



**3DXpert™ for SOLIDWORKS®**

# **Working Environment**

## **3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS Explorer**

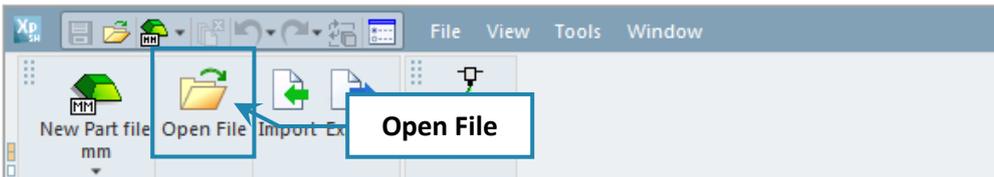
14,0200,1599,1024(SP2)

In this document, we will learn about the **3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS Explorer**.

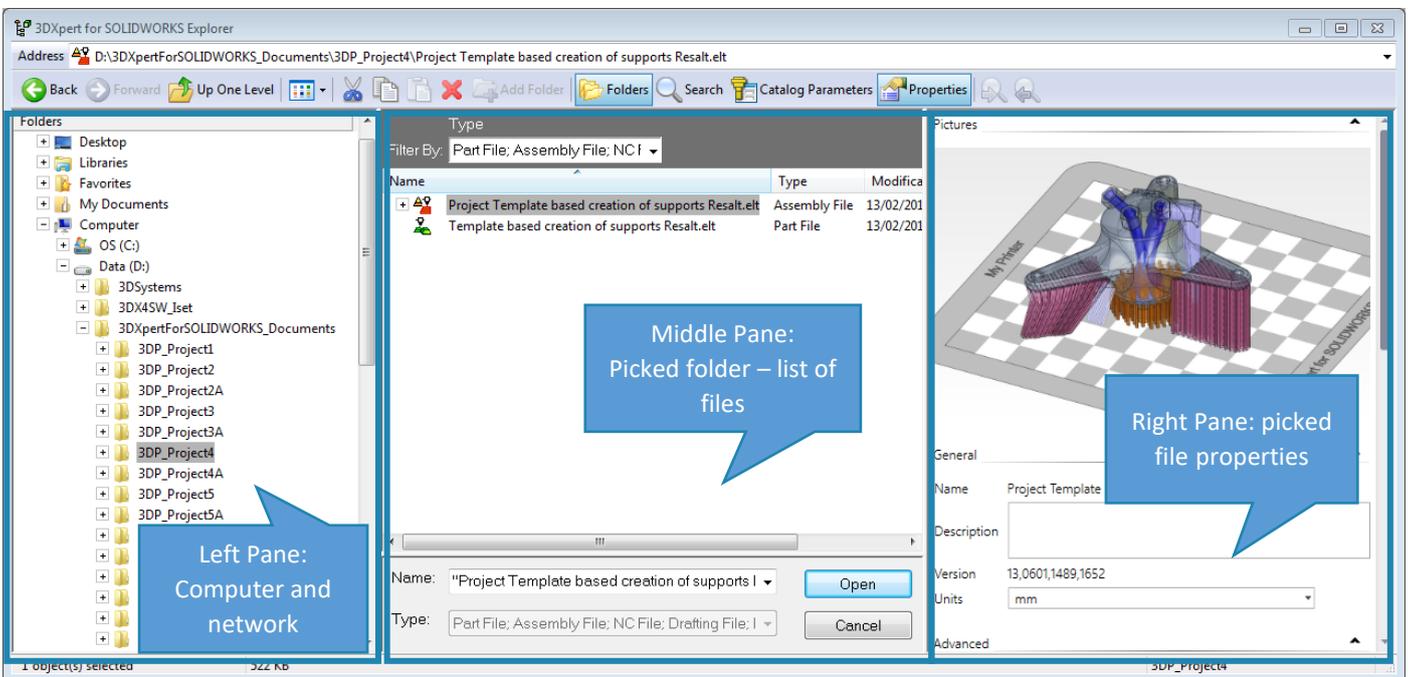
The **3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS Explorer** is a files and folders explorer (browser), much like any other explorer. In addition, this explorer includes dedicated functionality like Advanced Search, Dependent Copy for projects, it displays different file icon for different 3DXpert file types, advanced properties (attributes) for each file and data that can be added by the user.

