

Either of these programs will make your computing time much more awesome

Try both `tmux` and `Screen` to find out which you prefer

The impression you will take away from this presentation is

"How did I ever get along without a terminal multiplexer in my life?"

h nial

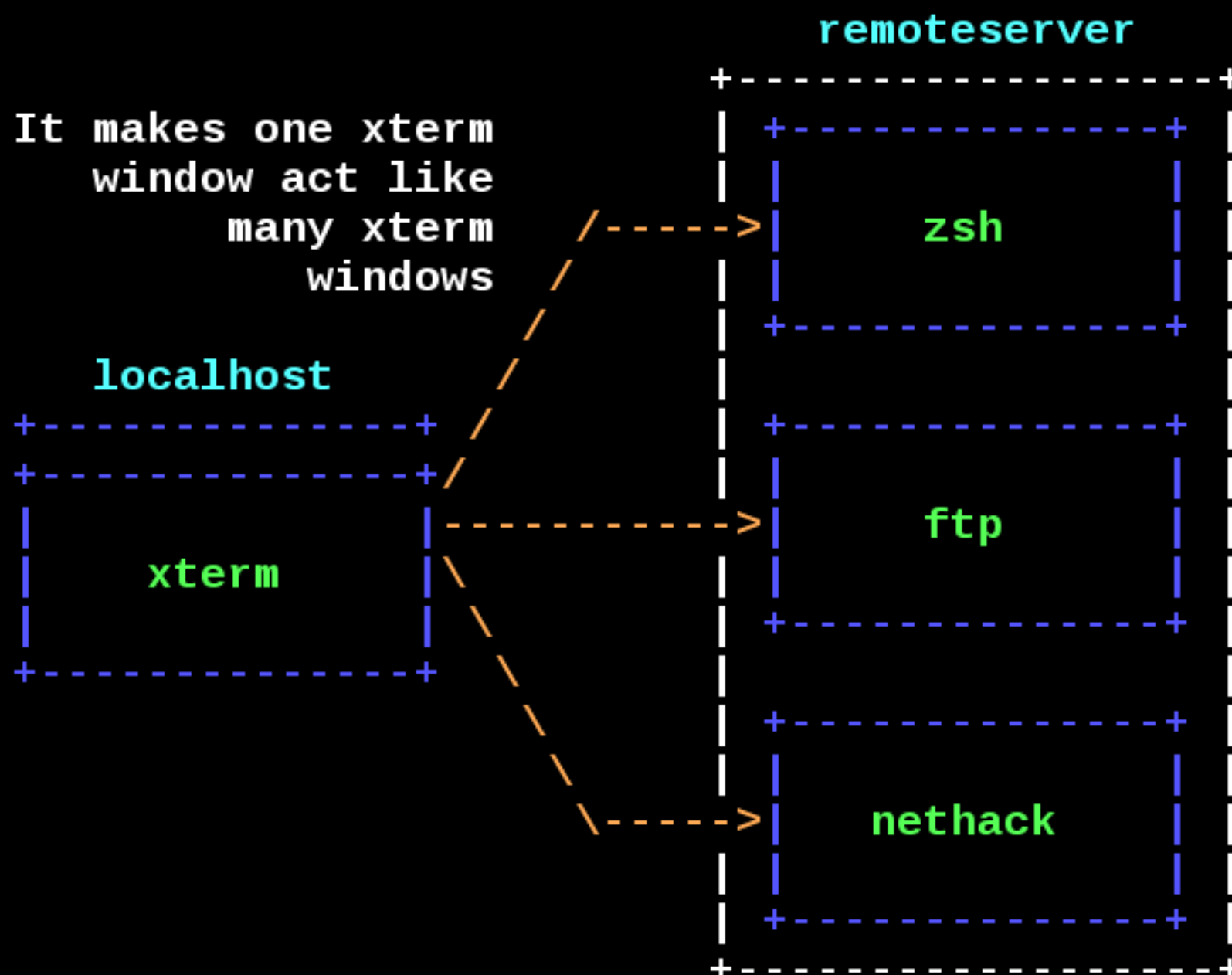
A: To survive the worst thing that could befall a millennial

The diagrams are arranged in two rows of six. Each diagram consists of a grid of lines (horizontal, vertical, and diagonal) with varying orientations and some containing arrows. The diagrams are labeled with numbers 1 through 12 in a small font at the bottom right of each grid.

- Diagram 1: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines.
- Diagram 2: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 3: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 4: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 5: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 6: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 7: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 8: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 9: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 10: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 11: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.
- Diagram 12: A grid of horizontal and vertical lines, with a diagonal line in the center.

What is a Terminal Multiplexer?

=====

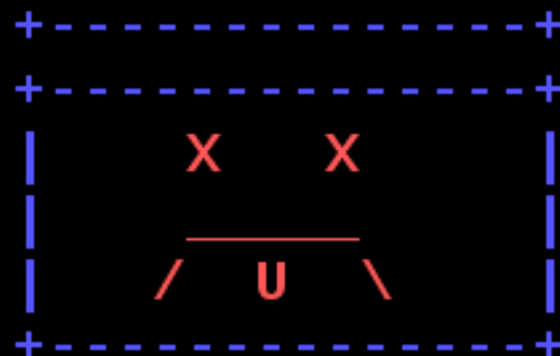


What is a Terminal Multiplexer?

=====

It also keeps your
programs on the server
running after the
xterm window dies...

