

# Virtual GPU Software Management SDK

User Guide

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# Chapter 1. Introduction to the NVIDIA vGPU Software Management SDK

The NVIDIA vGPU software Management SDK enables third party applications to monitor and control NVIDIA physical GPUs and virtual GPUs that are running on virtualization hosts. The NVIDIA vGPU software Management SDK supports control and monitoring of GPUs from both the hypervisor host system and from within guest VMs.

NVIDIA vGPU software enables multiple virtual machines (VMs) to have simultaneous, direct access to a single physical GPU, using the same NVIDIA graphics drivers that are deployed on non-virtualized operating systems. For an introduction to NVIDIA vGPU software, see Virtual GPU Software User Guide.

# 1.1. NVIDIA vGPU Software Management Interfaces

The local management interfaces that are supported within an NVIDIA vGPU software server are shown in Figure 1.

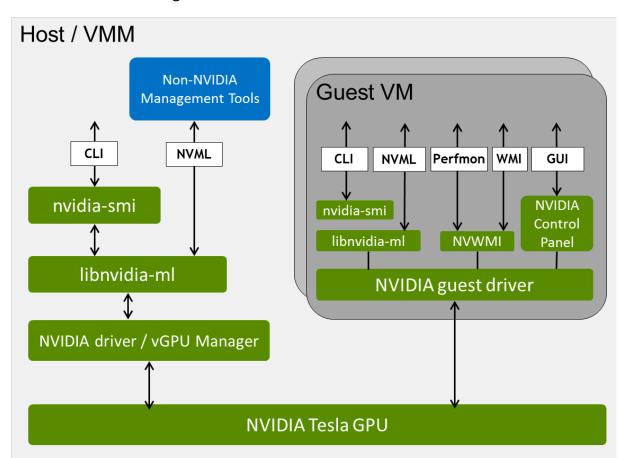


Figure 1. NVIDIA vGPU Software server interfaces for GPU management

For a summary of the NVIDIA vGPU software server interfaces for GPU management, including the hypervisors and quest operating systems that support each interface, and notes about how each interface can be used, see Table 1.

Summary of NVIDIA vGPU Software server interfaces for Table 1. **GPU** management

Interface	Hypervisor	Guest OS	Notes
nvidia-smi command	Any supported hypervisor	Windows, 64-bit Linux	Command line, interactive use
NVIDIA Management Library (NVML)	Any supported hypervisor	Windows, 64-bit Linux	Integration of NVIDIA GPU management with third-party applications
NVIDIA Control Panel	-	Windows	Detailed control of graphics settings, basic configuration reporting

Interface	Hypervisor	Guest OS	Notes
Windows Performance Counters	-	Windows	Performance metrics provided by Windows Performance Counter interfaces
NVWMI	-	Windows	Detailed configuration and performance metrics provided by Windows WMI interfaces

#### 1.2. Introduction to NVML

NVIDIA Management Library (NVML) is a C-based API for monitoring and managing various states of NVIDIA GPU devices. NVML is delivered in the NVIDIA vGPU software Management SDK and as a runtime version:

- ▶ The NVIDIA vGPU software Management SDK is distributed as separate archives for Windows and Linux.
  - The SDK provides the NVML headers and stub libraries that are required to build thirdparty NVML applications. It also includes a sample application.
- ▶ The runtime version of NVML is distributed with the NVIDIA vGPU software host driver.

Each new version of NVML is backwards compatible, so that applications written to a version of the NVML can expect to run unchanged on future releases of the NVIDIA vGPU software drivers and NVML library.

For details about the NVML API, see:

- NVML API Reference Manual
- NVML man pages

#### **NVIDIA vGPU Software** 1.3. Management SDK contents

The SDK consists of the NVML developer package and is distributed as separate archives for Windows and Linux:

- ▶ Windows: grid nvml sdk 538.46.zip ZIP archive
- Linux: grid nvml sdk 535.161.08.tgz GZIP-compressed tar archive

The contents of these archives are summarized in the following table.

