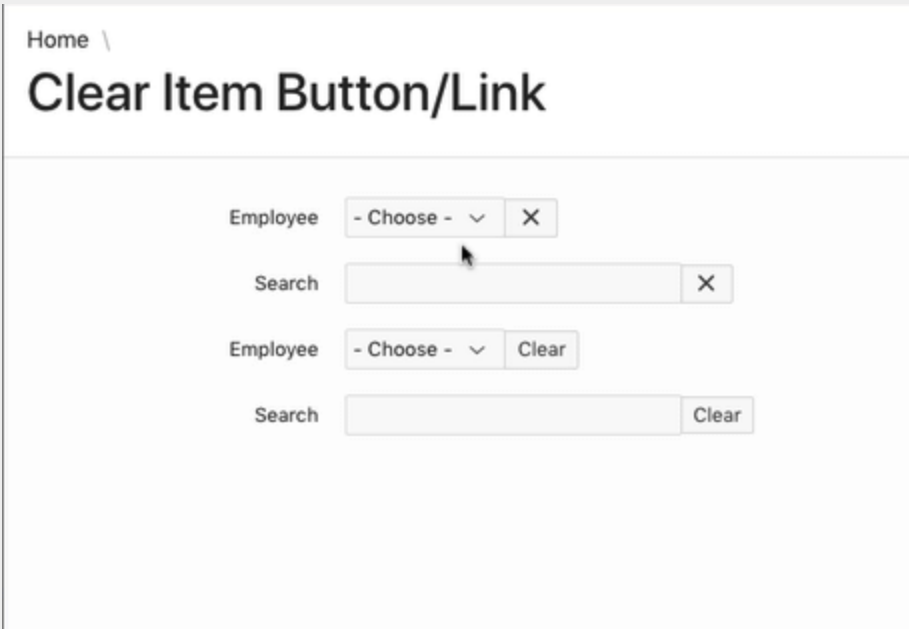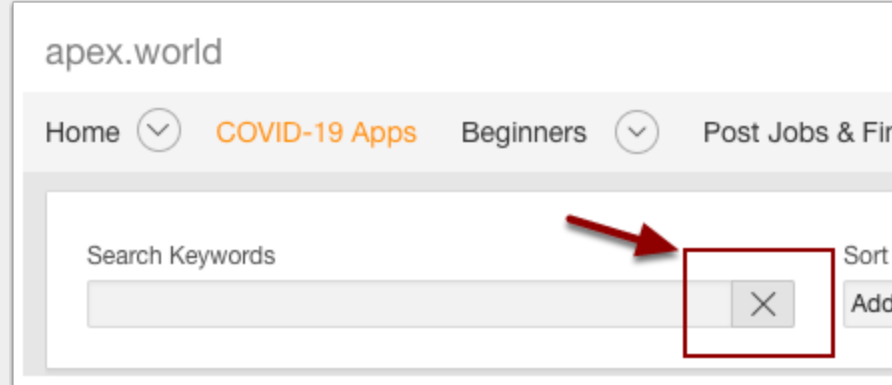# Use APEX Shortcuts for your Clear Item Button or Link

👤 JORGE RIMBLAS - POSTED ON 📅 JUNE 10, 2020 - 📁 POSTED IN APEX, HACK, JAVASCRIPT, ORACLE

You probably know how to add a button or link to clear the value of an item. You may have seen the button on apex.world when you search for a plug-in, for example.
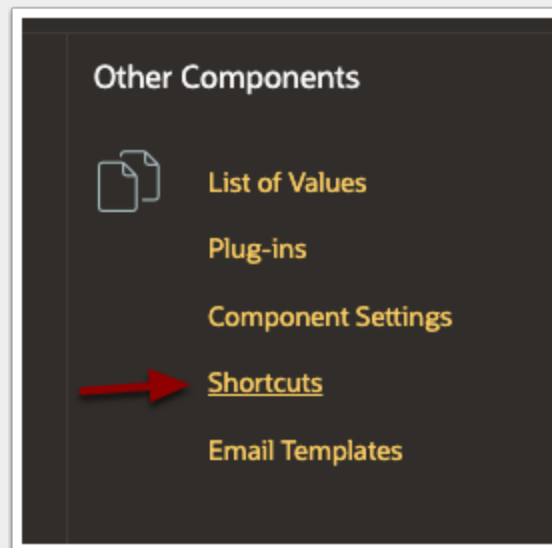
apex.world plugin search

You can use a Dynamic Action that executes a "Set Value" or a fairly straight-forward code like this:

```
<a href="javascript:$s("P1_SEARCH", "")">Clear</a>
```

