

swBatchPrint
version 1.4
December 09, 2003

USER MANUAL

a. What is swBatchPrint?

swBatchPrint (SolidWorks Batch Print) is a SolidWorks Add-In for batch printing SolidWorks drawing files (*.slddrw) and incorporates the following functionality:

- Any number of SolidWorks drawing files may be queued for printing
- Printing can be stopped and resumed at any time
- Printing with SolidWorks settings, document settings, sheet settings or settings specified with swBatchPrint
- Saving and loading of print file lists



swBatchPrint window

b. Installation

Copy <swBatchPrint.dll> to any convenient directory. In SolidWorks, browse and “open” the <swBatchPrint.dll> file as you would any other SolidWorks document. The Add-In will be installed and all required entries to the Microsoft Windows registry will be made automatically on exiting SolidWorks. The sub-menu item for invoking <swBatchPrint> will appear at the top of the <Tools> menu in Solidworks.

c. Disabling the Add-In

You can at any time disable the Add-In through the <Tools->Add-Ins...> menu in SolidWorks

d. Uninstalling the Add-In

Delete <swBatchPrint.dll> file from the directory you copied earlier. SolidWorks will complain the *first* time it is loaded after deletion of the files and disable loading of the add-in for any future sessions.

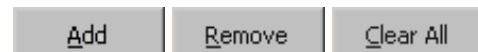
e. Compatibility

A properly installed and running SolidWorks program and a printing setup with all necessary software and drivers are required for swBatchPrint to load. swBatchPrint should run with SolidWorks 2003 and above without problems.

f. Operation

On starting-up, the swBatchPrint window is displayed.

1. Adding Files to and Editing the Print Queue



The <Add> button is used to select a single file or multiple files (with “Ctrl” and or “Shift” keys) to add files to the print queue. Successive additions to the print queue may be done spanning multiple directories if so desired. However, only the filename (and not the complete directory path) is displayed in the print queue window. The print queue may be edited at any time using the <Add>, <Remove> or <Clear All> buttons. Filenames are added to the print queue only if the files themselves exist on disk.

2. Printing



Pressing the <Print> button initiates printing from the beginning of the queue. The documents are opened in SolidWorks, rebuilt and printed out. Documents are closed and unloaded after printing.

You may <Stop> printing at any time after start of printing. Printing stops after the current document is printed. The print queue may be edited or the Printing Preferences changed when printing is stopped in this manner.

You may either <Resume> printing in which case printing restarts at the point where it was stopped, or <Reset> the print queue in which case the print history is cleared. You can <Stop> and <Resume> printing as many times as you wish while swBatchPrint is executing.

Only SolidWorks drawing documents are printed, all other files types in the queue are skipped.

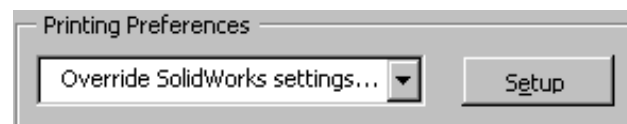
3. *Saving and Loading Print Lists*



You can save the print queue to a plain text file using the <Save List> button. Each line in this text file is a filename with complete path. You can edit the saved file using your favorite text editor if you wish.

Previously saved file lists may be loaded with the <Load List> button. The names are appended to the print queue. Filenames are added to the queue only if the files themselves exist on disk. Any other lines in the input file are ignored.

4. *Printing Preferences*



You can select printing with SolidWorks settings, drawing document settings or drawing sheet settings. In these cases, you must ensure that each document in the queue has appropriate settings as desired. This functionality is not fully tested.

Alternatively, you may also select printing with the following settings explicitly specified in swBatchPrint with <Override Solidworks settings...> and <Setup>:

- Output Printer
- Paper Size
- Paper Orientation
- Print Scaling
- Printing all sheets or only the first sheet in the document.

Note that these settings apply to *all* documents. You may change the Printing Preferences to modify print settings for any remaining files when printing is stopped.

g. Limitations of swBatchPrint

Not all functionality of swBatchPrint has been tested, especially those relating to printing with SolidWorks, document and sheet settings. Otherwise things must work pretty much as described. Only a minimum amount of error checking and error recovery is done in swBatchPrint. Please ensure that you have a working printing setup.

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