

# SMART CONTRACT AUDIT REPORT

for

Gearbox Protocol

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#### Introduction 1

Given the opportunity to review the Gearbox design document and related smart contract source code, we outline in the report our systematic approach to evaluate potential security issues in the smart contract implementation, expose possible semantic inconsistencies between smart contract code and design document, and provide additional suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Our results show that the given version of smart contracts can be further improved due to the presence of several issues related to either security or performance. This document outlines our audit results.

#### 1.1 About Gearbox

Gearbox protocol is aiming to enhance capital efficiency in the DeFi space with the introduction of new DeFi primitives for under-collateralized interactions with other DeFi lego blocks which can be used for decentralized margin trading, leveraged yield farming, etc. This is made possible with Credit Accounts, which are agent-oriented isolated smart contracts, and liquidation thresholds protecting the bottom line of the deposited capital. Overall, Gearbox does not only give users and other decentralized protocols access to leverage their trading and farming positions (and therefore maximize their profit), but also ensures a non-custodial, transparent, and composable design of the protocol.

The basic information of Gearbox is as follows:

Table 1.1: Basic Information of Gearbox

ltem	Description
Issuer	Gearbox
Website	https://gearbox.finance/
Туре	Ethereum Smart Contract
Platform	Solidity
Audit Method	Whitebox
Latest Audit Report	August 10, 2021

In the following, we show the Git repository of reviewed files and the commit hash value used

in this audit. Note that Gearbox assumes a trusted price oracle with timely market price feeds for supported assets and the oracle itself is not part of this audit.

https://github.com/Gearbox-protocol/gearbox-contracts.git (2600a60)

And this is the commit ID after all fixes for the issues found in the audit have been checked in:

https://github.com/Gearbox-protocol/gearbox-contracts.git (cee91b9)

#### 1.2 About PeckShield

PeckShield Inc. [11] is a leading blockchain security company with the goal of elevating the security, privacy, and usability of current blockchain ecosystems by offering top-notch, industry-leading services and products (including the service of smart contract auditing). We are reachable at Telegram (https://t.me/peckshield), Twitter (http://twitter.com/peckshield), or Email (contact@peckshield.com).

High Critical High Medium

High Medium

Low

Medium

Low

High Medium

Low

High Medium

Low

Likelihood

Table 1.2: Vulnerability Severity Classification

## 1.3 Methodology

To standardize the evaluation, we define the following terminology based on the OWASP Risk Rating Methodology [10]:

- <u>Likelihood</u> represents how likely a particular vulnerability is to be uncovered and exploited in the wild;
- Impact measures the technical loss and business damage of a successful attack;
- Severity demonstrates the overall criticality of the risk.

Likelihood and impact are categorized into three ratings: *H*, *M* and *L*, i.e., *high*, *medium* and *low* respectively. Severity is determined by likelihood and impact and can be classified into four categories accordingly, i.e., *Critical*, *High*, *Medium*, *Low* shown in Table 1.2.

To evaluate the risk, we go through a checklist of items and each would be labeled with a severity category. For one check item, if our tool or analysis does not identify any issue, the contract is considered safe regarding the check item. For any discovered issue, we might further deploy contracts on our private testnet and run tests to confirm the findings. If necessary, we would additionally build a PoC to demonstrate the possibility of exploitation. The concrete list of check items is shown in Table 1.3.

In particular, we perform the audit according to the following procedure:

- Basic Coding Bugs: We first statically analyze given smart contracts with our proprietary static code analyzer for known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) all the issues found by our tool.
- <u>Semantic Consistency Checks</u>: We then manually check the logic of implemented smart contracts and compare with the description in the white paper.
- Advanced DeFi Scrutiny: We further review business logics, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.
- Additional Recommendations: We also provide additional suggestions regarding the coding and development of smart contracts from the perspective of proven programming practices.

To better describe each issue we identified, we categorize the findings with Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE-699) [9], which is a community-developed list of software weakness types to better delineate and organize weaknesses around concepts frequently encountered in software development. Though some categories used in CWE-699 may not be relevant in smart contracts, we use the CWE categories in Table 1.4 to classify our findings. Moreover, in case there is an issue that may affect an active protocol that has been deployed, the public version of this report may omit such issue, but will be amended with full details right after the affected protocol is upgraded with respective fixes.