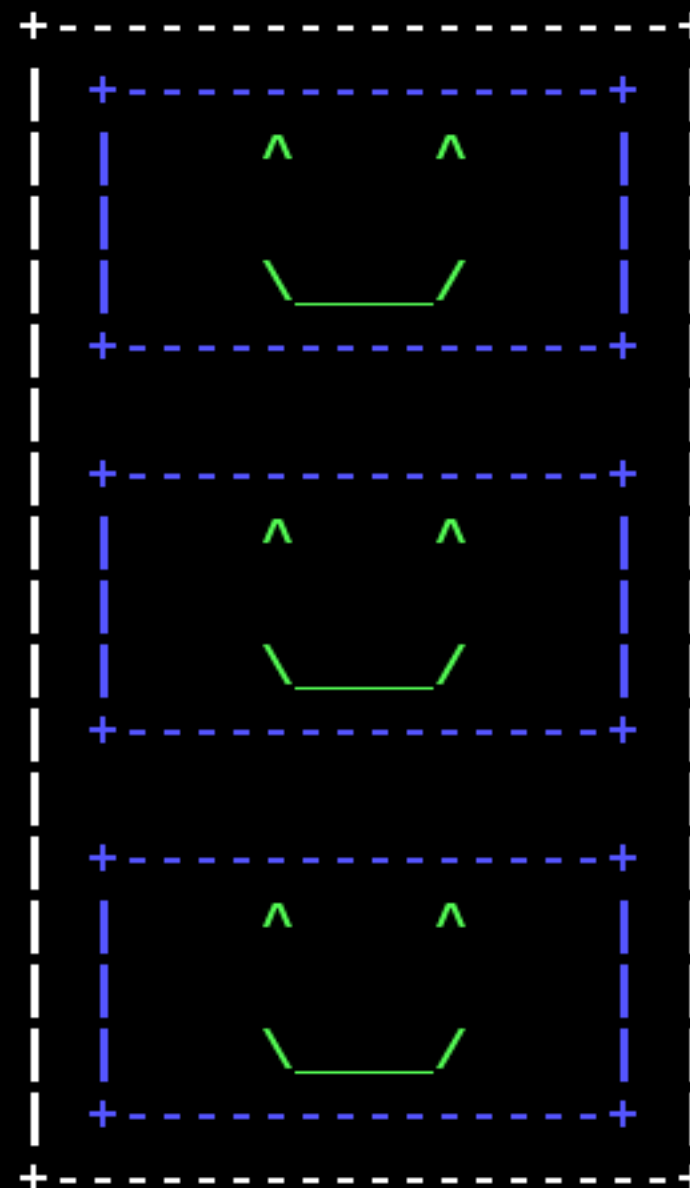
localhost



...or after the network
connection goes out...

...or when the power goes!

remoteserver



What is a Terminal Multiplexer?

=====

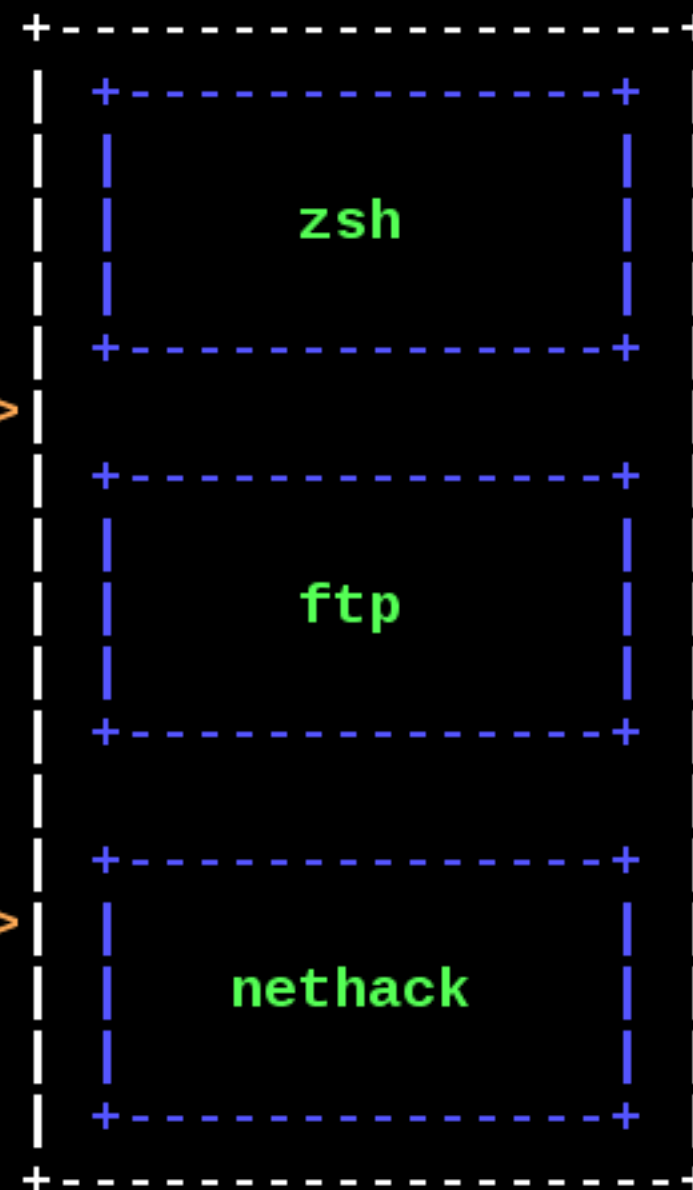
You can also share your
work with another person

localhost



They can see what you
see, or they can take
over from you if you
need to leave

remoteserver



SCREEN

The first version of **Screen** was released in 1987...

