Vulkanised 2024

The 6th Vulkan Developer Conference
Sunnyvale, California | February 5-7, 2024

Using Vulkan Validation Effectively

Jeremy Gebben, LunarG

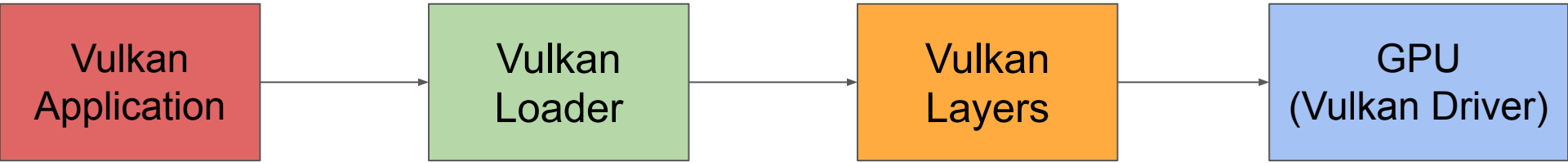
Presentation:
https://bit.ly/48Wb5sL

Agenda

- Valid Usage and VUIDs
- Example error walkthrough
- Debug utilities extension
- Enabling and configuring validation

What is a Vulkan Layer

- A shared library that intercepts Vulkan commands from an application
- The Loader is responsible for managing layers and drivers



Why the Vulkan Validation Layer?

- OpenGL had many error code checks that drivers had to implement
- Checks always enabled in drivers (useless CPU overhead)
- Most checking was similar in all drivers (duplicated effort)
- Vulkan moved error checking to the Validation Layer
    - Enabled only during development, no overhead in released applications

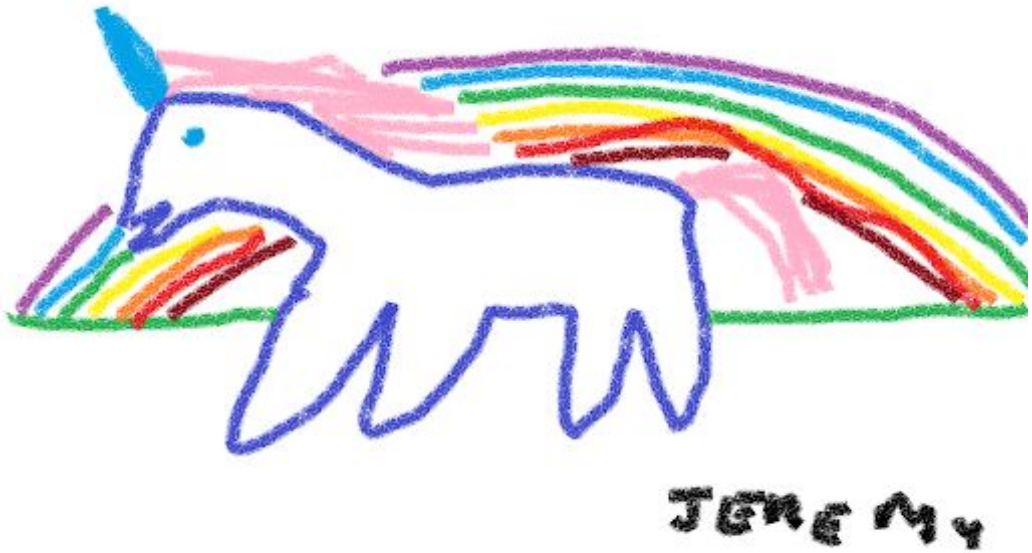
What is Valid Usage

“set of conditions that must be met in order to achieve well-defined run-time behavior in an application.”

- The driver assumes the application provides valid data
- If a Valid Usage is broken, the result is **undefined behavior**
  - For the current command and everything following it.
- **Advice**: Fix the first error message first

Undefined Behavior

- … App might work fine
- … output might be corrupt
- … GPU might hang
- … Computer might blow up!
- Anything is possible!



LUNARG

VUID

- **V**alid **U**sage **ID**
- Automatically generated number when spec is released
- Unique ID to map each error back to the spec
  - Format: VUID-{command or structure}-{parameter, field or None}-{Number}
  - Example: VUID-vkCmdDraw-None-07850
- Number is unique per Valid Usage, but could apply to multiple commands:
  - VUID-vkCmdDrawMultiEXT-None-07850
  - VUID-vkCmdDrawIndexed-None-07850
  - VUID-vkCmdDrawMultiIndexedEXT-None-07850

```
// Provided by VK_VERSION_1_0
VkResult vkCreateBuffer(
    VkDevice                                    device,
    const VkBufferCreateInfo*                   pCreateInfo,
    const VkAllocationCallbacks*                pAllocator,
    VkBuffer*                                   pBuffer);
```

- `device` is the logical device that creates the buffer object.
- `pCreateInfo` is a pointer to a VkBufferCreateInfo structure containing parameters affecting creation of the buffer.
- `pAllocator` controls host memory allocation as described in the Memory Allocation chapter.
- `pBuffer` is a pointer to a VkBuffer handle in which the resulting buffer object is returned.

Valid Usage

- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-flags-00911`
  If the `flags` member of `pCreateInfo` includes `VK_BUFFER_CREATE_SPARSE_BINDING_BIT`, creating this `VkBuffer` **must** not cause the total required sparse memory for all currently valid sparse resources on the device to exceed `VkPhysicalDeviceLimits::sparseAddressSpaceSize`
- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-pNext-06387`
  If using the VkBuffer for an import operation from a VkBufferCollectionFUCHSIA where a VkBufferCollectionBufferCreateInfoFUCHSIA has been chained to `pNext`, `pCreateInfo` **must** match the VkBufferConstraintsInfoFUCHSIA::`createInfo` used when setting the constraints on the buffer collection with vkSetBufferCollectionBufferConstraintsFUCHSIA

Valid Usage (Implicit)

- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-device-parameter`
  `device` **must** be a valid VkDevice handle
- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-pCreateInfo-parameter`
  `pCreateInfo` **must** be a valid pointer to a valid VkBufferCreateInfo structure
- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-pAllocator-parameter`

Valid Usage

- VUID-vkCreateBuffer-flags-00911

  If the flags member of pCreateInfo includes VK_BUFFER_CREATE_SPARSE_BINDING_BIT, creating this VkBuffer **must** not cause the total required sparse memory for all currently valid sparse resources on the device to exceed VkPhysicalDeviceLimits::sparseAddressSpaceSize

- VUID-vkCreateBuffer-pNext-06387

  If using the VkBuffer for an import operation from a VkBufferCollectionFUCHSIA where a VkBufferCollectionBufferCreateInfoFUCHSIA has been chained to pNext, pCreateInfo **must** match the VkBufferConstraintsInfoFUCHSIA::createInfo used when setting the constraints on the buffer collection with vkSetBufferCollectionBufferConstraintsFUCHSIA

Valid Usage (Implicit)

- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-device-parameter`

  device **must** be a valid VkDevice handle

- `VUID-vkCreateBuffer-pCreateInfo-parameter`

  `pCreateInfo` **must** be a valid pointer to a valid VkBufferCreateInfo structure

Advice: Read the spec!

