



Qt Graphics Stack Evolution

Qt Quick on Vulkan, Metal, Direct 3D, and OpenGL

László Agócs (@alpqr / lagocs)
Principal Software Engineer
The Qt Company, Oslo, Norway

05/11/2019

Qt World Summit 2019

Berlin, Germany

Contents

› What?

› Why?

› How?



https://wiki.qt.io/New_Features_in_Qt_5.14

- Qt Quick
 - Added the first preview of the graphics API independent scenegraph renderer as an opt-in feature. This allows running qualifying Qt Quick applications on top of Vulkan, Metal, or Direct3D 11 instead of OpenGL. The supported platforms are currently Windows 10, Linux with X11 (xcb), macOS with MoltenVK, or Android 7.0+ for Vulkan, macOS for Metal, Windows 10 for D3D.

Qt

Demo



1. Qt Everywhere



2. Qt (Quick) application + external rendering

Qt

3. Shader pipeline renewal

Qt

4. Possible performance gains

 Qt

+1. Enable new stuff
(for example, compute)

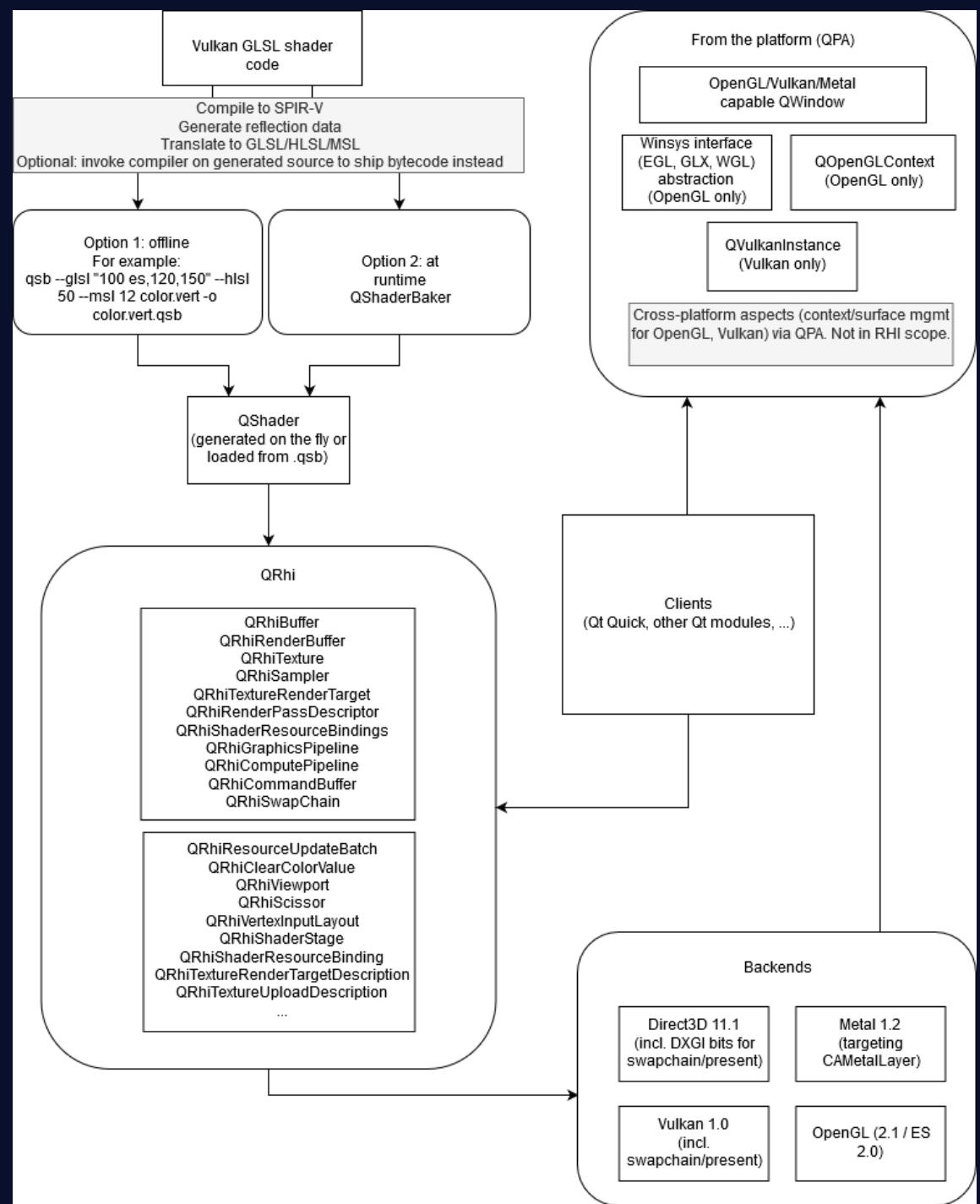


Components

- › Qt RHI
 - › Part of the QtGui module
 - › **Private API**
- › Qt Shader Tools
 - › [qt-labs/qtshadertools](https://github.com/qt-labs/qtshadertools)
- › Qt Quick port
 - › Side-by-side

Components

- › Qt RHI
 - › Part of the `QtGui` module
 - › Private API
- › Qt Shader Tools
 - › [qt-labs/qtshadertools](#)
- › Qt Quick port
 - › Side-by-side



QRhi

- QRhiBuffer
- QRhiRenderBuffer
- QRhiTexture
- QRhiSampler
- QRhiTextureRenderTarget
- QRhiRenderPassDescriptor
- QRhiShaderResourceBindings
- QRhiGraphicsPipeline
- QRhiComputePipeline
- QRhiCommandBuffer
- QRhiSwapChain

- QRhiResourceUpdateBatch
- QRhiClearColorValue
- QRhiViewport
- QRhiScissor
- QRhiVertexInputLayout
- QRhiShaderStage
- QRhiShaderResourceBinding
- QRhiTextureRenderTargetDescription
- QRhiTextureUploadDescription
- ...

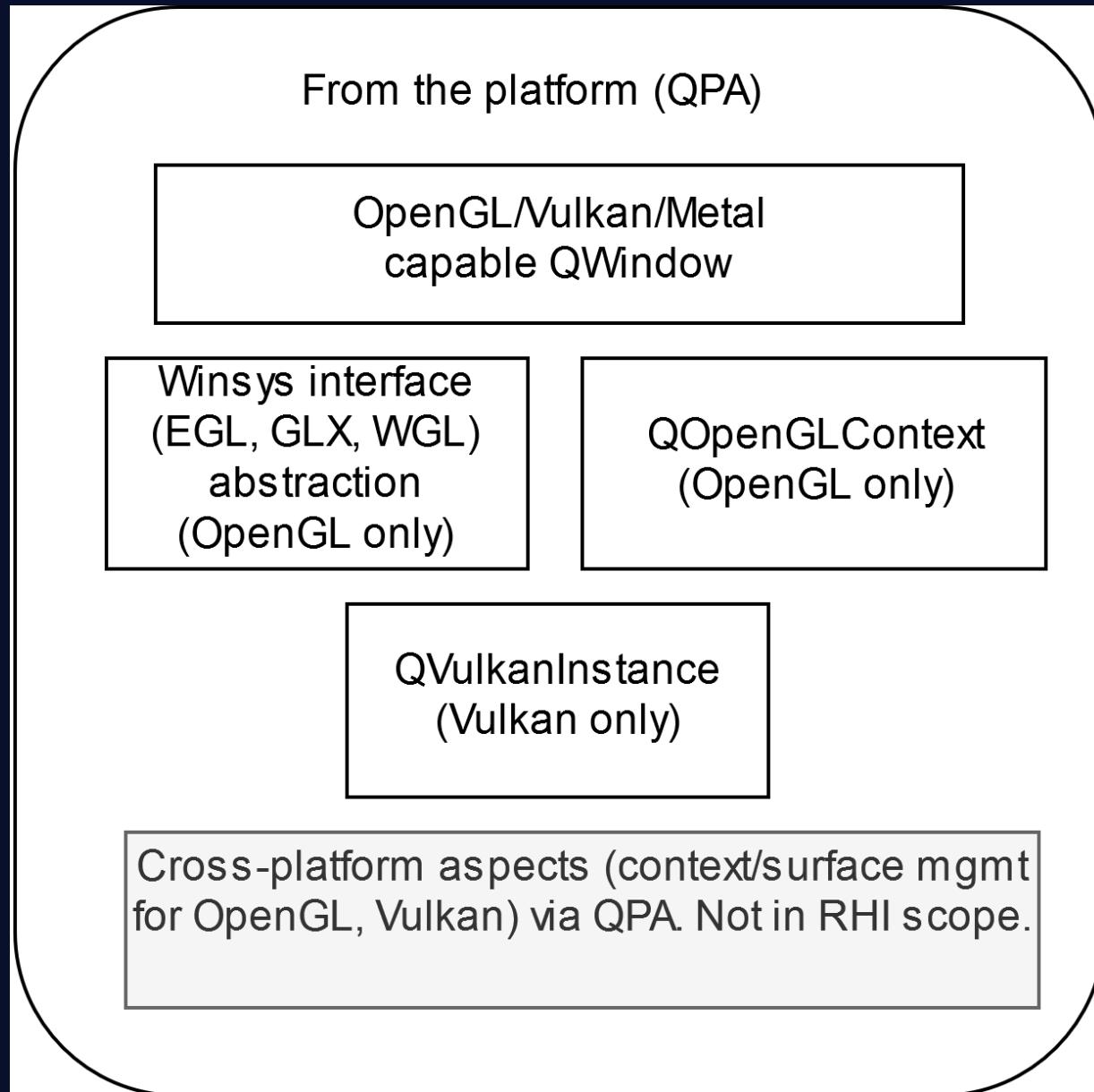
Backends

- Direct3D 11.1
(incl. DXGI bits for swapchain/present)

- Metal 1.2
(targeting CAMetalLayer)

- Vulkan 1.0
(incl. swapchain/present)

- OpenGL (2.1 / ES 2.0)

