Using the Vulkan Configurator For Daily Vulkan Development

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Questions for the audience...

Please, raise your hand if

- You already used Vulkan Configurator?
- You are using Vulkan Configurator on a daily basis?



Vulkan Configurator in a nutshell

• It's an intuitive GUI application to discover and to configure Vulkan Layers and Vulkan Layer functionalities.

- A component of the Vulkan SDK.
- Vulkan Configurator 2 shipped in August 2020.

Agenda

- Configuring Vulkan Layers with environment variables (skipped!)
- Configuring Vulkan Layers with Vulkan Configurator
- Understanding Vulkan Configurator and few tricks
- Vulkan Configurator 3 : Work in progress



Configuring Vulkan Layers With Vulkan Configurator





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Vulkan Layers Management	Validation Settings
O Layers Fully Controlled by the Vulkan Applications	VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation
Overriding Layers by the Vulkan Configurator	Standard Preset
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- Per-configuration paths: None	
- VK ADD LAYER PATH variable: None	
- `vk_layer_settings.txt` uses the default platform path:	
C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override	
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- VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay - VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize		
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Vulkan Layers Management	Synchronization Settings
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		Handle Wrapping Object Lifetime	
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Frame Capture Destability	Edit	✓ ✓ Shader-Based	
O Portability O Synchronization	Duplicate	✓ ● GPU-Assisted	
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- VK_ADD_LAYER_PATH variable: None		✓ □ Best Practices	
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- Available Layers:		ARM-specific best practices	
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Overriding Layers by the Vulkan Configurator	GPU-Assisted Preset ~
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Vulkan Layers Configurations	Command Buffer State
	Object in Use
O API dump New	
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- VK_ADD_LAYER_PATH variable: None	✓ Log Filename
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C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override - Available Layers:	Debug Output
- VK LAYER NV optimus	Break
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- VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay	✓ Message Severity
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 ✓ Clear log at launch Clear Vulkan Loader Messages: all Vulkan Development Status: Layers override: "Validation" configuration VULKAN_SDK environment variable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0 VULKAN Loader version: 1.3.224 	 Launch A <	Max Duplicated Messages Mute Message VUIDs	10

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Validation Vulkan Application Launcher Application vkcube	Info Warning Performance Error ✓ Limit Duplicated Messages Max Duplicated Messages 10
✓ Clear log at launch Clear Vulkan Loader Messages: all ∨ Laurer Vulkan Development Status: Layers override: "Validation" configuration VULKAN_SOK environment variable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0 VULkan Loader version: 1.3.224 VK_LOADER_DEBUG=all User-Defined Layers locations: VK_LAYER_PATH variable: None VK_ADD_LAYER_PATH variable: None VK_layer_settings.txt` uses the default platform path: C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override Available Layers: VK_LAYER_RENDERDOC_Capture VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay 	unch Mute Message VUIDs +

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ools Help		
Vulkan Layers Management		Validation (2) Settings
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 Overriding Layers by the Vulkan Configurator 		Best Practices Preset ~
		> Validation Areas
Apply only to the Vulkan Applications List Continue Overriding Layers on Exit	Edit Applications	✓ Debug Action
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Vulkan Layers Configurations		✓ Log Filename
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<pre>Vulkan Development Status: - Layers override: "Validation (2)" configuration - VULKAN_SDK environment variable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0 - Vulkan Loader version: 1.3.224 - User-Defined Layers locations: - VK_LAYER_PATH variable: None - Per-configuration paths: None - VK_ADD_LAYER_PATH variable: None - VK_layer_settings.txt` uses the default platform path: C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override - Available Layers:</pre>		

🐨 Edit Vulkan Layers			×
Name: Validation (2) Description: This configuration is a good default validation setting a	nd should serve most needs most of the time.		
Show Properties Show Documentation Visit Website	Res	et	
VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - 1.3.205 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	^
VK_LAYER_RENDERDOC_Capture - 1.3.131 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation - 1.3.236	Overridden / Forced On	~	
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_profiles - 1.3.236	Application-Controlled	\sim	
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_synchronization2 - 1.3.236	Application-Controlled	\sim	
	Application Controlled		~
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation			
Execute Closer to the Vulkan Applications	Execute Closer to the Vulkan Drivers		
Add User-Defined Path	Remove User-Defined Path		
	ОК Са	ncel	



