

Tmux Tutorial

Accompanying video: <https://vimeo.com/307103628/1c05a27e7b>

Learning objectives

By completing this tutorial you will be able to

- Describe how to use Tmux to create long running persistent sessions on a unix machine
- Apply this knowledge to using Tmux to run unix scripts and software

What is Tmux?

Tmux is a terminal multiplexer. This allows a user to connect to a server and start a session that will persist until the session is terminated event if the connection to the server is closed (e.g log off by user to do something else) or dropped (e.g unstable internet connection).

It allows a user to have multiple windows within a session and even multiple panes within a window.

See below for a possible scenario with 2 sessions, both of which have 2 windows and the second named session (eco) has 2 panes within window 1

Unnamed session 0

ctrl-b s
to switch

Named session 1: eco

The screenshot shows a terminal window with the following structure:

- Session 0 (Unnamed):** Contains two windows:
 - Window 0:** Shows the terminal prompt `[ec2-user@ip-172-31-19-88 ~]$`.
 - Window 1:** Displays the "Tmux Tutorial" content, including the heading "What is Tmux?" and a paragraph of text.
- Session 1 (Named: eco):** Contains two panes:
 - Pane 1:** Shows the terminal prompt `[ec2-user@ip-172-31-19-88 eco]$`.
 - Pane 2:** Shows a dark terminal window.

At the bottom of the terminal, a status bar shows: `[ec2-user@ip-172-31-19-88 ~]$ [ec2-user@ip-172-31-19-88 eco]$ [ec2-user@ip-172-31-19-88 eco]$ ip-172-31-19-88.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com 11:26 19-Dec-18`. The text "Current session name" and "asterisk (*) denotes current window" is overlaid on the status bar.

How to use tmux

Login into the server and list available sessions using

```
tmux ls
```

It is possible there may be no sessions. To create a new session

```
tmux new -s <SESSION NAME>
```

If you want to detach from a session:

```
ctrl-b d
```

To reattach to a session. Reattach to the last session

```
tmux a
```

Reattach to a named session

```
tmux a -t <SESSION NAME>
```

To create a new window within the session

```
ctrl-b c
```

To show available windows

```
ctrl-b w
```

To switch to a window

```
ctrl-b <WINDOW NUMBER>
```

To split a window into 2 horizontal panes

```
ctrl-b "
```

To split a window into 2 vertical panes

```
ctrl-b %
```

To move between panes

```
ctrl-b <ARROW KEY>
```

To switch between pane layout

```
ctrl-b <SPACE KEY>
```

Useful links

Cheatsheet: <https://tmuxcheatsheet.com/>

Cheatsheet for tmux and screen: <http://www.david.org/comp/tm.html>

Comparison of screen and tmux commands: <http://hyperpolyglot.org/multiplexers>

