

NVIDIA DOCA RegEx

Programming Guide

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Chapter 1. Introduction

DOCA RegEx is a library that provides RegEx pattern matching to DOCA applications. It provides access to the regular expression processor (RXP), a high-performance, hardware-accelerated RegEx engine available on the NVIDIA® BlueField® DPUs, and can utilize software-based engines when required.

Using DOCA RegEx, developers can easily execute complex regular expression operations in an optimized, hardware-accelerated way.

This document is intended for software developers wishing to accelerate their regular expressions operations.

Chapter 2. Prerequisites

DOCA RegEx-based applications can run either on the host machine or on the DPU target.

The RegEx engine is enabled by default on the DPU. However, to enable RegEx offloading on the host, run:

host> sudo /etc/init.d/openibd stop host> sudo echo 1024 > /sys/kernel/mm/hugepages/hugepages-2048kB/nr_hugepages

Then enable host access to the RegEx engine on the DPU:

dpu> echo 1 > /sys/bus/pci/devices/0000\:03\:00.0/regex/pf/regex en

Chapter 3. Architecture

DOCA RegEx provides a flexible API for programming regular expression databases, enqueuing jobs and dequeuing results. The API operates asynchronously allowing many pattern matching operations to be executed in parallel.

Rule Compilation

Regular expressions can be provided as:

- A "compiled" rules file where the external RXPC (RXP compiler) is used to generate a compiled data file; or
- An "uncompiled" where the DOCA Regex library compiles the supplied regular expressions when initialized

The external compiler is termed "RXPC" (RXP compiler) and generates RXP object format (ROF) binary files that represent the compiled regular expressions. For more information on RXPC, please refer to chapter "RXP Compiler Utility" in the NVIDIA RXP Compiler Tool Guide.

When uncompiled rules are provided, the library utilizes a set of default options during compilation. For complete control and optimization, it is recommend you use compile rules with custom compiler options.

RegEx Implementations 3.2.

The library itself is designed to support multiple RegEx engine implementations. Currently, only hardware devices are supported. Software devices will be introduced in the future.

Huge Job Emulation 3.3.

The library includes a facility to accept job lengths that are greater than the maximum size supported by an engine. The library fragments incoming jobs into smaller fragments and processes them sequentially looking for potential matches. The "huge job emulation" mechanism takes data from the end of the previous fragment and appends it to the

start of the next fragment (the "size" of the overlap) to find additional matches. See the ${\tt doca_regex_property_huge_job_emulation_overlap_set} \ \ {\tt API} \ \ {\tt call} \ \ {\tt for} \ \ {\tt more} \ \ {\tt information}.$

Chapter 4. API

This section details the specific enumerated types, structures, and API operations related to the DOCA RegEx library.



Note: The pkg-config (*.pc file) for the RegEx library is included in DOCA's regular definitions (i.e., doca).

4.1. Enumerated Types

4.1.1. doca_regex_job_types

This enumerated type provides the available job types for RegEx operations.

```
enum doca regex job types {
        /** Default RegEx search mode */
        DOCA REGEX JOB SEARCH = DOCA ACTION REGEX FIRST + 1,
```

doca_regex_search_job_flags 4.1.2.

This enumerated type provides the flags which are applicable to RegEx jobs.

```
enum doca_regex_search_job_flags {
        DOCA REGEX SEARCH JOB FLAG HIGHEST PRIORITY MATCH = 1 << 1,
        DOCA REGEX SEARCH JOB FLAG STOP ON ANY MATCH = 1 << 2,
};
```

DOCA REGEX SEARCH JOB FLAG HIGHEST PRIORITY MATCH

When a RegEx job is submitted for searching, a number of regular expressions can be tested for in parallel. This flag results in only the match with the lowest rule ID being returned.

DOCA REGEX SEARCH JOB FLAG STOP ON ANY MATCH

BlueField-3 only. If this option is set on a RegEx job, the engine stops and returns the first RegEx match detected in the input data.

doca regex status flag

This enumerated type provides flags that indicate the status of a job response.

```
enum doca regex status flag {
DOCA REGEX STATUS SEARCH FAILED = 1,
```

DOCA REGEX STATUS SEARCH FAILED

This is a general failure indication for any RegEx job.

