

REYNEP's Vulkan "Adventure Guide"

Where, you adventure on your own ©, I only 'guide', showing you the roadmap

Chapter 0: Prerequisites

Suggested Reading (before embarking on this journey)

- 1. https://paminerva.github.io/docs/LearnVulkan/01.A-Hello-Window
 - · Read the 1 Introduction part from here only ◎ [untill 1.2. Why Vulkan?]
 - © 00-Introduction-and-prerequisites.pdf
 - 🕝 01.A-Hello-Window.pdf
- 2. Alternatively:- you can give this page a try too:-
 - https://vkdoc.net/chapters/fundamentals
 - · that is, if you are okay with "official formal-documentation"

The 5 Questions

- - · Suggested Reading 1:- p.a.minerva
- 2. Why should 'you' learn/use Vulkan?
 - i. Faster
 - ii. More Control
 - iii. Lower Level API
- 3. Why is this Important?
 - · Well if you are planning on becoming a game dev, then yeah, this kinda is important!
 - · otherwise, if you are just here for CreatingShaders:- OpenGL is fine enough
 - a. Shader Enthusiast: https://www.shadertoy.com/
 - $\textbf{a.} \quad https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9Zb80ovNLWGRFZVL4LcckTWnEGN73dFS$
 - b. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGmrMu-IwbguU_nY2egTFmlg691DN7uE5
 - c. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCAFZV4XJzP-jGbTke6Bd3PNDpP1AbIKo
 - ${\it d.} \quad https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGmrMu-lwbgtMxMiV3x4lrHPlPmg7FD-Page 1. A constant of the control of the con$

 - f. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khblXafu7iA&pp=ygUJc2hhZGVyVG95
 - b. Making an App/UI :- doing everything with OpenGL -> would be just fine
 - a. TheCherno OpenGL Playlist [YT]
 - b. TheCherno Game Engine Playlist [YT]

```
4. When will "You" need `vulkan`?
   kinda never -> unless you have grown tired of OpenGL
   kinda yes -> when you wanna understand "How the heck does the GPU Work?"

but yes, Big AAA games would need `vulkan` for even that last 5-10% performance

5. How does `vulkan` work?
   - Rest of this entire guide is dedicated to answer this question ③
```

1. grab vulkan-sdk, cmake, amGHOST

- 1. if you don't have vscode & C++ Compiler
 - · see 4.quide.CH0.vscode.md
- 2. https://vulkan.lunarg.com/sdk/home
 - make sure VULKAN_SDK & VK_SDK_PATH environment variables are set
 - · restart vscode after installing
- 3. https://cmake.org/download/
 - [optional] https://enccs.github.io/intro-cmake/hello-cmake/
 - [optional] OR: Watch 6/7 videos from this playlist:- https://www.youtube.com/ playlist?list=PLK6MXr8qasrGmliSuVQXpfFuE1uPT615s
 - · restart vscode after installing
 - · REY_DOCs

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.25 FATAL_ERROR)
project("idk_PROJECT" VERSION 0.1)
    set(CMAKE_CXX_STANDARD 23)
    set(CMAKE_CXX_STANDARD_REQUIRED ON)
    set(SRC
       "main.cpp"
    )
    set(INC
       ${CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR}
    )
# set_source_files_properties(main.cpp PROPERTIES COMPILE_FLAGS "/P /C")
# Output Preprocessed File
           add_executable (idk ${SRC})
target_include_directories (idk PUBLIC ${INC})
# -----amGHOST-----
        add_subdirectory (amGHOST)
   target_link_libraries (idk PUBLIC amGHOST)
# -----install-----
   install(TARGETS idk
       DESTINATION ${CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR})
```

4. amGHOST

- · amateur's Generic Handy Operating System Toolkit
 - [secretly inspired by blender's GHOST XP 🚱]
- git clone -b win32-intro https://github.com/REYNEP/amGHOST
- · Open it with VSCode
- · F1 --> CMake: Configure
- · F1 --> CMake: Build
- · F1 --> CMake: Install --> .insall dir
- · check's amGHOST's Usage Example inside amGHOST/README.md

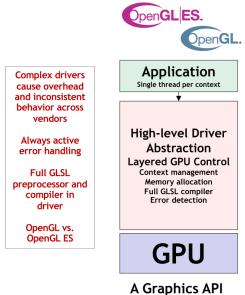
- Option 1:-use cmake for your project too.... using add_subdirectory(amGHOST)
- Option 2:-use libamGHOST.lib after installing & #include amGHOST/<header>
- · just copy paste amGHOST's Usage Example into a main.cpp for your program

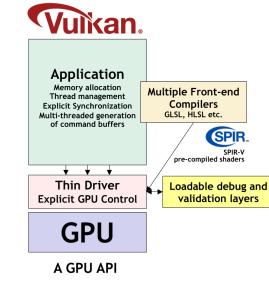
- [shorter than readme ex. 1]
- now you shall have a OS-Window 😉

The Real "Adventure" begins here!

[well, not really. I believe the real adventure is it SHADERs and Algorithms!]

Vulkan Explicit GPU Control





Simpler drivers - application has the best knowledge for holistic optimization - no 'driver magic' Explicit creation of API objects before usage - efficient, predictable execution

Easier portability - no fighting with different vendor heuristics

Validation and debug layers loaded only when needed

SPIR-V intermediate language: shading language flexibility

Unified API across mobile and desktop platforms

Multiple graphics, command and DMA queues

© Khronos® Group Inc. 2019 - Page 36

Chapter 1: VkInstance

0. amVK wrap

1. VkApplicationInfo

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkApplicationInfo
 - do remember to check the Valid Usage section 🗟
- · yes, what are you waiting for, go go, shooo....
 - i. #include <vulkan/vulkan.h>
 - ii. take an instance of that Struct -> Fill it up [@][have the vkdoc.net as assist]

· REY_DOCs

- pApplicationName
- .applicationVersion
- .apiVersion -> lowest Vulkan API version Your APP "can run" on. [*clarification needed:- lowest or highest]
- .pEngineName -> Also, we can set the name
- .engineVersion -> and version of the engine (if any) used to create Your APP.
 - This can help vulkan driver implementations to perform "ad-hoc" optimizations.
 - e.g. like if a Triple-A [AAA] game used, for say, Unreal Engine Version 4.1.smth idk
- REFs:- 1. minerva

2. VkInstanceCreateInfo

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkInstanceCreateInfo
 - yeah, do remember to check the Valid Usage section 🗐
 - .ppEnabledLayerNames -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - .ppEnabledExtensionNames -> Chapter4.2
 - Don't hesitate about EnabledLayer & EnabledExtensions right now
 - come back and add them when you need to 😉
 - This is what I would mean, when i would point smth to a later chapter

REY_DOCs

- Nothing that I need to add, in this section
- Tho if this section gets big, I will create a separate .md file for that thingy

3. VkInstance m_instance = nullptr;

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkInstance
 - again.... yeah, do remember to check the Valid Usage section 🗟

4. vkCreateInstance(CI, &m_instance)

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateInstance
 - Valid Usage section.... (yeah, everytime)

5. Error Handling / Checking / Logging

- · check out my amVK_log.hh
 - uses REY_LoggerNUtils inside amGHOST
 - has a simple stackTracer() that i basically stripped from blender3D codebase 😣

6. The Result

· Check out:- 4.guide.chapter1.hh

7. The Unused ones

- 1. vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties() -> Chapter4.2
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties
- 2. Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable(const char* extName) -> Chapter4.2
 - this is a **amVK/REY** Custom Function

Overview



We need to create/get hold of a couple of handles:				
Instance	1 VkInstance per program/app	VkInstance		
Window Surface	Surface(OS-Window) [for actually linking Vulkan-Renders to Screen/Surface]	VkSurfaceKHR		
Physical Device	An Actual HARDWARE-GPU-device	VkPhysicalDevice		
Queue	Queue(Commands) to be executed on the GPU	VkQueue		
Logical Device	The "Logical" GPU Context/Interface (Software Layer)	VkDevice		
Swap Chain	Sends Rendered-Image to the Surface(OS-Window) Keeps a backup image-buffer to Render _{onto}	VkSwapchainKHR		

Vulkanised 2023 | An Introduction to Vulkan | TU Wien

12



Take a look into this awesome slide from slide-26 onwards, to understand what each of steps "feel like"/mean/"how to imagine them".

*slide = Vulkanised 2023 Tutorial Part 1

Chapter 2: VkDevice

O. amvk wrap

vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices(m_instance, &m_deviceCount, nullptr)

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices
- · REY_DOCs

- Visualization / [See it] / JSON Printing:- 4.guide.chapter2.1.json.hh
- So far, The result:- 4.quide.chapter2.1.midway.hh

2. vkCreateDevice()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateDevice
 - o param pAllocator -> "ChapterZZZ"
- · REY_DOCs
 - we are not gonna call the vkCreateDevice() yeeeet....
 - but, yes, we've already made the class container around it
 - 4.guide.chapter2.2.midway.hh
 - we'll call this functiion in Chapter2.9
 - but we did need to know first about vkCreateDevice()
 - because, the idea is, our sole task is to fill it up step by step

3. VkDeviceCreateInfo

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkDeviceCreateInfo
 - .LayerInfo -> Deprecated
 - ExtensionInfo -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - .pQueueCreateInfos -> next part
 - So far, The result:- 4.guide.chapter2.3.midway.hh
- · REY_DOCs
 - .pQueueCreateInfos -> yes, you 'can' mass multiple 😉
 - Sometimes there will be .zzzCreateInfoCount & .pZZZCreateInfos
 - So you could like pass in an array/vector
 - You will see this in lots of other places

4. VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo - 'The Real Deal'

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo
 - .queueFamilyIndex -> next 3 subchapters
 - So far, The result:- 4.guide.chapter2.4.midway.hh
- · REY_DOCs:- Support for multiple QCI
 - .pQueuePriorities -> yes, this can be multiple "Priorities" (3) [idk yet why tho]

