# Guide to Admin Image Install

An Admin Image is often created to speed up the installation of multiple deployments of SOLIDWORKS. It is also used when the users want to maintain toolbox or program settings through install.
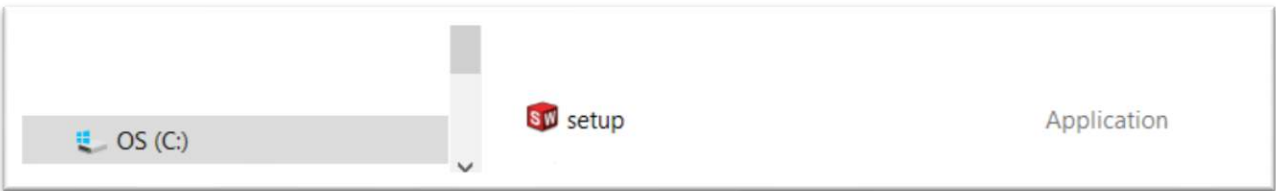
**Reference:**

**From the host computer or server:**

## Part 1: Create the Image

This section shows how to download and create the initial image for deployment.

**STEP 1:** Find and run the SOLIDWORKS setup.exe file, by default this is located in C:\Users\*username*\Documents\SOLIDWORKS Downloads\SOLIDWORKS XXXX.
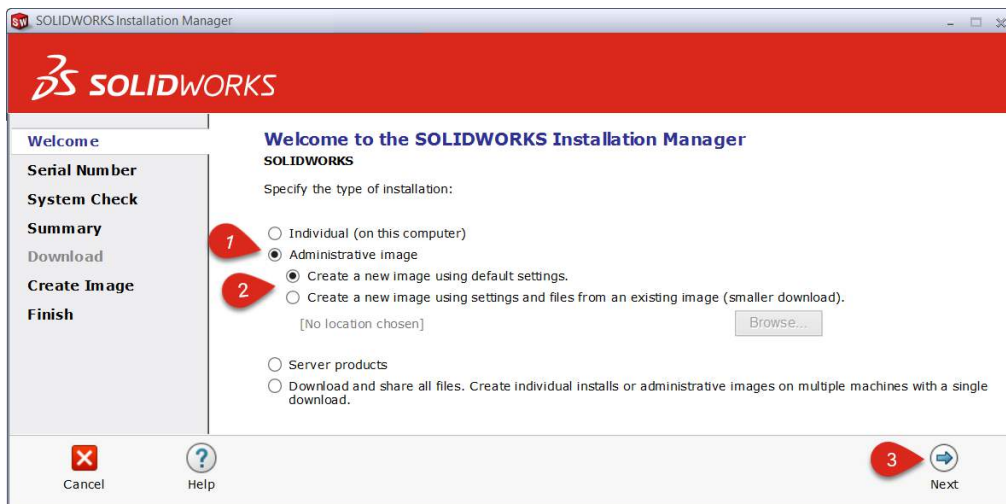
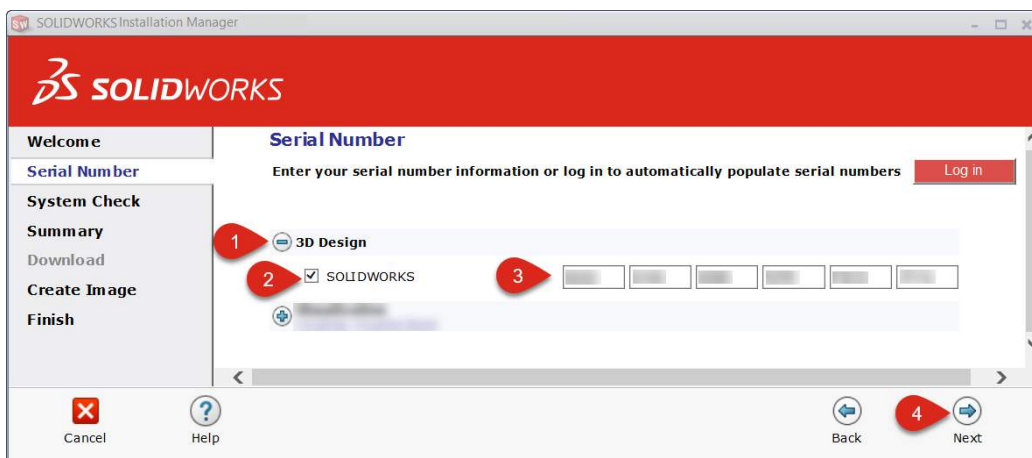**STEP 2:** Select **Administration Image Button**.

If there is an existing image to leverage installation and configuration settings, select **Create a new image using settings and files from an existing image**.
**\*Note:** This will create new copy of this image, the original will not be modified.
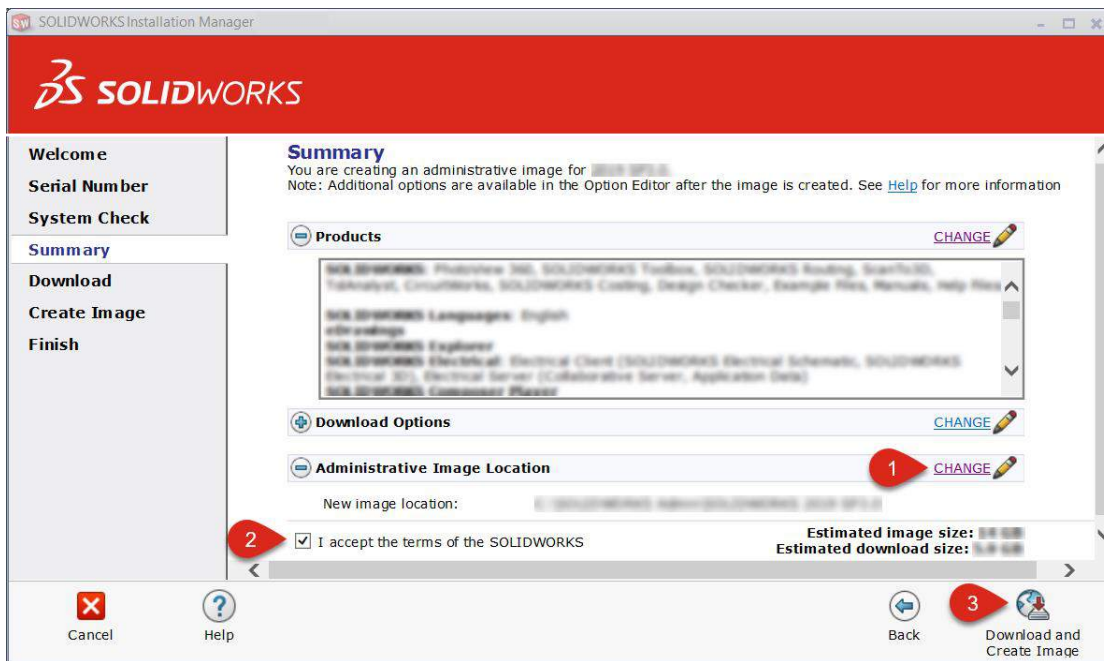
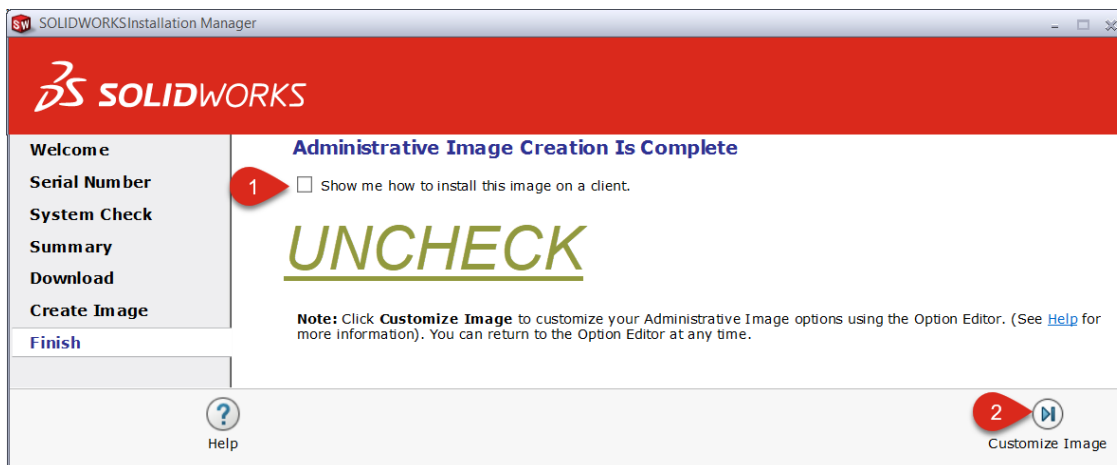If creating a new image from scratch, select **Create a new image using default settings**.



