

# Bhyve guests with hardware accelerated graphics

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# Who am I?

Studying Pure Mathematics in San Jose, California

FreeBSD user since 4 years ago

Accidentally started programming

**Reason for GPU accelerated Guests?**

# Possible methods to accelerate graphics applications of Bhyve guests

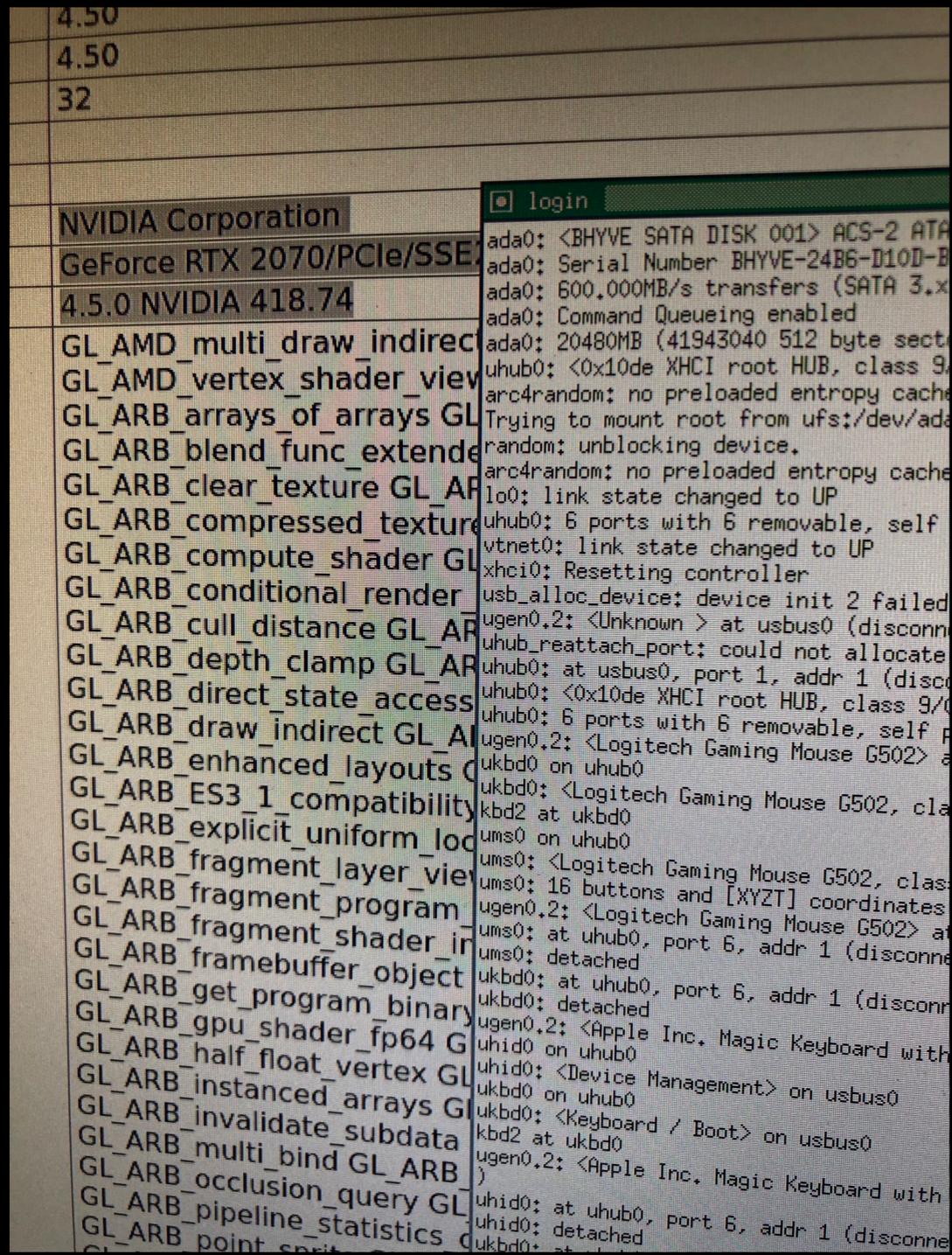
Application Level:

- Offload to another machine / server (for example: VirtualGL, rCUDA)

(Virtualized) Hardware level:

- GPU Passthrough
- vGPU (Intel GVT). ?

**Is GPU Passthrough possible in bhyve?**



## It is possible but not perfect

The GPU must not used by host or any other virtual machines prior to passing through to guest.

The only way to use the graphic card again is to reboot

Does not automatically work and behave live physical graphics card for all OSes.

# Prerequisites to Passthrough a GPU to guest

- 0) Any standard bhyve pci-passthrough requirements
- 1) The GPU must not be initialized yet
- 2) The Topology of the GPU needs to be trivial  
Counter example: Nvidia Optimus
- ~~3) Donate to one of the BSD projects~~

# Attempts to work around the GPU initialization problem

Nvidia RX 2070 seems to lie about supporting FLR (function level reset)

Modified and make ppt to ignore FLR and force `pci_power_reset` devices listed in `pptresetdevs` in `loader.conf`

**Nope, that does not help.**

# Real World Experiments

**CPU: AMD Threadripper 1950X**

**RAM: 64GB 2933Hz DDR4**

**Motherboard: Gigabyte X399 Designare EX**

**OS: FreeBSD 13 CURRENT**

**GPU0 host, 1st PCIe Slot: Nvidia GTX 1050TI**

**GPU1 guest, 3rd PCIe Slot: Nvidia RTX 2070**

**GPU2 guest, 3rd PCIe Slot: AMD RX 580**

**All Guests installed on Samsung T5 SSD**

# Windows 10 Guests

**Nope, won't even boot  
properly**

# Possible reasons for failed passthrough to Guests (for example Windows)

According to Debian VGAPassthrough Wiki,

*“The PCI geometry they create by default may violate guest OS graphics drivers' expectations by placing the GPU directly on the PCI root bus, or behind a PCI (rather than PCI Express bridge)”*

