

# Chapter 2: VkDevice

## Overview

We need to create/get hold of a couple of handles:

|                        |  |                               |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Instance</b>        | 1 <code>VkInstance</code> per program/app  | <code>VkInstance</code>       |
| <b>Window Surface</b>  | <code>Surface(OS-Window)</code><br><i>[for actually Linking Vulkan-Renders to Screen/Surface]</i>          | <code>VkSurfaceKHR</code>     |
| <b>Physical Device</b> | An Actual <code>HARDWARE-GPU-device</code>   | <code>VkPhysicalDevice</code> |
| <b>Queue</b>           | <code>Queue(Commands)</code><br><i>to be executed on the GPU</i>   | <code>VkQueue</code>          |
| <b>Logical Device</b>  | The "Logical" GPU Context/Interface<br>(Software Layer)  | <code>VkDevice</code>         |
| <b>Swap Chain</b>      | <i>Sends Rendered-Image to the Surface(OS-Window)</i><br><i>Keeps a backup image-buffer to Render onto</i> | <code>VkSwapchainKHR</code>   |



Take a look into this awesome [slide](#) from slide-26 onwards  
...to understand what each of these steps above "feel like"/mean/"how to imagine them".  
\*slide = [Vulkanised 2023 Tutorial Part 1](#)

## O. amVK wrap

```
#include "amVK_Instance.hh"
#include "amVK_DeviceQueues.hh"
#include "amVK_Device.hh"

// TwT
REY_LOG("");
amVK_Instance::EnumeratePhysicalDevices();
amVK_GPUProps *GPUProps = amVK_InstanceProps::GetARandom_GPU();
GPUProps->GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties();
GPUProps->REY_CategorizeQueueFamilies();

amVK_Device* D = new amVK_Device(GPUProps);
D->CI // VkDeviceCreateInfo [public]
D->Queues // amVK_DeviceQueues [public] [take a look inside 🤖]
D->add_1D_OFAMs_QCount_USER() // amVK_DeviceQueues
D->CreateDevice(1); // param1 = GraphicsQueueCount =
D->GetDeviceQueues(); // see:- Queues.TheArrays 🤖
D->Queues.GraphicsQ(0) // returns Queues.TheArrays.Graphics[0]
```

# 1. 📁 vkCreateDevice()

- <https://vkdoc.net/man/vkCreateDevice>

- `physicalDevice` 📁 `HardwareGPU_List[0]` / `amVK_InstanceProps::GetARandom_GPU()`
  - `Enumerate` 📁 `Chapter2.3`
  - `How to 'choose'?` 📁 `Chapter2.End`
- `pCreateInfo` 📁 🧑
  - 📁 `SubChapter 2`
- `pAllocator` 📁 `ChapterZZZ`
- `pDevice` 📁 📁 `&m_Device`
  - 📁 📁: "Returned by vkFunc()"

- We are not gonna call the `vkCreateDevice()` yet....
    - But, yes, we've already made the class container around it 🤪
      - ♦ [4.guide.chapter2.2.midway.hh](#)
    - we'll actually call this function in 📁 `Chapter2.8`
    - Then, Why am I telling you about this now, here?
      - ♦ because, the idea is, our sole task is to *fill it up step by step*
      - ♦ so we did need to know first about `vkCreateDevice()`
- </br>

- 📁 So far, The result :-
  - [4.guide.chapter2.2.midway.hh](#)

# 2. 🛠️ VkDeviceCreateInfo

- <https://vkdoc.net/man/VkDeviceCreateInfo>

- `.sType` 📁 `VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_DEVICE_CREATE_INFO`
- `.pNext` 📁 `nullptr`
  - 📁 almost any EXT that you are gonna enable.... is prolly gonna end up being passed on here.... tied to `VkDeviceCI` 🧑
- `.flags` 📁 `0`
  - 📁: "No Flag"
  - `VkSpecs` Says:- `reserved for future use`
- `.pQueueCreateInfos` 📁 `SubChapter 5`
  - `Multiple Queue Create Infos:-` 📁 `Chapter2.8`
- `.ppEnabledLayerNames` ⚠️ `deprecated [by Vulkan]`
- `.ppEnabledExtensionNames` 📁 `Chapter4.2`
- `.pEnabledFeatures` 📁 `ChapterZZZ`
  - This should be really interesting

