

# Capture and Replay of Vulkan and OpenXR

Mark Young and John Zulauf  
LunarG Senior Graphics Engineers

July 2025 – Siggraph Vancouver

LUNAR)G<sup>®</sup>  
POWER YOUR SUCCESS

KHRONOS<sup>®</sup>  
GROUP  
CONNECTING SOFTWARE TO SILICON



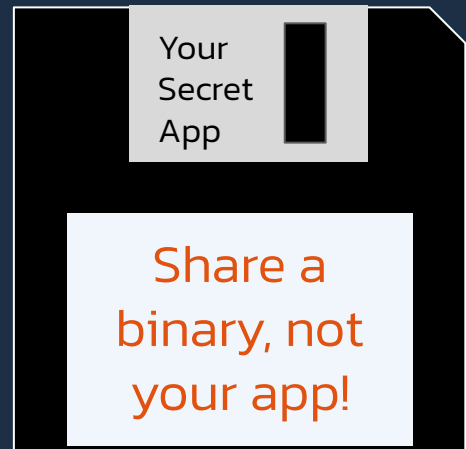
# Agenda

- GFXReconstruct (GFXR) Overview
- OpenXR Proof-of-Concept
- Challenges
- Using GFXR on Meta Quest 3/Pro
- Tool Output Examples
- Making GFXR Replay Work
- Verified Apps/Platforms
- Future Improvements

This is **not**  
going to be a  
detailed tutorial  
on using  
GFXReconstruct!

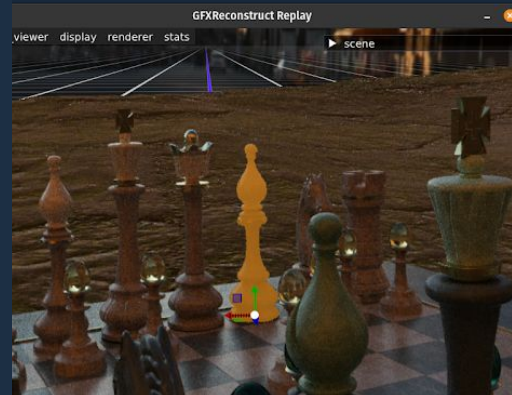
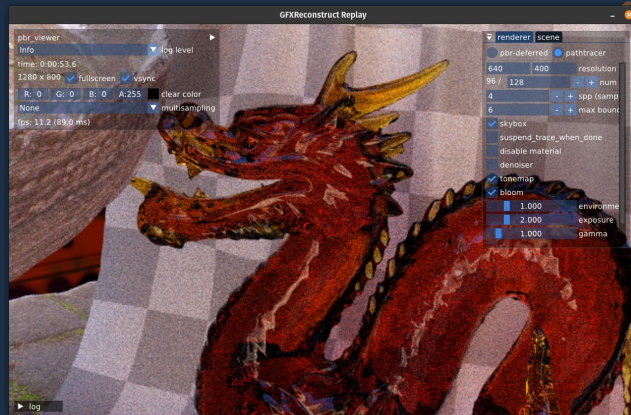
# GFXReconstruct (GFXR) Overview

- GFXR started in 2019
  - Replacement for Vulkan VkTrace
- Captures application API usage (including bugs)
  - API Commands
  - Important Memory [Buffers/Images (Textures)]
  - OS-specific items as well
    - E.g. Android Hardware Buffers
- Content written to binary capture file (.gfxr)
  - Internally may use compression



# GFXReconstruct Support

- Supports Vulkan and D3D12
  - Raytracing
  - Mesh Shading
- Regular Updates
  - Vulkan Header/Agility SDK (D3D12) releases
  - Code generation
- Github/Internal CI testing to maintain quality



# GFXReconstruct (GFXR) Principles

## FIDELITY

Capture &  
Playback on the  
Same Device,  
with Identical  
Results

## INTEGRITY

Optimizations that  
Stay True to  
Application  
Behavior

## PORTABILITY

Playback Across  
a Broad Range  
of Devices, with  
Variable Fidelity

## PERFORMANCE

Deliver the  
Performance  
Required for  
Usability &  
Interactivity

→ Trade offs are often required, but they should be evaluated against these principles

