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# OpenClaw



**“EXFOLIATE! EXFOLIATE!”** – A space lobster, probably

**Any OS gateway for AI agents across WhatsApp, Telegram, Discord, iMessage, and more.**

Send a message, get an agent response from your pocket. Plugins add Mattermost and more.

## Get Started

Install OpenClaw and bring up the Gateway in minutes.

## Run the Wizard

Guided setup with openclaw onboard and pairing flows.

## Open the Control UI

Launch the browser dashboard for chat, config, and sessions.

## What is OpenClaw?



OpenClaw is a **self-hosted gateway** that connects your favorite chat apps – WhatsApp, Telegram, Discord, iMessage, and more – to AI coding agents like Pi. You run a single Gateway process on your own machine (or a server), and it becomes the bridge between your messaging apps and an always-available AI assistant.

**Who is it for?** Developers and power users who want a personal AI assistant they can message from anywhere – without giving up control of their data or relying on a hosted service.

### What makes it different?

**Self-hosted:** runs on your hardware, your rules

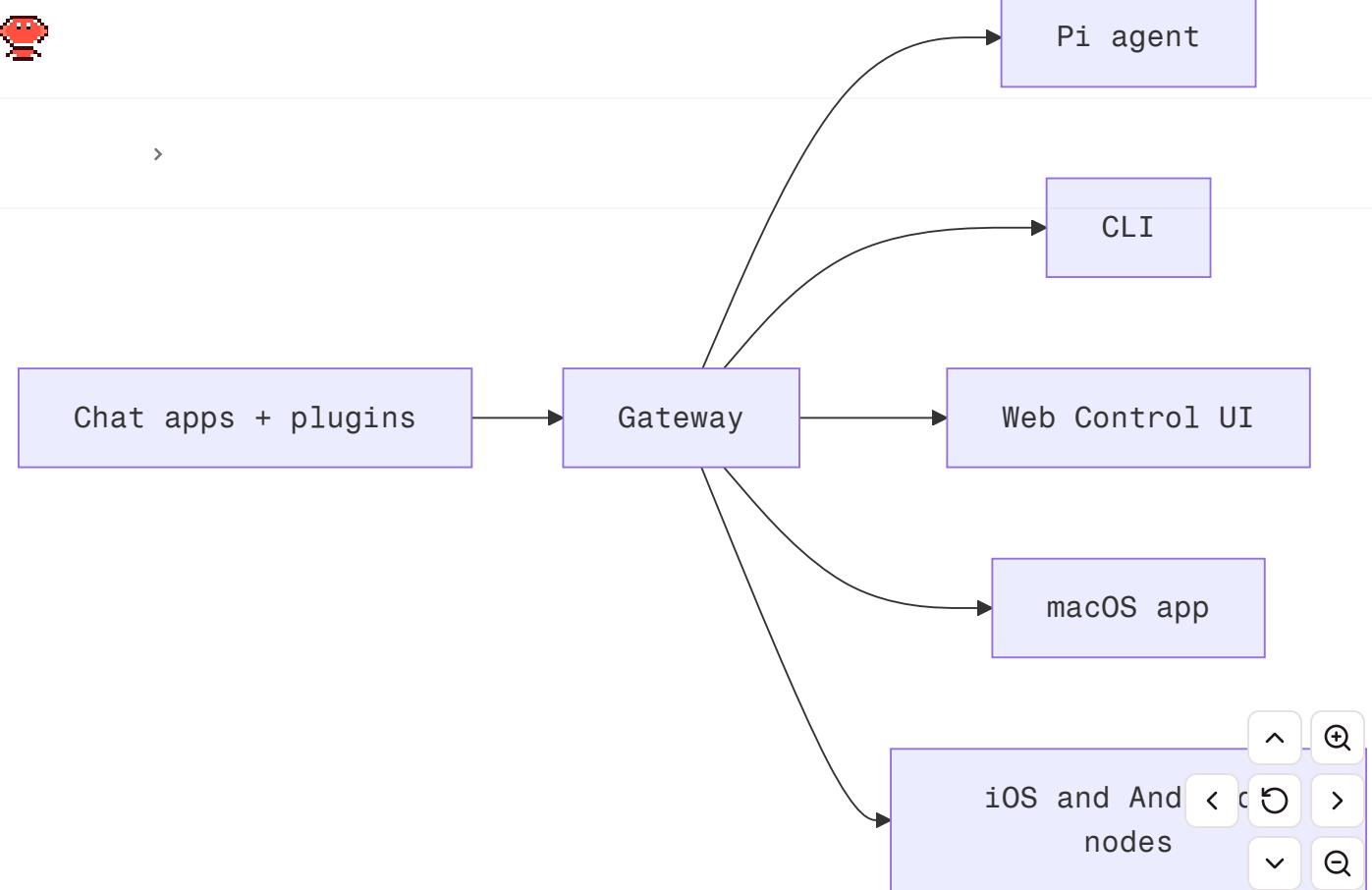
**Multi-channel:** one Gateway serves WhatsApp, Telegram, Discord, and more simultaneously

