

Dongle Max User Manual

Product Introduction

SONOFF Dongle Max (Hereinafter referred to as **Dongle-M**) is a Zigbee gateway developed based on ESP32D0+EFR32MG24, designed to connect Zigbee sub-devices to open-source platforms like Home Assistant and Zigbee2MQTT. It supports POE power supply and offers multiple connectivity options, making it adaptable to various usage scenarios.

Product Appearance





Package Contents

- Zigbee/Thread POE Dongle x1
- Bracket x 1
- Antenna x 2

- Double-sided tape x 2
- Screw accessory package x 2
- USB type-C cable (1m) x 1
- Quick guide x 1

Product Usage

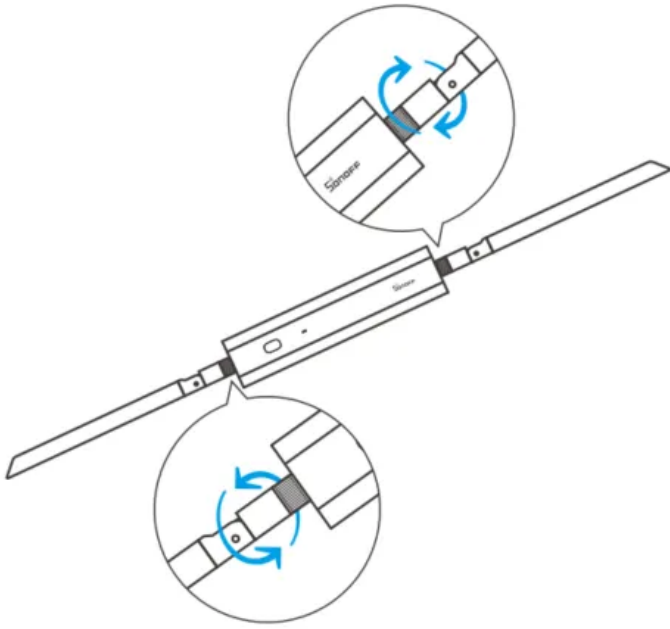
Step Overview

For first-time use, you can refer to the steps below to track your setup progress.

Step	Ethernet Method	Wi-Fi Method	USB Method
1	Install Antenna		
2	Ethernet Power and Connection	Wi-Fi Power and Connection	USB Power and Connection
3	Access the WEB Console		/
4	TCP Configuration to Open-source Platform		USB Configuration to Open-source Platform
5	Fixed the Device		

Step 1 Antenna Installation

The package includes two antennas, which should be attached to the left and right sides of the device respectively.



Step 2 Power Supply and Connection

Before installation, please choose a suitable connection method based on your usage habits or scenario:

Plan	Connection Method	Suitable Scenarios
A	Ethernet Connection	For environments with extendable network cables and LAN access, such as living rooms or bedrooms; or for utilizing idle Ethernet cables to achieve full-house coverage, such as in warehouses.
B	Wi-Fi Connection	When the device is not close to the host and there is no available Ethernet cabling. Ideal for rooms requiring flexible placement, such as bedrooms.

B	USB Connection	Close to the host device, connected via USB cable. Suitable for placement together with the host at a central home location, such as the living room.
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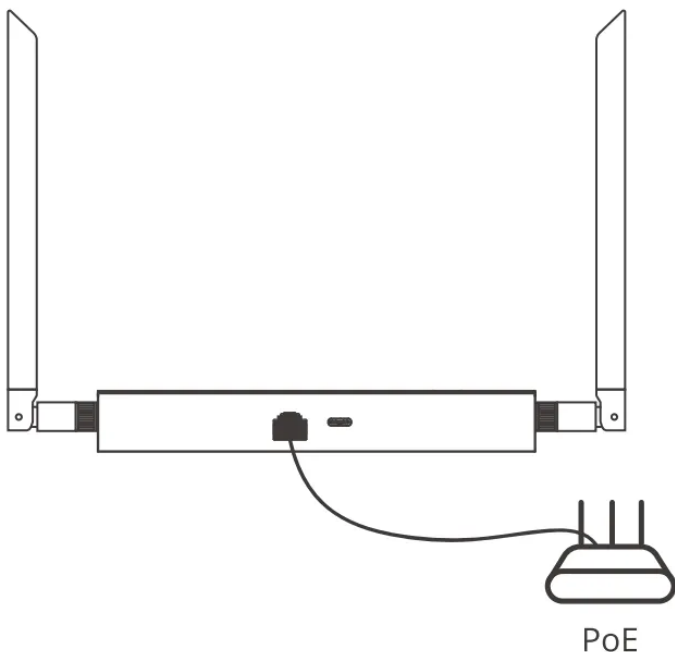
Plan A: Ethernet Connection

Device Power Supply

Before powering on the device, please check whether your router or switch supports PoE (Power over Ethernet).

- If supported, refer to the **PoE Power Supply** section below.
- If not supported, refer to the **Ethernet + Type-C Power Supply** section.

PoE Power Supply



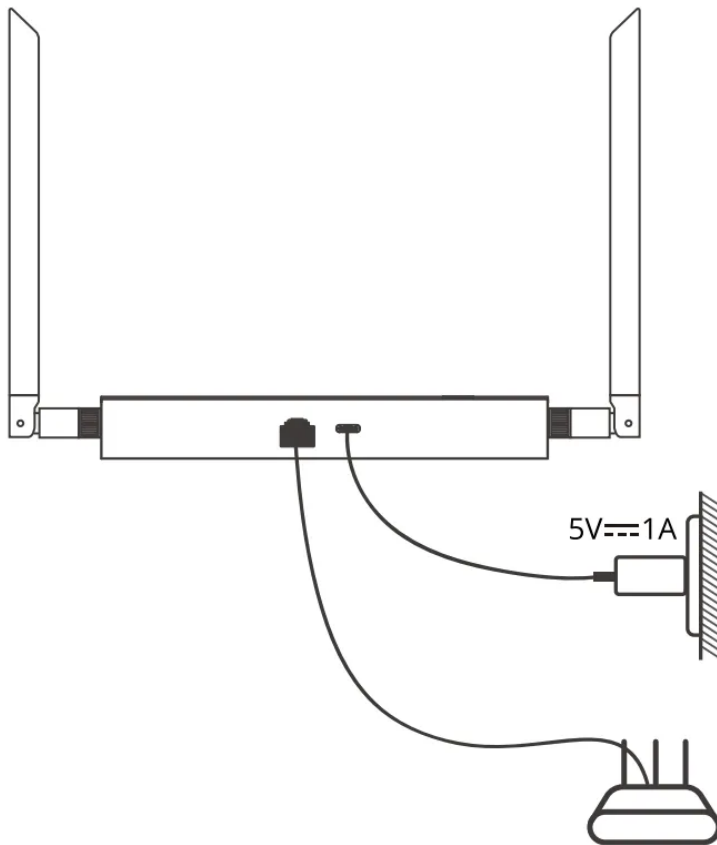
1. Connect the device to a PoE-enabled router, switch, or PoE power module using an RJ45 Ethernet cable. This completes the power connection.

2. Once powered on, the device indicator will remain **solid orange**, indicating that the device is receiving power properly.

⚠ Note: If using PoE power supply, ensure that your router or switch supports PoE. If your current network equipment does not support it, you may purchase a separate PoE power module to enable this functionality.

If PoE power is not available, please supply power to the device via the Type-C port.