4.2. Structures

4.2.1. doca_regex_job_search

This structure contains information required when sending a job to the RegEx engine.

```
struct doca regex job search {
struct doca job base;
uint16_t rule_group_ids[4];
struct doca_buf const *buffer;
struct doca regex search result *result;
uint8 t allow batching;
```

base

Common DOCA job data.

rule group ids

An array of IDs which can be used to select which groups of rules are used to process this job. Set each value to a non-zero value to enable group selection, or to 0 to ignore it.

buffer

A doca buf representing the data to be scanned for RegEx matches.

result

Pointer to where the job response is stored. The caller must ensure this pointer is valid when submitting a job and it must remain valid until a response for the job has been retrieved from the engine.

allow batching

Setting this field to 1 allows the RegEx device to aggregate jobs into batches if this is the optimal method for the supplied data. Batching can improve throughput at the cost of latency. Set this field to 0 to force this job to begin executing immediately. This also forces any previously enqueued jobs that have been batched and not yet dispatched to begin processing.

4.2.2. doca_regex_search_result

This structure contains result information from a previous RegEx search.

```
struct doca regex search result {
uint64 t status flags;
uint32 t detected matches;
uint32 t num matches;
struct doca_regex_match *matches;
struct doca regex mempool *matches mempool;
```

status flags

This field indicates any status flags that have been set as a result of the RegEx operation. See doca regex status flag enumerated type for more information.

detected matches

The total matches that have been detected by the RegEx operation.

num matches

The actual number of matches returned.

matches

A linked list of doca regex match elements. The linked list is num matches long. matches mempool

The memory pool that owns the matches.

4.2.3. doca-regex

This is an opaque structure used to represent a RegEx instance and is used with API calls.

struct doca regex ;

Instance Construction/Destruction 43

This section details API calls related to the creation and destruction of DOCA RegEx instances.

4.3.1. doca_regex_create

Creates a DOCA RegEx instance.

```
doca error t doca regex create(struct doca regex **regex);
```

regex [out]

A pointer to be populated with the address of the newly created RegEx context.

Returns

- ▶ doca error t return code with DOCA SUCCESS if successful
- ▶ DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE indicates an invalid input to the API call
- ▶ DOCA ERROR NO MEMORY indicates a failure to allocate memory for the instance

doca_regex_destroy 4.3.2.

Destroys a previously created DOCA RegEx instance.

```
doca error t doca regex destroy(struct doca regex *regex);
regex [out]
```

A pointer to be populated with the address of the newly created RegEx context.

Returns

- ▶ doca error t return code with DOCA SUCCESS if successful
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE indicates an invalid input to the API call

4.3.3. doca_regex_as_ctx

Converts a RegEx instance into a generic doca ctx. See the NVIDIA DOCA Core Programming Guide for more information on DOCA contexts.

```
struct doca ctx *doca regex as ctx(struct doca regex *regex);
```

regex [in]

The RegEx instance to convert.



Note: Must remain valid until after the context is no longer required.

Returns

doca ctx object on success; otherwise NULL.

Device Query API

This section details API calls that can be used to query a DOCA device regarding its RegEx functionality.

doca_regex_is_supported 4.4.1.

Validates whether a DOCA device supports RegEx.

```
doca error t doca regex is supported(struct doca devinfo const *devinfo);
devinfo [in]
```

The device to check.

Returns

- ▶ DOCA SUCCESS device can be used with doca regex
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- ▶ DOCA ERROR NOT SUPPORTED device cannot be used with doca regex

doca_regex_get_hardware_supported 4.4.2.

Validates whether a DOCA device supports hardware accelerated RegEx operations.

```
doca_error_t doca_regex_get_hardware_supported(struct doca_devinfo const *devinfo);
devinfo [in]
```

The device to check.

Returns

- DOCA_SUCCESS hardware accelerated RegEx offloading is supported
- ▶ DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- DOCA ERROR NOT SUPPORTED device cannot hardware accelerate RegEx

doca regex get maximum job size 4.4.3.

Returns the maximum accepted job size for the selected device.

```
doca_error_t doca_regex_get_maximum_job_size(struct doca_devinfo const *devinfo,
uin\overline{t}64 t \overline{max} job len);
```

devinfo [in]

The device to check.

```
max job len [out]
```

The maximum job size in bytes.

Returns

- ▶ DOCA SUCCESS max job len is populated correctly
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- DOCA_ERROR_NOT_SUPPORTED device does not support RegEx

doca_regex_get_maximum_non_huge_job_size 444

Determines the maximum job size supported by this device without requiring the huge iob emulation feature.

```
doca_error_t doca_regex_get_maximum_non_huge_job_size(struct doca_devinfo const
*devinfo, uint64 t *max job len);
```

devinfo [in]

The device to check.

max job len [out]

The maximum job size in bytes.