What I like to do is define APEX Shortcuts. You find them under Shared Components > Other Components > Shortcuts

There are two Shortcuts I usually create and use them depending on how well they fit:

- A button CLEAR_BUTTON
- A text link CLEAR_LINK

Create Shortcut

✕

✓ ─────────────────────────── ●

Shortcut Attributes

Shortcuts are a repository of shared static or dynamic HTML. By using a shortcut, you can avoid recoding the same HTML or PL/SQL function multiple times. Creating shortcuts on page item labels and page item post element text attributes can include the following substitution strings: #CURRENT_FORM_ELEMENT#, #CURRENT_ITEM_ID#, #CURRENT_ITEM_NAME#.

*Name   CLEAR_LINK   ⑦

*Type   PL/SQL Function Body   ⌄ ⑦

Shortcut
```
return q'!<a href="javascript:$s('#CURRENT_ITEM_NAME#','');"
class="clearLink a-Button a-Button--popupLOV">!'
|| apex_lang.lang('Clear') || '</a>';
```
⑦

Error Text

⑦

< | Cancel   Create

Create Shortcut

✕

✓ ──────────────────────────── ●

Shortcut Attributes

Shortcuts are a repository of shared static or dynamic HTML. By using a shortcut, you can avoid recoding the same HTML or PL/SQL function multiple times. Creating shortcuts on page item labels and page item post element text attributes can include the following substitution strings: #CURRENT_FORM_ELEMENT#, #CURRENT_ITEM_ID#, #CURRENT_ITEM_NAME#.

* **Name** CLEAR_BUTTON ⑦

* **Type** PL/SQL Function Body ⌄ ⑦

Shortcut
```
return '<a class="a-Button a-Button--popupLOV lov-clear" aria-label="'
|| apex_lang.lang('Clear') || '" title="' || apex_lang.lang('Clear') ||
'"' || q'! href="javascript:$s('#CURRENT_ITEM_NAME#','');">!'
|| '<span class="fa fa-close"></span>'
|| '</a>';
```
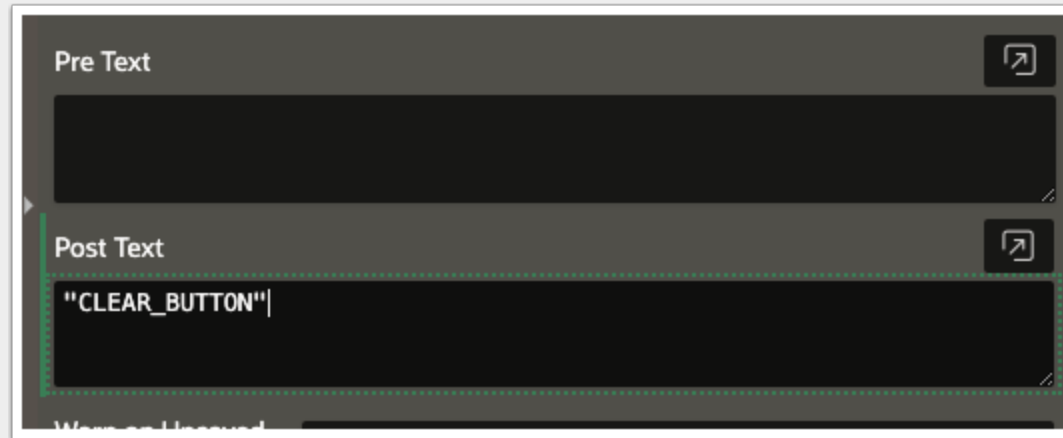⑦

Error Text

⑦

< | Cancel | **Create**

Once these Shortcuts are defined I can simply type `"CLEAR_BUTTON"` or `"CLEAR_LINK"` in the "Post Text" field of an Item.

Post Text with Shortcut

View the Demo Here.

Here is the end result:

Home \

Clear Item Button/Link

Employee	- Choose - ˅	✕
Search		✕
Employee	- Choose - ˅	Clear
Search		Clear

```
return '<a class="a-Button a-Button--popupLOV lov-clear" aria-label="' || apex_lang.lang('Clear') || '"
title="' || apex_lang.lang('Clear') || q'!" href="javascript:$s('#CURRENT_ITEM_NAME#','');">!'
|| '<span class="fa fa-close"></span>'
|| '</a>';
```

```
return q'!<a href="javascript:$s('#CURRENT_ITEM_NAME#','');" class="clearLink a-Button a-Button--
popupLOV">!'
|| apex_lang.lang('Clear') || '</a>';
```

Final Note: I may be using APEX 20.1 for the screenshots, however, I've been using this feature since APEX 4.2!!!

