Redraw screen in terminal

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 13 years, 6 months ago Viewed 13k times



9



How do some programs edit whats being displayed on the terminal (to pick a random example, the program 'sl')? I'm thinking of the Linux terminal here, it may happen in other OS's too, I don't know. I've always thought once some text was displayed, it stayed there. How do you change it without redrawing the entire screen?



(1)

linux te

terminal

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4,082,04,036,058

asked Sep 16, 2008 at 22:34

Jarek

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Depending on the terminal you send control seuqences. Common sequences are for example esc[;H to send the cursor to a specific position (e.g. on Ansi, Xterm, Linux,







VT100). However, this will vary with the type or terminal the user has ... curses (in conjunction with the terminfo files) will wrap that information for you.



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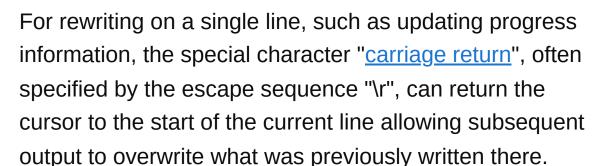
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Many applications make use of the <u>curses</u> library, or some language binding to it.









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answered Sep 16, 2008 at 22:41



Mike Tunnicliffe

10.8k • 3 • 33 • 46



try this shellscript

5







#!/bin/bash
i=1
while [true]
 do
 echo -e -n "\r \$i"
 i=\$((i+1))
 done

the -n options prevents the newline ... and the \r does the carriage return ... you write again and again into the same line - no scroling or what so ever

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answered Sep 16, 2008 at 22:40





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If you terminate a line sent to the terminal with a carriage return ('\r') instead of a linefeed ('\n'), it will move the cursor to the beginning of the current line, allowing the program to print more text over top of what it printed before. I use this occasionally for progress messages for long tasks.





If you ever need to do more terminal editing than that, use <u>ncurses</u> or a variant thereof.

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answered Sep 16, 2008 at 22:37





There are characters that can be sent to the terminal that move the cursor back. Then text can be overwritten.



There is a list <u>here</u>. Note the "move cursor something" lines.



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Now I understand why viewing binary files in cat or less would break my terminal... it would always change the character set and I had to restart, haha. – krs013 Mar 22, 2014 at 5:23



NCurses is a cross-platform library that lets you draw user interfaces on smart terminals.



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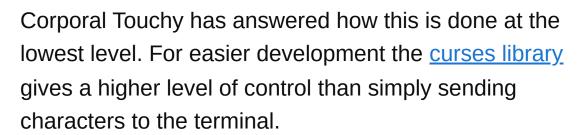


Jacob Krall **28.8k** • 6 • 68 • 76







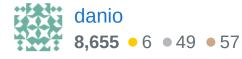




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edited Sep 17, 2008 at 9:39

answered Sep 16, 2008 at 22:40





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To build on @Corporal Touchy's answer, there are libraries available that will handle some of this functionality for you such as curses/ncurses



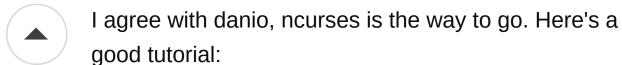
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good tutorial:



http://tldp.org/HOWTO/NCURSES-Programming-**HOWTO/**



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Adam Pierce

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