**STEP 3:** Select and input all serial numbers to be used for admin image and click **Next**.

**STEP 4:** Select CHANGE to modify any section you would like to change. Choose an image location and click **Download and Create Image**. Location should not contain any other admin images and should be in a folder that can be shared for client deployment.



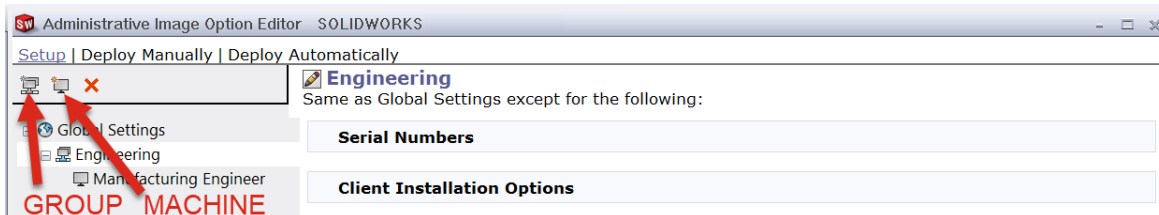**STEP 5:** Uncheck "Show me how..." and click **Customize Image.** This will open the Administrative Image Option Editor.



**\*Note:** The option editor is installed in the location identified in Step 4.

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# Part 2: Administrative Image Option Editor

This section shows how to use the option editor to customize the installation parameters for groups and individual client systems.

**STEP 1:** It is common to Group systems with similar options, and callout specific machines within those groups with more unique options and settings. This allows for customized deployment of certain settings per group or machine.  Select the Group or Machine icon to customize deployment options.

**STEP 2:** With a Group or Machine selected, click the pencil icon to access the install options.

**STEP 3:** **Serial Numbers**

Click the desired checkboxes to specify the products to be installed.
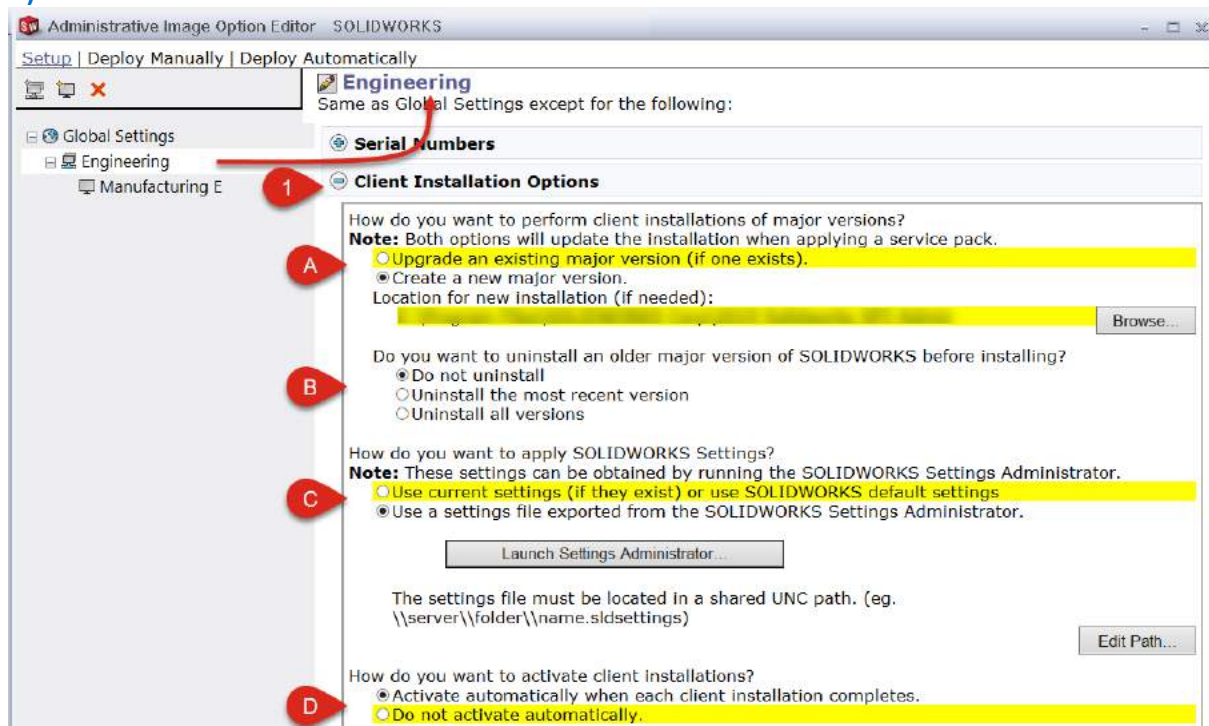
## STEP 4: Client Installation Options

**A)** Upgrade an existing major version to replace an existing major version with the new version *or* Create a new major version to maintain a previous major version, effectively having multiple versions of SOLIDWORKS installed on one system.  Click Browse to specify installation location.

**B)** If creating a new major version, specify what should be done with the older version.

**C)** Select how settings should be applied for SOLIDWORKS.  Choose to use current settings (if they exist) or settings exported from SOLIDWORKS Settings Administrator.  Click Launch Settings Administrator for additional setting options.

*Note: See section on SOLIDWORKS Settings Administrator for more information.
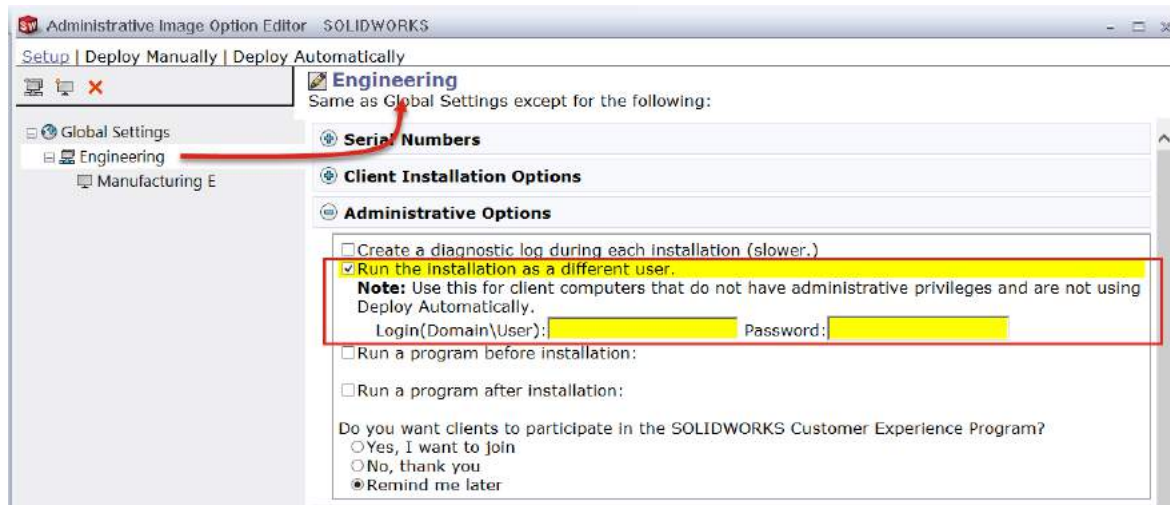
**D)** Select method of activation.

