

# Solana Labs Solana Update v1.11.3 L1 Security Audit

Prepared by: Halborn

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Visit: Halborn.com

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### DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

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1.3	Remediation Plan Review	05/19/2023	Gabi Urrutia

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### EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Sealevel, Solana's parallel smart contracts runtime, is able to process transactions in parallel because Solana transactions describe all the states a transaction reads or writes to while being processed. This not only allows for non-overlapping transactions to execute concurrently, but also for transactions that are only reading the same state to execute concurrently as well.

Halborn conducted a security audit on the Sealevel runtime on July 21st, 2022 and ending on August 19th, 2022. The security assessment was scoped to the implementation of the update of the runtime provided in the solana GitHub repository. Commit hashes and further details can be found in the Scope section of this report.

#### 1.2 AUDIT SUMMARY

The team at Halborn was provided five weeks for the engagement and assigned a full-time security engineer to audit the security of the program. The security engineer is a blockchain and smart contract security expert with advanced penetration testing, program hacking, and deep knowledge of multiple blockchain protocols.

The purpose of this audit is to:

- Ensure that program functions operate as intended
- Identify potential security issues with the programs

In summary, Halborn did not identify any security risk affecting the Updated version of the Runtime.

#### 1.3 TEST APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

Halborn performed a combination of manual review of the code and automated security testing to balance efficiency, timeliness, practicality, and accuracy in regard to the scope of this audit. While manual testing is recommended to uncover flaws in logic, process, and implementation; automated testing techniques help enhance coverage of programs and can quickly identify items that do not follow security best practices.

The following phases and associated tools were used throughout the term of the audit:

- Research into the architecture, purpose, and use of the protocol.
- Manual code review and walkthrough to identify possible logic issues.
- Thorough assessment of safety and usage of critical Rust variables and functions in scope that could lead to arithmetic vulnerabilities.
- Finding unsafe Rust code usage (cargo-geiger)
- Scanning dependencies for known vulnerabilities (cargo audit).
- Local cluster deployment (solana-test-validator)

#### RISK METHODOLOGY:

Vulnerabilities or issues observed by Halborn are ranked based on the risk assessment methodology by measuring the LIKELIHOOD of a security incident and the IMPACT should an incident occur. This framework works for communicating the characteristics and impacts of technology vulnerabilities. The quantitative model ensures repeatable and accurate measurement while enabling users to see the underlying vulnerability characteristics that were used to generate the Risk scores. For every vulnerability, a risk level will be calculated on a scale of 5 to 1 with 5 being the highest likelihood or impact.

RISK SCALE - LIKELIHOOD

- 5 Almost certain an incident will occur.
- 4 High probability of an incident occurring.
- 3 Potential of a security incident in the long term.
- 2 Low probability of an incident occurring.
- 1 Very unlikely issue will cause an incident.

#### RISK SCALE - IMPACT

- 5 May cause devastating and unrecoverable impact or loss.
- 4 May cause a significant level of impact or loss.
- 3 May cause a partial impact or loss to many.
- 2 May cause temporary impact or loss.
- 1 May cause minimal or un-noticeable impact.

The risk level is then calculated using a sum of these two values, creating a value of 10 to 1 with 10 being the highest level of security risk.

CRITICAL	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	INFORMATIONAL
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10 - CRITICAL

9 - 8 - HIGH

7 - 6 - MEDIUM

**5 - 4** - LOW

3 - 1 - VERY LOW AND INFORMATIONAL

#### 1.4 SCOPE

Code repositories:

- 1. runtime
- Repository: solana
- Release Tags:
  - v1.11.3
- Packages in scope:
  - 1. runtime (runtime)

Solana Labs advised Halborn to center the runtime audit around the solana\_runtime::Bank::load\_and\_execute\_transaction function in the solana-runtime package.

Out-of-scope:

- accountsdb.rs
- versioned transactions and accounts lookup table (in scope of another scheduled audit)
- External libraries and financial related attacks.

