



July 22nd 2022 — Quantstamp Verified

## Algem

This audit report was prepared by Quantstamp, the leader in blockchain security.

# **Executive Summary**

Type Liquid Staking

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Timeline 2022-06-24 through 2022-06-24

**EVM** Arrow Glacier

Languages Solidity

Methods Architecture Review, Unit Testing, Functional

Testing, Computer-Aided Verification, Manual

Low

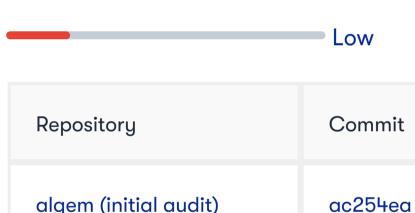
Review

Specification **Documentation** 

**Documentation Quality** 

Test Quality

Source Code



Repository	Commit	
algem (initial audit)	<u>ac254ea</u>	
algem (re-audit)	15f9daf	
algem (re-audit 2)	<u>b11a660</u>	

**Total Issues** 

High Risk Issues

Medium Risk Issues

Low Risk Issues

Informational Risk Issues

**Undetermined Risk Issues** 

**36** (35 Resolved)

8 (8 Resolved)

**7** (7 Resolved)

**12** (12 Resolved)

**3** (3 Resolved)

**6** (5 Resolved)

0 Unresolved 1 Acknowledged 35 Resolved





A High Risk	The issue puts a large number of users' sensitive information at risk, or is reasonably likely to lead to catastrophic impact for client's reputation or serious financial implications for client and users.
^ Medium Risk	The issue puts a subset of users' sensitive information at risk, would be detrimental for the client's reputation if exploited, or is reasonably likely to lead to moderate financial impact.
➤ Low Risk	The risk is relatively small and could not be exploited on a recurring basis, or is a risk that the client has indicated is low-impact in view of the client's business circumstances.
<ul> <li>Informational</li> </ul>	The issue does not post an immediate risk, but is relevant to security best practices or Defence in Depth.
? Undetermined	The impact of the issue is uncertain.

<ul> <li>Unresolved</li> </ul>	Acknowledged the existence of the risk, and decided to accept it without engaging in special efforts to control it.
<ul> <li>Acknowledged</li> </ul>	The issue remains in the code but is a result of an intentional business or design decision. As such, it is supposed to be addressed outside the programmatic means, such as: 1) comments, documentation, README, FAQ; 2) business processes; 3) analyses showing that the issue shall have no negative consequences in practice (e.g., gas analysis, deployment settings).
• Fixed	Adjusted program implementation, requirements or constraints to eliminate the risk.
• Mitigated	Implemented actions to minimize the impact or likelihood of the risk.

## **Summary of Findings**

#### **Initial Audit:**

The first audit iteration of the Algem code base revealed multiple severe defects that need to be addressed before deployment. The most severe ones are denial of service, locking funds in the contract, wrong rewards computation, and draining of contract funds. Additionally, the code base suffers from underspecification of functions and requires clean up of commented out code and debug functions.

The test coverage is critically low and the tests fail. The lack of proper testing shows in the number of high severity issues related to basic functionality of the contracts. We recommend focusing on this area specifically and in addition to general tests, implement tests that make sure the reported vulnerabilities are no longer present in the fixed code.

The Algem code base is not ready for deployment and should be completely re-audited once the findings in this report are addressed.

#### Re-audit Update: commit 15f9daf

The team has refactored the code and tried to fix most of the issues. However, new problems appear due to the new logic. Also, we strongly recommend the team has thorough testing before launching.

#### Re-audit 2 Update: commit b11a660

The team has fixed or mitigated the newly reported issues. The code base has largely improved from the initial commit. Still, we recommend the team thoroughly test it before launching.

ID	Description	Severity	Status
QSP-1	Lack of Production Readiness	<b>☆</b> High	Mitigated
QSP-2	Contract Can Be Drained	<b>≯</b> High	Fixed
QSP-3	Current Supply Used for Calculations Rather than Historical Supply		Fixed
QSP-4	Staker Rewards Subject to Manipulation		Fixed
QSP-5	Wrong Proxy Address in Initialize		Fixed
QSP-6	Locked Funds Through Griefing	<b>≯</b> High	Fixed
QSP-7	Problems With Reward Computation		Mitigated
QSP-8	Unable to Mint nSBY		Fixed
QSP-9	Getting User Rewards Will Not Work if Era Missed	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-10	Debug Functions in Production Contract	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-11	Gas Concerns: User Rewards Might End Up Locked	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-12	Assuming Fixed Exchange Rate on the LP Token and the DNT Token	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-13	Risk of Denial of Service with Repeated DappStaking Calls	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-14	Potentially Missing DApp Rewards	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-15	setup Function Can Be Called More than Once	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-16	Duplicates Can Be Added to Arrays	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-17	Use of address.transfer	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-18	Adding Staker Uses Wrong Address for Balance	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-19	Gas Concerns: updateAll	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-20	Hardcoded Initialization of lastStaked and lastUnstaked	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-21	Risk of Missing Variable Initialization	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-22	Potential Balance Inconsistency	∨ Low	Fixed
QSP-23	Gas Concerns: nDistributor.sol	✓ Low	Mitigated
QSP-24	Risk of Issuing Wrong Utilities on Transfer	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-25	Lack of Events on Critical State Changes	O Informational	Fixed
QSP-26	Unlocked Pragma	O Informational	Mitigated
QSP-27	Unused or Unnecessary Variables and Functions	O Informational	Fixed
QSP-28	Role Change without Manager/Owner Update	? Undetermined	Acknowledged
QSP-29	Lack of Ability to Remove LP Tokens	? Undetermined	Fixed
QSP-30	Unclear Revenue Accounting	? Undetermined	Fixed
QSP-31	Lacking Access Control	? Undetermined	Fixed
QSP-32	Limited Integrity Of Code Supply Chain	? Undetermined	Fixed
QSP-33	Problems with New Reward Computation	^ Medium	Fixed
QSP-34	Risk of the sync Function	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-35	Potential Inconsistency on lphandlers and lptokens	✓ Low	Fixed
QSP-36	Catching All Exceptions	? Undetermined	Mitigated

