NVIDIA vGPU on Proxmox VE

Contents

Introduction

Support

Hardware Setup

Software Versions

Preparation

Enable PCIe Passthrough

Setup Proxmox VE Repositories

Update to Latest Package Versions

Prepare using pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper

Host Driver Installation

Enabling SR-IOV

Create a PCI Resource Mapping

Guest Configuration

General Setup

Remote Desktop Software

Remote Desktop on Windows 10/11

VNC on Linux via x11vnc (Ubuntu/Rocky Linux)

vGPU Configuration

NVIDIA Guest Driver Installation

Windows 10/11

Ubuntu Desktop

Rocky Linux

CUDA on Linux

Guest vGPU Licensing

Troubleshooting

Known Issues

Windows 10/11 'Fast Startup'

Secure Boot

Notes

Introduction

NVIDIA vGPU Software enables multiple virtual machines to use a single supported [1] physical GPU.

This article describes how to use NVIDIA vGPU software with the Proxmox Virtual Environment (Proxmox VE). The instructions were tested using an RTX A5000.

More information can also be found in the NVIDIA documentation [2][3].

Support

Beginning with NVIDIA vGPU Software 18, Proxmox Virtual Environment is an officially supported platform.

To be eligible for support tickets, you must have an **active and valid NVIDIA vGPU entitlement** as well as an active and valid Proxmox VE subscription on your cluster, with level **Basic, Standard or Premium**. See the Proxmox VE Subscription Agreement and the Proxmox Support Offerings for more details.

For a list of supported hardware, see NVIDIA's Qualified System Catalog [6].

To get support, open a ticket on the Proxmox Server Solutions Support Portal (https://my.proxmox.com/).

Hardware Setup
Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies.

More information
OK

For optimal performance in production workloads, we recommend using appropriate enterprise-grade hardware.

All GPUs on NVIDIAs list of supported GPUs (https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/grid-vgpu-release-notes-generic-linux-kvm/index.html#hardware-conf iguration) are supported on Proxmox VE. Please refer to NVIDIA's support page to verify server and version compatibility [7] [6] [1].

Some Workstation NVIDIA GPUs do not have vGPU enabled by default, even though they support vGPU, like the RTX A5000. To enable vGPU for these models, switch the display mode using the NVIDIA Display Mode Selector Tool^[8]. This will disable the display ports.

For a list of GPUs where this is necessary check their documentation [9]. Note that this should be the exception and should only be necessary for workstation GPUs.

Software Versions

The installation is supported on the following versions of Proxmox VE, Linux kernel, and NVIDIA drivers:

pve-manager	Kernel	vGPU Software Branch	NVIDIA Host drivers
8.4.1	6.8.12-10-pve	18.1	570.133.10
8.4.1	6.11.11-2-pve	18.1	570.133.10
8.4.1	6.14.0-2-pve	18.1	570.133.10

Older, now outdated, tested versions.[Expand]



Note: With 6.8+ based kernels / GRID version 17.3+, the lower level interface of the driver changed and requires gemuserver \geq 8.2.6 to be installed on the host.

It is recommended to use the latest stable and supported version of Proxmox VE and NVIDIA drivers. However, newer versions in one vGPU Software Branch should also work for the same or older kernel version.

A mapping of which NVIDIA vGPU software version corresponds to which driver version is available in the official documentation [10].

Since version 16.0, certain cards are no longer supported by the NVIDIA vGPU driver, but are supported by NVIDIA AI Enterprise [1] [11]. The NVIDIA AI Enterprise driver behaves similarly to the vGPU driver. Therefore, the following steps should also apply.

Note that vGPU and NVIDIA AI Enterprise are different products with different licenses, and NVIDIA AI Enterprise is currently not officially supported with Proxmox VE.

Preparation

Before actually installing the host drivers, there are a few steps that need to be done on the Proxmox VE host.



Note: If you need to use a root shell, you can, open one by connecting via SSH or using the node shell on the Proxmox VE web interface.

Enable PCIe Passthrough

Make sure that your system is compatible with PCIe passthrough. See the PCI(e) Passthrough (https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/PCI(e) Passthrough) documentation for details.

Additionally, confirm that the following features are enabled in your firmware settings (BIOS/UEFI):

- VT-d for Intel, or AMD-v for AMD (sometimes named IOMMU)
- SR-IOV (this may not be necessary for older pre-Ampere GPU generations)
- Above 4G decoding
- Alternative Routing ID Interpretation (ARI) (not necessary for pre-Ampere GPUs)

The firmware of your host might use different naming. If you are unable to locate some of these options, refer to the documentation provided by your firmware or motherboard manufacturer.