```
/* ======== REY_LoggerNUtils::REY_Utils.hh ======== */
REY_ArrayDYN<VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo> Array = REY_ArrayDYN<VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo>(2);
```

```
// allocate enough space for 2 elements
REY_ARRAY_PUSH_BACK(Array) = this->Default_QCI;
REY_ARRAY_PUSH_BACK(Array) = Your_QCI;

/* ========= std::vector ======== */
std::vector<VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo> Array = std::vector<VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo>(2);
Array.push_back(this->Default_QCI);
Array.push_back( Your_QCI)
```

• So far, The result:- 4.quide.chapter2.7.TheEnd.hh

5. vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties
- · REY_DOCs
 - a GPU can have "multiple QueueFamilies"
 - a QueueFamily might support VK_QUEUE_GRAPHICS_BIT
 - another QueueFamily might support VK_QUEUE_COMPUTE_BIT
 - another QueueFamily might support VK_QUEUE_TRANSFER_BIT
 - another QueueFamily might support VK_QUEUE_VIDEO_ENCODE_BIT_KHR
 - another QueueFamily might support a-mixture of multiple
 - talking about this in -> the next part [chapter2.6.]

```
static inline REY_Array<REY_Array<VkQueueFamilyProperties>> s_HardwareGPU_QFamProps_List2D;
#define amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs
                                              amVK_Instance::s_HardwareGPU_QFamProps_List2D
   // "REY_LoggerNUtils/REY_Utils.hh" @
static inline void GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties(void) {
   amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs.reserve(amVK_GPU_List.n);
                                                     // malloc using "new" keyword
   for ( uint32_t k = 0; k < amVK_GPU_List.n; k++ ) // for each GPU
       REY_Array<VkQueuefamilyProperties> *k_QFamProps = &amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs.data[k];
       uint32_t queueFamilyCount = 0;
           vk GetPhysicalDevice {\tt QueueFamilyProperties} ({\tt amVK\_GPU\_List[k]}, \ {\tt \&queueFamilyCount},
nullptr);
       k_QfamProps->n = queuefamilyCount;
        k_QFamProps->data = new VkQueueFamilyProperties[queueFamilyCount];
            vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties(amVK_GPU_List[k], &k_QFamProps->n,
k_QFamProps->data);
   }
}
```

- Visualization / [See it] / JSON Printing:- 4.guide.chapter2.5.json.hh
 - Check the 3070 JSON by REY
- So far, The result:- 4.guide.chapter2.5.amVK.hh
 - Compare to -> 4.guide.chapter2.1.midway.hh
 - 2DArray_QFAM_Props part & below were added only compared to Chapter2.1.

6. VkQueueFamilyProperties

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkQueueFamilyProperties
- · REY_DOCs
 - .queueFlags -> we are gonna choose a QCI.queueFamilyIndex based on these flags
 - primarily, for the least, we wanna choose a QueueFamily that supports VK_QUEUE_GRAPHICS_BIT
 - all kinds of amazing things can be done using
 - VK_QUEUE_COMPUTE_BIT
 - VK_QUEUE_TRANSFER_BIT
 - VK_QUEUE_VIDEO_ENCODE_BIT_KHR
 - .queueCount -> yes there is a limit to 'how many Queues we are allowed to work with'

7. VkDeviceQCI.queueFamilyIndex

- QCI => QueueCreateInfo
 - [VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo]
- · REY_DOCs
 - Task:- is to choose a QueueFamily that supports VK_QUEUE_GRAPHICS_BIT
 - (if you've followed on so far -> this should be easy 😂)
 - Resolving all of this into amVK_Device.hh

```
void amVK_Device::Select_QFAM_GRAPHICS(void) {
    if (!amVK_Instance::called_GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties) {
        amVK_Instance::EnumeratePhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties) {
        amVK_Instance::GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties();
    }

    amVK_Instance::GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties();
}

amVK_Instance::amVK_PhysicalDevice_Index index =
amVK_HEART->GetARandom_PhysicalDevice_amVK_Index();
    this->QCI.Default.queueFamilyIndex =
amVK_Instance::ChooseAQueueFamily(VK_QUEUE_GRAPHICS_BIT, index);
    // If you wanna see the implementation for this function
}
```

- So far, The result:- 4.quide.chapter2.9.Props.hh
- So far, The result:- 4.quide.chapter2.9.amVK.cpp

8. back to vkCreateDevice() [finally calling it ①]

· REY DOCs

```
amVK_Device* D = new amVK_Device(amVK_HEART->GetARandom_PhysicalDevice());
    // VkDeviceCreateInfo CI => Class Member
    // VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo QCI => Class Member
D->Select_QFAM_GRAPHICS();
D->CreateDevice();
```

- Think of this as a PSeudoCode / or / check out my code if you wanna
- CreateInfo => By default has initial values inside amVK_Device

9. Organizing stuff into classes....

- 1. amVK_GlobalProps.hh
 - class amVK_GlobalProps
 - amVK_Instance::GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties()
 - amVK_Instance::EnumeratePhysicalDevices()
 - & Everything related to those two + The Data + The Properties
 - https://github.com/REYNEP/amGHOST/tree/3e44b982902a3f3fa4ac584aefb19da3d4cdfcc6
 - · So far, The result:-
 - 4.guide.chapter2.9.Props.hh
 - 4.guide.chapter2.9.amVK.cpp

10. vkGetPhysicalDeviceProperties()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetPhysicalDeviceProperties
- VkPhysicalDeviceProperties :- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkPhysicalDeviceProperties
 - .deviceType :- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkPhysicalDeviceType
 - .limits :- save it for later 😂
 - you don't need to read the whole documentation of this page
- · for now we won't need, we will need in "ChapterZZZ"

Chapter 3: Common Patterns: if someone missed to catch it yet ©

```
Object Vk
                VkInstance
Types
       ٧k
               VkInstanceCreateInfo
Funcs
               vkCreateInstance()
       vk
               VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_INSTANCE_CREATE_INFO
Enums
      VK_
Extensions
    KHR: - Khronos authored,
   EXT:- multi-company authored
Creating "VkZZZ" object

    take `VkZZZCreateInfo` --> fill it up

   2. call `vkCreateZZZ()`
   also `vkDestroyZZZ()` before closing your app
   4. Some objects get "allocated" rather than "created"
        `VkZZZAllocateInfo` --> `vkAllocateZZZ` --> `vkFreeZZZ`
   5. Sometimes there will be `.zzzCreateInfoCount` & `.pZZZCreateInfos`
                        e.g. `.queueCreateInfoCount` & `.pQueueCreateInfos``
           -> So you could like pass in an array/vector
            -> You will see this in lots of other places
Getting List/Properties

    vkEnumerateZZZ() --> \see `[Chapter2.1.] vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices()` example
```

--|--|--|--|--

- 7. sType & pNext
 - · Many Vulkan structures include these two common fields
- 8. sType :-
 - It may seem somewhat redundant, but this information can be useful for the vulkan-loader and actual gpu-driver-implementations to know what type of structure was passed in through pNext.
- 9. pNext:-
 - · allows to create a linked list between structures.
 - It is mostly used when dealing with extensions that expose new structures to provide additional information to the
 vulkan-loader , debugging-validation-layers , and gpu-driver-implementations .
 - i.e. they can use the pNext->stype field to know what's ahead in the linked list

--|--|--|--|--

