

ESP32-C3 Driehoek-ILI9341-wordclock

A clock that displays time in words in the languages Dutch, English, French and German or all four randomly.

The clock can also show time in an analogue or digital format on a ILI9341 display.

Time is synchronized with the Network Time Protocol (NTP) from the internet.

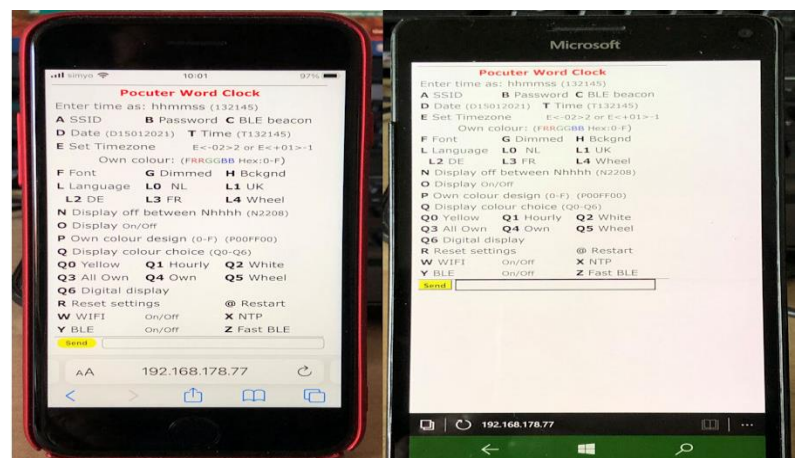
Settings can be controlled with a webpage, a PC or a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) serial terminal app installed on a phone, PC or tablet.



This clock is built with a 4 MB ESP32-C3-12F microprocessor board chip and a ILI9341 display with Espressif BLE nRF52 and WIFI.

Es war viertel nach zehn 10:17:00
It was quarter past ten 10:18:00
Il est dix heures vingt 10:19:00
Es ist zehn vor halb elf 10:20:00
Het is tien voor half elf 10:21:00
It was twenty past ten 10:22:00
It was twenty past ten 10:23:00
Het is vijf voor half elf 10:24:00
Es ist funf vor halb elf 10:25:00
It is twenty five past ten 10:26:00
Es war funf vor halb elf 10:27:00

Display of the time in the serial terminal output.



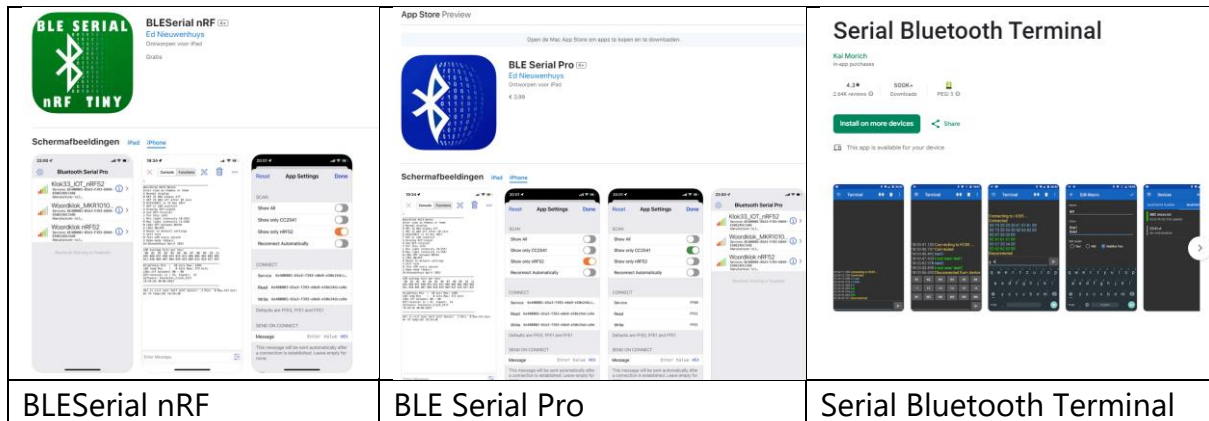
HTML page in iPhone 8 and Microsoft Phone

Before starting

The clock receives time from the internet. Therefore the name of the WIFI station and its password must be entered to be able to connect to a WIFI router.

The name of the WIFI-station and password has to be entered once. These credentials will be stored in memory of the MCU.

