☰ Maintenance › Updating

Maintenance

Updating

OpenClaw is moving fast (pre “1.0”). Treat updates like shipping infra: update → run checks → restart (or use `openclaw update` , which restarts) → verify.

Recommended: re-run the website installer (upgrade in place)

The **preferred** update path is to re-run the installer from the website. It detects existing installs, upgrades in place, and runs `openclaw doctor` when needed.

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

Notes:

- Add `--no-onboard` if you don’t want the onboarding wizard to run again.
- For **source installs**, use:

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

  The installer will `git pull --rebase` **only** if the repo is clean.

For **global installs**, the script uses `npm install -g openclaw@latest` under the hood.

Legacy note: `clawdbot` remains available as a compatibility shim.

Before you update

- Know how you installed: **global** (npm/pnpm) vs **from source** (git clone).
- Know how your Gateway is running: **foreground terminal** vs **supervised service** (launchd/systemd).
- Snapshot your tailoring:
  - Config: `~/.openclaw/openclaw.json`
  - Credentials: `~/.openclaw/credentials/`
  - Workspace: `~/.openclaw/workspace`

Update (global install)

Global install (pick one):

```
npm i -g openclaw@latest
```

```
pnpm add -g openclaw@latest
```

We do **not** recommend Bun for the Gateway runtime (WhatsApp/Telegram bugs).

To switch update channels (git + npm installs):

```
openclaw update --channel beta
openclaw update --channel dev
openclaw update --channel stable
```

Use `--tag <dist-tag|version>` for a one-off install tag/version.

See for channel semantics and release notes.

Note: on npm installs, the gateway logs an update hint on startup (checks the current channel tag). Disable via `update.checkOnStart: false` .

Then:

```
openclaw doctor
openclaw gateway restart
openclaw health
```

Notes:

- If your Gateway runs as a service, `openclaw gateway restart` is preferred over killing PIDs.
- If you're pinned to a specific version, see “Rollback / pinning” below.

Update (`openclaw update`)

For **source installs** (git checkout), prefer:

```
openclaw update
```

It runs a safe-ish update flow:

- Requires a clean worktree.

Switches to the selected channel (tag or branch).

Fetches + rebases against the configured upstream (dev channel).

Installs deps, builds, builds the Control UI, and runs `openclaw doctor`.

Restarts the gateway by default (use `--no-restart` to skip).

If you installed via **npm/pnpm** (no git metadata), `openclaw update` will try to update via your package manager. If it can't detect the install, use "Update (global install)" instead.

Update (Control UI / RPC)

The Control UI has **Update & Restart** (RPC: `update.run`). It:

1. Runs the same source-update flow as `openclaw update` (git checkout only).
2. Writes a restart sentinel with a structured report (stdout/stderr tail).
3. Restarts the gateway and pings the last active session with the report.

If the rebase fails, the gateway aborts and restarts without applying the update.

Update (from source)

From the repo checkout:

Preferred:

```
openclaw update
```

Manual (equivalent-ish):

```
git pull
pnpm install
pnpm build
pnpm ui:build # auto-installs UI deps on first run
openclaw doctor
openclaw health
```

Notes:

- `pnpm build` matters when you run the packaged `openclaw` binary ( ) or use Node to run `dist/` .
- If you run from a repo checkout without a global install, use `pnpm openclaw ...` for CLI commands.
- If you run directly from TypeScript (`pnpm openclaw ...`), a rebuild is usually unnecessary, but **config migrations still apply** → run doctor.
- Switching between global and git installs is easy: install the other flavor, then run `openclaw doctor` so the gateway service entrypoint is rewritten to the current install.

Always Run: `openclaw doctor`

Doctor is the “safe update” command. It’s intentionally boring: repair + migrate + warn.

Note: if you’re on a **source install** (git checkout), `openclaw doctor` will offer to run `openclaw update` first.

Typical things it does:

- Migrate deprecated config keys / legacy config file locations.
- Audit DM policies and warn on risky “open” settings.
- Check Gateway health and can offer to restart.

- Detect and migrate older gateway services (launchd/systemd; legacy schtasks) to current OpenClaw services.
- On Linux, ensure systemd user lingering (so the Gateway survives logout).

Details: Doctor

Start / stop / restart the Gateway

CLI (works regardless of OS):

```
openclaw gateway status
openclaw gateway stop
openclaw gateway restart
openclaw gateway --port 18789
openclaw logs --follow
```

If you're supervised:

- macOS launchd (app-bundled LaunchAgent): `launchctl kickstart -k gui/$UID/bot.molt.gateway` (use `bot.molt.<profile>` ; legacy `com.openclaw.*` still works)
- Linux systemd user service: `systemctl --user restart openclaw-gateway[-<profile>].service`
- Windows (WSL2): `systemctl --user restart openclaw-gateway[-<profile>].service`

> `launchctl` / `systemctl` only work if the service is installed; otherwise run `openclaw gateway install` .

Runbook + exact service labels:

Rollback / pinning (when something breaks)

Pin (global install)

Install a known-good version (replace `<version>` with the last working one):

```
npm i -g openclaw@<version>
```

```
pnpm add -g openclaw@<version>
```

Tip: to see the current published version, run `npm view openclaw version`.

Then restart + re-run doctor:

```
openclaw doctor
openclaw gateway restart
```

Pin (source) by date

Pick a commit from a date (example: “state of main as of 2026-01-01”):

```
git fetch origin
git checkout "$(git rev-list -n 1 --before=\"2026-01-01\" origin/main)"
```

Then reinstall deps + restart:

```
pnpm install
pnpm build
openclaw gateway restart
```

If you want to go back to latest later:

```
git checkout main
git pull
```

If you’re stuck

Run `openclaw doctor` again and read the output carefully (it often tells you the fix).

Check:

Ask in Discord:

‹ Bun (Experimental)　　Migration Guide ›