It is sometimes necessary to activate an instance of MATLAB which is already installed. For example you may need to update your license, or you may need to change the license that MATLAB is using. To activate an instance of MATLAB which is already installed, launch the MATLAB activation client. There are two ways to do this:

If you can launch MATLAB

If MATLAB is currently activated and able to launch, you can launch the MATLAB activation client from the MATLAB help menu:

1. In the "Resources" section of the toolstrip, open the "Help" menu.
2. Hover over the "Licenses" submenu.
3. Click "Activate software." This will launch the MATLAB activation client.

If MATLAB will not launch

If you have an expired or otherwise unusable license, MATLAB may not be able to launch. In this case, you will need to launch the MATLAB activation client directly. To find the MATLAB activation client on each OS:

Windows

The activation client is located here:

```
C:\Program Files\MATLAB\R20XXx\bin\winXX\activate_matlab.exe
```

Mac

- Open Finder.
- Go to "Applications".
- Right-click or control-click on the MATLAB application icon. (e.g. MATLAB_R2015b.app)
- Click on "Show Package Contents".
- Open "Activate.app".

Linux

The activation client is located here:

```
/usr/local/MATLAB/R20XXx/bin/activate_matlab.sh
```

Once you have launched the MATLAB activation client:

1. Select "Activate automatically using the internet."
2. Log into your MathWorks account
3. Select the license from the list of licenses you would like to activate
4. Confirm the activation information.

5. Click "finish" to complete the activation process.

    If you are continuously prompted to activate MATLAB every time you launch it, please see this article:

    Why am I continuously prompted to activate when I try to launch MATLAB?

    http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/answers/106141

    If you are unable to activate MATLAB after following the instructions in this article, please contact MathWorks support:

    http://www.mathworks.com/support/contact_us/