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TMUX(1)

General Commands Manual

TMUX(1)

NAME

tmux — terminal multiplexer

SYNOPSIS

tmux [-2Cluv] [-c *shell-command*] [-f *file*] [-L *socket-name*] [-S *socket-path*] [*command* [*flags*]]

DESCRIPTION

tmux is a terminal multiplexer: it enables a number of terminals to be created, accessed, and controlled from a single screen. **tmux** may be detached from a screen and continue running in the background, then later reattached.

When **tmux** is started it creates a new *session* with a single *window* and displays it on screen. A status line at the bottom of the screen shows information on the current session and is used to enter interactive commands.

A session is a single collection of *pseudo terminals* under the management of **tmux**. Each session has one or more windows linked to it. A window occupies the entire screen and may be split into rectangular panes, each of which is a separate pseudo terminal (the [pty\(4\)](#) manual page documents the technical details of pseudo terminals). Any number of **tmux** instances may connect to the same session, and any number of windows may be present in the same session. Once all sessions are killed, **tmux** exits.

Each session is persistent and will survive accidental disconnection (such as [ssh\(1\)](#) connection timeout) or intentional detaching (with the 'c-b d' key strokes). **tmux** may be reattached using:

```
$ tmux attach
```

In **tmux**, a session is displayed on screen by a *client* and all sessions are managed by a single *server*. The server and each client are separate processes which communicate through a socket in */tmp*.

The options are as follows:

-2

Force **tmux** to assume the terminal supports 256 colours.

-C

Start in control mode (see the [CONTROL MODE](#) section). Given twice (**-CC**) disables echo.

-c shell-command

Execute *shell-command* using the default shell. If necessary, the **tmux** server will be started to retrieve the **default-shell** option. This option is for compatibility with [sh\(1\)](#) when **tmux** is used as a login shell.

-f file

Specify an alternative configuration file. By default, **tmux** loads the system configuration file from */etc/tmux.conf*, if present, then looks for a user configuration file at *~/.tmux.conf*.

The configuration file is a set of **tmux** commands which are executed in sequence when the server is first started. **tmux** loads configuration files once when the server process has started. The **source-file** command may be used to load a file later.

tmux shows any error messages from commands in configuration files in the first session created, and continues to process the rest of the configuration file.

-L socket-name

tmux stores the server socket in a directory under `TMUX_TMPDIR` or */tmp* if it is unset. The default socket is named *default*. This option allows a different socket name to be specified, allowing several independent **tmux** servers to be run. Unlike **-S** a full path is not necessary: the sockets are all created in the same directory.

If the socket is accidentally removed, the SIGUSR1 signal may be sent to the **tmux** server process to recreate it (note that this will fail if any parent directories are missing).

-I

Behave as a login shell. This flag currently has no effect and is for compatibility with other shells when using **tmux** as a login shell.

-S *socket-path*

Specify a full alternative path to the server socket. If **-S** is specified, the default socket directory is not used and any **-L** flag is ignored.

-u

tmux attempts to guess if the terminal is likely to support UTF-8 by checking the first of the `LC_ALL`, `LC_CTYPE` and `LANG` environment variables to be set for the string "UTF-8". This is not always correct: the **-u** flag explicitly informs **tmux** that UTF-8 is supported.

Note that **tmux** itself always accepts UTF-8; this controls whether it will send UTF-8 characters to the terminal it is running (if not, they are replaced by `'_'`).

-v

Request verbose logging. This option may be specified multiple times for increasing verbosity. Log messages will be saved into *tmux-client-PID.log* and *tmux-server-PID.log* files in the current directory, where *PID* is the PID of the server or client process.

command [*flags*]

This specifies one of a set of commands used to control **tmux**, as described in the following sections. If no commands are specified, the **new-session** command is assumed.

KEY BINDINGS

tmux may be controlled from an attached client by using a key combination of a prefix key, `'c-b'` (Ctrl-b) by default, followed by a command key.

The default command key bindings are:

| | |
|--------|---|
| C-b | Send the prefix key (C-b) through to the application. |
| C-o | Rotate the panes in the current window forwards. |
| C-z | Suspend the tmux client. |
| ! | Break the current pane out of the window. |
| " | Split the current pane into two, top and bottom. |
| # | List all paste buffers. |
| \$ | Rename the current session. |
| % | Split the current pane into two, left and right. |
| & | Kill the current window. |
| , | Prompt for a window index to select. |
| (| Switch the attached client to the previous session. |
|) | Switch the attached client to the next session. |
| , | Rename the current window. |
| - | Delete the most recently copied buffer of text. |
| . | Prompt for an index to move the current window. |
| 0 to 9 | Select windows 0 to 9. |
| : | Enter the tmux command prompt. |
| ; | Move to the previously active pane. |
| = | Choose which buffer to paste interactively from a list. |
| ? | List all key bindings. |
| D | Choose a client to detach. |
| L | |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| | Switch the attached client back to the last session. |
| [| Enter copy mode to copy text or view the history. |
|] | Paste the most recently copied buffer of text. |
| c | Create a new window. |
| d | Detach the current client. |
| f | Prompt to search for text in open windows. |
| i | Display some information about the current window. |
| l | Move to the previously selected window. |
| n | Change to the next window. |
| o | Select the next pane in the current window. |
| p | Change to the previous window. |
| q | Briefly display pane indexes. |
| r | Force redraw of the attached client. |
| m | Mark the current pane (see select-pane -m). |
| M | Clear the marked pane. |
| s | Select a new session for the attached client interactively. |
| t | Show the time. |
| w | Choose the current window interactively. |
| x | Kill the current pane. |
| z | Toggle zoom state of the current pane. |
| { | Swap the current pane with the previous pane. |
| } | Swap the current pane with the next pane. |
| ~ | Show previous messages from tmux , if any. |
| Page Up | Enter copy mode and scroll one page up. |
| Up, Down Left, Right | Change to the pane above, below, to the left, or to the right of the current pane. |
| M-1 to M-5 | Arrange panes in one of the five preset layouts: even-horizontal, even-vertical, main-horizontal, main-vertical, or tiled. |
| Space | Arrange the current window in the next preset layout. |
| M-n | Move to the next window with a bell or activity marker. |
| M-o | Rotate the panes in the current window backwards. |
| M-p | Move to the previous window with a bell or activity marker. |
| C-Up, C-Down C-Left, C-Right | Resize the current pane in steps of one cell. |
| M-Up, M-Down M-Left, M-Right | Resize the current pane in steps of five cells. |

Key bindings may be changed with the **bind-key** and **unbind-key** commands.

COMMANDS

This section contains a list of the commands supported by **tmux**. Most commands accept the optional **-t** (and sometimes **-s**) argument with one of *target-client*, *target-session*, *target-window*, or *target-pane*. These specify the client, session, window or pane which a command should affect.

target-client should be the name of the [pty\(4\)](#) file to which the client is connected, for example either of */dev/tty1* or *ttty1* for the client attached to */dev/tty1*. If no client is specified, **tmux** attempts to work out the client currently in use; if that fails, an error is reported. Clients may be listed with the **list-clients** command.

target-session is tried as, in order:

1. A session ID prefixed with a \$.
2. An exact name of a session (as listed by the **list-sessions** command).
3. The start of a session name, for example 'mysess' would match a session named 'mysession'.
4. An [fnmatch\(3\)](#) pattern which is matched against the session name.

If the session name is prefixed with an '=', only an exact match is accepted (so '=mysess' will only match exactly 'mysess', not 'mysession').

If a single session is found, it is used as the target session; multiple matches produce an error. If a session is omitted, the current session is used if available; if no current session is available, the most recently used is chosen.

target-window (or *src-window* or *dst-window*) specifies a window in the form *session:window*. *session* follows the same rules as for *target-session*, and *window* is looked for in order as:

1. A special token, listed below.
2. A window index, for example 'mysession:1' is window 1 in session 'mysession'.
3. A window ID, such as @1.
4. An exact window name, such as 'mysession:mywindow'.
5. The start of a window name, such as 'mysession:mywin'.
6. As an [fnmatch\(3\)](#) pattern matched against the window name.

Like sessions, a '=' prefix will do an exact match only. An empty window name specifies the next unused index if appropriate (for example the **new-window** and **link-window** commands) otherwise the current window in *session* is chosen.

The following special tokens are available to indicate particular windows. Each has a single-character alternative form.

| Token | | Meaning |
|------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| {start} | ^ | The lowest-numbered window |
| {end} | \$ | The highest-numbered window |
| {last} | ! | The last (previously current) window |
| {next} | + | The next window by number |
| {previous} | - | The previous window by number |

target-pane (or *src-pane* or *dst-pane*) may be a pane ID or takes a similar form to *target-window* but with the optional addition of a period followed by a pane index or pane ID, for example: 'mysession:mywindow.1'. If the pane index is omitted, the currently active pane in the specified window is used. The following special tokens are available for the pane index:

| Token | | Meaning |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| {last} | ! | The last (previously active) pane |
| {next} | + | The next pane by number |
| {previous} | - | The previous pane by number |
| {top} | | The top pane |
| {bottom} | | The bottom pane |
| {left} | | The leftmost pane |
| {right} | | The rightmost pane |
| {top-left} | | The top-left pane |
| {top-right} | | The top-right pane |
| {bottom-left} | | The bottom-left pane |
| {bottom-right} | | The bottom-right pane |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <code>{up-of}</code> | The pane above the active pane |
| <code>{down-of}</code> | The pane below the active pane |
| <code>{left-of}</code> | The pane to the left of the active pane |
| <code>{right-of}</code> | The pane to the right of the active pane |

The tokens '+' and '-' may be followed by an offset, for example:

```
select-window -t:+2
```

In addition, *target-session*, *target-window* or *target-pane* may consist entirely of the token '{mouse}' (alternative form '=') to specify the most recent mouse event (see the [MOUSE SUPPORT](#) section) or '{marked}' (alternative form '~') to specify the marked pane (see **select-pane -m**).