Note: It is crucial to ensure that both the IOMMU options are enabled in your firmware and the kernel. See <u>General</u> Requirements for PCI(e) Passthrough (https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/PCI(e)_Passthrough#_general_requirements) for how to do that

Setup Proxmox VE Repositories

Proxmox VE ships with the enterprise repository set up by default, as this repository provides better tested software and is recommended for production use. The enterprise repository needs a valid subscription per node. For evaluation or non-production use cases, you can switch to the public nosubscription repository. Packages in the no-subscription repository get updated more frequently but are not as well tested. There is no difference in available features.

You can use the Repositories management panel in the Proxmox VE web UI for managing package repositories, see the <u>documentation (https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/Package_Repositories)</u> for details.

Update to Latest Package Versions

Proxmox VE uses a rolling release model and should be updated frequently to ensure that your Proxmox VE installation has the latest bug and security fixes, and features available.

You can update your Proxmox VE node using the Updates panel on the web UI.

Prepare using pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper

Since *pve-manager* version 8.3.4 the pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper tool is included. If you're on an older version, please upgrade to the latest version or install it manually with

apt install pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper

The pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper tool will set up some basics, like blacklisting the nouveau driver, installing header packages, DKMS and so on. You can start the setup with

pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper setup

You will be asked if you want to install missing packages, answer 'y'. Once all the required packages have been successfully installed, you should see this message

All done, you can continue with the NVIDIA vGPU driver installation.

If the nouveau driver was loaded previously, you have to reboot after this step so it isn't loaded afterward.



Note: If you install an opt-in kernel later, you have to also install the corresponding proxmox-header-X.Y package for DKMS to work.

Host Driver Installation



Note: The driver/file versions shown in this section are examples only; use the correct file names for the selected driver you're installing.



Note: If you're using Secure boot, please refer to the Chapter Secure Boot before continuing.

To get started, you will need the appropriate host and guest drivers; see the NVIDIA Virtual GPU Software Quick Start Guide^[12] for instructions on how to obtain them. Choose Linux KVM as target hypervisor when downloading.

In our case, we got the following host driver file:

NVIDIA-Linux-x86_64-525.105.14-vgpu-kvm.run

Copy this file over to your Proxmox VE node, for example with SCP or an SSH file copy tool. If you are on Windows, WinSCP (https://winscp.net) can be used for this sten.

Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies.

More information

To start the installation, you need to make the installer executable first, and then pass the --dkms option when running it, to ensure that the module is rebuilt after a kernel upgrade:

```
chmod +x NVIDIA-Linux-x86_64-525.105.14-vgpu-kvm.run
./NVIDIA-Linux-x86_64-525.105.14-vgpu-kvm.run --dkms
```

Follow the steps of the installer.

When you're asked if you want to register the kernel module sources with DKMS, answer 'yes'.

After the installer has finished successfully, you will need to reboot your system, either using the web interface or by executing reboot.

Enabling SR-IOV

On newer NVIDIA GPUs (based on the Ampere architecture and beyond), you must first enable SR-IOV before being able to use vGPU. This can be done manually with the sriov-manage script from NVIDIA (this is lost on reboot).

Alternatively, the pve-nvidia-vgpu-helper package comes with a systemd service template which calls it automatically on every boot.

To enable it, use

```
systemctl enable --now pve-nvidia-sriov@ALL.service
```

You can replace ALL with a specific PCI ID (like 0000:01:00.0) if you only want to enable it for a specific card.

This will then run before the NVIDIA vGPU daemons and the Proxmox VE virtual guest auto start-up. Due to the --now parameter, it will be started immediately.

Verify that there are multiple virtual functions for your device with:

```
# lspci -d 10de:
```

