopyrightText: 2019 Brent Rubell for Adafruit Industries
#
# SPDX-License-Identifier: MIT

# -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
# Import Python System Libraries
import time
```

```

import json
import subprocess

# Import Requests Library
import requests

#Import Blinka
import digitalio
import board

# Import Python Imaging Library
from PIL import Image, ImageDraw, ImageFont
import adafruit_rgb_display.st7789 as st7789

API_TOKEN = "YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE"
api_url = "http://localhost/admin/api.php?summaryRaw&auth="+API_TOKEN

# Configuration for CS and DC pins (these are FeatherWing defaults on M0/M4):
cs_pin = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.CE0)
dc_pin = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D25)
reset_pin = None

# Config for display baudrate (default max is 24mhz):
BAUDRATE = 64000000

# Setup SPI bus using hardware SPI:
spi = board.SPI()

# Create the ST7789 display:
disp = st7789.ST7789(spi, cs=cs_pin, dc=dc_pin, rst=reset_pin, baudrate=BAUDRATE,
                    width=135, height=240, x_offset=53, y_offset=40)

# Create blank image for drawing.
# Make sure to create image with mode 'RGB' for full color.
height = disp.width  # we swap height/width to rotate it to landscape!
width = disp.height
image = Image.new('RGB', (width, height))
rotation = 90

# Get drawing object to draw on image.
draw = ImageDraw.Draw(image)

# Draw a black filled box to clear the image.
draw.rectangle((0, 0, width, height), outline=0, fill=(0, 0, 0))
disp.image(image, rotation)
# Draw some shapes.
# First define some constants to allow easy resizing of shapes.
padding = -2
top = padding
bottom = height-padding
# Move left to right keeping track of the current x position for drawing shapes.
x = 0

# Alternatively load a TTF font. Make sure the .ttf font file is in the
# same directory as the python script!
# Some other nice fonts to try: http://www.dafont.com/bitmap.php
font = ImageFont.truetype('/usr/share/fonts/truetype/dejavu/DejaVuSans.ttf', 24)

# Turn on the backlight
backlight = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D22)
backlight.switch_to_output()
backlight.value = True

# Add buttons as inputs
buttonA = digitalio.DigitalInOut(board.D23)
buttonA.switch_to_input()

while True:

```

```

# Draw a black filled box to clear the image.
draw.rectangle((0, 0, width, height), outline=0, fill=0)

# Shell scripts for system monitoring from here:
# https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/119126/command-to-display-memory-usage-disk-usage-and-cpu-load
cmd = "hostname -I | cut -d\ ' ' -f1"
IP = "IP: "+subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "hostname | tr -d '\ \n'"
HOST = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "top -bn1 | grep load | awk '{printf \"CPU Load: %.2f\\\", $(NF-2)}'"
CPU = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "free -m | awk 'NR==2{printf \"Mem: %s/%s MB %.2f%%\\\",
$3,$2,$3*100/$2 }'"
MemUsage = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "df -h | awk '$NF==\"/\n\"{printf \"Disk: %d/%d GB %s\\\", $3,$2,$5}'"
Disk = subprocess.check_output(cmd, shell=True).decode("utf-8")
cmd = "cat /sys/class/thermal/thermal_zone0/temp | awk '{printf \"CPU Temp: %.1f C\\\", $(NF-0) / 1000}'" # pylint: disable=line-too-long

