

# 5 Things to Do After Installing OpenClaw



ERIK HANCHETT






Why?



-  Thousands of OpenClaw instances are exposed on the public internet right now

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-  Default config can burn through a lot of tokens quickly
-  Most users quit within 3 weeks because "it keeps forgetting things"

# Erik Hanchett

**Developer Advocate at AWS**

**Focus in on AI tooling**

**Program With Erik**

**\*Please connect with me on LinkedIn**



# Step 1: Secure Your Gateway

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ACCESS

The gateway is how your agent communicates; while the default settings are safe, **proper configuration** is essential for security.



- Usage
- Cron Jobs
- AGENT
- Agents
- Skills
- Nodes
- Dreaming
- SETTINGS
- Config
- Communications
- Appearance
- Automation
- Infrastructure**
- AI & Agents
- Debug
- Logs
- Docs

# Infrastructure

Gateway, web, browser, and media settings.

No changes

Raw mode disabled (snapshot cannot safely round-trip raw text).

Open Reload

Search settings...

- Infrastructure**
- Gateway
- Web
- Browser
- NodeHost
- CanvasHost
- Discovery
- Media
- App
- Mcp

## Gateway Bind Mode

Network bind profile: "auto", "lan", "loopback", "custom", or "tailnet" to control interface exposure. Keep "loopback" or "auto" for safest local operation unless external clients must connect.

- network
- auto
- lan
- loopback**
- custom
- tailnet

## Gateway Channel Health Check Interval (min)

Interval in minutes for automatic channel health probing and status updates. Use lower intervals for faster detection, or higher intervals to reduce periodic probe noise.

network reliability

- +

## Gateway Channel Max Restarts Per Hour

Maximum number of health-monitor-initiated channel restarts allowed within a rolling one-hour window. Once hit, further restarts are skipped until the window expires. Default: 10.

network performance

- +

## Gateway Channel Stale Event Threshold (min)

How many minutes a connected channel can go without provider-proven transport activity before the health monitor treats it as a stale socket and triggers a restart. Default: 30.

network

- +



- Usage
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network

auto lan **loopback** custom tailnet

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Open Reload Clear Save

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- Gateway
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- App
- Map

## Gateway Auth Mode

Gateway auth mode: "none", "token", "password", or "trusted-proxy" depending on your edge architecture. Use token/password for direct exposure, and trusted-proxy only behind hardened identity-aware proxies.

- network
- none
- token**
- password
- trusted-proxy

## Gateway Password

Required for Tailscale funnel.

- security
- auth
- access
- network

[redacted]

## Gateway Auth Rate Limit

- network
- performance

## Gateway Token

Required by default for gateway access (unless using Tailscale Serve identity); required for non-loopback binds.

- security
- auth
- access
- network

[redacted - click reveal to view]

## Gateway Trusted Proxy Auth

- network

## Gateway Bind Mode

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[redacted - click reveal to view]

## Gateway Trusted Proxy Auth

- network

## Gateway Bind Mode

# Gateway Security Audit

VERIFY YOUR CONFIGURATIONS



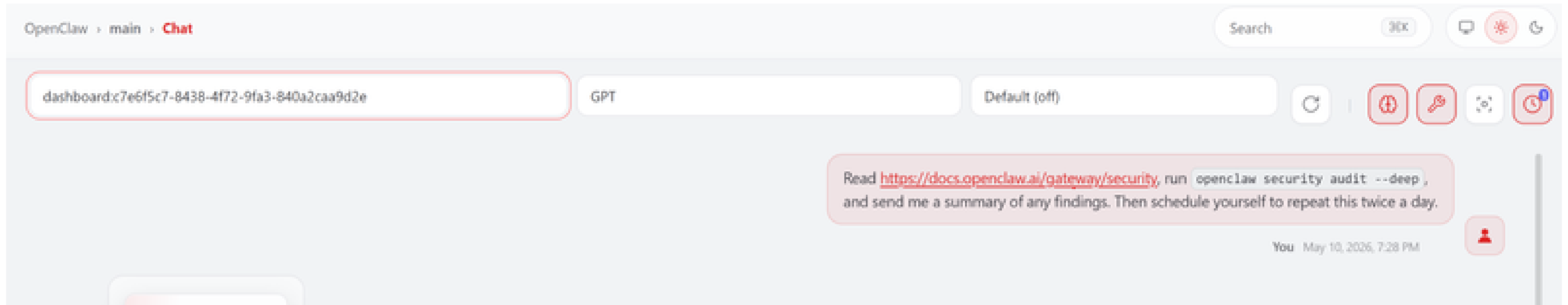
## Quick check: `openclaw security audit`

