

Espressif ESP8266 FAQs

Application

Why does OTA use two BIN files? Are “user1.bin” and “user2.bin” different?

Yes, [user1.bin](#) and [user2.bin](#) are two different files. They must be generated with the same Flash/boot configuration for OTA to work properly.

The two different BIN files are required because [user1.bin](#) can download [user2.bin](#) and similarly, [user2.bin](#) can download [user1.bin](#) during OTA. This ensures that the upgrade process does not cause corruption of the main BIN file in case of power failure during upgrade.

How do I generate user1.bin and user2.bin?

You may run [gen_mish.sh](#) in terminal to generate the files [user1.bin](#) and [user2.bin](#) separately. The steps are:

1. Compile [user1.bin](#) using correct Flash and boot settings.
2. Do a “[make clean](#)”, which clears temporary files generated in the first step.

Compile [user2.bin](#), ensure that you use the same options that you used to generate [user1.bin](#).

OTA failed, what could be the reasons?

There could be many common reasons for OTA failure. We recommend referring to the document [ESP8266 FOTA Guide](#) before you use the FOTA APIs.

Here are some quick checklist to troubleshoot OTA failure:

- Make sure that you select the correct Flash size when downloading the firmware to Flash.
- The first time you download a new firmware, always also download [blank.bin](#).

Confirm that [user1.bin](#) and [user2.bin](#) (optional) downloaded to the correct locations.



Make sure you generate `user1.bin` and `user2.bin` with the same Flash/boot configuration options!

How do I provide updates through my own server?

If you want to serve OTA updates through your own server, you must make sure that the server can understand and respond to firmware upgrade requests.

The update request process can be outlined as follows:

1. Sent `HEAD` to cloud, requesting BIN length. Server responds with HTTP package (with BIN length information included in the HTTP HEAD).
2. Based on the BIN length information thus obtained, erase ESP8266's Flash sectors to be upgraded with API (`spi_flash_erase_sector`).
3. Sent `GET` request to obtain the BIN file from the server. The erased area can then be programmed with the new BIN file.

Can I set up my own cloud server for serving updates for ESP8266 devices?

Users can serve updates via their own custom server. The server should be able to serve HTTP requests and should have device control features.

For API reference, please visit: <http://iot.espressif.cn/#/api-en/>.

How will the ESP8266 communicate with the cloud server?

Standard HTTP protocol may be used to connect to the update server. For example, when your custom server is running, when the ESP8266 device starts a socket and sends HTTP request:

```
GET /your-bin-file-path.bin HTTP/1.1
Host: yourdomain.com
Connection: keep-alive
Cache-Control: max-age=0
Accept:
text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
User-Agent:
Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML,
like Gecko) Chrome/39.0.2171.95 Safari/537.36
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, sdch
```



Accept-Language:

en-US,en;q=0.8,ja;q=0.6,zh-CN;q=0.4,zh-TW;q=0.2

Note that the HTTP protocol specifies that requests end with “\r\n\r\n”, therefore please do not use this combination in between the entire request phrase.

You may debug your server by using telnet with

`telnet <sitename> <port_number>`

However, make sure that telnet is enabled on your PC before using this command. You may also use standard terminal emulators such as TeraTerm that support telnet.

Why does smartconfig fail?

Here are some probable reasons why smartconfig might fail:

- APP version is not matched with SDK or smartconfig version.
- The router under configuration is a 5 GHz-only router.
- Some other API was called during smartconfig (please do not call any APIs under smartconfig is done).
- When using AT command, do not stop smartconfig before device gets IP from router.

If the above did not solve your problem, please send us the debug log so that we can analyze the problem.

What is the corresponding version of APP or SDK for a given version of smartconfig?

If the API `smartconfig_start()` is called by the user, “SC version: vX.X.X” will be printed out for reference. The related SDK and APP versions for smartconfig versions are listed below:

sdk v1.2.0	smartconfig v2.4	app v0.3.4.x
sdk v1.3.0	smartconfig v2.5	app v0.3.4.x
sdk v1.3.0	smartconfig v2.5.1	app v0.3.4.x
sdk v1.4.0	smartconfig v2.5.2	app v0.3.4.x
sdk v1.5.0	smartconfig v2.5.3	app v0.3.4.x
sdk v1.5.4	smartconfig v2.5.4	app v0.3.4.x



Does ESP8266 support HTTP hosting?

Yes, it does. ESP8266 can run as a server in both SoftAP and Station modes. When running as a server in SoftAP mode, clients can directly access the ESP8266 host or server at 192.168.4.1 (default) IP address.

When the server is accessed via a router, the IP address should be the one allocated to the ESP8266 by the router.

When using SDK to write native code, please use `espconn` structure and related APIs. When using AT commands, start a server using `AT+CIPSERVER` command.

How do I transmit HTTP packets using AT commands?

1. `AT+CWMODE=3` // set softAP+station mode
2. `AT+CWJAP="SSID","password"` // ESP8266 station connect to router
3. Create a TCP connection and transmit data according to the HTTP packet format, as shown in the figure below. Please note that the line feed characters `[(0x0d 0x0a) or (CR LF)]` are essential for line termination and must NOT be left out.

The screenshot shows a terminal window with the following text:

```
AT+CIPSTART="TCP","cn.bing.com",80
CONNECT

OK
AT+CIPSEND=75

OK
>
```

A red rounded rectangle highlights the HTTP request being transmitted:

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.37.0
Host: cn.bing.com
Accept: */*
|
```

4. Receive the returned message from HTTP packets.

The screenshot shows the received HTTP response in the terminal:

```
+IPD,1460:HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Cache-Control: private, max-age=0
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Server: Microsoft-IIS/8.5
P3P: CP="NONI INT COM NAV STA LOC CURS DEVS REAS PERS OUR IND"
```



How do I define my own functions in AT+ set and how to pass variables between them?

There is an example of how to define an AT command “AT+TEST” in AT demo folder of Non-OS SDK ([\ESP8266_NONOS_SDK\examples\at\user\user_main.c](#)). The structure [at_funcationType](#) is used to define the four variants of an AT command. We use command “AT+TEST” as an example and demonstrate how it can be implemented.

Type [at_testCmd](#): Test command in the format of [AT+TEST=?](#). In AT demo, the registered callback is [at_testCmdTest](#). The test demand could be programmed to return the range of the parameter value. If [at_testCmd](#) is registered as [NULL](#), it will not be implemented.

Type [at_queryCmd](#): Query command in the format of [AT+TEST=?](#). In AT demo, the registered callback is [at_queryCmdTest](#). The test demand could be programmed to return the current value. If [at_queryCmdTest](#) is registered as [NULL](#), it will not be implemented.

Type [at_setupCmd](#): Setup command in the format of [AT+TEST=parameter1,parameter2,.....](#). In AT demo, the registered callback is [at_setupCmdTest](#). The setup command can be programmed to set the parameter value. If [at_setupCmdTest](#) is registered as [NULL](#), it will not be implemented.

Type [at_exeCmd](#): Execution command in the format of [AT+TEST](#). In AT demo, the registered callback is [at_exeCmdTest](#). The execution command can be programmed to execute an operation. If [at_exeCmdTest](#) is registered as [NULL](#), it will not be implemented.

Where does the Product ID used in the near field of WeChat come from?

A device ID needs to be established. For example, device ID=1234 needs to be established for a device using a client's WeChat account.

Use the following command:

