

How To Install WLED On ESP8266

The software I used to flash my ESP8266 is called [NodeMCU PyFlasher](#). Thanks to marcelstoer for building it.

Checkout this [NodeMCU PyFlasher releases section](#).

You can see that there is a `.dmg` if you are using MacOS and a `.exe` if you are using Windows. Download and install whatever is appropriate for your computer and lets move on.

Now that we have a utility to flash our ESP8266, we need some firmware. Head over to the [WLED Releases Section](#).

WLED version 0.8.5

Aircoookie released this on Sep 12 · 29 commits to master since this release

It's a brand new day, it's never too late for a new release!

- Added support for MQTT authentication
- Added Captive portal in AP mode
-> Breaking change: The IP of your ESP8266 in AP mode is now **4.3.2.1**
- Added the TwinkleFOX effect
- Added Orangery, C9 and Sakura palettes
- Update to ArduinoJSON v6
- Support APA102

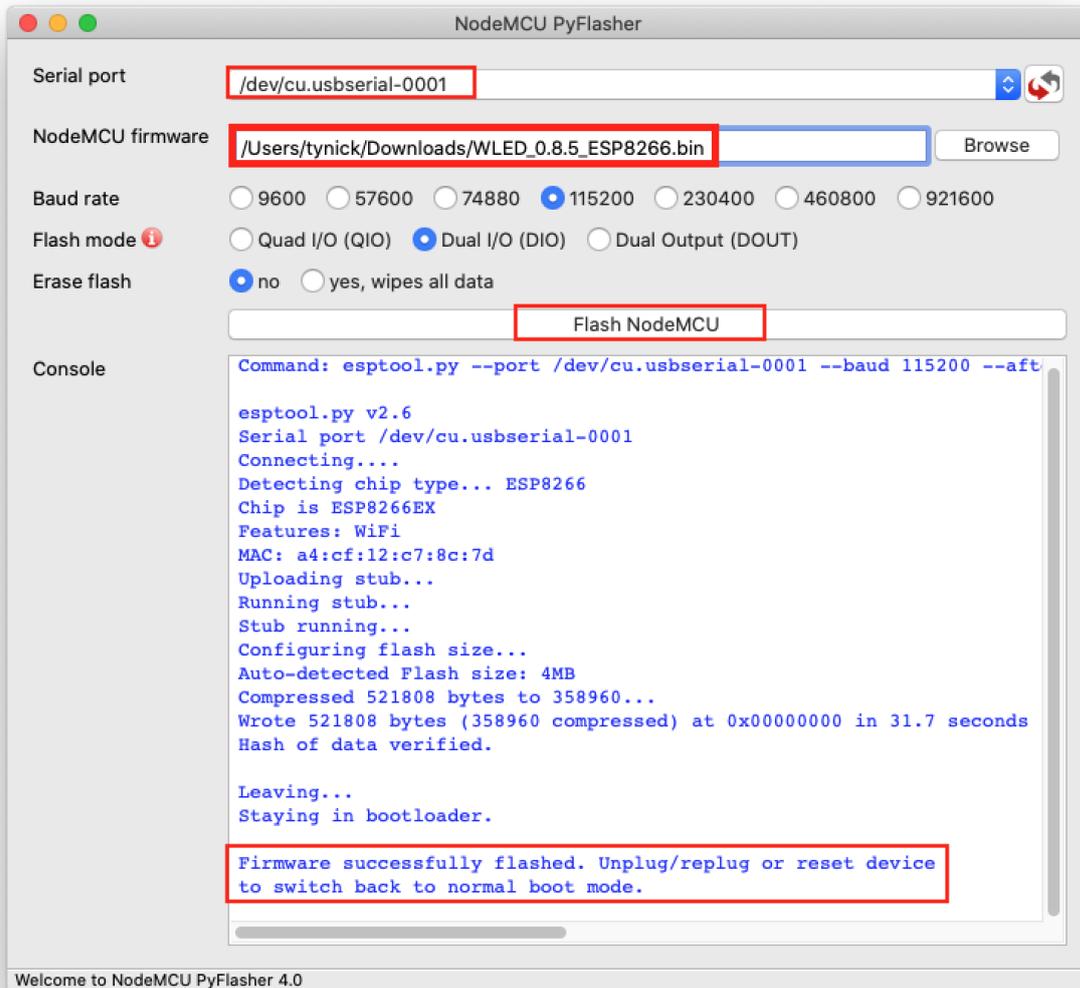
▼ Assets 8

WLED_0.8.5_ESP01_1m.bin	496 KB
WLED_0.8.5_ESP01_512k.bin	481 KB
WLED_0.8.5_ESP32.bin	1000 KB
WLED_0.8.5_ESP8266.bin	510 KB
WLED_0.8.5_ESP8266_APA102.bin	558 KB
WLED_0.8.5_ESP8266_IR.bin	534 KB
Source code (zip)	
Source code (tar.gz)	