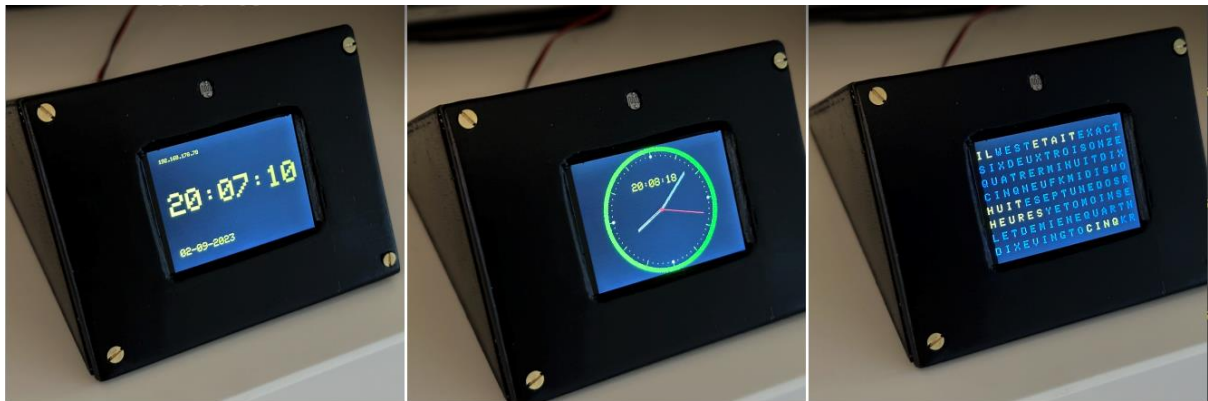
To make life easy it is preferred to use a phone and an communication app of a phone or tablet enter the WIFI credentials into the clock.



- Download a Bluetooth UART serial terminal app on your phone, PC, or tablet.

For IOS: BLE Serial Pro or BLESerial nRF.

For Android: Serial Bluetooth Terminal.



Installations

To connect to a WIFI network a SSID (WIFI name) and password must be entered.

There are a few methods:

Connect the MCU in the clock with a micro USB serial cable to a PC and use a serial terminal.

Use a BLE serial terminal app on a phone or tablet for connection.

For a PC the app [Termite](#) is fine as serial terminal.

For IOS use: **BLE Serial Pro** or **BLESerial nRF**.

For Android use: **Serial Bluetooth terminal**.

Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) can use two types of protocol CC25nn or nRF52nn where nn is a specific number. This clock uses nRF52 from the company Nordic.

- Start the app and start a connection with the clock.
Some apps automatically start with a connection window but for some a connection symbol must be pressed. You will most probably find one station to select from.

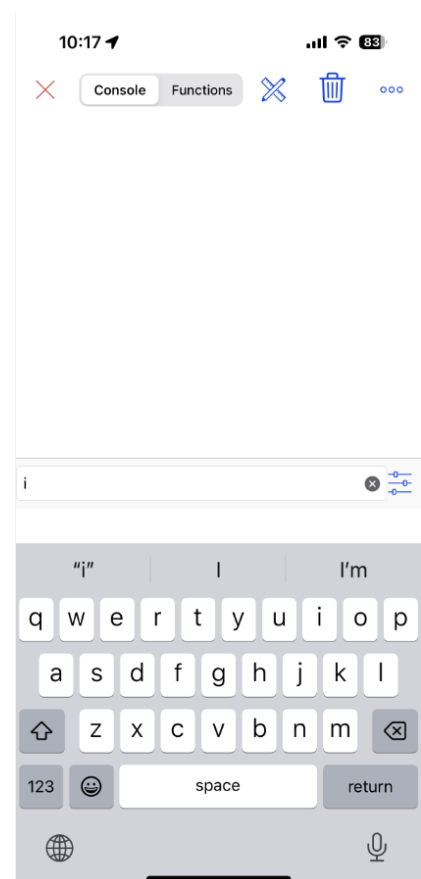
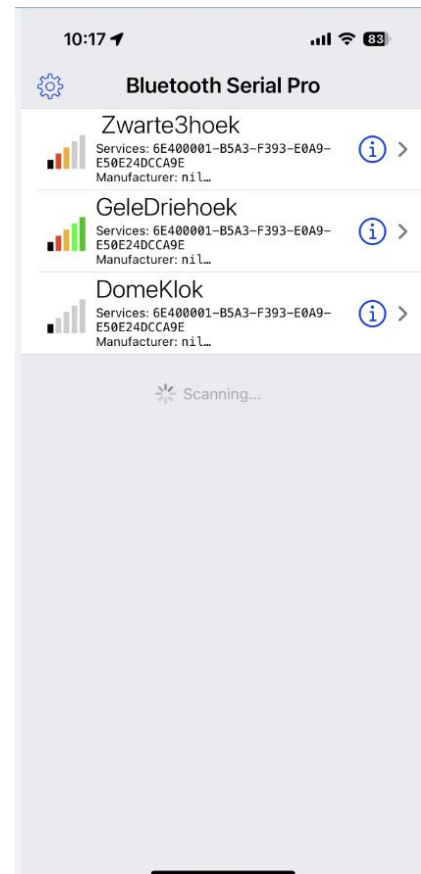
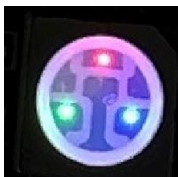
- Select the clock in the list.