## Quantstamp Audit Breakdown

Quantstamp's objective was to evaluate the repository for security-related issues, code quality, and adherence to specification and best practices.

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

Contracts in the packages/hardhat/libs directory are not within the scope of the audit.

Possible issues we looked for included (but are not limited to):

- Transaction-ordering dependence
- Timestamp dependence
- Mishandled exceptions and call stack limits
- Unsafe external calls
- Integer overflow / underflow
- Number rounding errors
- Reentrancy and cross-function vulnerabilities
- Denial of service / logical oversights
- Access control
- Centralization of power
- Business logic contradicting the specification
- Code clones, functionality duplication
- Gas usage
- Arbitrary token minting

#### Methodology

The Quantstamp auditing process follows a routine series of steps:

- 1. Code review that includes the following
  - i. Review of the specifications, sources, and instructions provided to Quantstamp to make sure we understand the size, scope, and functionality of the smart contract.
  - ii. Manual review of code, which is the process of reading source code line-by-line in an attempt to identify potential vulnerabilities.
  - iii. Comparison to specification, which is the process of checking whether the code does what the specifications, sources, and instructions provided to Quantstamp describe.
- 2. Testing and automated analysis that includes the following:
  - i. Test coverage analysis, which is the process of determining whether the test cases are actually covering the code and how much code is exercised when we run those test cases.
  - ii. Symbolic execution, which is analyzing a program to determine what inputs cause each part of a program to execute.
- 3. Best practices review, which is a review of the smart contracts to improve efficiency, effectiveness, clarify, maintainability, security, and control based on the established industry and academic practices, recommendations, and research.
- 4. Specific, itemized, and actionable recommendations to help you take steps to secure your smart contracts.

## Toolset

The notes below outline the setup and steps performed in the process of this audit.

## Setup

Tool Setup:

• Slither v0.8.3

Steps taken to run the tools:

- 1. Install the Slither tool: pip3 install slither-analyzer
- 2. Run Slither from the project directory: slither .

### Findings

### **QSP-1 Lack of Production Readiness**

### Severity: High Risk

### Status: Mitigated

**Description:** As described in the summary, the project is lacking in many areas and currently cannot be considered as ready for production. The following is a non-exhaustive list of issues regarding the production-readiness:

- Commented out code, which leads to empty modifiers and functions
- Unused contract storage variable such as rewardsByAddress (LiquidStaking.sol)
- Lacking specification
- Functions documented as being for "debug purposes" (L129-L144, LiquidStaking.sol)
- Limited and/or non-descriptive documentation
- Limited tests that are broken

• eraRevenue unused outside of fillPools (only 1/10th seems to be used)

Recommendation: Before thinking about deploying these contracts, address all of the issues in this report and conduct a full re-audit.

**Update:** The team has cleaned up and refactored the code. However, Quantstamp strongly recommends that the team add more tests and run it on the test net for a period to confirm all features are working as expected before fully launching the main Astar network.

#### **QSP-2 Contract Can Be Drained**

#### Severity: High Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** The withdraw function does not check whether a Withdrawal has already been claimed, as it only sets the eraReq to 0. As a result, once the necessary number of eras pass, a malicious user could repeatedly call withdraw with the respective ID until the contract is drained. Similarly, the claim function can be called repeatedly by an address in order to drain the contract, as there is no logic to ensure that a user doesn't claim rewards that have already been claimed.

Recommendation: Ensure that claims are accounted for and prevent users from over-claiming.

**Update:** The team has fixed the withdraw function by adding a check that the specific withdraw cannot be called twice. For the claim function, it checks against the totalUserRewards so a user can at most claim the rewarded amount.

#### QSP-3 Current Supply Used for Calculations Rather than Historical Supply

#### Severity: High Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: In the function getUserRewards the DNT token's current total supply is used for the rewards calculation together with historical balances retrieved via balance0fAt.

#### **Exploit Scenario:**

- 1. Attacker stakes large amount of tokens, minting DNT in the process, increasing balance and supply.
- 2. Manager takes a snapshot, balance and supply are stored.
- 3. Attacker unstakes a large amount, burning their DNT.
- 4. The getUserRewards method uses the smaller, current supply while looking at the staker's historical, larger balance, resulting in a larger overall value being output from the method.
- 5. The attacker calls the claim method claiming rewards far greater than what they were originally entitled to.

Recommendation: Fix the getUserRewards method to use the historical supply, this can be done similarly to balanceOfAt, by calling the total SupplyAt provided by the ERC20Snapshot contract.

