

Vimba C Manual

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Listings

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2	Open Camera
3	Close Camera
4	Get Features
5	Reading a camera feature
6	Writing features and running command features
7	Streaming
8	Getting notified about camera list changes
9	Getting notified about feature changes
10	Getting notified about camera events
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2 Introduction

2.1 Document history

Version	Date	Changes	
1.0	2012-11-15	Initial version	
1.1	2013-02-22	Different links, small changes	
1.2	2013-06-18	Small corrections, layout changes	
1.3	2014-07-10	Added function reference, re-structured and improved texts	
1.4	2015-11-10	Added USB compatibility, renamed several Vimba components and documents	
		("AVT" no longer in use), links to new Allied Vision website	

2.2 Conventions used in this manual

To give this manual an easily understood layout and to emphasize important information, the following typographical styles and symbols are used:

2.2.1 Styles

Style	Function	Example
Bold	Programs, inputs or highlighting important things	bold
Courier	Code listings etc.	Input
Upper case	Constants	CONSTANT
Italics	Modes, fields, features	Mode
Blue and/or parentheses	Links	(Link)

2.2.2 Symbols

Note



This symbol highlights important information.

Caution



This symbol highlights important instructions. You have to follow these instructions to avoid malfunctions.

www



This symbol highlights URLs for further information. The URL itself is shown in blue

Example: http://www.alliedvision.com



3 General aspects of the API

The purpose of Vimba's APIs is to enable programmers to interact with Allied Vision cameras independent of the interface technology (1394, Gigabit Ethernet, USB). To achieve this, Vimba API utilizes GenICam transport layer modules to connect to the various camera interfaces and is therefore generic in terms of camera interfaces.

For accessing functionality of either Vimba or the connected cameras, you have two ways of control: the fixed set of API functions on the one hand and on the other hand using GenICam Features by calling functions like e.g. VmbFeatureXXXSet or VmbFeatureXXXGet on entities like Vimba or the cameras.

This manual mainly deals with the API functions.

Note



The Vimba Manual contains a description of the API concepts.

Note

Features are listed in the following documents:



- GigE Features Reference (GigE camera features)
- USB Features Reference (USB camera features)
- Vimba 1394 TL Features Manual (1394 camera and TL features)
- Vimba Features Manual (Vimba System features)



The latest GigE and USB Features Manuals are available from: http://www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation.html

4 API usage

4.1 API Version

Even if new features are introduced to Vimba C API, your software remains backward compatible. Use VmbVersionQuery to check the version number of Vimba C API.

4.2 API Startup and Shutdown

In order to start and shut down Vimba API, use these paired functions:

- VmbStartup initializes Vimba API.
- VmbShutdown shuts down Vimba API (as soon as all callbacks are finished).

VmbStartup and VmbShutdown must always be paired. Calling the pair several times within the same program is possible, but not recommended. Only VmbVersionQuery can be run without initializing Vimba API. In order to free resources, shut down Vimba API when you don't use it.



4.3 Listing available cameras

Note



For a guick start, see ListCameras example of the Vimba SDK.

VmbCamerasList enumerates all cameras recognized by the underlying transport layers. With this command, the programmer can fetch all static details of a camera such as:

- Camera ID
- Camera model
- Name or ID of the connected interface (for example, the network or 1394 adapter)

GigE cameras:

Listing cameras over the network is a two-step process:

- 1. To enable camera discovery events, run one of the following commands:
 - GeVDiscoveryAllOnce discovers all connected cameras once.
 - GeVDiscoveryAllAuto continually emits discovery packets and thus constantly consumes bandwidth. Use it only if you need to stay aware of changes to your network structure and new cameras.

Both commands require a certain amount of time (GeVDiscoveryAllDuration) before returning.

2. To stop the camera discovery, run command GeVDiscoveryAllOff.

USB and 1394 cameras:

Changes to the plugged cameras are detected automatically. Consequently, any changes to the camera list are announced via discovery event.

All listed commands are applied to all network interfaces, see the example Listing 1.

Listing 1: Get Cameras

```
bool bGigE;
1
    VmbUint32_t nCount;
2
    VmbCameraInfo_t *pCameras;
    // We ask Vimba for the presence of a GigE transport layer
    VmbError_t err = VmbFeatureBoolGet( gVimbaHandle, "GeVTLIsPresent", &bGigE );
    if ( VmbErrorSuccess == err )
8
        if ( true == bGigE )
9
        {
10
            // We use all network interfaces using the global Vimba handle
11
            err = VmbFeatureCommandRun( gVimbaHandle, "GeVDiscoveryAllOnce" );
12
13
    }
14
   if ( VmbErrorSuccess == err )
15
16
        // Get the number of connected cameras
17
        err = VmbCamerasList( NULL, 0, &nCount, sizeof *pCameras );
18
        if ( VmbErrorSuccess == err )
19
        {
20
```



```
// Allocate accordingly
pCameras = new VmbCameraInfo_t[ nCount ];
// Get the cameras
err = VmbCamerasList( pCameras, nCount, &nCount, sizeof *pCameras );
// Print out each camera's name
for ( VmbUint32_t i=0; i<nCount; ++i )
{
    printf( " %s\n", pCameras[i].cameraName );
}
</pre>
```

Struct VmbCameraInfo_t provides the entries listed in Table 1 for obtaining information about a camera.

Struct Entry	Purpose
const char* cameraIdString	The unique ID
const char* cameraName	The name
const char* modelName	The model name
const char* serialString	The serial number
VmbAccessMode_t permittedAccess	The mode to open the camera
const char* interfaceIdString	The ID of the interface the camera is connected to

Table 1: Struct VmbCameraInfo_t

Enable notifications of changed camera states

To get notified whenever a camera is detected, disconnected, or changes its open state:

- Run command feature GeVDiscoveryAllAuto on the System entity (GigE cameras only).
- Use VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister to register a callback with the Vimba System that gets executed on the according event. The function pointer to the callback function has to be of type VmbInvalidationCallback*.

Note



VmbShutdown blocks until all callbacks have finished execution.

Caution





- VmbShutdown
- VmbFeatureIntSet (and any other VmbFeature*Set function)

Functions that must **not** be called within the camera notification callback:

• VmbFeatureCommandRun



4.4 Opening and closing a camera

A camera must be opened to control it and to capture images.

Call VmbCameraOpen and provide the ID of the camera as well as the desired access mode.

Vimba API provides several access modes:

- VmbAccessModeFull read and write access. Use this mode to configure the camera features and to acquire images
- VmbAccessModeConfig enables configuring the IP address of your GigE camera
- VmbAccessModeRead read-only access.