Content	Windows Folder	Linux Directory
SDK Samples And Tools License Agreement		

Content	Windows Folder	Linux Directory
Virtual GPU Software Management SDK User Guide (this document)		
NVML API documentation, on Linux as man pages	nvml_sdk/doc/	nvml_sdk/doc/
Sample source code and platform-dependent build files:	nvml_sdk/example/	nvml_sdk/examples/
▶ Windows: Visual C project		
► Linux: Make file		
NVML header file	nvml_sdk/include/	nvml_sdk/include/
Stub library to allow compilation on platforms without an NVIDIA driver installed	nvml_sdk/lib/	nvml_sdk/lib/

# Chapter 2. Managing vGPUs from a hypervisor by using NVML

NVIDIA vGPU software supports monitoring and control of physical GPUs and virtual GPUs that are running on virtualization hosts. NVML includes functions that are specific to managing vGPUs on NVIDIA vGPU software virtualization hosts. These functions are defined in the nvml grid.h header file.



Note: NVIDIA vGPU software does not support the management of pass-through GPUs from a hypervisor. NVIDIA vGPU software supports the management of pass-through GPUs only from within the guest VM that is using them.

#### 2.1. Determining whether a GPU supports hosting of vGPUs

If called on platforms or GPUs that do not support NVIDIA vGPU, functions that are specific to managing vGPUs return one of the following errors:

- NVML ERROR NOT SUPPORTED
- NVML ERROR INVALID ARGUMENT

To determine whether a GPU supports hosting of vGPUs, call the nvmlDeviceGetVirtualizationMode() function.

A vGPU-capable device reports its virtualization mode as NVML GPU VIRTUALIZATION MODE HOST VGPU.

#### 2.2. Discovering the vGPU capabilities of a physical GPU

To discover the vGPU capabilities of a physical GPU, call the functions in the following table.

Function	Purpose
nvmlDeviceGetVirtualizationMode()	Determine the virtualization mode of a GPU. GPUs capable of hosting virtual GPUs report their virtualization mode as NVML_GPU_VIRTUALIZATION_MODE_HOST_VGPU.
nvmlDeviceGetSupportedVgpus()	Return a list of vGPU type IDs that are supported by a GPU.
nvmlDeviceGetCreatableVgpus()	Return a list of vGPU type IDs that can currently be created on a GPU.
	The result reflects the number and type of vGPUs that are already running on the GPU.
	If no vGPUs are running on the GPU, the list contains the IDs of all vGPU types that the GPU supports.
	If one or more vGPUs are running on the GPU, but the GPU is not fully loaded, the list contains only the IDs of the types of the vGPUs that have the same amount of frame buffer as the vGPUs that are already running.
	If the GPU is fully loaded, the list contains no vGPU type IDs.
nvmlDeviceGetActiveVgpus()	Return a list of handles for vGPUs currently running on a GPU.
nvmlDeviceGetVgpuMetadata()	Return a vGPU metadata structure for the physical GPU.
nvmlDeviceGetVgpuCapabilities()	Determine whether the requested vGPU capability is supported by the specified physical GPU.

#### 2.3. Getting the properties of a vGPU type

To get the properties of a vGPU type, call the functions in the following table.

Function	Purpose
nvmlVgpuTypeGetClass()	Read the class of a vGPU type (for example, Quadro, or NVS)
nvmlVgpuTypeGetName()	Read the name of a vGPU type (for example, GRID M60-0Q)
nvmlVgpuTypeGetDeviceID()	Read PCI device ID of a vGPU type (vendor/device/subvendor/subsystem)
nvmlVgpuTypeGetFramebufferSize()	Read the frame buffer size of a vGPU type
nvmlVgpuTypeGetNumDisplayHeads()	Read the number of display heads supported by a vGPU type
nvmlVgpuTypeGetResolution()	Read the maximum resolution of a vGPU type's supported display head
nvmlVgpuTypeGetLicense()	Read license information required to operate a vGPU type
nvmlVgpuTypeGetFrameRateLimit()	Read the static frame limit for a vGPU type
nvmlVgpuTypeGetMaxInstances()	Read the maximum number of vGPU instances that can be created on a GPU
nvmlVgpuTypeGetGpuInstanceProfileId()	Read the corresponding GPU instance profile ID of a vGPU type.
	Because NVIDIA vGPU software supports <b>only</b> GPUs that do <b>not</b> support MIG, this function returns INVALID_GPU_INSTANCE_PROFILE_ID.
nvmlVgpuTypeGetCapabilities()	Determine whether the vGPU type supports peer-to-peer CUDA transfers over NVLink or GPUDirect® technology.

