



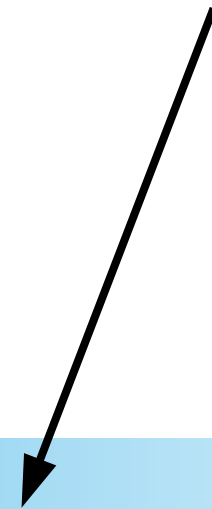
# Internet-of-Things for Fun and Profit



**A POSTERIORI**  
Play · Experience · Learn

# Before we start...

- We believe in open access to knowledge
- All our slides are shared online for free
- You can print it, share it, modify it, use it to run your own courses
- This current set of slides can be found here



# About Us



## YONI

Spent 15 years developing software for big banks, now developing the next generation of Makers and Coders.

## CORT

Ex-Navy engineer managing big engines, powerful generators, and easily choked toilets. Codes and builds stuff because he's too cheap to buy



# Our Company

## A POSTERIORI

Play · Experience · Learn

### Our Makerspace

- Suitable for electronics, 3D printing, woodworks, coding and tinkering
- Free for public use
- Located in Mega Woodlands



# Our Programmes

- Competition based
  - Eg. FLL Junior (...our team won 1<sup>st</sup> in 2019!)
- Holiday programmes
  - Robotics, Apps creation, Coding, 3D Designs, Science and Research
- Regular sessions
  - Interest based. Everything from game creation to building a human sized robot.

# What is the Internet-Of-Things (IoT)?

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# What is IoT?



Control lights through phone...



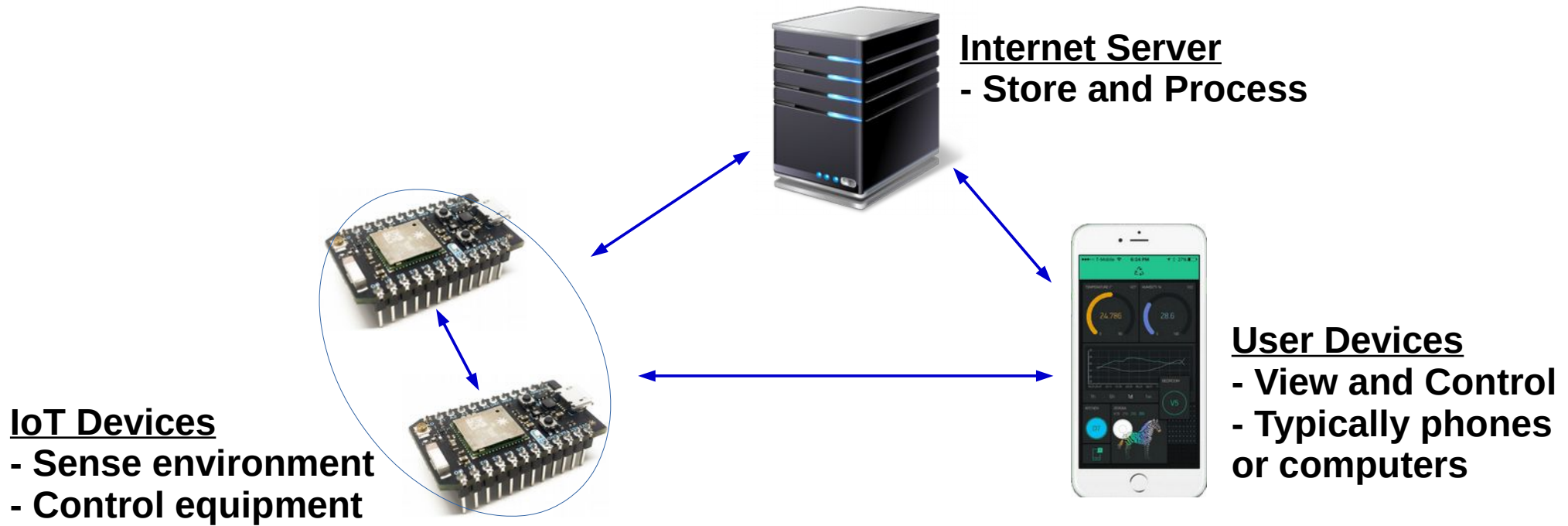
Turn on aircon before reaching home...



Toast your bread remotely (...we don't know why either)

- Make existing or new devices more useful by connecting them to the internet (eg. lights, aircon, door locks, burglar alarm)

# How Does IoT Work?





# IoT in the Industry



Notify vendor to top-up machine when empty

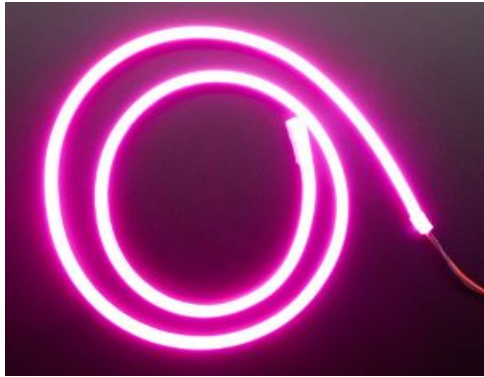


Track water and power usage

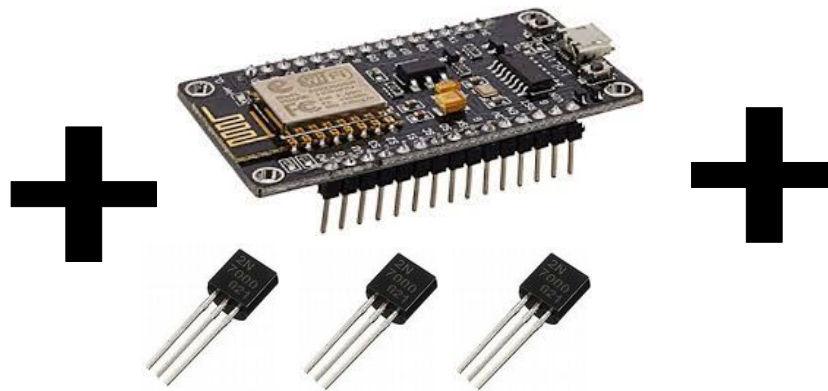


Arrange for garbage collection when bin is full

# IoT is Easy!



**LED Strips**  
(\$15 with power supply)



**Controller and transistors (\$10)**

```
#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

char auth[] = "xxx";

char ssid[] = "HomeWifi";
char pass[] = "yyy";

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
}
```

**13 lines of code**  
**(5 mins of your time)**



**Phone controllable  
mood lighting**



# The ESP8266



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# ESP8266

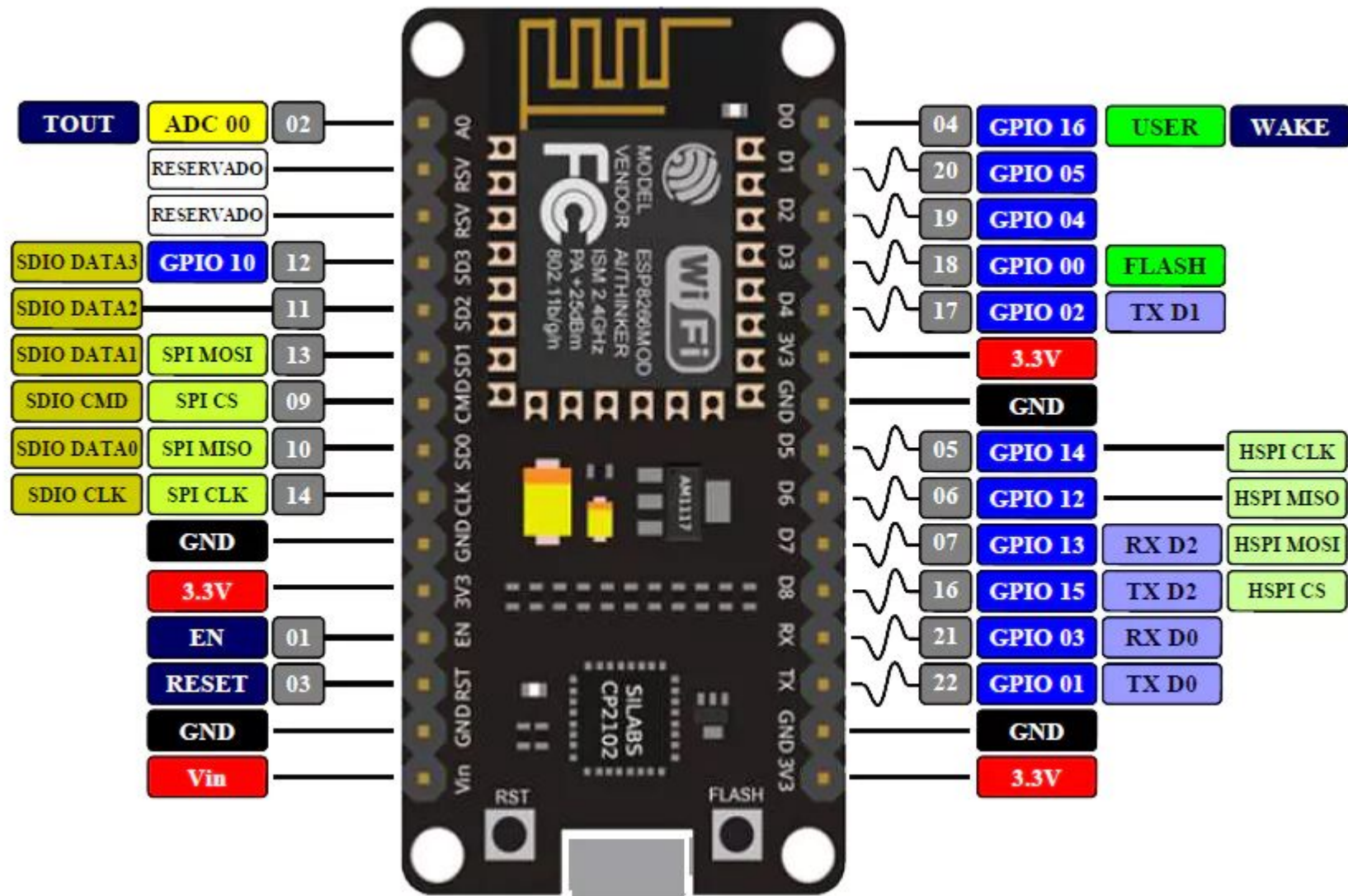
- Many different variations
- We recommend the ones that are described as “Node MCU” (...this one)
- Others are fine too, but specs, programming and connections may be slightly different



# What is the ESP8266?

- Microcontroller (similar to Arduino and micro:bit)
- Built-in WiFi (b/g/n)
- 80MHz Processor
- 32KiB instruction RAM and 80KiB data RAM
- Runs on 3.3V (...built-in voltage regulator allows you to use up to 5V)