```
curl -q "https://api.weixin.qq.com/cgi-bin/token?grant_type=client_credential&appid=wx0f74f861897f84b5&secret=your_WeChatname_32characters_please"
```

//Note: This is to obtain the access token

(“[your_WeChatname_32characters_please](#)” represents the client's WeChat API App Secret, which can be acquired through application and should be 32 characters long.).

Returned:



```
{
  "access_token": "L2_2V1E98Vk-jTXenXDZjDT0GaudUn_VGTRa7098hdfT0lTZa2B7nj6YvXN01gssQa3ZraRgjALuCvxd-SamuPR885KJabaw1EYLA0kns-Yglr4ryolEhHb-QcnWManqSEDjACANZY",
  "expires_in": 7200
}

curl -d '{"device_num": "1", "device_list": [{"id": "1234", "mac": "18fe3497d500", "connect_protocol": "4", "auth_key": "00000000000000000000000000000000", "close_strategy": "1", "conn_strategy": "1", "crypt_method": "0", "auth_ver": "0", "manu_mac_pos": "-2", "ser_mac_pos": "-2"}], "op_type": "0", "product_id": 5157}' "https://api.weixin.qq.com/device/authorize_device?access_token=L2_2V1E98Vk-jTXenXDZjDT0GaudUn_VGTRa7098hdfT0lTZa2B7nj6YvXN01gssQa3ZraRgjALuCvxd-SamuPR885KJabaw1EYLA0kns-Yglr4ryolEhHb-QcnWManqSEDjACANZY"

//Note: Establish the device ID=1234.
```

Next, the AT command needs to be used:

```
AT+CWSTARTDISCOVER="gh_9e2cff3dfa51", "1234", 1. (In "gh_9e2cff3dfa51", "9e2cff3dfa51" is your WeChat official account.)
```

How to customize AT command in ESP8266?

What is the string length limit for customized AT command and the parameters?

Users can add customized AT command based on ESP8266's own AT commands, by using *ESP8266_NONOS_SDK\examples\at* sample code.

The maximum string length of AT command supported by SDK is 128 bytes (including terminator "\r\n"). The lengths of AT command and parameters are not individually limited.

For example,

```
AT+CMDTEST=param1,param2,param3,...paramN\r\n
```

```
strlen("AT+CMDTEST=param1,param2,param3,...paramN\r\n") <= 128 Bytes
```

For details of SDK please refer to [ESP8266 SDKs & Demos](#).



System

What is the role of watchdog timer in the ESP8266?

In order to improve the robustness of the system in high interference operating environments, the ESP8266 integrates a two-level watchdog mechanism that includes the software watchdog and the hardware watchdog. By default both the watchdog timers are enabled.

What is the watchdog timeout interval? What happens on a timeout event?

The hardware watchdog interrupt interval is 0.8×2048 ms, that is 1638.4 ms. The interrupt handling interval is 0.8×2^{13} ms, equal to 6553.6 ms.

The interrupt handling interval is the time limit to feed the watchdog after the interrupt occurs. If the interrupt handling interval expires, it will trigger a hardware watchdog reset.

As a result, in the cases where there is only hardware watchdog, if a program runs for over 6553.6 ms, then it could cause a hardware watchdog reset. If the program runs for over 8192 ms, then it will invoke a watchdog reset for sure.

The software watchdog is based on MAC timer and task arrangement. The interrupt interval is 1600 ms, so is the interrupt handling interval.

As a result, in the cases where there are both software and hardware watchdogs, if a program runs for over 1600 ms, then it could cause a software watchdog reset. If the program runs for over 3200 ms, then it will invoke a watchdog reset for sure.

My application does not really need the watchdog timer, can I disable it?

The current SDK allows disabling the software watchdog only. The following methods can be taken to avoid watchdog reset when user program occupies CPU for too long:

1. If your routine needs a time frame of duration between software reset and hardware watchdog reset, you may use `system_soft_wdt_stop ()` to disable



the software watchdog. After the program has been executed, you can restart the software watchdog with `system_soft_wdt_restart ()`.

2. You may feed the watchdog in between your code by adding `system_soft_wdt_feed ()` such that the watchdog is updated before it issues a reset.

I must introduce 10 second delay in my program or poll for an input, what is the best way to do it?

The watchdog timer will not allow endless loops. As mentioned above, the watchdog will overflow and cause reset if the user program is stuck polling for an event for too long or is using loops for delays. We recommend using call-back functions and timer APIs for delay.

For polling an event, if possible, always use interrupts or timer APIs to check often. Most events can be associated with call-back functions within the SDK and therefore polling can be entirely avoided in most cases.

How do I debug memory leak in my Non-OS SDK application?

For Non-OS SDK users, memory leak debugging can be achieved by defining `MEMLEAK_DEBUG` to enable the debugging function.

Calls to `os_malloc`, `os_zalloc`, `os_calloc`, `os_realloc`, `os_free` is recorded and then the API `system_print_meminfo()` can be used to print heap memory usage.

Steps to debug memory leaks:

1. Modify the main makefile in the project and define `-DMEMLEAK_DEBUG` after `CONFIGURATION_DEFINES`.

i.e. `CONFIGURATION_DEFINES = -DMEMLEAK_DEBUG`

2. In user code, such as the `user_main.c` file, please include the header file `"mem.h"` and the function:

```
bool ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR check_memleak_debug_enable ()
{
    return MEMLEAK_DEBUG_ENABLE;
}
```




3. Call `system_print_meminfo()` API where the cause of memory leakage might possibly be. We recommend using this API at key positions only.

How do I debug memory leak in my RTOS SDK application?

Note: RTOS SDK does not support the same method of memory leak debugging as the Non-OS SDK. Please refer to FreeRTOS documentation for details on memory monitoring and leakage debugging techniques.

Can I track down the cause of a “fatal exception”? How?

Fatal exceptions can be traced down if you have the assembly file (*.S) that was used to generate the binary. For example, should you encounter an exception when running `user1.bin`:

```
Fatal exception (28):  
epc1=0x4025bfa6, epc2=0x00000000, epc3=0x00000000,  
excaddr=0x0000000f, depc=0x00000000
```

In this case, you should inspect 0x4025bfa6 in `user1.S` to find out the cause of the exception.

When running `flash.bin + irom0text.bin`, the cause of the exception can be found in `eagle.S`.

How many timers does the ESP8266 have?

The ESP8266 features a hardware timer and a software timer. The timer accessed by `os_timer` APIs is the software timer and it does not generate an “interrupt”, it generates a task that can be used to put a normal task on queue.

The hardware timer however generates an interrupt which can be used to trigger a certain task. Note that interrupts are not intended for processor intensive tasks.

Are there any specific conditions for implementing timer interrupt routines?

Please refer to *ESP8266 Non-OS SDK API Reference* and *ESP8266 RTOS SDK API Reference* (link: espressif.com/en/support/download/documents) for the SDK you are using for details. However, as a general rule, functions declared as `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR` must not be called from within a hardware interrupt handler when



Non-OS SDK is used. Also, do not occupy the CPU for long when inside an interrupt handler.

How do I tweak the transmit power?

The API `system_phy_set_max_tpw` can be used to set the maximum value of RF TX Power.

We also recommend using the Flash download tool to tweak the settings as per your requirements and click GenInitBin to generate `esp_init_data_default.bin` and then burn it into the SPI Flash.

LowPowerEn: Set Tx Power for each mode.

BackOffEn: Reduce the same value of Tx power in each mode.

PowerLimitEn: Set the limitation of maximum Tx power.

Click GenInitBin to generate `esp_init_data_default.bin`, and replace the default one.

TxTargetPowerConfig			
MCS0-1	20.5	-	dBm
MCS2-3	19.5	-	dBm
MCS4	18.5	-	dBm
MCS5	17	-	dBm
MCS6	16	-	dBm
MCS7	14	-	dBm

LowPowerMode	
<input type="checkbox"/> LowPowerEn	-2 dB
<input type="checkbox"/> BackOffEn:	0 dB
<input type="checkbox"/> PowerLimitEn:	20.5 dBm

Buttons

Default

Apply

GenInitBin

LoadInitBin

What is the significance of the “ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR” attribute in the SDK?

For ESP8266_Non-OS SDK:

Functions attributed with `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR` are located in the IROM section. They will run from cache when called by CPU.

Conversely, functions without `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR` are loaded into IRAM upon power-on. Due to limited IRAM, we can not load all the codes into IRAM at one time. So most functions are attributed with `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR` and loaded into IROM.

Note: Do not use `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR`-functions within an interrupt handler, as it may conflict with the Flash R/W operations.



For ESP8266_RTOS SDK:

Functions are located in the IROM section by default and do not need to be attributed with `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR`. Interrupt handlers can also run from IROM. Hence, if functions called frequently need to be run from IRAM, they should be attributed with `IRAM_ATTR`.

Why do I get compile errors when using `IRAM_ATTR` in Non-OS SDK?

The default function attribute is `IRAM_ATTR` in Non-OS SDK. Therefore, if you want the function to reside in IRAM, please leave out the `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR` attribution in the function definition/declaration.

Why am I getting compile error: code cannot fit in “`irom0_0_seg`”?

This means that the code is too large for IROM. Here are some suggestions to resolve the problem:

For SDK_v0.9.5 or later versions:

1. Compile with default configuration to generate `eagle.flash.bin` and `eagle.irom0text.bin`.
 - (1) If the total size of `eagle.flash.bin` and `eagle.irom0text.bin` is more than 236 KB, you will need a new Flash chip larger than 512 KB.
 - (2) If the total size of `eagle.flash.bin` and `eagle.irom0text.bin` is less than 236 KB, continue with step 2.
2. Revise the file `eagle.app.v6.new.512.app1.ld` in SDK/ld as follows:

In the line

```
rom0_0_seg:                                org = 0x40201010, len = 0x2B000,
```

change the value of len according to the size of your `eagle.irom0text.bin`.

For example, if the size of `eagle.irom0text.bin` is 179 KB, change the configuration to

```
irom0_0_seg:                                org = 0x40201010, len = 0x2D000
```

3. Now, compile and generate `user1.bin` by selecting `boot_v.1.2+`.

PS.

In your source code, load into IRAM functions without “`ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR`” which can be 32 KB at most; load into IROM functions with “`ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR`” in `irom0_0_seg`.



Due to limited RAM,
functions in IRAM will be loaded to ram and run upon power-on;
functions in IROM will be loaded to cache from Flash and run only if it is called.

Does ESP8266 start user code execution from a regular main routine?

No. The entry point is `user_init`.

What is the proper method of pointer operations?

Read and write accesses to the RAM must be aligned to the 4-byte (word) boundary, so is pointer conversion. Otherwise, the conversion failure will cause malfunction. For example, please use `os_memcpy (memcpy)` to convert the pointer instead of `float temp = *((float*)data)`.

What are the differences between RTOS SDK and Non-OS SDK?

The main differences are:

【Non-OS SDK】

Non-OS SDK uses timers and callbacks as the main way to perform various functions - nested events, functions triggered by certain conditions. Non-OS SDK uses the espconn network interface; users need to develop their software according to the usage rules of the espconn interface. Please consult the SDK guides for more information.

【RTOS SDK】

1. FreeRTOS SDK is based on FreeRTOS , a multi-tasking OS. You can use the standard FreeRTOS interfaces to realize resource management, recycling operations, execution delay, inter-task messaging and synchronization, and other task-oriented process design approaches. For the specifics of interface methods, please refer to the official website of FreeRTOS or the book *USING THE FreeRTOS REAL TIME KERNEL-A Practical Guide*.
2. The network operation interface in RTOS SDK is the standard lwIP API. RTOS SDK provides a package which enables BSD Socket API interface. Users can directly use the socket API to develop software applications; and port other



applications from other platforms using socket API to ESP8266, effectively reducing the learning and development cost arising from platform switch.

3. RTOS SDK introduces cJSON library whose functions make it easier to parse JSON packets.
4. RTOS is compatible with Non-OS SDK in Wi-Fi interfaces, smartconfig interfaces, Sniffer related interfaces, system interfaces, timer interface, FOTA interfaces and peripheral driver interfaces, but does not support the AT implementation.

Which functions should be called from `user_init` to avoid malfunction or invalid calls?

1. `wifi_set_ip_info` and `wifi_set_macaddr` are only valid when called from `user_init`.
2. It is recommended to call `system_timer_reinit` from `user_init`, otherwise, all timers need to be armed.
3. If `wifi_station_set_config` is called from `user_init`, the lower layer will automatically connect to the corresponding router without calling `wifi_station_connect`.
4. `wifi_station_set_auto_connect` is used to configure the device whether to automatically connect to the saved router upon start up. For example, if the interface is called from `user_init` with automatic router connection disabled, the device will not automatically connect to the router that time. If the interface is called elsewhere, then the device will not automatically connect to the router next time.

How to wake up ESP8266 from Light-sleep mode using external GPIO or networking events?

In Light-sleep mode, the CPU is suspended and does not respond to signals or interrupts generated from peripherals. Therefore, GPIO signals should be set up to wake the device. The wake up process typically requires less than 3 ms.

