

# abduco & dvtm

## Session and Tiling Window Management for the Console

Marc André Tanner

CoSin '18

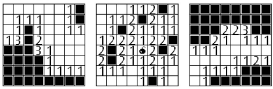
# Oberon

Alpha Oberon (TM) OpenVMS AXP (TM) Oberon (TM) System (hg)

mines.txt | Close | Copy | Grow | Search | Replace | Parcs | Edit | Compile | Error | Fold | Browse | Store

**Oberon-Mines V1.32**

mines.txt | Close | Copy | Grow | Search | Replace | Parcs | Edit | Compile | Error | Fold | Browse | Store



Welcome.Text | Close | Copy | Grow | Search | Replace | Parcs | Edit | Compile | Error | Fold | Browse | Store !

**Alpha Oberon**<sup>TM</sup>

Copyright (C) 1991-1995 by ModulaWare, France

AlphaOberon\_Guide.Text | System.Close System.Copy System.Grow Edit.Search Edit.Replace

Alpha Oberon<sup>TM</sup> is an implementation of Oberon<sup>TM</sup> for Digital Equipment Corporation Alpha AXP OpenVMS workstation (OSF/Motif) or Alpha AXP OpenVMS server with XTerm.

Both the programming language Oberon-2 and the Oberon System have been implemented complete description of the Language and of the System, one should read the following books:

N. Wirth and M. Reiser: Programming in Oberon. Steps beyond Pascal and Modula-2. Addison Wesley, 1992, ISBN 0-201-56543-9.  
Tutorial for the Oberon programming language and concise language reference.

M. Reiser: The Oberon System. User Guide and Programmers Manual. Addison Wesley, 1991, ISBN 0-201-54422-9.  
User manual for the programming environment and reference for the standard module library.

N. Wirth and J. Gutknecht: Project Oberon. The Design of an Operating System and Compiler. Addison Wesley, 1992, ISBN 0-201-54428-8.  
Program listings with explanations for the whole Oberon system, including the compiler for NS32000.

OberonV4.Text | System.Close System.Copy System.Grow Edit.Search Edit.Replace Edit.Parcs Edit.Store

Institut für Computersysteme, ETH Zürich

22.10.93


**Oberon V4**

H. Mössenböck

Oberon V4 is a cleaned up version of Oberon V2.2 (The version number V3 refers to "Gadgets Oberon" which has a graphical user interface.) It resulted from the desire to integrate the text editors *Edit* and *Write*. This document explains the differences between V4 and V2.2. What is not described here remains as explained in the book "The Oberon System" by M. Reiser (see reference [1] below).

System.Log | System.Close System.Copy System.Grow Edit.Search Edit.Store !

System.Time 14.12.95 15:57:16  
Edit.Store AlphaOberon\_Guide.Text 9103  
Edit.Store AlphaOberon\_Guide.Text 9104  
XE (SHMIL 3 Oct 95)



(C) 1 Oct 95 by Ralf Degner

Oberon-Mines V1.32

System.Tool | System.Close System.Copy System.Grow Edit.Search Edit.Store

Edit.Show Edit.Recall System.Recall Screen.OneTrack  
Edit.Print PSPrinter.SYS\$PRINT \* Edit.Print PSPrinter.SYS\$PRINT \*\*  
Edit.Print PSPrinter.Out.PS-LIS \* Edit.Open \*  
=> XE.Open \* screen.is Welcome.Text Dialogs.text popup\_test.text  
cnp.mod mines.text ObTnIs.text Mess.mod

Texts Tools Programming Docs

Configuration Compiler System

Browser.ShowTree \* Unix System Oberon \*\*  
Browser.ShowObj \* Oberon.CopyWsg \*\*  
Browser.ShowDef \* Browser Unix System X11 X11\$ Types Objects.Types  
Class.Show \*  
Coco.Compile \* cratg  
Dialog.Open Insert.Dlg  
Draw.Open \* Charn.Graph ELEKTRA:GRAPH MEMORYLAYOUT:GRAPH  
FontEdit.Open Syntax14.scr.Int \*\*  
Kleppel.Open \* Palette.Kep 0 file.kep 0  
Mandelbrot.Draw  
Mess.Report \*  
Rott.Open Rott.Start Rott.Stop  
Swarm.Start 5 200 5 3 20  
System.Directory \* \*Tool \*Text \*Graph \*Pict \*asc  
Inz \*Mod \* \*Frnt \*Obj \*Sym \* \*Bak