Update: The reward calculation has been re-designed, and the getUserRewards function now returns the stored totalUserRewards values instead.

### QSP-4 Staker Rewards Subject to Manipulation

## Severity: High Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** The globalClaim method does not validate the \_era parameter or the caller in any way. This allows for a malicious actor to set an era that's very far in the future or simply overwrite the eraStakerReward for an existing era. This can strongly diminish if not even destroy accrued value for the contract as the fillPools method relies on eraStakerReward to top-up the rewardPool.

Furthermore, combining multiple calls to the globalClaim method with calls to fillPools will cause the unstakingPool to be massively inflated. This is due to missing validation, checking whether the queried eras have been marked as done. Without such validation every call to fillPools with a certain era look-ahead would continuously increase the unstakingPool value by the respective eraRevenue.

**Recommendation:** Fix the logic and add tests to ensure that such bugs are caught.

Update: The globalClaim function and fillPools has become private functions. This reduce the chance being called aside from the updateAll and sync functions. Also, the updateAll function limits the era to be currentEra() - 1 and calls the globalClaim and fillPools together. This reduces most of the risk. Aside from the above, the team adds a validation \_era < currentEra() on the globalClaim function to further verify the \_era.

### QSP-5 Wrong Proxy Address in Initialize

## Severity: High Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The LiquidStaking.initialize function sets the proxyAddr to msg.sender, which is not the address of the proxy but of the account that deployed the contract.

Recommendation: The correct address to use is address(this). Since address(this) is available globally, we recommend removing the proxyAddr variable altogether.

**Update:** The team fixed the issue as recommended.

#### Severity: High Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** The functions global Stake and global Unstake work under the assumption that they are called for eras that have already passed. Since anyone can call these functions with arbitrary arguments, an attacker can "close" an era prematurely, locking up any funds in the contract that are staked or unstaked after that call.

#### **Exploit Scenario:**

- 1. A new era just started.
- 2. An attacker stakes a small amount by calling stake and setting eraStaked[currentEra()] to a value greater than 0.
- 3. The attacker now calls globalStake(currentEra()). Since eraStaked[currentEra()] is non-zero, sum2stake will be non-zero. This means lastStaked will be set to currentEra().
- 4. An unsuspecting user now calls stake and the amount is added to eraStaked[currentEra()]. However, calls to globalStake will never stake any funds from the current era, since the for loop starts at currentEra() + 1, locking the amount in the contract.

Recommendation: All of the update functions called in updateAll should be declared private or internal to avoid attackers messing with the current era.

**Update:** The team fixed the issue as recommended.

#### **QSP-7 Problems With Reward Computation**

#### Severity: High Risk

**Status:** Mitigated

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The function getUserRewards has several issues:

- 1. The current computation of the users share (dntBalance + lpBalance) / totalDntBalance will return more than 100 percent of the rewards.
- 2. The rewards can be boosted retroactively through the LP tokens. For example a user can use a flash loan to claim the rewards and receive significantly more that way, returning the LP tokens at the end of the transaction.
- 3. The DappsStaking API that is used for the total rewards is read\_era\_reward. From looking at the documentation for this function, it seems like this function returns the reward for the entire network and not just the current address.

#### Recommendation:

- 1. The extra rewards that can be claimed through LP tokens must be limited in some way to make sure some users don't end up without any rewards since the rewardPool is empty.
- 2. LP tokens usually do not support snapshots. Consequently, the team should provide an adapter contract in the middle between the user and the liquidity-providing platform, such as a DEX. The adapter contract can receive nSBY tokens and proxy the actions to the liquidity-providing media. In other words, the user's nSBY token can continue to earn staking rewards only if the user uses this adapter contract. Once locked in the adapter contract, the balance cannot be changed unless removing the liquidity. Whenever the balance changes in the adapter contract, it should call back to the LiquidStaking contract to update the rewards (see the recommendation of the "Gas Concerns: User Rewards Might End Up Locked" issue for how to update the rewards).
- 3. Verify whether the API really does what you believe it does. In case it returns the rewards for the whole network like the documentation suggests, consider computing the rewards of just the contract by calculating read\_era\_reward(\_era) \* contractStake[\_era] / read\_era\_staked(\_era). contractStake will have to be filled using read\_staked\_amount in globalStake. Whether this works correctly will have to be verified as well since this approach was devised using just the documentation.

**Update:** The team changes the design to fix the issues regarding reward calculations. Note that new issues appear with the new implementation. However, to make issue-tracking easier and keep the description relevant, we will update the new problems as a new QSP issue and flag this as mitigated.

Following is the design explanation from the team:

To solve the problem, the counting logic has been changed. In the off-chain loop, the eraShot() function will be called for each user, generating data that will be supplemented in the next era at the first eraShot() and the number of user awards will be written to the state. To do this, the following functions have been modified: eraShot(), getUserRewards(). Added function findMean().

To avoid front-running of nTokens, a buffer has been added to which all nTokens that the user receives fall into. Tokens are in the buffer until the next era and are not taken into account when calculating rewards. It has not yet been possible to completely eliminate the possibility of an exploit when counting lp tokens. To mitigate the vulnerability, the off-chain loop will combine the count of user rewards into small bunches.

The solution to this problem greatly changed the logic and most of the QSPs became irrelevant.