Sessions, window and panes are each numbered with a unique ID; session IDs are prefixed with a '\$', windows with a 'e', and panes with a '%'. These are unique and are unchanged for the life of the session, window or pane in the **tmux** server. The pane ID is passed to the child process of the pane in the `TMUX_PANE` environment variable. IDs may be displayed using the 'session_id', 'window_id', or 'pane_id' formats (see the [FORMATS](#) section) and the **display-message**, **list-sessions**, **list-windows** or **list-panes** commands.

shell-command arguments are [sh\(1\)](#) commands. This may be a single argument passed to the shell, for example:

```
new-window 'vi /etc/passwd'
```

Will run:

```
/bin/sh -c 'vi /etc/passwd'
```

Additionally, the **new-window**, **new-session**, **split-window**, **respawn-window** and **respawn-pane** commands allow *shell-command* to be given as multiple arguments and executed directly (without 'sh -c'). This can avoid issues with shell quoting. For example:

```
$ tmux new-window vi /etc/passwd
```

Will run [vi\(1\)](#) directly without invoking the shell.

command [*arguments*] refers to a **tmux** command, passed with the command and arguments separately, for example:

```
bind-key F1 set-window-option force-width 81
```

Or if using [sh\(1\)](#):

```
$ tmux bind-key F1 set-window-option force-width 81
```

Multiple commands may be specified together as part of a *command sequence*. Each command should be separated by spaces and a semicolon; commands are executed sequentially from left to right and lines ending with a backslash continue on to the next line, except when escaped by another backslash. A literal semicolon may be included by escaping it with a backslash (for example, when specifying a command sequence to **bind-key**).

Example **tmux** commands include:

```
refresh-client -t/dev/tty2

rename-session -tfirst newname

set-window-option -t:0 monitor-activity on

new-window ; split-window -d

bind-key R source-file ~/.tmux.conf \; \
    display-message "source-file done"
```

Or from [sh\(1\)](#):

```
$ tmux kill-window -t :1

$ tmux new-window \; split-window -d

$ tmux new-session -d 'vi /etc/passwd' \; split-window -d \; attach
```

CLIENTS AND SESSIONS

The **tmux** server manages clients, sessions, windows and panes. Clients are attached to sessions to interact with them, either when they are created with the **new-session** command, or later with the **attach-session** command. Each session has one or more windows *linked* into it. Windows may be linked to multiple sessions and are made up

of one or more panes, each of which contains a pseudo terminal. Commands for creating, linking and otherwise manipulating windows are covered in the [WINDOWS AND PANES](#) section.

The following commands are available to manage clients and sessions:

attach-session [-dEr] [-c *working-directory*] [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **attach**)

If run from outside **tmux**, create a new client in the current terminal and attach it to *target-session*. If used from inside, switch the current client. If **-d** is specified, any other clients attached to the session are detached. **-r** signifies the client is read-only (only keys bound to the **detach-client** or **switch-client** commands have any effect)

If no server is started, **attach-session** will attempt to start it; this will fail unless sessions are created in the configuration file.

The *target-session* rules for **attach-session** are slightly adjusted: if **tmux** needs to select the most recently used session, it will prefer the most recently used *unattached* session.

-c will set the session working directory (used for new windows) to *working-directory*.

If **-E** is used, the **update-environment** option will not be applied.

detach-client [-aP] [-s *target-session*] [-t *target-client*]

(alias: **detach**)

Detach the current client if bound to a key, the client specified with **-t**, or all clients currently attached to the session specified by **-s**. The **-a** option kills all but the client given with **-t**. If **-P** is given, send SIGHUP to the parent process of the client, typically causing it to exit.

has-session [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **has**)

Report an error and exit with 1 if the specified session does not exist. If it does exist, exit with 0.

kill-server

Kill the **tmux** server and clients and destroy all sessions.

kill-session [-aC] [-t *target-session*]

Destroy the given session, closing any windows linked to it and no other sessions, and detaching all clients attached to it. If **-a** is given, all sessions but the specified one is killed. The **-C** flag clears alerts (bell, activity, or silence) in all windows linked to the session.

list-clients [-F *format*] [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **lsc**)

List all clients attached to the server. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section. If *target-session* is specified, list only clients connected to that session.

list-commands [-F *format*]

(alias: **lscm**)

List the syntax of all commands supported by **tmux**.

list-sessions [-F *format*]

(alias: **ls**)

List all sessions managed by the server. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section.

lock-client [-t *target-client*]

(alias: **lockc**)

Lock *target-client*, see the **lock-server** command.

lock-session [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **locks**)

Lock all clients attached to *target-session*.

new-session [-AdDEP] [-c *start-directory*] [-F *format*] [-n *window-name*] [-s *session-name*] [-t *target-session*] [-x *width*] [-y *height*] [*shell-command*]

(alias: **new**)

Create a new session with name *session-name*.

The new session is attached to the current terminal unless **-d** is given. *window-name* and *shell-command* are the name of and shell command to execute in the initial window. If **-d** is used, **-x** and **-y** specify the size of the initial window (80 by 24 if not given).

If run from a terminal, any [termios\(4\)](#) special characters are saved and used for new windows in the new session.

The **-A** flag makes **new-session** behave like **attach-session** if *session-name* already exists; in this case, **-D** behaves like **-d** to **attach-session**.

If **-t** is given, the new session is *grouped* with *target-session*. This means they share the same set of windows - all windows from *target-session* are linked to the new session, any new windows are linked to both sessions and any windows closed removed from both sessions. The current and previous window and any session options remain independent and either session may be killed without affecting the other. **-n** and *shell-command* are invalid if **-t** is used.

The **-P** option prints information about the new session after it has been created. By default, it uses the format `'#{session_name}:'` but a different format may be specified with **-F**.

If **-E** is used, the **update-environment** option will not be applied.

refresh-client [-S] [-t *target-client*]

(alias: **refresh**)

Refresh the current client if bound to a key, or a single client if one is given with **-t**. If **-S** is specified, only update the client's status bar.

rename-session [-t *target-session*] *new-name*

(alias: **rename**)

Rename the session to *new-name*.

show-messages [-JT] [-t *target-client*]

(alias: **showmsgs**)

Show client messages or server information. Any messages displayed on the status line are saved in a per-client message log, up to a maximum of the limit set by the *message-limit* server option. With **-t**, display the log for *target-client*. **-J** and **-T** show debugging information about jobs and terminals.

source-file [-q] *path*

(alias: **source**)

Execute commands from *path*. If **-q** is given, no error will be returned if *path* does not exist.

start-server

(alias: **start**)

Start the **tmux** server, if not already running, without creating any sessions.

suspend-client [-t *target-client*]

(alias: **suspendc**)

Suspend a client by sending SIGTSTP (tty stop).

switch-client [-Elmpr] [-c *target-client*] [-t *target-session*] [-T *key-table*]

(alias: **switchc**)

Switch the current session for client *target-client* to *target-session*. If **-l**, **-n** or **-p** is used, the client is moved to the last, next or previous session respectively. **-r** toggles whether a client is read-only (see the **attach-session** command).

If **-E** is used, **update-environment** option will not be applied.

-T sets the client's key table; the next key from the client will be interpreted from *key-table*. This may be used to configure multiple prefix keys, or to bind commands to sequences of keys. For example, to make typing 'abc' run the **list-keys** command:

```
bind-key -Ttable2 c list-keys
bind-key -Ttable1 b switch-client -Ttable2
bind-key -Troot a switch-client -Ttable1
```

WINDOWS AND PANES

A **tmux** window may be in one of several modes. The default permits direct access to the terminal attached to the window. The other is copy mode, which permits a section of a window or its history to be copied to a *paste buffer* for later insertion into another window. This mode is entered with the **copy-mode** command, bound to '[' by default. It is also entered when a command that produces output, such as **list-keys**, is executed from a key binding.

The keys available depend on whether emacs or vi mode is selected (see the **mode-keys** option). The following keys are supported as appropriate for the mode:

| Function | vi | emacs |
|----------------------|--------|-------|
| Append selection | A | |
| Back to indentation | ^ | M-m |
| Bottom of history | G | M-< |
| Clear selection | Escape | C-g |
| Copy selection | Enter | M-w |
| Copy to named buffer | " | |
| Cursor down | j | Down |
| Cursor left | h | Left |

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Cursor right | l | Right |
| Cursor to bottom line | L | |
| Cursor to middle line | M | M-r |
| Cursor to top line | H | M-R |
| Cursor up | k | Up |
| Delete entire line | d | C-u |
| Delete/Copy to end of line | D | C-k |
| End of line | \$ | C-e |
| Go to line | : | g |
| Half page down | C-d | M-Down |
| Half page up | C-u | M-Up |
| Jump again | ; | ; |
| Jump again in reverse | , | , |
| Jump backward | F | F |
| Jump forward | f | f |
| Jump to backward | T | |
| Jump to forward | t | |
| Next page | C-f | Page down |
| Next paragraph | } | M-} |
| Next space | W | |
| Next space, end of word | E | |
| Next word | w | |
| Next word end | e | M-f |
| Other end of selection | o | |
| Paste buffer | p | C-y |
| Previous page | C-b | Page up |
| Previous paragraph | { | M-{ |
| Previous space | B | |
| Previous word | b | M-b |
| Quit mode | q | Escape |
| Rectangle toggle | v | R |
| Scroll down | C-Down or C-e | C-Down |
| Scroll up | C-Up or C-y | C-Up |
| Search again | n | n |
| Search again in reverse | N | N |
| Search backward | ? | C-r |
| Search forward | / | C-s |
| Select line | V | |
| Start of line | 0 | C-a |
| Start selection | Space | C-Space |
| Top of history | g | M-> |
| Transpose characters | | C-t |

The next and previous word keys use space and the ‘-’, ‘_’ and ‘@’ characters as word delimiters by default, but this can be adjusted by setting the *word-separators* session option. Next word moves to the start of the next word, next word end to the end of the next word and previous word to the start of the previous word. The three next and previous space keys work similarly but use a space alone as the word separator.