# Pi Hole data!
try:
    r = requests.get(api_url)
    data = json.loads(r.text)
    DNSQUERIES = data['dns_queries_today']
    ADSBLOCKED = data['ads_blocked_today']
    CLIENTS = data['unique_clients']
except KeyError:
    time.sleep(1)
    continue

y = top
if not buttonA.value: # just button A pressed
    draw.text((x, y), IP, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
    y += font.getsize(IP)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), CPU, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
    y += font.getsize(CPU)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), MemUsage, font=font, fill="#00FF00")
    y += font.getsize(MemUsage)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), Disk, font=font, fill="#0000FF")
    y += font.getsize(Disk)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), "DNS Queries: {}".format(DNSQUERIES), font=font,
fill="#FF00FF")
    else:
        draw.text((x, y), IP, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
        y += font.getsize(IP)[1]
        draw.text((x, y), HOST, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
        y += font.getsize(HOST)[1]
        draw.text((x, y), "Ads Blocked: {}".format(str(ADSBLOCKED)), font=font,
fill="#00FF00")
        y += font.getsize(str(ADSBLOCKED))[1]
        draw.text((x, y), "Clients: {}".format(str(CLIENTS)), font=font,
fill="#0000FF")
        y += font.getsize(str(CLIENTS))[1]
        draw.text((x, y), "DNS Queries: {}".format(str(DNSQUERIES)), font=font,
fill="#FF00FF")
        y += font.getsize(str(DNSQUERIES))[1]

# Display image.
disp.image(image, rotation)
time.sleep(.1)

```

You'll notice it's very similar to the original stats.py, but we've added PiHole API support. Here's how we did that:

First up, Pi Hole stats are available through the web server, in JSON format, so we need to add web requests and JSON parsing to Python. Then set the URL for the API access, which is localhost (the same computer) and through the admin page:

```
# Import Python System Libraries
import time
import json
import subprocess

# Import Requests Library
import requests

api_url = 'http://localhost/admin/api.php'
```

We load up the nice DejaVuSans font here. Note that we have to have the full path of the file.

```
# Alternatively load a TTF font. Make sure the .ttf font file is in the
# same directory as the python script!
# Some other nice fonts to try: http://www.dafont.com/bitmap.php
font = ImageFont.truetype('/usr/share/fonts/truetype/dejavu/DejaVuSans.ttf', 24)
```

This is where we grab the API data. I put it in a try block, so it would retry in case the API access failed for some reason

```
# Pi Hole data!
try:
    r = requests.get(api_url)
    data = json.loads(r.text)
    DNSQUERIES = data['dns_queries_today']
    ADSBLOCKED = data['ads_blocked_today']
    CLIENTS = data['unique_clients']
except KeyError:
    time.sleep(1)
    continue
```

If you want to print out different info, run this small script in python to see what is available:

```
import json
import requests

api_url = 'http://localhost/admin/api.php'
r = requests.get(api_url)
data = json.loads(r.text)
print(data)
```

```
pi@pi-hole: ~
python3
Python 3.5.3 (default, Sep 27 2018, 17:25:39)
[GCC 6.3.0 20170516] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import json
>>> import requests
>>> api_url = 'http://localhost/admin/api.php'
>>> r = requests.get(api_url)
>>> data = json.loads(r.text)
>>> print(data)
{'privacy_level': 0, 'domains_being_blocked': 112361, 'reply_CNAME': 126, 'unique_domains': 89, 'queries_cached': 101, 'status': 'enabled', 'dns_queries_all_types': 405, 'ads_percentage_today': 8.888889, 'reply_IP': 60, 'reply_NXDOMAIN': 0, 'clients_ever_seen': 2, 'ads_blocked_today': 36, 'unique_clients': 2, 'queries_forwarded': 268, 'reply_NODATA': 18, 'dns_queries_today': 405, 'gravity_last_updated': {'relative': {'hours': '00', 'minutes': '48', 'days': '0'}, 'absolute': '1553790178', 'file_exists': True}}
```

Since the MiniTFT has two tactile push-buttons, we modified the script to print out extra information from the Raspberry Pi when you press the top button.