```
10. Do remember to check the 'Valid Usage' section within each manual-page
```

11. CreateInfo StartingPoint

```
VkRenderPassCreateInfo CI = {
   .sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_SWAPCHAIN_CREATE_INFO_KHR,
```

```
.pNext = nullptr,
   .flags = 0
};
```

12. Keywords in my Vulkan Guide

```
    ChapterZZZ => Unknown WIP/TBD Chapter

2. Chapter2.4 =>
        If LATER-CHAPTER => Dont hesitate right now, Do this when you each that LATER-Chapter
       If PREV-CHAPTER => You can go back and check 😭

⊗ `SurfCAP.currentTransform`

⊘ Chapter2.4

3. https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR
    - SHORT CRUCIAL/MUST-KNOW/WARNING info about "params/members"
4. REY_DOCs
    - Actual Notes
    - Mostly, vkdoc.net documentation is good enough. But if I wanna add smth extra, it goes
here
5. So far, The result
6. Visualization / [See it] / JSON Printing
7. Implement Exactly like **_Chapter2.1_** 👻
    - `vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices()`
8. 2DriverIMPL:- To The People Who are gonna Implement the Driver
    - Other Keyword:- "DriverGurantee"
9. Gotta add more emojis for common stuffs
```

Two Questions I keep on pondering $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{D}}$

- a) Would this make sense to someone else?b) Would this make sense to a 5 year old?

```
**_Chapter1.2_**

***Chapter2ZZ"**

##### REY_DOCS

##### So far, The result:- [4.guide.chapter4.2.TheEnd.hh](./examples/4.guide.chapter4.2.TheEnd.hh)

https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR

Visualization / [See it] / JSON Printing:-
[4.guide.chapter2.1.json.hh](./examples/4.guide.chapter2.1.json.hh)

So far, The result:- [4.guide.chapter2.1.midway.hh](./examples/4.guide.chapter2.1.midway.hh)

Implement Exactly like **_Chapter2.1_**  

- `vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices()`

2DriverIMPL:- To The People Who are gonna Implement the Driver
_DriverGurantee_
_-->
```

Chapter 4: VkSwapchainKHR ❖

0. VkSwapchainCreateInfoKHR i

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSwapchainCreateInfoKHR
 - o .flags -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - surface -> next part [Chapter4.2]
 - image options -> next part [Chapter4.4]
 - .minImageCount ->
 - .imageFormat -> 🍪
 - .imageColorSpace -> 🚱
 - .imageExtent -> ⓒ
 - .imageArrayLayers
 - imageUsage
 - .imageSharingMode -> EXCLUSIVE/CONCURRENT [Toggle]
 - VK_SHARING_MODE_CONCURRENT -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - .queueFamilyIndexCount -> if using, must be greated than 1
 - pQueueFamilyIndices
 - more image options -> next part
 - .preTransform: VkSurfaceTransformFlagBitsKHR
 - .compositeAlpha: VkCompositeAlphaFlagBitsKHR
 - .presentMode :- VkPresentModeKHR
 - clipped: VkBool32
 - oldSwapchain -> "ChapterZZZ"

1. amVK wrap 1

```
// TwT

REY_LOG("");
amVK_GlobalProps::EnumerateInstanceExtensions();
amVK_Instance::Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable("VK_KHR_surface");
amVK_Instance::Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable(amGHOST_System::get_vulkan_os_surface_ext_name());
    // amGHOST_VkSurfaceKHR::create_surface() needs that extension enabled
amVK_Instance::CreateInstance();

REY_LOG("");
VkSurfaceKHR VK_S = amGHOST_VkSurfaceKHR::create_surface(W, amVK_Instance::vk_Instance);
// another amVK_Wrap, at the end of this file
```

2. VkSurfaceKHR 🏖♀

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSurfaceKHR
- https://vkdoc.net/extensions/VK_KHR_surface
 - Yaaaay, we have reached our first extension to enable
 - we need to enable it back in vkCreateInstance() from Chapter1.2
- 1. vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties()
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkEnumerateInstanceExtensionProperties
 - · Implement Exactly like Chapter2.1 🚱
 - vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices()
- 2. IS_InstanceEXT_Available(const char* extName)

```
bool amVK_GlobalProps::IS_InstanceEXT_Available(const char *extName) {
    for (uint32_t k = 0, lim = amVK_EXT_PROPs.n; k < lim; k++) {
        if (strcmp(amVK_EXT_PROPs[k].extensionName, extName) == 0) { // <cstring>
            return true;
        }
    }
    return false;
}
```

Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable(const char* extName)

```
static inline REY_ArrayDYN<char*> s_Enabled_EXTs = REY_ArrayDYN<char*>(nullptr, 0, 0);
   // It will be automatically allocated, resize, as we keep adding 😌
#include <string.h>
void amVK_Instance::Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable(const char* extName)
   if (!amVK_GlobalProps::called_EnumerateInstanceExtensions) {
         amVK_GlobalProps::EnumerateInstanceExtensions();
   }
   if (amVK_GlobalProps::IS_InstanceEXT_Available(extName)) {
       char *dont_lose = new char[strlen(extName)];
        strcpy(dont_lose, extName);
       s_Enabled_EXTs.push_back(dont_lose);
       amVK_Instance::CI.enabledExtensionCount = s_Enabled_EXTs.neXt;
       amVK_Instance::CI.ppEnabledExtensionNames = s_Enabled_EXTs.data;
   }
   else {
       REY_LOG_notfound("Vulkan Extension:- " << extName);</pre>
}
```

4. OS Specfic SurfaceEXT & Creating it

```
amVK_Instance::Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable(amGHOST_System::get_vulkan_os_surface_ext_name());
    // or
amVK_Instance::Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable("VK_KHR_win32_surface");
    // or some other surface name
```

i. VkWin32SurfaceCreateInfoKHR & vkCreateWin32SurfaceKHR()

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkWin32SurfaceCreateInfoKHR

- iii. REY_DOCs
 - · you can also check amGHOST_VkSurfaceKHR::create_surface() 🗐
- iv. So far, The result:- 4.guide.chapter4.2.TheEnd.hh
 - · in the end people will just use 1 line

```
VkSurfaceKHR VK_S = amGHOST_VkSurfaceKHR::create_surface(amG_WindowOBJ,
amVK_Instance::s_vk);
```

3. Naming Patterns 🖚

· example naming patterns for storing all these data.... cz it's gonna get overwhelming pretty soon, pretty fast

1. Arrays