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Name: Validation SDK 1.2.198 Description: This configuration is a good default validation setting and sheeting and she	ould serve most needs most of the time.]
Show Properties Show Documentation Visit Website		Reset	
VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - 1.3.205 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~ 1	^
VK_LAYER_RENDERDOC_Capture - 1.3.131 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~	
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation - 1.3.236	Overridden / Forced C	Dn v	
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_profiles - 1.3.236	Application-Controlled	~	
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_synchronization2 - 1.3.236	Application-Controlled	(v	
	Analisation Controlled		<u> </u>
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation Execute Closer to the Vulkan Applications	Execute Closer to the Vulkan Drivers		
Add User-Defined Path	Remove User-Defined Path		
	ОК	Cancel	



Description: This configuration is a good default validation setting and sho	build serve most needs most of the time.	
how Properties Show Documentation Visit Website		Reset
VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - 1.3.205 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~
VK_LAYER_RENDERDOC_Capture - 1.3.131 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On	~
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation - 1.3.236	Overridden / Forced	On v
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_profiles - 1.3.236	Application-Controlle	d v
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_synchronization2 - 1.3.236	Application-Controlle	d ~
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VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation Execute Closer to the Vulkan Applications	Execute Closer to the Vulkan Drivers	

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Name: Validation SDK 1.2.198 Description: This configuration is a good default validation setting and	should serve most needs most of the time.
how Properties Show Documentation Visit Website	Reset
VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - 1.3.205 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On V
VK_LAYER_RENDERDOC_Capture - 1.3.131 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On v
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On ~
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VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation	Execute Closer to the Vulkan Drivers
Execute Closer to the Vulkan Applications	



 Edit Vulkan Layer Name: Val 	idation SDK 1.2.	.198	
Description: Thi	😽 Add User-De	fined Layers Folder ? X	
Show Properties. VK_LAYER_N VK_LAYER_V VK_LAYER_V VK_LAYER_V VK_LAYER_K VK_LAYER_K VK_LAYER_K	J My Comp	E:\VulkanSDK\1.2.198.1\Bin Witer Name Name VkLayer_khronos_profiles.dll VkLayer_khronos_profiles.json 18io jsle VkLayer_khronos_profiles.pdb 12io pdle VkLayer_khronos_synchronization2.dll VkLayer_khronos_synchronization2.json VkLayer_khronos_validation.dll VkLayer_khronos_validation.dll VkLayer_khronos_validation.dll VkLayer_khronos_validation.pdb VkLayer_khronos_validation.pdb VkLayer_nonitor.dll VkLayer_nonitor.dll	
Exec	Directory:		
	Add User-De	fined Path Remove User-Defined Path OK Cancel	JAR)

lame: Validation SDK 1.2.198		
Description: This configuration is a good default validation setting an	nd should serve most needs most of the time.	
now Properties Show Documentation Visit Website	Reset	
VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - 1.3.205 - Implicit layer Implicitly On		
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VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On v	
VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay - 1.3.207 - Implicit layer	Implicitly On v	
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VK_LAYER_LUNARG_api_dump - 1.2.198		
VK_LAYER_LUNARG_api_dump2 - 1.3.225		
VK_LAYER_LUNARG_api_dump2 - 1.3.225 VK_LAYER_LUNARG_device_simulation - 1.2.198		

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Vulkan Layers Management		Validation SDK 1.2.198 Settings
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<pre>Vulkan Development Status: - Layers override: "Validation SDK 1.2.198" configuration - VULKAN_SDK environment variable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0 - Vulkan Loader version: 1.3.224 - User-Defined Layers locations: - VK LAYER PATH variable: None - Per-configuration paths: - E:\VulkanSDK\1.2.198.1\Bin VK_ADD_LAYER_PATH variable: None - `vk_layer_settings.txt` uses the default platform path: C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override</pre>	*	



Aulkan Layers Management C Layers Fully Controlled by the Vulkan Applications Overriding Layers by the Vulkan Configurator	Validation Settings
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C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override		
- Available Layers:		
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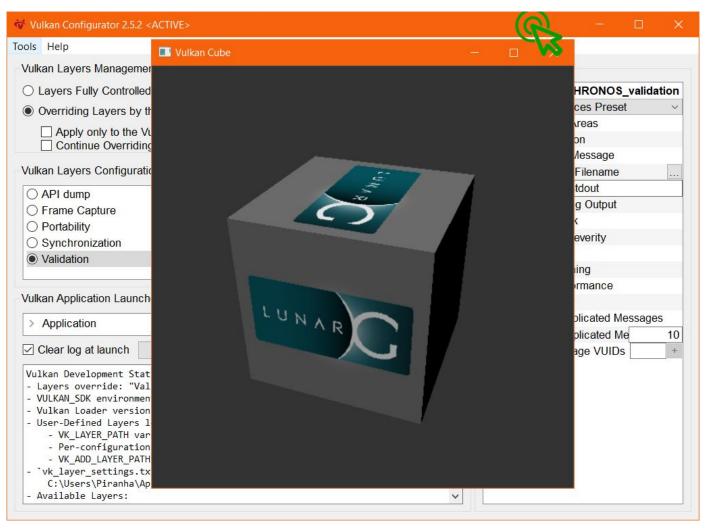
LUNAR G32

