

# AVT PVAPI

Programmers' Reference Manual

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# **Overview**

This document is the programmer's reference for Allied Vision Technologies' GigE Vision driver and its Application Programming Interface.

The Allied Vision Technologies PvAPI interface supports all GigE Vision cameras from Allied Vision Technologies.

The PvAPI driver interface is a user DLL which communicates either with the AVT GigE Filter Driver, or kernel networking drivers.

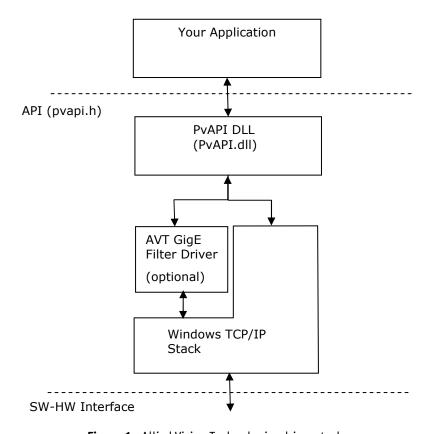


Figure 1. Allied Vision Technologies driver stack.



# **Using the Driver**

#### **Platform**

PvAPI is supported on the following platforms:

- Windows 2000
- Windows XP Professional or Home (32bit or 64bit)
- Windows Vista (32bit or 64bit)
- Windows 7 (32bit or 64bit)
- Linux (x86, PPC, x64, arm)
- QNX 6.3 (x86), 6.3 + Core Networking 6.4, 6.4 Beta
- Mac OS X (x86, PPC 32bit, x64)

### **Programming Languages**

PvAPI.dll is a standard-call DLL, which is accessible by most programming languages.

Required C header files, PvAPI.h and PvReqIO.h, are included in the SDK.

Most compiled languages need an import library to call a DLL. An import library, PvAPI.lib, for Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0 (and later) is included in the SDK. Most compilers come with a tool to generate an import library from a DLL; see your compiler's manual for more information.

### Threading

The driver is thread-safe, with a few exceptions as noted in this document.

### **Distribution**

The following files may be redistributed for use with Prosilica/AVT cameras only:

PvAPI.dll
PvJNI.dll
psligvfilter.inf
psligvfilter\_m.inf
psligvfilter.sys
Allied Vision Technologies GigE Filter Installer.exe
Allied Vision Technologies Viewer Installer.exe
libPvAPI.so
libPvAPI.a
libImagelib.a



No other files from the SDK may be redistributed without written permission from Allied Vision Technologies.

### **Driver Installation**

PvAPI.dll should be installed in your application's directory.

# **AVT GigE Filter Driver**

Available on Windows only. The AVT GigE Filter driver (see figure 1) is a Windows NDIS (Network Driver Interface Specification) miniport driver. Use of the filter driver increases performance of camera streaming and reduces CPU overhead. It is optional and once installed, the GigE Filter driver will display as a service in Network adapter properties, where you can enable/disable it.

There are two mechanisms for installing the GigE Filter driver:

- 1. Run "Allied Vision Technologies GigE Filter Installer.exe". You can use the command line option "/S" to perform a *silent* installation.
- 2. Install the following files:



# **Using the API**

# **Example Code**

C++, C#, and VB example code is included in the GigESDK /examples directory.

**NOTE:** If stepping through code in a debugger, you may need to increase the camera HeartbeatTimeout parameter. See "AVT Camera and Driver Attributes" document for more info.

### **Module Version**

New features may be added to future versions of PvAPI, however PvAPI will always remain backwards compatible. Use *PvVersion* to check the version number of PvAPI.

#### **Module Initialization**

Before calling any PvAPI functions (other than *PvVersion*), you must initialize the PvAPI module by calling *PvInitialize*.

When you are finished with PvAPI, call *PvUnInitialize* to free resources. These two API functions must always be paired. It is possible, although not recommended, to call the pair several times within the same program.

#### List available cameras

Function *PvCameraListEx* will enumerate all Allied Vision Technologies cameras connected to the system.

### Example:

The *tPvCameraInfoEx* structure provides the following information about a camera:

UniqueId A value unique to each camera shipped by Allied Vision

Technologies.

CameraName People-friendly camera name (usually part name)

ModelName Name of the camera part

PartNumber Manufacturer's part number

SerialNumber Camera's serial number



Firmware Version Camera's firmware version

PermittedAccess A combination of tPvAccessFlags

InterfaceId Unique value for each interface or bus

InterfaceType Interface type; see tPvInterface

To be notified when a camera is detected or disconnected, use *PvLinkCallbackRegister*. Your callback function must be thread safe.