Returns

- ▶ DOCA SUCCESS max job len is populated correctly
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- DOCA ERROR NOT SUPPORTED device does not support RegEx

doca regex job get supported 445

Determines if a given job type is supported for a given device.

```
doca error t doca regex job get supported(struct doca devinfo const *devinfo, enum
doca regex job types job type);
```

devinfo [in]

The device to check.

job_type [in]

Job type to validate.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS job type is supported by device
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- DOCA ERROR NOT SUPPORTED job type is not supported by device

doca_regex_search_job_flag_get_highest_priority_r 4.4.6.

Determines if highest priority match is supported for a given device when submitting doca regex job search jobs.

```
doca error t doca regex search job_flag_get_highest_priority_match_supported(struct
doca devinfo const *devinfo);
```

devinfo [in]

The device to check.

Returns

DOCA_SUCCESS - job type is supported by device

- ▶ DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- DOCA ERROR NOT SUPPORTED job type is not supported by device

doca_regex_search_job_flag_get_stop_on_any_mat 4.4.7.

Determines if "stop on any" match is supported for a given device when submitting doca regex job search jobs.

```
doca error t doca regex search_job_flag_get_stop_on_any_match_supported(struct
doca devinfo const *devinfo);
```

devinfo [in]

The device to check.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS job type is supported by device
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE received invalid input; the devinfo is not correct
- DOCA ERROR NOT SUPPORTED job type is not supported by device

4.5. Programming RegEx

The RegEx engine must be programmed prior to submitting doca regex job search iobs.

While the RXP engines are programmed using a compiled rules database, doca regex supports programming using either compiled or uncompiled rules. For uncompiled rules doca regex compiles them internally (using a default configuration) to generate a compiled database rules file. For a finer control over the compilation process (e.g., to optimize or alter the default compiler configuration and behavior), use the external RXP <u>Compiler</u> (rxpc) and provide the compiled database to the relevant API calls.



Note: Calling doca regex set hardware xxxx rules can occur before or after starting doca regex but the device must be programmed before enqueuing jobs.

4.5.1. Reprogramming Guidelines

While doca regex supports on-the-fly reprogramming of the RXP hardware devices, care should be given to ensure the reprogramming action does not interrupt or produce undesired results.

The BlueField DPU series provides two instances of the RXP hardware engine and (re)programming is commenced serially to provide uninterrupted regular expression processing (i.e., zero downtime). This process produces some caveats that must be understood to prevent undesired behavior.

As most reprogramming events typically last only a few milliseconds, it is recommended that, prior to calling the (re)programming APIs, all results from doca regex are ignored until the API's call return. However, if you want uninterrupted processing of regular expressions, either:

- Ensure that the new rules being programmed contain all the old rules, and you are simply adding more rules (with new rule IDs and subsets); or
- Understand that any rules that are existed in the old database (i.e., using the same rule ID) but are now different in the new database, will return incorrect matches until the API returns, and that any new rules not existing in the old database (i.e. they are using a new rule ID in the new database), will be valid immediately

As previously stated, when the (re)programming APIs return, the regular expression matches will wholly reflect the rules present in the new reprogrammed rules database.

doca regex set hardware compiled rules

This function specifies the compiled rules data to be used by the RegEx engine.

```
doca error t doca regex set hardware compiled rules(struct doca regex
*regex, void const *rules data, size t rules data size);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

rules data [in]

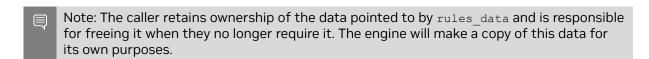
A pointer to a buffer of pre-compiled binary rules data.

rules data size [in]

The size of the binary rules data in bytes.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields are invalid
- DOCA ERROR NO LOCK unable to gain exclusive control of RegEx instance
- DOCA ERROR IN USE RegEx instance is currently started and in-use
- DOCA ERROR NO MEMORY unable to allocate memory to store a copy of the rules





Note: This API call is mutually exclusive with the uncompiled rules API call (doca_regex_set_hardware_uncompiled_rules).

doca_regex_get_hardware_compiled_rules 4.5.3.

This function gets the compiled rules data that is currently in use by the RegEx engine.