- 📁 REYDOCS

- `.pQueueCreateInfos` -> yes, you 'can' pass 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

- 📁 So far, The result :-
  - [4.guide.chapter2.3.midway.hh](#)

### 3. 📖 vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices()

- <https://vkdoc.net/man/vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices>
- </> TheCode

```
uint32_t deviceCount = 0;
// [implicit valid usage]:- must be 0 [if 3rd-param = nullptr]
vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices(m_instance, &deviceCount, nullptr);
// it's kinda like the function is 'output-ing into' deviceCount

std::vector<VkPhysicalDevice> HardwareGPU_List(gpuCount);
// best to save this as a class member variable
vkEnumeratePhysicalDevices(m_instance, &deviceCount, HardwareGPU_List.data());
// note: it does return      VkResult return_code
```

- 📄 Visualization / [See it] / JSON Printing :- [4.guide.chapter2.1.json.hh](#)
- 📁 So far, The result :- [4.guide.chapter2.1.midway.hh](#)
- 🔗 GitHub :- [amVK\\_GPUProps.hh](#)

### 4. 🔍 amVK\_InstanceProps::GetARandom\_GPU()

</> TheCode 🔗 GITHUB [amVK\\_InstanceProps.hh#L39](#)

### 5. 🛠️ VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo - 'The Real Deal'

- <https://vkdoc.net/man/VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo>
  - .sType 📄 VK\_STRUCTURE\_TYPE\_DEVICE\_QUEUE\_CREATE\_INFO
  - .pNext 📄 nullptr
    - 📄 2 Extensions 🤔 (will talk about them later)
  - .flags 📄 0
    - 📄 <https://vkdoc.net/man/VkDeviceQueueCreateFlagBits> | [ivirtex-github](#)
    - 🚩: "Only Option"
      - VK\_DEVICE\_QUEUE\_CREATE\_PROTECTED\_BIT [Protected Queue]
  - .queueFamilyIndex 🔗 Next 3 SubChapters
    - vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties() --> look for a QueueFamily that supports VK\_QUEUE\_GRAPHICS\_BIT
  - .queueCount 📄 1 [Specify, how many you need 🤖]
  - .pQueuePriorities --> yes, this can be multiple "Priorities" 🤔 [idk yet why tho]
    - Range = (0.0 -> 1.0) [inclusive]
    - Within the same device, queues with higher priority may be allotted more processing time than queues with lower priority.
- 📁 So far, The result :-
  - We are gonna take a Big Leap & Start connecting to 🔗 GITHUB
  - [amVK\\_DeviceQCL.hh](#)

## 6. 📖 `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 -> 🔗 Next SubChapter

- `</>` TheCode *[OldWay]*

```
#define GPUs                                amVK_InstanceProps::s_HardwareGPU_List
#define amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs                 amVK_Instance::s_HardwareGPU_QFamProps_List2D
static inline REY_Array<REY_Array<VkQueueFamilyProperties>> s_HardwareGPU_QFamProps_List2D;
// REY_Array --> "REY_LoggerNUtills/REY_Utills.hh" 😊
// 1 System/PC
// multiple GPU
// multiple QFamProps

static inline void GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties(void) {
    amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs.reserve(GPUs.n); // malloc using "new" keyword
    for ( uint32_t k = 0; k < GPUs.n; k++ ) // for each GPU
    {
        REY_Array<VkQueueFamilyProperties> *k_QFamProps = &amVK_2D_GPUs_QFAMs.data[k];

        uint32_t QFamCount = 0;
        vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties(GPUs[k], &QFamCount, nullptr);

        k_QFamProps->n = QFamCount;
        k_QFamProps->data = new VkQueueFamilyProperties[QFamCount];
        vkGetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties(GPUs[k], &k_QFamProps->n, k_QFamProps->data);
    }
    #undef GPUs
}
```

- 📄 Visualization / [See it] / JSON Printing :- [4.guide.chapter2.5.json.hh](#)
  - Check the [3070 JSON](#) by REY
- 📄 So far, The result :- *[OldWay]* [4.guide.chapter2.5.amVK\\_Instance.hh](#)
  - Compare to -> [4.guide.chapter2.1.midway.hh](#)
    - `2DArray_QFAM_Props` part & below were added only compared to `Chapter2.1.`
- 📄 So far, The result :- 🔗 GITHUB *[NewWay]*
  - [amVK\\_GPUProps.hh](#)
  - [amVK\\_GPUProps.cpp#L5-L17](#)

