



Web Crawler Documentation

[Introduction](#)

[SimSage Source configuration](#)

[The Web Crawler Tab](#)

[the Metadata Tab](#)

[Metadata Transforms](#)

[The ACLs Tab](#)

[The Schedule Tab](#)

[External Crawler Configuration](#)

[Troubleshooting](#)

[1. Error Messages in Crawler List](#)

[2. Testing Platform Connectivity](#)

[3. Reviewing Crawler Logs](#)

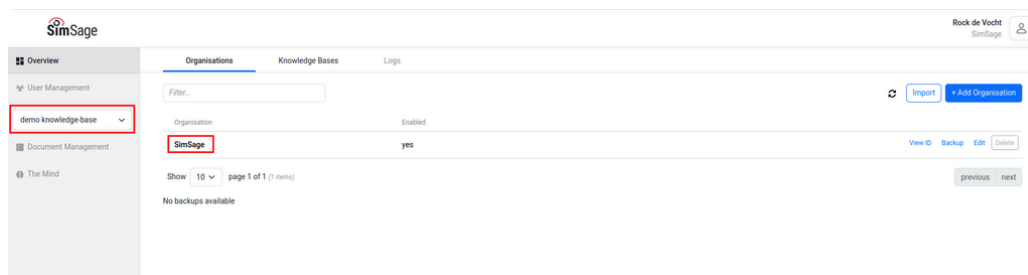
[Escalation](#)

Introduction

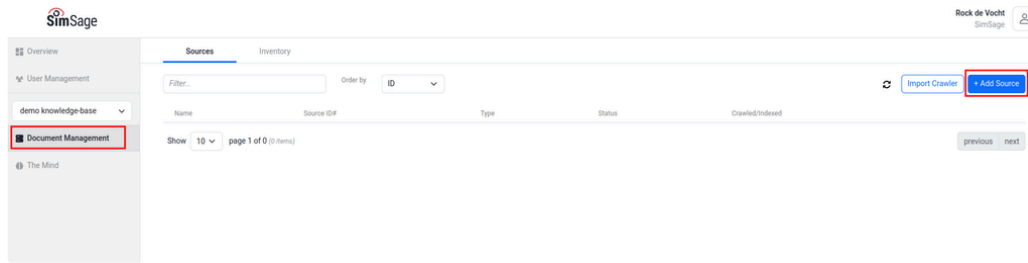
This Document sets out the steps need to step up an internal web crawler on the SimSage platform.

SimSage Source configuration

1. Select your organisation (SimSage shown in the image below)
2. Select your knowledge-base from the drop-down box (demo knowledge-base shown below)



3. Click on Document Management link in the left hand side of the menu
4. Click on the + Add Source button



5. In the General tab
 - a. set the Crawler Type to "Web Crawler"
 - b. give the Crawler a Name (test web crawler in the image below)
 - c. Select the "Web Crawler" tab to set up your web crawler

Add Source

General

Web Crawler

Metadata

ACLs

Processors

Schedule

Crawler Type

Web Crawler

Crawler Name *

test web crawler

Processing Level

Document Inventory

Document Analysis

Document Finding

delay between uploads (ms)

Maximum number of files

Source Weight

crawler pod id (0, 1, 2, ...)

Error threshold

0

0

1

0

10

Enable similarity checking for documents

Similarity Threshold

95

%

Remove Un-seen Files

Use default built-in relationships

use optical-character-recognition (OCR)

Transmit external logs

Allow anonymous access to these files

Store the binaries of each document

use speech-to-text (videos, audio transcripts)

Enable document image previews

Store older versions of the Document

External source

Close

Save

The Web Crawler Tab

1. Navigate to the "Web Crawler" tab.
2. Populate the base url field.
3. Populate the exclude css csv field. As a general rule we recommend using "header, footer" to exclude any repeating headers or footers from your HTML.

Not all webpages use semantic HTML tags such as <header> or <footer>. Sometimes websites use regular div tags with class names. For example, <div classname="footer">. In this case you should enter div.footer instead of "footer".

