# 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