### QSP-8 Unable to Mint nSBY

### Severity: High Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/nSBY.sol, contracts/nDistributor.sol

Description: The nSBY.sol:mintNote function (L55-57) calls ERC20.sol:\_mint. The \_mint function from the OpenZeppelin contract will call \_beforeTokenTransfer(address(0), account, amount), and use address(0) as the from parameter of the \_beforeTokenTransfer function. As a result, in nDistributor.sol:\_beforeTokenTransfer(L86-93), it will call distributor.transferDnt with from as address(0). The problem is in nDistributor.sol:transferDnt (L494-518), where it will check users[\_from].dnt[\_dnt].dntInUtil[\_utility] >= \_amount.For this check to pass, the from address needs to have the utility amount for the transfer to succeed. However, unless someone transferred the token to address(0), the transaction will fail. Consequently, the mintNote function will fail under normal circumstances.

Recommendation: In nSBY.sol:\_beforeTokenTransfer, skip calling distributor.transferDnt when from is equal to address(0).

**Update:** The team fixed the issue as recommended.

## QSP-9 Getting User Rewards Will Not Work if Era Missed

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

**Description:** If the eraShot method is not called every era then the getUserRewards method will get a snapshotId of 0 when attempting to retrieve the era's snapshot ID. This will cause the entire method to revert as the ERC20Snapshot snapshot value retrieval methods explicitly revert if the snapshot ID is 0. Depending on the frequency of eras the required uptime of the manager may pose a problem. Even if the manager presents the required uptime the critical blocks could be filled up with junk transactions by an attacker to prevent eraShot calling transactions from being included in time.

Recommendation: Adjust the logic such that not all eras have to be specifically snapshotted. This could be done by skipping an iteration if the snapshotId is 0 via if (snapshotId == 0) continue;.

Update: The team has re-design the calculation to not rely on a snapshot.

#### **QSP-10 Debug Functions in Production Contract**

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: Several functions in the LiquidStaking contract are documented with the string debug purposes. Debug functions should never be part of production level code.

Recommendation: Remove any debug function from the contract. If debug functions are required for testing, create a new contract in a test directory and inherit from the one you want to test.

**Update:** The team fixed the issue as recommended.

#### QSP-11 Gas Concerns: User Rewards Might End Up Locked

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The function getUserRewards might run out of gas if a user has not claimed any rewards for a long period of time since it performs external calls in a loop.

**Recommendation:** Consider extending getUserRewards by accepting an an end era instead of always looping from the time the user started staking up until the current era. This will require keeping track of which eras have already been claimed by the user, similar to how the other lastUpdated variables work.

Additionally, move the call to getUserLpTokens outside of the loop since the result is not affected by the loop iterator.

Alternatively, think about changing the implementation completely to make use of the "accumulated rewards per share" pattern (refer this <u>blog post</u> for a general explanation). Concretely, the implementation can update the "accumulated rewards per share" as part of the updateAll modifier. Then whenever a user stakes, unstakes, and transfers the DNT token, we can use the "accumulated rewards per share" to calculate and save the up-to-current user reward into storage to remove the need of running on-demand looping. For instance, LiquidStaking.sol can have a callback function that will be triggered when nSBY.sol:\_beforeTokenTransfer is called. The callback function will calculate the user reward up to this point and then save the amount to storage such as a user-reward mapping. Later, getUserRewards can return the value from the mapping.

**Update:** The getUserRewards function now returns a stored value from totalUserRewards[user].

## QSP-12 Assuming Fixed Exchange Rate on the LP Token and the DNT Token

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The function getUserLpTokens (L188-196) assumes the exchange ratio of the LP token and the DNT token to be mul/div. However, if the market rate diverges from the fixed rate, it will break the calculation of getUserRewards.

Recommendation: The liquidity-providing platform usually provides a function to get the exchange rate for the LP token and the reserved tokens. The implementation should use those functions instead for a more accurate result. Note that depending on the DEX, this approach might be vulnerable to flash loan attacks and might require the use of an oracle instead.

Otherwise, the team should try to pick an LP token pair with stable rates and have an off-chain component to monitor. Once the rate goes off, the team should either update the mulForLpToken and divForLpToken or have a way to pause the staking rewards from LP tokens.

**Update:** The team removed the responsibility of calculating the token reserve amount of the LP token to separate contract(s). A new interface, ILpHandler, is added to call the separated contract. However, note that the LP handler contracts are out of this audit's scope.

### QSP-13 Risk of Denial of Service with Repeated DappStaking Calls

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The function globalWithdraw will loop from the lastUpdated+1 era to \_era, which is the current era minus 1. However, the call in DAPPS\_STAKING.withdraw\_unbonded() does not need to pass in the era as an argument. In fact, DAPPS\_STAKING.withdraw\_unbonded() will withdraw from all chunks that have passed the unbond period (doc). As a result, it is redundant to loop through it. Furthermore, judging from the implementation (src), the call is likely to revert if someone has already withdrawn the funds. The redundant call will cause the updateAll modifier to fail and block all functions like: stake, unstake, claim, and withdraw.

A similar issue is present with claim\_dapp as the source suggests it will return an error if rewards have been claimed already (src).

**Recommendation:** Remove the loop. Also, please verify whether DAPPS\_STAKING will fail when withdrawal\_unbond is called more than once. If it will revert, add a try-catch to prevent it from failing with the NothingToWithdraw error.

