GNU screen [quick_reference]

Getting in

start a new screen session with session name	screen -S *<name>*
list running sessions/screens	screen -ls
attach to a running session	screen -x
attach to session *name*	screen -r *<name>*
the "ultimate attach"	screen -dRR (Attaches to a screen session. If the session is attached elsewhere, detaches that other display. If no session exists, creates one. If multiple sessions exist, uses the first one.)

Escape key

All screen commands are prefixed by an escape key, by default C-a (that's Control-a, sometimes written ^a). To send a literal C-a to the programs in screen, use C-a a. This is useful when working with screen within screen. For example C-a a n will move screen to a new window on the screen within screen.

Getting out

detach	C-a d
detach and logout (quick exit)	C-a D D
exit screen	C-a \ Exit all of the programs in screen. (*not* recommended)
force-exit screen	C-a C-\ (*not* recommended)
getting out of the screen session	exit

Window Management

create new window	C-a c
change to last-visited active window	C-a C-a (commonly used to flip-flop between two windows)
change to window by number	C-a <number> (only for windows 0 to 9)

change to window by number or name	`C-a ' <number or title>`
change to next window in list	`C-a n` or `C-a <space>`
change to previous window in list	`C-a p` or `C-a <backspace>`
see window list	`C-a "` (allows you to select a window to change to)
show window bar	`C-a w` (if you don't have window bar)
close current window	Close all applications in the current window (including shell)
kill current window	`C-a k` (not recommended)
kill all windows	`C-a \` (not recommended)
rename current window	`C-a A`

Split screen

split display horizontally	`C-a S`
split display vertically	`C-a |` or `C-a V` (for the vanilla vertical screen patch)
jump to next display region	`C-a tab`
remove current region	`C-a X`
remove all regions but the current one	`C-a Q`

Clipboard and Navigation

Help

See help `C-a ?` (lists keybindings)

The [man page](#) is the complete reference.

Scripting

To any session *name*,

send a command to a named session	`screen -S <name> -X <command>`
create a new window and run *ping example.com*	`screen -S <name> -X screen ping example.com`
stuff characters into the input buffer using bash to expand a newline character ([from here](#))	`screen -S <name> [-p <page>] -X stuff $'quit\r'`

A full example:

```
# run bash within screen
screen -AmdS bash_shell bash
# run top within that bash session
screen -S bash_shell -p 0 -X stuff $'top\r'

# ... some time later

# stuff 'q' to tell top to quit
screen -S bash_shell -X stuff 'q'
# stuff 'exit\n' to exit bash session
screen -S bash_shell -X stuff $'exit\r'
```

Misc

redraw window	C-a C-l
monitor window for activity	C-a M
monitor window for silence	C-a _
enter digraph (for producing non-ASCII characters)	C-a C-v
lock (password protect) session	C-a x
enter screen command	C-a :
enable logging in the screen session	C-a H

Scrollback-buffer

In copy mode, one can navigate the scrollback buffer in various ways:

half page up	C-u	half page down	C-d
back	C-b	forward	C-f
cursor left/down/up/right h/j/k/l			