- The app will display a window and a line where commands can be entered and send to the clock.

- Sending the letter l or i for information will display the menu followed with the actual settings of several preferences.

In the clock there is a LED that will have a red dot lighted when the program is running.

A green dot will turn on when there is a WIFI connection. When there is a Bluetooth connection a blue dot in the LED will light.



In both cases **send the letter I of Information and the menu shows up.**

Enter the first letter of the setting you want to changes followed with a code.

Some entries just toggle On and Off. Like the W to set WIFI Off or On.

To change the SSID and password:

Send the letter **A** or **a** followed with the WIFI station name.

Amy-ssid and send this command. Eg AFRITZ!Box01 or aFRITZ!Box01. Starting with an upper or lower case character is an identical instruction in the command string Then the letter B followed with the password.

Bmypassword and send the password.

Cbroadcastname will change to name displayed in the Bluetooth connection list. Something like: cMyClock

If the length of the SSID and/or password is less then 5 characters the WIFI will be turned off automatically to avoid connection errors.

Use a length of minimal 8 characters for SSID and password. Check in the menu (third row from the bottom) if WIFI and NTP are on.

Enter @ to restart the MCU. It will restart and connections will be made.

Sometimes a second or third reset must be given to get the clock connected to WIFI. If connection still fails check the SSID name and the entered password. (send the letter b, an easter egg)

If WIFI is connected the LED on the MCU will turn on a green dot.

A SSID B Password C BLE beacon name
D Date (D15012021) T Time (T132145)
E Timezone (E<-02>2 or E<+01>-1)
 Make own colour of: (Hex RRGGBB)
F Font G Dimmed font H Bkgnd
I To print this Info menu
K LDR reads/sec toggle On/Off
L L0 = NL, L1 = UK, L2 = DE
 L3 = FR, L4 = Wheel
N Display off between Nhhhh (N2208)
O Display toggle On/Off
P Status LED toggle On/Off
Q Display colour choice (Q0-7)
 Q0 Yellow Q1 hourly
 Q2 White Q3 All Own
 Q4 Own Q5 Wheel
 Q6 Digital Q7 Analog display
R Reset settings @ = Reset MCU
--Light intensity settings (1-250)--
S=Slope V=Min U=Max (S80 V5 U200)
W=WIFI X=NTP& Y=BLE Z=Fast BLE
Ed Nieuwenhuys Aug 2023

Display off between: 00h - 00h
Display choice: Yellow
Slope: 80 Min: 5 Max: 255
SSID: FRITZ!BoxEd
BLE name: PaarseS3N8R2
IP-address: 192.168.178.106 (/update)
Timezone:CET-1CEST,M3.5.0,M10.5.0/3
WIFI=On NTP=On BLE=On FastBLE=Off
Language choice: Rotate language
Software: ESP32C3S3_WordClockV025.ino
02/09/2023 21:06:27

Menu displayed in serial output.

To set a time zone. Send the time zone string between the quotes prefixed with the character E or e.

See the entry strings for the time zones at the bottom of this page.

