

# Using the Screen Utility

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## Overview

The **Screen** utility is a tool for use with Linux that connects a physical terminal between several shell processes. This utility is included with all Linux-based Ribbon products.



### RECOMMENDED

Ribbon recommends using the **Screen** utility when working remotely on a server, especially during install, upgrade or migration activities.

The Screen utility allows you to:

- Use multiple shell windows from a single SSH session.
- Keep a shell active during network disruptions.
- Disconnect and re-connect to a shell session from multiple locations.
- Run a lengthy process without maintaining an active shell session.
- Copy-and-Paste text between windows and so on.

All windows run their programs completely independent of each other. Whatever you type is sent to the program running in the current window. To initiate the command, use **Ctrl-A**. This is usually followed by another keystroke depending on what you do next.

For more information on the Screen utility, refer to <http://www.gnu.org/software/screen/manual/screen.html>.

## Installing the Screen

Download the `screen-4.0.3-4.el5.x86_64.rpm` file (only in case of RedHat 5.x releases) from the LINTEL\_PLATFORM area of Ribbon Support Portal. Copy the downloaded `.rpm` file into `/tmp` directory of the Linux server.



### Note

The Screen utility is installed by default with RedHat 6.x and later versions.

```
# cd /tmp
# rpm -ihv screen-4.0.3-4.el5.x86_64.rpm
```

To check if Screen is installed in your Linux system, execute the following command:

```
# which screen

/usr/bin/screen
```

To check the screen version , execute the following command.

```
#screen --version
Screen version 4.01.00devel (GNU) 2-May-06
```

The Screen utility is available by default under `/usr/bin/screen` or `/bin/screen`.

## Starting Linux Screen

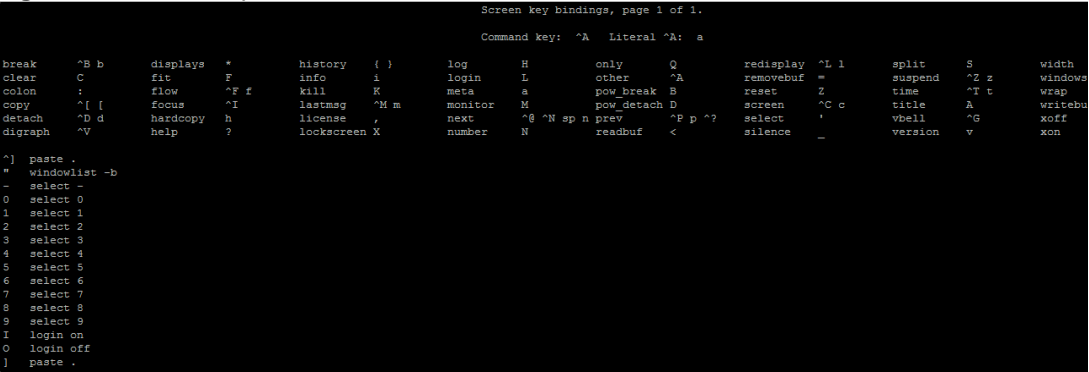
Execute the following command to start screen:

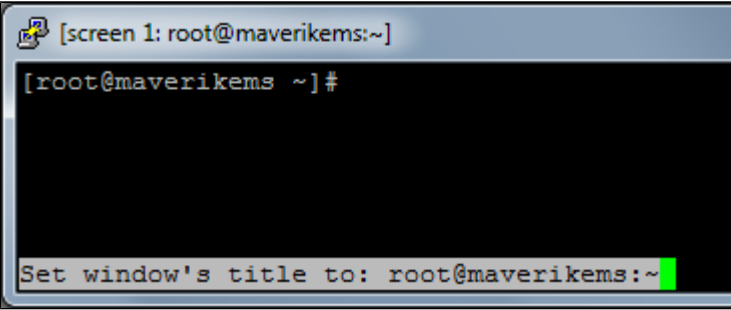
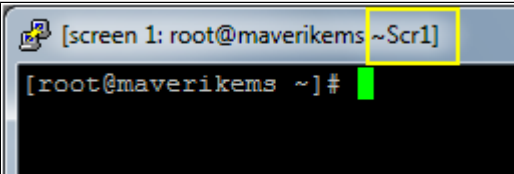
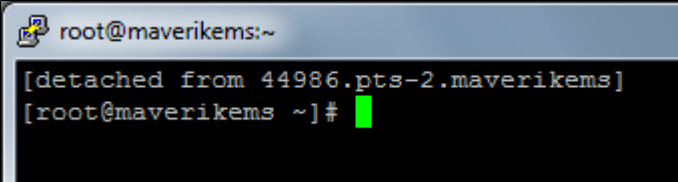
```
# screen
```