**Update:** The team has removed the DAPPS\_STAKING.withdraw\_unbonded from the loop and added a check to avoid duplicated calls. Also, the code uses a try-catch to prevent reversion. However, we strongly recommend catching only the specific NothingToWithdraw error to avoid other unexpected errors. We have a new QSP issue for this and consider this issue fixed.

### QSP-14 Potentially Missing DApp Rewards

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** The function claimDapp does not loop from the latest claimed era to the last finished era. However, the documentation of DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_dapp states, "Claim one era of unclaimed dapp rewards for the specified contract and era". Unless someone calls the function claimDapp for all eras, some rewards will be lost.

Exploit Scenario: Nobody interacts with the LiquidStaking. sol contract for 1 era, so the updateAll modifier is not triggered for a specific era. Now the dapp claim for that era is lost.

Recommendation: Loop through the eras from the last claimed one in claimDapp.

**Update:** The team adds the loop to ensure calling all eras. However, the team also adds a try-catch. We strongly recommend catching specific errors instead of all errors. We have a new QSP issue for this and consider this one fixed.

#### QSP-15 setup Function Can Be Called More than Once

#### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

**Description:** Addresses with the MANAGER role could call setup method multiple times, potentially changing the withdrawBlock value. If changed unexpectedly it may cause certain withdraw transactions to fail due to the changed withdrawBlock.

Recommendation: Move the setup logic into the initialize function.

Update: The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

#### QSP-16 Duplicates Can Be Added to Arrays

#### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol, contracts/nDistributor.sol

Description: Certain arrays that are meant to keep track of sets of values can contain duplicates if purposefully added:

- LiquidityStaking: stakers array via addStaker (no access restriction), lpTokens array via addLpToken
- nDistributor: managers array via addManager, utilityDB and utilities arrays via addUtility, dntDB and dnts arrays via addDnt

**Recommendation:** Add the necessary validation and/or use proper enumerable set libraries to ensure that validation, addition and removal of members is efficient. OpenZeppelin's EnumerableSet library has a broadly used implementation of easy-to-use sets.

**Update:** The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

## QSP-17 Use of address.transfer

### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol, contracts/nDistributor.sol

Related Issue(s): <u>SWC-134</u>

Description: The usage of transfer is discouraged since the callee receives a relatively low, fixed amount of gas. In case the receiver has a non-trivial fallback function, the call may always fail.

Recommendation: Use OpenZeppelin's Address.sendValue function or implement a similar helper function that uses the low-level address.call API.

**Update:** The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

## QSP-18 Adding Staker Uses Wrong Address for Balance

### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The function addStaker is called by the distributor to add a new staker. However the function has an issue since it updates stakes[msg.sender] with the balance of \_addr.

Recommendation: Since stakes doesn't seem to have any utility, consider removing it altogether. If this is not a satisfying solution, fix the code by updating stakes [\_addr] instead.

**Update:** The team has fixed this by updating the code to stakes[\_addr] instead.

### QSP-19 Gas Concerns: updateAll

### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

Description: The updateAll modifier calls several functions to sync the status from the LiquidStaking contract with the DAPPS\_STAKING contract. However, most synchronization relies on looping through the eras to ensure all the previous eras are updated. If no one calls the contract for a long period, the updateAll modifier will fail due to the loop running out of gas. The failure of updateAll will cause all user-facing functions to fail.

Recommendation: lastUpdated, lastStaked, and lastUnstaked are the three variables that are used as the start indices of the loops. We recommend the following to mitigate the issue:

- 1. In the globalStake function, set lastStaked to \_era regardless of whether sum2stake is greater than 0.
- 2. In the globalUnstake function, set lastUnstaked to \_era regardless of whether sum2unstake is greater than 0.
- 3. Add a new external sync(era) function. This function will perform similar calls to updateAll, with the difference that era can be specified within the range of

(lastUpdated, currentEra() - 1]. This function can be called periodically from an off-chain component to ensure lastUpdated, lastStaked, and lastUnStaked are updated. Also, if the contract gets out of sync for too long, the team can call this function to update the era to somewhere in the middle gradually and then repeat the call until all the eras get synced.

Update: The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

#### QSP-20 Hardcoded Initialization of lastStaked and lastUnstaked

#### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The initialize function hardcodes the storage variables lastStaked and lastUnstaked value to 1175 and 1178 respectively. First, it is unclear where the values 1175 and 1178 come from. Second, this causes out-of-gas concerns for calls to globalStake and globalUnstake as those functions contain loops from lastStaked and lastUnstaked variables. Once out of gas, it will cause the updateAll modifier to fail, which breaks all important user-facing functions.

Recommendation: Use the currentEra() function to initialize the variables lastStaked and lastUnstaked.

Update: The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

#### QSP-21 Risk of Missing Variable Initialization

#### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** Some setter functions, such as setup, setDistr, and setDntToken, need to be called before the contract can properly function. If the deployment scripts/process misses calling those setter functions, the contract will be unusable.

Recommendation: The following variables should be set in initialize: withdrawBlock, DNTname, utilName, distrAddr, distr, and dntToken.

