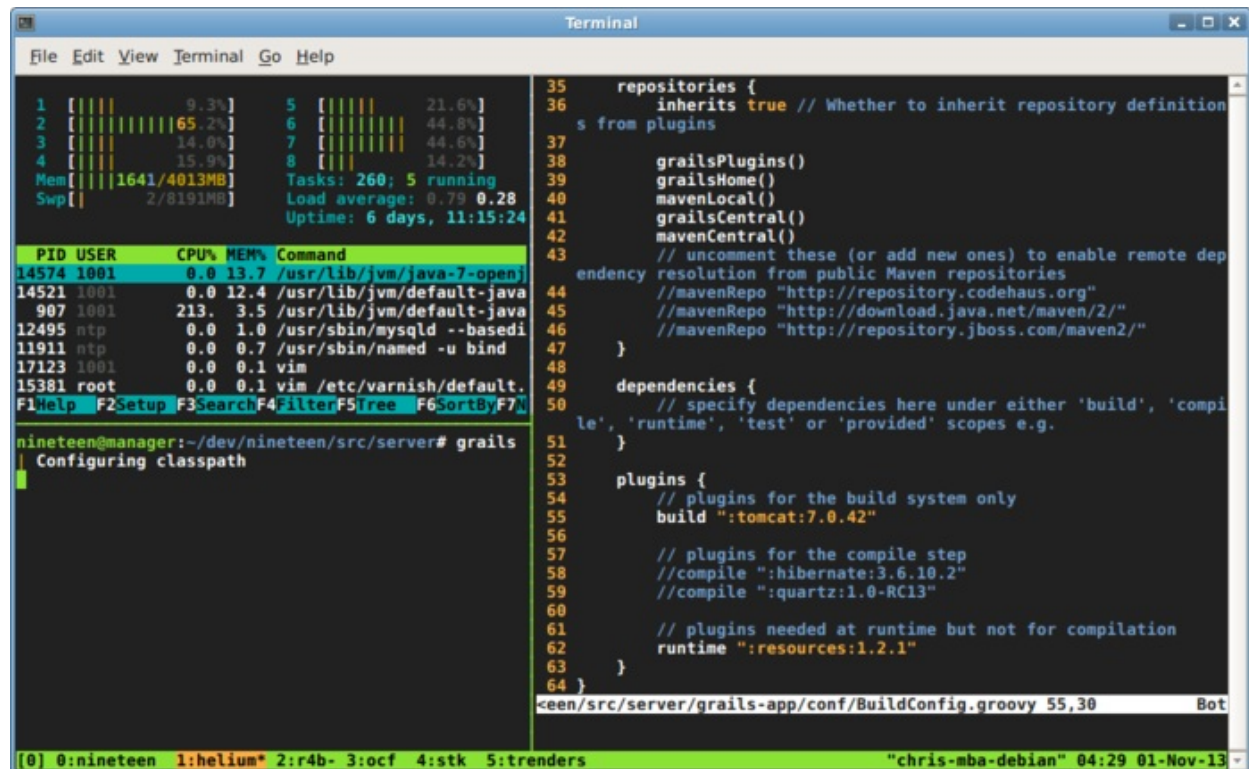


# tmux - a very simple beginner's guide

[ocf.berkeley.edu/~ckuehl/tmux](http://ocf.berkeley.edu/~ckuehl/tmux)



The screenshot shows a tmux terminal window with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Terminal, Go, Help) and a status bar at the bottom. The terminal is split into three panes. The left pane displays system statistics and a process list. The middle pane shows a Grails build configuration file. The right pane shows the same file with a cursor at line 55.

```
1  [|||||] 9.3% 5  [|||||] 21.6% 35 repositories {
2  [|||||] 65.2% 6  [|||||] 44.8% 36     inherits true // Whether to inherit repository definition
3  [|||||] 14.0% 7  [|||||] 44.6% 37     s from plugins
4  [|||||] 15.9% 8  [|||||] 14.2% 38     grailsPlugins()
Mem [|||||] 1641/4013MB Tasks: 260; 5 running 39     grailsHome()
Swp [|||||] 2/8191MB Load average: 0.79 0.28 40     mavenLocal()
Uptime: 6 days, 11:15:24 41     grailsCentral()
42     mavenCentral()
43     // uncomment these (or add new ones) to enable remote dep
PID USER CPU% MEM% Command endency resolution from public Maven repositories
14574 1001 0.0 13.7 /usr/lib/jvm/java-7-open 44     //mavenRepo "http://repository.codehaus.org"
14521 1001 0.0 12.4 /usr/lib/jvm/default-java 45     //mavenRepo "http://download.java.net/maven/2/"
907 1001 213. 3.5 /usr/lib/jvm/default-java 46     //mavenRepo "http://repository.jboss.com/maven2/"
12495 ntp 0.0 1.0 /usr/sbin/mysqld --based 47 }
11911 ntp 0.0 0.7 /usr/sbin/named -u bind 48 }
17123 1001 0.0 0.1 vim 49 dependencies {
15381 root 0.0 0.1 vim /etc/varnish/default. 50     // specify dependencies here under either 'build', 'compil
F1Help F2Setup F3SearchF4FilterF5Free F6SortByF7 51     le', 'runtime', 'test' or 'provided' scopes e.g.
nineteen@manager:~/dev/nineteen/src/server# grails 52 }
| Configuring classpath 53     plugins {
54         // plugins for the build system only
55         build ":tomcat:7.0.42"
56
57         // plugins for the compile step
58         //compile ":hibernate:3.6.10.2"
59         //compile ":quartz:1.0-RC13"
60
61         // plugins needed at runtime but not for compilation
62         runtime ":resources:1.2.1"
63     }
64 }
nineteen@manager:~/dev/nineteen/src/server/grails-app/conf/BuildConfig.groovy 55,30 Bot
[0] 0:nineteen 1:helium* 2:r4b- 3:ocf 4:stk 5:trenders "chris-mba-debian" 04:29 01-Nov-13
```