IMPACT

### 2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY & FINDINGS OVERVIEW

CRITICAL	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	INFORMATIONAL
0	0	1	1	4

#### LIKELIHOOD

(HAL-02)			
		(HAL-01)	
(HAL-03)			
(HAL-04) (HAL-05) (HAL-06)			

SECURITY ANALYSIS	RISK LEVEL	REMEDIATION DATE
(HAL-01) SOME BUILT-IN PROGRAMS DO NOT CONSUME COMPUTE UNITS	Medium	SOLVED - 03/24/2023
(HAL-02) TRANSACTION PRIORITIZATION IS NOT ENFORCED	Low	RISK ACCEPTED
(HAL-03) CHANGING LAMPORTS PER SIGNATURE MIGHT NOT AFFECT TOTAL FEES	Informational	SOLVED - 02/01/2023
(HAL-04) CHECKED ARITHMETIC MISSING	Informational	ACKNOWLEDGED
(HAL-05) EXTRA ALLOCATION ON VECTOR RESIZE MAY AFFECT CLUSTER PERFORMANCE	Informational	ACKNOWLEDGED
(HAL-06) POSSIBLE RUST PANICS DUE TO UNSAFE UNWRAP USAGE	Informational	ACKNOWLEDGED

# FINDINGS & TECH DETAILS

#### 3.1 (HAL-01) SOME BUILT-IN PROGRAMS DO NOT CONSUME COMPUTE UNITS -MEDIUM

#### Description:

In Solana, work performed by the cluster while processing transactions is measured in Compute Units. The total number of Compute Units transactions require is calculated with the get\_transaction\_cost function. For built-in programs, the cost of processing their instructions is static and defined in the runtime.

However. the (respondeploying, and sible for upgrading, executing programs) Ed25519SigVerify111111111111111111111111 (responsible verifor fying ed25519 signatures) native programs are not included in the BUILT\_IN\_INSTRUCTION\_COSTS HashMap.

Because both those programs are essential to the runtime and, as such, are invoked very regularly, whenever they are called, transaction cost is underestimated and the cluster ends up performing more work than it is allowed to.

#### Code Location:

#### 

```
(solana_config_program::id(), COMPUTE_UNIT_TO_US_RATIO * 15),
(solana_vote_program::id(), COMPUTE_UNIT_TO_US_RATIO * 70),

// secp256k1 is executed in banking stage, it should cost
similar to sigverify

(secp256k1_program::id(), COMPUTE_UNIT_TO_US_RATIO * 24),

(system_program::id(), COMPUTE_UNIT_TO_US_RATIO * 5),

44]
```

#### Risk Level:

Likelihood - 4

Impact - 3

#### Recommendation:

#### Remediation Plan:

SOLVED: The Solana team solved the issue in pull request 30702. All built-in programs now are required to consume compute units. A new error BuiltinProgramsMustConsumeComputeUnits was implemented in the native instruction processor to ensure that if the feature native\_programs\_consume\_cu is activated, this issue does not occur again in the future.

## 3.2 (HAL-02) TRANSACTION PRIORITIZATION IS NOT ENFORCED LOW

#### Description:

The ComputeBudgetInstruction::SetComputeUnitPrice instruction is used to set a custom compute unit price in micro-lamports for higher transaction prioritization. Thus, the block producer's scheduling algorithm tries to include high prioritization transactions first in a block.

This amount of micro-lamports is added as prioritization\_fee to the total fee calculated with the calculate\_fee function.

Whenever this instruction is found in a transaction, the transaction payer pays the prioritization\_fee on top of other fees, however the validator can decide whether to prioritize it and include it in the block or not, since this fee is only an incentive. In case the validator decides not to prioritize such a transaction, the payer loses that prioritization\_fee.