**Agent-native:** built for coding agents with tool use, sessions, memory, and multi-agent routing

**Open source:** MIT licensed, community-driven

**What do you need?** Node 22+, an API key (Anthropic recommended), and 5 minutes.

## How it works



The Gateway is the single source of truth for sessions, routing, and channel connections.

## Key capabilities

### Multi-channel gateway

WhatsApp, Telegram, Discord, and iMessage with a single Gateway process.

### Plugin channels

Add Mattermost and more with extension packages.

### Multi-agent routing

### Media support

Isolated sessions per agent, workspace, or sender.

Send and receive images, audio, and documents.

&gt;

### Web Control UI

Browser dashboard for chat, config, sessions, and nodes.

### Mobile nodes

Pair iOS and Android nodes with Canvas support.

## Quick start

### 1 Install OpenClaw

```
npm install -g openclaw@latest
```

### 2 Onboard and install the service

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

### 3 Pair WhatsApp and start the Gateway

```
openclaw channels login  
openclaw gateway --port 18789
```

Need the full install and dev setup? See [Quick start](#).

# Dashboard



Open the browser Control UI after the Gateway starts.

>

Local default: <http://127.0.0.1:18789/>

Remote access: [Web surfaces](#) and [Tailscale](#)



3:58

72+

&lt; 118

Clawd  
online

Today

yo

3:56 PM ✓

yo! what's up? 3:56 PM

guess what 3:56 PM ✓

i dunno, what? 3:56 PM

I'm in Marrakech 3:56 PM ✓

nice! marrakech is amazing! 🇲🇦

soaking up the medina vibes? eating your weight in tagine? haggling in the souks?

how's the weather there? enjoy the chaos and the colors! 3:57 PM

sunny and warm. 3 people tried to scam me on the walk here. You are in some hotel and I'm on the street. Hope they don't grab my Mac with you on it!

3:58 PM ✓

haha welcome to marrakech! 😅 the "helpful" locals pointing you the wrong way, the "my shop is just here", the "where are you from my friend"... classic.

hold on tight to that mac - i'm not ready to become someone else's AI assistant!

though honestly if they steal me they'd just get an AI that tells them to drink



# Configuration (optional)

Config lives at `~/.openclaw/openclaw.json`.

>  
If you **do nothing**, OpenClaw uses the bundled Pi binary in RPC mode with per-sender sessions.

If you want to lock it down, start with `channels.whatsapp.allowFrom` and (for groups) mention rules.

Example:

```
{  
  channels: {  
    whatsapp: {  
      allowFrom: ["+15555550123"],  
      groups: { "*": { requireMention: true } },  
    },  
    messages: { groupChat: { mentionPatterns: ["@openclaw"] } },  
  }  
}
```

## Start here

### Docs hubs

All docs and guides, organized by use case.

### Configuration

Core Gateway settings, tokens, and provider config.

### Remote access

SSH and tailnet access patterns.

### Channels



Channel-specific setup for WhatsApp, Telegram, Discord, and more.

## Nodes

iOS and Android nodes with pairing and Canvas.

## Help

Common fixes and troubleshooting entry point.

# Learn more

## Full feature list

Complete channel, routing, and media capabilities.

## Multi-agent routing

Workspace isolation and per-agent sessions.

## Security

Tokens, allowlists, and safety controls.

## Troubleshooting

Gateway diagnostics and common errors.

## About and credits

Project origins, contributors, and license.

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