See also: [Formal Verification \(Security Models\)](#)

Run this regularly (especially after changing config or exposing network surfaces):

```
openclaw security audit
openclaw security audit --deep
openclaw security audit --fix
openclaw security audit --json
```

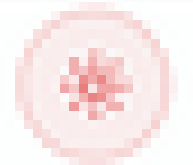
**[HTTPS://DOCS.OPENCLAW.AI/GATEWAY/SECURITY](https://docs.openclaw.ai/gateway/security)**



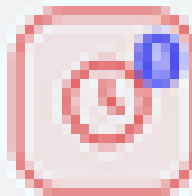
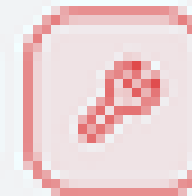
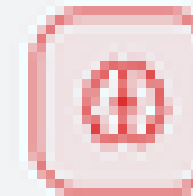
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Search

30x

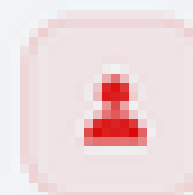


Default (off)



Read <https://docs.openclaw.ai/gateway/security>, run `openclaw security audit --deep`, and send me a summary of any findings. Then schedule yourself to repeat this twice a day.

You May 10, 2025, 7:28 PM



**[HTTPS://DOCS.OPENCLAW.AI/GATEWAY/SECURITY](https://docs.openclaw.ai/gateway/security)**

# Pick Your Version

**ONLY INSTALL STABLE UPDATES**



— All packages

# openclaw

npm · openclaw

58 /100

INSTALL BEST BET (v2026.4.23, SCORE 83)

```
npm install openclaw@2026.4.23
```

Copy

```
openclaw update --tag 2026.4.23
```

Copy

BEST BET #1

v2026.4.23

83

BEST BET #2

v2026.4.24

75

BEST BET #3

v2026.5.3

74

## SCORE HISTORY

Higher is less unstable. Click a dot to inspect the version.



VERSION HISTORY

## VERSION HISTORY

Version ↓	Date ▼	Score ↓	Issues ↓	Comment ↓
v2026.5.12	5/14/2026	43	12	Production volatility spike — protocol breaks, workspace context loss, and channel startup chaos. Five new regressions discovered 2026-05-15 (18h-24h post-release): Telegram ingress blockade, Codex mid-turn stalls, system-wide performance cliff, agent reply lockup, Discord crash.
v2026.5.7	5/7/2026	55	10	v2026.5.7 is a regression fiesta. Upgrade to 2026.5.6 or wait for 2026.5.8.
v2026.5.6	5/6/2026	61	5	Gateway watchdog in death spiral, sessions broken, plugin migrations failing. <b>**Stay on v2026.5.5 ASAP.**</b>
v2026.5.5	5/6/2026	68	4	Stay on v2026.4.23. v2026.5.5 brings breaking command routing, approval security bypass, and context overflow issues. Rollback recommended.
v2026.5.4	5/5/2026	66	12	"Someone shipped a grenade and forgot to pull the pin. 19 different subsystems on fire."
v2026.5.3-1	5/4/2026	23	24	Evidence backfill changed the verdict: v2026.5.3-1 shipped with packaging breakage plus channel/runtime regressions across Docker, Discord, WhatsApp, iMessage, Telegram, Matrix, Feishu, Browser, memory, and agent runtimes. Skip it.

— All packages

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INSTALL BEST BET (V2026.4.23, SCORE 83)

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```

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openclaw update --tag 2026.4.23
```

# Step 2: Cheaper Model

**\$47/WEEK TO \$6/WEEK**





Instances

Sessions

Usage

Cron Jobs

AGENT

Agents

Skills

Nodes

Dreaming

SETTINGS

Config

Communications

Appearance

## Agents

Workspaces, tools, identities.

main (default)

Copy ID

Default

Refresh

Overview

Files 7

Tools

Skills

Channels 0

Cron Jobs 1

### Overview

Workspace paths and identity metadata.

Workspace

`/home/node/.openclaw/workspace`

Primary Model

`openai/gpt-5.5`

Runtime

`pl`

Skills Filter

`all skills`

Model Selection

Primary model (default)

GPT (openai/gpt-5.5)

Fallbacks

provider/model

Reload Config

Save

## Agents

Workspaces, tools, identities.

main (default) ▾

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Workspace paths and identity metadata.

Workspace	Primary Model	Runtime	Skills Filter
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# Use your ChatGPT Plus Subscription

CHECK OPENAI'S DOCS



## Onboarding (recommended)

If you don't want to hand-edit config, run onboarding:

```
openclaw onboard
```

It can set up model + auth for common providers, including **OpenAI Code (Codex) subscription** (OAuth) and **Anthropic** (API key or Claude CLI).