System.Open \*  
**System.Quit**  
System.CopyFromDOS => \*\*  
System.CopyToDOS => \*\*  
System.CopyFiles => \*\*  
System.RenameFiles => \*\*  
System.DeleteFiles => \*\*

Test-MyObjects.TestIt  
TrapDemo.Trap  
UseGIFLoad.Load UseGIFLoad GIFLOAD  
PopupElems.Insert System

<pre>win Newcol Kill Putall Dump Exit New Cut Paste Snarf Sort Zerox Delcol /usr/maht/-grr Del Snarf   Look Send Noscroll term% ftps ftp.proweb.co.uk 220 Welcome to Proweb Web Server (Jerry) 331 Please specify the password. 230 Login successful. 215 UNIX Type: L8 257 "/" term% cat /dev/window   topng &gt; /n/ftp/www/acme_screeny.png  </pre>	<pre>New Cut Paste Snarf Sort Zerox Delcol Errors Del Snarf   Look</pre> <p>NAME</p> <p>acme, win, awd - interactive text windows</p> <p>SYNOPSIS</p> <p>acme [-ab] [-c ncol] [-f varfont] [-F fixfont] [-l loadfile] file ... ]</p> <p>win [command]</p> <p>awd [label]</p> <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Acme manages windows of text that may be edited interactively or by external programs. The interactive interface uses the keyboard and mouse; external programs use a set of files served by acme; these are discussed in acme(4).</p> <p>Any named files are read into acme windows before acme accepts input. With the -l option, the state of the entire system is loaded from loadfile, which should have been created by a Dump command (q.v.), and subsequent file names are ignored. Plain files display as text; directories display as columnated lists of the names of their components, as in ls -p directory mc except that the names of subdirectories have a slash appended.</p> <p>The -f (-F) option sets the main font, usually variable-pitch (alternate, usually fixed-pitch); the default is /lib/font/bit/lucidasans/euro.8.font (/./ucm/unicode.9.font). Tab intervals are set to the width of 4 (or the value of Stabstop) numeral zeros in the appropriate font.</p> <p>Windows</p> <p>Acme windows are in two parts: a one-line tag above a multi-line body. The body typically contains an image of a file, as in sam(1), or the output of a program, as in a rio(1) window. The tag contains a number of blank-separated words, followed by a vertical bar character, followed by anything. The first word is the name of the window, typically the name of the associated file or directory, and the other words are commands available in that window. Any text may be added after the bar; examples are strings to search for or commands to execute in that window. Changes to the text left of the bar will be ignored, unless the result is to change the name of the window.</p>
<pre>Del Snarf Undo   Look This image is in the Public Domain</pre>	
<pre>/usr/maht/ Del Snarf Get   Look 386/      freetype-plan9.tgz      momo/ abaco.tgz  freetype/              radio abaco/     hugs-p9/              radios acme.dump  hugs.tgz               sys/ acme_screeny.png lib/                tmp/ bin/       mad.tgz               window freetype-2.1.4/ madplay/</pre>	
<pre>/usr/maht/lib/plumbing Del Snarf   Look #t to update: cp /usr/maht/lib/plumbing /mnt/plumb/rules editor - acme include basic type is text data matches '[a-zA-Z0-9_./\+]' on line ([0-9])-&gt;' arg isfile /n/momo/var/www/\$1 data set \$file attr add addr=\$2 plumb to edit plumb client \$editor type is text data matches '[a-zA-Z0-9_./\+](class inc)' arg isfile /n/momo/var/www/php/\$1 data set \$file plumb to edit plumb client \$editor type is text data matches -&gt; '[a-zA-Z0-9_]*' plumb start rc -c '\$ssh momo bin/functionlist.rc'   grep \$1' &gt;[2-1] plumb -i -d edit'</pre>	<pre>/n/momo/ Del Snarf Get   Look This is my OpenBSD machine over u9fs [cshrc bin/ bsd.mp dev/ home/ sbin/ usr/ .profile boot bsd.rd emul/ mnt/ stand/ var/ altroot/ bsd cvs/ etc/ root/ tmp/</pre> <pre>/n/momo/etc/motd Del Snarf   Look OpenBSD 3.8 (GENERIC) #138: Sat Sep 10 15:41:37 MDT 2005 Welcome to OpenBSD: The proactively secure Unix-like operating system.</pre>