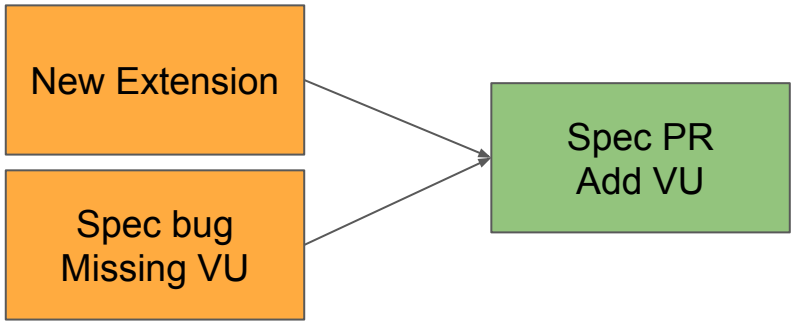
- “Read the spec early and often”
- Has most of the answers!
- Tips for efficient spec reading:
  - Read the section where the VUID is defined
  - Search for words / phrases from the VUID text in the rest of the spec
  - Read VUIDs for the command(s) you’re using and any associated structures

Life cycle of a VU

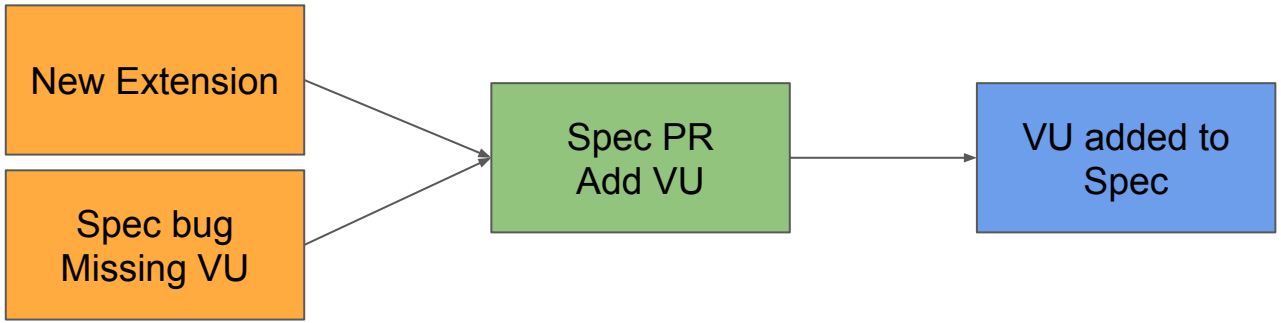
New Extension

Spec bug
Missing VU

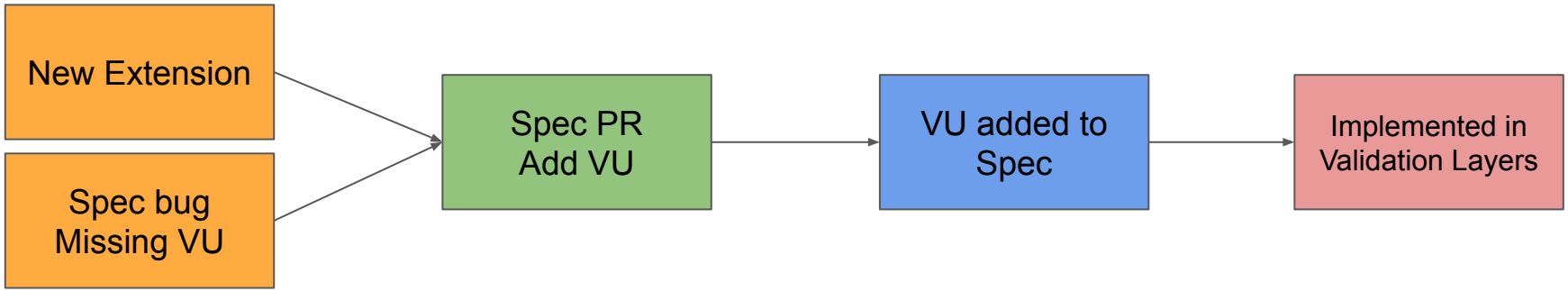
Life cycle of a VU



Life cycle of a VU



Life cycle of a VU



Types of validation - API Usage

- Developer is using an API incorrectly
  - `vkCreateImage(VK_IMAGE_TYPE_2D, extent.depth = 8);`
- Setting depth, but using a 2D image (not 3D)

Types of validation - Device Features

- Unsuccessful interaction between application and system features
- `VkSubpassDescription::colorAttachmentCount = 5;`
- This *might* succeed or fail, it will depend on the system
  - **maxColorAttachments**
  - Minimum required is only 4

Types of validation - Resource constraints

- Unsuccessful interaction between application and the current system state.
- Memory Allocation is the classic example
  - `VkMemoryAllocateInfo::allocationSize = HUGE_SIZE;`
  - `VkResult vkAllocateMemory(..., VkDeviceMemory *pMemory);`
- This *might* fail depending on the what else is happening on the system
- **Advice**: Always handle VkResult return values
  - These errors can happen in a correct application!

An example error: vkcube

```
VkBufferImageCopy copy_region = {
    .bufferOffset = 0,
    .bufferRowLength = demo->staging_texture.tex_width,
    .bufferImageHeight = demo->staging_texture.tex_height,
    .imageSubresource = {VK_IMAGE_ASPECT_COLOR_BIT, 0, 0, 1},
    .imageOffset = {0, 0, 0},
    .imageExtent = {demo->staging_texture.tex_width, demo->staging_texture.tex_height, 1},
};
vkCmdCopyBufferToImage(demo->cmd, demo->staging_texture.buffer, demo->textures[i].image,
                       VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_TRANSFER_DST_OPTIMAL, 1, &copy_region)
```

LUNAR G

An example error: vkcube

```
VkBufferImageCopy copy_region = {
    .bufferOffset = 0,
    .bufferRowLength = demo->staging_texture.tex_width * 2, // ERROR!
    .bufferImageHeight = demo->staging_texture.tex_height,
    .imageSubresource = {VK_IMAGE_ASPECT_COLOR_BIT, 0, 0, 1},
    .imageOffset = {0, 0, 0},
    .imageExtent = {demo->staging_texture.tex_width, demo->staging_texture.tex_height, 1},
};
vkCmdCopyBufferToImage(demo->cmd, demo->staging_texture.buffer, demo->textures[i].image,
                       VK_IMAGE_LAYOUT_TRANSFER_DST_OPTIMAL, 1, &copy_region)
```

LUNAR G

Validation Output: Error Message

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

LUNARG

Error Message - Basic Info

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 (ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-VkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

LUNARG

Error Message - Basic Info

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-VkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

LUNARG

Error Message - Basic Info

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-VkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

- msgNum / MessageID is a hash of the VUID string, used for handling duplicate messages

LUNARG

Error Message - Main message

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

Error Message - Main message

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

Error Message - Main message

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

Error Message - Spec Reference

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy  523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
```

The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions (https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171)

```
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

LUNARG

Error Message - Object Handles

```
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171(ERROR / SPEC): msgNum: 1867332608 - Validation Error: [
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x56313fd28a00, type =
VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0xd175b40000000013, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; |
MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is trying to copy 523264 bytes plus 0 offset
to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer 0xd175b40000000013[]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes.
The Vulkan spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed
according to Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)
    Objects: 2
        [0] 0x56313fd28a00, type: 6, name: NULL
        [1] 0xd175b40000000013, type: 9, name: NULL
```

LUNARG

Debug Utilities Extension

- VK_EXT_debug_utils
  - Replaced original VK_EXT_debug_report/VK_EXT_debug_marker
- Implemented by Vulkan-ValidationLayers (and other tools)
- Provides the ability to attach user-defined names to
  - Vulkan Objects
  - Sequences of commands recorded in Command Buffers
  - Queue submissions
- Names show up in validation error messages
  - Also used by other tools such as RenderDoc
- Allows applications to register their own validation error handling callback

```
typedef struct VkDebugUtilsObjectNameInfoEXT {
    VkStructureType    sType;
    const void*        pNext;
    VkObjectType       objectType;
    uint64_t           objectHandle;
    const char*        pObjectName;
} VkDebugUtilsObjectNameInfoEXT;
```

```
VkResult vkSetDebugUtilsObjectNameEXT(
    VkDevice                                    device,
    const VkDebugUtilsObjectNameInfoEXT*        pNameInfo);
```

Debug Utilities Extension: Object naming

```
1573        err = vkCreateBuffer(demo->device, &buffer_create_info, NULL, &tex_obj->buffer);
1574        assert(!err);
1575        demo_name_object(demo, VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER, (uint64_t)tex_obj->buffer, "TexBuffer(%s)", filename);
```

- The demo_name_object() function
  - vsnprintf()'s the name into a buffer
  - Calls vkSetDebugUtilsObjectNameEXT()
  - Each object's name is stored in internal storage

```
Objects - 2
    Object[0] - VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER, Handle 0x5566702c9f60, Name "PrepareCB"
    Object[1] - VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER, Handle 0x9fde6b0000000014, Name "TexBuffer(lunarg.ppm)"
```

LUNARG

```
typedef struct VkDebugUtilsLabelEXT {
    VkStructureType    sType;
    const void*        pNext;
    const char*        pLabelName;
    float              color[4];
} VkDebugUtilsLabelEXT;
```

```
void vkCmdBeginDebugUtilsLabelEXT(
    VkCommandBuffer                 commandBuffer,
    const VkDebugUtilsLabelEXT*     pLabelInfo);
```

