EFLOW User's Guide

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Contents

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Describes how CUDA and NVIDIA GPU accelerated cloud native applications can be deployed on EFLOW enabled Windows devices.

Chapter 1. Introduction

Azure IoT Edge For Linux on Windows, otherwise referred to as EFLOW, is a Microsoft Technology for the deployment of Linux AI containers on Windows Edge devices. This document details how NVIDIA® CUDA® and NVIDIA GPU accelerated cloud native applications can be deployed on such EFLOW-enabled Windows devices.

EFLOW has the following components:

- The Windows host OS with virtualization enabled
- A Linux virtual machine
- IoT Edge Runtime
- IoT Edge Modules, or otherwise any docker-compatible containerized application (runs on moby/containerd)

GPU-accelerated IoT Edge Modules support for GeForce RTX GPUs is based on the GPU Paravirtualization that was foundational to CUDA on Windows Subsystem on Linux. So CUDA and compute support for EFLOW comes by virtue of existing CUDA support on WSL 2.

CUDA on WSL 2 boosted the productivity of CUDA developers by enabling them to build, develop, and containerize GPU accelerated NVIDIA AI/ML Linux applications on Windows desktop computers before deployment on Linux instances on the cloud. But EFLOW is aimed at deployment for AI at the edge. A containerized NVIDIA GPU accelerated Linux application that is either hosted on Azure IoT Hub or NGC registry can be seamlessly deployed at the edge such as a retail service center or hospitals. These edge deployments are typically IT managed devices entrenched with Windows devices for manageability but the advent of AI/ML use cases in this space seek the convergence for Linux and Windows applications not only to coexist but also seamlessly communicate on the same device.

Because CUDA support on EFLOW is predominantly based on WSL 2, refer to the Software Support, Limitations and Known Issues sections in the CUDA on WSL 2 document to stay abreast of the scope of NVIDIA software support available on EFLOW as well. Any additional prerequisites for EFLOW are covered in this document.

The following sections details installation of EFLOW, prerequisites for out-of-the-box CUDA support, followed by sample instructions for running an existing GPU accelerated container on EFLOW.

Chapter 2. Setup and Installation

Follow the Microsoft EFLOW documentation page for various installation options suiting your needs:

- For up-to-date installation instructions, visit http://aka.ms/AzEFLOW-install.
- For details on the EFLOW PowerShell API, visit http://aka.ms/AzEFLOW-PowerShell.

For quick setup, we have included the steps for installation through Powershell in the following sections.

2.1. Driver Installation

On the target Windows device, first install an NVIDIA GeForce or NVIDIA RTX GPU Windows driver that is compatible with the NVIDIA GPU on your device. EFLOW VM supports deploying containerized CUDA applications and hence only the driver must be installed on the host system. CUDA Toolkit cannot be installed directly within EFLOW.

NVIDIA-provided CUDA containers from the NGC registry can be deployed directly. If you are preparing a CUDA docker container, ensure that the necessary toolchains are installed.

Because EFLOW is based on WSL, the restrictions of the software stack for a hybrid Linux on Windows environment apply, and not all of the NVIDIA software stack is supported. Refer to the user's guide of the SDK that you are interested in to determine support.

2.2. Installation of EFLOW

In an elevated powershell prompt perform the following:

1. **Enable HyperV.** Enable-WindowsOptionalFeature -Online -FeatureName Microsoft-Hyper-V -All

```
Path          :
Online        : True
RestartNeeded : False
```

2. **Set execution policy and verify.**

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy -ExecutionPolicy AllSigned -Force

Get-ExecutionPolicy
AllSigned
```

3. **Download and install EFLOW.**

```
$msiPath = $([io.Path]::Combine($env:TEMP, 'AzureIoTEdge.msi'))
$ProgressPreference = 'SilentlyContinue'
Invoke-WebRequest "https://aka.ms/AzEFLOWMSI_1_4_LTS_X64" -OutFile $msiPath