Add Source

General
Web Crawler
Metadata
ACLs
Processors
Schedule

http/s or file:// base url *
(e.g. https://simsage.ai)

Web Crawler Setup Guide

☐ pre-render Javascript websites

Valid extensions (html is always valid)
Ignore extensions (html cannot be ignored)
User-agent (leave blank for default)
web-crawler's user-agent

Username
optional basic auth username
Password (leave blank to keep previous)
basic auth password

Include css csv
css/html root fragments to include csv

Exclude css csv
css/html root fragments to exclude csv (e.g. header, footer, div.class-name)

csv include words
csv words, include articles by words [optional]

csv exclude words
csv words, exclude articles by words [optional]

csv allowed domains
csv prefix list of other domains to crawl (e.g. https://drive.google.com) [optional]

exclude paths (csv list)
a set of possible paths values, separated by commas (csv) to exclude pages (e.g. /images/) [optional]

openid-configuration endpoint
openid-configuration endpoint (e.g. https://login.microsoftonline.com/<tenant-id>/well-known/openid-configuration)

OIDC/OAuth client id
OIDC/OAuth client id

OIDC/OAuth secret
OIDC/OAuth secret

impersonation user
the user to impersonate for Google drive (e.g. john@abc.com)

Google drive json key
the Google drive json key identifying the service account to use to access and impersonate user-drive data. Leave empty if you've already set this value previously and don't want to change it.

Close
Save

field	meaning and content
http/s or file:// base url	a compulsory field with a comma separated list of http:// https:// or file:// URLs / URIs to visit. This set forms the seed set for the initial crawler.
pre-render Javascript websites	a special flag that uses a browser to fetch and render remote pages that use active javascript
Valid extensions (html is always valid)	A comma separated list with valid file extensions (e.g. doc, docx, pdf). All file extensions are fetched if this field is left empty. Leave this field empty if you are planning to use "Ignore extensions".
Ignore extensions (html cannot be ignored)	A comma separated list of extensions that must not be included. Leave this field empty if you are planning to use "Valid extensions".

User-agent	a string for the user-agent to pass to remote sites in your request headers. Leave empty for default. Default is "Apache-HttpClient/UNAVAILABLE"
Username	the BasicAuth username to send if set along with password in the request headers.
Password	the BasicAuth password to send in the request headers if set.
Include css csv	a comma separated list of CSS selectors for elements to keep in an HTML document. All elements are kept if this field is left blank. Keep this field blank if you're using the "Exclude css csv" (see: J Use CSS selectors to find element S)
Exclude css csv	a comma separated list of CSS selectors for elements to exclude from an HTML document. Keep this field blank if you're using the "Include css csv". (see: J U se CSS selectors to find elements)
csv include words	A comma separated list of words used to filter HTML pages. Any literal "word" found inside the text of an HTML page qualifies this page to be crawled / used by SimSage (e.g. accounting, invoice). All pages are included if left blank. Keep this field blank if you intend to use the "csv exclude words" filter.
csv exclude words	A comma separated list of words used to filter HTML pages. Any literal "word" found inside the text of an HTML page eliminates this page from being crawled / used by SimSage. No pages are excluded if left blank. Leave this field blank if you intend to use the "csv include words" filter.
csv allowed domains	A comma separated list of URL prefixes (e.g. https://another.server.com/folder1/) of other domains apart from the seeds above to allow crawling across.
exclude paths	A comma separated list of path fragments used to excluded pages from being crawled (e.g. /invoices/)

Extra security headers for Bearer Authentication

field	meaning and content
openid configuration endpoint	Used for OpenID authentication. The crawler will use this endpoint to get the OpenID configuration required for fetching JWT tokens for Bearer authentication. (e.g. https://server.com/.well-known/openid-configuration)
OIDC/OAuth client id	Used for OpenID authentication. This is the client ID passed to the identification endpoint for acquiring a JWT token.
OIDC/OAuth secret	Used for OpenID authentication. This is the client secret passed to the identification endpoint for acquiring a JWT token.

Google drive authentication

field	meaning and content
impersonation user	A users (an email address) to impersonate to access Google drive links on web pages.
Google drive json key	A Google drive json key (see Google drive setup) for authenticating against Google drive for reading, converting and downloading Google drive links seen on web pages.

NB. The Google drive impersonation user might not have access to links of personal drives of other users if this impersonation user is not in the ACLs for that link. This is a Google drive sharing feature. All shared drive links can be read as long as the drive has been shared with the impersonation user.

the Metadata Tab

The web crawler has the option to replace certain fields of a SimSage record with metadata from HTML pages.

NB. You must save this crawler before altering the mappings.

SimSage has a series of special names that can be used to map the main items used in SimSage. You can map any item, even if SimSage doesn't directly map it to one of its main items. Items that don't map are just mapped as metadata and can be found through metadata searches.

