

SOLIDWORKS 2021 Beta 3 Release Notes

Refer to *What's New*, available from the **Help** menu, for descriptions of new functionality.

IMPORTANT - Beta Software Restrictions

- Do not use Beta software for production work.
- Files created in Beta releases are not supported for use in prerelease and Service Packs.
- Save backup copies of all SOLIDWORKS files (parts, assemblies, drawings, document templates, sheet formats, and library features) before opening them in SOLIDWORKS 2021. These files are automatically converted to SOLIDWORKS 2021 format when opened. Once converted and saved, the files are not accessible in previous versions of SOLIDWORKS.
- Install Beta software as a new installation rather than as an update to a previous version.
- Online licensing is not available for Beta products. Beta products use machine activation, even if you selected online licensing for the previous production release in the SOLIDWORKS Admin Portal. In addition, Beta product activations and assignments are not listed in the Admin Portal.
- The user interface is not fully localized until SOLIDWORKS 2021 Service Pack 0.

End of Life Announcements - SOLIDWORKS Products

End of Life Announcements - Microsoft Products

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End of Life Announcements - SOLIDWORKS Products

SOLIDWORKS Explorer

SOLIDWORKS 2019 SP5 is the last release to support SOLIDWORKS Explorer as a stand-alone application. The supported functions such as **Pack and Go**, **Rename**, **Replace**, and **Move** are available in file shortcut menus in File Explorer.

End of Life Announcements - Microsoft Products

For current information about SOLIDWORKS active products and End of Life products, see [SOLIDWORKS and SW PDM System Requirements](#). For Microsoft Operating System Lifecycle information, see Microsoft's [Windows lifecycle fact sheet](#).

Microsoft Windows 7 SP1, 64-Bit Operating System

SOLIDWORKS 2020 SP5 is the last release to support the Windows® 7 Operating System.

SOLIDWORKS 2021 products will not install on Windows 7.

Microsoft Windows 8.1, 64-Bit Operating System

SOLIDWORKS 2018 SP5 is the last release to support the Windows® 8.1 64-bit operating system.

SOLIDWORKS 2019 products will not install on Windows 8.1.

Windows Server 2012 R2 Operating System

SOLIDWORKS 2019 SP5 is the last release to support the Windows Server® 2012 R2 operating system. SOLIDWORKS 2020 products **will not install** on Windows Server 2012 R2.

Windows Server 2012 Operating System

SOLIDWORKS 2018 SP5 is the last release to support the Windows Server® 2012 operating system. SOLIDWORKS 2019 products **will not install** on Windows Server 2012.

Microsoft Excel 2013 and Word 2013

SOLIDWORKS 2020 SP5 is the last release to support Microsoft® Excel 2013 and Word 2013.

Microsoft Excel 2010 and Word 2010

SOLIDWORKS 2018 SP5 is the last release to support Microsoft® Excel 2010 and Word 2010.

Microsoft SQL Server 2012

SOLIDWORKS 2019 SP5 is the last release to support SQL Server® 2012.

System and Graphics Requirements

To ensure successful installation and optimum performance, see [SOLIDWORKS and SW PDM System Requirements](#).

For optimum graphics performance and stability, see [Hardware Certification](#).

To use SOLIDWORKS PDM 2020 with SQL Server® 2014 or SQL Server® 2014 Express, you must install Service Pack 3 or later. To upgrade your SQL Server 2014 or SQL Server 2014 Express installation to SP3, download the service pack [here](#).

SOLIDWORKS Visualize

For SOLIDWORKS Visualize 2021 to work properly with NVIDIA iRay GPU support, NVIDIA driver support for CUDA® 10.2 or newer is required. In addition:

- For RTX-enabled Turing cards (Turing™ TU10x), a minimum driver version of 442.19 is required to support the RT cores.
- For all other NVIDIA GPUs, a minimum driver version of 441.22 is required.

To ensure successful installation and optimum performance, see [Prerequisites and System Requirements](#).

For a comparison of render performance across different NVIDIA graphics cards, see [SOLIDWORKS Visualize Benchmarks](#).

Installation

Early Visibility (EV) Online

Beginning with SOLIDWORKS 2020 SP1, subscription service customers can use Early Visibility Online to test from a browser. Log in to [MySolidWorks](#) and, from the top menu, click **SOLIDWORKS <release>/EV**.

DVD Distribution Media

Beginning with SOLIDWORKS 2020, DVD distribution media is provided only on request. Contact your Reseller for more information.

