

V4L2 device instance

Each device instance is represented by a struct `v4l2_device`. Very simple devices can just allocate this struct, but most of the time you would embed this struct inside a larger struct.

You must register the device instance by calling:

```
:c:func:`v4l2_device_register`(<v4l2_device_register>` (dev, :c:type:`v4l2_dev`(<v4l2_device>`)).
```

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\driver-api\media\linux-master)(Documentation)(driver-api)(media)v4l2-device.rst, line 12); [backlink](#)

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Registration will initialize the `:c:type:`v4l2_device`` struct. If the `dev->driver_data` field is `NULL`, it will be linked to `:c:type:`v4l2_dev`(<v4l2_device>`` argument.

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Drivers that want integration with the media device framework need to set `dev->driver_data` manually to point to the driver-specific device structure that embed the struct `v4l2_device` instance. This is achieved by a `dev_set_drvdata()` call before registering the V4L2 device instance. They must also set the struct `v4l2_device` `mdev` field to point to a properly initialized and registered `:c:type:`media_device`` instance.

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If `:c:type:`v4l2_dev`(<v4l2_device>`->name` is empty then it will be set to a value derived from `dev` (driver name followed by the bus_id, to be precise). If you set it up before calling `:c:func:`v4l2_device_register`` then it will be untouched. If `dev` is `NULL`, then you must setup `:c:type:`v4l2_dev`(<v4l2_device>`->name` before calling `:c:func:`v4l2_device_register``.

System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-master\Documentation\driver-api\media\linux-master)(Documentation)(driver-api)(media)v4l2-device.rst, line 26); [backlink](#)

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You can use `c:func:'v4l2_device_set_name'` to set the name based on a driver name and a driver-global atomic_t instance. This will generate names like `ivtv0`, `ivtv1`, etc. If the name ends with a digit, then it will insert a dash: `cx18-0`, `cx18-1`, etc. This function returns the instance number.

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The first `dev` argument is normally the `struct device` pointer of a `pci_dev`, `usb_interface` or `platform_device`. It is rare for `dev` to be `NULL`, but it happens with ISA devices or when one device creates multiple PCI devices, thus making it impossible to associate `c:type:'v4l2_dev <v4l2_device>'` with a particular parent.

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You can also supply a `notify()` callback that can be called by sub-devices to notify you of events. Whether you need to set this depends on the sub-device. Any notifications a sub-device supports must be defined in a header in `include/media/subdevice.h`.

V4L2 devices are unregistered by calling:

`c:func:'v4l2_device_unregister' (c:type:'v4l2_dev <v4l2_device>')`.

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If the `dev->driver_data` field points to `c:type:'v4l2_dev <v4l2_device>'`, it will be reset to `NULL`. Unregistering will also automatically unregister all subdevs from the device.

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If you have a hotpluggable device (e.g. a USB device), then when a disconnect happens the parent device becomes invalid. Since `c:type:'v4l2_device'` has a pointer to that parent device it has to be cleared as well to mark that the parent is gone. To do this call:

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`x:func:`v4l2_device_disconnect` (c:type:`v4l2_dev` <v4l2_device>`).`

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This does *not* unregister the subdevs, so you still need to call the `x:func:`v4l2_device_unregister`` function for that. If your driver is not hotpluggable, then there is no need to call `x:func:`v4l2_device_disconnect``.

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Sometimes you need to iterate over all devices registered by a specific driver. This is usually the case if multiple device drivers use the same hardware. E.g. the `itvfb` driver is a framebuffer driver that uses the `itv` hardware. The same is true for `alsa` drivers for example.

You can iterate over all registered devices as follows:

```
static int callback(struct device *dev, void *p)
{
    struct v4l2_device *v4l2_dev = dev_get_drvdata(dev);

    /* test if this device was init'd */
    if (v4l2_dev == NULL)
        return 0;
    ...
    return 0;
}

int iterate(void *p)
{
    struct device_driver *drv;
    int err;

    /* Find driver 'itv' on the PCI bus.
    pci_bus_type is a global. For USB buses use usb_bus_type. */
    drv = driver_find("itv", &pci_bus_type);
    /* iterate over all itv device instances */
    err = driver_for_each_device(drv, NULL, p, callback);
    put_driver(drv);
    return err;
}
```

Sometimes you need to keep a running counter of the device instance. This is commonly used to map a device instance to an index of a module option array.

The recommended approach is as follows:

```
static atomic_t drv_instance = ATOMIC_INIT(0);

static int drv_probe(struct pci_dev *pdev, const struct pci_device_id *pci_id)
{
    ...
    state->instance = atomic_inc_return(&drv_instance) - 1;
}
```

If you have multiple device nodes then it can be difficult to know when it is safe to unregister `:c:type:'v4l2_device'` for hotpluggable devices. For this purpose `:c:type:'v4l2_device'` has refcounting support. The refcount is increased whenever `:c:func:'video_register_device'` is called and it is decreased whenever that device node is released. When the refcount reaches zero, then the `:c:type:'v4l2_device'` `release()` callback is called. You can do your final cleanup there.

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If other device nodes (e.g. ALSA) are created, then you can increase and decrease the refcount manually as well by calling:

`:c:func:'v4l2_device_get' (:c:type:'v4l2_dev <v4l2_device>')`.

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or:

`:c:func:'v4l2_device_put' (:c:type:'v4l2_dev <v4l2_device>')`.

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Since the initial refcount is 1 you also need to call `:c:func:'v4l2_device_put'` in the `disconnect()` callback (for USB devices) or in the `remove()` callback (for e.g. PCI devices), otherwise the refcount will never reach 0.

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(media) v4l2-device.rst, line 138); [backlink](#)

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v4l2_device functions and data structures

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(media) v4l2-device.rst, line 146)

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```
.. kernel-doc:: include/media/v4l2-device.h
```