For example; if you live in Australia/Sydney send the string, eAEST-10AEDT,M10.1.0,M4.1.0/3

ESP32-C3 Word Clock

Enter time as: hhmmss (132145)

A SSID **B** Password **C** BLE beacon

D Date (D15012021) **T** Time (T132145)

E Set Timezone E<-02>2 or E<+01>-1

Own colour: (FRRGGBB Hex:0-F)

F Font **G** Dimmed **H** Bkgnd

L Language **L0** NL **L1** UK

L2 DE **L3** FR **L4** Wheel

N Display off between Nhhhh (N2208)

O Display on/off

P Own colour design (0-F) (P00FF00)

Q Display colour choice (Q0-Q6)

Q0 Yellow **Q1** Hourly **Q2** White

Q3 All Own **Q4** Own **Q5** Wheel

Q6 Digital **Q7** Analog -

R Reset settings @ Restart MCU

W WIFI On/Off **X** NTP &Requery

Y BLE On/Off **Z** Fast BLE

Send

HTML page on iPhone

Termite 3.4 (by CompuPhase)

```
A SSID B Password C BLE beacon name
D Date (D15012021) T Time (T132145)
E Timezone (E<-02>2 or E<+01>-1)
  Make own colour of: (Hex RRGGBB)
F Font  G Dimmed font H Bkgnd
I To print this Info menu
K LDR reads/sec toggle On/Off
L L0 = NL, L1 = UK, L2 = DE
  L3 = FR, L4 = Wheel
N Display off between Nhhhh (N2208)
O Display toggle On/Off
P Status LED toggle On/Off
Q Display colour choice (Q0-7)
  Q0 Yellow  Q1 hourly
  Q2 White   Q3 All Own
  Q4 Own     Q5 Wheel
  Q6 Digital Q7 Analog display
R Reset settings @ = Reset MCU
--Light intensity settings (1-250)--
S=Slope V=Min  U=Max  (S80 V5 U200)
W=WIFI  X=NTP& Y=BLE  Z=Fast BLE
Ed Nieuwenhuys Aug 2023
```

```
Display off between: 00h - 00h
Display choice: Yellow
Slope: 80   Min: 5   Max: 255
SSID: FRITZ!BoxEd
BLE name: PaarseS3N8R2
IP-address: 192.168.178.106 (/update)
Timezone:CET-1CEST,M3.5.0,M10.5.0/3
WIFI=On NTP=On BLE=On FastBLE=Off
Language choice: Rotate language
Software: ESP32C3S3_WordClockV024.ino
00/01/1900 00:00:00
```

Termite Terminal from a PC

Control and settings of the clock

As mentioned before the clock can be controlled with the WIFI webpage or BLE UART terminal app.

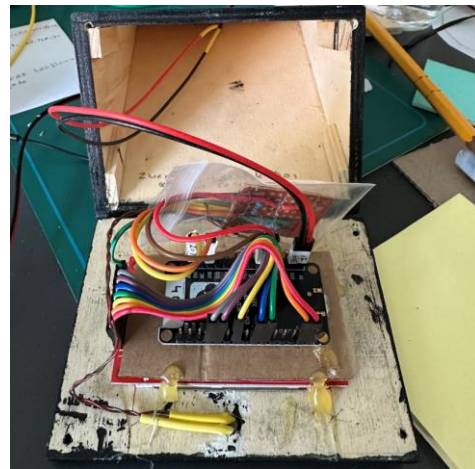
When the clock is connected to WIFI the IP-address is displayed when the clock is in Digital display mode. (Q6 in the menu)

The IP-address is also printed in the menu. As a last resort the IP-address can be found in you WIFI router.

To start the menu in a web page the IP-address numbers and dots (for example: 192.168.178.77) must be entered in the web browser of your mobile or PC where you type your internet addresses (URL).



The triangle clock



Inside of triangle clock

Or with a Bluetooth connection:

Open the BLE terminal app.

Look for the clock to connect to and connect.

Unfortunately some apps can not read strings longer than 20 characters and you will see the strings truncated or garbled.

If you see a garbled menu enter and send the character 'Z' to select the slower transmission mode.

If transmission is too garbled and it is impossible to send the character Z try the web page to send the character Z.

A third method is to use an iPhone, iPad or iMac with the free BLE nRF app.

If all fails you have to connect the MCU inside the clock with a micro USB cable to a PC and use a serial terminal app to send a Z.

Regulating the light intensity of the display

In the menu light intensity of the display can be controlled with three parameters:

--Light intensity settings (1-250)--
S=Slope V=Min U=Max (S80 V5 U200)

The default values are between the ().

S How fast the brightness reaches maximum brightness.

V How bright the display is in complete darkness.

U the maximum brightness of the display.