## STEP 5: Administrative Options

Contains advanced options for logging in as another user, running additional programs and participating in the Customer Experience Program.

If users do not have administrative rights to their computers, it is important to select **Run the installation as a different user** then include the Login/Password for an administrator.

**\*Note:** Disabling UAC (Windows notification settings) is required for any install type.
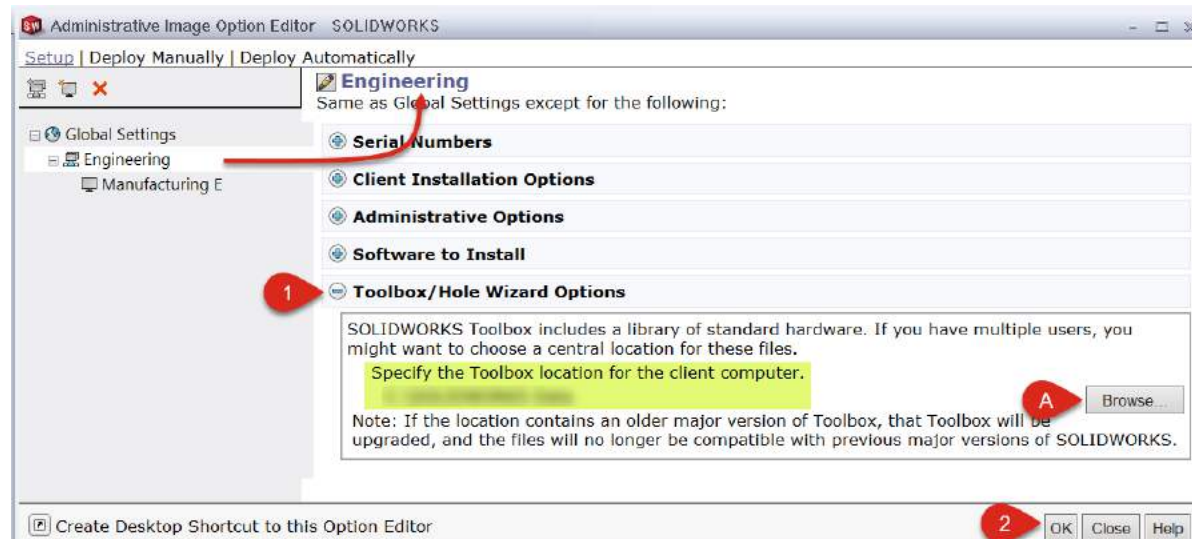


## STEP 6: Software to Install

Choose software to be installed.

## STEP 7: Toolbox/Hole Wizard Options

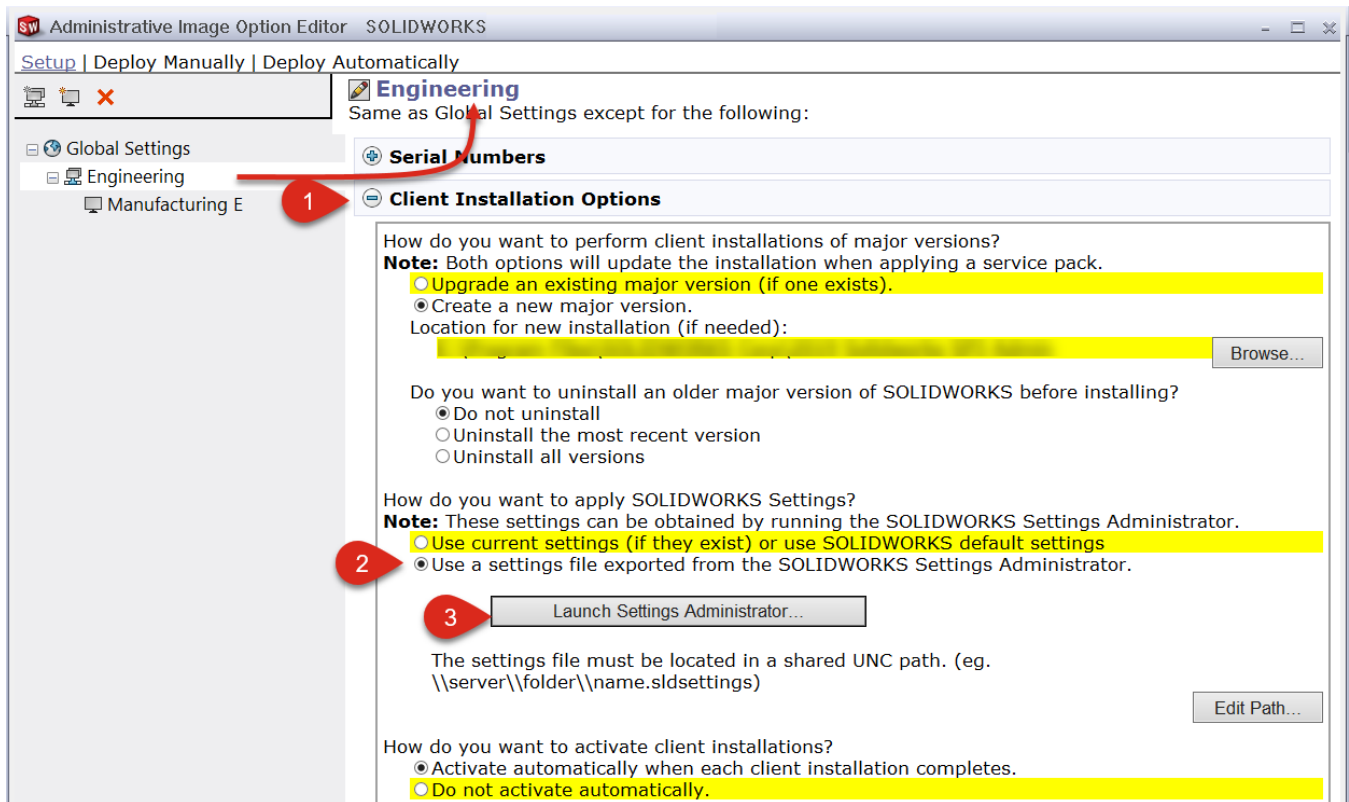If users will be accessing a shared Toolbox (typically a network location), this can be specified here.
*Note: If the location contains an older major version of Toolbox, the client installation will upgrade that Toolbox to the new major version.  The files will no longer be compatible with previous versions.  Loss of any customizations is possible, consider saving a copy of the shared toolbox.

**SOLIDWORKS Settings Administrator tool:**

The Settings Administrator tool is used to set system options that are applied when deploying or upgrading SOLIDWORKS.  This can be used to set and lock user settings and replaces the Copy Settings wizard for deploying settings.