# 2.4. Getting the properties of a vGPU instance

To get the properties of a vGPU instance, call the functions in the following table.

Function	Purpose
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetVmID()	Read the ID of the VM currently associated with a vGPU instance
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetUUID()	Read a vGPU instance's UUID
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetMdevUUID()	Read a vGPU instance's virtual function I/O (VFIO) mediated device (mdev) UUID (hypervisors based on KVM only)
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetVmDriverVersion()	Read the guest driver version currently loaded on a vGPU instance
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetFbUsage()	Read a vGPU instance's current frame buffer usage
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetFBCStats()	Read the following frame buffer capture (FBC) statistics for a vGPU instance:
	► Count of active FBC sessions
	<ul> <li>Moving average of new frames captured per second by all active sessions</li> <li>Moving average of new frame capture</li> </ul>
	latency in microseconds for all active sessions
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetFBCSessions()	For each active FBC session on a vGPU instance, read the following statistics:
	► FBC session ID
	► Owning PID
	vGPU instance identifier
	Display ordinal associated with the FBC session.
	► FBC session type
	► FBC session flags
	<ul> <li>Maximum horizontal resolution supported by the session</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Maximum vertical resolution supported by the session</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Horizontal resolution requested by the caller in the capture call</li> </ul>

Function	Purpose
	<ul> <li>Vertical resolution requested by the caller in the capture call</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Moving average of new frames captured per second by the session</li> </ul>
	Moving average new frame capture latency in microseconds for the session
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetLicenseStatus()	Read a vGPU instance's current license status (licensed or unlicensed)
<pre>nvmlVgpuInstanceGetType()</pre>	Read the vGPU type ID of a vGPU instance
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetFrameRateLimit()	Read a vGPU instance's frame rate limit
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetEncoderStats()	Read the following encoder statistics for a vGPU instance:
	► Count of active encoder sessions
	<ul> <li>One-second trailing average of encoded FPS of all active sessions</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>One-second trailing average of encode latency in microseconds</li> </ul>
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetEncoderSessions()	For each active encoder session on a vGPU instance, read the following statistics:
	► Encoder session ID
	Owning PID
	Codec type, for example, H.264 or H.265
	<ul> <li>Encode resolution</li> <li>One-second trailing averages for encoded</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>One-second trailing averages for encoded FPS and encode latency</li> </ul>
nvmlDeviceGetVgpuUtilization()	Read a vGPU instance's usage of the following resources as a percentage of the physical GPU's capacity:
	▶ 3D/Compute
	► Frame buffer bandwidth
	Video encoder
	Video decoder

Function	Purpose
nvmlDeviceGetVgpuProcessUtilization()	For each process running on a vGPU instance, read the process ID and usage by the process of the following resources as a percentage of the physical GPU's capacity:  3D/Compute  Frame buffer bandwidth  Video encoder  Video decoder
nvmlDeviceGetGridLicensableFeatures()	Return a structure containing information about whether a vGPU or a physical GPU supports NVIDIA vGPU software licensing and, if so, additional licensing information such as:  The NVIDIA vGPU software products that can be licensed on the vGPU or physical GPU  License status  The exact name of the NVIDIA vGPU software product for which the vGPU or physical GPU is licensed for and enabled  The year, month, day, hour, minutes, and seconds of the license expiration date in the GMT (UTC+0) timezone.
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetAccountingMode()	Read the accounting mode of the vGPU instance
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetAccountingPids()	Read the maximum number of processes that can be queried and the current list of process IDs
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetAccountingStats()	For each process ID returned by  nvmlVgpuInstanceGetAccountingPids(), read the following statistics:  GPU utilization  Memory utilization  Maximum memory usage  Amount of time the graphics or compute context was active

