

PyPilot 0.35 install using Openplotter-pypilot

3.1.0 beta version 20-SEP-2022

The PyPilot open source free software autopilot has been made available in OpenPlotter 3.0. For this, it is wrapped in an OpenPlotter application that adds user interfaces consistent with other OpenPlotter applications, and automates configuration of various installation steps. This how-to outlines the detailed steps to install this OpenPlotter application.

Whereas pypilot is primarily designed to run on a pizero on the small footprint tinycore linux system, it runs perfectly well under Raspbian, and the OpenPlotter wrapper eases the learning curve significantly. With the 2022 shortage of pizero hardware, a Raspbian installation seems an opportune alternative.

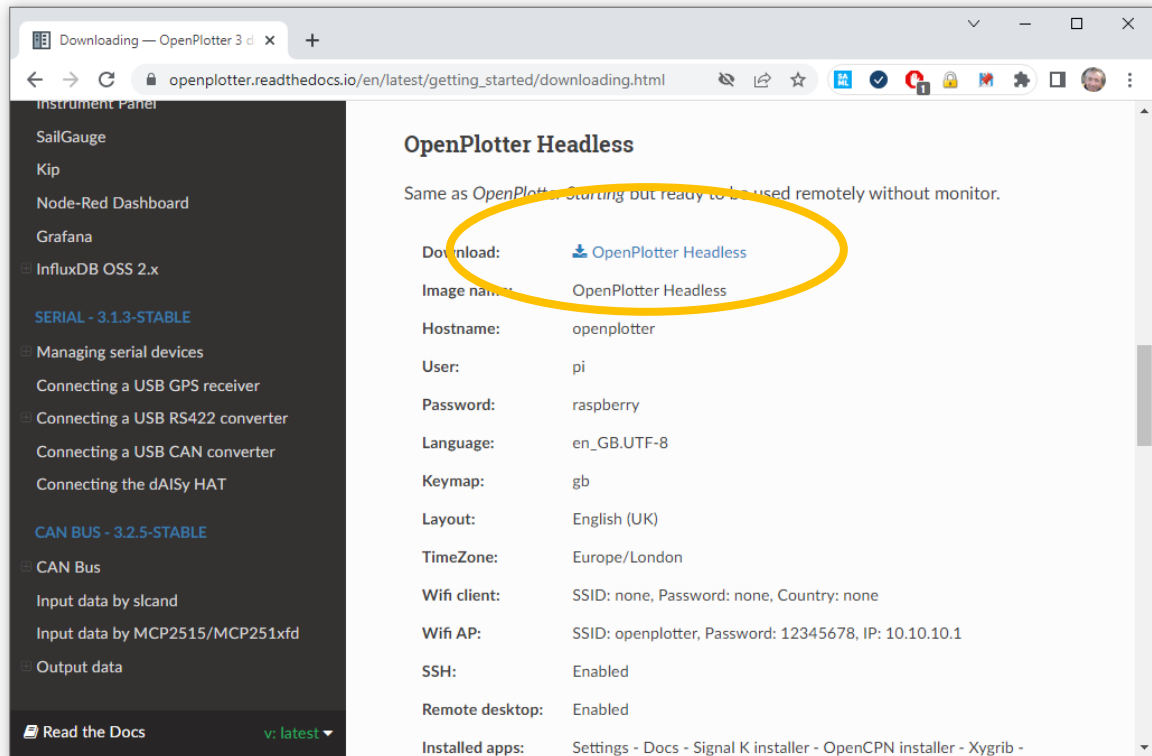
For this how-to, the following hardware was used:

- Raspberry Pi Model 3B+
- IMU from pypilot.org store
- Pypilot Motor controller issue 2019 from pypilot.org store
- Ethernet cable connected to internet router, or
- USB wifi dongle that can be connected to a wifi router

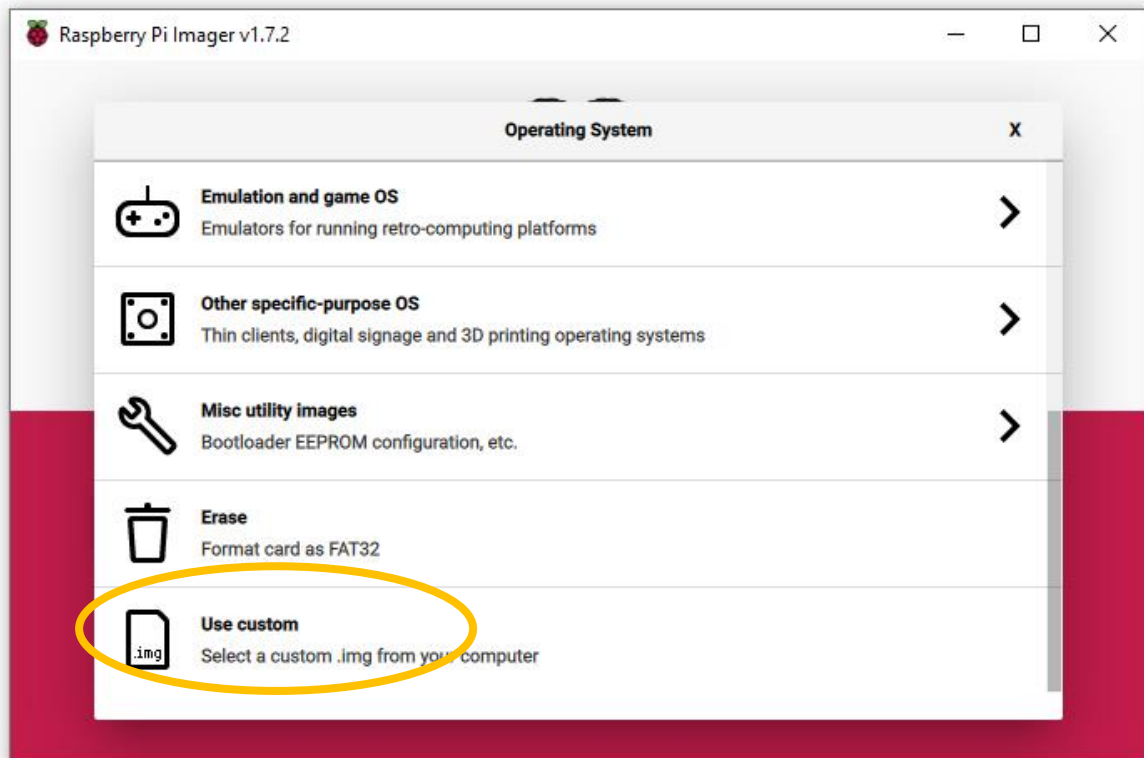
NOTE: the Openplotter-provided application is still in beta, and so is this document.

Installation of OpenPlotter 3.0

1. First, browse to https://openplotter.readthedocs.io/en/latest/getting_started/downloading.html and download the Openplotter Headless image. Since I tested on a raspberry 3b+, I downloaded the 32-bit version. On a raspberry 4, I would do the same.



2. Then, download the raspberry pi imager, click Operating System , scoll to Use Custom, and choose your downloaded image file.

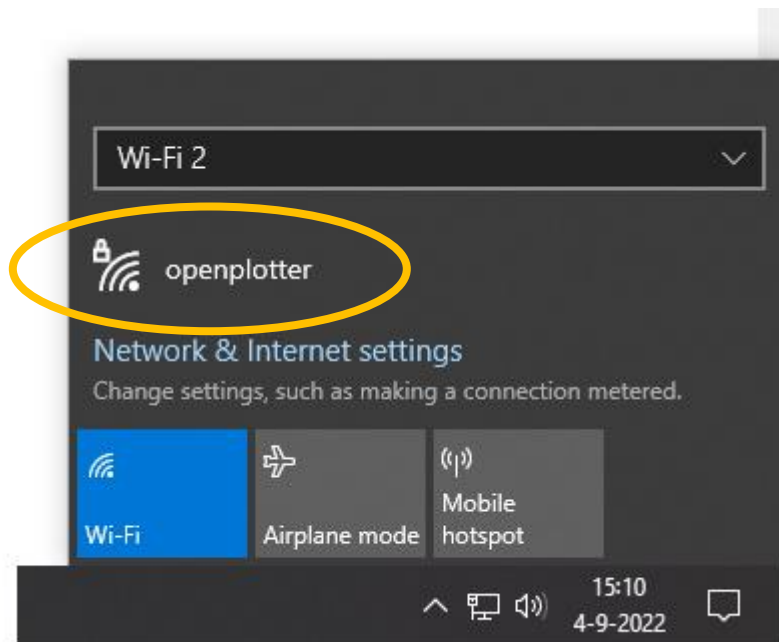


3. Stick an SD card adapter with an SD card in your USB port, then for Storage, choose the SD card.



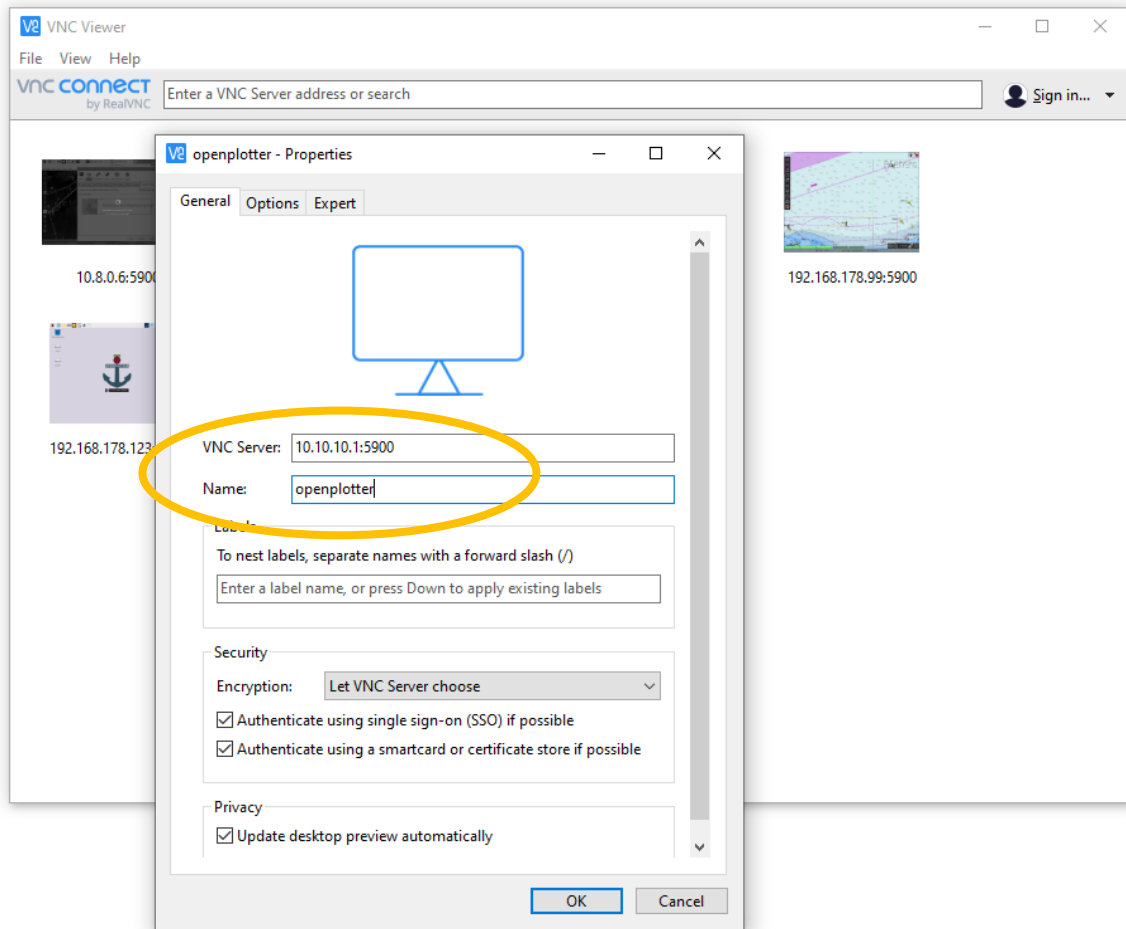
4. Click Write to burn the image on your SD card.
5. When ready, stick the SD card in your raspberry and turn on the raspberry.

6. After a while, you should see a wifi station appear called openplotter. Connect to it. The wifi passphrase is 12345678.
7. Note: if you have connected before, and/or have problems connecting, it might help to Forget the device credentials.



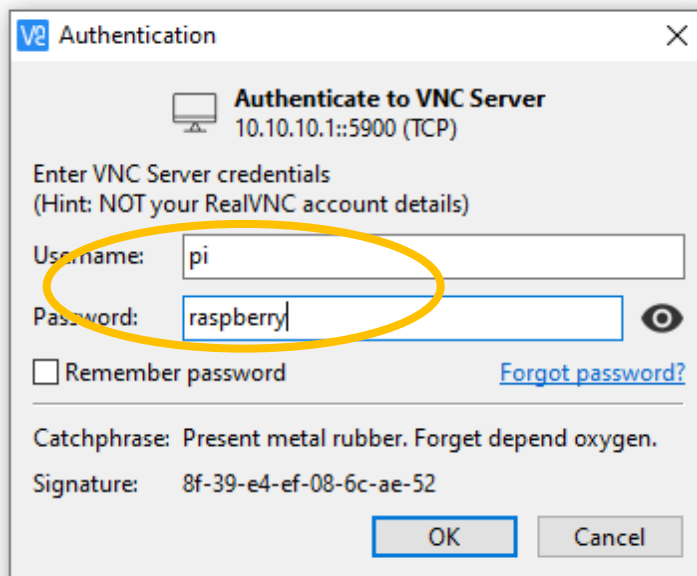
Note: if you have no internet connection to the raspberry (see later) the wifi connection might disconnect after a few seconds. Reconnect to it. You should get a 10.10.10.0 ip address.

- Download a vnc viewer from the internet. In this example, RealVNC Viewer is used. Make a new connection with File → New Connection. Select 10.10.10.1:5900 for VNC Server:



- Press ok and the connect to the machine.

10. Default credentials to be used are the unix credentials of the pi user, in this case pi and raspberry as indicated below:



The image shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "v2 Authentication". The main heading is "Authenticate to VNC Server" with the address "10.10.10.1::5900 (TCP)" below it. The instruction "Enter VNC Server credentials" is followed by a hint: "(Hint: NOT your RealVNC account details)". There are two input fields: "Username:" containing "pi" and "Password:" containing "raspberry". A yellow oval highlights both fields. Below the password field is a checkbox for "Remember password" and a link for "Forgot password?". At the bottom, there is a "Catchphrase" field with the text "Present metal rubber. Forget depend oxygen." and a "Signature" field with the hex string "8f-39-e4-ef-08-6c-ae-52". "OK" and "Cancel" buttons are at the bottom right.

v2 Authentication [X]

Authenticate to VNC Server
10.10.10.1::5900 (TCP)

Enter VNC Server credentials
(Hint: NOT your RealVNC account details)

Username:

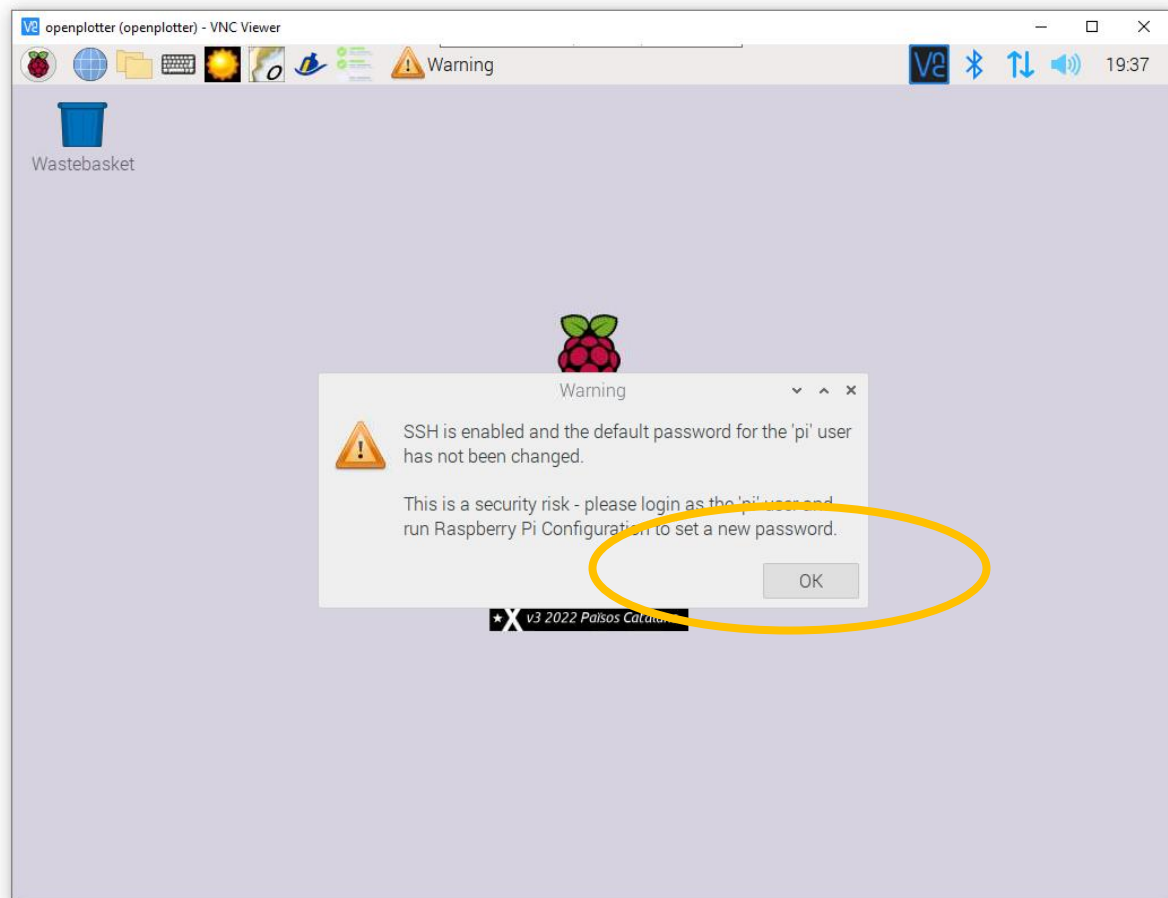
Password: [Eye icon]

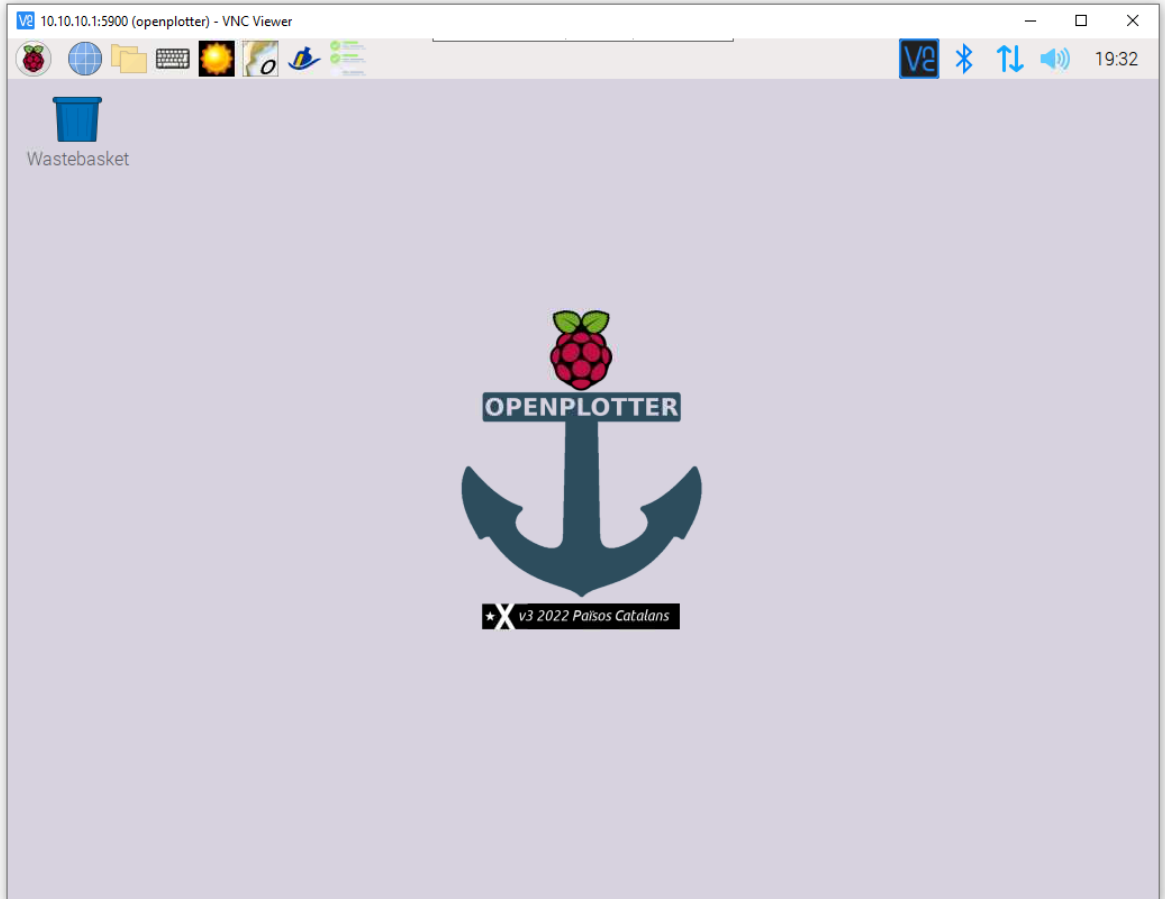
Remember password [Forgot password?](#)