## X11: wmi, wmii, dwm

[illegible]

# TL;DR: What is this all about?

Provide a similiar working environment suitable for:

- ▶ Framebuffer console
- ▶ Remote e.g. SSH/mosh sessions

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abduco

- ▶ session persistence

dvtm

- ▶ tiling window management for the console
- ▶ terminal multiplexer

# Tiling window management

- ▶ Optimally use available screen space
- ▶ No overlapping windows
- ▶ Automatic window placement
- ▶ Minimal window decorations



## dvtm – *dynamic* virtual terminal manager

From: Marc Andre Tanner <mat@brain-dump.org>  
Date: Sat, 8 Dec 2007 13:29:30 +0100  
To: dwm@suckless.org  
Subject: [ANNOUNCE] dvtm - dynamic virtual terminal  
manager - aka dwm for the console

Hi,

For some time I have been thinking about applying the concept of tiling window management to the console. As a result I have written dvtm, you can check it out here:

<http://www.brain-dump.org/projects/dvtm/>

...

## Concepts shared with dwm

- ▶ window management should be automatic and *dynamic*
- ▶ master and stacking area
- ▶ tagging concept
- ▶ similar key bindings, MOD defaults to Ctrl-g
- ▶ 1-line statusbar (via a named pipe)
- ▶ configuration through `config.def.h`

# Design Philosophy

Heavily influenced by `suckless.org`.

Focus on simplicity, clarity and frugality, minimal but useable, do one thing and do it well.

- ▶ *dynamic* window management for the console
- ▶ no internal copy mode (use `$EDITOR` instead)
- ▶ no session support (see `abduco`)
- ▶ easily scriptable

# dvtm – *dynamic* virtual terminal manager

Single *modifier* key, prefix for all commands

Denoted by \$MOD, defaults to ⟨C-g⟩

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Single *modifier* key, prefix for all commands

Denoted by \$MOD, defaults to  $\langle C-g \rangle$

Can be changed at runtime:

- ▶ `dvtm -m ^a` ( $\langle C-a \rangle$  as in screen)
- ▶ `dvtm -m ^b` ( $\langle C-b \rangle$  as in tmux)

Use \$MOD-\$MOD to send the \$MOD key.

# dvtm – window lifecycle

- ▶ `dvtm process1 process2 ...`
- ▶ `$MOD-c` create new window
- ▶ `$MOD-C` create new window with same working directory<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ `$MOD-x-x` close window

Closing the last window, terminates dvtm.

---

<sup>1</sup>Depends on `/proc/$PID/cwd`

## dvtm – focus windows

- ▶ `$MOD-j` focus next
- ▶ `$MOD-k` focus previous
- ▶ `$MOD-J` focus next non-minimized
- ▶ `$MOD-K` focus previous non-minimized
- ▶ `$MOD-[0..9]` focus *n*-th window
- ▶ `$MOD-⟨Tab⟩` focus previously selected window

# dvtm – master and stacking area

Available space is split into two areas:

- ▶ master: the primary window(s)
- ▶ stacking: the other windows



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- ▶ `$MOD-⟨Enter⟩` swap current window to/from master area

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- ▶ `$MOD-h` decrease master area width

## dvtm – change master area

- ▶ `$MOD-⟨Enter⟩` swap current window to/from master area
- ▶ `$MOD-l` increase master area width
- ▶ `$MOD-h` decrease master area width
- ▶ `$MOD-i` increase number of windows in master area
- ▶ `$MOD-d` decrease number of windows in master area

## dvtm – minimize/maximize windows

- ▶ `$MOD-. toggle minimization of current window`
- ▶ `$MOD-m maximize current window`

## dvtm – layouts

A way to place/display windows.

