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

WINDOWS (cont.) `prefix +`

`n` / `p` Next / previous window

`0-9` Jump to window number

`"` Choose window from list

`Ctrl` + `a`
Toggle to the last used window

`A` Rename window

`w`
Show window list in status line

`k` Kill window

`l` Redraw window

REGIONS

`prefix` `S` Split top / bottom

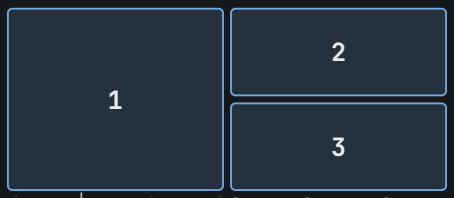
`prefix` `|` Split left / right

`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

`n` / `N` Next / previous match

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

COPY MODE (cont.)

`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