#### Code Location:

```
Listing 2: runtime/src/bank.rs (Lines 4787,4788,4794)
4771 pub fn calculate_fee(
4772
            message: &SanitizedMessage,
            lamports_per_signature: u64,
            fee_structure: &FeeStructure,
            support_set_compute_unit_price_ix: bool,
        ) -> u64 {
            const BASE_CONGESTION: f64 = 5_000.0;
4779
            let current_congestion = BASE_CONGESTION.max(
 → lamports_per_signature as f64);
            let congestion_multiplier = if lamports_per_signature == 0
4780
 ⊢ {
                0.0 // test only
```

```
Listing 3: runtime/src/bank.rs (Line 4493)
485 let compute_budget = if let Some(compute_budget) = self.
4486
4487
            } else {
4488
4489
                     ComputeBudget::new(compute_budget::
 → MAX_COMPUTE_UNIT_LIMIT as u64);
4491
                 let mut compute_budget_process_transaction_time =
                     Measure::start("
4492

    compute_budget_process_transaction_time");
4493

process_instructions(
4494
                     tx.message().program_instructions_iter(),
4495
                     feature_set.is_active(&

    default_units_per_instruction::id()),
4496
                     feature_set.is_active(&
 → add_set_compute_unit_price_ix::id()),
4497
                 );
```

```
Listing 4: program-runtime/src/compute_budget.rs

174 Ok(ComputeBudgetInstruction::SetComputeUnitPrice(micro_lamports))

L => {

175     if prioritization_fee.is_some() {

176         return Err(duplicate_instruction_error);

177     }

178     prioritization_fee =
```

```
Some(PrioritizationFeeType::ComputeUnitPrice(

implies micro_lamports));

180 }

181 _ => return Err(invalid_instruction_data_error),
```

```
Risk Level:
```

#### Likelihood - 1 Impact - 4

#### Recommendation:

It is recommended to force **validators** to return the prioritization fees to the payer in case the transaction is not considered over others and included in the block. One solution would be to calculate the total transaction fee with and without the prioritization fee and refund the delta to the payer if the transaction is not included in the current block.

#### Remediation Plan:

RISK ACCEPTED: The Solana team accepted the risk of this issue.

# 3.3 (HAL-03) CHANGING LAMPORTS PER SIGNATURE MIGHT NOT AFFECT TOTAL FEES - INFORMATIONAL

#### Description:

The calculate\_fee function called by load\_accounts is used to calculate the total fee to be paid by the transaction sender. One of the variables considered by the calculate\_fee function is the congestion\_multiplier parameter. The value of this parameter is calculated by dividing the constant BASE\_CONGESTION hardcoded to 5000 by current\_congestion. The value of the latter is either BASE\_CONGESTION or lamports\_per\_signature, depending on which one is greater.

The possibility of changing the signature cost based on current cluster processing load indicated in FeeRateGovernor is still discussed.

When this is implemented, however, if lamports\_per\_signature increases due to higher cluster processing load, the value of congestion\_multiplier will be lesser than 1. This would reduce the final signature fee to default (regardless of the cluster processing load) and the cluster would not be compensated appropriately based on the adjustment in the signature cost.

#### Code Location:

```
Listing 6: sdk/program/src/fee_calculator.rs (Lines 53-54,56)

52 pub struct FeeRateGovernor {
53    // The current cost of a signature This amount may increase/
decrease over time based on
54    // cluster processing load.
55    #[serde(skip)]
56    pub lamports_per_signature: u64,
57
58    // The target cost of a signature when the cluster is
Ly operating around target_signatures_per_slot
```

```
// signatures
pub target_lamports_per_signature: u64,

// Used to estimate the desired processing capacity of the
L, cluster. As the signatures for

// recent slots are fewer/greater than this value,
L, lamports_per_signature will decrease/increase

// for the next slot. A value of 0 disables
L, lamports_per_signature fee adjustments

pub target_signatures_per_slot: u64,

pub min_lamports_per_signature: u64,

pub max_lamports_per_signature: u64,

// What portion of collected fees are to be destroyed, as a
L, fraction of std::u8::MAX

pub burn_percent: u8,

// 2 }
```