# GFXReconstruct Usage

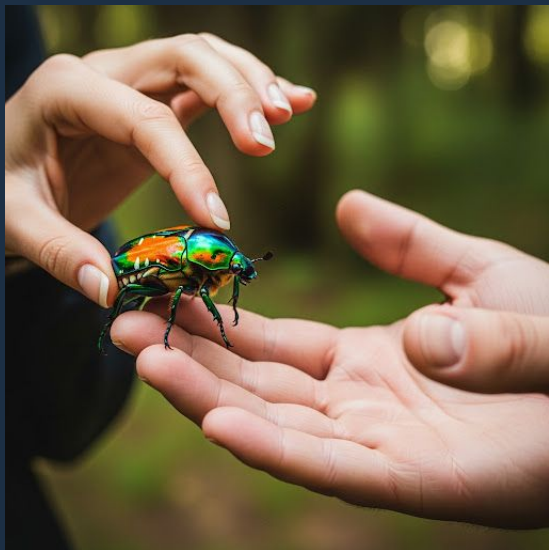


Image Generated  
With Google Gemini

- Useful For:
  - Replaying / Sharing Bugs
  - Testing for Regressions
  - Analyzing API Usage
  - Performance Profiling
- Becoming the “engine” behind many proprietary GPU profiling/debugging tools
  - Used by HW and SW companies you know!

# GFXR Is a Collection of Tools

- Capture Layers/Libraries
  - Captures API contents and stores necessary info in a capture file
- gfxrecon-replay
  - Replays a provided capture file
- gfxrecon-info
  - General high-level info about a capture file
- gfxrecon-convert
  - Output the contents of a capture file in a JSON readable format
- And more...





Now for OpenXR



# OpenXR Proof-of-Concept

- Initial OpenXR 1.1 support paid for by a generous Client
- Limited Support
  - Works only with Vulkan graphics API
  - Small set of **verified** extensions
  - Single threaded apps
- Not enabled in SDK builds of GFXR
  - But enabled by default building from GitHub



# Challenges

- Atoms and opaque values (not just handles)
- Parent/Child structures (\*BaseHeader)
- Different ways to create Vulkan Instance/Devices
- Enabling API layers on the headset could be easier
- Capture Session lifecycle is encoded in the event stream
- Validation layers are insufficient to detect issues

# Challenges (cont)

- Re-Entrance Problem

## Application

```
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
OpenXR Call  
  
  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call
```

## OpenXR Runtime

```
OpenXR Call {  
    Vulkan Call  
  
    Vulkan Call  
}
```

## GFXR Capture File

```
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
OpenXR Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call
```

# Challenges (cont)

- Re-Entrance Problem

## Application

```
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
OpenXR Call  
  
  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call
```

