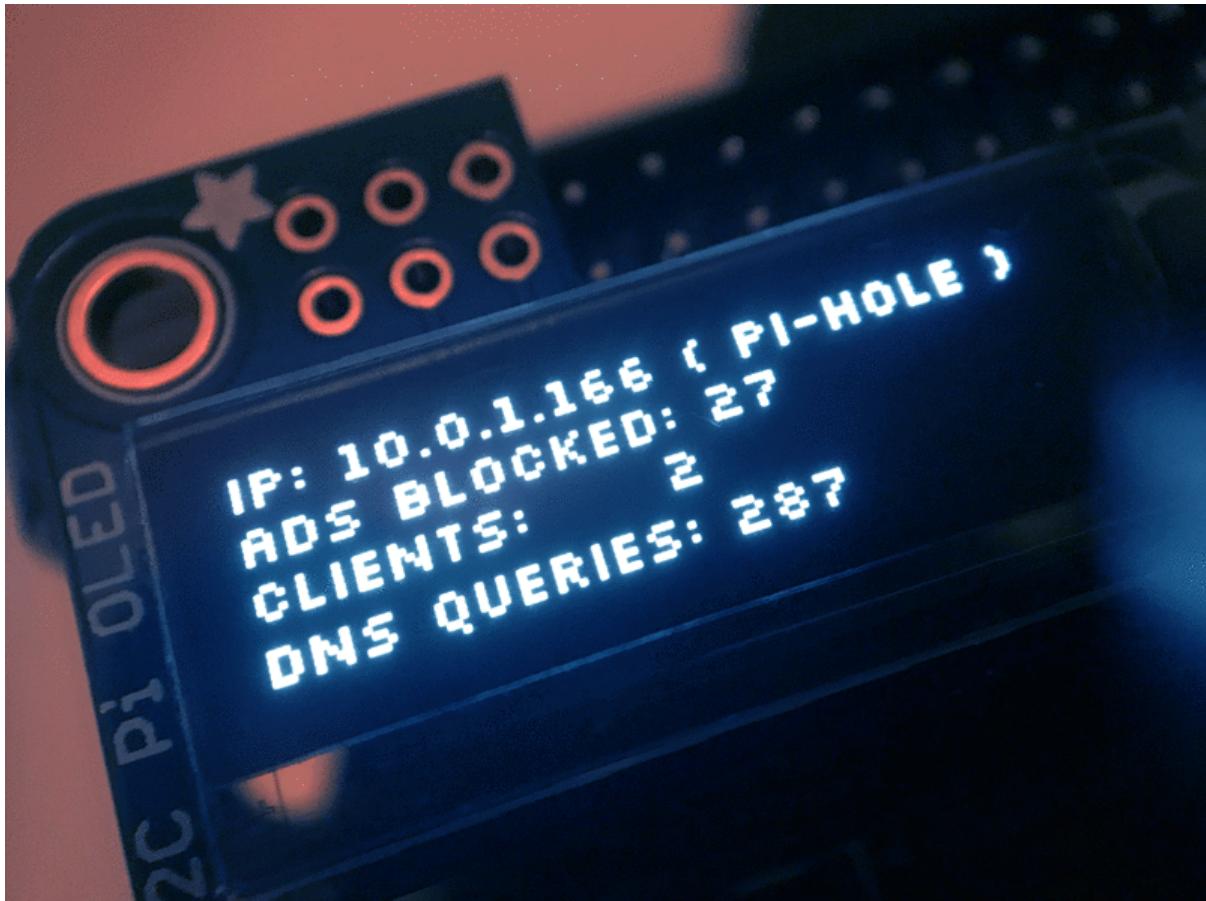




Pi Hole Ad Blocker with Pi Zero W

Created by lady ada



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

Last updated on 2024-06-03 02:11:21 PM EDT

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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

The screenshot shows the EE Times website. At the top, there's a banner for Rackspace with the text 'WITH MORE THAN 250+ DEDICATED EXPERTS.' and the Rackspace logo. Below the banner, the EE Times logo is displayed with the tagline 'Connecting the Global Electronics Community'. The navigation bar includes links for Home, News, Opinion, Messages, Authors, Video, Slideshows, Teardown, Education, EELife, REGISTER | LOGIN, About Us, and Subscribe. Below the navigation, there are categories for designlines, Android, Automotive, Embedded, Industrial Control, Internet of Things, MCU, Medical, Memory, Open Source, and PCB. A 'BREAKING NEWS' section is visible, and a 'NEWS & ANALYSIS' section titled 'Gen-Z Points to New Memories'. On the left, there's a sidebar with a blue header 'There Are Plenty of Uses for Op-Amps' and a section for the R&S RTB2000 series oscilloscopes. The main article, 'A Current Sensing Tutorial—Part II: Devices', is by Pete Semig and Collin Wells from Texas Instruments. It includes a photo of a circuit board with a microcontroller and a potentiometer. The article discusses operational amplifiers for current sensing. To the right of the article is a sidebar for the 'SHIFT Executive Conference' with the tagline 'Not the Same Old Shift', featuring the date 'October 22-24, 2017' and a 'Register Today' button.

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

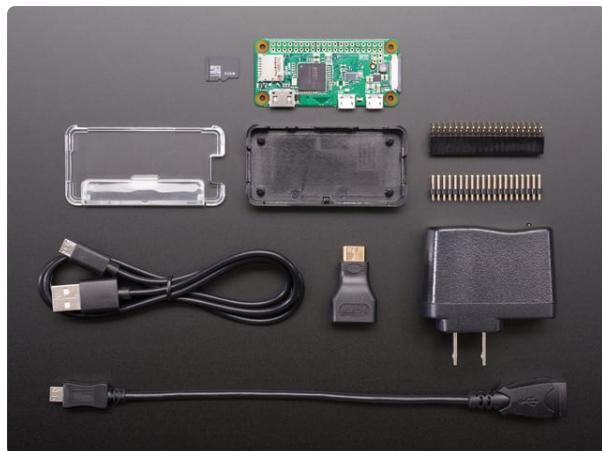
Follow along with this guide to DIY your own

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



Raspberry Pi Zero W Budget Pack - Includes Pi Zero W

Remember those cereal commercials that would always say, "part of a complete breakfast"? Well the Pi Zero's a lot like that bowl of cereal - while it's...

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3410>

But you can also just DIY with the minimum requirements:

1 x Pi Zero W

the type of low cost game-changing product Raspberry Pi's known for - the super light, super lean microcomputer we've come to know and love, but now with built-in WiFi.

