

CustomTools 2011 packages and end user value

Feature/Package	Express Edition	Standard Edition	Professional Edition	CustomTools viewer
Custom property management	X	X	X	X
Automatic file naming	X	X	X	
Project definition	X	X	X	
Advanced search tool	X	X	X	X
Inserting notes	X	X	X	
Customizing your drawing	X	X	X	
Inserting comments	X	X	X	
Open drawings	X	X	X	X
Where used	X	X	X	X
Open folder	X	X	X	X
Copying your SW files		X	X	
Batch printing		X	X	X
Batch conversion		X	X	
Structure export (to ERP)			X	X

* Only view the CustomProperty

** Only the batch printing is available with limited options

Features:

CustomProperties:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X **

The CustomProperty can be used to manage the custom properties of your SolidWorks documents.

Benefits:

- Lot of options compared to other solutions or the Tab Builder
- Manage all product related data in a single window
- Fast to enter custom property values
- Centralized settings management
- Consistent file naming
- Possibility to link e.g. to ERP to link values to custom properties
- Supports project way of thinking a project specific values
- **See attached Excel feature matrix** in order to compare all custom property management features in different products and product editions

Value to end-user:

- This is clearly a great tool for end-user offering a lot of help in managing custom properties once it's configured properly
- Ensures data consistency

** Only view the CustomProperty

Automatic file naming:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X

Do you have a set "standard" for how you name new documents? If so, you may be interested in CustomTools.

Benefits:

- CustomTools automatically names design files with pre-defined naming convention.
- Saving location can be configured beforehand e.g. based on used project.
- Use a custom property value to generate a file name
- Update the file name if the custom property value used to name the file has been modified
- Key value pairs
- Combine multiple custom properties to create a new custom property
- Define an unlimited number of sequences

Value to end-user:

- This adds great value to end-users saving lot of time and making file names consistent among designers.
- Sequence number are shared between the different users
- Eliminates risk of naming error
- Numerous possibilities available to generate a file name

Project Definition:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X

This feature allows the users to define an unlimited number of projects and sub-projects. The project can then be selected from the CustomProperty pane to load default values associated with the project when creating a new SolidWorks documents.

Benefits:

- Define default custom property values per project/sub-project
- Associate specific sequence with a project/sub-project
- Create destination folder per project/sub-project
- Define automatic files naming rules per project/sub-project

Value to end-user:

- Saves a lot of time in project and data management
- Data consistency
- Manage SolidWorks documents based on project/sub-project

CustomSearch:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X

This tool allows the user to search SolidWorks documents based on the values of their custom properties.

Benefits:

- Search results accurate and fast since search is based on database rather than Windows indexing like in SW
- Custom properties and search arguments can easily be customized
- Always available in Task Pane

Value to end-user:

- This feature is valuable for users when file information is stored in the database.
- Launch different functions including CustomPrint from search results.

CustomNotes:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	-

The same drawings notes are shared between all the designers, allowing the user to quickly insert notes into the drawing.

Benefits:

- In SolidWorks it's possible to save and re-use notes based on name but it's not that convenient to browse saved notes based on note contents.
- In CustomTools 2012 it's possible in CustomOptions to pre-define note templates and it's straightforward to use pre-defined constants and variables.
- Notes are shared among users through database vs. in SolidWorks only way to share notes are to store them in shared network folder

Value to end-user:

- This feature is not crucial for most of the end-users bringing only a little bit more value to standard SolidWorks.
- New notes are automatically saved in the CustomTools database

CustomData:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	-

CustomData is used to customize drawings and drawing templates. With CustomData users can quickly insert CustomTools revision table into the drawing. With CustomData it's really fast to customize drawing templates with custom properties defined in CustomTools.

Benefits:

- Quickly insert custom properties defined in CustomTools to SolidWorks drawings or drawing templates (e.g. Insert 10 custom properties in 13 clicks)
- Do not require to know the custom property names or to insert a drawing view beforehand.

Value to end-user:

- When CustomTools is properly configured it is fast to make drawing templates based on defined custom properties.
- Drawing templates needs to be configured only once so resellers/consultants setting up SolidWorks environment may benefit more from this feature than designers in general.

CustomComment:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	-

CustomComment can be used to add comments to SolidWorks files. Comments are not feature or configuration specific but always file specific.

Benefits:

- Entered comments are not restricted by length
- Comments are stored in custom property so it can be displayed e.g. in drawing

Value to end-user:

- For most users this feature does not add any value with current functionality.

