



Shrink Your Life with TMux

CHRIS WOLF

IBM BACKEND ENGINEER (CLOUD)

GitHub Repo

- ▶ <https://github.com/Christopher-Wolf-ibm/SYL-TMUX>

Shrink Your Life

- ▶ Shrink the number of objectives that warrant your attention
- ▶ Shrink the amount of effort needed to influence your objectives
 - ▶ This is where TMux is helpful

What is TMux?

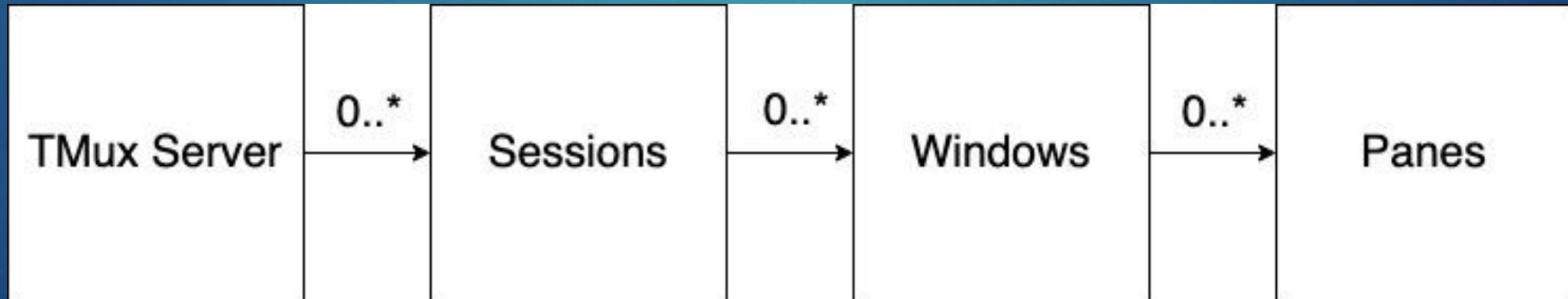
- ▶ Terminal MULTipleXer
- ▶ First created by Nicholas Marriot in 2007
- ▶ Most recent stable release 3.3 (June 2022)
- ▶ Permits a user to organize, manage, and manipulate a virtually limitless number of terminal instances in one convenient place
- ▶ But why use TMux?

Actual footage of Chris in 2013



TMux Components

- ▶ TMux is broken down into three components
 - ▶ Sessions
 - ▶ Windows
 - ▶ Panes



Sessions

- ▶ A "bundle" of terminal windows with a common purpose
- ▶ You can see a list of all of your current sessions:
 - ▶ `tmux ls`
- ▶ To create a new session
 - ▶ `tmux new-session -s <session_name>`
- ▶ To attach to an existing session
 - ▶ `tmux attach -t <session_name>`
- ▶ To detach from current session
 - ▶ Prefix (Ctrl+b) + d
- ▶ To switch current session from inside tmux
 - ▶ Prefix (Ctrl+b) + s

Windows

- ▶ A "screen" that you can see take up your entire terminal
- ▶ Create a new window
 - ▶ Prefix + c
- ▶ Rename current window
 - ▶ Prefix + ,
- ▶ Navigate between windows
 - ▶ Next window: Prefix + n
 - ▶ Previous window: Prefix + p
 - ▶ Specific window: Prefix + <number> (windows can be seen listed at bottom of terminal)

Panes

- ▶ An instance of a terminal existing inside of a window
- ▶ Create a new window
 - ▶ Split horizontal: Prefix + %
 - ▶ Split vertical: Prefix + "
 - ▶ There are ways to edit these to be more intuitive
- ▶ Navigate between windows:
 - ▶ Move to the left: Prefix + j
 - ▶ Move up: Prefix + k
 - ▶ Move down: Prefix + l
 - ▶ Move right: Prefix + ;
 - ▶ This is blasphemous and should be remapped to something more logical
*cough*vim*cough*

Panes (cont.)

- ▶ Toggle zoom of windows:
 - ▶ Prefix + z
- ▶ Scroll through a pane
 - ▶ Prefix + [
 - ▶ Use vim style movements (hjkl) to move
 - ▶ Use q to exit pane scroll
- ▶ Resize window (move border):
 - ▶ Prefix + : (to enter command mode)
 - ▶ `resize-pane -D | -U | -L | -R <num>`
 - ▶ This can also be remapped

Configuring TMux

- ▶ Like all great Unix tools, TMux can be modified and configured to fit your specific needs
- ▶ Settings are stored in `~/.tmux.conf`
- ▶ Use vim based navigation
 - ▶ `Set-window-option -g mode-keys vi`
- ▶ Automatically renumber windows when closed
 - ▶ `Set-option -g renumber-windows on`
- ▶ Start numbering windows at 1
 - ▶ `Set -g base-index 1`

Configuring TMux (cont.)

- ▶ Change color of tmux control bar
 - ▶ `set -g status-bg <color>`
 - ▶ `set -g status-fg <color>`
- ▶ You are welcome to borrow my tmux config file as a starting place:
 - ▶ <https://github.com/Christopher-Wolf-ibm/SYL-TMUX/blob/main/tmux.conf>

TMux Plugins

- ▶ TMux has plugins available through its plugin manager: TPM
- ▶ Plugins allow you to further customize and optimize your work environment
- ▶ Instructions on installing and TPM can be found here:
 - ▶ <https://github.com/Christopher-Wolf-ibm/SYL-TMUX>
- ▶ Recommended plugins:
 - ▶ Resurrect: save/load instances of your TMux server to be recreated
 - ▶ Continuum: causes Resurrect to save at set intervals (15 min default)
 - ▶ Battery: show the battery life in your tmux command line

Helpful script

- ▶ The commands for creating and attaching to TMux sessions can be very verbose and annoying
- ▶ Feel free to use this script to make the process easier
 - ▶ <https://github.com/Christopher-Wolf-ibm/SYL-TMUX/blob/main/tm.sh>

Workflow Demonstration



Closing Thoughts

- ▶ We spend roughly 25% of our weekly time at work, make it as smooth and painless as possible
- ▶ If you find yourself doing the same thing all the time, automate it and get it out of your way
- ▶ Keep everything you need to be successful within "arms reach" (Shrink Your Life!)
- ▶ The beauty of Unix tools is that all of us will use them differently; experiment with TMux (and anything else) and find the workflow that will make YOU successful
- ▶ If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong!

Additional Resources

- ▶ TMux GitHub Repo:
 - ▶ <https://github.com/tmux/tmux/wiki>
- ▶ Ham Vocke "Quick and Easy Guide to TMux":
 - ▶ <https://www.hamvocke.com/blog/a-quick-and-easy-guide-to-tmux/>
- ▶ Dev Community "TMux Tutorial for Beginners"
 - ▶ <https://dev.to/iggredible/tmux-tutorial-for-beginners-5c52>
- ▶ Me!
 - ▶ Christopher.Wolf@ibm.com
 - ▶ Christopher Wolf on slack

Questions, Comments, Concerns

- ▶ Thank you for spending your lunch break with me letting me nerd out about one of my favorite tools!