Beginning with SOLIDWORKS 2021, customers who have requested DVD upgrade shipments will receive three DVDs.

Antivirus Software

Some antivirus software prevents proper installation of SOLIDWORKS. For more information, see [Antivirus Products](#).

Modifying SOLIDWORKS PDM Server Installations

To modify an installation of SOLIDWORKS PDM Server and its components, use Programs and Features from the Windows Control Panel. You cannot modify the installation with SOLIDWORKS Installation Manager (SLDIM), even if that is what you used to install SOLIDWORKS PDM Server.

Technical Alerts

Windows 10 Fonts Missing

Some fonts that shipped in prior versions of Windows have moved into optional features in Windows 10. When upgrading to Windows 10, these fonts might not be installed on your system. If you find that a SOLIDWORKS document uses a font that is no longer installed on your computer, refer to Microsoft Knowledge base article [3083806](#).

Missing Non-English Characters When Exporting Text to PDF Files

When you save a drawing document as a PDF file, and the drawing contains non-English (non-ASCII) characters, the appropriate fonts must be available to render the characters. If the specified font is not installed on your computer or does not support Unicode character glyphs, then the Arial Unicode MS font is used. If the Arial Unicode MS font is also missing, then the characters fail to render. The Arial Unicode MS font is not provided with Microsoft® Office® 2016 software. (See *Windows 10 Fonts Missing*, above.) Workaround: To install the Arial Unicode MS font, install both Microsoft® Office® Professional Plus 2013 (minimal installation with only International Options enabled) and Microsoft® Office® (2016 or later).

Microsoft Office Documents Embedded in SOLIDWORKS Documents

Recommendation: Use the 64-bit version of Microsoft Office. If you are embedding Microsoft Office 32-bit OLE objects in your SOLIDWORKS documents, refer to Microsoft Knowledge base article [983396](#) to fix OLE objects displaying as an icon.

Functionality

Support for SOLIDWORKS 2007 and Earlier Models with Surface Fill and Related Features

SOLIDWORKS 2007 and earlier allowed unsupported surface fill technology. The software allowed faces that were not G2 continuous at the boundary. This issue was rectified in SOLIDWORKS 2008 and later versions. If you import SOLIDWORKS 2007 and earlier

models with surface fill and related features, the software prompts you to update the data if it detects a legacy feature.

You can:

- Click **Yes** to automatically update the feature data to G2 continuity and prevent a system failure. The update can change the design. The feature can change and downstream features can fail.
- Click **No** to retain the legacy data. The features and dependencies are suppressed. The legacy feature data is retained, but not processed. You can later choose to edit or unsuppress the feature or its dependencies. You must update the data; the software updates the feature and notifies you. The feature can change and downstream features can fail.

This update affects these features:

- Surface fill
- Delete face that uses the Delete and Fill option
- Capping an Extruded Surface
- Shut-Off Surfaces in Molds
- Dome

SOLIDWORKS Plastics

The **Copy Settings** command is removed from the user interface. To copy a plastics simulation study, use the **Duplicate Study** command.

SOLIDWORKS Simulation

- The Blended curvature-based mesher does not support the option to enforce common mesh nodes between touching boundaries.
- The Simulation Sensors dialog box is listed under the **System Options** menu. In previous releases, it was listed under the **Default Options** menu.
- For SOLIDWORKS Simulation 2021, the results tracked by legacy simulation sensors use the number format defined under **System Options > Simulation sensors**.

SOLIDWORKS Visualize

AMD ProRender is updated to RPR 2.0.

- Added support for CPU and Fast Render Mode.
- Render Layers other than Beauty are not supported at this time.
- Floor Shadows and Reflections might not render as expected yet.

Documentation

Localized Documentation

Localized help and tutorials are not fully updated until SOLIDWORKS 2021 Service Pack 0.0.

When using SOLIDWORKS with German and some other language settings, clicking the Help icon in the Welcome Dialog box results in an error. Workaround: Open the Help from the SOLIDWORKS menu bar and search for "Welcome Dialog Box".

Web Help

Web Help is not available for Beta releases. Use the local Help.

What's New SOLIDWORKS 2021

There are no specific What's New documentation items at this time.

Composer User Assistance

SOLIDWORKS Composer and SOLIDWORKS Composer Sync support SOLIDWORKS 2006 to 2021 versions of import formats. In *About Supported Import Formats*, the versions are listed incorrectly.