

# How to Install and Configure Tmux for Linux

If you constantly switch between terminals and can't find the right window when you need it, consider using a multiplexer. These are programs that allow users to run multiple terminal sessions inside a single window.

Tmux is a popular multiplexer that offers a lot of great features. It makes it easy to run different applications in separate sessions and switch between them easily.

## How to Install Tmux in Linux

This tutorial introduces how to install and configure Tmux for Linux machines. Activate a Terminal and use the appropriate installation method for your system.

On Debian-based distributions:

```
sudo install tmux
```

On CentOS/REHL:

```
yum install tmux
```

To install tmux on Arch Linux:

```
pacman -S tmux
```

Once the installation is done, launch a Terminal and type **tmux** to start a new Tmux session. This command will start a new session inside a window and start the shell. The status bar at the bottom shows information about your current session.

```
tmux
```

## Using Tmux for the first time

Tmux has many concepts like session, window, pane and hotkey. So beginners often find it very intimidating. However, once you have a good understanding of Tmux, you will feel the effectiveness of this tool much more clearly.

A Tmux session defines the task at hand. Windows allows users to perform different operations within a session. Panels, on the other hand, will allow you to work with separate views within the window.

You can manage all of this via hotkeys in Tmux, a combination of the Tmux prefix followed by a specific key. The default prefix is **Ctrl + B**.

## How to manage sessions in Tmux

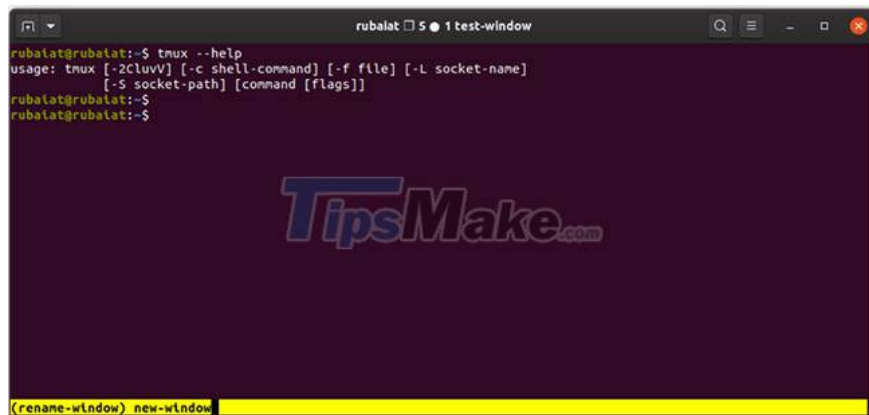
Tmux can handle multiple sessions at the same time. This allows developers to switch between different projects easily. You can also create a new session anytime you want.

Refer to the article: [How to manage and restore Tmux sessions in Linux](#) for more details.

## How to manage windows in Tmux

The Tmux window spans the entire screen and can be divided into multiple panes. Each of these panes will act as a separate virtual Terminal. You can create a new tmux window with **Ctrl + B c**.

Use **Ctrl + B**, to rename your Tmux window. It will call the Tmux interpreter. Enter the new window name here.



```
rubalat@rubalat:~$ tmux --help
usage: tmux [-2CluvV] [-c shell-command] [-f file] [-L socket-name]
          [-S socket-path] [command [flags]]
rubalat@rubalat:~$
rubalat@rubalat:~$

(rename-window) new-window
```

Tmux makes switching between different windows easy. Enter the Tmux prefix, followed by the window number. For example, you can quickly switch to a second window with **Ctrl + B 2**.

You can also swap Tmux windows. To do this, invoke the interpreter by typing **Ctrl + B :** and enter the following.

```
: swap-window -s 1 -t 3
```

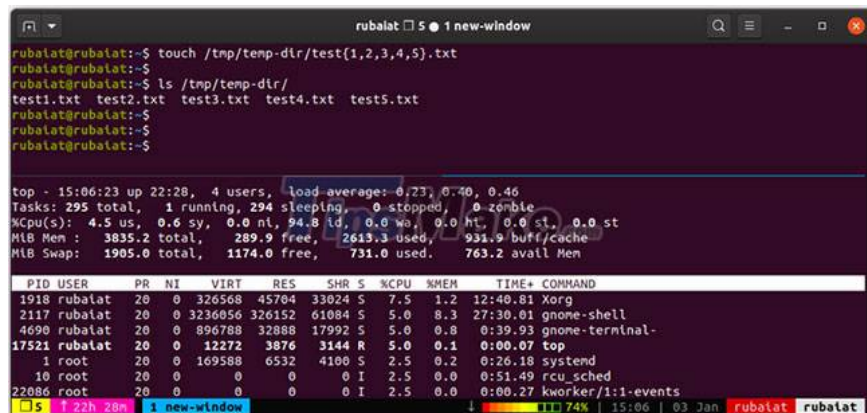
This command switches the first and third windows. You can delete a window once done using **Ctrl + B &**.