Make sure you get the version that says `Latest release`.

When picking what `bin` to download from the `Assets` section, choose the filename that says `WLED_<version-number>_ESP8266.bin`. This version will work with the ESP8266 that I've linked above. I don't know much about the others.

Next, connect your ESP8266 to your computer with a micro USB cable and open [NodeMCU PyFlasher](#).



Select the USB device for `Serial port`.

Select the `.bin` we downloaded earlier for `NodeMCU firmware`.

Press `Flash NodeMCU` and cross your fingers.

If all goes well, you should see a success message below after 30-60 seconds.

If you have trouble with the above steps, please verify that your micro USB cable is capable of transferring data. I also had an issue on a MacBook where I needed to disable Bluetooth before my USB device would show up under the `Serial port` list.

You should now have WLED installed on your ESP8266. Lets connect some LEDs and then get it configured!

How To Configure WLED

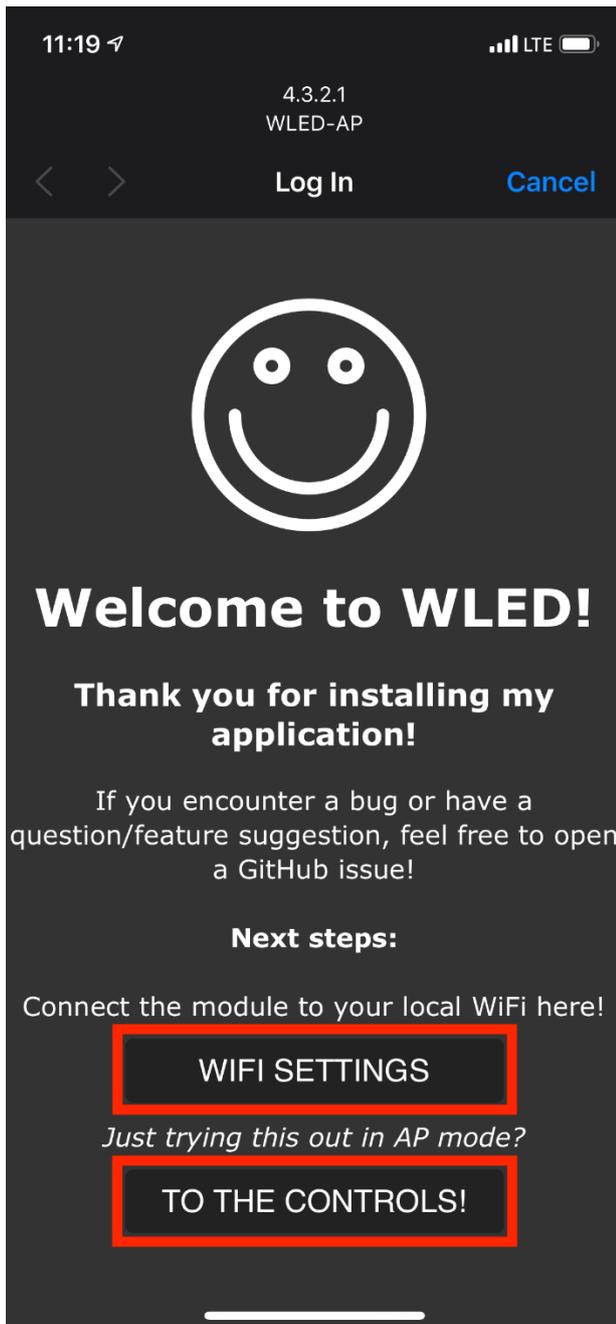
There is so much you can do with WLED. I am going to run you through the basic setup so you can get started. After that feel free to play with all of the options and toys it has built in.

