

How to install OpenClaw on VPS

Step 1: Connect to Your VPS

From your local computer, connect to your server via SSH:

```
ssh root@YOUR_SERVER_IP
```

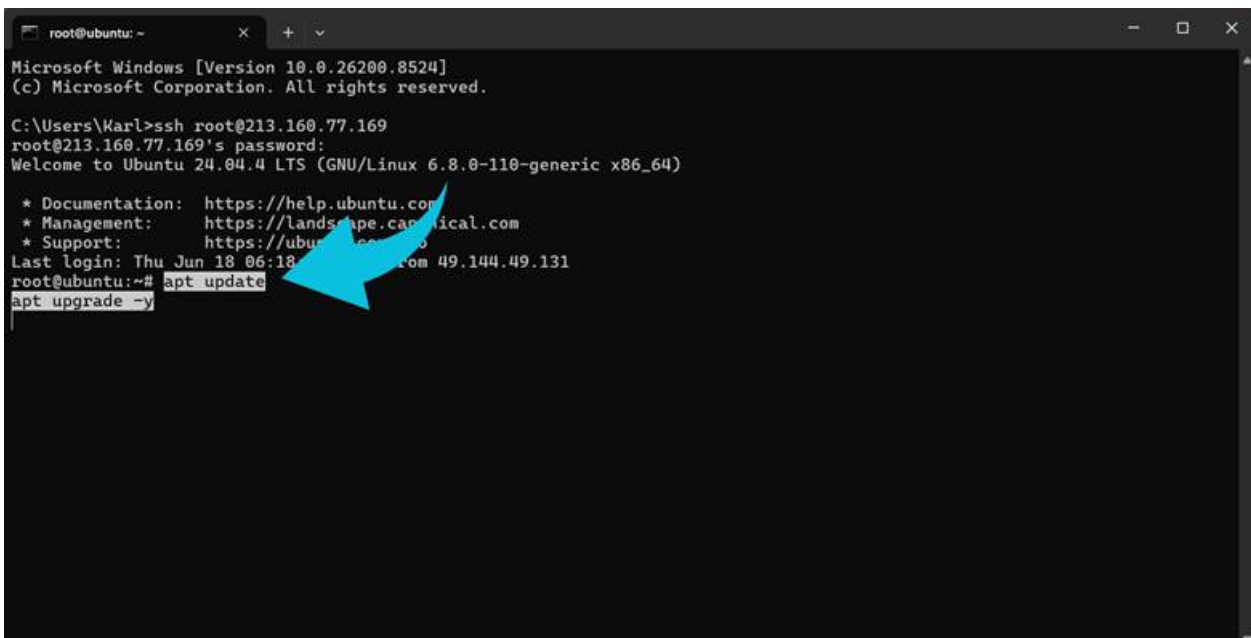
Replace `YOUR_SERVER_IP` with your VPS public IP address.

Step 2: Update Your Server

Update the package list and install available updates:

```
apt update
```

```
apt upgrade -y
```



```
root@ubuntu: ~
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26200.8524]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Karl>ssh root@213.160.77.169
root@213.160.77.169's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 24.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.8.0-110-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/support
Last login: Thu Jun 18 06:18:42 from 49.144.49.131
root@ubuntu:~# apt update
apt upgrade -y
```

Step 3: Install Required Packages

Install curl if it is not already available:

```
apt install -y curl
```

```
root@ubuntu: ~
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
* Management: https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support: https://ubuntu.com/pro
Last login: Thu Jun 18 06:18:35 2026 from 49.144.49.131
root@ubuntu:~# apt update
apt upgrade -y
Hit:1 https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu noble InRelease
Hit:2 http://de.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble InRelease
Hit:3 http://de.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates InRelease
Hit:4 http://de.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security InRelease
Hit:5 http://de.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-backports InRelease
Get:6 https://dl.cloudsmith.io/public/caddy/stable/deb/debian any-version InRelease [14.8 kB]
Hit:7 https://deb.nodesource.com/node_24.x nodistro InRelease
Fetched 14.8 kB in 1s (16.3 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
All packages are up to date.
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan
Use 'apt autoremove' to remove them.
Get more security updates through Ubuntu Pro with 'esm-apps' enabled:
  libmagickcore-6.q16-7t64 imagemagick-6-common libmagickwand-6.q16-7t64
Learn more about Ubuntu Pro at https://ubuntu.com/pro
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
root@ubuntu:~# apt install -y curl
```

