

# How To Install PDM Standard Server

TITLE:	How To Install PDM Standard Server
DATE:	September 2025
SUBJECT:	PDM Standard Server installation
ABSTRACT:	Comprehensive guide on installing the SOLIDWORKS PDM Server



This guide is written for administrators of SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard. The goal of this guide is to detail the steps necessary for an administrator to successfully install the server components of the PDM Standard installation. Please see the installation guide for the PDM Client for information about installing that component.

SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard is used to securely store and manage files. The server components of PDM Standard run as services and are supported on Windows Server 2022 and 2025. The Database Server component is supported by Microsoft SQL Server 2019 and 2022.

This is not a troubleshooting guide. If you have any technical issues with SOLIDWORKS, please search the [Hawk Ridge Systems Help Center](#), or contact Hawk Ridge Systems technical support.

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# Before Installation

Hawk Ridge Systems highly recommends taking a moment before installing SOLIDWORKS and checking that you are ready to load your new software. First, ensure that your system meets the [minimum system requirements](#) for the products you are installing.

Below are the primary operating system and software requirements for SOLIDWORKS PDM Server components.

	SOLIDWORKS 2024	SOLIDWORKS 2025	SOLIDWORKS 2026
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Server Products (e.g. SOLIDWORKS PDM, SNL Manager)			
Windows Server 2025	✗	✓ (SW2025 SP3)	✓
Windows Server 2022	✓	✓	✓
Windows Server 2019	✓	✓	✗

	SOLIDWORKS 2024	SOLIDWORKS 2025	SOLIDWORKS 2026
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MS SQL			
SQL 2025	✗	✗	To be announced
SQL 2022	✓	✓	✓
SQL 2019	✓ SQL 2019 CU22 required	✓ SQL 2019 CU22 required	✓ SQL 2019 CU22 required (End of Life: SW 2026)
SQL 2017	✓	✗	✗

Below are the basic hardware requirements for a SOLIDWORKS PDM server.

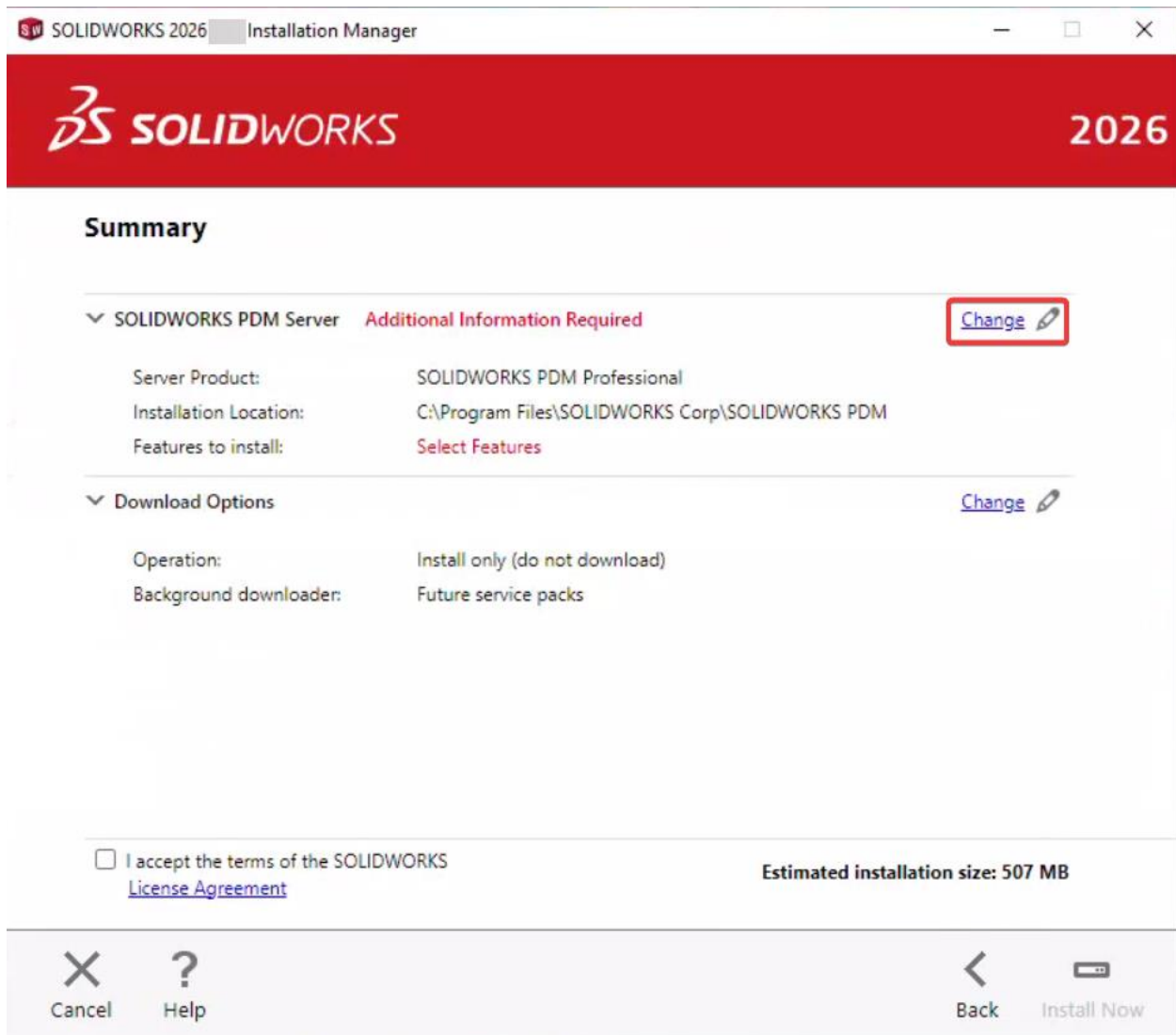
	SOLIDWORKS 2024	SOLIDWORKS 2025	SOLIDWORKS 2026
<b>Hardware</b>			
Processor	x86_64 (Intel 64 or AMD64)		
RAM	16 GB (32 GB recommended) PDM Contributor/Viewer or Electrical Schematic: 8 GB (16 GB recommended)		
Graphics / GPU	<a href="#">Certified cards and drivers</a>		
Drives	SSD drives recommended for optimal performance		