PS. Thanks to Ronny Weiss correcting a typo and for reminding me that this solution doesn't look as great with Floating Labels. What I suggest is to remove the `a-Button` & `a-Button--popupLOV` classes and instead turn on the "Display as Block" Template Option. The end result can be seen below. For the icon option, you can do something similar, but you may want a little more styling.
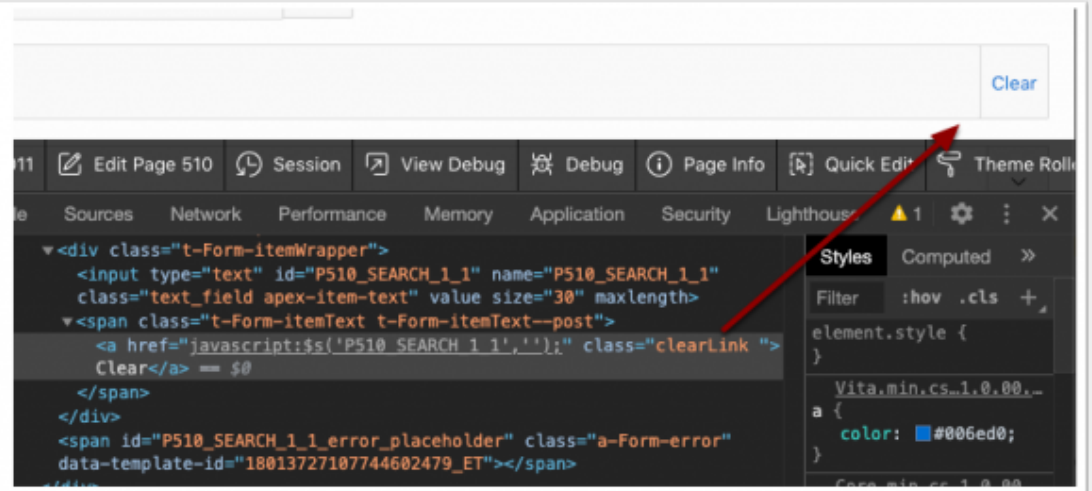
About Jorge Rimblas

Hi, I'm Jorge Rimblas. Father, husband, photographer, Oraclenerd, Oracle APEX expert, Oracle ACE, coffee lover, car guy, gadget addict, etc... I'm an APEX Tech Lead DRW. I have worked with Oracle since 1995 and done eBusiness Suite implementations and customizations. Nowadays I specialize almost exclusively in Oracle APEX.

10 Comments on "Use APEX Shortcuts for your Clear Item Button or Link"

Dick Dral

June 11, 2020 at 7:44 am

Hi Jorge,

Great post. I immediate set it to work for me!

One question: Why did you choose the Shortcut to be of type PL/SQL Function Body? While it seems to me it's just plain text (with a substitution)

Hope to hear from you.

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Jorge Rimblas

June 11, 2020 at 7:53 am

Hi Dick, very good observation, I'm now remembering that the shortcuts may have started life as plain or HTML shortcuts, however, once I had to use them in a translated, I switched to PL/SQL so I could use apex_lang.lang. However, if you want them translated you could also use the JS call (but that adds the JS string to every request). Thank you, I appreciate the comment

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Dick Dral

June 11, 2020 at 8:00 am

Found it myself, I overlooked the calls to apex_lang :-).

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Alan R

June 11, 2020 at 6:37 pm

Nice tip Jorge. Already deployed into one of our apps. Thank you.

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Jorge Rimblas
June 11, 2020 at 6:38 pm

Oooh love it, thanks for sharing

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Ashok
July 29, 2020 at 2:16 pm

Nice Post With good explanation

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Oracle APEX expert
January 31, 2021 at 6:52 pm

Thanks Jorge, great tip. I just used this in a project i'm working on.

⭐ Loading…

↩ Reply

Ron M
August 12, 2021 at 9:57 pm

Having issues getting the CLEAR_BUTTON to work in APEX 20.2 Cloudy 24 Theme. It wont render the check box. Yet I can get the CLEAR_LINK to work.

Any idea's

★ Loading...

Scott Wesley
November 24, 2021 at 1:36 am

What do people like to do for textarea fields?

★ Loading...

Turbayr
December 17, 2021 at 1:50 am

Hello im junior developer of Apex oracle it is so nice solution, And how can i create link button istead of clear? Can u share me pl/sql code

★ Loading...

I love comments, write me a line