...it may be older than some of you who may use it





The grandpappy of all of the muxers

Features:

- * Nethack mode!
- * Widely available on POSIX systems
- * Serial console support
- * Multi-user support



Screen is the inspiration for many X11 tiling WMs
such as **ratpoison**, **stumpwm**, **dwm**, and
xmonad

The latest version is **4.2.1**

Protip search for '**GNU Screen**', or you're gonna
have a bad time

tmux



`tmux` was first released in 2009 under a BSD license

It aims to be a modern alternative to `Screen`

(read: it's not a drop-in replacement)



The brash, young upstart with lots of mindshare

Features:

- * Actively maintained
- * Simple configuration
- * More flexible process organization
- * Easily scriptable from the command-line



If you're new to all of this, **tmux** is the best place to start

The latest version is **1.9a**





List all Screen sessions:

```
$ screen -ls
```

Reconnect to a detached session:

```
$ screen -r [session name]
```

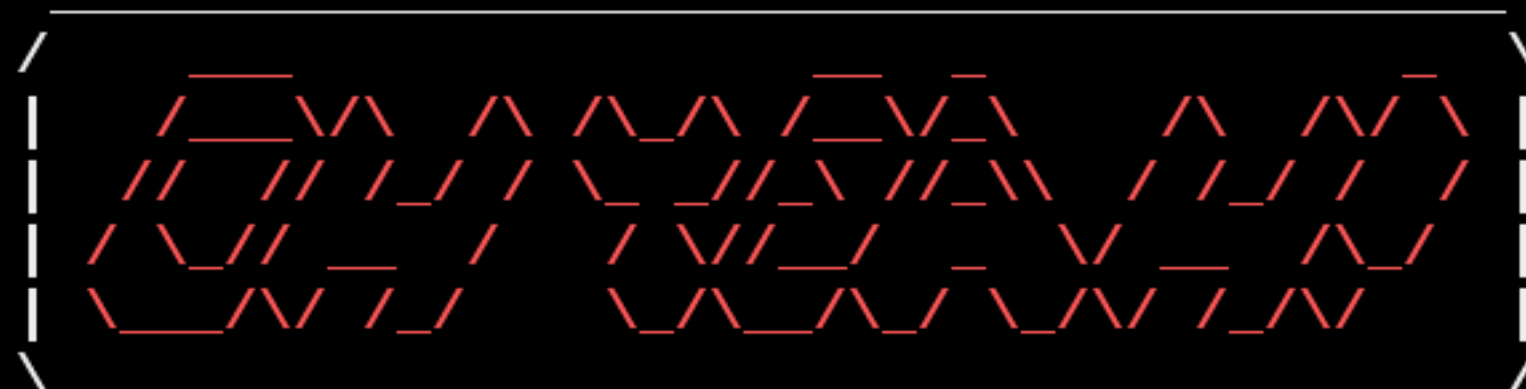



List all tmux sessions:

```
$ tmux list-sessions
```

Reconnect to a detached session:

```
$ tmux attach [-t session name]
```



Congratulations!!

You now know enough to do
what draws 99% of mux users
to Screen and tmux





WEAPONS		LIFE	ENERGY	
	M. BUSTER			DIVE
	BRIGHT			SKULL
	TOAD			R. COIL
	DRILL			R. MARINE
	PHARAOH			R. JET
	RING			WIRE
	DUST			BALLOON

 08		 09
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The most important configuration item is the escape key or prefix key

The defaults are:

ctrl	a
/ \	/ \

in Screen

ctrl				b			
_____				_____			
/_____\				/_____\			

in tmux

(|_|) ^ \ | | ^ () | | | |
 (- < / - \ | ' \ , (- < / / - \ , | | | |
 | | | | ^ \ , / \ \ , | | | |
 | /

ctrl	space
/	\

(denoted as ^@ in configuration files)



It's configuration file is named `~/.screenrc`

```
# replace ctrl-a with ctrl-space
```

```
escape ^@@
```

```
# don't use visual bell; print the ASCII bell char 0x07
```

```
vbell off
```

```
vbell_msg Ding!
```

```
# play a bell even when the beeping window isn't visible
```

```
bell_msg 'Ding! %n^G'
```

```
msgwait 2
```

```
# better error messages
```

```
nethack on
```

```
# suppress the startup message
```

```
startup_message off
```

```
# put a caption on bottom line
```

```
caption always "%{= WK}%-w%{=b kW}%n %t%{= WK}%+w %-=%{= Wk}%H%{= WK} %l %c"
```



It's configuration file is named `~/.tmux.conf`

```
# rebind escape key to ctrl-space
```

```
unbind C-b
```

```
set -g prefix C-Space
```

```
# use Vi keybindings in copy-mode
```

```
set -g mode-keys vi
```

```
# statusline
```

```
set -g window-status-current-attr reverse
```

```
set -g status-right \
```

```
    "#[fg=brightyellow,bg=black,bold]#h#[default] \
```

```
    #(cut -d' ' -f 1-3 /proc/loadavg) #[fg=black,bright]%H:%M"
```


The statusbar clock helps you to not accidentally work too late

Keeps your connection alive by defeating the SSH idle timeout

Which wouldn't even have bothered you anyway

BECAUSE YOUR PROGRAM IS RUNNING INSIDE A MUXER!!!