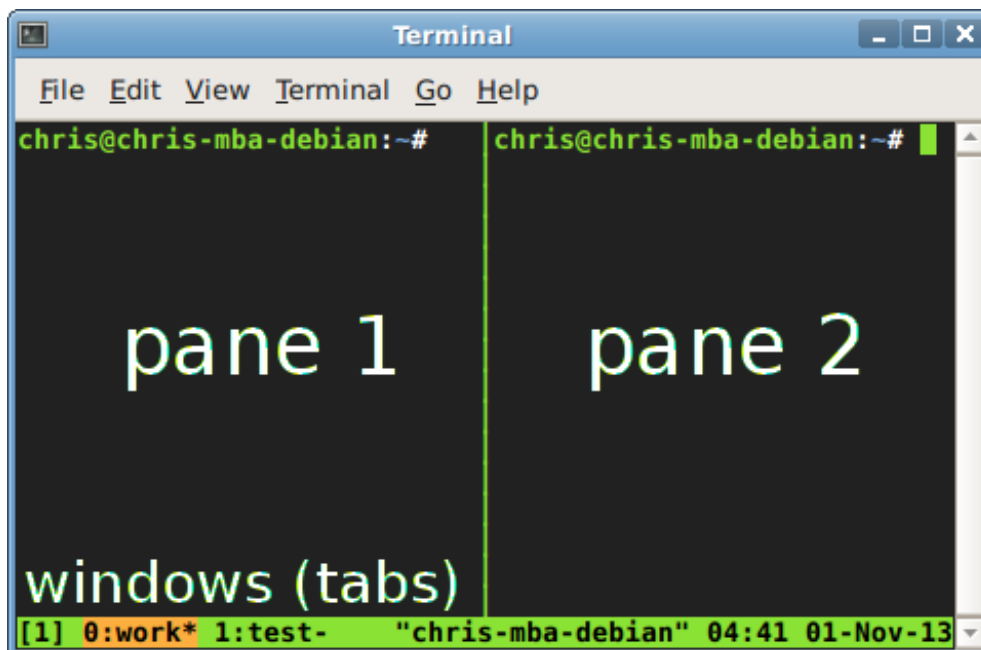
tmux lets you easily:

- split your terminal into panes which can be moved, resized, and switched between
- keep programs running after you disconnect (e.g. when working on a remote server via ssh)

## Why tmux?

- Tabs suck
- Manually positioning multiple terminal windows sucks

## Basic Terminology



tmux uses **windows** and **panes**.

- **window** - think of it like a tab; only one window is ever visible at a time (this guide won't address windows)
- **pane** - belongs to a window; you can have many of these visible at once

## Using tmux

To start tmux for the first time, enter `tmux` on the command line. You're now using tmux! If you get disconnected and want to reconnect to the same session, enter `tmux attach` on the command line.

## Important Keybindings

Use these to control tmux when inside a tmux session. For all keybindings, press ctrl-b first, then press the key you want.

key	what it does
ctrl-b, %	split the screen in half from left to right
ctrl-b, "	split the screen in half from top to bottom
ctrl-b, x	kill the current pane
ctrl-b, <arrow key>	switch to the pane in whichever direction you press
ctrl-b, d	detach from tmux, leaving everything running in the background

This is an incomplete list; a more exhaustive list is available [here](#).

Note: ctrl-b is the default prefix; I highly recommend changing it to ctrl-a. See "Customization" at the bottom of the page.

## Customization

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If you like tmux, you will probably want to customize it. In particular, you probably want to remap ctrl-b to something reasonable (like ctrl-a). [This guide](#) is a pretty good starting point. Additionally, my configuration file is available [on GitHub](#). Put your config in `~/.tmux.conf` and run `tmux source-file ~/.tmux.conf` from within tmux to reload it.

## Advanced Stuff

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This guide is purposefully oversimplified (and wrong) in some areas. The goal is just to get you started with tmux as fast as possible. If you find you like tmux, try a real guide – this one really doesn't do tmux justice.

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