CLI commands › `update`

CLI commands

update

Safely update OpenClaw and switch between stable/beta/dev channels.

If you installed via **npm/pnpm** (global install, no git metadata), updates happen via the package manager flow in **Updating**.

⌐ Usage

```
openclaw update
openclaw update status
openclaw update wizard
openclaw update --channel beta
openclaw update --channel dev
openclaw update --tag beta
openclaw update --no-restart
openclaw update --json
openclaw --update
```

Options

`--no-restart` : skip restarting the Gateway service after a successful update.

`--channel <stable|beta|dev>` : set the update channel (git + npm; persisted in config).

`--tag <dist-tag|version>` : override the npm dist-tag or version for this update only.

`--json` : print machine-readable `UpdateRunResult` JSON.

`--timeout <seconds>` : per-step timeout (default is 1200s).

Note: downgrades require confirmation because older versions can break configuration.

update status

Show the active update channel + git tag/branch/SHA (for source checkouts), plus update availability.

```
openclaw update status
openclaw update status --json
openclaw update status --timeout 10
```

Options:

`--json` : print machine-readable status JSON.

`--timeout <seconds>` : timeout for checks (default is 3s).

update wizard

Interactive flow to pick an update channel and confirm whether to restart the Gateway after updating (default is to restart). If you select `dev` without a git checkout, it offers to create one.

What it does

When you switch channels explicitly (`--channel ...`), OpenClaw also keeps the install method aligned:

`dev` → ensures a git checkout (default: `~/openclaw`, override with `OPENCLAW_GIT_DIR`), updates it, and installs the global CLI from that checkout.

`stable` / `beta` → installs from npm using the matching dist-tag.

Git checkout flow

Channels:

`stable` : checkout the latest non-beta tag, then build + doctor.

`beta` : checkout the latest `-beta` tag, then build + doctor.

`dev` : checkout `main`, then fetch + rebase.

High-level:

1. Requires a clean worktree (no uncommitted changes).

2. Switches to the selected channel (tag or branch).

3. Fetches upstream (dev only).

4. Dev only: preflight lint + TypeScript build in a temp worktree; if the tip fails, walks back up to 10 commits to find the newest clean build.

5. Rebases onto the selected commit (dev only).

6. Installs deps (pnpm preferred; npm fallback).

7. Builds + builds the Control UI.

8. Runs `openclaw doctor` as the final "safe update" check.

9. Syncs plugins to the active channel (dev uses bundled extensions; stable/beta uses npm) and updates npm-installed plugins.

`--update` shorthand

`openclaw --update` rewrites to `openclaw update` (useful for shells and launcher scripts).

>

See also

`openclaw doctor` (offers to run update first on git checkouts)

[Development channels](#)

[Updating](#)

[CLI reference](#)

‹ **uninstall**   **voicecall** ›

Powered by **mintlify**