

## SolidWorks 2009 FAQ

### Hardware Recommendations

---

#### What hardware does SolidWorks operate on?

SolidWorks 2009 runs on Intel Pentium/Core Duo and AMD Athlon based systems. Please note that SolidWorks is not supported on Apple Mac based machines.

#### On what operating systems is SolidWorks supported?

SolidWorks 2009 supports the following operating systems:

- Windows Vista Business (32-bit and 64-bit)
- Windows XP Professional (32-bit and 64-bit)
- Microsoft Windows 2003 Server

Microsoft Windows 2000 and earlier versions of windows are no longer supported.

#### Does SolidWorks support Windows XP/Vista Home Edition?

SolidWorks only supports Windows XP Professional / Windows Vista Business and not Windows XP/Vista Home Edition. However, due to the similarities between the two operating systems there should be no problems encountered if SolidWorks is used with Windows XP/Vista Home Edition. When choosing to run on Windows XP/Vista Home Edition, you should realize that without official support, problems identified that are unique to Windows XP/Vista Home Edition will not be handled with any priority.

#### How much RAM is needed to run SolidWorks?

Based on Javelin's benchmark testing and our experience with typical customer usage, we recommend starting with at least 2GB of RAM. Depending on the size and complexity of your assemblies increased RAM may be the best investment for performance improvement. For assemblies with more than 1000 components and parts with more than 300 features 4GB of RAM or more is recommended.

#### What type of video card do you recommend?

Although SolidWorks is designed to work with any generic graphics card that supports Windows (desirable resolution would be 1024x768 or higher with 32K colors or more), a graphics card with hardware OpenGL acceleration will provide improved performance, especially in 3D model viewing (repaints, spins, zooms and pans). Detailed info on video card support and testing is available at:

<http://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/videocardtesting.html>

Video cards designed for "gaming" or multi-media applications do NOT offer maximum performance for SolidWorks and other 3D CAD applications. Game/multi-media cards are optimized for a low number of polygons displayed on the screen, and a high frame rate. CAD applications have essentially the opposite requirement, polygon count is high (all the details in your design model) and the image does not change rapidly, so high frame rates are not as critical.

### **Does SolidWorks make use of multiple and/or dual core processors?**

SolidWorks is multi-threaded. Many of the user interface activities such as redraw and dialog box interaction, etc., take advantage of this technology. However, the solving process used for parametric modeling is by nature very linear and cannot take full advantage of multiple or dual core processors. No benchmark tests have been done to determine the increased speed associated with running on a multi/dual core-processor machine but there should be a slight performance gain.

### **Should I store my files locally on my computer or on a network drive? Are there any performance issues that I should be aware of?**

Javelin recommends that for maximum performance files should be stored locally. Files opened and retrieved over a network will always be slower than accessing a local drive. Data management products like PDMWorks Workgroup and Enterprise automatically manage the movement of files from network servers to local disk drives for the CAD user to ensure maximum performance. This is one of the key benefits of data management systems.

### **I would like to implement SolidWorks Professional (or Premium). Can you recommend a good strategy for the implementation of a server for a vault?**

Javelin recommends that where possible a dedicated server be used for either a SolidWorks Workgroup PDM or SolidWorks Enterprise PDM vault. Besides allowing for maximum performance for the CAD users, using a dedicated server provides a location to store company standards and templates. For hardware specifications for a PDM system, please visit:

<http://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/PDMSystemRequirements.html>

### **What is your current hardware recommendation for SolidWorks 2009?**

We recommend the following hardware configuration for SolidWorks:

- Core 2 Duo (min) for 32 bit configurations
- Intel Core 2 Duo or Athlon 64 CPU for 64 bit configurations
- 2Gb RAM (or more)
- 100Gb hard drive (or larger)
- nVidia FX1500 Graphics Card (minimum for non-intensive graphical applications)
- nVidia FX3500 Graphics Card (for best performance)
- Windows XP Pro or Windows 2003 Server
- Keyboard, mouse and DVD/CD-ROM drive (DVD-ROM drive recommended)

If you are regularly performing FEA analysis with the SolidWorks Simulation family of products, we suggest upgrading your RAM to at least 4GB and considering multi core processors (dual or quad core). In our experience, purchasing one speed lower than the fastest available CPU will usually provide you with the best value.

Shop online at the Javelin Web Store for SolidWorks Certified Graphics Cards & Dell Hardware:

<http://shopping.netsuite.com/javstore>