<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Notice/ Remember</p>		Left mouse button name is " <b>pick</b> "
		Middle mouse button name is " <b>Exit</b> "
		Right mouse button name is " <b>Click</b> "

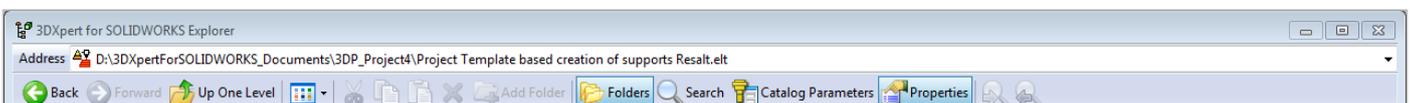
The **3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS Explorer** is invoked from the Initial screen **picking Open File** command.



As the **3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS Explorer** opens, the following window appear:

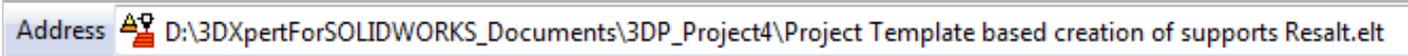


At the top of the dialog, note the **Address bar**, the **Command toolbar** and the additional **3 panes** underneath.



## The Address Bar

The **Address** bar displays the selected file and its location.



## The Command Toolbar

From the Command toolbar, it is possible (depending if you are picking\marking a folder or file) to navigate between folders, to control the display type (details or pictures) of the center pane, to Cut or Copy or Paste, to Add Folders and to control the visibility of the left and right panes.

	Go Back to previous folder.
	Go Forward to next folder.
	Go up one folder level.
	Change View between details to pictures (small, medium, larg)
	Cut file
	Copy file
	Paste file
	Delete file or folder
	Add folder
	Folder display on/off on the left culmon
	Search menu alternate with Folder display on the left culmon
	Properties display on/off on the Right culmon

Change View allows to switch between details to pictures (small, medium, large):

	Name	Type	Modification Date	Size
Details view	3DP_Project1.elt	Assembly File	11/02/2018 14:54:19	173 KB
	Manifold_0513.elt	Part File	02/01/2018 12:40:53	1,841 KB
	Manifold_0513A.x_t	X_T file	02/01/2018 14:06:17	1,321 KB
	Manifold_0813#1.elt	Part File	01/02/2018 16:22:41	1,371 KB
	Manifold_0813.elt	Part File	11/02/2018 14:54:18	1,376 KB
Medium Picture view				

## The Panes

The **Explorer** has three panes:

The Left Pane lists the folders in the computer and network locations.

The Middle Pane lists the files in the marked folder (filtered by file types).