### Opening a camera

A camera must be opened to control and capture images. Function *PvCameraOpen* is used to open the camera.

### Example:

The camera must be closed when the application is finished.

#### **Camera Attributes**

Attributes are used to control and monitor various aspects of the driver and camera.

See "AVT Camera and Driver Attributes" document for the complete description of camera attributes.

**Table 1.** Functions for reading and writing attributes.

Attribute Type	Set	Get	Range
Enumeration	PvAttrEnumSet	PvAttrEnumGet	PvAttrRangeEnum
Uint32	PvAttrUint32Set	PvAttrUint32Get	PvAttrRangeUint32
Float32	PvAttrFloat32Set	PvAttrFloat32Get	PvAttrRangeFloat32
Int64	PvAttrInt64Set	PvAttrInt64Get	PvAttrRangeInt64
Boolean	PvAttrBooleanSet	PvAttrBooleanGet	n/a
String	PvAttrStringSet	PvAttrStringGet	n/a



Command	PvCommand	n/a	n/a	
		., .	.,, .	

PvAPI currently defines the following attribute types (*tPvDatatype*):

Enumeration A set of values. Values are represented as strings.

Uint32 32-bit unsigned value.

Float32 32-bit IEEE floating point value.

Boolean A simple Boolean value (true, false)

Int64 64-bit signed value

String A string (null terminated, char[]).

Command Valueless; a function executes when the attribute is written.

For example, to change the exposure time, set attribute *ExposureValue*:

```
PvAttrUint32Set(Camera, "ExposureValue", 10000); // 10000 μs
```

For example, to read the image size in bytes:

```
// If you want to ensure portable code, you might choose to use
// tPvUint32 or your own typedef, in place of "unsigned long".
unsigned long imageSize;
PvAttrUint32Get(Camera, "TotalBytesPerFrame", &imageSize);
```

Function *PvAttrList* is used to list all attributes available for a camera. This list remains static while the camera is opened.

To get information on an attribute, such as its type and access flags, call function *PvAttrInfo*.

PvAPI currently defines the following access flags (tPvAttributeFlags):

Read The attribute may be read.

Write The attribute may be written.

Volatile The camera may change the attribute value at any time. E.g.:

Exposure Value, because the exposure is constantly changing if the

camera is in auto-expose mode.

Constant The attribute value will never change.



# **Image Acquisition and Capture**

Image capture calls can be divided into two categories:

### Host/driver calls:

- 1. PvCaptureStart initialize the capture stream on driver.
- 2. PvCaptureQueueFrame queue frame buffer(s). As images arrive from the camera, they are placed in the next frame buffer in the queue, and returned to the user. More on frame queuing in the next section.
- 3. *PvCaptureEnd* close the capture stream on driver.

Host/driver calls set up the host/driver to receive data from the camera.

### Camera calls:

- 1. AcquisitionStart attribute readies camera to receive frame triggers.
- AcquisitionMode attribute determines how many frame triggers the camera receives.
- 3. FrameStartTriggerMode attribute determines how frames are triggered.
- 4. AcquisitionStop stops camera from receiving frame triggers.

Camera calls start the camera imaging, and sending data to host.

### Example workflow:

```
//start driver stream
PvCaptureStart(Camera);
//queue frame
PvCaptureQueueFrame(Camera, Frame, NULL);
//set frame triggers to be generated internally
PvAttrEnumSet(Camera, "FrameStartTriggerMode", "Freerun");
//set camera to receive continuous number of frame triggers
PvAttrEnumSet(Camera, "AcquisitionMode", "Continuous");
//start camera receiving frame triggers
PvCommandRun(Camera, "AcquisitionStart");
do {
      //wait for frame to return to host
      PvCaptureWaitForFrameDone(Camera, Frame, PVINFINITE);
      //do something with returned frame
      //*********
      //requeue frame
      PvCaptureQueueFrame(Camera, Frame, NULL);
while (some condition);
```



To guarantee a particular image is captured, you must ensure that a frame buffer is queued before the camera is sent a frame trigger.

### Frame Queuing

Frames are structures containing image data and related info. See tPvFrame in PvApi.h. Users are responsible for managing their own queue of frames. This allows for flexibility in how the queue is managed. Example queues: a 3 buffer circular queue, 100 frame one time use queue.

To create a frame, fill out a *tPvFrame* structure with associated tPvFrame->ImageBuffer (use attribute *TotalBytesPerFrame* to calculate ImageBuffer size), and place the frame structure on the gueue with *PvCaptureQueueFrame*.

