

opencode client

- [OpenCode CLI & TUI Usage](#)

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Complete Usage Guide

A comprehensive guide covering keyboard shortcuts, interface modes, configuration, and best practices for the OpenCode interactive CLI/TUI agent.

1. Core UI Navigation & Keybinds

OpenCode uses a **Leader Key** system to avoid conflicts with terminal or shell shortcuts.

- **Default Leader Key:** `Ctrl+X`
- **Leader Timeout:** 2000 ms (press `<leader>` then the command key within 2 seconds).

Interface & Display Controls

Action	Default Shortcut	Config Key	Description
Toggle Sidebar	<code><leader> b</code> (<code>Ctrl+X</code> then <code>b</code>)	<code>sidebar_toggle</code>	Hides/shows the right info sidebar box.
Open Command Palette	<code>Ctrl+P</code>	<code>command_list</code>	Opens prompt command list for quick actions.
Toggle Tips	<code><leader> h</code>	<code>tips_toggle</code>	Toggle onscreen contextual tips.
Exit OpenCode	<code>Ctrl+C</code> , <code>Ctrl+D</code> , or <code><leader> q</code>	<code>app_exit</code>	Quit the application session.
Suspend Terminal	<code>Ctrl+Z</code>	<code>terminal_suspend</code>	Suspend process to background (POSIX shells).
Which-Key Popup	<code>Ctrl+Alt+K</code>	<code>which_key_toggle</code>	Display interactive keybind map.

Session Management

Action	Shortcut	Config Key	Description
New Session	<leader> n	session_new	Start a fresh agent chat session.
List Sessions	<leader> l	session_list	Open interactive session picker.
Session Timeline	<leader> g	session_timeline	View session branching and event history.
Export Session	<leader> x	session_export	Export session history as JSON.
Compact Session	<leader> c	session_compact	Summarize and compact long chat context.
Rename Session	Ctrl+R	session_rename	Change current session title.
Delete Session	Ctrl+D (in list)	session_delete	Permanently remove a session.
Interrupt Generation	Esc	session_interrupt	Stop model generation or tool execution.

Messages & Scroll Navigation

Action	Shortcut	Config Key	Description
Page Up / Down	PageUp / PageDown	messages_page_up / _down	Scroll chat history by page.
Half Page Scroll	Ctrl+Alt+U / Ctrl+Alt+D	messages_half_page_up / _down	Scroll half page up/down.
Jump to Top	Ctrl+G or Home	messages_first	Jump to start of chat transcript.
Jump to Bottom	Ctrl+Alt+G or End	messages_last	Jump to latest response.
Copy Last Message	<leader> y	messages_copy	Copy entire last response directly to system clipboard.
Undo / Redo	<leader> u / <leader> r	messages_undo / _redo	Undo or redo chat message edits.
Conceal Code	<leader> h	messages_toggle_conceal	Fold or unfold code blocks in chat.

Models, Agents & Themes

Action	Shortcut	Config Key	Description
Switch Agent	Tab / Shift+Tab	agent_cycle / _reverse	Cycle between primary/subagent modes.
List Agents	<leader> a	agent_list	Open agent selector modal.
List Models	<leader> m	model_list	Open model selection dialog.
Cycle Recent Model	F2 / Shift+F2	model_cycle_recent	Switch to previous model.

Action	Shortcut	Config Key	Description
Favorite Model	Ctrl+F	model_favorite_toggle	Toggle favorite status for selected model.
Switch Theme	<leader> t	theme_list	Select UI color theme.
Cycle Variants	Ctrl+T	variant_cycle	Toggle model reasoning effort (low/med/high).

Prompt Input Editing (Readline / Emacs)

Shortcut	Action
Enter	Submit prompt
Shift+Enter / Ctrl+J	Insert newline
Ctrl+A / Ctrl+E	Move cursor to start / end of line
Ctrl+B / Ctrl+F	Move cursor back / forward one char
Alt+B / Alt+F	Move cursor back / forward one word
Ctrl+K	Kill text from cursor to end of line
Ctrl+U	Kill text from cursor to start of line
Ctrl+W	Delete word backward
Alt+D	Delete word forward

2. Modes & Execution Options

OpenCode offers several execution modes depending on your interface and automation needs.

1. Standard Interactive TUI (opencode)

Starts the full terminal user interface with chat transcript, sidebar info pane, and status indicators.

```
opencode
```

2. Minimal Single-Column TUI (--mini)

Removes sidebars, borders, and multi-column widgets.

```
# Start new minimal session
opencode --mini

# Resume last session in minimal mode
opencode --mini -c
```

3. Non-Interactive CLI / Scripting (`opencode run`)

Executes a single prompt or command non-interactively without launching the TUI. Prints raw Markdown or JSON output directly to `stdout`.

```
# Single prompt execution
opencode run "Explain closures in Rust"

# Pass file context
opencode run -f src/main.rs "Review this code for safety"

# Output as raw JSON events
opencode run --format json "List open TODO items"
```

4. Headless Server & Attach (`opencode serve` / `opencode attach`)

Runs an OpenCode backend server process (avoiding cold boots for MCP plugins) that remote terminals or web clients can attach to.

```
# Terminal 1: Start headless backend
opencode serve --port 4096

# Terminal 2: Attach TUI from another terminal/session
opencode attach http://localhost:4096
```

3. Customizing Shortcuts (`~/ .config/opencode/tui.json`)

Keybinds can be overridden globally by creating or editing `~/ .config/opencode/tui.json`.

Example `tui.json` Configuration:

```
{
  "$schema": "https://opencode.ai/tui.json",
  "leader_timeout": 2000,
  "keybinds": {
    "leader": "ctrl+x",
    "sidebar_toggle": "f3",
    "messages_copy": ["<leader>y", "ctrl+shift+c"],
    "session_compact": "none"
  }
}
```

4. Copying Text Cleanly

“ **Important Note on Mouse Selection:** In TUI terminals, OpenCode renders chat messages inside a fixed width box container. Even with the sidebar hidden via `<leader> b`, terminal mouse dragging selects the entire terminal row width, picking up all trailing pad spaces up to the terminal window border.

Best Ways to Copy Code Snippets:

1. **Use Message Copy Shortcut (`<leader> y`):** Press `Ctrl+X` then `y` to yank the entire model's latest message directly into your system clipboard without any formatting or padding issues.
2. **Use Tmux Copy Mode (`Ctrl+B [`):** Use native tmux copy mode (`v` to select, `y` to copy via OSC 52).
3. **Use CLI Run Mode (`opencode run ...`):** Run single queries via `opencode run` to print raw, un-padded Markdown straight to standard output.