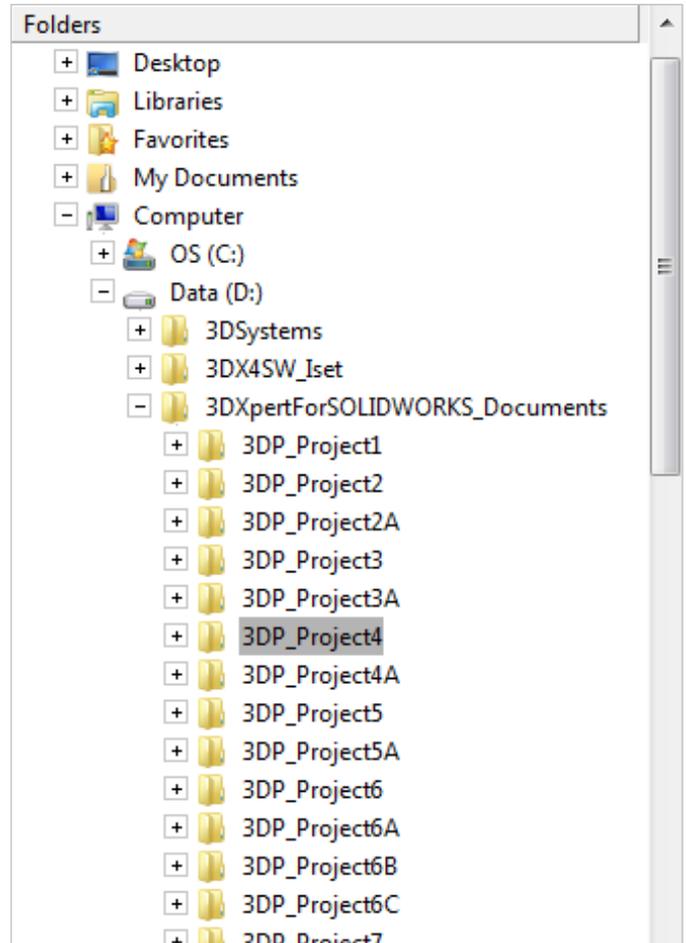
The Right Pane displays the properties of the marked file.

## Computer and Network Folders Locations

On the left pane the user can explore all the folders on the computer and the network.

When installing 3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS a new folder named **3DXpertForSOLIDWORKS\_Documents** is created. This can be used as default working folder where you can create additional sub folders and save working files or projects.

It is possible to use any other location or folder on your PC or the network as your working folder.



## List of files in the Picked Folder

In the Middle Pane, you can view the list of files in the folder that you pick.

The display of files is **Filtered By** types or group of types.

Each type has its own symbol in the list:

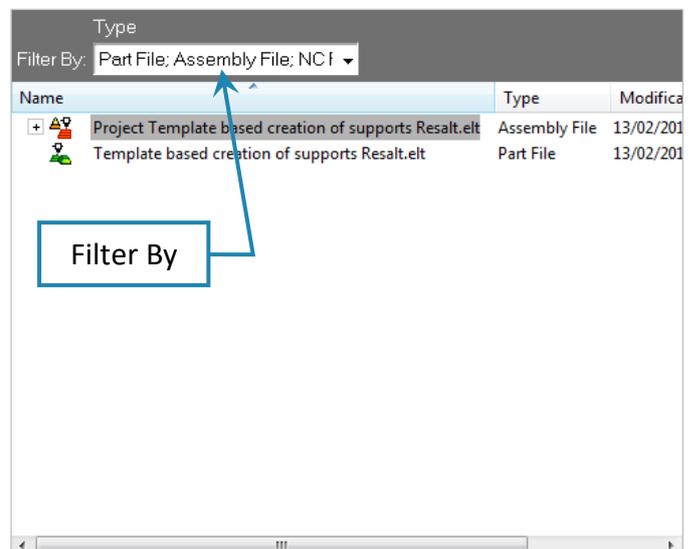


For a printing **Project**.



For a printing **Part**.

In this pane the file Name, Type, Modification Date and Size are displayed and can be sorted.



## File Properties

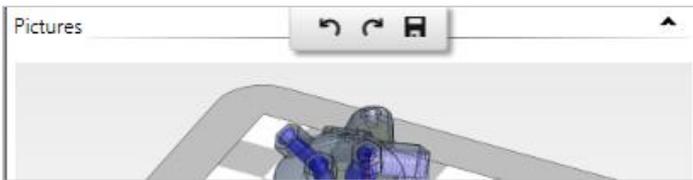
In the Right Pane you can view the properties of the marked file.

The properties include a picture of the file (as it was last saved when last closing file) and additional data.

It is possible to add information such as the Description, Approved By, Comment, Design By and more.