Once a *tPvFrame* structure is queued, it can be filled with image data from the camera. There are two mechanisms available to determine when a queued frame has been filled with image data: *PvCaptureWaitForFrameDone*, which blocks your thread until the frame is filled, or by specifying a callback function with *PvCaptureQueueFrame*. Your callback function is run by the driver on a separate thread when image capture is complete.

When a frame is complete, always check that tPvFrame->Status equals ePvErrSuccess, to ensure the data is valid. Lost data over the GigE network will result in ePvErrDataMissing, meaning the complete frame has not been received by the host. See the "GigE Installation Manual" for optimizing GigE networks to prevent missing data.

Up to 100 frames can be placed on the frame queue, with their image buffers being filled in the same order they were queued. To capture more images, re-queue new frames as the old frames complete. If using frame callback functions, this is a good place to re-queue your frames.

Most applications need not queue more than 2 or 3 frames at a time, and constantly re-queue these frames. However, if you wish to perform a substantial amount of processing on the image inside a frame callback, you can quickly run into a situation where you are delaying your re-queuing of frames, and images will be returned from the camera with no waiting frame, resulting in a skipped image. I.e. if a current callback is not finished and the next frame is completed, this next frame callback (and all subsequent callbacks) is queued. If you delay long enough in the first callback, all frames are returned and none requeued.

In this scenario, it may be better to delay processing of the images. The driver allows you to queue up to 100 frames, but you can allocate your own pool of any number of frames beyond this, and use your frame callbacks to simply manage frame queuing from this larger pool – delaying image processing until later.

If you want to cancel all the frames on the queue, call *PvCaptureQueueClear*. The status of the frame is set to *ePvErrCancelled* and, if applicable, the callbacks are run.



# ChunkModeActive / tPvFrame->AncillaryBuffer

As of camera firmware version 1.42, frames may also receive the associated chunk mode data from the camera:

[Bytes 1 – 4] acquisition count.

[Bytes 5 – 8] user value. Not currently implemented. 0.

[Bytes 9 - 12] exposure value.

[Bytes 13 – 16] gain value.

[Bytes 17 – 18] sync in levels.

[Bytes 19 – 20] sync out levels.

[Bytes 21 – 24] counter 1 value. Not currently implemented. 0.

[Bytes 25 – 28] counter 2 value. Not currently implemented. 0.

[Bytes 29 – 32] timer 1 value. Not currently implemented. 0.

[Bytes 33 – 36] timer 2 value. Not currently implemented. 0.

[Bytes 37 – 40] sequence count. Not currently implemented. 0.

[Bytes 41 - 44] chunk ID. 1000.

[Bytes 45 – 48] chunk length.

To enable the receiving of this data, allocate your tPvFrame->AncillaryBuffer and enable the ChunkModeActive attribute. AncillaryBufferSize = NonImagePayloadSize attr value, valid when ChunkModeActive = True.

### **Error Codes**

Most PvAPI functions return a tPvErr-type error code.

Typical errors are listed with each function in the reference section of this document. However, any of the following error codes might be returned:

ePvErrSuccess Success – no error.

ePvErrCameraFault Unexpected camera fault.

ePvErrInternalFault Unexpected fault in PvAPI or driver.

ePvErrBadHandle Camera handle is bad.

ePvErrBadParameter Function parameter is bad.

ePvErrBadSequence Incorrect sequence of API calls. For example, queuing a

frame before starting image capture.

ePvErrNotFound Returned by PvCameraOpen when the requested camera

is not found.



ePvErrAccessDenied Returned by PvCameraOpen when the camera cannot be

opened in the requested mode, because it is already in

use by another application.

ePvErrUnplugged Returned when the camera has been unexpectedly

unplugged.

ePvErrInvalidSetup Returned when the user attempts to capture images, but

the camera setup is incorrect.

ePvErrResources Required system or network resources are unavailable.

ePvErrQueueFull The frame queue is full.

ePvErrBufferTooSmall The frame buffer is too small to store the image.

ePvErrCancelled Frame is cancelled. This is returned when frames are

aborted using PvCaptureQueueClear.

ePvErrDataLost The data for this frame was lost. The contents of the

image buffer are invalid.

ePvErrDataMissing Some of the data in this frame was lost.

ePvErrTimeout Timeout expired. This is returned only by functions

with a specified timeout.

ePvErrOutOfRange The attribute value is out of range.

ePvErrWrongType This function cannot access the attribute, because the

attribute type is different.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be written at this time.

ePvErrUnavailable The attribute is not available at this time.

ePvErrFirewall Windows' firewall is blocking the streaming port.



# **Function Reference**



# **PvAttrBooleanGet**

Get the value of a Boolean attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

*pValue* Value is returned here.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not a Boolean type.



