☰ **First steps** › `Getting Started`

First steps

Getting Started

Goal: go from zero to a first working chat with minimal setup.

> ⓘ Fastest chat: open the Control UI (no channel setup needed). Run `openclaw dashboard` and chat in the browser, or open `http://127.0.0.1:18789/` on the gateway host. Docs: <u>Dashboard</u> and <u>Control UI</u>.

Prereqs

Node 22 or newer

> 💡 Check your Node version with `node --version` if you are unsure.

Quick setup (CLI)

1   **Install OpenClaw (recommended)**

    macOS/Linux   Windows (PowerShell)
    _____

```
curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install.sh | bash
```

```
seb@ubuntu :~$ curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install.sh   | bash

    ┌─────────────────────────────────────┐  │
    │  🦞 OpenClaw  Installer             │  │
    │  Because  Siri  wasn't  answering  at  3AM.  │
    │  modern  installer  mode            │  │
    │              >                      │  │
    └─────────────────────────────────────┘  │

✓ gum bootstrapped  (temp,  verified,  v0.17.0)
✓ Detected:  linux

Install  plan

OS                      linux
Install  method         npm
Requested  version      latest

[1/3]  Preparing  environment

INFO  Node.js  not  found,  installing  it  now
INFO  Installing  Node.js  via  NodeSource
```

ⓘ **Other install methods and requirements: [Install](#).**

2   Run the onboarding wizard

```
openclaw onboard --install-daemon
```

The wizard configures auth, gateway settings, and optional channels. See   for details.

3   Check the Gateway

If you installed the service, it should already be running:

```
openclaw gateway status
```

4   Open the Control UI

```
openclaw dashboard
```

> ✓ If the Control UI loads, your Gateway is ready for use.

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Optional checks and extras

Run the Gateway in the foreground

Send a test message

Useful environment variables

If you run OpenClaw as a service account or want custom config/state locations:

`OPENCLAW_HOME` sets the home directory used for internal path resolution.

`OPENCLAW_STATE_DIR` overrides the state directory.

`OPENCLAW_CONFIG_PATH` overrides the config file path.

Full environment variable reference: Environment vars.

Go deeper

Onboarding Wizard (details)
Full CLI wizard reference and advanced options.

macOS app onboarding
First run flow for the macOS app.

What you will have

A running Gateway

Auth configured

Control UI access or a connected channel

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Next steps

DM safety and approvals: **Pairing**

Connect more channels: **Channels**

Advanced workflows and from source: **Setup**

‹ Features

Onboarding Overview ›

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