Qt

Qt

Can we do a triangle in 50 lines?

```
// window is an exposed QWindow
```

```
// vertexShaderPack and fragmentShaderPack are the contents of .qsb files
```

```
QRhiSwapChain *swapChain = rhi->newSwapChain();
swapChain->setWindow(window);
QRhiRenderPassDescriptor *rpDesc = swapChain->newCompatibleRenderPassDescriptor();
swapChain->setRenderPassDescriptor(rpDesc);
swapChain->buildOrResize();
```

```
QRhiResourceUpdateBatch *updates = rhi->nextResourceUpdateBatch();
```

```
static const float vertices[] = {
```

```
    -1.0f, -1.0f,
```

```
    1.0f, -1.0f,
```

```
    0.0f, 1.0f
```

```
};
```

```
QRhiBuffer *vbuf = rhi->newBuffer(QRhiBuffer::Immutable, QRhiBuffer::VertexBuffer, sizeof(vertices));
```

```
vbuf->build();
```

```
updates->uploadStaticBuffer(vbuf, vertices);
```

```
QHiShaderResourceBindings *srb = rhi->newShaderResourceBindings();
srb->build();

QHiGraphicsPipeline *pipeline = rhi->newGraphicsPipeline();
const QShader vs = QShader::fromSerialized(vertexShaderPack);
const QShader fs = QShader::fromSerialized(fragmentShaderPack);
pipeline->setShaderStages({ { QRhiShaderStage::Vertex, vs }, { QRhiShaderStage::Fragment, fs } });
QRhiVertexInputLayout inputLayout;
inputLayout.setBindings({ { 2 * sizeof(float) } });
inputLayout.setAttributes({ { 0, 0, QRhiVertexInputAttribute::Float2, 0 } });
pipeline->setVertexInputLayout(inputLayout);
pipeline->setShaderResourceBindings(srb);
pipeline->setRenderPassDescriptor(rpDesc);
pipeline->build();
```

```
rhi->beginFrame(swapChain);
QRhiCommandBuffer *cb = swapChain->currentFrameCommandBuffer();
QRhiRenderTarget *rt = swapChain->currentFrameRenderTarget();
const QSize outputSize = rt->pixelSize();

cb->beginPass(rt, Qt::green, { 1.0f, 0 }, updates);
cb->setGraphicsPipeline(pipeline);
cb->setViewport({ 0, 0, outputSize.width(), outputSize.height() });
QRhiCommandBuffer::VertexInput vbindings(vbuf, 0);
cb->setVertexInput(0, 1, &vbindings);
cb->draw(3);
cb->endPass();

rhi->endFrame(swapChain);
```



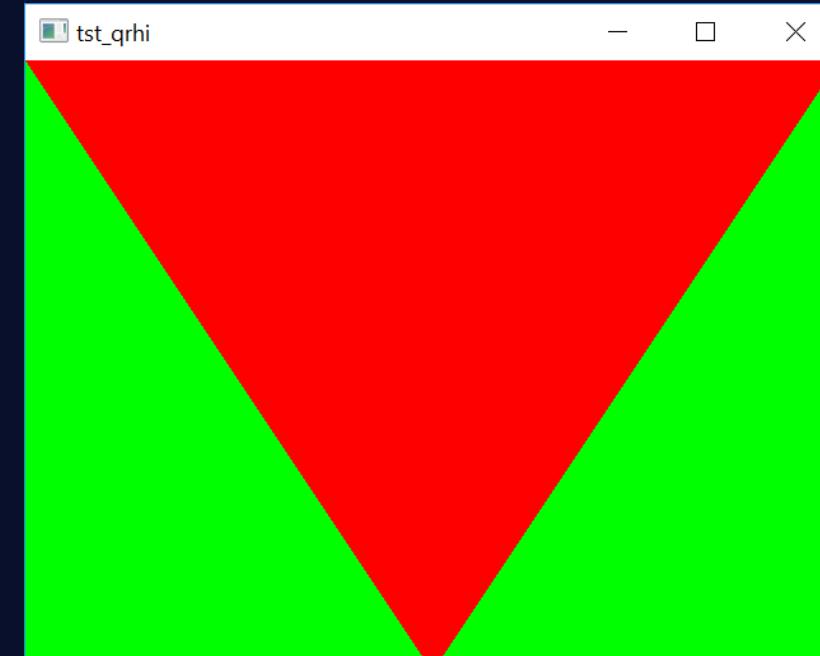
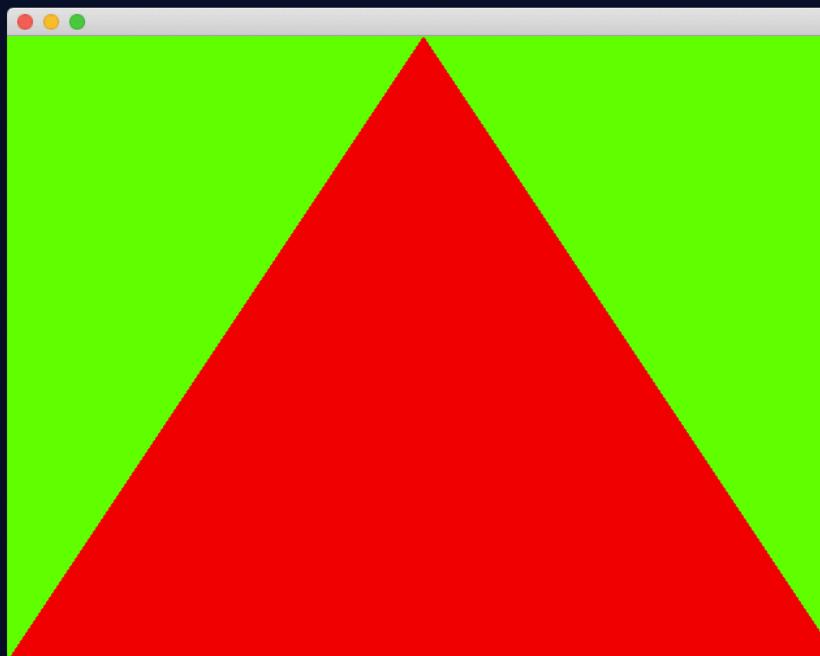
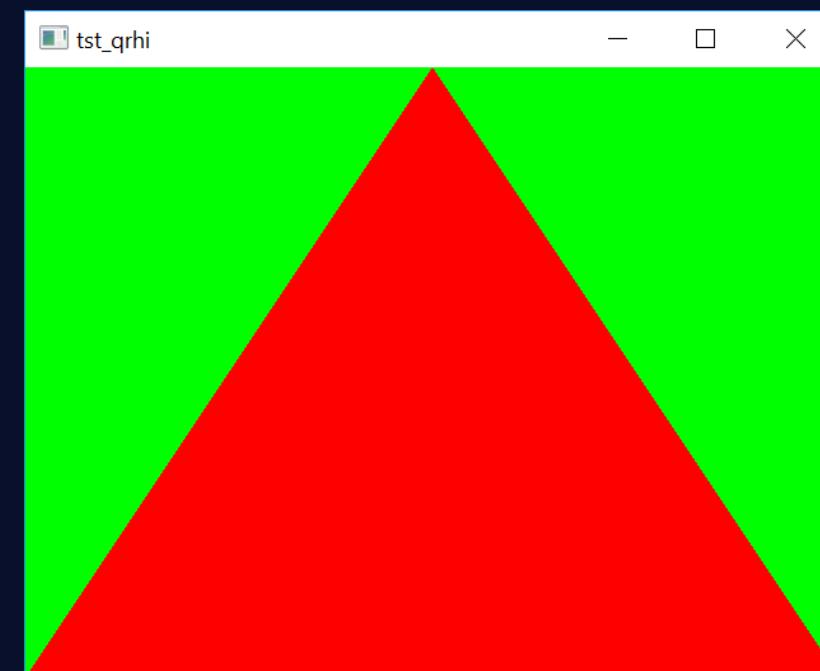
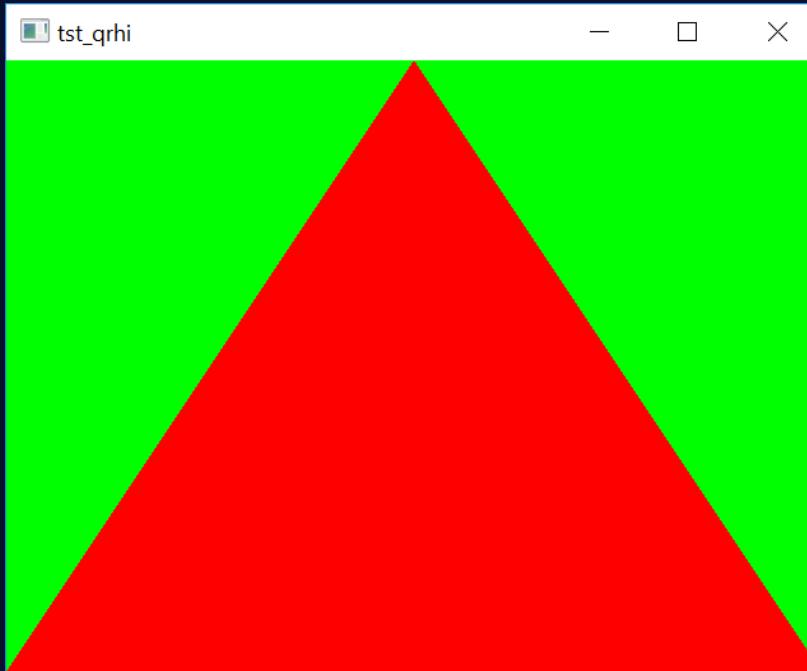
Assuming these vertex and fragment shaders...

```
#version 440
layout(location = 0) in vec4 position;
out gl_PerVertex { vec4 gl_Position; };
void main()
{
    gl_Position = position;
}
```

```
#version 440
layout(location = 0) out vec4 fragColor;
void main()
{
    fragColor = vec4(1.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0);
}
```