# Pinout



# Software Setup

**Workshop participants: These have been done for you!**

- **Install Arduino IDE:**  
<https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software>
- **Install ESP8266 libraries:**  
(Follow instructions here:  
<https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/esp8266-thing-hookup-guide/installing-the-esp8266-arduino-addon>)
- **Install Blynk libraries:**  
<https://github.com/blynkkk/blynk-library/releases/tag/v0.6.1>
- **Install CH340 drivers (Not required for Mac and Linux)**  
[http://www.wch.cn/download/CH341SER\\_EXE.html](http://www.wch.cn/download/CH341SER_EXE.html)

# Exercise 1 : Basic Blynk

- Program the ESP8266 using Arduino
- Connect to the Blynk server
- Create an IoT App using Blynk



# Start Arduino IDE

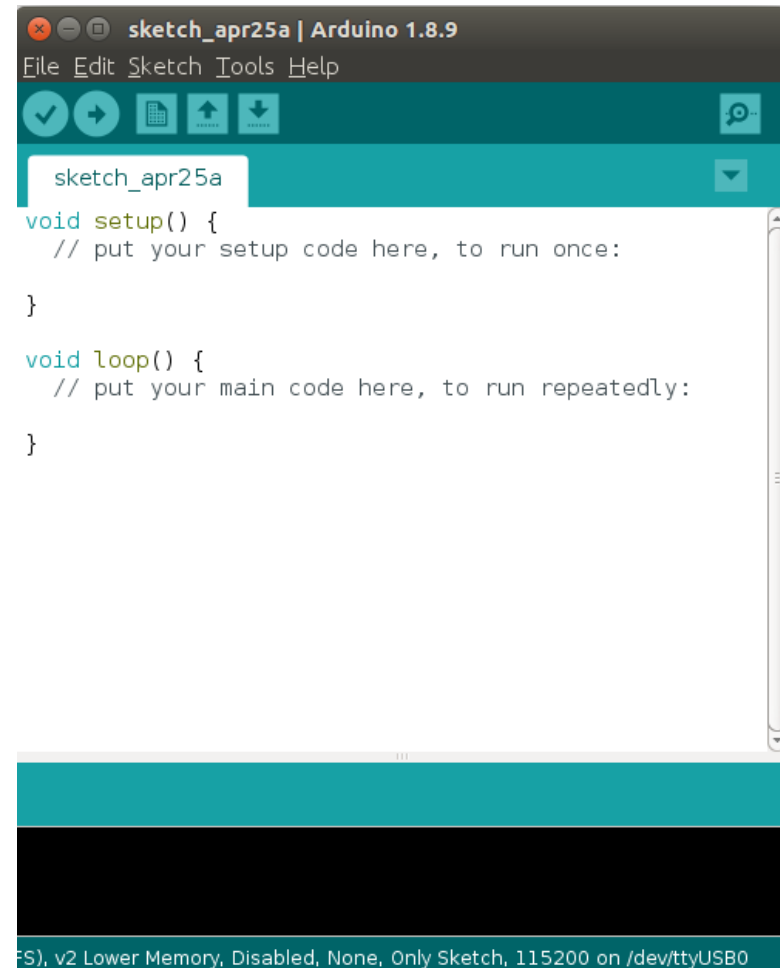
## Arduino IDE

An Integrated Development Environment (IDE) used for programming the Arduino microcontroller as well as many other microcontrollers.



## Before we start...

Go to "Tools > Board" and select "NodeMCU 1.0 (ESP-12E Module)"



# Exercise 1: Basic Blynk

This is a multi-line comment. Everything from `/* ...to... */` is ignored.

Single-line comment. Everything that starts with `//` is ignored.

## Download Examples

You can download all code for the exercises from...

<https://www.aposteriori.com.sg/other-resources/>

No need to copy!

```
/*  
 * Basic Blynk  
 */  
  
#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>  
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>  
  
// You should get Auth Token in the Blynk App.  
// Go to the Project Settings (nut icon).  
char auth[] = "YourAuthToken";  
  
// Your WiFi credentials.  
// Set password to "" for open networks.  
char ssid[] = "YourNetworkName";  
char pass[] = "YourPassword";  
  
void setup()  
{  
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);  
}  
  
void loop()  
{  
  Blynk.run();  
}
```

# WiFi SSID and Password

- SSID: Innovate\_Workshed
- Password: 1nnoWorkshed
  
- **Make sure to change these if you're trying it out at home!**

# Exercise 1: Basic Blynk

## #Include

Add the ESP8266 Wifi library and the Blynk library to your program.

## Variables

Variables are used to store values.

Set the WiFi ssid and password correctly. We'll deal with the Blynk token later.

## Tips

The "Arduino" programming language is just C/C++ with some added functions. You can refer to any C/C++ tutorials to learn more about the programming language.

```
/*
 * Basic Blynk
 */

#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

// You should get Auth Token in the Blynk App.
// Go to the Project Settings (nut icon).
char auth[] = "YourAuthToken";

// Your WiFi credentials.
// Set password to "" for open networks.
char ssid[] = "YourNetworkName";
char pass[] = "YourPassword";

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
}
```

# Exercise 1: Basic Blynk

## setup()

The code here will run **once** when the microcontroller is powered up.

## loop()

The code here will repeat forever. Every time the program reaches the end of the loop, it'll start again from the top.

```
/*
 * Basic Blynk
 */

#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

// You should get Auth Token in the Blynk App.
// Go to the Project Settings (nut icon).
char auth[] = "YourAuthToken";

// Your WiFi credentials.
// Set password to "" for open networks.
char ssid[] = "YourNetworkName";
char pass[] = "YourPassword";

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
}
```

# Exercise 1: Basic Blynk

## **Blynk.begin**

Connect your microcontroller to the WiFi network, then connect to the Blynk server.

## **Blynk.run**

Wait for commands from the Blynk server.

```
/*
 * Basic Blynk
 */

#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

// You should get Auth Token in the Blynk App.
// Go to the Project Settings (nut icon).
char auth[] = "YourAuthToken";

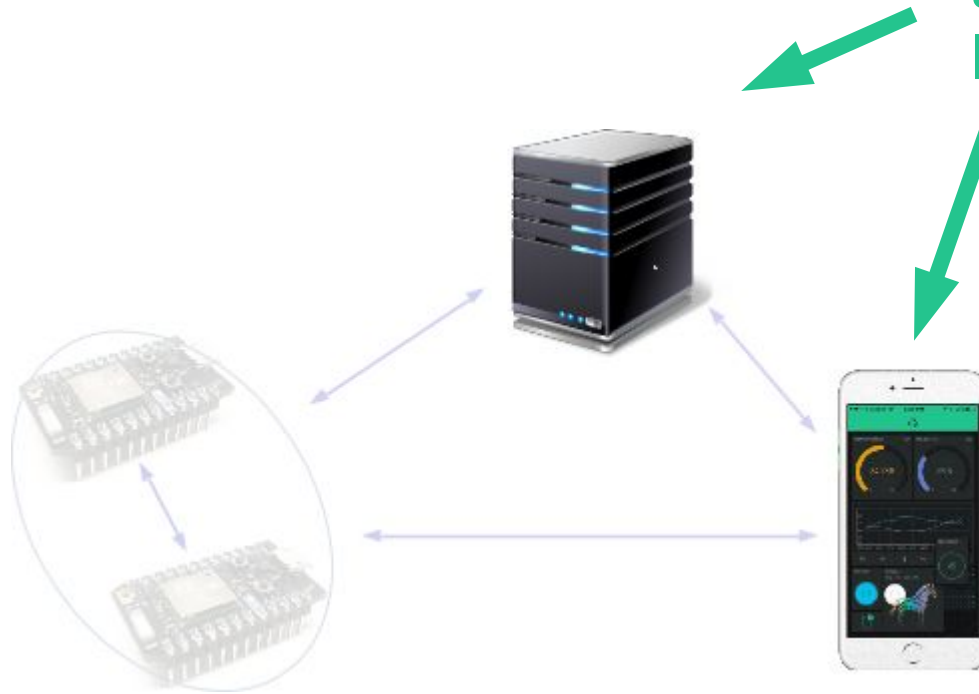
// Your WiFi credentials.
// Set password to "" for open networks.
char ssid[] = "YourNetworkName";
char pass[] = "YourPassword";

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
}
```



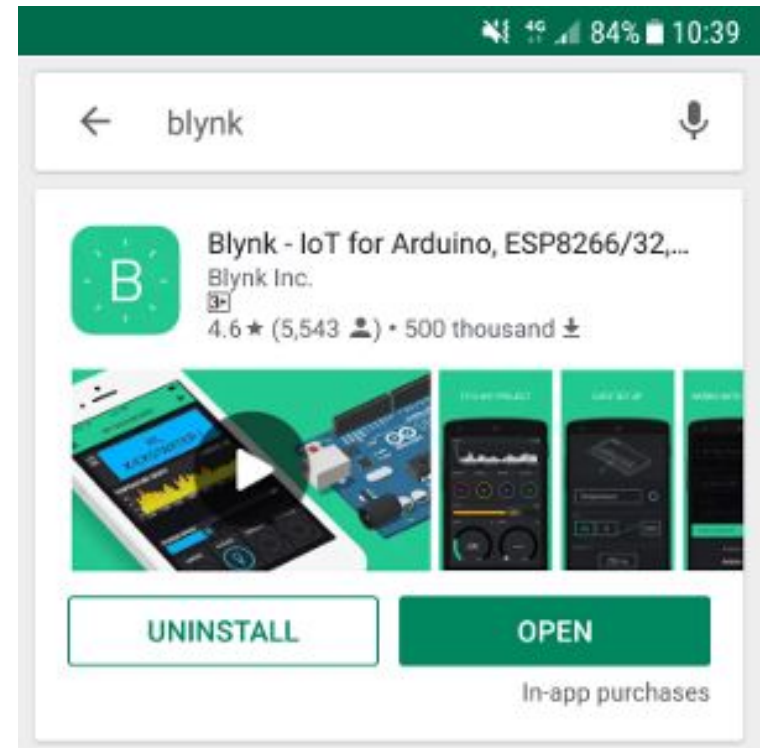
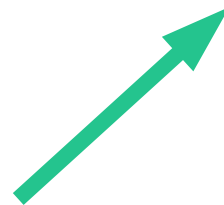
Blynk provides the server and the mobile app for your IoT device.