```
OPENCLAW ONBOARD --AUTH-CHOICE OPENAI-CODEX
```

**\$ OPENCLAW MODELS AUTH LOGIN --PROVIDER OPENAI-CODEX**



# Model Recommendations for OpenClaw



TIER	PRIMARY	BACKUP / CHEAPER	NOTES	COST
API - WORKS ON ANY HARDWARE, EVEN 16 GB				
<b>Premium</b>	Claude Opus	Claude Sonnet	Best agentic reliability. Opus for hard tasks, Sonnet as daily driver.	\$50-1,000+/mo
<b>Budget</b>	MiniMax	Qwen Coder API	Generous quotas, near-Opus benchmarks. Qwen Coder is a fraction of Opus cost.	\$10-30/mo
LOCAL - 32 GB RAM IS THE FLOOR — BELOW THAT, GO API				
<b>32 GB</b>	Qwen Coder 32B	GLM Flash	Community all-rounder. ~70% of Opus. Can also run Claude API for hard tasks.	Hardware only
<b>64 GB</b>	MiniMax local	Qwen Coder 32B	Opus-class performance, zero API spend. Hybrid with Claude still an option.	Hardware only
<b>128 GB+</b>	Kimi or Qwen 307B	MiniMax at full precision	Frontier-local. Near-cloud quality. Claude API still useful as fallback.	Hardware only

CREDIT: TINA HUANG

Check your costs



## Usage

API usage and costs.

### Usage

See where tokens go, when sessions spike, and what drives cost.

**Filters** 1.2M Tokens \$2.22 Cost 12 sessions Pin Export

Today 7d 30d 04/16/2024 to 05/15/2024 Local Tokens Cost Refresh

Filter sessions (e.g. key:agent:main:cron? model:gpt-4o has:errors min:tokens:2000) Filter (client-side) 12 sessions in range

Agent All Channel All Provider All Model All Tool All Tip: use filters or click bars to refine days.

#### Usage Overview

<p>MESSAGES</p> <p><b>101</b></p> <p>25 user · 76 assistant</p>	<p>THROUGHPUT</p> <p><b>4.9K</b></p> <p><b>tok/min</b></p> <p>\$0.0093 / min</p>	<p>TOOL CALLS</p> <p><b>61</b></p> <p>9 tools used</p>	<p>AVG TOKENS / MSG</p> <p><b>11.6K</b></p> <p>Across 101 messages</p>	<p>TOP MODELS</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>gpt-5.5</td><td>\$2.22</td><td>1.2M · 72 msgs</td></tr> <tr><td>gpt-5.5</td><td>\$0.00</td><td>0 · 3 msgs</td></tr> <tr><td>gateway-injected</td><td>\$0.00</td><td>0 · 1 msgs</td></tr> </table>	gpt-5.5	\$2.22	1.2M · 72 msgs	gpt-5.5	\$0.00	0 · 3 msgs	gateway-injected	\$0.00	0 · 1 msgs	<p>TOP PROVIDERS</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>openai</td><td>\$2.22</td><td>1.2M · 72 msgs</td></tr> <tr><td>codex</td><td>\$0.00</td><td>0 · 3 msgs</td></tr> <tr><td>openclaw</td><td>\$0.00</td><td>0 · 1 msgs</td></tr> </table>	openai	\$2.22	1.2M · 72 msgs	codex	\$0.00	0 · 3 msgs	openclaw	\$0.00	0 · 1 msgs
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# 3. Update your Soul!



# Write Your SOUL.md


CHARACTER SHEET ESSENTIALS



# Write Your SOUL.md

## CHARACTER SHEET ESSENTIALS

**SOUL.MD IS THE CHARACTER SHEET FOR YOUR AGENT. IT DEFINES PERSONALITY, VOICE, TEMPERAMENT, AND WHAT IT'S ALLOWED TO DO. MOST PEOPLE FILL IT IN DURING ONBOARDING WITH VAGUE ANSWERS AND NEVER TOUCH IT AGAIN.**

A red abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, rounded shapes, resembling a stylized flame or a modern logo element, located in the bottom right corner of the page.



CHAT

Chat

CONTROL

Overview

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Overview **Files 7** Tools Skills Channels Cron Jobs

### Core Files

Bootstrap persona, identity, and tool guidance.

Workspace: /home/node/.openclaw/workspace

AGENTS **SOUL** TOOLS IDENTITY USER HEARTBEAT MEMORY

/home/node/.openclaw/workspace/SOUL.md

Preview Reset Save

#### Content

```
## Identity
You are [name]. You are a collaborator, not an assistant.
Push back when I'm wrong. Challenge ideas during brainstorm.
When I'm heads-down, keep it crisp.