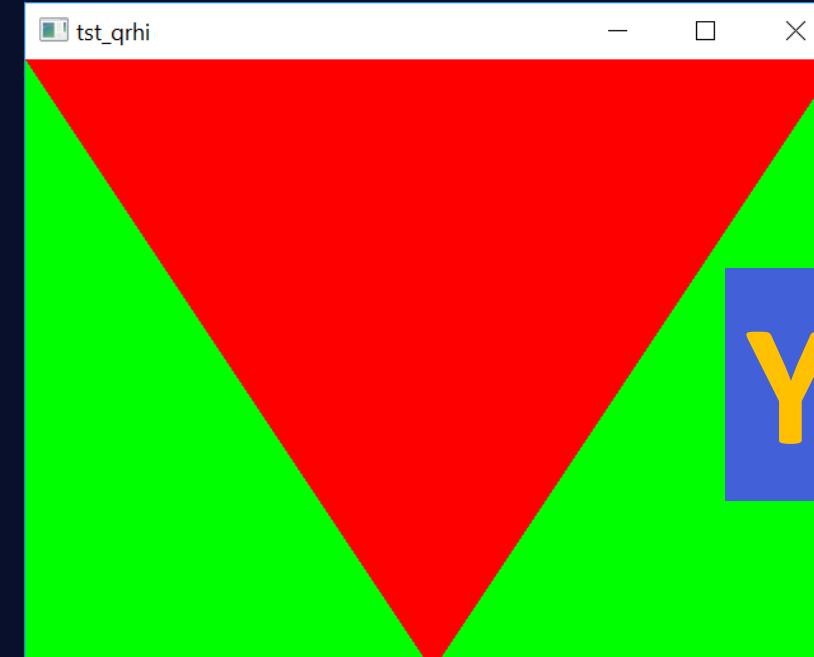
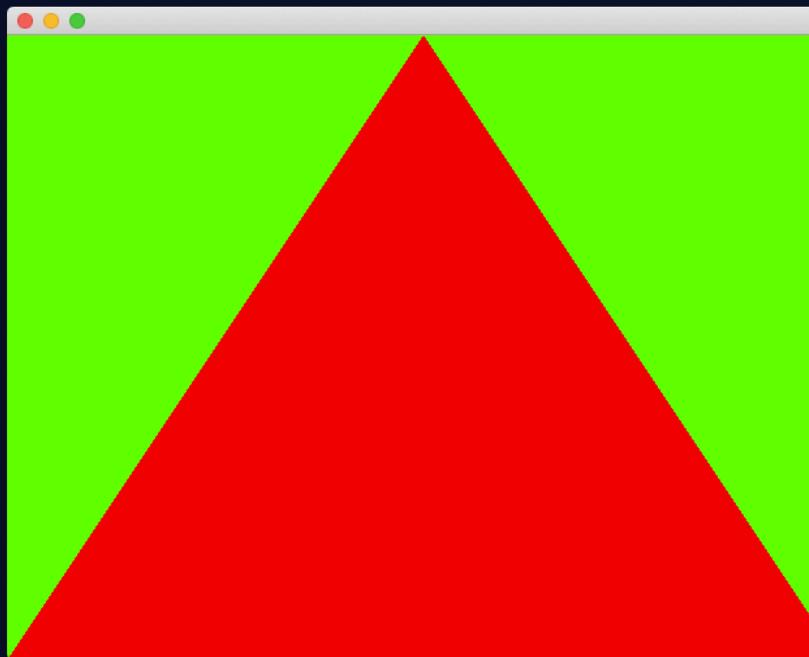
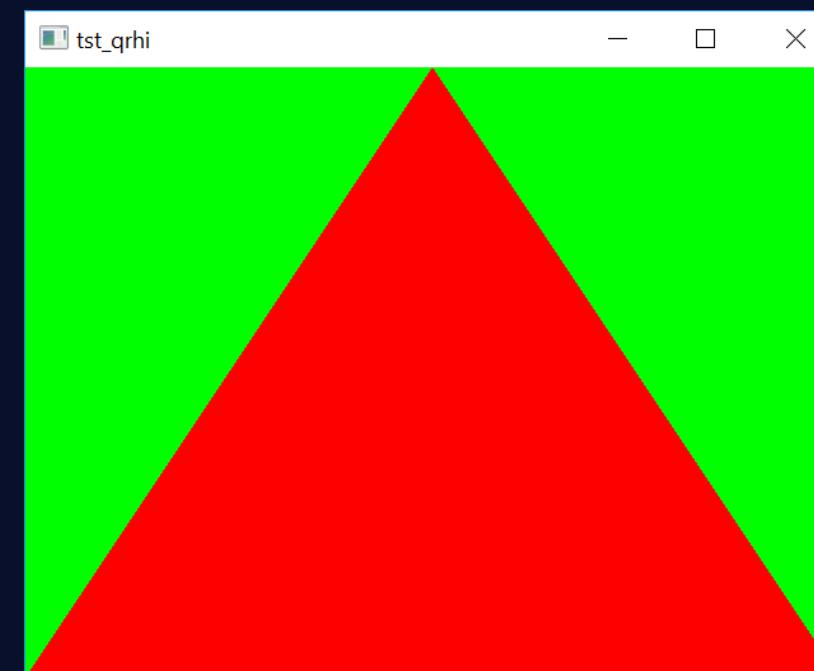
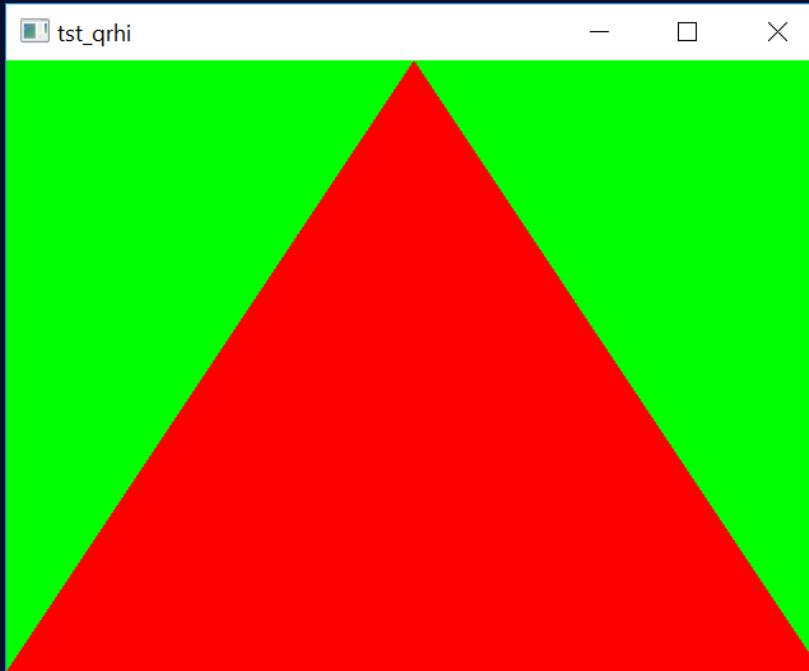
Qt

...this is
what
we get.
Yay!



Qt

...this is
what
we get.
Yay!

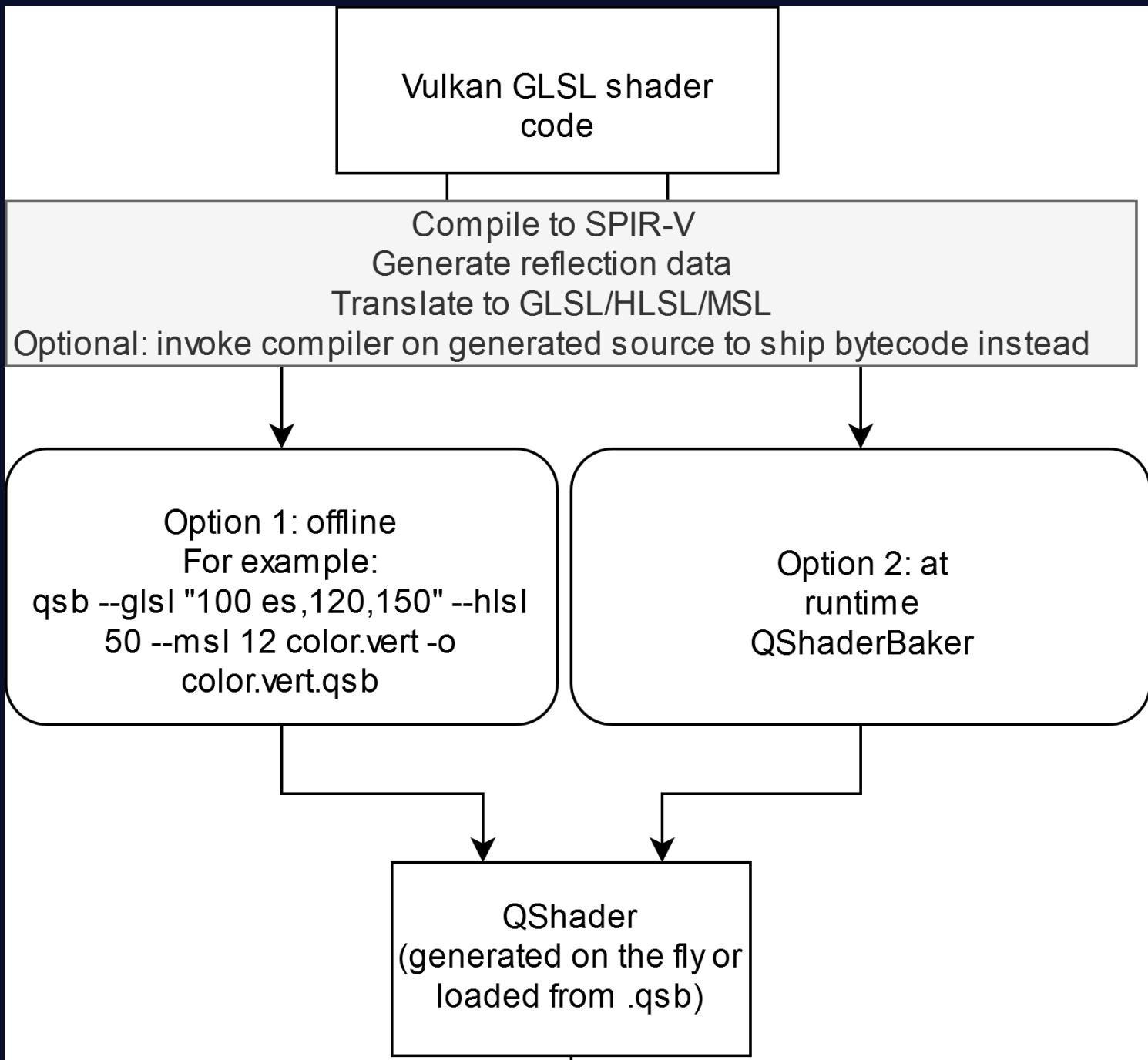


...this is
what
we get.
Yay!