#### 1.4 Disclaimer

Note that this security audit is not designed to replace functional tests required before any software release, and does not give any warranties on finding all possible security issues of the given smart contract(s) or blockchain software, i.e., the evaluation result does not guarantee the nonexistence of any further findings of security issues. As one audit-based assessment cannot be considered

Table 1.3: The Full Audit Checklist

Category	Checklist Items
	Constructor Mismatch
	Ownership Takeover
	Redundant Fallback Function
	Overflows & Underflows
	Reentrancy
	Money-Giving Bug
	Blackhole
	Unauthorized Self-Destruct
Basic Coding Bugs	Revert DoS
Dasic Couling Dugs	Unchecked External Call
	Gasless Send
	Send Instead Of Transfer
	Costly Loop
	(Unsafe) Use Of Untrusted Libraries
	(Unsafe) Use Of Predictable Variables
	Transaction Ordering Dependence
	Deprecated Uses
Semantic Consistency Checks	Semantic Consistency Checks
	Business Logics Review
	Functionality Checks
	Authentication Management
	Access Control & Authorization
	Oracle Security
Advanced DeFi Scrutiny	Digital Asset Escrow
rataneed Deri Geraemi,	Kill-Switch Mechanism
	Operation Trails & Event Generation
	ERC20 Idiosyncrasies Handling
	Frontend-Contract Integration
Additional Recommendations	Deployment Consistency
	Holistic Risk Management
	Avoiding Use of Variadic Byte Array
	Using Fixed Compiler Version
	Making Visibility Level Explicit
	Making Type Inference Explicit
	Adhering To Function Declaration Strictly
	Following Other Best Practices

Table 1.4: Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) Classifications Used in This Audit

Category	Summary
Configuration	Weaknesses in this category are typically introduced during
	the configuration of the software.
Data Processing Issues	Weaknesses in this category are typically found in functional-
	ity that processes data.
Numeric Errors	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper calcula-
	tion or conversion of numbers.
Security Features	Weaknesses in this category are concerned with topics like
	authentication, access control, confidentiality, cryptography,
	and privilege management. (Software security is not security
	software.)
Time and State	Weaknesses in this category are related to the improper man-
	agement of time and state in an environment that supports
	simultaneous or near-simultaneous computation by multiple
	systems, processes, or threads.
Error Conditions,	Weaknesses in this category include weaknesses that occur if
Return Values,	a function does not generate the correct return/status code,
Status Codes	or if the application does not handle all possible return/status
	codes that could be generated by a function.
Resource Management	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper manage-
	ment of system resources.
Behavioral Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to unexpected behav-
	iors from code that an application uses.
Business Logic	Weaknesses in this category identify some of the underlying
	problems that commonly allow attackers to manipulate the
	business logic of an application. Errors in business logic can
	be devastating to an entire application.
Initialization and Cleanup	Weaknesses in this category occur in behaviors that are used
A	for initialization and breakdown.
Arguments and Parameters	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper use of
Evenuesian legues	arguments or parameters within function calls.
Expression Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to incorrectly written
Cadina Duantia	expressions within code.
Coding Practices	Weaknesses in this category are related to coding practices that are deemed unsafe and increase the chances that an ex-
	ploitable vulnerability will be present in the application. They
	may not directly introduce a vulnerability, but indicate the
	product has not been carefully developed or maintained.

comprehensive, we always recommend proceeding with several independent audits and a public bug bounty program to ensure the security of smart contract(s). Last but not least, this security audit should not be used as investment advice.



# 2 | Findings

## 2.1 Summary

Here is a summary of our findings after analyzing the implementation of the Gearbox protocol. During the first phase of our audit, we study the smart contract source code and run our in-house static code analyzer through the codebase. The purpose here is to statically identify known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) issues reported by our tool. We further manually review business logic, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.

Severity	# of Findings
Critical	0
High	0
Medium	1
Low	3
Informational	1
Total	5

We have so far identified a list of potential issues: some of them involve subtle corner cases that might not be previously thought of, while others refer to unusual interactions among multiple contracts. For each uncovered issue, we have therefore developed test cases for reasoning, reproduction, and/or verification. After further analysis and internal discussion, we determined a few issues of varying severities need to be brought up and paid more attention to, which are categorized in the above table. More information can be found in the next subsection, and the detailed discussions of each of them are in Section 3.