The main items understood by SimSage are

SimSage item	Description
url	the primary key of a SimSage item. If the primary key is an http or https reference the item can be directly access from the remote system.
title	The title of a SimSage record, important in search as it gives each record a score boost
body	The main content of a SimSage record, the default text that is searchable
author	The author of a SimSage record
created	The created Date-time (must be a date as a minimum, various formats supported) of a SimSage record
last-modified	The last-modified Date-time (must be a date as a minimum, various formats supported) of a SimSage record

Below is an example of SimSage mapping HTML meta items called "og:dscription", "og:title", and "og:url" into its body, title, and url fields respectively. Note that the type of the asset will be changed from HTML to TEXT if the "body" text is no longer HTML. This applies to both "<meta name=...>" and "<meta property=...>" data found in your document.

Edit Source: gdrive

General

Google-Drive Crawler

Metadata

ACLs

Check Document

Schedule

+ Add Metadata Mapping

UI Display-name (optional)	SimSage Metadata name	Source metadata name	
created	created	created	Delete
last modified	last-modified	last-modified	Delete
document type	document-type	document-type	Delete
UI display-name	body	og:description	Delete
UI display-name	title	og:title	Delete
UI display-name	url	og:url	Delete

Metadata Transform (optional)

Metadata Source

Metadata Destination

Matching Regular Expression

none

none

regex, e.g. "http(s)?://domain.com/V(?<param>.*?)/"

Close

Test

Reset Delta

Save

Any other metadata fields (whether included or not) are mapped into the metadata of each SimSage record.

Metadata Transforms

SimSage has the ability to transform / enhance metadata using regular expression matching. Imagine there was an important ID number part of your URL that you want to insert into every title of your document.

This is what metadata transforms are for.

Metadata transform field	Description
Metadata Source	what metadata field to apply a regular expression to for processing / extracting information from.
Metadata Destination	if successful, what metadata field to apply the new data to
Action	How to apply the new data, one of {after, before, replace}. After places the result after the existing field's metadata. Before places the result before the existing field's metadata. Replace 'replaces' any data in the destination metadata field.
the Text	What text to create. This can be any text, including <name> (diamond bracket name) fields as used in the regular expression.
Matching Regular Expression	the regular expression to apply to each metadata source field.

Here is an example. We have an ID number that doesn't occur in the title of our documents but the URL of our documents. We would like to add this ID with a "Customer ID" prefix to each title of matching documents. The ID number only occurs in certain URLs of our

“orders.com” website as part of the second path entry of an order URL (e.g. <https://orders.com/customer/123>). We set up the values as shown below.

Edit Source: gdrive

General

Google-Drive Crawler

Metadata

ACLs

Check Document

Schedule

+ Add Metadata Mapping

UI Display-name (optional)	SimSage Metadata name	Source metadata name	
<input type="text" value="created"/>	<input type="text" value="created"/>	<input type="text" value="created"/>	Delete
<input type="text" value="last modified"/>	<input type="text" value="last-modified"/>	<input type="text" value="last-modified"/>	Delete
<input type="text" value="document type"/>	<input type="text" value="document-type"/>	<input type="text" value="document-type"/>	Delete

Metadata Transform (optional)

Metadata Source

Metadata Destination

Matching Regular Expression

Action

the Text (including regex <group> names in diamond brackets)

Close

Test

Reset Delta

Save

Any data ingested by this source will now change the title of each record that matches the regular expression applied to it's URL field. Records that do not match the regular expression are not modified. Take special care with expressions like this to allow for ending “/” extra slashes where applicable.

Changing the Metadata Transform does require any existing data (already ingested data) to be re-processed.

The ACLs Tab

In this tab we can customise the security based on existing SimSage Users and Groups.

NB: Users and Groups are automatically imported from external systems as they are crawled, where available.

In the below screenshot example we have selected the SimSage default User group as having access. Note, if you have opted to use the “allow anonymous access to these files” in the General source configuration, these ACLs settings will be overridden. *SimSage always recommends setting up a group initially in case you change your mind at any point.*

Add Source

General

Metadata

ACLs

Processors

Schedule

This list sets a default set of Access Control for this source

ACLs

Available

Filter...

Administrators 5

R W D M

Filter...

