



cadmicro

SOLIDWORKS  
DESIGN TOOLS

## Which is Right for You?

Every company has its own unique needs and challenges when selecting the ideal design tool. As customer demands evolve, Dassault Systèmes SOLIDWORKS continues to expand its range of cloud-focused product development solutions.

SOLIDWORKS® 3D CAD - often referred to as SOLIDWORKS Desktop or SOLIDWORKS - serves as the foundation for two hybrid cloud solutions: SOLIDWORKS plus Collaborative Roles and 3DEXPERIENCE® SOLIDWORKS. Additionally, SOLIDWORKS Cloud offers a suite of entirely browser-based design tools, featuring distinct workflows from the other three options.

The chart includes provides answers to frequently asked questions about the four main SOLIDWORKS design solutions. This guide will help you understand the differences, explore the capabilities, and determine which product best suits your needs.

## Get in Touch:

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**Discover SOLIDWORKS offerings and the tool that is best for you:**

What is it?

- Trusted top-tier CAD solution
- Ideal for designers and engineers.

**3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES**

- SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD + Collaboration tools
- Connect to 3DEXPERIENCE
- Cloud-based, secure data management

**3DEXPERIENCE**

- SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD with 3DEXPERIENCE integration
- Cloud-based collaboration
- Secure data management

**CLOUD**

- Browser-based design
- Integrated data management
- 3DEXPERIENCE platform

Is it better for new or existing users?

- Existing or new users
- On-premise data management required

- Existing users

- Existing or new users

- New users

What are you looking for?

- Reliable on-premise CAD solution

- Enhancing current CAD with cloud-based data and lifecycle management for better collaboration

- Proven CAD solution with cloud-based collaboration, data management, and advanced surface modeling

- Browser-based, device-agnostic CAD and data management solution

Who should use it?

- Users needing advanced 3D CAD
- Require on-premise data management
- Work in close proximity without real-time collaboration

- Existing SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD users
- Want cloud-based data and lifecycle management
- Need real-time collaboration tools
- Seek to reduce IT costs with cloud solutions
- Require secure data storage and sharing
- Have remote teams

- Need advanced 3D CAD with cloud data management
- Require real-time collaboration tools
- Seek to reduce IT costs and streamline updates
- Want secure data storage and sharing
- Have remote teams
- Need advanced surface modeling tools

- Need cloud-first 3D CAD and lifecycle management
- Prioritize mobility and device independence
- Require real-time collaboration tools
- Want to cut IT costs with cloud-based solutions
- Seek secure data storage and sharing
- Have remote teams needing advanced modeling tools

Discover SOLIDWORKS offerings and the tool that is best for you:

Why should I buy this?



### 3D CAD

- Need a proven CAD and product development solution
- Not ready to transition to cloud data and lifecycle management



### 3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES

- Enhance current SOLIDWORKS with secure cloud data management
- Transition to a hybrid office/remote work environment
- Access data from any device, anywhere
- Improve connection and collaboration with stakeholders
- Scale and enhance with 3DEXPERIENCE Works tools



### 3DEXPERIENCE

- Proven CAD and product development solution
- Secure data management and collaboration in SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD
- Centralized data access from any device
- Enhanced stakeholder connection and collaboration
- Reduced IT overhead and upgrade costs
- Automatic software updates
- Multi-PC SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD use
- Support for hybrid office/remote work
- Next-gen browser-based design tools and advanced modeling
- Access to 3DEXPERIENCE Works tools for business scaling



### CLOUD

- CAD tools accessible from anywhere
- Edit data on any device
- Next-gen, scalable browser-based tools
- Secure cloud data management and access
- Centralized, accessible data storage
- Eliminate IT overhead
- Automatic software updates
- Connect with stakeholders on a single platform
- Enhance business with 3DEXPERIENCE Works tools



Hardware and Installation
What does the CAD run on?
Is it cloud connected?
What kind of hardware do I need?
What are the internet requirements?
How is it installed?

	3D CAD	3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES	3DEXPERIENCE	CLOUD
What does the CAD run on?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified Windows PC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified Windows PC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified Windows PC</li> <li>Browser-based tools run on any device with internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any device with internet</li> </ul>
Is it cloud connected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD runs locally with cloud connectivity via 3DEXPERIENCE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD runs locally with cloud connectivity via 3DEXPERIENCE, while browser-based tools work fully on the platform and are accessible via browser or mobile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - Runs on 3DEXPERIENCE and is accessible via browser or mobile</li> </ul>
What kind of hardware do I need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires Windows PC</li> <li>Certified hardware and graphics card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD: Windows PC with certified hardware</li> <li>Browser-based tools: Accessible via any device with high-speed internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD: Windows PC with certified hardware</li> <li>Browser-based tools: Accessible via any device with high-speed internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compatible with any device and high-speed internet</li> </ul>
What are the internet requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet needed for download and installation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet required for installation, and data and collaboration tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet required for installation, use, and data and collaboration tools</li> <li>Offline mode available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet required</li> </ul>
How is it installed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manually download and install on each local PC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manually download and install on each local PC</li> <li>Access browser-based tools via secure 3DEXPERIENCE login</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Log into 3DEXPERIENCE and install the latest version on your PC</li> <li>Access browser-based tools via secure 3DEXPERIENCE login</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No installation required</li> </ul>



## Hardware and Installation

What versions can I install?