# **PvAttrBooleanSet**

Set the value of a Boolean attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

Value Value to set.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrOutOfRange The value is out of range at this time.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be set at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not a Boolean type.



# **PvAttrEnumGet**

Get the value of an enumeration attribute.

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvAttrEnumGet
(

tPvHandle Camera,
const char* Name,
char* pBuffer,
unsigned long BufferSize,
unsigned long* pSize
);
```

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

pBuffer The value string (always null terminated) is copied here. This buffer is

allocated by the caller.

BufferSize The size of the allocated buffer.

*pSize* The size of the value string is returned here. This may be bigger than

BufferSize. Null pointer is allowed.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not an enumeration type.



# **PvAttrEnumSet**

Set the value of an enumeration attribute.

# **Prototype**

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

Value The enumeration value (a null terminated string).

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrOutOfRange The value is not a member of the current enumeration set.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be set at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not an enumeration type.



# **PvAttrExists**

Query: does an attribute exist?

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

*ePvErrSuccess* The attribute exists.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

#### **Notes**

The result of this query is static for this camera; it won't change while the camera is open.



# PvAttrFloat32Get

Get the value of a Float32 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

*pValue* Value is returned here.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not a Float32 type.



# PvAttrFloat32Set

Set the value of a Float32 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

Value Value to set.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrOutOfRange The value is out of range at this time.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be set at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not a Float32 type.



# **PvAttrInfo**

Get information, such as data type and access mode, on a particular attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

pInfo The attribute information is copied here.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

*ePvErrNotFound* The attribute does not exist.

# **Notes**



# PvAttrInt64Get

Get the value of an Int64 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

*pValue* Value is returned here.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not an Int64 type.



# PvAttrInt64Set

Set the value of an Int64 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

Value Value to set.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrOutOfRange The value is out of range at this time.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be set at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not an Int64 type.



# **PvAttrIsAvailable**

Query: is the attribute available at this time / for this camera model?

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvAttrIsAvailable
(
    tPvHandle Camera,
    const char* Name
);
```

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

*ePvErrSuccess* The attribute is available.

ePvErrUnavailable The attribute is unavailable at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

### Notes

If an attribute is unavailable, it means the attribute cannot be read or changed.

The result of this query is dynamic. The availability of a particular attribute may change at any time, depending on the state of the camera and the values of other attributes.



# **PvAttrIsValid**

Query: is the value of an attribute valid / within range?

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess The attribute value is in range.

ePvErrOutOfRange The attribute value is out of range.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.



# **PvAttrList**

List all camera and driver attributes.

# **Prototype**

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

pListPtr The pointer to the attribute list is returned here. The attribute list is

owned by the PvAPI module, and remains static while the camera is

opened. The attribute list is an array of string pointers.

pLength The length of the attribute list is returned here.

#### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

### Example

```
List the available attributes:
```



# **PvAttrRangeEnum**

Get the set of values for an enumerated attribute.

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvAttrRangeEnum
(

tPvHandle Camera,
const char* Name,
char* pBuffer,
unsigned long BufferSize,
unsigned long* pSize
);
```

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

*Name* Attribute name.

pBuffer A comma separated string (no white-space, always null terminated),

representing the enumeration set, is copied here. This buffer is

allocated by the caller.

BufferSize The size of the allocated buffer.

*pSize* The size of the enumeration set string is returned here. This may be

bigger than BufferSize. Null pointer is allowed.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

*ePvErrNotFound* The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not an enumeration type.

ePvErrBadParameter The supplied buffer is too small to fit the string

#### **Notes**

The enumeration set is dynamic. For some attributes, the set may change under various circumstances.



# Example

List the acquisition modes (for clarity we use strtok, but please research its limitations):



# PvAttrRangeFloat32

Get the value range of a Float32 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

pMin Minimum value returned here.pMax Maximum value returned here.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not a Float32 type.

### **Notes**

In some cases, the value range is dynamic.



# PvAttrRangeInt64

Get the value range of an Int64 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

pMin Minimum value returned here.pMax Maximum value returned here.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

*ePvErrNotFound* The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not an Int64 type.

### **Notes**

In some cases, the value range is dynamic.



# PvAttrRangeUint32

Get the value range of a Uint32 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

pMin Minimum value returned here.pMax Maximum value returned here.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

*ePvErrNotFound* The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not a Uint32 type.

### **Notes**

In some cases, the value range is dynamic.



# **PvAttrStringGet**

Get the value of a string attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

pBuffer The value string (always null terminated) is copied here. This buffer is

allocated by the caller.

BufferSize The size of the allocated buffer.

*pSize* The size of the value string is returned here. This may be bigger than

BufferSize. Null pointer is allowed.

### **Return Value**

*tPvErr* type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not a string type.



# **PvAttrStringSet**

Set the value of a string attribute.

# **Prototype**

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

Value The string value (always null terminated).

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be set at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not a string type.



# **PvAttrUint32Get**

Get the value of a Uint32 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

*pValue* Value is returned here.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not a Uint32 type.



# PvAttrUint32Set

Set the value of a Uint32 attribute.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Attribute name.

Value Value to set.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrOutOfRange The value is out of range at this time.

ePvErrForbidden The attribute cannot be set at this time.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

*ePvErrWrongType* The attribute is not a Uint32 type.



# **PvCameraClose**

Close a camera.

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvCameraClose
(
    tPvHandle Camera
);
```