**STEP 1:** Select Use a settings file exported from the SOLIDWORKS Settings Administrator.  Then select Launch Settings Administrator…

**STEP 2:** Choose the starting option.



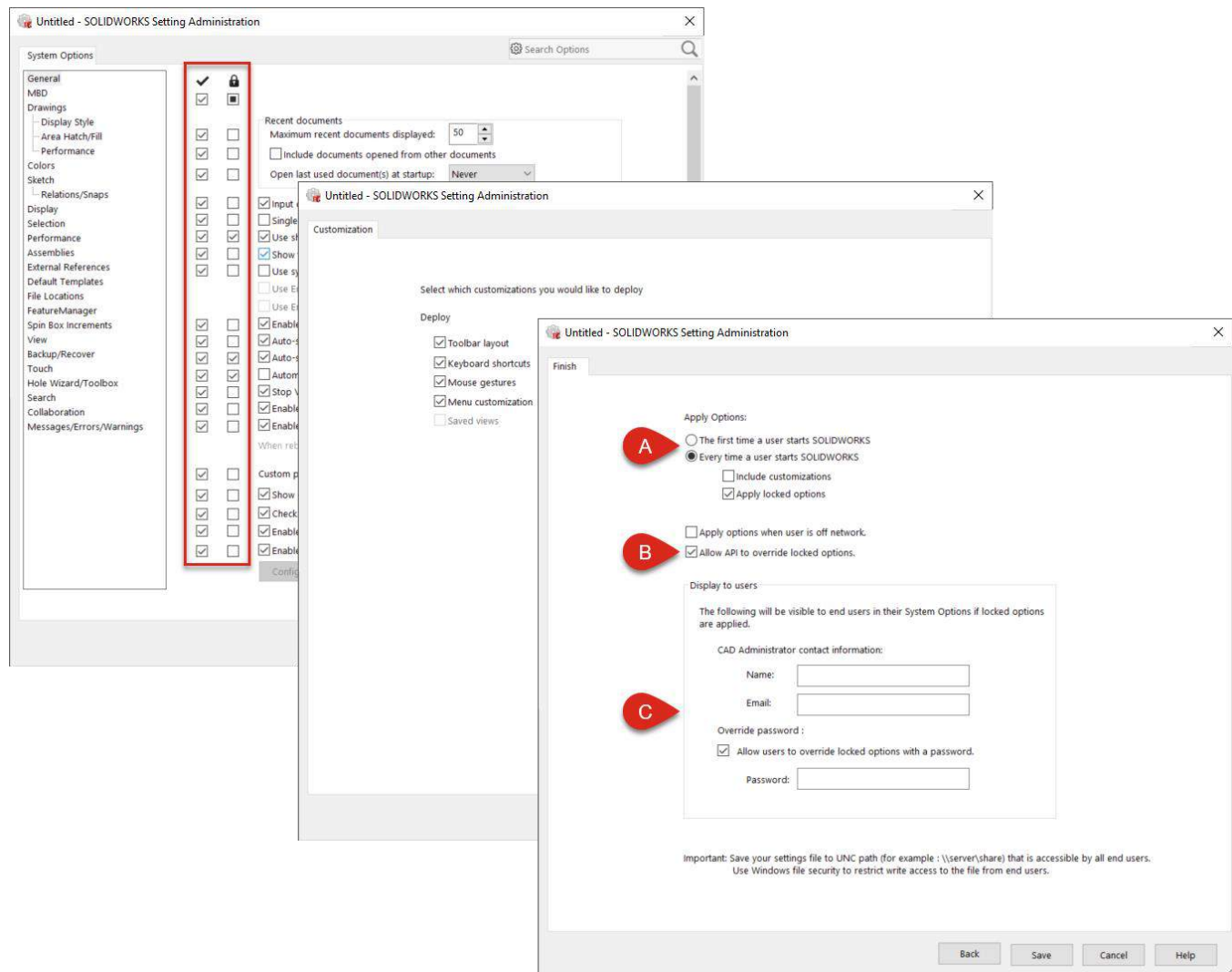**A)** Default set of options for this version of SOLIDWORKS.
**B)** Import SOLIDWORKS options from this computer to select options from the current install and lock settings as desired.  This process creates a swSetting Admin File (*.sldsettings).
**C)** Browse to an existing sldreg file, file generated by Copy Settings Wizard.
**D)** Browse to an existing sldSetting file, file generated by SOLIDWORKS Setting Administrator.

When selecting **Import SOLIDWORKS options from this computer**, this opens the Setting Administrator.
In the System Options tab, the desired settings can be applied and locked if necessary.
In the Customization tab, the Toolbar layout, Keyboard shortcuts, Mouse gestures and Menu customizations can be applied.
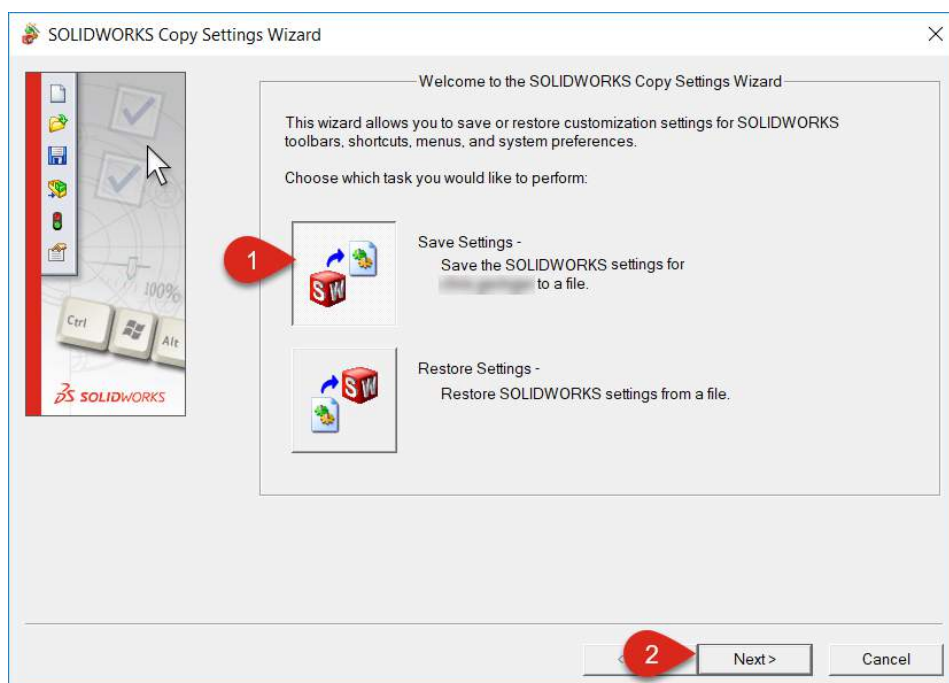


Finally, options can be set to apply these settings ONLY the first time a user starts SOLIDWORKS or EVERY time a user starts SOLIDWORKS.  For locked settings, an override password can be set to allow users to change locked options.

If **Browse to an existing sldreg file** is selected and a file already exists, select **Browse** to navigate to the desired file. If a sldreg file needs to be generated, take the following steps:
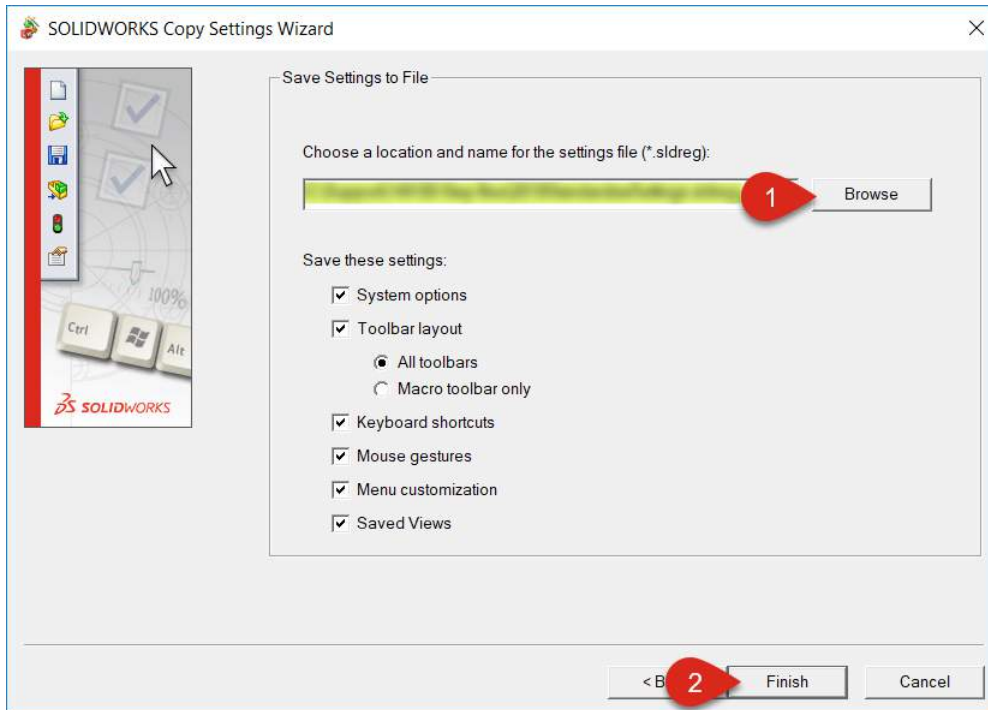
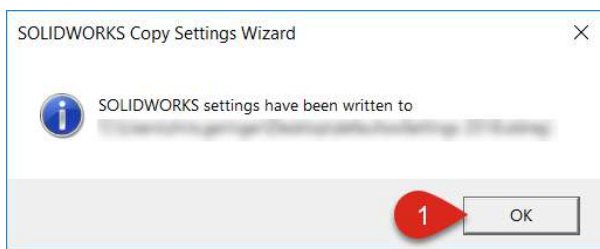**A)** With SOLIDWORKS open, click **Tools** and then select **Save/Restore Settings**



