

## Using Screen

This tip demonstrates the use of screen which is a "fullscreen window manager that multiplexes a physical terminal between several processes." Practically speaking, this just means you can use screen to start a process in one terminal and check the output in another.

While there are many options to screen (man screen), this example demonstrates starting an emerge on a remote box, and then checking on the process from another machine.

### Code Listing 1: screen + emerge

```
# screen
# emerge -u mozilla
// To see the commands in screen use Ctrl-a ?
// The following command detaches the screen
# Ctrl-a d
[detached]
```

Now the screen is detached, open another terminal or ssh session and view the available screens with screen -list. To reattach to the screen and check the command's progress, use screen -r.

### Code Listing 2

```
# screen -list
There is a screen on:
30901.pts-6.iris      (Detached)
1 Socket in /var/run/screen/S-david.
# screen -r
```

This will reattach to the screen and display the output of the emerge command. You can name your screen session by giving the -S >name> option. This makes finding the screen easier if you got a couple of them running.

You reattach with screen -r >name>.

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