LUNARG

Debug Utilities extension: Command buffer labels

- Allows a name to be attached to a sequence of commands in a command buffer
- Stack-like, multiple labels can be present at once
  - `vkCmdBeginDebugUtilsLabelEXT()` pushes
  - `vkCmdEndDebugUtilsLabelEXT()` pops
- See also `vkQueueBeginDebugUtilsLabelEXT()`
- **Not printed by default error handler!**

```
Command Buffer Labels - 3
     Label[0] - StagingBufferCopy(0) { 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000}
     Label[1] - StagingTexture(0) { 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000}
     Label[2] - Prepare { 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000}
```

LUNARG

Debug Utilities extension: vkcube error callback

```
ERROR : VALIDATION - Message Id Number: 1867332608 | Message Id Name:
VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171
      Validation Error: [ VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToImage-pRegions-00171 ] Object 0: handle = 0x562780095ca0,
name = PrepareCB, type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER; Object 1: handle = 0x9fde6b0000000014, name =
TexBuffer type = VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER; | MessageID = 0x6f4d3c00 | vkCmdCopyBufferToImage: pRegion[0] is
trying to copy  523264 bytes plus 0 offset to/from the VkBuffer (VkBuffer
0x9fde6b0000000014[TexBuffer(lunarg.ppm)]) which exceeds the VkBuffer total size of 262144 bytes. The Vulkan
spec states: srcBuffer must be large enough to contain all buffer locations that are accessed according to
Buffer and Image Addressing, for each element of pRegions
(https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/view/1.3.243.0/windows/1.3-extensions/html/vkspec.html#VUID-vkCmdCopyBufferToI
mage-pRegions-00171)

      Objects - 2
            Object[0] - VK_OBJECT_TYPE_COMMAND_BUFFER, Handle 0x562780095ca0, Name "PrepareCB"
            Object[1] - VK_OBJECT_TYPE_BUFFER, Handle 0x9fde6b0000000014, Name "TexBuffer(lunarg.ppm)"

      Command Buffer Labels - 3
            Label[0] - StagingBufferCopy(0) { 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000}
            Label[1] - StagingTexture(0) { 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000}
            Label[2] - Prepare { 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000, 0.000000}
```

LUNARG

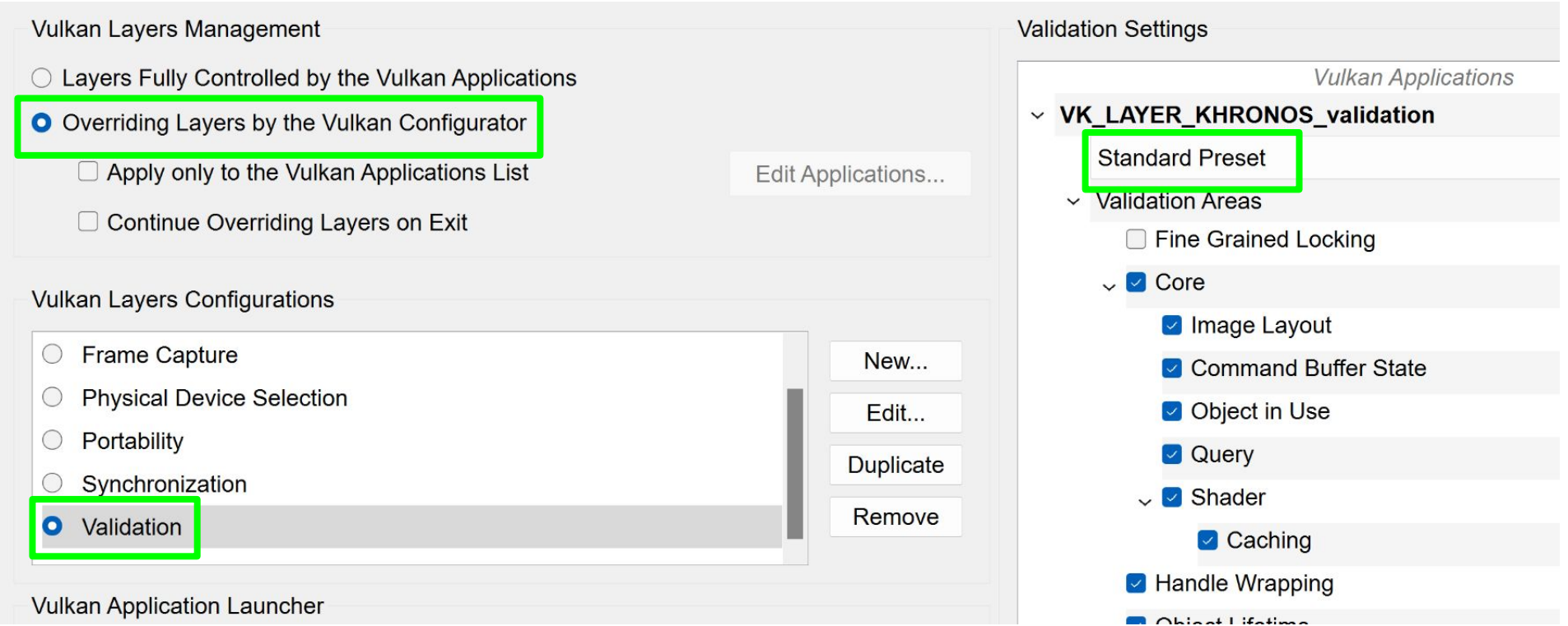
Debug Utilities extension: Custom message callback

- Set up by calling `vkCreateDebugUtilsMessengerEXT()`
  - Your callback receives a complex struct for each error
  - Same mechanism used for default error logging
- Possible uses
  - Make your own message format
  - Add messages to application logging stream
  - Send messages to somewhere other than the console
  - Trigger failures in your unit test framework
- **Don’t use it to filter messages**, it is faster to use Validation Layer’s the built in filtering

Validation Quick Start - Enable

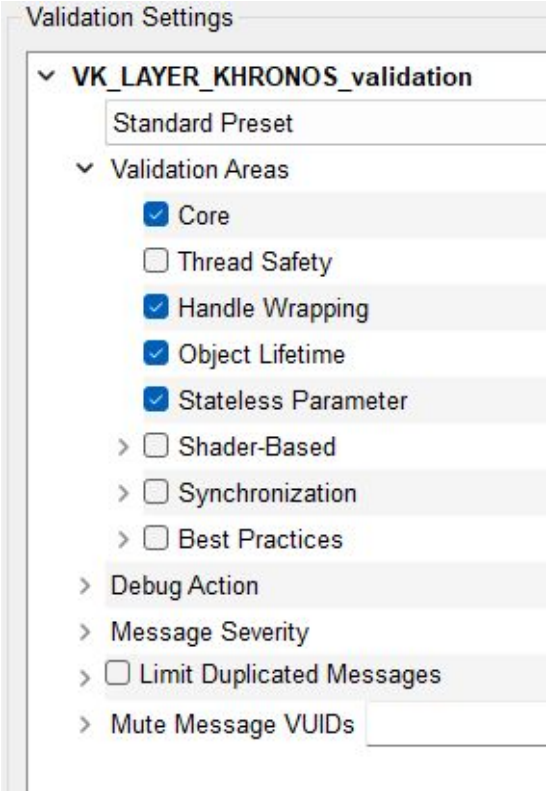
- Run the Vulkan Configurator (Simplest)
  - With SDK installed you should have a **Vulkan Configurator** program under the start menu
  - Or run **vkconfig** from the command line
- At **vkCreateInstance()** time
  - Add the layer name to `VkInstanceCreateInfo::ppEnabledLayerNames`
- From the terminal
  - `export VK_INSTANCE_LAYERS=VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation ./your-application`

