

SOLIDWORKS Enhancement Requests

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Lloyd Beachy. I work for Newmar Corporation, a premiere RV manufacturer located in Nappanee, Indiana. (Visit our web site at www.newmarcorp.com) I have been using SolidWorks since 2000 and have seen SolidWorks mature into a very robust software package. It is always exciting to see the new features available with each release of SolidWorks.



WHEN YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE™

One way to help shape future versions of the software is to use the “Enhancement Requests” portion of the SolidWorks web site. I would like to drum up support for an enhancement request that I think will be a huge hit with SolidWorks users. It has to do with the amount of time it takes to rebuild SolidWorks parts. If this request would be implemented, it could significantly reduce the amount of time required to perform a full rebuild. The following explains the enhancement request.

Enhancement Request:

"Add a "Geometry Lock" that could be placed at a specific point in the Feature Tree."

Solution Ideas:

The idea is for a new feature that could be called a "Geometry Lock". Quite simply, the feature would tell SolidWorks to do a full rebuild on the preceding features, and then, lock them so they cannot be changed by mistake. SolidWorks would remember the solution and no longer recalculate those features during future rebuilds.

You might ask, “How much time would this save?” To find out, I did a simple test on one of our part files that has around 400 features. Did you know that you can add a “Geometry Lock” with the version of SolidWorks you are already using today? You can do this by using the “Insert Part” feature to import a complex part model into an empty file. As long as SolidWorks is not set to automatically load external references, the “Insert Part” feature holds all the geometry from the referenced part. A full rebuild in the second part will not rebuild the features from the first part. It took about 4 minutes to do a full rebuild of my sample part. After inserting it into a second part file, a full rebuild took a mere 9 seconds.

Actual time savings depends on the number of features you normally work with and the complexity of those features. Another huge factor is the type of hardware you are using. Older machines would tend to see the most time savings.

If you agree that this would be a good enhancement to SolidWorks, please visit the “Enhancement Requests” portion of the SolidWorks web site and add your name to the list of people who have submitted this enhancement request.

Thank you,
Lloyd Beachy