When inserting data to the properties, three icons appear at the top of the pane:

**Undo, Redo and Save.**



**General**

Name: Project Template based creation of supports Resalt.elt

Description: [Empty text box]

Version: 13,0601,1489,1652

Units: mm

**Advanced**

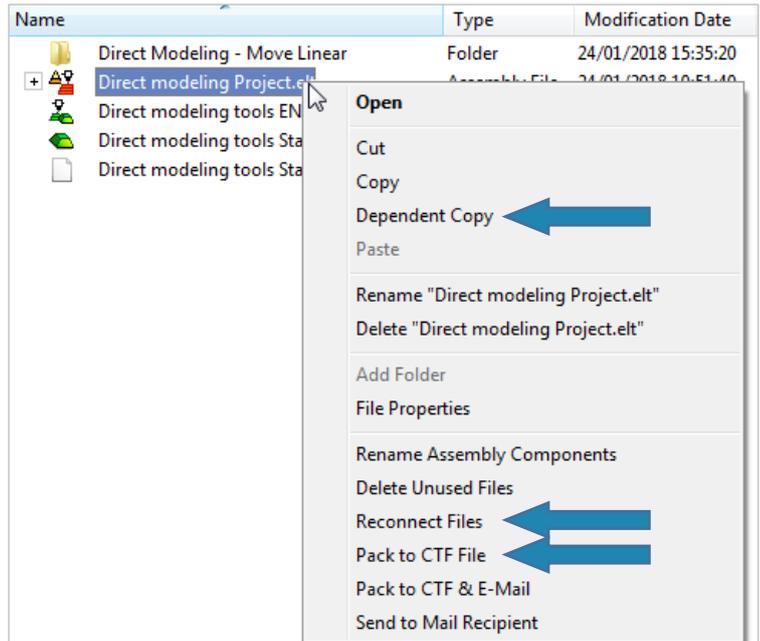
Created By: 3D System  
 Created From: 3DXpert  
 Creation Pass: 13,0600,1489,1616  
 Creation Date: 22/01/2018 09:23:32  
 Modification Date: 13/02/2018 10:22:30  
 Modified By: 3D System  
 Modified From: 3DXpert  
 Category: [Dropdown menu]  
 Sub Category: [Dropdown menu]  
 File Attributes: A  
 Lock Info: [Empty text box]  
 Lock: -  
 Parametric File:   
 Path: D:\3DXpertForSOLIDWORKS\_Documents\3DP\_Project4\  
 Scale: 1  
 Approved By: [Empty text box]  
 Comment: [Empty text box]  
 Designed By: [Empty text box]  
 Sub Assembly Type: None  
 Part Type: [Empty text box]  
 Revision: [Empty text box]  
 Section On:   
 Short Type: [Dropdown menu]  
 Single Unit In BOM:   
 Standard Number: [Empty text box]  
 Visible In View:   
 Size: 522 KB

## Special Commands by Click

When you **Click** (i.e., press the right mouse button) a file, a sub-menu appears.

This sub-menu includes several, special, commands that are relevant for this **Explorer**:

- **Dependent Copy**
- **Pack to CTF**
- **Pack to CTF & E-Mail**
- **Reconnect Files**



Note:

There are two more commands: Rename Assembly Components and Delete Unused files which are relevant only when handling assemblies design, and these are not explained here.

### Dependent Copy

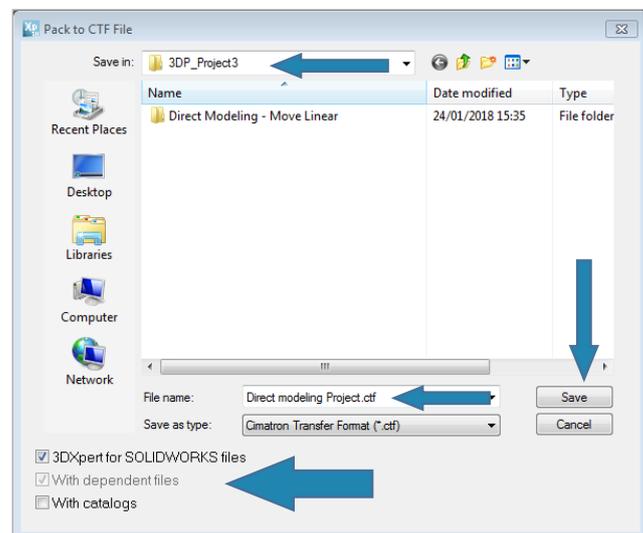
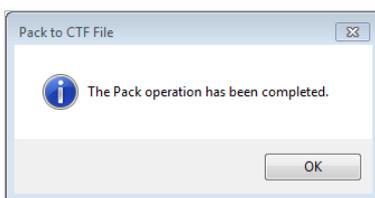
With this option it is possible to copy the parent file, along with its children in one operation – no need to select the children files. When paste in a different folder the file and its children will be copied with no connection to the source files.