In the bottom half of the menu the stored values are displayed

Slope: 80 Min: 5 Max: 255

The clock reacts on light with its LDR (light dependent resistor) .

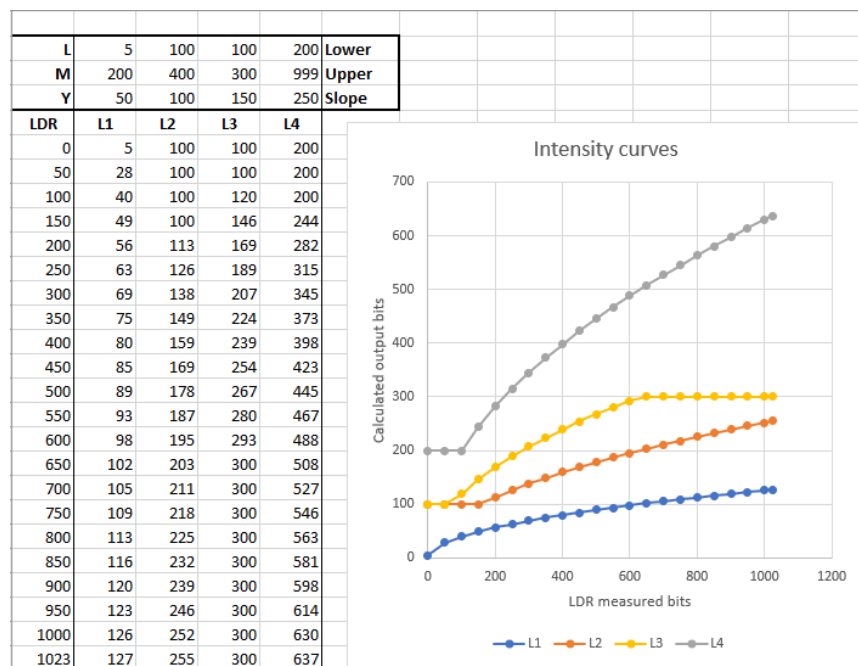
When it gets dark the display does not turn off completely but will stay dimmed at a minimum value.

With the parameter V the lowest brightness can be controlled. With a value between 0 and 255 this brightness can be set.

V5 is the default value.

The maximum brightness of the display is controlled with the parameter U. Also a value between 0 and 255.

With parameter S the slope can be controlled how fast maximum brightness is achieved.



Settings are set by entering the first character of a command following by parameters if necessary.

For example:

To set the colours of the fonts in the display to white enter: Q2

To shown random all four languages every minute send L4.

Turn off WIFI by sending a W.

Restart the clock with the letter @.

Reset to default setting by send R.

10:00

ESP32-C3 Word Clock

Enter time as: hhmmss (132145)

A SSID

B Password

C BLE beacon

D Date (D15012021)

T Time (T132145)

E Set Timezone

E<-02>2 or E<+01>-1

Own colour: (FRRGGBB Hex:0-F)

F Font

G Dimmed

H Bckgnd

L Language

L0 NL

L1 UK

L2 DE

L3 FR

L4 Wheel

N Display off between Nhhhh (N2208)

O Display On/Off

P Own colour design (0-F) (P00FF00)

Q Display colour choice (Q0-Q6)

Q0 Yellow

Q1 Hourly

Q2 White

Q3 All Own

Q4 Own

Q5 Wheel

Q6 Digital

Q7 Analog

-

R Reset settings

@ Restart MCU

W WIFI

On/Off

X NTP &Requery

Y BLE

On/Off

Z Fast BLE

Send

09:59

Console

Functions

i

A SSID B Password C BLE beacon name

D Date (D15012021) T Time (T132145)

E Timezone (E<-02>2 or E<+01>-1)

Make own colour of: (Hex RRGGBB)

F Font G Dimmed font H Bkgnd

I To print this Info menu

K LDR reads/sec toggle On/Off

L L0 = NL, L1 = UK, L2 = DE

L3 = FR, L4 = Wheel

N Display off between Nhhhh (N2208)

O Display toggle On/Off

P Status LED toggle On/Off

Q Display colour choice (Q0-7)

Q0 Yellow Q1 hourly

Q2 White Q3 All Own

Q4 Own Q5 Wheel

Q6 Digital Q7 Analog display

R Reset settings @ = Reset MCU

—Light intensity settings (1-250)—

S=Slope V=Min U=Max (S80 V5 U200)