```
doca error t doca regex get hardware compiled rules(struct doca regex
*regex, void const *rules data, size t rules data size);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

rules data [out]

Values to populate with a pointer to an array of bytes containing the compiled rules in used by the RegEx engine.

rules data size [out]

The size, in bytes, of the memory pointed to by the rules data field (assuming data != NULL).

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA_ERROR_INVALID_VALUE one or more input fields are invalid
- DOCA ERROR NO MEMORY unable to allocate memory to store a copy of the rules



Note: The caller is responsible for the memory pointed to by rules data field and therefore must free it when they no longer require it.

doca_regex_set_hardware_uncompiled_rules 4.5.4.

This function specifies the compiled rules data to be used by the RegEx engine.

```
doca error t doca regex set hardware uncompiled rules(struct doca regex
*regex, void const *rules_data, size_t rules_data_size);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

rules data [out]

Values to populate with a pointer to an array of bytes containing the compiled rules in used by the RegEx engine.

rules data size [out]

The size, in bytes, of the memory pointed to by the rules data field (assuming data != NULL).

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields are invalid
- DOCA_ERROR_NO_MEMORY unable to allocate memory to store a copy of the rules



Note: The caller is responsible for the memory pointed to by rules data field and therefore must free it when they no longer require it.



Note: This API call is mutually exclusive with the compiled rules API call (doca_regex_set_hardware_compiled_rules).

4.5.5. doca_regex_get_hardware_uncompiled_rules

This function gets the uncompiled rules data that is currently in use by the RegEx engine.

```
doca error t doca regex get hardware uncompiled rules(struct doca regex
*regex, void const *rules data, size t rules data size);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

rules data [out]

Values to populate with a pointer to an array of bytes containing the compiled rules in used by the RegEx engine.

rules data size [out]

The size, in bytes, of the memory pointed to by the rules data field (assuming data != NULL).

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields are invalid
- DOCA ERROR NO MEMORY unable to allocate memory to store a copy of the rules



Note: The caller is responsible for the memory pointed to by rules data field and therefore must free it when they no longer require it.

DOCA RegEx Setup 4.6.

This section details the API calls required to setup DOCA RegEx with memory to store received matches, adjust the number of queue pairs, etc.

doca_regex_set_workq_matches_memory_pool_size

Each work queue attached to the RegEx instance gets a pool allocator for matches. Set this value to set the maximum number of matches that can be stored for a given work queue.

```
doca error t doca regex set workq matches memory pool size(struct doca regex *regex,
uint32_t pool_size);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

pool size [in]

The number of items to have available to each work queue.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields are invalid
- DOCA ERROR NO MEMORY unable to allocate memory to store a copy of the rules
- DOCA ERROR IN USE RegEx instance is currently started and in-use



Note: The range of valid values for this property depend upon the device in use. This means that acceptance of a value through this API does not ensure the value is acceptable. This is validated as part of starting the context.

4.6.2. doca_regex_get_workq_matches_memory_pool_siz

This function gets the uncompiled rules data that is currently in use by the RegEx engine.

```
doca error t doca regex set workq matches memory pool size(struct doca regex *regex,
uint32 t pool size);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

pool size [out]

The number of items to have available in each work gueue.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields are invalid

Configuration Options 4.7.

DOCA RegEx has options that alter its mode of operation and control certain features. This section details those API calls and their related impact.

doca_regex_set_huge_job_emulation_overlap_size 4.7.1.

This API call enables the Huge Job Emulation functionality of the DOCA RegEx instance, allowing it to find matches in data that exceeds the maximum job length of a particular RegEx device. For example, the BlueField RXP hardware device has a maximum job size of 16KB.

This function is provided with a size parameter that indicates the size of overlap to use in the Huge Job Emulation algorithm. This algorithm breaks up the incoming job data into fragments. Therefore, the overlap size causes data from the previous fragment to be prepended to the start of the next fragment.

As this overlap impacts performance (job data may get searched multiple times) the overlap size should be kept to a minimum value that still guarantees that matches are

```
doca_error_t doca_regex_set_huge_job_emulation_overlap_size(struct doca_regex
*regex, uint16 t nb overlap bytes);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

nb overlap bytes [in]

The number of items to have available to each work gueue.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA_ERROR_INVALID_VALUE one or more input fields were invalid
- DOCA ERROR NO LOCK unable to gain exclusive control of RegEx instance
- DOCA ERROR IN USE RegEx instance is currently started and in-use

doca_regex_get_huge_job_emulation_overlap_size

Gets the size of overlap to use when a job exceeds a devices maximum search size.

