Bootstrapping › Agent Bootstrapping

Bootstrapping

Agent Bootstrapping

Bootstrapping is the `first-run` ritual that prepares an agent workspace and collects identity details. It happens after onboarding, when the agent starts for the first time.

What bootstrapping does

On the first agent run, OpenClaw bootstraps the workspace (default `~/.openclaw/workspace`):

Seeds `AGENTS.md`, `BOOTSTRAP.md`, `IDENTITY.md`, `USER.md`.

Runs a short Q&A ritual (one question at a time).

Writes identity + preferences to `IDENTITY.md`, `USER.md`, `SOUL.md`.

Removes `BOOTSTRAP.md` when finished so it only runs once.

Where it runs

Bootstrapping always runs on the **gateway host**. If the macOS app connects to a remote Gateway, the workspace and bootstrapping files live on that remote machine.

> ⓘ When the Gateway runs on another machine, edit workspace files on the gateway host (for example, `user@gateway-host:~/.openclaw/workspace`).

Related docs

macOS app onboarding: [Onboarding](#)

Workspace layout: [Agent workspace](#)

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