```
wifi_station_disconnect();  
wifi_set_opmode(NULL_MODE); // set WiFi mode to null mode  
wifi_fpm_set_sleep_type(LIGHT_SLEEP_T);  
wifi_fpm_open();  
    PIN_FUNC_SELECT(PERIPHS_IO_MUX_MTCK_U, FUNC_GPIO13);
```



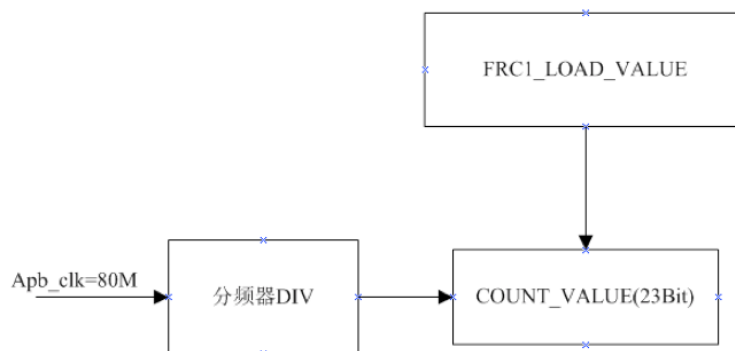
```
gpio_pin_wakeup_enable(13, GPIO_PIN_INTR_LOLEVEL); //Low-level
triggered wake-up is recommended!

wifi_fpm_set_wakeup_cb(ssc_fpm_wakup_call);