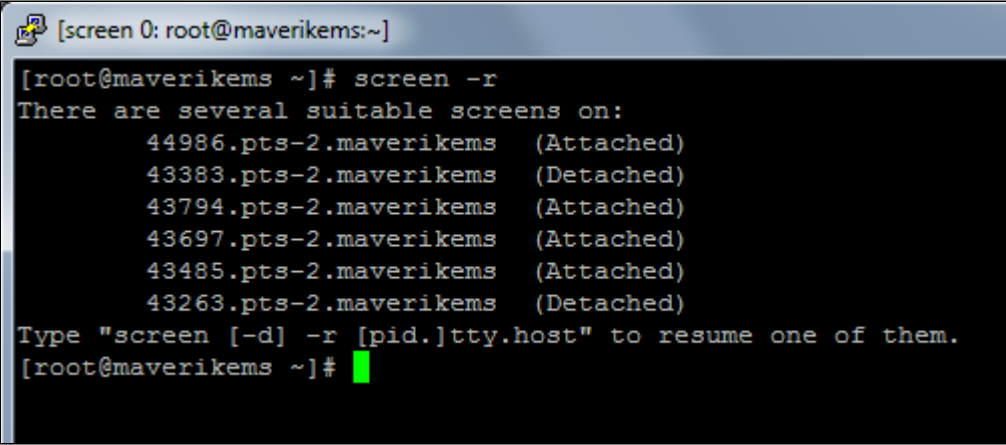
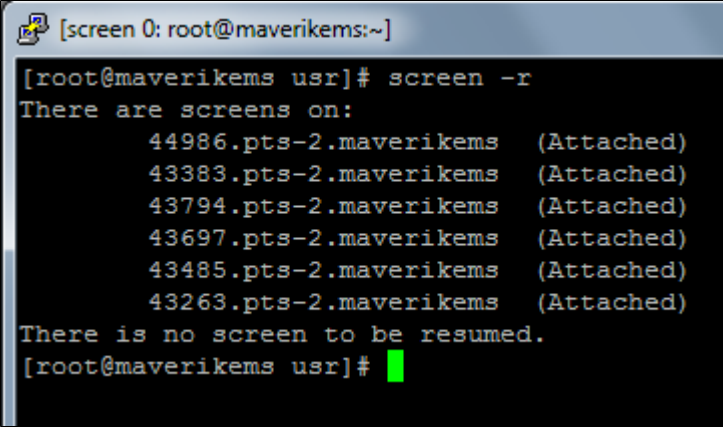
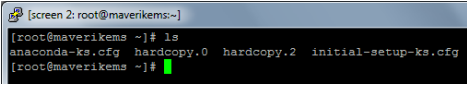
## Screen Options