# Listing 7: sdk/program/src/fee\_calculator.rs (Lines 12,14,16) 11 pub struct FeeCalculator { 12 /// The current cost of a signature. 13 /// 14 /// This amount may increase/decrease over time based on 15 cluster processing 15 /// load. 16 pub lamports\_per\_signature: u64, 17 }

```
Listing 8: runtime/src/bank.rs (Lines 4783,4794-4795,4810-4815)

4770 /// Calculate fee for `SanitizedMessage`

4771 pub fn calculate_fee(

4772 message: &SanitizedMessage,

4773 lamports_per_signature: u64,

4774 fee_structure: &FeeStructure,

4775 support_set_compute_unit_price_ix: bool,

4776 ) -> u64 {

4777 // Fee based on compute units and signatures

4778 const BASE_CONGESTION: f64 = 5_000.0;

4779 let current_congestion = BASE_CONGESTION.max(

Ly lamports_per_signature as f64);
```

```
4780
        let congestion_multiplier = if lamports_per_signature == 0 {
4781
             0.0 // test only
4782
        } else {
4784
        };
        let mut compute_budget = ComputeBudget::default();
4785
4787
             .process_instructions(
4788
                 message.program_instructions_iter(),
4789
4790
4791
             )
4792
             .unwrap_or_default();
4793
        let prioritization_fee = prioritization_fee_details.get_fee();
4794
   message)
4795
             .saturating_mul(fee_structure.lamports_per_signature);
4796
        let write_lock_fee = Self::get_num_write_locks_in_message(

    message)
             .saturating_mul(fee_structure.lamports_per_write_lock);
4797
        let compute_fee = fee_structure
4800
             .iter()
4801
             .find(|bin| compute_budget.compute_unit_limit <= bin.limit</pre>
 → )
             .map(|bin| bin.fee)
4802
             .unwrap_or_else(|| {
4806
                     .last()
                     .map(|bin| bin.fee)
4807
                     .unwrap_or_default()
4809
            });
4810
        ((prioritization_fee
4811
             .saturating_add(signature_fee)
4812
             .saturating_add(write_lock_fee)
4813
             .saturating_add(compute_fee) as f64)
4814
4815
             .round() as u64
4816 }
```

#### Risk Level:

Likelihood - 1 Impact - 2

#### Recommendation:

If this feature is added, it is recommended to add a check to verify if the new lamports\_per\_signature is greater than the hardcoded value of BASE CONGESTION. If it is, the formula for congestion\_multiplier should be inverted. That is, by dividing lamports\_per\_signature by BASE CONGESTION instead.

#### Remediation Plan:

**SOLVED:** The Solana team fixed this issue in pull request 29828 by introducing a feature gate that removed the congestion\_multiplier.

### 3.4 (HAL-04) CHECKED ARITHMETIC MISSING - INFORMATIONAL

#### Description:

Unsafe arithmetic operations (including multiplication, division, and addition) were identified in multiple files and program functions.

#### Code Location:

```
Listing 9: runtime/src/bank.rs (Lines 14,21)
 1 pub fn calculate_fee(
          message: &SanitizedMessage,
          lamports_per_signature: u64,
          fee_structure: &FeeStructure,
          support_set_compute_unit_price_ix: bool,
          const BASE_CONGESTION: f64 = 5_000.0;
          let current_congestion = BASE_CONGESTION.max(
let congestion_multiplier = if lamports_per_signature == 0
              0.0 // test only
          } else {
          };
17 ((prioritization_fee
              .saturating_add(signature_fee)
              .saturating_add(write_lock_fee)
              .saturating_add(compute_fee) as f64)
              .round() as u64
```

```
Listing 10: runtime/src/accounts.rs
 1 fn validate_fee_payer(
           payer_address: &Pubkey,
           payer_account: &mut AccountSharedData,
           payer_index: usize,
           error_counters: &mut TransactionErrorMetrics,
           rent_collector: &RentCollector,
           feature_set: &FeatureSet,
           fee: u64,
       ) -> Result<()> {
           if payer_account.lamports() == 0 {
                return Err(TransactionError::AccountNotFound);
           let min_balance = match get_system_account_kind(

    payer_account).ok_or_else(|| {
               error_counters.invalid_account_for_fee += 1;
                TransactionError::InvalidAccountForFee
           })? {
                SystemAccountKind::System => 0,
                SystemAccountKind::Nonce => {
                    rent_collector.rent.minimum_balance(NonceState::

    size())
           };
           if payer_account.lamports() < fee + min_balance {</pre>
                error_counters.insufficient_funds += 1;
```

Risk Level:

Likelihood - 1 Impact - 1

#### Recommendation:

Consider using checked arithmetic operations instead of regular arithmetic operators to handle this gracefully.