CustomOpenDrawing:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X

The CustomOpenDrawing displays the drawings made for the selected 3D component.

Benefits:

- Drawings can be quickly located regardless of current working folder, drawing save folder or used drawing naming convention.
- Several drawings can be made from single part e.g. configuration based drawings can be used to and drawings can be automatically named using configuration specific custom properties.

Value to end-user:

- If only one drawing per model is made and drawings are named based on referenced models and saved to same folder this does not bring much value to end-user
- This tool is helpful for user who
- Wants to save drawings in separate folder
- Uses configuration specific drawings
- Uses different naming convention for drawings than for models

CustomWhereUsed:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X

In general WhereUsed functionality is really useful for designer in order to see quickly and accurately where a particular file is being used. This is really valuable and may save the user from costly mistakes e.g. when making modifications to existing SolidWorks files.

SolidWorks Explorer provides WhereUsed functionality as well. The differences compared to CustomTools are:

- Does not work inside SolidWorks but in separate application
- Searches file references when command is launched in defined folders. This can make command really slow and does not necessary include all references. On the other hand results are always up-to-date since does not rely on information stored in database.

Benefits:

- User can easily check which SolidWorks files are referencing to selected file
- High performance since file references are read from database
- Command can be launched in several different ways inside SolidWorks (for active document, for selected component, for selected file in several CustomTools file listings)

Value to end-user:

- This can be very valuable to end-user when CustomTools is configured properly.

CustomExplore:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
X	X	X	X

This feature opens the folder where the selected component is stored.

Benefits:

- User can quickly locate a selected component or an active document in the hard drive by selecting the CustomExplore command which opens Windows File Explorer in correct folder selecting the correct file. In SolidWorks 2012 their command Show in Explorer for files opened in own window. The command is similar to CustomExplore except that the Show in Explorer does not select the file.

Value to end-user:

- This allows user to access several file properties and also allows user to check what other files are in the same folder.
- In addition user can quickly copy file path of selected component to the clipboard.

CustomCopy / Bulk edit of CustomProperties:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
-	X	X	-

The CustomCopy can be used to copy, rename, or move an assembly and all referred documents at once.

Benefits:

- Various options to copy, move and rename parts, assemblies and drawings.
- Users can rename components in assembly context based on custom rules or predefined rules.
- Easy to copy files between different projects

- Populate/update custom properties based on predefined rules when copying or renaming files. Such custom properties may be customer, project, document number, design date, designer, color, etc.

Value to end-user:

- This is one of the most important tools in CustomTools adding great value for end-user saving a great amount of time and making design more consistent.
- Designers can easily re-use existing design.

CustomPrint:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
	X	X	X *

The CustomPrint can be used for batch printing and conversion of your SolidWorks' documents.

Benefits:

- Users can quickly and easily print or convert e.g. all drawings and/or models related to selected assembly
- Users can pre-define all printing and conversion options
- Possibility to manage following parameters for batch process:
- Visibility of drawing layers
- Custom property values
- Reload or update the sheet format
- Customer (entity) specific custom properties
- Insert manufacturing quantities
- Associate a sheet format to a printer, paper size and paper orientation
- Sheets to include/exclude
- Files to include/exclude
- File format specific options
- Set output language (translate title blocks, BOM, etc.)
- Rename the converted documents (e.g. Filename - Sheet Name - Revision Number)
- Automatically runs the batch conversion for SolidWorks file being saved allowing designer to have all the time up-to-date pdf, dxf, eDrw, etc. files
- Print non-native SolidWorks' files

Value to end-user:

- Save a considerable amount of time (Print 1000 drawings in 4 clicks, Convert 1000 drawings in 5 different formats in 9 clicks)
- Automate the printing/conversion processes of your SolidWorks' documents

* Only the batch printing is available with limited options.

CustomStructure:

Express	Standard	Professional	Viewer
-	-	X	X

CustomStructure can be used to produce report outside SolidWorks or e.g. to create new item inside your ERP/MRP from SolidWorks.

Benefits:

- Allows many customizations of CustomTools in order to export structure and items to ERP system or to generate different kind of reports e.g. Excel based.
- Create advance report
- Generate the next item number in the ERP/MRP systems from SolidWorks.

Value to end-user:

- This adds a great value to wide variety of SolidWorks users
- Fully customizable
- Ease the sharing of design data with other departments