```
class amVK_GlobalProps {
   public:
        // Array of `HardWare amVK_1D_GPUs` connected to motherboard
   static inline REY_Array<VkPhysicalDevice>
                                                                        amVK_1D_GPUs;
   static inline REY_Array<REY_Array<VkQueueFamilyProperties>>
                                                                        amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs;
   static inline REY_Array<VkExtensionProperties>
                                                                        amVK_1D_InstanceEXTs;
   static inline REY_ArrayDYN<char*>
amVK_1D_InstanceEXTs_Enabled;
   static inline REY_ArrayDYN<SurfaceInfo>
                                                                        amVK_1D_SurfaceInfos;
   static inline REY_Array<REY_Array<VkExtensionProperties>>
                                                                        amVK_2D_GPUs_EXTs;
        // REY_Array doesn't allocate any memory by default
   #define amVK_LOOP_GPUs(_var_)
```

2. ChildrenStructs

VkFuncCalls

· REY_DOCs

 $\bullet \quad \textit{Lots of other nice stuffs are happening inside} \ \ \textbf{amVK_GlobalProps.hh} \\$

· So far, The result:-

- 4.guide.chapter4.3.Props.hh
- 4.guide.chapter4.3.Props.cpp
- 4.guide.chapter4.3.PropsOLD.hh

4. SwapChain Image Options 🖼

- vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR()
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR
 - o param surface
 - · REY_DOCs
 - Implement Exactly like Chapter2.5 🚱
 - vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties()
 - Only difference is, Formats might be a bit different as per VkSurfaceKHR

2. VkSurfaceFormatKHR

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSurfaceFormatKHR
- · REY_DOCs
 - Combo of ImageFormat & ColorSpace
 - so, the gpu kinda expects you to respect these combos, instead of mumbo-jumbo-ing & mixing random stufs alltogether....
 - altho, even if you do so, gpu is probably gonna show you the result of WRONG COLORSPACE/IMAGEFORMATS on the screen

3. Life is Hard without Images/Visualization

- · So we are gonna Export to JSON/YAML
- 4.guide.chapter4.4.3.Enum2String.hh
- 4.guide.chapter4.4.3.data.jsonc
- 4.guide.chapter4.4.3.Export.cpp
 - dw, don't use this code, it will be refactored & organized in Chapter4.4.6

4. VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR
- · REY_DOCs
 - · minImageCount
 - 2DriverIMPL:- must be at least 1
 - .currentExtent
 - as the OS Window size changes, SurfCaps also change
 - call vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR() to get updated WindowSize / SurfCaps
 - .maxImageArrayLayers
 - 2DriverIMPL:- **must** be at least 1
 - supportedTransforms
 - 2DriverIMPL:- at least 1 bit must be set.
 - .supportedUsageFlags
 - 2DriverIMPL:- vk_Image_USAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_BIT must be included in the set. Implementations may support additional usages.
 - .supportedCompositeAlpha
 - ALPHA-Blending/Transparency/GlassEffect: you'd have to enable blending/transparency @ OS-Level first, iguess 🖗
 - Transparency -> "ChapterZZZ"

5. vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR
- · REY_DOCs
 - we add on top of Chapter4.4.1 😥
 - vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR()
 - 4.guide.chapter4.4.5.midway.cpp

6. Life is Hard without Images/Visualization 2

- · Soooooo many things to keep track of, So here we go again
- 4.guide.chapter4.4.6.Export.cpp
- · 4.guide.chapter4.4.6.data.jsonc

7. VkSharingMode

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSharingMode
- it's like a Toggle/Button -> **EXCLUSIVE/CONCURRENT**

8. So far, The result:-

```
amVK_SwapChain *SC = new amVK_SwapChain(VK_Surface);
   SC->CI.imageFormat = VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_UNORM;
   SC->CI.imageColorSpace = VK_COLOR_SPACE_SRGB_NONLINEAR_KHR;
   SC->CI.minImageCount
\verb"amVK_GlobalProps::amVK_1D_SurfaceInfos[0].amVK_1D_GPUs\_SurfCAP[0].minImageCount;
   SC->CI.imageExtent
amVK_GlobalProps::amVK_1D_SurfaceInfos[0].amVK_1D_GPUs_SurfCAP[0].currentExtent;
   SC->CI.imageArrayLayers =
\verb"amVK_GlobalProps::amVK_1D_SurfaceInfos[0].amVK_1D_GPUs_SurfCAP[0].maxImageArrayLayers;
        // You can just use "1" too, which is guranteed by DRIVER_IMPLEMENTATION [2DriverIMPL]
   SC->CI.imageSharingMode = VK_SHARING_MODE_EXCLUSIVE;
        // `EXCLUSIVE/CONCURRENT` [Toggle]
   SC->CI.imageUsage
                           = VK_IMAGE_USAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_BIT;
       // 2DriverIMPL:- VK_IMAGE_USAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_BIT is guranteed to be supported by
SurfCAP
```

9. Abbreviations

- PD -> PhysicalDevice
- GPUs -> PhysicalDevices
- · CI -> CreateInfo
- · QCI -> QueueCreateInfo
- QFAM -> QueueFamily
- SurfCAP -> https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR
- SurfFMT -> https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSurfaceFormatKHR
- sc -> SwapChain

10. VkSwapchainCreateInfoKHR

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSwapchainCreateInfoKHR
 - o .flags -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - surface -> Chapter4.2 VkSurfaceKHR 🏂
 - image options -> Chapter4.4
 - .minImageCount -> ② SurfCAP.minImageCount

- .imageFormat -> ⑥ SurfFMT[x].format
- .imageColorSpace -> 🏵 SurfFMT[x].colorSpace
 - Choosing a Combo -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - Compositing & ColorSpaces -> "ChapterZZZ"
- .imageExtent -> ☺️ SurfCAP.minImageCount
- .imageArrayLayers -> 1
 - DriverGurantee
- .imageUsage -> VK_IMAGE_USAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_BIT
 - DriverGurantee
- .imageSharingMode -> EXCLUSIVE/CONCURRENT [Toggle]
 - VK_SHARING_MODE_CONCURRENT -> "ChapterZZZ"
 - we aren't gonna use concurrent for now
 - .queuefamilyIndexCount -> 0
 - .pQueueFamilyIndices -> nullptr

5. SwapChain Compositing Options $\diamondsuit \circlearrowleft$

- .compositeAlpha
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/VkCompositeAlphaFlagBitsKHR
 - · REY_DOCs
 - Options: Don't use / Pre-multiplied / Post-multiplied / inherit from OS-native window system
 - Requirement:
 - You would have to enable @ OS level first, to enable ALPHA/Transparency/GlassEffect for window-s/surfaces
 - then after that, if you query for vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR()
 - SurfCAP.supportedCompositeAlpha will change
 - by default, it's prolly always gonna support
 - VK_COMPOSITE_ALPHA_OPAQUE_BIT_KHR
 - i.e. if you haven't done any mastery wizardry yet, to enable ALPHA/Transparency/GlassEffect
- 2. .preTransform
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSurfaceTransformFlagBitsKHR
 - · REY_DOCs
 - ∘ ⊗ SurfCAP.currentTransform
 - you should probably log it if currentTransform isn't
 - VK_SURFACE_TRANSFORM_IDENTITY_BIT_KHR
- clipped
 - · REY_DOCs
 - Setting clipped to VK_TRUE allows the implementation to discard rendering outside of the surface area
- 4. .presentMode ← VkPresentModeKHR
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/VkPresentModeKHR
 - · REY_DOCs
 - Options :- IMMEDIATE / MAILBOX / FirstInFirstOut / FIFO_Relaxed
- 5. .oldSwapChain
 - · REY_DOCs
 - if you are "re-creating" swapchain & you had an oldSwapchain
 - We do this when
 - a. Window Size / WindowExtent / Surface was Changed

6. So far, The result:-

```
amVK_SwapChain *SC = new amVK_SwapChain(VK_Surface);
... Image Stuffs
SC->CI.compositeAlpha = VK_COMPOSITE_ALPHA_OPAQUE_BIT_KHR;
SC->CI.preTransform =
amVK_GlobalProps::amVK_1D_SurfaceInfos[0].amVK_1D_GPUs_SurfCAP[0].currentTransform;
SC->CI.clipped = VK_TRUE;
SC->CI.presentMode = VK_PRESENT_MODE_FIFO_KHR;
SC->CI.oldSwapchain = nullptr;
```

6. SwapChain Extension Enabling ♦ [VK_KHR_swapchain]

- vkEnumerateDeviceExtensionProperties()
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkEnumerateDeviceExtensionProperties
 - honestly this should be named vkEnumeratePhysicalDeviceExtensionProperties()
 - bcz.
 - it doesn't associate with VkDevice
 - but rather with VkPhysicalDevice
 - · REY_DOCS

2. amVK_Device::Add_GPU_EXT_ToEnable(const char* extName)

```
class amVK_Device {
    ...
    REY_ArrayDYN<char*>    amVK_1D_DeviceEXTs_Enabled;
    void Log_GPU_EXTs_Enabled(VkResult ret);
    void Add_GPU_EXT_ToEnable(const char* extName);
    // Copy of `amVK_GlobalProps::Add_InstanceEXT_ToEnable()` -> but not static anymore....
};
```

- 3. So far, The result:-
 - 4.guide.chapter4.6.newStuffs.hh
 - 4.guide.chapter4.7.Props.hh

7. vkCreateSwapchainKHR() 🥻

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateSwapchainKHR
- · [TODO]:- Add the commit-tree Link
- · It took me 5days to complete Chapter4 �
 - (well, i worked on a houdini project 🍘 for 2 days.... so yeah 😣)

8. amVK wrap 2