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3400>

1 x 4G or larger SD Card

You will be burning this card with Raspbian Jessie Lite so its ok if its blank or pre-burned

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/102>

1 x Adafruit Pi Zero Enclosure

Adafruit's classic, sturdy plastic enclosure. Keeps your Pi Zero safe and sleek.

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/3252>

1 x 5V 1A USB wall adapter

This one is plenty good and you can use any Micro USB cable with it

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/501>

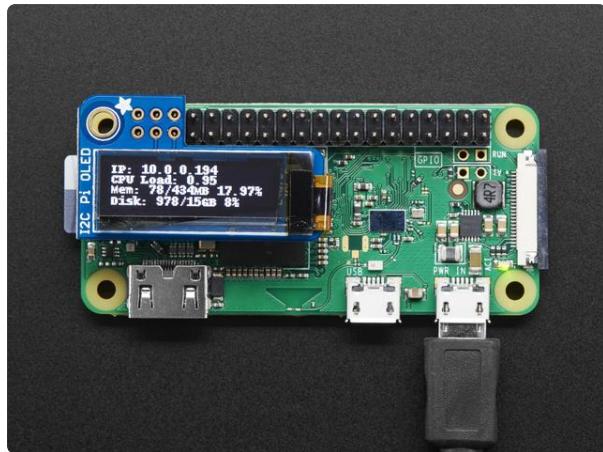
1 x 5V 2.4A USB wall adapter

Super powerful for any uses, and comes with a built in MicroUSB cable

<https://www.adafruit.com/product/1995>

Pi OLED Display Addition

If you want to add an OLED display (which is suggested!) you'll also 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

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

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

or

1 x 2x20 No-Solder Hammer Headers

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.

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

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

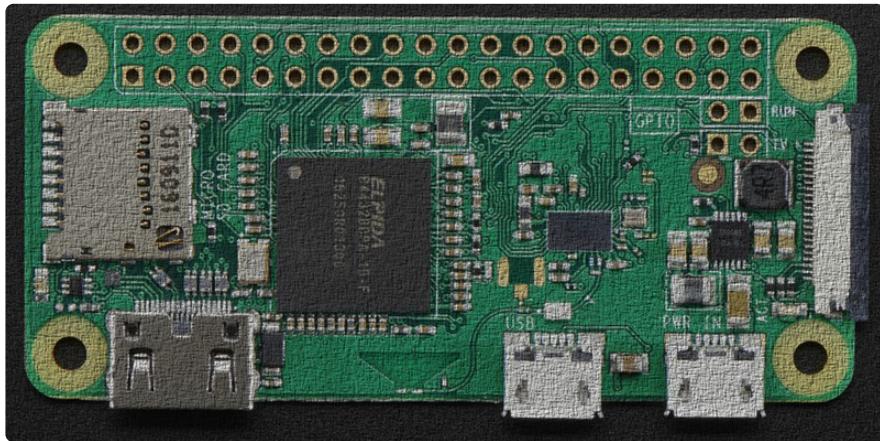
Instead of a Pi Zero W you can directly substitute in a Pi 3 which also has built in WiFi, you won't need the 2x20 header in that case

1 x [Raspberry Pi 3](https://www.adafruit.com/product/3055)

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](https://adafru.it/yuC)

<https://adafru.it/yuC>

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

1. Download the [Raspberry Pi Imager](https://adafru.it/XMd) (<https://adafru.it/XMd>) to your computer
2. Install the 64-bit Lite Raspberry Pi to your micro SD card using the imager. you may need to go to [Raspberry Pi OS \(other\)](#) to find it.
3. When it asks you about settings, be sure you have your network settings entered and SSH enabled under Services.
4. [Re-plug the SD card into your computer \(don't use your Pi yet!\) and set up your wifi connection by editing supplicant.conf](#) (<https://adafru.it/yuD>)
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 (<https://adafru.it/IPE>)
9. You can then ssh into raspberrypi.local (<https://adafru.it/jvB>) or whichever hostname you entered under settings.

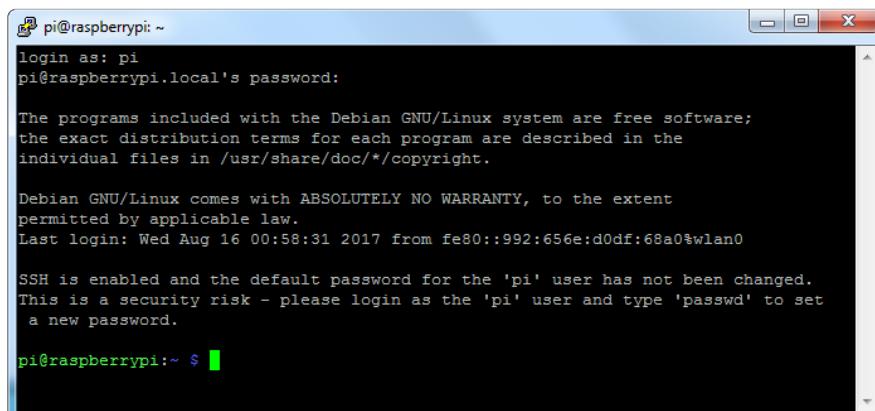
Install Pi Hole

Use the following instructions to install Pi Hole:

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

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

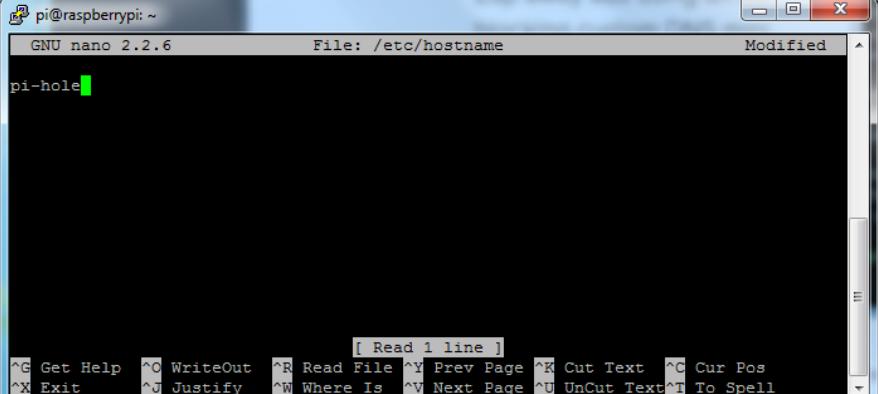
SSH is enabled and the default password for the 'pi' user has not been changed.
This is a security risk - please login as the 'pi' user and type 'passwd' to set
a new password.

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.