Vulkan Configurator



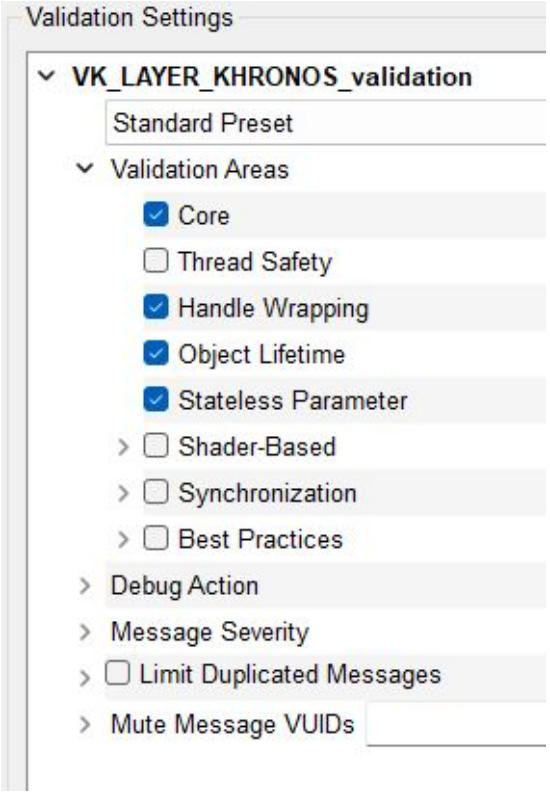
Configuration - How to set

- Right pane in vkconfig
- Can use vk_layer_settings.txt
  - khronos_validation.enables
  - khronos_validation.disables
- Environment variables
  - VK_LAYER_ENABLES
  - VK_LAYER_DISABLES
- VK_EXT_validation_features
  - Set at VkDevice creation time
- https://vulkan.lunarg.com/doc/sdk/latest/windows/khronos_validation_layer.html



Configuration - presets and areas

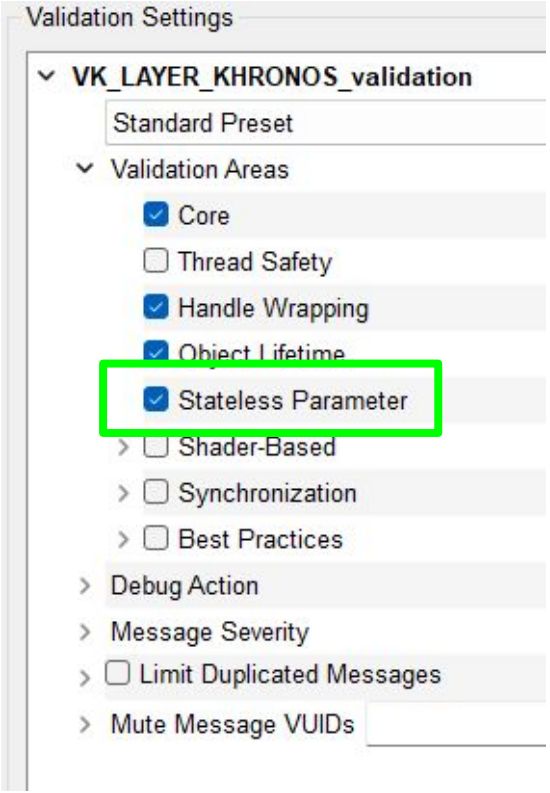
- Validation is split up into several areas to reduce performance overhead
- Don’t enable all areas at once (it will be slow!)
- Use the available presets!
- Fix errors from each preset,
  - Then run Standard preset again



LUNARG

Configuration: Stateless

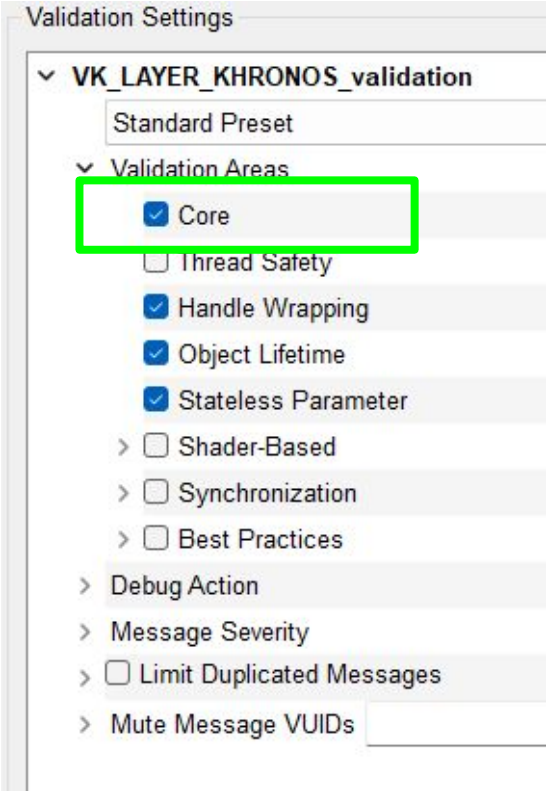
- Checks implicit and other simple VUIDs
- Lots of generated checks
- Doesn’t require expensive state tracking - fast



LUNARG

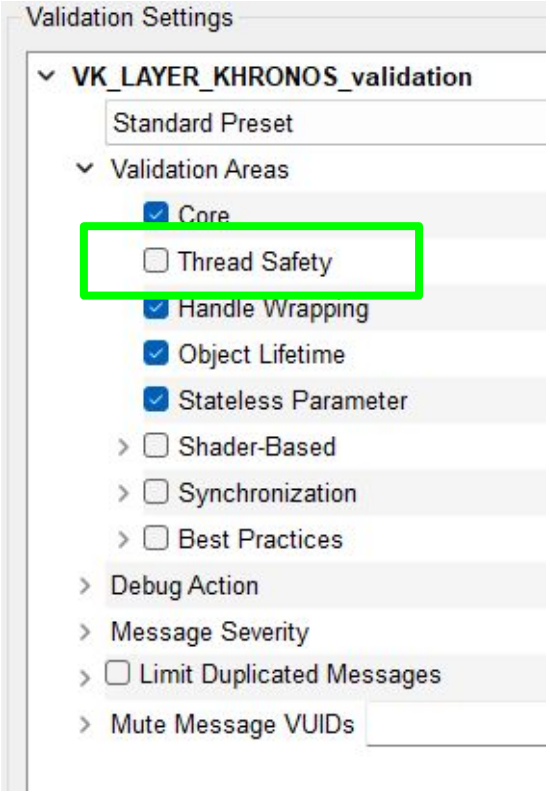
Configuration: Core

- Most VUIDs checked here
- Requires state tracking - slower



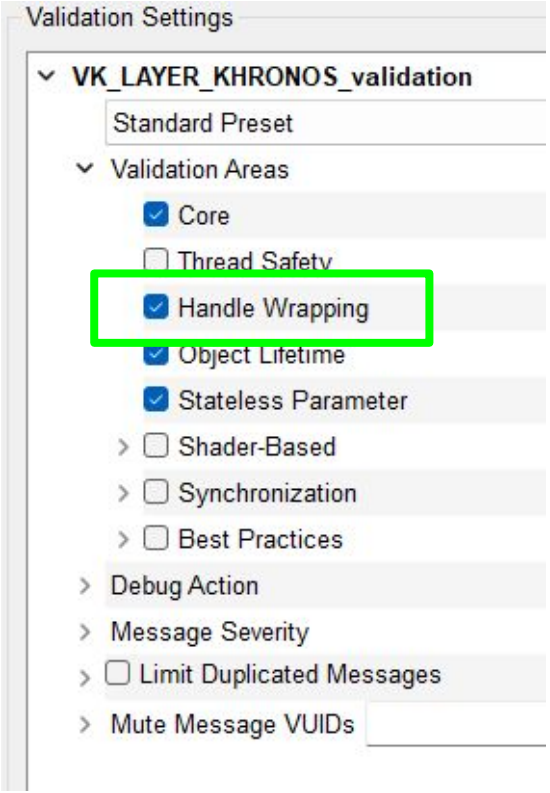
Configuration: Thread Safety

- Checks external synchronization requirements
- Accessing a vulkan object from multiple threads concurrently