SOLIDWORKS also supports a small number of virtual environments for the PDM Server components.

	SOLIDWORKS 2024	SOLIDWORKS 2025	SOLIDWORKS 2026
<b>Hypervisors</b> (Virtual Environments)			
VMware vSphere ESXi	8.0.1 U1	8.0.3 U3	To be announced
VMware Workstation	17.0.2	17.6.0	To be announced
Microsoft Hyper-V	2022	2022	To be announced
Parallels Desktop, Mac	18.3.2	20.2.0	To be announced
Citrix XenServer	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced

# Installation of PDM Standard Server Components

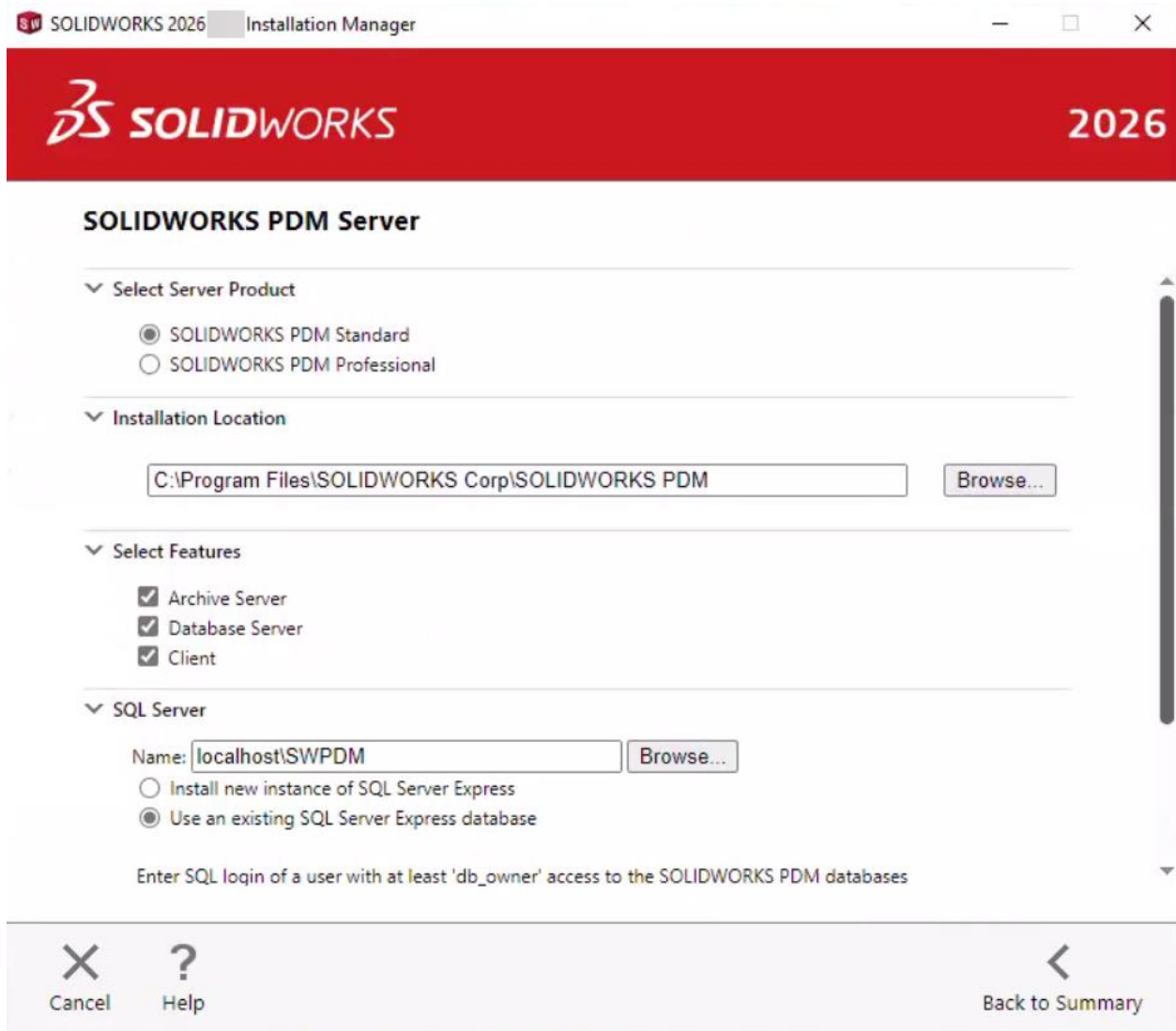
1. Insert and run the SOLIDWORKS Installation disc 1 or run the "Setup.exe" file inside your downloaded installation folder.
2. Select "Install server components" > "Install SOLIDWORKS PDM Server," and "Next."
3. If you had selected to install the SolidNetWork License Manager on the previous page, please enter your PDM serial number in the appropriate field and press "Next."
4. Select "Change" next to "SOLIDWORKS PDM Server."