Verify the installation:

curl --version

```
root@ubuntu: ~
Hit:4 http://de.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security InRelease
Hit:5 http://de.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-backports InRelease
Get:6 https://dl.cloudsmith.io/public/caddy/stable/deb/debian any-version InRelease [14.8 kB]
Hit:7 https://deb.nodesource.com/node_24.x nodistro InRelease
Fetched 14.8 kB in 1s (16.3 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
All packages are up to date.
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan
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Learn more about Ubuntu Pro at https://ubuntu.com/pro
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
root@ubuntu:~# apt install -y curl
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
curl is already the newest version (8.5.0-2ubuntu10.9).
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan
Use 'apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
root@ubuntu:~# curl --version
```

```
root@ubuntu: ~  
All packages are up to date.  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree... Done  
Reading state information... Done  
Calculating upgrade... Done  
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:  
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan  
Use 'apt autoremove' to remove them.  
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Learn more about Ubuntu Pro at https://ubuntu.com/pro  
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.  
root@ubuntu:~# apt install -y curl  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree... Done  
Reading state information... Done  
curl is already the newest version (8.5.0-2ubuntu10.9).  
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:  
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan  
Use 'apt autoremove' to remove them.  
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.  
root@ubuntu:~# curl --version  
curl 8.5.0 (x86_64-pc-linux-gnu) libcurl/8.5.0 OpenSSL/3.0.13 zlib/1.3 brotli/1.1.0 zstd/1.5.5 libidn2/2.3.7 libpsl/0.21  
.2 (+libidn2/2.3.7) libssh/0.10.6/openssl/zlib nghttp2/1.59.0 librtmp/2.3 OpenLDAP/2.6.10  
Release-Date: 2023-12-06, security patched: 8.5.0-2ubuntu10.9  
Protocols: dict file ftp ftps gopher gophers http https imap imaps ldap ldaps mqtt pop3 pop3s rtmp rtsp scp sftp smb smb  
s smtp smtps telnet tftp  
Features: alt-svc AsynchDNS brotli GSS-API HSTS HTTP2 HTTPS-proxy IDN IPv6 Kerberos Largefile libz NTLM PSL SPNEGO SSL t  
hreadsafe TLS-SRP UnixSockets zstd  
root@ubuntu:~#
```

Step 4: Install OpenClaw

Run the official installation script:

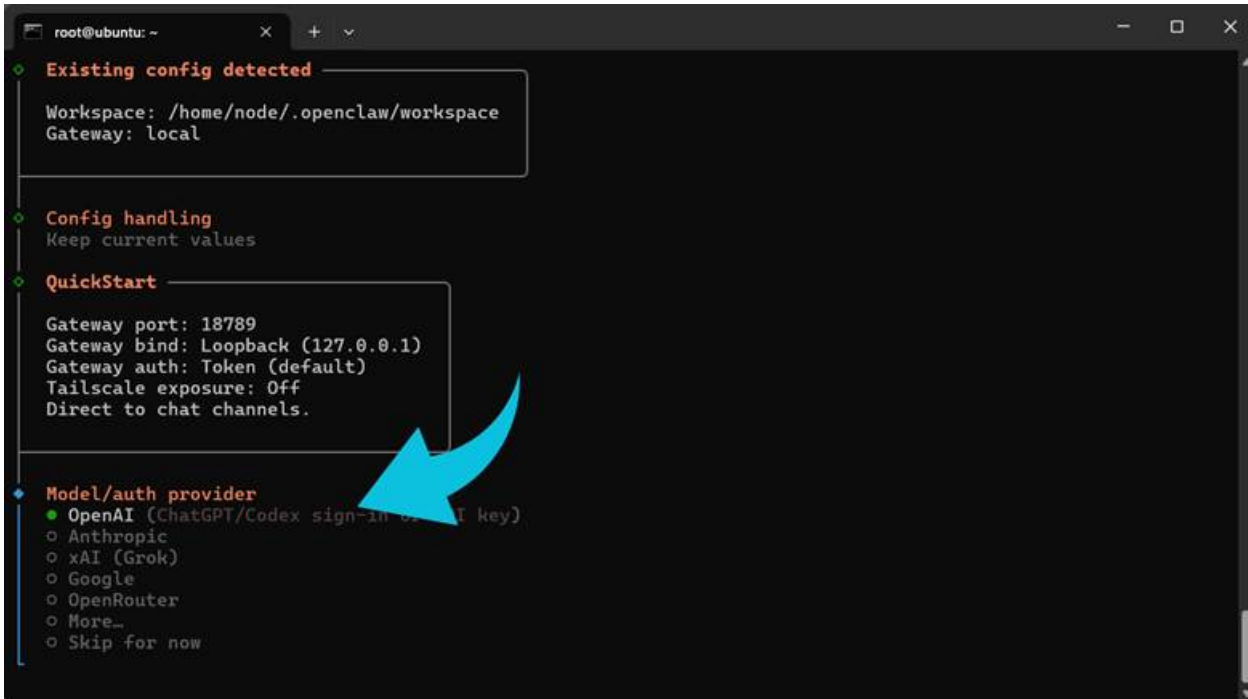
```
curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install.sh | bash
```

```
root@ubuntu: ~  
Unpacking libdrm2:amd64 (2.4.125-1ubuntu0.1~24.04.2) over (2.4.125-1ubuntu0.1~24.04.1) ...  
Preparing to unpack ../libcups2t64_2.4.7-1.2ubuntu7.14_amd64.deb ...  
Unpacking libcups2t64:amd64 (2.4.7-1.2ubuntu7.14) over (2.4.7-1.2ubuntu7.13) ...  
Preparing to unpack ../libconfig-inifiles-perl_3.000003-2ubuntu0.1_all.deb ...  
Unpacking libconfig-inifiles-perl (3.000003-2ubuntu0.1) over (3.000003-2) ...  
Setting up libconfig-inifiles-perl (3.000003-2ubuntu0.1) ...  
Setting up ca-certificates (20260601~24.04.1) ...  
Updating certificates in /etc/ssl/certs...  
rehash: warning: skipping ca-certificates.crt, it does not contain exactly one certificate or CRL  
14 added, 39 removed; done.  
Setting up libdrm-common (2.4.125-1ubuntu0.1~24.04.2) ...  
Setting up libcups2t64:amd64 (2.4.7-1.2ubuntu7.14) ...  
Setting up libdrm2:amd64 (2.4.125-1ubuntu0.1~24.04.2) ...  
Processing triggers for man-db (2.12.0-4build2) ...  
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.39-0ubuntu8.7) ...  
Processing triggers for ca-certificates (20260601~24.04.1) ...  
Updating certificates in /etc/ssl/certs...  
0 added, 0 removed; done.  
Running hooks in /etc/ca-certificates/update.d...  
done.  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree... Done  
Reading state information... Done  
curl is already the newest version (8.5.0-2ubuntu10.9).  
git is already the newest version (1:2.43.0-1ubuntu7.3).  
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:  
  bridge-utils dns-root-data dnsmasq-base ubuntu-fan  
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.  
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.  
root@ubuntu:~# curl -fsSL https://openclaw.ai/install.sh | bash
```

The installer downloads OpenClaw and automatically launches the initial setup and onboarding process.