## OpenXR Runtime

```
OpenXR Call {  
    Vulkan Call  
  
    Vulkan Call  
}
```

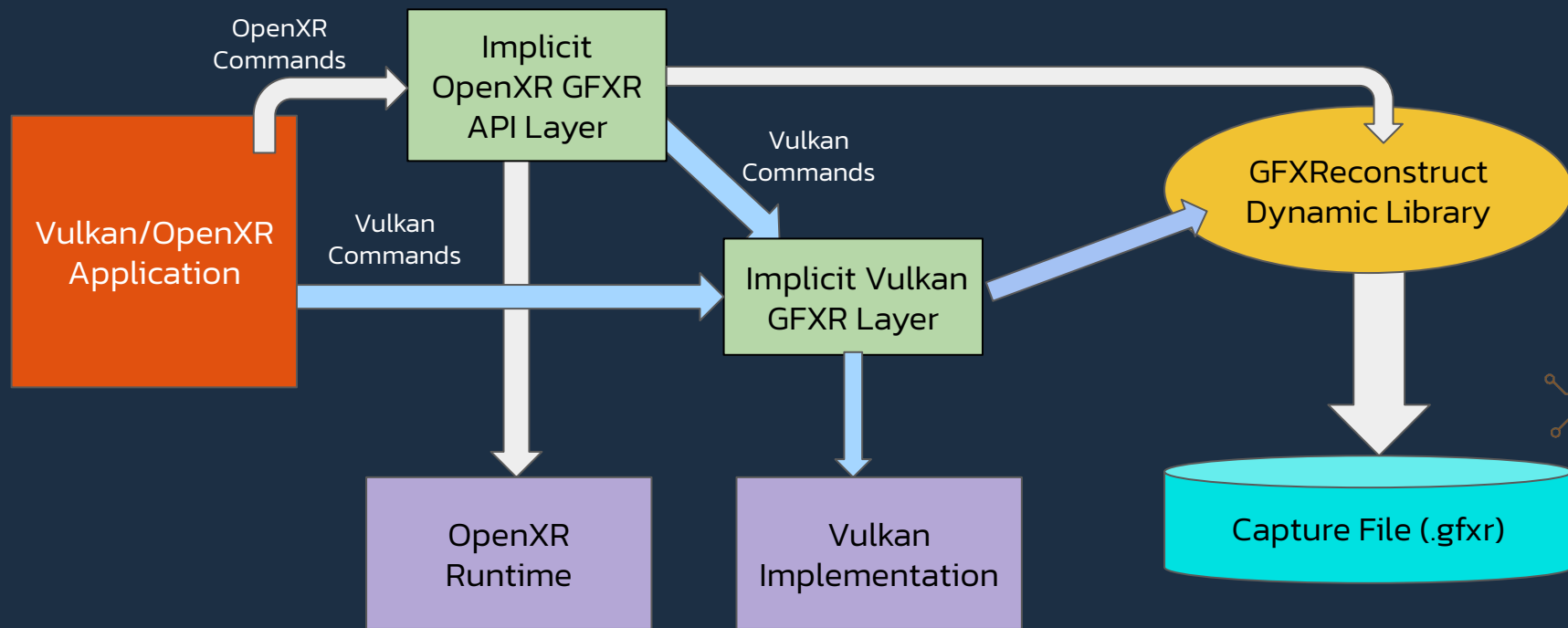
## GFXR Capture File

```
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
OpenXR Call  
  
We Don't Want This During Replay  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call
```

# Using GFXR on Meta Quest 3/Pro

- **Recursively** pull down GFXReconstruct source from GitHub
- Follow instructions in HOWTO\_meta\_quest.md
  - Requires Gradle changes to your project
    - Add GFXR layer as dependency
      - OpenXR API Layer Manifest (.json)
      - GFXR library (.so)
  - Release app, **must** be made debuggable

# Capturing Process



# gfxrecon-info

## Exe info:

Application exe name: org.khronos.OpenXRTutorialChapter4

Application version: 0.0.0.0

Application Company name:

Product name:

## File info:

Compression format: LZ4

Total frames: 241

## Vulkan physical device info:

Device name: Adreno (TM) 650

Device ID: 0x6050002

Vendor ID: 0x5143

Driver version: 2150780928 (0x80325000)

API version: 4198695 (1.1.295)



# gfxrecon-info (cont)

## Vulkan device memory allocation info:

Total allocations: 4  
Min allocation size: 4096  
Max allocation size: 28672

## Vulkan pipeline info:

Total graphics pipelines: 1  
Total compute pipelines: 0  
Total raytracing pipelines: 0