#### Remediation Plan:

ACKNOWLEDGED: The Solana team acknowledged this issue.

# 3.5 (HAL-05) EXTRA ALLOCATION ON VECTOR RESIZE MAY AFFECT CLUSTER PERFORMANCE - INFORMATIONAL

#### Description:

The maximum number of accounts that can be referenced and locked in each transaction in the batch is defined with MAX\_TX\_ACCOUNT\_LOCKS and set to 64.

load\_transactions calls load\_transaction on each transaction in the batch. All locked accounts are pushed to the accounts vector, and the program data accounts corresponding to each updatable program referenced are pushed to the accounts\_deps vector. Both vectors are initialized with a capacity of 64 which can be extended up to 128 after the annexation of accounts\_deps to accounts. Subsequently, load\_executable\_accounts is called to load the programs and add them to accounts.

If a transaction contains two instructions from two different upgradable programs and 60 upgradable programs are referenced as read-only, the MAX\_TX\_ACCOUNT\_LOCKS limit is not exceeded since there are 64 accounts in total.

However, when load\_transaction is called, 62 program data accounts will be appended and when the executable accounts are added by load\_executable\_accounts, the initial vector capacity will be exceeded, so the vector will need to be resized which may result in a degraded cluster performance.

#### Code Location:

# Listing 11: runtime/src/accounts.rs (Lines 358,377) 342 if bpf\_loader\_upgradeable::check\_id(account.owner()) { 343 if message.is\_writable(i) && !message. L, is\_upgradeable\_loader\_present() { 344 error\_counters.invalid\_writable\_account += 1;

```
return Err(TransactionError::InvalidWritableAccount);
           if account.executable() {
               if let Ok(UpgradeableLoaderState::Program {
               }) = account.state()
                    if let Some((programdata_account, _)) = self
                        .load_with_fixed_root(ancestors, &
   programdata_address)
                            .push((programdata_address,
   programdata_account));
                   } else {
                        error_counters.account_not_found += 1;
                        return Err(TransactionError::
→ ProgramAccountNotFound);
                    }
               } else {
                    error_counters.invalid_program_for_execution += 1;
                   return Err(TransactionError::
   InvalidProgramForExecution);
           }
       } else if account.executable() && message.is_writable(i) {
           return Err(TransactionError::InvalidWritableAccount);
       tx_rent += rent;
       rent_debits.insert(key, rent, account.lamports());
375 }
376 };
377 accounts.push((*key, account));
```

```
Listing 12: runtime/src/accounts.rs (Lines 392,398)

392 accounts.append(&mut account_deps);

393 if validated_fee_payer {

394 let program_indices = message
```

#### Listing 13: runtime/src/accounts.rs (Line 514) fn load\_executable\_accounts( &self, ancestors: & Ancestors, accounts: &mut Vec<TransactionAccount>, mut program\_account\_index: usize, error\_counters: &mut TransactionErrorMetrics, ) -> Result<Vec<usize>> { let mut account\_indices = Vec::new(); let mut program\_id = match accounts.get( program\_account\_index) { Some(program\_account) => program\_account.0, None => { error\_counters.account\_not\_found += 1; return Err(TransactionError:: } }; let mut depth = 0; while !native\_loader::check\_id(&program\_id) { if depth >= 5 { error\_counters.call\_chain\_too\_deep += 1; return Err(TransactionError::CallChainTooDeep); depth += 1;program\_account\_index = match self .load\_with\_fixed\_root(ancestors, &program\_id) { Some((program\_account, \_)) => { let account\_index = accounts.len(); accounts.push((program\_id, program\_account));

516 }

#### Risk Level:

Likelihood - 1 Impact - 1

#### Recommendation:

It is recommended to initialize the accounts vector with the maximum theoretically possible capacity so that it does not need to be resized in case of extra allocation.