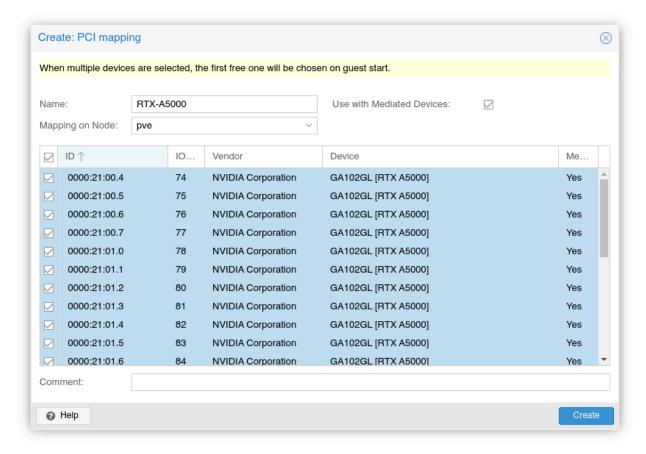
In our case, there are now 24 virtual functions in addition to the physical card (01:00.0):

```
01:00.0 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL [RTX A5000] (rev al)
01:00.4 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:00.5 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:00.6 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL [RTX A5000]
01:00.7 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
01:01.0 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL 01:01.1 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
                                                                   (rev al)
                                                      [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:01.2 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
01:01.3 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
01:01.4 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
01:01.5 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:01.6 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
                                                                   (rev al)
01:01.7 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                                   (rev al)
01:02.0 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
01:02.1 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
                                                                   (rev al)
01:02.2 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
                                                                   (rev al)
01:02.3 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:02.4 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
01:02.5 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
01:02.6 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
                                                      [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:02.7 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
                                                                   (rev al)
01:03.0 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
01:03.1 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A50001
01:03.2 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL
                                                      [RTX A5000]
01:03.3 3D controller: NVIDIA Corporation GA102GL [RTX A5000]
                                                                   (rev al)
```

Create a PCI Resource Mapping

For convenience and privilege separation, you can now create resource mappings for PCI devices. This can contain multiple PCI IDs, such as all virtual functions. The first available ID is automatically selected when the guest is started. Go to Datacenter → Resource mappings to create a new one. For details, see Resource Mapping

In the resource mapping you need to enable 'Use with mediated devices' and select all relevant devices. For GPUs with SR-IOV (Ampere and later), this means the virtual functions which the card exposes. For example, using an RTX A5000 card, we want to select all virtual functions:



Guest Configuration

General Setup

First, set up a VM as you normally would, without adding a vGPU. This can be done either with the Virtual Machine wizard in the Web UI or via the CLI tool qm. For guest specific notes, see for example Windows 11 guest best practices (https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/Windows%2011%20guest%20best%20 practices).

Please note that all Linux commands shown are assumed to be run as a privileged user. For example, directly as the root user, or prefixed with Sudo.

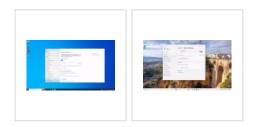
Remote Desktop Software

Since the built-in VNC and SPICE console cannot display the virtual display provided by the vGPU, you need some kind of remote desktop software installed in the guest to access the guest. There are many options available, see the NVIDIA documentation^[2] or Wikipedia Comparison of Remote Desktop Software (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_remote_desktop_software) for examples.

We show how to enable two examples here, Remote Desktop for Windows 10/11, and VNC (via x11vnc) on Linux:

Remote Desktop on Windows 10/11

To enable Remote Desktop on Windows 10/11, go to Settings → System → Remote Desktop and enable the Remote Desktop option.



VNC on Linux Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies.

Note that this is just an example; how you want to configure remote desktops on Linux will depend on your use case.

Ubuntu 24.04 and Rocky Linux 9 ship with GDM3 + Gnome per default, which make it a bit harder to share the screen with x11vnc. So the first step is to install a different display manager. We successfully tested LightDM here, but others may work as well.

Note that for Rocky linux you might need to enable the EPEL repository beforehand with:

```
# dnf install epel-release
```

First, we install and activate the new display manager:

Ubuntu:

```
# apt install lightdm
```

Select 'LightDM' as default login manager when prompted.

Rocky Linux:

```
# dnf install lightdm
# systemctl disable --now gdm.service
# systemctl enable --now lightdm.service
```

After that install x11vnc with

Ubuntu:

```
# apt install x11vnc
```

Rocky Linux:

```
# dnf install xllvnc
```

We then added a systemd service that starts the VNC server on the x.org server provided by LightDM in /etc/systemd/system/xllvnc.service

```
[Unit]
Description=Start x11vnc
After=multi-user.target

[Service]
Type=simple
ExecStart=/usr/bin/x11vnc -display :0 -auth /var/run/lightdm/root/:0 -forever -loop -repeat -rfbauth /etc/x11vnc.passwd -rfbport 5900 -shared -
noxdamage

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

You can set the password by executing:

```
# xllvnc -storepasswd /etc/xllvnc.passwd
# chmod 0400 /etc/xllvnc.passwd
```

On Rocky Linux, you might need to allow VNC in the firewall:

```
# firewall-cmd --permanent --add-port=5900/tcp
```

After setting up LightDM and x11vnc and restarting the VM, you should now be able to connect via VNC.

vGPU Configuration

After configuring the VM to your liking, shut down the VM and add a vGPU by selecting one of the virtual functions and selecting the appropriate mediated device type.

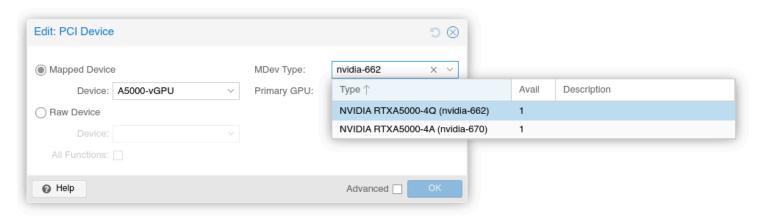
For example:

Via the CLI:

Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies.

qm set VMID -hostpci0 01:00.4,mdev=nvidia-660

Via the web interface:



To find the correct mediated device type, you can use pvesh get /nodes/NODENAME/hardware/pci/MAPPINGNAME/mdev. This will query sysfs for all supported types that can be created. Note that, depending on the driver and kernel versions in use, not all models may be visible here, but only those that are currently available.

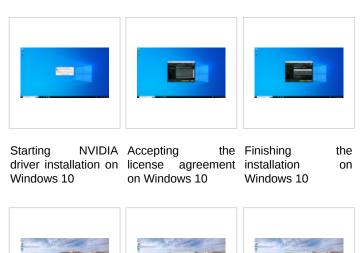
NVIDIA Guest Driver Installation

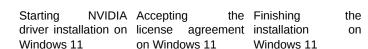
Windows 10/11

Refer to their documentation [10] to find a compatible guest driver to host driver mapping. For example:

553.24_grid_win10_win11_server2022_dch_64bit_international.exe

Start the installer and follow the instructions, then, after it finished, restart the guest as prompted.





From this point on, Proxmox VE's built-in noVNC console will no longer work, so use your desktop sharing software to connect to the Guest. Now you can use the vGPU for starting 3D applications such as Blender, 3D games, etc.

Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies. More information













on

Windows 10

Unigine Valley on SuperTuxKart Windows 10

on Blender on Windows Blender on Windows Unigine 11

Superposition Windows 11

SuperTuxKart on Windows 11

Ubuntu Desktop

To install the NVIDIA driver on Ubuntu, use apt to install the .deb package that NVIDIA provides for Ubuntu. Check the NVIDIA documentation [10] for a compatible guest driver to host driver mapping.

In our case, this was nvidia-linux-grid-550 550.127.05 amd64.deb. For that to work you must prefix the relative path, for example ./ if the .deb file is located in the current directory.

apt install ./nvidia-linux-grid-550 550.127.05 amd64.deb







files

List NVIDIA driver Start NVIDIA driver Finished installation

NVIDIA driver installation

Then you must use NVIDIA's tools to configure the x.org configuration with:

nvidia-xconfig

Now you can reboot and use a VNC client to connect and use the vGPU for 3D applications.













Unigine (Ubuntu 22.04)

Valley SuperTuxKart (Ubuntu 22.04)

Blender 22.04)

(Ubuntu Unigine Superposition (Ubuntu 24.04)

SuperTuxKart (Ubuntu 24.04)

Blender Classroom (Ubuntu 24.04)

Rocky Linux

To install the NVIDIA driver on Rocky Linux, use dnf to install the .rpm package that NVIDIA provides for Red Hat based distributions. Check the NVIDIA documentation[10] for a compatible guest driver to host driver mapping.

,.....

In our case, this was nvidia-linux-grid-550-550.127.05-1.x86 64.rpm. If the file is located in the current directory, run:

Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies. More information



Start installation driver Finished installation driver

Then you must use NVIDIA's tools to configure the x.org configuration with:

nvidia-xconfig

Now you can reboot and use a VNC client to connect and use the vGPU for 3D applications.







render

Blender Classroom Unigine

Superposition

SuperTuxKart

CUDA on Linux

If you want to use CUDA on a Linux Guest, you might need to install the CUDA Toolkit manually [14]. Check the NVIDIA documentation which version of CUDA is supported for your vGPU drivers.

Guest vGPU Licensing

To use the vGPU without restriction, you must adhere to NVIDIA's licensing. Check the NVIDIA vGPU documentation [15] for instructions on how to do SO.

For setting up a DLS (Delegated License Service), see NVIDIAs DLS Documentation $\frac{[16]}{}$.

Tip: Ensure that the guest system time is properly synchronized using NTP. Otherwise, the guest will be unable to request a license for the vGPU.

Troubleshooting

A warning like the following might get logged by QEMU on VM startup. This usually only happens on consumer hardware which does not support PCIe AER[17] error recovery properly, it generally should not have any adverse effects on normal operation, but PCIe link errors might not be (soft-)recoverable in such cases.

kvm: -device vfio-pci,host=0000:09:00.5,id=hostpci0,bus=ich9-pcie-port-1,addr=0x0: warning: vfio 0000:09:00.5: Could not enable error recovery for