```
doca error t doca regex get huge job emulation overlap size(struct doca regex const
*regex, uint16 t *nb overlap bytes);
regex [in]
```

The DOCA RegEx instance.

nb overlap bytes [out]

The number of bytes to overlap.

Returns

- ▶ DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields were invalid

doca_regex_set_in_order_responses_enabled 4.7.3.

Configure doca regex to ensure the ordering of responses or matches is kept in the same order that jobs are sent. This option must be set prior to starting the DOCA RegEx instance.

As the RXP hardware processes RegEx jobs in parallel, results can be returned out of order. If your application expects to see results flow back in the same order they are submitted, use this API call to enable in-order responses.

```
doca error t doca regex set in order responses enabled(struct doca regex const
*regex, bool enabled);
```

regex [in]

The DOCA RegEx instance.

enabled [in]

Boolean value indicating if results should be returned in-order.

Returns

- DOCA SUCCESS the RegEx instance accepted the supplied rules data
- DOCA ERROR INVALID VALUE one or more input fields were invalid
- DOCA ERROR NO LOCK unable to gain exclusive lock of the Regex instance
- ▶ DOCA ERROR IN USE RegEx instance was in-use

Chapter 5. DOCA RegEx Samples

This document describes RegEx samples based on the DOCA RegEx library. These samples illustrate how to use the DOCA RegEx API to configure, send, and receive data buffers to and from the BlueField RegEx engine.

Processing the data to detect matches requires compilation of regular expressions rules file. The compiled file, .ROF2, is loaded to the RegEx engine using DOCA RegEx APIs.

Sample Prerequisites

Developing an application that leverages the RegEx engine requires pre-run setup:

1. Allocate hugepages:

echo 2048 > /sys/kernel/mm/hugepages/hugepages-2048kB/nr hugepages

2. Make sure the RegEx engine is active:

```
systemctl status mlx-regex
```

If the status is inactive (Active: failed), run:

systemctl start mlx-regex

To run the application, the RegEx compiled rule file (.rof2.binary) must be supplied with it. To compile the sample rules file, run:

```
cd /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/<sample name>/
rxpc -V bf2 -f <rules file name>.txt -p 0.01 -o /tmp/sample regex rules
```



Note: For more information, refer to NVIDIA RXP Compiler Tool Guide.

Running the Sample

- 1. Refer to the following documents:
 - NVIDIA DOCA Installation Guide for Linux for details on how to install BlueFieldrelated software.
 - NVIDIA DOCA Troubleshooting Guide for any issue you may encounter with the installation, compilation, or execution of DOCA samples.
- 2. To build a given sample:

```
cd /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/<sample name>
meson build
```

ninja -C build



Note: The binary doca <sample name> will be created under ./build/.

3. Sample (e.g., regex scan) usage:

```
Usage: doca regex scan [DOCA Flags] [Program Flags]
DOCA Flags:
  -h, --help
                                       Print a help synopsis
  -v, --version
-l, --log-level
                                       Print program version information
                                       Set the log level for the program
 <CRITICAL=20, ERROR=30, WARNING=40, INFO=50, DEBUG=60>
Program Flags:
  -p, --pci-addr <PCI-ADDRESS> RegEx device PCI address 
-r, --rules <path> Path to compiled rules file (rof2.binary)
                        Path to data file
  -d, --data <path>
```

For additional information per sample, use the -h option:

```
./build/doca <sample name> -h
```

5.3. Samples

5.3.1. RegEx Scan

This sample illustrates how to scan data to find matches according to regular expression patterns.

The sample logic includes:

- 1. Accepting RegEx rules file path and data to scan.
- 2. Configuring DOCA RegEx device (loading compiled rules, mempool allocation, etc.) to enable RegEx engine to receive jobs.
- 3. Splitting the user data to 6 chunks.
- 4. Sending the chunks to RegEx engine, each chunk is a RegEx job.
- 5. HW scanning data and returning a list of matches.
- 6. Reporting the results.

References:

- /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/regex scan/regex scan sample.c
- /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/regex scan/regex scan main.c
- /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/regex scan/meson.build
- /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/regex_scan/regex_rules.txt
- /opt/mellanox/doca/samples/doca regex/regex scan/data to scan.txt

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