## 2.2 Key Findings

Overall, these smart contracts are well-designed and engineered, though the implementation can be improved by resolving the identified issues (shown in Table 2.1), including 1 medium-severity vulnerability, 3 low-severity vulnerabilities, and 1 informational recommendation.

ID Severity Title Category **Status** PVE-001 Proper Liquidity Limit Enforcement in Medium Coding Practices Fixed **PoolService PVE-002** Duplicate Avoidance in connectCredit-Low Coding Practices Fixed Manager() **PVE-003** Numeric Errors Low Proper MAX INT 4 Calculation Fixed PVE-004 Improved Precision By Multiplication Coding Practices Fixed Low And Division Reordering **PVE-005** Informational Reentrancy Protection in CreditAccount Time and State Fixed

Table 2.1: Key Gearbox Audit Findings

Beside the identified issues, we emphasize that for any user-facing applications and services, it is always important to develop necessary risk-control mechanisms and make contingency plans, which may need to be exercised before the mainnet deployment. The risk-control mechanisms should kick in at the very moment when the contracts are being deployed on mainnet. Please refer to Section 3 for details.

Lending/Repayment

# 3 Detailed Results

## 3.1 Proper Liquidity Limit Enforcement in PoolService

• ID: PVE-001

Severity: MediumLikelihood: Medium

• Impact: Low

• Target: PoolService

Category: Business Logic [6]CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [4]

#### Description

In the Gearbox protocol, there is a PoolService contract that allows any one to provide liquidity and support credit accounts for margin trading and leveraged farming. While examining the PoolService contract, we notice the guarded launch feature with the expectedLiquidityLimit enforcement can be improved.

To elaborate, we show below the addLiquidity() routine. It implements a rather straightforward logic in transfering the intended asset to the pool, then minting the proportional pool tokens (i.e., diesel) with current diesel rate, and finally updating the expected pool liquidity and the pool borrow rate. Note the enforcement of expectedLiquidityLimit needs to be performed by taking into account the new liquidity just provided, i.e., require(expectedLiquidity()+amount < expectedLiquidityLimit), instead of current require(expectedLiquidity()< expectedLiquidityLimit) (line 145).

```
134
         function addLiquidity(
135
              uint256 amount,
136
              address onBehalfOf
137
              uint256 referralCode
         )
138
139
              external
140
              override
141
              \verb|whenNotPaused| // T: [PS-4]|
142
              nonReentrant
143
         {
144
              require(
145
                   expectedLiquidity() < expectedLiquidityLimit,</pre>
```

```
146
                 Errors.POOL_MORE_THAN_EXPECTED_LIQUIDITY_LIMIT
147
             ); // T:[PS-31]
149
             IERC20(underlyingToken).safeTransferFrom(
150
                 msg.sender,
151
                 address(this),
152
                 amount
153
             ); // T:[PS-2, 7]
155
             DieselToken(dieselToken).mint(onBehalfOf, toDiesel(amount)); // T:[PS-2, 7]
157
             _expectedLiquidityLU = _expectedLiquidityLU.add(amount); // T:[PS-2, 7]
158
             _updateBorrowRate(); // T:[PS-2, 7]
160
             emit AddLiquidity(msg.sender, onBehalfOf, amount, referralCode); // T:[PS-2, 7]
161
```

Listing 3.1: PoolService::addLiquidity()

**Recommendation** Revise the above addLiquidity() routine to properly enforce the expectedLiquidityLimit invariant.

Status The issue has been fixed by this commit: a2ec6e4.

