Unix Screen Keyboard Shortcuts Cheat Sheet

Some notes about this cheat sheet. C = Control key. All escape commands are case sensitive.

Starting up Screen

start a new screen session with session name	screen -S <name>
list running sessions/screens	screen –ls
attach to a running session	screen –r
detach a running session and reattach	screen –d -r
… 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.)

NOTE: All screen commands below are prefixed by an escape key, by default C-a (that's Control-a). To send a literal C-a to the programs in screen, use C-a a.

Getting Out

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

Help

See help	C-a ? (lists keybindings)

Window Management

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)
rename current window	C-a A

Split Screen

split display horizontally	C-a S
split display vertically	C-a	
jump to next display region	C-a tab
remove current region	C-a X
remove all regions but the current one	C-a Q

Misc

redraw window	C-a C-l
enter copy mode	C-a [(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 :