W=WIFI X=NTP& Y=BLE Z=Fast BLE

Ed Nieuwenhuys Aug 2023

Display off between: 00h - 07h

Display choice: Yellow

Slope: 80 Min: 5 Max: 255

SSID: FRITZ!BoxEd

BLE name: Zwart3hoek

IP-address: 192.168.178.78 (/update)

Timezone:CET-1CEST,M3.5.0,M10.5.0/3

WIFI=On NTP=On BLE=On FastBLE=On

Language choice: Rotate language

Software: ESP32C3S3_WordClockV025.ino

06/09/2023 09:57:52

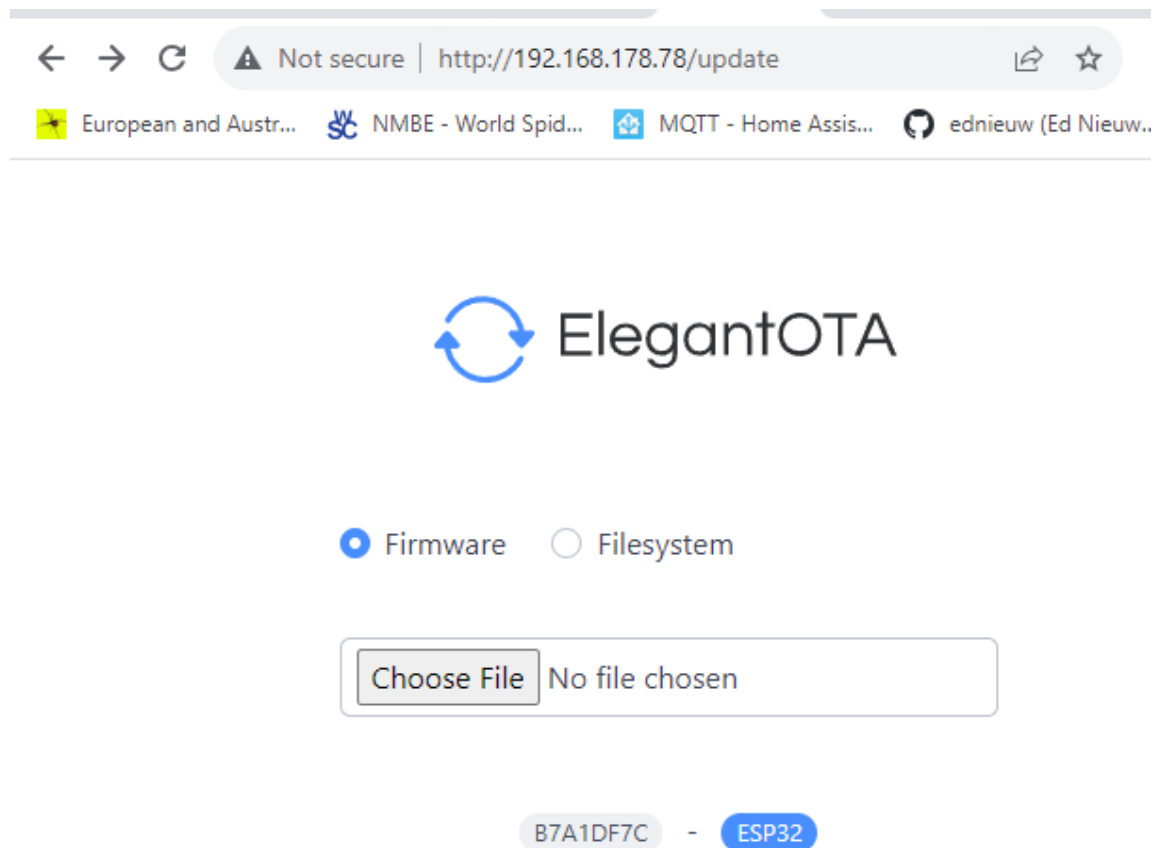
Il etait dix heures moins cinq 09:58:00

Enter Message

HTML page

BLE menu

Updating the software

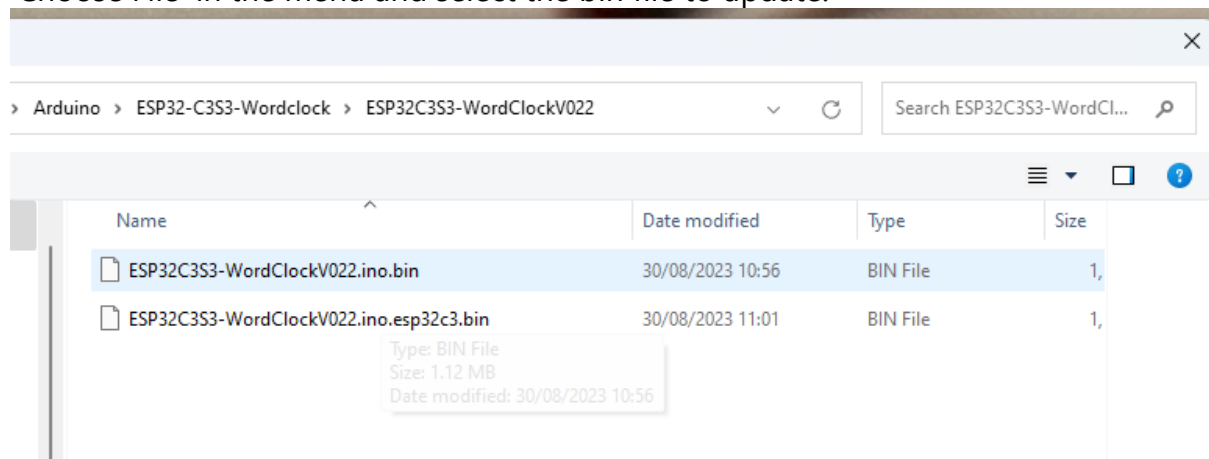


The software can be updated 'Over The Air' when the clock is connected to WIFI. You can find the IP-address in the menu or in the digital display mode menu option Q6.

Enter the IP-address of the clock followed with /update

<http://192.168.178.78/update>

'Choose File' in the menu and select the bin file to update.



NB Memory of the ESP32 must be 4MB or more

Detailed description

With the menu many preferences can be set. These preferences are stored on a SD-card or in the ESP32-C3 storage space.

Enter the first character in the menu of the item to be changed followed with the parameter.

There is no difference between upper or lower case. Both are OK.

Between the ().

A SSID B Password C BLE beacon name

Change the name of the SSID of the router to be connected to.

For example: aFRITZ!BoxEd or AFRITZ!BoxEd.

Then enter the password. For example: BSecret_password.

Restart the clock by sending @.

Entering a single 'b' will show the used password. This 'Easter egg' can be used to check if a valid password was entered.

D Set Date and T Set Time

If you are not connected to WIFI you have to set time and date by hand.

For example enter: D06112022 to set the date to 6 November 2022.

