screen Quick Reference

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Getting in

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

| detach a running session | `screen -d <name>` |

Escape key

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

Getting out

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

Help

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

The man page is the complete reference, but it's very long.

Window Management

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create new window	`C-a c`
change to last-visited active window	`C-a C-a` (commonly used to flip-flop between two windows)
change to window by number	`C-a <number>` (only for windows 0 to 9)
change to window by number or name	`C-a ' <number or title>`
change to next window in list	`C-a n` or `C-a <space>`
change to previous window in list	`C-a p` or `C-a <backspace>`
see window list	`C-a "` (allows you to select a window to change to)
show window bar	`C-a w` (if you don't have window bar)
close current window	Close all applications in the current window (including shell)
kill current window	`C-a k` (not recommended)
kill all windows	`C-a \` (not recommended)
rename current window	`C-a A`

Split screen

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

Scripting

send a command to a named session	screen -S <name> -X <command>
create a new window and run *ping example.com*	screen -S <name> -X screen ping example.com
stuff characters into the input buffer using bash to expand a newline character (🌐from here)	screen -S <name> [-p <page>] -X stuff $'quit\r'
a full example	```# run bash within screen
screen -AmdS bash_shell bash
run top within that bash session
screen -S bash_shell -p 0 -X stuff $'top\r'

... some time later

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

Misc

redraw window	C-a C-l
enter copy mode	C-a [or C-a <esc> (also used for viewing scrollback buffer)
paste	C-a]
monitor window for activity	C-a M
monitor window for silence	C-a _
enter digraph (for producing non-ASCII characters)	C-a C-v
lock (password protect) display	C-a x
enter screen command	C-a :
enable logging in the screen session	C-a H

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