

OpenClaw Setup Guide for Ubuntu

— Cloud Model & Telegram Integration

This guide covers the full setup and configuration of OpenClaw on Ubuntu 22.04/24.04 LTS, including connecting a Telegram bot using OpenClaw's native integration.

Part I: Telegram Bot Setup

Prerequisites: Get Your Telegram API Credentials

Step 1 — Create a Bot and Obtain the Token

1. In Telegram, search for **@BotFather**
2. Open the chat with BotFather
3. Send the `/newbot` command
4. When prompted, provide the following:
 - ❏ **Display name:** e.g., `MyAIAssistant`
 - ❏ **Username:** must end with `bot`, e.g., `my_ai_assistant_bot`
5. Once done, BotFather will send you an API Token that looks like this:

```
1 1234567890:ABCdefGHIjkIMNOpqrSTUVwxyz
```

✓ Tip: Your Bot Token acts as the authentication key for your bot. Copy it to a safe location — you'll need to paste it during setup.

Part II: Initial Configuration

1. Open a terminal and run the following commands:

- 1 # Check the installed version
- 2 openclaw --version
- 3 # Run a self-diagnostic check
- 4 openclaw doctor

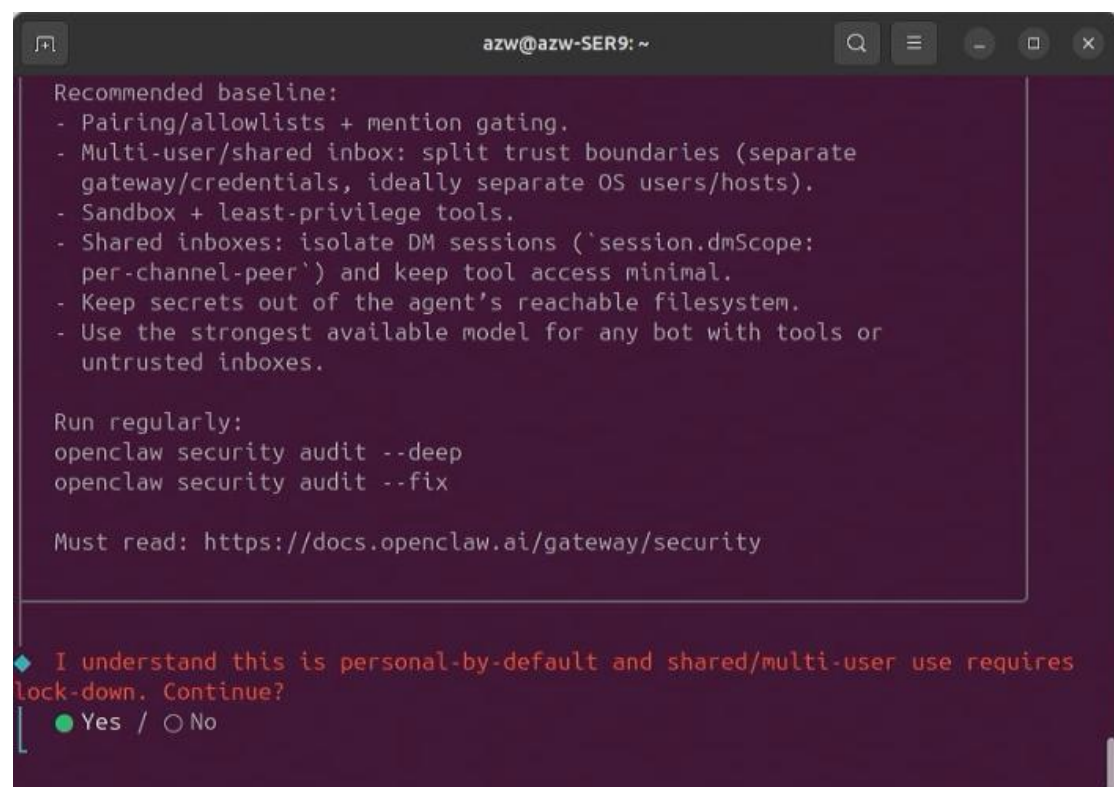
Run the Setup Wizard

- 1 # Start the interactive setup wizard (The --install-daemon flag also configures OpenClaw to start on boot)
- 2 openclaw onboard --install-daemon

Wizard Walkthrough

The wizard will walk you through the following configuration steps:

1. When asked if this is for personal use, select "yes" and press Enter to continue



```
azw@azw-SER9: ~  
Recommended baseline:  
- Pairing/allowlists + mention gating.  
- Multi-user/shared inbox: split trust boundaries (separate gateway/credentials, ideally separate OS users/hosts).  
- Sandbox + least-privilege tools.  
- Shared inboxes: isolate DM sessions ('session.dmScope: per-channel-peer') and keep tool access minimal.  
- Keep secrets out of the agent's reachable filesystem.  
- Use the strongest available model for any bot with tools or untrusted inboxes.  
  
Run regularly:  
openclaw security audit --deep  
openclaw security audit --fix  
  
Must read: https://docs.openclaw.ai/gateway/security  
  
◆ I understand this is personal-by-default and shared/multi-user use requires lock-down. Continue?  
  ● Yes / ○ No
```

2. Choose a setup mode: select "Quickstart" (recommended) for a guided experience, or "Manual" for full control

```
◆ Onboarding mode
  ● QuickStart (Configure details later via openclaw configure.)
  ○ Manual
```

3. When prompted about existing configuration, select "Reset"

```
◆ Config handling
  ○ Use existing values
  ○ Update values
  ● Reset
```

4. When asked for the reset scope, select "Full reset" to start from scratch

```
Reset scope
  ○ Config only
  ○ Config + creds + sessions
  ● Full reset (config + creds + sessions + workspace)
```

5. Select your AI model provider: select the cloud model you have subscribed to. This example uses MiniMax.

```
azw@azw-GTi15: ~
◆ Model/auth provider
  ○ OpenAI
  ○ Anthropic
  ○ Chutes
  ○ vLLM
  ● MiniMax (M2.5 (recommended))
  ○ Moonshot AI (Kimi K2.5)
  ○ Google
  ○ xAI (Grok)
  ○ Mistral AI
  ○ Volcano Engine
  ○ BytePlus
  ○ OpenRouter
  ○ Kilo Gateway
  ○ Qwen
  ○ Z.AI
  ○ Qianfan
  ○ Copilot
  ○ Vercel AI Gateway
  ...
```

6. Select an authentication method, if you are signed in to your MiniMax account, choose the login authorization. If you only have an API key, select the appropriate model under "Other".