```
{
    amVK_GlobalProps::EnumerateDeviceExtensionProperties();

amVK_Device* D = new amVK_Device(amVK_GlobalProps::GetARandom_GPU());
    D->select_QFAM_Graphics();
    D->Add_GPU_EXT_ToEnable("VK_KHR_swapchain");
    D->CreateDevice();
}
```

9. amVK wrap 3

```
// TwT
   REY_LOG("")
amVK_Surface
             *S = new amVK_Surface(VK_S);
amVK_Presenter *PR = S->PR;
                       PR->bind_Device(D);
                       PR->create_SwapChain_interface();
                           // This amVK_SwapChain is Bound to this amVK_Surface
amVK_SwapChain *SC =
                       PR->SC;
   SC->konf_ImageSharingMode(VK_SHARING_MODE_EXCLUSIVE);
   SC->konf_Images(
       amVK_IF::RGBA_8bpc_UNORM, // VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_UNORM
                                  // VK_COLOR_SPACE_SRGB_NONLINEAR_KHR
       amVK_CS::sRGB,
       amVK_IU::Color_Display
                                 // VK_IMAGE_USAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_BIT
   SC->konf_Compositing(
       amVK_PM::FIFO,
                                 // VK_PRESENT_MODE_FIFO_KHR
       amVK_CC::YES,
                                 // Clipping:- VK_TRUE
                                 // VK_COMPOSITE_ALPHA_OPAQUE_BIT_KHR
       amVK_TA::Opaque
   );
   SC->sync_SurfCaps();
                                 // refresh/fetch & set/sync ---> latest SurfCaps
   SC->CI.oldSwapchain
                           = nullptr;
   SC->CreateSwapChain();
```

♦♂ Part 2: The True Arcane Secrets of

RenderPass

(SubPass + Image Layer Transition) & FrameBuffers

Welcome to the inner sanctum where GPU gods decide how fast your pixels live or die.

- ChatGPT

Chapter 5: RenderPass 🗇

" subpasses are the soul of RenderPass! . But it's not just about subpasses only...." - ChatGPT

0. Why RenderPass?

- "This is one of the most convoluted parts of the Vulkan specification, especially for those who are just starting out." P.A. Minerva
- ex. 1:- PostProcessing Effects

```
RenderPass:
- color attachment
- depth attachment

subpasses:
- Subpass 0: render geometry
- Subpass 1: post-process effects
    // multiple rendering steps without switching FrameBuffers/AttachMents

// All defined in ONE render pass
```

• ex. 2:- Deferred Shading

```
attachments:
- position: offscreen image
- normal: offscreen image
- albedo: offscreen image
- depth: depth image
- finalColor: swapchain image
subpasses:
- Subpass 0: G-buffer generation (write position, normal, albedo)
- Subpass 1: Lighting pass (read G-buffers, write to finalColor)
```

- Without subpasses , you'd need to switch framebuffers (expensive!).
- With subpasses, Vulkan can optimize this by keeping data in GPU memory (especially tile-based GPUs).

• ex. 3:- Post-Processing Chain

```
attachments:
- scene: offscreen image
- postProcessOut: swapchain image
subpasses:
- Subpass 0: scene render → scene
- Subpass 1: post-process → postProcessOut
```

- Purpose:- After rendering the main scene, do effects like bloom, blur, or color correction.
- · Why a RenderPass?
 - Again, Vulkan sees the full plan and can optimize the transitions.
 - You can define layout transitions (e.g. $COLOR_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL \rightarrow SHADER_READ_ONLY_OPTIMAL$)
- ex. 4:- Shadow Map Pass / Render from light's POV, to a depth-only image

```
attachments:
- depth: depth image
subpasses:
- Subpass 0: write to depth only (no color)
```

- Why a RenderPass?
 - This pass is often done offscreen, then used as a texture later.
- ex. 5:- 3D Scene -> Depth Testing

```
attachments:
- color: swapchain image
- depth: depth image
subpasses:
- Subpass 0:
- color attachment: color
- depth attachment: depth
```

1. What is RenderPass? �

- 1. RenderPass is designed around subpasses.
 - · The core purpose of a RenderPass is to tell Vulkan:
 - "Hey, I'm going to do these **rendering stages** (<code>subpasses</code>), in this order, using these **attachments**."
 - · So yeah, subpasses are the main reason for a RenderPass to exist. subpasses are the soul of RenderPass!
 - · But it's not just about subpasses only:
 - a. The Load/Store Ops "What should I do with the image before & after rendering?"
 - | loadOp When RenderPass begins:

```
LOAD: Keep whatever was already in the attachment.

CLEAR: Wipe it to a specific value (e.g., clear color to black).

DONT_CARE: Vulkan can throw away old contents (faster, if you don't care).
```

• IstoreOp — When RenderPass ends:

```
STORE: Save the result (e.g., to present to the screen or use later).

DONT_CARE: Vulkan can discard the result (like shadow maps or intermediate stuff you don't need to read later).
```

ex.

```
colorAttachment.loadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_CLEAR;
colorAttachment.storeOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_STORE;
   // Meaning: Clear the image before rendering, and store the result so we can present it.
```

b. **Image Layout Transitions** — "How should the GPU access this image during the pass?"

- c. 📃 Attachments "What images are we using?"
 - RenderPass Attachment is not an actual thing!
 - RenderPass Attachment Description/Descriptor is a thing!
 - However, the idea is.... We do "define" the Attachments right here, as we send the AttachmentDescriptions -> RenderPass
 - RenderPass Attachment != FrameBuffer Attachment
 - ° FrameBuffer Attachment
 - ----> actual VkImageView S of SwapChain Images

2. 🕳 Image Layout Transitions

i. 🚂 1. Different hardware units = different memory access patterns

```
GPU Unit

Access Pattern

Fragment Shader

Render Output Unit

Compute Shader

Display Engine

Access Pattern

Texture-like (random)

Tiled or linear (write-heavy)

Raw buffer-style

Linear format

- for ex.
```

- · When an image is used as a color attachment, it might be stored tiled in memory for fast write performance.
- But when you use the same image as a texture, the shader expects it to be in a format optimized for random read access.
- G If you tried to read from a tiled format as if it were a texture, you'd either:
 - Get garbage
 - Or pay a huge perf penalty as the driver does conversion.... (every single time you access a single pixel) (a single pixel would = an element in an 2D Array) (Texture might have Millions of Pixel)
- ii. ## Physical Layout in VRAM (Tiles vs Linear)
 - · Most modern GPUs store image data in tiles internally.
 - (like Z-order, Morton order, or other optimized memory layouts).
 - This helps GPUs fetch memory in cache-friendly blocks for faster rendering.
 - · But when an image is to be presented to the screen/monitor, it must be Flat (linear) (as HDMI/display engines can't decode tiles).
 - · Yes by "linear", we mean a simple 2D array where pixels are stored in a straightforward, left-to-right, top-to-bottom format.
 - · So when you do this:-

```
finalLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_PRESENT_SRC_KHR;
```

- P What you're really telling Vulkan is:
 - "Yo, I'm done rendering please un-tile this, decompress it, and arrange it in scanlines for display."
- If you don't tell Vulkan, it has to guess or stall or worse, copy the whole thing behind your back.
- iii. 🕲 Transitions let the driver do reordering, compression, or memory reallocation

```
// When you declare:-
finalLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_SHADER_READ_ONLY_OPTIMAL;
   // you are not just giving a hint....
   // ---- you are saying:-
```

• "After rendering, I'm going to sample this as a texture — so prepare it."