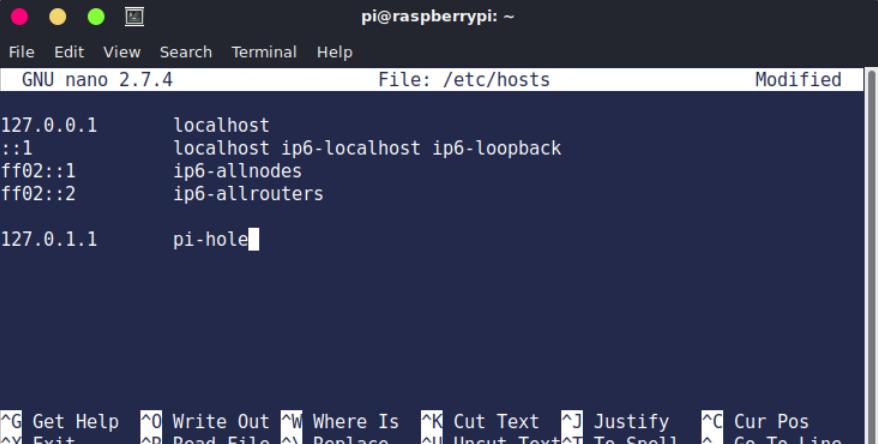
The hostname can be set in the imager before you get started, but if you forgot or you'd like to change it afterwards, just edit the hostname with `sudo nano /etc/hostname` and put something else on that first line, like `pi-hole`



```
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

[ Read 1 line ]
^G Get Help  ^O Write Out  ^W Where Is  ^K Cut Text  ^J Justify  ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit      ^R Read File  ^U Replace   ^U Uncut Text  ^T To Spell  ^L 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**

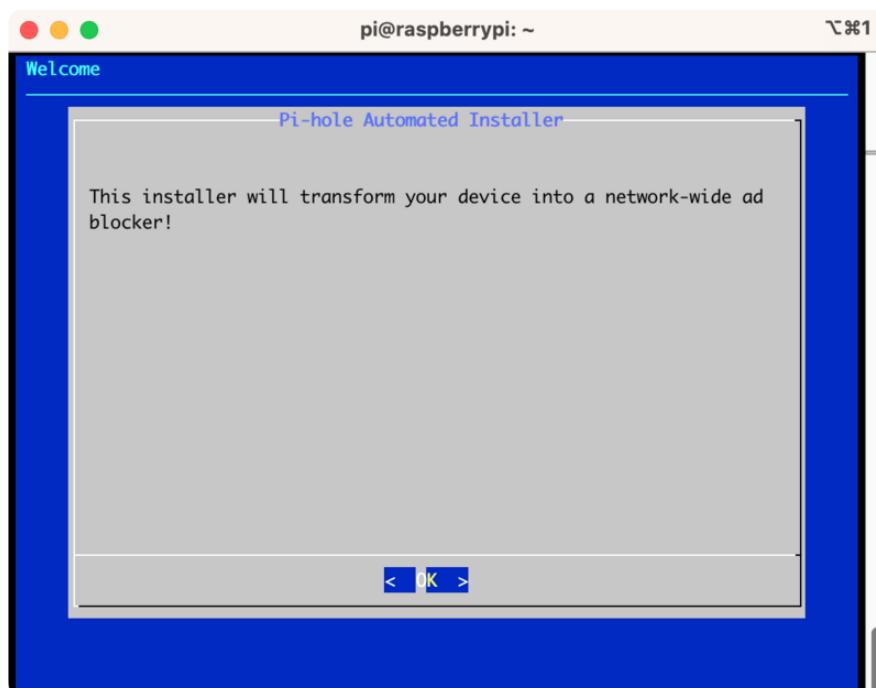
Run Pi Hole Installer

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

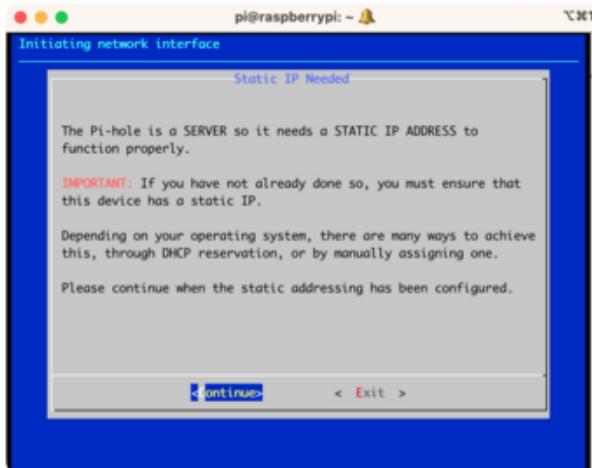
```
curl -sSL https://install.pi-hole.net | bash
```

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!

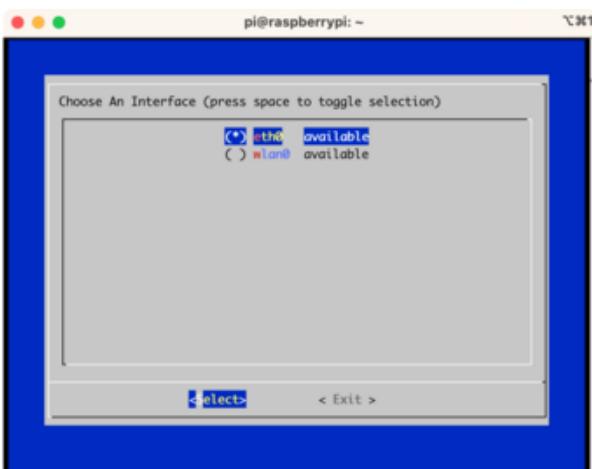
The screenshots below are based on the 5.18.2 release of Pi-Hole. The latest version may have slightly different screens and options, but generally accepting defaults to everything should be OK.



Configuration



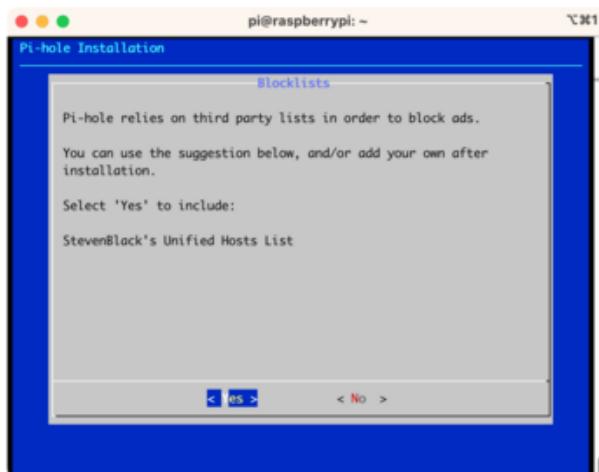
The installer may complain about needing a requiring IP address, which is recommended. This is because DHCP reservations can expire. However, in practice, if the pi stays in communication with your DHCP server, it usually just keeps renewing the same IP address, which works well enough. if you have an advanced network set up, you can configure a custom IP address



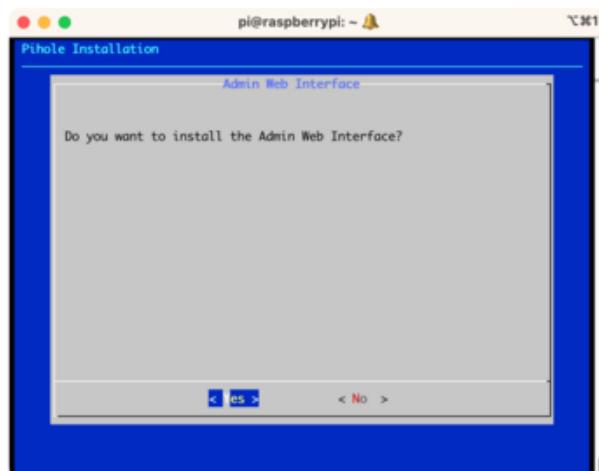
If you have your pi has multiple network interfaces such as WiFi and an ethernet adapter, it will ask you which one you would like to use.



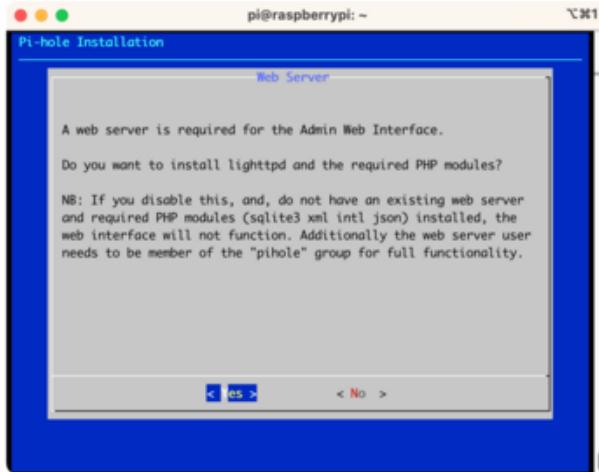
Pick who will be the upstream DNS (for non-ad blocked sites) - Google is fine and will probably be up all the time



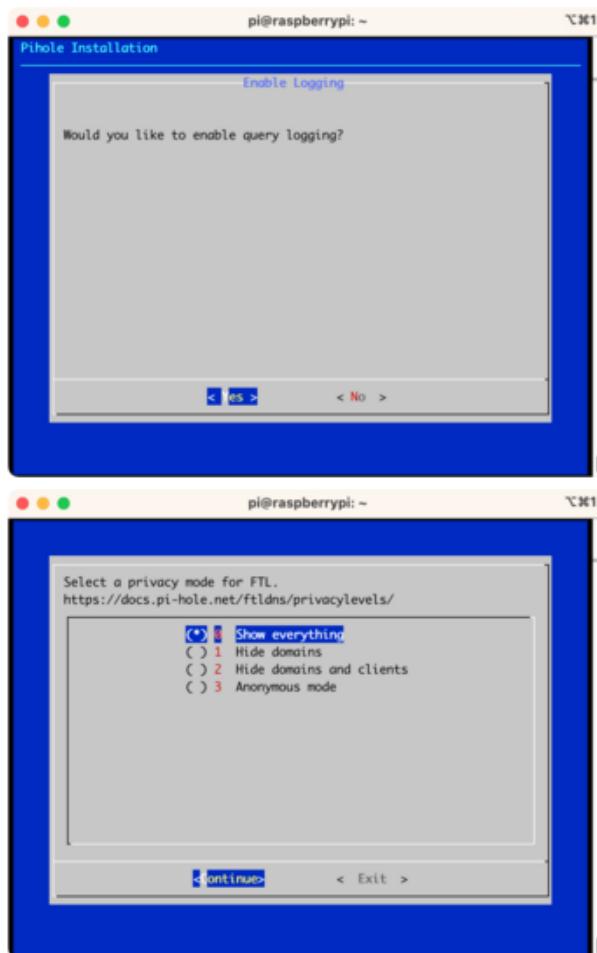
You can add any additional third party lists here or you can just use the default.



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 install this.

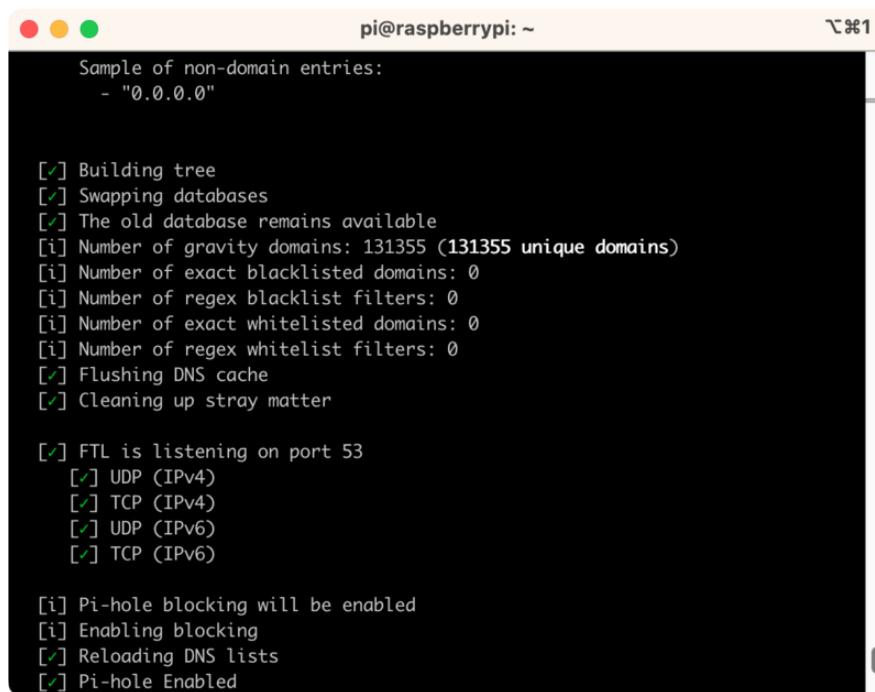


You'll also need a web interface running, so select this as well unless you already have another one installed.



If you'd like to retain a log of the ads that are blocked, you can enable query logging. If you enable it, you'll also be asked about the amount of content that you'd like logged.

It will keep installing! Just hold tight...

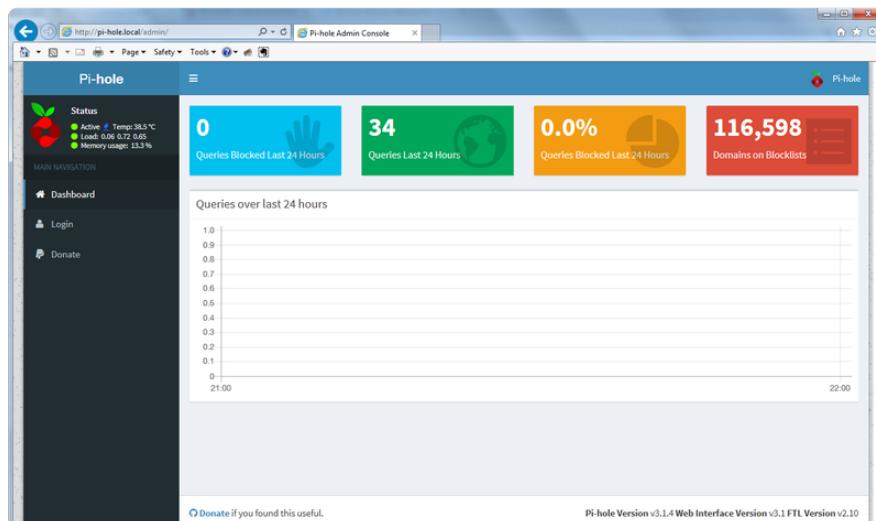


When its done you'll get this final config screen! Copy & paste the password into another window for now



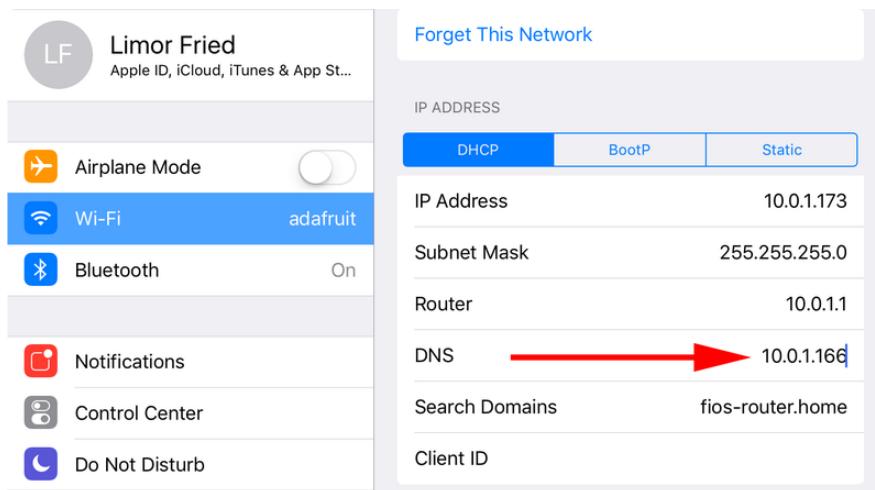
Test Admin Page

On your desktop computer or tablet, visit <http://pi.hole/admin> (<https://adafru.it/19Rb>) or if that doesn't work, try [http://\[your-ip\]/admin](http://[your-ip]/admin) () (replacing [your-ip] with your IP address) 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 image shows a comparison between two versions of the EE Times website. The left side shows the site without ads, featuring a clean layout with a main article titled 'A Current Sensing Tutorial—Part II: Devices' by Pete Semig and Collin Wells. The right side shows the same site with ads, including a banner for 'rackspace' and an advertisement for the 'SHIFT Executive Conference'.

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

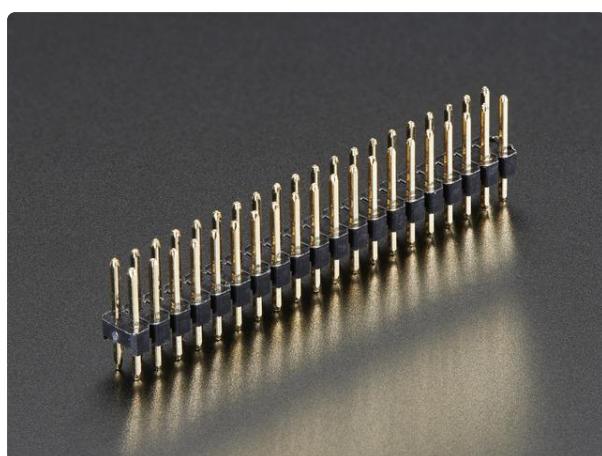
22 Retweets 77 Likes



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...](#) (<https://adafru.it/drl>)



[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>

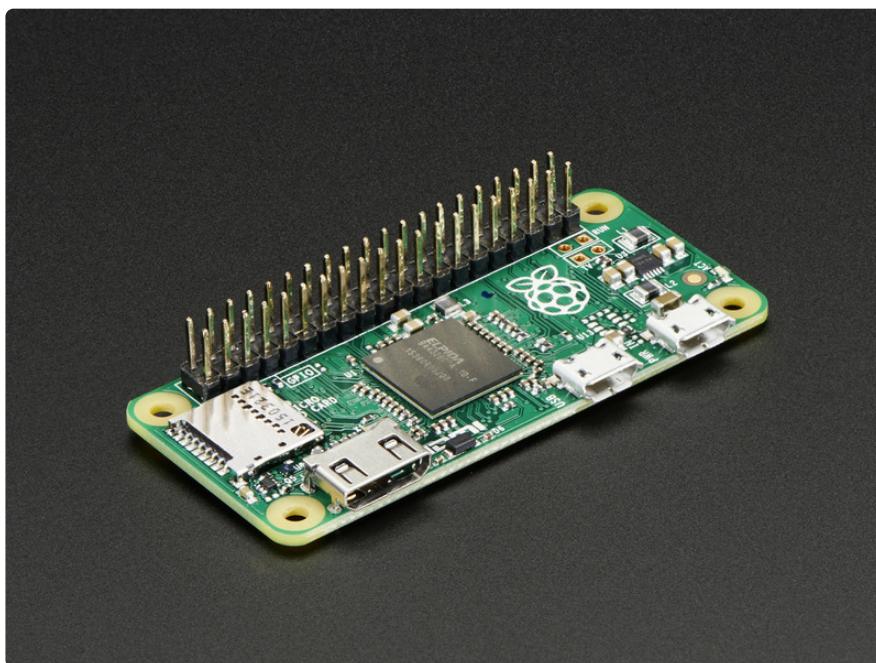
Or you can use Hammer headers which do not need soldering!



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:



Setup Virtual Environment

Starting with the Bookworm version of Raspberry Pi OS, you will need to install your python modules in a virtual environment. Even on earlier versions, it's still recommended to install a virtual environment. You can find more information in the [Python Virtual Environment Usage on Raspberry Pi \(https://adafru.it/19a5\)](https://adafru.it/19a5) guide. To install and activate the virtual environment, use the following commands:

```
sudo apt install python3-venv
python3 -m venv pihole --system-site-packages
```

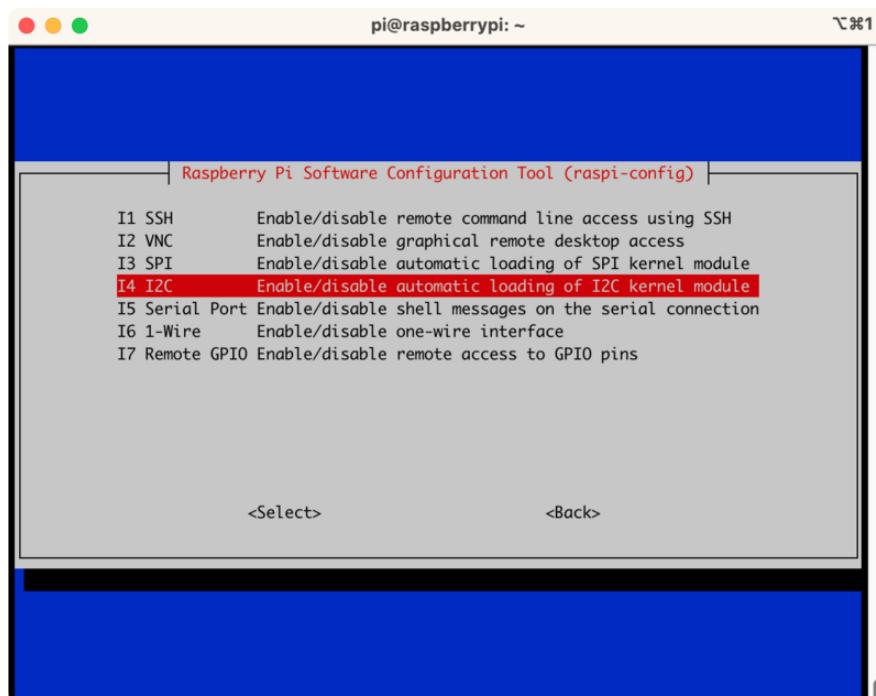
You will need to activate the virtual environment every time the Pi is rebooted. To activate it:

```
source pihole/bin/activate
```

To deactivate, you can use `deactivate`, but leave it active for now.

Enable I2C

Ensure that I2C is enabled by running `raspi-config`, selecting **Interface Options**, and selecting **I2C**.



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

<https://adafru.it/Deo>

To install the library for the Pi OLED (<https://adafru.it/u1f>), enter the following into the terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install python3-pip
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:

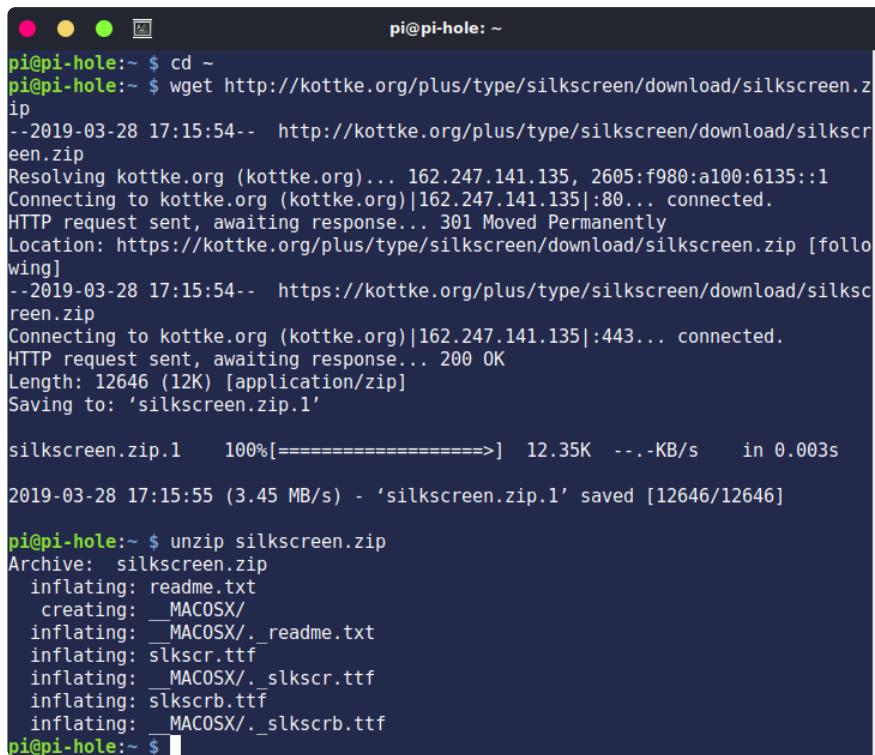
```
sudo apt install python3-requests
```



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. \(https://adafru.it/yvb\)](https://adafru.it/yvb)

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:~ $ 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/slkscr.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)
```