The jump commands enable quick movement within a line. For instance, typing ‘f’ followed by ‘/’ will move the cursor to the next ‘/’ character on the current line. A ‘;’ will then jump to the next occurrence.

Commands in copy mode may be prefaced by an optional repeat count. With vi key bindings, a prefix is entered using the number keys; with emacs, the Alt (meta) key and a number begins prefix entry. For example, to move the cursor forward by ten words, use ‘M-10 M-f’ in emacs mode, and ‘10w’ in vi.

Mode key bindings are defined in a set of named tables: *vi-edit* and *emacs-edit* for keys used when line editing at the command prompt; *vi-choice* and *emacs-choice* for keys used when choosing from lists (such as produced by the **choose-window** command); and *vi-copy* and *emacs-copy* used in copy mode. The tables may be viewed with the **list-keys** command and keys modified or removed with **bind-key** and **unbind-key**. If **append-selection**, **copy-selection**, or **start-named-buffer** are given the -x flag, **tmux** will not exit copy mode after copying. **copy-pipe**

copies the selection and pipes it to a command. For example the following will bind 'C-w' not to exit after copying and 'C-q' to copy the selection into `/tmp` as well as the paste buffer:

```
bind-key -temacs-copy C-w copy-selection -x
bind-key -temacs-copy C-q copy-pipe "cat >/tmp/out"
```

The paste buffer key pastes the first line from the top paste buffer on the stack.

The synopsis for the **copy-mode** command is:

copy-mode [-Meu] [-t *target-pane*]

Enter copy mode. The **-u** option scrolls one page up. **-M** begins a mouse drag (only valid if bound to a mouse key binding, see [MOUSE SUPPORT](#)). **-e** specifies that scrolling to the bottom of the history (to the visible screen) should exit copy mode. While in copy mode, pressing a key other than those used for scrolling will disable this behaviour. This is intended to allow fast scrolling through a pane's history, for example with:

```
bind PageUp copy-mode -eu
```

Each window displayed by **tmux** may be split into one or more *panes*; each pane takes up a certain area of the display and is a separate terminal. A window may be split into panes using the **split-window** command. Windows may be split horizontally (with the **-h** flag) or vertically. Panes may be resized with the **resize-pane** command (bound to 'C-up', 'C-down', 'C-left' and 'C-right' by default), the current pane may be changed with the **select-pane** command and the **rotate-window** and **swap-pane** commands may be used to swap panes without changing their position. Panes are numbered beginning from zero in the order they are created.

A number of preset *layouts* are available. These may be selected with the **select-layout** command or cycled with **next-layout** (bound to 'space' by default); once a layout is chosen, panes within it may be moved and resized as normal.

The following layouts are supported:

even-horizontal

Panes are spread out evenly from left to right across the window.

even-vertical

Panes are spread evenly from top to bottom.

main-horizontal

A large (main) pane is shown at the top of the window and the remaining panes are spread from left to right in the leftover space at the bottom. Use the *main-pane-height* window option to specify the height of the top pane.

main-vertical

Similar to **main-horizontal** but the large pane is placed on the left and the others spread from top to bottom along the right. See the *main-pane-width* window option.

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Panes are spread out as evenly as possible over the window in both rows and columns.

In addition, **select-layout** may be used to apply a previously used layout - the **list-windows** command displays the layout of each window in a form suitable for use with **select-layout**. For example:

```
$ tmux list-windows
0: ksh [159x48]
  layout: bb62,159x48,0,0{79x48,0,0,79x48,80,0}
$ tmux select-layout bb62,159x48,0,0{79x48,0,0,79x48,80,0}
```

tmux automatically adjusts the size of the layout for the current window size. Note that a layout cannot be applied to a window with more panes than that from which the layout was originally defined.

Commands related to windows and panes are as follows:

break-pane [-dP] [-F *format*] [-s *src-pane*] [-t *dst-window*]

(alias: **breakp**)

Break *src-pane* off from its containing window to make it the only pane in *dst-window*. If **-d** is given, the new window does not become the current window. The **-P** option prints information about the new window after it has been created. By default, it uses the format '`{session_name}:{window_index}`' but a different format may be specified with **-F**.

capture-pane [-aepPq] [-b *buffer-name*] [-E *end-line*] [-S *start-line*] [-t *target-pane*]

(alias: **capturep**)

Capture the contents of a pane. If **-p** is given, the output goes to stdout, otherwise to the buffer specified with **-b** or a new buffer if omitted. If **-a** is given, the alternate screen is used, and the history is not accessible. If no alternate screen exists, an error will be returned unless **-q** is given. If **-e** is given, the output includes escape sequences for text and background attributes. **-C** also escapes non-printable characters as octal `\xxx`. **-J**

joins wrapped lines and preserves trailing spaces at each line's end. **-P** captures only any output that the pane has received that is the beginning of an as-yet incomplete escape sequence.

-S and **-E** specify the starting and ending line numbers, zero is the first line of the visible pane and negative numbers are lines in the history. '-' to **-S** is the start of the history and to **-E** the end of the visible pane. The default is to capture only the visible contents of the pane.

choose-client [-F *format*] [-t *target-window*] [*template*]

Put a window into client choice mode, allowing a client to be selected interactively from a list. After a client is chosen, '%' is replaced by the client [pty\(4\)](#) path in *template* and the result executed as a command. If *template* is not given, "detach-client -t '%" is used. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section. This command works only if at least one client is attached.

choose-session [-F *format*] [-t *target-window*] [*template*]

Put a window into session choice mode, where a session may be selected interactively from a list. When one is chosen, '%' is replaced by the session name in *template* and the result executed as a command. If *template* is not given, "switch-client -t '%" is used. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section. This command works only if at least one client is attached.

choose-tree [-suw] [-b *session-template*] [-c *window-template*] [-S *format*] [-W *format*] [-t *target-window*]

Put a window into tree choice mode, where either sessions or windows may be selected interactively from a list. By default, windows belonging to a session are indented to show their relationship to a session.

Note that the **choose-window** and **choose-session** commands are wrappers around **choose-tree**.

If **-s** is given, will show sessions. If **-w** is given, will show windows.

By default, the tree is collapsed and sessions must be expanded to windows with the right arrow key. The **-u** option will start with all sessions expanded instead.

If **-b** is given, will override the default session command. Note that '%' can be used and will be replaced with the session name. The default option if not specified is "switch-client -t '%" . If **-c** is given, will override the default window command. Like **-b**, '%' can be used and will be replaced with the session name and window index. When a window is chosen from the list, the session command is run before the window command.

If **-S** is given will display the specified format instead of the default session format. If **-W** is given will display the specified format instead of the default window format. For the meaning of the **-s** and **-w** options, see the [FORMATS](#) section.

This command works only if at least one client is attached.

choose-window [-F *format*] [-t *target-window*] [*template*]

Put a window into window choice mode, where a window may be chosen interactively from a list. After a window is selected, '%' is replaced by the session name and window index in *template* and the result executed as a command. If *template* is not given, "select-window -t '%" is used. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section. This command works only if at least one client is attached.

display-panes [-t *target-client*] [*template*]

(alias: **displayp**)

Display a visible indicator of each pane shown by *target-client*. See the **display-panes-time**, **display-panes-colour**, and **display-panes-active-colour** session options. While the indicator is on screen, a pane may be chosen with the '0' to '9' keys, which will cause *template* to be executed as a command with '%' substituted by the pane ID. The default *template* is "select-pane -t '%" .

find-window [-CNT] [-F *format*] [-t *target-window*] *match-string*

(alias: **findw**)

Search for the [fnmatch\(3\)](#) pattern *match-string* in window names, titles, and visible content (but not history). The flags control matching behavior: **-C** matches only visible window contents, **-N** matches only the window name and **-T** matches only the window title. The default is **-CNT**. If only one window is matched, it'll be automatically selected, otherwise a choice list is shown. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section. This command works only if at least one client is attached.

join-pane [-bdhv] [-l *size* | -p *percentage*] [-s *src-pane*] [-t *dst-pane*]

(alias: **joinp**)

Like **split-window**, but instead of splitting *dst-pane* and creating a new pane, split it and move *src-pane* into the space. This can be used to reverse **break-pane**. The **-b** option causes *src-pane* to be joined to left of or above *dst-pane*.

If **-s** is omitted and a marked pane is present (see **select-pane -m**), the marked pane is used rather than the current pane.

kill-pane [-a] [-t *target-pane*]

(alias: **killp**)

Destroy the given pane. If no panes remain in the containing window, it is also destroyed. The **-a** option kills all but the pane given with **-t**.

kill-window [-a] [-t *target-window*]

(alias: **killw**)

Kill the current window or the window at *target-window*, removing it from any sessions to which it is linked. The **-a** option kills all but the window given with **-t**.

last-pane [-de] [-t *target-window*]

(alias: **lastp**)

Select the last (previously selected) pane. **-e** enables or **-d** disables input to the pane.

last-window [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **last**)

Select the last (previously selected) window. If no *target-session* is specified, select the last window of the current session.

link-window [-adk] [-s *src-window*] [-t *dst-window*]

(alias: **linkw**)

Link the window at *src-window* to the specified *dst-window*. If *dst-window* is specified and no such window exists, the *src-window* is linked there. With **-a**, the window is moved to the next index up (following windows are moved if necessary). If **-k** is given and *dst-window* exists, it is killed, otherwise an error is generated. If **-d** is given, the newly linked window is not selected.

list-panes [-as] [-F *format*] [-t *target*]

(alias: **lsp**)

If **-a** is given, *target* is ignored and all panes on the server are listed. If **-s** is given, *target* is a session (or the current session). If neither is given, *target* is a window (or the current window). For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section.

list-windows [-a] [-F *format*] [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **lsw**)

If **-a** is given, list all windows on the server. Otherwise, list windows in the current session or in *target-session*. For the meaning of the **-F** flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section.

move-pane [-bdhv] [-l *size* | -p *percentage*] [-s *src-pane*] [-t *dst-pane*]

(alias: **movep**)

Like **join-pane**, but *src-pane* and *dst-pane* may belong to the same window.

move-window [-ardk] [-s *src-window*] [-t *dst-window*]

(alias: **movew**)

This is similar to **link-window**, except the window at *src-window* is moved to *dst-window*. With **-r**, all windows in the session are renumbered in sequential order, respecting the **base-index** option.

new-window [-adkP] [-c *start-directory*] [-F *format*] [-n *window-name*] [-t *target-window*] [*shell-command*]

(alias: **neww**)

Create a new window. With **-a**, the new window is inserted at the next index up from the specified *target-window*, moving windows up if necessary, otherwise *target-window* is the new window location.