`$MOD-⟨Space⟩` cycles through layouts.

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- ▶ `$MOD-g` Grid
- ▶ `$MOD-m` Monocle/fullscreen

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Also included in source tarball, but disabled by default:

- ▶ Top stack
- ▶ Vertical stack
- ▶ Fibonacci: spiral & dwindle

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Controls which windows are displayed.

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Every window is tagged with at least one tag.

A *view* is a subset of  $tags$  i.e.  $(views \subseteq tags)$

A *view* displays all windows having at least one of the tags.

## dvtm – tagging modifying the view

View tag: display all windows with *tagN*, "change workspace"

▶ \$MOD-v-N

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▶ `$MOD-v-N`

Toggle tag of view: add/remove all windows with *tagN*

▶ `$MOD-V-N`

## dvtm – tagging windows

Tag window: apply *tagN* to focused window, "move window to workspace"

▶ `$MOD-t-N`

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▶ `$MOD-t-N`

Toggle tag of window: add/remove *tagN* from focused window

▶ `$MOD-T-N`

## dvtm – miscellaneous tagging

`$MOD-v-⟨Tab⟩` switch to previously selected tags

`$MOD-0` view all tags / windows

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Hidden by default.

Displays a single line of text, read from a FIFO:



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Displays a single line of text, read from a FIFO:

- ▶ `mkfifo -m 600 dvtm.status`
- ▶ `dvtm -s dvtm.status`
- ▶ `echo "your fancy status" > dvtm.status`

See `dvtm-status(1)` for an extended example

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`$MOD-s` toggles status bar

`$MOD-S` cycles position (top, bottom)

# dvtm – scrollbar buffer

Enhances terminals like `st(1)` with a scroll back buffer.

- ▶ Set history size: `dvtm -h lines`
- ▶ `<S-PageUp>` or `$MOD+<PageUp>` scroll up
- ▶ `<S-PageDown>` or `$MOD+<PageDown>` scroll down

# dvtm – keyboard multiplexing

Keypresses are forwarded to all visible windows.

Useful to interactively manage multiple servers.

- ▶ \$MOD-a toggles multiplexing mode

## dvtm – copymode

Copy and paste text across windows.

- ▶ uses your `$EDITOR` as interactive filter
  - ▶ pipes scroll back buffer history to editor
  - ▶ keeps whatever the editor writes to stdout in a register
  - ▶ `dvtm-editor(1)` makes it work for ordinary `$EDITORs`

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  - ▶ `dvtm-editor(1)` makes it work for ordinary `$EDITORs`
- ▶ `$MOD-e` enter copy mode
- ▶ `$MOD-p` paste previously copied text

## dvtm – window title

Xterm terminal escape sequence extension:

```
$ printf "\033]0;%s\007" "Your title here!"
```

See also `dvtm-title(1)`

## dvtm – urgent flag

Titlebar (or tagbar) indication that "something" occurred in the window.

Triggered by ASCII bell character \a.



## dvtm – mouse support

Click to focus window.

Double click to focus and toggle maximization.

Middle click to zoom.

Right click to minimize.

## dvtm – scripting capabilities

Control dvtm from other processes.

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- ▶ `dvtm -c dvtm-command.fifo`
- ▶ `echo "create vis" > dvtm-command.fifo`
- ▶ `$DVTM_CMD_FIFO` exposed to child processes

# dvtm – scripting capabilities

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Reads commands from a named pipe.

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Only unidirectional communication.

Still limited and experimental.