**B)** Select **Save Settings**, then click **Next**.

**C)** Identify a save location, record for future reference.  Select the desired options and click **Finish**.
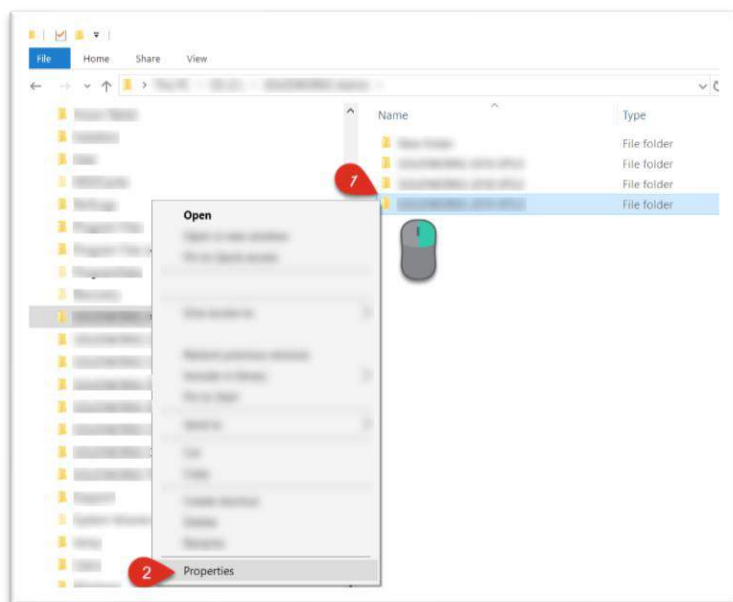


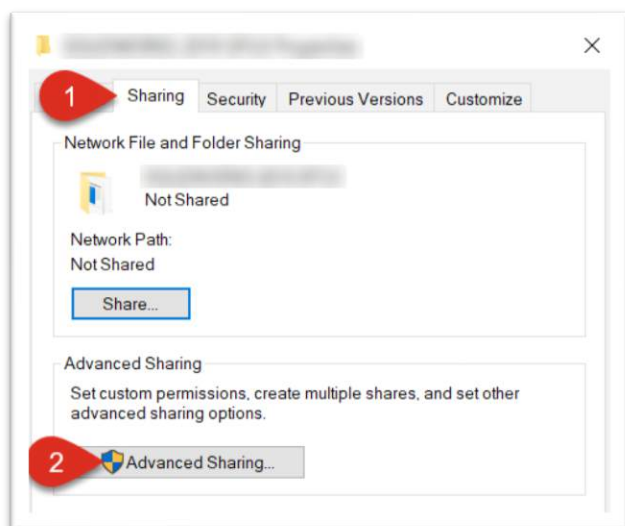**D)** Click **OK** to finish.

**Pre-Deployment**

To finalize the admin image for deployment, the directory where it was created must be shared. This location was specified in Part 1, Step 4.

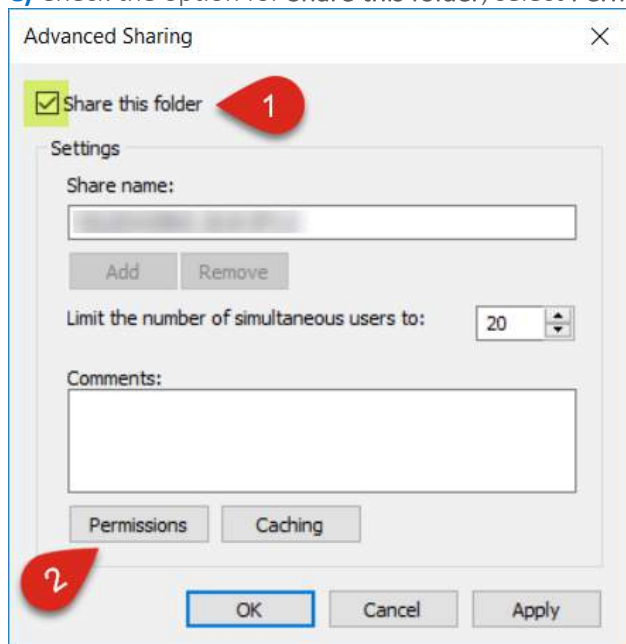(Auto or Manual Deployment) – Create a Network Share Folder:

**A)** Select folder where admin image is stored, right-click > **Properties**.



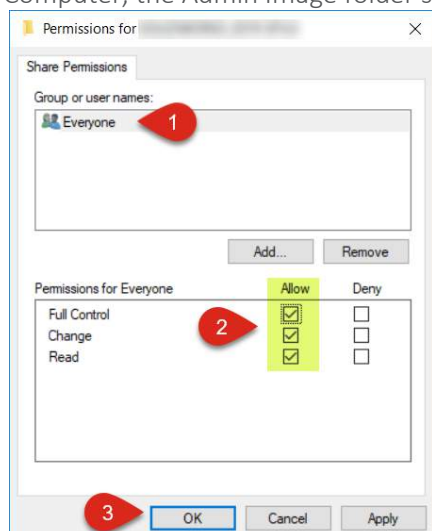**B)** On the Sharing tab, select **Advanced Sharing**.

**C)** Check the option for **Share this folder**, select **Permissions**.



**D)** Enable Full Control permissions for **Everyone**.
**\*Note:** Verify client access to the shared folder by navigating to Windows Explorer folder > Network > Admin Computer, the Admin Image folder should be present.
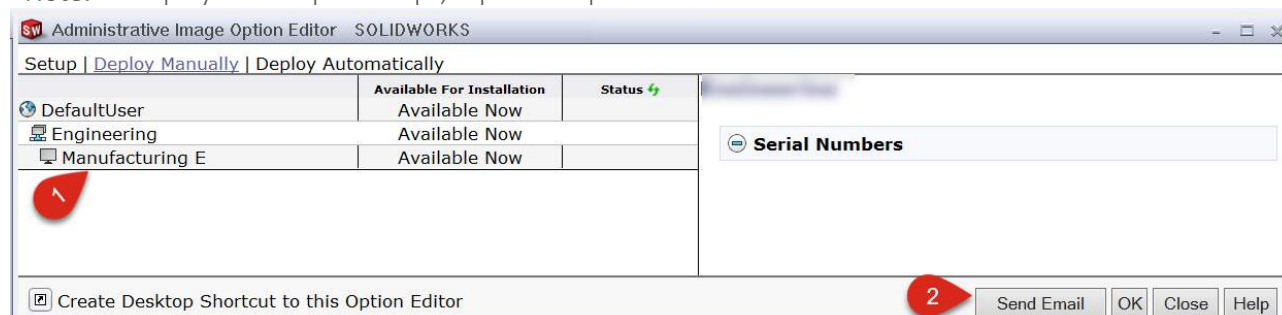
## Part 2a: Deploy the Image Manually (Preferred)

This is the preferred option for deployment and is used when the clients have administrative rights to their Windows profile.