If **-d** is given, the session does not make the new window the current window. *target-window* represents the window to be created; if the target already exists an error is shown, unless the **-k** flag is used, in which case it is destroyed. *shell-command* is the command to execute. If *shell-command* is not specified, the value of the **default-command** option is used. **-c** specifies the working directory in which the new window is created.

When the shell command completes, the window closes. See the **remain-on-exit** option to change this behaviour.

The TERM environment variable must be set to "screen" for all programs running *inside* **tmux**. New windows will automatically have "TERM=screen" added to their environment, but care must be taken not to reset this in shell start-up files.

The **-P** option prints information about the new window after it has been created. By default, it uses the format `'#{session_name}:#{window_index}'` but a different format may be specified with **-F**.

next-layout [-t *target-window*]

(alias: **nextl**)

Move a window to the next layout and rearrange the panes to fit.

next-window [-a] [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **next**)

Move to the next window in the session. If **-a** is used, move to the next window with an alert.

pipe-pane [-o] [-t *target-pane*] [*shell-command*]

(alias: **pipep**)

Pipe any output sent by the program in *target-pane* to a shell command. A pane may only be piped to one command at a time, any existing pipe is closed before *shell-command* is executed. The *shell-command* string may contain the special character sequences supported by the **status-left** option. If no *shell-command* is given, the current pipe (if any) is closed.

The **-o** option only opens a new pipe if no previous pipe exists, allowing a pipe to be toggled with a single key, for example:

```
bind-key C-p pipe-pane -o 'cat >>~/output.#I-#P'
```

previous-layout [-t *target-window*]

(alias: **prevl**)

Move to the previous layout in the session.

previous-window [-a] [-t *target-session*]

(alias: **prev**)

Move to the previous window in the session. With **-a**, move to the previous window with an alert.

rename-window [-t *target-window*] *new-name*

(alias: **renamew**)

Rename the current window, or the window at *target-window* if specified, to *new-name*.

resize-pane [-DLMRUZ] [-t *target-pane*] [-x *width*] [-y *height*] [*adjustment*]

(alias: **resizew**)

Resize a pane, up, down, left or right by *adjustment* with **-U**, **-D**, **-L** or **-R**, or to an absolute size with **-x** or **-y**. The *adjustment* is given in lines or cells (the default is 1).

With **-Z**, the active pane is toggled between zoomed (occupying the whole of the window) and unzoomed (its normal position in the layout).

-M begins mouse resizing (only valid if bound to a mouse key binding, see [MOUSE SUPPORT](#)).

respawn-pane [-k] [-t *target-pane*] [*shell-command*]

(alias: **respawnp**)

Reactivate a pane in which the command has exited (see the **remain-on-exit** window option). If *shell-command* is not given, the command used when the pane was created is executed. The pane must be already inactive, unless **-k** is given, in which case any existing command is killed.

respawn-window [-k] [-t *target-window*] [*shell-command*]

(alias: **respawnw**)

Reactivate a window in which the command has exited (see the **remain-on-exit** window option). If *shell-command* is not given, the command used when the window was created is executed. The window must be already inactive, unless **-k** is given, in which case any existing command is killed.

rotate-window [-DU] [-t *target-window*]

(alias: **rotatew**)

Rotate the positions of the panes within a window, either upward (numerically lower) with **-U** or downward (numerically higher).

select-layout [-nop] [-t *target-window*] [*layout-name*]

(alias: **selectl**)

Choose a specific layout for a window. If *layout-name* is not given, the last preset layout used (if any) is reapplied. **-n** and **-p** are equivalent to the **next-layout** and **previous-layout** commands. **-o** applies the last set layout if possible (undoes the most recent layout change).

select-pane [-DdegLIMmRU] [-P *style*] [-t *target-pane*]

(alias: **selectp**)

Make pane *target-pane* the active pane in window *target-window*, or set its style (with **-P**). If one of **-D**, **-L**, **-R**, or **-U** is used, respectively the pane below, to the left, to the right, or above the target pane is used. **-I** is the same as using the **last-pane** command. **-e** enables or **-d** disables input to the pane.

-m and **-M** are used to set and clear the *marked pane*. There is one marked pane at a time, setting a new marked pane clears the last. The marked pane is the default target for **-s** to **join-pane**, **swap-pane** and **swap-window**.

Each pane has a style: by default the **window-style** and **window-active-style** options are used, **select-pane -P** sets the style for a single pane. For example, to set the pane 1 background to red:

```
select-pane -t:.1 -P 'bg=red'
```

-g shows the current pane style.

select-window [-lnPT] [-t *target-window*]

(alias: **selectw**)

Select the window at *target-window*. **-l**, **-n** and **-p** are equivalent to the **last-window**, **next-window** and **previous-window** commands. If **-T** is given and the selected window is already the current window, the command behaves like **last-window**.

split-window [-bdhvP] [-c *start-directory*] [-l *size* | -p *percentage*] [-t *target-pane*] [*shell-command*] [-F *format*]
(alias: **splitw**)

Create a new pane by splitting *target-pane*: **-h** does a horizontal split and **-v** a vertical split; if neither is specified, **-v** is assumed. The **-l** and **-p** options specify the size of the new pane in lines (for vertical split) or in cells (for horizontal split), or as a percentage, respectively. The **-b** option causes the new pane to be created to the left of or above *target-pane*. All other options have the same meaning as for the **new-window** command.

swap-pane [-dDU] [-s *src-pane*] [-t *dst-pane*]
(alias: **swapp**)

Swap two panes. If **-U** is used and no source pane is specified with **-s**, *dst-pane* is swapped with the previous pane (before it numerically); **-D** swaps with the next pane (after it numerically). **-d** instructs **tmux** not to change the active pane.

If **-s** is omitted and a marked pane is present (see **select-pane -m**), the marked pane is used rather than the current pane.

swap-window [-d] [-s *src-window*] [-t *dst-window*]
(alias: **swapw**)

This is similar to **link-window**, except the source and destination windows are swapped. It is an error if no window exists at *src-window*.

Like **swap-pane**, if **-s** is omitted and a marked pane is present (see **select-pane -m**), the window containing the marked pane is used rather than the current window.

unlink-window [-k] [-t *target-window*]
(alias: **unlinkw**)

Unlink *target-window*. Unless **-k** is given, a window may be unlinked only if it is linked to multiple sessions - windows may not be linked to no sessions; if **-k** is specified and the window is linked to only one session, it is unlinked and destroyed.

KEY BINDINGS

tmux allows a command to be bound to most keys, with or without a prefix key. When specifying keys, most represent themselves (for example 'a' to 'z'). Ctrl keys may be prefixed with 'c-' or '^', and Alt (meta) with 'M-'. In addition, the following special key names are accepted: *Up*, *Down*, *Left*, *Right*, *BSpace*, *BTab*, *DC* (Delete), *End*, *Enter*, *Escape*, *F1* to *F12*, *Home*, *IC* (Insert), *NPage/PageDown/PgDn*, *PPage/PageUp/PgUp*, *Space*, and *Tab*. Note that to bind the '"' or "'" keys, quotation marks are necessary, for example:

```
bind-key '"' split-window
bind-key "'" new-window
```

Commands related to key bindings are as follows:

bind-key [-cnr] [-t *mode-table*] [-T *key-table*] *key command* [*arguments*]
(alias: **bind**)

Bind *key* to *command*. Keys are bound in a key table. By default (without **-T**), the key is bound in the *prefix* key table. This table is used for keys pressed after the prefix key (for example, by default 'c' is bound to **new-window** in the *prefix* table, so 'c-b c' creates a new window). The *root* table is used for keys pressed without the prefix key: binding 'c' to **new-window** in the *root* table (not recommended) means a plain 'c' will create a new window. **-n** is an alias for **-T root**. Keys may also be bound in custom key tables and the **switch-client -T** command used to switch to them from a key binding. The **-r** flag indicates this key may repeat, see the **repeat-time** option.

If **-t** is present, *key* is bound in *mode-table*: the binding for command mode with **-c** or for normal mode without. See the [WINDOWS AND PANES](#) section and the **list-keys** command for information on mode key bindings.

To view the default bindings and possible commands, see the **list-keys** command.

list-keys [-t *mode-table*] [-T *key-table*]
(alias: **lsk**)

List all key bindings. Without **-T** all key tables are printed. With **-T** only *key-table*.

With **-t**, the key bindings in *mode-table* are listed; this may be one of: *vi-edit*, *emacs-edit*, *vi-choice*, *emacs-choice*, *vi-copy* or *emacs-copy*.

send-keys [-IMR] [-t *target-pane*] *key ...*
(alias: **send**)

Send a key or keys to a window. Each argument *key* is the name of the key (such as 'c-a' or 'npage') to send; if the string is not recognised as a key, it is sent as a series of characters. The **-l** flag disables key

name lookup and sends the keys literally. All arguments are sent sequentially from first to last. The **-R** flag causes the terminal state to be reset.

-M passes through a mouse event (only valid if bound to a mouse key binding, see [MOUSE SUPPORT](#)).

send-prefix [-2] [-t *target-pane*]

Send the prefix key, or with **-2** the secondary prefix key, to a window as if it was pressed.

unbind-key [-acn] [-t *mode-table*] [-T *key-table*] *key*

(alias: **unbind**)

Unbind the command bound to *key*. **-c**, **-n**, **-T** and **-t** are the same as for **bind-key**. If **-a** is present, all key bindings are removed.