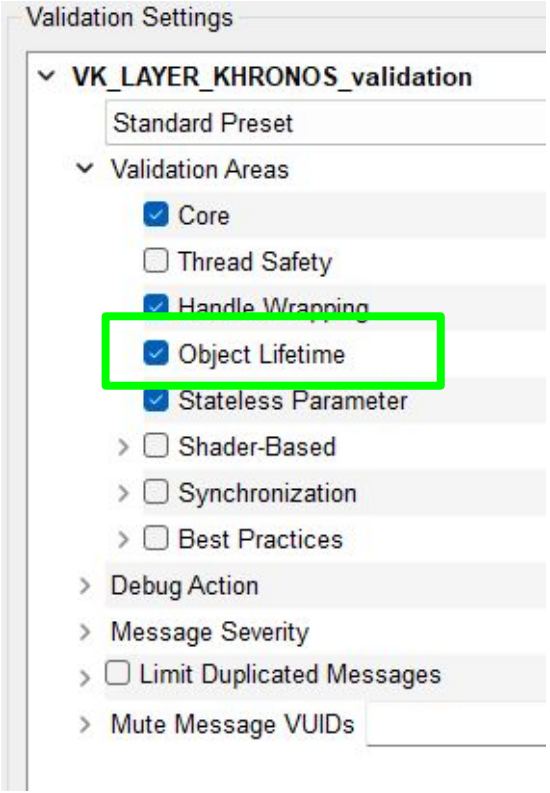
Configuration: Handle Wrapping

- Prevents handle reuse bugs



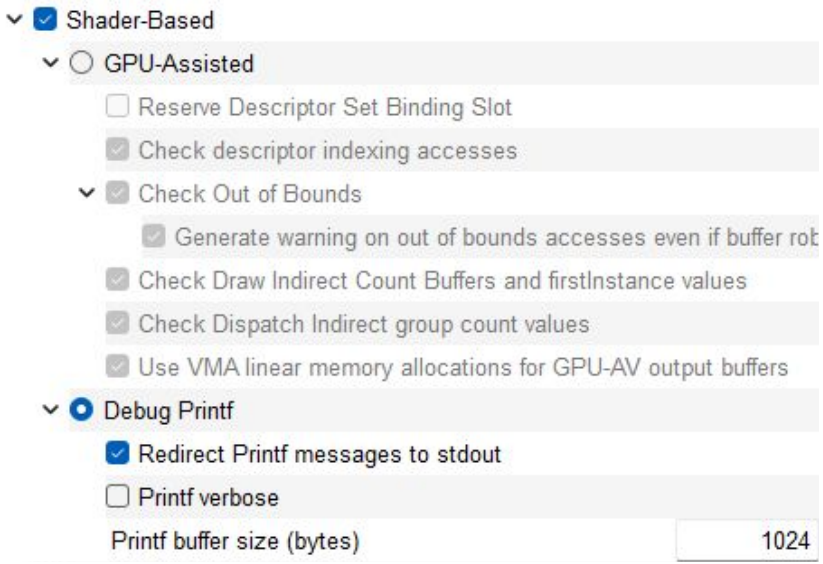
Configuration: Object Lifetime

- Detects use of destroyed objects



Configuration: Shader Based

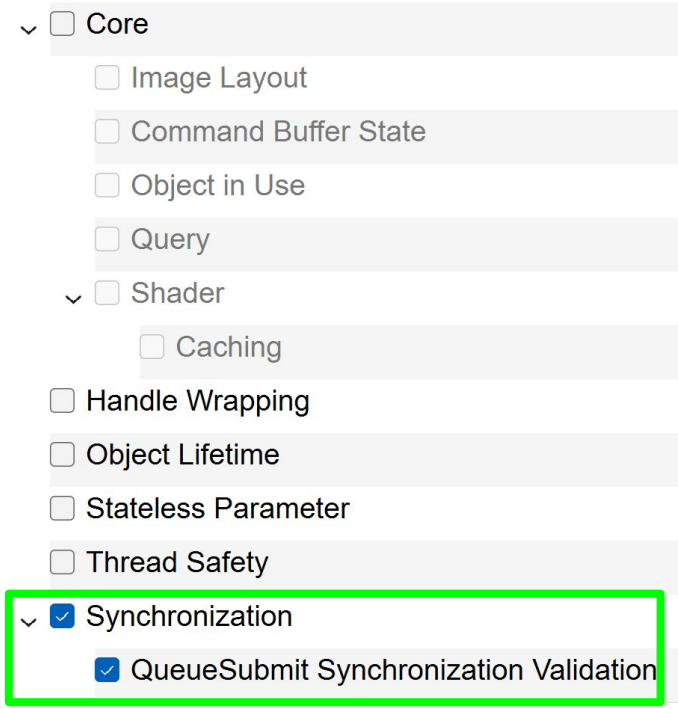
- GPU-Assisted
  - AKA: GPU-AV
  - Instruments SPIR-V to detect problems in shaders
  - Descriptor indexing
  - Buffer Device Address
  - Not supported on Mac
- DebugPrintf
  - Adds printf() functionality to shaders
  - Not supported on Mac



LUNARG

Configuration: Synchronization

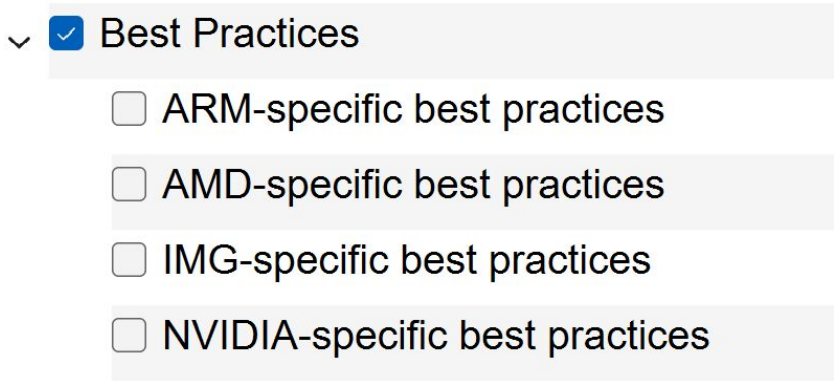
- Checks for correct Execution and Memory Dependencies
- vkCmdPipelineBarrier(), VkEvents, etc.



LUNARG

Configuration: Best Practice

- Detects Valid but dubious behavior
  - Performance warnings
  - Undefined values
  - Non-success return values
- Mixture of common and vendor-specific checks



LUNARG

Best Practices example: Undefined Value

- Undefined **Value** != Undefined **Behavior**
- The app will never crash
- Your data might be garbage
- Great use of Best Practices layers

Undefined Behavior vs Best Practice

```
// Vertex
layout(location = 0) out vec4 vertOut0;
layout(location = 1) out vec4 vertOut1;
layout(location = 2) out vec4 vertOut2;

// Fragment
layout(location = 0) in vec4 fragIn0;
layout(location = 1) in vec4 fragIn1;
layout(location = 2) in vec4 fragIn2;
```

Normal

```
// Vertex
layout(location = 0) out vec4 vertOut0;
// Missing Output
layout(location = 2) out vec4 vertOut2;

// Fragment
layout(location = 0) in vec4 fragIn0;
layout(location = 1) in vec4 fragIn1;
layout(location = 2) in vec4 fragIn2;
```

Error

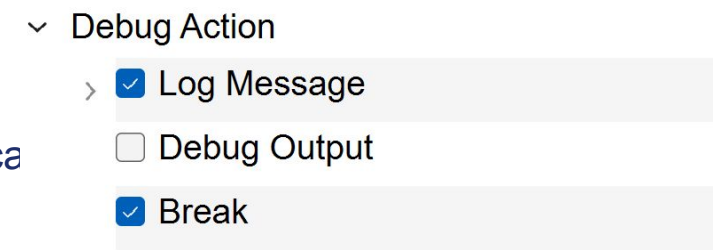
```
// Vertex
layout(location = 0) out vec4 vertOut0;
layout(location = 1) out vec4 vertOut1;
layout(location = 2) out vec4 vertOut2;

// Fragment
layout(location = 0) in vec4 fragIn0;
// Missing Input
layout(location = 2) in vec4 fragIn2;
```

Valid
But is this what you wanted?