## 7. 📁 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' 😊
- `.timestampValidBits`
- `.minImageTransferGranularity`

## 8. VkDeviceQCI.queueFamilyIndex [OldWay]

- 🎯 Task

- is to choose a `QueueFamily` that supports `VK_QUEUE_GRAPHICS_BIT` 😊
- (if you've followed on so far -> this should be easy 😊)

- `</> amVK_Device.hh`

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

    if (!amVK_Instance::called_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 :- **OldWay** (Don't spend time inside this, more than 1 minute)
  - [4.guide.chapter2.9.Props.hh](#)
  - [4.guide.chapter2.9.amVK.cpp](#)
- 📁 So far, The result :- **NewWay** 📁 GITHUB (NewWay is like 10x more organized and easier to understand)
  - [amVK\\_GPUProps.hh](#)
  - [amVK\\_GPUProps.cpp#L266-L286](#)

## 9. 📁 REY\_CategorizeQueueFamilies() [NewWay]

`</> TheCode` 📁 GITHUB  
[amVK\\_GPUProps.hh#L50](#)  
[amVK\\_GPUProps.cpp#L260](#)

## 10. back to 📁 `vkCreateDevice()` finally calling it 😊

- <https://vkdoc.net/man/VkDeviceCreateInfo>
- `</>` `main.cpp`

```
amVK_Device* D = new amVK_Device(GPUProps);
D->CI                // VkDeviceCreateInfo      [public]
D->Queues             // amVK_DeviceQueues       [public] [take a look inside 🤔]
D->add_1D_QFAMs_QCount_USER() // amVK_DeviceQueues
D->CreateDevice(1);    // param1 = GraphicsQueueCount = 1
D->GetDeviceQueues();  // see:- Queues.TheArrays 🤔
D->Queues.GraphicsQ(0) // returns Queues.TheArrays.Graphics[0]
```

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

## 11. 📁 `amVK_DeviceQueues`

🔗 [amVK\\_DeviceQueues.hh](#)

## ▨ eXtras / TheEnd

### 11. multiple `VkDeviceCreateInfo.pQueueCreateInfos`

- [VUID-VkDeviceCreateInfo-queueFamilyIndex-02802](#)

- The `.queueFamilyIndex` member of each element of `.pQueueCreateInfos` must be unique 🤖
- So, randomly `push_back()` ing without any kinda safety ➡ kinda feels absurd. 🤖 doesn't it? .... e.g.

```
/* ===== REY_LoggerNUtills::REY_Utils.hh ===== */
REY_ArrayDYN<VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo> Array = REY_ArrayDYN<VkDeviceQueueCreateInfo>(2);
    REY_ARRAY_PUSH_BACK(Array) = this->Default_QCI;
    REY_ARRAY_PUSH_BACK(Array) =      Your_QCI;
```

- [OldWay]:- [amVK\\_DeviceQCI.hh](#)
- So what i did is:- to introduce a `QCount` array as per `QFamily` 🤖
  - [NewWay]:- [amVK\\_DeviceQueues.hh#L56](#)
- & then have a function for the user to increase the `QCount`
  - [NewWay]:- [GITHUB\\_WIP](#) --> `amVK_Device::add_1D_QFAMs_QCount_USER()`

### 12. OldWay 📅 March, 2025

- i. `class amVK_InstanceProps`
  - `EnumeratePhysicalDevices()`
  - `GetPhysicalDeviceQueueFamilyProperties()`
- (Don't spend time inside this, more than 1 minute)
  - [4.guide.chapter2.9.Props.hh](#)
  - [4.guide.chapter2.9.amVK.cpp](#)
  - <https://github.com/REYNep/amGHOST/tree/3e44b982902a3f3fa4ac584aefb19da3d4cdfcc6>

### 13. NewWay 📅 May, 2025

- [GITHUB](#) (NewWay is like 10x more organized and easier to understand)
  - [amVK\\_GPUProps.hh](#)
  - [amVK\\_GPUProps.cpp#L266-L286](#)

### 14. `vkGetPhysicalDeviceProperties()` ▨ Chapter11

### 15. `GetFeatures` ▨ Chapter11

### 16. `MemoryTypes` ▨ Chapter11

### 17. `Guide on amVK_Array` ▨ Chapter6.6