Test Data

Users

billy@simsage.ai

callum@simsage.ai

ingo@simsage.ai

Close

Save

The Schedule Tab

Here you can specify when you would like the crawler to be allowed access to the SimSage platform.

This is done by setting desired time frames to active. In the example provided we used the “select all” button to allow SimSage to always be available to your crawler.

Add Source

General

Metadata

ACLs

Processors

Schedule

All times in GMT (now Tue, 14:06)

	00:00	01:00	02:00	03:00	04:00	05:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
Monday																								
Tuesday																								
Wednesday																								
Thursday																								
Friday																								
Saturday																								
Sunday																								

Clear All

Select All

Close

Save

External Crawler Configuration

The external crawler is a small Java program, provided by SimSage for the version of your platform.

```
rock@rock-office:~/crawlers$ ll
total 24
-rwxrwxr-x 1 rock rock  1943 Jan 17 13:07 crawler.sh*
drwxrwxr-x 2 rock rock 12288 Jan 17 13:07 lib/
-rw-rw-r-- 1 rock rock   695 Jan 17 13:18 system.properties
rock@rock-office:~/crawlers$
```

The software provided consists of:

- A *lib* folder with all the java libraries required to run the crawler.
- A *crawler.sh* executable shell file for running the crawler,
- and a *system.properties* file that needs to be edited to match your platform.

The current version of the external crawler file is 7.6.3 and can be downloaded [here](#).

Once you have the external docker file, you will need to populate the values in the docker compose file as below. A docker-compose file might look like this:

```
1 version: "3.9"
2 services:
3   web:
4     build: .
5     deploy:
6       resources:
7         limits:
8           cpus: "1"
9           memory: 512M
10        reservations:
11          cpus: "1"
12          memory: 512M
```



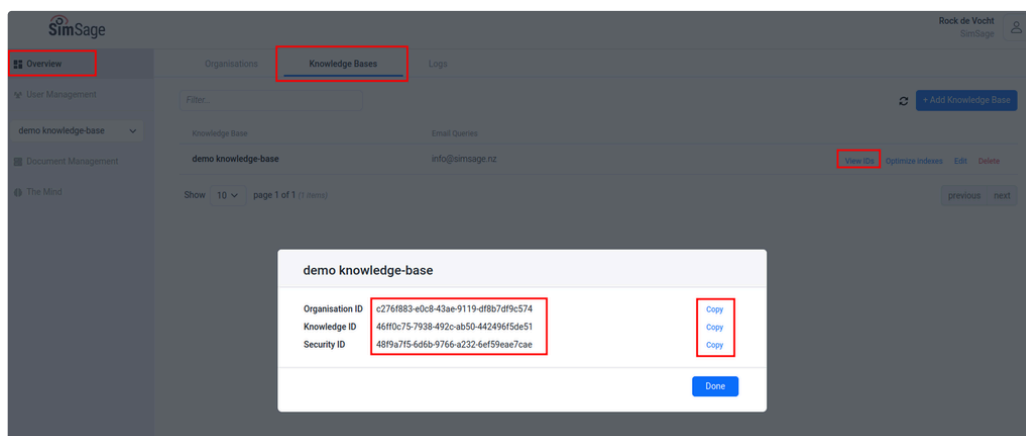
```

13 environment:
14   - source_id=1
15   - crawler_type=web
16   - organisation_id=c276f883-e0c8-43ae-9119-df8b7df9c574
17   - kb_id=46ff0c75-7938-492c-ab50-442496f5de51
18   - sid=48f9a7f5-6d6b-9766-a232-6ef59eae7cae
19   - simsage_endpoint=http://192.168.1.10:8080/api

```

The environment settings in bold must have the correct values supplied by SimSage and can be found via the SimSage Admin platform.

 The source_id should be set to the id of the internal crawler source you created in the above steps.