Catchphrase: Present metal rubber. Forget depend oxygen.
Signature: 8f-39-e4-ef-08-6c-ae-52

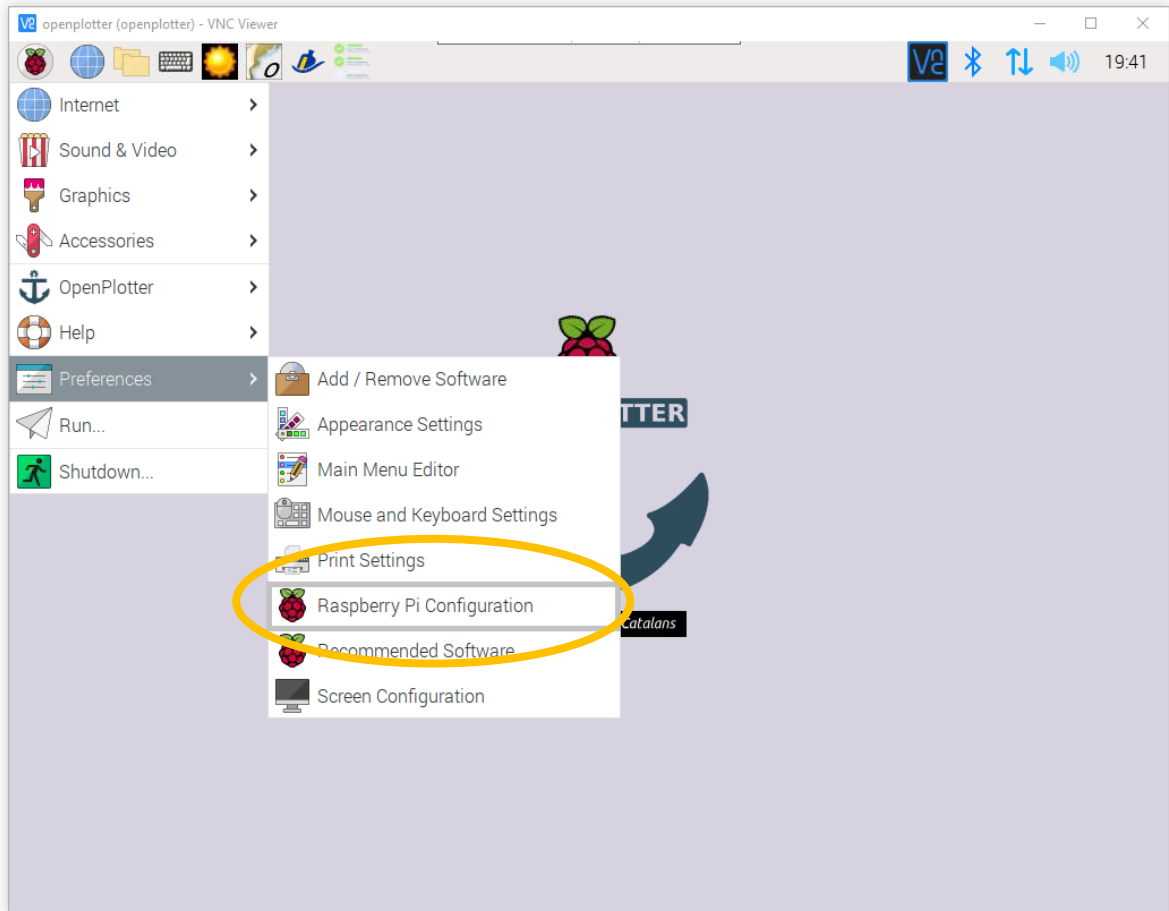
[OK] [Cancel]

11. If all is right, this screen should show up. Read the message and click ok:

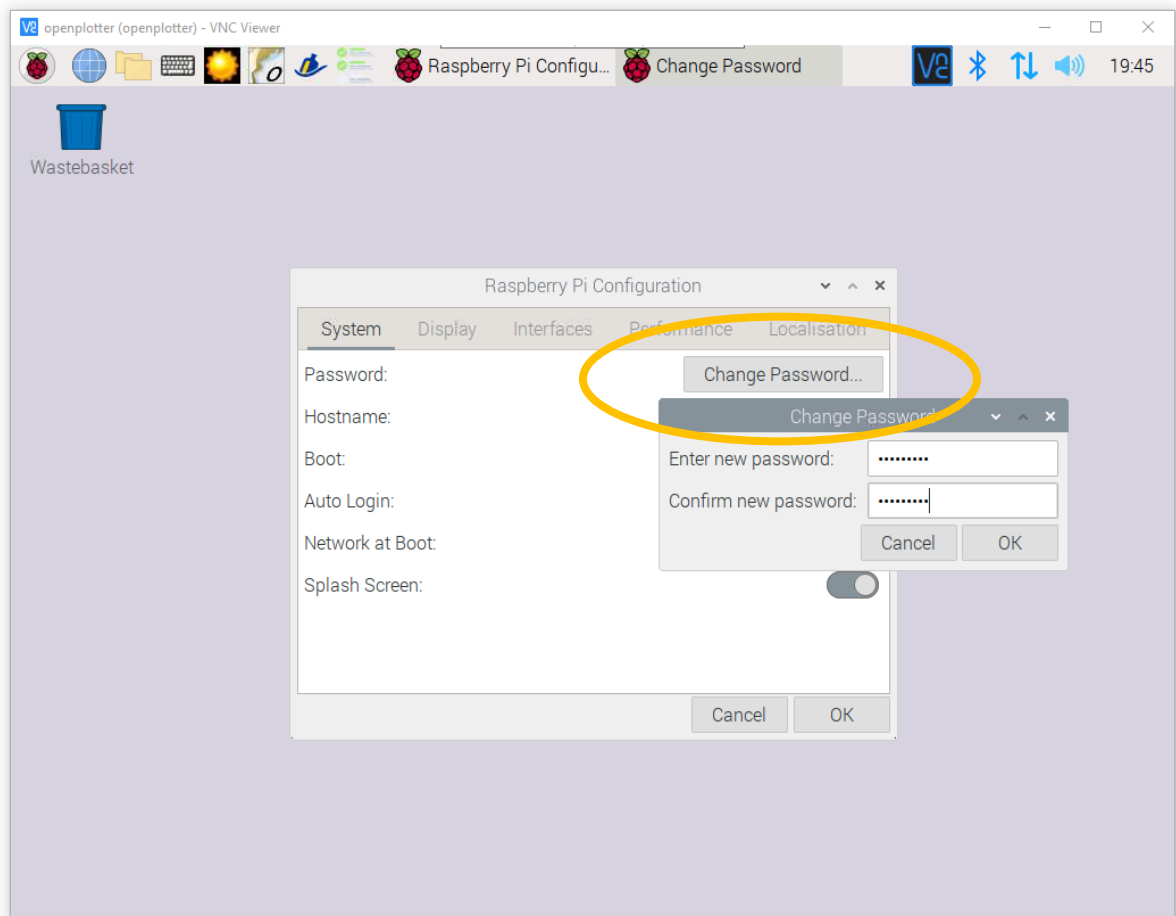




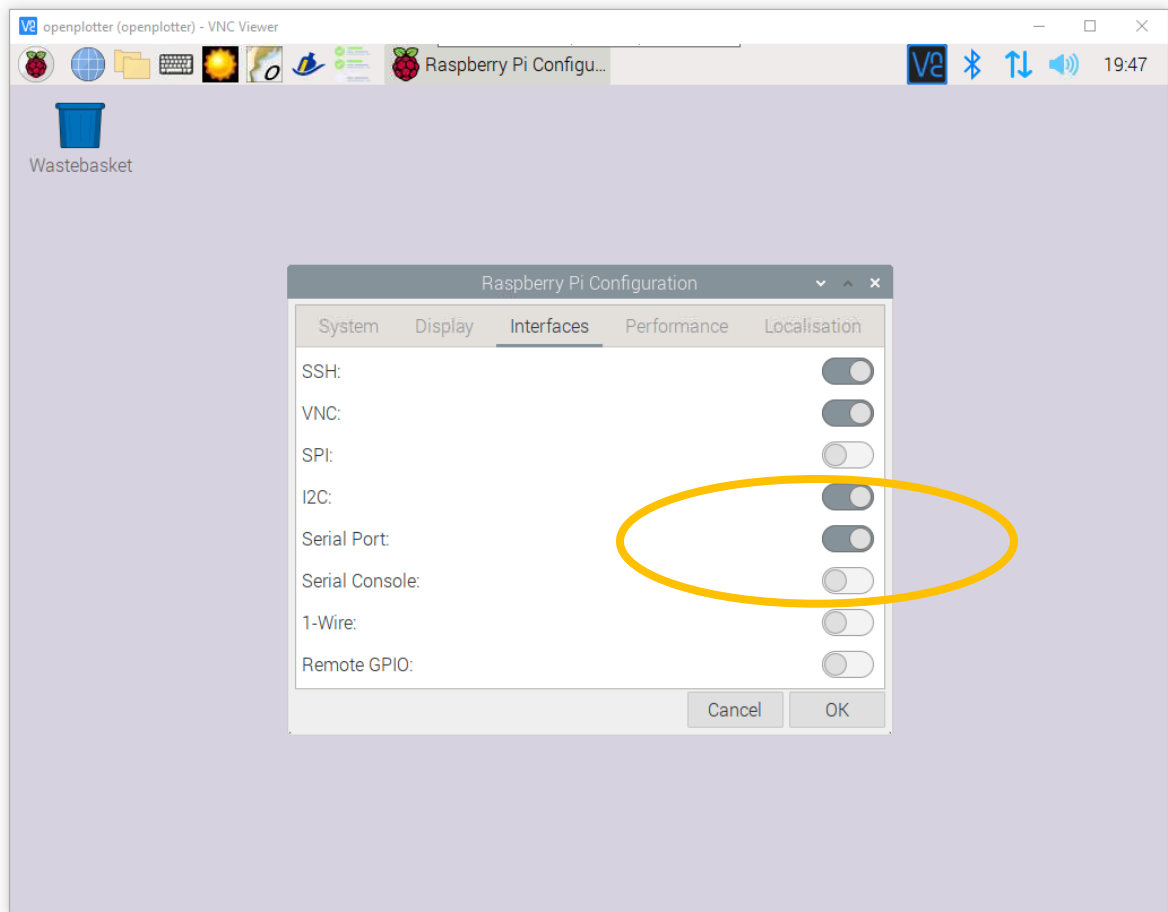
12. Let's first respond to the message you just clicked away: choose Raspberry → Preferences → Raspberry Pi Configuration:



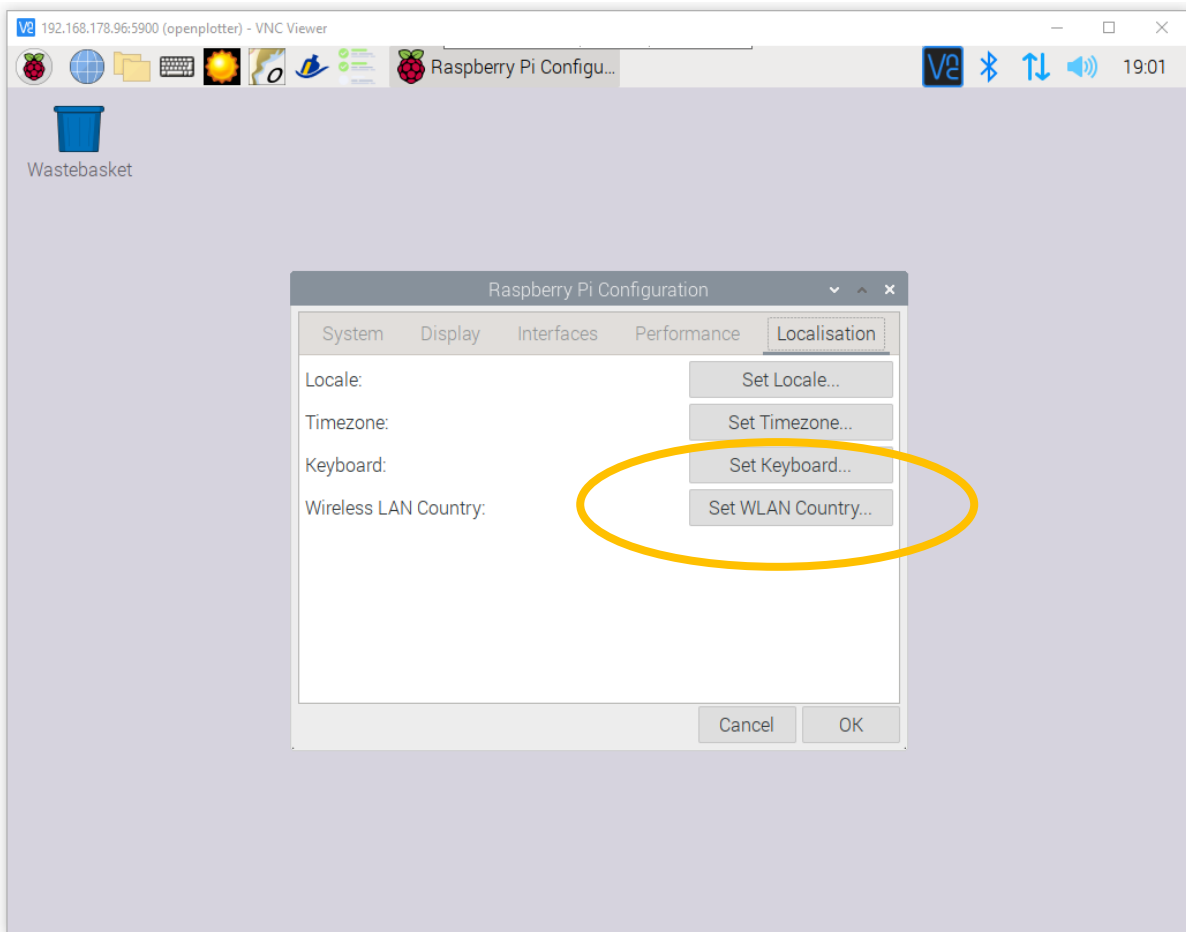
13. Click Change Password and then enter a new password and ok:



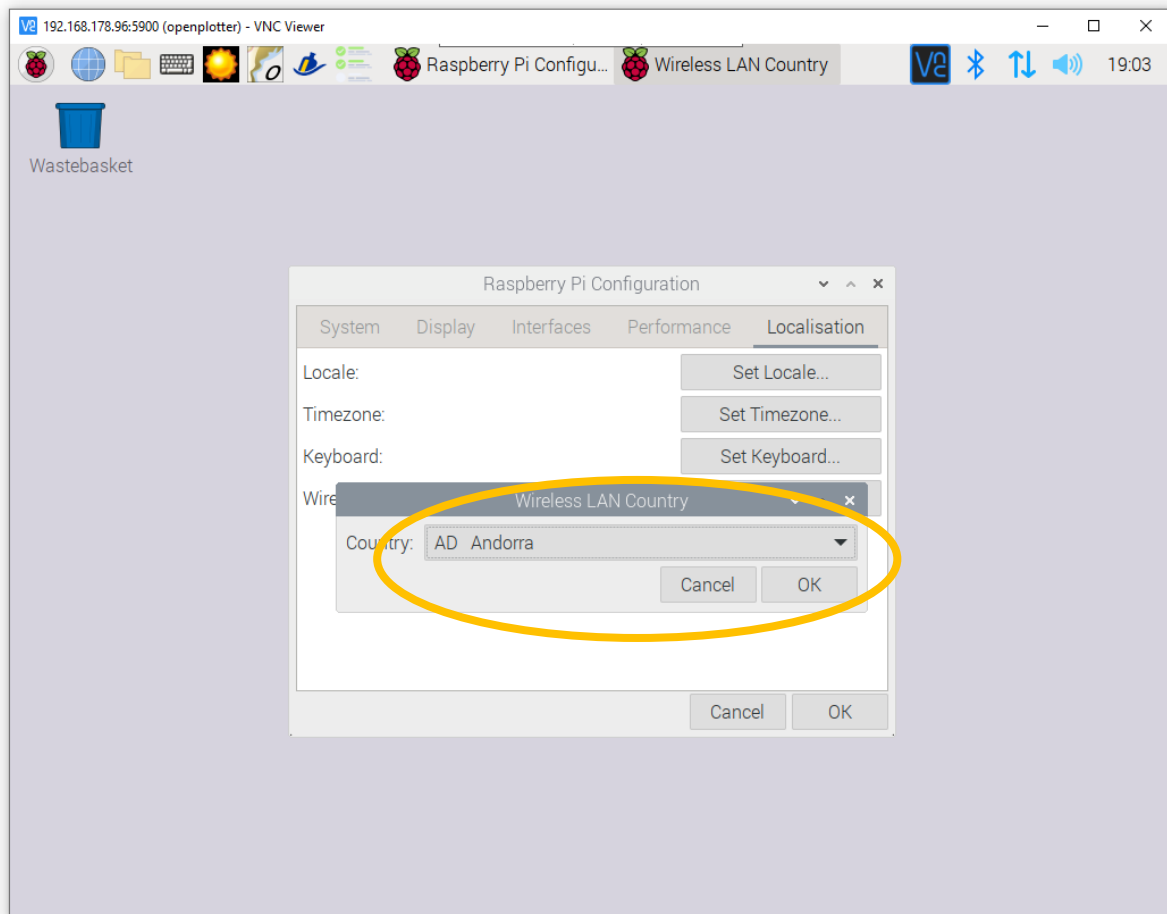
14. Now prepare the raspberry for pypilot operation: click the third tab Interfaces, enable I2C, enable Serial Port and disable Serial Console.



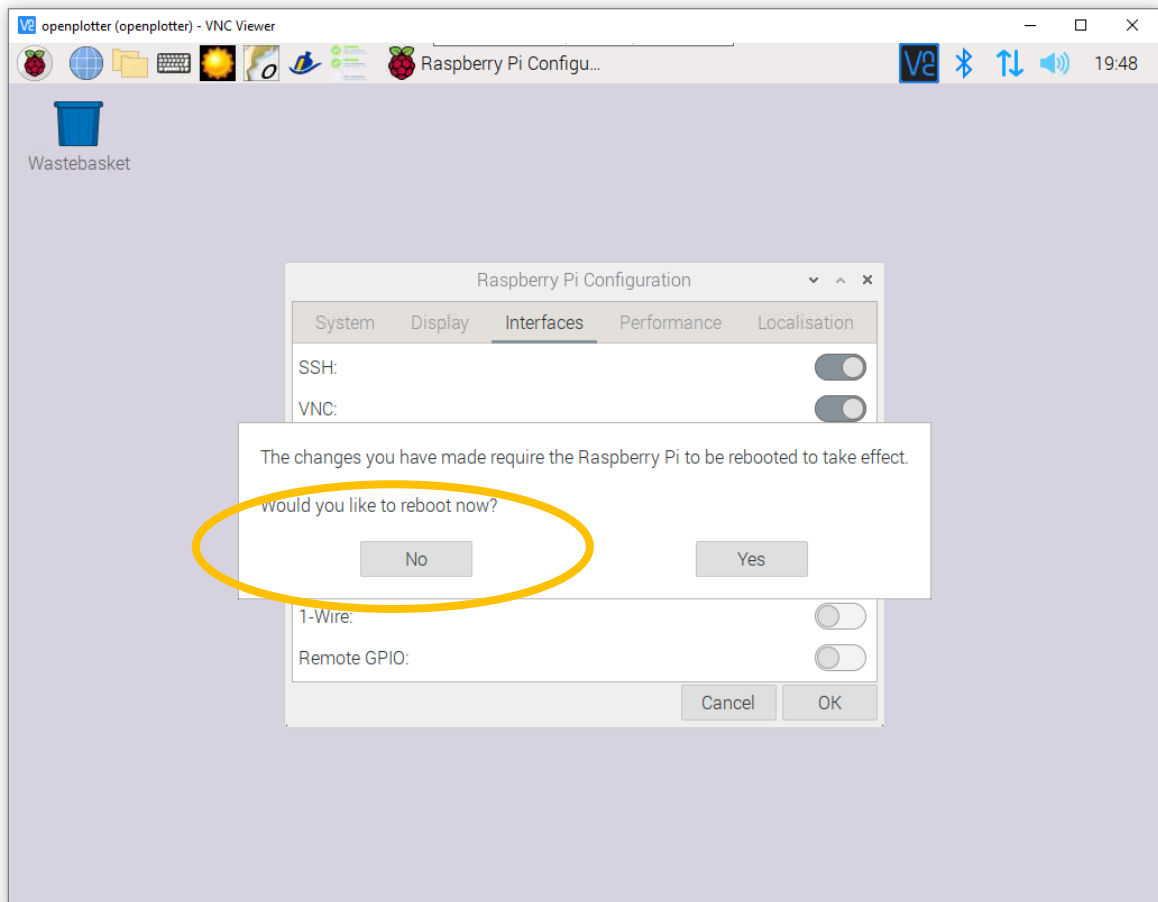
15. Then go to Localization, and choose Set WLAN country.



