eBay appears to block third-party AI agents: building on access you do not control

10 November 2026 · 4 min read · blogs.iictp.org/ebay-blocks-ai-agents-platform-policy-risk

The Verge reports that eBay appears to have blocked AI agents, including Meta’s Muse, from browsing the platform. Treat the details as unconfirmed: the report is based on a reader’s experience, and the headline itself says “appears”.

TL;DR The short version

- The Verge reports that eBay appears to have blocked AI agents such as Meta's Muse from browsing its site.
- The report rests on one reader's experience and is unconfirmed.
- An agent that works by visiting other people's sites depends on their goodwill, so plan for access being withdrawn.

Read online, listen to it, or change the text size: https://blogs.iictp.org/ebay-blocks-ai-agents-platform-policy-risk

What was reported

- A reader told The Verge that for several weeks his Muse agent had browsed marketplaces such as eBay each day to compile a digest of watches for sale, with links, prices, shipping and condition notes.
- Over a recent weekend the agent could no longer pull anything from eBay.
- The Verge calls it the latest speed bump in the AI agent race.

The lesson for anyone building on agents

An agent that works by visiting other people’s sites depends on those sites’ goodwill. That access can be withdrawn without notice, and nothing in your code will have changed.

- Prefer official APIs and partnerships over scraping-style browsing for anything your product depends on.
- Monitor your agent’s success rate per site, so a sudden block shows up as an alert, not as a customer complaint.
- Design a graceful failure: tell the user which source is unavailable and what the result lacks.
- Keep a list of third-party dependencies and the terms that govern each.

The same issue looks different from the site’s side. See what site owners can now measure.

Facts in this post were read from the sources listed below on 10 November 2026; this is a developing story or product and details may have changed since.

Sources and further reading

1. The Verge. eBay appears to have shut the door on third-party AI agents. 10 November 2026. theverge.com/tech/1030838/ebay-ai-agents-meta-muse-agentic-shopping

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