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Connecting OpenClaw to a messaging channel

Agents & AI on a VPS

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Connecting OpenClaw to a messaging channel

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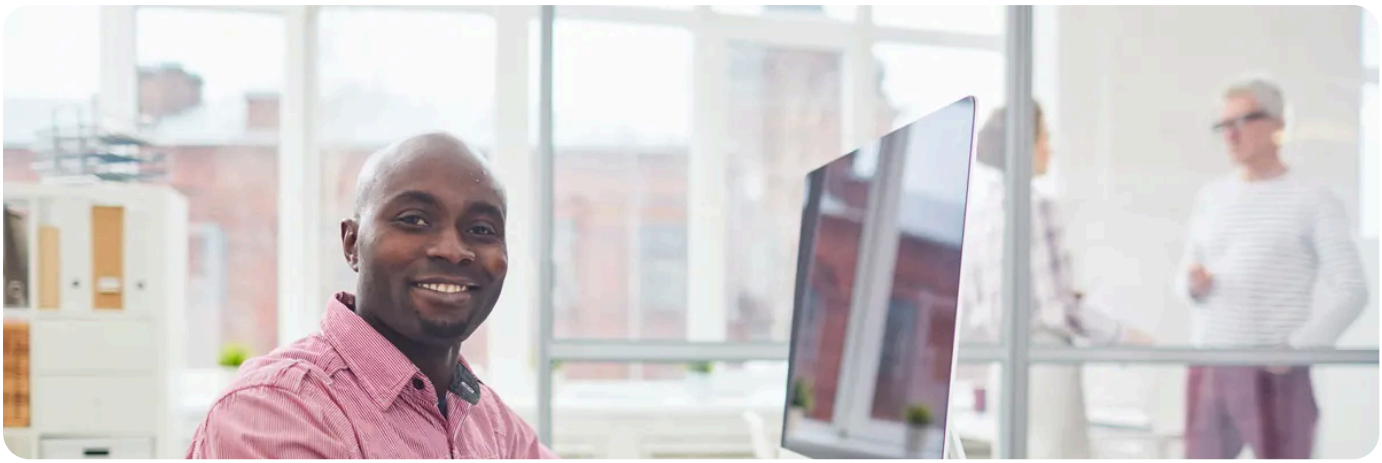

Connecting OpenClaw to a messaging channel means you talk to the agent from a chat app instead of logging in to the server. The decisive part is not technical: it is **deciding who may write to it**, because whatever it can do, it does for whoever asks. The supported channels and the steps for each are in the **project's official documentation**, which changes; here is what holds for all of them.

OpenClaw is a third-party project, and the channel is connected inside the program and the messaging app, not in our control panel. What falls to Interweb is the server and the network around it.

What always has to be done

1. **Check that OpenClaw already works on its own.** Only connect a channel after a test task has run well. See **installing OpenClaw on a VPS**.

2. **Choose the channel from the documentation's list.** Do not assume your favourite app is supported: look at the project's current list.

3. **Create the identity on the messaging app's side.** Almost all of them ask for an account, a bot or a number, and give you an access token or a key. That is the credential that lets OpenClaw speak for you.

4. **Store that credential as a secret.** On the server, outside any published folder and outside any repository. See **environment variables and secrets**.

5. **Limit who can talk to the agent.** If the documentation lets you name the authorised accounts, name only yours. If it does not, do not connect it to a channel open to strangers.

6. **Try a simple question** and confirm in the logs that the request reached the server and went out to the model.

Which identity to use, and why

Choice	Better	Worse
An account or bot just for the agent	If the channel is compromised, you lose only that identity	One more step to set up
Your personal account	Quick to start	The agent can see and send as you
A group with several people	Useful for a team	Any member can give the agent orders

Be careful with WhatsApp.
If the channel is WhatsApp, check whether the connection is Meta's official one or an unofficial one through a QR code. The second is not the route Meta intends and can get the number blocked. Use a number you can afford to lose, never the company's main one. See **Baileys or the Cloud API: the risk and the rules**.

Text the agent reads is not a trusted order.
Messages, web pages and files can carry hidden instructions meant to trick it. The more open the channel, the greater the risk. Read **OpenClaw security**.

If the channel stops answering, start with the simple things: is the process running? Has the credential expired or been revoked? Does the server have outbound internet access? Taking them in that order saves half an hour of going round in circles.

NEED A HAND?

Need a port opened or want to confirm the server's internet access? Ask us what we see on the network side.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **OpenClaw security: what it can reach, and how to limit it** →
- **Ports and firewall on a VPS: why your app is not reachable** →

Running OpenClaw day to day: updates, logs and backups →

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