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.
ePvErrBadHandle Camera handle is bad.

# **Notes**

Open cameras should always be closed, even if they have been unplugged.



# **PvCameraCount**

Get the number of Allied Vision Technologies cameras visible to this system.

# **Prototype**

```
unsigned long PvCameraCount
(
    void
);
```

### **Parameters**

None.

### **Return Value**

The number of cameras visible to the system.

### **Notes**

This returns the number of reachable cameras at the time the call is made. This number is dynamic, and will change as cameras become available/unavailable. Unreachable cameras, i.e. cameras on a different subnet than the host NIC, are not counted.

See PvInitialize for usage.

### Example

See example for PvInitialize.



# **PvCameraEventCallbackRegister**

Register a callback for any camera specific events

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Callback Callback function to be registered

Context Defined by the caller. Passed to your callback.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The specified camera could not be found.

#### **Notes**

Callback will be issued for any/all enabled events. To enable an event see the *EventNotification* and *EventSelector* attributes.

In the callback function, see the EventID for each element of the EventList parameter to determine which event(s) are associated with the callback. EventID corresponds to the Uint32 value of *EventID* attribute. E.g. *EventAcquistionStart* = 40000.



# **PvCameraEventCallbackUnregister**

Unregister a callback for any camera specific events

# **Prototype**

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Callback function to be unregistered

Context Defined by the caller. Passed to your callback.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The specified camera could not be found.

#### **Notes**

Unregistering a callback for events will not cause the camera to stop sending events. To disable an event see the *EventNotification* and *EventSelector* attributes.



# **PvCameraInfoEx**

Get information on a specified camera.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Unique ID of camera.

pInfo Camera information is returned here.

Size Size of the tPvCameraInfoEx structure

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The specified camera could not be found.

#### **Notes**

The specified camera must be visible to the system (i.e. on a local subnet), and using Allied Vision Technologies's driver.

See PvCameraListEx (page 42) if you want to retrieve information for all cameras.



# **PvCameraInfoByAddrEx**

Get information on a camera, specified by its IP address. This function is required if the GigE camera is not on the local IP subnet.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

*IpAddr* IP address of camera, in network byte order.

pInfo Camera information is returned here.

pIpSettings Camera IP settings is returned here. See PvApi.h.

Size Size of the tPvCameraInfoEx structure

#### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The specified camera could not be found.

#### **Notes**

This function works if a camera is on the other side of an IP gateway. In this case, the camera's IP address must be known, because it will not be visible to either *PvCameraListEx* or *PvCameraListUnreachableEx*.



# **PvCameraIpSettingsChange**

Change the IP settings for a GigE Vision camera. This command will work for all cameras on the local Ethernet network, including "unreachable" cameras.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Unique ID of camera.

pIpSettings Camera IP settings to be applied to the camera. See PvApi.h.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The specified camera could not be found.

### **Notes**

All IP related fields in the tPvIpSettings structure are in network byte order.

This command will not work for cameras accessed through an IP router.



# **PvCameraIpSettingsGet**

Get the IP settings for a GigE Vision camera. This command will work for all cameras on the local Ethernet network, including "unreachable" cameras.

## **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvCameraIpSettingsGet
(
    unsigned long UniqueId,
    tPvIpSettings* pIpSettings
);
```

### **Parameters**

Unique ID of camera.

pIpSettings Camera IP settings is returned here. See PvApi.h.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The specified camera could not be found.

### **Notes**

All IP related fields in the tPvIpSettings structure are in network byte order.

This command will not work for cameras accessed through an IP router.



# **PvCameraListEx**

List the Allied Vision Technologies cameras currently visible to this system.

# **Prototype**