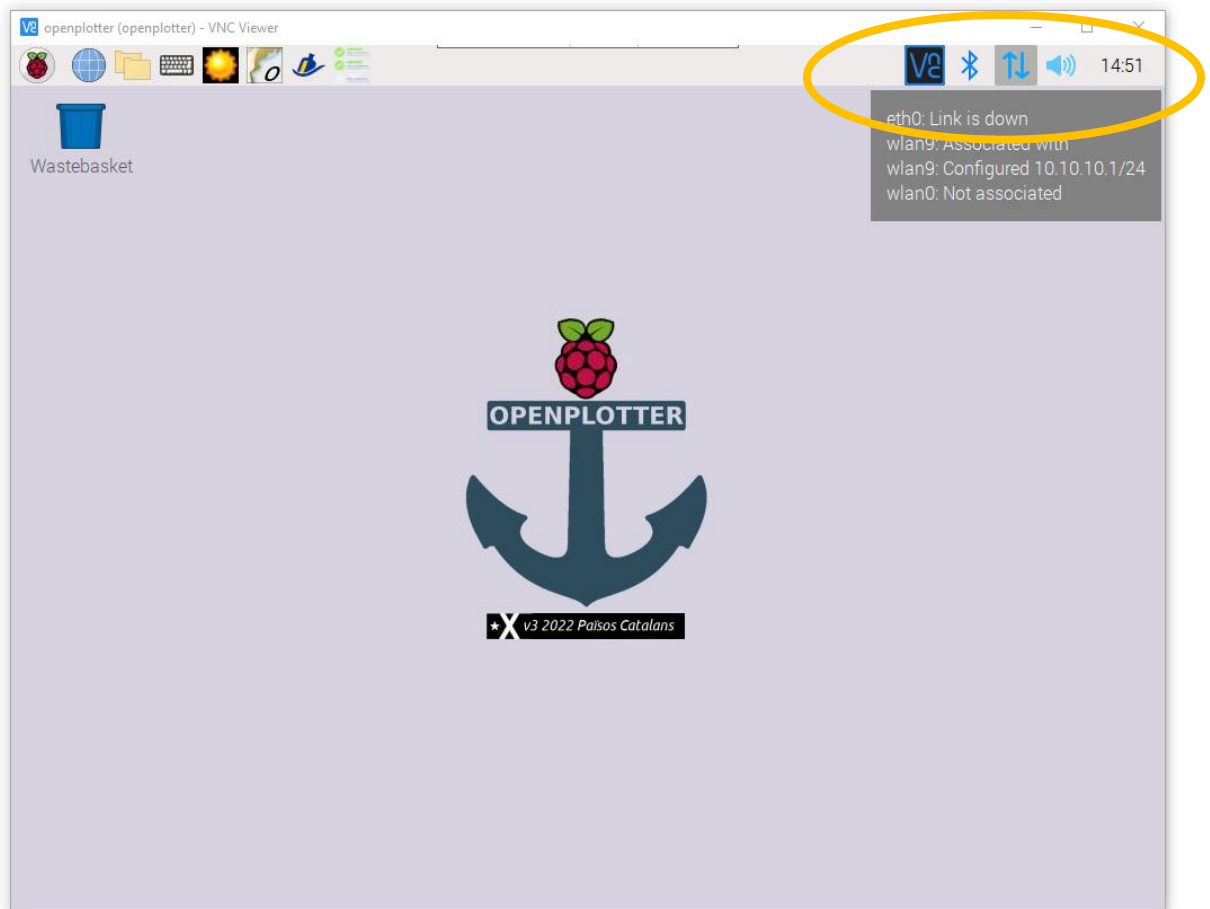
16. Choose your own country if you care to scroll there all the way, or select the first one in the list:



17. Then press OK. Raspberry begs for a reboot, but say No for now:



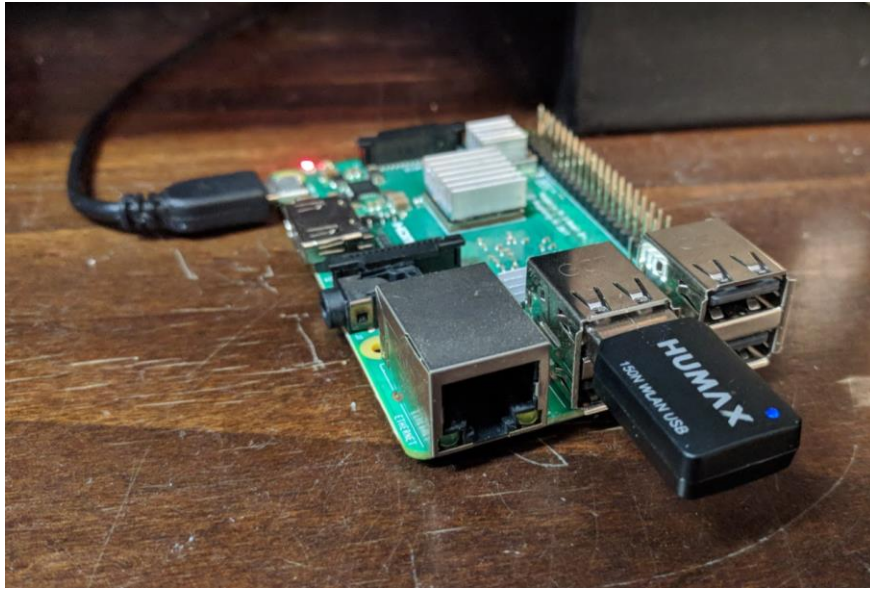
18. Let's first establish internet connection. Hovering over the up and down arrow shows the network interfaces.



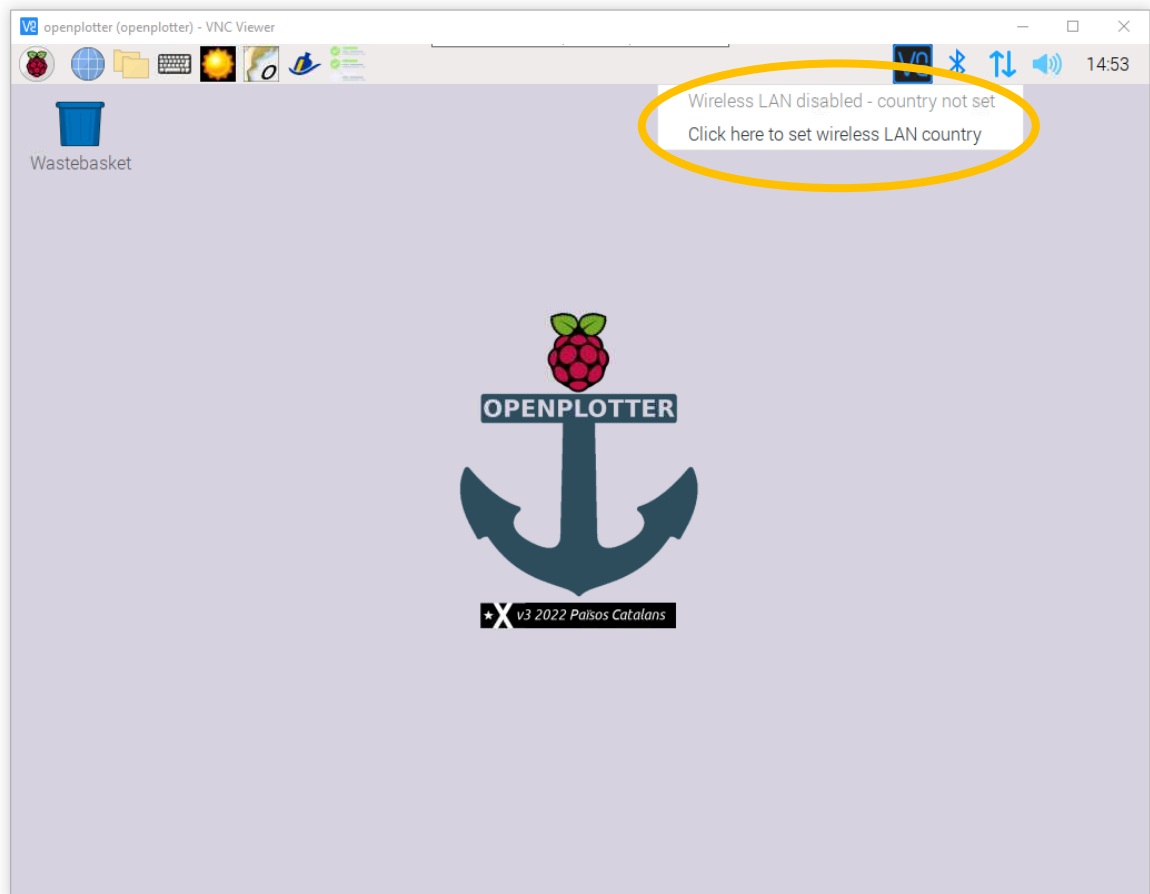
19. If you have stuck in an ethernet cable that comes from your home modem, the eth0 will be set and you are probably set up ok.



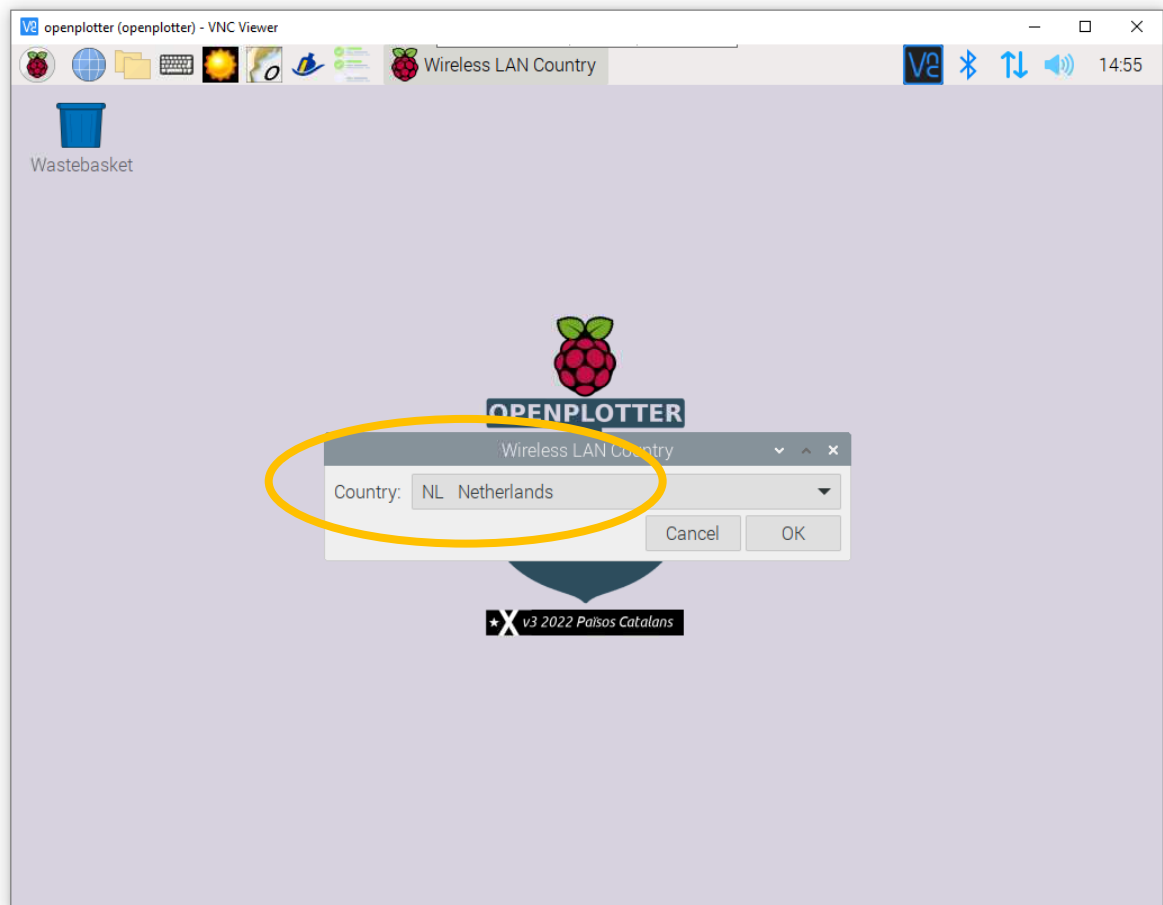
20. If you have stuck a wifi dongle in your raspberry, there is something to be done.



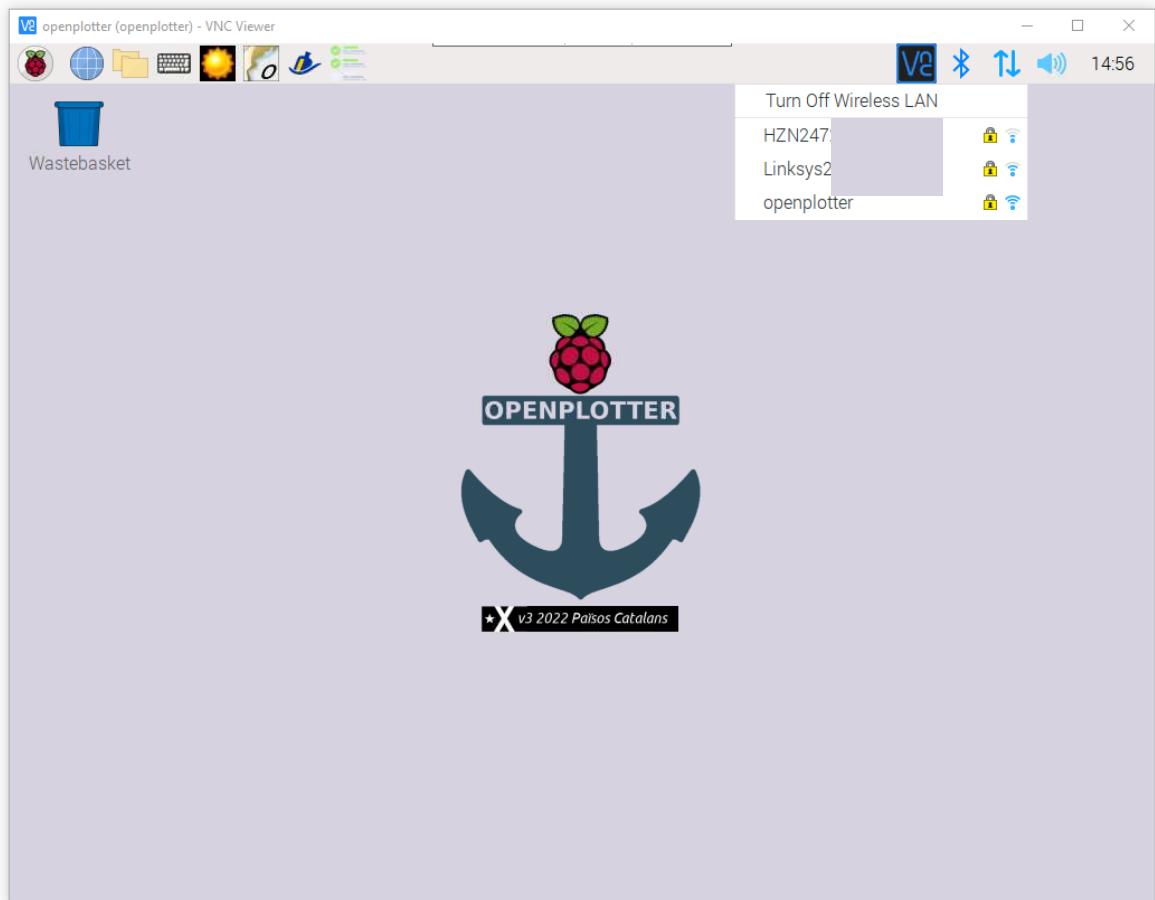
21. If you have not already done so in the previous step, you first have to set your 'WLAN' country. Choose your country to enable WIFI? Long story, don't ask.



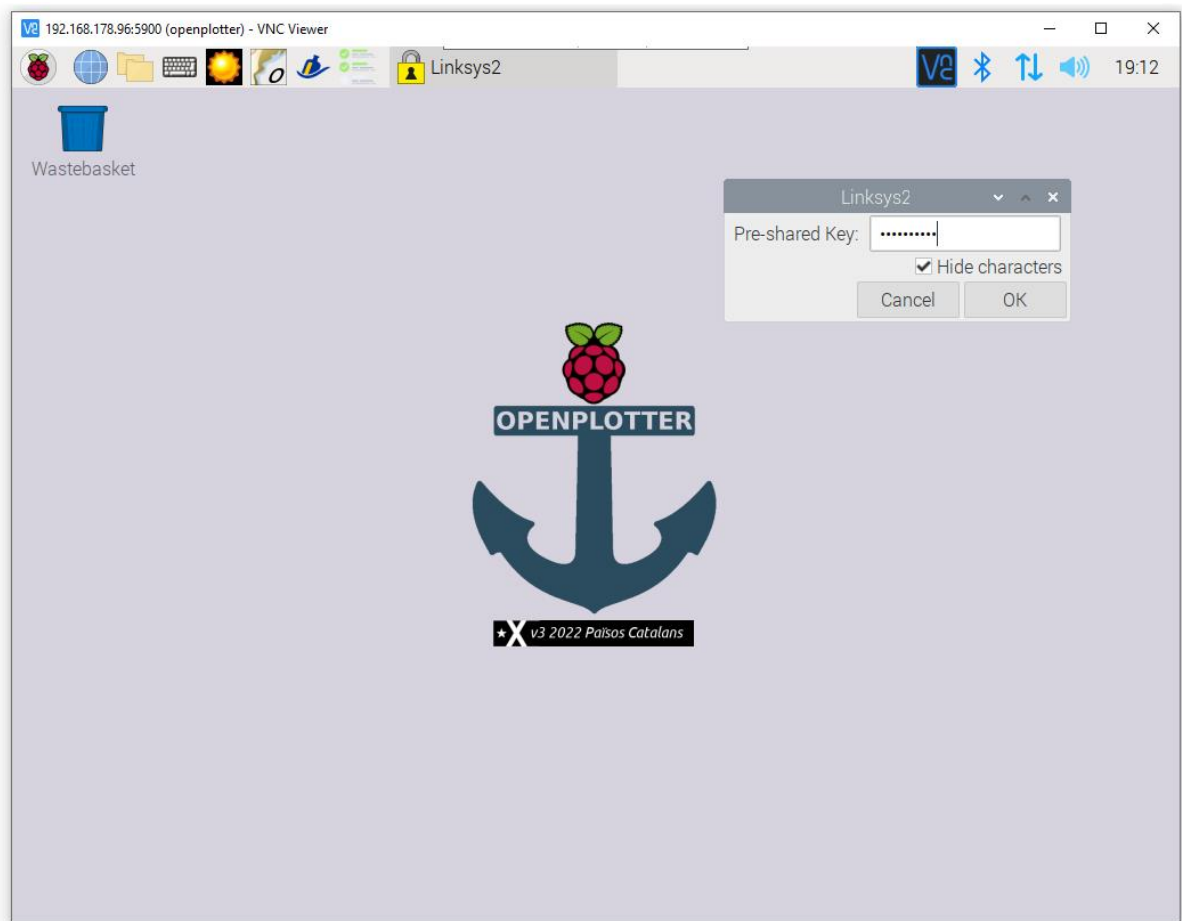
22. Use page down to scroll to the long list, select your country and press ok.