Update: The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

#### **QSP-22 Potential Balance Inconsistency**

#### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/nDistributor.sol, contracts/nSBY.sol

Description: The function nDistributor.sol:assignUtilityFromNull (L525-535) will move the "null" utility amount to the \_newUtility. If the MANAGER role ever calls the function with \_newUtility equal to "LiquidStaking", it will add the "null" utility amount to the "LiquidStaking" utility. This will cause the balance inside the nSBY token to be inconsistent with the utility amount inside the nDistributor contract and break the consistency mechanism used in nSBY.sol:\_beforeTokenTransfer that hooks nDistributor.sol:transferDnt to keep the two consistent.

Recommendation: The team should consider having a disallow list for\_newUtility when calling the assignUtilityFromNull function. Alternatively, the team should be aware of this and never call assignUtilityFromNull with "LiquidStaking".

**Update:** The team has fixed the issue by introducing disallowList.

## QSP-23 Gas Concerns: nDistributor.sol

### Severity: Low Risk

**Status:** Mitigated

File(s) affected: contracts/nDistributor.sol

Description: There are some function in the nDistributor.sol contract that loop through arrays from storage, namely \_addDntToUser, \_addUtilityToUser, \_removeUtilityFromUser and \_removeDntFromUser. Those loops could be problematic once the list of the user's DNTs or utilities grows too big. However, this is less of an issue during the start as the team plans to start with one DNT and one utility only.

Recommendation: The team should be aware of this and not provide too many DNTs and utilities. Also, we recommend enhancing the implementation regarding array element deletion. Instead of delete <:your\_array>[i], a better implementation is to swap the last item to the targeted index to delete and then delete the value on the last index. Otherwise, the current implementation will leave an empty value in the array, but the index of the array will continue to grow despite the deletion. The deletion occurs at removeManager (L195), \_removeUtilityFromUser (L464), and \_removeDntFromUser (L481).

Update: The team has improved the deletion logic. Note the gas issue still exists, and the team should be aware of this and not provide too many DNTs and utilities.

### QSP-24 Risk of Issuing Wrong Utilities on Transfer

### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/nDistributor.sol

Description: On L517 inside the function transferDnt, it hardcodes the utility as "LiquidStaking" when calling issueTransferDnt. If the upstream function calls transferDnt with a different \_utility, this will issue the wrong DNT to the user.

Recommendation: Use the variable \_utility instead of the hardcoded "LiquidStaking" string.

Update: The team has fixed the issue as recommended.

#### QSP-25 Lack of Events on Critical State Changes

**Severity: Informational** 

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol, contracts/nDistributor.sol

**Description:** Both the LiquidStaking and nDistributor contracts lack any kind of events beyond the ones emitted by the used library contracts. Events are important as they allow state changes to easily and efficiently be tracked externally.

Recommendation: Define and emit the necessary events.

Update: The team has added events (Staked, Unstaked, Withdrawn, and Claimed) to the LiquidStaking.sol contract.

#### **QSP-26 Unlocked Pragma**

Severity: Informational

Status: Mitigated

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol, contracts/nDistributor.sol, contracts/nSBY.sol

Related Issue(s): <u>SWC-103</u>

Description: Every Solidity file specifies in the header a version number of the format pragma solidity (^)0.8.\*. The caret (^) before the version number implies an unlocked pragma, meaning that the compiler will use the specified version and above, hence the term "unlocked".

Recommendation: For consistency and to prevent unexpected behavior in the future, we recommend to remove the caret to lock the file onto a specific Solidity version.

Update: The team locks the LiquidStaking.sol and nDistributor.sol to 0.8.4. However, the nSBY.sol file has not been changed.

#### QSP-27 Unused or Unnecessary Variables and Functions

**Severity: Informational** 

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description:

Several variables and functions seem unused or unnecessary. They make the code harder to read and follow.

Variables:

- LiquidStaking.sol:L80: The shadowTokensAmount mapping.
- LiquidStaking.sol:L85: The hasLpTokens mapping is only used in the function addToLpOwners. The function will set entries of the hasLpTokens mapping to true, but none of the code reads the hasLpTokens mapping.
- LiquidStaking.sol:L87: The lastRewardsCalculated variable. Although the manager can set this value in setLRC, none of the code uses this variable. It is only used in commented out code on L198-222.
- LiquidStaking.sol:L72: The rewardsByAddress mapping. The code will set the mapping of a certain address to 0 at LiquidStaking.sol:addStakers. However, it is never read or updated. All code related to this variable has been commented out.

Functions and modifiers:

- LiquidStaking.sol:addToLpOwners: This function sets entries of the hasLpTokens mapping to true, but the mapping is never read.
- LiquidStaking.sol:setLRC: Despite the manager being able to call this function to set values in lastRewardsCalculated, none of the code uses the variable lastRewardsCalculated. It is only used in commented out code on L198-222.
- LiquidStaking.sol:chck: Empty function.
- LiquidStaking.sol:calcReward: Empty modifier.

Recommendation: Remove the variables and functions listed above.

**Update:** The team has removed all unused or unnecessary variables and functions as pointed out in the original issue.

### QSP-28 Role Change without Manager/Owner Update

Severity: Undetermined

Status: Acknowledged

File(s) affected: contracts/nDistributor.sol

Description: The nDisitributor contract has certain methods that besides changing its own direct state also change roles, specifically changeOwner and addManager. These not only update the associated state owner and managers respectively but also assign and/or revoke the roles from the appropriate addresses. However the used AccessControlUpgradeable library allows for the assignment and revocation of roles without affecting the additional state variables. The owner and managers variables don't seem to be used anywhere in the contract's logic.