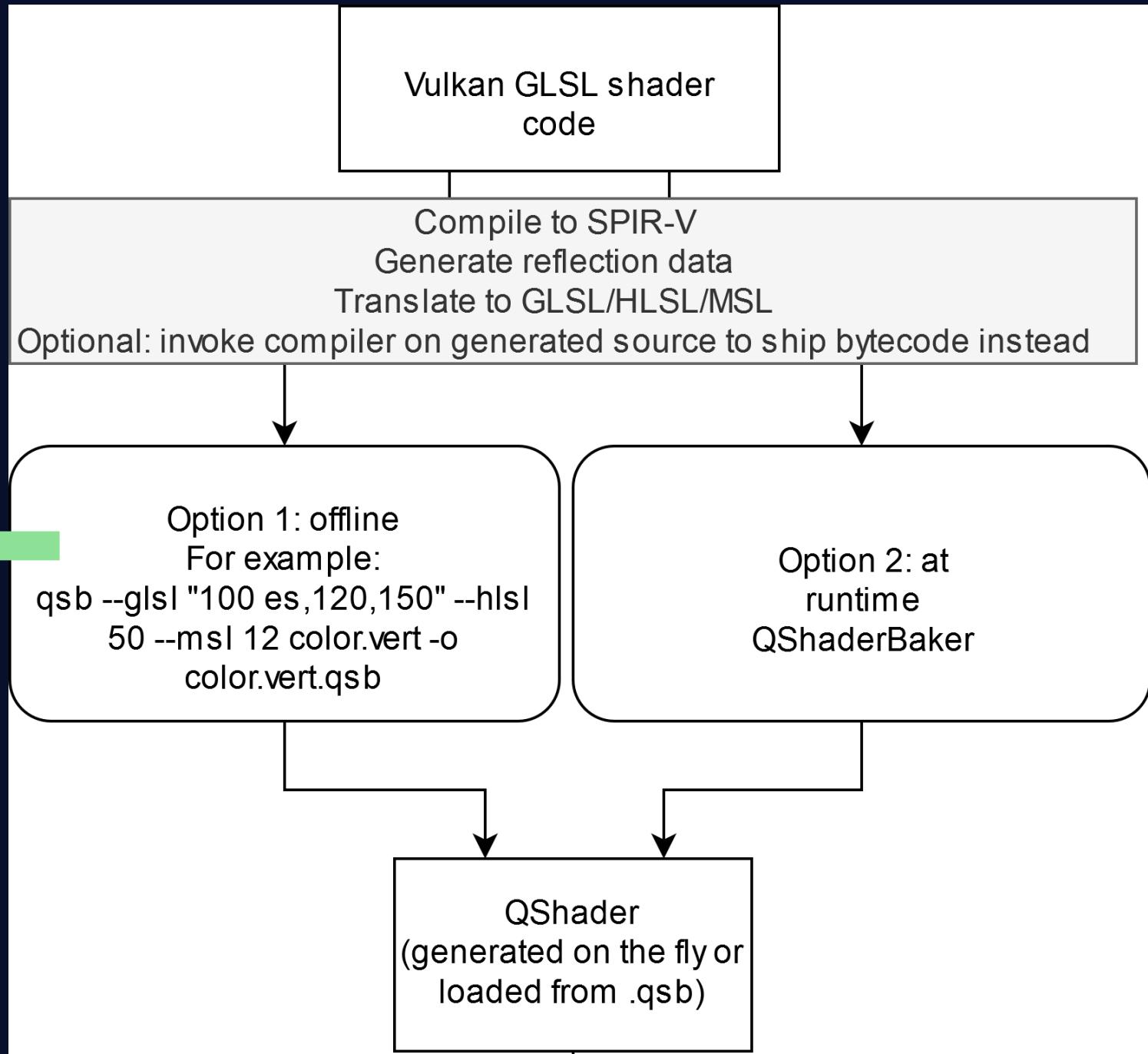
```
tst_qrhi < > qrhi_p.h QRhi
1501     bool isRecordingFrame() const;
1502     int currentFrameSlot() const;
1503
1504     FrameOpResult beginOffscreenFrame(QRhiCommandBuffer **cb,
1505                                         FrameOpResult endOffscreenFrame(EndFrameFlags flags = EndFrameFlagNone);
1506
1507     QRhi::FrameOpResult finish();
1508
1509     QRhiResourceUpdateBatch *nextResourceUpdateBatch();
1510
1511     QVector<int> supportedSampleCounts() const;
1512
1513     int ubufAlignment() const;
1514     int ubufAligned(int v) const;
1515
1516     int mipLevelsForSize(const QSize &size) const;
1517     QSize sizeForMipLevel(int mipLevel, const QSize &baseLevel) const;
1518
1519     bool isYUpInFramebuffer() const;
1520     bool isYUpInNDC() const;
1521     bool isClipDepthZeroToOne() const;
1522
1523     QMatrix4x4 clipSpaceCorrMatrix() const;
1524
1525     bool isTextureFormatSupported(QRhiTexture::Format format,
1526                                   bool isFeatureSupported(QRhi::Feature feature) const;
1527     int resourceLimit(ResourceLimit limit) const;
```

It's fine.

Qt

Qt

To be integrated
with the build
system in 6.x



```

#version 440

layout(location = 0) in vec2 sampleCoord;
layout(location = 0) out vec4 fragColor;

layout(binding = 1) uniform sampler2D _qt_texture;

layout(std140, binding = 0) uniform buf {
    mat4 matrix;
    vec4 color;
    vec2 textureScale;
    float dpr;
} ubuf;

void main()
{
    vec4 glyph = texture(_qt_texture, sampleCoord);
    fragColor = vec4(glyph.rgb * ubuf.color.a, glyph.a);
}

```

qsb --glsl "150,120,100 es" --hlsl 50 --msl 12
-o textmask.frag.qsb textmask.frag



Stage: Fragment

Has 6 shaders: (unordered list)
Shader 0: HLSL 50 [Standard]
Shader 1: GLSL 150 [Standard]
Shader 2: GLSL 100 es [Standard]
Shader 3: GLSL 120 [Standard]
Shader 4: SPIR-V 100 [Standard]
Shader 5: MSL 12 [Standard]

Reflection info: {
"combinedImageSamplers": [
 {
 "binding": 1,
 "name": "_qt_texture",
 "set": 0,
 "type": "sampler2D"
 }
],
"inputs": [
 {
 "location": 0,
 "name": "sampleCoord",
 "type": "vec2"
 }
]}

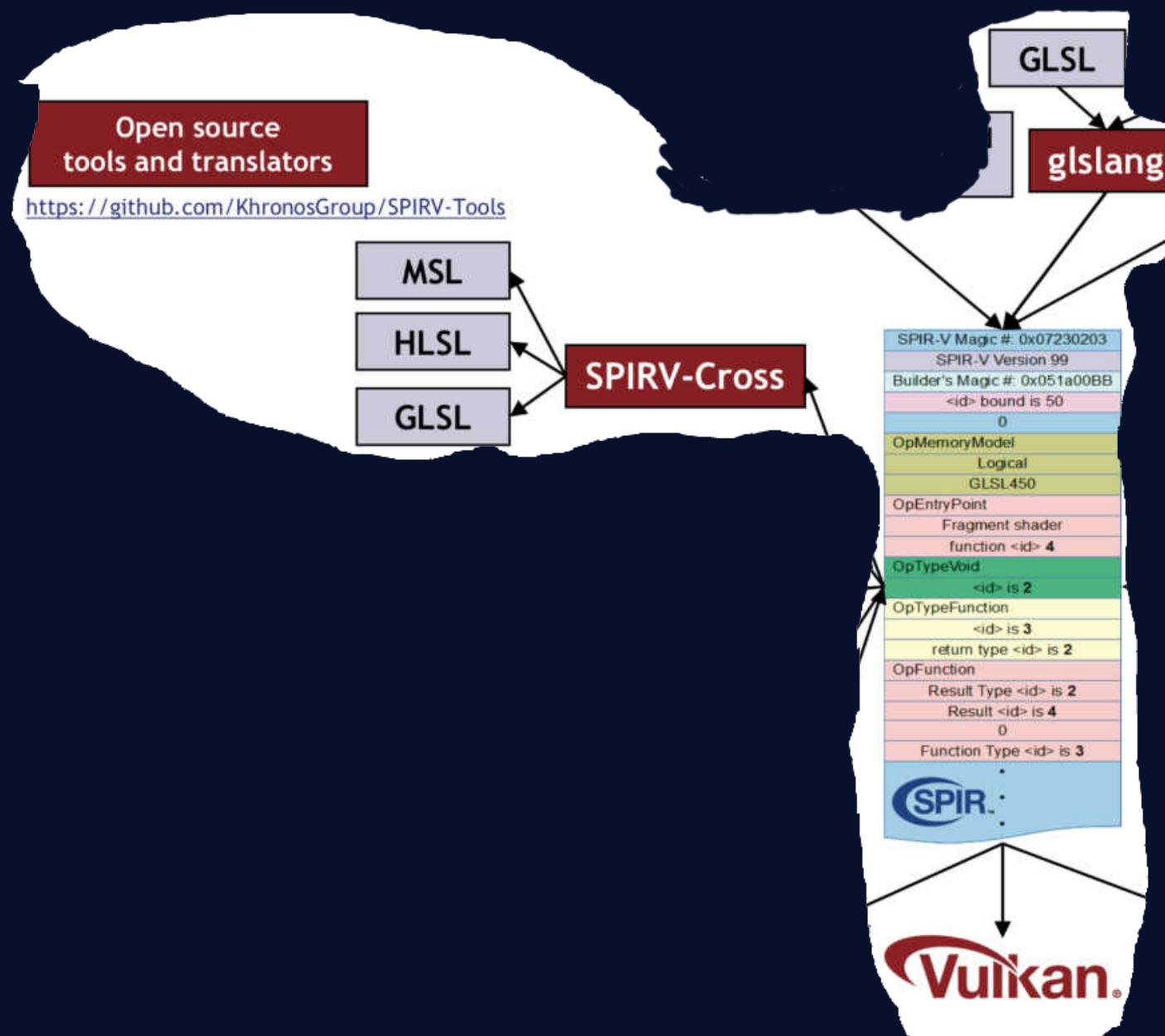
Shader 0: HLSL 50 [Standard]
Entry point: main
Contents:
cbuffer buf : register(b0)
{
 row_major float4x4 ubuf_matrix : packoffset(c0);
 float4 ubuf_color : packoffset(c4);
 float2 ubuf_textureScale : packoffset(c5);
 float ubuf_dpr : packoffset(c5.z);
};

Texture2D<float4> _qt_texture : register(t1);
SamplerState __qt_texture_sampler : register(s1);

"uniformBlocks": [

{
"binding": 0,
"blockName": "buf",
"members": [
 {
 "matrixStride": 16,
 "name": "matrix",
 "offset": 0,
 "size": 64,
 "type": "mat4"
 },
 {
 "name": "color",
 "offset": 64,
 "size": 16,
 "type": "vec4"
 },
 {
 "name": "textureScale",
 "offset": 80,
 "size": 8,
 "type": "vec2"
 },
 {
 "name": "dpr",
 "offset": 88,
 "size": 4,
 "type": "float"
 },
 {
 "set": 0,
 "size": 92,
 "structName": "ubuf"
 }
],
"size": 92
}
...

Qt



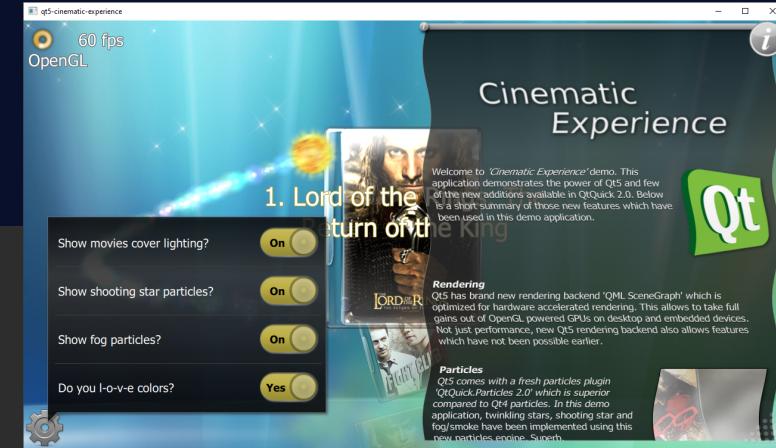


Qt Quick

- › QQuickItem tree
 - › described in QML
 - › main thread
- › QSGNode tree + material system
 - › the “scene graph”
 - › render thread
- › OpenGL



```
[ ] rootNode 0x7fe48800f310 "" ) 1
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe48800f390 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickRootItem:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe488015fc0 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickItem:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe488016220 identity "QQuickItem(MainView_QMLTYPE_8:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe48808f450 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickItem:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe48808f620 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickItem:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881b70e0 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickImage_QML_2:)" ) 0
[ ] GeometryNode( 0x7fe4881b7c20 strip #V: 4 #I: 0 xl= 0 yl= 0 x2= 1280 y2= 720 materialtype= 0x7fe4c166ad32 ) "internalimage" 1000001 order 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881b7290 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickParticleSystem:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881b7480 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickImageParticle:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881b7620 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickParticleEmitter:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe48808f730 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickListView_QML_9:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881ad830 translate 0 220 0 "QQuickItem(QQuickItem:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881ad910 det= 0.444444 "QQuickItem(DelegateItem_QMLTYPE_0:)" ) 0
[ ] OpacityNode( 0x7fe4881ada10 opacity= 0.5 combined= 1 "" ) 1
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881adf20 identity "QQuickItem(QQuickMouseArea:)" ) 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881ae0b0 translate 512 0 0 "QQuickItem(QQuickImage:)" ) 0
[ ] rootNode 0x7fe4881b0b90 "" ) 1
[ ] GeometryNode( 0x7fe4881b1de0 strip #V: 4 #I: 0 xl= 0 yl= 0 x2= 256 y2= 256 materialtype= 0x7fe4c166ad32 ) "internalimage" 1000001 order 0
[ ] TransformNode( 0x7fe4881adaef0 det= 0.444444 "QQuickItem(DelegateItem_QMLTYPE_0:)" ) 0
item {
    id: mainViewArea
    anchors.fill: parent
    Background {
        id: background
    }
    ListView {
        id: listView
        property real globalLightPosX: LightImage.x / root.width
        property real globalLightPosY: LightImage.y / root.height
        // Normal-mapped cover shared among delegates
        ShaderEffectSource {
            id: coverNmapSource
            sourceItem: Image { source: "images/cover_nmap.png" }
            hideSource: true
            visible: false
        }
        anchors.fill: parent
        spacing: -60
        model: moviesModel
        delegate: DelegateItem {
            name: model.name
        }
    }
}
```