When a camera has been opened successfully, a handle for further access is returned.

An example for **opening a camera** retrieved from the camera list is shown in Listing 2.

Listing 2: Open Camera

Listing 3 shows how to close a camera using VmbCameraClose and the previously retrieved handle.

Listing 3: Close Camera

```
if ( VmbErrorSuccess == VmbCameraClose( hCamera ) )
{
    printf( "Camera closed.\n" );
}
```



4.5 Accessing Features

Note



For a quick start, see ListFeatures example of the Vimba SDK.

GenICam-compliant features control and monitor various aspects of the drivers and cameras. For more details on camera and Vimba features, see (if installed):

- GigE Features Reference (GigE camera features)
- USB Features Reference (USB camera features)
- Vimba 1394 TL Features Manual (1394 camera and TL features)
- Vimba Features Manual (Vimba System features)

Vimba API provides several feature types, which all have their specific properties and functionalities, as shown in Table 2.

As shown in Table 2, Vimba API provides its own set of access functions for every feature data type. The static properties of a feature are held in struct VmbFeatureInfo_t as listed in Table 3. It may be filled by calling VmbFeatureInfoQuery for an individual feature, or by calling VmbFeaturesList for the whole list of features. Since not all features are available all the time, it is necessary to query their current accessibility by calling function VmbFeatureAccessQuery.

To query all available features of a camera, use VmbFeaturesList. This list does not change while the camera is opened as shown in Listing 4.

Listing 4: Get Features

```
VmbFeatureInfo_t *pFeatures;
1
    VmbUint32_t nCount = 0;
2
    VmbHandle_t hCamera;
3
    // Open the camera as shown in chapter "Opening a camera"
    // Get the number of features
7
    VmbError_t err = VmbFeaturesList( hCamera, NULL, 0, &nCount, sizeof *pFeatures );
8
9
    if ( VmbErrorSuccess == err && 0 < nCount )</pre>
10
11
        // Allocate accordingly
12
        pFeatures = new VmbFeatureInfo_t[ nCount ];
13
14
        // Get the features
15
        err = VmbFeaturesList( hCamera, pFeatures, nCount, &nCount,
16
                                   sizeof *pFeatures );
17
18
        // Print out their name and data type
19
        for ( int i=0; i<nCount; ++i )</pre>
20
21
             printf("Feature '%s' of type: %d\n", pFeatures[i].name,
22
                                                     pFeatures[i].featureDataType);
23
        }
24
    }
25
```



Feature Type	Operation	Function			
Enumeration	Set	VmbFeatureEnumSet			
	Get	VmbFeatureEnumGet			
	Range	VmbFeatureEnumRangeQuery			
		VmbFeatureEnumIsAvailable			
		VmbFeatureEnumAsInt			
		VmbFeatureEnumAsString			
	0ther	VmbFeatureEnumEntryGet			
Integer	Set	VmbFeatureIntSet			
	Get	VmbFeatureIntGet			
	Range	VmbFeatureIntRangeQuery			
	0ther	VmbFeatureIntIncrementQuery			
Float	Set	VmbFeatureFloatSet			
	Get	VmbFeatureFloatGet			
String	Set	VmbFeatureStringSet			
	Get	VmbFeatureStringGet			
	Range	${\tt VmbFeatureStringMaxlengthQuery}$			
Boolean	Set	VmbFeatureBoolSet			
	Get	VmbFeatureBoolGet			
Command	Set	VmbFeatureCommandRun			
	Get	VmbFeatureCommandIsDone			
Raw data	Set	VmbFeatureRawSet			
	Get	VmbFeatureRawGet			
	Range	VmbFeatureRawLengthQuery			

Table 2: Feature types and functions for reading and writing them

For an example of **reading a camera feature**, see Listing 5.

Listing 5: Reading a camera feature

```
1  VmbHandle_t hCamera;
2
3  // Open the camera as shown in chapter "Opening a camera"
4
5  VmbInt64_t nWidth;
6
7  if ( VmbErrorSuccess == VmbFeatureIntGet( hCamera, "Width", &nWidth ))
8  {
9     printf("Width: %ld\n", nPayloadSize);
10  }
```

As an example for writing features to a camera and running a command feature, see Listing 6.

Listing 6: Writing features and running command features

```
1 VmbHandle_t hCamera;
```



Struct entry	Purpose
const char* name	Name used in the API
VmbFeatureData_t featureDataType	Data type of this feature
VmbFeatureFlags_t featureFlags	Access flags for this feature
const char* category	Category this feature can be found in
const char* displayName	Feature name to be used in GUIs
VmbUint32_t pollingTime	Predefined polling time for volatile features
const char* unit	Measuring unit as given in the XML file
const char* representation	Representation of a numeric feature
VmbFeatureVisibility_t visibility	GUI visibility
const char* tooltip	Short description, e.g. for a tooltip
const char* description	Longer description
const char* sfncNamespace	Namespace this feature resides in
VmbBool_t isStreamable	Indicates if a feature can be stored to or loaded from a file
VmbBool_t hasAffectedFeatures	Indicates if the feature potentially affects other features
VmbBool_t hasSelectedFeatures	Indicates if the feature selects other features

Table 3: Struct VmbFeatureInfo_t

Table 4 introduces the **basic features of all cameras**. A feature has a name, a type, and access flags such as read-permitted and write-permitted.

To **get notified whenever a feature's value changes**, use VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister to register a callback that gets executed on the according event. For camera features, use the camera handle for registration. The function pointer to the callback function has to be of type VmbInvalidationCallback*.

Note



VmbShutdown only returns after all callbacks have finished execution.

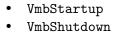


Feature	Туре	Access Flags	Description
AcquisitionMode	Enumeration	R/W	The acquisition mode of the camera. Value set: Continuous, SingleFrame, MultiFrame.
AcquisitionStart	Command		Start acquiring images.
AcquisitionStop	Command		Stop acquiring images.
PixelFormat	Enumeration	R/W	The image format. Possible values are e.g.: Mono8, RGB8Packed, YUV411Packed, BayerRG8,
Width	Uint32	R/W	Image width, in pixels.
Height	Uint32	R/W	Image height, in pixels.
PayloadSize	Uint32	R	Number of bytes in the camera payload, including the image.