Recommendation: Clarify whether the owner and managers state variables should always be consistent with the roles or whether the changeOwner and addManager methods are simply for consistence.

**Update:** The team acknowledged this with the following statement.

There is a chance that the contents of managers and owner will not correspond with the reality, if roles are changed directly through the AccessControl. However, this can only be done by a manager, which could only be changed through the added functions, therefore, we don't consider this to be a vulnerability and have kept everything as is

#### QSP-29 Lack of Ability to Remove LP Tokens

Severity: Undetermined

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The LiquidStaking contract has a method for adding LP tokens addLpToken, however there is no method for removing tokens.

Recommendation: Clarify whether the inability to remove LP tokens is intentional and adjust the contract's logic accordingly.

Update: The team has added the removeLpToken function.

#### **QSP-30 Unclear Revenue Accounting**

Severity: Undetermined

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The LiquidStaking contract tracks an eraRevenue variable which collects 1% (L330) of accrued staker rewards and a 1% staking fee (L440). However 1/10th of the revenue is added to the unstakingPool (L506). Not only is it unclear what the contract is meant to do with the remaining 90% of the revenue but the taken 10% is not deducted from the respective eraRevenue.

**Recommendation:** Clarify whether owners are meant to somehow be able to withdraw revenue or generally what is meant to happen to it. Furthermore, clarify how the contract is intended to track revenue and whether or not the eraRevenue variable should be adjusted when revenue is taken.

Update: The team adds a withdrawRevenue function to allow the admin to withdraw the revenue. Also, the team adds the variable total Revenue to track.

#### **QSP-31 Lacking Access Control**

Severity: Undetermined

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The addToLpOwners method lacks any validation. It does not check the caller or whether the specified \_user can or should be set to true. There is generally little documentation and a complete lack of specification specifying what exactly the addToLpOwners method, and hasLpTokens mapping is meant to do.

Recommendation: Clarify the expected behavior and adjust the code accordingly.

 $\label{local_powners} \textbf{Update:} \ \textbf{The team removes the function add} \textbf{ToLpOwners.}$ 

### QSP-32 Limited Integrity Of Code Supply Chain

Severity: Undetermined

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: The OpenZeppelin smart contract library is directly copied into the repository, rather than being included with either a package manager (npm, yarn) or version control system (git submodule). This is problematic as it can make it difficult to tell how correct and/or safe the libraries are as errors may have been made during the initial copying process. Furthermore, the upgradeable and non-upgradeable library versions seem to mixed together with some folders containing both contract versions and other not.

Recommendation: It is recommended that smart contract dependencies are handled properly in a code repository to ensure their integrity. A mistake in one line or even a couple characters may lead to severe unforeseen consequences.

Update: All dependencies have been updated.

### QSP-33 Problems with New Reward Computation

Severity: Medium Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** The re-audit commit 15f9daf8f re-designs the logic of reward computation. The new design will have an off-chain script looping through all users to record the share of a specific user at a specific time of an era. In the next era, it uses the medium value to calculate the reward of the previous era for fairness. The new design aims to mitigate the issues listed in the QSP-7 Problems With Reward Computation. However, we notice some issues in LiquidStaking.sol:eraShot:

- 1. nTotal is not the sum of user balances. nTotal is set as distr.getUserDntBalanceInUtil(\_user, \_util, \_dnt). Judging from the implementation, the dntInUtil will mostly be the same as the token balance and not the sum of balances from all users. The gap will cause the calculation in L226 on the nShare variable to be wrong.
- 2. The calculation of nShare can go underflow. The buffer is added when a user receives the token. However, if the user transfers away those tokens after receiving them, the nBal can go lower than the buffer. (nBal + lpBal buffer[\_user][era]) can go underflow and revert.
- 3. nShare is quite likely to be zero, always. The nBal + lpBal buffer is supposed to be less than nTotal as this calculates the share percentage. However, if not multiplied with some values (e.g., 10 ^ precision\_digits), the division will result in zero.
- 4. gas concern when calling findMean in L216. The complexity of findMean is  $0(n^2)$ .
- 5. algemEraStaked and totalEraStaked (L223-234) should be applied together with the prevEraRewards (L214). The idea is to calculate the reward of this LiquidStaking.sol contract and then distribute the reward of the LiquidityStaking contract to each user according to the shares. The number of algemEraStaked and totalEraStaked is likely to differ from the final number before the era ends.

- 1. Use the total Balance of the DNT token instead for the nTotal.
- 2. Either view the share as 0 when there is more buffer than the balance or decrease the buffer on transferring out to avoid the underflow.
- 3. Multiple with 10^precision\_digits first when calculating nShare.
- 4. Add a cap on the length of the userIncompleteEraRewards[\_user][era] array. Revert when the length becomes impractical.
- 5. Consider calling DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_dapp here and using the balance difference as the total reward. This removes the risk of calculating from DAPPS\_STAKING.read\_era\_reward, DAPPS\_STAKING.read\_staked\_amount\_on\_contract, and DAPPS\_STAKING.read\_era\_staked to calculate the reward of specific era. Calling DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_dapp here also removes the need for the claimDapp function.