File Window Tools Help

Timeline - Frame #434

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| EID: | 20 | 40 | 60 | 80 | 100 | 120 | 140 | 160 | 180 | 200 | 220 | 240 | 260 | 280 | 300 | 320 | 340 | 360 | 380 | 400 | 420 | 440 | 460 | 480 | 500 | 520 | 540 | 560 | 580 | 606 | 620 | 640 | 660 | 680 | 700 | 720 | 740 | 760 | 780 | | | | | |
| | + Colour Pass #1 (1 Targets + Depth) | + Colour Pass #2 (1 Targets + Depth) | + Colour Pass #3 (1 Targets + Depth) | + Colour Pass #4 (1 Targets + Depth) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Usage for Backbuffer Color: Reads (▲), Writes (▲), Read/Write (▲), and Clears (▲)

<

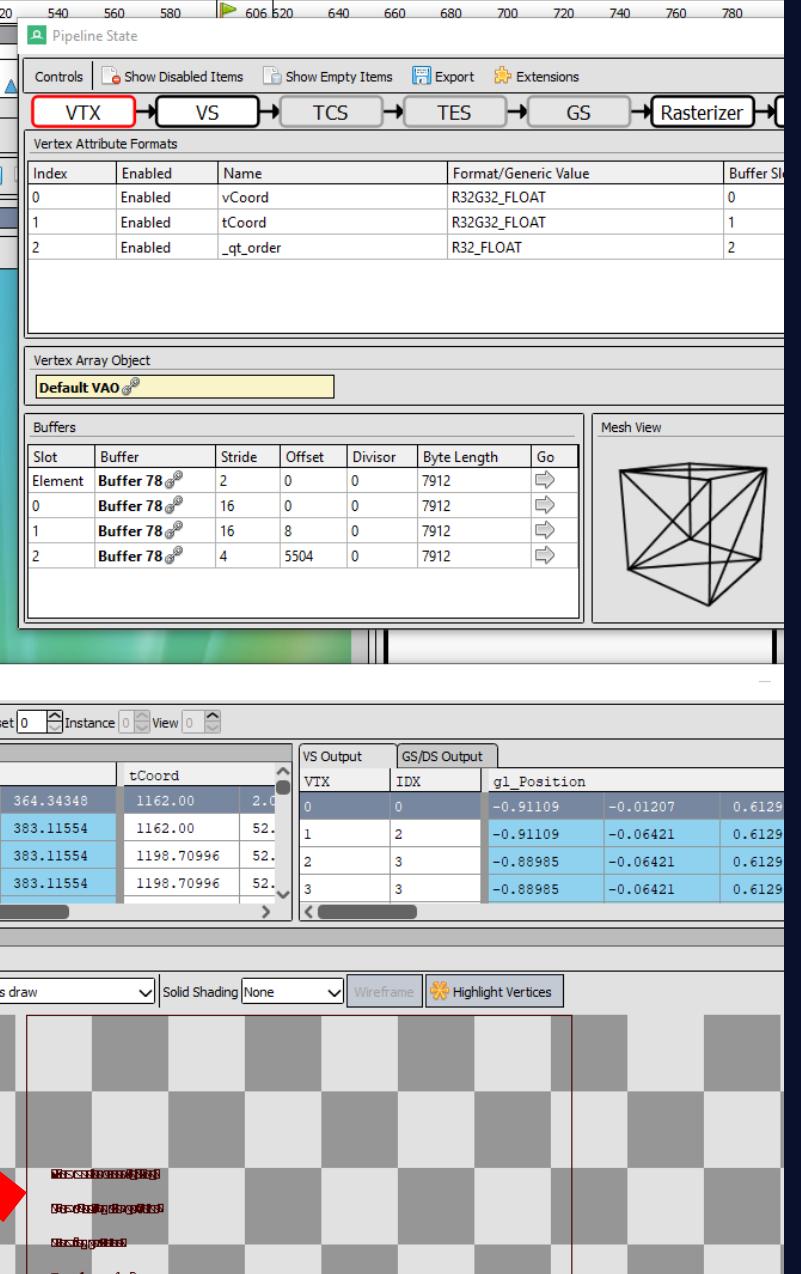
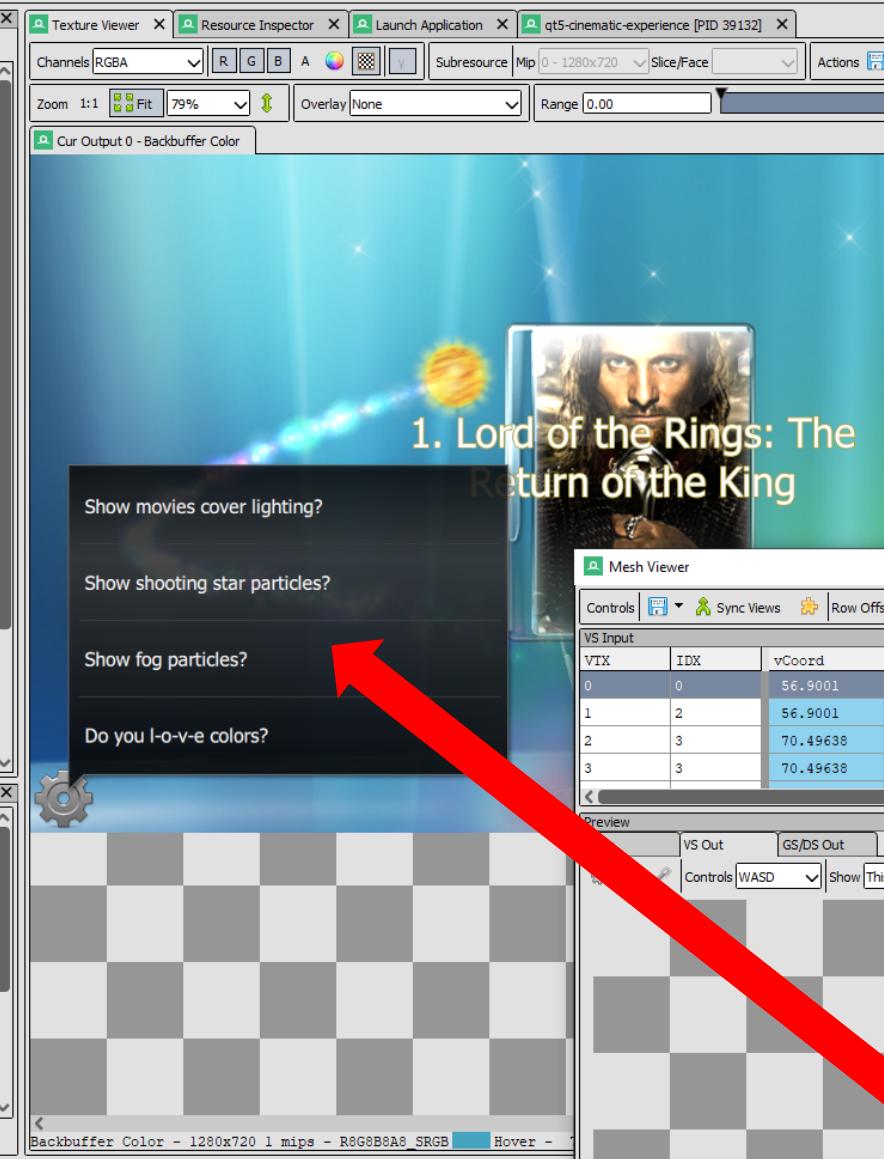
Event Browser

| Controls | EID | Name |
|----------|---------|--|
| | 0 | Frame Start |
| | 18-103 | Colour Pass #1 (1 Targets + Depth) |
| | 132-213 | Colour Pass #2 (1 Targets + Depth) |
| | 242-323 | Colour Pass #3 (1 Targets + Depth) |
| | 242 | glClear(Color = <0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000>, Depth = <1.00... |
| | 259 | glDrawElements(4) |
| | 278 | glDrawElements(192) |
| | 297 | glDrawElements(12) |
| | 309 | glDrawElements(18) |
| | 323 | glDrawElements(4) |
| | 390-782 | Colour Pass #4 (1 Targets + Depth) |
| | 390 | glClear(Color = <1.000000, 1.000000, 1.000000>, Depth = <1.00... |
| | 401 | glDrawElements(16) |
| | 414 | glDrawElements(4) |
| | 436 | glDrawElements(120) |
| | 458 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 475 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 492 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 509 | glDrawElements(210) |
| | 523 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 542 | glDrawElements(1200) |
| | 558 | glDrawElements(264) |
| | 574 | glDrawElements(4) |
| | 588 | glDrawElements(54) |
| | 606 | glDrawElements(516) |
| | 624 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 638 | glDrawElements(4) |
| | 655 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 669 | glDrawElements(4) |
| | 686 | glDrawElements(6) |
| | 700 | glDrawElements(4) |

API Inspector

| EID | Event |
|-------|--------------------|
| > 589 | glBindBuffer |
| > 590 | glBindBuffer |
| > 591 | glBindBuffer |
| > 592 | glBindBuffer |
| > 593 | glUseProgram |
| > 594 | glBlendFunc |
| > 595 | glBlendColor |
| > 596 | glUniform1fv |
| > 597 | glUniform4fv |
| > 598 | glUniformMatrix4fv |
| > 599 | glUniform1fv |