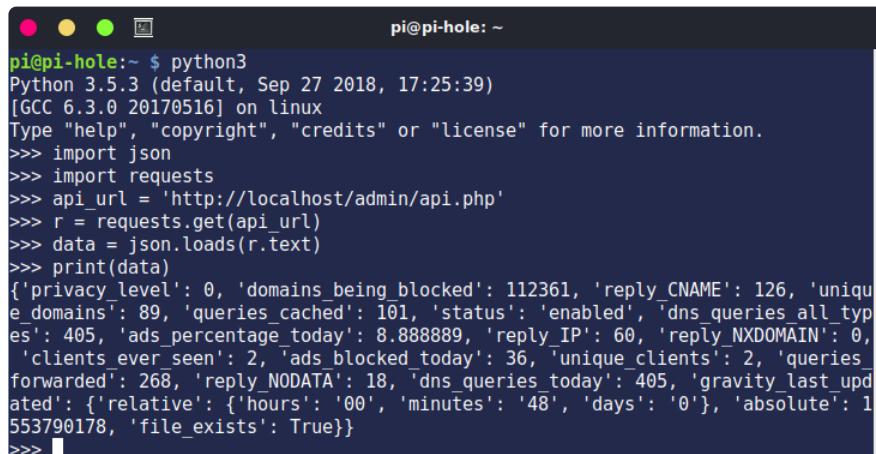
This is where we grab the API data. I put it in a **try** block, so it would retry in case the API access failed for some reason

```
# 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)
```