Table 4: Basic features found on all cameras

Caution

Functions that must **not** be called within a feature invalidation callback:

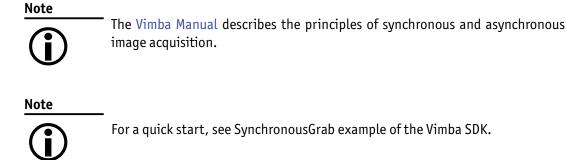




- VmbFeatureIntSet (and any other VmbFeature*Set function)
- VmbFeatureCommandRun



4.6 Image Capture (API) and Acquisition (Camera)



4.6.1 Image Capture and Image Acquisition

Image capture and image acquisition are two independent operations: **Vimba API captures** images, the **camera acquires** images.

To obtain an image from your camera, setup Vimba API to capture images before starting the acquisition on the camera:

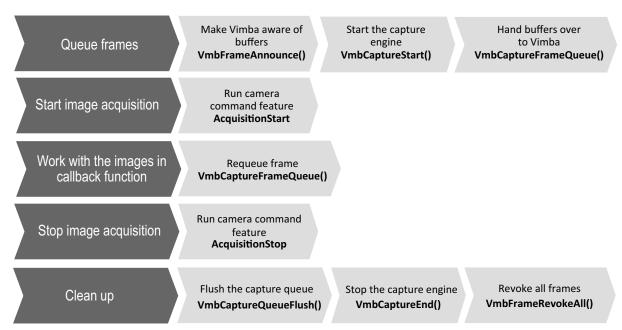


Figure 1: Typical asynchronous application using Vimba C



4.6.2 Image Capture

Note



The bracketed tokens in this chapter refer to Listing 7.

To enable image capture, frame buffers must be allocated and the API must be prepared for incoming frames:

To capture images sent by the camera, follow these steps:

- 1. Open the camera as described in chapter Opening and closing a camera
- 2. Query the necessary buffer size through the feature *PayloadSize* (A). Allocate frame buffers of this size (B).
- 3. Announce the frame buffers (1).
- 4. Start the capture engine (2).
- 5. Queue the frame you have just created with VmbCaptureFrameQueue, so that the buffer can be filled when the acquisition has started (3).
 - The API is now ready. Start and stop image acquisition on the camera as described in chapter Image Acquisition. How you proceed depends on the acquisition model you need:
 - **Synchronous:** Use VmbCaptureFrameWait to receive an image frame while blocking your execution thread.
 - **Asynchronous:** Register a callback (C) that gets executed when capturing is complete. Use the camera handle for registration. The function pointer to the callback function has to be of type VmbFrameCallback*. Within the callback routine, queue the frame again after you have processed it.
- 6. Call VmbCaptureQueueFlush to cancel all frames on the queue.
- 7. Stop the capture engine with VmbCaptureEnd.
- 8. Revoke the frames with VmbFrameRevokeAll to clear the buffers.

To assure correct continuous image capture, queue at least two or three frames. The appropriate number of frames to be queued in your application depends on the frames per second the camera delivers and on the speed with which you are able to re-queue frames (also taking into consideration the operating system load). The image frames are filled in the same order in which they were queued.



Note



Always check that VmbFrame_t.receiveStatus equals VmbFrameStatusComplete when a frame is returned to ensure the data is valid.

Functions that must **not** be called within the Frame callback routine.

- VmbStartup
- VmbShutdown

Caution

- VmbCameraOpen
- VmbCameraClose
- VmbFrameAnnounce
- VmbFrameRevoke
- VmbFrameRevokeAll
- VmbCaptureStart
- VmbCaptureStop

4.6.3 Image Acquisition

As soon as the API is prepared (see chapter Image Capture), you can start image acquisition on your camera:

- 1. Set the feature Acquisition Mode (e.g. to Continuous).
- 2. Run the command AcquisitionStart (4).

To stop image acquisition, run command AcquisitionStop.

Listing 7 shows a **simplified streaming example** (without error handling).

Listing 7: Streaming

```
#define FRAME_COUNT 3
                                      // We choose to use 3 frames
    VmbError_t err;
                                      \ensuremath{//} Vimba functions return an error code that the
                                      // programmer should check for VmbErrorSuccess
    VmbHandle_t hCamera
                                     // A handle to our opened camera
    VmbFrame_t frames[FRAME_COUNT]; // A list of frames for streaming
    VmbUInt64_t nPLS;
                                      // The payload size of one frame
    // The callback that gets executed on every filled frame
8
    void VMB_CALL FrameDoneCallback( const VmbHandle_t hCamera, VmbFrame_t *pFrame )
9
10
        if ( VmbFrameStatusComplete == pFrame->receiveStatus )
11
12
        {
            printf( "Frame successfully received\n");
13
        }
15
        else
16
        {
            printf( "Error receiving frame\n" );
17
18
        VmbCaptureFrameQueue( hCamera, pFrame, FrameDoneCallback );
19
    }
20
21
    // Get all known cameras as described in chapter "List available cameras"
```



```
// and open the camera as shown in chapter "Opening a camera"
   // Get the required size for one image
    err = VmbFeatureIntGet( hCamera, "PayloadSize", &nPLS );
                                                                                   (A)
   for ( int i=0; i<FRAME_COUNT; ++i )</pre>
28
        // Allocate accordingly
29
        frames[i].buffer = new char[ nPLS ];
                                                                                   (B)
30
31
        frames[i].bufferSize = nPLS;
                                                                                   (B)
        // Anounce the frame
        VmbFrameAnnounce( hCamera, frames[i], sizeof(VmbFrame_t) );
33
                                                                                   (1)
34
35
   // Start capture engine on the host
36
    err = VmbCaptureStart( hCamera );
                                                                                   (2)
37
   // Queue frames and register callback
39
   for ( int i=0; i<FRAME_COUNT; ++i )</pre>
40
41
42
        VmbCaptureFrameQueue( hCamera, frames[i],
                                                                                   (3)
43
                                 FrameDoneCallback );
                                                                                   (C)
    }
   // Start acquisition on the camera
   err = VmbFeatureCommandRun( hCamera, "AcquisitionStart" );
                                                                                   (4)
```



4.7 Using Events

Events serve many purposes and can have several origins, e.g. generic camera events or just feature changes.

All of these cases are handled in Vimba C uniformly with the same mechanism: You simply register a notification callback with VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister for the feature of your choice which gets called when there is a change to that feature.

