

Vulkan Development for Apple Desktops & Devices

Richard Wright, LunarG



Presentation:
<https://bit.ly/3Hngbm9>



Overview

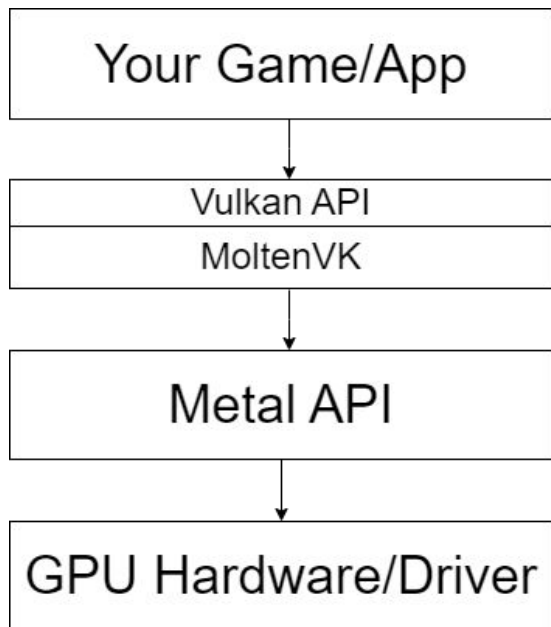
- No native Vulkan “driver” on Apple devices?
- How MoltenVK provides a layered approach to making a Vulkan ICD
- Shipping a “Vulkan” application on Apple OS’s
- Validation Layers and the Vulkan Configurator
- How to use the two “portability extensions”
- Vulkan Loader and Validation on iOS details

Apple does things different

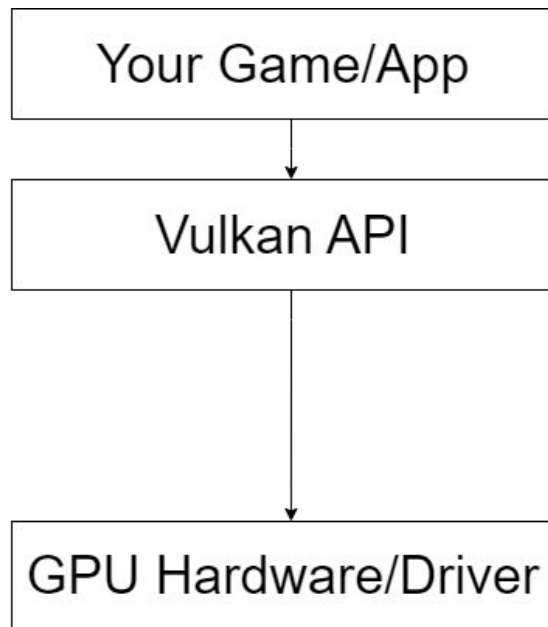


- In the past Apple worked with IHVs (AMD/NVIDIA/Intel) to produce the low-level drivers (OpenGL) for GPU hardware
- The developer-facing API is (now) Metal, a proprietary Apple-only API
- Today OpenGL on Apple is implemented on Metal (much like ANGLE)
- Metal is an, explicit, and thin API... much like Vulkan in some ways
- Simple solution: Write a Vulkan ICD on top of Metal
- Tada - MoltenVK!
- You do not have to learn Metal, you do not have to learn two APIs. MoltenVK is just Vulkan

Vulkan/MoltenVK Layered Approach



Native Vulkan Drivers



***It's that simple...**

Where do you get this magic library?

Included in the
Vulkan SDK available
for free at:
vulkan.lunarg.com

OR

[https://github.com/
KhronosGroup/MoltenVK](https://github.com/KhronosGroup/MoltenVK)
If you like building things
yourself



The screenshot shows the Vulkan website's SDK download page for macOS. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links to SDK, Issues, Docs, Licenses, and Khronos. The main content area displays a table of SDK versions, with the latest version, 1.3.236.0, highlighted. The table includes columns for Version, File, and SHA 256. The latest version provides links to download the SDK - SDK Installer (231 MB) and SDK Config - Config.json (0 MB). The page also includes a sidebar with logos for Valve and LunarG, and a footer with contact information and a privacy policy link.