Start-Process -Wait msiexec -ArgumentList "/i","$([io.Path]::Combine($env:TEMP,
↪'AzureIoTEdge.msi'))","/qn"
```

4. **Determine host OS configuration.**

```
>Get-EflowHostConfiguration | format-list

FreePhysicalMemoryInMB    : 35502
NumberOfLogicalProcessors : {64, 64}
DiskInfo                  : @{Drive=C:; FreeSizeInGB=798}
GpuInfo                   : @{Count=1; SupportedPassthroughTypes=System.Object[];
↪Name=NVIDIA RTX A2000}
```

5. **Deploy EFLOW.**

   Deploying EFLOW will set up the EFLOW runtime and virtual machine.

   By default, EFLOW only reserves 1024MB of system memory for use for the workloads and that is insufficient to support GPU accelerated configurations. For GPU acceleration, you will have to reserve system memory explicitly at EFLOW deployment; otherwise there will not be sufficient system memory for your containerized applications to run. In order to prevent out of memory errors, reserve memory explicitly as required; see example below. (Refer to command line argument options available for deploying EFLOW in the official documentation for more details).

2.3. Prerequisites for CUDA Support

- x86 64-bit support only.
- GeForce RTX GPU products.
- Windows 10/11 (Pro, Enterprise, IoT Enterprise) - Windows 10 users must use the November 2021 update build 19044.1620 or higher.
- Deploy-Eflow only allocates 1024 MB memory by default, set it to a larger value to prevent OOM issue, check MS documents for more details at https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/iot-edge/reference-iot-edge-for-linux-on-windows-functions#deploy-eflow.

Other prerequisites specific to the platform also apply. Refer to https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/iot-edge/gpu-acceleration?view=iotedge-1.4.

Chapter 3. Connecting to the EFLOW VM

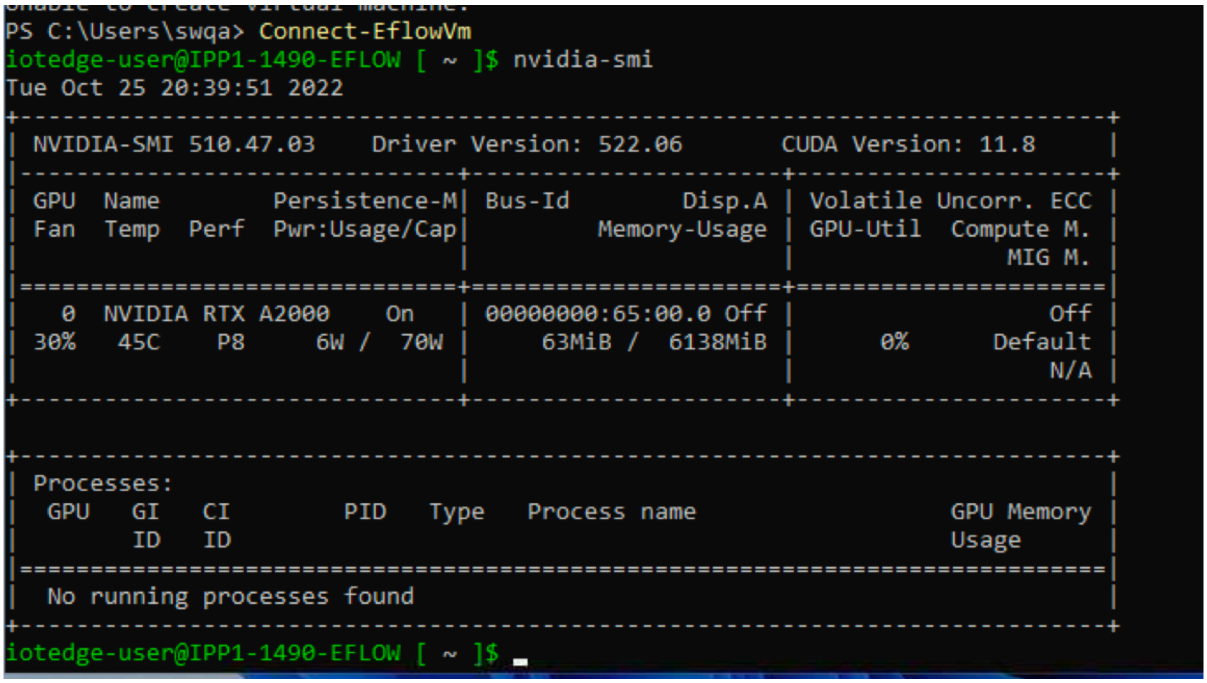
```
Get-EflowVmAddr