Known Issues

Windows 10/11 'Fast Startup'

In Windows 10/11 'fast startup' is enabled by default. When enabled, a shutdown via ACPI or the start menu will use 'hybrid shutdown'. The next boot will fail with a blue screen and the vGPU will be disabled.

Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies.

Alternatively, disable hybrid shutdown in a command prompt with admin privileges:

Powercfg -h off

Secure Boot

When booting the host with secure boot, kernel modules must be signed with a trusted key. We will show you how to set up your host so that the NVIDIA driver is signed and ready to load. For more details, see Secure Boot Setup. To be able to enroll the keys into the UEFI, make sure you have access to the physical display output during boot. This is necessary for confirming the key import. On servers, this can usually be achieved with IPMI/iKVM/etc.

Before installing the NVIDIA Host driver, we need to install a few prerequisites to enroll the DKMS signing key into UEFI:

apt install shim-signed grub-efi-amd64-signed mokutil

Now you can install the NVIDIA driver, but with an additional parameter:

./NVIDIA-Linux-x86_64-525.105.14-vgpu-kvm.run --dkms --skip-module-load

When asked if the installer should sign the module, select 'no'.

After the installer is finished, we now want to rebuild the kernel modules with DKMS, which will sign the kernel module for us with a generated key. First, check what module version is installed with:

dkms status

Which will output a line like this:

nvidia/550.144.02, 6.8.12-6-pve, x86_64: installed

You need to rebuild and reinstall the listed module with (replace the version with the one on your system)

dkms build -m nvidia -v 550.144.02 --force dkms install -m nvidia -v 550.144.02 --force

This will ensure that the modules are signed with the DKMS key located in /var/lib/dkms/mok.pub If you have not already done so, enroll the DKMS key as described in Using DKMS with Secure Boot.

You should then be able to load the signed NVIDIA kernel module. You can verify this by checking if the PCI devices have their driver loaded, e.g. with

lspci -d 10de: -nnk

It should say

Kernel driver in use: nvidia

You can now continue with the next step after the driver installation.

Notes

- NVIDIA GPUs supported by vGPU https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/gpus-supported-by-vgpu.html
- Latest NVIDIA vGPU Documentation https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/index.html
- NVIDIA vGPU Linux with KVM Documenation https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/grid-vgpu-release-notesgeneric-linux-kvm/index.html
- 4. Proxmox VE Subscription Agreement https://www.proxmox.com/en/downloads/proxmox-virtualenvironment/agreements/proxmox-ve-subscription-agreement
- Proxmox VE Subscriptions https://www.proxmox.com/en/products/proxmox-virtualenvironment/pricing

- NVIDIA Qualified System Catalog https://marketplace.nvidia.com/en-us/enterprise/qualifiedsystem-catalog/
- NVIDIA vGPU Support Matrix https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/product-supportmatrix/index.html
- 8. NVIDIA Display Mode Selector Tool https://developer.nvidia.com/displaymodeselector
- Latest NVIDIA vGPU user guide: Switching the Mode of a GPU that Supports Multiple Display Modes https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/grid-vgpu-user-guide/index.html#displaymodeselector
- 10. NVIDIA vGPU Driver versions

Cookies help us deliver our services. By using our services, you agree to our use of cookies. More information

15. NVIDIA vGPU Licensing User Guide:

- 11. NVIDIA GPUs supported by NVIDIA AI Enterprise https://docs.nvidia.com/ai-enterprise/latest/product-supportmatrix/index.html
- 12. Getting your NVIDIA vGPU Software: https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/grid-software-quick-startguide/index.html#getting-your-nvidia-grid-software
- 13. Mediated Devices https://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/PCI(e)_Passthrough#_mediated_devices hogyto.lgtvtl g
- 14. NVIDIA CUDA Toolkit Download https://developer.nvidia.com/cuda-downloads

guide/index.html 16. NVIDIA DLS Documentation https://docs.nvidia.com/license-

https://docs.nvidia.com/vgpu/latest/grid-licensing-user-

system/latest/

17. PCI Express Advanced Error Reporting Driver Guide: https://www.kernel.org/doc/html/v6.12-rc4/PCI/pcieaer-

 $Retrieved from "https://pve.proxmox.com/mediawiki/index.php?title=NVIDIA_vGPU_on_Proxmox_VE\&oldid=12225" and the proxmox_version of the$

This page was last edited on 23 April 2025, at 14:10.