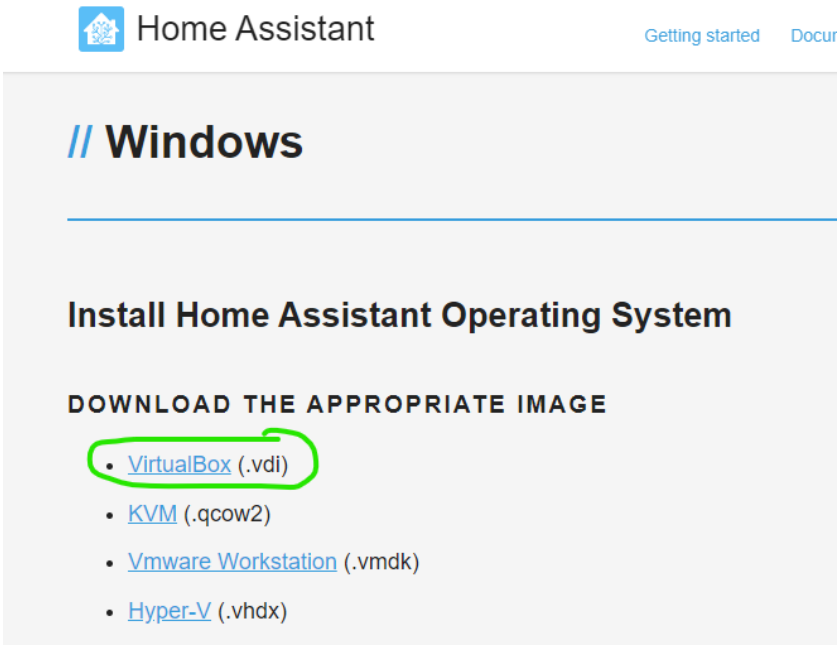
Setting Up Home Assistant with ESPHome on Windows:

1. **Prerequisites:**
    a. Your machine has an Ethernet adapter.

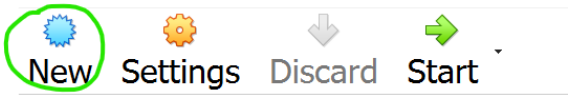
2. **Steps:**
    a. Download VirtualBox: https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads
    Select the “Windows hosts” package:

    b. Download the Home Assistant Operating System for windows here.