```
This allows the GPU driver to:
- flush caches
- Decompress the image (some GPUs compress attachments during render!)
- Move memory or restructure tiles
- Or even alias memory with another attachment in a single memory block
- In modern GPUs, there's hardware image compression, like:-
- ARM's AFBC (Arm Frame Buffer Compression)
- AMD's DCC (Delta Color Compression)
- NVIDIA has their own secret sauce too
```

- - · One of the sickest optimizations is this one
 - You can use the same memory for multiple attachments (e.g. shadow map, depth, HDR buffer), as long as you don't use them at the same time.
 - · But to do that safely, Vulkan needs to know:
 - "When does this memory stop being 'render target' and start being 'texture' or 'compute input'?"

Layouts + barriers = safe aliasing.

Drivers can now:
- Use the same memory pool
- Skip clearing
- Not double allocate

You become a GPU memory ninja

v. Predictability = Performance

Explicit layouts give Vulkan this power:

- It knows exactly when and how you are going to use an image.
- So it can avoid runtime guessing, which causes:
 - CPU stalls
 - Cache flushes
 - Sync fences
 - Or even full GPU pipeline bubbles 🤓
- Compared to OpenGL or DirectX11, where the driver had to guess what you meant and do hidden magic Vulkan is like:
 - "If you don't tell me what layout you want, I'll trip and fall flat on my face 🔞"

- vi. 😭 You can skip transitions altogether if you do it right
 - This is the reward -> If your RenderPass is smart using VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_DONT_CARE and reusing image layouts cleverly you can avoid layout transitions entirely.
 - This is massive for tile-based GPUs (like on mobile phones):
 - No layout transition = no VRAM flush
 - Everything happens on-chip, like magic 🍣

vii. 🙉 Analogy: Baking Cookies 😯

```
Let's say you're:
- Baking cookies (rendering)
- Then you plate them for display (presenting)
- Later you want to show them off or decorate them (sample in shaders)
```

· Here's the deal:

```
Vulkan Image Layout

Cookie Stage

UNDEFINED

Empty tray, nothing on it yet

COLOR_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL

You're baking the cookies 
SHADER_READ_ONLY_OPTIMAL

You've finished baking and wanna decorate (like sampling in a post-process shader)

PRESENT_SRC_KHR

You're plating the cookies to serve (sending to the screen)
```

- · But... here's the twist:
 - You can't decorate cookies while they're still baking in the oven.
 - * And you definitely can't serve someone cookies that are still stuck in a 200°C tray.
- · So Vulkan says:

"Please transition between layouts, so I know what stage your cookie is in — and I'll move it to the right place, with oven mitts, spatulas, etc."

viii. 🥝 Why does this matter?

· If you don't do the transitions:

```
You may try to grab a cookie off a 200°C tray and get burned ( invalid reads)
The cookies may not be fully baked ( undefined writes)
Or worse: you show your customer an empty plate because Vulkan never moved them to the PRESENT_SRC_KHR plate
```

ix. 🖋 What makes Vulkan powerful?

```
You get to say:

1. "Bake in tray A"

2. "Decorate using buffer B"

3. "Present from plate C"

But you must tell Vulkan when to move cookies from one surface to another.

Layouts = telling Vulkan exactly thaaat!
```

x. Subpass Optimization (Tile-Based GPUs)

```
On tile-based GPUs (like PowerVR or Mali):

- Entire framebuffers live on-chip, in tiles

- You can run all subpasses without touching VRAM!

But it only works if Vulkan knows:

- The image will stay in the same layout

- No unnecessary STORE or layout transitions

By carefully using:

layout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL;

loadOp = DONT_CARE;

storeOp = DONT_CARE;
```

• That's why subpasses and layouts are so closely linked - no layout change \rightarrow no memory movement.

3. Mage Layout Transitions Aren't Just Bureaucracy

```
They are literal instructions to the driver:
    "Where this image lives"
    "How it's structured"
    "What GPU unit will touch it next"
    "Whether you need to prepare, flush, decompress, or alias it"

### And by explicitly telling the GPU, you:
    Avoid expensive guesses
    Skip hidden memory ops
    Unlock mobile-level optimizations
    Prevent subtle bugs and undefined behavior
```

4. 📜 RenderPass Attachments Desc.

- · RenderPass Attachment is not an actual thing!
- · RenderPass Attachment Description/Descriptor is a thing!
 - · However, the idea is.... We do "define" the Attachments right here, as we send the AttachmentDescriptions -> RenderPass
- RenderPass Attachment Description/Descriptors are not actual images they're a template for what the RenderPass expects!
 - & The FrameBuffers must delivery RenderPass exactly with that

RenderPass Attachment != FrameBuffer Attachment

RenderPass Attachments	Framebuffers	
Define what is needed	Provide which resources to use	
Abstract (format, usage, layout)	Concrete (image views)	
Reusable across Framebuffers	Swapchain-dependent (often 1:1)	

5. FrameBuffer Attachment

Actual VkImageView

```
Image Views (VkImageView):
    Handles to specific images (e.g., swapchain images, depth textures).
Compatibility:
    Must match the RenderPass's attachment definitions (format, sample count, size).
Swapchain Link:
    Typically, one Framebuffer per swapchain image.
```

6. ₩ FrameBuffers [🅶🍎 🖜]

- Binds concrete ImageViews (e.g., SwapChain Images, Depth Textures) to the attachments defined in the RenderPass.
- · Must match the RenderPass's Attachment Descriptions (format, size, sample count).
- · Is SwapChain -dependent (e.g., each SwapChainImage typically has its own Framebuffer).
- Analogy

```
- `RenderPass` 

= A recipe requiring "2 eggs and 1 cup of flour" (attachments).

- `Framebuffer` 

= The actual eggs and flour (image views) you use to bake a cake (render a frame).
```

7. Attachments

- · Attachments are simply images (or buffers) where Vulkan stores or reads data during a RenderPass.
- · Attachments are the actual framebuffer images (swapchain images, depth buffers, offscreen render targets, etc.)
- i. 🖋 Color Attachments = where the pretty pixels (RGBA) are painted and stored. This is like your paint palette! 🚱
- ii. Depth Attachments = the landscapes that prevent objects from clipping or showing up out of order. Imagine topography maps for depth!
- iii. Stencil Attachments = the guides that show where we can paint, like drawing a "map" where only certain areas can be modified.
- · What's inside?
 - A framebuffer that stores things like RGBA values (Red, Green, Blue, Alpha/Transparency).
 - · For example,
 - Color Attachment 0 might hold the albedo or the final color of an object, while
 - Color Attachment 1 could store the lighting information or additional passes like ambient occlusion.

```
Each attachment you declare includes:
- Format (VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_SRGB, etc.)
- Sample count (for MSAA)
- Load/store ops
- Layouts (see above)
```

- · Then, each subpass tells Vulkan:
 - "From all the attachments I've declared, I'm gonna use these ones in this subpass."
- · in Code:

```
attachments[0] = colorAttachment;  // swapchain image
attachments[1] = depthAttachment;  // depth image

subpass.colorAttachment = &attachments[0];
subpass.depthAttachment = &attachments[1];
```

```
So even if your RenderPass only has one subpass, the Vulkan driver still wants to know:

- How many attachments

- What to do with them (clear/store?)

- What layouts they go into and come out as
```

8. 🗑 FrameBuffers v/s 🖺 Attachments :- The Last Fight, (If Above stuffs got you confused):-

i Quick Comparison Table

Aspect	Attachments (RenderPass) 🗶	Framebuffers 🖭
Purpose	Define what resources are needed (format, usage, layout transitions)	Specify which actual images (image views) to use for those resources 🔗
Concrete/ Abstract	Abstract (blueprint) 🔁	Concrete (instance) 🔣
Lifetime	Long-lived (reused across frames) 🚓	Short-lived (often recreated with swapchain) ರ
Dependencies	Independent of images/swapchain 🖨 🗵	Tied to swapchain images or specific textures <i>❷</i>
Example	"Need a color attachment (SRGB) and depth attachment (D32_SFLOAT)" ۞ + ❸	"Use this swapchain image and that depth texture" ☑ ᠋+ ☑ ᠌

ii. Lifecycle Flowchart

III. Use-Case Scenarios

Scenario	Attachments (RenderPass) 😘	Framebuffers 🖾
Swapchain Rendering	Define color/depth formats and layouts. 🚱 🕲 🚱	Bind swapchain images + depth texture. ☑ �
Deferred Rendering	Define G-Buffer attachments (Albedo, Normal, Position). �� �� ��	Bind actual G-Buffer image views.
Post-Processing	Define input (e.g., HDR color) + output (e.g., SRGB). ♣ → ۞	Bind input texture + swapchain image.

iv. Key Interactions

```
RenderPass Begin Command (1)

Uses RenderPass Attachments (3) (format, load/store rules)

Uses Framebuffer (actual images to write to)

GPU Renders (2)

Reads/Writes to Framebuffer's Image Views (1)