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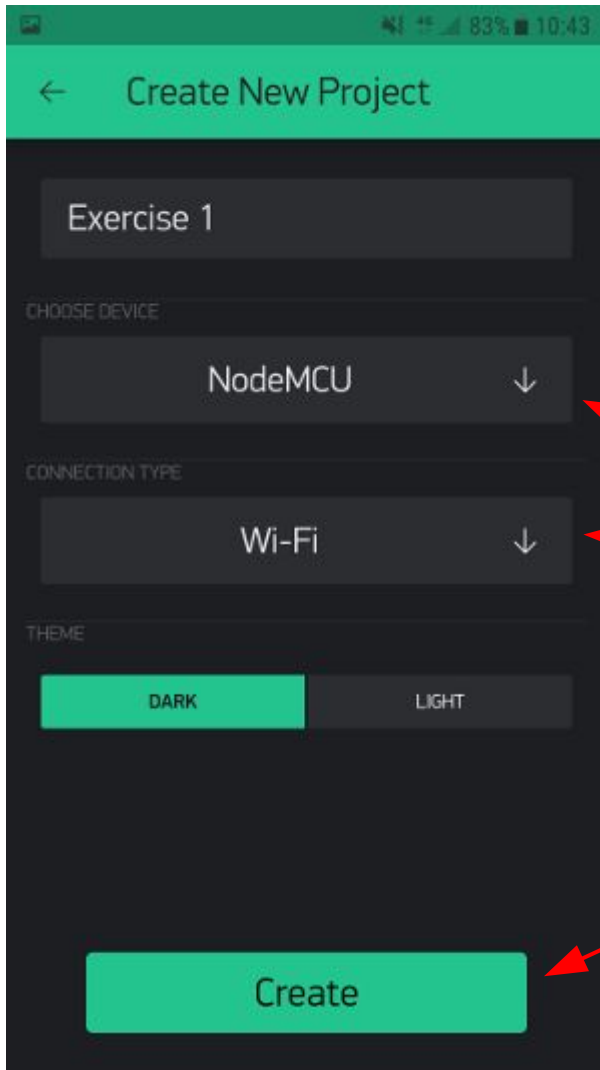
# Blynk

- Install Blynk
- Available for iOS or Android
- Register and Login

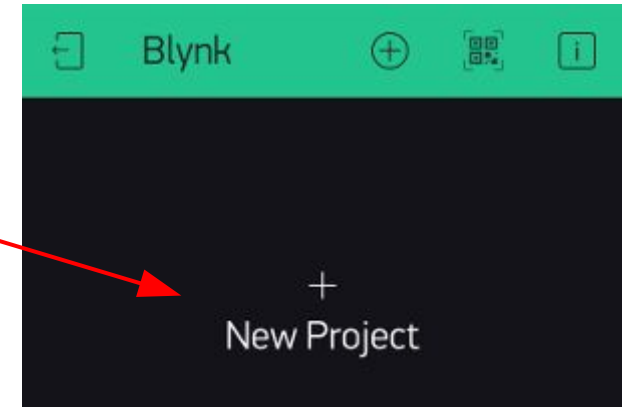




# Blynk



**Create a new project**



**Set "Device" to "NodeMCU" and "Connection Type" to "Wi-fi"**

**For the project name and theme, choose whatever you like.**

**Tap "Create" when you're done**

# Blynk

```
/*
 * Basic Blynk
 */

#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

// You should get Auth Token in the Blynk App.
// Go to the Project Settings (nut icon).
char auth[] = "YourAuthToken";

// Your WiFi credentials.
// Set password to "" for open networks.
char ssid[] = "YourNetworkName";
char pass[] = "YourPassword";

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
}
```

```
Blynk <dispatcher@blynk.io> Unsubscribe
to cort ▼

Auth Token : 6540315149b840cc857f771d47db5504
```

**Check your email for  
the Auth Token...**

**...and put it in here.**

**Make sure your WiFi ssid  
and password are correct!**

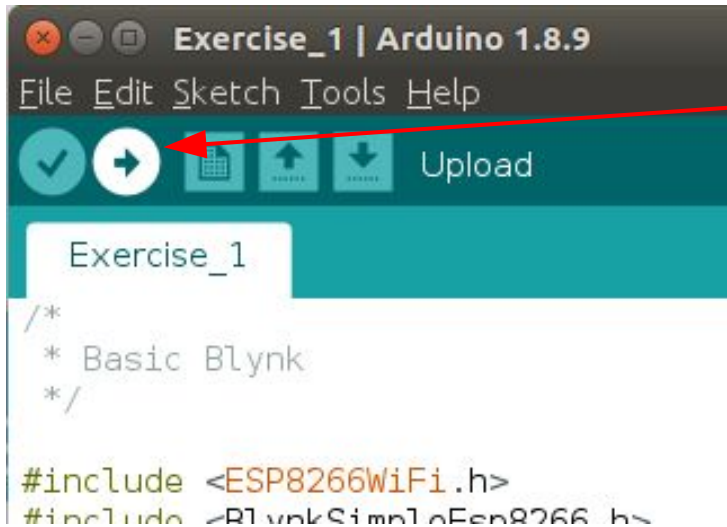
**Remember to change  
them if you're using your  
device at home.**

# Blynk



## Connect

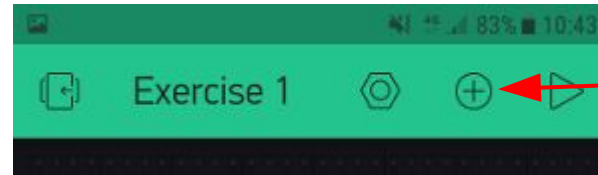
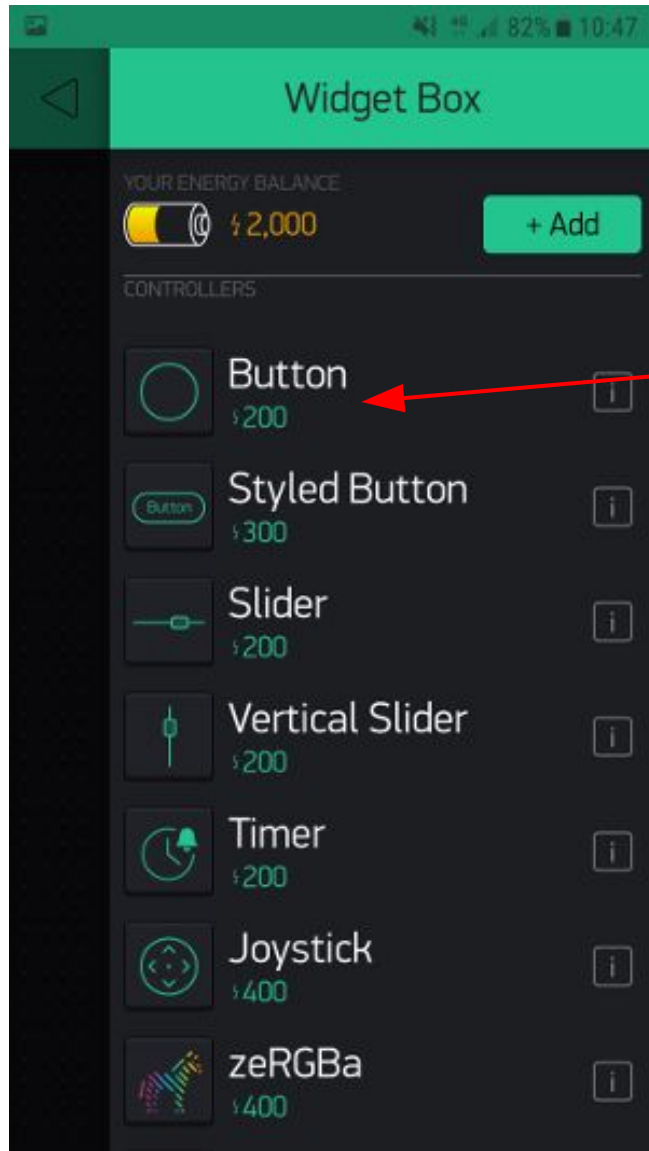
Connect your ESP8266 to your computer via a USB cable



## Upload

Click the upload button to upload your program into your microcontroller

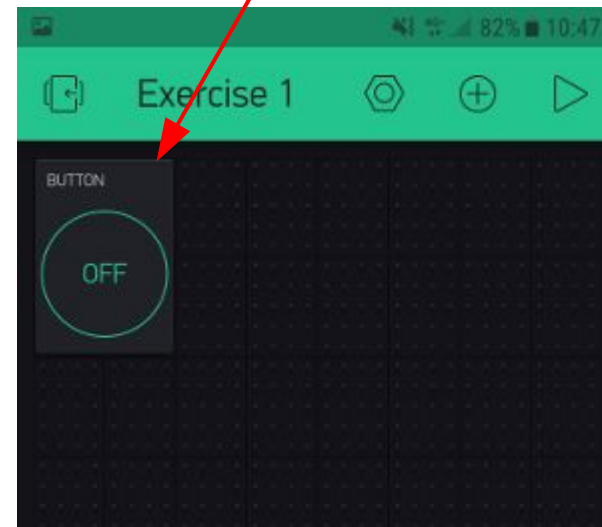
# Blynk



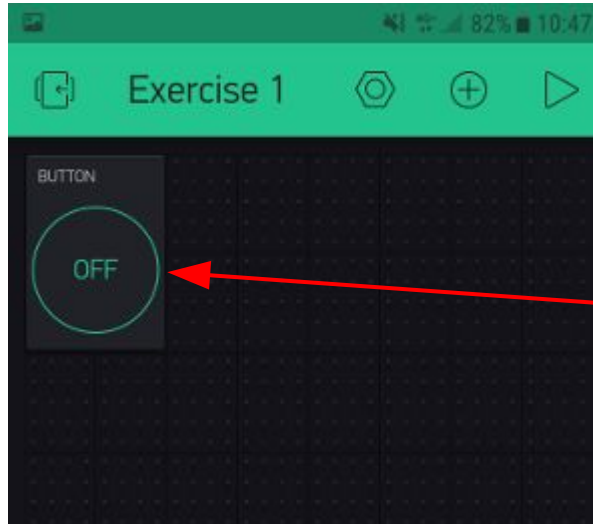
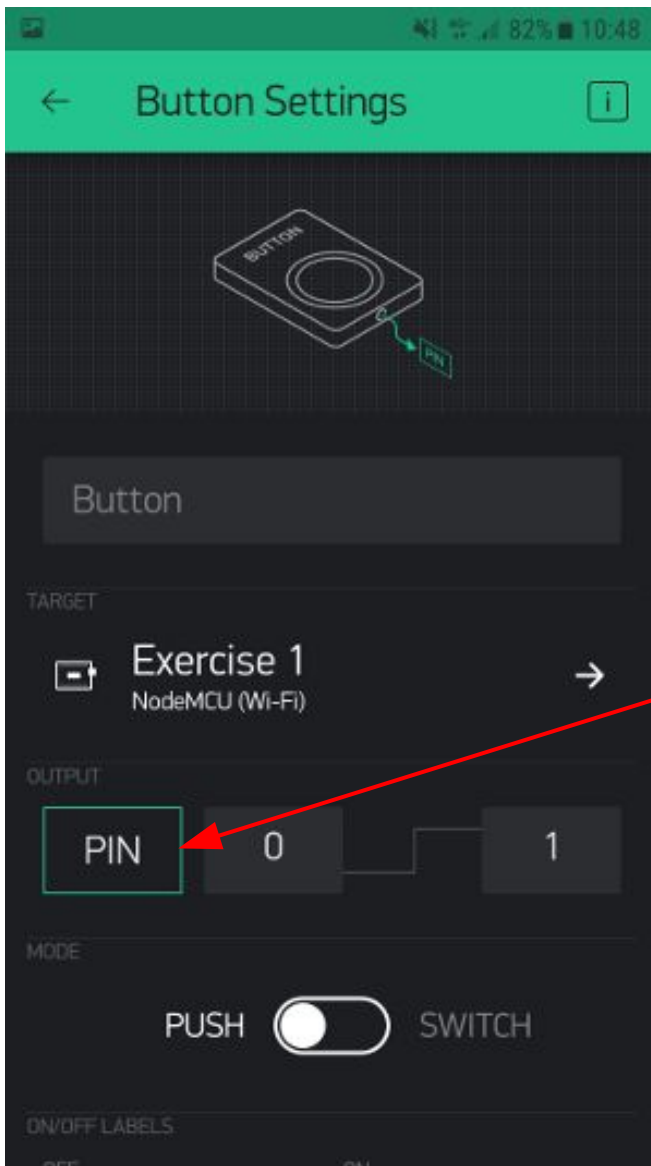
Tap the “+” to open a widget box

Tap this...