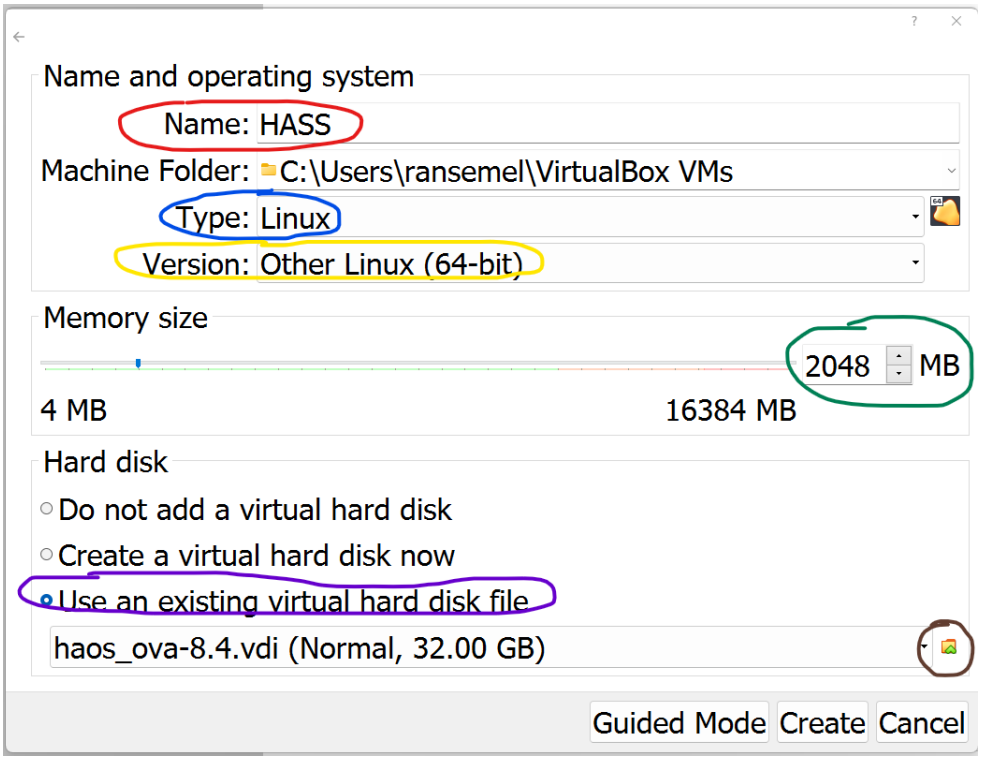


c. Create the VM:

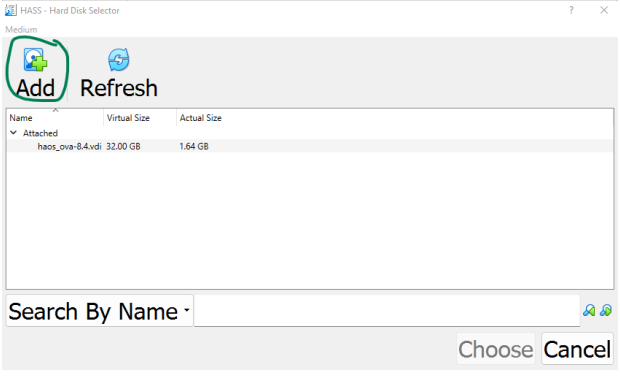
- Open VirtualBox
- Create new machine:



- Give the machine a name(marked in red)
- Set the “Type” to “Linux”(marked in blue)
- Set the “Version” to “Other Linux (64-bit)”(marked in yellow)
- Set the “Memory size” to 2048 MB(marked in green)
- Mark the “Use an existing virtual hard disk file”(marked in purple)
- Click the folder button right above the “Cancel” button(marked in brown)



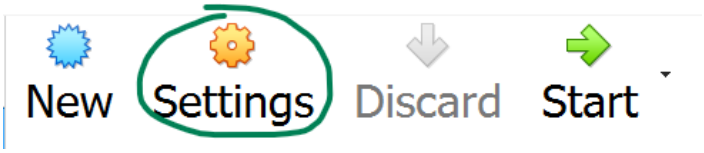
- After clicking the folder button click the “Add” button and choose the .vdi file we downloaded set b.



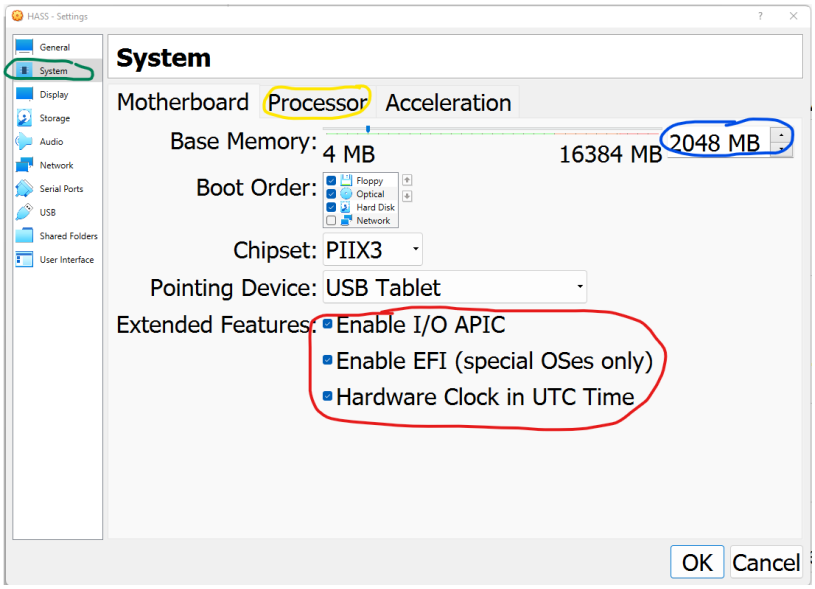
- After adding the .vdi file, hit the create button.