LUNARG

Configuration: Break on error

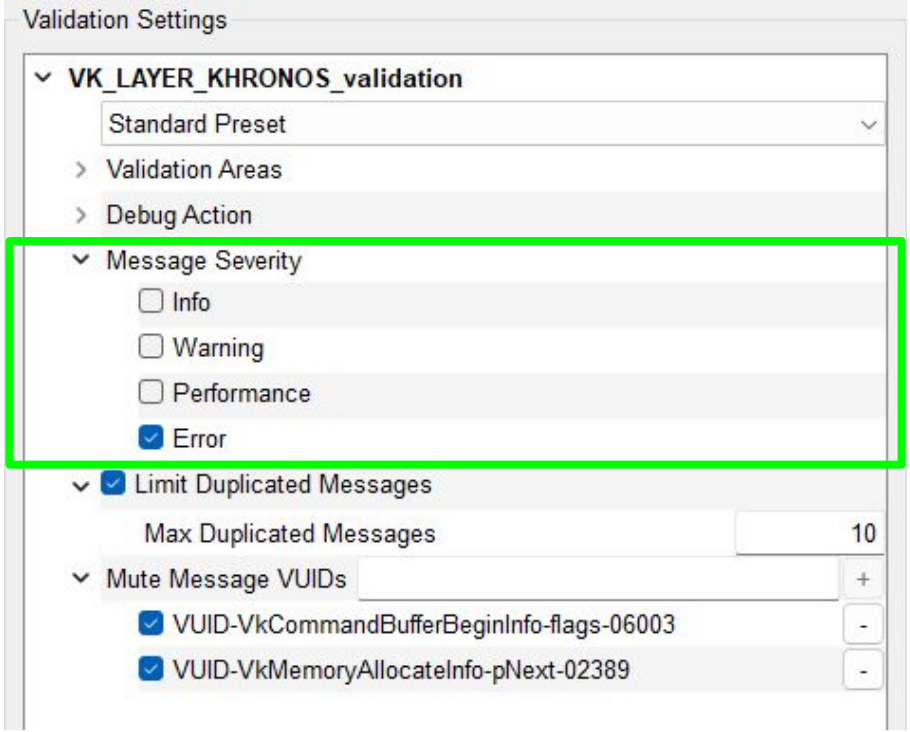
- Will stop program when an error is detected
  - Calls `DebugBreak();` or `raise(SIGTRAP);`
- Stack trace will **usually** take you to the part of your code ca the error
- But some errors are not detected until queue submission time
  - Examples: Image Layout, Sync Validation, Timeline Semaphores
  - Stack trace will take you to the queue submission code



LUNARG

Configuration: Limit message severity

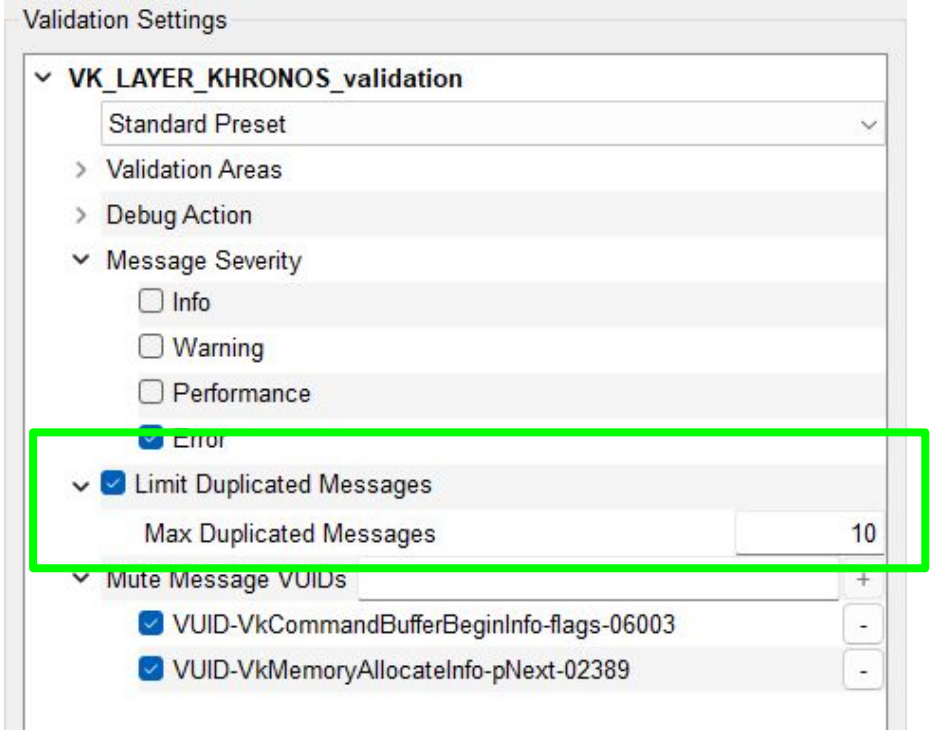
- Almost all messages are ‘Error’
- Except Best Practices, which is ‘Performance’ and ‘Warning’



LUNARG

Configuration: Limit repeated messages

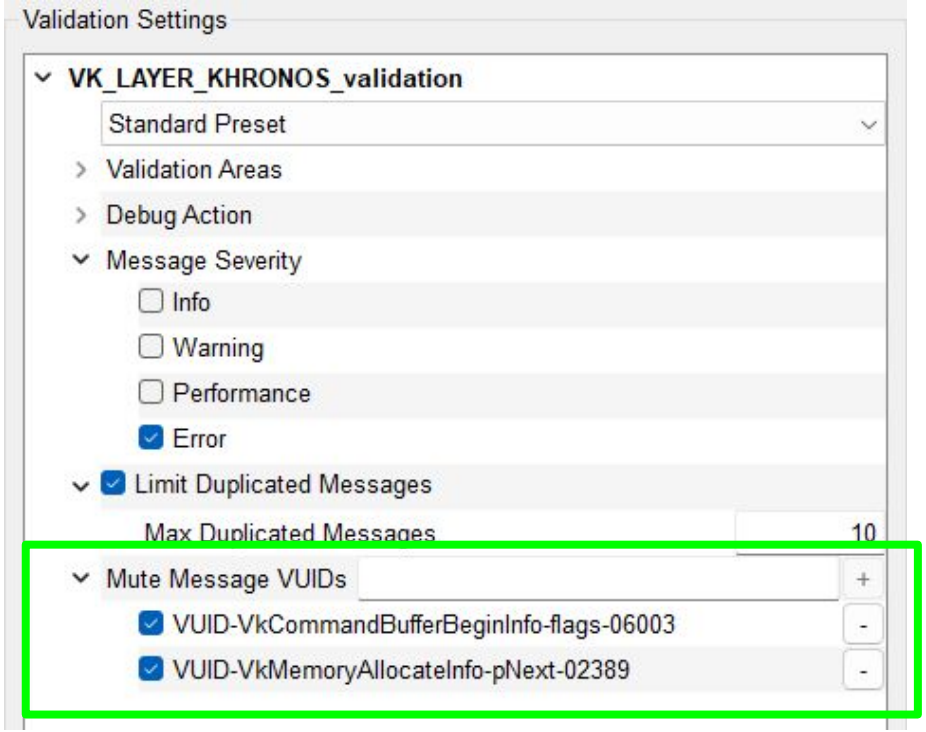
- Limit times a message is repeated
  - Exact VUID string must match to count as a repeat



LUNARG

Configuration: Mute message

- Sometimes undefined behaviour works
- Sometimes the Validation Layers have bugs
- Sometimes the Vulkan Spec has bugs