...to add a button to your screen



# Blynk



**Tap your newly added button to configure it**

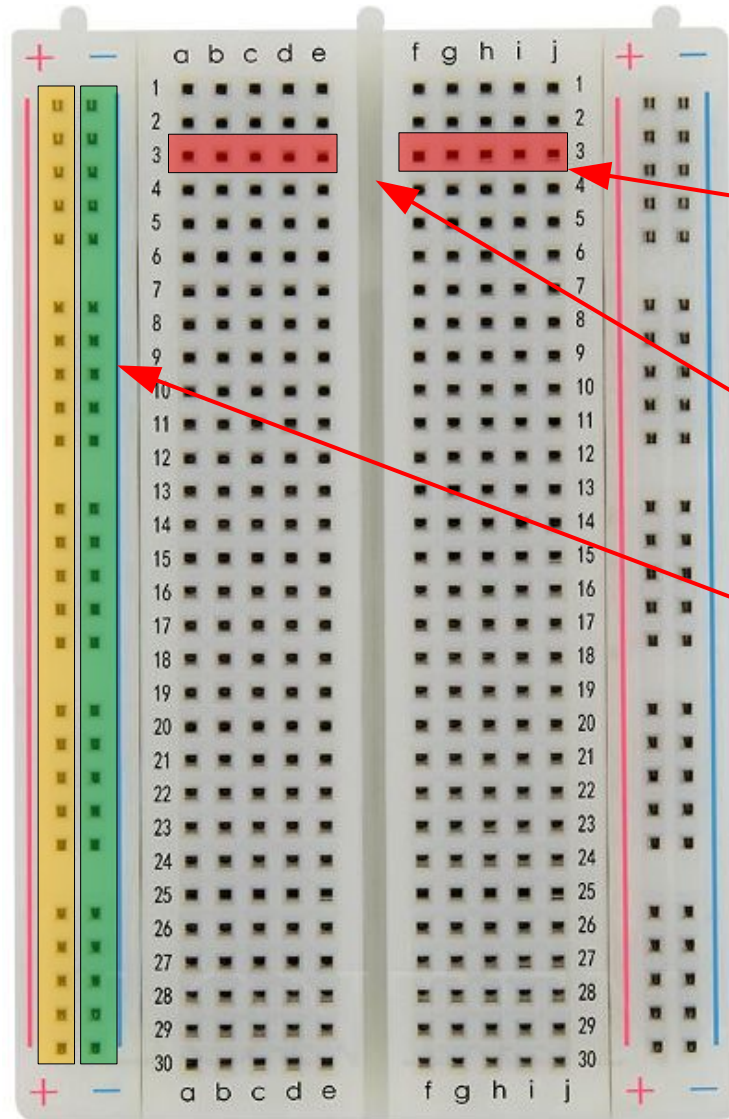
**Tap on “PIN” and select “Digital D4”**

D4 is connected to the built-in LED. You can set it to...

- 0 (LOW) : Turns ON LED
- 1 (HIGH) : Turns OFF LED

By default, Blynk will send a 0 when the button is released, and a 1 when the button is pressed. You can modify this by changing the 0 and 1 next to the PIN button.

# Exercise 1: Basic Blynk



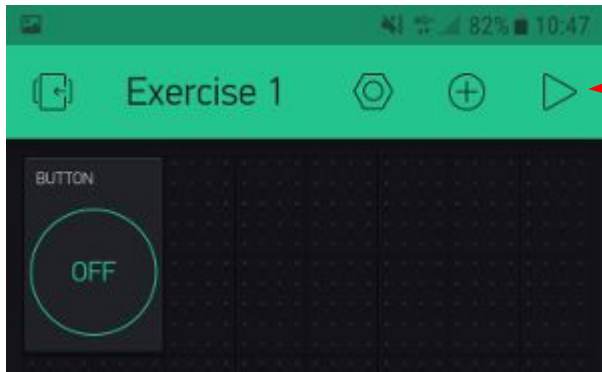
## Breadboard Basics

Holes in the same row are connected

No connection across center gap

Holes by the side are connected vertically across entire board

# Exercise 1: Basic Blynk

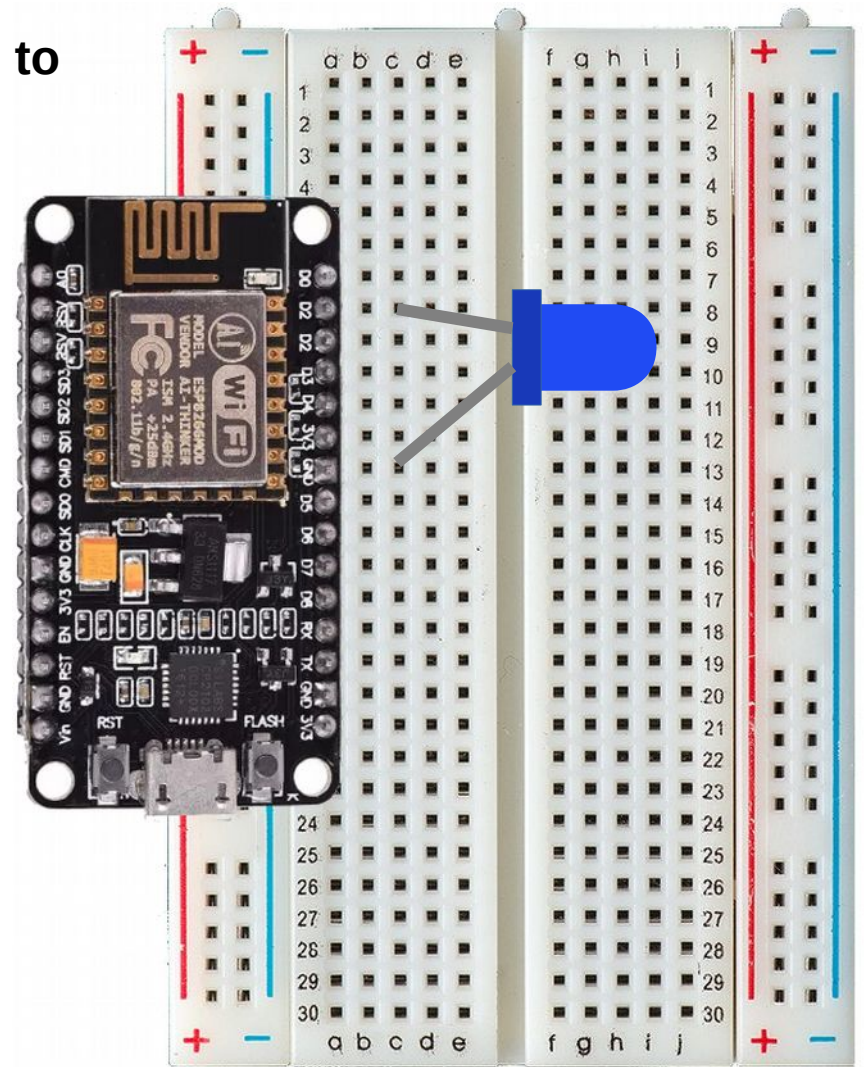


Tap the play button to start your app.

- Try using some other pins. You'll have to connect an external LED to see them work.

## LED

The longer leg should be connected to positive. Shorter leg to negative / ground.

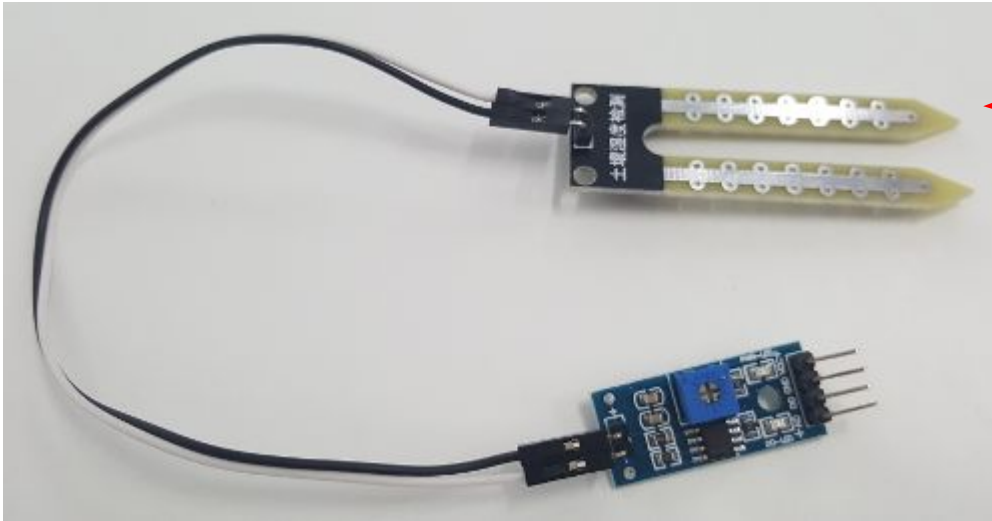


## Exercise 2 : Analog Data

- Read analog data from the ESP8266
- Control power output



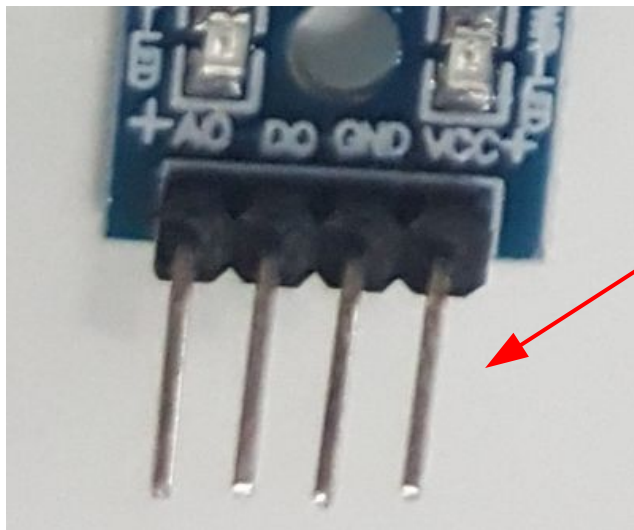
# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