Now that the ESP8266 is flashed with WLED and powered on, we can connect to the built in access point that it broadcasts by default.



View nearby WiFi networks on your phone. You should see an SSID with the name `WLED-AP`.

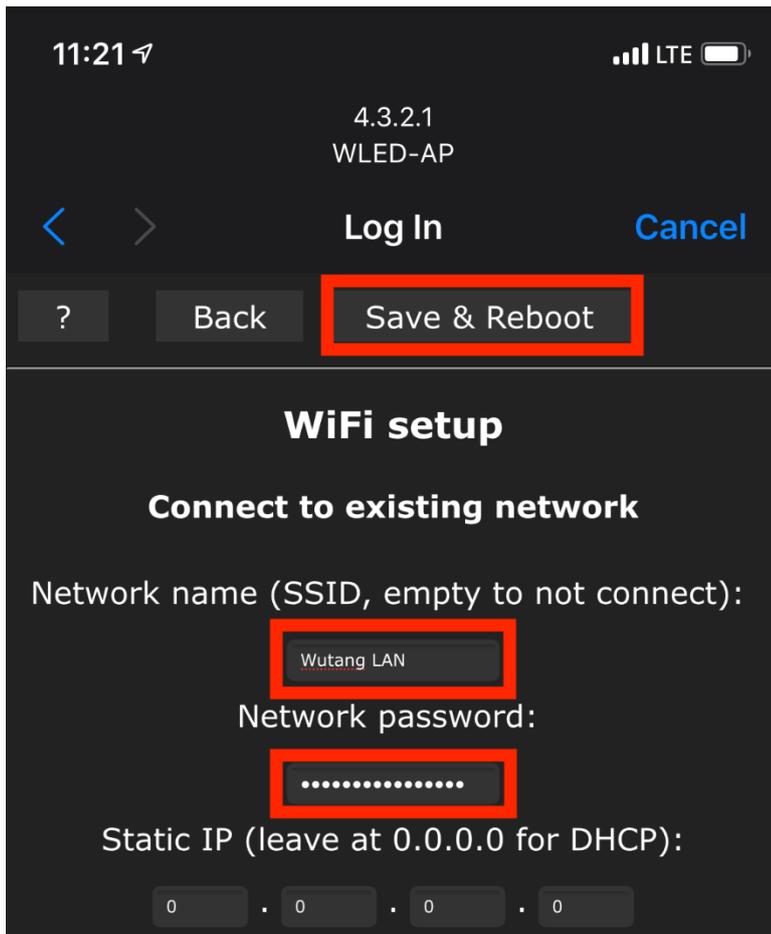
Connect to the `WLED-AP` network using the password `wled1234` and you should be greeted with a captive portal.



Once connected to the access point, you have the option to configure the ESP8266 to connect to your local WiFi or you can just start controlling the LEDs.

I suggest connecting the controller to your WiFi network. This will prevent you from needing to connect to a new access point anytime you want to make a change to your LEDs.

Select **WIFI SETTINGS**.



If you have a pretty basic network, just enter your SSID, password and then press [Save & Reboot](#).