The screenshot shows the SOLIDWORKS 2026 Installation Manager window. The title bar reads "SOLIDWORKS 2026 Installation Manager". The window has a red header with the SOLIDWORKS logo and "2026". Below the header is a "Summary" section. The first section is "SOLIDWORKS PDM Server" with a red "Additional Information Required" label and a "Change" button with a pencil icon. Below this are fields for "Server Product: SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional", "Installation Location: C:\Program Files\SOLIDWORKS Corp\SOLIDWORKS PDM", and "Features to install: Select Features". The second section is "Download Options" with a "Change" button and pencil icon. Below this are fields for "Operation: Install only (do not download)" and "Background downloader: Future service packs". At the bottom, there is a checkbox for "I accept the terms of the SOLIDWORKS License Agreement" and the text "Estimated installation size: 507 MB". The footer contains "Cancel" (with an X icon), "Help" (with a ? icon), "Back" (with a left arrow icon), and "Install Now" (with a play button icon).

5. Select "SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard," check both "Archive Server" and "Database Server," input your SQL Server login information to either use an existing instance or create a new one, and then select "Back to Summary." We recommend that you download and install MS SQL Management Tools when installing a new instance.

**Note:** You can also choose to install the Client component here if needed. Please see the guide for that product for more information.



The screenshot shows the "SOLIDWORKS PDM Server" installation configuration window. The window title is "SOLIDWORKS 2026 Installation Manager". The header features the SOLIDWORKS logo and the year "2026".