wifi_fpm_do_sleep(FPM_SLEEP_MAX_TIME);
```

How to use ESP8266 FRC1 hw_timer?

1. Model:



(1) FRC1's reference clock is 80M. The division factor can be configured to 1, 16 and 256. Difference of division factor will affect the duration of each tick.

(2) FRC1 is a countdown timer. Interrupts will be triggered when the value of `COUNT_VALUE` decreases to 0. The value of `COUNT_VALUE` decreases by 1 at every tick.

(3) FRC1 can be configured as auto-feed-mode or non-auto-feed-mode.

Auto-feed-mode: When interrupts are triggered, `COUNT_VALUE` will automatically take the value of `FRC1_LOAD_VALUE` and begin the decrement operation.

Non-auto-feed-mode: When interrupts are triggered, `COUNT_VALUE` will be set to the maximum value, 0x7ffff, and counting begins.

(4) FRC interrupts can be configured as FRC1 interrupt source and NMI interrupt source.

NMI interrupt is an interrupt that can not be masked by CPU. NMI interrupt is LEVEL3 interrupt in ESP8266 while other interrupts are LEVEL1 interrupts. NMI interrupt prevails over any other interrupts lower in priority.

2. Note on [SDK HW_TIMER](#)

The division factor of SDK `hw_timer` is 16, the duration of each tick is 0.2 μ s. The parameter of `hw_timer_arm` can be configured to μ s, with a maximum value of 1677000 μ s.



Hardware

What are the general power supply requirements of the ESP8266?

Digital voltage requirement: 1.8V - 3.3V

Analog voltage requirement: 3.0V - 3.6V (The lowest possible analog voltage is 2.7V.)

Peak analog circuit current: 350 mA

Peak digital circuit current: 200 mA

Note: [CHIP_EN](#) works at 3.0V - 3.6V , please use a level converter to ensure compatibility with digital logic at 1.8V .

What factors must I consider when designing a robust power supply for the ESP8266?

Power supply design for RF circuits is an art in itself and is a large subject. However, here is a small checklist to ensure you include the important components:

1. If you are using an LDO regulator, please make sure that the difference between V_{in} and V_{out} is sufficiently large for the LDO regulator to operate properly.
2. The power rail decoupling capacitor must be located physically close to the ESP8266 and should have a low ESR.
3. Please do not directly attach peripherals with 5V logic to the ESP8266.
4. If the ESP8266 is being powered from a DC-DC converter, ensure that you follow good practices when designing the converter. Ripple should be filtered with cascaded LC filter stages if necessary.

The ESP8266 draws excess current on power-up and does not seem to boot properly. What might be causing this?

The ESP8266 is highly integrated with RF circuits and digital control circuits. When booting, functions such as RF calibration may draw an appreciable amount of power. The maximum analog power (instantaneous) may be considered to be 500mA and the digital circuits may draw a peak current of around 200 mA. The normal operational current is typically around 100 mA, depending on the application and circuit design.



Therefore, your design must provide for a voltage regulator that can provide 500 mA without suffering a drop in the output voltage which is outside the operating specifications.

Can I use a LiPo cell or 2xAA cells directly to power the ESP8266?

2xAA batteries can power up the ESP8266. Li-Po cells have a higher voltage swing while discharging and therefore must not be used to power ESP8266 directly.

The ESP8266 contains precision RF circuitry which is affected by temperature or voltage drifts. Directly connecting any RF circuit to an unregulated power source is NOT recommended.

Use of a DC-DC converter or LDO regulator is highly recommended to ensure that the ESP8266 performs as specified.

Is there any specific requirement for powering the SPI Flash memory?

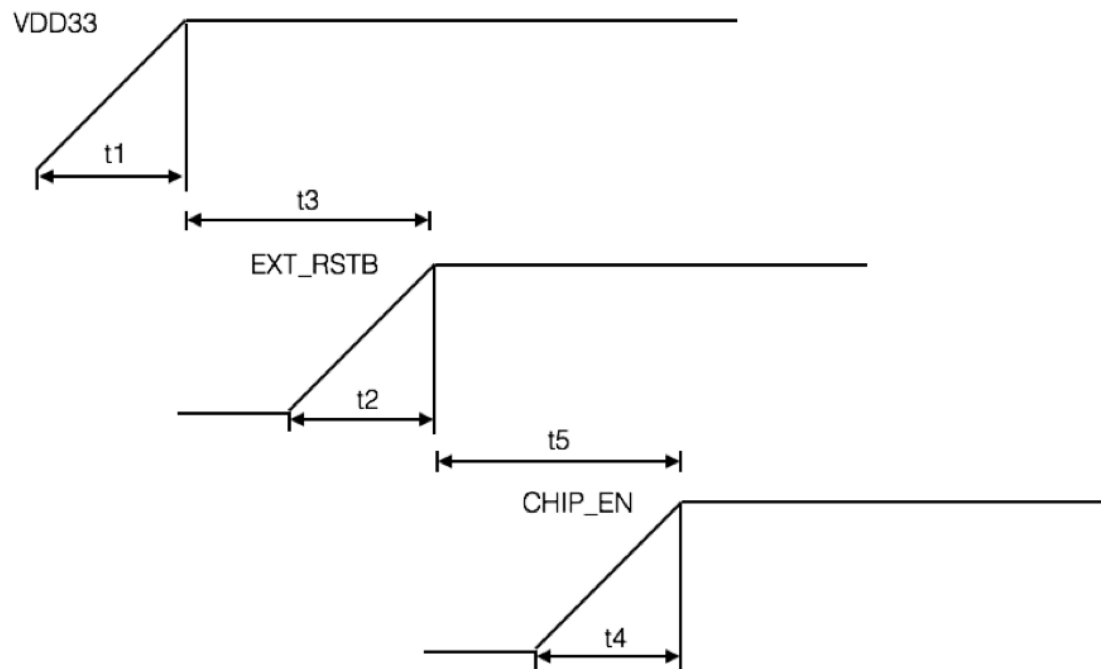
The SPI Flash memory is an integral part of the system as it stores the user program and data. To ensure compatibility of digital logic, SPI Flash voltage should match with the GPIO logic voltage level.

What is the power-up sequence and how is the boot mode determined?

CHIP_EN, the chip enable pin, contains no internal pull-up. It must be pulled externally to a high level to enable the chip.

CHIP_EN should be pulled up after or at the same time as VDD33. After 60 ms of CHIP_EN going high, the device will determine the boot mode based on the status of GPIO15/GPIO0/GPIO2, and then establish UART communication.

EXT_RSTB: External reset pin. This pin features an internal pull-up and thus defaults to a logic high when left floating. A logic low on this pin will trigger chip reset. The external reset signal should be 0.25 IO+100 μ s. The timing diagram is as shown:



	Description	MIN	MAX	Unit
t1	The rise-time of VDD33	10	2000	μ s
t2	The rise-time of EXT_RSTB	0	2	ms
t3	EXT_RSTB goes high after VDD33	0.1		ms
t4	The rise-time of CHIP_EN	0	2	ms
t5	CHIP_EN goes high after EXT_RSTB	0.1		

How is the RAM organized on the ESP8266?

The ESP8266 contains

IRAM: 64 KB

DRAM: 96 KB

The IRAM has been divided into 2 blocks: The initial 32 KB stores code that is not marked with `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR` (.text)

The latter 32 KB is the iCache that stores code marked with `ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR`.

When Non-OS SDK is used, the initial 80 KB of DRAM is used to store `.data/.bss/.rodata/heap` and the remaining 16 KB is used for ROM code.

When RTOS SDK is used, `.data/.bss/.rodata/heap` occupy the entire 96 KB.

Peripheral

What are the specifications for the internal ADC of ESP8266?

Channel: 1

Sampling rate:

100k samples/sec (Wi-Fi modem turned off)

1k samples/sec (Wi-Fi modem normally active)

Resolution: 12-bit (10-bit read by `system_adc_read()`)

What are the bitmap and register information for the internal ADC of ESP8266?

The ADC is closely integrated with the internal RF circuitry and therefore, the bitmap and register information may not be available for open use. We are sorry for the inconvenience. Feel free to contact us for any specific information.

How accurate is the internal ADC?

When connected to routers, ESP8266 will enter `modem_sleep` in STA mode only, which will cause the changes of the internal chip currents and reference values, and thus result in abnormal ADC sampling.

If a high accuracy is required, please use `system_adc_fast_read` API. But RF circuitry should be shut down before measuring and Wi-Fi will be disconnected. For a relatively lower accuracy when readings' difference of 1 or 2 can be tolerated, Wi-Fi can be configured to `non_sleep` mode.

For lower accuracy, the user may enter sleep mode. Power consumption is lower in this case.

What should I use the internal ADC for?

The internal ADC can be used for temperature sensing or sensing approximate current drawn by external devices. Note that because the ADC readings are prone to noise, it



should only be used for applications where high accuracy is not required. For example, thermal cut-off mechanisms, etc.

What are the parameters for the function `set_tx_data (u8 tx_addr, u8 tx_cmd, u8 tx_rep)`?

`tx_addr` is the sending address;

`tx_cmd` is the sending command;

`tx_rep` is the repeating time.

Why are there Illegible symbols on UART when booting up? How do I change the baud rate?

With a 26 MHz crystal oscillator, the ESP8266 baud rate on power-up defaults to 74880 for UART0. This might be the reason for illegible characters on power-up.

Users can change the UART configuration in `user_main()`. For example, change the baud rate as follows:

```
void ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR
uart_init(UartBautRate uart0_br, UartBautRate uart1_br)
{
    // rom use 74880 baut_rate, here reinitialize
    UartDev.baut_rate = uart0_br;
    uart_config(UART0);
    UartDev.baut_rate = uart1_br;
    uart_config(UART1);
}
```

How do I enable UART flow control?

1. For configuring data format of UART communication, please refer to file `uart.c` in `SDK/driver_lib/driver/`.
2. The two steps to configure hardware flow control in UART communication are as follows:

(1) Set the following attribute to 1 in `uart.h`:

```
#define UART_HW_RTS    1 //set 1: enable uart hw flow control RTS,
PIN MTDO, FOR         UART0
#define UART_HW_CTS    1 //set1: enable uart hw flow contrl CTS ,
PIN MTCK, FOR         UART0
```

(2) Configure hardware flow control threshold.



The threshold of hardware flow control is highlighted by the red square in the following screenshot. When the number of bytes in RXFIFO is larger than 110, RTS will be pulled to logic high.