Troubleshooting

As part of setting up the crawler, there are three key checks users can perform to ensure everything is configured correctly:

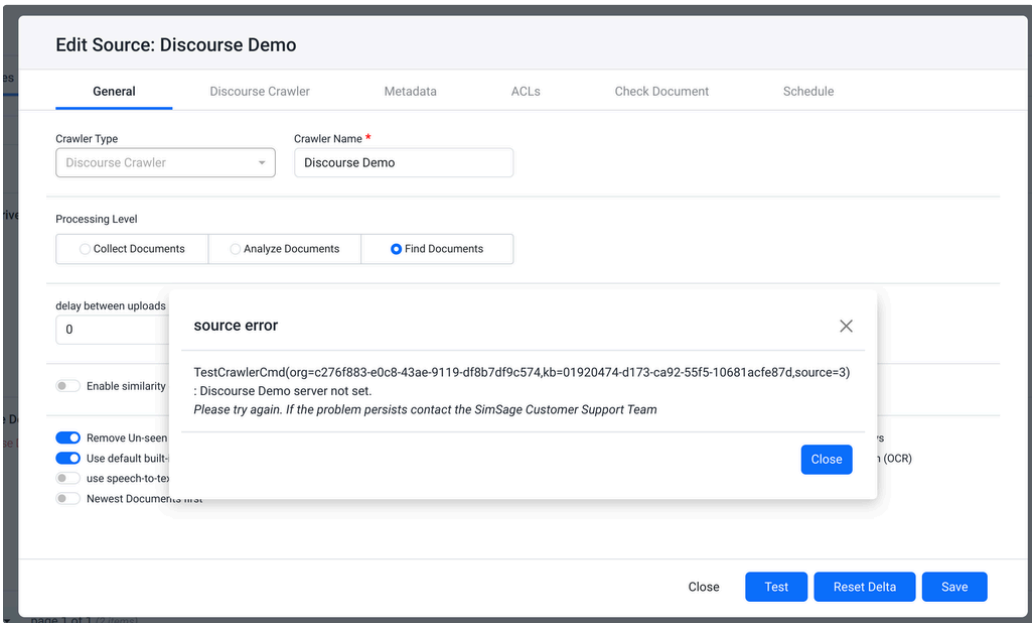
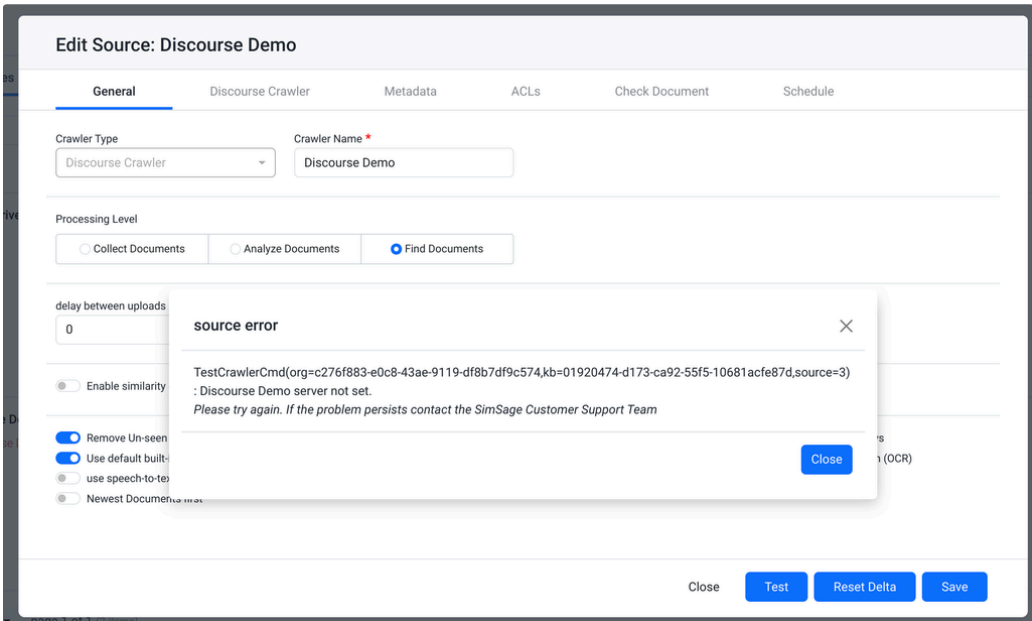
1. Error Messages in Crawler List

After saving the crawler setup, if SimSage detects any errors, they will be displayed beneath the crawler name in the list of crawlers. For example, a message might indicate that the Server details are missing.

