

# OpenClaw 30-Minute Setup Guide

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## 1. Introduction

- OpenClaw needs a server – not your laptop. When your laptop sleeps, your bot dies.
  - Hostinger is the easiest place to start: 1-click deploy, beginner-friendly, cheap.
  - This takes about 30 minutes.
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## 2. Setup Your VPS

Don't use Hostinger's OpenClaw 1-click image – it's bundled with [Nexus.ai](https://nexus.ai), which is for businesses only. You want a plain VPS. Even the [official OpenClaw docs](#) say so.

Pick your plan:

Plan	Use it if...
<a href="#">KVM 2 – \$7.99/mo</a>	You're using API keys (OpenAI, Gemini, Claude)
<a href="#">KVM 4 – \$11.99/mo</a>	You want to run a local LLM too – if you care about speed and want to keep your sanity

*(I earn a small commission if you use these links – costs you nothing extra.)*

- Scroll down in the cart, click **Ubuntu**, then select **Ubuntu 24.04 LTS** from the dropdown
  - Pick a server location close to your location
  - Skip all add-ons & checkout
  - Your VPS will be ready to install OpenClaw in 2-5 minutes!
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## 3. SSH In

- Hostinger will email you when your VPS is ready (usually 2-5 minutes after checkout)

- Log in at [hpanel.hostinger.com](https://hpanel.hostinger.com) → click **VPS** in the left menu → click **Manage** next to **Ubuntu 24.04 LTS**
  - On the **Overview** page you'll find your **IP address** and **root password**
  - Click **Browser Terminal** on the Overview page to open a terminal session where you will type code
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## 4. Install OpenClaw

- Copy the code below and paste into that black terminal window (this is how you talk to your VPS)
- This will update the system and then install OpenClaw

```
apt update && apt upgrade -y && curl -fsSL  
https://openclaw.ai/install.sh | bash
```

- Wait 5-10 minutes – don't close the terminal
  - You're done when you see OpenClaw installed successfully!
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## 5. Verify & Log In

- Run this in your terminal:

```
openclaw doctor
```

- All [✓]? Good. Any [X]? Jump to Troubleshooting.
  - Open a browser and go to `http://YOUR_IP:3000`
  - Log in with the credentials from your terminal
  - Change your password and bookmark the page
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## 6. Connect Telegram

- Open Telegram → search @BotFather → send /newbot → copy your API Token
- In OpenClaw: Channels → Add Channel → Telegram → paste token → Connect
- Send your bot a message in Telegram, then test it in OpenClaw
- You know it works if it replies.

Also supports WhatsApp, Signal, Slack, and Discord – more guides coming soon at [openclaw.snerdsystems.com](https://openclaw.snerdsystems.com)

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## 7. Troubleshooting

- **SSH Refused?** Hostinger Dashboard → VPS → Firewall → open ports 22 and 3000
- **Install Frozen?** Ctrl+C, add swap, then retry:

```
fallocate -l 2G /swapfile && chmod 600 /swapfile && mkswap /swapfile && swapon /swapfile  
curl -fsSL https://openclaw.com/install.sh | bash
```

- **Channel Won't Connect?** Check your API key – no extra spaces
  - **Server Sluggish?** systemctl restart openclaw
  - **Command Not Found?** echo 'export PATH=\$PATH:/usr/local/bin'  
>> ~/.bashrc && source ~/.bashrc
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## 8. Add Your API Keys

OpenClaw works with OpenAI, Gemini, and Claude out of the box. Add your keys here so your bot has a brain.

- In OpenClaw: go to **Settings** → **AI Providers**
- Click **Add Key** next to the provider you want
- Paste your API key – no extra spaces
- Click **Save**, then **Test Connection** to confirm it works

**Where to get your keys:**

- **OpenAI:** [platform.openai.com/api-keys](https://platform.openai.com/api-keys)
- **Gemini:** [aistudio.google.com/app/apikey](https://aistudio.google.com/app/apikey)
- **Claude:** [console.anthropic.com/settings/keys](https://console.anthropic.com/settings/keys)

You only need one. If you're not sure which to use, start with OpenAI – it's the most widely tested with OpenClaw.

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## 9. Next Steps

OpenClaw is running. Here's where to go from here:

- **Community:** [discord.gg/openclaw](https://discord.gg/openclaw)
  - **Official docs:** [docs.openclaw.com](https://docs.openclaw.com)
  - **More guides:** [openclaw.snerdsystems.com](https://openclaw.snerdsystems.com)
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