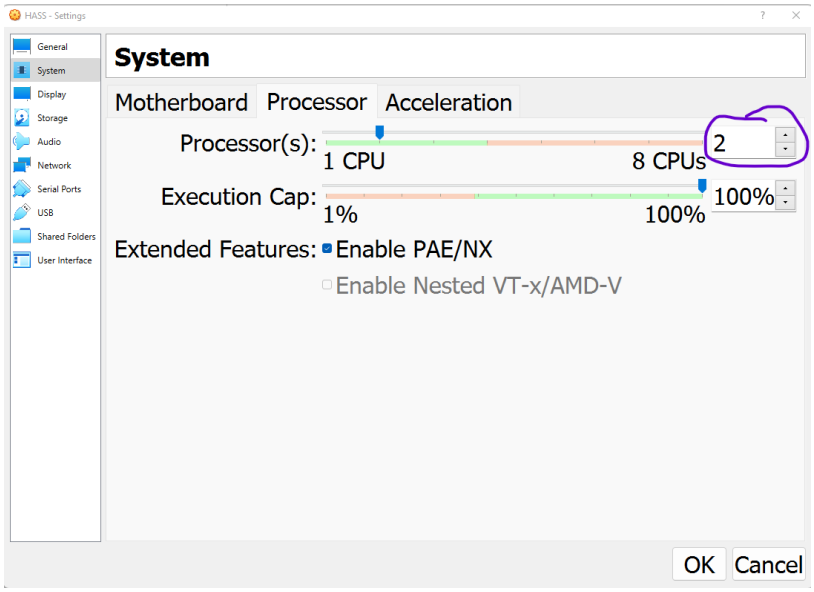
d. Configure special settings for the VM:

- Hit the Settings button.

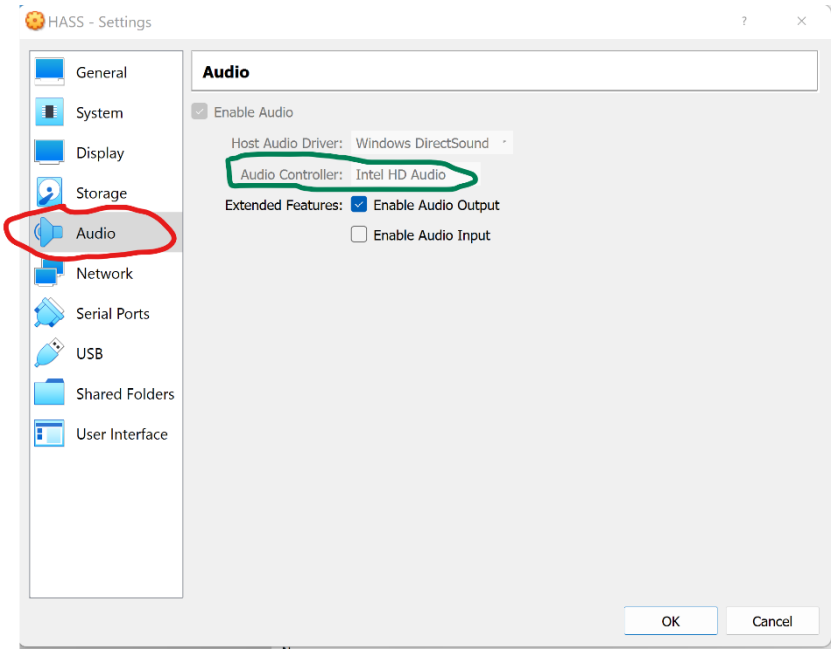


- Choose the “System” tab on the left(marked in green).
- Verify that the “Base Memory” is 2048 MB(marked in blue)
- Mark all the three check boxes: Enable I/O APIC, Enable EFI, Hardware Clock in UTC Time(marked in red).
- Hit the “Processor” tab(marked in yellow) and allocate 2 processors(marked in purple).