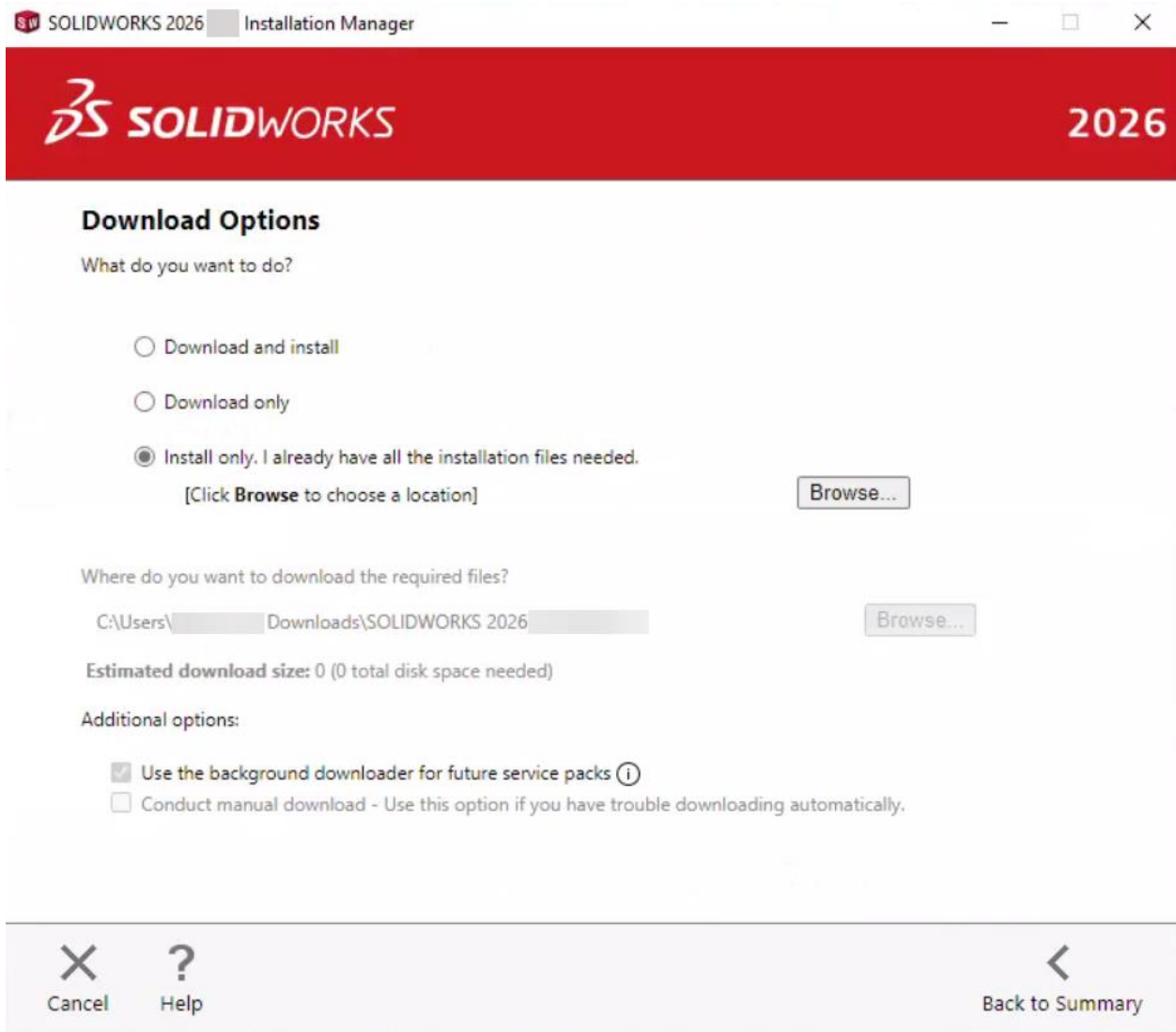
**SOLIDWORKS PDM Server**

- Select Server Product**
  - SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard
  - SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional
- Installation Location**
  - Text box: C:\Program Files\SOLIDWORKS Corp\SOLIDWORKS PDM
  - Button: Browse...
- Select Features**
  - Archive Server
  - Database Server
  - Client
- SQL Server**
  - Text box: localhost\SWPDM
  - Button: Browse...
  - Install new instance of SQL Server Express
  - Use an existing SQL Server Express database

Enter SQL login of a user with at least 'db\_owner' access to the SOLIDWORKS PDM databases

At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Cancel" (with an X icon), "Help" (with a question mark icon), and "Back to Summary" (with a left arrow icon).

6. Select "Change" next to "Download Options" to verify that your download options are correct. Adjust these as needed and select "Back to Summary."



The screenshot shows the 'Download Options' dialog box in the SolidWorks 2026 Installation Manager. The window title is 'SOLIDWORKS 2026 Installation Manager'. The header features the SolidWorks logo and the year '2026'. The main heading is 'Download Options' with the question 'What do you want to do?'. There are three radio button options: 'Download and install', 'Download only', and 'Install only, I already have all the installation files needed.' The third option is selected. Below this is a text field with the path 'C:\Users\...Downloads\SOLIDWORKS 2026' and a 'Browse...' button. The estimated download size is '0 (0 total disk space needed)'. Under 'Additional options', there are two checkboxes: 'Use the background downloader for future service packs' (checked) and 'Conduct manual download - Use this option if you have trouble downloading automatically.' (unchecked). At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Help', and 'Back to Summary'.

7. Accept the terms of the SOLIDWORKS License Agreement and select "Install Now," or "Download and Install," depending on your selection in "Download Options."
8. If the installation prompts a restart of the computer, this should be followed accordingly. After this is finished, the PDM Standard Server installation is complete.