CLI commands › gateway

CLI commands

gateway

The Gateway is OpenClaw’s WebSocket server (channels, nodes, sessions, hooks).

Subcommands in this page live under `openclaw gateway …` .

Related docs:

- /gateway/bonjour
- /gateway/discovery
- /gateway/configuration

Run the Gateway

Run a local Gateway process:

```
openclaw gateway
```

Foreground alias:

```
openclaw gateway run
```

Notes:

By default, the Gateway refuses to start unless `gateway.mode=local` is set in `~/.openclaw/openclaw.json`. Use `--allow-unconfigured` for ad-hoc/dev runs.

Binding beyond loopback without auth is blocked (safety guardrail).

`SIGUSR1` triggers an in-process restart when authorized (enable `commands.restart` or use the gateway tool/config apply/update).

`SIGINT` / `SIGTERM` handlers stop the gateway process, but they don't restore any custom terminal state. If you wrap the CLI with a TUI or raw-mode input, restore the terminal before exit.

Options

`--port <port>` : WebSocket port (default comes from config/env; usually `18789`).

`--bind <loopback|lan|tailnet|auto|custom>` : listener bind mode.

`--auth <token|password>` : auth mode override.

`--token <token>` : token override (also sets `OPENCLAW_GATEWAY_TOKEN` for the process).

`--password <password>` : password override (also sets `OPENCLAW_GATEWAY_PASSWORD` for the process).

`--tailscale <off|serve|funnel>` : expose the Gateway via Tailscale.

`--tailscale-reset-on-exit` : reset Tailscale serve/funnel config on shutdown.

`--allow-unconfigured` : allow gateway start without `gateway.mode=local` in config.

`--dev` : create a dev config + workspace if missing (skips BOOTSTRAP.md).

`--reset` : reset dev config + credentials + sessions + workspace (requires `--dev`).

`--force` : kill any existing listener on the selected port before starting.

- `--verbose` : verbose logs.
- `--claude-cli-logs` : only show claude-cli logs in the console (and enable its stdout/stderr).
- `--ws-log <auto|full|compact>` : websocket log style (default `auto`).
- `--compact` : alias for `--ws-log compact` .
- `--raw-stream` : log raw model stream events to jsonl.
- `--raw-stream-path <path>` : raw stream jsonl path.

Query a running Gateway

All query commands use WebSocket RPC.

Output modes:

- Default: human-readable (colored in TTY).
- `--json` : machine-readable JSON (no styling/spinner).
- `--no-color` (or `NO_COLOR=1`): disable ANSI while keeping human layout.

Shared options (where supported):

- `--url <url>` : Gateway WebSocket URL.
- `--token <token>` : Gateway token.
- `--password <password>` : Gateway password.
- `--timeout <ms>` : timeout/budget (varies per command).
- `--expect-final` : wait for a “final” response (agent calls).

Note: when you set `--url` , the CLI does not fall back to config or environment credentials. Pass `--token` or `--password` explicitly. Missing explicit credentials is an error.

`gateway health`

```
openclaw gateway health --url ws://127.0.0.1:18789
```

gateway status

`gateway status` shows the Gateway service (launchd/systemd/schtasks) plus an optional RPC probe.

```
openclaw gateway status
openclaw gateway status --json
```

Options:

- `--url <url>` : override the probe URL.
- `--token <token>` : token auth for the probe.
- `--password <password>` : password auth for the probe.
- `--timeout <ms>` : probe timeout (default `10000`).
- `--no-probe` : skip the RPC probe (service-only view).
- `--deep` : scan system-level services too.

gateway probe

`gateway probe` is the “debug everything” command. It always probes:

- your configured remote gateway (if set), and
- localhost (loopback) **even if remote is configured**.

If multiple gateways are reachable, it prints all of them. Multiple gateways are supported when you use isolated profiles/ports (e.g., a rescue bot), but most installs still run a single gateway.

```
openclaw gateway probe
openclaw gateway probe --json
```

Remote over SSH (Mac app parity)

The macOS app “Remote over SSH” mode uses a local port-forward so the remote gateway (which may be bound to loopback only) becomes reachable at `ws://127.0.0.1:<port>` .

CLI equivalent:

```
openclaw gateway probe --ssh user@gateway-host
```

Options:

- `--ssh <target>` : `user@host` or `user@host:port` (port defaults to `22`).
- `--ssh-identity <path>` : identity file.
- `--ssh-auto` : pick the first discovered gateway host as SSH target (LAN/WAB only).

Config (optional, used as defaults):

- `gateway.remote.sshTarget`
- `gateway.remote.sshIdentity`

`gateway call <method>`

Low-level RPC helper.

```
openclaw gateway call status
openclaw gateway call logs.tail --params '{"sinceMs": 60000}'
```

Manage the Gateway service

```
openclaw gateway install
openclaw gateway start
openclaw gateway stop
openclaw gateway restart
openclaw gateway uninstall
```

Notes:

- `gateway install` supports `--port` , `--runtime` , `--token` , `--force` , `--json` .
- Lifecycle commands accept `--json` for scripting.

Discover gateways (Bonjour)

`gateway discover` scans for Gateway beacons (`_openclaw-gw._tcp`).

- Multicast DNS-SD: `local.`
- Unicast DNS-SD (Wide-Area Bonjour): choose a domain (example: `openclaw.internal.`) and set up split DNS + a DNS server; see

Only gateways with Bonjour discovery enabled (default) advertise the beacon.

Wide-Area discovery records include (TXT):

- `role` (gateway role hint)
- `transport` (transport hint, e.g. `gateway`)
- `gatewayPort` (WebSocket port, usually `18789`)
- `sshPort` (SSH port; defaults to `22` if not present)
- `tailnetDns` (MagicDNS hostname, when available)

- **gatewayTls** / **gatewayTlsSha256** (TLS enabled + cert fingerprint)
- **cliPath** (optional hint for remote installs)

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gateway discover

```
openclaw gateway discover
```

Options:

- **--timeout <ms>** : per-command timeout (browse/resolve); default **2000** .
- **--json** : machine-readable output (also disables styling/spinner).

Examples:

```
openclaw gateway discover --timeout 4000
openclaw gateway discover --json | jq '.beacons[].wsUrl'
```

‹ doctor health ›