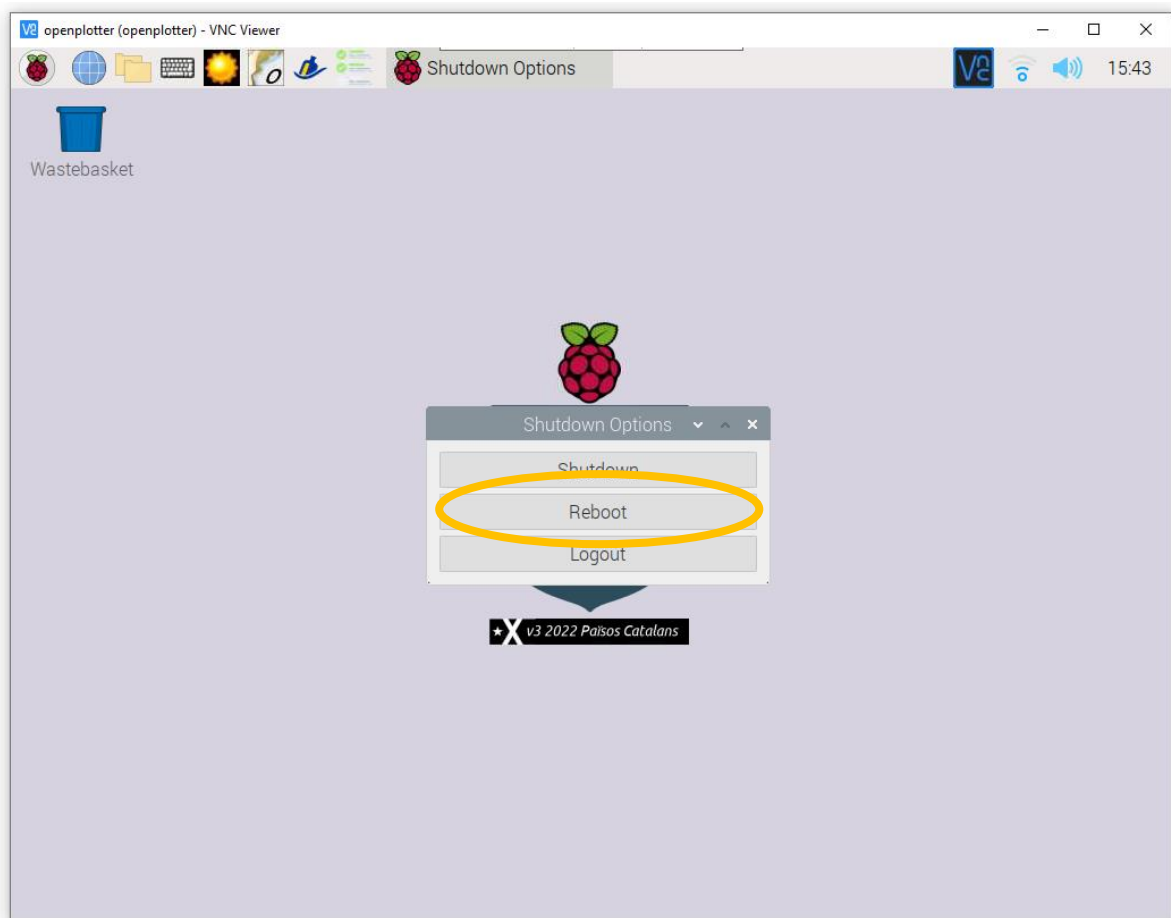
23. Choose your home wifi connection:



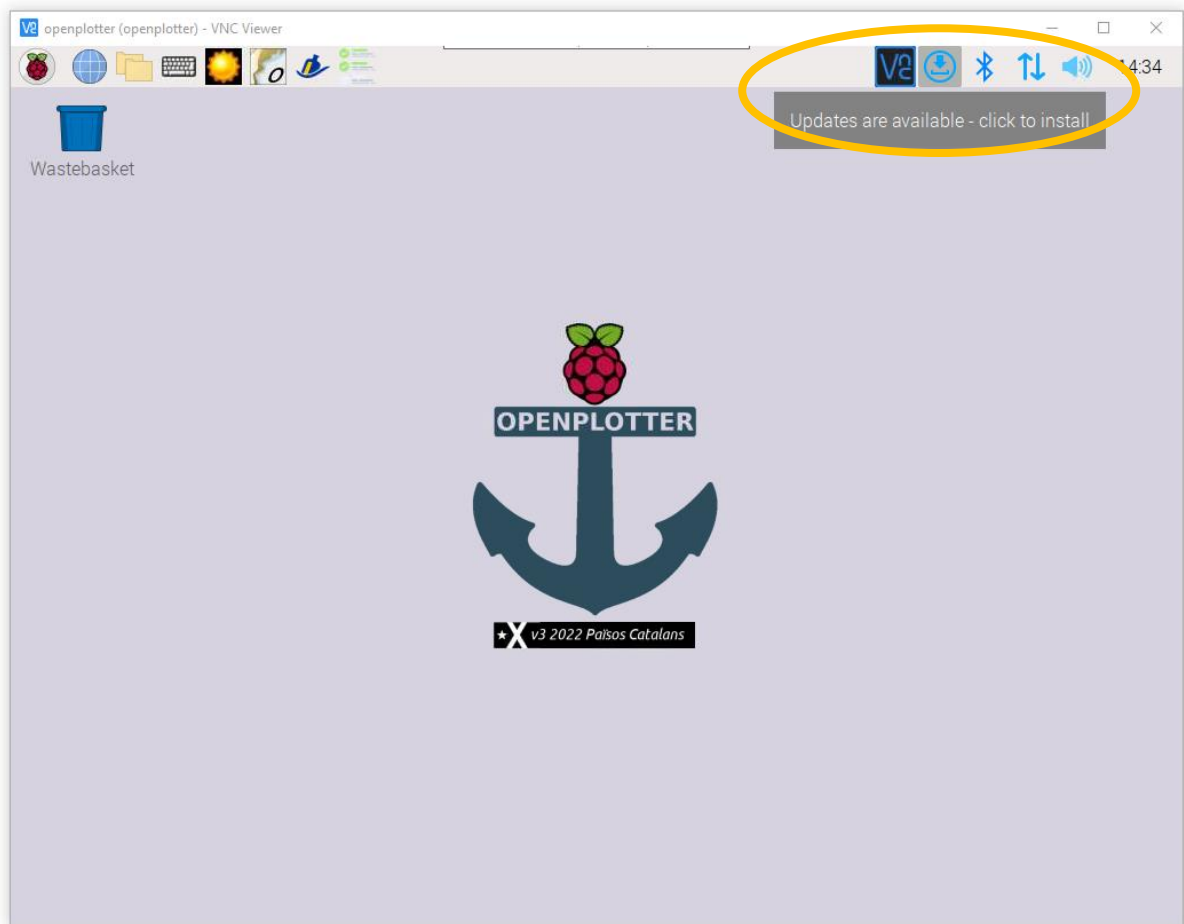
24. Give your home wifi password:



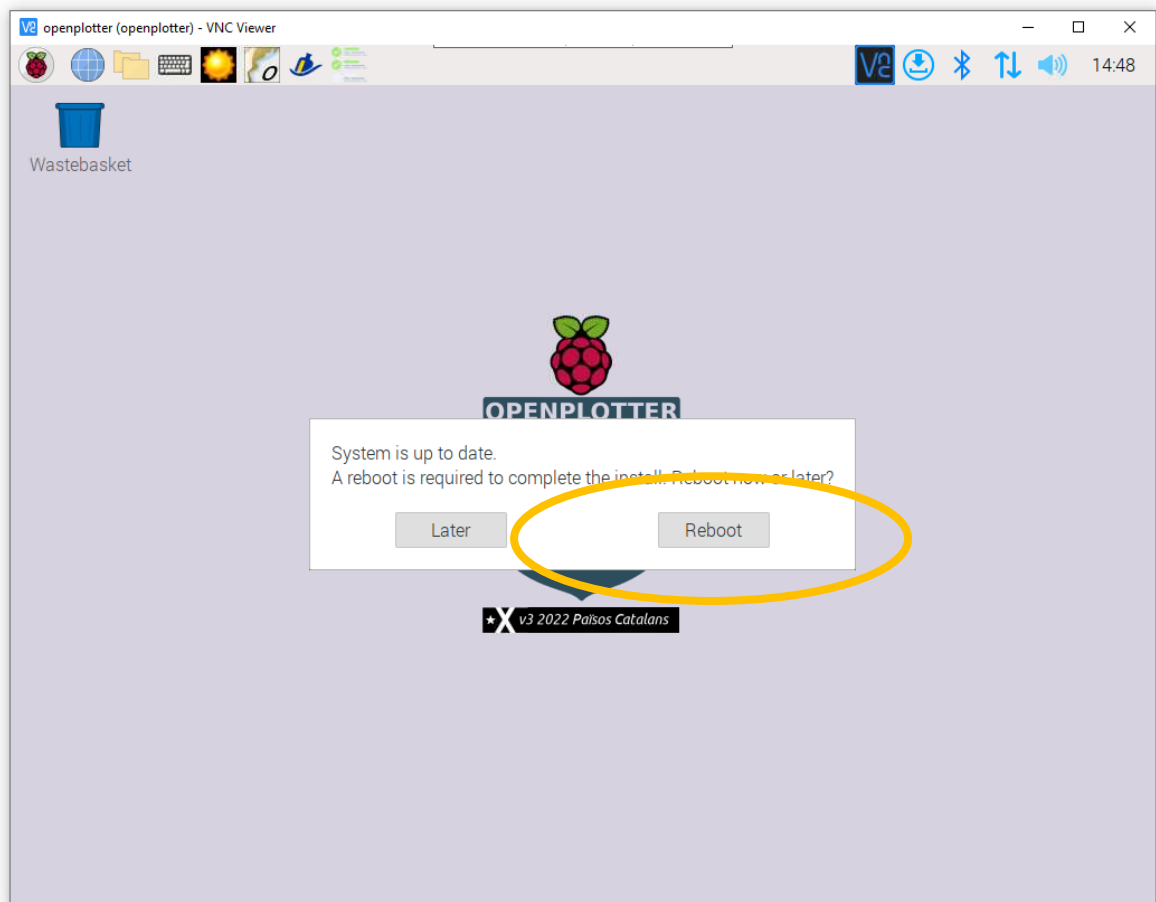
25. Now reboot:



26. When you reconnect to the raspberry, you will see that there are updates available. Install them. This can take quite a while, as in, enough time to get yourself a hot drink.

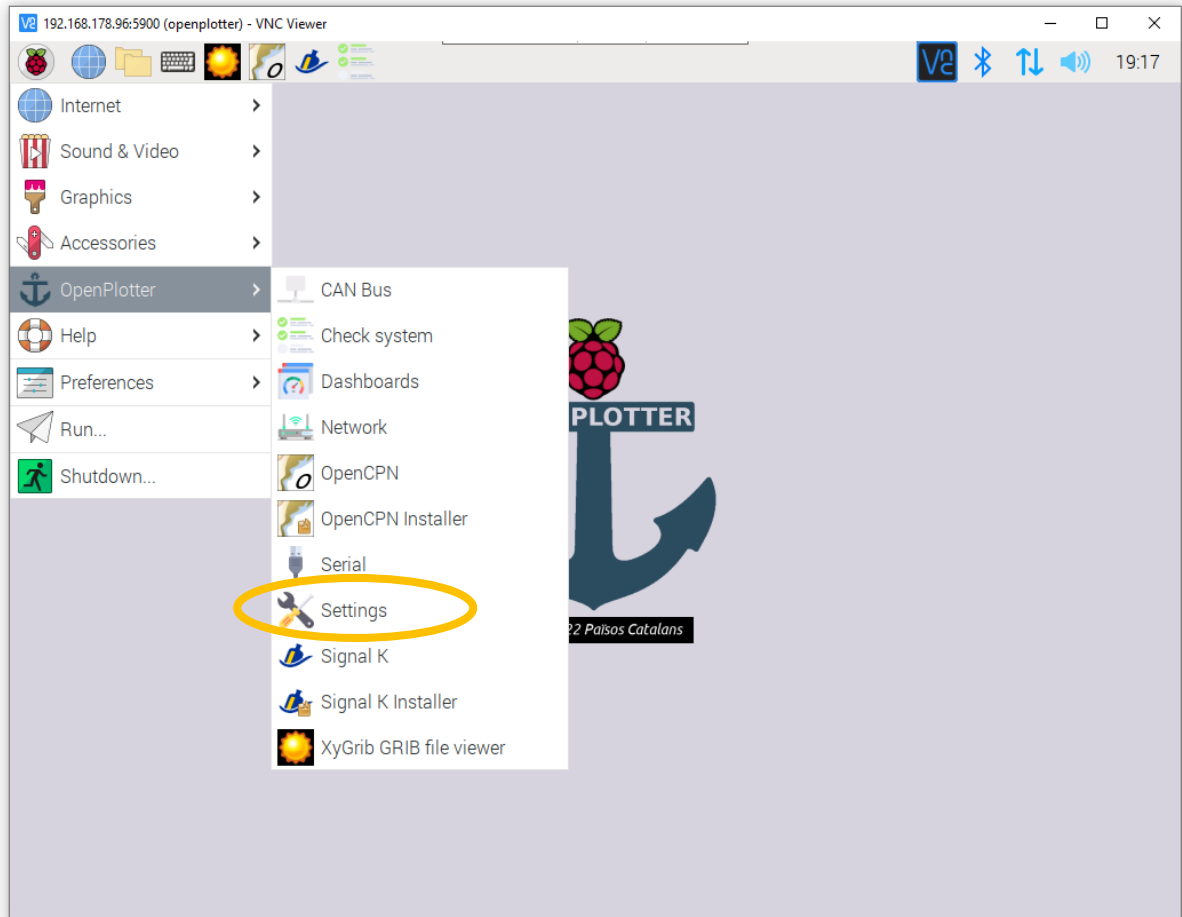


27. Reboot when the system is up to date:

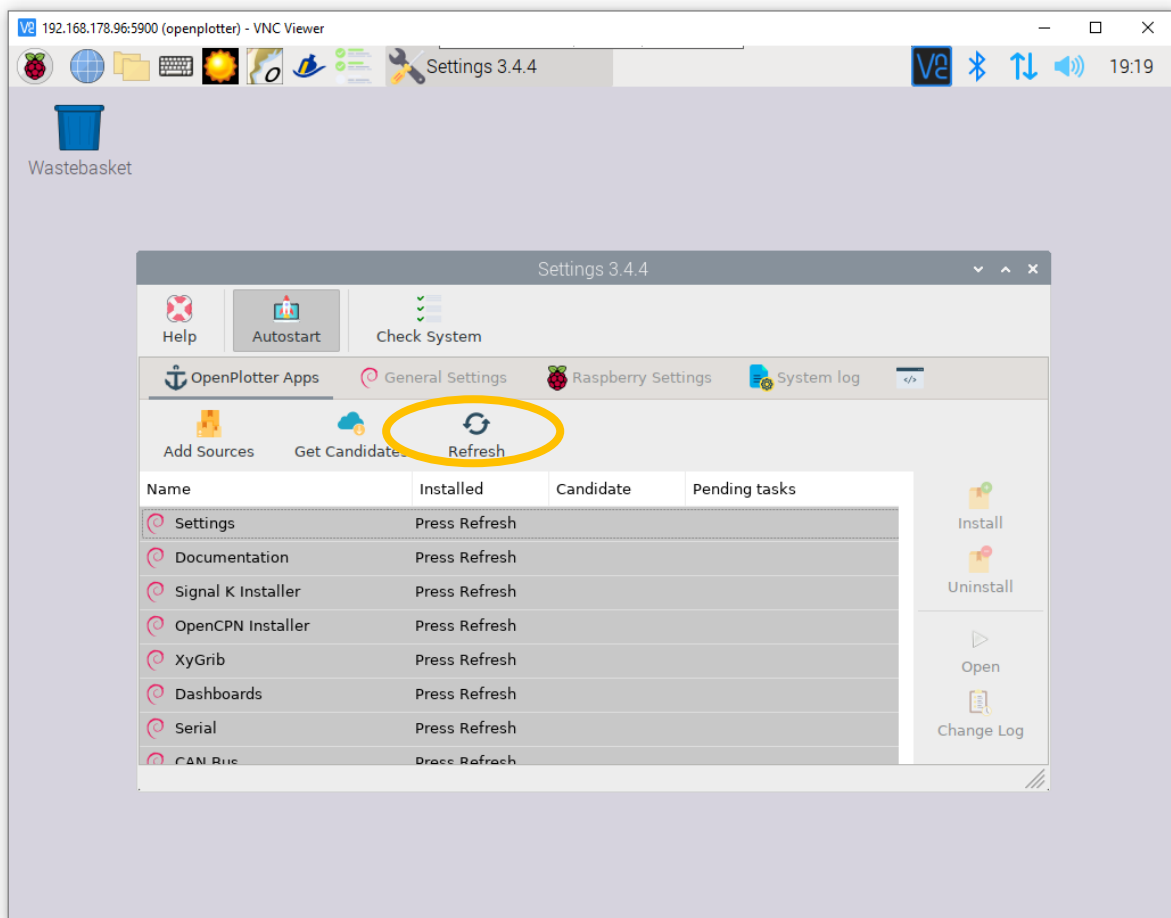


Installation of openplotter-pypilot 3.1.0 beta

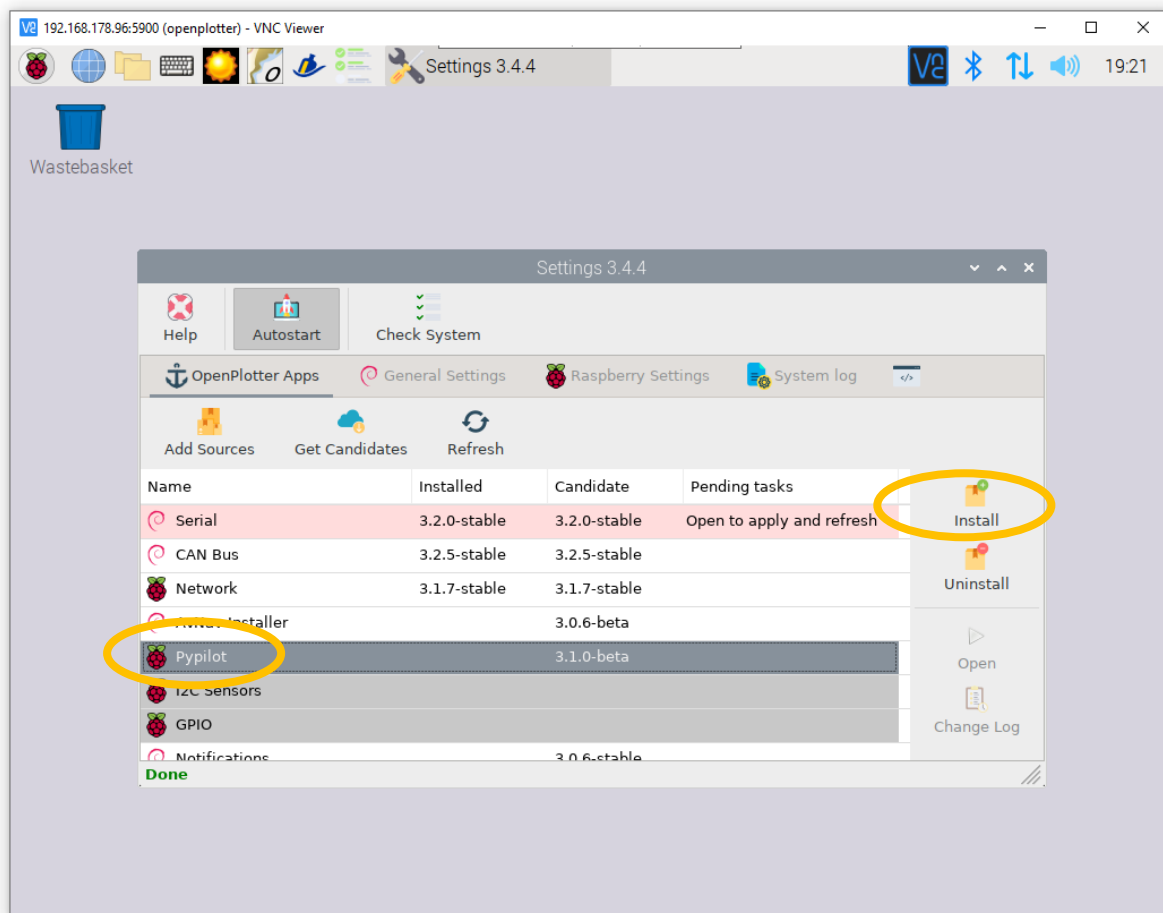
28. Now we are ready to install openplotter-pypilot. Choose Raspberry → OpenPlotter → Settings:



29. There, hit Refresh:



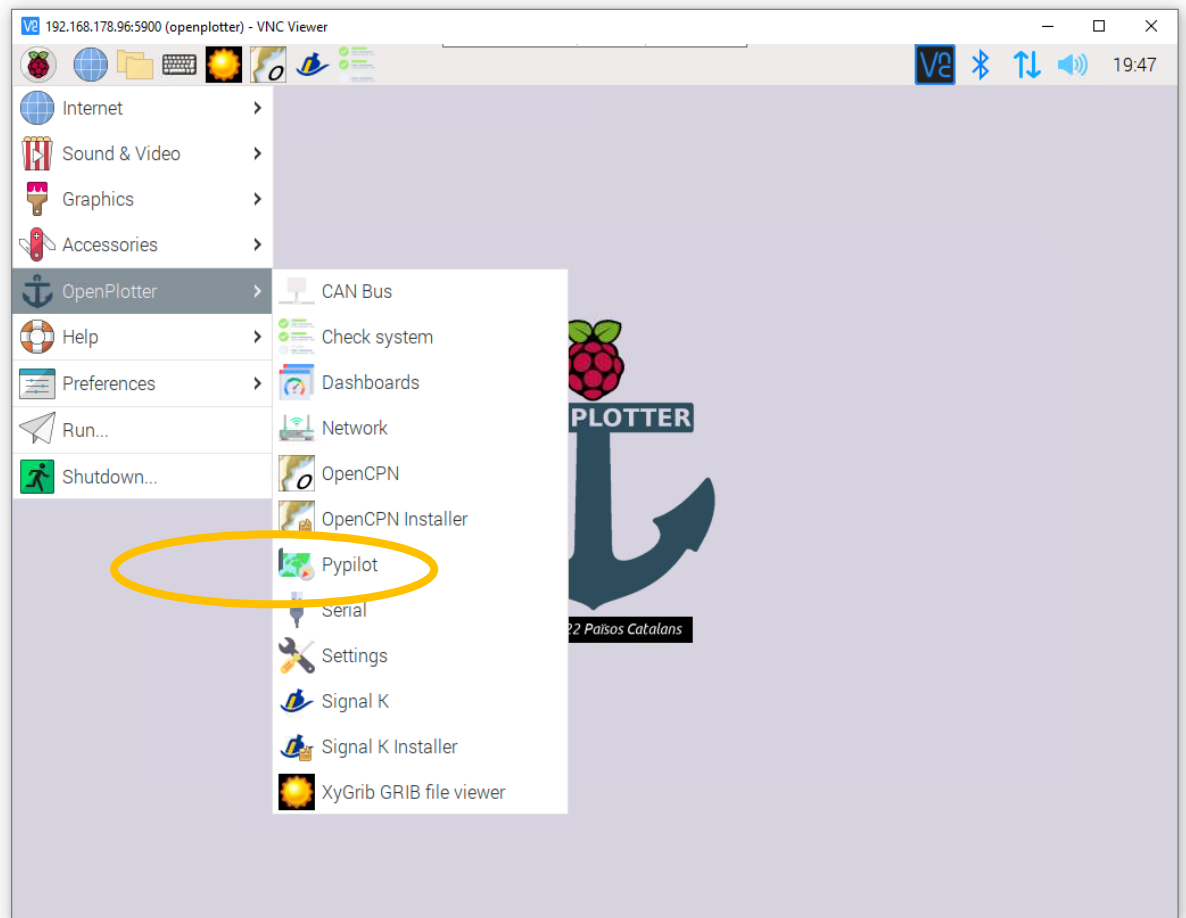
30. Then Scroll down, click on PyPilot, hit Install, and answer Yes to confirm:



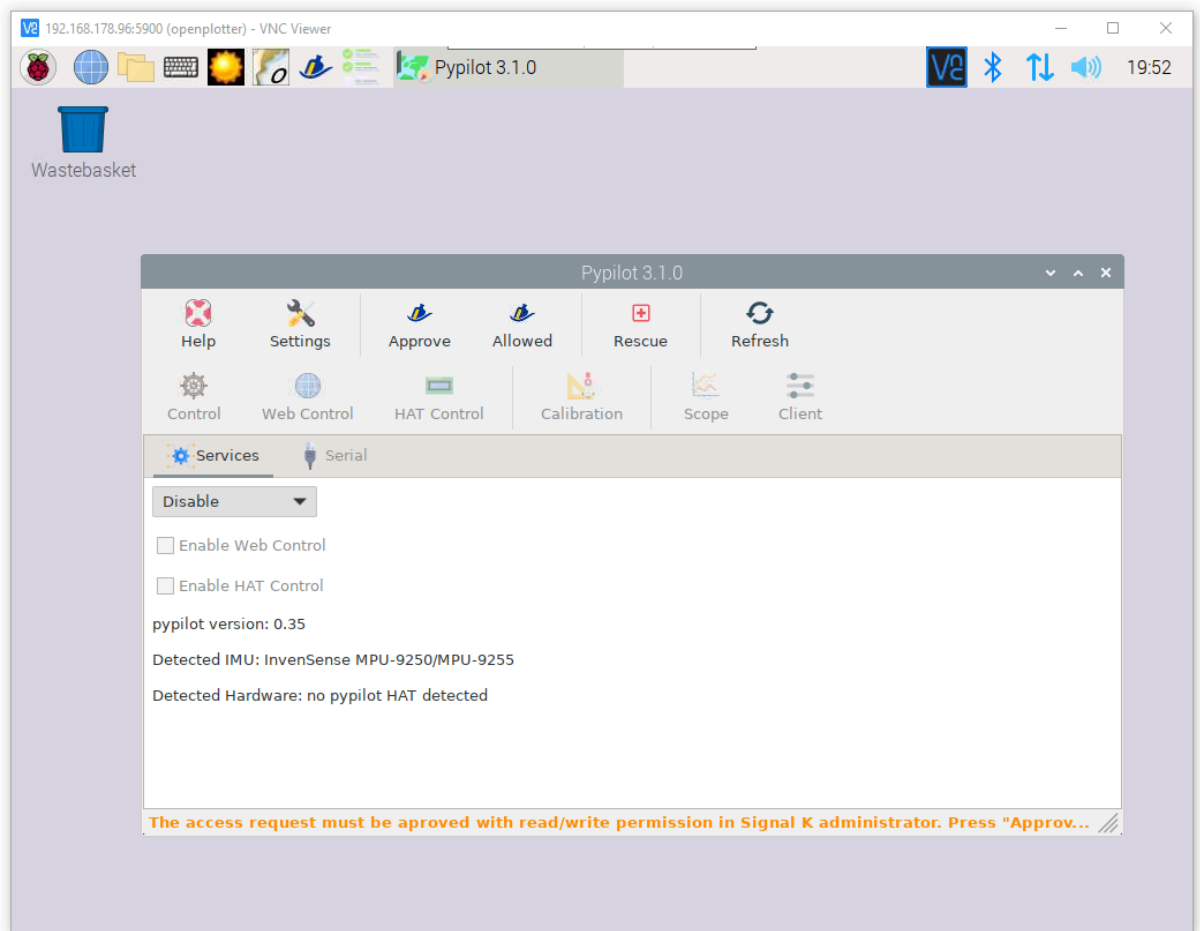
This takes an awful long time again, so you might check your email or other social media, have another cup of tea, or walk the dog.

When it's done, it says Done – press refresh. For the Refresh button, you'd need to click the OpenPlotter Apps tab again, but you can also simply close the screen at this point.

31. At this point, PyPilot will be in the OpenPlotter menu. Click it:

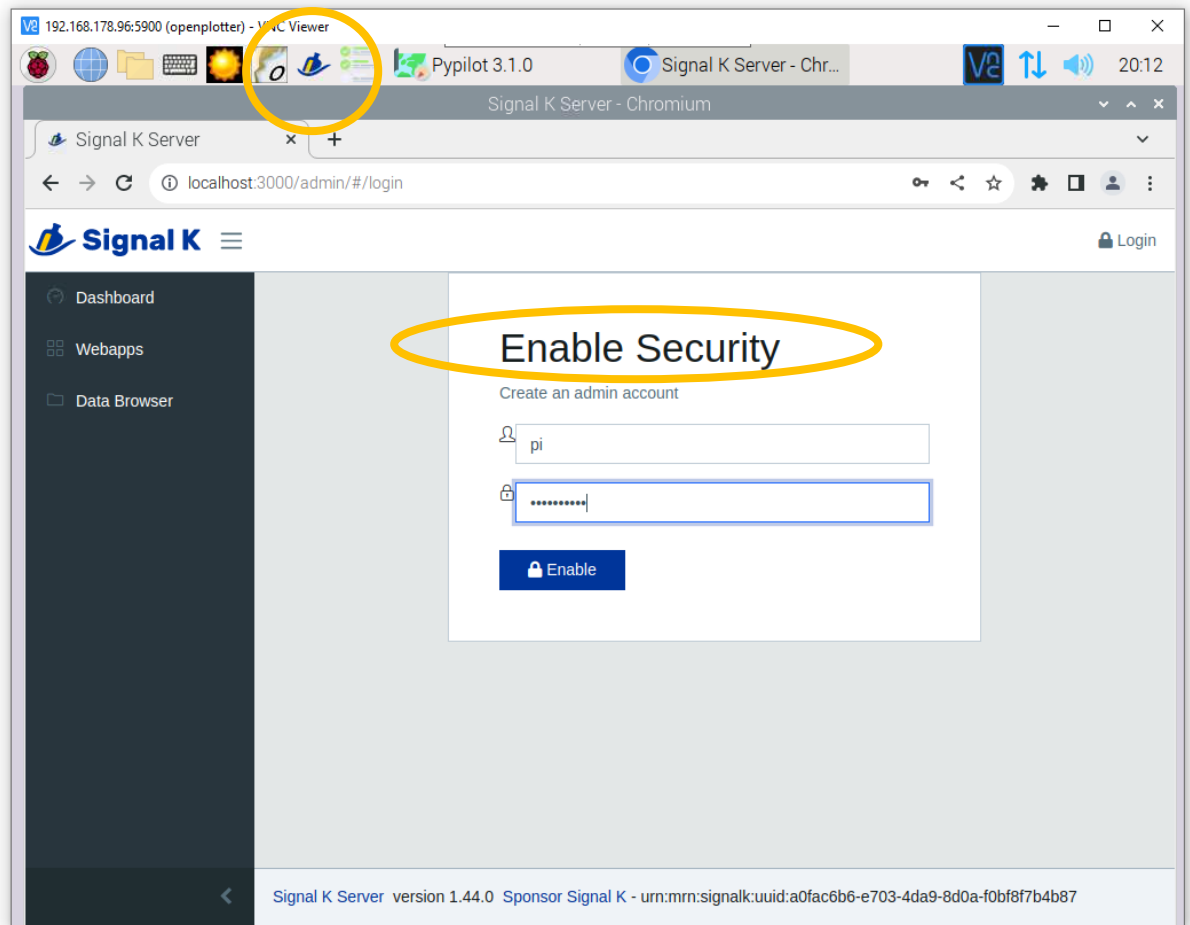


32. It should look like this.



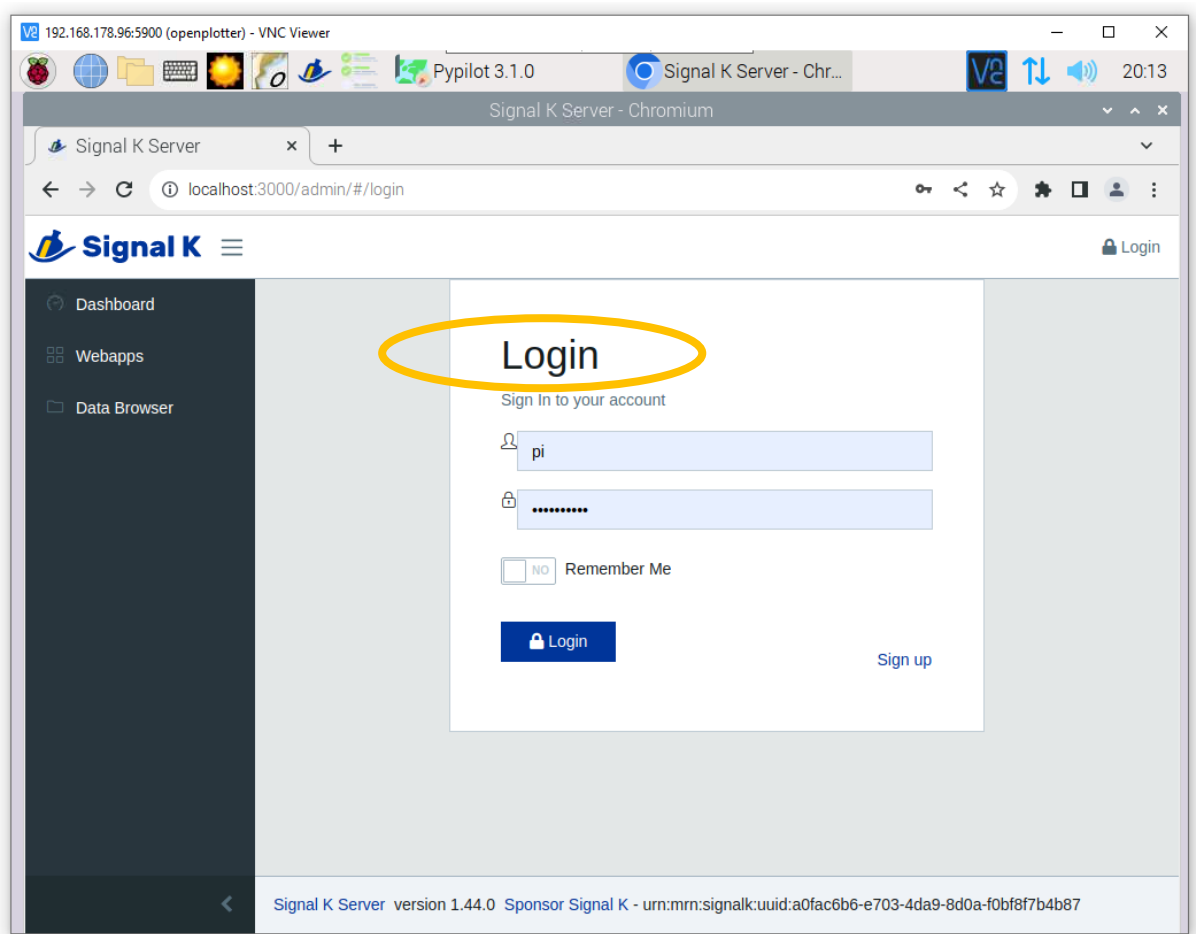
- There is a message in the footer about approving an access request in SignalK. Let's first deal with that.

33. Hit the SignalK logo in the upper left part of the screen. When the browser pops up, click Login:



In the Enable Security screen, it asks to *create an admin account* for SignalK. In theory, you can invent a whole new set of credentials here, but I suggest you use 'pi' and your favorite password again.

34. Then you need to login with those new credentials:



35. Then, under Access Requests, you will find an entry Openplotter PYPILOT:

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Signal K Server administration interface. The browser's address bar shows the URL `localhost:3000/admin/#/security/access/requests`. The interface includes a sidebar menu on the left with the following items: Dashboard, Webapps, Data Browser, Appstore, Server, Security, Settings, Users, Devices, and Access Requests. The 'Access Requests' item is circled in yellow. The main content area is titled 'Access Requests' and contains a table with the following data:

Identifier	Description	Source IP
49b7bea8-49f9-40e1-aed2-f3897d8f942c	OpenPlotter PYPILOT	:::1

The 'Description' cell of the table is also circled in yellow. At the bottom of the page, the footer text reads: 'Signal K Server version 1.44.0 Sponsor Signal K (version 1.45.0 is available) Logged in as pi - urn:mrn:signalk:uuid:a0fac6b6-e703-4da9-8d0a-f0bf8f7b4b87'.

36. Click it, and approve with Read/Write permissions. Click OK.

The screenshot shows the Signal K Server administration interface in a Chromium browser window. The address bar shows the URL `localhost:3000/admin/#/security/access/requests`. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options: Dashboard, Webapps, Data Browser, Appstore, Server, Security, Settings, Users, and Devices. The 'Access Requests' section is active, showing a table with one request:

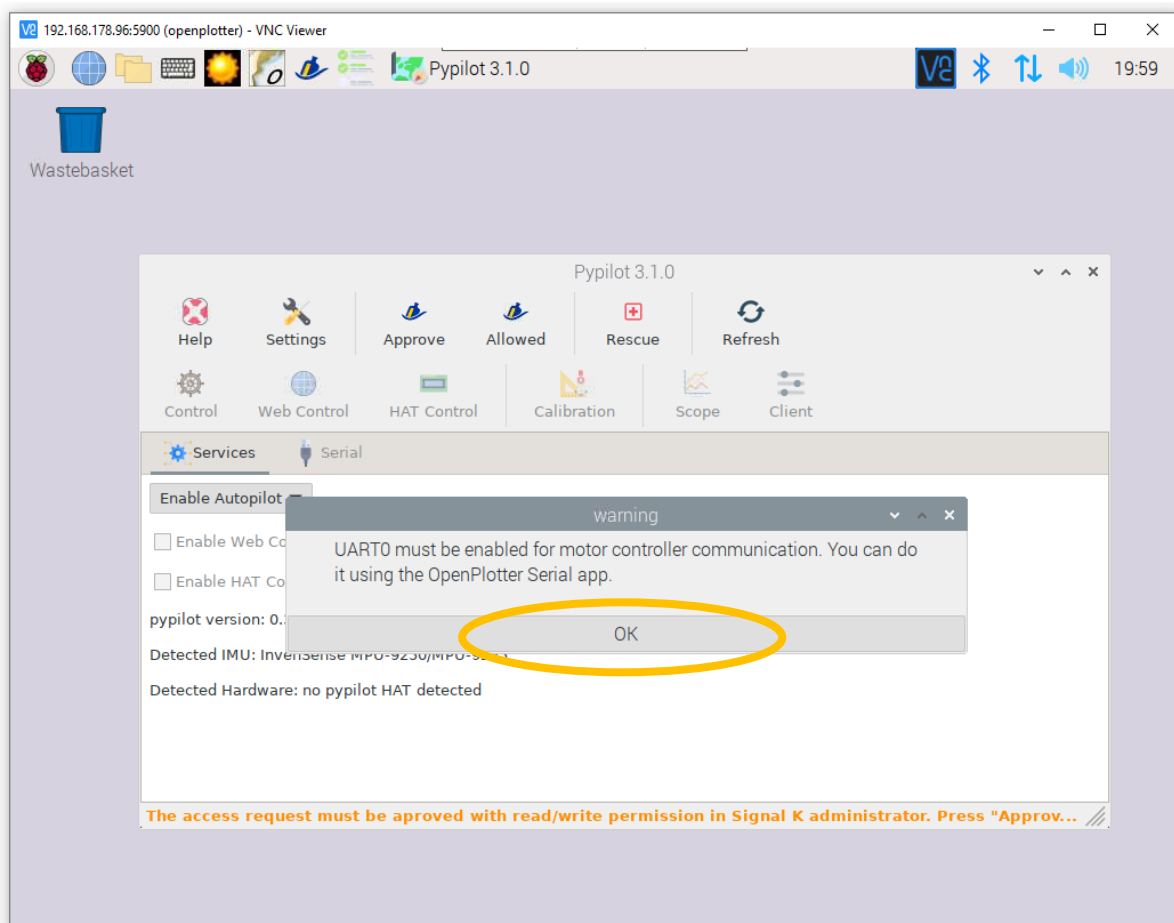
Identifier	Description	Source IP
49b7bea8-49f9-40e1-aed2-f3897d8f942c	OpenPlotter PYPILOT	::1

Below the table, the details of the selected request are shown:

- Identifier: 49b7bea8-49f9-40e1-aed2-f3897d8f942c
- Description: OpenPlotter PYPILOT
- Authentication Timeout:
- Permissions: **Read/W** (highlighted with a yellow circle)

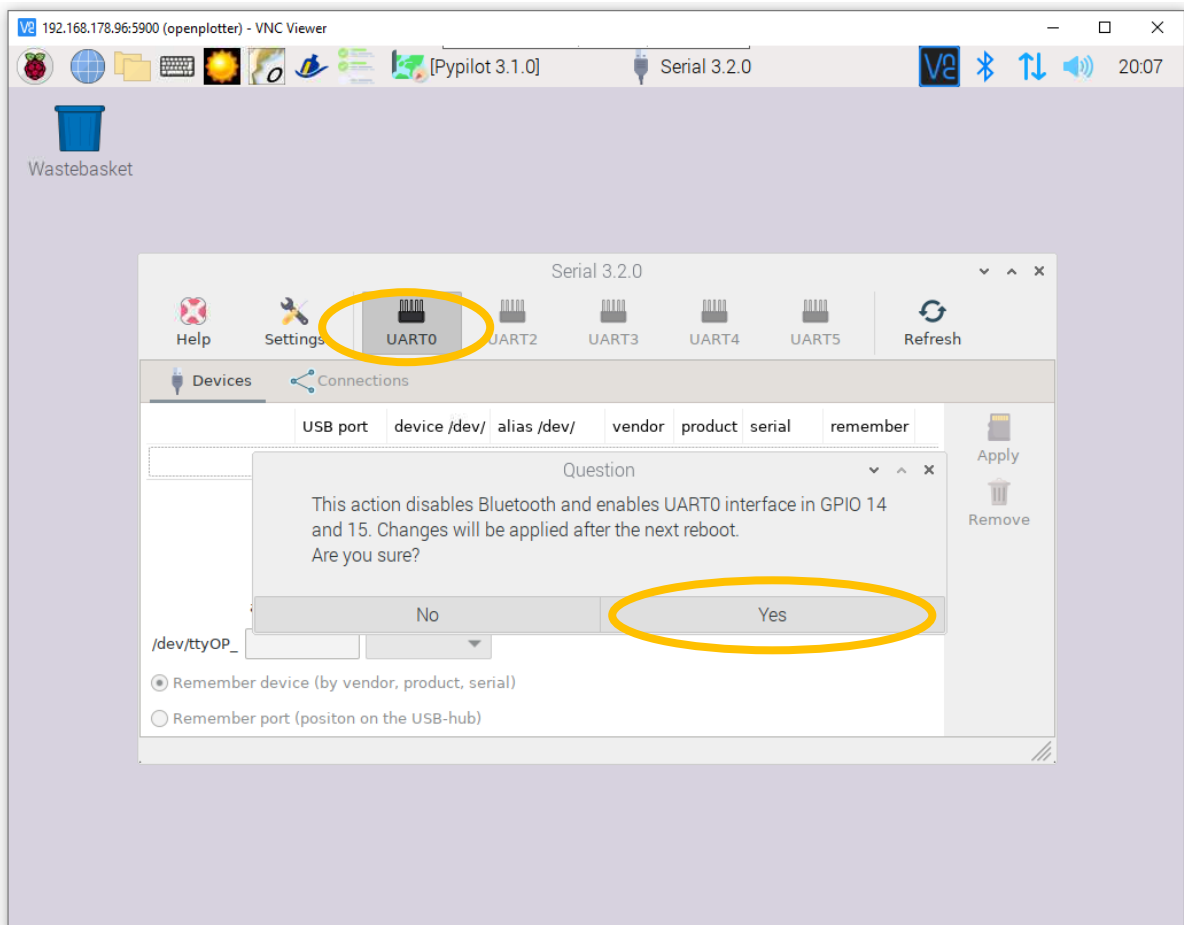
At the bottom of the request details, there are two buttons: **Approve** (highlighted with a yellow circle) and **Deny**. The footer of the interface displays: "Signal K Server version 1.44.0 Sponsor Signal K (version 1.45.0 is available) Logged in as pi - urn:mrn:signalk:uid:a0fac6b6-e703-4da9-8d0a-f0bf8f7b4b87".