**Connect the sensor probe to the sensor board  
(...orientation doesn't matter)**

## **Hygrometer**

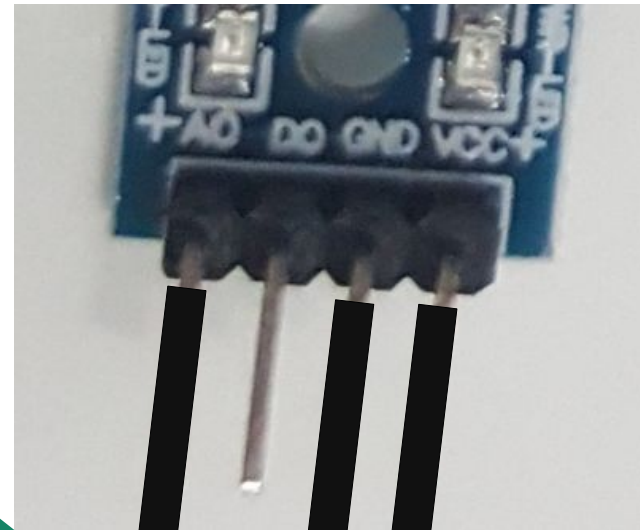
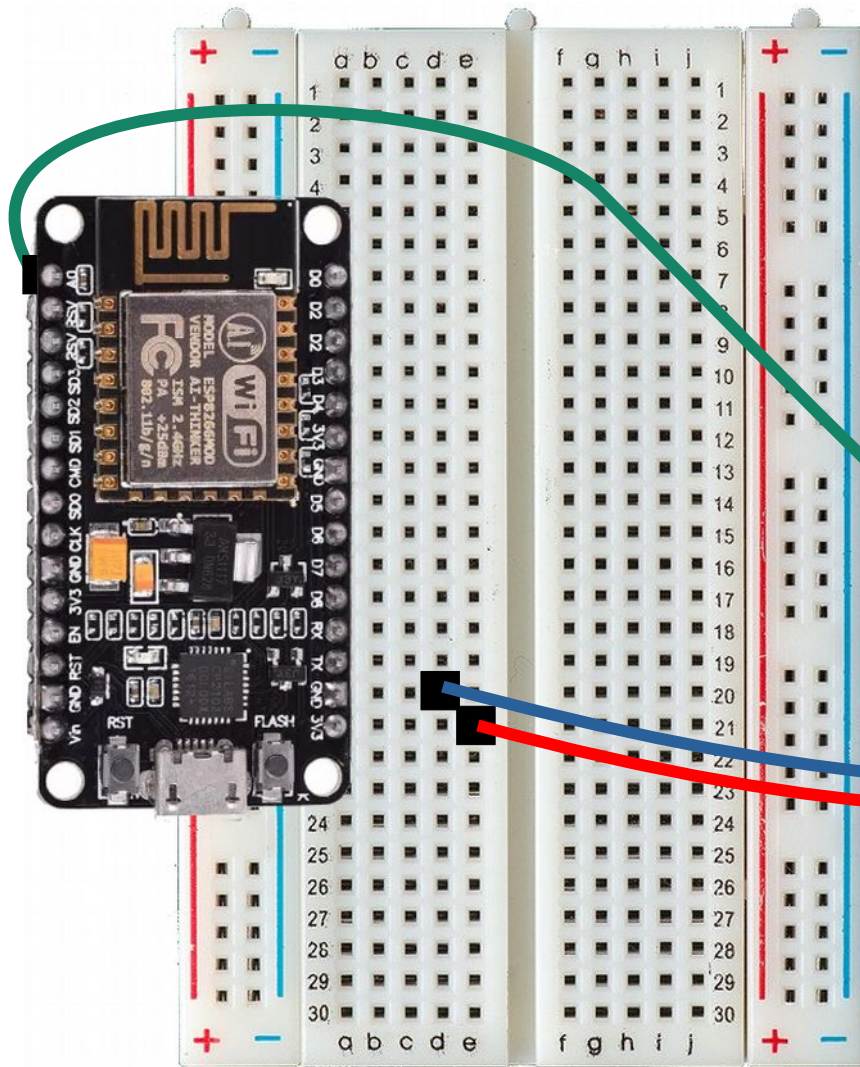
This is a device for measuring water.



**Connect the sensor board to the ESP8266 according to the following table:**

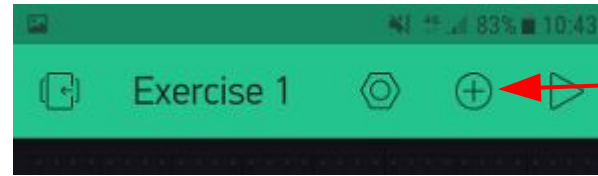
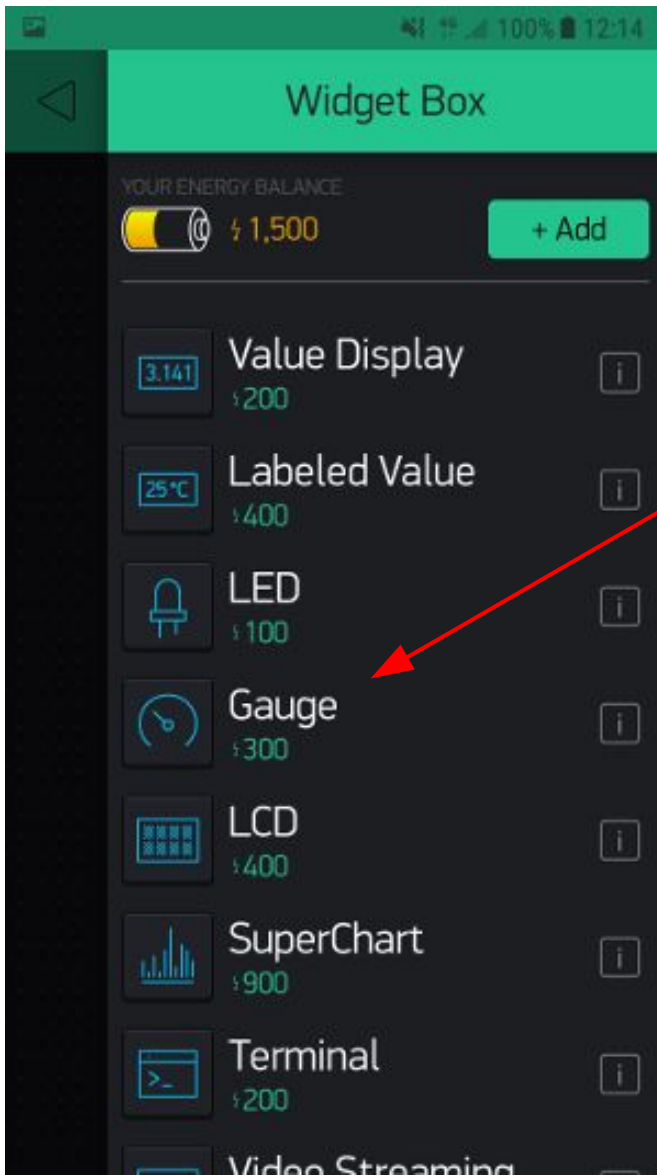
<u>Sensor</u>	<u>ESP8266</u>
VCC	3V
GND	G
A0	A0
D0	Not used. Don't connect

# Exercise 2: Analog Data



<u>Sensor</u>	<u>ESP8266</u>
VCC	3V
GND	G
A0	A0
DO	Not used. Don't connect

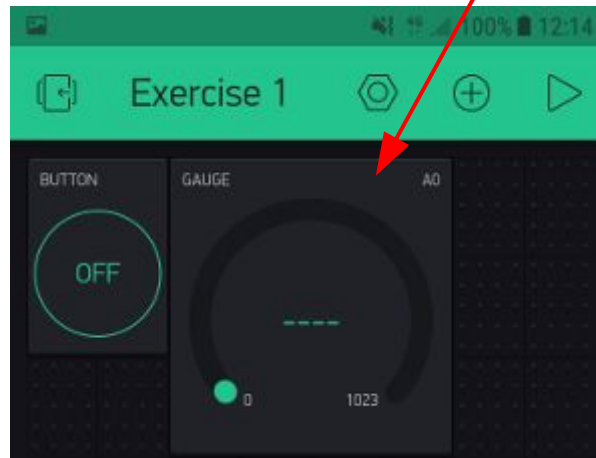
# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



Tap the “+” to open a widget box

Tap this...

...to add a Gauge to your screen

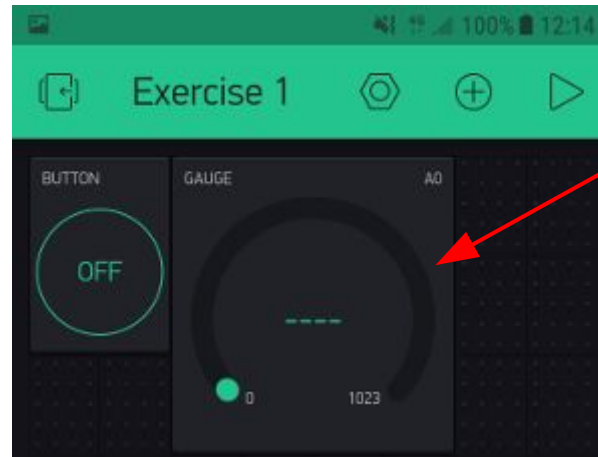
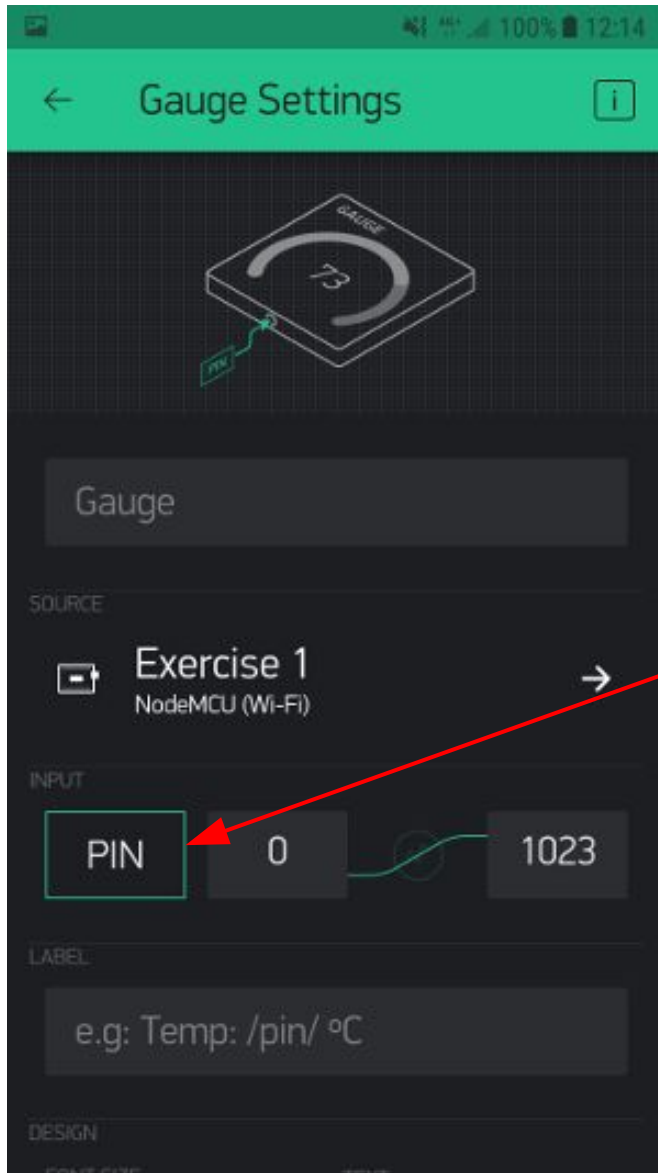


You can also try...