Ethernet + Type-C Power Supply



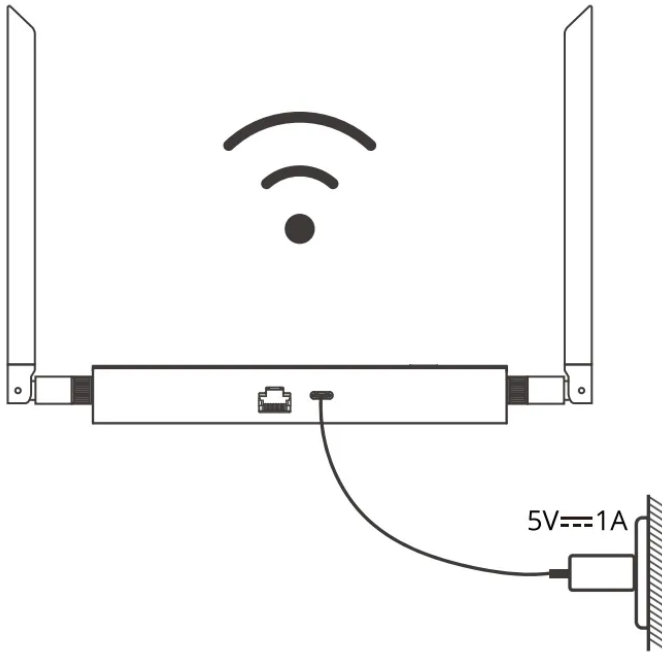
1. Use a Type-C charging cable: connect one end to the device's Type-C port, and the other end to a power adapter. Plug an RJ45 Ethernet cable into the network port and connect it to the router.
2. Once powered on, the device indicator will remain **solid orange**, indicating that the device is receiving power properly.

Connecting to the Router

1. After powering on, the device will attempt to connect to the router. When the indicator turns **solid blue**, the device is online.

2. Connect your mobile phone or computer to the same local network, and access the WEB console by entering the default domain **Dongle-M.local** in your browser. Once the page loads successfully, the WEB functions are ready to use.

Plan B: Wi-Fi Connection



Use a Type-C charging cable: connect one end to the device's Type-C port, and the other end to a power adapter. Plug an RJ45 Ethernet cable into the network port and connect it to the router.

Once powered on, the device indicator will remain **solid orange**, indicating that the device is receiving power properly.

Connecting to the Router

Before connecting to the router, you may choose a setup method based on your router's capabilities:

- For all router types: refer to the **AP Hotspot Configuration** section.
- If your router supports WPS: refer to the **WPS Configuration** section.

AP Hotspot Configuration

1. The device's AP hotspot is enabled by default when powered on. On your PC or mobile device, search for the AP SSID such as **SONOFF_Dongle-M_XXXX** . The first connection

does not require a password.

If no connection is made within 10 minutes, the AP hotspot will automatically shut down.

Press the button to re-enable it.

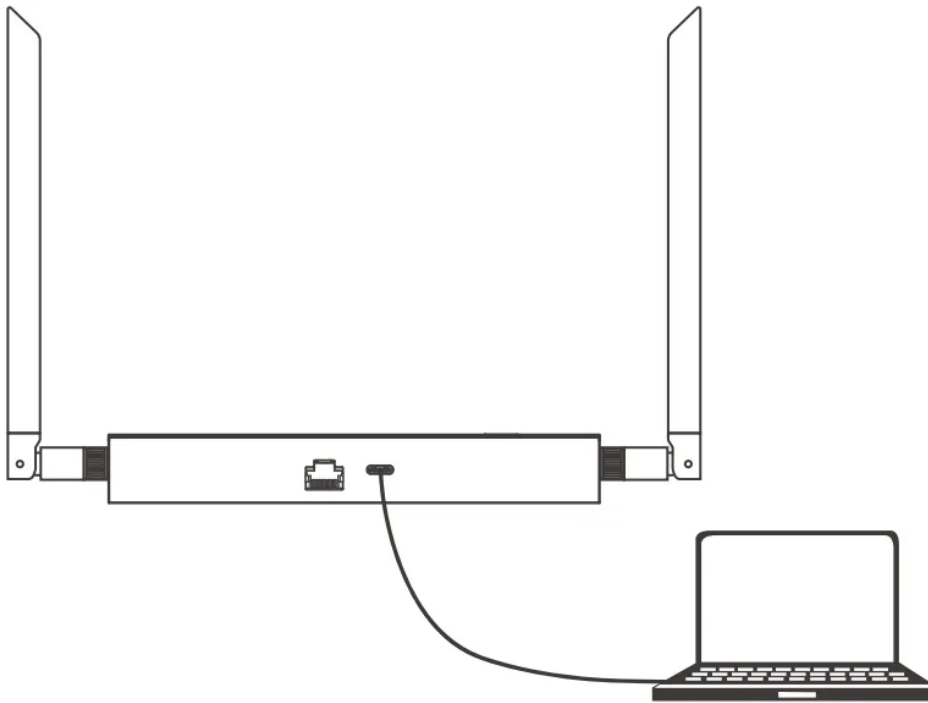
2. After connecting to the AP hotspot, the browser will automatically open the WEB interface. You will be prompted to set a password for WEB access. After configuration, the page will close and you must reconnect to the AP hotspot using the password you just set.
If the browser does not open automatically, you can access the page manually via the default domain `Dongle-M.local`.
3. Re-enter the WEB interface, go to **Network Settings** on the left, select **WLAN Settings**, choose the appropriate Wi-Fi network, and connect.
4. Wait for the device to connect to the router. When the indicator turns **solid blue**, the device is online.
5. Connect your phone or PC to the same LAN, and access the WEB console by visiting `Dongle-M.local` in your browser. Once accessed successfully, you can use all WEB functions.

WPS Configuration

1. If your router supports WPS, press the WPS button on the router to start the pairing process.
2. Press the button on the Dongle-M once to enter WPS mode. The indicator will flash orange.
3. Wait for the device to connect to the router. If the connection is successful within 30 seconds, the indicator will turn **solid blue**, indicating the device is online.
4. Connect your phone or PC to the same LAN, and access the WEB console by visiting `Dongle-M.local` in your browser. Once accessed successfully, you can use all WEB functions.

Plan C: USB Connection

Device Power Supply



Use a Type-C charging cable: connect one end to the device's Type-C port, and the other end to the host device.

Once powered on, the device indicator will remain **solid orange**, indicating that the device is receiving power properly.

At this point, you may proceed to the **Accessing the Operating System** section for the next steps.

Step 3 Access the WEB Console

The device supports the following methods to access the WEB console via **Ethernet connection** and **Wi-Fi connection**:

Access Method	Description
Default URL	Connect to the same LAN as the device, then enter the default domain Dongle-M.local in the browser.
IP Address Access	Check the device's IP address in your router's management page, then enter the IP address in the browser.

Custom URL	If not your first login and you have configured the mDNS hostname in the WEB console—settings—mDNS Hostname, you can access it via the custom URL.
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Set Login Password (Required)

On first use, you must set a password with at least 8 characters.

If using AP Hotspot Configuration, you will need to reconnect to the AP hotspot after changing the password, using the newly set password.

Configure Wireless Network (Optional)

You can add a 2.4GHz wireless network under **Network Settings** → **WLAN Connection**.

If both Ethernet and Wi-Fi are connected, the Ethernet connection will take priority.

Firmware Upgrade

You can perform a firmware upgrade under WEB console—**Firmware**.

It is recommended to upgrade the device to the latest stable firmware version before using Dongle-M to ensure optimal performance.