Like **Vim**, **Screen** and **tmux** have a
command-line mode which is introduced with a colon character

()

()

However, in our case, this mode is introduced by

ctrl
/ \

 +

:
/ \

All of the commands which may appear in your configuration file may be specified at runtime

This allows you to try out new configuration settings interactively...

...as well as use commands for which you don't have/want a binding

```

dP      dP      88888888b dP      888888ba dP
88      88      88      88      88      `8b 88
88aaaaa88a a88aaaa 88      88      a88aaaa8P' 88
88      88      88      88      88      dP
88      88      88      88      88
dP      dP      88888888P 88888888P dP      oo

```

Oh noes! I can't remember which key does what!

Never fear, because

```

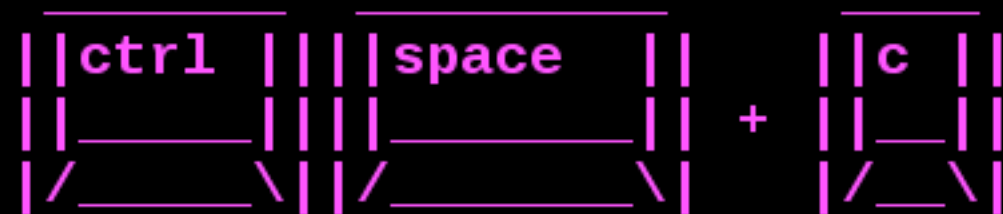
| | ctrl | | | | space | | | | | |
| | _____ | | | | _____ | | + | | ? | |
| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ | |

```

puts a handy reference into your active window pane



A new window running your preferred shell may be created with



This window is destroyed when the contained program exits

You have a few tools to help you keep track of all these windows

Menu of windows as a list

ctrl	space	+	"
/	\		\

ctrl	space	+	w	idem.
/	\		\	

You have a few tools to help you keep track of all these windows

Select window by title

ctrl	space
/	\

 +

'
/

Select a window by title or content

ctrl	space
/	\

 +

f
/

fnmatch() pattern

As you open and close windows you will destroy the nice monotonic ordering you began with

If you have become accustomed to a particular ordering, (or if you are particularly OCD), you may wish to re-assign the windows' numbers

