

Re-attachable shell for long-running tasks on remote host: tmux

Introduction

This is almost too simple for a whole wiki page, but snippets that maybe useful in emergency situations deserve a clazzes.org page by definition ...

Some tasks run too long for one "office chair session". Some other tasks require a lot of shell environment preparation.

In both situations a long-lived shell that can be accessed from different client machines can be very useful.

`tmux` provides such a shell.

tmux snippets

The following examples assume that the detachable shell shall run on a remote machine.

Obviously, tmux has to be installed:

```
sudo apt-get install tmux
```

Creating a detachable shell

```
ssh user@host
tmux
# start whatever task shall run
```

Detaching

Press `Ctrl-b d`, i.e. press and hold `Control`, press `B`, unhold `Control`, press `D`.

Re-Attaching

```
ssh user@host
tmux attach
```

Frequently used hotkeys

Scrolling

To enter scrolling press `Ctrl-b [`. Now cursor up/down and page up/down allow arbitrary scrolling. To quit scrolling, press `q` (for quit).

Frequently used options

Option	Purpose
<code>-L socket-name</code>	Uses specified socket-name instead of 'default'. Useful to run and distinct multiple tmux daemons.

-S socket-path	Uses specified socket-path instead of default path and name. Useful to run and distinct multiple tmux daemons.
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Further features and reading

tmux can do much more, i.e. run multiple commands (i.e. shells) and so on.

Just read the `tmux(1)` manpage, especially chapters KEY BINDINGS, COMMANDS, and below.