```
00080:
00081:     if (uart_no == UART0){
00082:         //set rx fifo trigger
00083:         WRITE_PERI_REG(UART_CONF1(uart_no),
00084:             ((10 & UART_RXFIFO_FULL_THRHD) << UART_RXFIFO_FULL_THRHD_S) |
00085:             #if UART_HW_RTS
00086:             ((110 & UART_RX_FLOW_THRHD) << UART_RX_FLOW_THRHD_S) |
00087:             UART_RX_FLOW_EN | //enable rx flow control
00088:             #endif
00089:             (0x02 & UART_RX_TOUT_THRHD) << UART_RX_TOUT_THRHD_S |
00090:             UART_RX_TOUT_EN
00091:             ((0x10 & UART_TXFIFO_EMPTY_THRHD) << UART_TXFIFO_EMPTY_THRHD_S)); //wjl
00092:     }
```

How to use UART1 to print data?

The UART1 only features a TxD pin to output log data alternatively when the primary UART0 is used for other applications.

Refer to the following code example to configure UART1:

```
void ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR
uart_init_new(void)
{
    // Wait for FIFOs to be emptied
    UART_WaitTxFifoEmpty(UART0);
    UART_WaitTxFifoEmpty(UART1);
    // Configure UART settings
    UART_ConfigTypeDef uart_config;
    uart_config.baud_rate      = BIT_RATE_74880;
    uart_config.data_bits      = UART_WordLength_8b;
    uart_config.parity         = USART_Parity_None;
    uart_config.stop_bits      = USART_StopBits_1;
    uart_config.flow_ctrl      = USART_HardwareFlowControl_None;
    uart_config.UART_RxFlowThresh = 120;
    uart_config.UART_InverseMask = UART_None_Inverse;
    UART_ParamConfig(UART0, &uart_config);

    UART_IntrConfTypeDef uart_intr;
    uart_intr.UART_IntrEnMask = UART_RXFIFO_TOUT_INT_ENA |
    UART_FRM_ERR_INT_ENA | UART_RXFIFO_FULL_INT_ENA;
    uart_intr.UART_RX_FifoFullIntrThresh = 100;
```



```
uart_intr.UART_RX_TimeOutIntrThresh = 2;
uart_intr.UART_TX_FifoEmptyIntrThresh = 20;
UART_IntrConfig(UART0, &uart_intr);
// Set UART1 for printing
UART_SetPrintPort(UART1);
// Register interrupt handler
UART_intr_handler_register(uart0_rx_intr_handler);
ETS_UART_INTR_ENABLE();
}
```

Does the hardware SDIO interface support SD cards?

Please note that the SDIO hardware only supports the device or slave profile, i.e. it cannot act as a host to control SDIO devices such as SD cards.

What is the maximum speed supported by the SDIO interface?

The maximum clock speed supported by the hardware SDIO slave module is 50 MHz. As SDIO specifies use of quad data lines, the effective maximum bit rate is 200 Mbps.

LED connected to GPIO blinks once upon power-on - why is this happening?

Whether the problems happens or not depends on the design of the LED driver. If the LED is powered on low level and IO is pulled to a logic low upon power-on, then the LED may blink. The reason is that except GPIO4 and GPIO5 related to Flash, pull-ups for all IO pins are enabled.

Solution:

1. Disable pull-ups in `user_init` upon power-on.
2. If the first method doesn't work, please contact us to obtain a customized `boot.bin` file. IO pull-ups will be disabled when `boot.bin` is loaded into RAM, which is earlier than when `user.bin` is called.



Why is there a small spike when PWM is started?

Note that the PWM is generated by software and the small peak may be seen as a measure of the resolution PWM can achieve. In high accuracy mode, the resolution can be up to 22222 counts. However, the duty cycle can never be 100%.

Why is the PWM duty cycle transitioning slowly?

If you use the soft change APIs found in the SDK demo, such as `light_set_aim` and `light_set_aim_r`, these APIs are optimized for lighting applications and therefore cause smooth transitions.

For changing the PWM quickly for other applications, please use `pwm_set_duty` to set the duty cycle desired and call `pwm_start` to implement new duty cycle immediately.

Are the GPIO pins 5V compatible?

No, they are not. While many applications may get away by using a resistor voltage divider or series resistor, we highly recommend using a proper logic level converter chip to interface with 5V logic. Not doing so may lead to damage to the ESP8266 in the long run.

Where can I find the register descriptions and bitmap of the GPIO registers?

Please find the GPIO pin list and register description here:

[ESP8266 Technical Reference](#).

How do I program the GPIO?

Here are two examples of GPIO operations. For the Non-OS SDK, for example, configure input to MTDO and configure it to falling-edge-triggered mode:

```
void ICACHE_FLASH_ATTR gpio_init(void)
{
    //GPIO Alternate Function
    PIN_FUNC_SELECT(PERIPHS_IO_MUX_MTDO_U, FUNC_GPIO15);
    GPIO_DIS_OUTPUT(GPIO_ID_PIN(15));
}
```



```
//Configure it in input mode.
ETS_GPIO_INTR_DISABLE();
//Close the GPIO interrupt
//Register the interrupt function
ETS_GPIO_INTR_ATTACH(GPIO_INTERRUPT,NULL);

    gpio_pin_intr_state_set(GPIO_ID_PIN(15),GPIO_PIN_INTR_NEGEDGE);
//Falling edge trigger
    ETS_GPIO_INTR_ENABLE() ;
//Enable the GPIO interrupt
}
```

For the RTOS SDK:

```
{
    GPIO_ConfigTypeDef gpio_in_cfg;
//Define GPIO Init Structure
    gpio_in_cfg.GPIO_IntrType = GPIO_PIN_INTR_NEGEDGE;
//Falling edge trigger
    gpio_in_cfg.GPIO_Mode = GPIO_Mode_Input;
//Input mode
    gpio_in_cfg.GPIO_Pin = GPIO_Pin_15;
// Enable GPIO
    gpio_config(&gpio_in_cfg);
//Initialization function
    GPIO_REG_WRITE(GPIO_STATUS_W1TC_ADDRESS,
BIT(GPIO_UART_IN_NUM));
    gpio_intr_handler_register(interrupt_GPIO_UART);
// Register the interrupt function
    _xt_isr_unmask(1 << ETS_GPIO_INUM);
//Enable the GPIO interrupt
}
```

Note that there may be slight differences in the code for RTOS and Non-OS applications for programming the same functionalities.

What is the buffer size on HSPI? What are the highlight features?

The data buffer on the HSPI peripheral is 16 words (or 64 bytes). It is word accessible and is a continuous block on the memory map. The buffer is very flexible in the manner that the data contained can be transmitted LSB or MSB first and also in little-endian or big-endian fashion, which eliminates the need for software manipulation of data block sequence.

With the HSPI buffer employed, the channel utilization can exceed 90% at moderate clock speeds.



How can the HSPI be used optimally when multiple devices are connected to the port?

Unlike I2C interface, the HSPI clock speed need NOT be slower than the slowest member of the network. The speed can be dynamically configured according to the currently active peripheral.

The pin [HSPI_CS0](#) can be attached to the HSPI interface and can be controlled automatically. This should be used when devices such as LCDs are used, that require CS line activity frequently.

Please use source termination resistors when interfacing to a very high speed peripheral.

How to enable the entire 64 bytes of HSPI data buffer?

Use

```
CLEAR_PERI_REG_MASK(SPI_USER(spiNum), SPI_USR_MISO_HIGHPART );
```

to enable the upper part of the data buffer to be used for data transfer.

How do I configure (H)SPI module for data transfer?

Please refer to [example/peripheral_test](#) for Non-OS SDK.

Which APIs will write or save data to the Flash memory?