OPTIONS

The appearance and behaviour of **tmux** may be modified by changing the value of various options. There are three types of option: *server options*, *session options* and *window options*.

The **tmux** server has a set of global options which do not apply to any particular window or session. These are altered with the **set-option -s** command, or displayed with the **show-options -s** command.

In addition, each individual session may have a set of session options, and there is a separate set of global session options. Sessions which do not have a particular option configured inherit the value from the global session options. Session options are set or unset with the **set-option** command and may be listed with the **show-options** command. The available server and session options are listed under the **set-option** command.

Similarly, a set of window options is attached to each window, and there is a set of global window options from which any unset options are inherited. Window options are altered with the **set-window-option** command and can be listed with the **show-window-options** command. All window options are documented with the **set-window-option** command.

tmux also supports user options which are prefixed with a 'e'. User options may have any name, so long as they are prefixed with 'e', and be set to any string. For example:

```
$ tmux setw -q @foo "abc123"
$ tmux showw -v @foo
abc123
```

Commands which set options are as follows:

set-option [-agoqsuw] [-t *target-session* | *target-window*] *option value*

(alias: **set**)

Set a window option with **-w** (equivalent to the **set-window-option** command), a server option with **-s**, otherwise a session option. If **-g** is given, the global session or window option is set. The **-u** flag unsets an option, so a session inherits the option from the global options (or with **-g**, restores a global option to the default).

The **-o** flag prevents setting an option that is already set and the **-q** flag suppresses errors about unknown or ambiguous options.

With **-a**, and if the option expects a string or a style, *value* is appended to the existing setting. For example:

```
set -g status-left "foo"
set -ag status-left "bar"
```

Will result in 'foobar'. And:

```
set -g status-style "bg=red"
set -ag status-style "fg=blue"
```

Will result in a red background *and* blue foreground. Without **-a**, the result would be the default background and a blue foreground.

Available window options are listed under **set-window-option**.

value depends on the option and may be a number, a string, or a flag (on, off, or omitted to toggle).

Available server options are:

buffer-limit *number*

Set the number of buffers; as new buffers are added to the top of the stack, old ones are removed from the bottom if necessary to maintain this maximum length.

default-terminal *terminal*

Set the default terminal for new windows created in this session - the default value of the TERM environment variable. For **tmux** to work correctly, this *must* be set to 'screen', 'tmux' or a derivative of

them.

escape-time *time*

Set the time in milliseconds for which **tmux** waits after an escape is input to determine if it is part of a function or meta key sequences. The default is 500 milliseconds.

exit-unattached [**on** | **off**]

If enabled, the server will exit when there are no attached clients.

focus-events [**on** | **off**]

When enabled, focus events are requested from the terminal if supported and passed through to applications running in **tmux**. Attached clients should be detached and attached again after changing this option.

history-file *path*

If not empty, a file to which **tmux** will write command prompt history on exit and load it from on start.

message-limit *number*

Set the number of error or information messages to save in the message log for each client. The default is 100.

set-clipboard [**on** | **off**]

Attempt to set the terminal clipboard content using the `\e[52;...007` [xterm\(1\)](#) escape sequences. This option is on by default if there is an *Ms* entry in the [terminfo\(5\)](#) description for the client terminal. Note that this feature needs to be enabled in [xterm\(1\)](#) by setting the resource:

```
disallowedWindowOps: 20,21,SetXprop
```

Or changing this property from the [xterm\(1\)](#) interactive menu when required.

terminal-overrides *string*

Contains a list of entries which override terminal descriptions read using [terminfo\(5\)](#). *string* is a comma-separated list of items each a colon-separated string made up of a terminal type pattern (matched using [fnmatch\(3\)](#)) and a set of *name=value* entries.

For example, to set the 'clear' [terminfo\(5\)](#) entry to `\e[H\e[2J` for all terminal types and the 'dch1' entry to `\e[P` for the 'rxvt' terminal type, the option could be set to the string:

```
"*:clear=\e[H\e[2J,rxvt:dch1=\e[P"
```

The terminal entry value is passed through [strunvis\(3\)](#) before interpretation. The default value forcibly corrects the 'colors' entry for terminals which support 256 colours:

```
"*256col*:colors=256,xterm*:XT"
```

Available session options are:

assume-paste-time *milliseconds*

If keys are entered faster than one in *milliseconds*, they are assumed to have been pasted rather than typed and **tmux** key bindings are not processed. The default is one millisecond and zero disables.

base-index *index*

Set the base index from which an unused index should be searched when a new window is created. The default is zero.

bell-action [**any** | **none** | **current** | **other**]

Set action on window bell. **any** means a bell in any window linked to a session causes a bell in the current window of that session, **none** means all bells are ignored, **current** means only bells in windows other than the current window are ignored and **other** means bells in the current window are ignored but not those in other windows.

bell-on-alert [**on** | **off**]

If on, ring the terminal bell when an alert occurs.

default-command *shell-command*

Set the command used for new windows (if not specified when the window is created) to *shell-command*, which may be any [sh\(1\)](#) command. The default is an empty string, which instructs **tmux** to create a login shell using the value of the **default-shell** option.

default-shell *path*

Specify the default shell. This is used as the login shell for new windows when the **default-command** option is set to empty, and must be the full path of the executable. When started **tmux** tries to set a default value from the first suitable of the SHELL environment variable, the shell returned by [getpwnuid\(3\)](#), or `/bin/sh`. This option should be configured when **tmux** is used as a login shell.

destroy-unattached [*on* | *off*]

If enabled and the session is no longer attached to any clients, it is destroyed.

detach-on-destroy [*on* | *off*]

If on (the default), the client is detached when the session it is attached to is destroyed. If off, the client is switched to the most recently active of the remaining sessions.

display-panes-active-colour *colour*

Set the colour used by the **display-panes** command to show the indicator for the active pane.

display-panes-colour *colour*

Set the colour used by the **display-panes** command to show the indicators for inactive panes.

display-panes-time *time*

Set the time in milliseconds for which the indicators shown by the **display-panes** command appear.

display-time *time*

Set the amount of time for which status line messages and other on-screen indicators are displayed. If set to 0, messages and indicators are displayed until a key is pressed. *time* is in milliseconds.

history-limit *lines*

Set the maximum number of lines held in window history. This setting applies only to new windows - existing window histories are not resized and retain the limit at the point they were created.

key-table *key-table*

Set the default key table to *key-table* instead of *root*.

lock-after-time *number*

Lock the session (like the **lock-session** command) after *number* seconds of inactivity. The default is not to lock (set to 0).

lock-command *shell-command*

Command to run when locking each client. The default is to run [lock\(1\)](#) with **-np**.

message-command-style *style*

Set status line message command style, where *style* is a comma-separated list of characteristics to be specified.

These may be 'bg=*colour*' to set the background colour, 'fg=*colour*' to set the foreground colour, and a list of attributes as specified below.

The colour is one of: **black**, **red**, **green**, **yellow**, **blue**, **magenta**, **cyan**, **white**, aixterm bright variants (if supported: **brightred**, **brightgreen**, and so on), **colour0** to **colour255** from the 256-colour set, **default**, or a hexadecimal RGB string such as '#ffffff', which chooses the closest match from the default 256-colour set.

The attributes is either **none** or a comma-delimited list of one or more of: **bright** (or **bold**), **dim**, **underscore**, **blink**, **reverse**, **hidden**, or **italics**, to turn an attribute on, or an attribute prefixed with 'no' to turn one off.

Examples are:

```
fg=yellow,bold,underscore,blink
bg=black,fg=default,noreverse
```

With the **-a** flag to the **set-option** command the new style is added otherwise the existing style is replaced.

message-style *style*

Set status line message style. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

mouse [*on* | *off*]

If on, **tmux** captures the mouse and allows mouse events to be bound as key bindings. See the [MOUSE SUPPORT](#) section for details.

prefix *key*

Set the key accepted as a prefix key. In addition to the standard keys described under [KEY BINDINGS](#), **prefix** can be set to the special key 'None' to set no prefix.

prefix2 *key*

Set a secondary key accepted as a prefix key. Like **prefix**, **prefix2** can be set to 'None'.

renumber-windows [*on* | *off*]

If on, when a window is closed in a session, automatically renumber the other windows in numerical order. This respects the **base-index** option if it has been set. If off, do not renumber the windows.

repeat-time *time*

Allow multiple commands to be entered without pressing the prefix-key again in the specified *time* milliseconds (the default is 500). Whether a key repeats may be set when it is bound using the **-r** flag to **bind-key**. Repeat is enabled for the default keys bound to the **resize-pane** command.

set-remain-on-exit [**on** | **off**]

Set the **remain-on-exit** window option for any windows first created in this session. When this option is true, windows in which the running program has exited do not close, instead remaining open but inactivate. Use the **respawn-window** command to reactivate such a window, or the **kill-window** command to destroy it.

set-titles [**on** | **off**]

Attempt to set the client terminal title using the *ts/* and *fs/* [terminfo\(5\)](#) entries if they exist. **tmux** automatically sets these to the `\e]0;...\007` sequence if the terminal appears to be [xterm\(1\)](#). This option is off by default.

set-titles-string *string*

String used to set the window title if **set-titles** is on. Formats are expanded, see the [FORMATS](#) section.

status [**on** | **off**]

Show or hide the status line.

status-interval *interval*

Update the status bar every *interval* seconds. By default, updates will occur every 15 seconds. A setting of zero disables redrawing at interval.

status-justify [**left** | **centre** | **right**]

Set the position of the window list component of the status line: left, centre or right justified.

status-keys [**vi** | **emacs**]

Use vi or emacs-style key bindings in the status line, for example at the command prompt. The default is emacs, unless the VISUAL or EDITOR environment variables are set and contain the string 'vi'.

status-left *string*

Display *string* (by default the session name) to the left of the status bar. *string* will be passed through [strftime\(3\)](#) and formats (see [FORMATS](#)) will be expanded. It may also contain the special character sequence `#[]` to change the colour or attributes, for example `#[fg=red,bright]` to set a bright red foreground. See the **message-command-style** option for a description of colours and attributes.