Three examples are listed in this chapter:

- Camera list notifications
- Camera event features
- Tracking invalidations of features

See Listing 8 for an example of being notified about **camera list changes**. (For more details about System features see the Vimba Features Manual)

Listing 8: Getting notified about camera list changes

```
// 1. define callback function
                   void VMB_CALL CameraListCB(VmbHandle_t handle, const char* name, void* context)
   2
   3
                                        char cameraName[255];
   6
                                       VmbFeatureStringGet( handle, "DiscoveryCameraIdent", cameraName);
   7
                                       printf( "Event was fired by camera %s\n", cameraName );
                   }
   8
  9
                   // 2. register the callback for that event
10
                    {\tt VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister(\ gVimbaHandle,\ "DiscoveryCameraEvent",\ and the property of the property
11
                                                                                                                                                                                 CameraListCB, NULL);
12
13
                    // 3. for GigE cameras, invoke "GeVDiscoveryAllOnce"
14
                    VmbFeatureCommandRun( gVimbaHandle, "GeVDiscoveryAllOnce");
```

See Listing 9 for an example of being notified about **feature changes**.

Listing 9: Getting notified about feature changes

```
// 1. define callback function
void VMB_CALL WidthChangeCB(VmbHandle_t handle, const char* name, void* context)
{
    printf( "Feature changed: %s\n", name );
}

// 2. register callback for changes to Width
VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister( cameraHandle, "Width", WidthChangeCB, NULL);

// as an example, binning is changed, so the callback will be run
VmbFeatureIntegerSet( cameraHandle, "Binning", 4);
```

Camera events are also handled with the same mechanism of feature invalidation. See Listing 10 for an example. For more details about camera events, see (if installed):

- GigE Features Reference (GigE camera features)
- USB Features Reference (USB camera features)



- Vimba 1394 TL Features Manual (1394 camera and TL features)
- Vimba Features Manual (Vimba System features)

Listing 10: Getting notified about camera events

```
// 1. define callback function
   void VMB_CALL EventCB(VmbHandle_t handle, const char* name, void* context)
      printf( "Event was fired: %s\n", name );
   // 2. select "AcquisitionStart" event
   VmbFeatureStringSet( cameraHandle, "EventSelector", "AcquisitionStart");
10
   // 3. switch on the event notification
   VmbFeatureEnumSet (cameraHandle, "EventNotification", "On");
11
12
   // 4. register the callback for that event
13
   14
                               EventCB, NULL);
15
```



Additional configuration: Listing Interfaces

VmbInterfacesList enumerates all Interfaces (GigE, USB, or 1394 adapters) recognized by the underlying transport layers.

See Listing 11 for an example.

Listing 11: Get Interfaces

```
VmbUint32_t nCount;
    VmbInterfaceInfo_t *pInterfaces;
    // Get the number of connected interfaces
    VmbInterfacesList( NULL, 0, &nCount, sizeof *pInterfaces );
    // Allocate accordingly
    pInterfaces = new VmbInterfaceInfo_t[ nCount ];
    // Get the interfaces
10
    VmbInterfacesList( pCameras, nCount, &nCount, sizeof *pInterfaces );
```

Struct VmbInterfaceInfo_t provides the information about an interface as listed in Table 5.

Struct entry	Purpose
const char* interfaceIdString	The unique ID
VmbInterface_t interfaceType	The camera interface type
const char* interfaceName	The name
const char* serialString	The serial number (not in use)
VmbAccessMode_t permittedAccess	The mode to open the interface

Table 5: Struct VmbInterfaceInfo_t

To get notified whenever an interface is detected or disconnected, use

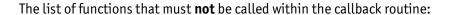
VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister to register a callback that gets executed on the according event. Use the global Vimba handle for registration. The function pointer to the callback function has to be of type VmbInvalidationCallback*.

Note



VmbShutdown blocks until all callbacks have finished execution.

Caution





VmbStartup

- VmbShutdown
- VmbFeatureIntSet (and any other VmbFeature*Set function)
- VmbFeatureCommandRun



4.9 Troubleshooting

4.9.1 GigE cameras

Make sure to set the *PacketSize* feature of GigE cameras to a value supported by your network card. If you use more than one camera on one interface, the available bandwidth has to be shared between the cameras.

- GVSPAdjustPacketSize configures GigE cameras to use the largest possible packets.
- StreamBytesPerSecond enables to configure the individual bandwidth if multiple cameras are used.
- The maximum packet size might not be available on all connected cameras. Try to reduce the packet size.

Further readings:

The GigE Installation Manual provides detailed information on how to configure your system.

4.9.2 USB cameras

Under Windows, make sure the correct driver is applied. For more details, see Vimba Manual, chapter Vimba Driver Installer.

In order to achieve best performance, see the technical manual of your USB camera, chapter Troubleshooting:

http://www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation.html



4.10 Error Codes

All Vimba API functions return an error code of type VmbErrorType.

Typical errors are listed with each function in chapter Function reference. However, any of the error codes listed in Table 6 might be returned.

Error Code	Value	Description	
VmbErrorSuccess	0	No error	
VmbErrorInternalFault	-1	Unexpected fault in Vimba or driver	
VmbErrorApiNotStarted	-2	VmbStartup was not called before the current command	
VmbErrorNotFound	-3	The designated instance (camera, feature etc.) cannot be found	
VmbErrorBadHandle	-4	The given handle is not valid	
VmbErrorDeviceNotOpen	-5	Device was not opened for usage	
VmbErrorInvalidAccess	-6	Operation is invalid with the current access mode	
VmbErrorBadParameter	-7	One of the parameters is invalid (usually an illegal pointer)	
VmbErrorStructSize	-8	The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API	
VmbErrorMoreData	-9	More data available in a string/list than space is provided	
VmbErrorWrongType	-10	Wrong feature type for this access function	
VmbErrorInvalidValue	-11	The value is not valid; either out of bounds or not an increment of the minimum	
VmbErrorTimeout	-12	Timeout during wait	
VmbErrorOther	-13	Other error	
VmbErrorResources	-14	Resources not available (e.g. memory)	
VmbErrorInvalidCall	-15	Call is invalid in the current context (e.g. callback)	
VmbErrorNoTL	-16	No transport layers are found	
VmbErrorNotImplemented	-17	API feature is not implemented	
VmbErrorNotSupported	-18	API feature is not supported	
VmbErrorIncomplete	-19	A multiple registers read or write is partially completed	

Table 6: Error codes returned by Vimba



5 Function reference

In this chapter, you can find a complete list of all methods that are described in VimbaC.h.

All function and type definitions are designed to be platform-independent and portable from other languages.

