

Screen

©1998-2016 Mitch Richling <https://www.mitchr.me>
Last Updated 2016-07-09

Selecting Windows

- C-a - switch to screen blank window
- C-a ' Prompt for a window name or number to switch to
- C-a " Present a list of all windows for selection
- C-a 0 switch to screen 0
- C-a 1 switch to screen 1
- C-a 2 switch to screen 2
- C-a 3 switch to screen 3
- C-a 4 switch to screen 4
- C-a 5 switch to screen 5
- C-a 6 switch to screen 6
- C-a 7 switch to screen 7
- C-a 8 switch to screen 8
- C-a 9 switch to screen 9

Regions

- C-a tabSwitch the input focus to the next region.
- C-a F Resize the window to the current region size.
- C-a Q Delete all regions but the current one.
- C-a S Split the current region into two new ones.
- C-a X Kill the current region.

Send Special Chars to Window

- C-a a Send the command character (C-a) to window
- C-a b Send a break to window.
- C-a B Reopen the terminal line and send a break.
- C-a q Send a control-q to the current window.
- C-a s Send a control-s to the current window.

Information and help

- C-a t Show system information
- C-a ? Show key bindings.
- C-a * Show a listing of all currently attached displays.
- C-a w Show a list of windows
- C-a i Show info about this window.
- C-a N Show the number (and title) of the current window.
- C-a m Repeat the last message displayed in the message line.

Change operation/mode

- C-a M Toggles monitoring of the current window.
- C-a f Toggle flow on, off or auto.
- C-a CgToggles screen's visual bell mode.
- C-a r Toggle the current window's line-wrap setting
- C-a Z Reset the virtual terminal to its "power-on" values.

Create/Destroy Windows

- C-a c Create a new window with a shell and switch to that window.
- C-a A Enter a name for the current window.
- C-a k Destroy current window.

Screen refresh & clear

- C-a C Clear the screen.
- C-a l Fully refresh current window.

Detach & Quit

- C-a d Detach screen from this terminal.
- C-a D Detach and logout (power detach)

Switching Windows

- C-a C-aToggle to the window displayed previously.
- C-a n Switch to the next window.
- C-a p Switch to the previous window

Data to/from files

- C-a h Write a hardcopy of the current window (hardcopy.n)
- C-a H Begins/ends logging of the current window (screenlog.n)
- C-a > Write paste buffer to a file.
- C-a < Reads the screen-exchange file into the paste buffer.
- C-a = Removes the file used by C-a < and C-a >.

Misc

- C-a x Lock this terminal.

Command Mode

- C-a : Enter command mode.

Commands can be

- altscreen <on|off> Alternate screen support
- bufferfile <file> Changed file for paste buffer
- caption always Always display caption
- caption splitonly Display caption when screen split
- caption <string> Change the escape display sequence
- clear Clear window and save to scroll buffer
- vbell <on|off> Turn on/off visual bell
- vbell_msg <mes> Message for visual bell

Copy Paste Mode

- C-a [Enter copy/scrollback mode.
- C-a] paste buffer to the stdin

Copy Paste Mode

- Moving Around
 - h Left (arrow keys work too)
 - j Down
 - k Up
 - l Right
 - 0 Leftmost column
 - ^ Leftmost, non-whitespace character
 - \$ Rightmost non-whitespace character
 - H Top of screen
 - L Bottom of screen
 - G moves to absolute line (default: end of buffer).
 - | moves to absolute column (default: start of line)
 - w Forward word
 - b back word
 - C-u scroll the display up
 - C-d scroll the display down
- Marking
 - SPC Set mark (SPC again to mark end and copy)
 - y used to mark one whole line or to mark from start of line.
 - W marks exactly one word.
 - c Set left margin for region (for rectangle cut/paste)
 - C Set right margin for region (for rectangle cut/paste)
 - x exchanges the first mark and the current cursor position
- Searching
 - / Vi-like search forward.
 - ? Vi-like search backward.
 - C-a s Emacs style incremental search forward.
 - C-r Emacs style reverse i-search.
- Finishing Up
 - a before the final space key to toggle in append mode.
 - > sets the second mark and writes paste buffer screen-exchange file
 - ENTER
- Misc
 - C-g gives information about the current line and column.

Common Command Line Options

- -A Adapt the sizes of all windows to the size of the current terminal.
- -d [pid.tty.host] does not start screen, but detaches the elsewhere running screen session.
- -d -r Reattach a session and if necessary detach it first.
- -d -R Reattach a session and if necessary detach or even create it first.
- -d -RR Reattach a session and if necessary detach or create it.
- -D -r Reattach a session. If necessary detach and logout remotely first.
- -D -R Attach here and now.
- -D -RR Attach here and now. Whatever that means, just do it.
- -ls prints a list of pid.tty.host strings identifying screen sessions.
- -d -m Start screen in "detached" mode.
- -p number_or_name Preselect a window. "=" brings up the windowlist on the blank window.
- -r [pid.tty.host]
- -r sessionowner/[pid.tty.host] resumes a detached screen session. No other options (except combinations with -d/-D) may be specified, though an optional prefix of [pid.tty.host] may be needed to distinguish between multiple detached screen sessions. The second form is used to connect to another user's screen session which runs in multiuser mode. This indicates that screen should look for sessions in another user's directory. This requires setuid-root.
- -S sessionname This name can be used instead of the default [tty.host] suffix.
- -wipe [match] does the same as "screen -ls", but removes destroyed sessions instead of marking them as 'dead'.
- -x Attach to a not detached screen session. (Multi display mode).