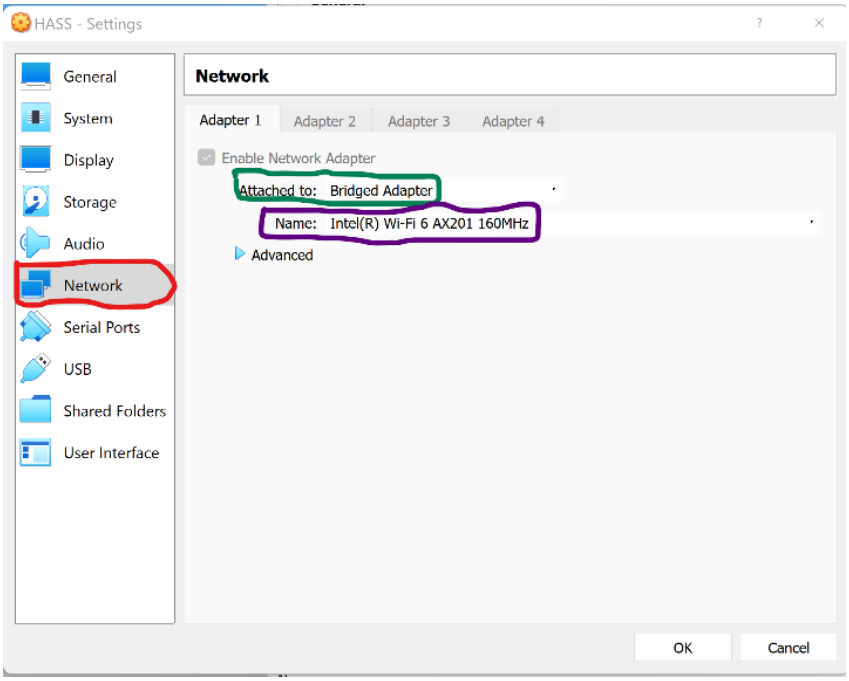




- Choose the “Audio” tab on the left(marked in red) and change the “Audio Controller” to “Intel HD Audio”(marked in green).

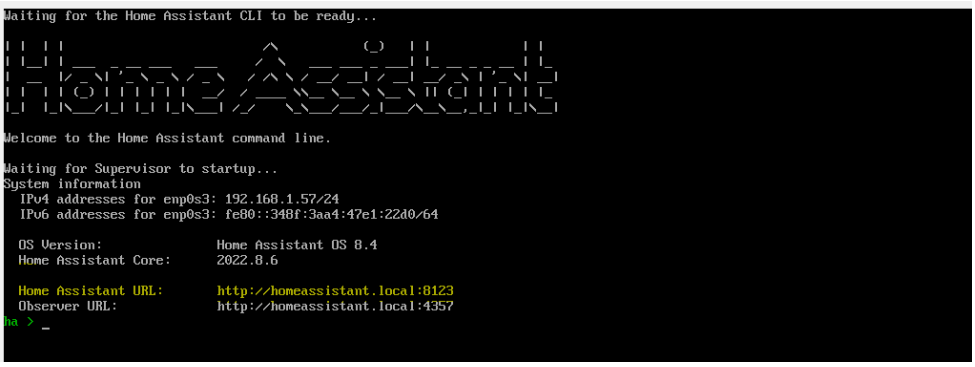


- Choose the “Network” tab on the left(marked in red) and change the “Attached to” to “Bridged Adapter”(marked in green). Also change the “name” to your machines network adapter(marked in purple).



e. Launch the VM, which will start running the Home Assistant server.