**STEP 1:** From the Administrative Image Option Editor, select **Deploy Manually**.
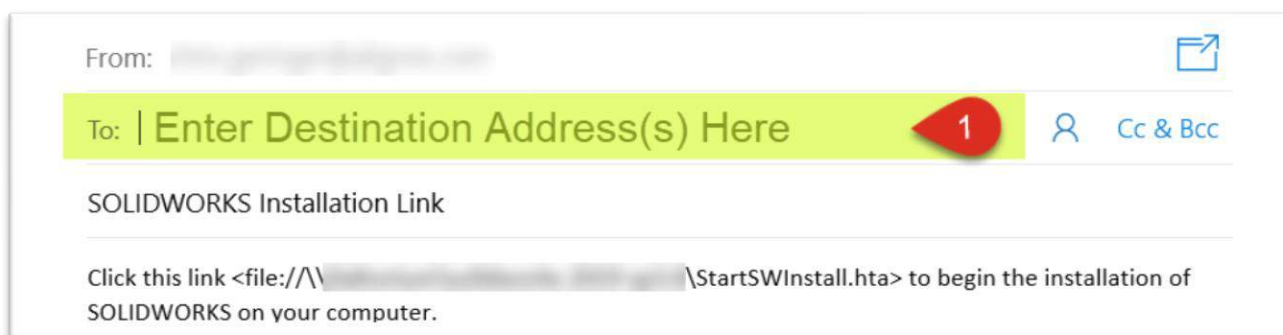


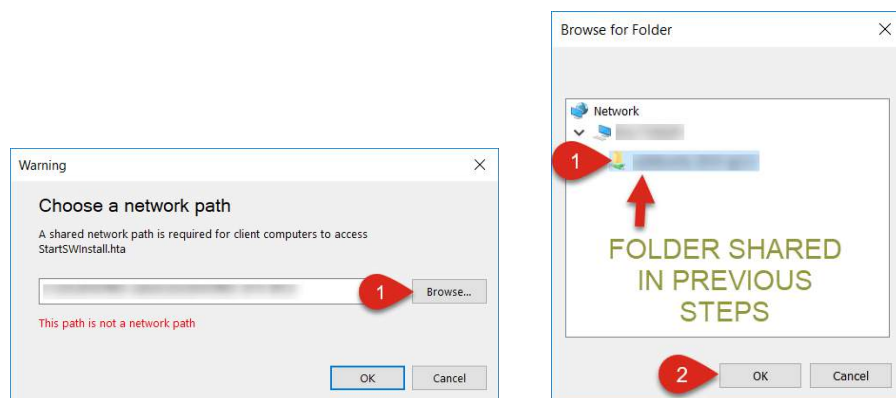**STEP 2:** Select the **Machine** or **Group** to deploy to and click **Send Email**.
**\*Note:** To deploy to multiple Groups, repeat this process for each of them.



**STEP 3:** A link will be generated similar to the one shown, this is the link to the HTA file client systems will use to deploy manually. **Add addresses** you wish to send link to:

**\*Note:** Before you've sent the email, you may see this window pop-up. Select your shared Network Folder (this was the location specified in Part 1, Step 4) and hit **OK**.
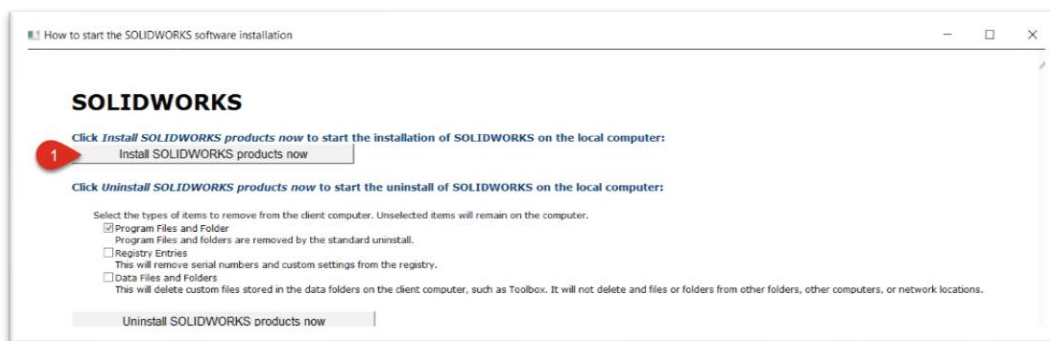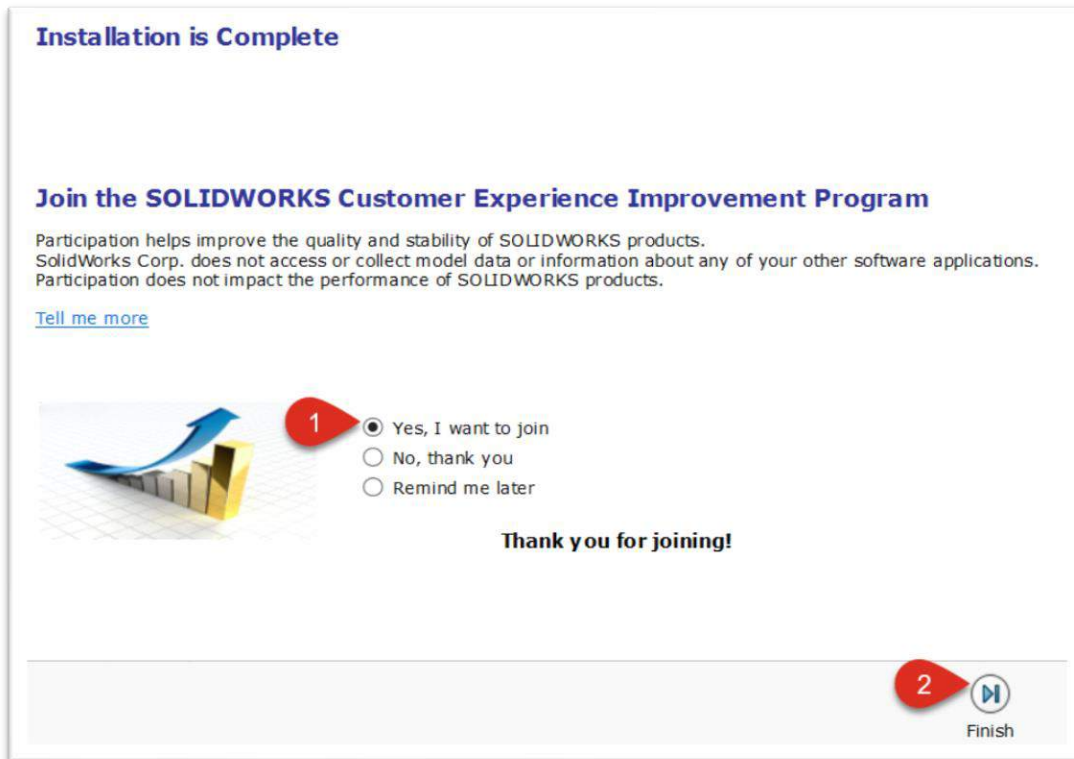
# Part 2b: Manual from Client Side

**STEP 1:** Once received, the client can open the link from the email or Copy/Paste into the Windows Start search bar.  The link will open the following window, click **Run**.