General conventions:

- Method names are composed in the following manner:
 - Vmb"Action". Example: VmbStartup()
 - Vmb"Entity""Action". Example: VmbInterfaceOpen()
 - Vmb"ActionTarget""Action". Example: VmbFeaturesList()
 - Vmb"Entity""SubEntity""Action". Example: VmbFeatureCommandRun()
- Methods dealing with features, memory, or registers accept a handle from the following entity list as first parameter: System, Camera, Interface, and AncillaryData. All other methods taking handles accept only a specific handle.
- Strings (generally declared as "const char *") are assumed to have a trailing 0 character.
- All pointer parameters should of course be valid, except if stated otherwise.
- To ensure compatibility with older programs linked against a former version of the API, all struct* parameters have an accompanying sizeofstruct parameter.
- Functions returning lists are usually called twice: once with a zero buffer to get the length of the list, and then again with a buffer of the correct length.

Methods in this chapter are always described in the same way:

- The caption states the name of the function without parameters
- The first item is a brief description
- The parameters of the function are listed in a table (with type, name, and description)
- The return values are listed
- Finally, a more detailed description about the function is given



5.1 Callbacks

5.1.1 VmbInvalidationCallback

Invalidation Callback type for a function that gets called in a separate thread and has been registered with VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister()

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
in	void*	pUserContext	Pointer to the user context, see VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister

Note



While the callback is run, all feature data is atomic. After the callback finishes, the feature data might be updated with new values.

Caution



Do not spend too much time in this thread; it will prevent the feature values from being updated from any other thread or the lower-level drivers.

5.1.2 VmbFrameCallback

Frame Callback type for a function that gets called in a separate thread if a frame has been queued with VmbCaptureFrameQueue()

	Туре	Name	Description
i	onst VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle of the camera
ou	t VmbFrame_t*	pFrame	Frame completed



5.2 API Version

5.2.1 VmbVersionQuery()

Retrieve the version number of VimbaC.

	Туре	Name	Description
out	VmbVersionInfo_t*	pVersionInfo	Pointer to the struct where version information is copied
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofVersionInfo	Size of structure in bytes

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API
- VmbErrorBadParameter: "pVersionInfo" is NULL.

Note



This function can be called at anytime, even before the API is initialized. All other version numbers may be queried via feature access.



5.3 API Initialization

5.3.1 VmbStartup()

Initialize the VimbaC API.

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorInternalFault: An internal fault occurred

Note



On successful return, the API is initialized; this is a necessary call.

Caution



This method must be called before any VimbaC function other than VmbVersion-Query() is run.

5.3.2 VmbShutdown()

Perform a shutdown on the API.

Note



This will free some resources and deallocate all physical resources if applicable.



5.4 Camera Enumeration & Information

5.4.1 VmbCamerasList()

Retrieve a list of all cameras.

	Туре	Name	Description
out	VmbCameraInfo_t*	pCameraInfo	Array of VmbCameraInfo_t, allocated by the caller. The camera list is copied here. May be NULL if pNum-Found is used for size query.
in	VmbUint32_t	listLength	Number of VmbCameraInfo_t elements provided
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumFound	Number of VmbCameraInfo_t elements found.
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofCameraInfo	Size of the structure (if pCameraInfo == NULL this parameter is ignored)

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this API version
- VmbErrorMoreData: The given list length was insufficient to hold all available entries
- VmbErrorBadParameter: The pNumFound parameter was NULL

Note



Camera detection is started with the registration of the "DiscoveryCameraEvent" event or the first call of VmbCamerasList(), which may be delayed if no "DiscoveryCameraEvent" event is registered (see examples). VmbCamerasList() is usually called twice: once with an empty array to query the list length, and then again with an array of the correct length. If camera lists change between the calls, pNumFound may deviate from the query return.

5.4.2 VmbCameraInfoQuery()

Retrieve information on a camera given by an ID.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const char*	idString	ID of the camera
out	VmbCameraInfo_t*	pInfo	Structure where information will be copied. May be NULL.
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofCameraInfo	Size of the structure

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorNotFound: The designated camera cannot be found
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this API version
- VmbErrorBadParameter: idString was NULL

Note



May be called if a camera has not been opened by the application yet. Examples for "idString": "DEV_81237473991" for an ID given by a transport layer, "169.254.12.13" for an IP address, "000F314C4BE5" for a MAC address or "1234567890" for a plain serial number.



5.4.3 VmbCameraOpen()

Open the specified camera.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const char*	idString	ID of the camera
in	VmbAccessMode_t	accessMode	Determines the level of control you have on the camera
out	VmbHandle_t*	pCameraHandle	A camera handle

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorNotFound: The designated camera cannot be found

• **VmbErrorInvalidAccess:** Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• VmbErrorInvalidCall: if called from frame callback

• VmbErrorBadParameter: if idString or pCameraHandle is NULL



A camera may be opened in a specific access mode, which determines the level of control you have on a camera. Examples for "idString": "DEV_81237473991" for an ID given by a transport layer, "169.254.12.13" for an IP address, "000F314C4BE5" for a MAC address or "1234567890" for a plain serial number.

5.4.4 VmbCameraClose()

Close the specified camera.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	A valid camera handle

VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback

Note



Depending on the access mode this camera was opened with, events are killed, callbacks are unregistered, and camera control is released.



5.5 Features

5.5.1 VmbFeaturesList()

List all the features for this entity.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
out	VmbFeatureInfo_t*	pFeatureInfoList	An array of VmbFeatureInfo_t to be filled by the API. May be NULL if pNumFund is used for size query.
in	VmbUint32_t	listLength	Number of VmbFeatureInfo_t elements provided
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumFound	Number of VmbFeatureInfo_t elements found. May be NULL if pFeatureInfoList is not NULL.
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofFeatureInfo	Size of a VmbFeatureInfo_t entry

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size of VmbFeatureInfo_t is not valid for this version of the API
- VmbErrorMoreData: The given list length was insufficient to hold all available entries





This method lists all implemented features, whether they are currently available or not. The list of features does not change as long as the camera/interface is connected. "pNumFound" returns the number of VmbFeatureInfo elements. This function is usually called twice: once with an empty list to query the length of the list, and then again with an list of the correct length.

5.5.2 VmbFeatureInfoQuery()

Query information about the constant properties of a feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	VmbFeatureInfo_t*	pFeatureInfo	The feature info to query
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofFeatureInfo	Size of the structure

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API



Note



Users provide a pointer to VmbFeatureInfo_t, which is then set to the internal representation.