#### Remediation Plan:

ACKNOWLEDGED: The Solana team acknowledged this issue.

#### 3.6 (HAL-06) POSSIBLE RUST PANICS DUE TO UNSAFE UNWRAP USAGE -INFORMATIONAL

#### Description:

The use of helper methods in Rust, such as unwrap, is allowed in dev and testing environment because those methods are supposed to throw an error (also known as panic!) when called on Option::None or a Result which is not Ok. However, keeping unwrap functions in the production environment is considered bad practice because they may lead to program crashes, which are usually accompanied by insufficient or misleading error messages.

#### Code Location:

- runtime/src/shared\_buffer\_reader.rs
- runtime/src/snapshot\_minimizer.rs
- runtime/src/status\_cache.rs
- runtime/src/serde\_snapshot.rs
- runtime/src/append\_vec.rs
- runtime/src/stake\_account.rs
- runtime/src/bank\_client.rs
- runtime/src/snapshot\_package.rs
- runtime/src/read\_only\_accounts\_cache.rs
- runtime/src/accounts\_cache.rs
- runtime/src/accounts\_index\_storage.rs
- runtime/src/accounts\_hash.rs
- runtime/src/bank.rs
- runtime/src/ancient\_append\_vecs.rs
- runtime/src/snapshot\_utils.rs
- runtime/src/bank/sysvar\_cache.rs
- runtime/src/hardened\_unpack.rs
- runtime/src/accounts\_index.rs
- runtime/src/in\_mem\_accounts\_index.rs
- runtime/src/loader\_utils.rs

- runtime/src/waitable\_condvar.rs
- runtime/src/bucket\_map\_holder.rs
- runtime/src/cache\_hash\_data.rs
- runtime/src/accounts\_background\_service.rs
- runtime/src/serde\_snapshot/newer.rs
- runtime/src/serde\_snapshot/utils.rs
- runtime/src/secondary\_index.rs
- runtime/src/accounts.rs
- runtime/src/bucket\_map\_holder\_stats.rs

#### Risk Level:

Likelihood - 1 Impact - 1

#### Recommendation:

It is recommended not to use the unwrap function in the production environment because its use causes panic! and may crash the contract without verbose error messages. Crashing the system will result in a loss of availability and, in some cases, even private information stored in the state. Some alternatives are possible, such as propagating the error with ? instead of unwrapping, or using the error-chain crate for errors.

#### Remediation Plan:

ACKNOWLEDGED: The Solana team acknowledged this issue.

### AUTOMATED TESTING

#### 4.1 AUTOMATED ANALYSIS

#### Description:

Halborn used automated security scanners to assist with detection of well-known security issues and vulnerabilities. Among the tools used was cargo -audit, a security scanner for vulnerabilities reported to the RustSec Advisory Database. All vulnerabilities published in https://crates.io are stored in a repository named The RustSec Advisory Database. cargo audit is a human-readable version of the advisory database which performs a scanning on Cargo.lock. Only security detections are in scope. All vulnerabilities shown here were already disclosed in the above report. However, to better assist the developers maintaining this code, the auditors are including the output with the dependencies tree, and this is included in the cargo audit output to better know the dependencies affected by unmaintained and vulnerable crates.

#### Results:

ID	package	Short Description
RUSTSEC-2020-0071	time	Potential segfault in the time crate