### Pack to CTF

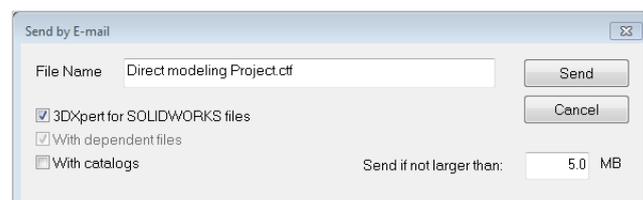
In general, to transfer a project or assembly file that contain other files or sub-assemblies **Pack to CTF - Compressed Transfer Format**- a Zip-like format for 3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS files, containing compressed files, data and path.

With a single **pick** on a project or assembly file, this command will collect all related files and sub-assemblies to one file with \*.ctf extension.

When the files are packed, a proper message appear:



**Pack to CTF & E-Mail** does the same as Pack to CTF, but at the end of packing, the \*.ctf file is attached to an email.



To **Unpack**, **click** a \*.ctf file and unpack the content to the relevant folder.



**Reconnect Files**

In cases of a project file or assembly files, it might be that a connection between a file and its related files is lost. Usually, it happens because of name change to a related file or when moving a file from one folder to folder via the Windows Explorer.

**Related file example:**

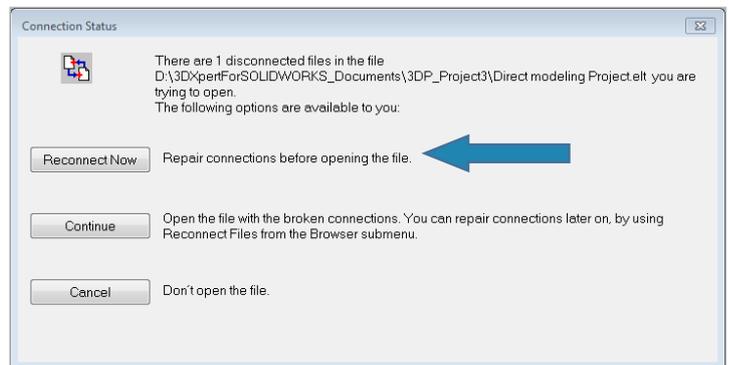
In the Explorer, the plus sign to the left of the icon  indicates that this file has some related files. This makes the assembly file dependent on the existence of these files.

The assembly file knows the name and folder location (path) to each related file.

Any file name or path change of a related file - that is not done via the explorer itself - will cause a break in the relation between the assembly and its related file(s).

Name	Type
-  Assembly2.eit	Assembly File
+  Lifting eye bolt M16.eit	Part File
 Base Plate.eit	Part File
 D50 Bar.eit	Part File
 Top Plate.eit	Part File
+  Cap Screw M12X60.eit	Part File
 Base Plate.eit	Part File
+  Cap Screw M12X60.eit	Part File
 D50 Bar.eit	Part File
+  Lifting eye bolt M16.eit	Part File
 Top Plate.eit	Part File

If this happens, it is necessary to reconnect the files. In some cases the user will not notice that, until opening the file (then a message appears). In both cases, the **Reconnect File** menu will popup.



In the **Reconnect File** menu, the system shows the file(s) that need(s) to be reconnected.

**Pick** the **Reconnect** button . This will open the **3DXpert for SOLIDWORKS Explorer**. Now browse and pick the file to be reconnected.

**Save & Open**  to finish.