- After the server loads you should see the following screen



- **Troublshooting:** It is hard to troubleshoot the Home Assistant supervisor. You can search the relevant error code online. Double check that you created the VM correctly and set its setting like section d stated.
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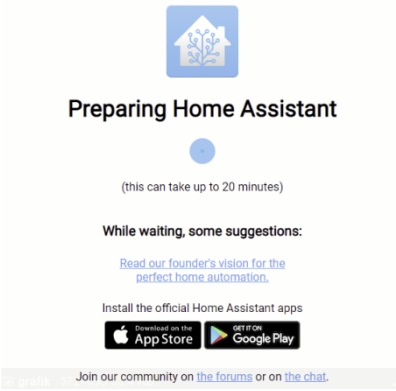
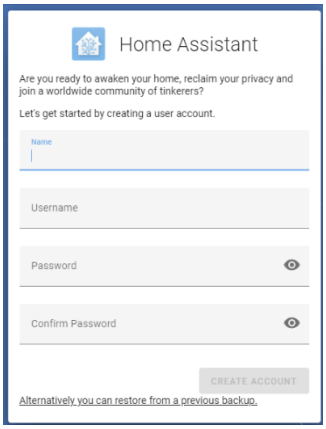
f. Sign up to Home Assistant:

- Open your browser and connect to the “Home Assistant URL” which is marked in yellow in the picture above.

- First you will arrive to this page:

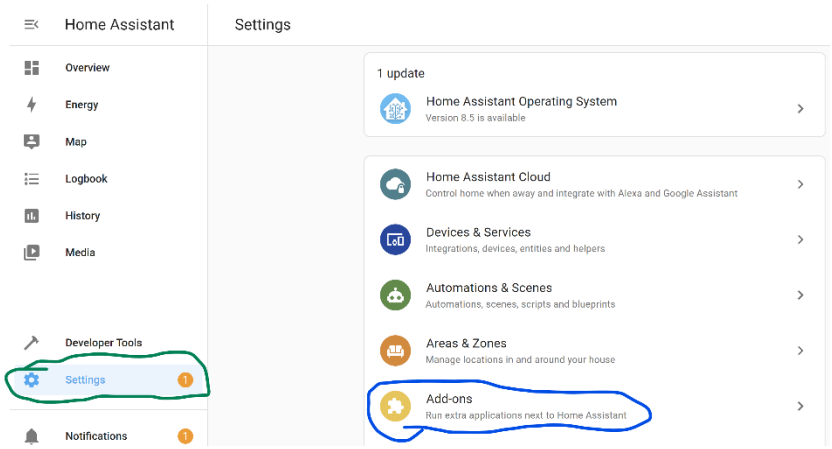


- After it finishes preparing you will arrive to this page:
  Setup your username and password.

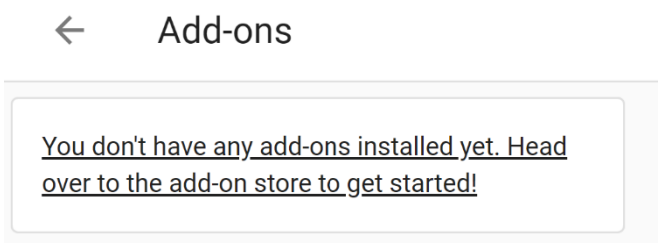


g. Install ESPHome:

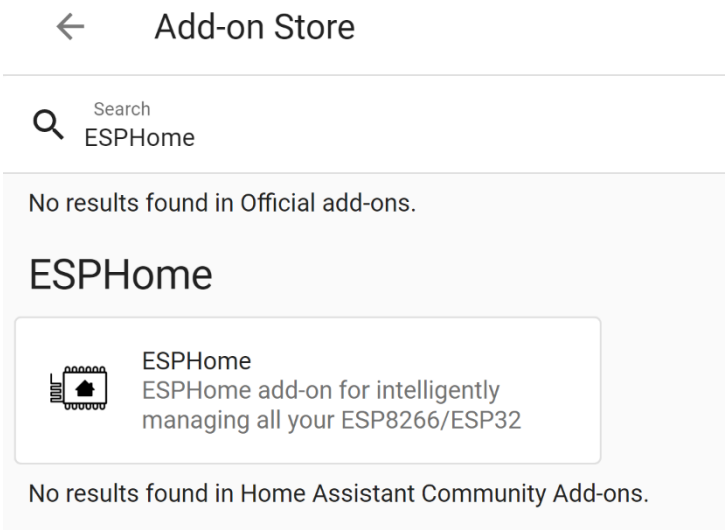
- Press the “Settings” tab on the left(marked in green)
- Then press the “Add-ons” button(marked in blue)