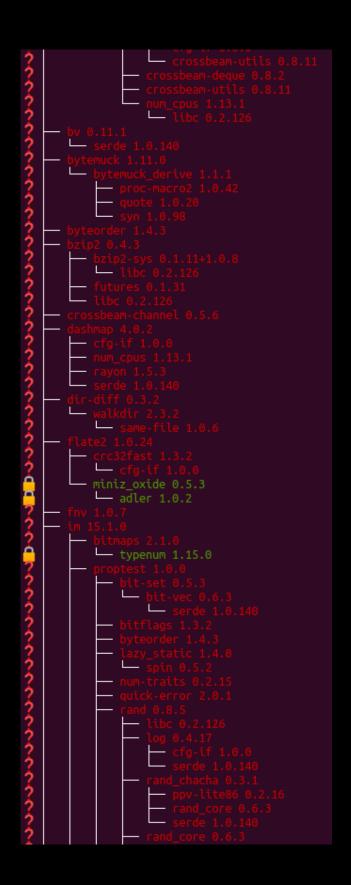
#### 4.2 UNSAFE RUST CODE DETECTION

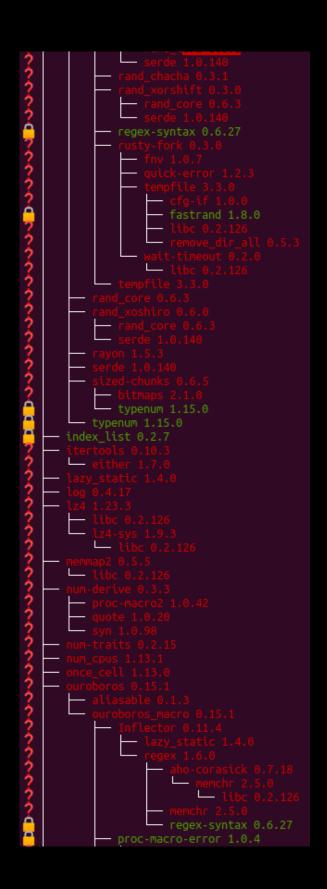
#### Description:

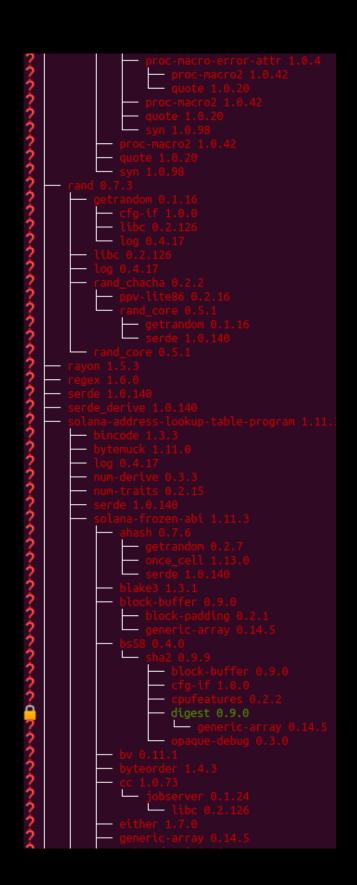
Halborn used automated security scanners to assist with the detection of well-known security issues and vulnerabilities. Among the tools used was cargo-geiger, a security tool that lists statistics related to the usage of unsafe Rust code in a core Rust codebase and all its dependencies.

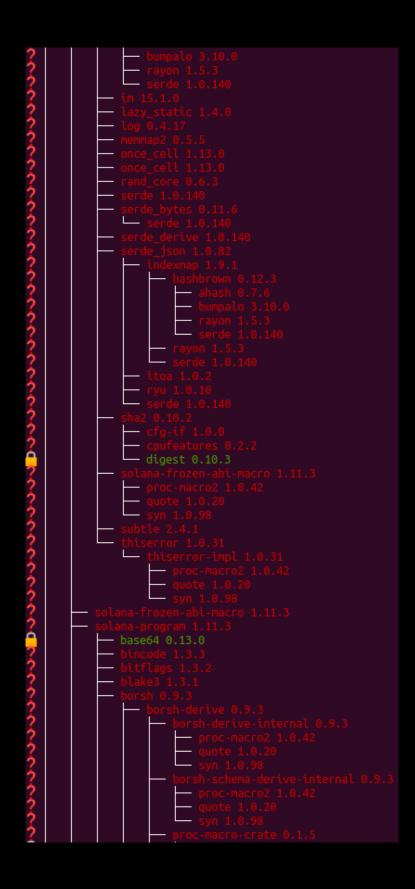
#### Results:

```
Symbols:
            = All entry point .rs files declare #![forbid(unsafe_code)].
= This crate may use unsafe code.
                       typenum 1.15.0 crypto-common 0.1.6
```

