

HERMES AGENT

Migration Guide

OpenClaw → Hermes

Complete step-by-step migration in 5 commands

By Mani Kanasani • Vertical Systems • Agents in a Box

Free companion guide to the Hermes Agent Crash Course

Why Migrate?

The most valuable thing you built in OpenClaw isn't the agent. It's your context — your strategic prompts, your skills, your memory. **All of that transfers.**

Head-to-Head Comparison

Feature	OpenClaw	Hermes Agent
Self-Improvement	Add-on (ClawHub skill)	✓ Native (core feature)
Memory	Memory-Wiki (new)	✓ 3-layer persistent
Speed (repeated tasks)	Standard	✓ 40% faster
Stability	Frequent breaking updates	✓ More stable
Skill Ecosystem	✓ ClawHub (13,700+ skills)	Self-generated
Integrations	✓ 50+ platforms	6 native + API
Telegram	Native	Native
GitHub Stars	346K+	65K+ (fastest growing)
Best For	Orchestration	Deep work & autonomy

The power move? **Run both.** OpenClaw orchestrates. Hermes executes. Transition gradually over 1–2 weeks.

The 5-Step Migration

Total time: ~15 minutes. No data loss.

STEP 1

Find Your OpenClaw Data

Everything lives in your home directory under `~/.openclaw/`. This folder contains all your custom work.

```
ls ~/.openclaw/
```

Expected output:

```
skills/      - your custom skills (markdown files)
memory/     - conversation history and context
config.yaml - your settings and preferences
.env        - your API keys
```

STEP 2

Copy Your Skills

OpenClaw skills are markdown files. Hermes skills are markdown files. Same format. Just copy the folder.

```
cp -r ~/.openclaw/skills/* ~/.hermes/skills/
```

Expected output:

```
Verify: ls ~/.hermes/skills/
You should see all your custom skills listed.
```

STEP 3

Transfer Your Context

Your Knowledge Fortress layers — strategy, documentation, security, technical, knowledge — are just text files. Copy them into Hermes's memory folder.

```
cp ~/.openclaw/context/*.md ~/.hermes/memory/
cp ~/.openclaw/system-prompt.md ~/.hermes/memory/identity.md
```

Expected output:

```
Hermes loads these files at startup.  
Your strategic context carries over immediately.
```

STEP 4**Move Your API Keys**

Same providers, same keys. Anthropic, OpenAI, OpenRouter. Just a different location.

```
nano ~/.hermes/.env
```

Expected output:

```
Add your existing keys:
ANTHROPIC_API_KEY=sk-ant-...
OPENAI_API_KEY=sk-...
OPENROUTER_API_KEY=sk-or-...

These are the same keys from OpenClaw. No new accounts needed.
```

STEP 5**Start Hermes & Introduce Yourself**

This is the key step. The first conversation seeds the memory system. Everything compounds from here.

```
hermes
```

Expected output:

```
Paste your strategic context into the first message:

"Hi, I'm [name]. I run [business]. Here's my strategic context: [paste
strategy prompt]. I'm migrating from OpenClaw. I've copied my skills over.
Please review the skills in your folder and confirm you can use them."
```

Troubleshooting

Skills Not Working?

- ✓ Check file format — Hermes expects .md files with a specific header. Open a working Hermes skill and compare the structure.
- ✓ Some OpenClaw skills use platform-specific APIs (Docker, n8n). These need adaptation for Hermes's execution model.
- ✓ Ask Hermes: "Review my imported skills and flag any that need reformatting." It will fix them.

n8n / Docker Workflows?

These are OpenClaw-specific infrastructure and don't transfer directly. Options:

- Keep OpenClaw running for existing automations, use Hermes for new work
- Rebuild workflows as Hermes cron jobs (simpler, built-in scheduling)
- Use Make.com or Pipedream as a platform-agnostic orchestration layer

Running Both Simultaneously

Recommended for the first 1–2 weeks. They use different ports and directories — no conflicts.

```
# OpenClaw runs on its default port
openclaw start

# Hermes runs independently
hermes

# They don't interfere with each other.
# Gradually shift new work to Hermes.
```

What Changes After Migration

From this point forward, every task Hermes completes makes it better:

- **Skills auto-create** — after 10–20 similar tasks, Hermes packages the workflow as a reusable skill
- **40% speed improvement** — on repeated tasks, Hermes runs skills instead of figuring it out from scratch
- **3-layer memory persists** — your context, skills, and learnings compound across every session
- **Your OpenClaw setup was static. Your Hermes setup gets better every day.**

Want the full system?

Watch the Hermes Agent Crash Course on YouTube

Join Agents in a Box: join.verticalsystems.io

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