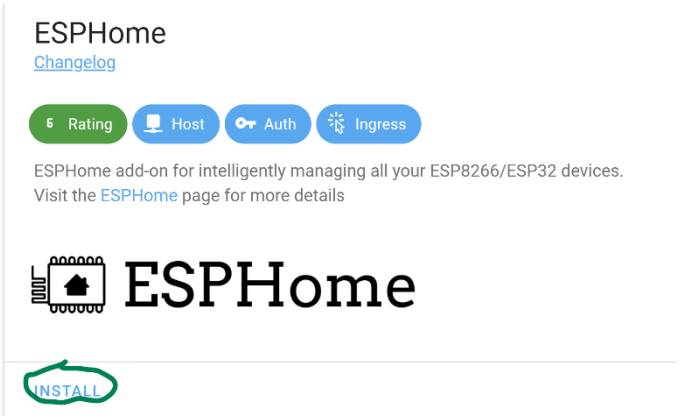
- You will see this screen, press underlined button:



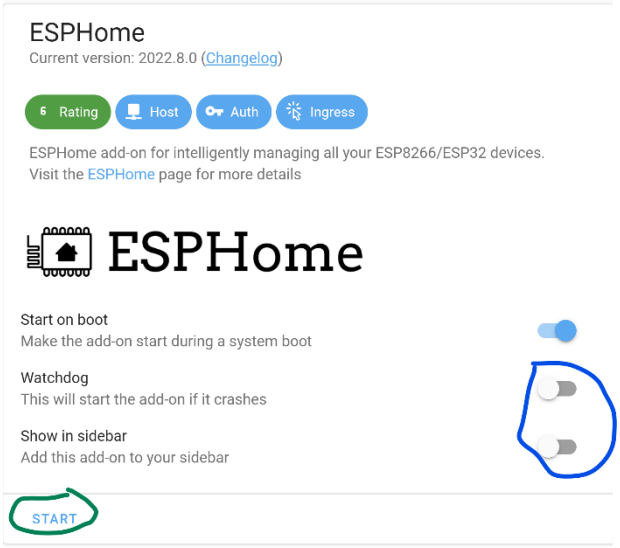
- Then search for “ESPHome” and click on it:



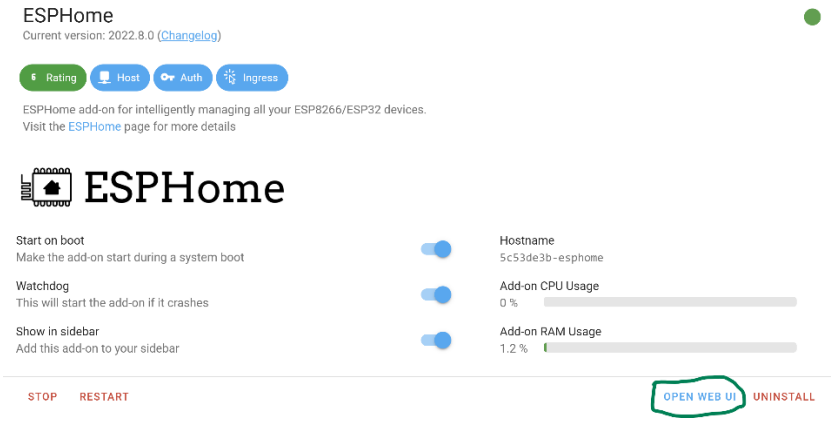
- Click the install button(marked in green):



