Exporting an .STL File from Solidworks

1. Create your part in SolidWorks. Once it is complete, click File, then click Save As. When you click 'Save As' and then select STL under 'Save As Type' a button labeled 'Options...' appears near the bottom of the 'Save As' window. Click the button and an 'Export Options' window opens.

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2. Make sure you have selected 'Fine' or 'Custom' resolution. If you click on 'Custom' you can adjust the Deviation and Angle Tolerances to increase or decrease the number of faces created in the STL. The smaller the Tolerance values are for both items the more faces will be created and the curved surfaces on your print will be much smoother. Make sure the box for 'Show STL info before file saving' is checked so you can see how many faces will be created before you finally save the STL.

Click OK, then enter your file name (if you haven't already) and click Save. If the item you are printing is an assembly that you wish to print all together, check the Save all components of an assembly in a single file checkbox. Otherwise, you will get one STL part file for each part in your assembly and they will print separately. Don't worry about this if you only have one part.

 Another thing to double check when you're saving as an STL is the unit the STL is being saved in; Solidworks doesn't automatically create the STL in the same units you used to make the part or assembly. At the top centre of the 'Export Options' window the units the STL will be saved in is shown; you can pick from Millimeters, Centimeters, Meters, Inches or Feet from the drop down menu.

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