# abduco: session handling

- ▶ Provides session persistence
  - ▶ terminate stuck SSH sessions `<Enter> ~ .`
  - ▶ `ssh user@host -t abduco -A session`

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- ▶ Simple client/server architecture
- ▶ Communication over Unix domain socket

# abduco: session handling

- ▶ Provides session persistence
  - ▶ terminate stuck SSH sessions `<Enter> ~ .`
  - ▶ `ssh user@host -t abduco -A session`
- ▶ Simple client/server architecture
- ▶ Communication over Unix domain socket
- ▶ Operates on the raw I/O stream
- ▶ Does not attempt to interpret or preserve terminal state

# abduco: basic usage

Create session (and attach)

▶ `abduco -c demo`



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Detach session

- ▶ `<Ctrl-\>`

# abduco: basic usage

Create session (and attach)

▶ `abduco -c demo`

Detach session

▶ `<Ctrl-\>`

Reattach session

▶ `abduco -a demo`

## abduco: session list

```
$ abduco
```

```
Active sessions (on host thinkpad)
```

*	Sat	2018-06-16	20:40:36	27492	connected
	Sat	2018-06-16	20:39:49	27414	inactive
+	Sat	2018-06-16	20:40:13	27487	dead

## abduco: session list

```
$ abduco
Active sessions (on host thinkpad)
* Sat 2018-06-16 20:40:36 27492 connected
  Sat 2018-06-16 20:39:49 27414 inactive
+ Sat 2018-06-16 20:40:13 27487 dead
```

Column meaning:

1. Status, \* active / client connected, + terminated
2. Last activity (mtime of socket)
3. Server PID
4. Session name

## abduco: session exit status

No output buffering, but exit status is recorded.

```
$ abduco -n demo false && abduco -a demo
abduco: demo: session terminated
                                with exit status 1
```

## abduco: shared sessions

Multiple simultaneously connected clients.

- ▶ Most recently non-readonly client dictates pty size
- ▶ Read only sessions (input is discarded)
- ▶ For security purposes, use `socat(1)`

```
$ socat -u unix-connect:/tmp/abduco/private/session  
        unix-listen:/tmp/abduco/public/read-only &
```

## abduco: resize handling

Most recently non-readonly client dictates `pty(7)` size.

Delivers `SIGWINCH` to underlying process.

# abduco: socket recreation

In case session socket disappears:

- ▶ `pgrep -P 1 abduco`
- ▶ `lsof -p $PID | grep unix`
- ▶ `kill -USR1 $PID`
- ▶ `cp /proc/$PID/exe abduco`
- ▶ `./abduco`



# abduco: environment variables

Command to run, if omitted:

- ▶ `$ABDUCO_CMD` defaults to `dvtm`

Current session information:

- ▶ `$ABDUCO_SESSION`
- ▶ `$ABDUCO_SOCKET`

# Limitations & a plan to fix them

Terminal state not preserved across sessions

Possible fix:

1. session attached
2. abduco sends signal to supervised application (i.e. dvtm)
3. dvtm restores terminal state

## Future Plans<sup>2</sup>

- ▶ Find more time for maintenance
- ▶ Preserve terminal state across sessions
- ▶ Improve terminal emulation
  - ▶ 24 bit color support
  - ▶ `dvtm`  $\approx$  `dwm` + `st` ?
  - ▶ `dvtm`  $\approx$  `libvterm` + `libtickit` ?

---

<sup>2</sup>In no particular order, no timeline given.

# Future Plans

- ▶ Improve scripting capabilities, allow bidirectional communication via a unix domain socket

```
$ echo cmd | socat - UNIX-CONNECT:/tmp/socket | doit
```

- ▶ Provide Lua API?
- ▶ Resolve abduco license controversy

# Conclusion

Does not conflate session and window management.

Although raw edges, conceptually sound.

Non-bloated solution which works (at least for my usecase).

# Questions?

`https://github.com/martanne/abduco`

`https://github.com/martanne/dvtm`

`git://repo.or.cz/abduco.git`

`git://repo.or.cz/dvtm.git`

`mat@brain-dump.org`

`#vis-editor` on freenode

Happy Hacking!