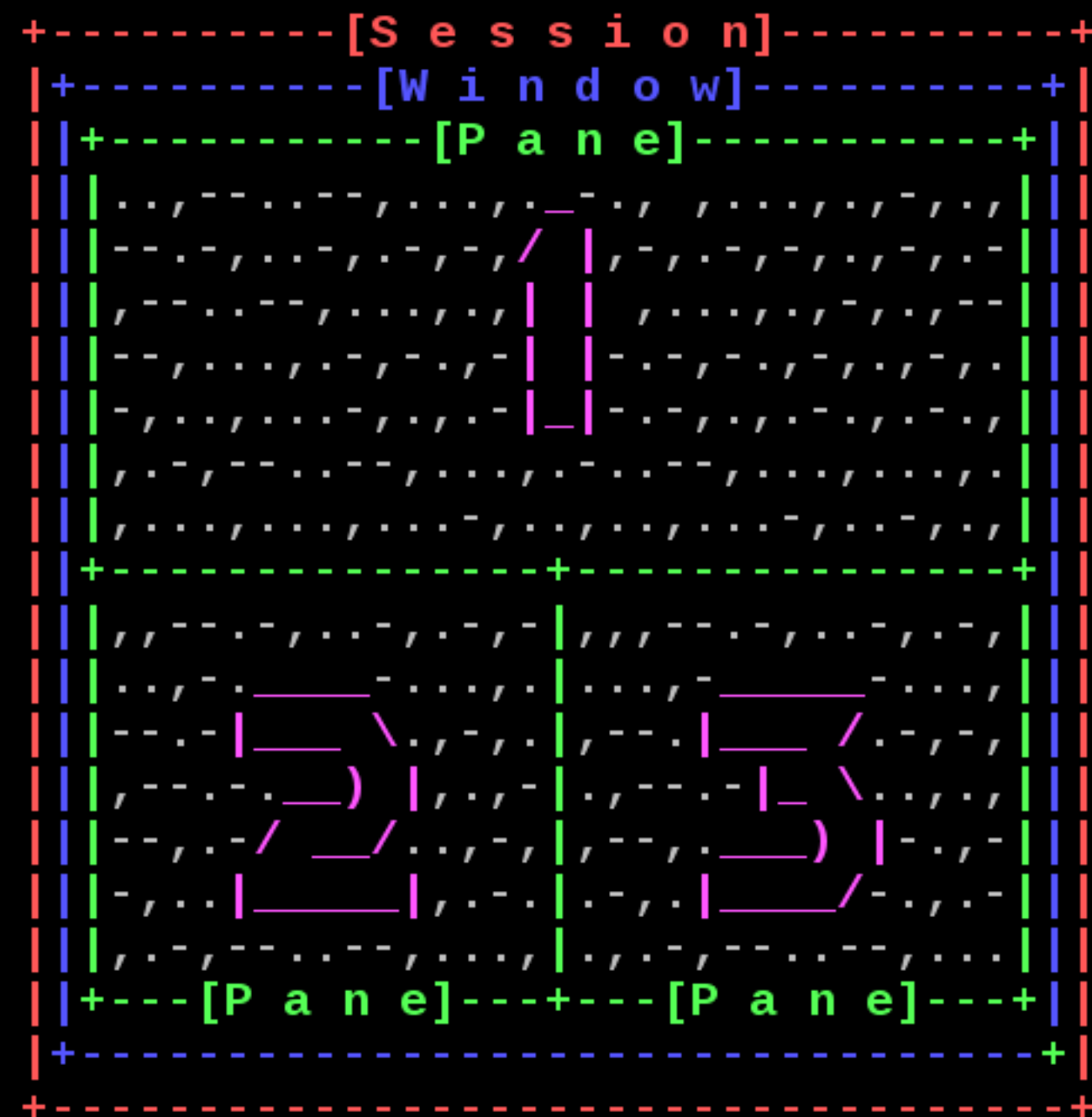
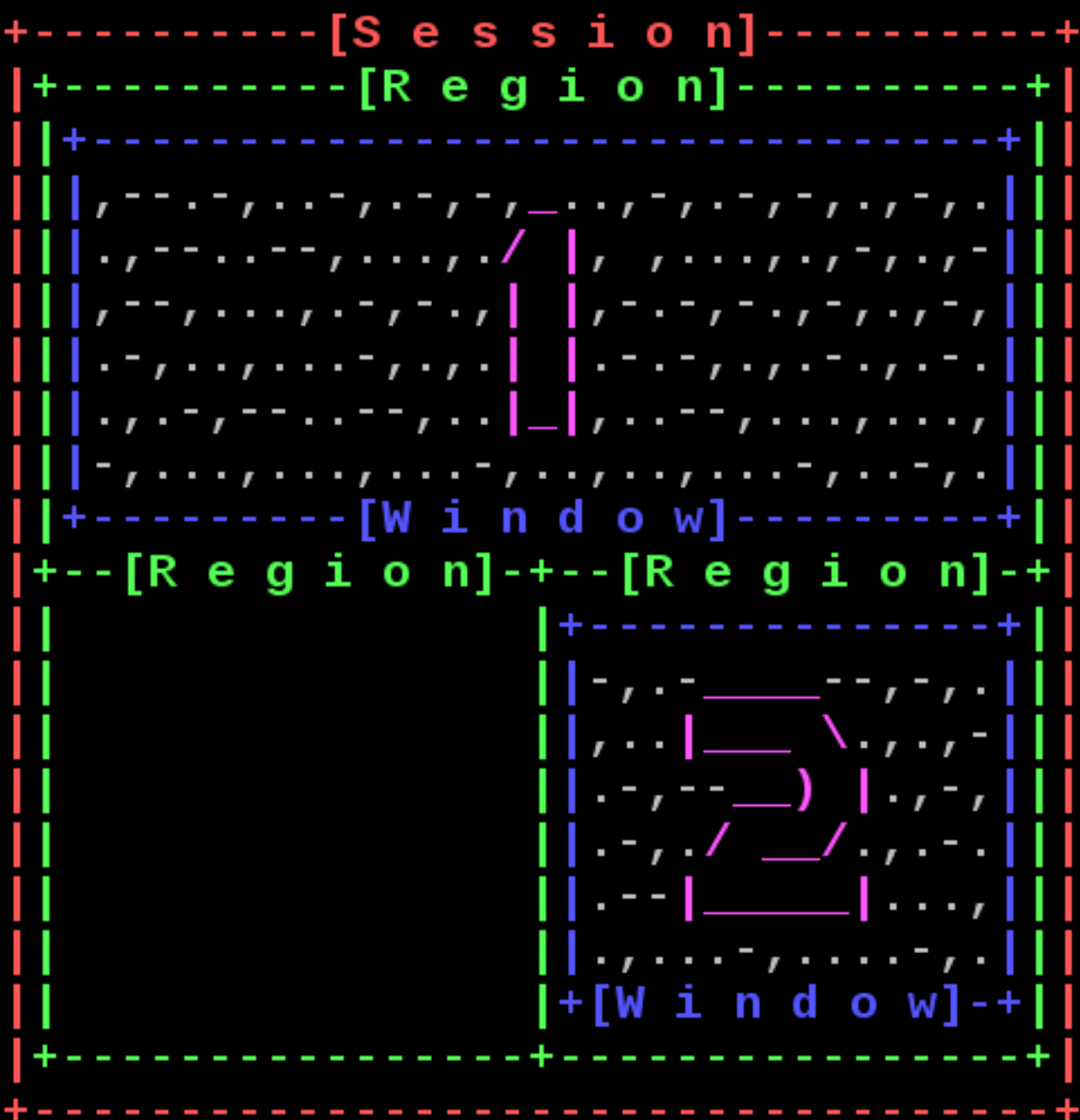
`| | ctrl | | | | space | |`
`| | _____ | | | | _____ | |`
`| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ |` + `| | : | |` number N
`| | _____ | | | | _____ | |`
`| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ |`

`| | ctrl | | | | space | |`
`| | _____ | | | | _____ | |`
`| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ |` + `| | : | |` move-window -t N
`| | _____ | | | | _____ | |`
`| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ |`

For much of the time you may be content to switch between full screen applications