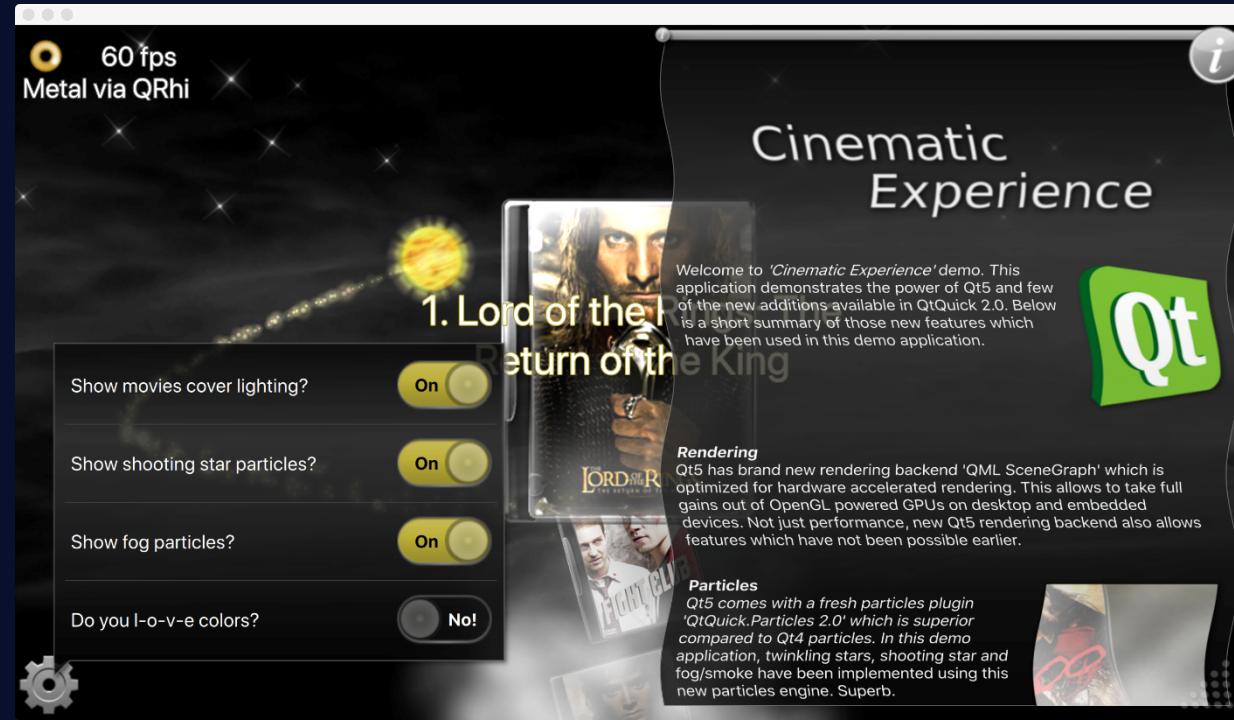
Callstack





Qt Quick

- › QQuickItem tree
 - › described in QML
 - › main thread
- › QSGNode tree + material system
 - › the “scene graph”
 - › render thread
- › Vulkan, Metal, Direct 3D, OpenGL



Qt

Materials

```
class Q_QUICK_EXPORT QSGMaterialShader
```

```
{
```

```
public:
```

```
    class Q_QUICK_EXPORT RenderState {
```

```
public:
```

```
        inline bool isMatrixDirty() const { return m_dirty & DirtyMatrix; }
```

```
...
```

```
        QMatrix4x4 combinedMatrix() const;
```

```
...
```

```
};
```

```
virtual void updateState(const RenderState &state,  
                        QSGMaterial *newMaterial,  
                        QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);
```

```
virtual char const *const *attributeNames() const = 0;
```

```
virtual void initialize();
```

```
virtual void activate();
```

```
virtual void deactivate();
```

```
void setShaderSourceFile(QOpenGLShader::ShaderType type, const QString &sourceFile);
```

```
virtual const char *vertexShader() const;
```

```
virtual const char *fragmentShader() const;
```

```
virtual void compile();
```

QSGMaterial creates a QSGMaterialShader
-> suitable for direct OpenGL

Q

```
class Q_QUICK_EXPORT QSGMaterialRhiShader
{
public:
    class Q_QUICK_EXPORT RenderState {
public:
    inline bool isMatrixDirty() const { ... }
    ...
    QMatrix4x4 combinedMatrix() const;
    QByteArray *uniformData();
    ...
};

enum Flag {
    UpdatesGraphicsPipelineState = 0x0001
};
enum Stage {
    VertexStage,
    FragmentStage,
};

virtual bool updateUniformData(RenderState &state,
                               QSGMaterial *newMaterial, QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);

virtual void updateSampledImage(RenderState &state, int binding, QSGTexture **texture,
                               QSGMaterial *newMaterial, QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);

virtual bool updateGraphicsPipelineState(RenderState &state, GraphicsPipelineState *ps,
                                         QSGMaterial *newMaterial, QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);

void setFlag(Flags flags, bool on = true);

// filename is for a file containing a serialized QShader.
void setShaderFileName(Stage stage, const QString &filename);
```

QSGMaterial creates a QSGMaterialRhiShader
-> suitable for QRhi-based rendering

```
class Q_QUICK_EXPORT QSGMaterialRhiShader
{
public:
    class Q_QUICK_EXPORT RenderState {
public:
    inline bool isMatrixDirty() const { ... }
    ...
    QMatrix4x4 combinedMatrix() const;
    QByteArray *uniformData();
    ...
};

enum Flag {
    UpdatesGraphicsPipelineState = 0x0001
};
```

A material (be it built-in or custom) provides data, and only data.
No graphics API access.

```
virtual bool updateUniformData(RenderState &state,
                                QSGMaterial *newMaterial, QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);

virtual void updateSampledImage(RenderState &state, int binding, QSGTexture **texture,
                                QSGMaterial *newMaterial, QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);

virtual bool updateGraphicsPipelineState(RenderState &state, GraphicsPipelineState *ps,
                                         QSGMaterial *newMaterial, QSGMaterial *oldMaterial);

void setFlag(Flags flags, bool on = true);

// filename is for a file containing a serialized QShader.
void setShaderFileName(Stage stage, const QString &filename);
```

```
class Q_QUICK_EXPORT OSCMaterialDbiShader
{
public:
    class Q_QUICK_EXPORT OSCMaterialDbiShaderPrivate;
public:
    inline bool update();
    ...
    QMatrix4x4 transform();
    QByteArray vertexCode();
    ...
};

enum Flag {
    UpdatesGraph,
    ...
};

struct Q_QUICK_EXPORT GraphicsPipelineState {
    enum BlendFactor {
        Zero,
        One,
        SrcColor,
        ...
    };

    enum ColorMaskComponent {
        R = 1 << 0,
        G = 1 << 1,
        B = 1 << 2,
        A = 1 << 3
    };
    Q_DECLARE_FLAGS(ColorMask, ColorMaskComponent)

    enum CullMode {
        CullNone,
        CullFront,
        CullBack
    };

    bool blendEnable;
    BlendFactor srcColor;
    BlendFactor dstColor;
    ColorMask colorWrite;
    QColor blendConstant;
    CullMode cullMode;
};

// filename is for a file containing a serialized qshader.
void setShaderFileName(Stage stage, const QString &filename);
```

A material (be

```
virtual bool up
```

```
virtual void up
```

```
virtual bool up
```

```
void setFlag(Fl
```

```
// filename is for a file containing a serialized qshader.
```

, and only data.

```
oldMaterial);
texture **texture,
oldMaterial);

GraphicsPipelineState *ps,
material *oldMaterial);
```

Qt

ShaderEffect

```
ShaderEffect {
    id: shaderItem

    fragmentShader: "qrc:/qt-project.org/imports/QtQuick/Controls.2/Material/shaders/RectangularGlow.frag"

    x: (parent.width - width) / 2.0
    y: (parent.height - height) / 2.0
    width: parent.width + rootItem.glowRadius * 2 + cornerRadius * 2
    height: parent.height + rootItem.glowRadius * 2 + cornerRadius * 2

    function clampedCornerRadius() {
        var maxCornerRadius = Math.min(rootItem.width, rootItem.height) / 2 + rootItem.glowRadius;
        return Math.max(0, Math.min(rootItem.cornerRadius, maxCornerRadius))
    }

    property color color: rootItem.color
    property real inverseSpread: 1.0 - rootItem.spread
    property real relativeSizeX: ((inverseSpread * inverseSpread) * rootItem.glowRadius + cornerRadius * 2.
    property real relativeSizeY: relativeSizeX * (width / height)
    property real spread: rootItem.spread / 2.0
    property real cornerRadius: clampedCornerRadius()
}
```

```
ShaderEffect {
    id: shaderItem

    fragmentShader: "qrc:/qt-project.org/imports/QtQuick/Controls.2/Material/shaders/RectangularGlow.frag"
        ~/qtquickcontrols2_dev/src/imports/controls/material/shaders $ ls -lR
    x: (parent) total 8
    y: (parent) drwxr-xr-x  3 agocs  staff   96 Jul 10  2018 +glslcore
    width: parent drwxr-xr-x  3 agocs  staff   96 Aug 17 15:31 +qsb
    height: parent -rw-r--r--  1 agocs  staff  660 Jul 10  2018 RectangularGlow.frag

    function createShader() {
        var material = new THREE.ShaderMaterial({
            vertexShader: require("./+glslcore"),
            fragmentShader: require("./+qsb")
        });
        return material;
    }
}

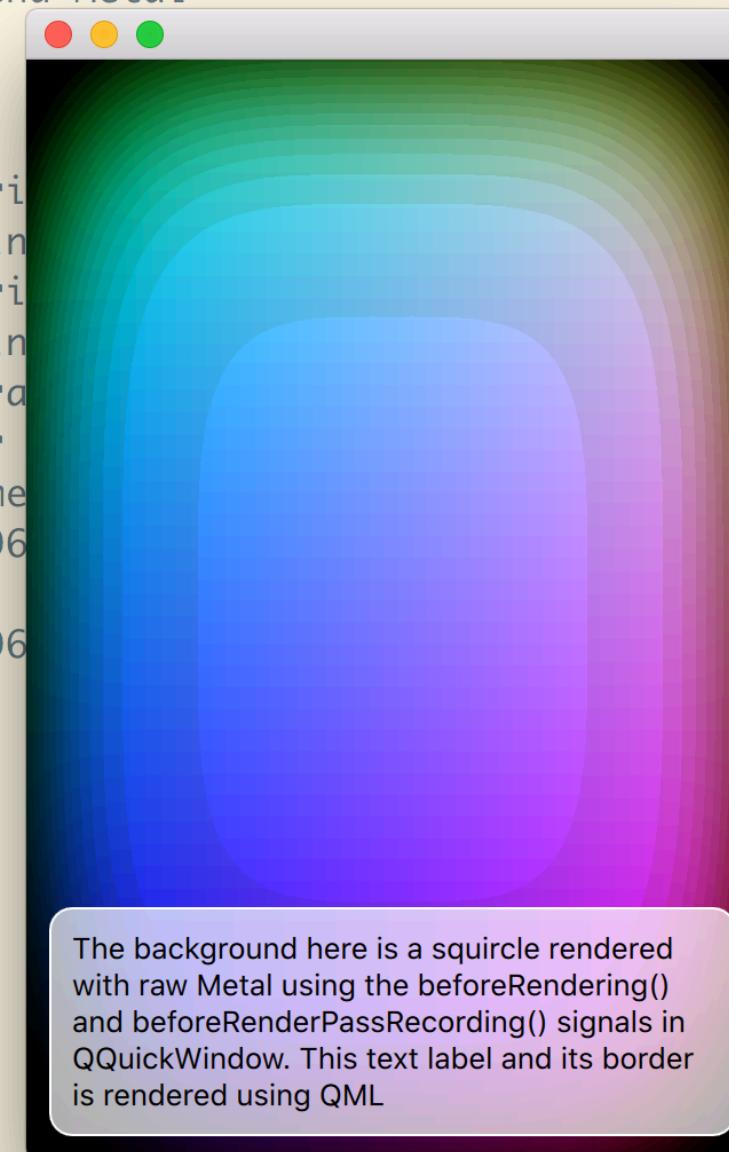
property real cornerRadius: cornerRadius * 2.0
property real relativeSizeY: relativeSizeX * (width / height)
property real spread: rootItem.spread / 2.0
property real cornerRadius: clampedCornerRadius()
}
```