**STEP 2:** Select **Install SOLIDWORKS products now**, it may take a few moments to access the server.

**STEP 3:** Select Finish to complete installation, activation of the software should be automatic.
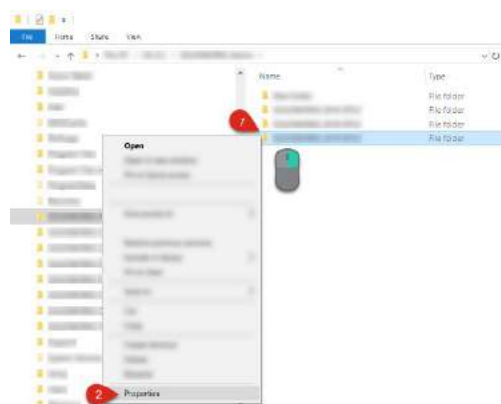
# Part 3: Deploy the Image (Auto – Not Recommended)

Automatic (push) installs of SOLIDWORKS, using the specific configurations based on the Admin Image created.
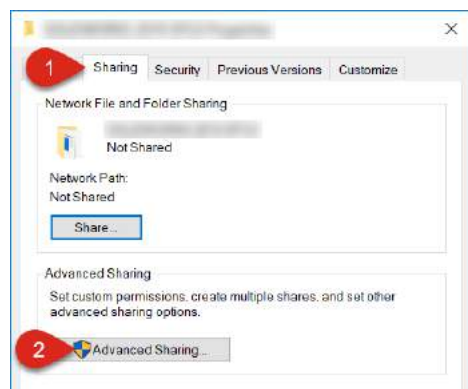
**\*Note:** In order to deploy automatically, both the client and host machine need to be on the same Active Directory. This can be a long process when installing many clients.  This section will describe the steps necessary to grant client systems with the proper permissions required for the Task Scheduler to install.
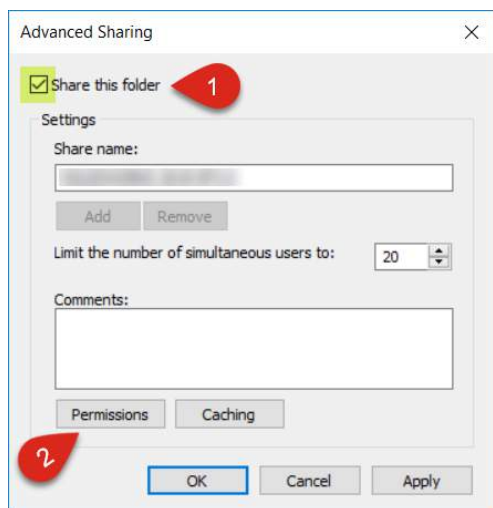
**Adjust Permissions Manually:**

**STEP 1:** Navigate to the folder the Admin image is located in.  Right-click > **Properties**.
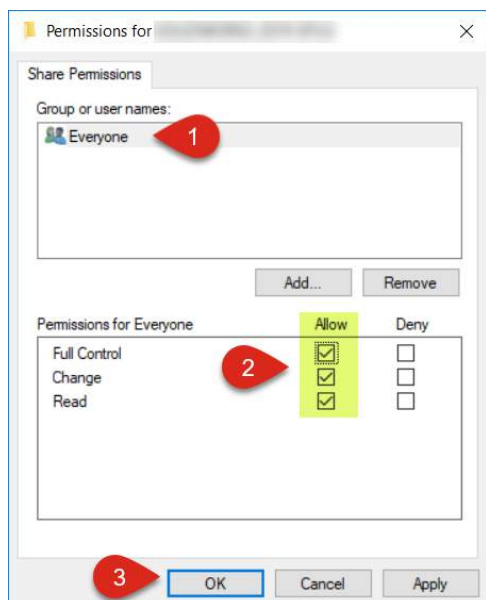


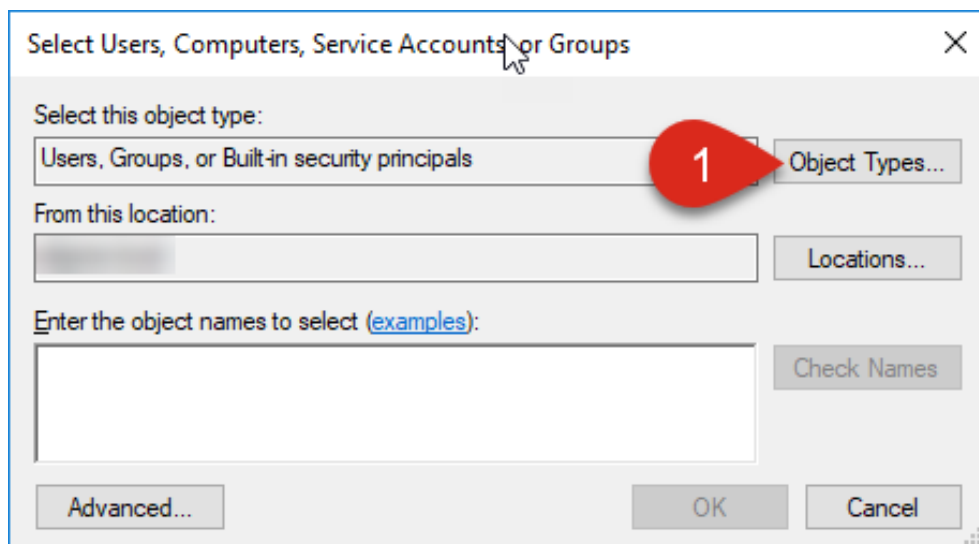**STEP 2:** Select the Sharing tab, select **Advanced Sharing**.

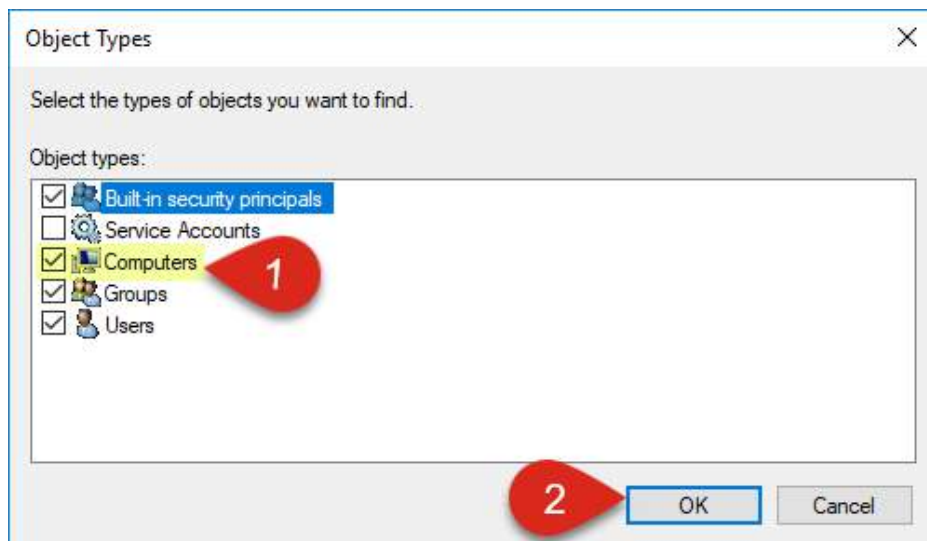**STEP 3:** Check the box for 'Share this folder', then select **Permissions**.



**STEP 4:** Select 'Everyone' from Group or usernames.  Then set to allow full control.  Select **Apply**, then click **Add**.