## 3.2 Duplicate Avoidance in connectCreditManager()

• ID: PVE-002

Severity: Low

Likelihood: Low

• Impact: Low

• Target: PoolService

• Category: Coding Practices [5]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-1126 [1]

#### Description

As mentioned in Section 3.1, the Gearbox protocol has a PoolService contract that allows any one to provide liquidity and support credit accounts for margin trading and leveraged farming. The funds in PoolService may be borrowed by credit accounts via the trusted credit manager. To facilitate the management, the PoolService contract provides a privileged function connectCreditManager(), which connects a new credit manager to the pool.

```
/// @dev Connects new Credif manager to pool
/// @param _creditManager Address of credif manager
function connectCreditManager(address _creditManager)
external
configuratorOnly // T:[PS-9]
420 {
```

```
421
422
                 address(this) == ICreditManager(_creditManager).poolService(),
423
                 {\tt Errors.POOL\_INCOMPATIBLE\_CREDIT\_ACCOUNT\_MANAGER}
424
             ); // T:[PS-10]
426
             creditManagersCanBorrow[_creditManager] = true; // T:[PS-11]
427
             creditManagersCanRepay[_creditManager] = true; // T:[PS-11]
             creditManagers.push(_creditManager); // T:[PS-11]
428
429
             emit NewCreditManagerConnected(_creditManager); // ToDo: ADD CHECK HERE
430
```

Listing 3.2: PoolService::connectCreditManager()

To elaborate, we show above the <code>connectCreditManager()</code> routine. The logic is rather straightforward in saving the new <code>credit manager</code> in its internal array <code>creditManagers</code>. It comes to our attention that the current implementation does not deal with possible duplicate that may already exist in the <code>creditManagers</code> array.

**Recommendation** Revise the above connectCreditManager() routine to prevent an existing entry from being added again.

Status The issue has been fixed by this commit: a2ec6e4.

## 3.3 Proper MAX INT 4 Calculation

• ID: PVE-003

Severity: Low

Likelihood: Low

Impact: Low

• Target: Constants

Category: Numeric Errors [8]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-190 [2]

#### Description

The Gearbox aims to enhance capital efficiency in DeFi with the introduction of Credit Accounts - a new primitive for under-collateralized interactions with other DeFi protocols. One common need behind the interaction with various DeFi protocols is the efficient management of token allowance of a credit account on an external contract.

To facilitate such need, the Credit Manager contract provides a helper routine \_provideCreditAccount Allowance() to grant necessary allowance to a given external contract toContract. Our analysis shows that if the current allowance is less than Constants.MAX\_INT\_4, a maximum allowance is then granted.

```
740
         ) internal {
741
             // Get 10x reserve in allowance
742
             if (
743
                  IERC20(token).allowance(creditAccount, toContract) <</pre>
744
                  Constants.MAX INT 4
745
             ) {
                  ICreditAccount(creditAccount).approveToken(token, toContract); // T:[CM-35]
746
747
748
```

Listing 3.3: CreditManager:: provideCreditAccountAllowance()

Recommendation Update the Constants.MAX\_INT\_4 constant to reflect the intended amount.

Status The issue has been fixed by this commit: ad31b1d.

# 3.4 Improved Precision By Multiplication And Division Reordering

• ID: PVE-004

Severity: Low

• Likelihood: Low

Impact: Low

• Target: CreditManager

• Category: Coding Practices [5]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-1126 [1]

#### Description

SafeMath is a widely-used Solidity math library that is designed to support safe math operations by preventing common overflow or underflow issues when working with uint256 operands. While it indeed blocks common overflow or underflow issues, the lack of float support in Solidity may introduce another subtle, but troublesome issue: precision loss. In this section, we examine one possible precision loss source that stems from the different orders when both multiplication (mul) and division (div) are involved.

In particular, if we examine the CreditManager::liquidateCreditAccount() routine, this routine is designed to liquidate an underwater credit account.

```
function liquidateCreditAccount(address borrower, address to)

external

override
whenNotPaused // T:[CM-39]
```

```
42
            nonReentrant
43
       {
            address creditAccount = getCreditAccountOrRevert(borrower);
44
46
            // send assets to "to" address and compute total value (tv) & threshold weighted
47
            (uint256 totalValue, uint256 tvw) = transferAssetsTo(
48
                creditAccount.
49
50
            );
52
            // Checks that current Hf < 1
            require(
53
54
                tvw.div(PercentageMath.PERCENTAGE FACTOR) <
55
                     creditFilter.calcCreditAccountAccruedInterest(creditAccount),
56
                Errors.CM CAN LIQUIDATE WITH SUCH HEALTH FACTOR
57
            ); // T:[CM-13, 16, 17]
59
            // Liquidate credit account
            (, uint256 remainingFunds) = closeCreditAccountImpl(
60
61
                creditAccount,
                {\tt Constants.OPERATION\_LIQUIDATION},\\
62
63
                totalValue,
64
                borrower,
65
                msg.sender,
66
67
            ); // T:[CM-13]
69
            emit LiquidateCreditAccount(borrower, msg.sender, remainingFunds); // T:[CM-13]
70
```