However, it is nice to see two things at one time

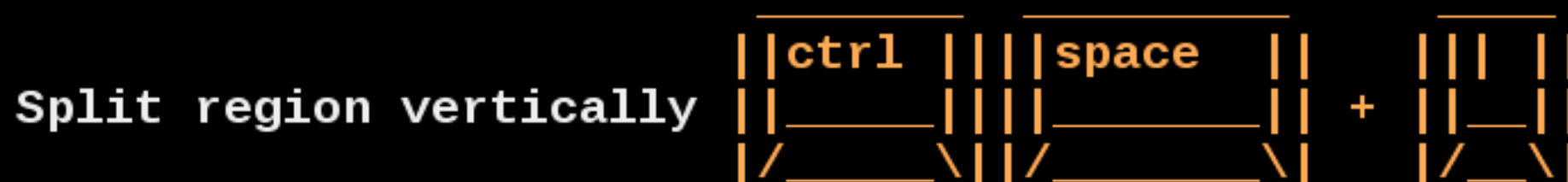
Both **Screen** and **tmux** can divide the screen amongst your running applications, but they each take their own approach





You begin with one **window** in fullscreen mode

From there you may split each window into two **regions**





The following configuration items allow you to use **vi**-inspired keybindings to navigate between split windows

Add these lines to your `~/.screenrc`:

```
# use vi-like motion keys to move between split regions
bind j focus down
bind k focus up
bind h focus left
bind l focus right

# make the active region the only region
bind o only

# close the active region (the program remains running)
bind C remove
```

```

┌───┐
│   │
│   │
│   │
└───┘

```

The arrangement of panes is governed by the active **layout**

You may cycle through possible layouts with

```

┌───┐ ┌───┐
│ctrl│ │space│
│   │ │   │
│   │ │   │
└───┘ └───┘ + ┌───┐
└───┘ └───┘   │space│
└───┘ └───┘   │   │
└───┘ └───┘   └───┘

```

Split the current pane into a new shell

```

┌───┐ ┌───┐
│ctrl│ │space│
│   │ │   │
│   │ │   │
└───┘ └───┘ + ┌───┐
└───┘ └───┘   │"│
└───┘ └───┘   │ │
└───┘ └───┘   └───┘

```

```

┌───┐ ┌───┐
│ctrl│ │space│
│   │ │   │
│   │ │   │
└───┘ └───┘ + ┌───┐
└───┘ └───┘   │!│
└───┘ └───┘   │ │
└───┘ └───┘   └───┘

```

Break the current pane into its own window



The following makes **tmux** behave more like **vi**:

```
# Vi directions to navigate between panes
unbind-key j
bind-key j select-pane -D

unbind-key k
bind-key k select-pane -U

unbind-key h
bind-key h select-pane -L

unbind-key l
bind-key l select-pane -R
```

`tmux` remembers how your windows were split into panes between
disconnecting and reconnecting

As of the latest version, `Screen` can do so as well, through
its new `layout` commands

Have you used one of those new-fangled terminal emulators
which features a searchable scrollbar buffer?

That's a nice feature which **Screen** has already been providing
for a really, really long time
under the guise of **Copy & Paste** mode

ctrl			space
/			\

 +

[
/

Search for scrolled-off text with vi-like keybindings

/pattern

?pattern

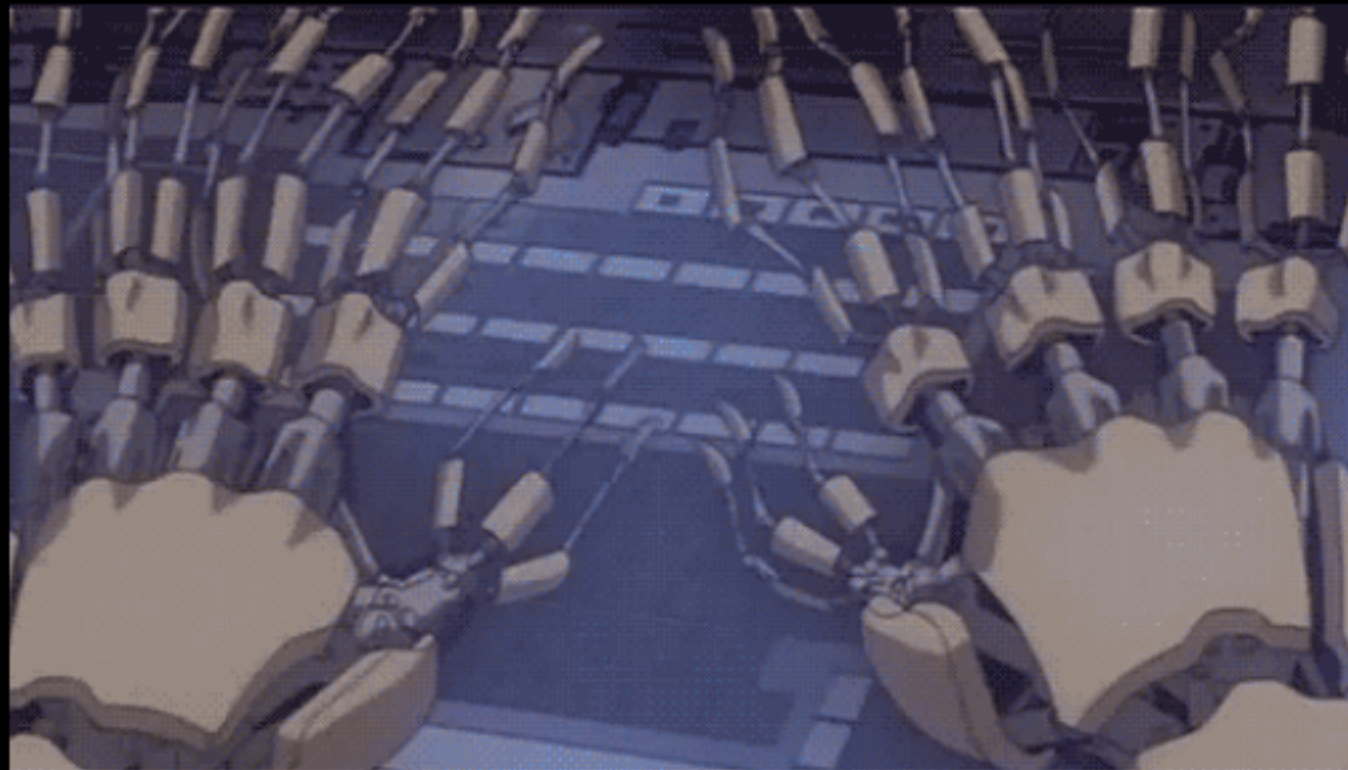
Delimit a region of text by pressing **Enter** at both ends