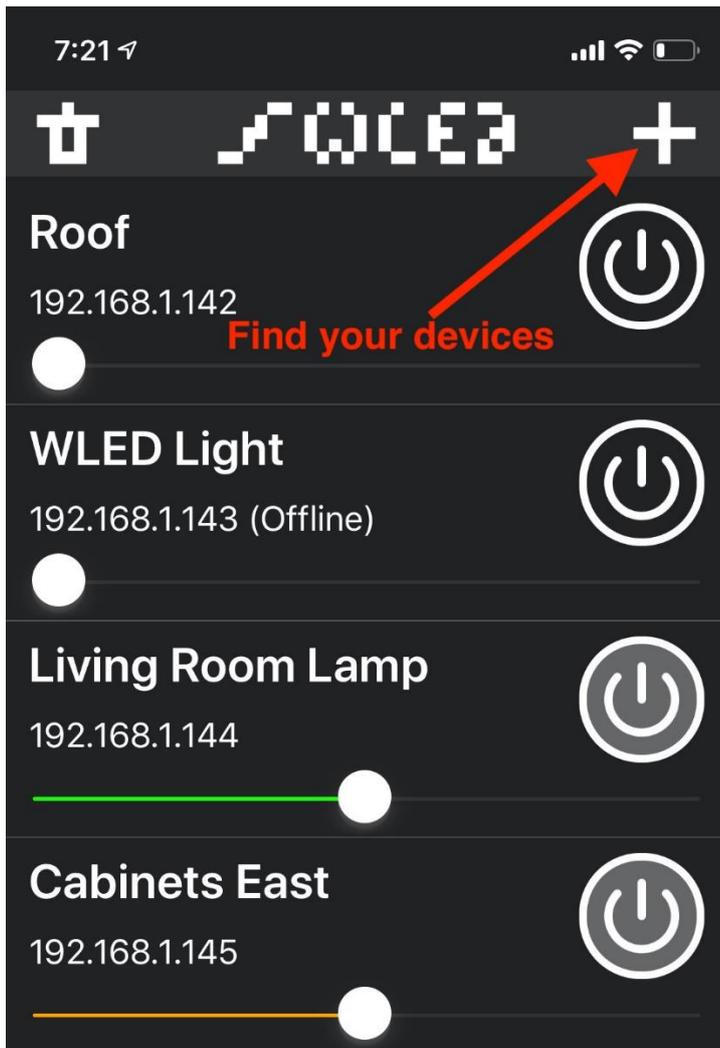
When your ESP8266 reboots, it should automatically connect to your WiFi network.

WLED Phone App

Now that we have a working WLED device, we can now download the WLED app.

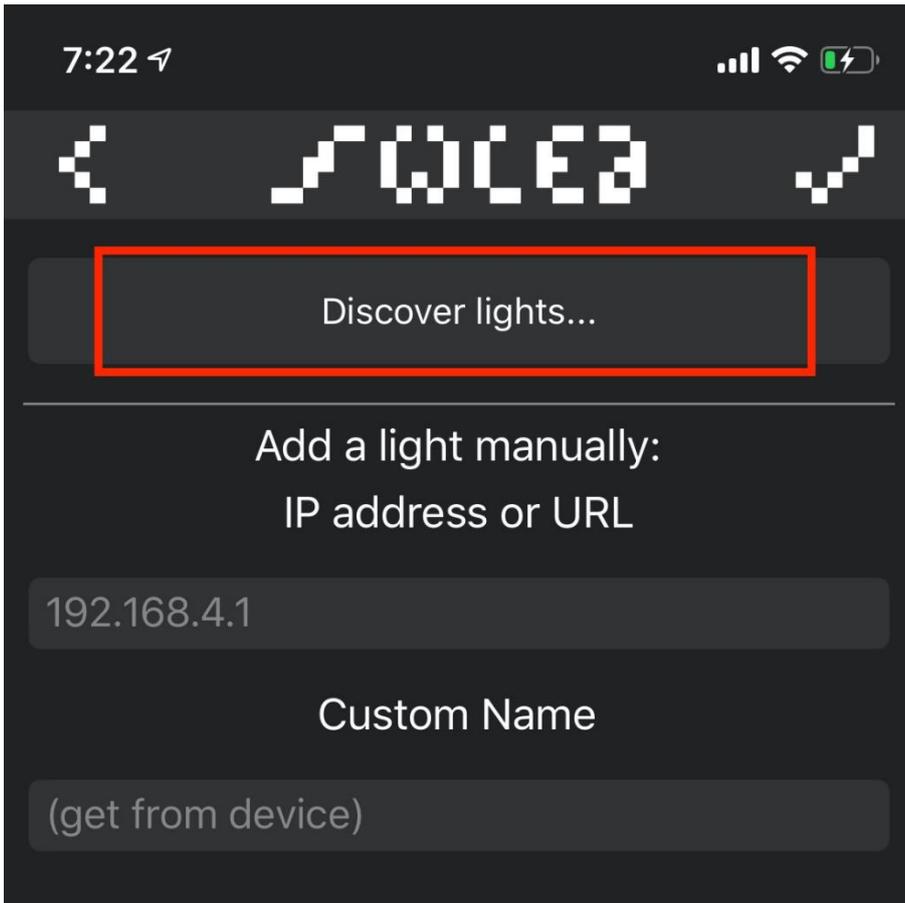
[WLED iOS App](#)