5.5.3 VmbFeatureListAffected()

List all the features that might be affected by changes to this feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	VmbFeatureInfo_t*	pFeatureInfoList	An array of VmbFeatureInfo_t to be filled by the API. May be NULL if pNumFound is used for size query.
in	VmbUint32_t	listLength	Number of VmbFeatureInfo_t elements provided
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumFound	Number of VmbFeatureInfo_t elements found. May be NULL is pFeatureInfoList is not NULL.
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofFeatureInfo	Size of a VmbFeatureInfo_t entry

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size of VmbFeatureInfo_t is not valid for this version of the API
- VmbErrorMoreData: The given list length was insufficient to hold all available entries

Note



This method lists all affected features, whether they are currently available or not. The value of affected features depends directly or indirectly on this feature (including all selected features). The list of features does not change as long as the camera/interface is connected. This function is usually called twice: once with an empty array to query the length of the list, and then again with an array of the correct length.

5.5.4 VmbFeatureListSelected()

List all the features selected by a given feature for this module.



	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	VmbFeatureInfo_t*	pFeatureInfoList	An array of VmbFeatureInfo_t to be filled by the API. May be NULL if pNumFound is used for size query.
in	VmbUint32_t	listLength	Number of VmbFeatureInfo_t elements provided
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumFound	Number of VmbFeatureInfo_t elements found. May be NULL if pFeatureInfoList is not NULL.
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofFeatureInfo	Size of a VmbFeatureInfo_t entry

VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API

• VmbErrorMoreData: The given list length was insufficient to hold all available entries

Note



This method lists all selected features, whether they are currently available or not. Features with selected features ("selectors") have no direct impact on the camera, but only influence the register address that selected features point to. The list of features does not change while the camera/interface is connected. This function is usually called twice: once with an empty array to query the length of the list, and then again with an array of the correct length.

5.5.5 VmbFeatureAccessQuery()

Return the dynamic read and write capabilities of this feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features.
in	const char *	name	Name of the feature.
out	VmbBool_t *	pIsReadable	Indicates if this feature is readable. May be NULL.
out	VmbBool_t *	pIsWriteable	Indicates if this feature is writable. May be NULL.

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• **VmbErrorInvalidAccess:** Operation is invalid with the current access mode

VmbErrorBadParameter: pIsReadable and pIsWriteable were both NULL

VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found

Note



The access mode of a feature may change. For example, if "PacketSize" is locked while image data is streamed, it is only readable.



5.6 Integer

5.6.1 VmbFeatureIntGet()

Get the value of an integer feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	VmbInt64_t*	pValue	Value to get

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Integer
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pValue is NULL

5.6.2 VmbFeatureIntSet()

Set the value of an integer feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
in	VmbInt64_t	value	Value to set

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Integer
- VmbErrorInvalidValue: "value" is either out of bounds or not an increment of the minimum
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name is NULL
- VmbErrorNotFound: If the feature was not found
- VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback

5.6.3 VmbFeatureIntRangeQuery()

Query the range of an integer feature.



	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	VmbInt64_t*	pMin	Minimum value to be returned. May be NULL.
out	VmbInt64_t*	рМах	Maximum value to be returned. May be NULL.

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name is NULL or pMin and pMax are NULL
- VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Integer
- VmbErrorNotFound: If the feature was not found

5.6.4 VmbFeatureIntIncrementQuery()

Query the increment of an integer feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	VmbInt64_t*	pValue	Value of the increment to get.

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Integer
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: IF name or pValue is NULL



5.7 Float

5.7.1 VmbFeatureFloatGet()

Get the value of a float feature.

	Type Name I		Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	double*	pValue	Value to get

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Float
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pValue is NULL
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found

5.7.2 VmbFeatureFloatSet()

Set the value of a float feature.

	Туре	Name	Description	
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features	
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature	
in	double	value	Value to set	

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Float
- VmbErrorInvalidValue: "value" is not within valid bounds
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name is NULL
- VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback

5.7.3 VmbFeatureFloatRangeQuery()

Query the range of a float feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	double*	pMin	Minimum value to be returned. May be NULL.
out	double*	рМах	Maximum value to be returned. May be NULL.



• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Float

• VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found

• VmbBadParameter: If name is NULL or pMin and pMax are NULL

Note



Only one of the values may be queried if the other parameter is set to NULL, but if both parameters are NULL, an error is returned.

5.7.4 VmbFeatureFloatIncrementQuery()

Query the increment of an float feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	double*	pValue	Value of the increment to get.

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Integer

• VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found

• VmbErrorBadParameter: IF name or pValue is NULL



5.8 Enum

5.8.1 VmbFeatureEnumGet()

Get the value of an enumeration feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	const char**	pValue	The current enumeration value. The returned value is a reference to the API value

- **VmbErrorSuccess:** If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: if name or pValue is NULL

5.8.2 VmbFeatureEnumSet()

Set the value of an enumeration feature.

	Туре	Name	Description	
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features	
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature	
in	const char*	value	Value to set	

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration
- VmbErrorInvalidValue: "value" is not within valid bounds
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name ore value is NULL
- VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback

5.8.3 VmbFeatureEnumRangeQuery()

Query the value range of an enumeration feature.



	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
out	const char*	const*	pNameArray An Array of enumeration value names may be NULL if pNumFilled is used for size query
in	VmbUint32_t	arrayLength	Number of elements in the array
out	VmbUint32_t *	pNumFilled	Number of filled elements my be NULL if pNameArray is not NULL

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorMoreData: The given array length was insufficient to hold all available entries
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: if name is NULL or pNameArray and pNumFilled are NULL

5.8.4 VmbFeatureEnumIsAvailable()

Check if a certain value of an enumeration is available.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
in	const char*	value	Value to check
out	VmbBool_t *	pIsAvailable	Indicates if the given enumeration value is available

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: if name or value or pIsAvailable is NULL

5.8.5 VmbFeatureEnumAsInt()

Get the integer value for a given enumeration string value.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
in	const char*	value	The enumeration value to get the integer value for
out	VmbInt64_t*	pIntVal	The integer value for this enumeration entry



• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration

• VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found

VmbErrorBadParameter: if name or value pIntVal is NULL

Note



Converts a name of an enum member into an int value ("Mono12Packed" to 0x10C0006)

5.8.6 VmbFeatureEnumAsString()

Get the enumeration string value for a given integer value.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the feature
in	VmbInt64_t	intValue	The numeric value
out	const char**	pStringValue	The string value for the numeric value

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration

• VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found

VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pStringValue is NULL

Note



Converts an int value to a name of an enum member (e.g. 0x10C0006 to "Mono12Packed")

5.8.7 VmbFeatureEnumEntryGet()

Get infos about an entry of an enumeration feature.