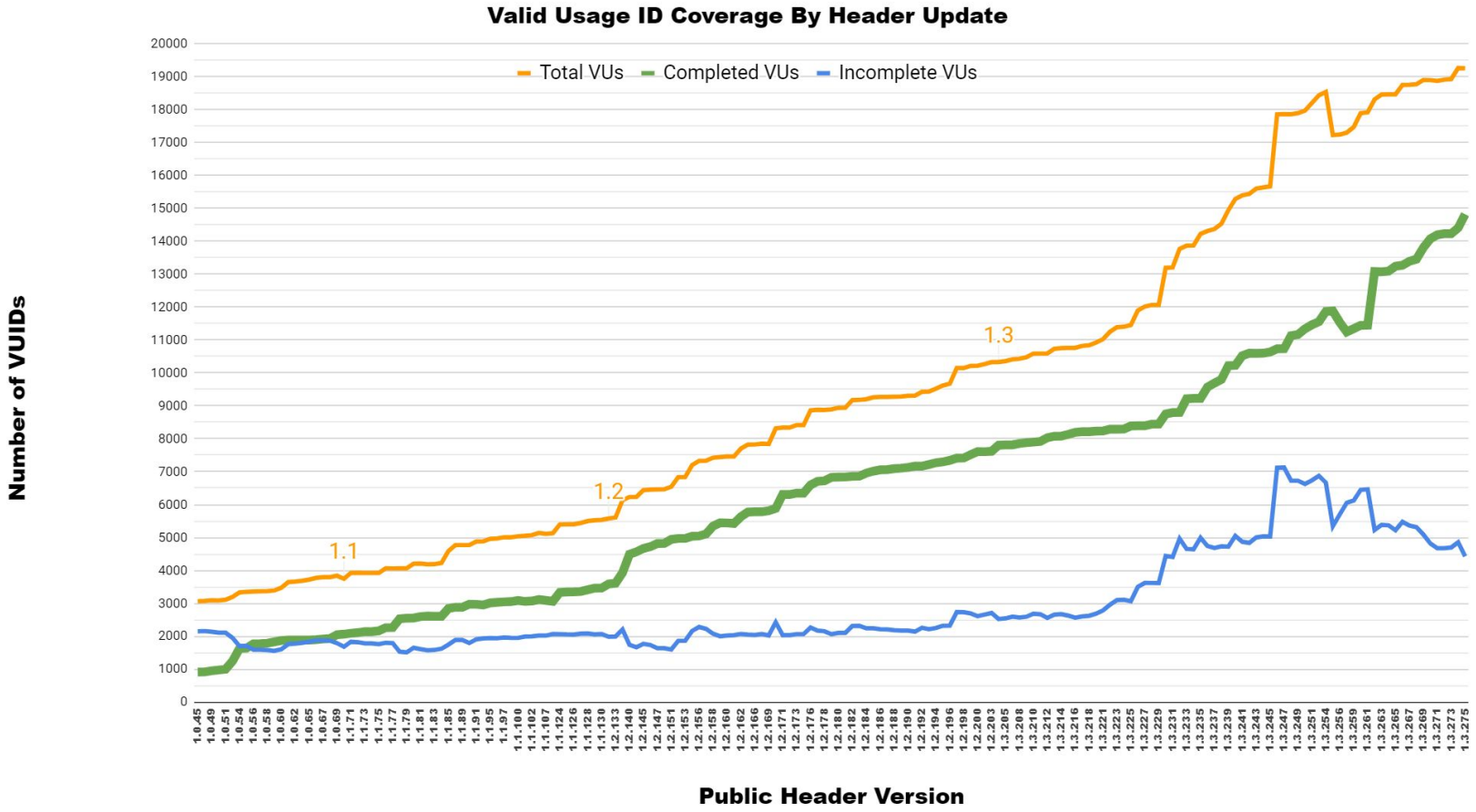


LUNARG

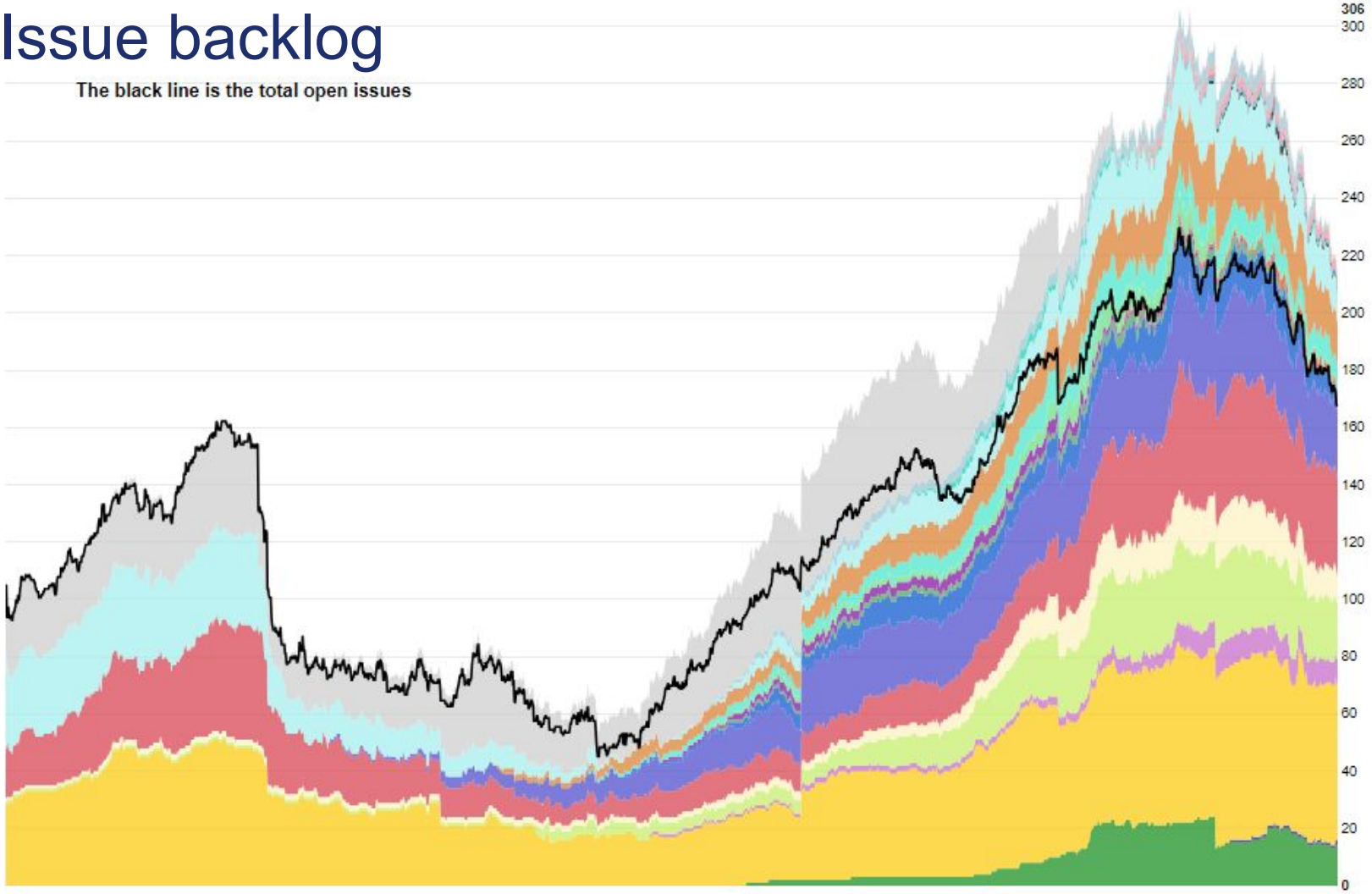
Is this really an error?

- **Advice:**
  - Search in the ValidationLayer source for the VUID string to see how it is validated
  - Check Khronos Slack, Discord, Reddit, etc.
  - Disable implicit layers, which could cause errors
- Could be a bug in validation or the spec, please report it!
- If not sure which to choose, feel free to put in Validation repo

Not all VUIDs checked



Issue backlog



LUNARG

Recent Improvements (last 12 months)