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	dit Applications	 > User-Defined Settings > Standard Preset Reduced-Overhead Preset
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で Vulkan Configurator 2.5.2 <active></active>	
Vulkan Layers Management Layers Fully Controlled by the Vulkan Applications Overriding Layers by the Vulkan Configurator Apply only to the Vulkan Applications List Continue Overriding Layers on Exit Vulkan Layers Configurations	Validation Settings VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation Best Practices Preset Validation Areas Debug Action Log Message Log Filename stdout
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Launching Vulkan Application: - Layers overridden by "Validation" configuration. - Application: vkcube - Executable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0\Bin\vkcube.exe - Working Directory: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0\Bin - Command-line Arguments:suppress_popups - Log file: C:\Users\Piranha\VulkanSDK\vkcube.txt UNASSIGNED-khronos-validation-createinstance-status-message(INFO / SPEC): msgNum: -671457468 - Validation Information: [UNASSIGNED-khronos-validation	

Vulkan Layers Management Layers Fully Controlled by the Vulkan Applications Overriding Layers by the Vulkan Configurator Apply only to the Vulkan Applications List Continue Overriding Layers on Exit Vulkan Layers Configurations Vulkan Layers Configurations Orthonizations New Edit Portability Synchronization Validation Settings Validation Areas Validation Areas Dublications Validation Areas Validation Areas <th>dation ~</th>	dation ~
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UNASSIGNED-BestPractices-vkBindMemory-small-dedicated-allocation(WARN /	
PERF): msgNum: -1277938581 - Validation Performance Warning: [UNASSIGNED-	
BestPractices-vkBindMemory-small-dedicated-allocation] Object 0: handle = 0x2f16708a740, type = VK OBJECT TYPE DEVICE; MessageID = 0xb3d4346b	
vkBindImageMemory(): Trying to bind VkImage 0x2f16cc1aa90[] to a memory block	
which is fully consumed by the image. The required size of the allocation is	
524288, but smaller images like this should be sub-allocated from larger	
<pre>memory blocks. (Current threshold is 1048576 bytes.) Objects: 1</pre>	
[0] 0x2f16708a740, type: 3, name: NULL	
[-]	

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ools Help				
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<pre>Vulkan Development Status: - Layers override: "Validation" configuration - VULKAN_SDK environment variable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0 - Vulkan Loader version: 1.3.224 - User-Defined Layers locations: - VK_LAYER_PATH variable: None - Per-configuration paths: None - VK_ADD_LAYER_PATH variable: None - Vk_Layer_settings.txt` uses the default platform path: C:\Users\Piranha\AppDataLocal\LunarG\vkconfig\override - Available Layers: - VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - VK_LAYER_NDERDOC_Capture - VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_forsilize - VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_forsilize - VK_LAYER_UNAPPE_DATH State Stat</pre>	~			

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<pre>Vulkan Development Status: - Layers override: "Validation" configuration - VULKAN_SDK environment variable: E:\VulkanSDK\1.3.236.0 - Vulkan Loader version: 1.3.224 - User-Defined Layers locations: - VK_LAYER_PATH variable: None - Per-configuration paths: None - VK ADD LAYER PATH variable: None - VK ADD LAYER PATH variable: None - `vk_layer_settings.txt` uses the default platform path: C:\Users\Piranha\AppData\Local\LunarG\vkconfig\override - Available Layers: - VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - VK_LAYER_NV_optimus - VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_overlay - VK_LAYER_VALVE_steam_fossilize - WK_LAYER_UNMARG_optimus</pre>	

Understanding Vulkan Configurator and few tricks





 Cubers/Piranta/AppData/Local/LunarG/vkconfig`> override Share View I on a Share View	
 	