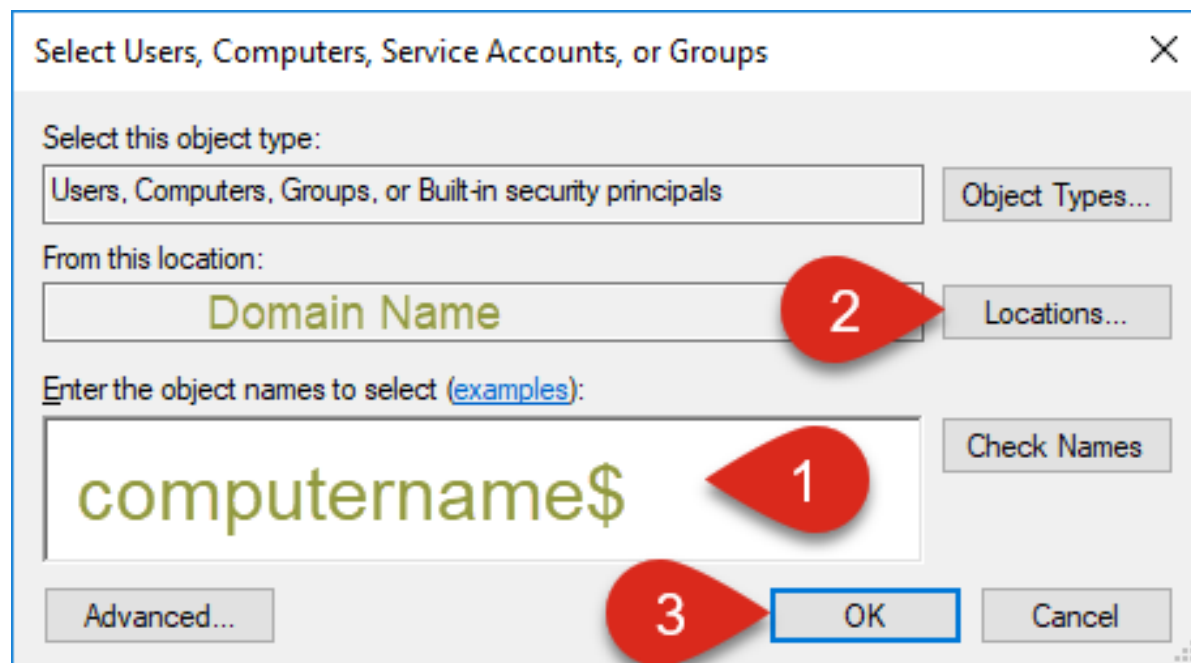**STEP 5:** From the Select Users, Computers, Service Accounts or Groups window, select **Object Types...**
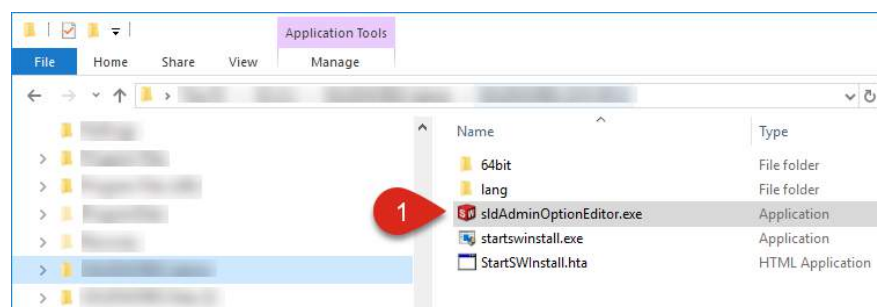


In Object Types, select **Computers**, click **OK**.

**STEP 6:** Enter your computer name, followed by **$**.  Next, select **Locations...** and select your domain location. Click **OK** to exit.
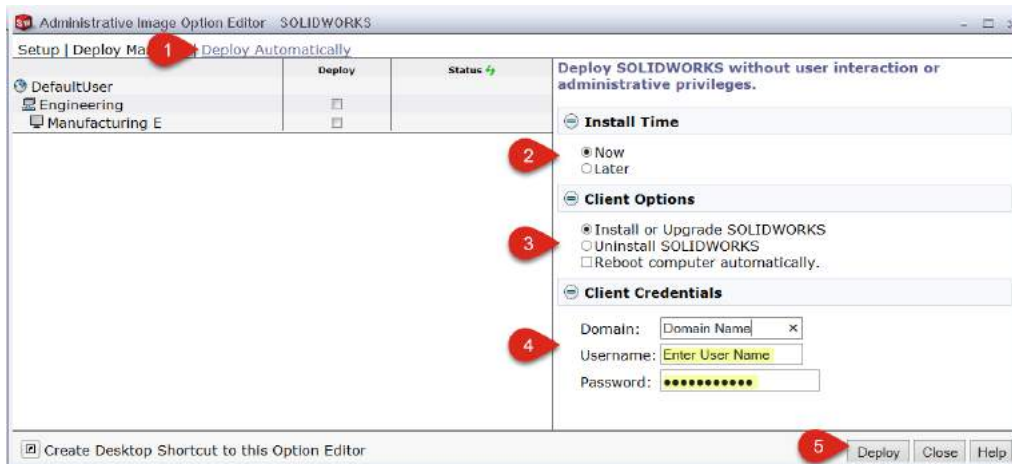
***Note:** Workgroup networks may not be supported.



**STEP 7:** Open the Administrative Image Option Editor application located in the folder specified in Part 1, Step 4.
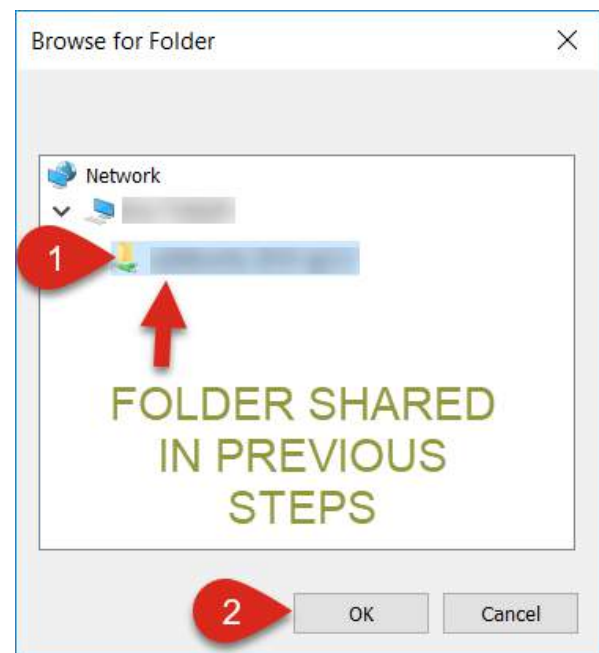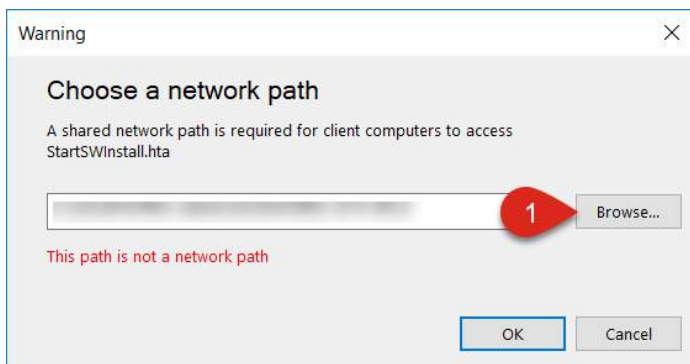
**STEP 8:** Select **Deploy Automatically**, select the Groups and/or Machines to be deployed to.  Select the desired deployment options and enter the domain, username and password of the client to install and click **Deploy**.
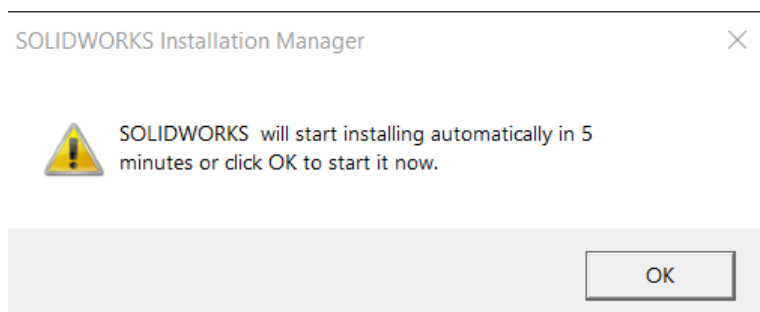**\*Note:** This should be an account that has administrative privileges to the client PC.



**\*Note:** After deploying, you may see the following warning message.  Select **Browse…**  to navigate to your shared network folder, click **OK**.

**STEP 9:** On the client system, the following window will pop up  The SOLIDWORKS install will automatically start after five minutes or after the client selects **OK**.

SOLIDWORKS Installation Manager    ✕

⚠ SOLIDWORKS  will start installing automatically in 5 minutes or click OK to start it now.

OK

**\*Note:** After deploying, the status can be viewed in the Options Editor window.  The status may display as scheduled for some time before it says 'Successful'.  It will be a silent install using less PC resources.