Follows Attachment Rules (clearing, layout transitions) (3)
```

- v. Emoji Analogy Time! 👸
 - · Attachments = Recipe Ingredients List 📜 (e.g., "2 eggs 🔘 🔘 , 1 cup flour 🕮 ").
 - Framebuffers = Actual Ingredients 🛒 (e.g., "This egg 🔘 from the fridge, that flour 🚳 from the pantry").
 - Rendering = Baking the Cake $\stackrel{\text{\tiny the M}}{=}$ (combine them using the recipe steps!).
- 9. Next Chapter will be on 🖫 FrameBuffers !!!! ◈

Everything above is written with help from chatGPT

Everything below is not!

0. amVK Wrap 😊

```
// TwT
    SC->GetSwapChainImagesKHR();
    SC->CreateSwapChainImageViews();

amVK_RenderPass *RP = PR->create_RenderPass_interface();
```

2. vkCreateRenderPass()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateRenderPass
- · REY_DOCs
 - Copy Paste amVK_SwapChain.hh Current Implementation & Change it as needed
 - Trust me, this is the most fun way of doing this, xP

VkRenderPassCreateInfo()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VkRenderPassCreateInfo
 - .flags -> Only Option:- used for Qualcom Extension
 - .pAttachments -> this->SubChapter4
 - .pSubpasses -> this->SubChapter5
 - .pDependencies -> this->SubChapter6

4. ImageViews

- vkGetSwapchainImagesKHR()
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkGetSwapchainImagesKHR
 - · Implement Exactly like Chapter2.5 😂
 - vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties()
 - · REY_DOCs

```
class amVK_SwapChain {
    ...
public:
    amVK_Device *D = nullptr;
    VkSwapchainKHR SC = nullptr;
    REY_Array<VkImage> amVK_1D_SC_IMGs;
    REY_Array<amVK_Image> amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP;
    bool called_GetSwapchainImagesKHR = false;

public:
    ...
```

vkCreateImageView()

- https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateImageView
- · REY_DOCs

```
void CreateSwapChainImageViews(void) {
    REY_Array_LOOP(amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP, i) {
        amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].createImageView();
    }
}
```

• amVK_Image.hh :- 4.guide.chapter5.3.2.lmage.hh

3. VkImageViewCreateInfo

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkImageViewCreateInfo

· REY_DOCs

```
void amVK_SwapChain::CreateSwapChainImageViews(void) {
    REY_Array_LOOP(amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP, i) {
             // ViewCI.image
             // ViewCI.format
                  // should be set inside amVK_SwapChain::GetSwapchainImagesKHR()
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.viewType = VK_IMAGE_VIEW_TYPE_2D;
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.components = { // Equivalent to:
             VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_R, // VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_IDENTITY
             VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_G, // VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_IDENTITY
VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_B, // VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_IDENTITY
VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_A // VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_IDENTITY
         };
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.subresourceRange.aspectMask =
VK_IMAGE_ASPECT_COLOR_BIT;
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.subresourceRange.baseMipLevel = 0;
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.subresourceRange.levelCount = 1;
         \verb"amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.subresourceRange.baseArrayLayer = 0;
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].ViewCI.subresourceRange.layerCount = 1;
         amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[i].createImageView();
    }
}
```

5. VkAttachmentDescription

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkAttachmentDescription

6. VkSubpassDescription

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSubpassDescription

7. VkSubpassDependency

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkSubpassDependency

8. All the last 3 together ---> Code

```
class amVK_RenderPass {
  public:
    REY_ArrayDYN<VkAttachmentDescription> attachments;
    REY_ArrayDYN<VkSubpassDescription> subpasses;
    REY_ArrayDYN<VkSubpassDependency> dependencies;

  void set_attachments_subpasses_dependencies(void);
}
```

• amVK_RenderPass.hh [Full Implementation]:- 4.guide.chapter5.8.RenderPass.hh

```
amVK_RenderPass *RP = new amVK_RenderPass(D);
   RP->attachments.push_back({
       .format = SC->CI.imageFormat,
                                                           // Use the color format selected by the
swapchain
        .samples = VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_1_BIT,
                                                           // We don't use multi sampling in this
example
        .loadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_CLEAR,
                                                           // Clear this attachment at the start of
the render pass
        .storeOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_STORE,
            // Keep its contents after the render pass is finished (for displaying it)
        .stencilLoadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_DONT_CARE,
           // Similar to loadOp, but for stenciling (we don't use stencil here)
        .stencilStoreOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_DONT_CARE,
            // Similar to storeOp, but for stenciling (we don't use stencil here)
        .initialLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_UNDEFINED,
            // Layout at render pass start. Initial doesn't matter, so we use undefined
        .finalLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_PRESENT_SRC_KHR,
            // Layout to which the attachment is transitioned when the render pass is finished
            // As we want to present the color attachment, we transition to PRESENT_KHR
   });
    VkAttachmentReference colorReference = {
        .attachment = 0,
        .layout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_OPTIMAL
   };
    RP->subpasses.push_back({
        .pipelineBindPoint = VK_PIPELINE_BIND_POINT_GRAPHICS,
```

```
.inputAttachmentCount = 0,
           // Input attachments can be used to sample from contents of a previous subpass
        .pInputAttachments = nullptr, // (Input attachments not used by this example)
                                           // Subpass uses one color attachment
        .colorAttachmentCount = 1,
       .pColorAttachments = &colorReference, // Reference to the color attachment in slot 0
       .pResolveAttachments = nullptr,
           // Resolve attachments are resolved at the end of a sub pass and can be used for e.g.
multi sampling
       .pDepthStencilAttachment = nullptr, // (Depth attachments not used by this sample)
       .preserveAttachmentCount = 0,
           // Preserved attachments can be used to loop (and preserve) attachments through subpasses
        .pPreserveAttachments = nullptr // (Preserve attachments not used by this example)
   });
   RP->dependencies.push_back({
       // Setup dependency and add implicit layout transition from final to initial layout for the
color attachment.
      // (The actual usage layout is preserved through the layout specified in the attachment
reference).
       .srcSubpass = VK_SUBPASS_EXTERNAL,
       .dstSubpass = 0,
       .srcStageMask = VK_PIPELINE_STAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_OUTPUT_BIT,
       .dstStageMask = VK_PIPELINE_STAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_OUTPUT_BIT,
       .srcAccessMask = VK_ACCESS_NONE,
       .dstaccessmask = VK_ACCESS_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_WRITE_BIT | VK_ACCESS_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_READ_BIT,
   });
   RP->set_attachments_subpasses_dependencies();
   RP->createRenderPass();
      ----- Made with help from P.A.Minerva Vulkan Guide
   https://paminerva.github.io/docs/LearnVulkan/01.A-Hello-Window#416---creating-a-render-pass
```

• main.cpp [Full Implementation]:- 4.guide.chapter5.8.main.cpp

9. By This time, VkSurfaceKHR deserves it's very own class amVK_Surface

• amVK_Surface.hh [Full Implementation]:- 4.guide.chapter5.9.Surface.hh

Chapter 6: amVK_ColorSpace.hh , amVK_Surface , amVK_Presenter , Renaming Things in amVK

amVK_ColorSpace.hh

```
* ex. 1 amVK_IF::RGBA_8bpc_UNORM
namespace amVK_ImageFormat {
  // 8bpc = 8-bits per channel
   inline constexpr VkFormat RGBA_8bpc_UNORM
                                              = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_UNORM; // 37
   inline constexpr VkFormat RGBA_8bpc_SNORM
                                              = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_SNORM; // 38
   inline constexpr Vkformat RGBA_8bpc_USCALED = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_USCALED; // 39
   inline constexpr VkFormat RGBA_8bpc_SSCALED = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_SSCALED; // 40
   inline constexpr VkFormat RGBA_8bpc_UINT = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_UINT;
                                                                           // 41
   inline constexpr VkFormat RGBA_8bpc_SINT = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_SINT;
                                                                           // 42
   inline constexpr VkFormat RGBA_8bpc_SRGB
                                              = VK_FORMAT_R8G8B8A8_SRGB; // 43
   // Common Depth/Stencil Formats
   inline constexpr VkFormat D32_SFLOAT
                                             = VK_FORMAT_D32_SFLOAT;
   inline constexpr VkFormat D24_UNORM_S8_UINT = VK_FORMAT_D24_UNORM_S8_UINT;
#define amVK_IF amVK_ImageFormat
#define amVK_PF amVK_ImageFormat
#define amVK_PixelFormat amVK_ImageFormat
```

Entire Code:- amVK_ColorSpace.hh

2. amVK_Surface