## OpenXR info:

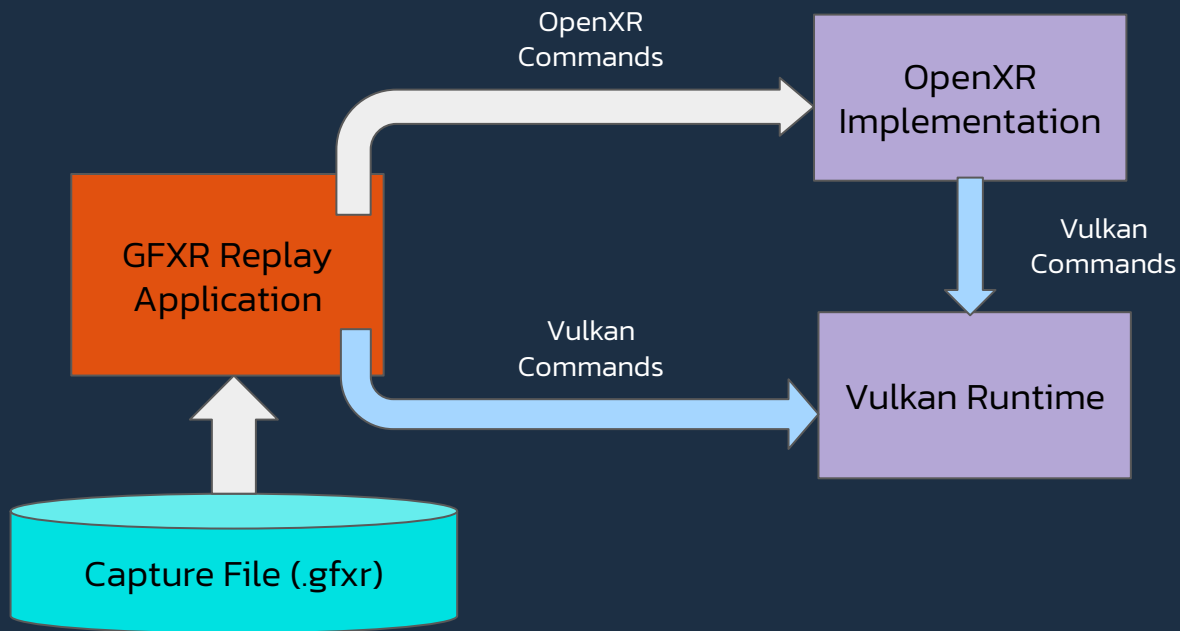
Header Version: 1.1.40  
Application name: OpenXR Tutorial Chapter 4  
Application version: 1  
Target API version: 34 (0.0.34)

# gfxrecon-convert Example

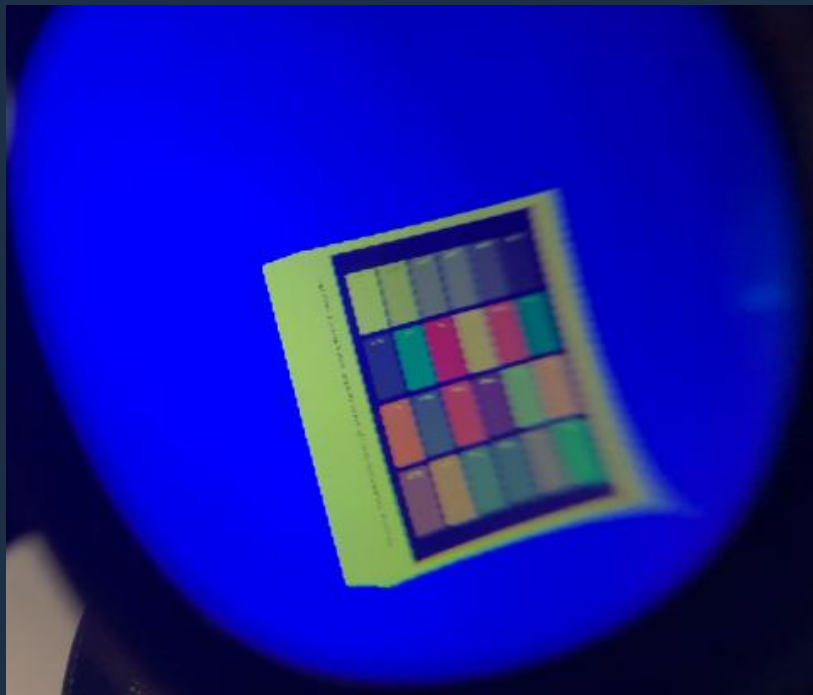
```
{
  "index": 145,
  "function": {
    "name": "xrPollEvent",
    "thread": 1,
    "return": "XR_SUCCESS",
    "args": {
      "instance": 1,
      "eventData": {
        "type":
"XR_TYPE_EVENT_DATA_REFERENCE_SPACE_CHANGE_PENDING",
        "session": 34,
        "referenceSpaceType":
"XR_REFERENCE_SPACE_TYPE_STAGE",
        "changeTime": 14834752945132,
        "poseValid": true,
        "poseInPreviousSpace": {
          ...