Audacity Name Date modified Type Size beyond-all-reason-updater Brother_Industries_Ltd Cache CEF CMakeTools Comms Compressonator ConnectedDevicesPlatform Corsair CrashDumps CrystalDiskMark	
Brother_Industries_Ltd Witayer_override.json 23/01/2023 17:15 JSON File 1 KB cache CEF CMakeTools	
Borther_Industries_Ltd I KB cache Cache CF CMakeTools Comms Compressonator ConnectedDevicesPlatform Corsair CrashDumps CrystalDiskMark	
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darktable	
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L Deployment	
Diagnostics	
Downloaded Installations	
2 items	
LUN/	\R)G é

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< >

```
"file format_version": "1.1.2",
"layer": {
    "api_version": "1.3.236",
    "blacklisted_layers": [
    ],
    "component_layers": [
        "VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation"
    ],
    "description": "LunarG Override Layer",
    "disable environment": {
        "DISABLE_VK_LAYER_LUNARG_override": "1"
    },
    "implementation version": "1",
    "name": "VK LAYER LUNARG override",
    "override_paths": [
        "E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin"
    ],
    "type": "GLOBAL"
```

Can be created by another application than Vulkan Configurator

```
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```

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```
"file format version": "1.1.2",
"layer": {
    "api_version": "1.3.236",
    "blacklisted layers": [
    "component_layers": [
        "VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation"
    ],
     description": "Lunard Override Layer",
    "disable environment": {
        "DISABLE_VK_LAYER_LUNARG_override": "1"
    },
    "implementation version": "1",
    "name": "VK LAYER LUNARG override",
    "override_paths": [
        "E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin"
    ],
    "type": "GLOBAL"
```

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```
"file format version": "1.1.2",
"layer": {
    "api_version": "1.3.236",
    "blacklisted layers": [
    ],
    "component layers": [
        "VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation"
    ],
    "description": "LunarG Override Layer",
    "disable environment": {
        "DISABLE_VK_LAYER_LUNARG_override": "1"
    },
    "implementation version": "1",
    "name": "VK LAYER LUNARG override",
    "override_paths": [
        "E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin"
    ],
    "type": "GLOBAL"
```



vk_layer_settings.txt ×

```
# VK LAYER KHRONOS validation
 2
 3
 4
    # Debug Action
    # <LayerIdentifier>.debug action
 6
    # Specifies what action is to be taken when a layer reports information.
8
    khronos validation.debug action = VK DBG LAYER ACTION LOG MSG
 9
    # Log Filename
10
11
    # <LayerIdentifier>.log filename
12
    # Specifies the output filename
13
    khronos validation.log filename = stdout
14
15
16
    # Message Severity
17
    # <LayerIdentifier>.report_flags
18
    # Comma-delineated list of options specifying the types of messages to be
19
20
    # reported
21
    khronos validation.report flags = error,perf,info,warn
```

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MINGW64:/e/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin



```
$ vkconfig --help
Usage
vkconfig
```

vkconfig [[help] | [version] | [gui] | [layers <args>]]

Command:

help	= Display usage and documentation.
version	= Display Vulkan Configurator version.
gui	= Launch the Vulkan Configurator GUI.
layers	= Manage system Vulkan Layers.
doc	= Create doc files for layer.
reset	= Reset layers configurations.

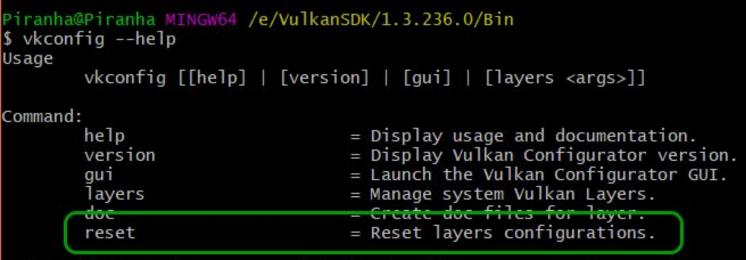
(Use 'vkconfig help <command>' for detailed usage of Vulkan Configurat or commands.)

Piranha@Piranha MINGW64 /e/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin \$

Piranha@Piranha MINGW64 /e/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin



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(Use 'vkconfig help <command>' for detailed usage of Vulkan Configurat or commands.)

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```
Piranha@Piranha MINGW64 /e/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin
$ vkconfig layers
Missing 'layers' command argument...
Name
        'layers' - Command to manage system Vulkan Layers
Synopsis
        vkconfig layers (--override | -o) <layers_configuration_file>
        vkconfig layers (--surrender | -s)
        vkconfig layers (--list | -1)
        vkconfig layers (--list-verbose | -lv)
Description
        vkconfig layers (--override | -o) <layers_configuration_file>
               Override the Vulkan layers using <layers_configuration_file> generated by V
ulkan Configurator.
       vkconfig layers (--surrender | -s)
                Surrender the Vulkan layers control to Vulkan applications.
        vkconfig layers (--list | -1)
                List the Vulkan layers found by Vulkan Configurator on the system.
       vkconfig layers (--list-version | -lv)
                List the Vulkan layers found by Vulkan Configurator on the system with loca
```

tions and versions.