```
void    GetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceInfo(void);
void    GetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR(void);
};
```

• Entire Code: - 4.guide.chapter6.3.Surface.hh

3. amVK_Presenter

```
class amVK_Presenter {
 public:
   amVK_Surface *S = nullptr;
   amVK_SwapChain *SC = nullptr;
   amVK_RenderPass *RP = nullptr;
       // SC.VkDevice = RP.VkDevice
   amVK_Device
                  *D = nullptr;
   VkPhysicalDevice GPU = nullptr;
       // amVK_Device.m_PD = this->GPU;
   amVK_GPU_Index GPU_Index = 0;
 public:
   void bind_Device(amVK_Device *D);
   amVK_Presenter (amVK_Surface* pS) {this->S = pS;}
 public:
   amVK_SwapChain* create_SwapChain(void);
   amVK_RenderPass* create_RenderPass(void);
   // Defined currently inside amVK_SwapChain.cpp
   void
                             refresh_SurfCaps(void) {
this->S->GetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR(); }
   VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR* fetched_SurfCaps(void) {
       return &( this->S->amVK_1D_GPUs_SurfCAP[this->GPU_Index] );
   }
};
```

• Entire Code:- 4.guide.chapter6.3.Surface.hh

4. GMVK Naming Conventions ©

1. Calling Vulkan Library Functions:-

2. vkCreateZZZ() wrappers

```
amVK_SwapChain {
    void CreateSwapChain(void) {
        VkResult return_code = vkCreateSwapchainKHR(this->D->m_device, &CI, nullptr, &this->SC);
        amVK_return_code_log( "vkCreateSwapchainKHR()" );  // above variable "return_code"
can nott be named smth else
    }
}
```

3. amVK_Object /Instance-Creation

```
amVK_SwapChain* amVK_Presenter::create_SwapChain(void);
```

4. amVK_Object::Functions()

```
amVK_SwapChain* create_SwapChain(void);
                                                   // Creates amVK_Object
amVK_RenderPass* create_RenderPass(void);
                                                   // Creates amVK_Object
void
                         refresh_SurfCaps(void); // SurfCapabilities changes if Window is
Resized
VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR* fetched_SurfCaps(void); // Returns the REFRESHED/FETCHED element
void
                amVK_SwapChain::sync_SurfCaps(void);/** Refreshes & Syncs `SurfaceCapabilites`
*/
void
                amVK_SwapChain::konf_Images(
   VkFormat IF,
   VkColorSpaceKHR CS,
    VkImageUsageFlagBits IU,
   bool autofallBack = true
)
void
                amVK_SwapChain::konf_Compositing(
   VkPresentModeKHR PM,
   amVK_CompositeClipping CC,
    VkCompositeAlphaFlagBitsKHR CA
);
void
                amVK_SwapChain::konf_ImageSharingMode(VkSharingMode ISM);
                amVK_SwapChain::active_PixelFormat(void)
VkFormat
                                                                            {return
CI.imageFormat;}
VkColorSpaceKHR amVK_SwapChain::active_ColorSpace (void)
                                                                            {return
CI.imageColorSpace;}
```

5. VkObject Variables

```
class amVK_Image {
 public:
   amVK_Device *D = nullptr;
              vk_Image = nullptr;
   VkImageView vk_ImageView = nullptr;
};
class amVK_FrameBuffer {
 public:
   amVK_Presenter *PR = nullptr;  // Basically, Parent Pointer
   VkFramebuffer vk_FrameBuffer = nullptr;
};
class amVK_RenderPass {
 public:
   amVK_Presenter *PR = nullptr;  // Basically, Parent Pointer
   VkRenderPass vk_RenderPass = nullptr;
};
class amVK_Surface {
 public:
   amVK_Presenter *PR = nullptr; // Created in CONSTRUCTOR
   VkSurfaceKHR vk_SurfaceKHR = nullptr; // Set in CONSTRUCTOR
}
```

4. amVK_RenderPass_Descriptors.hh

```
namespace amVK_RP_AttachmentDescription
      // Change .format before using
   inline VkAttachmentDescription ColorPresentation = {
      .format = VK_FORMAT_UNDEFINED ,
                                                    // you should Use the color format
selected by the swapchain
      .samples = VK_SAMPLE_COUNT_1_BIT,
                                                     // We don't use multi sampling in this
example
      .loadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_CLEAR,
                                                     // Clear this attachment at the start of
the render pass
      pass is finished (for displaying it)
      .stencilLoadOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_LOAD_OP_DONT_CARE, // Similar to loadOp, but for stenciling
(we don't use stencil here)
      .stencilStoreOp = VK_ATTACHMENT_STORE_OP_DONT_CARE, // Similar to storeOp, but for stenciling
(we don't use stencil here)
      .initialLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_UNDEFINED, // Layout at render pass start. Initial
doesn't matter, so we use undefined
       .finalLayout = VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_PRESENT_SRC_KHR, // Layout to which the attachment is
transitioned when the render pass is finished
```

```
// As we want to present the color
attachment, we transition to PRESENT_KHR
};

#define amVK_RPADes amVK_RP_AttachmentDescription
#define amVK_RPARef amVK_RP_AttachmentReference
#define amVK_RPSDes amVK_RP_SubpassDescription
#define amVK_RPSDep amVK_RP_SubpassDependency
...
```

· You should kinda check the <code>amVK_RenderPass_Descriptors.hh</code> file yourself �

```
amVK_RenderPass *RP = PR->create_RenderPass_interface();
amVK_RPADes::ColorPresentation.format = SC->CI.imageFormat;

RP->AttachmentInfos .push_back(amVK_RPADes::ColorPresentation);
RP->SubpassInfos .push_back(amVK_RPSDes::ColorPresentation);
RP->Dependencies .push_back(amVK_RPSDep::ColorPresentation);

RP->sync_Attachments_Subpasses_Dependencies();
RP->CreateRenderPass();
```

Chapter 7: ∰ FrameBuffer [❤️🍎 🍆]

- vkCreateFramebuffer()
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateFramebuffer
 - · REY_DOCs
 - Copy Paste amVK_RenderPass.hh Current Implementation & Change it as needed
 - Trust me, this is the most fun way of doing this, xP

2. VkFramebufferCreateInfo()

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkFramebufferCreateInfo

```
    .flags -> Only Option:- VK_FRAMEBUFFER_CREATE_IMAGELESS_BIT
    .renderPass -> 
    .pAttachments -> [VkImageView] this->SubChapter3
    .width ->
    .height ->
    .layers ->
```

- · REY_DOCs
 - Start With basic copy paste of amVK_RenderPass.hh :- 4.guide.chapter7.2.FrameBuffer.hh

3. VkImageView .pAttachments

- https://vkdoc.net/man/VklmageView
 - For Now, We are gonna choose 1 VkImageView per FrameBuffer
- · REY_DOCs

```
#include "amVK_FrameBuffer.hh"
void amVK_Presenter::create_FrameBuffers(void) {
    this->FBs.reserve(this->SC->amVK_1D_SC_IMGs.n);

REY_Array_LOOP(this->FBs, k) {
    amVK_FrameBuffer* FB = new amVK_FrameBuffer(this);

    FB->CI.attachmentCount = 1;
    FB->CI.pAttachments = &(this->SC->amVK_1D_SC_IMGs_amVK_WRAP[k].vk_ImageView);

    FB->CI.width = 0;
    FB->CI.height = 0;

    FB->CreateFrameBuffer();

    this->FBs[k] = FB;
}
```

Chapter 8: CommandBuffer

- vkCreateCommandPool()
 - https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateCommandPool
 - · REY_DOCs
 - Copy Paste amVK_FrameBuffer.hh Current Implementation & Change it as needed
 - Trust me, this is the most fun way of doing this, xP

2. VkCommandPoolCreateInfo

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkCommandPoolCreateInfo

vkAllocateCommandBuffers()

https://vkdoc.net/man/vkAllocateCommandBuffers

4. VkCommandBufferAllocateInfo

https://vkdoc.net/man/VkCommandBufferAllocateInfo

1. The Rendering Loop

• https://paminerva.github.io/docs/LearnVulkan/01.A-Hello-Window#42---the-rendering-loop