Zellij Terminal workspace

START HERE

- Ctrl + p › n — New pane
- Ctrl + p › d / r — Split down / right
- Alt + h/j/k/l — Move focus
- Ctrl + t › n — New tab
- Ctrl + p › w — Floating panes
- Ctrl + s — Scroll mode
- Ctrl + o › d — Detach
- Ctrl + g — Lock / unlock keys

Session survives detach
- **Tab** full-screen workspace
  - **Pane** tiled, floating or stacked

Modes and their entry keys

Mode	Enter with	Used for
Pane	`Ctrl+p`	create, close, focus panes
Tab	`Ctrl+t`	tabs
Resize	`Ctrl+n`	change pane size
Move	`Ctrl+h`	reorder panes
Scroll	`Ctrl+s`	scrollback, search
Session	`Ctrl+o`	detach, plugins
Tmux	`Ctrl+b`	tmux-style keys
Locked	`Ctrl+g`	pass keys through

CONCEPTS

Zellij has modes. Press a Ctrl+key to enter a mode, then an action key. Creating or closing things returns to Normal; Resize, Move, Scroll and tab hops stay in the mode until Enter or Esc. The bottom bar always shows the keys of the current mode.

Ctrl+g locks Zellij so every key goes to the program inside (vim, shells with clashing keys). Press Ctrl+g again to unlock.

In a mode, Enter or Esc returns to Normal. Mode keys are Ctrl+p pane, Ctrl+t tab, Ctrl+n resize, Ctrl+h move, Ctrl+s scroll, Ctrl+o session.

PANES

Ctrl + p › n — New pane
Placed where there is most room.

Ctrl + p › d
New pane below

Ctrl + p › r
New pane to the right

Ctrl + p › h/j/k/l
Move focus (or Arrows)

Alt + h/j/k/l
Move focus from Normal mode
Alt+h and Alt+l also jump to the next tab at the edge.

Ctrl + p › x — Close pane

Ctrl + p › f
Fullscreen pane (toggle)

Alt + n — New pane, no mode

Ctrl + p › p
Focus next pane

Ctrl + p › ; — Focus last pane

Ctrl + p › c — Rename pane
Enter confirms, Esc undoes.

Ctrl + p › z
Toggle pane frames

Ctrl + p › s
New stacked pane
Stacks collapse to one line each; only one is open.

Ctrl + p › Shift + f
Fullscreen without UI

PANES (cont.)

Alt + [/ Alt +]
Previous / next swap layout
Cycles layouts that fit the current number of panes.

Ctrl + p › i — Pin floating pane

FLOATING PANES

Ctrl + p › w
Show / hide floating panes
Hiding keeps programs running.

Alt + f
Toggle floating panes, no mode

Ctrl + p › e
Embed or float this pane
Turns a tiled pane floating and back.

`zellij run -f -- <cmd>`
Run a command in a floating pane

RESIZE AND MOVE

Ctrl + n › h/j/k/l
Grow pane left/down/up/right
Arrows work too.

Ctrl + n › H/J/K/L
Shrink pane from that side

Ctrl + n › = / -
Grow / shrink evenly

Alt + = / Alt + -
Resize, no mode

Ctrl + h › h/j/k/l
Move pane in that direction

TABS

Ctrl + t › n — New tab

Ctrl + t › h / l
Previous / next tab
Arrows and j/k work too.

Ctrl + t › 1-9
Go to tab number

Ctrl + t › x — Close tab

Ctrl + t › r — Rename tab

Ctrl + t › Tab
Toggle last tab

Alt + i / Alt + o
Move tab left / right

Ctrl + t › s
Sync input to all panes in tab
Same toggle turns it off.

TABS (cont.)

Ctrl + t › b
Break pane out to new tab

SCROLLBACK AND SEARCH

Ctrl + s — Enter scroll mode

Ctrl + s › j/k
Scroll line down / up
Arrows also work.

Ctrl + s › d / u
Half page down / up

Ctrl + s › Ctrl + f / Ctrl + b
Page down / up
PageDown and PageUp work too.

Ctrl + s › s
Search scrollback
Type the term, press Enter, then n / p.

Ctrl + s › n / p
Next / previous match
Only after a search was entered.

Ctrl + s › c
Copy output of last command
Uses prompt marks; works only in shells that emit them.

Ctrl + s › e
Edit scrollback in $EDITOR

Ctrl + s › Ctrl + c
Jump to bottom, leave mode

SESSIONS

`zellij`
Start a new session

`zellij -s <name>`
Start a named session

`zellij ls`
List sessions

`zellij a <name>`
Attach to a session
With only one session running the name can be left out.

Ctrl + o › d — Detach
Programs keep running.

`zellij a -c <name>`
Attach, or create if missing
Good for a shell alias.

Ctrl + o › w
Session manager
Switch, create or kill sessions in a floating list.

Ctrl + q
Quit Zellij (ends the session)

SESSIONS (cont.)

`zellij k <name>`
Kill a session

CLI CONTROL

`zellij run -- <cmd>`
Run command in a new pane
Add -c to close the pane when the command ends.

`zellij edit <file>`
Open file in $EDITOR pane

`zellij action new-tab`
Create a tab from outside

`zellij setup --dump-config`
Print the default config

`zellij -l <layout>`
Start with a layout
Inside a session this adds the layout as new tabs.

TMUX MODE

Ctrl + b — Enter tmux mode
Then press the key; replays tmux muscle memory.

Ctrl + b › % — Split right

CONFIG AND LAYOUTS

Config lives in ~/.config/zellij/config.kdl, layouts in ~/.config/zellij/layouts/ (bare names work with -l).

Default mode and clashing Ctrl keys: set default_mode "locked" and bind a key to unlock, or use the unlock-first preset.

RECIPES

Layout file (dev.kdl)

```
layout {
    pane size=1 borderless=true
{
        plugin
location="zellij:tab-bar"
    }
    pane
split_direction="vertical" {
        pane edit="src/main.rs"
        pane command="cargo" {
            args "watch" "-x"
"test"
        }
    }
    pane size=1 borderless=true
{
        plugin
location="zellij:status-bar"
    }
}
```