The Swap Chain
How We Think of OpenGL Framebuffers

Video Driver

Double-buffered Color Framebuffers

Front

Back

Depth-Buffer

Update

Refresh
Vulkan Thinks of it as a Ring Buffer
What is a Swap Chain?

Vulkan does not use the idea of a “back buffer”. So, we need a place to render into before moving an image into place for viewing. The is called the **Swap Chain**.

In essence, the Swap Chain manages one or more image objects that form a sequence of images that can be drawn into and then given to the Surface to be presented to the user for viewing.

Swap Chains are arranged as a ring buffer

Swap Chains are tightly coupled to the window system.

After creating the Swap Chain in the first place, the process for using the Swap Chain is:

1. Ask the Swap Chain for an image
2. Render into it via the Command Buffer and a Queue
3. Return the image to the Swap Chain for presentation
4. Present the image to the viewer (copy to “front buffer”)
What is a Swap Chain?

Because it has the word “chain” in it, let’s try to visualize the Swap Chain as a physical chain.

A bicycle chain isn’t far off. A bicycle chain goes around and around, each section of the chain taking its turn on the gear teeth, off the gear teeth, on, off, on, off, etc.

Because the Swap Chain is actually a ring buffer, the images in a Swap Chain go around and around too, each image taking its turn being drawn into, being presented, drawn into, being presented etc.

In the same way that bicycle chain links are “re-used”, Swap Chain images get re-used too.
What is a Swap Chain?

This is a pretty good analogy, except that there can be many more images in the ring buffer than are being shown here.
We Need to Find Out What our Display Capabilities Are

```c
VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR vsc;
vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR( PhysicalDevice, Surface, OUT &vsc );
VkExtent2D surfaceRes = vsc.currentExtent;
fprintf( FpDebug, "\nvkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR:\n" );

...

VkBool32 supported;
result = vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceSupportKHR( PhysicalDevice, FindQueueFamilyThatDoesGraphics( ), Surface, &supported );
if( supported == VK_TRUE )
    fprintf( FpDebug, "** This Surface is supported by the Graphics Queue **\n" );

uint32_t formatCount;
vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR( PhysicalDevice, Surface, &formatCount, (VkSurfaceFormatKHR *)nullptr );
VkSurfaceFormatKHR * surfaceFormats = new VkSurfaceFormatKHR[ formatCount ];
vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceFormatsKHR( PhysicalDevice, Surface, &formatCount, surfaceFormats );
fprintf( FpDebug, "\nFound %d Surface Formats:\n", formatCount )

...

uint32_t presentModeCount;
vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfacePresentModesKHR( PhysicalDevice, Surface, &presentModeCount, (VkPresentModeKHR *)nullptr );
VkPresentModeKHR * presentModes = new VkPresentModeKHR[ presentModeCount ];
vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfacePresentModesKHR( PhysicalDevice, Surface, &presentModeCount, presentModes );
fprintf( FpDebug, "\nFound %d Present Modes:\n", presentModeCount );

...
```
VulkanDebug.txt output:

vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR:
- minImageCount = 2 ; maxImageCount = 8
- currentExtent = 1024 x 1024
- minImageExtent = 1024 x 1024
- maxImageExtent = 1024 x 1024
- maxImageArrayLayers = 1
- supportedTransforms = 0x0001
- currentTransform = 0x0001
- supportedCompositeAlpha = 0x0001
- supportedUsageFlags = 0x009f

** This Surface is supported by the Graphics Queue **

Found 2 Surface Formats:
- 0: 44 0 (VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_UNORM, VK_COLOR_SPACE_SRGB_NONLINEAR_KHR)
- 1: 50 0 (VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_SRGB, VK_COLOR_SPACE_SRGB_NONLINEAR_KHR)