```
if not buttonA.value: # just button A pressed
    draw.text((x, y), IP, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
    y += font.getsize(IP)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), CPU, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
    y += font.getsize(CPU)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), MemUsage, font=font, fill="#00FF00")
    y += font.getsize(MemUsage)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), Disk, font=font, fill="#0000FF")
    y += font.getsize(Disk)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), "DNS Queries: {}".format(DNSQUERIES), font=font,
fill="#FF00FF")
else:
    draw.text((x, y), IP, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
    y += font.getsize(IP)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), HOST, font=font, fill="#FFFF00")
    y += font.getsize(HOST)[1]
    draw.text((x, y), "Ads Blocked: {}".format(str(ADSBLOCKED)), font=font,
fill="#00FF00")
    y += font.getsize(str(ADSBLOCKED))[1]
    draw.text((x, y), "Clients: {}".format(str(CLIENTS)), font=font,
fill="#0000FF")
    y += font.getsize(str(CLIENTS))[1]
    draw.text((x, y), "DNS Queries: {}".format(str(DNSQUERIES)), font=font,
fill="#FF00FF")
    y += font.getsize(str(DNSQUERIES))[1]
```

## Set API Token

Newer releases of Pi-Hole have [added a authentication requirement \(\)](#) for using the API. An API token must be provided when making an API request. This token was created when Pi-Hole was installed above. It can be found via the Web Admin interface under:

Settings > API > Show API token

Once found, update the stats.py code by changing this line:



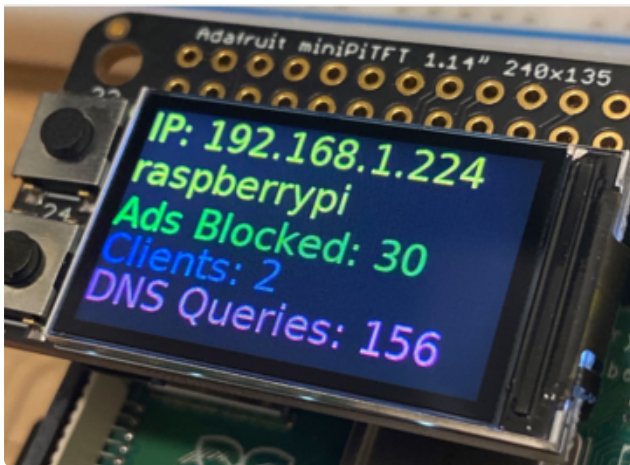
```
API_TOKEN = "YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE"
```

and replacing `YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE` with the API token found above. It'll be a big long string of numbers and letters that looks like gibberish. Leave the double quotes so it ends up looking something like this:

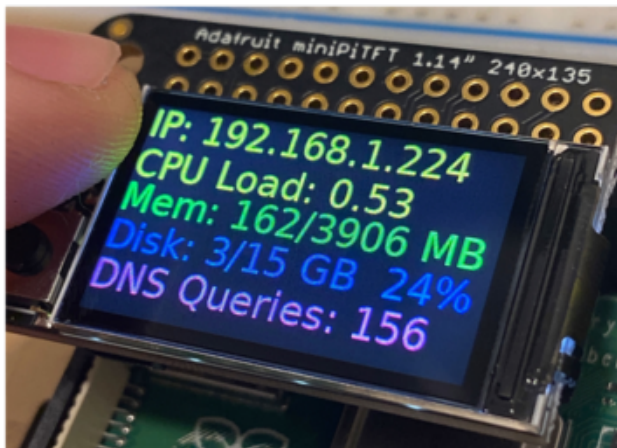
```
API_TOKEN = "1234567890ABCDEF1234567890ABCDEF"
```

## Test & Stats at Startup

Once you have the script saved, you can run it with `sudo python3 ~pi/stats.py`



Look on the Mini PiTFT to make sure you see your IP address along with some statistics from Pi-Hole.



Pushing the top button should display extra statistics about the Pi such as its hostname, CPU load, memory utilization, disk usage, and DNS queries.

Lastly we just want to make this run at boot. We'll do that the easy way by editing `/etc/rc.local` with `sudo nano /etc/rc.local` and adding `sudo python3 ~pi/stats.py &` before `exit 0`