[WLED Android App](#)



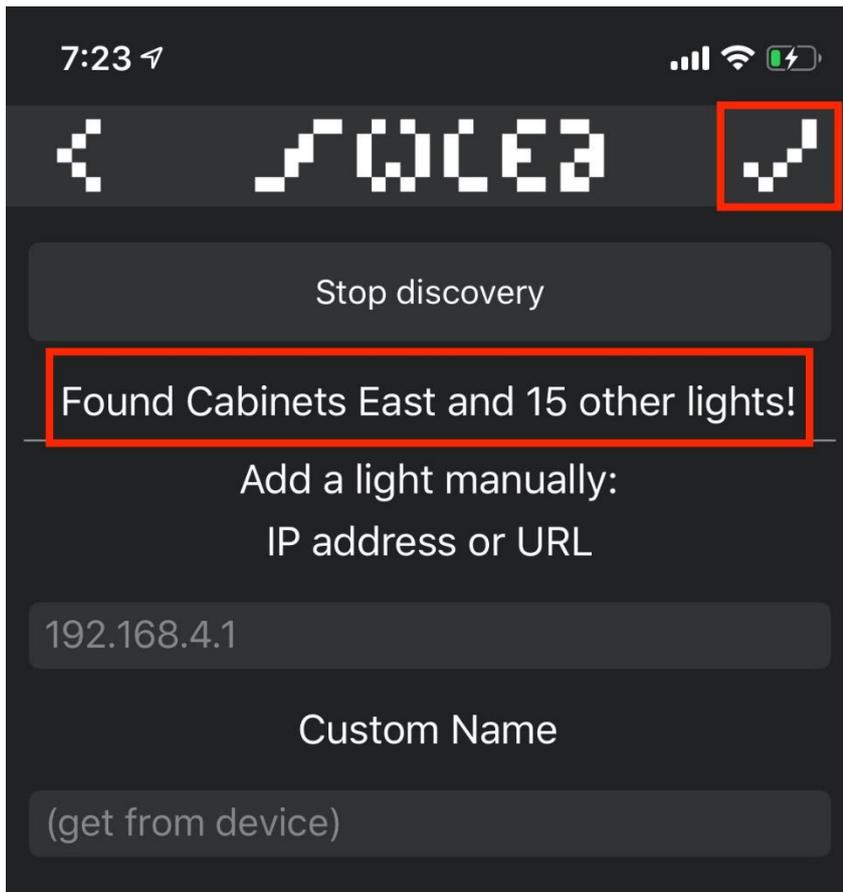
Find your devices

While your phone is connected to the same network as your ESP8266, open the WLED app and press the **+** button in the top right corner.



Now touch the [Discover Lights](#) button.

This will try to locate any devices running WLED on the same network your phone is on.



With any luck, the WLED app will find your newly configured lights and you can touch the checkmark in the top right.

Once you find your lights, feel free to play with the app. There are so many colors and patterns you can run through. The WLED creator did a great job.

Here is some [app FAQ/troubleshooting information](#) from the creator if you experience issues.