	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	featureName	Name of the feature
in	const char*	entryName	Name of the enum entry of that feature
out	VmbFeatureEnumEntry_t*	pFeatureEnumEntry	Infos about that entry returned by the API
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofFeatureEnumEntry	Size of the structure

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorStructSize Size of VmbFeatureEnumEntry_t is not compatible with the API version
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Enumeration
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: if featureName or entryName or pFeatureEnumEntry is NULL



5.9 String

5.9.1 VmbFeatureStringGet()

Get the value of a string feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the string feature
out	char*	buffer	String buffer to fill. May be NULL if pSizeFilled is used for size query.
in	VmbUint32_t	bufferSize	Size of the input buffer
out	VmbUint32_t*	pSizeFilled	Size actually filled my be NULL if buffer is not NULL.

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorMoreData: The given buffer size was too small
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not String

Note



This function is usually called twice: once with an empty buffer to query the length of the string, and then again with a buffer of the correct length.

5.9.2 VmbFeatureStringSet()

Set the value of a string feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the string feature
in	const char*	value	Value to set

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorNotFound: The feature was not found
- VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not String
- VmbErrorInvalidValue: Length of "value" exceeded the maximum length
- VmbErrorBadParameter: if name or value is NULL
- VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback



5.9.3 VmbFeatureStringMaxlengthQuery()

Get the maximum length of a string feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the string feature
out	VmbUint32_t*	pMaxLength	Maximum length of this string feature

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- **VmbErrorInvalidAccess:** Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not String
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pMaxLength is NULL



5.10 Boolean

5.10.1 VmbFeatureBoolGet()

Get the value of a boolean feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the boolean feature
out	VmbBool_t *	pValue	Value to be read

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Boolean

• VmbErrorNotFound: If feature is not found

• VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pValue is NULL

5.10.2 VmbFeatureBoolSet()

Set the value of a boolean feature.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the boolean feature
in	VmbBool_t	value	Value to write

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• **VmbErrorInvalidAccess:** Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Boolean

VmbErrorInvalidValue: "value" is not within valid bounds

VmbErrorNotFound: If the feature is not found

VmbErrorBadParameter: name is NULL

VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback



5.11 Command

5.11.1 VmbFeatureCommandRun()

Run a feature command.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the command feature

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Command

VmbErrorNotFound: Feature was not found
 VmbErrorBadParameter: name is NULL

5.11.2 VmbFeatureCommandIsDone()

Check if a feature command is done.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the command feature
out	VmbBool_t *	pIsDone	State of the command.

VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Command

• VmbErrorNotFound: Feature was not found

VmbErrorBadParameter: name or pIsDone is NULL



5.12 Raw

5.12.1 VmbFeatureRawGet()

Read the memory contents of an area given by a feature name.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the raw feature
out	char*	pBuffer	Buffer to fill
in	VmbUint32_t	bufferSize	Size of the buffer to be filled
out	VmbUint32_t*	pSizeFilled	Number of bytes actually filled

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- **VmbErrorWrongType:** The type of feature "name" is not Register
- VmbErrorNotFound: Feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pBuffer or pSizeFilled is NULL



This feature type corresponds to a top-level "Register" feature in GenICam. Data transfer is split up by the transport layer if the feature length is too large. You can get the size of the memory area addressed by the feature "name" by VmbFeatureRawLengthQuery().

5.12.2 VmbFeatureRawSet()

Write to a memory area given by a feature name.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the raw feature
in	const char*	pBuffer	Data buffer to use
in	VmbUint32_t	bufferSize	Size of the buffer

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Register
- VmbErrorNotFound: Feature was not found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pBuffer is NULL
- VmbErrorInvalidCall: If called from frame callback



Note



This feature type corresponds to a first-level "Register" node in the XML file. Data transfer is split up by the transport layer if the feature length is too large. You can get the size of the memory area addressed by the feature "name" by VmbFeatureRawLengthQuery().

5.12.3 VmbFeatureRawLengthQuery()

Get the length of a raw feature for memory transfers.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that exposes features
in	const char*	name	Name of the raw feature
out	VmbUint32_t*	pLength	Length of the raw feature area (in bytes)

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• VmbErrorWrongType: The type of feature "name" is not Register

• VmbErrorNotFound: Feature not found

• VmbErrorBadParameter: If name or pLength is NULL

Note



This feature type corresponds to a first-level "Register" node in the XML file.



5.13 Feature invalidation

5.13.1 VmbFeatureInvalidationRegister()

Register a VmbInvalidationCallback callback for feature invalidation signaling.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that emits events
in	const char*	name	Name of the event (NULL to register for any feature)
in	VmbInvalidationCallback	callback	Callback to be run, when invalidation occurs
in	void*	pUserContext	User context passed to function

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode





Any feature change, either of its value or of its access state, may be tracked by registering an invalidation callback. Registering multiple callbacks for one feature invalidation event is possible because only the combination of handle, name, and callback is used as key. If the same combination of handle, name, and callback is registered a second time, it overwrites the previous one.

5.13.2 VmbFeatureInvalidationUnregister()

Unregister a previously registered feature invalidation callback.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that emits events
in	const char*	name	Name of the event
in	VmbInvalidationCallback	callback	Callback to be removed

- **VmbErrorSuccess:** If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

Note



Since multiple callbacks may be registered for a feature invalidation event, a combination of handle, name, and callback is needed for unregistering, too.



5.14 Image preparation and acquisition

5.14.1 VmbFrameAnnounce()

Announce frames to the API that may be gueued for frame capturing later.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle for a camera
in	<pre>const VmbFrame_t*</pre>	pFrame	Frame buffer to announce
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofFrame	Size of the frame structure

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given camera handle is not valid
- VmbErrorBadParameter: The given frame pointer is not valid or sizeofFrame is 0
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API

Note



Allows some preparation for frames like DMA preparation depending on the transport layer. The order in which the frames are announced is not taken into consideration by the API.

5.14.2 VmbFrameRevoke()

Revoke a frame from the API.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle for a camera
in	const VmbFrame_t*	pFrame	Frame buffer to be removed from the list of announced frames

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given camera handle is not valid
- VmbErrorBadParameter: The given frame pointer is not valid
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API

Note



The referenced frame is removed from the pool of frames for capturing images.

5.14.3 VmbFrameRevokeAll()

Revoke all frames assigned to a certain camera.