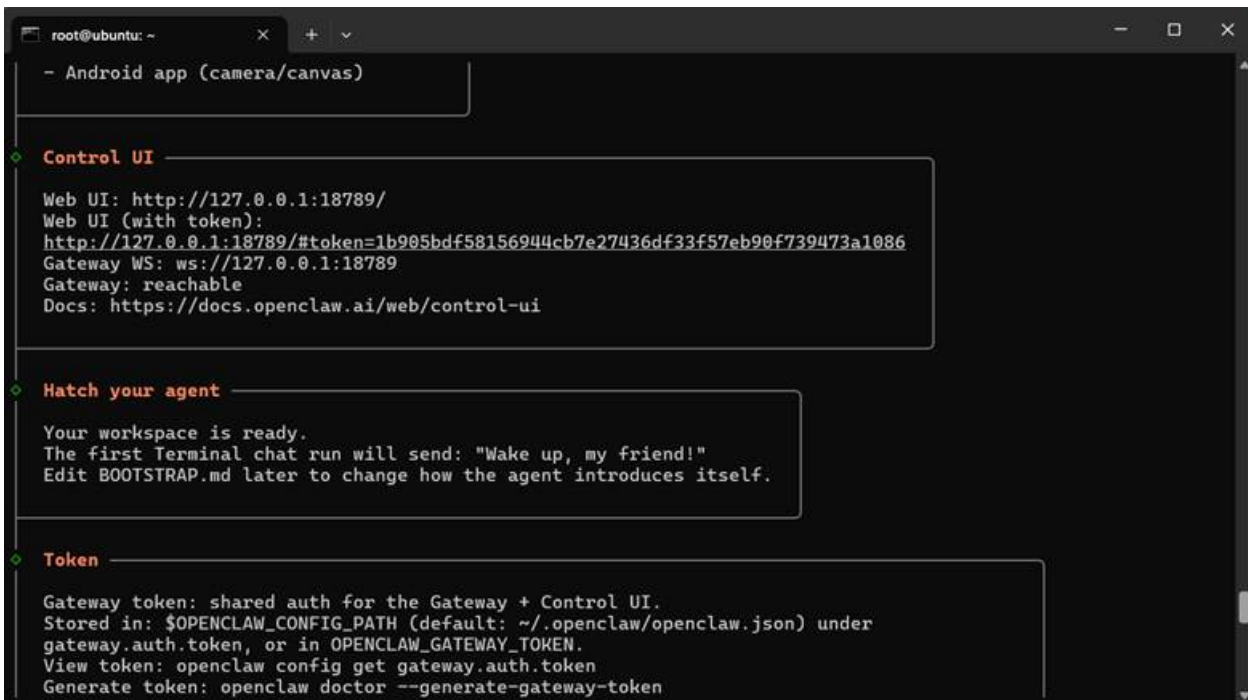
During onboarding:

- Configure your preferred AI model



```
root@ubuntu: ~  
Existing config detected  
Workspace: /home/node/.openclaw/workspace  
Gateway: local  
  
Config handling  
Keep current values  
  
QuickStart  
Gateway port: 18789  
Gateway bind: Loopback (127.0.0.1)  
Gateway auth: Token (default)  
Tailscale exposure: Off  
Direct to chat channels.  
  
Model/auth provider  
● OpenAI (ChatGPT/Codex sign-in or API key)  
○ Anthropic  
○ xAI (Grok)  
○ Google  
○ OpenRouter  
○ More...  
○ Skip for now
```

- Create your workspace



```
root@ubuntu: ~  
- Android app (camera/canvas)  
  
Control UI  
Web UI: http://127.0.0.1:18789/  
Web UI (with token):  
http://127.0.0.1:18789/#token=1b905bdf58156944cb7e27436df33f57eb90f739473a1086  
Gateway WS: ws://127.0.0.1:18789  
Gateway: reachable  
Docs: https://docs.openclaw.ai/web/control-ui  
  
Hatch your agent  
Your workspace is ready.  
The first Terminal chat run will send: "Wake up, my friend!"  
Edit BOOTSTRAP.md later to change how the agent introduces itself.  
  
Token  
Gateway token: shared auth for the Gateway + Control UI.  
Stored in: $OPENCLAW_CONFIG_PATH (default: ~/.openclaw/openclaw.json) under  
gateway.auth.token, or in OPENCLAW_GATEWAY_TOKEN.  
View token: openclaw config get gateway.auth.token  
Generate token: openclaw doctor --generate-gateway-token
```

- Allow OpenClaw to install and start the Gateway service

Follow the on-screen prompts until the installation is complete. When it's complete, launch the terminal interface, and you can send a simple message:

Hello

```
root@ubuntu: ~  
session agent:main:main  
  
Wake up, my friend!  
  
Hey. I just came online.  
Who am I? And who are you?  
Looks like this is a fresh workspace, so we get to pick the basics together: my name, what kind of assistant I am, the vibe, and a signature emoji. I can bring suggestions if you want, but I'd rather hear what feels right to you first.  
  
Hello  
  
Hello. I'm here.  
Fresh workspace, no history yet, so we get to shape this properly. What should I call you, and what should you call me?  
If you want a starting point: I can be calm, sharp, a little dry, and useful without making a whole ceremony out of it. But I'm open to being named something stranger.  
local ready | idle  
agent main | session main | openai/gpt-5.5 | tokens 20k/272k (7%)
```

If the assistant responds successfully, OpenClaw is working correctly.