Step 4 Connecting to Operating System

Connecting to Z2M

1. Use the USB extension cable included with the Dongle-M to connect it as a Zigbee adapter for Zigbee2MQTT integration.

For example, in Home Assistant, following the steps:

1. Navigate to Settings > System > Hardware > All Hardware.
2. Search for "ttyUSB".
3. Copy the serial device path (e.g. /dev/ttyUSBx) or ID path (e.g. /dev/serial/by-id...).

serial:

```
1  port: <Device path, e.g. /dev/ttyUSBx> or <ID, e.g. /dev/serial/by-id...>
2  baudRate: 115200
3  adapter: ember
```

2. Network (TCP) Connection: Set up Zigbee2MQTT integration remotely over Wi-Fi or Ethernet using a TCP connection.

Using a hostname instead of an IP address is highly recommended to avoid unexpected disconnections if the IP changes.

serial:

```
1  port: tcp://Dongle-M.local:6638
2  baudRate: 115200
3  adapter: ember
```

Connecting to ZHA

1. Use the USB extension cable included with the Dongle-M to connect it as a Zigbee adapter for ZHA integration.

1.1 Auto-discovery: ZHA automatically discovers the Dongle-M and its device path during integration setup.

1.2 Manual Setup: If auto-discovery fails, enter the device path from Hardware settings, following the steps:

1. Navigate to Settings > System > Hardware > All Hardware.
2. Search for "ttyUSB".
3. Copy the serial device path (e.g. /dev/ttyUSBx) or ID path (e.g. /dev/serial/by-id...).

```
1  Radio Type: EZSP
2  Serial device path: <Device path, e.g. /dev/ttyUSBx> or <ID, e.g. /dev/serial/by-id...>
3  baudRate: 115200
4  Data flow control: software
```

2. Network (TCP) Connection: Set up ZHA integration remotely over Wi-Fi or Ethernet using a TCP connection.

2.1 Auto-discovery: ZHA automatically discovers the Dongle-M and its device path during integration setup.

2.2 Manual Setup: If auto-discovery fails, enter the device path from Hardware settings, following the steps:

1. Navigate to Settings > System > Hardware > All Hardware.
2. Search for "ttyUSB".
3. Copy the serial device path (e.g. /dev/ttyUSBx) or ID path (e.g. /dev/serial/by-id...).

Note: Using a hostname instead of an IP address is highly recommended to avoid unexpected disconnections if the IP changes.

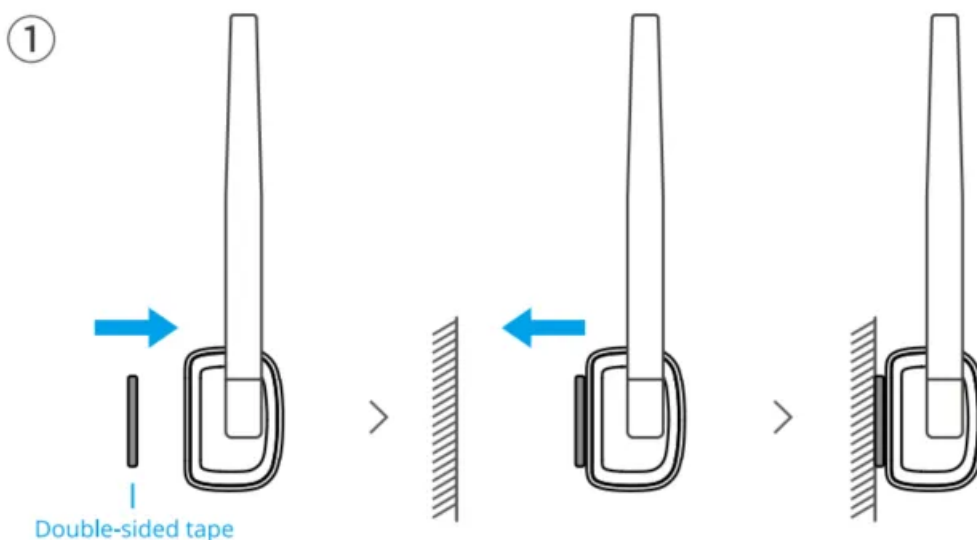
```
1  dio Type: EZSP
2  Serial device path: socket://Dongle-M.local:6638
3  Port speed: 115200
4  Data flow control: software
```

Step 5: Fixed the Device

Once the device is functioning properly, you can choose one of the following methods to fixed it:

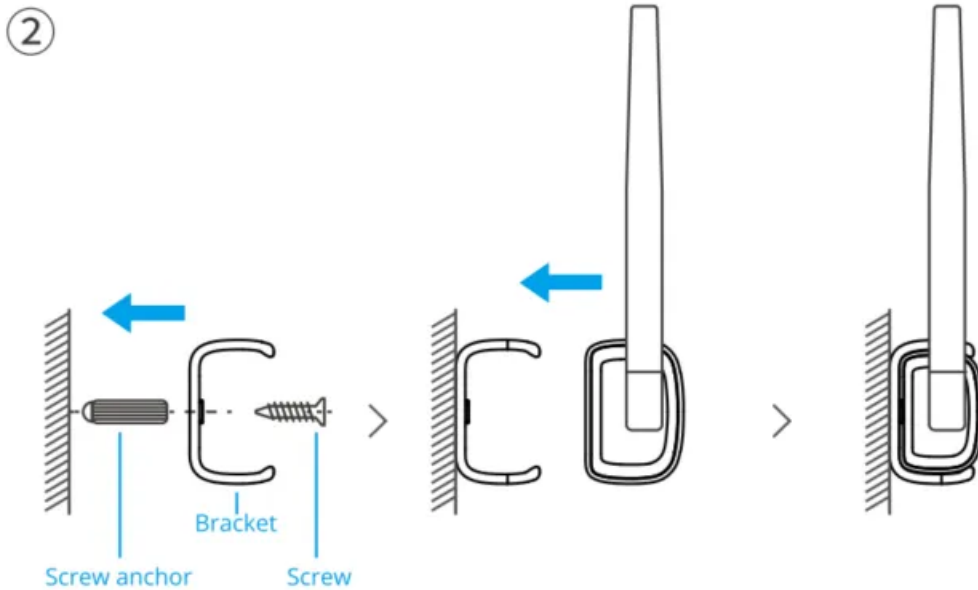
1. Adhesive Installation

Use the included double-sided adhesive tape to attach the device to a flat surface.



2. Bracket Installation

Use screws to secure the bracket, then mount the device onto the bracket.

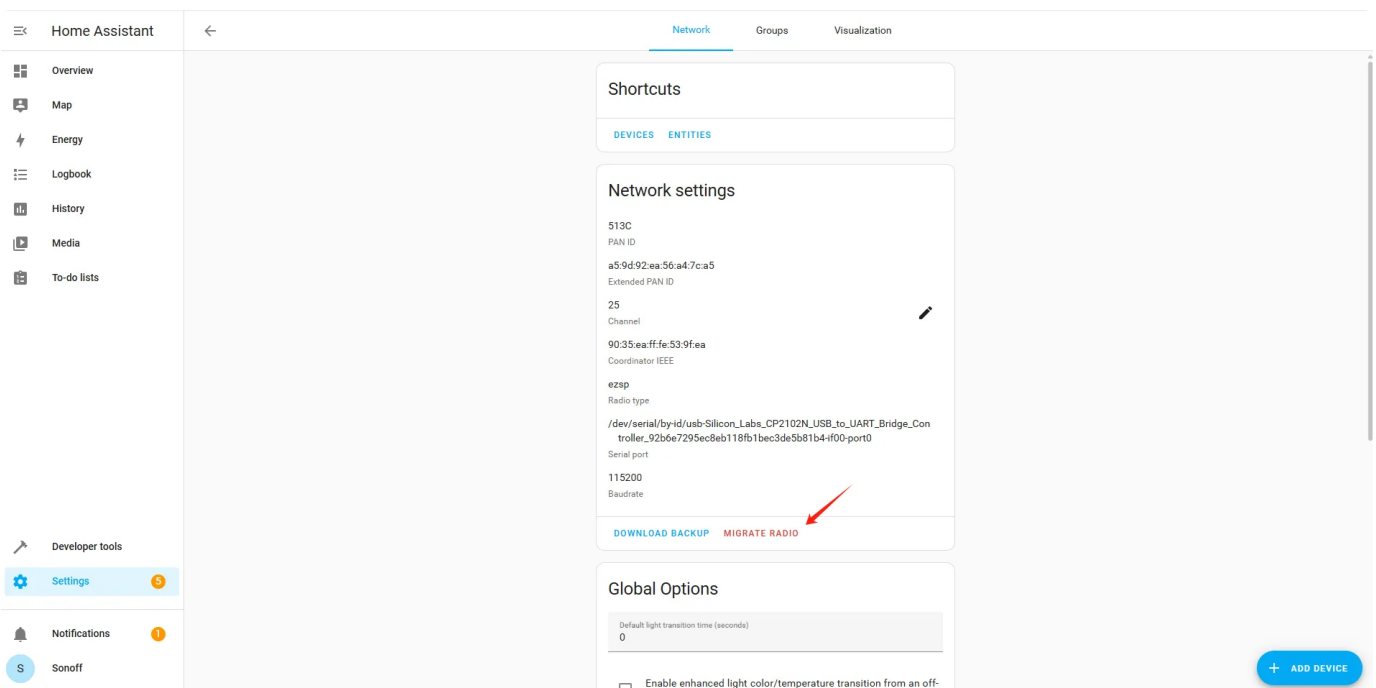


Feature Guide

Migrate from one adapter to another (Optional)

