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Pairing

"Pairing" is OpenClaw's explicit **owner approval** step. It is used in two places:

1. **DM pairing** (who is allowed to talk to the bot)
2. **Node pairing** (which devices/nodes are allowed to join the gateway network)

Security context: **Security**

1) DM pairing (inbound chat access)

When a channel is configured with DM policy `pairing`, unknown senders get a short code and their message is **not processed** until you approve.

Default DM policies are documented in: **Security**

Pairing codes:

8 characters, uppercase, no ambiguous chars (`001I`).

Expire after 1 hour. The bot only sends the pairing message when a new request is created (roughly once per hour per sender).

Pending DM pairing requests are capped at **3 per channel** by default; additional requests are ignored until one expires or is approved.

Approve a sender

```
openclaw pairing list telegram
openclaw pairing approve telegram <CODE>
```

›

Supported channels: `telegram` , `whatsapp` , `signal` , `imessage` , `discord` , `slack` .

Where the state lives

Stored under `~/.openclaw/credentials/` :

Pending requests: `<channel>-pairing.json`

Approved allowlist store: `<channel>-allowFrom.json`

Treat these as sensitive (they gate access to your assistant).

2) Node device pairing (iOS/Android/macOS/headless nodes)

Nodes connect to the Gateway as **devices** with `role: node` . The Gateway creates a device pairing request that must be approved.

Approve a node device

```
openclaw devices list
openclaw devices approve <requestId>
openclaw devices reject <requestId>
```

Where the state lives

Stored under `~/.openclaw/devices/` :

`pending.json` (short-lived; pending requests expire)

`paired.json` (paired devices + tokens)

Notes

The legacy `node.pair.*` API (CLI: `openclaw nodes pending/approve`) is a separate gateway-owned pairing store. WS nodes still require device pairing.

>

Related docs

Security model + prompt injection: **Security**

Updating safely (run doctor): **Updating**

Channel configs:

Telegram: **Telegram**

WhatsApp: **WhatsApp**

Signal: **Signal**

iMessage: **iMessage**

Discord: **Discord**

Slack: **Slack**

‹ **Setup**   **Personal Assistant Setup** ›

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