But in order to Passthrough the GPU as X:0:0 in guest, we need to pass -Y to bhyve, but this usually crash bhyve as a result of

```
Assertion failed: (pi->pi_bar[baridx].type == PCIBAR_IO),  
function passthru_read
```

# FreeBSD Guests

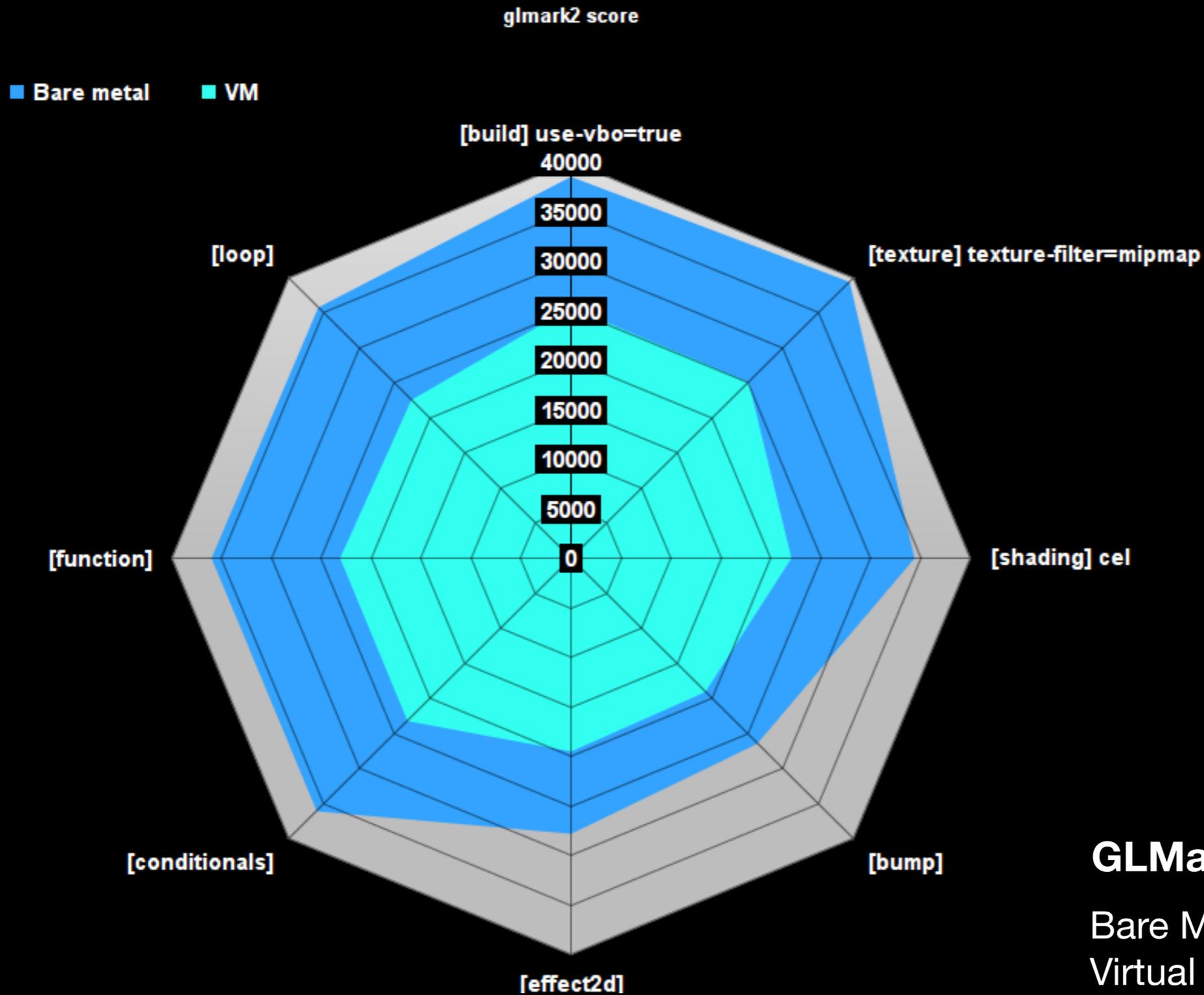
# FreeBSD 12.0 Guest (Nvidia RTX 2070)

- Use Nvidia official driver for FreeBSD
- Must use uefi loader to enable vt console
- Console does not show on screen (as expected)
- Need to explicitly add BusID to xorg.conf
- Remove `nvidia*_load="YES"` from `loader.conf`
- Add `nvidia` and `nvidia-modeset` to `kld_list` instead
- Bonus: the USB-C port on the GPU works too (as `xhci`)

# FreeBSD 12.0 Guest (RTX 580)

- Used drm-kmod driver
- bootable with uefi loader, bhyveload not tested
- Console show on screen after amdgpu loaded
- Using DRM, so does not require BusID in xorg.conf

# Performance compare to bare metal



## GLMark2 Score

Bare Metal: 26437

Virtual Machine: 17482

# Intel GVT?

Intel technology that allow to create virtual GPU from iGPU, that can pass through to virtual machines.

Most of the code are already in i915 DRM driver

**Future work/Work in progress**