37. When you Enable Autopilot, it will pop up this message:

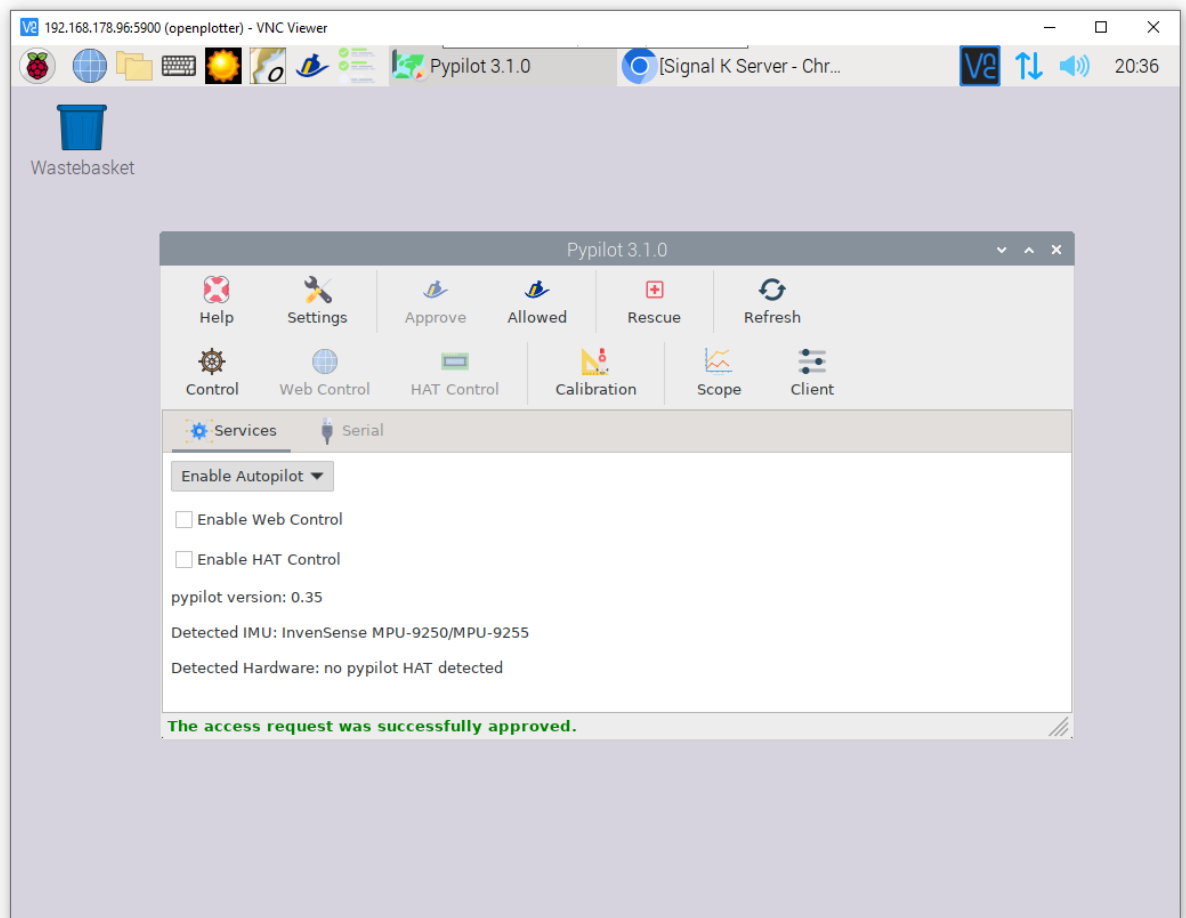


This is a bit of a bumner but there is a good reason for it so better get it over and done with.

38. Choose Raspberry → OpenPlotter → Serial, and UART0. The following disheartening message appears. Click Yes and reboot your Pi (Raspberry → Shutdown → Reboot):

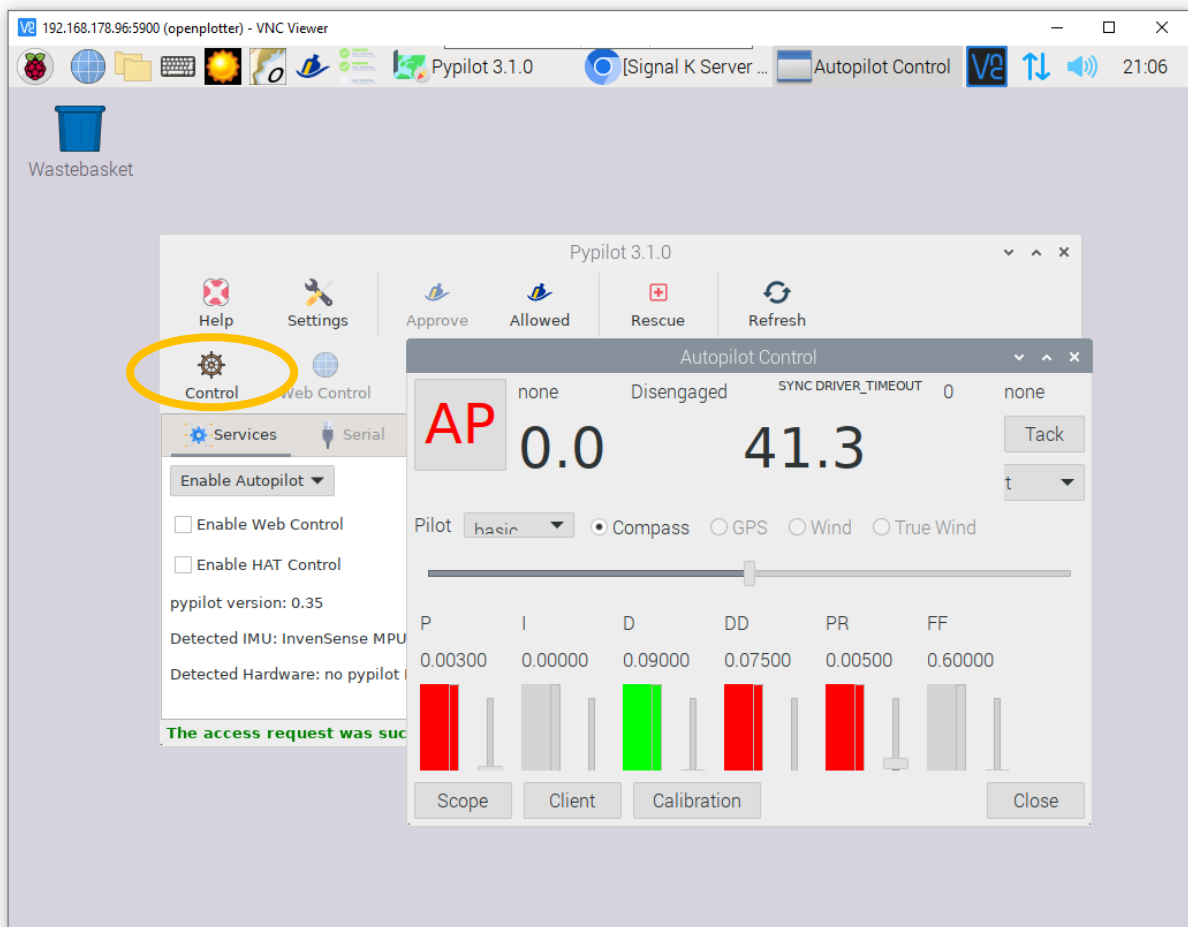


39. Then, finally, when you start the PyPilot app again, you are able to Enable Autopilot:



This is the moment you have been waiting for: PyPilot is running. Let's see it working!

40. Hit the Control button:



You will see a compass reading (41.3 degrees in this case).

41. In SignalK Data Browser you will see pypilot data flowing in:

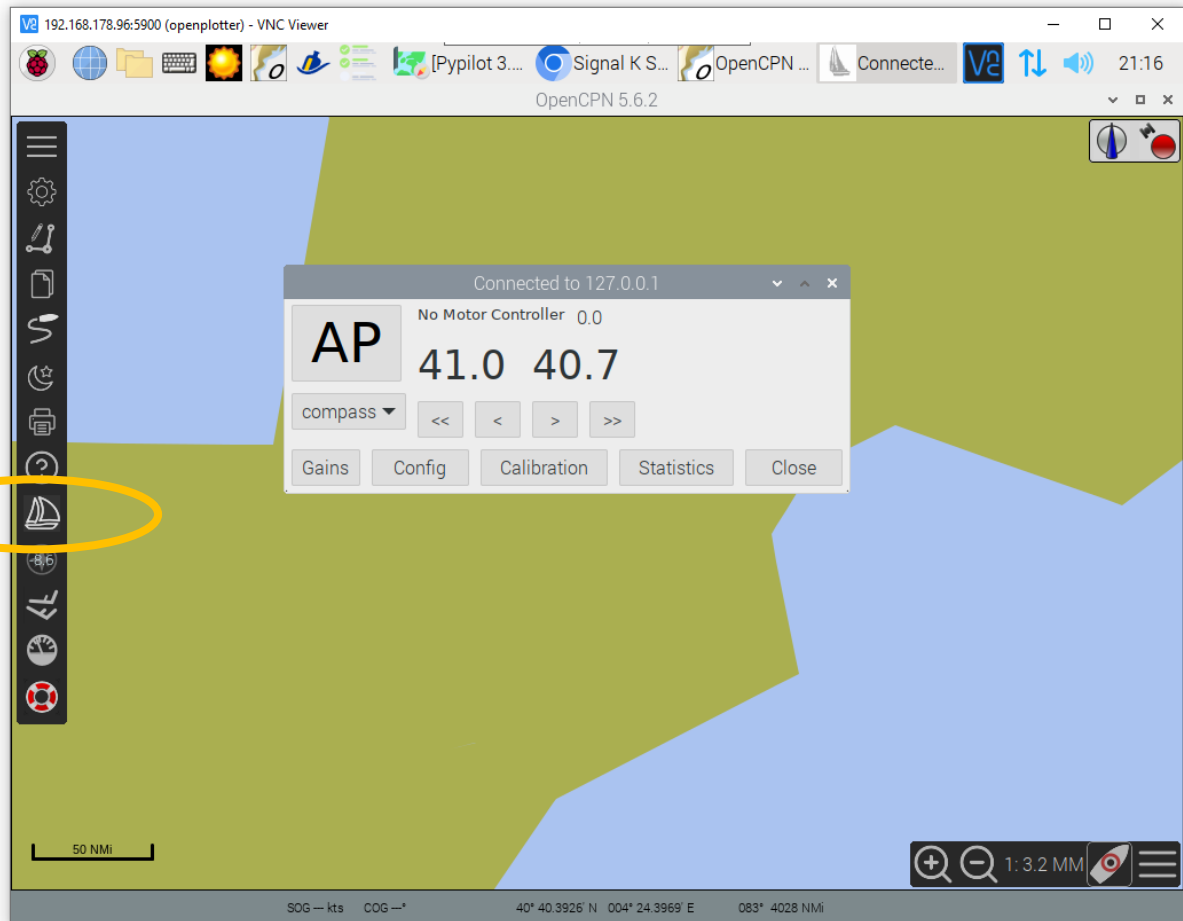
The screenshot shows the SignalK Data Browser interface in a Chromium browser window. The address bar shows the URL `localhost:3000/admin/#/databrowser`. The interface includes a sidebar with navigation options: Dashboard, Data Browser (circled in yellow), Appstore, Server, and Security. The main content area displays a table of data points with columns for Path, Value, Units, Timestamp, and Source. The table contains the following data:

Path	Value	Units	Timestamp	Source
navigation.attitude	<pre>{ "pitch": -0.813735741213195374, "roll": -0.12372639867387883, "yaw": 0.7847988585403501 }</pre>		09/20 21:08:53	pypilot
navigation.headingMagnetic	0.7847988585403501	rad	09/20 21:08:53	pypilot
notifications.security.accessRequest.any.49b7bea8-49f9-40e1-aed2-f3897d8f942c	<pre>{ "state": "normal", "method": [], "message": "The device \"OpenPlotter PYPILOT\" has been approved", "timestamp": "2022-09-20T19:32:48.504Z" }</pre>		09/20 20:32:48	sk-simple-token-security-config
notifications.server.newVersion	<pre>{ "state": "alert", "method": [], "message": "A new version (1.45.0) of the server is available" }</pre>		09/20 20:10:44	signalk-server
uuid	"urn:mrn:signalk:uuid:a0faceb6-e703-4da9-8d0a-f0bf8f7b4b87"		09/20 20:10:19	defaults

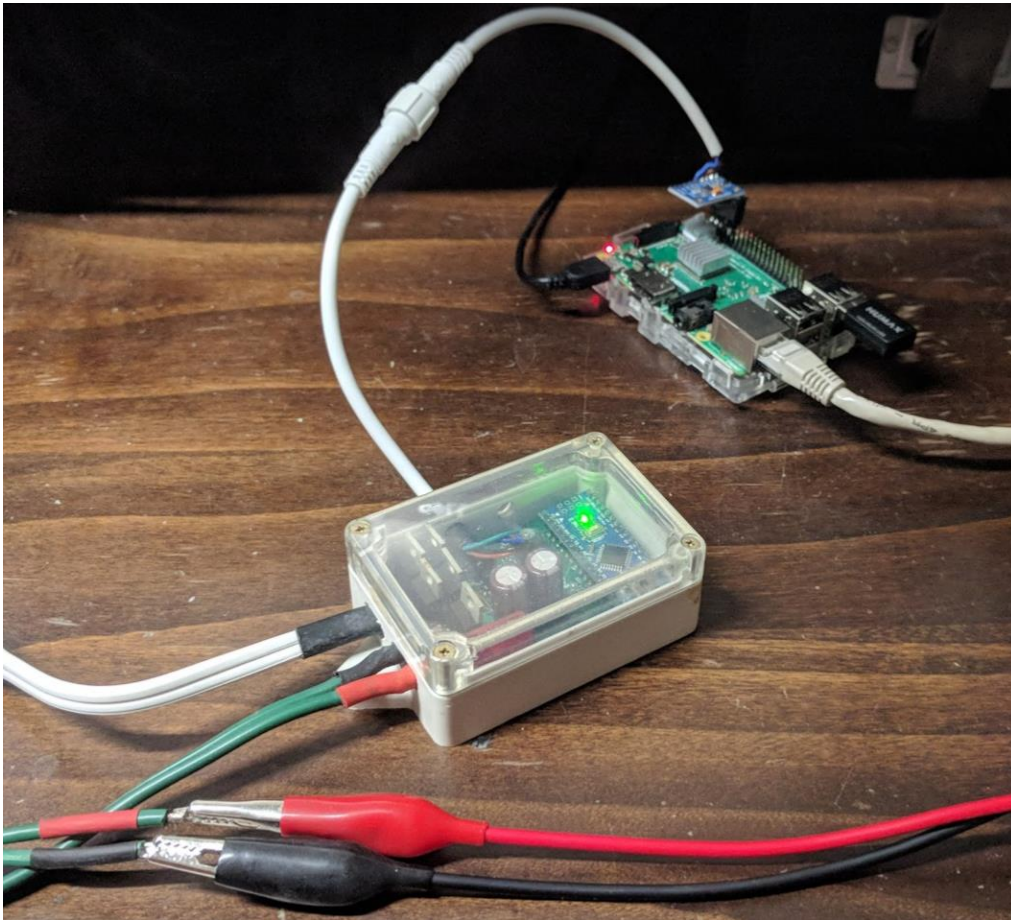
If you don't see pypilot data, check whether you have approved the Access Request with Read/Write permission in step 36. The already approved device is now in SignalK → Security → Devices.

42. Now go to OpenCPN and install the OpenCPN PyPilot plugin:

- a. OpenCPN → Options → Plugins
- b. Update Plugin Catalog: Master
- c. Scroll to PyPilot, click it, click Install
- d. Click the PyPilot plugin:

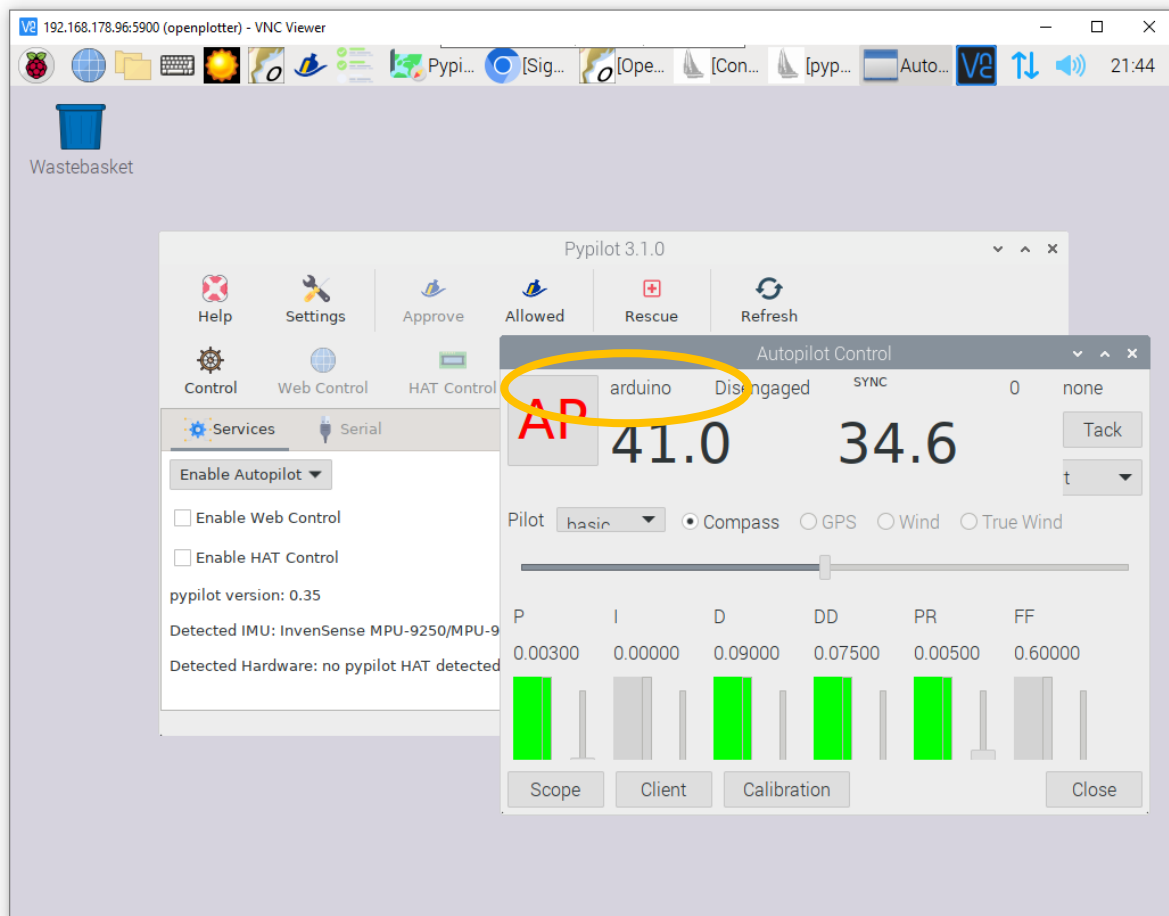


43. If you have a motor controller, connect it to the raspberry, and power it up with 12V:



The Tx/Rx LED's on the Arduino should start flickering. Depicted is hardware purchased from the pypilot.org store. In case you produced the hardware yourself, remember that for a serial connection, Tx should be connected to Rx and vice versa.