Migrating involves risks, which may lead to the need to re-pair zigbee devices. You can decide whether to proceed with the migration at your own discretion.

- In ZHA, you can migrate via the **"Migrate Radio"**.



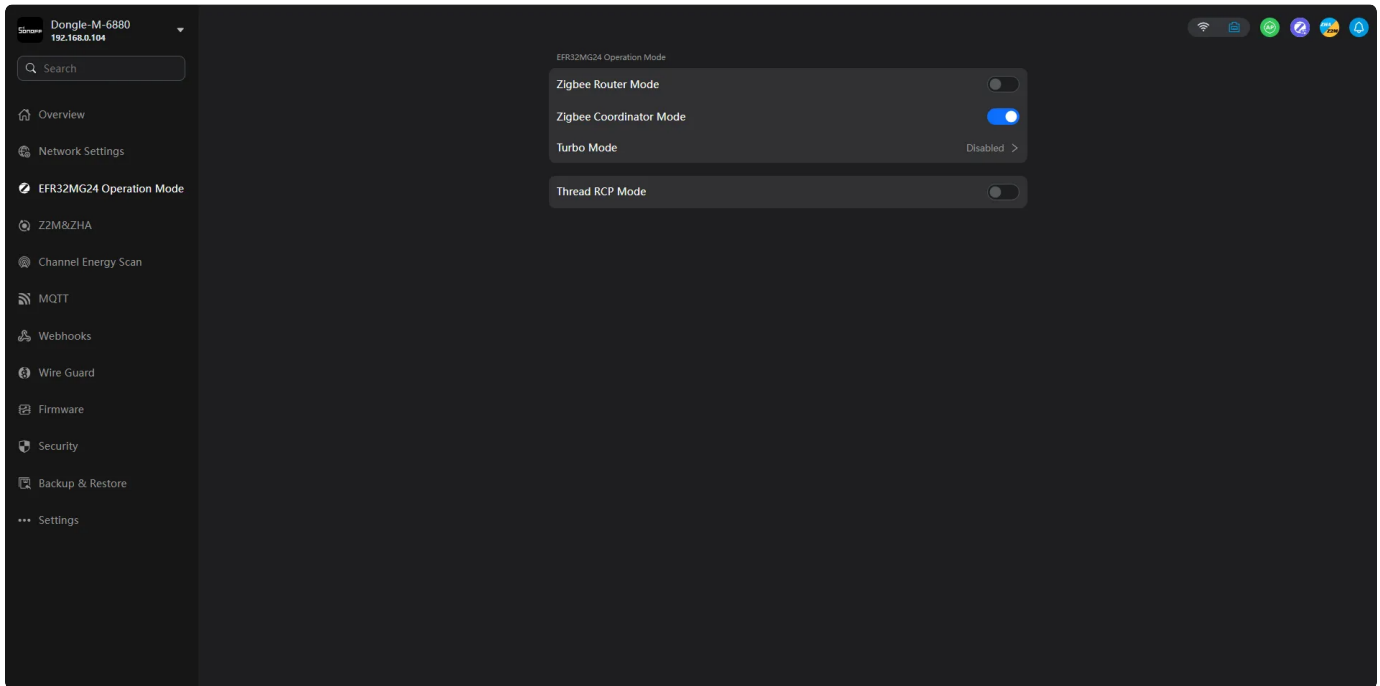
- In Z2M, please refer to the following link for detailed information and operation procedures:

<https://www.zigbee2mqtt.io/guide/faq/#how-do-i-migrate-from-one-adapter-to-another>

Switch Operation Mode

You can switch the device's operating mode under **ESP32MG24 Operation Mode**.

For example, you can configure it to function as a **Zigbee Coordinator**, **Zigbee Router** or switch to **Thread RCP** firmware.

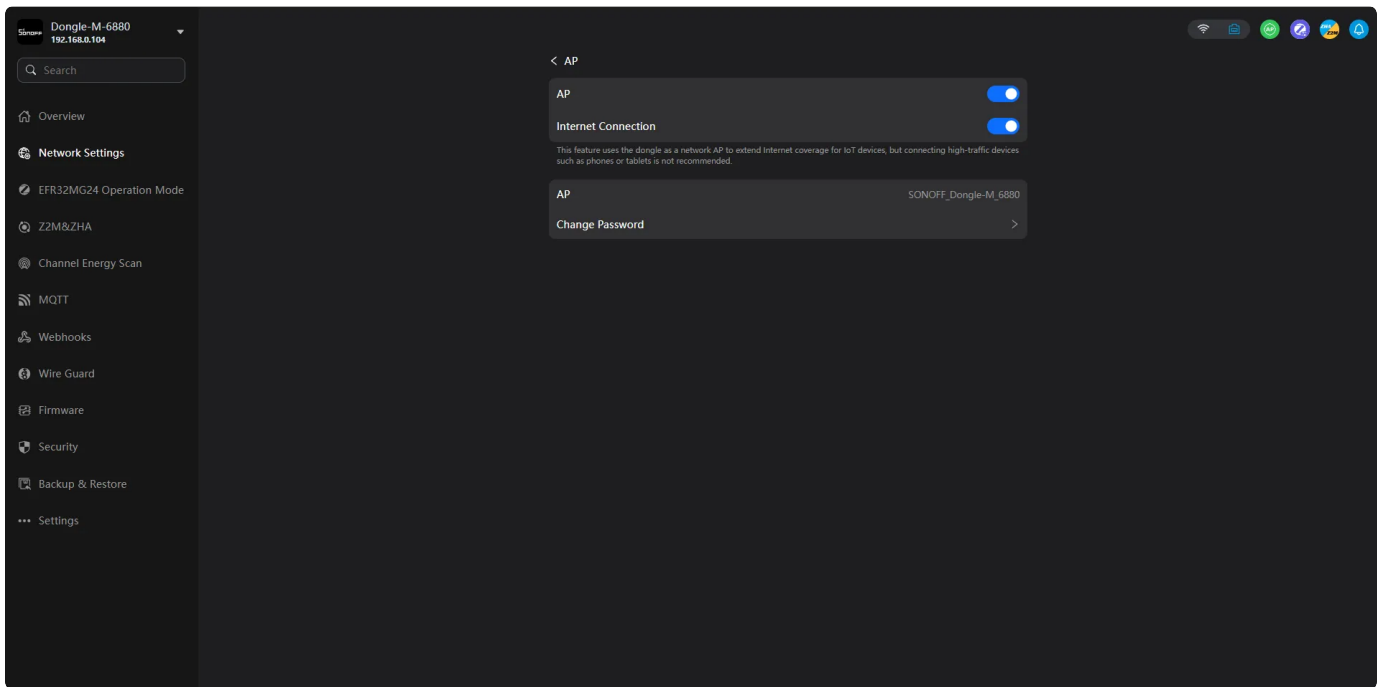


Enable Device AP Hotspot

After enabling the AP hotspot, the device can function similarly to a Wi-Fi router, providing network access for up to 8 IoT devices.