```

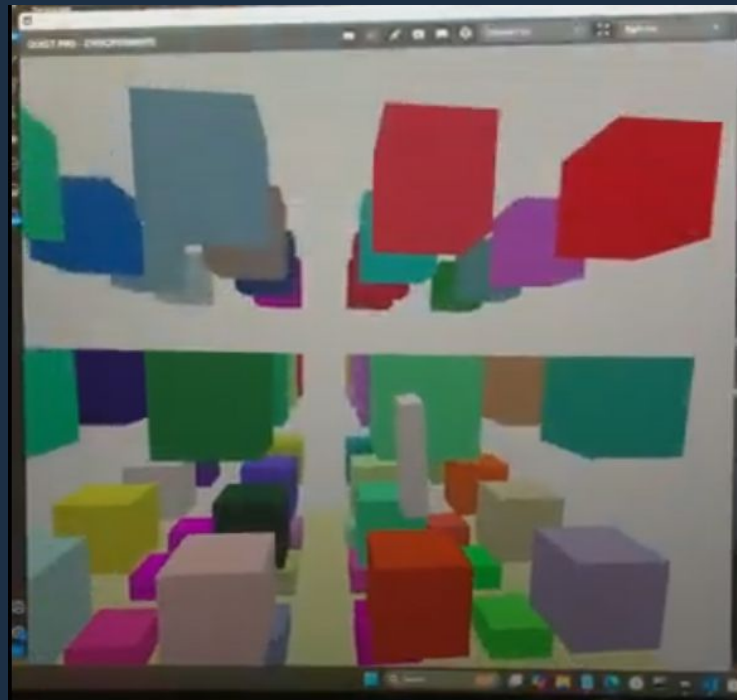
# gfxrecon-replay



# Seeing Results



In Headset



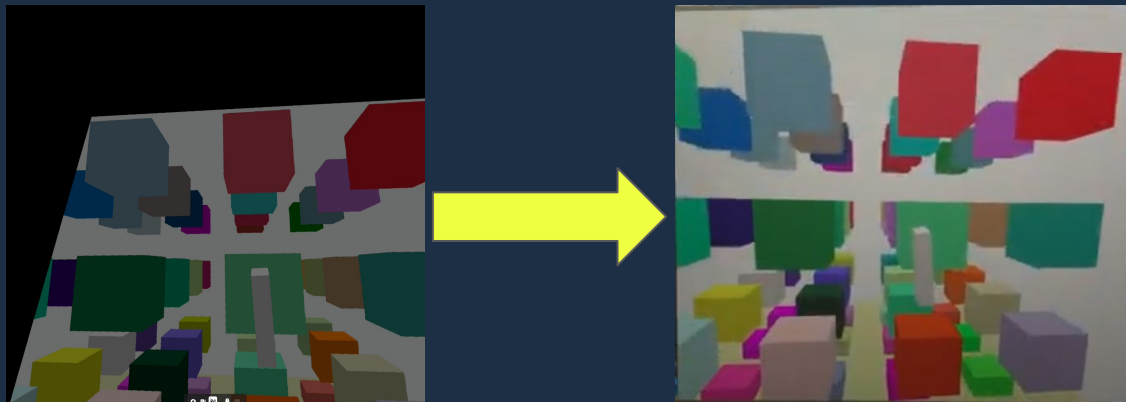
Desktop using Casting

# Making GFXR Replay Work

- Track/replace handles, atoms, opaque values
- Fill in memory (after allocation) [Metadata]
- Replace `xrCreateApiLayerInstance` with `xrCreateInstance`
- Virtual Swapchain
  - Swapchain images can be returned in different order

# Making GFXR Replay Work (2)

- Update times in certain commands (`xrWaitFrame/`  
`xrEndFrame`)
  - Relative diff between predicted and display times
- Remap Views during replay to current headset View