Integrating custom Vulkan/Metal/D3D11/OpenGL rendering

1. metalunderqml

```
~/qtdeclarative_dev/examples/quick/scenegraph/metalunderqml $ ./metalunderqml.app/Contents/MacOS/metalunderqml
qt.scenegraph.general: Using QRhi with backend Metal
  graphics API debug/validation layers: 0
  QRhi profiling and debug markers: 0
qt.scenegraph.general: threaded render loop
qt.scenegraph.general: Using sg animation dri
qt.scenegraph.general: Animation Driver: usin
qt.scenegraph.general: Using sg animation dri
qt.scenegraph.general: Animation Driver: usin
qt.rhi.general: Metal device: Intel(R) HD Gra
qt.scenegraph.general: MSAA sample count for
qt.scenegraph.general: rhi texture atlas dime
qt.rhi.general: got CAMetalLayer, size 640x96
init
qt.rhi.general: got CAMetalLayer, size 640x96
□
```



void QQuickWindow::beforeRenderPassRecording()

[signal]

This signal is emitted before the scenegraph starts recording commands for the main render pass. (Layers have their own passes and are fully recorded by the time this signal is emitted.) The render pass is already active on the command buffer when the signal is emitted.

This signal is applicable when using the RHI graphics abstraction with the scenegraph. It is emitted later than [beforeRendering\(\)](#) and it guarantees that not just the frame, but also the recording of the scenegraph's main render pass is active. This allows inserting commands without having to generate an entire, separate render pass (which would typically clear the attached images). The native graphics objects can be queried via [QSGRendererInterface](#).

When not running with the RHI (and using OpenGL directly), the signal is emitted after the renderer has cleared the render target. This makes it possible to create applications that function identically both with and without the RHI.

Note: Resource updates (uploads, copies) typically cannot be enqueued from within a render pass. Therefore, more complex user rendering will need to connect to both [beforeRendering\(\)](#) and this signal.

Warning: This signal is emitted from the scene graph rendering thread. If your slot function needs to finish before execution continues, you must make sure that the connection is direct (see [Qt::ConnectionType](#)).

This function was introduced in Qt 5.14.

void QQuickWindow::beforeRendering()

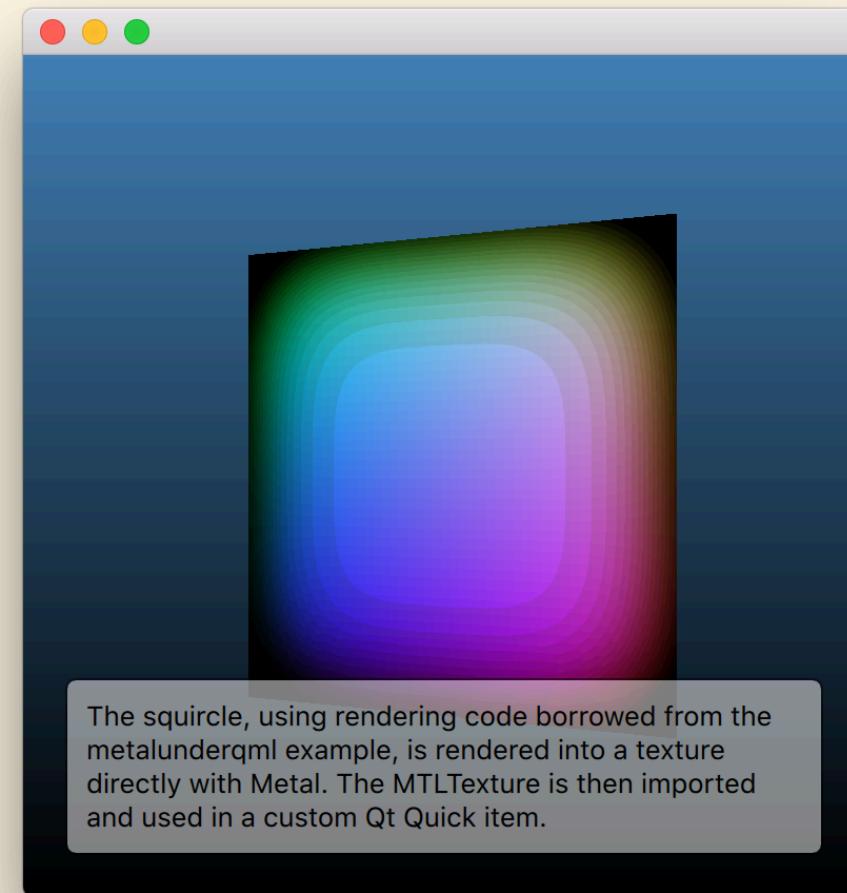
[signal]

This signal is emitted before the scene starts rendering.



1. metatextureimpo

```
~/qtdeclarative_dev/examples/quick/scenegraph/metatextureimport $ ./metatextureimport.app/Contents/MacOS/metatextureimpo  
rt  
renderer created  
Got QSGTexture wrapper QSGPlainTexture(0x7f88c26587b0) for an MTLTexture of size QSize(800, 800)  
resources initialized
```



```
QSGRendererInterface *rif = m_window->rendererInterface();
m_device = (id<MTLDevice>) rif->getResource(m_window, QSGRendererInterface::DeviceResource);
Q_ASSERT(m_device);

MTLTextureDescriptor *desc = [[MTLTextureDescriptor alloc] init];
desc.textureType = MTLTextureType2D;
desc.pixelFormat = MTLPixelFormatRGBA8Unorm;
desc.width = m_size.width();
desc.height = m_size.height();
desc.mipmapLevelCount = 1;
desc.resourceOptions = MTLResourceStorageModePrivate;
desc.storageMode = MTLStorageModePrivate;
desc.usage = MTLTextureUsageShaderRead | MTLTextureUsageRenderTarget;
m_texture = [m_device newTextureWithDescriptor: desc];
[desc release];

QSGTexture *wrapper = m_window->createTextureFromNativeObject(QQuickWindow::NativeObjectTexture,
                                                               &m_texture,
                                                               0,
                                                               m_size);

qDebug() << "Got QSGTexture wrapper" << wrapper << "for an MTLTexture of size" << m_size;
```



Key takeaways from porting the
Qt Quick Renderer onto QRhi
a.k.a.
The Seven Commandments



Porting to QRhi 1

No intermixed copy operations, state changes, and draw calls.



Porting to QRhi 2

Must collect and submit resource updates before starting to record a render or compute pass.

Qt

```
void nextFrame()
{
    QRhiResourceUpdateBatch *resourceUpdates = m_rhi->nextResourceUpdateBatch();
    if (m_initialUpdates) {
        resourceUpdates->merge(m_initialUpdates);
        m_initialUpdates->release();
        m_initialUpdates = nullptr;
    }

    QMatrix4x4 triMvp = m_triBaseMvp;
    triMvp.rotate(m_triRot, 0, 1, 0);
    resourceUpdates->updateDynamicBuffer(m_triUbuf, 0, 64, triMvp.constData());

    cb->beginPass(rt, Qt::black, { 1.0f, 0 }, resourceUpdates);
}
```



QRhi-based code path

```
// depth test stays enabled but no need to write out depth from the
// transparent (back-to-front) pass
m_gstate.depthWrite = false;

QVarLengthArray<PreparedRenderBatch, 64> alphaRenderBatches;
if (Q_LIKELY(renderAlpha)) {
    for (int i = 0, ie = m_alphaBatches.size(); i != ie; ++i) {
        Batch *b = m_alphaBatches.at(i);
        PreparedRenderBatch renderBatch;
        bool ok;
        if (b->merged)
            ok = prepareRenderMergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        else if (b->isRenderNode)
            ok = prepareRhiRenderNode(b, &renderBatch);
        else
            ok = prepareRenderUnmergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        if (ok)
            alphaRenderBatches.append(renderBatch);
    }
}

if (m_visualizer->mode() != Visualizer::VisualizeNothing)
    m_visualizer->prepareVisualize();

QRhiCommandBuffer *cb = commandBuffer();
cb->beginPass(renderTarget(), m_pstate.clearColor, m_pstate.dsClear, m_resourceUpdates);
m_resourceUpdates = nullptr;

for (int i = 0, ie = opaqueRenderBatches.count(); i != ie; ++i) {
    PreparedRenderBatch *renderBatch = &opaqueRenderBatches[i];
    if (renderBatch->batch->merged)
        renderMergedBatch(renderBatch);
    else
        renderUnmergedBatch(renderBatch);
}
```



QRhi-based code path

```
// depth test stays enabled but no need to write out depth from the
// transparent (back-to-front) pass
m_gstate.depthWrite = false;

QVarLengthArray<PreparedRenderBatch, 64> alphaRenderBatches;
if (Q_LIKELY(renderAlpha)) {
    for (int i = 0, ie = m_alphaBatches.size(); i != ie; ++i) {
        Batch *b = m_alphaBatches.at(i);
        PreparedRenderBatch renderBatch;
        bool ok;
        if (b->merged)
            ok = prepareRenderMergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        else if (b->isRenderNode)
            ok = prepareRhiRenderNode(b, &renderBatch);
        else
            ok = prepareRenderUnmergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        if (ok)
            alphaRenderBatches.append(renderBatch);
    }
}

if (m_visualizer->mode() != Visualizer::VisualizeNothing)
    m_visualizer->prepareVisualize();

QRhiCommandBuffer *cb = commandBuffer();
cb->beginPass(renderTarget(), m_pstate.clearColor, m_pstate.dsClear, m_resourceUpdates);
m_resourceUpdates = nullptr;

for (int i = 0, ie = opaqueRenderBatches.count(); i != ie; ++i) {
    PreparedRenderBatch *renderBatch = &opaqueRenderBatches[i];
    if (renderBatch->batch->merged)
        renderMergedBatch(renderBatch);
    else
        renderUnmergedBatch(renderBatch);
}
```

Prepare vertex, index,
uniform buffers,
shader res.binding and
pipeline state objects.