Function	Purpose
	► Start time of the process
	Whether the process is still running
nvmlGetVgpuCompatibility()	Return compatibility information about a vGPU and a physical GPU, such as:
	The VM states from which the vGPU can be run on the physical GPU
	<ul> <li>Any factors limiting compatibility between the vGPU and the physical GPU</li> </ul>
nvmlVgpuInstanceGetMetadata()	Return a vGPU metadata structure for a vGPU and its associated VM
nvmlGetVgpuDriverCapabilities()	Determine whether the requested vGPU driver capability is supported by the Virtual GPU manager.

#### 2.5. Building an NVML-enabled application for a vGPU host

Fuctions that are specific to vGPUs are defined in the header file nvml grid.h.

To build an NVML-enabled application for a vGPU host, ensure that you include nvml grid.h in addition to nvml.h:

```
#include <nvml.h>
#include <nvml grid.h>
```

For more information, refer to the sample code that is included in the SDK.

# Chapter 3. Managing vGPUs from a guest VM

NVIDIA vGPU software supports monitoring and control within a guest VM of vGPUs or pass-through GPUs that are assigned to the VM. The scope of management interfaces and tools used within a quest VM is limited to the quest VM within which they are used. They cannot monitor any other GPUs in the virtualization platform.

For monitoring from a quest VM, certain properties do not apply to vGPUs. The values that the NVIDIA vGPU software management interfaces report for these properties indicate that the properties do not apply to a vGPU.

# 3.1. NVIDIA vGPU Software Server Interfaces for GPU Management from a Guest VM

The NVIDIA vGPU software server interfaces that are available for GPU management from a guest VM depend on the guest operating system that is running in the VM.

Interface	Guest OS	Notes
nvidia-smi command	Windows, 64-bit Linux	Command line, interactive use
NVIDIA Management Library (NVML)	Windows, 64-bit Linux	Integration of NVIDIA GPU management with third-party applications
NVIDIA Control Panel	Windows	Detailed control of graphics settings, basic configuration reporting
Windows Performance Counters	Windows	Performance metrics provided by Windows Performance Counter interfaces
NVWMI	Windows	Detailed configuration and performance metrics provided by Windows WMI interfaces

## 3.2. How GPU engine usage is reported

Usage of GPU engines is reported for vGPUs as a percentage of the vGPU's maximum possible capacity on each engine. The GPU engines are as follows:

- Graphics/SM
- Memory controller
- Video encoder
- Video decoder

The amount of a physical engine's capacity that a vGPU is permitted to occupy depends on the scheduler under which the GPU is operating:

- NVIDIA vGPUs operating under the **Best Effort Scheduler** and the **Equal Share** Scheduler are permitted to occupy the full capacity of each physical engine if no other vGPUs are contending for the same engine. Therefore, if a vGPU occupies 20% of the entire graphics engine in a particular sampling period, its graphics usage as reported inside the VM is 20%.
- NVIDIA vGPUs operating under the **Equal Share Scheduler** can occupy no more than their allocated share of the graphics engine. Therefore, if a vGPU has a fixed allocation of 25% of the graphics engine, and it occupies 25% of the engine in a particular sampling period, its graphics usage as reported inside the VM is 100%.

#### 3.3. Using NVML to manage vGPUs

NVIDIA vGPU software supports monitoring and control within a guest VM by using NVML.

#### 3.3.1. Determining whether a GPU is a vGPU or pass-through GPU

NVIDIA vGPUs are presented in guest VM management interfaces in the same fashion as pass-through GPUs.

To determine whether a GPU device in a quest VM is a vGPU or a pass-through GPU, call the NVML function nvmlDeviceGetVirtualizationMode().