Enter for example T132145 (or 132145 , or t132145) to set the time to 45 seconds and 21 minute past one o'clock.

E Set Timezone E<-02>2 or E<+01>-1

At the bottom of this page you can find the time zones used in 2022.

It is a rather complicated string and it is therefore wise to copy it.

Let's pick one if you happen to live here: Antarctica/Troll,"<+00>0<+02>-

2,M3.5.0/1,M10.5.0/3"

Copy the string between the " "'s and send it with starting with an 'E' or 'e' in front.

E<+00>0<+02>-2,M3.5.0/1,M10.5.0/3.

Time zones and daylight savings should be ended and replaced by one universal date and time for the whole planet cq universe. But that is my opinion.

Make own colour of: (Hex RRGGBB)

F Font G Dimmed font H Bkgnd

You can set the colours of the highlighted and dimmed characters and the background. .

The format to be entered is hexadecimal. 0123456789ABCDEF are the characters that can be used. The command is 2 digits for Red followed with two for Green and ending with two digits for Blue.

To colour the characters intense red enter FF0000 prefixed with the letter F.

To set the background to intense blue enter: H0000FF

To set the dimmed character to dark grey enter for example: G191919.

You get grey if red, green and blue has the same intensity.

I To print this Info menu

Print the menu to Bluetooth and the serial monitor connected with an USB-cable.

K Reads/sec toggle On/Off

Entering a K toggles printing of the LDR reading of the measured light intensity.

It also shows how many times the processor loops through the program and checks its tasks to run the clock.

L L0 = NL, L1 = UK, L2 = DE, L3 = FR, L4 = Wheel

You can choose between four languages to display or show them randomly every minute.

N Display off between Nhhhh (N2208)

With N2208 the display will be turned off between 22:00 and 8:00.