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Piranha@Piranha MINGW64 /e/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin
<pre>\$ vkconfig layerslist-verbose</pre>
VK_LAYER_LUNARG_api_dump (Explicit) 1.3.236-2
- LunarG API dump layer
- E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin/VkLayer_api_dump.json
\VkLayer_api_dump.dll
VK_LAYER_LUNARG_gfxreconstruct (Explicit) 1.3.236-36880
- GFXReconstruct Capture Layer Version 0.9.16
- E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin/VkLayer_gfxreconstruct.json
 \VkLayer_gfxreconstruct.dll
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_profiles (Explicit) 1.3.236-1.0.2
- Khronos Profiles layer
- E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin/VkLayer_khronos_profiles.json
\VkLayer_khronos_profiles.dll
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_synchronization2 (Explicit) 1.3.236-1
- Khronos Synchronization2 layer
- E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin/VkLayer_khronos_synchronization2.json
 \VkLayer_khronos_synchronization2.dll
VK_LAYER_KHRONOS_validation (Explicit) 1.3.236-1
- Khronos Validation Layer
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 .\VkLayer_khronos_validation.dll
VK_LAYER_LUNARG_monitor (Explicit) 1.3.236-1
- Execution Monitoring Layer
 E:/VulkanSDK/1.3.236.0/Bin/VkLayer_monitor.json



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```

```
void LayerManager::LoadAllInstalledLayers() {
    available layers.clear();
    // FIRST: If VK LAYER PATH is set it has precedence over other layers.
    const std::vector<std::string> &env_user_defined_layers_paths_set =
        environment.GetUserDefinedLayersPaths(USER_DEFINED_LAYERS_PATHS_ENV_SET);
    for (std::size t i = 0, n = env user defined layers paths set.size(); i < n; ++i) {</pre>
        LoadLayersFromPath(env user defined layers paths set[i]);
    }
    // SECOND: Any per layers configuration user-defined path from Vulkan Configurator? Search for those too
    const std::vector<std::string> &gui config user defined layers paths =
        environment.GetUserDefinedLayersPaths(USER DEFINED LAYERS PATHS GUI);
    for (std::size_t i = 0, n = gui_config_user_defined_layers_paths.size(); i < n; ++i) {</pre>
        LoadLayersFromPath(gui config user defined layers paths[i]);
    }
    const std::vector<std::string> &env user defined layers paths add =
        environment.GetUserDefinedLayersPaths(USER DEFINED LAYERS PATHS ENV ADD);
    for (std::size_t i = 0, n = env_user_defined_layers_paths_add.size(); i < n; ++i) {</pre>
        LoadLayersFromPath(env user defined layers paths add[i]);
    }
    // FOURTH: Standard layer paths, in standard locations. The above has always taken precedence
    for (std::size t i = 0, n = countof(SEARCH PATHS); i < n; i++) {</pre>
        LoadLaversFromPath(SEARCH PATHS[i]);
    }
    // FIFTH: See if thee is anyting in the VULKAN SDK path that wasn't already found elsewhere
    if (!ggetenv("VULKAN SDK").isEmpty()) {
        LoadLayersFromPath(GetPath(BUILTIN PATH EXPLICIT LAYERS));
    }
```

Vulkan Configurator 3

Work in Progress





Vulkan Configurator 3 work in progress

• Better control of the layers

- Transparent layers loading
 - Support of multiple versions of a layer.
- Full ordering of the layers
 - Including implicit layers and layers enabled in a Vulkan application.
- Tab based redesign (<u>PR</u>):
 - Per use-case tabs.
 - Replacing vkvia by a diagnostic tab based on the Vulkan Loader information.
- A Vulkan API extension for generic layer settings
 - With a library to make it easier to add settings to a layer.



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Any suggestion for Vulkan Configurator 3? Are you interested in better integrating Vulkan Configurator to your layer?

Questions?

Feedback welcome!

https://www.lunarg.com/news-insights/white-papers/using-the-vulkan-configurator-for-daily-vulkan-development-feb2023/



Share Your Feedback Take the LunarG annual developer's survey

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

Survey closes February 27, 2023



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVM92RH