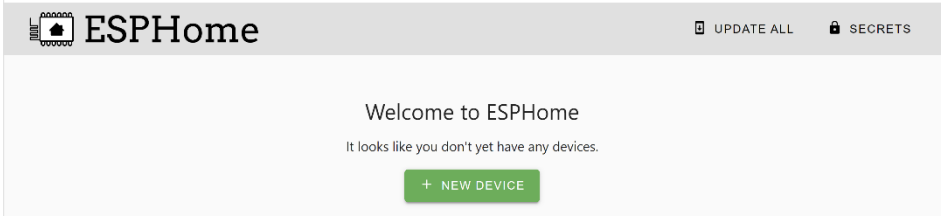
- Then press the start button(marked in green) and turn on the watchdog and sidebar(marked in blue):



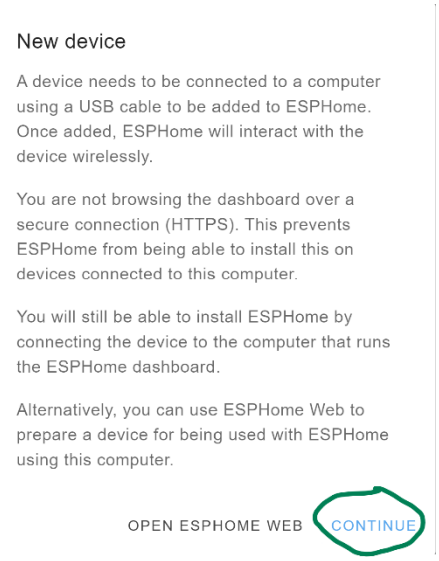
- Hit the “Open WEB UI” button(marked in green0:



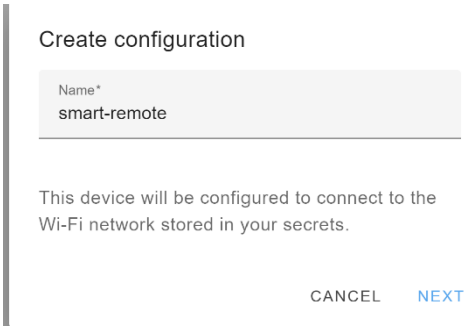
- Press the green “+” button, during this stage the ESP32 needs to be connected to the computer!!



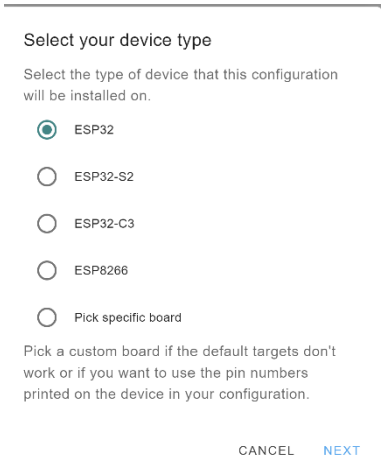
- Then click “continue”:



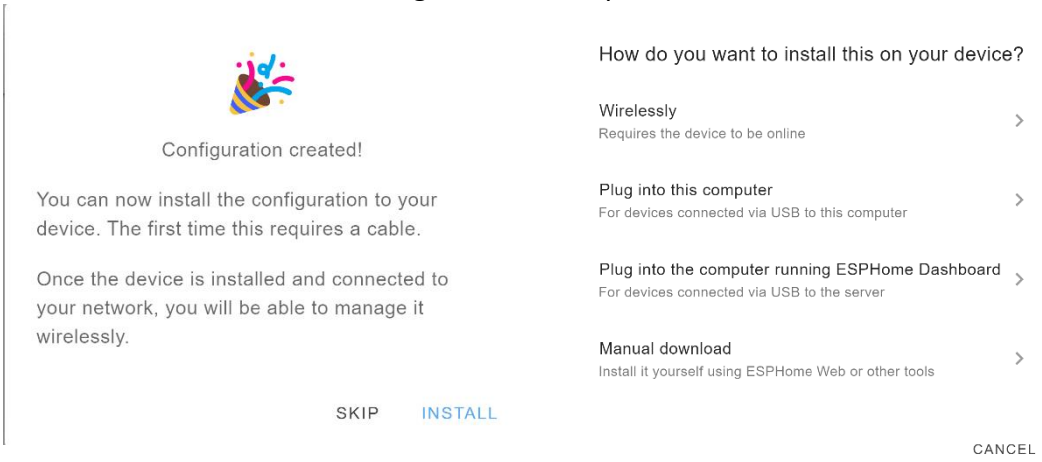
- Give your device a name:



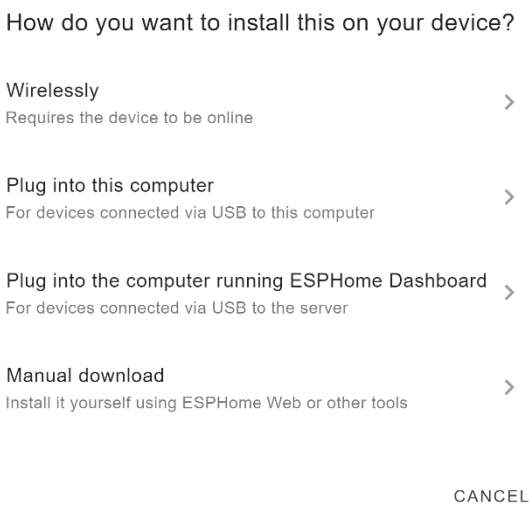
- Choose ESP32:



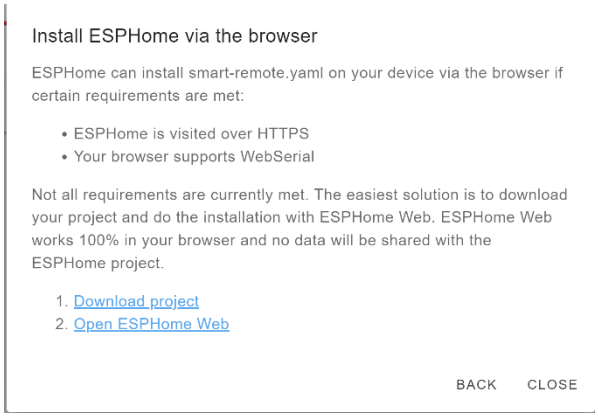
- Then hit install and choose “Plug into this computer”:



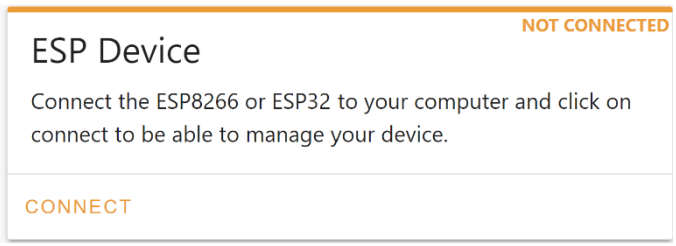
- Hit “Plug into this computer”:



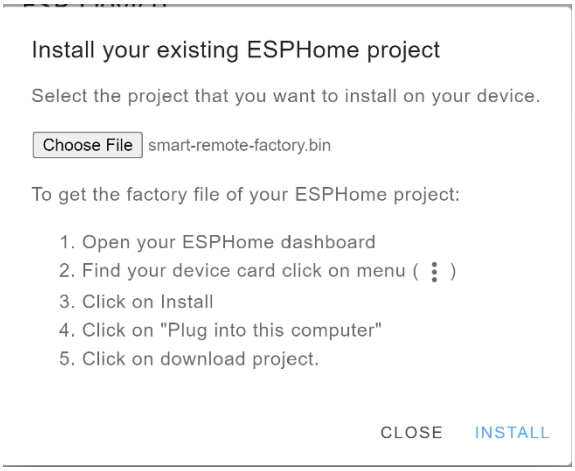
- Then wait for project to download and then hit the “Download Project”, a file called “smart-remote-factory.bin” will be downloaded.
- Then press “Open ESPHome Web”



- Click install and then choose the port that your ESP32 is connected to:



- Click “install” again and then choose the “smart-remote-factory.bin” file that you just downloaded. It is important that the ESP32 is connected and that you press the BOOT button from the moment you choose the port that it is connected to and until it finishes installing, otherwise it won’t work!:



- Go back to your Home Assistant portal and you will see that your device is now online 😊