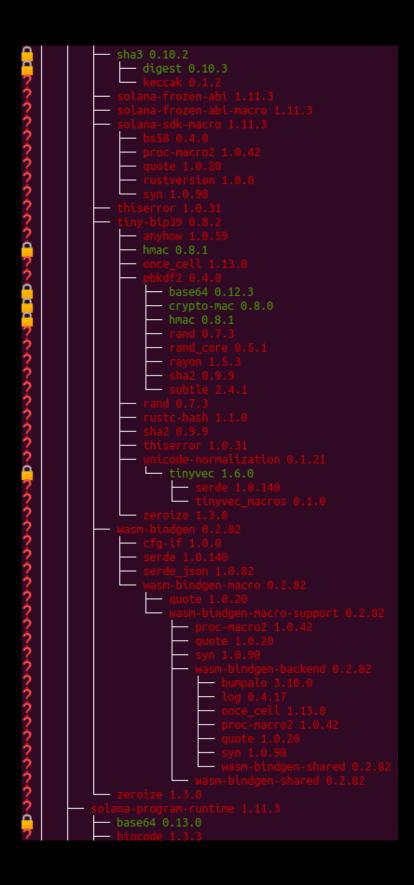


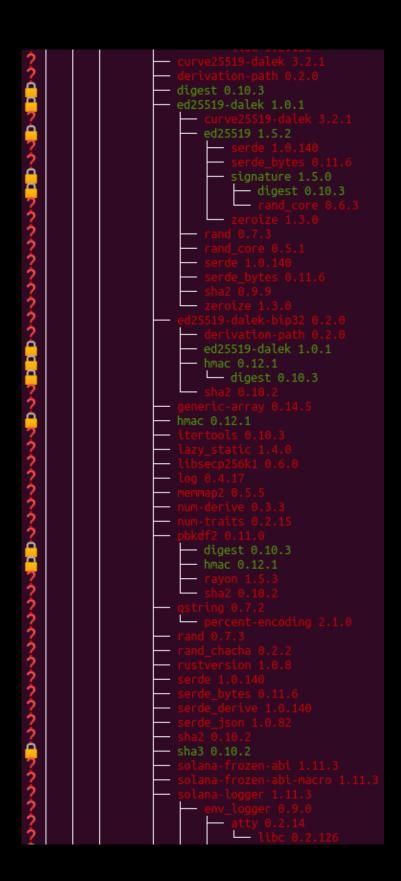


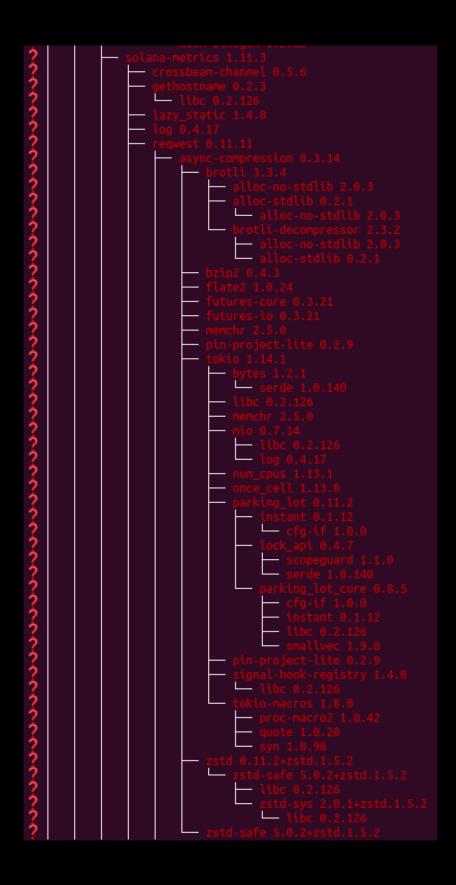












THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING

