GNU Screen

Terminal multiplexer

Prefix key `Ctrl+a`

CONCEPTS

Shortcuts marked prefix: press Ctrl+a, release, then press the key.

Sessions keep running after you close the terminal or lose your SSH connection.

Session survives detach
- **Window** full-screen shell
  - **Region** split view of a window

Unlike tmux, a split region only shows a window; it does not own one. Focus a region, then pick a window for it.

Typing a literal Ctrl+a (e.g. start of line in bash) needs Ctrl+a a.

SESSIONS

`screen -S <name>`
New named session

`screen -ls`
List sessions

`screen -r <name>`
Reattach to a session

prefix **d** Detach from session

`screen -R <name>`
Reattach, or create if missing

`screen -x <name>`
Attach to an already attached session

`screen -d -r <name>`
Detach it elsewhere, reattach here

`screen -dmS <name> <cmd>`
Start a command detached

prefix ****
Kill all windows and quit

`screen -wipe`
Remove dead sessions

`screen -S <name> -X quit`
Kill a session from outside

WINDOWS

prefix **c** Create window

prefix **n** / **p**
Next / previous window

WINDOWS (cont.)

prefix **0-9**
Jump to window number

prefix **"**
Choose window from list

prefix **Ctrl** + **a**
Toggle to the last used window

prefix **A** Rename window

prefix **w**
Show window list in status line

prefix **k** Kill window

prefix **'**
Select window by number or name

prefix **l** Redraw window

`screen -t <title> <cmd>`
Open a window running a command

REGIONS

prefix **S** Split top / bottom

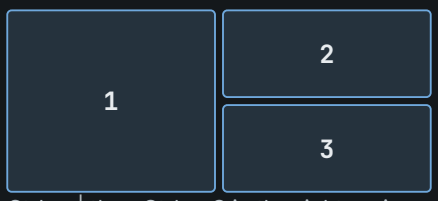
prefix **|** Split left / right

prefix **Tab** Focus next region

prefix **X** Close current region

prefix **Q**
Close all regions but this one

`resize +5`
Make region taller by 5 lines



Ctrl+a | then Ctrl+a S in the right region

COPY MODE

prefix **[**
Enter copy / scroll mode

Space
Set start, then end of selection

Esc Leave copy mode

prefix **]**
Paste last copied text

/ / **?**
Search forward / backward

COPY MODE (cont.)

n / **N** Next / previous match

Ctrl + **u** / **Ctrl** + **d**
Half page up / down

`defscrollback 10000`
Longer scrollback in .screenrc

Copying stays inside screen. For the system clipboard, select with the mouse while holding Shift.

LOGGING

prefix **H**
Toggle logging of this window

`screen -L -Logfile <file> -S <name>`
Start a session with logging

COMMAND MODE

prefix **:**
Open command prompt

prefix **?** List all key bindings

`source ~/.screenrc`
Reload configuration

`screen -S <name> -X <cmd>`
Send a command to a session

RECIPES

Starter ~/.screenrc

```
# ~/.screenrc
startup_message off
defscrollback 10000
vbell off
altscreen on
hardstatus alwayslastline
hardstatus string '%{= kw}%-w%{=
kG}%n %t%{-}%+w %=%H'
escape ^Ee
```

Run a long job and leave

```
screen -S build
make all
# Ctrl+a d to detach
screen -r build  # back later
```

Pair on one session

```
# terminal 1
screen -S pair
# terminal 2, same user
screen -x pair
```

HELP

`man screen`
Full manual