Under **Network Settings -- AP**, you can enable the device's AP and configure the SSID and password.

Once configured, your IoT devices can connect to this AP hotspot.

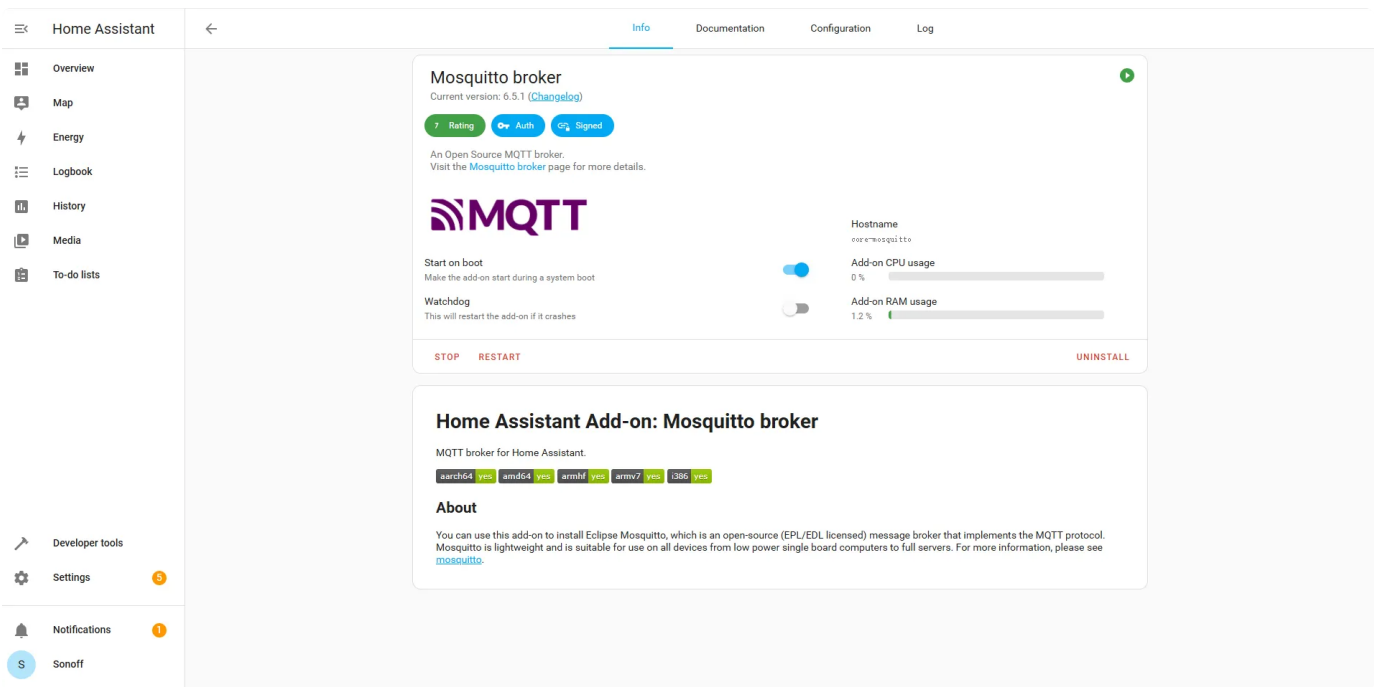


MQTT Settings

1. Configure Mosquitto Broker

1. Install the Mosquitto Add-on

In HA's management interface, go to **Settings** → **Add-ons** → **Add-on Store**, search for and install the **Mosquitto broker** add-on. After installation, click **Start** and ensure the add-on runs normally.



2. Set Username and Password

In the Mosquitto add-on configuration page, refer to the following settings to edit (example):

```
1  - username: mqttt
2  password: mqttt
```

Save the changes and restart the add-on.

Mosquitto broker

Options

Logins

1

2

3

username: mqtt

password: mqtt

A list of local users that will be created with username and password. You don't need to do this because you can use Home Assistant users too, without any configuration. You can also specify 'password_pre_hashed: true' to utilize a pre-hashed password from the output of the 'pw' command (which is present inside the container).

Require Client Certificate

If enabled client will need to provide its own certificate on top of username/password. 'cafile' must be set.

Certificate File*

fullchain.pem

A file containing a certificate, including its chain. Place this file in the Home Assistant 'ssl' folder.

Private Key File*

privkey.pem

A file containing the private key. Place this file in the Home Assistant 'ssl' folder.

Customize

1

2

3

active: false

folder: mosquitto

See the Documentation tab for more information about these options.

Show unused optional configuration options

SAVE

2. Configure Dongle-M to Connect to Mosquitto

1. Get Mosquitto Server Information

Record the Mosquitto server address (usually the HA host's IP, e.g., `192.168.1.100`).

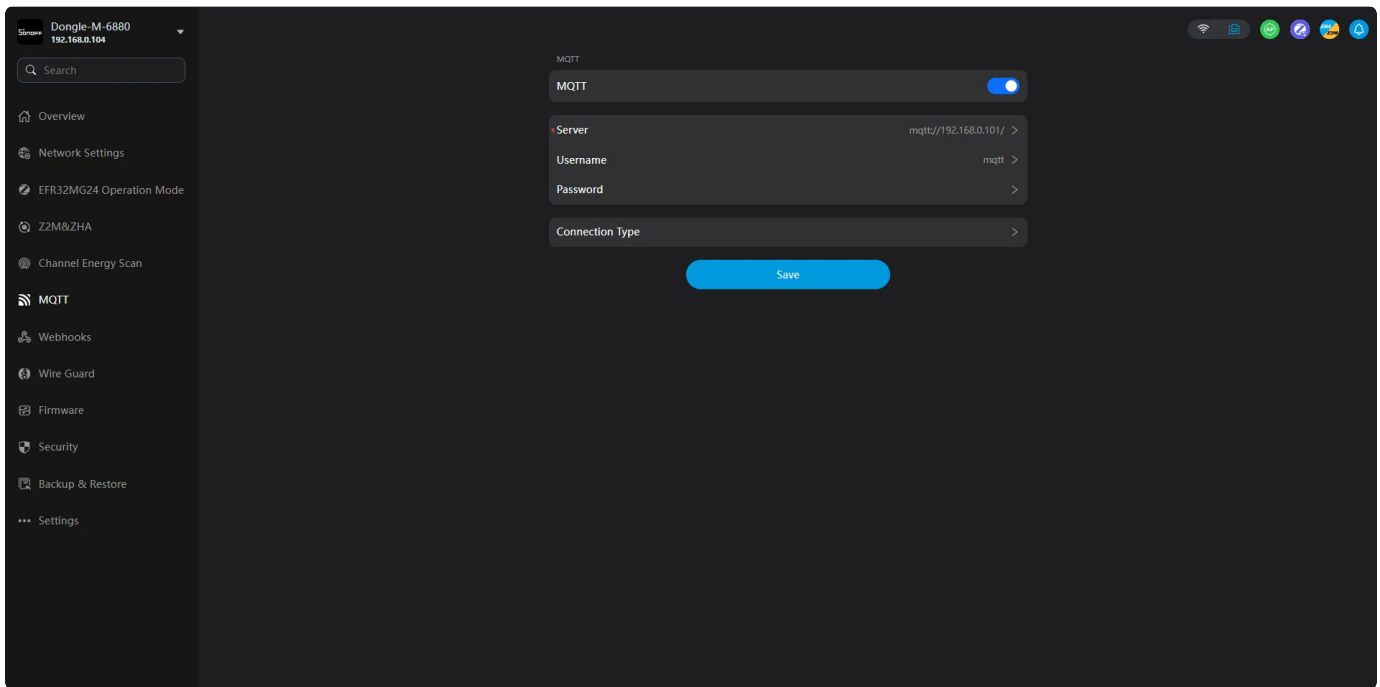
2. Set Dongle-M Parameters

In Dongle-M's configuration interface, enter:

- **Server Address:** mqtt://HA host IP (e.g. `mqtt://192.168.1.100`)
- **Username:** `mqtt`
- **Password:** `mqtt`

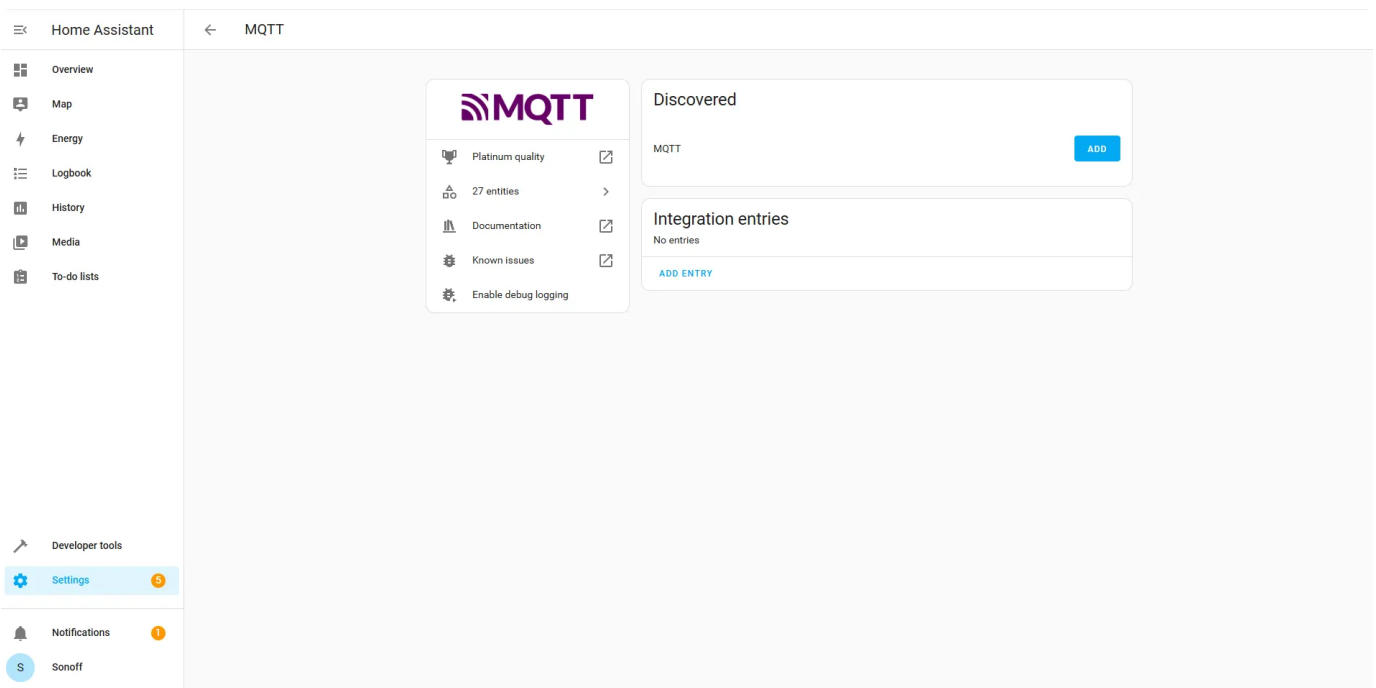
Save the settings. Verify that Dongle-M connects successfully via Mosquitto logs or a client tool (e.g., MQTT Explorer).

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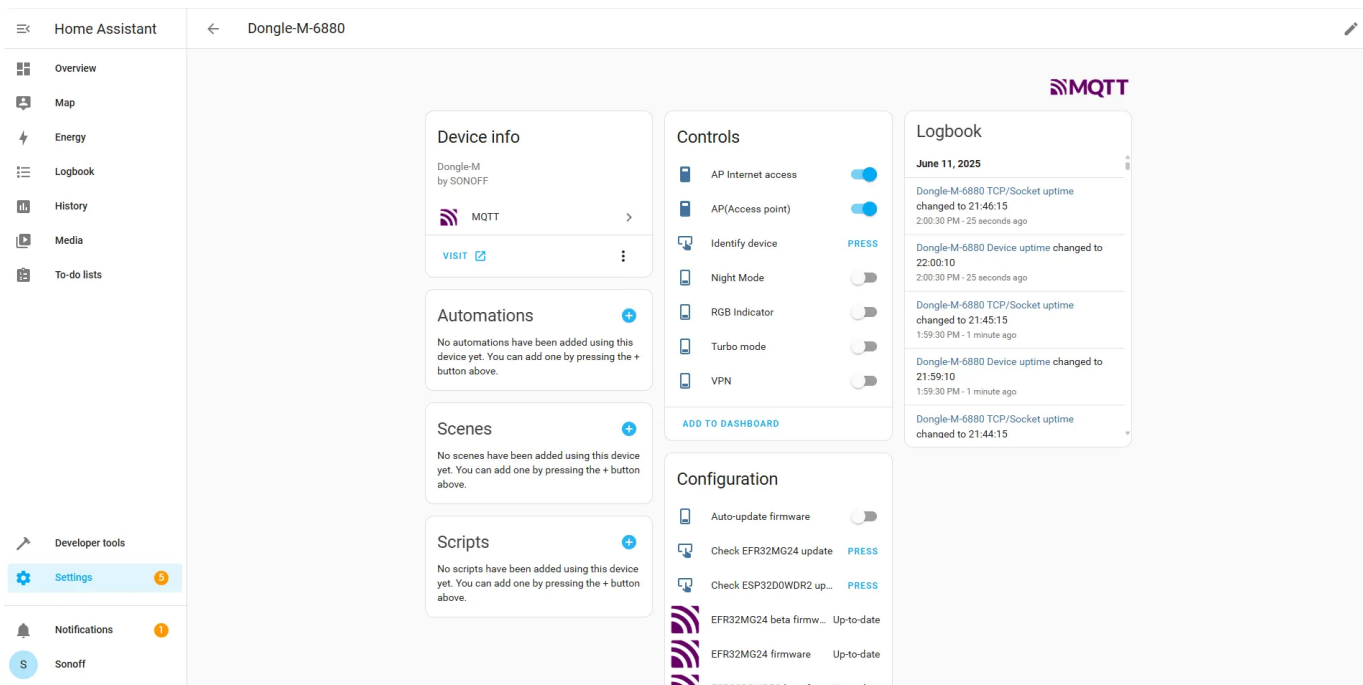


3. Add MQTT Integration in HA

Go to **Settings** → **Devices & Services** → **Add Integration**, search for and select **MQTT**. Dongle-M can be automatically found in it, and click **ADD** to add it.

