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Concept internals

Typing Indicators

Typing indicators are sent to the chat channel while a run is active. Use `agents.defaults.typingMode` to control **when** typing starts and `typingIntervalSeconds` to control **how often** it refreshes.

Defaults

When `agents.defaults.typingMode` is **unset**, OpenClaw keeps the legacy behavior:

Direct chats: typing starts immediately once the model loop begins.

Group chats with a mention: typing starts immediately.

Group chats without a mention: typing starts only when message text begins streaming.

Heartbeat runs: typing is disabled.


Modes

Set `agents.defaults.typingMode` to one of:

`never` — no typing indicator, ever.

`instant` — start typing **as soon as the model loop begins**, even if the run later returns only the silent reply token.

`thinking` — start typing on the **first reasoning delta** (requires `reasoningLevel: "stream"` for the run).

 `message` – start typing on the **first non-silent text delta** (ignores the `NO_REPLY` silent token).

Order of “how early it fires”: `never` → `message` → `thinking` → `instant`

Configuration

```
{
  agent: {
    typingMode: "thinking",
    typingIntervalSeconds: 6,
  },
}
```

You can override mode or cadence per session:

```
{
  session: {
    typingMode: "message",
    typingIntervalSeconds: 4,
  },
}
```

Notes

`message` mode won't show typing for silent-only replies (e.g. the `NO_REPLY` token used to suppress output).

`thinking` only fires if the run streams reasoning (`reasoningLevel: "stream"`). If the model doesn't emit reasoning deltas, typing won't start.

Heartbeats never show typing, regardless of mode.

`typingIntervalSeconds` controls the **refresh cadence**, not the start time. The default is 6 seconds.

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