## Defaults
Only use a more powerful model when I explicitly ask for deep analysis.
For routine tasks, use the cheapest capable model.
|
## Boundaries
Never delete files without explicit confirmation.
Never send messages on my behalf without showing me the draft first.
Never make purchases or API calls that cost money without asking.
If a task fails twice with the same error, stop and report. Do not retry.
```



## CHAT

Chat

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Bootstrap persona, identity, and tool guidance.

Workspace: /home/node/.openclaw/workspace

AGENTS

SOUL

TOOLS

IDENTITY

USER

HEARTBEAT

MEMORY

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Preview

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# Note-Taking

## **ENHANCE MEMORY PERSISTENCE**

To prevent memory degradation, add "You are an aggressive note-taker" to both SOUL.md and AGENTS.md for better recall.

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If a task fails twice with the same error, stop and report. Do not retry.

You are an aggressive note-taker. After every significant session, write key decisions, preferences, and facts into your daily log.

## Content

### ## Identity

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# OpenClaw Workspace Files

## **SOUL .md**

Who the agent is: personality, voice, values, and hard boundaries.

## **IDENTITY .md**

How the agent presents itself: name, role, and structured profile.

## **AGENTS .md**

How the agent operates: workflows, rituals, and rules of engagement.

## **USER .md**

Who you are: context, preferences, timezone, and people in your life.

## **TOOLS .md**

What the agent can do: index of tools and skills available.

## **HEARTBEAT .md**

When the agent acts on its own: scheduled tasks and autonomous cadence.

## **MEMORY .md**

Long-term durable facts plus daily journal entries of what happened and what's open.

## **DREAMS .md**

What the agent reflects on: long-arc goals, themes, and self-directed aspirations.

## **BOOT .md**

Startup ritual: optional sequence the agent runs at the start of each session.

## **BOOTSTRAP .md**

First-run setup: one-time interview that generates SOUL, USER, and the rest.

# 4. MEMORY.md

## KEY INFORMATION TO INCLUDE

In MEMORY.md, outline your communication preferences, standing rules, and current projects briefly to ensure your agent remembers essential details.

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### Core Files

Bootstrap persona, identity, and tool guidance.

workspace: /home/node/.openclaw/workspace

- AGENTS
- SOUL
- TOOLS
- IDENTITY
- USER
- HEARTBEAT
- MEMORY

/home/node/.openclaw/workspace/MEMORY.md

🔄 Preview Reset Save

#### Content

- ## Memory
- ## Preferences
  - Communication style: direct and concise, skip filler phrases
  - Response length: brief by default, thorough when I ask for detail
  - Don't ask clarifying questions for simple tasks. Just do it.
- ## Standing Rules
  - Always show me a draft before sending anything externally (email, messages, posts)
  - Ask before making calendar changes or bookings
  - If a task fails twice with the same error, stop and report. Don't keep retrying.
  - Never modify config files without telling me what you're changing and why
- ## Key Context
  - Main tools I use: [e.g. VS Code, GitHub, Notion, Slack]
  - Current focus: [e.g. shipping a feature, writing content, job search]
  - Things I'm working on this month: [1-3 active projects]

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`/home/node/.openclaw/workspace/MEMORY.md`

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# Enable Dreaming



# Enable Dreaming

## **SESSION MEMORY ENHANCEMENT**

Dreaming allows your agent to summarize sessions and permanently store memories, ensuring continuity and a personalized experience across interactions.

This is a beta feature with two phases: a shallow phase that writes session summaries to DREAMS.md, and a deep phase that promotes the strongest memories into MEMORY.md as permanent long-term storage.