MiniMax auth method

- ☒ MiniMax OAuth (OAuth plugin for MiniMax)
- ☐ MiniMax M2.5
- ☐ MiniMax M2.5 (CN)
- ☐ MiniMax M2.5 Lightning
- ☐ Back

7. Choose your default model from the list

Default model

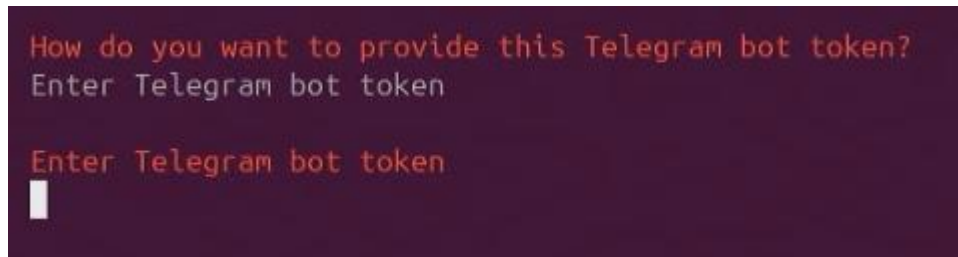
- ☒ Keep current (minimax-portal/MiniMax-M2.5)
- ☐ Enter model manually
- ☐ minimax-portal/MiniMax-M2.1
- ☐ minimax-portal/MiniMax-M2.5

8. Select Telegram as your messaging platform

Select channel (QuickStart)

- ☒ Telegram (Bot API) (recommended · newcomer-friendly)
- ☐ WhatsApp (QR link)
- ☐ Discord (Bot API)
- ☐ IRC (Server + Nick)
- ☐ Google Chat (Chat API)
- ☐ Slack (Socket Mode)
- ☐ Signal (signal-cli)
- ☐ iMessage (imsg)
- ☐ QQ Bot
- ☐ Feishu/Lark (飞书)
- ☐ Nostr (NIP-04 DMs)
- ☐ Microsoft Teams (Bot Framework)
- ☐ Mattermost (plugin)
- ☐ Nextcloud Talk (self-hosted)
- ☐ Matrix (plugin)
- ☐ BlueBubbles (macOS app)
- ☐ LINE (Messaging API)
- ☐ Zalo (Bot API)
- ...

9. Paste your saved Bot Token



10. Select the skills you want to install (use Space to toggle, Enter to confirm)



11. Configure any external API keys. If you don't have any at this time, select "NO" to skip

```
Set GOOGLE_PLACES_API_KEY for goplaces?
No

Set GEMINI_API_KEY for nano-banana-pro?
No

Set NOTION_API_KEY for notion?
No

Set OPENAI_API_KEY for openai-image-gen?
No

Set OPENAI_API_KEY for openai-whisper-api?
No

Set ELEVENLABS_API_KEY for sag?
○ Yes / ● No
```

12. Enable hooks as needed. Installing all hooks is recommended for full functionality

```
Enable hooks?
■ Skip for now
□ 🚀 boot-md
□ 🔗 bootstrap-extra-files
□ 📄 command-logger
□ 📁 session-memory
```

13. Restart the gateway service to apply your changes

```
Gateway service already installed
● Restart
○ Reinstall
○ Skip
```

14. Open the web UI to start chatting with OpenClaw

```
How do you want to hatch your bot?
○ Hatch in TUI (recommended)
● Open the Web UI
○ Do this later
```

Part III: Pair OpenClaw with Your Bot

1. In Telegram, search for the bot username you created earlier
2. Open the bot's chat
3. Tap or click the Start button to start the bot
4. Ensure the OpenClaw service is running in the background. Send any message to the bot (e.g. "Hello")
5. The bot will automatically respond with a pairing code

In your terminal, run the following command to link OpenClaw to your bot:

```
1 # Replace YOUR_PAIRING_CODE with the code sent by the bot
2 openclaw pairing approve telegram YOUR_PAIRING_CODE
```

A confirmation message will indicate that pairing was successful.

Part IV: Test the Integration

Return to Telegram and send any message to your bot. If setup is complete, your bot will respond via OpenClaw, confirming the integration is live.

Quick Command Reference

Command	Description
<code>openclaw</code>	Start an interactive terminal session
<code>openclaw onboard</code>	Re-run the setup wizard
<code>openclaw config</code>	View or edit global settings
<code>openclaw dashboard</code>	Open the web management dashboard
<code>openclaw skills</code>	Manage installed skills
<code>openclaw gateway start</code>	Start the gateway daemon
<code>openclaw gateway stop</code>	Stop the gateway
<code>openclaw gateway restart</code>	Restart the gateway
<code>openclaw gateway logs</code>	View gateway logs

<code>openclaw --help</code>	Show all available commands and options
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Default dashboard URL: <http://127.0.0.1:18789>

Once your bot replies with 'OpenClaw is online', your self-hosted AI assistant is fully operational!