- Any compatible previous annual release for your OS

### 3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES

- Latest release or two prior releases

### 3DEXPERIENCE

- Software updates to latest release

### CLOUD

- No installation needed
- Always on latest version

How is it updated?

- Manually download updates
- Update SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD on each PC

- Manually updated SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD on each PC
- Browser-based tools auto-update via 3DEXPERIENCE platform

- SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD auto-updates on each PC
- Browser-based tools always up-to-date via 3DEXPERIENCE platform

- Always up-to-date via 3DEXPERIENCE platform

## FAQ

Does it include 3DEXPERIENCE collaborative roles?

- No

- **Collaborative Designer:** Connect SOLIDWORKS to 3DEXPERIENCE
- **3DSwymer:** Connect with others on 3DEXPERIENCE
- **Industry Innovator:** Manage data and lifecycle on 3DEXPERIENCE

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What are the file management options?

- File saved on local PC or network server
- Local file server needed

- Files saved in secure cloud storage
- Optional on-premise storage on local PC or network server
- No local file server required

- Default: secure cloud storage
- Optional: on-premise storage on local PC or network servers
- No local file servers required

- Files saved and managed in secure cloud storage
- No local file servers needed

FAQ
What are the data management options?
Are there built-in part catalogues?
Does it include browser-based design tools?
Can you make 2D drawings?

	 3D CAD	 3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES	 3DEXPERIENCE	 CLOUD
What are the data management options?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-premise data management included with SOLIDWORKS Professional and Premium</li> <li>Additional on-premise lifecycle management solutions available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cloud-based data and lifecycle management tools included</li> <li>Additional cloud roles available for scaling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cloud-based data and lifecycle management tools included</li> <li>Additional cloud roles available for scaling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cloud-based data and lifecycle management tools included</li> <li>Additional cloud roles available for scaling</li> </ul>
Are there built-in part catalogues?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes SOLIDWORKS Toolbox</li> <li>Access to 3DEXPERIENCE Marketplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes SOLIDWORKS Toolbox</li> <li>Access to 3DEXPERIENCE Marketplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes SOLIDWORKS Toolbox</li> <li>Access to 3DEXPERIENCE Marketplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to 3DEXPERIENCE Marketplace</li> </ul>
Does it include browser-based design tools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3D Creator:</b> Parametric design tools</li> <li><b>3D Sculptor (with SOLIDWORKS Professional and Premium):</b> SubD freeform surfacing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3D Creator:</b> SubD freeform surfacing tools</li> <li><b>3D SheetMetal Creator:</b> Sheet metal design tools</li> <li><b>3D Structure Creator:</b> Structure design</li> <li><b>Manufacturing Definition Creator:</b> 2D drawings</li> <li><b>3D Render:</b> Rendering tools</li> </ul>
Can you make 2D drawings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - Create detailed 2D drawings of complex parts and assemblies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - Create detailed 2D drawings of complex parts and assemblies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - Create detailed 2D drawings of complex parts and assemblies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes - Create associated 2D drawings with 3D model annotations</li> </ul>

## FAQ

Does it come with structural simulation tools?

- Yes - SOLIDWORKS Simulation is included with Premium
- SOLIDWORKS Simulation Standard, Professional, and Premium available separately

Does it come with visualization and rendering tools?

- Yes - SOLIDWORKS Visualize Standard is included with SOLIDWORKS Professional and Premium for rendering

What other solutions are available to me?

- All SOLIDWORKS add-ins
- Additional Partner Products via the SOLIDWORKS Partner Program



### 3D CAD



### 3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES

- Yes - Included with SOLIDWORKS Premium
- Separate: Simulation Standard, Professional, and Premium
- Advanced tools available in 3DEXPERIENCE Works



### 3DEXPERIENCE

- Yes - Included with 3DEXPERIENCE SOLIDWORKS Premium
- Advanced tools like Structural Designer and Structural Mechanical Engineer available in 3DEXPERIENCE Works



### CLOUD

- No - Advanced tools like Structural Designer and Structural Mechanics Engineer are in 3DEXPERIENCE Works

- Yes - 3D Render is included with SOLIDWORKS Cloud for image rendering

- All 3DEXPERIENCE roles



## Licensing

What is the CAD license access model?

- Perpetual license with subscription service
- Term license available

### 3D CAD + COLLABORATIVE ROLES

- Perpetual license with subscription service or term license for CAD
- Collaborative roles require named user under subscription license

### 3DEXPERIENCE

- Named user subscription license available

### CLOUD

- Named user subscription license available

Are quarterly licenses available?

- Yes

- Yes

- Yes

- Yes

Are standalone CAD licenses assigned to PCs?

- Yes

- Yes

- No

- No

How are CAD licenses managed on multiple PCs?

- Network license available, managed by on-premise license manager
- Allows one concurrent user access at a time

- Network license managed by on-premise license manager
- One concurrent user access per license
- Named user license for collaborative roles

- Named users can log in and access software on multiple PCs
- One concurrent user per named license

- Named users can access software in a browser on any device
- One concurrent user per named user license