A GPU reports its virtualization mode as follows:

- A GPU operating in pass-through mode reports its virtualization mode as NVML GPU VIRTUALIZATION MODE PASSTHROUGH.
- ► A vGPU reports its virtualization mode as NVML GPU VIRTUALIZATION MODE VGPU.

### 3.3.2. Physical GPU properties that do not apply to a vGPU

Properties and metrics other than GPU engine usage are reported for a vGPU in a similar way to how the same properties and metrics are reported for a physical GPU. However, some properties do not apply to vGPUs. The NVML device query functions for getting these properties return a value that indicates that the properties do not apply to a vGPU. For details of NVML device query functions, see <u>Device Queries</u> in NVML API Reference Manual.

### 3.3.2.1. GPU identification properties that do not apply to a vGPU

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function	NVML return code on vGPU
Serial Number	nvmlDeviceGetSerial() vGPUs are not assigned serial numbers.	NOT_SUPPORTED
GPU UUID	nvmlDeviceGetUUID() vGPUs are allocated random UUIDs.	SUCCESS
VBIOS Version	nvmlDevicenvmlDeviceGetVbiosVersion() vGPU VBIOS version is hard-wired to zero.	SUCCESS
GPU Part Number	nvmlDeviceGetBoardPartNumber()	NOT_SUPPORTED

### 3.3.2.2. Inforom properties that do not apply to a vGPU

The Inforom object is not exposed on vGPUs. All the functions in the following table return NOT SUPPORTED.

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Image Version	nvmlDeviceGetInforomImageVersion()
OEM Object	nvmlDeviceGetInforomVersion()
ECC Object	nvmlDeviceGetInforomVersion()
Power Management Object	nvmlDeviceGetInforomVersion()

### 3.3.2.3. GPU operation mode properties that do not apply to a vGPU

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function	NVML return code on vGPU
GPU Operation Mode (Current)	nvmlDeviceGetGpuOperationMode() Tesla GPU operating modes are not supported on vGPUs.	NOT_SUPPORTED
GPU Operation Mode (Pending)	nvmlDeviceGetGpuOperationMode() Tesla GPU operating modes are not supported on vGPUs.	NOT_SUPPORTED
Compute Mode	nvmlDeviceGetComputeMode()	SUCCESS

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function	NVML return code on vGPU
	A vGPU always returns NVML_COMPUTEMODE_PROHIBITED.	
Driver Model	nvmlDeviceGetDriverModel() A vGPU supports WDDM mode only in Windows VMs.	success (Windows)

### 3.3.2.4. PCI Express properties that do not apply to a vGPU

PCI Express characteristics are not exposed on vGPUs. All the functions in the following table return NOT\_SUPPORTED.

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Generation Max	nvmlDeviceGetMaxPcieLinkGeneration()
Generation Current	nvmlDeviceGetCurrPcieLinkGeneration()
Link Width Max	nvmlDeviceGetMaxPcieLinkWidth()
Link Width Current	nvmlDeviceGetCurrPcieLinkWidth()
Bridge Chip Type	nvmlDeviceGetBridgeChipInfo()
Bridge Chip Firmware	nvmlDeviceGetBridgeChipInfo()
Replays	nvmlDeviceGetPcieReplayCounter()
TX Throughput	nvmlDeviceGetPcieThroughput()
RX Throughput	nvmlDeviceGetPcieThroughput()

### 3.3.2.5. Environmental properties that do not apply to a **vGPU**

All the functions in the following table return  ${\tt NOT\_SUPPORTED}.$ 

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Fan Speed	nvmlDeviceGetFanSpeed()
Clocks Throttle Reasons	nvmlDeviceGetSupportedClocksThrottleReasons() nvmlDeviceGetCurrentClocksThrottleReasons()
Current Temperature	<pre>nvmlDeviceGetTemperature() nvmlDeviceGetTemperatureThreshold()</pre>
Shutdown Temperature	<pre>nvmlDeviceGetTemperature() nvmlDeviceGetTemperatureThreshold()</pre>

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Slowdown Temperature	nvmlDeviceGetTemperature()
	nvmlDeviceGetTemperatureThreshold()

### 3.3.2.6. Power consumption properties that do not apply to a vGPU

vGPUs do not expose physical power consumption of the underlying GPU. All the functions in the following table return NOT SUPPORTED.