A terminal window titled 'pi@pi-hole: ~' showing the output of a Python script. The script prints the JSON data from the Pi Hole API. The data includes various statistics such as DNS queries, ads blocked, and unique clients.

```
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 \(https://adafruit.it/19DU\)](https://adafruit.it/19DU) 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"
```

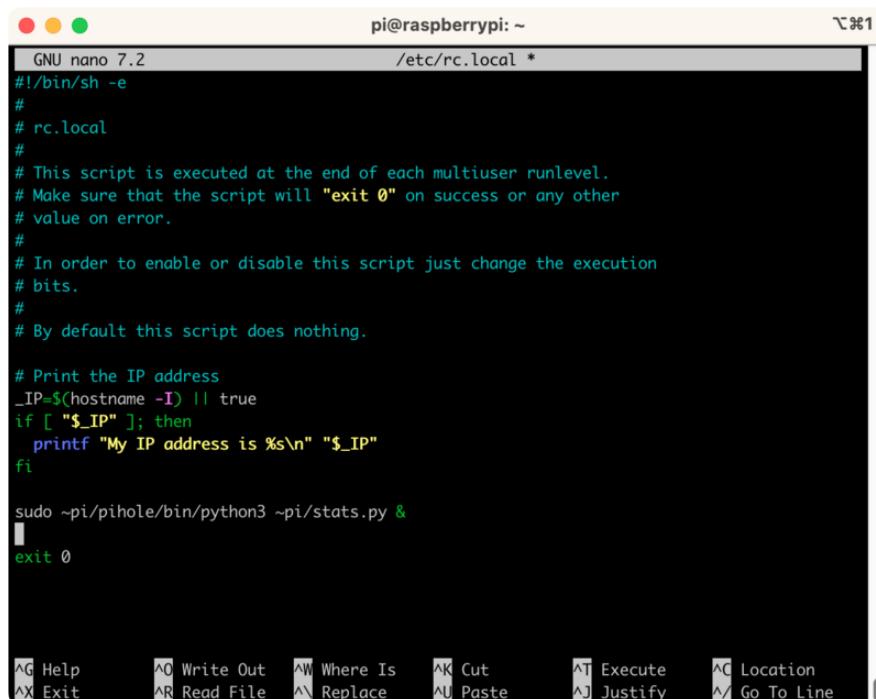
Test & Stats at Startup

Once you have the script saved, you can run it with:

```
sudo ~pi/pihole/bin/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 ~pi/pihole/bin/python3 ~pi/stats.py & before exit 0**

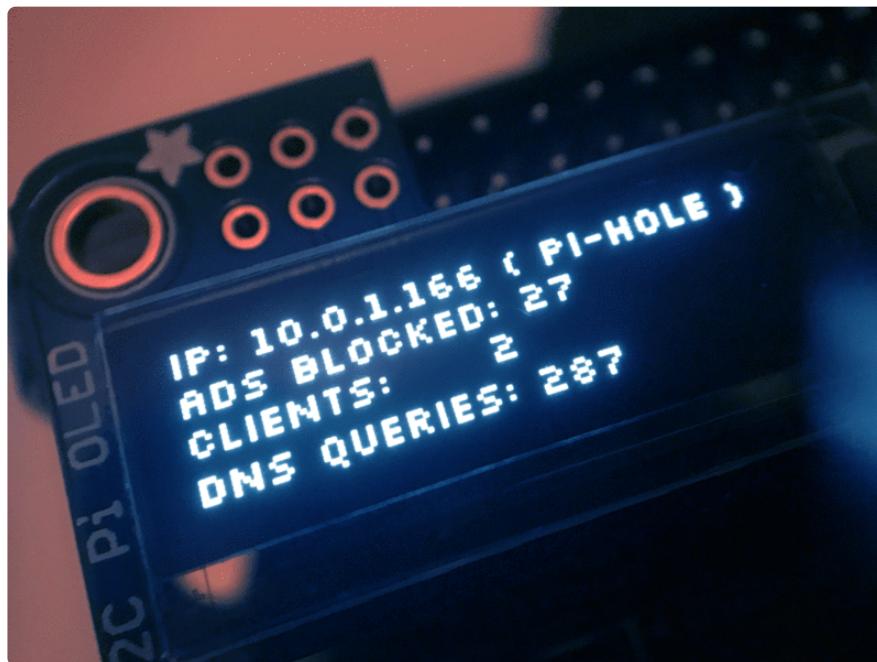


```
pi@raspberrypi: ~
GNU nano 7.2          /etc/rc.local *
#!/bin/sh -e
#
# rc.local
#
# This script is executed at the end of each multiuser runlevel.
# Make sure that the script will "exit 0" on success or any other
# value on error.
#
# In order to enable or disable this script just change the execution
# bits.
#
# 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 ~pi/pihole/bin/python3 ~pi/stats.py &
exit 0
```

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](http://adafruit.it/4393) (<http://adafruit.it/4393>), 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.



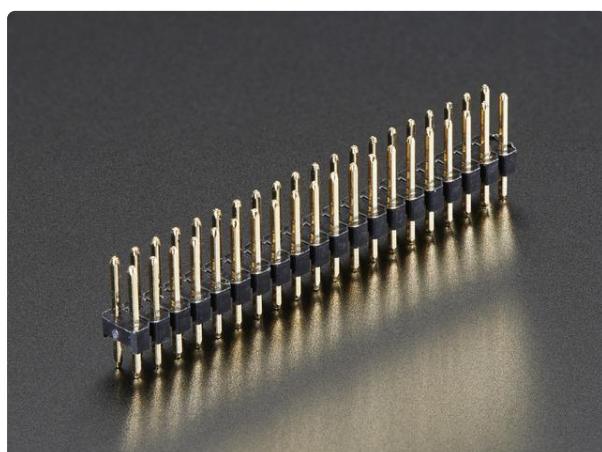
Adafruit Mini PiTFT - 135x240 Color TFT Add-on for Raspberry Pi

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... (<https://adafru.it/drl>)



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.

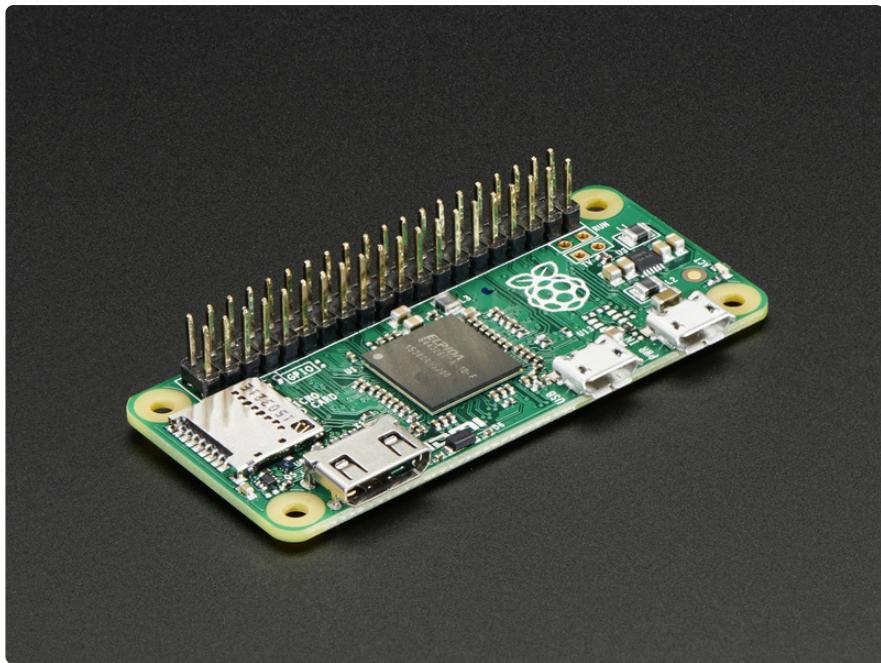


GPIO Hammer Headers - Solderless Raspberry Pi Connectors

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:



Setup Virtual Environment

Starting with the Bookworm version of Raspberry Pi OS, you will need to install your python modules in a virtual environment. Even on earlier versions, it's still recommended to install a virtual environment. You can find more information in the [Python Virtual Environment Usage on Raspberry Pi](https://adafruit.it/19a5) (<https://adafruit.it/19a5>) guide. To install and activate the virtual environment, use the following commands:

```
sudo apt install python3-venv
python3 -m venv pihole --system-site-packages
```

You will need to activate the virtual environment every time the Pi is rebooted. To activate it:

```
source pihole/bin/activate
```

To deactivate, you can use `deactivate`, but leave it active for now.

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

<https://adafru.it/HBL>

If you are getting a `ModuleNotFoundError`, 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 = "+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=="/>{"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\""
    if C\", $(NF-0) / 1000}" # pylint: disable=line-too-long
    Temp = 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

    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), Temp, font=font, fill="#FF00FF")
y += font.getsize(Temp)[1]
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)

```

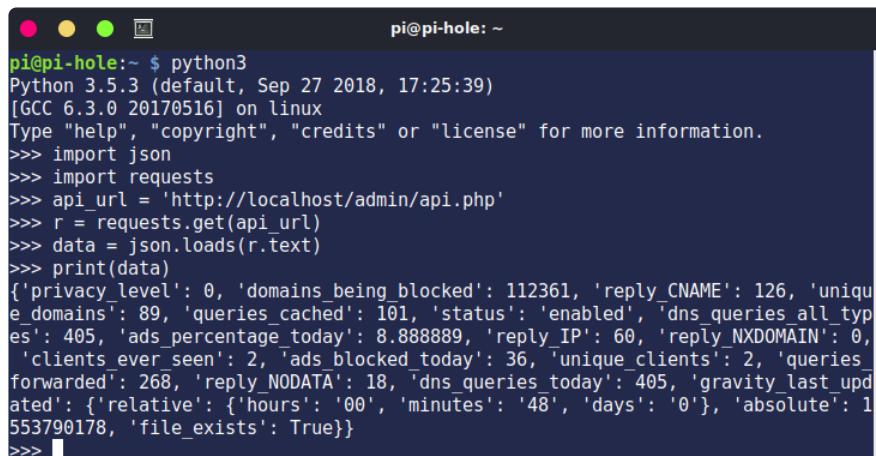
This is where we grab the API data. I put it in a `try` block, so it would retry in case the API access failed for some reason

```
# 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 \(https://adafruit.it/19DU\)](https://adafruit.it/19DU) 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"
```

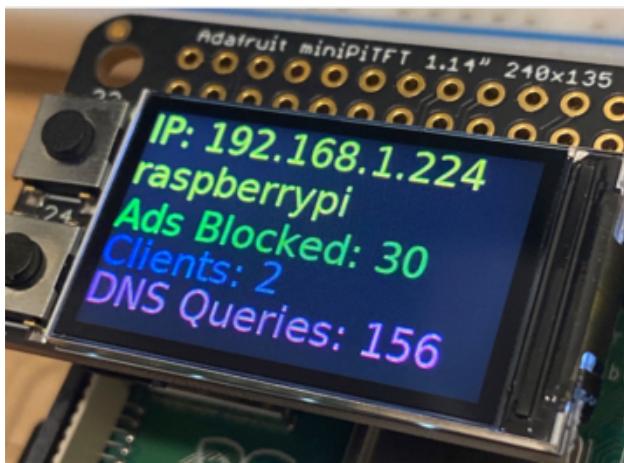
and replacing **YOUR_API_TOKEN_HERE** with the API token found above. It'll be a big long string of numbers and letters that looks like gibberish. Leave the double quotes so it ends up looking something like this:

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

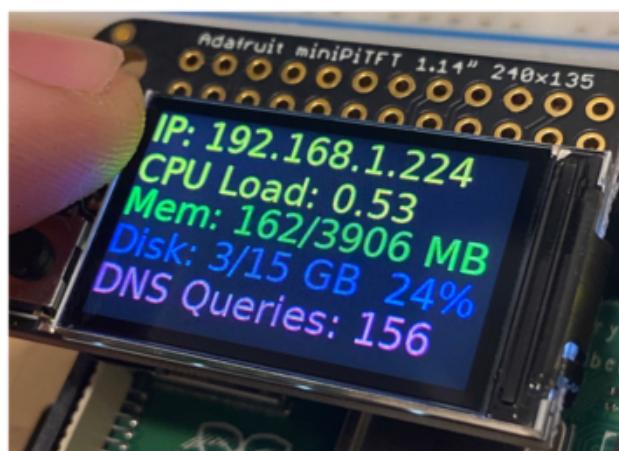
Test & Stats at Startup

Once you have the script saved, you can run it with

```
sudo ~pi/pihole/bin/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 ~pi/pihole/bin/python3 ~pi/stats.py &** before **exit 0**

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "pi@raspberrypi: ~". The window shows the content of the /etc/rc.local file in a nano text editor. The file contains the following code:

```
GNU nano 7.2          /etc/rc.local *  
#!/bin/sh -e  
#  
# rc.local  
#  
# This script is executed at the end of each multiuser runlevel.  
# Make sure that the script will "exit 0" on success or any other  
# value on error.  
#  
# In order to enable or disable this script just change the execution  
# bits.  
#  
# 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  
  

```

Then save and you can reboot to test it out