Materials provide
data, and only data.
(no messing with
OpenGL)



QHi-based code path

```
// depth test stays enabled but no need to write out depth from the
// transparent (back-to-front) pass
m_gstate.depthWrite = false;

QVarLengthArray<PreparedRenderBatch, 64> alphaRenderBatches;
if (Q_LIKELY(renderAlpha)) {
    for (int i = 0, ie = m_alphaBatches.size(); i != ie; ++i) {
        Batch *b = m_alphaBatches.at(i);
        PreparedRenderBatch renderBatch;
        bool ok;
        if (b->merged)
            ok = prepareRenderMergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        else if (b->isRenderNode)
            ok = prepareRhiRenderNode(b, &renderBatch);
        else
            ok = prepareRenderUnmergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        if (ok)
            alphaRenderBatches.append(renderBatch);
    }
}

if (m_visualizer->mode() != Visualizer::VisualizeNothing)
    m_visualizer->prepareVisualize();

QRhiCommandBuffer *cb = commandBuffer();
cb->beginPass(renderTarget(), m_pstate.clearColor, m_pstate.dsClear, m_resourceUpdates);
m_resourceUpdates = nullptr;

for (int i = 0, ie = opaqueRenderBatches.count(); i != ie; ++i) {
    PreparedRenderBatch *renderBatch = &opaqueRenderBatches[i];
    if (renderBatch->batch->merged)
        renderMergedBatch(renderBatch);
    else
        renderUnmergedBatch(renderBatch);
}
```

Start the renderpass,
clear color/depth/stencil.



QHi-based code path

```
// depth test stays enabled but no need to write out depth from the
// transparent (back-to-front) pass
m_gstate.depthWrite = false;

QVarLengthArray<PreparedRenderBatch, 64> alphaRenderBatches;
if (Q_LIKELY(renderAlpha)) {
    for (int i = 0, ie = m_alphaBatches.size(); i != ie; ++i) {
        Batch *b = m_alphaBatches.at(i);
        PreparedRenderBatch renderBatch;
        bool ok;
        if (b->merged)
            ok = prepareRenderMergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        else if (b->isRenderNode)
            ok = prepareRhiRenderNode(b, &renderBatch);
        else
            ok = prepareRenderUnmergedBatch(b, &renderBatch);
        if (ok)
            alphaRenderBatches.append(renderBatch);
    }
}

if (m_visualizer->mode() != Visualizer::VisualizeNothing)
    m_visualizer->prepareVisualize();

QRhiCommandBuffer *cb = commandBuffer();
cb->beginPass(renderTarget(), m_pstate.clearColor, m_pstate.dsClear, m_resourceUpdates);
m_resourceUpdates = nullptr;

for (int i = 0, ie = opaqueRenderBatches.count(); i != ie; ++i) {
    PreparedRenderBatch *renderBatch = &opaqueRenderBatches[i];
    if (renderBatch->batch->merged)
        renderMergedBatch(renderBatch);
    else
        renderUnmergedBatch(renderBatch);
}
```

Record draw calls



Porting to QRhi 3

Must create up front and then reuse resources like:

- › pipeline state objects
- › objects describing the shader resource bindings (which uniform buffers, textures, etc. are visible to which shader stages)



Porting

Must create

- › pipeline

- › object

- texture

in buffers,

```

3236     pool Renderer::ensurePipelineState(Element *e, const ShaderManager::Shader *sms) // RHI
3237     {
3238         // In unmerged batches the srbs in the elements are all compatible Layout-wise.
3239         const GraphicsPipelineStateKey k { m_gstate, sms, renderPassDescriptor(), e->srb };
3240
3241         // See if there is an existing, matching pipeline state object.
3242         auto it = m_pipelines.constFind(k);
3243         if (it != m_pipelines.constEnd()) {
3244             e->ps = *it;
3245             return true;
3246         }
3247
3248         // Build a new one. This is potentially expensive.
3249         QRhiGraphicsPipeline *ps = m_rhi->newGraphicsPipeline();
3250         ps->setShaderStages(sms->programRhi.shaderStages);
3251         ps->setVertexInputLayout(sms->programRhi.inputLayout);
3252         ps->setShaderResourceBindings(e->srb);
3253         ps->setRenderPassDescriptor(renderPassDescriptor());
3254
3255         QRhiGraphicsPipeline::Flags flags = 0;
3256         if (needsBlendConstant(m_gstate.srcColor) || needsBlendConstant(m_gstate.dstColor))
3257             flags |= QRhiGraphicsPipeline::UsesBlendConstants;
3258         if (m_gstate.usesScissor)
3259             flags |= QRhiGraphicsPipeline::UsesScissor;
3260         if (m_gstate.stencilTest)
3261             flags |= QRhiGraphicsPipeline::UsesStencilRef;
3262
3263         ps->setFlags(flags);
3264         ps->setTopology(qsg_topology(m_gstate.drawMode));
3265         ps->setCullMode(m_gstate.cullMode);
3266
3267         QRhiGraphicsPipeline::TargetBlend blend;
3268         blend.colorWrite = m_gstate.colorWrite;
3269         blend.enable = m_gstate.blending;
3270         blend.srcColor = m_gstate.srcColor;
3271         blend.dstColor = m_gstate.dstColor;

```



Porting to QRhi 4

Must declare up front certain usages of resources like textures.

Qt C qrhi_p.h QRhiTexture

```
class Q_GUI_EXPORT QRhiTexture : public QRhiResource
{
public:
    enum Flag {
        RenderTarget = 1 << 0,
        CubeMap = 1 << 2,
        MipMapped = 1 << 3,
        sRGB = 1 << 4,
        UsedAsTransferSource = 1 << 5,
        UsedWithGenerateMips = 1 << 6,
        UsedWithLoadStore = 1 << 7
    };
    Q_DECLARE_FLAGS(Flags, Flag)
```



Porting to QRhi 5

Uniform buffers. No individual uniforms.



Porting to QRhi 5

Uniform buffers. No individual uniforms.

From QRhi API perspective. Backends may not actually operate with native uniform buffers.



Porting to QRhi 5

Uniform buffers. No individual uniforms.

From QRhi API perspective. Backends may not actually operate with native uniform buffers. (hello OpenGL ES 2.0 and broken ES 3.x implementations!)

 Qt

Porting to QRhi 6

No target buffer (color/depth/stencil) clears at arbitrary times.



Port

No target

```
if (!(clipType & ClipState::StencilClip)) {
    if (!m_clipProgram.isLinked()) {
        QSGShaderSourceBuilder::initializeProgramFromFiles(
            &m_clipProgram,
            QStringLiteral(":/qt-project.org/scenegraph/shaders/stencilclip.vert"),
            QStringLiteral(":/qt-project.org/scenegraph/shaders/stencilclip.frag"));
        m_clipProgram.bindAttributeLocation("vCoord", 0);
        m_clipProgram.link();
        m_clipMatrixId = m_clipProgram.uniformLocation("matrix");
    }

    glClearStencil(0);
    glClear(GL_STENCIL_BUFFER_BIT);
    glEnable(GL_STENCIL_TEST);
    glColorMask(GL_FALSE, GL_FALSE, GL_FALSE, GL_FALSE);
    glDepthMask(GL_FALSE);

    m_clipProgram.bind();
    m_clipProgram.enableAttributeArray(0);

    clipType |= ClipState::StencilClip;
}

glStencilFunc(GL_EQUAL, m_currentStencilValue, 0xff); // stencil test, ref, test mask
glStencilOp(GL_KEEP, GL_KEEP, GL_INCR); // stencil fail, z fail, z pass

const QSGGeometry *g = clip->geometry();
Q_ASSERT(g->attributeCount() > 0);
const OSGGeometry::Attribute *a = a->attributes();
```



Port

No target

```
if (!(clipType & ClipState::StencilClip)) {
    if (!m_clipProgram.isLinked()) {
        QSGShaderSourceBuilder::initializeProgramFromFiles(
            &m_clipProgram,
            QStringLiteral(":/qt-project.org/scenegraph/shaders/stencilclip.vert"),
            QStringLiteral(":/qt-project.org/scenegraph/shaders/stencilclip.frag"));
        m_clipProgram.bindAttributeLocation("vCoord", 0);
        m_clipProgram.link();
        m_clipMatrixId = m_clipProgram.uniformLocation("matrix");
    }

    glClearStencil(0);
    glClear(GL_STENCIL_BUFFER_BIT);
    glEnable(GL_STENCIL_TEST);
    glColorMask(GL_FALSE, GL_FALSE, GL_FALSE, GL_FALSE);
    glDepthMask(GL_FALSE);

    m_clipProgram.bind();
    m_clipProgram.enableAttributeArray(0);

    clipType |= ClipState::StencilClip;
}

glStencilFunc(GL_EQUAL, m_currentStencilValue, 0xff); // stencil test, ref, test mask
glStencilOp(GL_KEEP, GL_KEEP, GL_INCR); // stencil fail, z fail, z pass

const QSGGeometry *g = clip->geometry();
Q_ASSERT(g->attributeCount() > 0);
const OSGGeometry::Attribute *a = a->attributes();
```

!#\$&^#@(*

 Qt

Porting to QRhi 7

Two buffers are good, one is better.

```
drawCall.vbufOffset = aligned(vOffset, 4);
const int vertexByteSize = g->sizeOfVertex() * g->vertexCount();
vOffset = drawCall.vbufOffset + vertexByteSize;

int indexByteSize = 0;
if (g->indexCount()) {
    drawCall.ibufOffset = aligned(iOffset, 4);
    indexByteSize = g->sizeOfIndex() * g->indexCount();
    iOffset = drawCall.ibufOffset + indexByteSize;
}

drawCall.ubufOffset = aligned(uOffset, m_ubufAlignment);
uOffset = drawCall.ubufOffset + StencilClipUbufSize;

QMatrix4x4 matrixYUpNDC = m_current_projection_matrix;
if (clip->matrix())
    matrixYUpNDC *= *clip->matrix();

m_resourceUpdates->updateDynamicBuffer(batch->stencilClipState.ubuf,
                                             drawCall.ubufOffset, 64, matrixYUpNDC.constData());
m_resourceUpdates->updateDynamicBuffer(batch->stencilClipState.vbuf,
                                             drawCall.vbufOffset, vertexByteSize, g->vertexData());
if (indexByteSize)
    m_resourceUpdates->updateDynamicBuffer(batch->stencilClipState.ibuf,
                                             drawCall.ibufOffset, indexByteSize, g->indexData());
```

Qt

Consequence

Typically, a **render** step becomes **prepare + render**.

Consequence

- › Prepare: Gather all data (geometry, pipeline states, shader res.) needed for the current frame, enqueue buffer (vertex, index, uniform) and texture resource updates.
- › Render: start the pass, record binding ia/shader/pipeline stuff, record draw call, change bindings if needed, record draw call, ..., end pass.
- › Submit and present.

Thank You

- <https://doc-snapshots.qt.io/qt5-dev/qtquick-visualcanvas-scenegraph-renderer.html#rendering-via-the-qt-rendering-hardware-interface>
- <https://www.qt.io/blog/qt-quick-on-vulkan-metal-direct3d>
- <https://www.qt.io/blog/qt-quick-on-vulkan-metal-and-direct3d-part-2>
- <https://www.qt.io/blog/qt-quick-on-vulkan-metal-and-direct3d-part-3>