For details on how the names and titles can be set see the [NAMES AND TITLES](#) section.

Examples are:

```
#{sysctl vm.loadavg}
#[fg=yellow,bold]#(apm -l)%%#[default] [#S]
```

The default is `'[#S] '`.

status-left-length *length*

Set the maximum *length* of the left component of the status bar. The default is 10.

status-left-style *style*

Set the style of the left part of the status line. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

status-position [**top** | **bottom**]

Set the position of the status line.

status-right *string*

Display *string* to the right of the status bar. By default, the current window title in double quotes, the date and the time are shown. As with **status-left**, *string* will be passed to [strftime\(3\)](#) and character pairs are replaced.

status-right-length *length*

Set the maximum *length* of the right component of the status bar. The default is 40.

status-right-style *style*

Set the style of the right part of the status line. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

status-style *style*

Set status line style. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

update-environment *variables*

Set a space-separated string containing a list of environment variables to be copied into the session environment when a new session is created or an existing session is attached. Any variables that do not exist in the source environment are set to be removed from the session environment (as if **-r** was given to the **set-environment** command). The default is "DISPLAY SSH_ASKPASS SSH_AUTH_SOCK SSH_AGENT_PID SSH_CONNECTION WINDOWID XAUTHORITY".

visual-activity [**on** | **off**]

If on, display a status line message when activity occurs in a window for which the **monitor-activity** window option is enabled.

visual-bell [**on** | **off**]

If this option is on, a message is shown on a bell instead of it being passed through to the terminal (which normally makes a sound). Also see the **bell-action** option.

visual-silence [**on** | **off**]

If **monitor-silence** is enabled, prints a message after the interval has expired on a given window.

word-separators *string*

Sets the session's conception of what characters are considered word separators, for the purposes of the next and previous word commands in copy mode. The default is ' **_@**'.

set-window-option [**-agoqu**] [**-t target-window**] *option value*

(alias: **setw**)

Set a window option. The **-a**, **-g**, **-o**, **-q** and **-u** flags work similarly to the **set-option** command.

Supported window options are:

aggressive-resize [**on** | **off**]

Aggressively resize the chosen window. This means that **tmux** will resize the window to the size of the smallest session for which it is the current window, rather than the smallest session to which it is attached. The window may resize when the current window is changed on another sessions; this option is good for full-screen programs which support SIGWINCH and poor for interactive programs such as shells.

allow-rename [**on** | **off**]

Allow programs to change the window name using a terminal escape sequence (**\ek...\e**). The default is on.

alternate-screen [**on** | **off**]

This option configures whether programs running inside **tmux** may use the terminal alternate screen feature, which allows the *smcup* and *rmcup* [terminfo\(5\)](#) capabilities. The alternate screen feature preserves the contents of the window when an interactive application starts and restores it on exit, so that any output visible before the application starts reappears unchanged after it exits. The default is on.

automatic-rename [**on** | **off**]

Control automatic window renaming. When this setting is enabled, **tmux** will rename the window automatically using the format specified by **automatic-rename-format**. This flag is automatically disabled for an individual window when a name is specified at creation with **new-window** or **new-session**, or later with **rename-window**, or with a terminal escape sequence. It may be switched off globally with:

```
set-window-option -g automatic-rename off
```

automatic-rename-format *format*

The format (see [FORMATS](#)) used when the **automatic-rename** option is enabled.

clock-mode-colour *colour*

Set clock colour.

clock-mode-style [**12** | **24**]

Set clock hour format.

force-height *height*

force-width *width*

Prevent **tmux** from resizing a window to greater than *width* or *height*. A value of zero restores the default unlimited setting.

main-pane-height *height*

main-pane-width *width*

Set the width or height of the main (left or top) pane in the **main-horizontal** or **main-vertical** layouts.

mode-keys [**vi** | **emacs**]

Use vi or emacs-style key bindings in copy and choice modes. As with the **status-keys** option, the default is emacs, unless VISUAL or EDITOR contains 'vi'.

mode-style *style*

Set window modes style. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

monitor-activity [on | off]

Monitor for activity in the window. Windows with activity are highlighted in the status line.

monitor-silence [interval]

Monitor for silence (no activity) in the window within **interval** seconds. Windows that have been silent for the interval are highlighted in the status line. An interval of zero disables the monitoring.

other-pane-height *height*

Set the height of the other panes (not the main pane) in the **main-horizontal** layout. If this option is set to 0 (the default), it will have no effect. If both the **main-pane-height** and **other-pane-height** options are set, the main pane will grow taller to make the other panes the specified height, but will never shrink to do so.

other-pane-width *width*

Like **other-pane-height**, but set the width of other panes in the **main-vertical** layout.

pane-active-border-style *style*

Set the pane border style for the currently active pane. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option. Attributes are ignored.

pane-base-index *index*

Like **base-index**, but set the starting index for pane numbers.

pane-border-format *format*

Set the text shown in pane border status lines.

pane-border-status [off | top | bottom]

Turn pane border status lines off or set their position.

pane-border-style *style*

Set the pane border style for panes aside from the active pane. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option. Attributes are ignored.

remain-on-exit [on | off]

A window with this flag set is not destroyed when the program running in it exits. The window may be reactivated with the **respawn-window** command.

synchronize-panes [on | off]

Duplicate input to any pane to all other panes in the same window (only for panes that are not in any special mode).

window-active-style *style*

Set the style for the window's active pane. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

window-status-activity-style *style*

Set status line style for windows with an activity alert. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

window-status-bell-style *style*

Set status line style for windows with a bell alert. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

window-status-current-format *string*

Like *window-status-format*, but is the format used when the window is the current window.

window-status-current-style *style*

Set status line style for the currently active window. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

window-status-format *string*

Set the format in which the window is displayed in the status line window list. See the *status-left* option for details of special character sequences available. The default is '#I:#W#E'.

window-status-last-style *style*

Set status line style for the last active window. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

window-status-separator *string*

Sets the separator drawn between windows in the status line. The default is a single space character.

window-status-style *style*

Set status line style for a single window. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

window-style *style*

Set the default window style. For how to specify *style*, see the **message-command-style** option.

xterm-keys [**on** | **off**]

If this option is set, **tmux** will generate [xterm\(1\)](#) -style function key sequences; these have a number included to indicate modifiers such as Shift, Alt or Ctrl. The default is off.

wrap-search [**on** | **off**]

If this option is set, searches will wrap around the end of the pane contents. The default is on.

show-options [-**gqsvw**] [-**t** *target-session* | *target-window*] [*option*]

(alias: **show**)

Show the window options (or a single window option if given) with **-w** (equivalent to **show-window-options**), the server options with **-s**, otherwise the session options for *target session*. Global session or window options are listed if **-g** is used. **-v** shows only the option value, not the name. If **-q** is set, no error will be returned if *option* is unset.

show-window-options [-**gv**] [-**t** *target-window*] [*option*]

(alias: **showw**)

List the window options or a single option for *target-window*, or the global window options if **-g** is used. **-v** shows only the option value, not the name.

HOOKS

tmux allows commands to run on various triggers, called *hooks*. Each **tmux** command has a *before* hook and an *after* hook and there are a number of hooks not associated with commands.

A command's before hook is run before the command is executed and its after hook is run afterwards, except when the command is run as part of a hook itself. Before hooks are named using the 'before-' prefix and after hooks the 'after-' prefix. For example, the following command adds a hook to select the even-vertical layout after every **split-window**:

```
set-hook after-split-window "selectl even-vertical"
```

Or to write when each new window is created to a file:

```
set-hook before-new-window 'run "date >>/tmp/log"'
```

In addition, the following hooks are available:

alert-activity

Run when a window has activity. See **monitor-activity**.

alert-bell

Run when a window has received a bell.

alert-silence

Run when a window has been silent. See **monitor-silence**.

client-attached

Run when a client is attached.

client-detached

Run when a client is detached

client-resized

Run when a client is resized.

pane-died

Run when the program running in a pane exits, but **remain-on-exit** is on so the pane has not closed.

pane-exited

Run when the program running in a pane exits.

Hooks are managed with these commands:

set-hook [-**g**] [-**t** *target-session*] *hook-name command*

Sets hook *hook-name* to *command*. If **-g** is given, *hook-name* is added to the global list of hooks, otherwise it is added to the session hooks (for *target-session* with **-t**). Like options, session hooks inherit from the global ones.

show-hooks [-q] [-t *target-session*]

Shows the global list of hooks with **-g**, otherwise the session hooks.

MOUSE SUPPORT

If the **mouse** option is on (the default is off), **tmux** allows mouse events to be bound as keys. The name of each key is made up of a mouse event (such as 'MouseUp1') and a location suffix (one of 'Pane' for the contents of a pane, 'Border' for a pane border or 'Status' for the status line). The following mouse events are available:

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------|
| MouseDown1 | MouseUp1 | MouseDown2 | MouseDown3 | WheelUp |
| MouseDrag1 | MouseDrag2 | MouseDrag3 | WheelDown | |
| MouseDragEnd1 | MouseDragEnd2 | MouseDragEnd3 | | |

Each should be suffixed with a location, for example 'MouseDown1Status'.

The special token ‘{mouse}’ or ‘=’ may be used as *target-window* or *target-pane* in commands bound to mouse key bindings. It resolves to the window or pane over which the mouse event took place (for example, the window in the status line over which button 1 was released for a ‘MouseUp1Status’ binding, or the pane over which the wheel was scrolled for a ‘WheelDownPane’ binding).

The **send-keys -M** flag may be used to forward a mouse event to a pane.

The default key bindings allow the mouse to be used to select and resize panes, to copy text and to change window using the status line. These take effect if the **mouse** option is turned on.