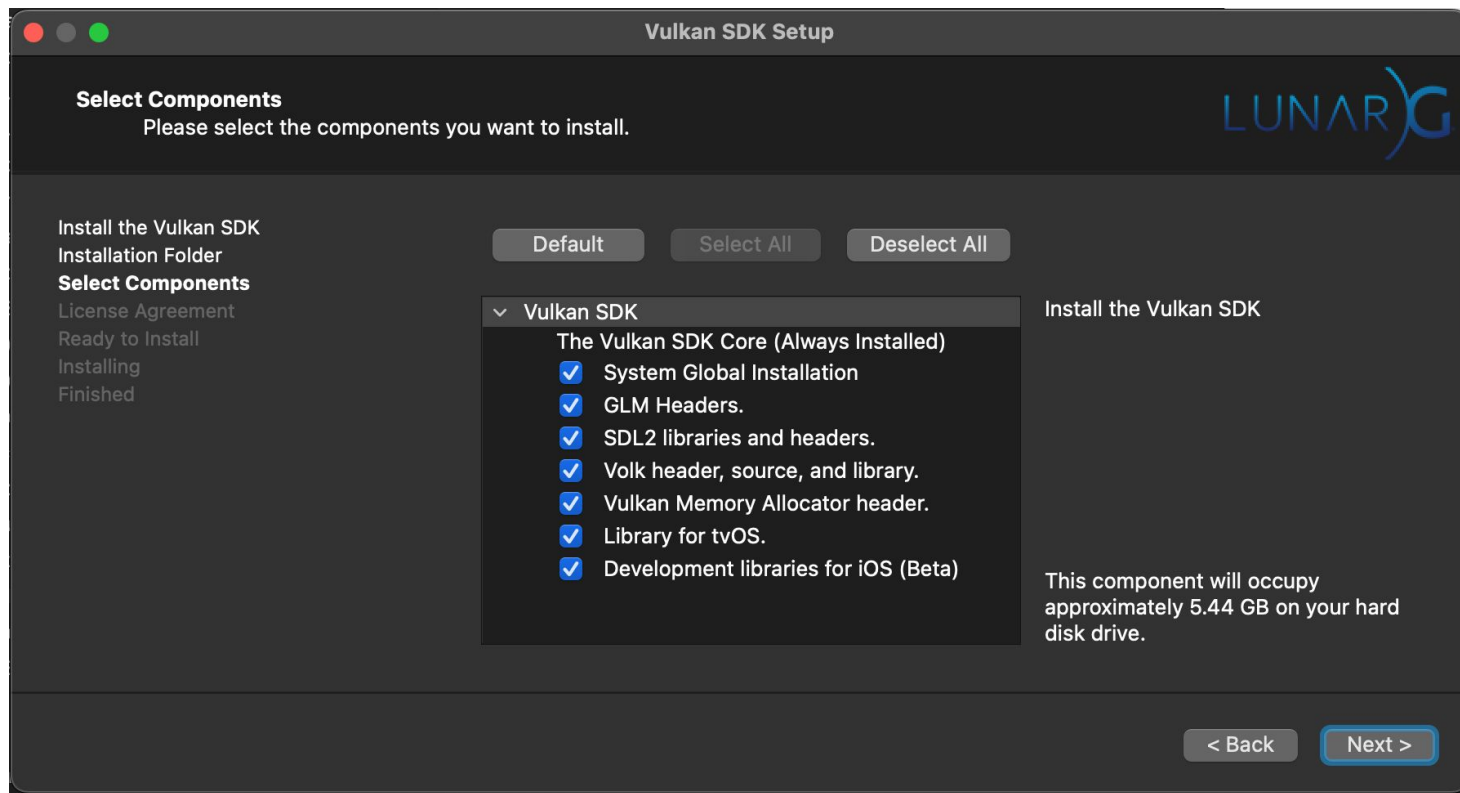
Version	File	SHA 256
Released		
1.3.236.0 12-Dec-2023	SDK - SDK Installer vulkansdk-macos-1.3.236.0.dmg (231 MB)	18a138c3d87e53457eccc02c423b0143271c3b370eabc8009e9c4fa450586c
	SDK Config - Config.json config.json (0 MB)	8a32871ea33278cfa4502e59972016e478b19447aa65133178224222024e
1.3.231.1 28-Oct-2022	SDK - SDK Installer vulkansdk-macos-1.3.231.1.dmg (228 MB)	ee33d47e811085f9e3b7011d3dca074e9928f911cbe4aa443b5b01971d65
	SDK Config - Config.json config.json (0 MB)	6ef0fd8762308eea146842b914ec39c0a6910302e8e98f8ea2b5d0c815c4ef9
1.3.224.1 28-Aug-2022	SDK - SDK Installer vulkansdk-macos-1.3.224.1.dmg (262 MB)	35e35e8ac0fa138a90c32523d5160f147ac99b39a2966502a9de9f41795638
	SDK Config - Config.json config.json (0 MB)	1347c31ae3844c55c78838b14085d842002778438a34c3deac9e50bac2620af
1.3.216.0 14-Jun-2022	SDK - SDK Installer vulkansdk-macos-1.3.216.0.dmg (261 MB)	c895c3d0d483aa8f647a5ac0c1c08449552aa3893ab76a1154ba00e72b2d2f3f