Found 3 Present Modes:
- 0: 2 (VK_PRESENT_MODE_FIFO_KHR)
- 1: 3 (VK_PRESENT_MODE_FIFO_RELAXED_KHR)
- 2: 1 (VK_PRESENT_MODE_MAILBOX_KHR)
Creating a Swap Chain

```
vkGetDevicePhysicalSurfaceCapabilities( )

VkSurfaceCapabilities

VkSwapchainCreateInfo

surface
imageFormat
imageColorSpace
imageExtent
imageArrayLayers
imageUsage
imageSharingMode
preTransform
compositeAlpha
presentMode
clipped

minImageCount
maxImageCount
currentExtent
minImageExtent
maxImageExtent
maxImageArrayLayers
supportedTransforms
currentTransform
supportedCompositeAlpha

vkCreateSwapchain( )

vkGetSwapChainImages( )

vkCreateImageView( )
```
Creating a Swap Chain

```cpp
VkSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR vsc;
vkGetPhysicalDeviceSurfaceCapabilitiesKHR( PhysicalDevice, Surface, OUT &vsc );
VkExtent2D surfaceRes = vsc.currentExtent;

VkSwapchainCreateInfoKHR vscci;
    vscci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_SWAPCHAIN_CREATE_INFO_KHR;
    vscci.pNext = nullptr;
    vscci.flags = 0;
    vscci.surface = Surface;
    vscci.minImageCount = 2; // double buffering
    vscci.imageFormat = VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_UNORM;
    vscci.imageColorSpace = VK_COLORSPACE_SRGB_NONLINEAR_KHR;
    vscci.imageExtent.width = surfaceRes.width;
    vscci.imageExtent.height = surfaceRes.height;
    vscci.imageUsage = VK_IMAGE_USAGE_COLOR_ATTACHMENT_BIT;
    vscci.preTransform = VK_SURFACE_TRANSFORM_IDENTITY_BIT_KHR;
    vscci.compositeAlpha = VK_COMPOSITE_ALPHA_OPAQUE_BIT_KHR;
    vscci.imageArrayLayers = 1;
    vscci.imageSharingMode = VK_SHARING_MODE_EXCLUSIVE;
    vscci.queueFamilyIndexCount = 0;
    vscci.pQueueFamilyIndices = (const uint32_t *)nullptr;
    vscci.presentMode = VK_PRESENT_MODE_MAILBOX_KHR;
    vscci.oldSwapchain = VK_NULL_HANDLE;
    vscci.clipped = VK_TRUE;

result = vkCreateSwapchainKHR( LogicalDevice, IN &vscci, PALLOCATOR, OUT &SwapChain );
```
Creating the Swap Chain Images and Image Views

```c
uint32_t imageCount; // # of display buffers – 2? 3?
result = vkGetSwapchainImagesKHR( LogicalDevice, IN SwapChain, OUT &imageCount, (VkImage *)nullptr );

PresentImages = new VkImage[ imageCount ];
result = vkGetSwapchainImagesKHR( LogicalDevice, SwapChain, OUT &imageCount, PresentImages );

// present views for the double-buffering:

PresentImageViews = new VkImageView[ imageCount ];
for( unsigned int i = 0; i < imageCount; i++ )
{
    VkImageViewCreateInfo vivci;
    vivci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_IMAGE_VIEW_CREATE_INFO;
    vivci.pNext = nullptr;
    vivci.flags = 0;
    vivci viewType = VK_IMAGE_VIEW_TYPE_2D;
    vivci.format = VK_FORMAT_B8G8R8A8_UNORM;
    vivci.components.r = VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_R;
    vivci.components.g = VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_G;
    vivci.components.b = VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_B;
    vivci.components.a = VK_COMPONENT_SWIZZLE_A;
    vivci.subresourceRange.aspectMask = VK_IMAGE_ASPECT_COLOR_BIT;
    vivci.subresourceRange.baseMipLevel = 0;
    vivci.subresourceRange.levelCount = 1;
    vivci.subresourceRange.baseArrayLayer = 0;
    vivci.subresourceRange.layerCount = 1;
    vivci.image = PresentImages[ i ];
    result = vkCreateImageView( LogicalDevice, IN &vivci, PALLOCATOR, OUT &PresentImageViews[ i ] );
}
```
VkSemaphoreCreateInfo vsci;
    vsci.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_SEMAPHORE_CREATE_INFO;
    vsci.pNext = nullptr;
    vsci.flags = 0;

VkSemaphore imageReadySemaphore;
result = vkCreateSemaphore( LogicalDevice, IN &vsci, PALLOCATOR, OUT &imageReadySemaphore );

uint32_t nextImageIndex;
uint64_t timeout = UINT64_MAX;
vkAcquireNextImageKHR( LogicalDevice, IN SwapChain, IN timeout, IN imageReadySemaphore, IN VK_NULL_HANDLE, OUT &nextImageIndex );
    
result = vkBeginCommandBuffer( CommandBuffers[nextImageIndex ], IN &vcbbi );

vkCmdBeginRenderPass( CommandBuffers[nextImageIndex], IN &vrpbi,
            IN VK_SUBPASS_CONTENTS_INLINE );

vkCmdBindPipeline( CommandBuffers[nextImageIndex], VK_PIPELINE_BIND_POINT_GRAPHICS, GraphicsPipeline );

vkCmdEndRenderPass( CommandBuffers[nextImageIndex] );
vkEndCommandBuffer( CommandBuffers[nextImageIndex] );
VkFenceCreateInfo vfc;
    vfc.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_FENCE_CREATE_INFO;
    vfc.pNext = nullptr;
    vfc.flags = 0;

VkFence renderFence;
vkCreateFence( LogicalDevice, &vfc, PALLOCATOR, OUT &renderFence );

VkQueue presentQueue;
vkGetDeviceQueue( LogicalDevice, FindQueueFamilyThatDoesGraphics( ), 0, 
                  OUT &presentQueue );

... 

VkSubmitInfo vsi;
    vsi.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_SUBMIT_INFO;
    vsi.pNext = nullptr;
    vsi.waitSemaphoreCount = 1;
    vsi.pWaitSemaphores = &imageReadySemaphore;
    vsi.pWaitDstStageMask = &waitAtBottom;
    vsi.commandBufferCount = 1;
    vsi.pCommandBuffers = &CommandBuffers[ nextImageIndex ];
    vsi.signalSemaphoreCount = 0;
    vsi.pSignalSemaphores = &SemaphoreRenderFinished;

result = vkQueueSubmit( presentQueue, 1, IN &vsi, IN renderFence );    // 1 = submitCount
result = vkWaitForFences( LogicalDevice, 1, IN &renderFence, VK_TRUE, UINT64_MAX );

VkPresentInfoKHR vpi;
    vpi.sType = VK_STRUCTURE_TYPE_PRESENT_INFO_KHR;
    vpi.pNext = nullptr;
    vpi.waitSemaphoreCount = 0;
    vpi.pWaitSemaphores = (VkSemaphore *)nullptr;
    vpi.swapchainCount = 1;
    vpi.pSwapchains = &SwapChain;
    vpi.pImageIndices = &nextImageIndex;
    vpi.pResults = (VkResult *)nullptr;

result = vkQueuePresentKHR( presentQueue, IN &vpi );