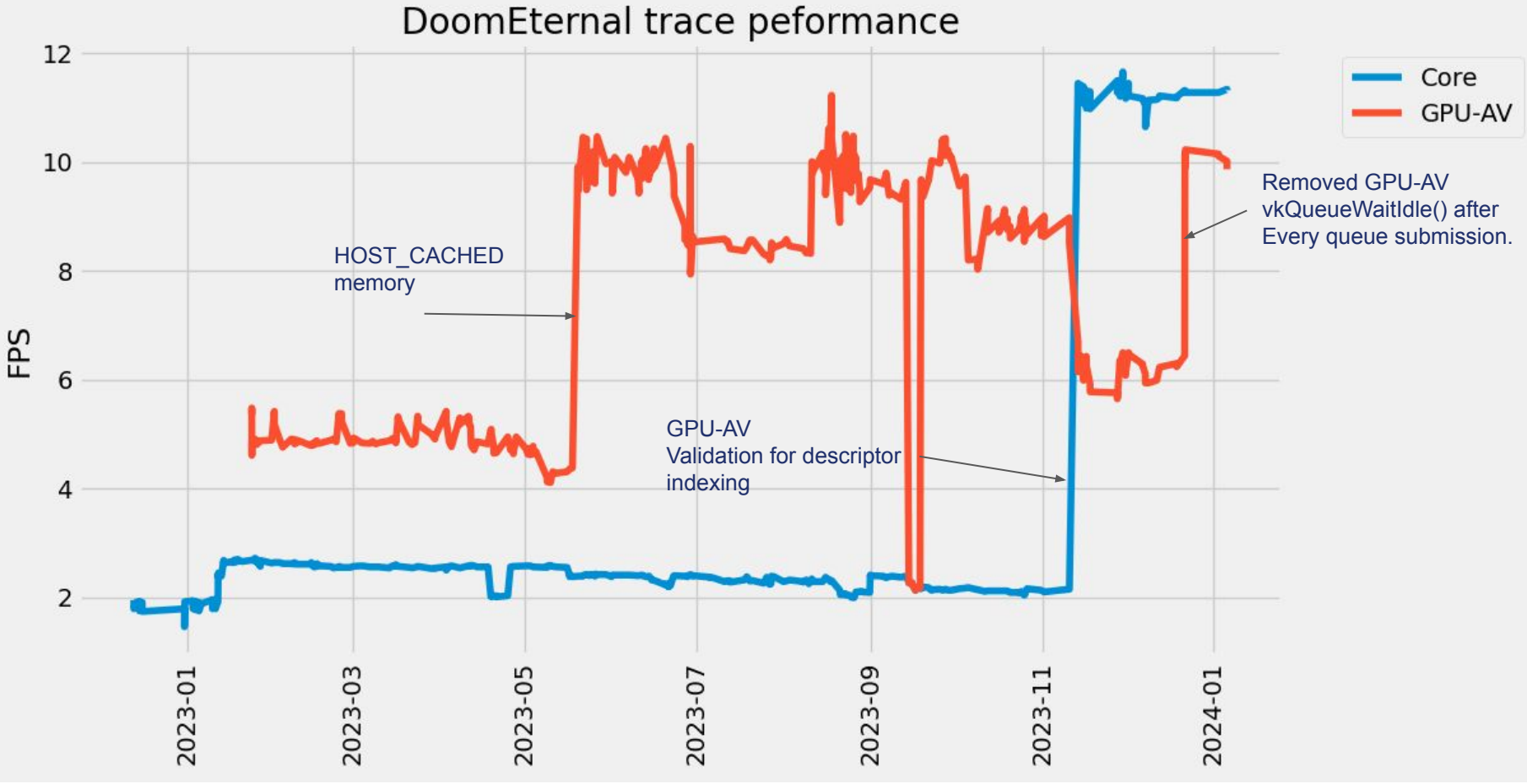
- Improved consistency and detail of all existing error messages
- GPU-AV descriptor indexing validation
- Sync Validation at Queue submission time
- Improved support for timeline semaphores, queue present operations, external memory
- Vulkan Utilities Libraries (commonly used parts of VVL codebase)
  - Utility headers such as vk_format_utils.h
  - Layer Settings library

GPU-AV descriptor indexing validation

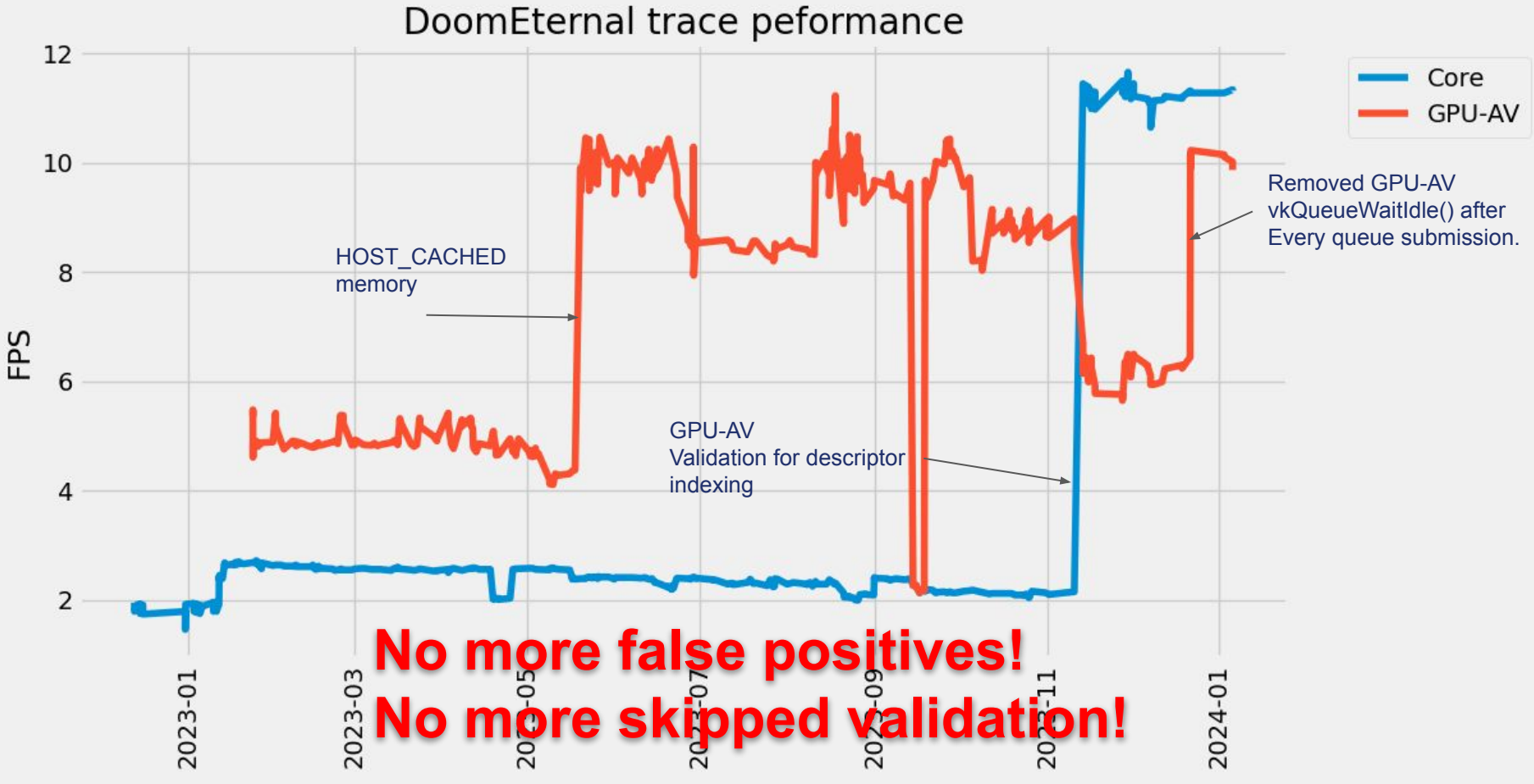
"A descriptor is dynamically used if any shader invocation executes an instruction that performs any memory access using the descriptor. If a descriptor is not dynamically used, any resource referenced by the descriptor is not considered to be referenced during command execution."

- Bindless applications have huge arrays of descriptors
  - But… only a few descriptors are used by each shader invocation
- GPU-AV has instrumentation to track which descriptors are used
  - CPU code then validates only this subset
- Improves performance and removes false positives from unused descriptors

Validation Layer Performance Improvements



Validation Layer Performance Improvements



Upcoming Improvements

- More GPU-AV work
  - Ray tracing
  - Descriptor buffers
- Sync validation performance optimization
- Improve debuggability of errors detected during queue submission
  - Finding which command caused an error of this type can be difficult
- SPIR-V runtime validation improvements
- Further work on error message formatting
- Again, please submit an Issue on github if we're missing something you need!
  - We also accept Pull Requests :)

Summary

- Vulkan is complex and there are many rules for you to follow
- The VUID system and Validation Layer help you deal with these rules
- The Debug Utilties extension can also help you find the source of errors
- The Vulkan Configurator is an easy way to configure validation
- The Validation Layer isn’t perfect but we’re always working to make it better

Vulkan®

Help Us Improve the Vulkan SDK and Ecosystem

Share Your Feedback

Take the LunarG annual developer's survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KTBZDCM

- Survey results are tabulated
- Shared with the Vulkan Working Group
- Actions are assigned
- Results are reported

Survey closes February 26, 2024

Today's Presentation:

https://bit.ly/48Wb5sL

Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

Get A FREE Tumbler at the LunarG Sponsor Table!

LUNARG