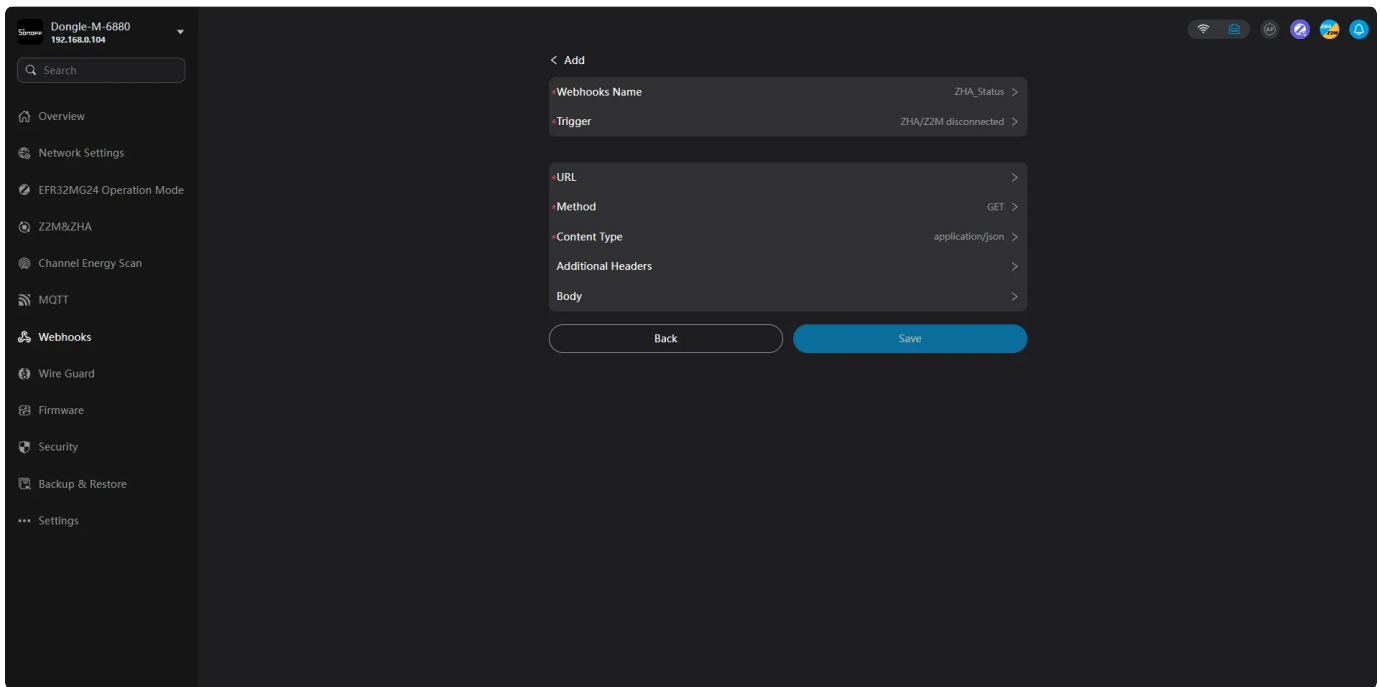


Once completed, you can control the multiple selection settings of Dongle-M in HA.

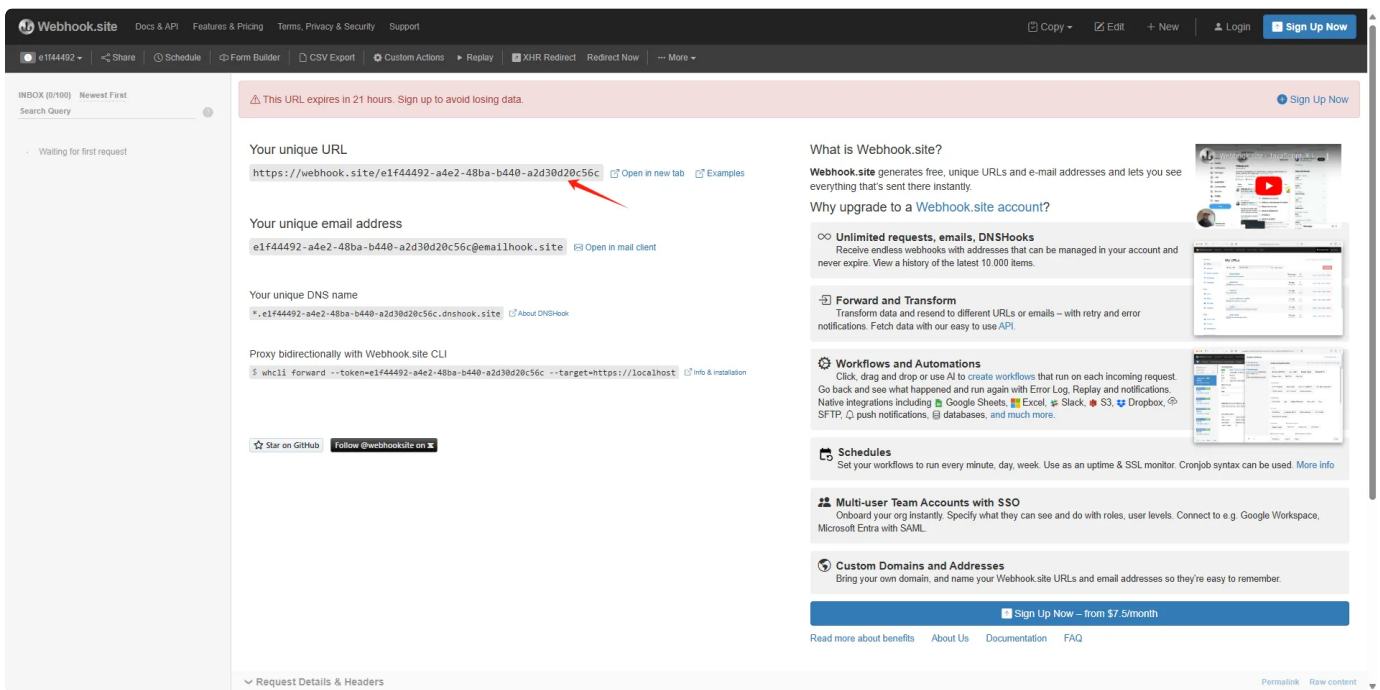


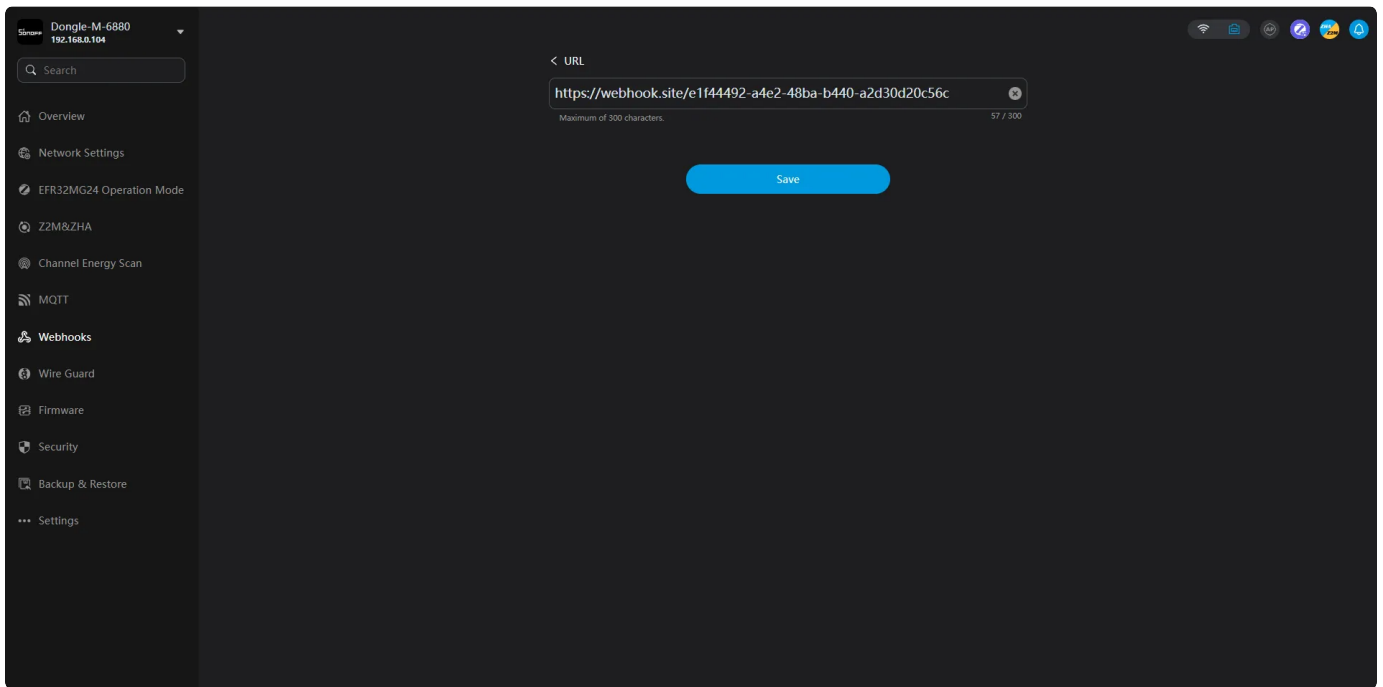
Webhooks

1. In **Webhooks**, click **Add** to create a webhook with various functionalities.
2. Set a name for the webhook, then choose a **trigger**. The following triggers are currently supported:
 - ZHA/Z2M disconnected
 - IP Address conflict
 - Hostname conflict
 - Channel energy scan
 - Auto backup files

