

Video: “MATLAB CleanUp Button” (2:01)

Video (00:00)

This video demonstrates how to create a clean-up button in MATLAB. Often when you're editing a script or correcting some errors, it's nice to clean up the workspace so you can see where you are. But to get a fresh start, there's several operations that you need to do. You need to clear your workspace variables. This is done with “clear all.” You need to close your figure windows. This is done with “close all.” You need to close your open files; this is “fclose all,” and clear out the command window with a “clc.”

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Rather than re-typing these commands each time we want to clear things out, we can make a button to execute the commands and put the button on the MATLAB GUI.

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Here I'm working on Lesson 2. I execute the script and I see that I have an error on line 2: I misspelled “NYCDisease.” I add the “s” to correct the spelling, I save the script, and I re-execute. I see that the script runs now, and I have all the variables I need, but the error messages remain in the command window. This can get confusing.

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To create a shortcut button, I simply right-click next to “What's New” on the toolbar and select “New Shortcut.” I get a menu to add the new shortcut. I'm going to call my new shortcut “clean-up,” and I'm going to enter the four commands needed to clear out things: close all, clear all, fclose all, and clc. I save my shortcut and now I have it. When I press the button, it clears everything out and I can run again.

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As a general practice, when you have an error and you correct it, you should save your script, do a clean-up, and then re-execute just to make sure that everything's consistent.