```
wifi_station_set_auto_connect  
wifi_station_ap_number_set  
wifi_set_phy_mode  
wifi_softap_set_config  
wifi_station_set_config  
wifi_set_opmode  
system_restart_enhance  
system_restore  
system_upgrade_reboot
```




How is the system parameter area organized?

The last 3 sectors of the primary Flash memory are designated as the system parameter area. The first 2 sectors are copies (so that at least one copy is safe just in case power fails when writing to one sector). The last sector is used to save the flag to determine which of the first 2 sectors to use.

This mechanism ensures that important configuration data is never corrupted due to power failure during erase/write operations.

Can data be read/written freely at any address of the Flash memory?

No, all read/write operations must be aligned to the 4-byte (word) boundary. We highly recommend performing operations on blocks, instead of frequent, small data operations.

Can the same Flash read/write code work on all ESP8266 devices?

Please note that the flash memory is separate and is connected to the ESP8266 in the circuit. If your code is being run by systems with different Flash memory configurations, note that the initial downloading of firmware is done by selecting the correct Flash size. Also, it is the responsibility of the code to determine the Flash address range and not write/read the addresses that are not available.

For example, for a Flash size of 8 Mbit, read/write over 0x100000 is not a valid operation.

An example Flash testing routine:

uint32 sector is start sector, and uint32 cnt is sector count to erase.

```
#define FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE (1024*4)
#define FLASH_WRITE_CONTENT (0X10)
void flash_sector_rw_test(uint32 sector,uint32 cnt)
{
    char* w_data=(char*)os_malloc(FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE);
    uint32 flash_operate=0;
    uint32 i=0;
    uint8 status=0;
```



```
os_printf("Test Sector is 0x%x\n",sector);
if(NULL==w_data){
    os_printf("Memory little\n");
    return;
}
os_memset(w_data,FLASH_WRITE_CONTENT,FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE);
for(i=0;i<cnt;i++){
    if(spi_flash_erase_sector(sector+i)==0)
    {
        os_printf("erase sector0x%x ok\n",sector+i);
    }
    else{
        os_printf("Err:erase sector0x%x err\n",sector+i);
    }
}
for(i=0;i<cnt;i++){
    if(spi_flash_write((sector+i)*(FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE),
(uint32*)w_data,FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE)==0)
    {
        os_printf("write sector 0x%x ok\n",sector+i);
    }
    else{
        os_printf("Err:write sector 0x%x err\n",sector+i);
    }
}
for(i=0;i<cnt;i++){
    os_memset(w_data,0x00,FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE);
    if(spi_flash_read((sector+i)*(FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE),
(uint32*)w_data,FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE)==0)
    {
        uint32 j=0;
        for(j=0;j<FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE;j++){
            if(*(w_data+j)!=FLASH_WRITE_CONTENT){
                os_printf("Err Flash read w_data[%d]=0x%x\n",j,w_data[j]);
                //status=1;
            }
        }
    }
}
```