[10/13/2022 11:41:16] Querying IP and MAC addresses from virtual machine (IPP1-1490-
↪EFLOW)

 - Virtual machine MAC: 00:15:5d:b2:40:c7
 - Virtual machine IP : 172.24.14.242 retrieved directly from virtual machine
00:15:5d:b2:40:c7
172.24.14.242

Connect-EflowVm
```

Chapter 4. Running nvidia-smi



Chapter 5. Running GPU-accelerated Containers

Let us run an N-body simulation containerized CUDA sample from NGC, but this time inside EFLOW.

```
iotedge-user@IPP1-1490-EFLOW [ ~ ]$ sudo docker run --gpus all --env NVIDIA_DISABLE_
↪REQUIRE=1 nvcr.io/nvidia/k8s/cuda-sample:nbody nbody -gpu -benchmark

Unable to find image 'nvcr.io/nvidia/k8s/cuda-sample:nbody' locally
nbody: Pulling from nvidia/k8s/cuda-sample
22c5ef60a68e: Pull complete
1939e4248814: Pull complete
548afb82c856: Pull complete
a424d45fd86f: Pull complete
207b64ab7ce6: Pull complete
f65423f1b49b: Pull complete
2b60900a3ea5: Pull complete
e9bff09d04df: Pull complete
edc14edf1b04: Pull complete
1f37f461c076: Pull complete
9026fb14bf88: Pull complete
Digest: sha256:59261e419d6d48a772aad5bb213f9f1588fcdb042b115ceb7166c89a51f03363
Status: Downloaded newer image for nvcr.io/nvidia/k8s/cuda-sample:nbody
Run "nbody -benchmark [-numbodies=<numBodies>]" to measure performance.
        -fullscreen       (run n-body simulation in fullscreen mode)
        -fp64             (use double precision floating point values for simulation)
        -hostmem          (stores simulation data in host memory)
        -benchmark        (run benchmark to measure performance)
        -numbodies=<N>    (number of bodies (>= 1) to run in simulation)
        -device=<d>       (where d=0,1,2.... for the CUDA device to use)
        -numdevices=<i>   (where i=(number of CUDA devices > 0) to use for simulation)
        -compare          (compares simulation results running once on the default
↪GPU and once on the CPU)
        -cpu              (run n-body simulation on the CPU)
        -tipsy=<file.bin> (load a tipsy model file for simulation)

NOTE: The CUDA Samples are not meant for performance measurements. Results may vary
↪when GPU Boost is enabled.

> Windowed mode
> Simulation data stored in video memory
> Single precision floating point simulation
> 1 Devices used for simulation
GPU Device 0: "Ampere" with compute capability 8.6
```

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```
> Compute 8.6 CUDA device: [NVIDIA RTX A2000]
26624 bodies, total time for 10 iterations: 31.984 ms
= 221.625 billion interactions per second
= 4432.503 single-precision GFLOP/s at 20 flops per interaction
iotedge-user@IPP1-1490-EFLOW [ ~ ]$
```

Chapter 6. Troubleshooting

nvidia-container-cli: requirement error: unsatisfied condition: cuda>=11.7", need add "–env NVIDIA_DISABLE_REQUIRE=1"

The CUDA version cannot be determined correctly from the driver on the host when launching the container.

Out of memory

In case of out of memory errors, increase the system memory reserved by EFLOW. Refer to https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/iot-edge/reference-iot-edge-for-linux-on-windows-functions#deploy-eflow.

Chapter 7. Notices

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