- Level H
- Level V
- Value Display
- Labeled Value

...they provide different ways of displaying the analog value.

# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



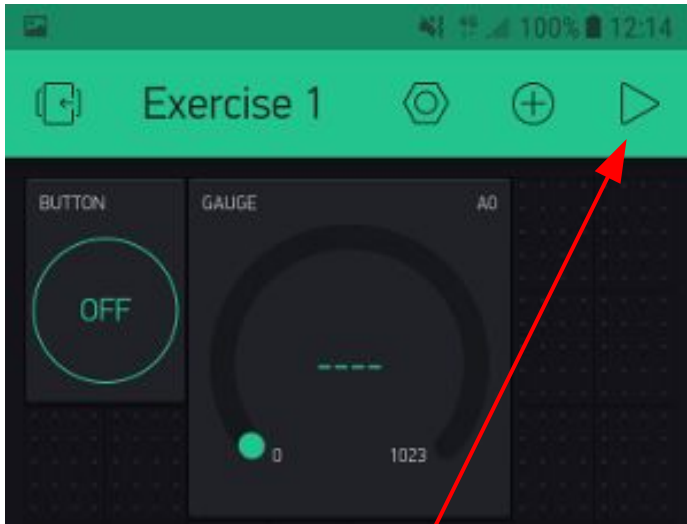
Tap the gauge to open its settings page

Tap on “PIN” and select “Analog A0”

By default, the Blynk app will **PULL** data from the microcontroller once every 1s. You can change the frequency at the bottom of this settings page.

The microcontroller can also **PUSH** data to the Blynk app.

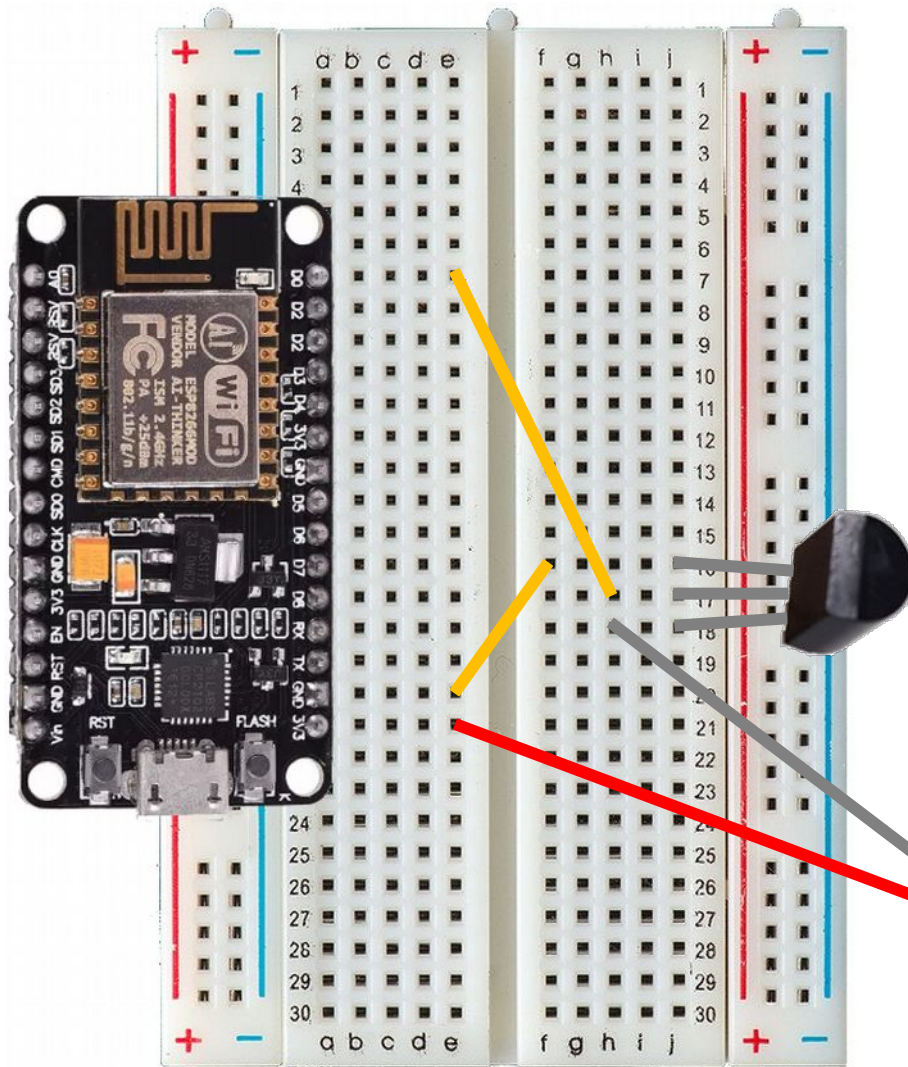
# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



Tap the play button to start your app.

- Try dipping the hygrometer probe into water and watch the gauge value change
- You can use the hygrometer to...
  - Measure water level in your pet's water bowl
  - Measure soil moisture for your plants
  - Measure rain intensity

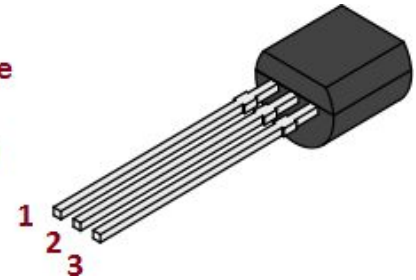
# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



## Connecting the pump

The pump motor requires more current than what the ESP8266 output pins can provide, so we'll use a transistor as a switch to turn the motor on and off.

1: Source  
2: Gate  
3: Drain



## Transistor connections

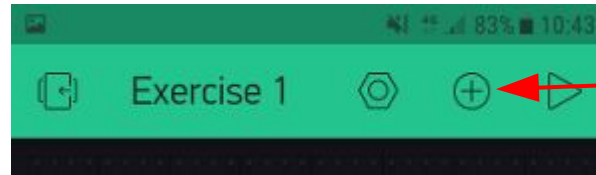
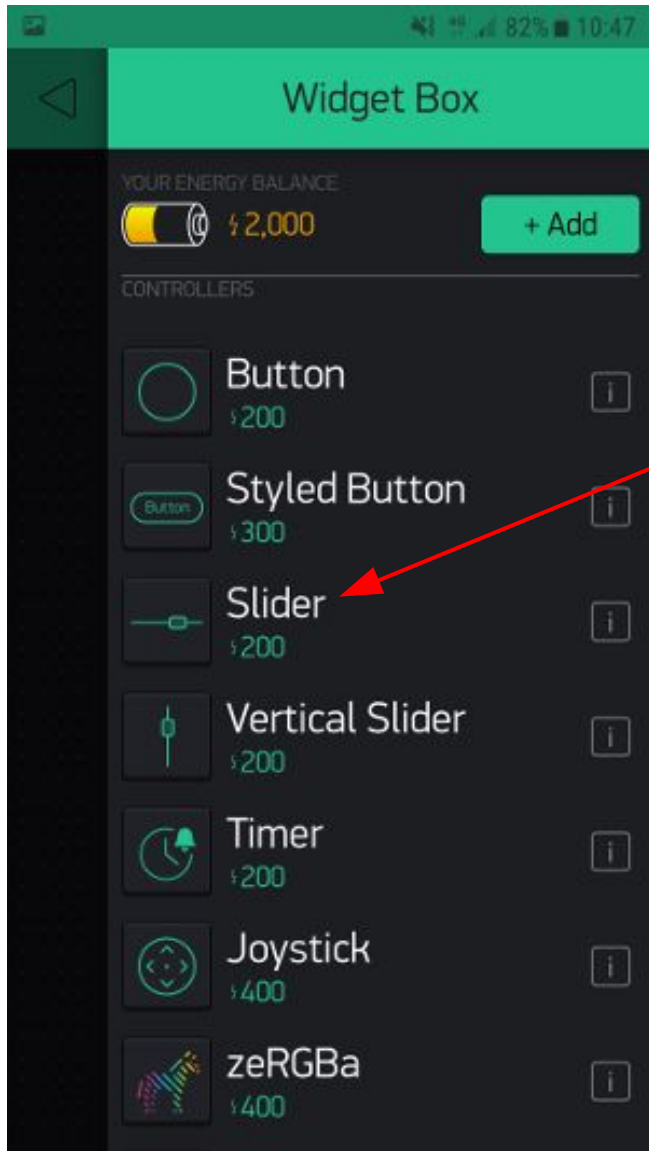
Source → G  
Gate → D0  
Drain → Motor (White wire)

## Pump connections

Red Wire → 3V  
White Wire → Transistor (Drain)



# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



Tap the “+” to open a widget box

Tap this...