```
unsigned long PvCameraListEx
(
    tPvCameraInfoEx* pList,
    unsigned long ListLength,
    unsigned long* pConnectedNum,
    unsigned long Size
);
```

### **Parameters**

pList Array of tPvCameraInfoEx, allocated by the caller. The camera list is

returned in this array.

ListLength Length of pList array.

pConnectedNum The number of cameras found is returned here. This may be greater

than ListLength. Null pointer is allowed.

Size of the tPvCameraInfoEx structure

### **Return Value**

Number of pList array entries filled, up to ListLength.

### **Notes**

Lists only the cameras which are turned on and using Allied Vision Technologies's drivers.

If you expect a particular camera to be present, alternatively you can use *PvCameraInfoEx* (page 38) to retrieve more information.

### Example

See example for PvCameraOpen on page 44.



# **PvCameraListUnreachableEx**

List all the cameras currently inaccessible by PvAPI. This lists the GigE Vision cameras which are connected to the local Ethernet network, but are on a different subnet.

# **Prototype**

```
unsigned long PvCameraListUnreachableEx
(
    tPvCameraInfoEx* pList,
    unsigned long ListLength,
    unsigned long* pConnectedNum,
    unsigned long Size
);
```

### **Parameters**

pList Array of tPvCameraInfoEx, allocated by the caller. The camera list is

returned in this array.

ListLength Length of pList array.

pConnectedNum The number of cameras found is returned here. This may be greater

than ListLength. Null pointer is allowed.

Size of the tPvCameraInfoEx structure

### **Return Value**

Number of plist array entries filled, up to ListLength.

### **Notes**

Lists only the cameras which are turned on, and connected to the local Ethernet network but on an inaccessible IP subnet. Usually this means the camera's IP settings are invalid.

If you expect a particular camera to exist on a different subnet, use *PvCameraInfoByAddr* Ex(page 38) to retrieve more information.

## Example

See example for *PvCameraOpen*.



# **PvCameraOpen**

Open a camera.

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvCameraOpen
(
    unsigned long UniqueId,
    tPvAccessFlags AccessFlag,
    tPvHandle* pCamera
);
```

#### **Parameters**

UniqueId Camera's unique ID. This might be acquired through a previous call to

PvCameraListEx.

AccessFlag Access mode: monitor (listen only) or master (full control).

pCamera Handle to open camera returned here.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrAccessDenied Camera could not be opened in the requested access mode,

because another application (possibly on another host) is using

the camera.

ePvErrNotFound Camera with the specified unique ID is not found. You will also

get this error if the camera was unplugged between

PvCameraListEx and PvCameraOpen.

### **Notes**

Camera must be closed (see PvCameraClose on page 34) when no longer required.



# Example

```
tPvHandle OpenFirstCamera(void)
{
       tPvCameraInfoEx list[10];
       unsigned long
                      numCameras;
       // List available cameras.
       numCameras = PvCameraListEx(list, 10, NULL, sizeof(tPvCameraInfoEx));
       for (unsigned long i = 0; i < numCameras; i++)</pre>
               // Find the first unopened camera...
               if (list[i].PermittedAccess == ePvAccessMaster)
                       tPvHandle
                                      handle;
                       // Open the camera.
                       if (PvCameraOpen(list[i].UniqueId, &handle) == ePvErrSuccess)
                              return handle;
       return 0;
}
```



# **PvCameraOpenByAddr**

Open a camera using its IP address. This function can be used to open a GigE Vision camera located on a different IP subnet.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

*IpAddr* Camera's IP address, in network byte order.

Access Flag Access mode: monitor (listen only) or master (full control).

pCamera Handle to open camera returned here.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrAccessDenied Camera could not be opened in the requested access mode,

because another application (possibly on another host) is using

the camera.

ePvErrNotFound Camera with the specified IP address is not found. You will

also get this error if the camera was unplugged between *PvCameraListUnreachableEx* and *PvCameraOpenByAddr*.

### **Notes**

Camera must be closed (see *PvCameraClose* on page 34) when no longer required.



# **PvCaptureAdjustPacketSize**

Function will determine the maximum packet size supported by the system (ethernet adapter) and then configure the camera to use this value.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

MaximumPacketSize Upper limit: the packet size will not be set higher than this value.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccessePvErrUnpluggedePvErrBadSequenceCamera was unplugged.Capture already started

#### **Notes**

This cannot be called when a capture is in progress.

On power up, Allied Vision Technologies cameras have a packet size of 8228. If your network does not support this packet size, and you haven't called PvCaptureAdjustPacketSize to detect and set the maximum possible packet size, you will see dropped frames.



# **PvCaptureEnd**

Shut down the image capture stream. This resets the FrameCount parameter.