Google Drive Demo	1	gdrive	schedule empty	collected: 300 converted: 300 analyzed: 300 indexed: 300 translated: 300 completed: 300 failed: 0 total documents: 300 total failed: 0	Start Edit Reprocess Export Remove
Discourse Demo <small>Discourse Demo server not set.</small>	3	discourse	running: started on 2024/09/19 10:14:12	collected: 0 converted: 0 analyzed: 0 indexed: 0 translated: 0 completed: 0 failed: 0 total documents: 0 total failed: 0	Start Edit Reprocess Export Remove
Show 10 ▾ page 1 of 1 (2 items) previous next					
Google Drive Demo	1	gdrive	schedule empty	collected: 300 converted: 300 analyzed: 300 indexed: 300 translated: 300 completed: 300 failed: 0 total documents: 300 total failed: 0	Start Edit Reprocess Export Remove
Discourse Demo <small>Discourse Demo server not set.</small>	3	discourse	running: started on 2024/09/19 10:14:12	collected: 0 converted: 0 analyzed: 0 indexed: 0 translated: 0 completed: 0 failed: 0 total documents: 0 total failed: 0	Start Edit Reprocess Export Remove
Show 10 ▾ page 1 of 1 (2 items) previous next					

2. Testing Platform Connectivity

If no errors are visible after saving, users can return to the crawler settings by selecting "Edit." Here, they will find a "Test" button, which allows them to verify if our platform can successfully communicate with the platform they are trying to connect to.



3. Reviewing Crawler Logs

By navigating to the "Overview" section from the navigation bar, users can access the "Logs" tab. From this section, they can review the crawler logs or any other service logs, and use the filter to search for specific keywords or log type that may help diagnose issues.

SimSage

Max Webster
SimSage

Overview

User Management

SimSage Demo

Document Management

The Mind

Organisations

Knowledge Bases

Logs

Status

Select Service

Crawler Service

Search

Filter...

Q

Crawler Log

Show Entries

Download

50

100

250

500

Type

All

Info

Debug

Error

Warn

Refresh

Off

5 seconds

10 seconds

ERROR crawler 2024/09/19 10:21:51

n.s.c.s.comms.InternalCrawlerManager - fatal: runCrawler(c276f883-e0c8-43ae-9119-dfb7df9c574-01920474-d173-ca92-55f5-10681acfef7d.3.discourse:"Discourse Demo") java.security.InvalidParameterException: Discourse Demo server not set. at nz.simsage.crawlers.DiscourseCrawler.getParameters(DiscourseCrawler.kt:131) at nz.simsage.crawlers.DiscourseCrawler.test(DiscourseCrawler.kt:98) at nz.simsage.crawlers.DiscourseCrawler.run(DiscourseCrawler.kt:62) at nz.simsage.crawler.service.comms.InternalCrawlerManager.runCrawler(InternalCrawlerManager.kt:201) at nz.simsage.crawler.service.comms.InternalCrawlerManager.run\$lambda\$0(InternalCrawlerManager.kt:118) at kotlin.concurrent.ThreadsKt\$thread\$thread\$1.run(Thread.kt:30)

SimSage

Max Webster
SimSage

Overview

User Management

SimSage Demo

Document Management

The Mind

Organisations

Knowledge Bases

Logs

Status

Select Service

Crawler Service

Search

Filter...

Q

Crawler Log

Show Entries

Download

50

100

250

500

Type

All

Info

Debug

Error

Warn

Refresh

Off

5 seconds

10 seconds

ERROR crawler 2024/09/19 10:21:51

n.s.c.s.comms.InternalCrawlerManager - fatal: runCrawler(c276f883-e0c8-43ae-9119-dfb7df9c574-01920474-d173-ca92-55f5-10681acfef7d.3.discourse:"Discourse Demo") java.security.InvalidParameterException: Discourse Demo server not set. at nz.simsage.crawlers.DiscourseCrawler.getParameters(DiscourseCrawler.kt:131) at nz.simsage.crawlers.DiscourseCrawler.test(DiscourseCrawler.kt:98) at nz.simsage.crawlers.DiscourseCrawler.run(DiscourseCrawler.kt:62) at nz.simsage.crawler.service.comms.InternalCrawlerManager.runCrawler(InternalCrawlerManager.kt:201) at nz.simsage.crawler.service.comms.InternalCrawlerManager.run\$lambda\$0(InternalCrawlerManager.kt:118) at kotlin.concurrent.ThreadsKt\$thread\$thread\$1.run(Thread.kt:30)

Escalation

If users continue to experience issues after performing these checks, they can contact the support team at simsagesupport@simsage.ai. To assist in resolving the issue efficiently, it's recommended to include screenshots, logs, timestamps, or any other relevant information. For urgent matters, users are advised to escalate the issue directly to their account manager for prompt resolution.