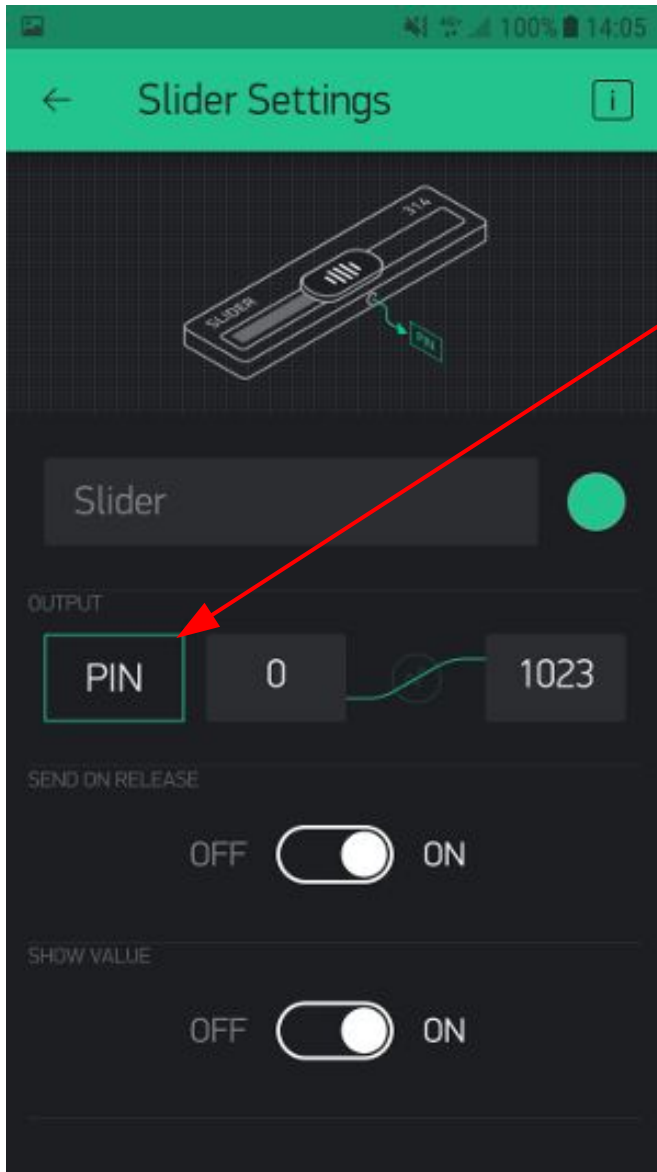
...to add a slider to your screen



Your slider is probably smaller than what you see here.

Press and hold the slider to resize it.

# Exercise 2 : Analog Data



**Open the slider's setting page, then tap on "PIN" and select "Digital D0"**

You can also try using D4 to control the LED brightness.

**Run your app and try adjusting the motor speed / LED brightness.**

Note:

If your power is set too low, the motor may not turn at all.



# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

- Setting timers
- Pushing data from microcontroller to Blynk

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

## Why?

- **Timer**
  - Allow microcontroller to do things on it's own without user control (eg. water plants once a day)
- **Push**
  - Pulling data only works when app is running
  - Having the microcontroller push data to the server allows us to record readings even when the app is off

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

These are the same as before with comments removed to save screen space. **(Remember to set your own auth token, ssid, and password)**

This creates a timer object. We'll be using it later to set our timer.

“stopWater” and “startWater” are functions. They **will not run** until we call them. We'll look at them in more details later.

**Download “Exercise 3 part 1” from...**

**<https://www.aposteriori.com.sg/other-resources/>**

```
#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

char auth[] = "YourAuthToken";
char ssid[] = "YourNetworkName";
char pass[] = "YourPassword";

BlynkTimer timer;

void stopWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, LOW);
}

void startWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, HIGH);
  timer.setTimeout(5*1000, stopWater);
}

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
  pinMode(D0, OUTPUT);
  timer.setInterval(60*1000, startWater);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
  timer.run();
}
```

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

## pinMode

Sets pin D0 as an output. Most microcontroller pins can be used as either an input or output.

## timer.setInterval

Set an interval timer for 60\*1000 milliseconds (ie. 60 secs). Interval means that it will run the specified function (startWater) once every 60 secs and repeat it forever.

## timer.run

This allows the timer to run.

```
BlynkTimer timer;

void stopWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, LOW);
}

void startWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, HIGH);
  timer.setTimeout(5*1000, stopWater);
}

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
  pinMode(D0, OUTPUT);
  timer.setInterval(60*1000, startWater);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
  timer.run();
}
```

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

## startWater

Our interval timer will run this function once every 60 secs.

## digitalWrite

Set D0 to high (3.3V). This will turn the pump on.

## timer.setTimeout

Set an timeout timer for 5\*1000 milliseconds (ie. 5 secs). Timeout means that the specified function (stopWater) will run only once without repeating.

```
BlynkTimer timer;

void stopWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, LOW);
}

void startWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, HIGH);
  timer.setTimeout(5*1000, stopWater);
}

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
  pinMode(D0, OUTPUT);
  timer.setInterval(60*1000, startWater);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
  timer.run();
}
```

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

## stopWater

Our timeout timer will run this function after 5 secs.

## digitalWrite

Set D0 to low (0V). This will turn the pump off.

```
BlynkTimer timer;

void stopWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, LOW);
}

void startWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, HIGH);
  timer.setTimeout(5*1000, stopWater);
}

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
  pinMode(D0, OUTPUT);
  timer.setInterval(60*1000, startWater);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
  timer.run();
}
```

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

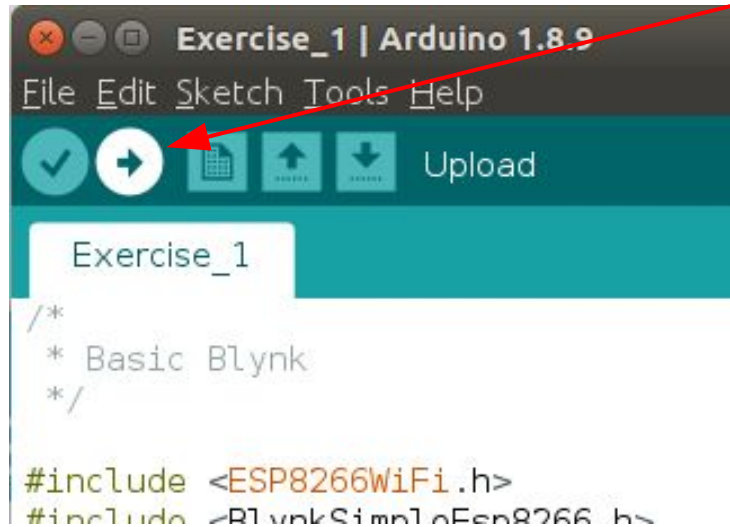


## Connect

Connect your ESP8266 to your computer via a USB cable

## Upload

Click the upload button to upload your program into your microcontroller



## Test Program

Test out your program, then try modifying it to make the LED on pin D4 blink using the timer.

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

Download “Exercise 3 part 2” from...

<https://www.aposteriori.com.sg/other-resources/>

Remember to set your own auth token, ssid, and password

## recordWater()

This is a function. We'll run it periodically using an interval timer.

## timer.setInterval

Set an interval timer for 2000 milliseconds (ie. 2 secs). This will cause the timer to run the “recordWater” function every 2 seconds.

**Warning: Do not set it any lower than 100 milliseconds. Excessive writes to the Blynk server will cause your account to be banned.**

```
BlynkTimer timer;

void stopWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, LOW);
}

void startWater()
{
  digitalWrite(D0, HIGH);
  timer.setTimeout(5*1000, stopWater);
}

void recordWater()
{
  int water = analogRead(A0);
  Blynk.virtualWrite(V1, water);
}

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
  pinMode(D0, OUTPUT);
  timer.setInterval(60*1000, startWater);
  timer.setInterval(2000, recordWater);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
  timer.run();
}
```



# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

## **analogRead()**

Reads the value from pin A0 and place the value inside a interger (int) variable named “water”.

The value can range from 0 (min) to 1023 (max).

## **Blynk.virtualWrite**

Writes the value of “water” to a virtual pin (V1). You can then read this value from your Blynk app.

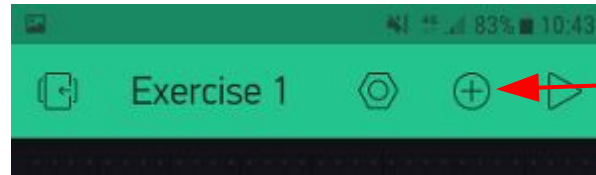
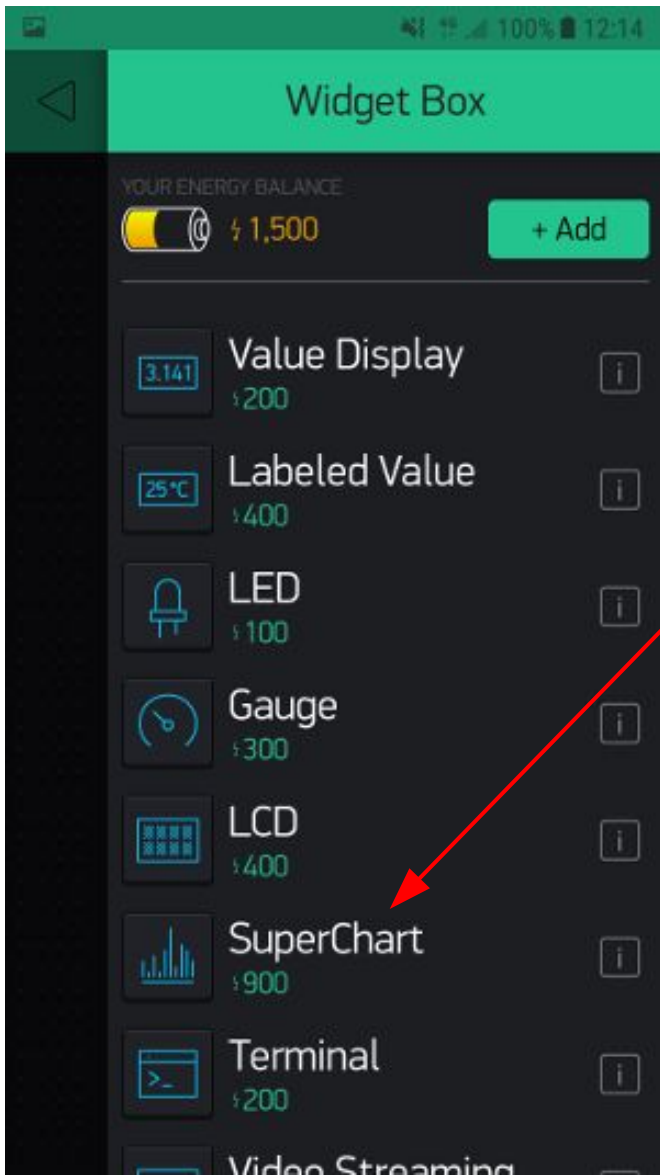
The server will store these values even if your phone is off.

```
void recordWater()
{
  int water = analogRead(A0);
  Blynk.virtualWrite(V1, water);
}

void setup()
{
  Blynk.begin(auth, ssid, pass);
  pinMode(D0, OUTPUT);
  timer.setInterval(60*1000, startWater);
  timer.setInterval(2000, recordWater);
}

void loop()
{
  Blynk.run();
  timer.run();
}
```