Step 5: Verify the Installation

After onboarding finishes, verify that OpenClaw is running correctly:

`openclaw status`

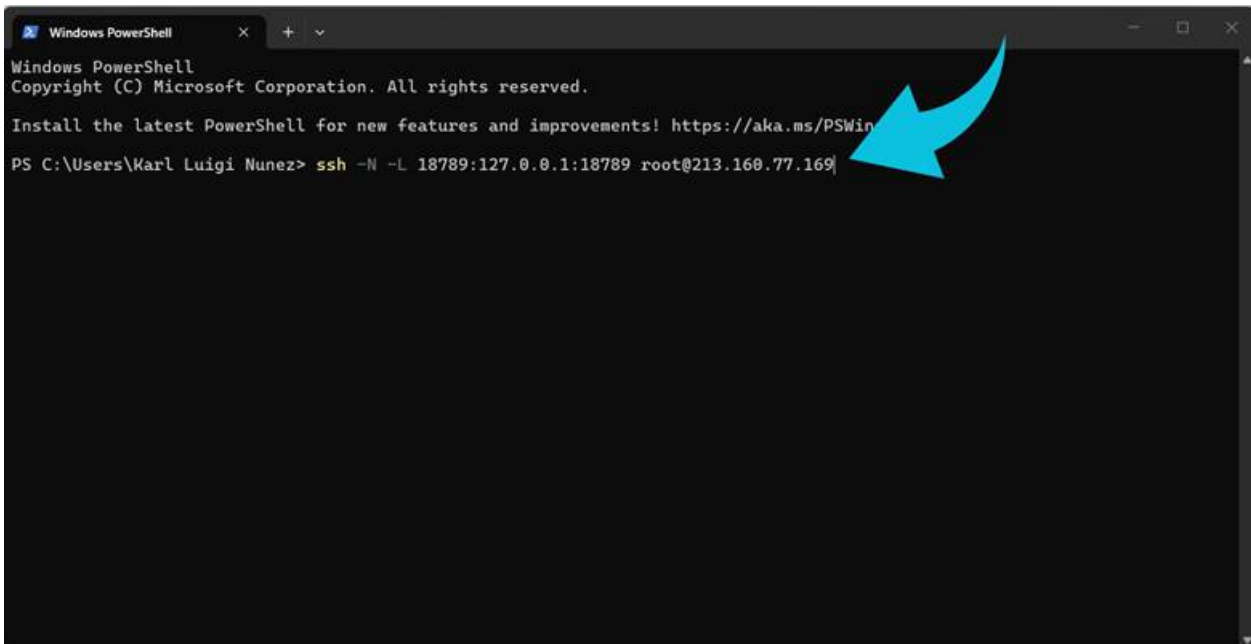
```
root@ubuntu: ~  
Hello  
  
Hello. I'm here.  
Fresh workspace, no history yet, so we get to shape this properly. What should I call you, and what should you call me?  
If you want a starting point: I can be calm, sharp, a little dry, and useful without making a whole ceremony out of it. But I'm open to being named something stranger.  
local ready | press ctrl+c again to exit  
agent main | session main | openai/gpt-5.5 | tokens 20k/272k (7%)  
  
◆ Workspace backup  
Back up your agent workspace.  
Docs: https://docs.openclaw.ai/concepts/agent-workspace  
  
◆ Security disclaimer  
Running agents on your computer is risky - harden your setup:  
https://docs.openclaw.ai/security  
  
^C^Croot@ubuntu:~# openclaw status
```

Step 6: Access the OpenClaw Dashboard from Your Computer

Because the gateway listens only on localhost by default, create an SSH tunnel from your local computer.