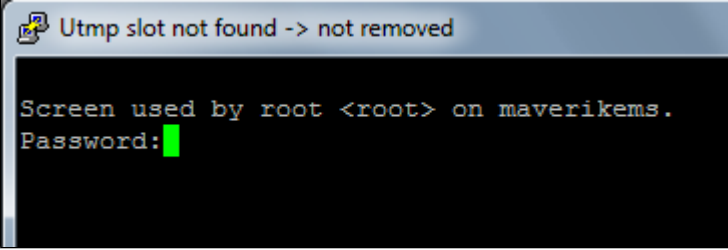
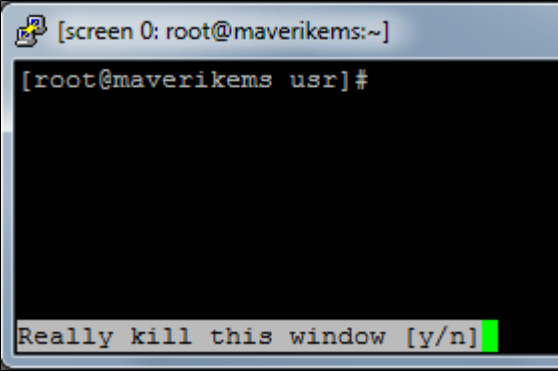
The Screen utility uses the **Ctrl-A** command to send commands to screen instead of the shell.

The following commands are used in combination with the **Ctrl-A** command:

Options	Keystroke	Description
Help	Ctrl -A + ?	List the screen help page  <b>Figure 1: Screen Help</b> 
Creating new window	Ctrl-A + C	Create a new window with your default prompt.

<p>Creating window title</p>	<p>Ctrl-A + A</p>	<p>Assign the screen window with a title.</p> <p><b>Figure 2: Sample Output - Naming the Screen</b></p>  <p>Enter the screen window name as <b>Scr1</b></p> 
<p>Switching between windows</p>	<p>Ctrl-A + N</p> <p>Ctrl-A + P</p> <p>Ctrl-A + &lt;1-9&gt;</p>	<p>Switch to the next window.</p> <p>Switch to the previous window.</p> <p>Switch to screen window number 0 to 9.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Ctrl-A + 2, switches to the second screen window.</p>
<p>Detaching from screen</p>	<p>Ctrl-A + D</p>	<p>Detach from a window and reattach later.</p> <p><b>Figure 3: Sample Output - Screen Detached</b></p> 

Reattach to screen	screen -r	<p>To re-attach to your detached screen, execute this command.</p> <p>If you have multiple screens you may get this:</p> <p><b>Figure 4: Sample Output - Detached Screens</b></p>  <p>Enter <code>screen -r &lt;screen name&gt;</code> to re-attach the required screen.</p> <p><b>Figure 5: Sample Output - Attached Screen</b></p> 
Logging screen outputs	Ctrl-A + H	<p>Create a running log of the session to the file "hardcopy.n" file (where n is the number of the current screen).</p> <p><b>Figure 6: Sample Output - Screen Log file</b></p>  <p>The hard copies are dumped in the screen's current working directory.</p>
Getting alerts	Ctrl-A + M	<p>Monitor a window for activity.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p>If you are waiting for output from a long-running program, you can use <b>Ctrl + a M</b> to look for activity on that screen.</p> <p>If you are downloading a large file or compiling a program, you can be notified when there is no activity for a certain period of time.</p>

Locking screen session	Ctrl-A + X	<p>Lock your screen session. This requires a password to access the session again.</p> <p><b>Figure 7: Sample Output - Lock Screen</b></p>  <p>The screenshot shows a terminal window with a title bar that reads "Uttmp slot not found -&gt; not removed". The main content of the terminal is a lock screen message: "Screen used by root &lt;root&gt; on maverikems." followed by "Password:" and a redacted input field.</p>
Stopping screen	exit	To exit and close the screen utility, execute this command.
Kill the screen	Ctrl-A + K	<p>Terminate and exit the screen utility.</p> <p><b>Figure 8: Sample Output - Kill Screen</b></p>  <p>The screenshot shows a terminal window with a title bar that reads "[screen 0: root@maverikems:~]". The main content of the terminal is a prompt "[root@maverikems usr]#" and a confirmation prompt "Really kill this window [y/n]" with a redacted input field.</p> <p>Type <b>y</b> to terminate the screen.</p>