The text which you selected is placed into a buffer
(which are analaogus to one of **Vim's** registers, or a clipboard)

Paste the buffer with

ctrl	space]
_____	_____	+	_____
/ _____ \	/ _____ \		/ _____ \

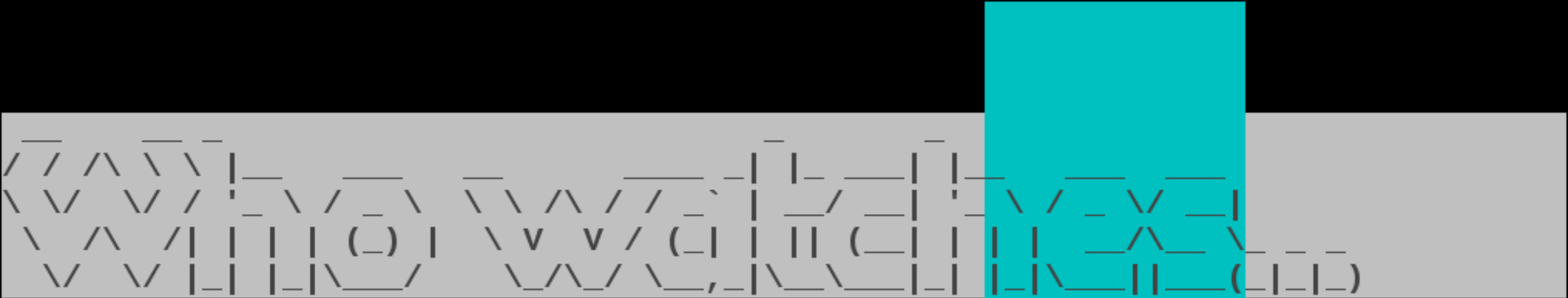
Pasted text is sent into the program through the keyboard
and so appears to a program as though you just typed it in...
...really fast



Copy & paste works identically in `tmux` for the most part
except `tmux` keeps each copied selection in a stack of buffers

You can view and paste each historical selection with

```
| | ctrl | | | | space | | | | | |
| | _____ | | | | _____ | | + | | = | |  
| / _____ \ | | | / _____ \ | | | / _____ \ | |
```

/ / ^ \ \ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ |
 \ \ \ / / | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ |
 \ ^ / | | | | (_) | \ \ \ / / (_ | | | | (_ | | | |
 \ \ \ / / | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ _ |

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?
-- Juvenal

Suppose you're compiling a ginormous program

cough Firefox *cough*

But you don't want to sit and watch it grind away for hours...

```

-----
|.....|          |.....|          #-.....#####          -----
|.....|          |.....|          #|...|          #          |%[.+(?|
|.....|          |.....|          #- -| - -          ### ----- ##+.%.%|
|.....|          |..<.....-#          #####          #|.....|          #|..?.%?|
|.....>.....#          #-.....|          #          #####          ##.....|          #-----
--|----- -#          #|.....^..|          #          #          |.....|          #
#          #          #- - - - - - - - - -#          #          #          -.- - - -|-----
#####          #          #####          #          #          #          #%          #          #
#          #          #          #          #          #          #####          #          #          #
#####          #          #          #          #          #          #          ##0          #          #
#####          #          #          #          #          #          #####          #          #          #
-----|-----#####          #          #|.....#          #          #          #          #
|.....|          #          -.- - - -#          #|?.....|          #####          #
|.....#######|.....-#          #-.....#####          -.- - - - - - - - -#
|.....|          #          #|.....|          -----          |.....@.....|          #
-----          ##|>.....#####          |.....d.....|          #
          #.....|          |.....%.....-#
          #- - - - -

```

[Fadein the Skirmisher] St:18/02 Dx:16 Co:13 In:8 Wi:9 Ch:9 Lawful
 Dlv1:3 \$:215 HP:31(31) Pw:11(11) AC:5 Exp:4 T:1668

[illegible]

ctrl	space		:	
_____	_____	+	_____	set monitor-content <u>pattern</u>
/_____\	/_____\		/_____\	

The pattern is matched against content on the terminal by the `fnmatch(3)` function...