# Making GFXR Replay Work (3)

- Replay OpenXR Session Lifecycle Handling
  - Events may occur in different orders
  - New events may occur, other events may never occur
- GFXR Quest Replay Android manifest enables a lot of features



Image Generated  
With Google Gemini



# Re-entrance Multithreading Issue

## Thread 1

```
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
OpenXR Call {  
    Vulkan Call  
  
    Vulkan Call  
}  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
Vulkan Call
```

## Thread 2

```
Vulkan Call  
  
  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
  
  
Vulkan Call  
  
  
  
Vulkan Call
```

# Re-entrance Multithreading Issue

## Thread 1

Vulkan Call

Vulkan Call

OpenXR Call {

Blocked!!

}

Vulkan Call

Vulkan Call

## Thread 2

Vulkan Call

Vulkan Call

Oops!

Vulkan Call

Vulkan Call

# Future Improvements

- Test against more applications (more extensions)
- Test against more headsets (AndroidXR, ...)
- Add screenshot capture for headsets
- Implement trimming support
  - Enables fine-tuning a capture down to a few frames

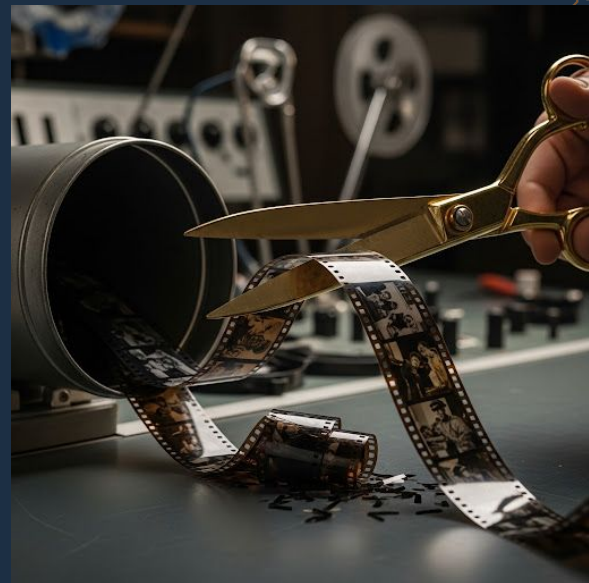


Image Generated  
With Google Gemini

# Verified Apps and Platforms

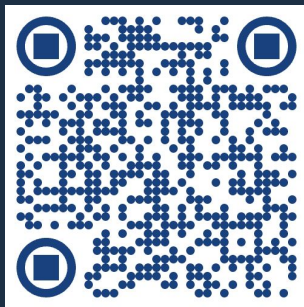
- Applications
  - [HelloXR](#) Sample
  - [OpenXR Tutorials \(up to Chapter 4\)](#)
    - Chapter 5 failed to compile for me
  - [OpenXR Provider\\_v2](#)
  - [Meta's IGL OpenXR Sample](#)
- Using the following runtimes
  - Meta Quest Pro/3
  - Monado (Windows/Linux)



**OpenXR Provider\_v2** by Rune Berg

# GFXReconstruct Resources

- More Detailed Videos (Brad Grantham):
  - [XDC 2022 / Vulkanised 2023](#)
- [Source in GitHub](#)
- [HOWTO\\_meta\\_quest.md](#)



# Summary

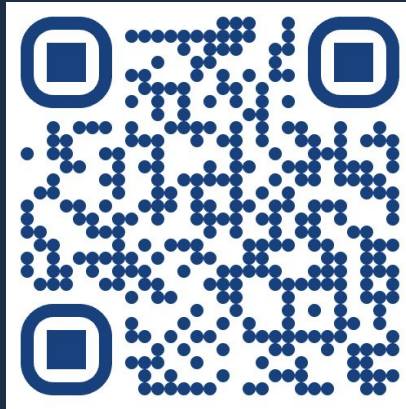
- GFXReconstruct continues to grow
- PoC capture and replay of OpenXR + Vulkan is there now
  - May not handle all cases right now
- Help us verify functionality by using GFXR

# THANK YOU!

Download LunarG  
Presentations



LunarG  
Website



BLOG Post

