



Manage AI crawlers

AI Crawl Control enables you to take specific action for each AI crawler.

To manage AI crawlers:

1. Log in to the [Cloudflare dashboard ↗](#), and select your account and domain.
2. Go to **AI Crawl Control**.

[Go to AI Crawl Control ↗](#)

3. Go to the **Crawlers** tab.

Review AI crawler activity

The **Crawlers** tab displays a table of AI crawlers that are requesting access to your content, and how they interact with your pages. The table provides the following information.

Column	Details
Crawler	The name of the AI crawler and the operator that owns it.
Category	The category of the AI crawler. Refer to Verified bot categories .
Requests	The total number of allowed and unsuccessful requests, with trend chart.

Unsuccessful requests may come from any rule or response error, not just the block action in AI Crawl Control.

Robots.txt violations	The number of times the AI crawler has violated your robots.txt file.
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Action	The action you wish to take for the AI crawler. Refer to Take action for each AI crawler .
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Quality of AI crawler detection

On the free plan, AI Crawl Control identifies AI crawlers based on their [user agent strings ↗](#). This enables AI Crawl Control to detect well-known, self-identifying AI crawlers.

Upgrade your plan to enable a more thorough detection using Cloudflare's [Bot Management detection ID](#) field.

Filter AI crawler data

You can use filters to narrow the scope of your result:

- **Name:** Search the name of the AI crawler.
- **Operator:** Filter by the AI crawler operator.
- **Category:** Filter by the category of the AI crawler (for example, AI crawler, AI assistant, or archiver).

The values of the table will update according to your filter.

Take action for each AI crawler

Without pay per crawl

With pay per crawl

For each AI crawler, you can choose to allow or block access.

Allow access

- **Summary:** You can allow an AI crawler to scrape your content.
- **When to use:** Allow AI crawlers that offer services which provide value through citations, referrals, or existing agreements.
- **Implementation:** From the **Actions** column, select **Allow**.

Note that you can still choose to [Enforce robots.txt](#).

Block access

- **Summary:** You can block an AI crawler to completely stop the AI crawler from scraping your webpage.
- **When to use:** Block AI crawlers when their behavior do not align with your content strategy, or violate your policies.
- **Implementation:** From the **Actions** column, select **Block**.

Note that you can configure the response that gets returned when blocking an AI crawler. Refer to [Configure block response](#).

Need more advanced control?

You can also create more complex rules when taking action on AI crawlers, using [Cloudflare WAF](#). For more information on creating more specific rules, refer to [Create a custom rule in the dashboard](#).

Configure block response

Available on Paid plans

When blocking an AI crawler, you can configure the details of the response that gets returned to the AI crawler. Specifically, you can configure:

- The response code
- The response body

This provides you with a channel to open dialogue with the AI crawler owner, and to inform the AI crawler how to properly license their content, thereby creating a direct path from crawling attempt to commercial agreement.

To edit these values:

- 1 Log in to the [Cloudflare dashboard ↗](#), and select your account and domain.
- 2 Go to **AI Crawl Control**.
[Go to AI Crawl Control ↗](#)
- 3 Go to the **Settings** tab.
- 4 Under **Block response**, select **Edit**.
- 5 Once you have edited the values, select **Save**.

Note

You must have opted to block at least one AI crawler to configure a custom block response.

Edit the response code

You can choose which HTTP response code to return when blocking an AI crawler.

Use the dropdown menu to select the desired response code. You can choose from:

- 403 Forbidden: Use this option if you wish to indicate that you do not want the AI crawler to access your content.
- 402 Payment Required: Use this option if you wish to indicate that the AI crawler must pay to access your content.

Note

Behind the scenes, AI Crawl Control uses [Cloudflare WAF](#) to return custom block responses.

If you have manually configured a WAF rule to return a response code other than 403 or 402, AI Crawl Control will not be able to enforce the response code you have selected, and the dropdown will appear blank. Ensure you have selected either 403 or 402.

Refer to [Configure a custom response for blocked requests](#) for more information.

Edit the response body

You can write a custom message (HTTP response body) to return when blocking an AI crawler.

In the **Response body** text field, enter the response you wish to display for the AI crawler in plain text.

Related resources

- Use [pay per crawl](#) to charge AI crawlers every time they access your content.

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← Analyze AI traffic

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Track robots.txt →

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