O Display toggle On/Off

O toggle the display off and on.

P Status LEDs toggle On/Off

P toggle the status LEDs on the MCU off and on.

Q Display colour choice (Q0-6)

Q0 Yellow Q1 hourly Q2 White Q3 All Own Q4 Own Q5 Wheel Q6 Digital display

Q0 will show the time with yellow words.

Q1 will show every hour another colour.

Q2 shows all the texts white.

Q3 and Q4 uses you own defined colours.

Q5 will follow rainbow colours every minute.

Q6 is the digital display with the IP-address and date until seconds are 00.

Q7 is the analogue clock

R Reset settings

R will set all preferences to default settings, it also clears the SSID and password.

--Light intensity settings (1-250)--

S=Slope V=Min U=Max (S80 V5 U200)

The

@ = Reset MCU

@ will restart the MCU. This is handy when the SSID, et cetera are changed and the program must be restarted. Settings will not be deleted.

W=WIFI, X=NTP&, Y=BLE, Z=Use SD

Toggle WIFI, NTP on and off.

Enter the character will toggle it on or off.

```
Display off: 00h - 00h      is printed.
Display choice: Yellow
      SSID: FRITZ!BoxEd
      BLE name: ESPWordClock
      IP-address: 192.168.178.78
Timezone:CET-1CEST,M3.5.0,M10.5.0/3
WIFI=On NTP=On BLE=On FastBLE=On
Language choice: Rotate language
```

Sending a & will start a query from the time server.

Z Fast BLE

The BLE UART protocol sends default packets of 20 bytes. Between every packet there is a delay of 50 msec.

The IOS BLEserial app, and maybe others too, is able to receive packets of 80 bytes or more before characters are missed.

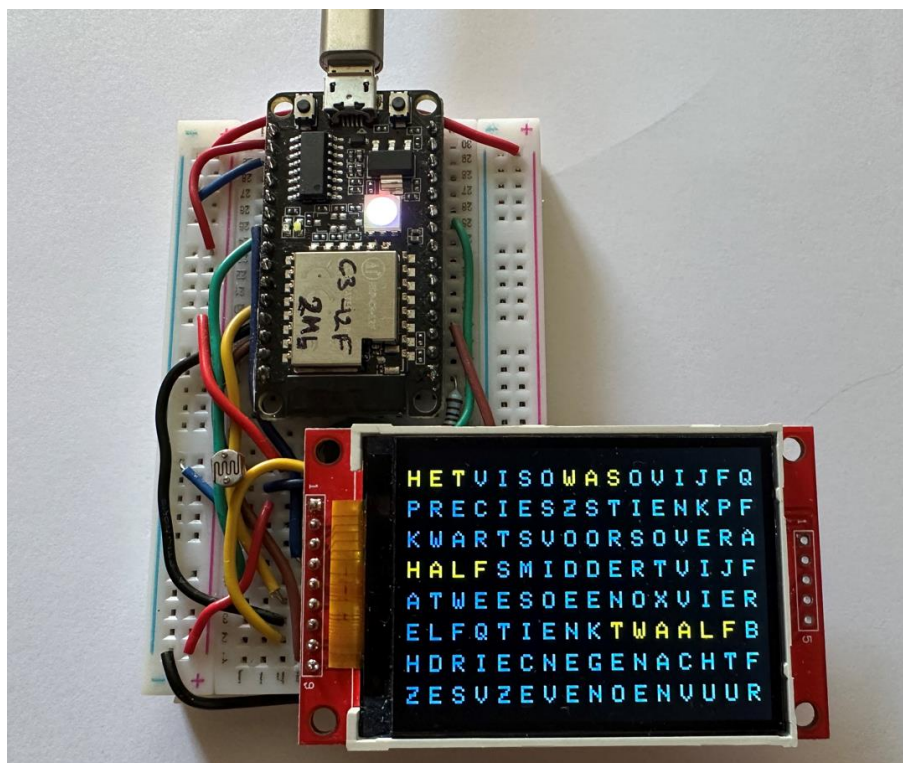
Option Z toggles between the long and short packages.

@[Ed Nieuwenhuys](#), September 2023

How to build the clock can be found here:

<https://ednieuw.home.xs4all.nl/Woordklok/ESP32C3AndMore/ESP32C3ClockAndMoreV.html>

<https://github.com/ednieuw/ESP32-C3-Clock-and-more>



Prototype of the clock