```
    }  
    if(*(w_data  
+j)==FLASH_WRITE_CONTENT&&j==FLASH_WRITE_LEN_BYTE-1)  
    {  
        os_printf("Sector0x%x Test 0k\n",sector+i);  
    }  
}  
}
```

How to know whether a Flash chip can support QIO or DIO mode?

To verify if a Flash chip supports QIO:

1. QE (Quad Enable) corresponds to BIT(9) in the Flash status register.
2. The format of write status register is 01H+StatusReg1+StatusReg2.
3. Specific commands should be supported:
 - Flash should support EBh command in order to support QIO mode.
 - Flash should support 6Bh command in order to support QOUT mode.

To verify if a Flash chip supports DIO:

Specific commands should be supported:

- Flash should support BBh command in order to support DIO mode.
- Flash should support 3Bh command in order to support DOUT mode.

Note that ISSI Flash can support QIO mode.

Why is some data lost or dropped in transparent transmission mode?

This is because hardware flow control is not enabled. The transparent transmission mode uses TCP protocol, with 1460 bytes (which depends on the protocol stack) of data in every packet. As long as the network is good and the buffer is not consumed, data can be transmitted continuously. In transparent transmission mode, when the interval of time for serials to receive data is over 20 ms, the transmission is assumed to have ended and the received data will be transmitted to the network. So data may be lost if the network connectivity is not good. Please enable flow control to prevent data loss.



How many UART port does ESP8266 have?

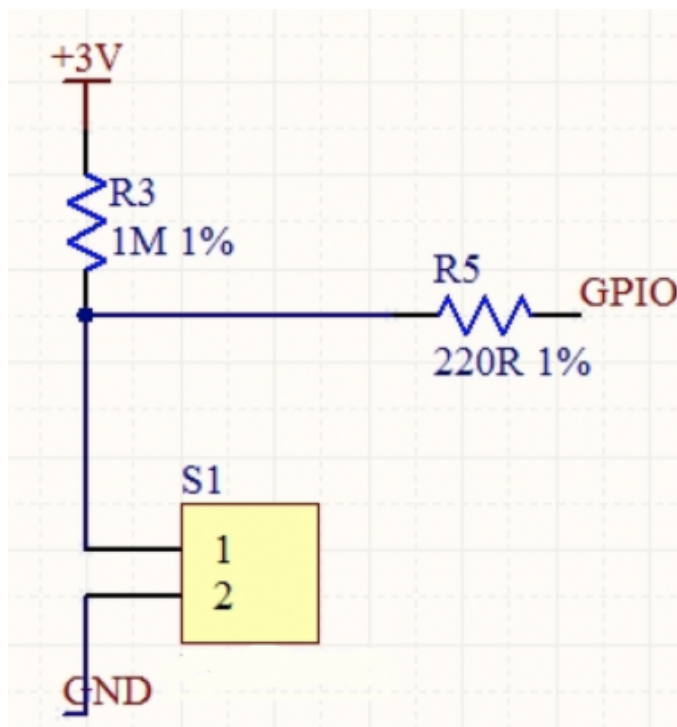
Two, UART0 and UART1. UART0 has Tx and Rx pins for data transmission, while UART1 only has Tx for printing debug log. Its Rx pin is occupied by SPI-Flash.

GPIO level status

Except XPD_DCDC, other GPIOs can be configured to high level.

The GPIO default level status after booting is: except 6 SDIO +GPIO4+GPIO5+GPIO16, all the other GPIOs have internal pull-up resistors. To pull down the GPIOs, external pull-down or inverting circuit is required.

Note: The external voltage level for GPIO cannot be 5V. GPIO4/5 cannot be pulled up with external 1M resistor. Please use 100K resistor instead.TC



How do I disable log printing upon power-up?

By default, U0TXD will print ROM messages upon start up, which can be disabled for sensitive applications using the UART pin exchange function. Users can call [system_uart_swap](#) function to exchange U0TXD and U0RXD with U0RTS (MTDO/GPIO15) and U0CTS (MTCK/GPIO13) pins.

After the exchange, still use U0TXD+U0RXD as the download pin on hardware. Connect MTDO to MCU RXD and MTCK to MCU TXD during communication.



Protocol

What is the packet size for TCP / UDP transmission?

TCP packet size is 1460 bytes and UDP packet size is 1472 bytes.

Wi-Fi

Why problem happens during connecting to router with IP 192.168.4.X in SoftAP + Station mode?

Default IP address of ESP8266 SoftAP is 192.168.4.1.

The ESP8266 cannot distinguish if the IP address of the SoftAP and the Station are both in the same subnet, in this case, 192.168.4.x. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Cannot find router - connection failed, but I do have my router configured correctly. What could be wrong?

Assuming you have filled in the SSID correctly, this could happen due to two possible reasons.

1. The first being use of non-standard characters in the SSID name. We highly recommend using standard characters only, such as English alphabets and numbers.
2. The second and more probable cause is `bssid_set` parameter. Please set `stationConf.bssid_set = 0` if you wish to connect to a router whose MAC address need not be specified.



Network connectivity and packet loss problems in ESP8266 SoftAP + Station mode - what could be the reasons?

ESP8266 does support SoftAP + Station co-existing mode, however, ESP8266 has only one hardware channel which is shared between the Station interface and the SoftAP interface. As a result, ESP8266 SoftAP will dynamically adjust the channel value to be consistent with ESP8266 Station, which may cause the following cases.

Case 1

1. ESP8266 Station is connected to a router (assume the channel number is 6);
2. ESP8266 SoftAP mode is activated using [wifi_softap_set_config](#);
3. The API will return true if configuration is correct, but the channel number will adjust automatically to be the same as that of the ESP8266 Station interface (which is 6 in this case).

Case 2

1. [wifi_softap_set_config](#) is called and ESP8266 is configured to SoftAP mode (assume the channel number is 5);
2. Other stations are connected to ESP8266 SoftAP;
3. ESP8266 Station is connected to the router (assume the router channel number is 6);
4. ESP8266 SoftAP will automatically adjust the channel number to be the same as that of the ESP8266 Station (6 in this case);
5. As the channel changed, the station that is connected to the ESP8266 SoftAP will lose Wi-Fi connectivity.

Case 3

1. Other stations are connected to the ESP8266 SoftAP.
2. If ESP8266 Station keeps trying to scan for or connect to a router, ESP8266 SoftAP may lose connectivity, and UDP or ping packet loss may occur.

This is because ESP8266 Station will scan through all channels to find the target router. Therefore, ESP8266 SoftAP keeps changing channel as well, leading to connectivity problems.

In such case, users can set the timer and call [wifi_station_disconnect](#) on expiry to stop ESP8266 Station from trying to connect to the router. The other way is to call [wifi_station_set_reconnect_policy](#) and [wifi_station_set_auto_connect](#) at the beginning of the configuration to prohibit ESP8266 Station from reconnecting to the router.



What is the “channel” setting for Wi-Fi? Can I select any channel of my choice?

In this case, a channel refers to a specific frequency channel within the allowable range of frequencies allocated for use by Wi-Fi systems. Technically, you may use any channel of your choice. However, certain channels could be illegal in your country!

Please consult our document [ESP8266 Wi-Fi Channel](#)

[Selection Guidelines](#) for more on how to select the best channel for your application.

How to configure ESP8266 to connect it to wireless router?

There are the following methods to connect ESP8266 device to wireless router:

1. Enable ESP8266 smartconfig. ESP8266 device can scan attribute packets in sniffer mode and connect to the router.
2. Enable SoftAP mode for ESP8266 device to connect to smart phone and establish stable TCP/UDP connection. Then the smart phone can send SSID and password.
3. Enable WPS configuration, which requires adding buttons to ESP8266 device or using the mobile app to control WPS after connecting the device to SoftAP.

Tool

How to download firmware to Flash in development phase and mass production phase?

In the development phase:

The Flash memory can be programmed by connecting the ESP8266 to the computer using a UART link. This can be achieved with a USB-UART converter for PCs that no longer have serial ports available externally. For instructions on how to use the Espressif official Flash download tool, please refer to the document [ESP8266 SDK Getting Started Guide](#).

For mass production phase:



If it is not convenient to program the ESP8266 for mass production using the UART interface, the process can be made faster by directly programming the Flash chips using the Flash manufacturer's programming tools.

To generate a binary file that can be written to the Flash before board assembly, please use the Espressif Flash download tool to generate a combined Flash file. Make sure you configure the Flash size and memory map correctly before generating the combined binary image.

Cloud

What is ESP8266 device life cycle on the Espressif cloud platform?

1. Once the master-device-key is downloaded, the ESP8266 device is ready for use.
2. The end user can use [Airkiss/ESP-TOUCH](#) to connect ESP8266 device to the network. At the same time, the device sends random character token generated by App as the permission identifier. Then the device calls [/v1/device/activate](#) and sends token to the cloud.
3. The end user uses App, calls [/v1/device/authorize](#) interface (by using the random token generated before) and confirms ownership of the device (i.e. becomes the owner and acquires the owner key).
4. The ownership of the ESP8266 device is same as the ownership of the device key through which the end user can control the device.
5. The end user can call [/v1/user/devices](#) to list owned devices and the corresponding device keys.
6. As the owner of the device, the end user can call [/v1/device/share](#) to share the device with others who can call [/v1/device/authorize](#) to get authorization.