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvCaptureEnd
(
    tPvHandle Camera,
);
```

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrUnplugged Camera was unplugged.

### **Notes**

This cannot be called until the capture queue is empty. Function *PvCaptureQueueClear* (page 50) can be used to cancel all remaining frames.



# **PvCaptureQuery**

Query: has the image capture stream been started? That is, has PvCaptureStart been called?

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

pIsStarted Has the capture stream been started? 1=yes, 0=no.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrUnplugged Camera was unplugged.



# **PvCaptureQueueClear**

Clear queued frames. Aborts actively written frame with pFrame->Status = ePvErrDataMissing. Further queued frames returned with pFrame->Status = ePvErrCancelled.

## **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvCaptureQueueClear
(
     tPvHandle Camera
);
```

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.
ePvErrUnplugged Camera was unplugged.

#### **Notes**

All applicable frame callbacks are run. After this call completes, all frame callbacks are complete.

This function cannot be run from a frame callback. See PvCaptureQueueFrame on page 51.

The completion timing of *PvCaptureWaitForFrameDone* is indeterminate, i.e. it may or may not complete before *PvCaptureQueueClear* completes.

If a frame is queued while *PvCaptureQueueClear* is ongoing, *PvCaptureQueueFrame* will return *ePvErrBadSequence*. Once *PvCaptureQueueClear* is complete, you can requeue frames. If using frame callbacks, check that pFrame->Status != *ePvErrCancelled* before requeuing frames.



# **PvCaptureQueueFrame**

Place an image buffer onto the frame queue. This function returns immediately; it does not wait until the frame has been captured.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

pFrame Frame structure which describes the frame buffer. This structure,

unique to each queued frame, must persist until the frame has been

captured.

Callback Callback to run when the frame has been completed (either

successfully, or in error). Optional; null pointer is allowed.

#### **Return Value**

*tPvErr* type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccessePvErrUnpluggedCamera was unplugged.

ePvErrBadSequence You cannot queue frames until the capture stream has started.

ePvErrQueueFull The frame queue is full.

### Notes

PvCaptureQueueFrame cannot be called until the image capture stream has started.

PvCaptureQueueFrame enables the capture of an acquired frame, but it does not trigger the acquisition; see attributes AcquisitionMode, AcquisitionStart, and AcquisitionStop.

Before you call PvCaptureQueueFrame, these frame structure fields must be filled:

ImageBuffer Pointer to your allocated image buffer. The allocated image

buffer may be larger than required.

ImageBufferSize Size of your image buffer, in bytes.

Ancillary Buffer Pointer to your allocated ancillary buffer, if Ancillary BufferSize

is non-zero.

AncillaryBufferSize Size of your ancillary buffer, in bytes. Can be 0.

The use of field Context[4] is defined by the caller.



When the frame is complete, these fields are filled by the driver:

Status *tPvErr* type error code.

ImageSize Size of this frame, in bytes. May be smaller than BufferSize.

Ancillary Size Ancillary data size, in bytes.

Width of this frame.
Height Height of this frame.

RegionX Start of readout region, left.
RegionY Start of readout region, top.

Format of this frame (see *tPvImageFormat*).

BitDepth Bit depth of this frame.

BayerPattern Bayer pattern, if applicable.

FrameCount Rolling frame counter. For GigE Vision cameras, this

corresponds to the block number, which rolls from 1 to 0xFFFF.

Reset on PvCaptureEnd.

Time of exposure-start, in timestamp units.

PvCaptureQueueFrame is an asynchronous capture mechanism; it returns immediately, rather than waiting for a frame to complete.

To determine when a frame is complete, use one of these mechanisms:

## 1. Call PvCaptureWaitForFrameDone

The function *PvCaptureWaitForFrameDone* blocks the calling thread until the frame is complete.

### 2. Use a callback

When the frame is complete, the callback is run on an internal PvAPI thread. When the callback starts, the frame is complete and you are free to deallocate both the frame structure and the image buffer. The supplied callback function must be thread-safe. Note that *PvCaptureQueueClear* cannot be run from the callback.

To cancel all the frames on the queue, see PvCaptureQueueClear on page 50.

The capacity of the frame queue is 100 frames. Pushing on the queue 100 frame is in most case not necessary as the best solution is to reuse previously acquired frames to store new frames.



# **PvCaptureStart**

Start the image capture stream. This initializes both the camera and the host in preparation to capture acquired images.