On Windows, macOS, or Linux:

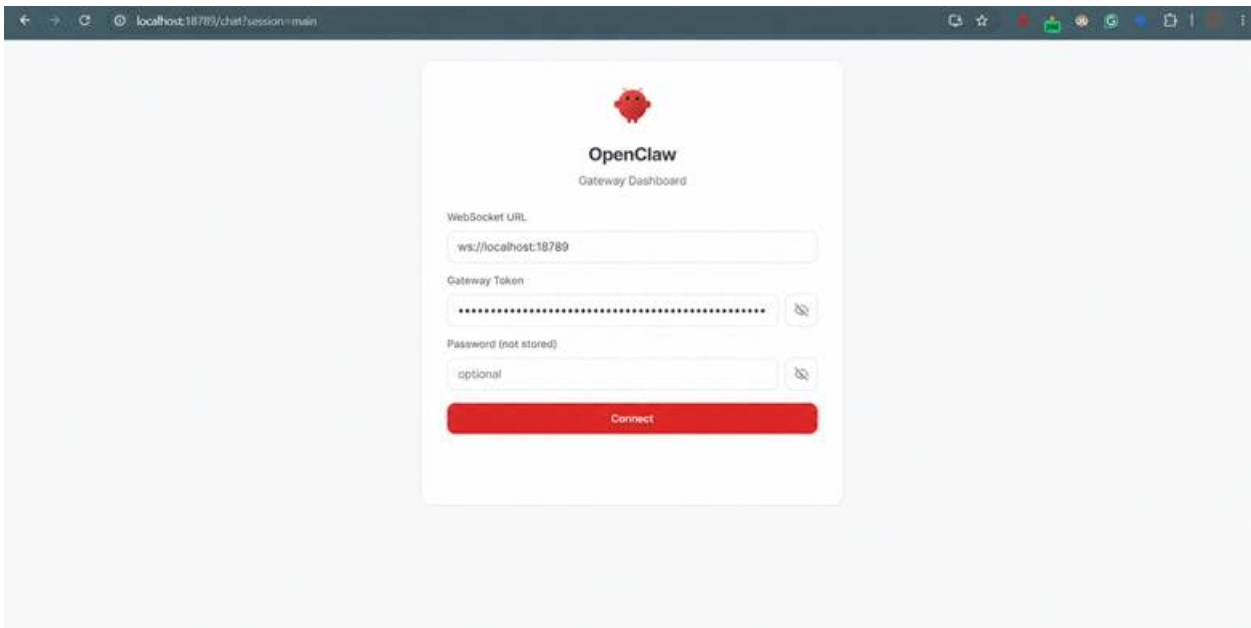
```
ssh -N -L 18789:127.0.0.1:18789 root@YOUR_SERVER_IP
```



Keep this terminal window open.

Open your browser and visit:

```
http://localhost:18789
```



You should see the OpenClaw Gateway Dashboard.

Once connected, you can begin interacting with your OpenClaw workspace through the web interface. From the dashboard, you can manage agents, view conversations, monitor gateway activity, configure integrations, and access your OpenClaw environment in a browser rather than the terminal.

Common OpenClaw Installation Issues and Fixes

Error: E: The update command takes no arguments

This error typically occurs when multiple commands are pasted onto a single line.

Incorrect:

```
apt update apt install -y curl
```

Correct:

```
apt update
```

```
apt install -y curl
```

Run each command separately to avoid syntax errors.

Error: Missing config. Run openclaw setup

You may see the following message when starting OpenClaw:

```
Missing config. Run `openclaw setup`.
```

This usually means the required configuration files and workspace directories have not been created.

To initialize the configuration manually, run:

```
openclaw setup
```

After the setup completes, restart OpenClaw and verify that the gateway is running correctly.

Error: Gateway Scope Upgrade Approval Required

In some cases, OpenClaw may report that a device is requesting additional permissions.

Check the status:

```
openclaw status --deep
```

If a scope upgrade is pending, approve the request:

```
openclaw devices approve --latest
```

Once approved, restart the gateway:

```
openclaw gateway restart
```

Error: Dashboard Loads but Cannot Connect

If the OpenClaw dashboard opens but remains unable to connect to the gateway, first verify that the gateway is running:

```
openclaw gateway status
```

Then check the logs:

```
openclaw logs --follow
```

Review any authentication, device, or connection errors reported in the logs.

Error: SSH Tunnel Not Working

If you cannot access the dashboard from your local computer, verify that the SSH tunnel is active:

```
ssh -N -L 18789:127.0.0.1:18789 root@YOUR_SERVER_IP
```

Then test the connection locally:

```
curl http://localhost:18789/healthz
```

Expected output:

```
{"ok":true,"status":"live"}
```

If the endpoint responds successfully, the SSH tunnel and gateway are functioning correctly.

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