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Management Mode	nvmlDeviceGetPowerManagementMode()
Draw	nvmlDeviceGetPowerUsage()
Limit	nvmlDeviceGetPowerManagementLimit()
Default Limit	nvmlDeviceGetPowerManagementDefaultLimit()
Enforced Limit	nvmlDeviceGetEnforcedPowerLimit()
Min Limit	nvmlDeviceGetPowerManagementLimitConstraints()
Max Limit	nvmlDeviceGetPowerManagementLimitConstraints()

### 3.3.2.7. ECC properties that do not apply to a vGPU

Error-correcting code (ECC) is not supported on vGPUs. All the functions in the following table return NOT SUPPORTED.

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Mode	nvmlDeviceGetEccMode()
Error Counts	nvmlDeviceGetMemoryErrorCounter()
	<pre>nvmlDeviceGetTotalEccErrors()</pre>
Retired Pages	nvmlDeviceGetRetiredPages()
	nvmlDeviceGetRetiredPagesPendingStatus()

### 3.3.2.8. Clocks properties that do not apply to a vGPU

All the functions in the following table return NOT SUPPORTED.

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Application Clocks	nvmlDeviceGetApplicationsClock()
Default Application Clocks	nvmlDeviceGetDefaultApplicationsClock()
Max Clocks	nvmlDeviceGetMaxClockInfo()

GPU Property	NVML Device Query Function
Policy: Auto Boost	nvmlDeviceGetAutoBoostedClocksEnabled()
Policy: Auto Boost Default	nvmlDeviceGetAutoBoostedClocksEnabled()

### 3.3.3. Building an NVML-enabled application for a guest VM

To build an NVML-enabled application, refer to the sample code included in the SDK.

# 3.4. Using Windows Performance Counters to monitor GPU performance

In Windows VMs, GPU metrics are available as Windows Performance Counters through the NVIDIA GPU object.

For access to Windows Performance Counters through programming interfaces, refer to the performance counter sample code included with the NVIDIA Windows Management Instrumentation SDK.

On vGPUs, the following GPU performance counters read as 0 because they are not applicable to vGPUs:

- % Bus Usage
- % Cooler rate
- Core Clock MHz
- Fan Speed
- Memory Clock MHz
- PCI-E current speed to GPU Mbps
- PCI-E current width to GPU
- PCI-E downstream width to GPU
- Power Consumption mW
- Temperature C

#### 3.5. Using NVWMI to monitor GPU performance

In Windows VMs, Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI) exposes GPU metrics in the ROOT\CIMV2\NV namespace through NVWMI. NVWMI is included with the NVIDIA driver package. The NVWMI API Reference in Windows Help format is available for download from the NVIDIA website.

For access to NVWMI through programming interfaces, use the NVWMI SDK. The NVWMI SDK, with white papers and sample programs, is included in the NVIDIA Windows Management Instrumentation SDK.

On vGPUs, some instance properties of the following classes do not apply to vGPUs:

- ▶ Gpu
- PcieLink

#### Gpu instance properties that do not apply to vGPUs

Gpu Instance Property	Value reported on vGPU
gpuCoreClockCurrent	-1
memoryClockCurrent	-1
pciDownstreamWidth	0
pcieGpu.curGen	0
pcieGpu.curSpeed	0
pcieGpu.curWidth	0
pcieGpu.maxGen	1
pcieGpu.maxSpeed	2500
pcieGpu.maxWidth	0
power	-1
powerSampleCount	-1
powerSamplingPeriod	-1
verVBIOS.orderedValue	0
verVBIOS.strValue	-
verVBIOS.value	0

#### PcieLink instance properties that do not apply to vGPUs

No instances of PcieLink are reported for vGPU.

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