FORMATS

Certain commands accept the **-F** flag with a *format* argument. This is a string which controls the output format of the command. Replacement variables are enclosed in `#{ }` and `'#'`, for example `'#{session_name}'`. The possible variables are listed in the table below, or the name of a **tmux** option may be used for an option's value. Some variables have a shorter alias such as `'#s'`, and `'##'` is replaced by a single `'#'`.

Conditionals are available by prefixing with '?' and separating two alternatives with a comma; if the specified variable exists and is not zero, the first alternative is chosen, otherwise the second is used. For example '#?session_attached,attached,not attached' will include the string 'attached' if the session is attached and the string 'not attached' if it is unattached, or '#?automatic-rename,yes,no' will include 'yes' if **automatic-rename** is enabled, or 'no' if not.

A limit may be placed on the length of the resultant string by prefixing it by an '=', a number and a colon. Positive numbers count from the start of the string and negative from the end, so `#{=5:pane_title}` will include at most the first 5 characters of the pane title, or `#{=-5:pane_title}` the last 5 characters. Prefixing a time variable with 't:' will convert it to a string, so if `#{window_activity}` gives '1445765102', `#{t:window_activity}` gives 'Sun Oct 25 09:25:02 2015'. The 'b:' and 'd:' prefixes are [basename\(3\)](#) and [dirname\(3\)](#) of the variable respectively. A prefix of the form `s/foo/bar/;` will substitute 'foo' with 'bar' throughout.

In addition, the first line of a shell command's output may be inserted using `#()`. For example, `#(uptime)` will insert the system's uptime. When constructing formats, **tmux** does not wait for `#()` commands to finish; instead, the previous result from running the same command is used, or a placeholder if the command has not been run before. Commands are executed with the **tmux** global environment set (see the [ENVIRONMENT](#) section).

The following variables are available, where appropriate:

| Variable name | Alias | Replaced with |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| alternate_on | | If pane is in alternate screen |
| alternate_saved_x | | Saved cursor X in alternate screen |
| alternate_saved_y | | Saved cursor Y in alternate screen |
| buffer_name | | Name of buffer |
| buffer_sample | | Sample of start of buffer |
| buffer_size | | Size of the specified buffer in bytes |
| client_activity | | Integer time client last had activity |
| client_created | | Integer time client created |
| client_control_mode | | 1 if client is in control mode |
| client_height | | Height of client |
| client_key_table | | Current key table |
| client_last_session | | Name of the client's last session |
| client_pid | | PID of client process |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|--|
| client_prefix | | 1 if prefix key has been pressed |
| client_readonly | | 1 if client is readonly |
| client_session | | Name of the client's session |
| client_termname | | Terminal name of client |
| client_tty | | Pseudo terminal of client |
| client_utf8 | | 1 if client supports utf8 |
| client_width | | Width of client |
| command_hooked | | Name of command hooked, if any |
| command_name | | Name of command in use, if any |
| command_list_name | | Command name if listing commands |
| command_list_alias | | Command alias if listing commands |
| command_list_usage | | Command usage if listing commands |
| cursor_flag | | Pane cursor flag |
| cursor_x | | Cursor X position in pane |
| cursor_y | | Cursor Y position in pane |
| history_bytes | | Number of bytes in window history |
| history_limit | | Maximum window history lines |
| history_size | | Size of history in bytes |
| host | #H | Hostname of local host |
| host_short | #h | Hostname of local host (no domain name) |
| insert_flag | | Pane insert flag |
| keypad_cursor_flag | | Pane keypad cursor flag |
| keypad_flag | | Pane keypad flag |
| line | | Line number in the list |
| mouse_any_flag | | Pane mouse any flag |
| mouse_button_flag | | Pane mouse button flag |
| mouse_standard_flag | | Pane mouse standard flag |
| pane_active | | 1 if active pane |
| pane_bottom | | Bottom of pane |
| pane_current_command | | Current command if available |
| pane_dead | | 1 if pane is dead |
| pane_dead_status | | Exit status of process in dead pane |
| pane_height | | Height of pane |
| pane_id | #D | Unique pane ID |
| pane_in_mode | | If pane is in a mode |
| pane_input_off | | If input to pane is disabled |
| pane_index | #P | Index of pane |
| pane_left | | Left of pane |
| pane_pid | | PID of first process in pane |
| pane_right | | Right of pane |
| pane_start_command | | Command pane started with |
| pane_synchronized | | If pane is synchronized |
| pane_tabs | | Pane tab positions |
| pane_title | #T | Title of pane |
| pane_top | | Top of pane |
| pane_tty | | Pseudo terminal of pane |
| pane_width | | Width of pane |
| pid | | Server PID |
| scroll_region_lower | | Bottom of scroll region in pane |
| scroll_region_upper | | Top of scroll region in pane |
| scroll_position | | Scroll position in copy mode |
| session_alerts | | List of window indexes with alerts |
| session_attached | | Number of clients session is attached to |
| session_activity | | Integer time of session last activity |
| session_created | | Integer time session created |
| session_last_attached | | Integer time session last attached |
| session_group | | Number of session group |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|---|
| session_grouped | | 1 if session in a group |
| session_height | | Height of session |
| session_id | | Unique session ID |
| session_many_attached | | 1 if multiple clients attached |
| session_name | #S | Name of session |
| session_width | | Width of session |
| session_windows | | Number of windows in session |
| socket_path | | Server socket path |
| start_time | | Server start time |
| window_activity | | Integer time of window last activity |
| window_activity_flag | | 1 if window has activity |
| window_active | | 1 if window active |
| window_bell_flag | | 1 if window has bell |
| window_find_matches | | Matched data from the find-window |
| window_flags | #F | Window flags |
| window_height | | Height of window |
| window_id | | Unique window ID |
| window_index | #I | Index of window |
| window_last_flag | | 1 if window is the last used |
| window_layout | | Window layout description, ignoring zoomed window panes |
| window_linked | | 1 if window is linked across sessions |
| window_name | #W | Name of window |
| window_panes | | Number of panes in window |
| window_silence_flag | | 1 if window has silence alert |
| window_visible_layout | | Window layout description, respecting zoomed window panes |
| window_width | | Width of window |
| window_zoomed_flag | | 1 if window is zoomed |
| wrap_flag | | Pane wrap flag |

NAMES AND TITLES

tmux distinguishes between names and titles. Windows and sessions have names, which may be used to specify them in targets and are displayed in the status line and various lists: the name is the **tmux** identifier for a window or session. Only panes have titles. A pane's title is typically set by the program running inside the pane and is not modified by **tmux**. It is the same mechanism used to set for example the [xterm\(1\)](#) window title in an [X\(7\)](#) window manager. Windows themselves do not have titles - a window's title is the title of its active pane. **tmux** itself may set the title of the terminal in which the client is running, see the **set-titles** option.

A session's name is set with the **new-session** and **rename-session** commands. A window's name is set with one of:

1. A command argument (such as **-n** for **new-window** or **new-session**).
2. An escape sequence:

```
$ printf '\033kWINDOW_NAME\033\\'
```

3. Automatic renaming, which sets the name to the active command in the window's active pane. See the **automatic-rename** option.

When a pane is first created, its title is the hostname. A pane's title can be set via the OSC title setting sequence, for example:

```
$ printf '\033]2;My Title\033\\'
```

ENVIRONMENT

When the server is started, **tmux** copies the environment into the *global environment*; in addition, each session has a *session environment*. When a window is created, the session and global environments are merged. If a variable exists in both, the value from the session environment is used. The result is the initial environment passed to the new process.

The **update-environment** session option may be used to update the session environment from the client when a new session is created or an old reattached. **tmux** also initialises the **TMUX** variable with some internal information to allow commands to be executed from inside, and the **TERM** variable with the correct terminal setting of 'screen'.

Commands to alter and view the environment are:

set-environment [-gru] [-t *target-session*] *name* [*value*]
(alias: **setenv**)

Set or unset an environment variable. If **-g** is used, the change is made in the global environment; otherwise, it is applied to the session environment for *target-session*. The **-u** flag unsets a variable. **-r** indicates the variable is to be removed from the environment before starting a new process.

show-environment [-gs] [-t *target-session*] [*variable*]
(alias: **showenv**)

Display the environment for *target-session* or the global environment with **-g**. If *variable* is omitted, all variables are shown. Variables removed from the environment are prefixed with '-'. If **-s** is used, the output is formatted as a set of Bourne shell commands.

STATUS LINE

tmux includes an optional status line which is displayed in the bottom line of each terminal. By default, the status line is enabled (it may be disabled with the **status** session option) and contains, from left-to-right: the name of the current session in square brackets; the window list; the title of the active pane in double quotes; and the time and date.

The status line is made of three parts: configurable left and right sections (which may contain dynamic content such as the time or output from a shell command, see the **status-left**, **status-left-length**, **status-right**, and **status-right-length** options below), and a central window list. By default, the window list shows the index, name and (if any) flag of the windows present in the current session in ascending numerical order. It may be customised with the *window-status-format* and *window-status-current-format* options. The flag is one of the following symbols appended to the window name:

Symbol Meaning

| | |
|---|--|
| * | Denotes the current window. |
| - | Marks the last window (previously selected). |
| # | Window is monitored and activity has been detected. |
| ! | A bell has occurred in the window. |
| ~ | The window has been silent for the monitor-silence interval. |
| M | The window contains the marked pane. |
| Z | The window's active pane is zoomed. |

The # symbol relates to the **monitor-activity** window option. The window name is printed in inverted colours if an alert (bell, activity or silence) is present.

The colour and attributes of the status line may be configured, the entire status line using the **status-style** session option and individual windows using the **window-status-style** window option.

The status line is automatically refreshed at interval if it has changed, the interval may be controlled with the **status-interval** session option.

Commands related to the status line are as follows:

command-prompt [-l *inputs*] [-p *prompts*] [-t *target-client*] [*template*]

Open the command prompt in a client. This may be used from inside **tmux** to execute commands interactively.

