

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 clazes.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.
<code>-S socket-path</code>	Uses specified socket-path instead of default path and name. Useful to run and distinct multiple tmux daemons.

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.