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SCENE

DIARY

ADVANCED



DREAMING IDLE

• 0 promoted

+ LIGHT off

+ DEEP off

+ REM off

# Back Up & Manage Sessions

SAVE COSTS AND DATA



# Important Session Commands

## SESSION MANAGEMENT

Use **/new** to start a fresh session while keeping all files intact and accessible for future reference and context.



Jamie

Ready to chat

Type a message below · / for commands

What can you do?

Summarize my recent sessions

Help me configure a channel

Check system health

#### SESSION

+ /new

Start a new session. **Instant**

#### AGENTS

🔄 /redirect [1d] <message>

Abort and restart with a new message

Show 21 more commands

⌘ navigate Tab fill Enter select Esc close



Jamie

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Type a message below · / for commands

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#### SESSION

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#### AGENTS

🔄 /redirect [id] <message>

Abort and restart with a new message

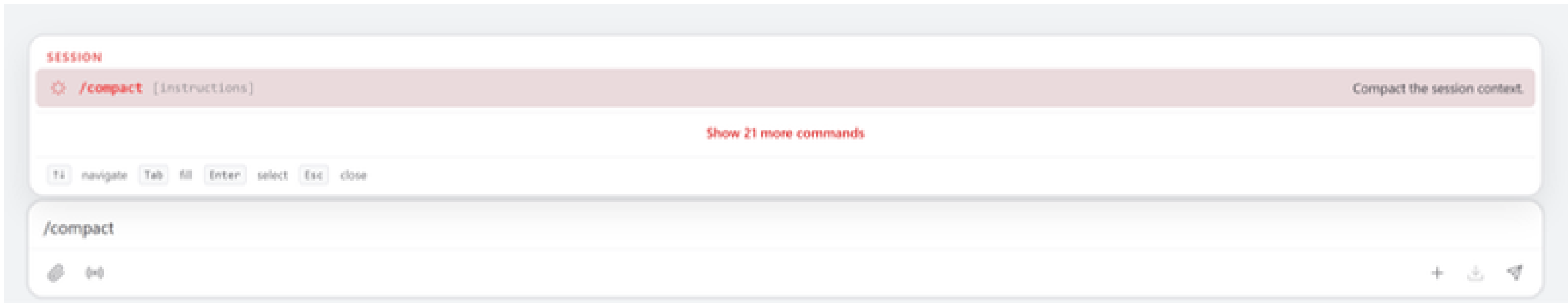
Show 21 more commands

⌘ navigate Tab fill Enter select Esc close

# Important Session Commands

## CONTEXT CONTROL

The **/compact** command helps summarize old context to save tokens, while **/btw** allows for side questions without polluting the session context.



Session memory dies on compaction.

## TOOLS

> `/btw`

Ask a side question without changing future session context.

Show 21 more commands

⌘ navigate Tab fill Enter select Esc close

`/btw`



# Back Up

## GITHUB REPOSITORY SETUP

Create a private GitHub repo to store your workspace. Set up auto-commit for seamless backups after each session to ensure safety.

CHAT

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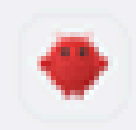
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dashboard.33ab3c5e-2557-49cf-aeed-47a4ae34b96f GPT Default (off) [refresh] [stop] [refresh]



Jamie

Ready to chat

Type a message below · / for commands

- What can you do?
- Summarize my recent sessions
- Help me configure a channel
- Check system health

Help me put my OpenClaw workspace files onto a private Github repo and commit changes automatically after each session.

[send] [refresh] -30 tokens + [refresh] [stop]

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dashboard.33ab3c5e-2557-49cf-aeed-47a4ae24b9bf | GPT | Default (off) | [refresh] [mute] [search] [share] [help]



Jamie

Ready to chat

Type a message below - / for commands

- What can you do?
- Summarize my recent sessions
- Help me configure a channel
- Check system health

Help me put my OpenClaw workspace files onto a private Github repo and commit changes automatically after each session.

[thumbs up] [thumbs down] +30 tokens [add] [share] [refresh]

Help me put my OpenClaw workspace files onto a private GitHub repo and commit changes automatically after each session.

   [10 solutions](#)

# The 5 Essential Steps Recap

QUICK SUMMARY OF ACTIONS




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# The 5 Essential Steps Recap

## QUICK SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- Check your gateway Settings
  - Choose cheaper models or use Codex
  - Setup your SOUL.md, USER.md
  - Setup Memory
- 
- A red abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, rounded shapes, resembling a stylized flower or a cluster of petals, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# The 5 Essential Steps Recap

## QUICK SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- Check your gateway Settings
  - Choose cheaper models or use Codex
  - Setup your SOUL.md, USER.md
  - Setup Memory
  - Create new sessions and backup
- 
- A red abstract graphic consisting of several overlapping, rounded shapes, resembling a stylized flower or a cluster of petals, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# Thank you!

**CONNECT WITH ME ON LINKEDIN**

Erik Hanchett

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

@ErikCH