## **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvCaptureStart
(
     tPvHandle Camera
);
```

# **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrUnplugged Camera was unplugged.

*ePvErrResources* Required system resources were not available.

ePvErrBandwidth Insufficient bandwidth to start image capture stream.

### Notes

As images arrive from the camera, they are stored in the buffer at the head of the frame queue. To submit buffers to the frame queue, call *PvCaptureQueueFrame* (page 51).

This function does not start image acquisition on the camera; rather, it establishes the data stream. To control image acquisition, see attributes *AcquisitionMode*, *AcquisitionStart*, and *AcquisitionStop*.



# **PvCaptureWaitForFrameDone**

Block the calling thread until a frame is complete.

# **Prototype**

#### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

pFrame Frame structure, as passed to PvCaptureQueueFrame.

Timeout, in milliseconds. Use PVINFINITE for no timeout.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful, or pFrame is not on the queue.

ePvErrUnplugged Camera was unplugged.

ePvErrTimeout Timeout occurred before exposure completed.

### **Notes**

This function cannot be run from the frame-done callback.

This function waits until the frame is complete. When this function completes, you may delete or modify your frame structure, and use the contents of the image buffer.

If *pFrame* is not on the frame queue, *ePvErrSuccess* is returned. The driver must assume that if the frame buffer is not on the queue, it is already complete.



# **PvCommandRun**

Run a command. A command is a "valueless" attribute, which executes a function when written.

# **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Camera Handle to open camera.

Name Command (attribute) name.

# **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound The attribute does not exist.

ePvErrWrongType The attribute is not a command type.



# **PvInitialize**

Initialize the PvAPI module. You can't call any PvAPI functions, other than *PvVersion*, until the module is initialized.

## **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvInitialize
(
    void
);
```

### **Parameters**

None.

### **Return Value**

*tPvErr* type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

*ePvErrResources* Some required system resources were not available.

### **Notes**

After initialization, the PvAPI module will asynchronously search for connected cameras. It may take some time for cameras to show up, therefore check that PvCameraCount() does not return 0 before proceeding with a PvCameraListEx call.

### **Example**



# **PvInitializeNoDiscovery**

Initialize the PvAPI module. You can't call any PvAPI functions, other than *PvVersion*, until the module is initialized.

## **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvInitializeNoDiscovery
(
    void
);
```

### **Parameters**

None.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrResources Some required system resources were not available.

### **Notes**

Using this function instead of *PvInitialize* will cause the driver to not send regular discovery broadcast. You will have to rely on knowing the IP of the cameras to access them.



# **PvLinkCallbackRegister**

Register a callback for link (interface) events, such as detecting when a camera is plugged in. When the event occurs, the callback is run.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

Callback Callback to run. Must be thread safe.

Event of interest.

Context Defined by the caller. Passed to your callback.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

#### **Notes**

Multiple callback functions may be registered with the same event.

The same callback function may be shared by different events.

It is an error to register the same callback function with the same event twice.

Callback must be un-registered by PvLinkCallbackUnRegister (page 59) when no longer required.



# **PvLinkCallbackUnRegister**

Un-register a link event callback.

# **Prototype**

```
tPvErr PvLinkCallbackUnRegister
(
    tPvLinkCallback Callback,
    tPvLinkEvent Event
);
```

### **Parameters**

Callback to run. Must be thread safe.

*Event* Event of interest.

### **Return Value**

tPvErr type error code. Typical error codes for this function:

ePvErrSuccess Function successful.

ePvErrNotFound Callback/event is not registered.



# **PvUnInitialize**

Un-initialize the PvAPI module. This frees system resources used by PvAPI.

# **Prototype**

```
void PvUnInitialize
(
    void
);
```

### **Parameters**

None.

# **Return Value**

None.



# **PvUtilityColorInterpolate**

Perform Bayer-color interpolation on raw bayer images. This algorithm uses the average value of surrounding pixels.

## **Prototype**

### **Parameters**

*pFrame* Raw Bayer image, i.e. source data.

BufferRed Output buffer, pointer to the first red pixel. This buffer is allocated by

the caller.

BufferGreen Output buffer, pointer to the first green pixel. This buffer is allocated

by the caller.

BufferBlue Output buffer, pointer to the first blue pixel. This buffer is allocated

by the caller.

PixelPadding Padding after each pixel written to the output buffer, in pixels. In

other words, the output pointers skip by this amount after each pixel

is written to the caller's buffer. Typical values:

RGB or BGR output: 2 RGBA or BGRA output: 3 planar output: 0

LinePadding Padding after each line written to the output buffers, in pixels.

### **Return Value**

None.



# Example

Generating a Windows Win32::StretchDIBits compatible BGR buffer from a Bayer8 frame:



# **PvVersion**

Return the version number of the PvAPI module.

# **Prototype**

```
void PvVersion
(
    unsigned long* pMajor,
    unsigned long* pMinor
);
```

### **Parameters**

pMajorpMinorMajor version number returned here.pMinor version number returned here.

### **Notes**

This function may be called at any time.



# Contacting Allied Vision Technologies

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