Packaging and use of MoltenVK

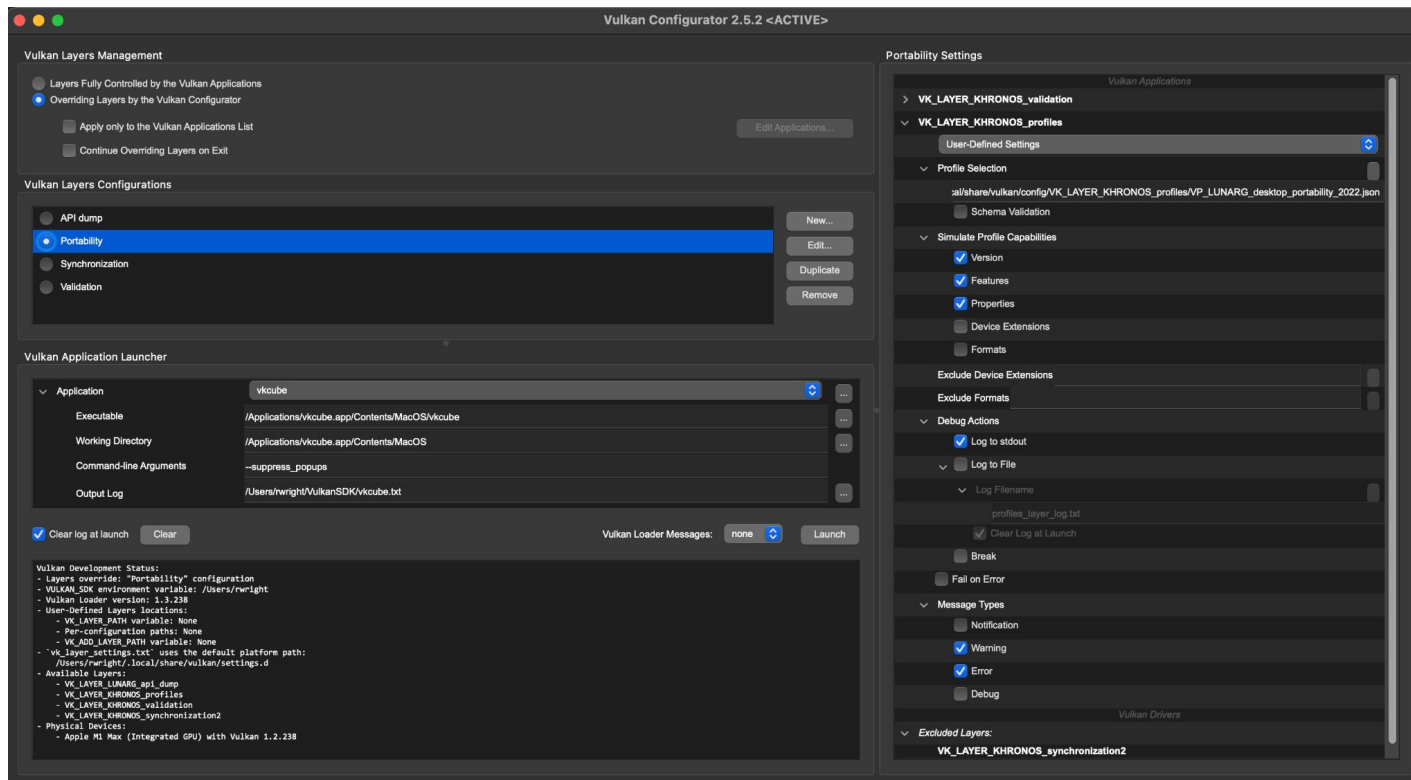
- **System Wide Loader/ICD** (*Development Only*)
 - Useful for development
 - Works seamlessly with the vkconfig and the validation layers
 - The Vulkan SDK will set this up for you
 - **DO NOT SHIP** your applications expecting this
- **Include loader/MoltenVK in your app bundle**
 - Works with the loader, vkconfig, and validation layers
- **Link dynamically, embed in your bundle (in /Frameworks)**
 - Does not work with the loader, vkconfig, or validation layers (or iOS App Store)
- **Link statically***
 - Does not work with loader, vkconfig, or validation layers
 - Does allow for non bundled executables to use Vulkan (i.e. command line programs)
 - Does work with all Apple App stores

*Must use this for shipping tvOS applications (for now)

System Wide Loader/ICD



Vulkan Configurator “Just Works*”



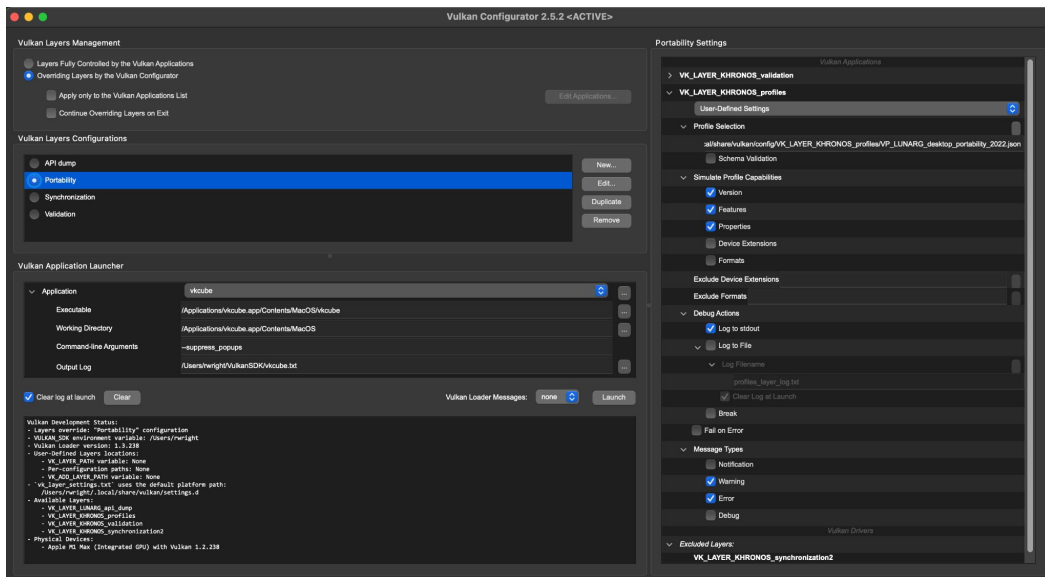
*macOS Desktop Only

Vulkan Configurator “*Just Works”

Bugs you know about

Bugs you DON'T know about

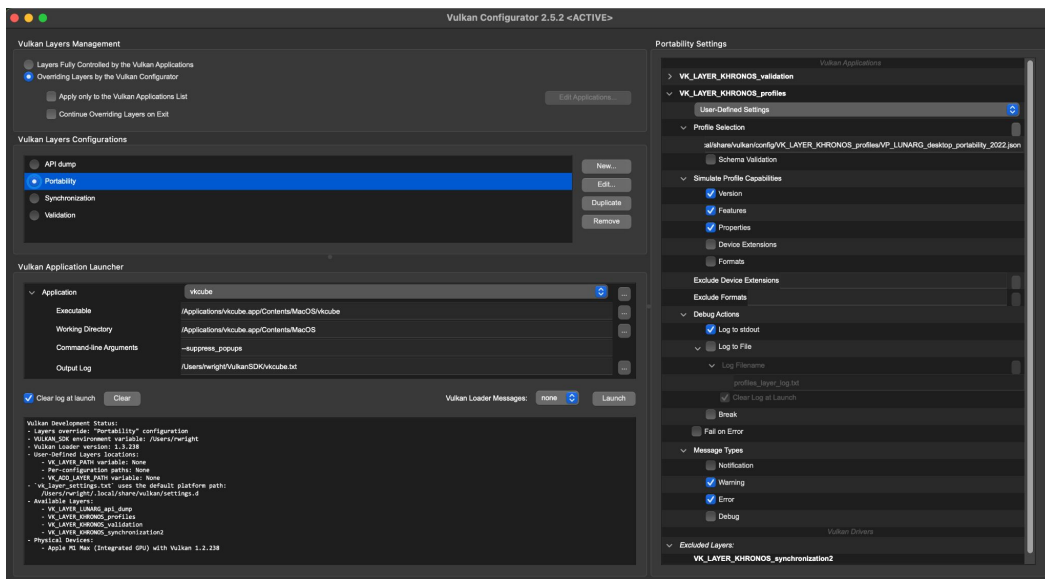
API Usage Bugs



*macOS Desktop Only

Vulkan Layers on macOS

- Khronos Validation
 - No DebugPrintf
 - No GPU/AV
- Khronos Synchronization2
- Shader Objects Extension
- Khronos Profiles
- API Dump
- Screenshot (new to macOS)
- GFXReconstruct (coming soon)



Bundled Loader and Layers on macOS

```
VulkanRocks.app
  /Contents
    /Frameworks
      libMoltenVK.dylib
      libvulkan.1.[version number].dylib
      libvulkan.1.dylib -> libvulkan.1.[version number].dylib
      libVkLayer_api_dump.dylib
    /MacOS
      VulkanRocks
    /Resources
      /vulkan
        /icd.d
          MoltenVK_icd.json
        /explicit_layer.d
          VkLayer_api_dump.json
```

https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/sdk/latest/mac/getting_started.html

Bundled Loader and Layers on iOS

(development only)

VulkanRocks.app

 /Frameworks

 libMoltenVK.dylib

 libvulkan.1.[version number].dylib

 libvulkan.1.dylib -> libvulkan.1.[version number].dylib

 libVkLayer_api_dump.dylib

VulkanRocks

 vk_layer_settings.txt

 /vulkan

 /icd.d

 MoltenVK_icd.json

 /explicit_layer.d

 VkLayer_api_dump.json

Include a Dynamic Library (very common today)

- MoltenVK as a dynamic library can be placed in /Frameworks in the app bundle
- MoltenVK has all the loader entry points, so it can “fake” the loader, but it doesn’t actually load layers, etc.
- Works on all Apple Platforms, but not allowed on iOS app store
- Remember: this bypasses the loader - no layers!
- `VK_EXT_metal_objects` -> Use this for Vulkan-Metal interoperability

Static Link

- MoltenVK can also be linked to your app as a static library.
- Include the MoltenVK.xcframework
- This contains static libraries for each platform
 - macOS
 - iOS/Simulator
 - tvOS/Simulator
- Great option for shipping applications - especially non-bundled apps
 - Works on all Apple devices.
 - Cannot use any layers (validation or otherwise)
 - Use Loader/Layers for development and static for shipping on iOS
- `VK_EXT_metal_objects` -> Use this for Vulkan-Metal interoperability



Okay, that's the overview of linking and packaging...

What about the code?

There are two important extensions you need to know about if you are going to target Apple devices... in fact, this goes for ANY layered Vulkan implementation on ANY platform.

`VK_KHR_portability_enumeration`

`VK_KHR_portability_subset`

VK_KHR_portability_enumeration

The purpose of this extension is to keep games/apps from “accidentally” selecting an incomplete (but Portability Compliant) Vulkan Implementation*. While important today on macOS, it may be more important soon on Windows and Linux.

*This does require that a layered, Portability Conformant Vulkan implementation must identify itself to be so by supporting this extension.

VK_KHR_portability_enumeration

This is an instance extension. You are telling the Loader what devices you want to see.

1. If “VK_KHR_portability_enumeration” is listed by `vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties`, it means you have a (newish) loader that supports this extension. You must add the extension name to the `ppEnableExtensions` list in the `VkInstanceCreateInfo` structure if you want to make use of a portability implementation.
2. You must also add the `VK_INSTANCE_CREATE_ENUMERATE_PORTABILITY_BIT_KHR` flag to the `flags` member.

If you do not do BOTH of the above (on macOS currently), you will get `VK_ERROR_INCOMPATIBLE_DRIVER` from `vkCreateInstance`

VK_KHR_portability_enumeration

Important: If multiple drivers are found, and one is “portable,” and you’ve not enabled this extension, you will only see the fully conformant hardware driver.

This will likely happen on Windows/Linux before it happens on macOS!

VK_KHR_portability_enumeration

```
////////////////////////////////////  
// Get the list of instance extensions  
uint32_t extensionCount = 0;  
vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties(nullptr, &extensionCount, nullptr);  
  
std::vector<VkExtensionProperties> extensions(extensionCount);  
vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties(nullptr, &extensionCount, extensions.data());
```

Look for the extensions you want

```
std::vector<const char *> extNames;
bool bPortableEnumeration = false;
for (uint32_t i = 0; i < extensionCount; i++) {

    // If the extension is present, you must use it to get portable implementations
    if(!strcmp(extensions[i].extensionName, VK_KHR_PORTABILITY_ENUMERATION_EXTENSION_NAME))
    {
        bPortableEnumeration = true;
        extNames.push_back(VK_KHR_PORTABILITY_ENUMERATION_EXTENSION_NAME);
    }

    ...
    ...
}
```

Create the Vulkan Loader Instance

```
VkInstanceCreateInfo inst_info = {};  
inst_info.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_INSTANCE_CREATE_INFO;  
inst_info.pNext = NULL;  
inst_info.pApplicationInfo = &appInfo;  
inst_info.enabledLayerCount = 0;  
inst_info.ppEnabledLayerNames = nullptr;  
inst_info.enabledExtensionCount = (int)extNames.size();  
inst_info.ppEnabledExtensionNames = extNames.data();
```

```
if (bPortableEnumeration)
```

```
    inst_info.flags |= VK_INSTANCE_CREATE_ENUMERATE_PORTABILITY_BIT_KHR;
```

```
// Create the Instance
```

```
lastResult = vkCreateInstance(&inst_info, NULL, &vulkanInstance);
```

Create the Vulkan Loader Instance

```
// Create the Instance  
lastResult = vkCreateInstance(&inst_info, NULL, &vulkanInstance);
```

Forget one of these two things? With SDK/Loader 1.3.216 or later, you will get the dreaded:

```
lastResult == VK_ERROR_INCOMPATIBLE_DRIVER
```

So, now you've told the loader you are interested in a "Portability conformant" driver. You got one.

Now what?

VK_KHR_portability_subset

A layered implementation of Vulkan may have some gaps in its capabilities. This extension gives you the ability to query for missing features so you can work around them, or simply punt and tell the user you cannot run using this hardware device.

Version 1.0 (provisional*) of this extension lists a specific set of features that may or may not be present... we'll get to those soon.

*VK_KHR_portability_subset_metal is coming soon

VK_KHR_portability_subset

This is a **device** extension.

vkEnumerateDeviceExtensionProperties will list “VK_KHR_portability_subset”

Yep, add it to the ppEnabledExtensionNames member of VkDeviceCreateInfo.

VK_KHR_portability_subset

```
// We have a physical device, now we need a list of it's extensions
uint32_t deviceExtensionCount;
vkEnumerateDeviceExtensionProperties(physicalDevice, nullptr, &deviceExtensionCount, nullptr);

std::vector<VkExtensionProperties> deviceExtensions(deviceExtensionCount);
vkEnumerateDeviceExtensionProperties(physicalDevice, nullptr, &deviceExtensionCount,
                                     deviceExtensions.data());

std::vector<const char *> extNamesDevice;

for (uint32_t i = 0; i < deviceExtensionCount; i++){
    if(strcmp(deviceExtensions[i].extensionName, "VK_KHR_portability_subset") == 0)
        extNamesDevice.push_back(deviceExtensions[i].extensionName)
    . . .
}
```

VK_KHR_portability_subset

Query for what features are available/missing

```
VkPhysicalDevicePortabilitySubsetFeaturesKHR portabilityFeatures = {};
```

```
portabilityFeatures.sType =  
    VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_PHYSICAL_DEVICE_PORTABILITY_SUBSET_FEATURES_KHR  
;
```

```
VkPhysicalDeviceFeatures2 physicalDeviceFeatures2 = {};
```

```
physicalDeviceFeatures2.sType =
```

```
VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_PHYSICAL_DEVICE_FEATURES_2;
```

```
physicalDeviceFeatures2.pNext = &portabilityFeatures;
```

```
vkGetPhysicalDeviceFeatures2(physicalDevice, &physicalDeviceFeatures2);
```

****Note vkGetPhysicalDeviceFeatures2 is an extension prior to Vulkan 1.1****

The structure is basically a set of flags...

```
typedef struct VkPhysicalDevicePortabilitySubsetFeaturesKHR {
    VkStructureType    sType;
    void*              pNext;
    VkBool32           constantAlphaColorBlendFactors;
// 1
    VkBool32           events; // 1
    VkBool32           imageViewFormatReinterpretation; // 0
    VkBool32           imageViewFormatSwizzle; // 1
    VkBool32           imageView2DOn3DImage; // 1
    VkBool32           multisampleArrayImage; // 1
    VkBool32           mutableComparisonSamplers;
// 1
    VkBool32           pointPolygons; // 0
    VkBool32           samplerMipLodBias; // 0
    VkBool32           separateStencilMaskRef; // 1
    VkBool32           shaderSampleRateInterpolationFunctions; // 1
    VkBool32           tessellationIsolines; // 0
    VkBool32           tessellationPointMode; // 0
    VkBool32           triangleFans; // 0
    VkBool32           vertexAttributeAccessBeyondStride; // 1
} VkPhysicalDevicePortabilitySubsetFeaturesKHR;
```

Values (old) on my M1 Mac
(might be different on other
Macs/GPUs)

Zero means the feature is not
present on this device

THESE ARE “SUBJECT” TO
CHANGE!!

AS IN “LIKELY”...
(e.g. triangle fans were added
recently)

You must enable the ones you want!

```
VkDeviceCreateInfo createInfo = {};  
createInfo.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_DEVICE_CREATE_INFO;  
  
physicalDeviceFeatures2.pNext = &portabilityFeatures  
  
createInfo.pNext = physicalDeviceFeatures2;  
  
logicalDevice = VK_NULL_HANDLE;  
VkResult result = vkCreateDevice(physicalDevice, &createInfo, nullptr, &logicalDevice);  
  
if (result != VK_SUCCESS)  
    return false;
```

iOS Layer Notes

Loader and Layers work as of January 2024 SDK

Only Explicit Layers - must be enabled in source code

No vkConfig for devices, you have to include the layer settings file

OR use the new `VK_EXT_layer_settings` extension!

Validation layer output goes to stdout, which is captured by XCode

iOS Appstore does not allow .dylibs - Frameworks coming in next SDK release

CMake support also coming soon for finding iOS versions of SDK components

Turning on an explicit layer in code

```
const std::vector<const char*> layerList = { "VK_LAYER_LUNARG_api_dump" };
```

```
... <your stuff>
```

```
VkInstanceCreateInfo inst_info = { VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_INSTANCE_CREATE_INFO };
```

```
... <other stuff>
```

```
inst_info.enabledLayerCount = (uint32_t)layerList.size();
```

```
inst_info.ppEnabledLayerNames = layerList.data();
```

```
... <yet more stuff>
```

```
result = vkCreateInstance(&inst_info, NULL, &vulkanInstance);
```

Make sure results != VK_ERROR_LAYER_NOT_PRESENT

VK_KHR_layer_settings

```
const char* name = "VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation";  
const VkBool32 setting_validate_core = VK_TRUE;
```

```
const VkLayerSettingEXT settings[] = { <- Array of settings  
    {name, "validate_core", VK_LAYER_SETTING_TYPE_BOOL32_EXT,  
      1, &setting_validate_core}};
```

```
const VkLayerSettingsCreateInfoEXT layer_settings_create_info = { <- Settings structure  
    VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_LAYER_SETTINGS_CREATE_INFO_EXT, nullptr,  
    static_cast<uint32_t>(std::size(settings)), settings};
```

```
inst_info.pNext = &layer_settings_create_info;  
result = vkCreateInstance(&inst_info, NULL, &vulkanInstance);
```

<https://www.lunarg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Configuring-Vulkan-Layers-LunarG-Christophe-Riccio-01-16-2024.pdf>

Conclusion

- MoltenVK is a “Layered Vulkan Implementation”
- Work around missing extensions and features like any other platform
- Portability extensions (two of them) are there to help navigate this
- Performance is very good
- Loader and layer support on iOS (Beta)
- Next SDK - Full Frameworks and compatibility with App Store
- Try it, you’ll like it!



Help Us Improve the
Vulkan SDK and Ecosystem

Share Your Feedback

Take the LunarG annual developer's survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KTBZDCM>

- Survey results are tabulated
- Shared with the Vulkan Working Group
- Actions are assigned
- Results are reported

Survey closes February 26, 2024



Today's
Presentation:

<https://bit.ly/3Hngbm9>



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QUESTIONS?