...which matches the the same as the familiar shell wildcard

ASCII art depicting a row of stylized figures or structures, possibly representing a landscape or a series of objects. The figures are constructed using various symbols including backslashes, forward slashes, vertical bars, and parentheses, arranged in a grid-like pattern.



How would you prove that you have ascended NetHack?

scrot?

Alt + PrintScr?

Your phone?

This is, unfortunately, not quite as simple to achieve in tmux,
but the mechanism is much more flexible

Put this into your ~/.tmux.config:

```
bind H capture-pane \; save-buffer -b 0 ~/.tmux-hardcopy \; delete-buffer -b 0
```

Now you can save an image of the active pane into ~/.tmux-hardcopy with

/ _ | _ _ _ _ _ \

\ _ \ _ | ' / - _) - _) ' \

| _ _ / _ | _ | \ _ \ _ _ | _ | | _ |

Log files may be written into the window's cwd with a name like screenlog.n

This may be toggled with

| | **ctrl** | | | | **space** | |

| | _____ | | | | _____ | | + | | **L** | |

| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ | | (not the default setting)

| / _____ \ | | / _____ \ | |

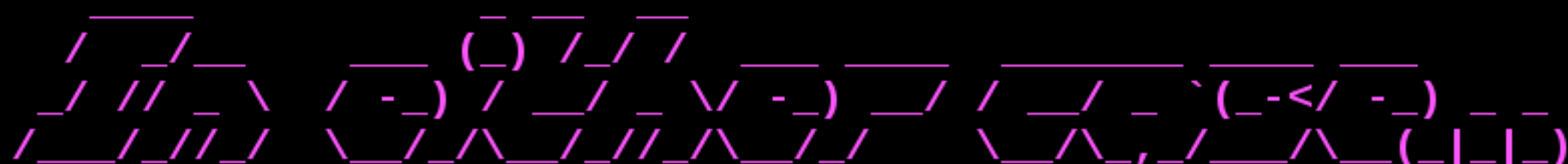
┌───┐
├───┤
└───┘

Again, this isn't out-of-the-box as in **Screen**,
but is much more flexible

┌───┐ ┌───┐ + ┌───┐ pipe-pane -t n 'shell command'
├───┤ ├───┤ └───┘
└───┘ └───┘

shell command might be as simple as cat > tmuxlog.0

Or it may be as awesome as base64 | rot13 | gzip -c > srsly3ncrypted.0.gz



Logging a window copies any output generated after logging begins...

...it does not include what is already on the window :(

but i thought
sharing was caring



Both **Screen** and **tmux** facilitate multiple clients connecting to the same session



Connect to a Screen session in multi-user mode:

```
$ screen -x [-r session name]
```



Screen has a rich set of commands relating to controlling access to various aspects of a session

- * Multiple user accounts may connect to the same session
- * Users can view windows independently
- * Users can be denied view access from certain windows
- * Users may be restricted from providing input
- * Users may not be able to enter **Screen** commands

```
┌───┐
├───┤
└───┘
```

Connect to a session:

```
$ tmux attach -t session name
```

You may cycle through active sessions with

```
||ctrl|||space|| + ||(||| and ||(|||
```



Multi-user is one area where **tmux** still lags a bit

- * Multiple clients may connect to one session from the same user account (there is a project called "wemux" that seeks to address this)
- * Each client are constrained to view the same window
- * The visible area is governed by the smallest client



Your muxer can serve as a keyboard macro for the console
Just bind a string to a convenient sequence

Open a root shell:

```
:bind s screen sudo -i
```

Launch a new instance of Vim:

```
:bind v screen vim
```


Too lazy to remember your password?

```
:bind ^P stuff 123456^M
```

(Don't actually do that last one, okay?)

It's really nice to be able to use on-screen text
as input to a program
(`xclip(1)` users, amirite?)

Place this simple shell wrapper named lynx+ under your \$PATH:

```
#!/bin/bash
case $1 in
    go)
        exec lynx "$(head -1 ~/.mux-exchange)"
        ;;
    search)
        exec lynx https://duckduckgo.com?q="$(cat ~/.mux-exchange)"
        ;;
esac
```



Given this stanza in `~/.screenrc`:

```
# store copy buffer in ~/.mux-exchange
bufferfile $HOME/.mux-exchange

# launch lynx with URL in the paste register
bind B eval "writebuf" "screen lynx+ go"

# launch lynx with the search term in the paste register
bind ^B eval "writebuf" "screen lynx+ search"
```

You can now look up a keyword or URL in a keystroke!



The same procedure is configured a bit differently here

Add this to your `~/.tmux.conf`:

```
# Copy the selection to an exchange file
```

```
bind-key -t vi-copy Enter copy-pipe "cat > ~/.mux-exchange"
```

```
# launch $browser with url stored in paste register
```

```
bind B new-window "lynx+ go"
```

```
# launch $browser with search term stored in paste register
```

```
bind C-B new-window "lynx+ search"
```

Your muxer can also fill the role of **ClusterSSH** by
multiplexing your input across multiple windows

:at <windowName> <command>

Run <command> in each window with a particular name

These windows do not need to be active or displayed

SCREENCEPTION

`:set-window-option synchronize-pane`

Each pane in the window gets your input

(with the drawback that you must be able to fit them all on one window)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Type once, run everywhere!