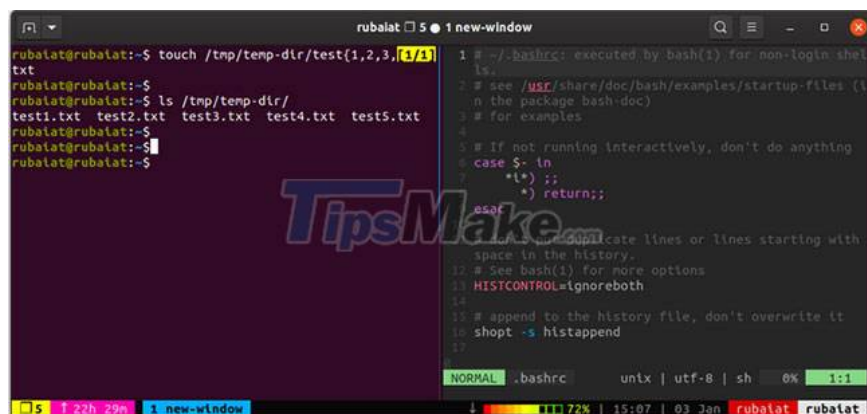
## How to manage panes in Tmux

Up to this point, the article has covered how to use sessions and windows in Tmux. However, things get really interesting once you start using panes. Panels are basically virtual terminals that run inside windows. Users can use them to run several instances of Terminal from a single Tmux window.

You can create horizontal and vertical panes in Tmux. Type **Ctrl + B "** to split the view horizontally.

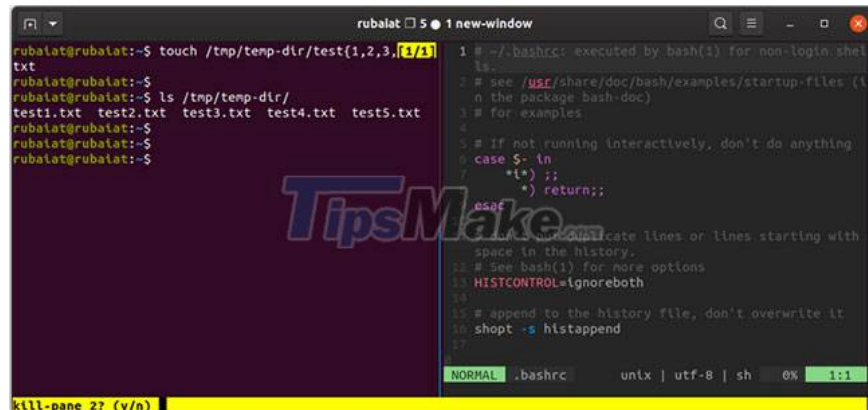


This will split the current window horizontally and open a Terminal in a new window. Use **Ctrl + B %** to start a vertical pane.



You can create horizontal and vertical panes at the same time. Use hotkey **Ctrl + B o** to switch between panes.

Changing the zoom level of a pane allows the user to hide all other panes. This feature comes in very handy when you need to focus on a specific task. Use **Ctrl + B z** to switch panes. You can close the current pane at any time using the hotkey **Ctrl + B x**.



```
rubalat@rubalat:~$ touch /tmp/temp-dir/test{1,2,3,4,5}.txt
rubalat@rubalat:~$
rubalat@rubalat:~$ ls /tmp/temp-dir/
test1.txt test2.txt test3.txt test4.txt test5.txt
rubalat@rubalat:~$
rubalat@rubalat:~$
rubalat@rubalat:~$
rubalat@rubalat:~$

1 # ~/.bashrc: executed by bash(1) for non-login shells
2 #
3 # see /usr/share/doc/bash/examples/startup-files (1)
4 # for examples
5 #
6 # If not running interactively, don't do anything
7 case $- in
8   *i*) ;;
9   *) return;;
10 esac
11 # To customize your prompt, see http://wiki.bash-hackers.org/scripting/prompting
12 # To see more options, see http://wiki.bash-hackers.org/reference/bashrc
13 # See bash(1) for more options
14 HISTCONTROL=ignoreboth
15 #
16 # append to the history file, don't overwrite it
17 shopt -s histappend
18 #
19 # In order to restore normal state after suspending with Ctrl-Z,
20 # without being asked to confirm, add the following to ~/.bashrc:
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```
set -g base-index 1 # starts window numbering from 1 set -g pane-base-index 1 #
```

Since Tmux is a Terminal-driven tool, it does not support mouse functions. However, you can easily enable mouse support for Tmux by adding the file below to your configuration.

```
set -g mouse on
```

Hope you are succesful.

You finished reading the article "**How to Install and Configure Tmux for Linux**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.