	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle for a camera

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given camera handle is not valid

5.14.4 VmbCaptureStart()

Prepare the API for incoming frames.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle for a camera

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorDeviceNotOpen: Camera was not opened for usage
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

5.14.5 VmbCaptureEnd()

Stop the API from being able to receive frames.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle for a camera

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

Note



Consequences of VmbCaptureEnd(): - The input queue is flushed - The frame callback will not be called any more

5.14.6 VmbCaptureFrameQueue()

Queue frames that may be filled during frame capturing.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle of the camera
in	<pre>const VmbFrame_t*</pre>	pFrame	Pointer to an already announced frame
in	VmbFrameCallback	callback	Callback to be run when the frame is complete. NULL is Ok.

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error



- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given frame is not valid
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this version of the API

Note



The given frame is put into a queue that will be filled sequentially. The order in which the frames are filled is determined by the order in which they are queued. If the frame was announced with VmbFrameAnnounce() before, the application has to ensure that the frame is also revoked by calling VmbFrameRevoke() or VmbFrameRevokeAll() when cleaning up.

5.14.7 VmbCaptureFrameWait()

Wait for a queued frame to be filled (or dequeued).

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle of the camera
in	<pre>const VmbFrame_t*</pre>	pFrame	Pointer to an already announced & queued frame
in	VmbUint32_t	timeout	Timeout (in milliseconds)

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
 VmbErrorTimeout: Call timed out
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

5.14.8 VmbCaptureQueueFlush()

Flush the capture queue.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	cameraHandle	Handle of the camera to flush

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

Note



Control of all the currently queued frames will be returned to the user, leaving no frames in the input queue. After this call, no frame notification will occur until frames are queued again.



5.15 Interface Enumeration & Information

5.15.1 VmbInterfacesList()

List all the interfaces currently visible to VimbaC.

	Туре	Name	Description
out	VmbInterfaceInfo_t*	pInterfaceInfo	Array of VmbInterfaceInfo_t, allocated by the caller. The interface list is copied here. May be NULL.
in	VmbUint32_t	listLength	Number of entries in the caller's pList array
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumFound	Number of interfaces found (may be more than listLength!) returned here.
in	VmbUint32_t	sizeofInterfaceInfo	Size of one VmbInterfaceInfo_t entry

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorStructSize: The given struct size is not valid for this API version
- VmbErrorMoreData: The given list length was insufficient to hold all available entries
- VmbErrorBadParameter: pNumFound was NULL

Note



All the interfaces known via GenICam TransportLayers are listed by this command and filled into the provided array. Interfaces may correspond to adapter cards or frame grabber cards or, in the case of FireWire to the whole 1394 infrastructure, for instance. This function is usually called twice: once with an empty array to query the length of the list, and then again with an array of the correct length.

5.15.2 VmbInterfaceOpen()

Open an interface handle for feature access.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const char*	idString	The ID of the interface to get the handle for (returned by VmbInterfacesList())
out	VmbHandle_t*	pInterfaceHandle	The handle for this interface.

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorNotFound: The designated interface cannot be found
- VmbErrorBadParameter: pInterfaceHandle was NULL

Note



An interface can be opened if interface-specific control or information is required, e.g. the number of devices attached to a specific interface. Access is then possible via feature access methods.



5.15.3 VmbInterfaceClose()

Close an interface.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	interfaceHandle	The handle of the interface to close.

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid





After configuration of the interface, close it by calling this function.



5.16 Ancillary data

5.16.1 VmbAncillaryDataOpen()

Get a working handle to allow access to the elements of the ancillary data via feature access.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	VmbFrame_t*	pFrame	Pointer to a filled frame
out	VmbHandle_t*	pAncillaryDataHandle	Handle to the ancillary data inside the frame

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command



This function can only succeed if the given frame has been filled by the API.

5.16.2 VmbAncillaryDataClose()

Destroy the working handle to the ancillary data inside a frame.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	VmbHandle_t	ancillaryDataHandle	Handle to ancillary frame data

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

Note



After reading the ancillary data and before re-queuing the frame, ancillary data must be closed.



5.17 Memory/Register access

5.17.1 VmbMemoryRead()

Read an array of bytes.

	Туре	Name	Description	
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that allows memory access	
in	VmbUint64_t	address	Address to be used for this read operation	
in	VmbUint32_t	bufferSize	Size of the data buffer to read	
out	char*	dataBuffer	Buffer to be filled	
out	VmbUint32_t*	pSizeComplete	Size of the data actually read	

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

5.17.2 VmbMemoryWrite()

Write an array of bytes.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that allows memory access
in	VmbUint64_t	address	Address to be used for this read operation
in	VmbUint32_t	bufferSize	Size of the data buffer to write
in	const char*	dataBuffer Data to write	
out	VmbUint32_t*	pSizeComplete	Number of bytes successfully written; if an error occurs this is less than bufferSize

- VmbErrorSuccess: If no error
- VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command
- VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid
- VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode
- VmbErrorMoreData: Not all data were written; see pSizeComplete value for the number of bytes written

5.17.3 VmbRegistersRead()

Read an array of registers.



	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that allows register access
in	VmbUint32_t	readCount	Number of registers to be read
in	const VmbUint64_t*	pAddressArray	Array of addresses to be used for this read operation
out	VmbUint64_t*	pDataArray	Array of registers to be used for this read operation
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumCompleteReads	Number of reads completed

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorIncomplete: Not all the requested reads could be completed

Note



Two arrays of data must be provided: an array of register addresses and one for corresponding values to be read. The registers are read consecutively until an error occurs or all registers are written successfully.

5.17.4 VmbRegistersWrite()

Write an array of registers.

	Туре	Name	Description
in	const VmbHandle_t	handle	Handle for an entity that allows register access
in	VmbUint32_t	writeCount	Number of registers to be written
in	<pre>const VmbUint64_t*</pre>	pAddressArray	Array of addresses to be used for this write operation
in	const VmbUint64_t*	pDataArray	Array of reads to be used for this write operation
out	VmbUint32_t*	pNumCompleteWrites	Number of writes completed

• VmbErrorSuccess: If no error

• VmbErrorApiNotStarted: VmbStartup() was not called before the current command

• VmbErrorBadHandle: The given handle is not valid

• VmbErrorInvalidAccess: Operation is invalid with the current access mode

• VmbErrorIncomplete: Not all the requested writes could be completed

Note



Two arrays of data must be provided: an array of register addresses and one with the corresponding values to be written to these addresses. The registers are written consecutively until an error occurs or all registers are written successfully.