

Getting started with Tmux

Updated Aug 28, 2019 • 4 min read



This guide will go through the installation and basic usage of Tmux to get you up and running.

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What is tmux?

Tmux is a terminal multiplexer an alternative to GNU Screen. In other words, it means that you can start a Tmux session and then open multiple windows inside that session. Each window occupies the entire screen and can be split into rectangular panes.

With Tmux you can easily switch between multiple programs in one terminal, detach them and reattach them to a different terminal.

Tmux sessions are persistent, which means that programs running in Tmux will continue to run even if you get disconnected.

All commands in Tmux start with a prefix, which by default is `ctrl+b`.

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Installing Tmux

You can easily install Tmux using the package manager of your distro.

Installing Tmux on Ubuntu and Debian

```
$ sudo apt install tmux
```

Installing Tmux on CentOS and Fedora

```
$ sudo yum install tmux
```

Installing Tmux on macOS

```
$ brew install tmux
```

Starting Your First Tmux Session

To start your first Tmux session, simply type `tmux` in your console:



```
$ tmux
```

This will open a new session, create a new window, and start a shell in that window.

Once you are in Tmux you'll notice a status line at the bottom of the screen which shows

information about the current session.

You can now run your first Tmux command. For example, to get a list of all commands, you would type:

```
Ctrl+b ` `?
```

Creating Named Tmux Sessions

By default, Tmux sessions are named numerically. Named sessions are useful when you run multiple Tmux sessions. To create a new named session, run the `tmux` command with the following arguments:

```
$ tmux new -s session_name
```

It's always a good idea to choose a descriptive session name.

Detaching from Tmux Session

You can detach from the Tmux session and return to your normal shell by typing:

```
Ctrl+b ` `d
```

The program running in the Tmux session will continue to run after you detach from the session.

Re-attaching to Tmux Session

To attach to a session first, you need to find the name of the session. To get a list of the currently running sessions type:

```
$ tmux ls
```

The name of the session is the first column of the output.

```
Output
0: 1 windows (created Sat Sep 15 09:38:
43 2018) [158x35]
my_named_session: 1 windows (created Sa
t Sep 15 10:13:11 2018) [78x35]
```

As you can see from the output, there are two running Tmux sessions. The first one is named `0` and the second one `my_named_session`.

For example, to attach to session `0`, you would type:

```
$ tmux attach-session -t 0
```

Working with Tmux Windows and Panes

When you start a new Tmux session, by default, it creates a single window with a shell in it.

To create a new window with shell type

`Ctrl+b` `c`, the first available number from the range `0...9` will be assigned to it.

A list of all windows is shown on the status line at the bottom of the screen.

Below are some most common commands for managing Tmux windows and panes:

- `Ctrl+b` `c` Create a new window (with shell)
- `Ctrl+b` `w` Choose window from a list
- `Ctrl+b` `0` Switch to window 0 (by number)
- `Ctrl+b` `,` Rename the current window
- `Ctrl+b` `%` Split current pane horizontally into two panes
- `Ctrl+b` `"` Split current pane vertically into two panes
- `Ctrl+b` `o` Go to the next pane
- `Ctrl+b` `;` Toggle between the current and previous pane
- `Ctrl+b` `x` Close the current pane

Customizing Tmux

When Tmux is started, it reads its configuration parameters from `~/.tmux.conf` if the file is present.

Here is a sample `~/.tmux.conf` configuration with customized status line and few additional options:

```
~/.tmux.conf
```

```
# Improve colors
set -g default-terminal 'screen-256color'

# Set scrollback buffer to 10000
set -g history-limit 10000

# Customize the status line
set -g status-fg green
set -g status-bg black
```

Basic Tmux Usage

Below are the most basic steps for getting started with Tmux:

01. On the command prompt, type `tmux new -s my_session`,
02. Run the desired program.
03. Use the key sequence `Ctrl-b + d` to detach from the session.
04. Reattach to the Tmux session by typing

```
tmux attach-session -t my_session.
```

Conclusion

In this tutorial, you learned how to use Tmux. Now you can start creating multiple Tmux windows in a single session, split windows by creating new panes, navigate between windows, detach and resume sessions, and personalize your Tmux instance using the `.tmux.conf` file.

There's lots more to learn about Tmux at [Tmux User's Manual](#) page.

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