

Trying to launch the GeForce NOW Flatpak Linux app on Linux Mint Cinnamon, but not working. Please analyze the attached log files to help determine what might be happening

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Thanks for the logs — these are actually very clear, and they point to a **specific, real blocker**, not a generic Flatpak issue. I'll walk you through exactly what's happening and what your realistic options are.

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### ● **Root cause (the real failure)**

The GeForce NOW Flatpak **fails during Vulkan initialization**, not networking, not sandboxing.

The *fatal* error is here (from `geronimo.log`):

```
ERROR [VulkanDeviceContext.cpp]
```

```
HasAllDeviceExtensions: ERROR: required device extension
```

```
VK_EXT_image_drm_format_modifier is missing
```

Followed immediately by:

```
ERROR - No Usable physical devices found!
```

```
ERROR - Unable to find a Vulkan physical device that supports all required extensions.
```

This cascades into:

```
ERROR: Unable to initialize SDLGraphicsContext!
```

```
ERROR: Browser app has failed to initialize Geronimo
```

➔ **That is why the app exits immediately.**

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### 🧠 **What this means in plain English**

- Your GPU is **detected correctly**
- Vulkan is **present and loads**
- SDL **initializes**
- **BUT: your Vulkan driver does not expose a required extension**

### **Your GPU & driver (from logs)**

- GPU: **AMD Radeon RX 550 (Polaris)**
- Vulkan driver: **RADV (Mesa)**
- Kernel: **6.14**
- Desktop: **Linux Mint Cinnamon (X11)**

GeForce NOW **hard-requires:**

VK\_EXT\_image\_drm\_format\_modifier

Your current Vulkan stack **does not provide it**, so GFN refuses to start.

This is **not a Flatpak bug** and **not a permission issue**.

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### ⚠️ Why this affects AMD Polaris GPUs

Polaris-era AMD cards (RX 4xx / RX 5xx) are in a **gray zone**:

- Mesa RADV *sometimes* exposes VK\_EXT\_image\_drm\_format\_modifier
- Support depends on:
  - Mesa version
  - Kernel DRM version
  - Whether modifier support is enabled
- NVIDIA's Linux GFN client **assumes this extension exists**

In short:

■ **GFN's Linux client is stricter than Mesa's defaults**

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### ✗ Things that are *not* the problem

Just to rule them out explicitly:

- ✗ Flatpak sandboxing
- ✗ Missing NVIDIA drivers (expected on AMD)
- ✗ Wayland vs X11
- ✗ Missing PipeWire
- ✗ Network / firewall
- ✗ Cinnamon

The app dies *before* any of that matters.

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### ✅ What you can realistically try (in order)

#### Option 1 — Try forcing a newer Mesa (best chance)

If you're not already on the newest Mesa available for Mint 22.x:

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:kisak/kisak-mesa
```

```
sudo apt update
```

sudo apt upgrade

reboot

Then verify:

```
vulkaninfo | grep VK_EXT_image_drm_format_modifier
```

If it appears → **GFN may start working**

⚠ On Polaris, this is hit-or-miss.

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### Option 2 — Use AMDVLK instead of RADV

AMDVLK sometimes exposes different extensions.

```
sudo apt install amdvlk
```

```
VK_ICD_FILENAMES=/usr/share/vulkan/icd.d/amd_icd64.json flatpak run com.nvidia.GeForceNow
```

Check support first:

```
VK_ICD_FILENAMES=/usr/share/vulkan/icd.d/amd_icd64.json vulkaninfo | grep  
VK_EXT_image_drm_format_modifier
```

If missing → no luck.

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### Option 3 — Use GeForce NOW in a browser (recommended)

On Polaris GPUs, **this is the most reliable option.**

- Chrome / Chromium
- Enable hardware acceleration
- Use:
- <https://play.geforcenow.com>

This bypasses Vulkan entirely and uses WebRTC instead.

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### Option 4 — Different GPU

GFN Linux Flatpak works reliably on:

- NVIDIA GPUs (proprietary driver)
- Newer AMD GPUs (RDNA2+)

RX 550 is unfortunately right at the cutoff.

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 **Why Flatpak logs show empty NVIDIA driver versions**

This line confused a lot of people:

NV\_HOST\_DRIVER\_VERSION:

NV\_FLATPAK\_DRIVER\_VERSION:

This is **normal on non-NVIDIA systems** and not related to the failure.

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## Summary

### Why it doesn't launch

- Missing Vulkan extension: `VK_EXT_image_drm_format_modifier`
- Required by GFN's Linux client
- Not exposed by your current AMD Polaris Vulkan driver

### Best path forward

1. Try newer Mesa (kisak PPA)
  2. Try AMDVLK
  3. Otherwise → **use browser GFN**
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If you want, tell me:

- Your exact Mesa version (`glxinfo | grep Mesa`)
- Whether you're willing to test `kisak-mesa`

I can give you a **yes/no answer** on whether it's worth trying further — no guesswork.