44. You will then see the motor controller appear:



45. And in the OpenCPN plugin you can find some controller statistics:

The screenshot shows the OpenCPN 5.6.2 interface. A window titled "Connected to 127.0.0.1" displays AP controller data. The "Statistics" button in this window is highlighted with a yellow circle. To the right, a "pypilot Statistics" window shows various performance metrics.

pypilot Statistics	
Uptime	22m 54s
Runtime	1s
Average Power Consumption	0.00 Watts
Total amp hours	0.00 <input type="button" value="Reset"/>
Voltage	12.00 V
Controller Temperature	25.1 C
Motor Temperature	nan C
gps.source	none
wind.source	none
apb.source	none
rudder.source	none
water.leeway.source	none
water.source	none

46. You can now start playing around; for instance attach a motor to the controller and see how it reacts to movements of the IMU.

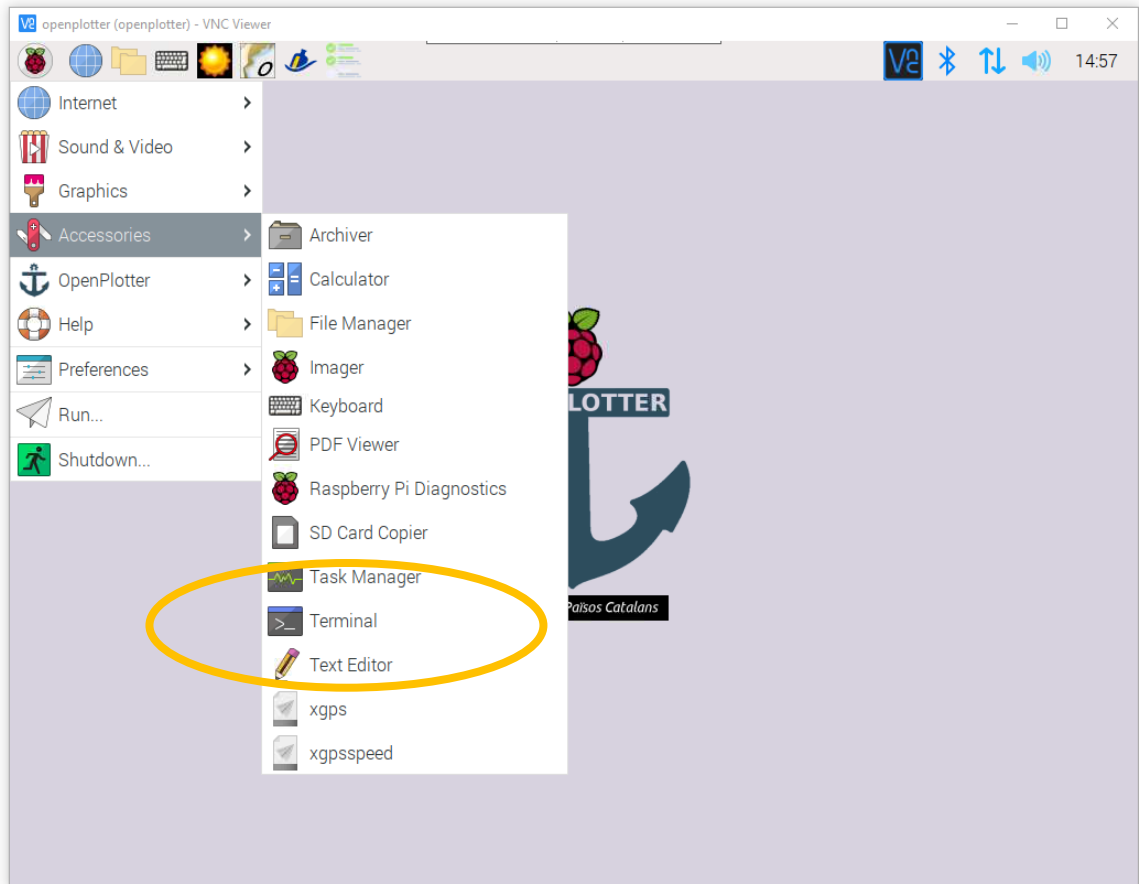
Some notes:

- When the Web control is enabled, the interface is available on port 8080, e.g. browse to <http://10.10.10.1:8080>
- The HAT control be not enabled when no Pypilot HAT is attached. This seems incorrect; even without PyPilot HAT it should be possible to enable the service to assign raspberry GPIO pins or IR codes to keys. It is possible to start the service manually using `pypilot_hat 127.0.0.1`; the interface then becomes available on port 33333, e.g. <http://10.10.10.1:33333>

Alternative installation of openplotter-pypilot

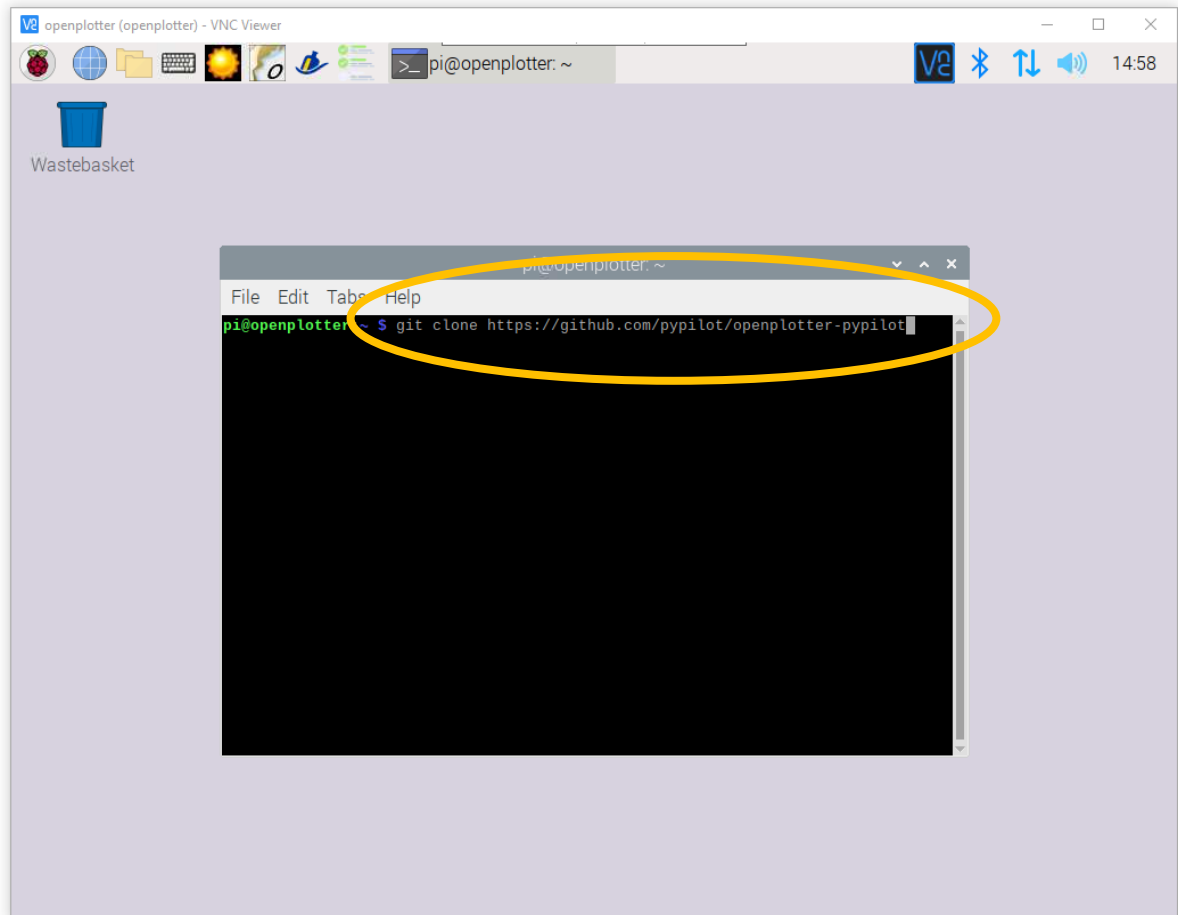
Another alternative version of openplotter-pypilot can be installed from Github. This version is expected to be merged with the OpenPlotter version in due time. The following examples are taken from the 04-SEP-2022 commit from github.

47. Choose Accessories → Terminal:



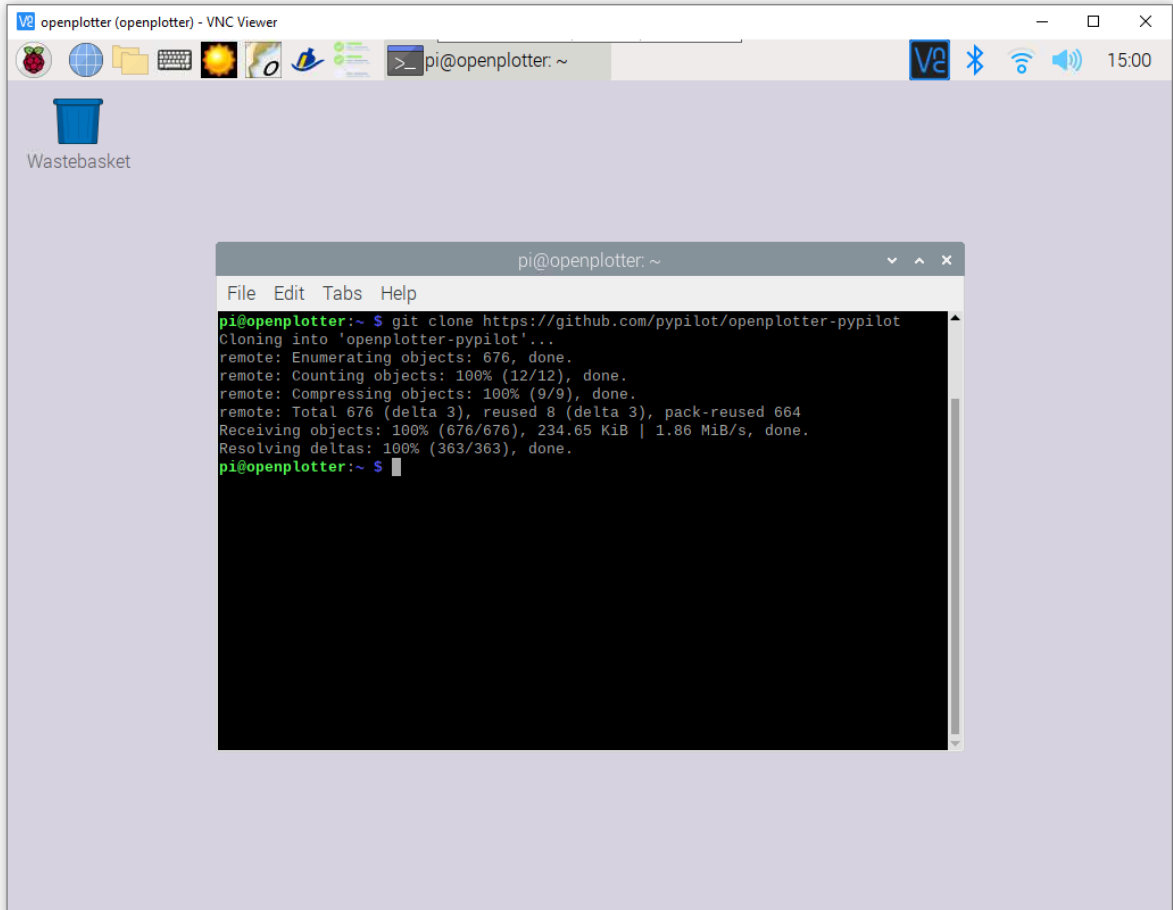
48. Type the 4 (!) commands from the release notes

<https://forum.openmarine.net/showthread.php?tid=4210&pid=23542#pid23542>. If you are on VNC Viewer, you can copy them and use Edit → Paste:

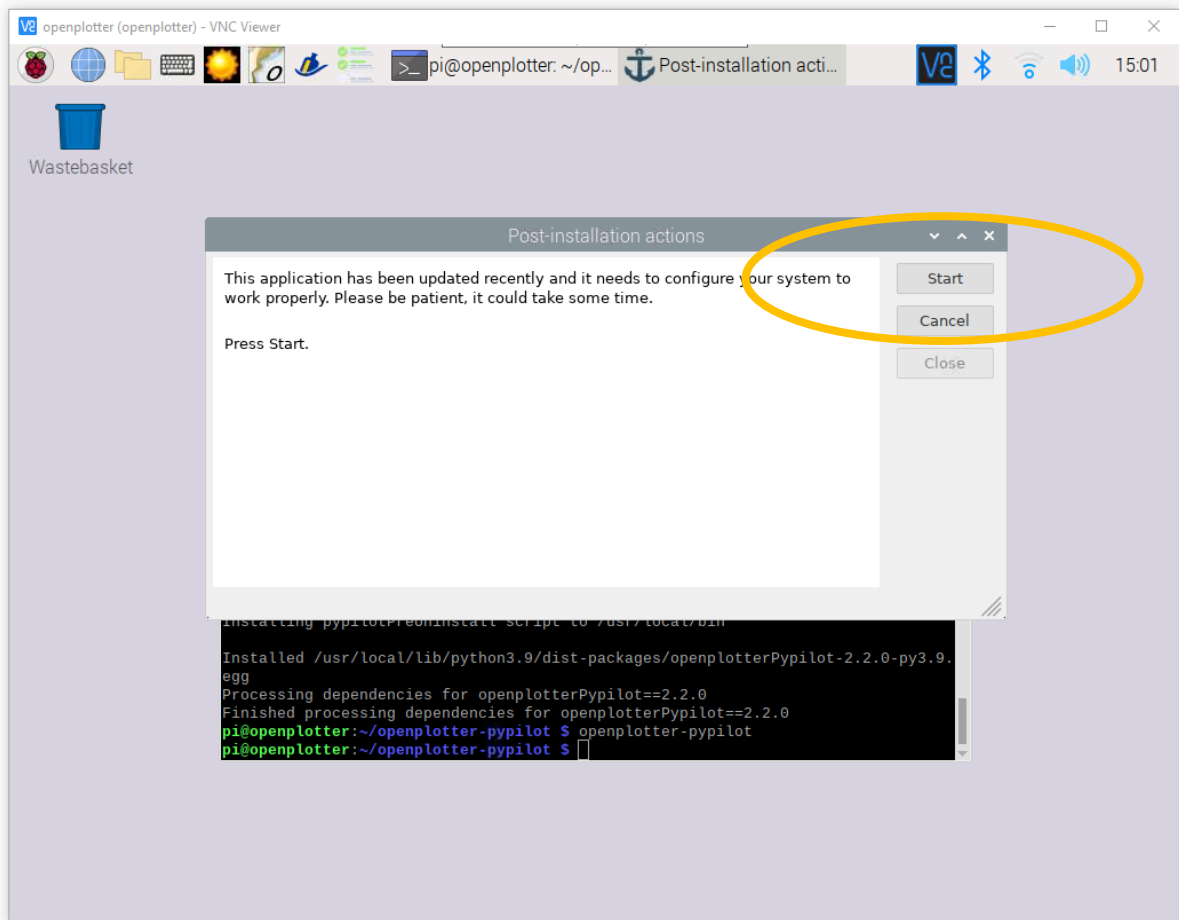


The 4 commands are:

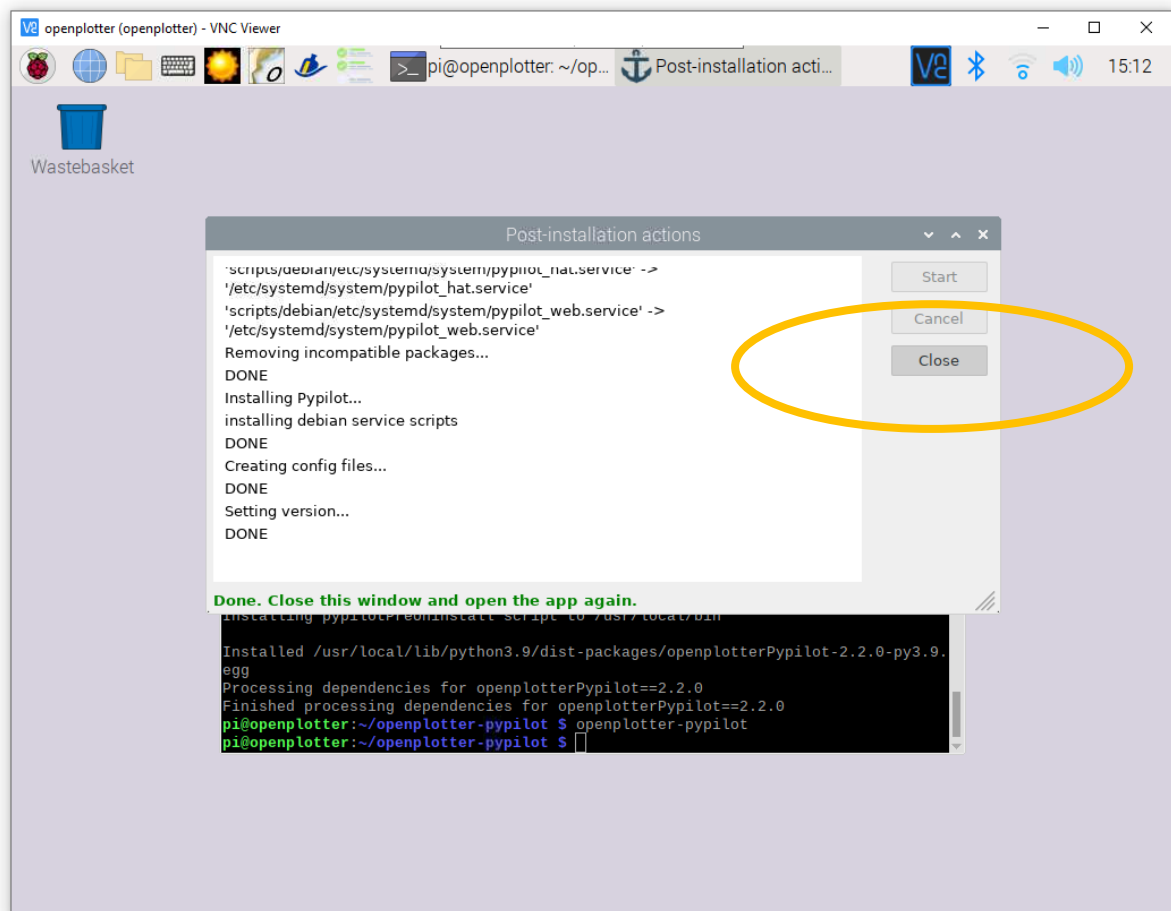
```
git clone https://github.com/pyplot/openplotter-pypilot  
cd openplotter-pypilot  
sudo python3 setup.py install  
openplotter-pypilot
```



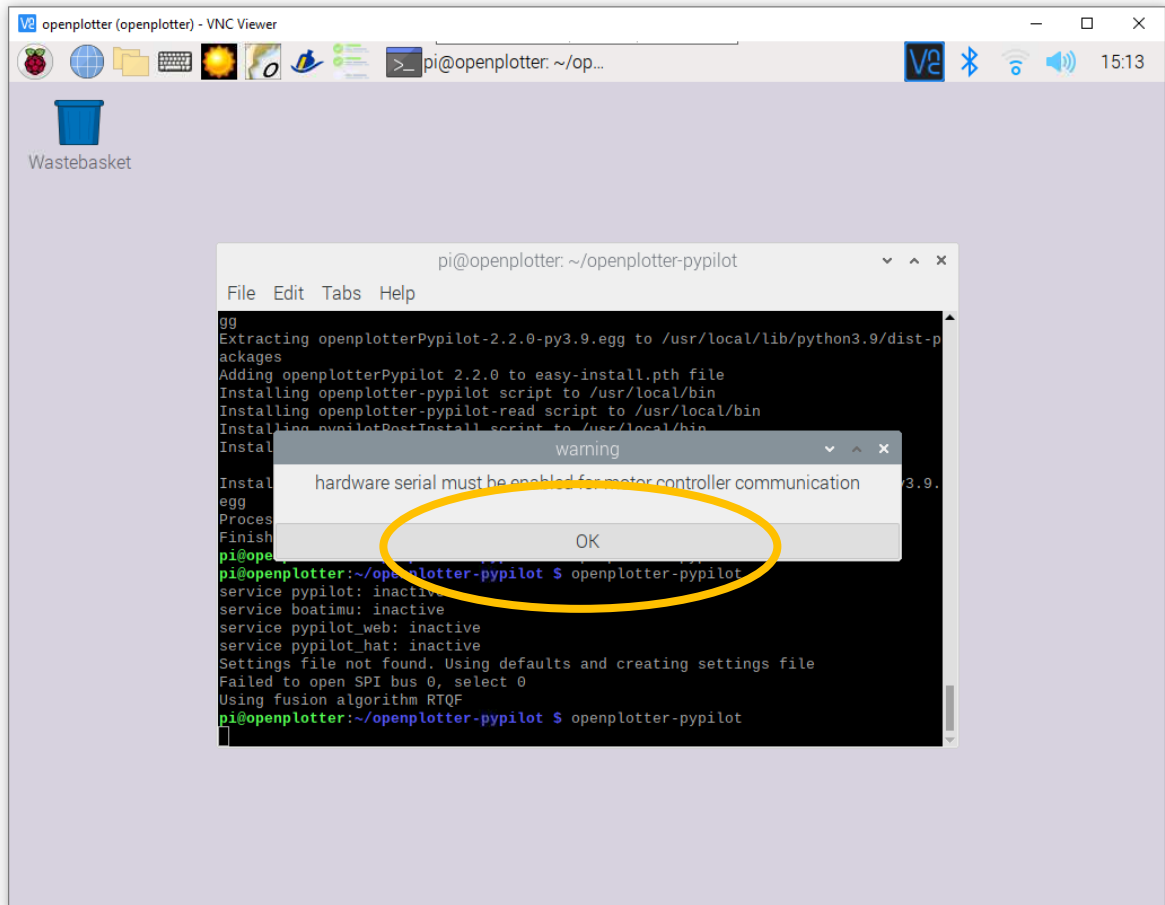
49. These 4 commands go very quick. When you start openplotter-pypilot for the first time, you need to click start to install pypilot itself. This takes quite a while.