If *template* is specified, it is used as the command. If present, **-l** is a comma-separated list of the initial text for each prompt. If **-p** is given, *prompts* is a comma-separated list of prompts which are displayed in order; otherwise a single prompt is displayed, constructed from *template* if it is present, or ':' if not.

Both *inputs* and *prompts* may contain the special character sequences supported by the **status-left** option.

Before the command is executed, the first occurrence of the string '%1' and all occurrences of '%1' are replaced by the response to the first prompt, all '%2' are replaced with the response to the second prompt, and so on for further prompts. Up to nine prompt responses may be replaced ('%1' to '%9').

confirm-before [-p *prompt*] [-t *target-client*] *command*
(alias: **confirm**)

Ask for confirmation before executing *command*. If **-p** is given, *prompt* is the prompt to display; otherwise a prompt is constructed from *command*. It may contain the special character sequences supported by the **status-left** option.

This command works only from inside **tmux**.

display-message [-p] [-c *target-client*] [-t *target-pane*] [*message*]
(alias: **display**)

Display a message. If **-p** is given, the output is printed to stdout, otherwise it is displayed in the *target-client* status line. The format of *message* is described in the [FORMATS](#) section; information is taken from *target-pane* if **-t** is given, otherwise the active pane for the session attached to *target-client*.

BUFFERS

tmux maintains a set of named *paste buffers*. Each buffer may be either explicitly or automatically named. Explicitly named buffers are named when created with the **set-buffer** or **load-buffer** commands, or by renaming an automatically named buffer with **set-buffer -n**. Automatically named buffers are given a name such as 'buffer0001', 'buffer0002' and so on. When the **buffer-limit** option is reached, the oldest automatically named buffer is deleted. Explicitly named are not subject to **buffer-limit** and may be deleted with **delete-buffer** command.

Buffers may be added using **copy-mode** or the **set-buffer** and **load-buffer** commands, and pasted into a window using the **paste-buffer** command. If a buffer command is used and no buffer is specified, the most recently added automatically named buffer is assumed.

A configurable history buffer is also maintained for each window. By default, up to 2000 lines are kept; this can be altered with the **history-limit** option (see the **set-option** command above).

The buffer commands are as follows:

choose-buffer [-F *format*] [-t *target-window*] [*template*]

Put a window into buffer choice mode, where a buffer may be chosen interactively from a list. After a buffer is selected, '%%' is replaced by the buffer name in *template* and the result executed as a command. If *template* is not given, "paste-buffer -b '%%'" is used. For the meaning of the -F flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section. This command works only if at least one client is attached.

clear-history [-t *target-pane*]

(alias: **clearhist**)

Remove and free the history for the specified pane.

delete-buffer [-b *buffer-name*]

(alias: **deleteb**)

Delete the buffer named *buffer-name*, or the most recently added automatically named buffer if not specified.

list-buffers [-F *format*]

(alias: **lsb**)

List the global buffers. For the meaning of the -F flag, see the [FORMATS](#) section.

load-buffer [-b *buffer-name*] *path*

(alias: **loadb**)

Load the contents of the specified paste buffer from *path*.

paste-buffer [-dpr] [-b *buffer-name*] [-s *separator*] [-t *target-pane*]

(alias: **pasteb**)

Insert the contents of a paste buffer into the specified pane. If not specified, paste into the current one. With -d, also delete the paste buffer. When output, any linefeed (LF) characters in the paste buffer are replaced with a separator, by default carriage return (CR). A custom separator may be specified using the -s flag. The -r flag means to do no replacement (equivalent to a separator of LF). If -p is specified, paste bracket control codes are inserted around the buffer if the application has requested bracketed paste mode.

save-buffer [-a] [-b *buffer-name*] *path*

(alias: **saveb**)

Save the contents of the specified paste buffer to *path*. The -a option appends to rather than overwriting the file.

set-buffer [-a] [-b *buffer-name*] [-n *new-buffer-name*] *data*

(alias: **setb**)

Set the contents of the specified buffer to *data*. The -a option appends to rather than overwriting the buffer. The -n option renames the buffer to *new-buffer-name*.

show-buffer [-b *buffer-name*]

(alias: **showb**)

Display the contents of the specified buffer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous commands are as follows:

clock-mode [-t *target-pane*]

Display a large clock.

if-shell [-bF] [-t *target-pane*] *shell-command* *command* [*command*]

(alias: **if**)

Execute the first *command* if *shell-command* returns success or the second *command* otherwise. Before being executed, *shell-command* is expanded using the rules specified in the [FORMATS](#) section, including those relevant to *target-pane*. With -b, *shell-command* is run in the background.

If **-F** is given, *shell-command* is not executed but considered success if neither empty nor zero (after formats are expanded).

lock-server

(alias: **lock**)

Lock each client individually by running the command specified by the **lock-command** option.

run-shell [-b] [-t *target-pane*] *shell-command*

(alias: **run**)

Execute *shell-command* in the background without creating a window. Before being executed, *shell-command* is expanded using the rules specified in the [FORMATS](#) section. With **-b**, the command is run in the background. After it finishes, any output to stdout is displayed in copy mode (in the pane specified by **-t** or the current pane if omitted). If the command doesn't return success, the exit status is also displayed.

wait-for [-L | -S | -U] *channel*

(alias: **wait**)

When used without options, prevents the client from exiting until woken using **wait-for -S** with the same channel. When **-L** is used, the channel is locked and any clients that try to lock the same channel are made to wait until the channel is unlocked with **wait-for -U**. This command only works from outside **tmux**.

TERMINFO EXTENSIONS

tmux understands some unofficial extensions to [terminfo\(5\)](#):

Cs, Cr

Set the cursor colour. The first takes a single string argument and is used to set the colour; the second takes no arguments and restores the default cursor colour. If set, a sequence such as this may be used to change the cursor colour from inside **tmux**:

```
$ printf '\033]12;red\033\\'
```

Ss, Se

Set or reset the cursor style. If set, a sequence such as this may be used to change the cursor to an underline:

```
$ printf '\033[4 q'
```

If *Se* is not set, *Ss* with argument 0 will be used to reset the cursor style instead.

Tc

Indicate that the terminal supports the 'direct colour' RGB escape sequence (for example, `\e[38;2;255;255;255m`).

Ms

Store the current buffer in the host terminal's selection (clipboard). See the *set-clipboard* option above and the [xterm\(1\)](#) man page.

CONTROL MODE

tmux offers a textual interface called *control mode*. This allows applications to communicate with **tmux** using a simple text-only protocol.

In control mode, a client sends **tmux** commands or command sequences terminated by newlines on standard input. Each command will produce one block of output on standard output. An output block consists of a *%begin* line followed by the output (which may be empty). The output block ends with a *%end* or *%error*. *%begin* and matching *%end* or *%error* have two arguments: an integer time (as seconds from epoch) and command number. For example:

```
%begin 1363006971 2
0: ksh* (1 panes) [80x24] [layout b25f,80x24,0,0,2] @2 (active)
%end 1363006971 2
```

In control mode, **tmux** outputs notifications. A notification will never occur inside an output block.

The following notifications are defined:

%exit [*reason*]

The **tmux** client is exiting immediately, either because it is not attached to any session or an error occurred. If present, *reason* describes why the client exited.

%layout-change *window-id window-layout window-visible-layout window-flags*

The layout of a window with ID *window-id* changed. The new layout is *window-layout*. The window's visible layout is *window-visible-layout* and the window flags are *window-flags*.

%output *pane-id value*

A window pane produced output. *value* escapes non-printable characters and backslash as octal `\xxx`.

%session-changed *session-id name*

The client is now attached to the session with ID *session-id*, which is named *name*.

%session-renamed *name*

The current session was renamed to *name*.

%sessions-changed

A session was created or destroyed.

%unlinked-window-add *window-id*

The window with ID *window-id* was created but is not linked to the current session.

%window-add *window-id*

The window with ID *window-id* was linked to the current session.

%window-close *window-id*

The window with ID *window-id* closed.

%window-renamed *window-id name*

The window with ID *window-id* was renamed to *name*.

FILES

~/.tmux.conf

Default **tmux** configuration file.

/etc/tmux.conf

System-wide configuration file.

EXAMPLES

To create a new **tmux** session running [vi\(1\)](#):

```
$ tmux new-session vi
```

Most commands have a shorter form, known as an alias. For new-session, this is **new**:

```
$ tmux new vi
```

Alternatively, the shortest unambiguous form of a command is accepted. If there are several options, they are listed:

```
$ tmux n
ambiguous command: n, could be: new-session, new-window, next-window
```

Within an active session, a new window may be created by typing 'c-b c' (Ctrl followed by the 'b' key followed by the 'c' key).

Windows may be navigated with: 'c-b 0' (to select window 0), 'c-b 1' (to select window 1), and so on; 'c-b n' to select the next window; and 'c-b p' to select the previous window.

A session may be detached using 'c-b d' (or by an external event such as [ssh\(1\)](#) disconnection) and reattached with:

```
$ tmux attach-session
```

Typing 'c-b ?' lists the current key bindings in the current window; up and down may be used to navigate the list or 'q' to exit from it.

Commands to be run when the **tmux** server is started may be placed in the *~/.tmux.conf* configuration file. Common examples include:

Changing the default prefix key:

```
set-option -g prefix C-a
unbind-key C-b
bind-key C-a send-prefix
```

Turning the status line off, or changing its colour:

```
set-option -g status off
set-option -g status-style bg=blue
```

Setting other options, such as the default command, or locking after 30 minutes of inactivity:

```
set-option -g default-command "exec /bin/ksh"
set-option -g lock-after-time 1800
```

Creating new key bindings:

```
bind-key b set-option status
bind-key / command-prompt "split-window 'exec man %'"
bind-key S command-prompt "new-window -n %1 'ssh %1'"
```

SEE ALSO

[pty\(4\)](#)

AUTHORS

Nicholas Marriott <nicholas.marriott@gmail.com>

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