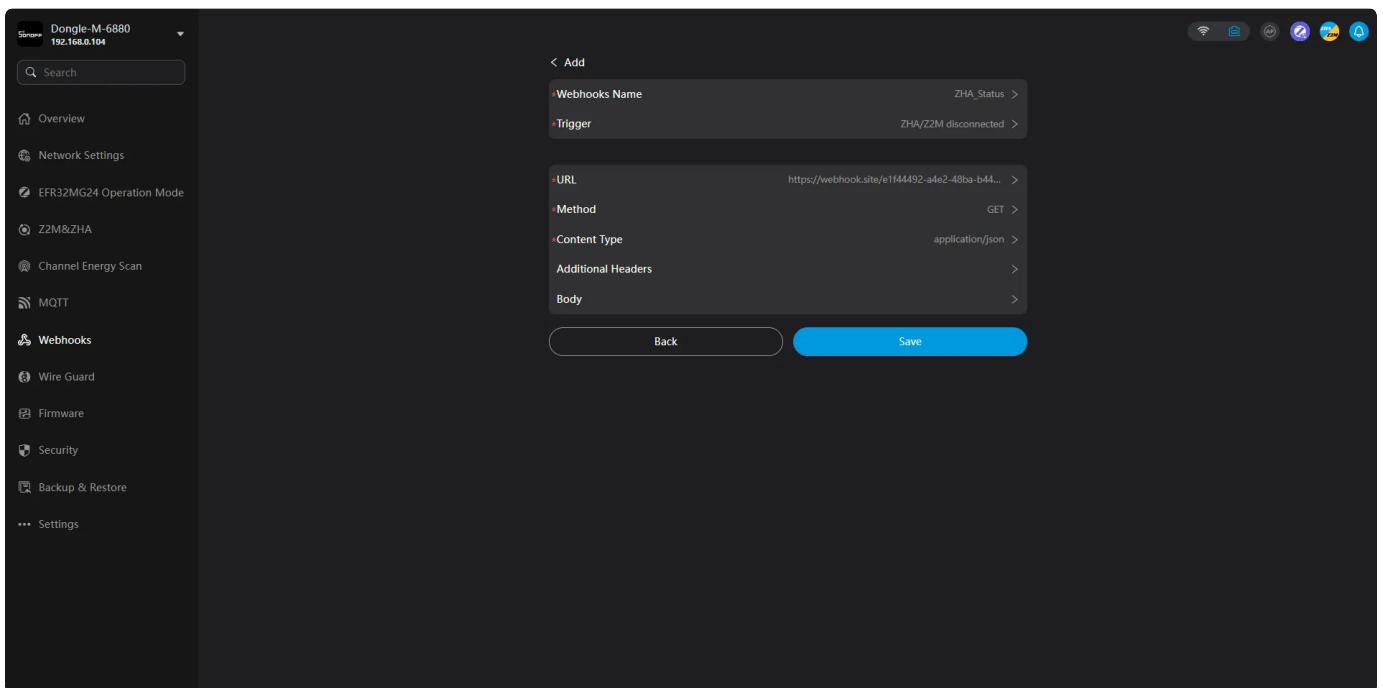


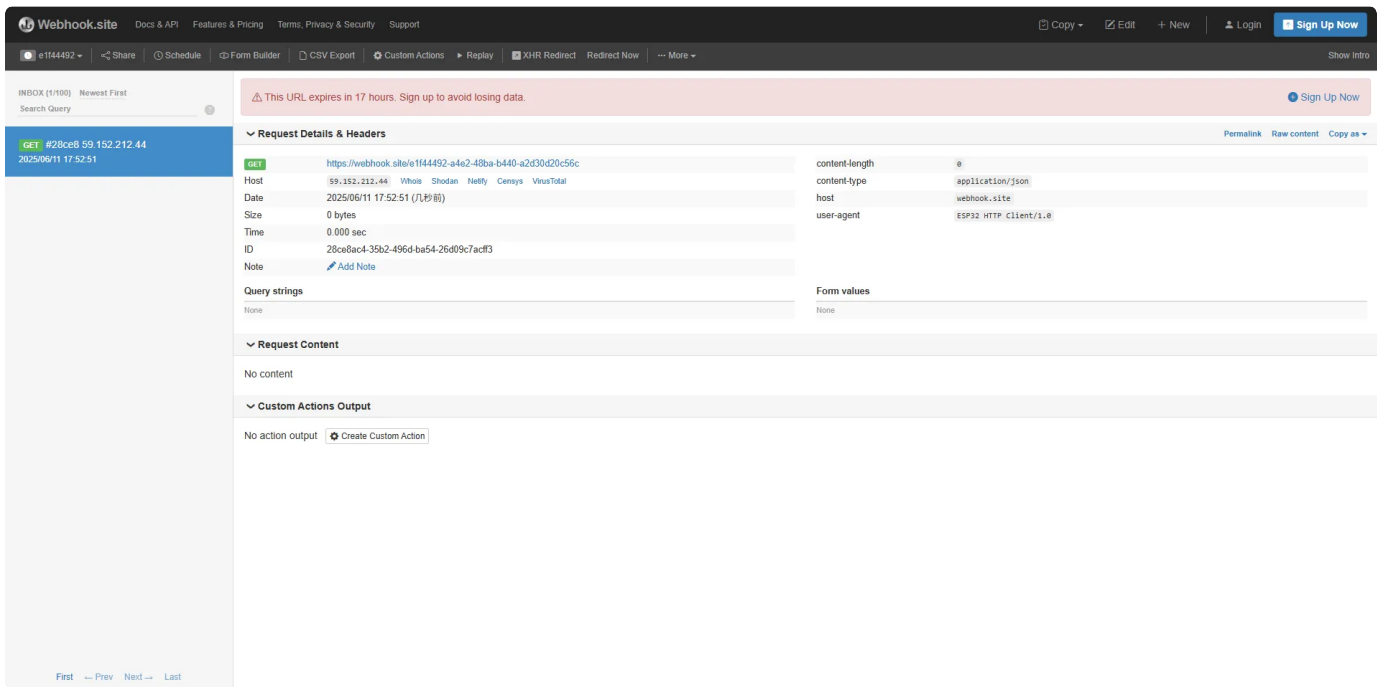
3. Specify the target **URL**. You can use any service that supports webhooks. In the following example, we use **webhook.site** — copy the unique URL provided and paste it into the configuration.





4. After saving, the webhook will be ready for use.





VPN Feature (Wire Guard)

Before configuring a WireGuard client on the Dongle-M, you must first set up your own WireGuard server.

For a reference guide on configuring a WireGuard server in Home Assistant, please refer to the following community add-on documentation:

[Home Assistant Community Add-on: WireGuard](#)