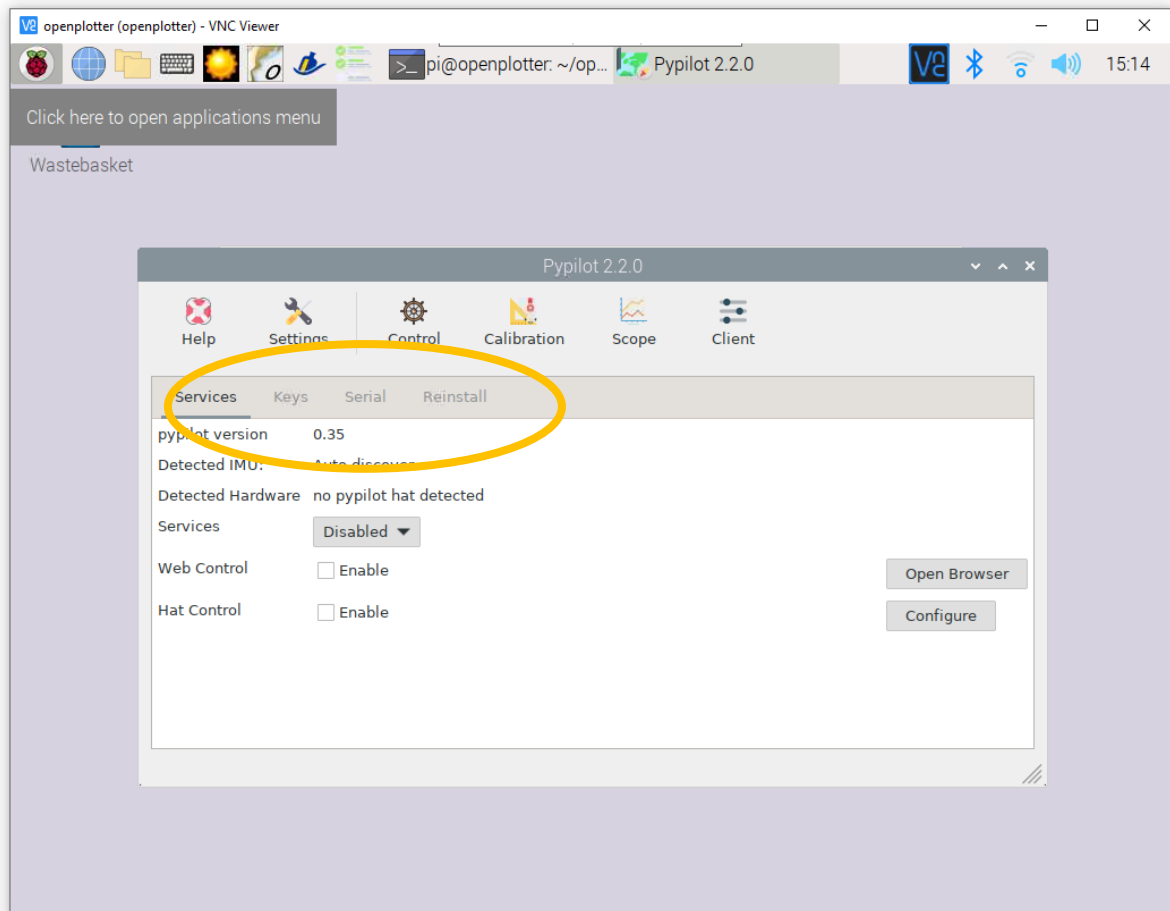
50. After it succeeds, you must close and start again:



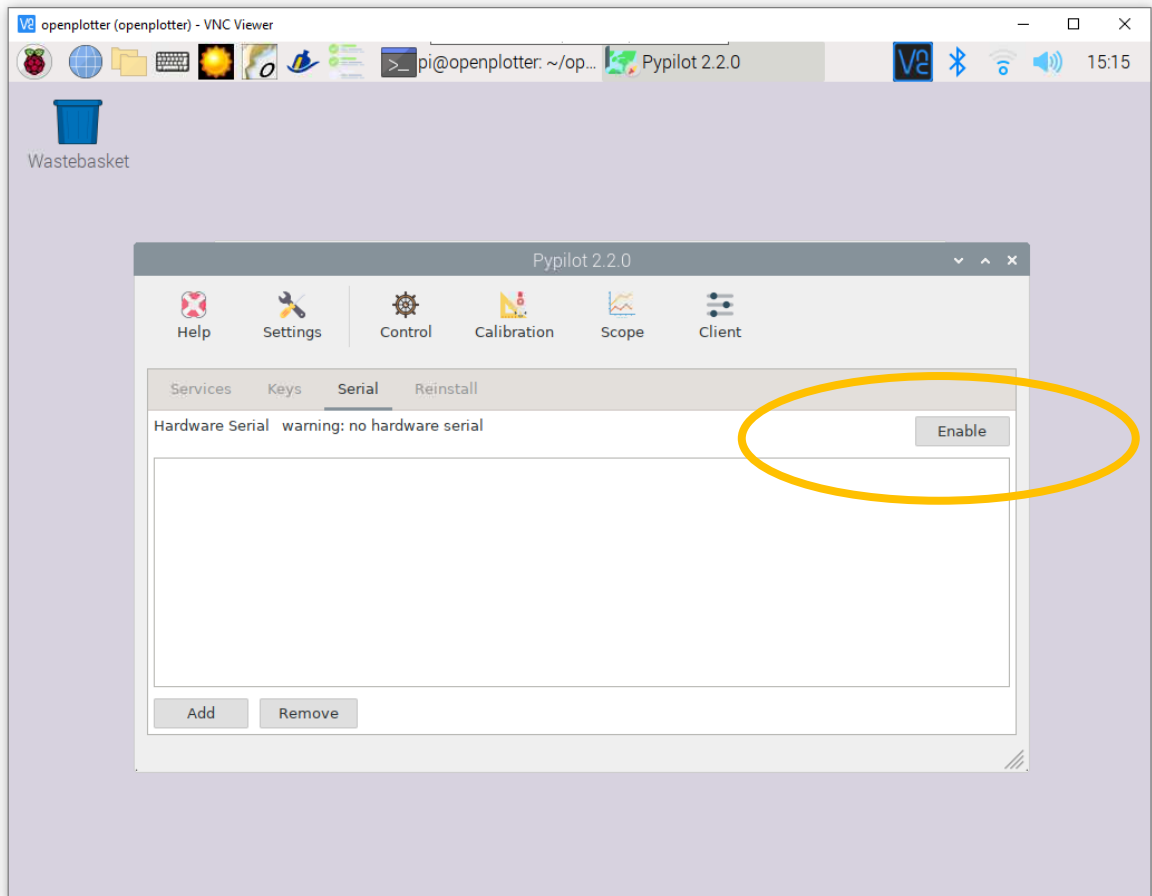
51. When I restarted, I got this message. Which was weird, because I thought I did that in step 14:



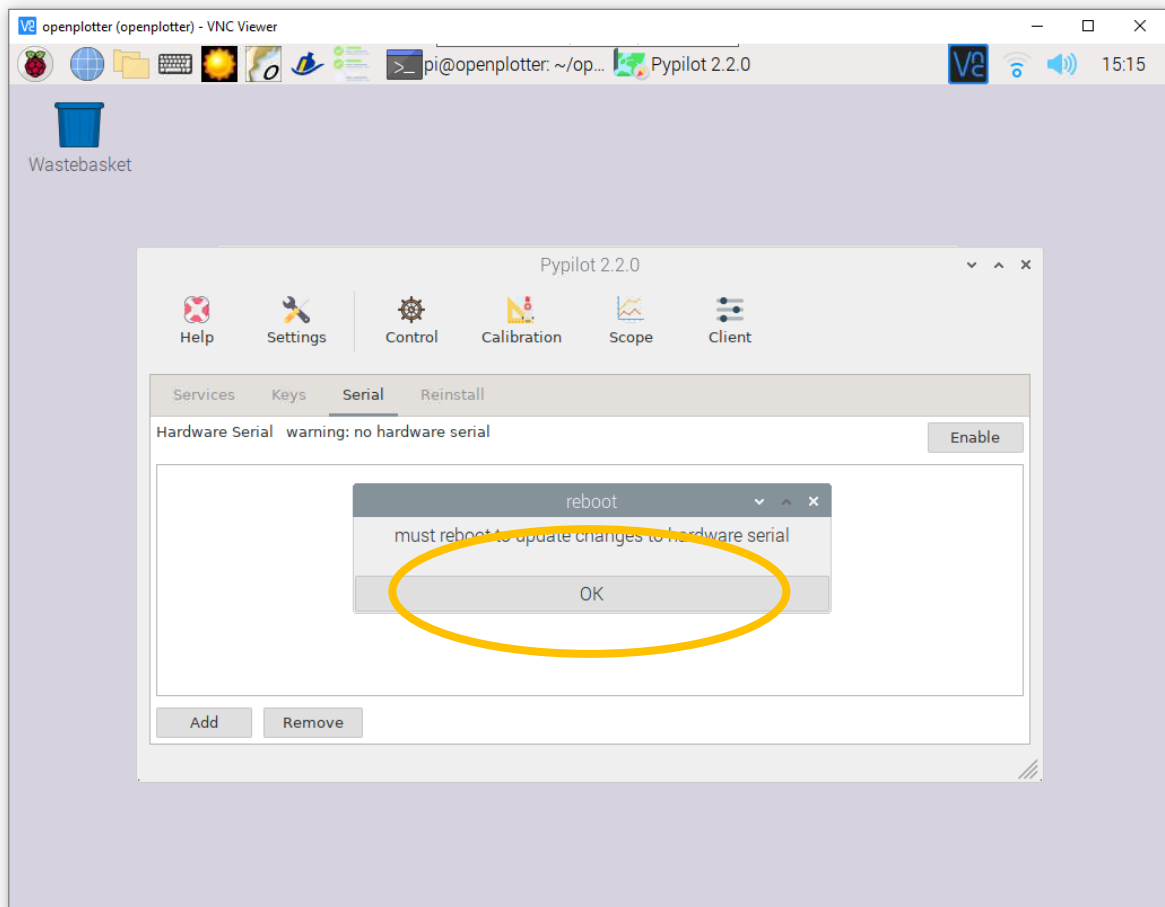
52. Anyway, there appears to be a tab called serial:



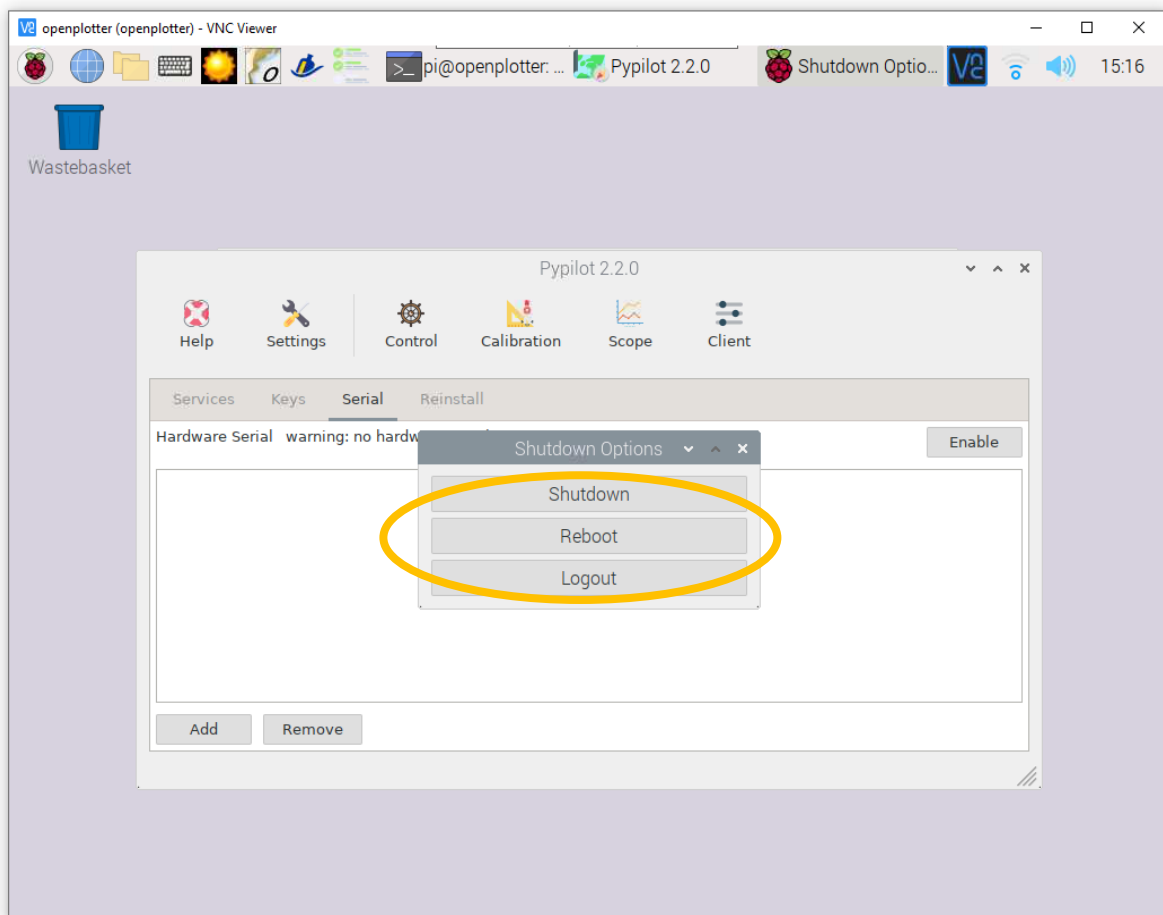
53. And there I can click Enable:



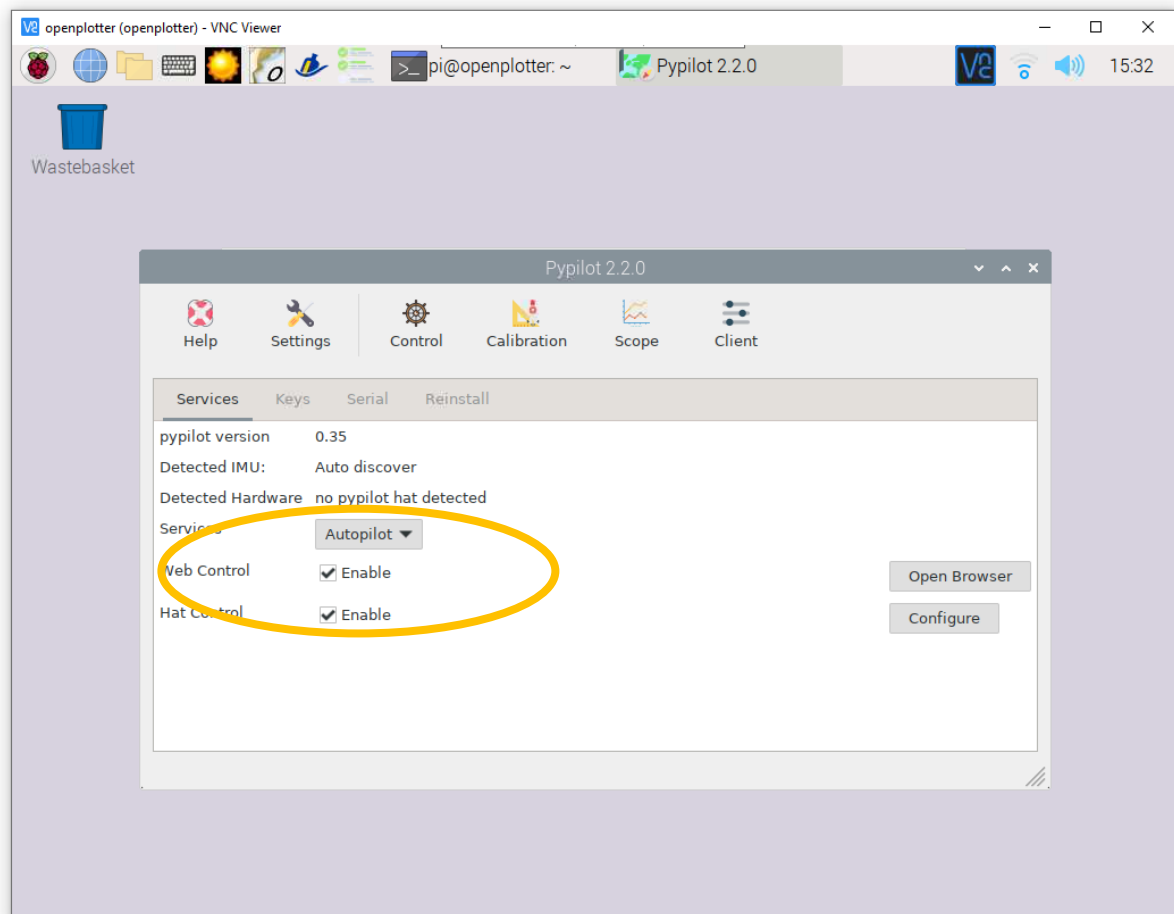
54. Which worked and begged me to do a reboot:



55. Which I had to initiate myself:



56. But after that I could start openplotter-pypilot without any pop-up messages



57. Then I switched Services to Autopilot, enabled Web Control and Hat Control. This brought up all services, persistent to a reboot, listening to the right ports and all, so I would call this a success.

openplotter (openplotter) - VNC Viewer

Wastebasket

```
pi@openplotter: ~  
File Edit Tabs Help  
pi@openplotter:~$ sudo systemctl|grep pypilot|grep service  
pypilot.service  
loaded active running pypilot  
pypilot_hat.service  
loaded active running pypilot hat  
pypilot_web.service  
loaded active running pypilot web  
pi@openplotter:~$ sudo netstat -antlp|grep LISTEN|grep python3  
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:8080          0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN     136/python3  
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:23322         0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN     222/python3  
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:20220         0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN     207/python3  
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:33333         0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN     763/python3  
pi@openplotter:~$
```

58. For instance, I could select Control to get the control screen.