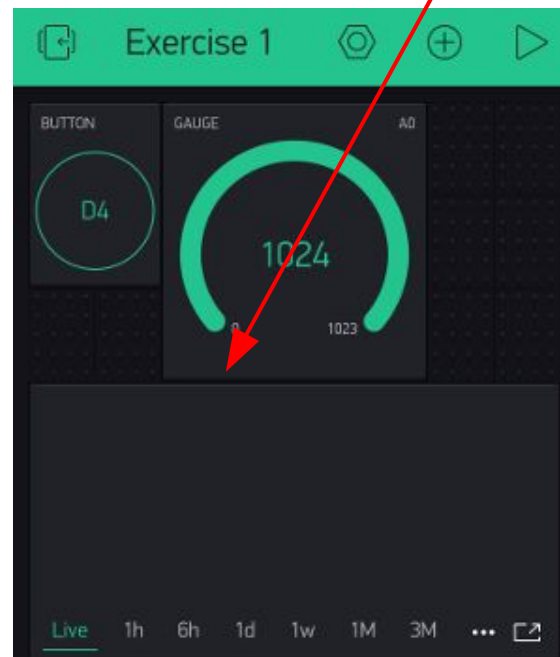
# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push



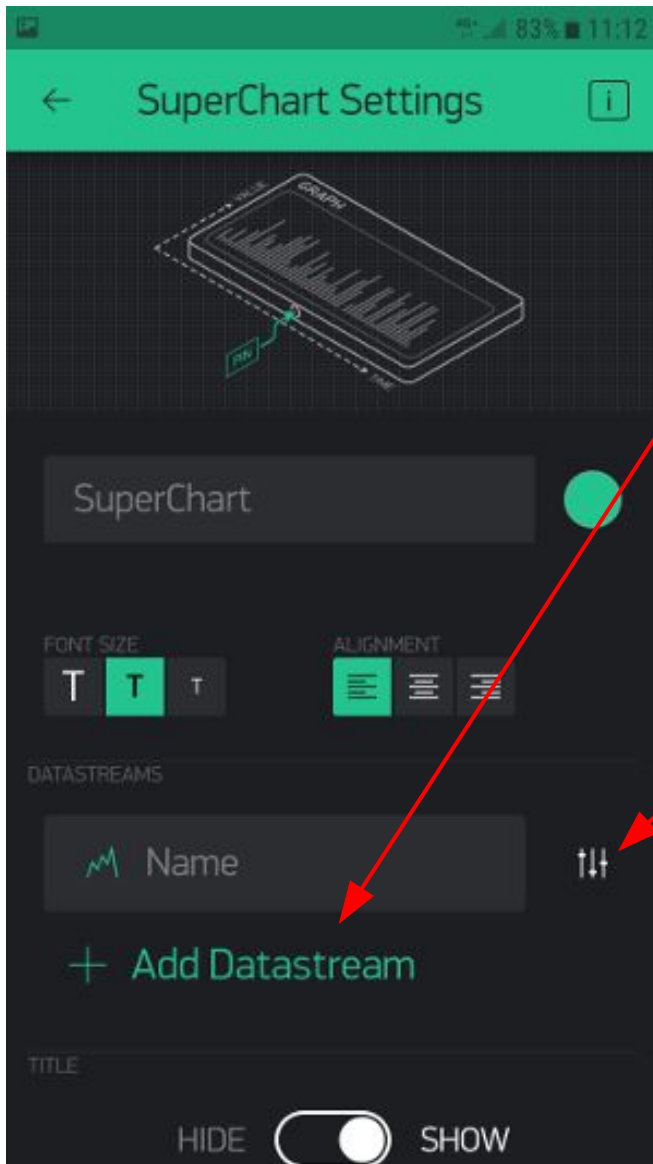
Tap the “+” to open a widget box

Tap this...

...to add a Chart to your screen



# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push

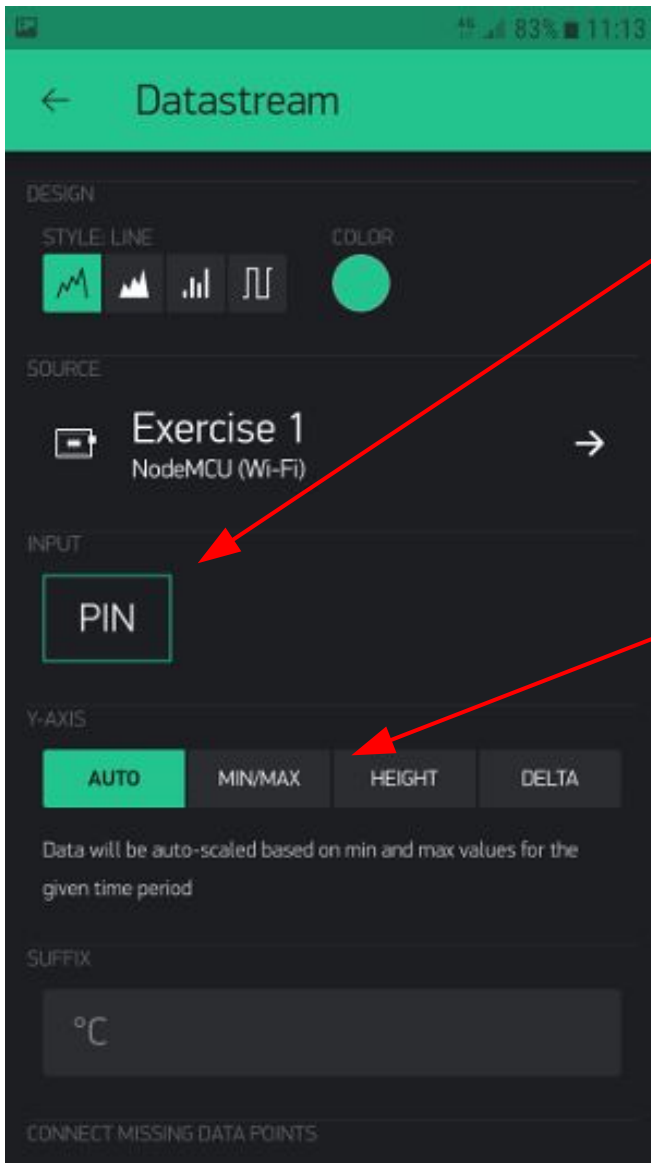


## Add a new Datastream

You can add more than one stream if you have multiple data sources (eg. water sensor and light sensor).

After adding the datastream, tap here to edit the datastream.

# Exercise 3 : Timer and Push



## Set PIN to Virtual V1

You can also use Analog A0, but if you do so, there will be no data recordings when your app is not running.

## Optionally, set the Y-AXIS to MIN/MAX and set the range to...

- MIN : 0
- MAX : 1023.

# Challenges and Improvements

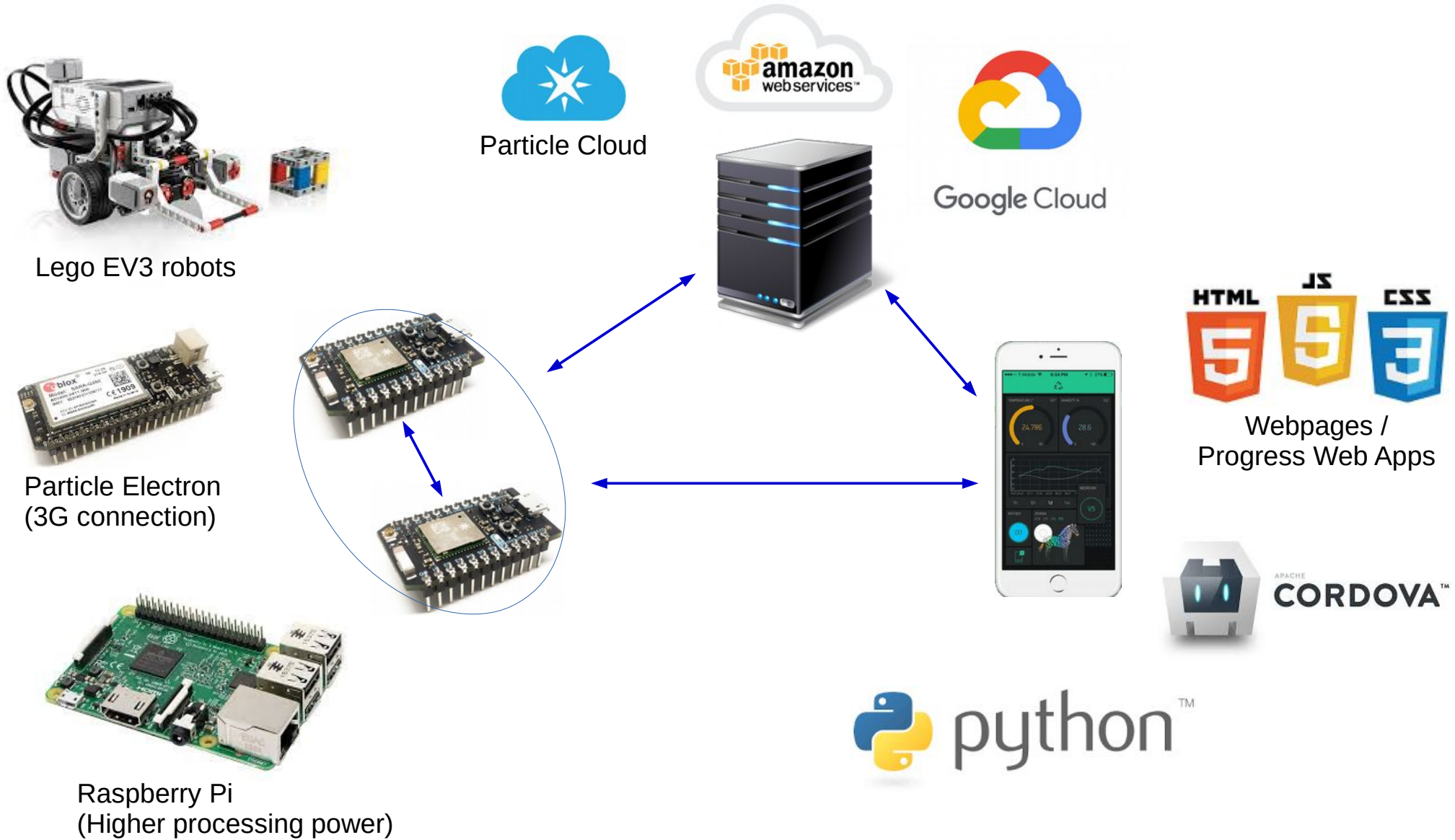
- Modify the watering function to only run if the water level is low
- Mount the pump and the ESP8266 properly
- If used for watering plants, add in controllable LED lights
- Add in warning notifications if the water level is too low

# Challenges and Improvements

## Plant Watering System (complete with controllable LED lights)



# Learning More



# Learning More



LED Strips



Servo Motors



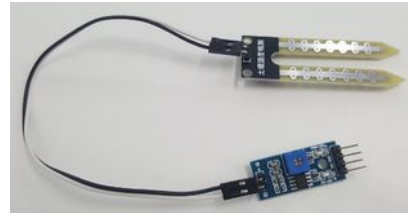
Stepper Motors



RFID Readers



Ultrasonic Distance Sensor



Temperature and Humidity



Camera  
(for image recognition  
or QR Codes)



Wheeled motors  
(for robots)



Gyro and  
acceleration



Laser Distance  
Sensor



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Slide 57

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