Listing 3.4: CreditManager:: liquidateCreditAccount ()

We notice the liquidation validation of the given virtual account (lines 310—315) is performed with mixed multiplication and devision. For improved precision, it is better to calculate the equation without involving the division, i.e., tww < creditFilter.calcCreditAccountAccruedInterest(creditAccount) .mul(PercentageMath.PERCENTAGE\_FACTOR). Note that the resulting precision loss may be just a small number, but it plays a critical role when certain boundary conditions are met. And it is always the preferred choice if we can avoid the precision loss as much as possible.

Recommendation Revise the above calculations to better mitigate possible precision loss.

Status The issue has been fixed by this commit: ad31b1d.

# 3.5 Reentrancy Protection in CreditAccount Lending/Repayment

• ID: PVE-005

• Severity: Informational

Likelihood: N/A

• Impact: N/A

• Target: PoolService

• Category: Time and State [7]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-682 [3]

#### Description

A common coding best practice in Solidity is the adherence of checks-effects-interactions principle. This principle is effective in mitigating a serious attack vector known as re-entrancy. Via this particular attack vector, a malicious contract can be reentering a vulnerable contract in a nested manner. Specifically, it first calls a function in the vulnerable contract, but before the first instance of the function call is finished, second call can be arranged to re-enter the vulnerable contract by invoking functions that should only be executed once. This attack was part of several most prominent hacks in Ethereum history, including the DAO [13] exploit, and the recent Uniswap/Lendf.Me hack [12].

We notice there is an occasion where the <code>checks-effects-interactions</code> principle is violated. Using the <code>PoolService</code> as an example, the <code>lendCreditAccount()</code> function (see the code snippet below) is provided to externally call a token contract to transfer assets. However, the invocation of an external contract requires extra care in avoiding the above <code>re-entrancy</code>.

Apparently, the interaction with the external contract (line 248) starts before effecting the update on internal states (line 254), hence violating the principle. In this particular case, if the external contract has certain hidden logic that may be capable of launching re-entrancy via the same entry function.

```
237
         function lendCreditAccount(uint256 borrowedAmount, address creditAccount)
238
              external
239
240
              whenNotPaused // T:[PS-4]
241
         {
242
             require(
243
                  creditManagersCanBorrow[msg.sender],
244
                  Errors.POOL_CREDIT_MANAGERS_ONLY
245
             ); // T:[PS-12, 13]
246
247
              // Transfer funds to credit account
               \texttt{IERC20(underlyingToken).safeTransfer(creditAccount, borrowedAmount);} \ // \ \texttt{T:[PS]} 
248
                  -14]
249
250
              // Update borrow Rate
251
              _updateBorrowRate(); // T:[PS-17]
```

Listing 3.5: PoolService::lendCreditAccount()

In the meantime, we should mention that the supported tokens in the protocol do implement rather standard ERC20 interfaces and their related token contracts are not vulnerable or exploitable for re-entrancy. However, it is important to take precautions in making use of nonReentrant to block possible re-entrancy. Note the similar issue is also present in another routine repayCreditAccount() from the same contract.

**Recommendation** Apply necessary reentrancy prevention by utilizing the nonReentrant modifier to block possible re-entrancy.

Status The issue has been fixed by this commit: cee91b9.



# 4 Conclusion

In this audit, we have analyzed the Gearbox design and implementation. The system presents a unique, robust offering as a decentralized non-custodial protocol that enables decentralized margin trading and leveraged yield farming. The current code base is well structured and neatly organized. Those identified issues are promptly confirmed and fixed.

Moreover, we need to emphasize that Solidity-based smart contracts as a whole are still in an early, but exciting stage of development. To improve this report, we greatly appreciate any constructive feedbacks or suggestions, on our methodology, audit findings, or potential gaps in scope/coverage.



# References

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