Update: The team fixed the issue in the re-audit commit b11a660.

- 1. The team fixed the nTotal with distr.totalDntInUtil(\_util) instead. The nDistributor.sol contract will record the total amount of tokens for the utility.
- 2. The team adds a new function LiquidStaking.sol:setBuffer(...) and the nDistributor.sol:transferDnt (L642) uses that to cap the buffer for the sender.
- 3. The team fixed as recommended.
- 4. The team fixed as recommended.
- 5. There is a mistake in the recommendation. The code should call DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_staker for the reward. The DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_dapp is not intended to share with the staker. The team fixed the issue as recommended but used DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_staker instead.

#### QSP-34 Risk of the sync Function

#### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

**Description:** In the re-audit commit 15f9daf8f, the team added the sync function to allow the possibility to sync to an intermediate era if gas is not enough to sync all the way to the current era. However, we noticed a few issues:

- 1. The function does not validate the \_era input. The \_era should only be in the range of (lastUpdated, currentEra() 1]
- 2. lastUpdated is not recorded after syncing.

Exploit Scenario: The manager accidentally calls the sync function with an old era. The miscall could overwrite the lastStaked and lastUnstaked to a previous era in the globalStake and the globalUnstake functions.

Recommendation: We recommends the following:

- 1. Validate the \_era is in the range of (lastUpdated, currentEra() 1].
- 2. Update the lastUpdated to the \_era.
- 3. Add a NatSpec on the function to explain the reason and the usage of this function.
- 4. (optional) Refactor the updateAll to call sync to reuse the code inside the if (lastUpdated != era) block.

Update: The team fixed as recommended in the re-audit commit b11a660. Note that the function globalUnstake has been refactored and no longer loops through eras.

### QSP-35 Potential Inconsistency on lphandlers and lptokens

### Severity: Low Risk

Status: Fixed

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: In the re-audit commit 15f9daf8f, the team added a new mapping lpHandlers to remove the responsibility of the LP reserve calculation from the LiquidStaking. sol contract. The function addLpHandler can set the lpHandlers. However, there is another function, addLpToken, to set the array of the lpTokens, but the addLpHandler does not check whether the LP token exists inside the lpTokens array. If they are not set together, the function getUserLpTokens could fail unexpectedly.

Note that a similar inconsistency occurs on the removeLpToken function. The function did not remove the lpHandlers.

**Exploit Scenario:** The manager sets the lpTokens but forgets to add the LP handler. Now, the manager cannot call eraShot because the getUserLpTokens function will fail when calling ILpHandler(lpHandlers[\_lpTokens[i]]).calc(\_user).

Recommendation: It seems unnecessary to have two functions, addLpToken and addLpHandler. We recommend merging the two and setting all LP-related data together. Note that the function removeLpToken should erase the data consistently too.

**Update:** In the re-audit commit b11a660, the functions addLpToken and addLpHandler now becomes a new function addPartner. Also, the function removeLpToken resets the lpHandlers mapping.

### **QSP-36 Catching All Exceptions**

Severity: Undetermined

Status: Mitigated

File(s) affected: contracts/LiquidStaking.sol

Description: In the re-audit commit 15f9daf8f, the team added the try-catch when interacting with the DappsStaking to avoid specific failures reported in the issue. However, the implementation adds a try-catch that mutes all exceptions. The code should only prevent the excepted ones from failing instead of catching everything.

Exploit Scenario: If the Algem is not registered, it is supposed to fail as the contract is not activated on the network (code). However, it is supposed to block our contract from proceeding with the era, but the current implementation will mute the error.

**Recommendation:** We recommend doing the followings:

- 1. Only mute the exception on specific known errors. Revert on those unexpected ones.
- 2. Consider logging an event on the exception message when muting them.

**Update:** In the re-audit commit b11a660, the team fixed some places, remaining the following calls open to error. The team states that they plan to monitor the events on error to gain operational experience and fix later. - DAPPS\_STAKING.claim\_staker: this one seems less concerned. The worse case is missing the reward for certain era, but the system can continue to work. - DAPPS\_STAKING.unbond\_and\_unstake: once failed, there will be not enough balance to withdraw. The operation team should monitor the UpdateError event and call the function fillUnbonded to avoid failure of withdrawal.

## **Automated Analyses**

#### Slither

Slither report 302 results. These results were either related to code from dependencies, false positives or have been integrated in the findings or best practices of this report.

### **Code Documentation**

- 1. Add a comment on LiquidStaking.sol:fillPools to indicate that this function is expected to always run together with and after the LiquidityStaking.sol:globalClaim function with the same \_era parameter. Otherwise, the implementation regarding eraStakerReward will be incorrect.
- 2. [fixed] Add a comment in nDistributor.sol:initialize (L152-162) to specify the intention of the "empty" utility. It seems to be a dummy utility to bump the utilityId and dntId to start from 1 instead of 0.
- 3. Add a sample use case of the nDistributor.sol:assignUtilityFromNull function to demonstrate how a user will use this function in the documentation.
- 4. Add a comment that utilities will exclude the "empty" utility, and the index will differ from the one in utilityDB.
- 5. (re-audit commit b11a660) The comments in LiquidStaking.sol:L227-229 is out-dated. In L230 it uses the condition of lastClaimed != era and not checking if \_user is first staker in the list anymore.

## Adherence to Best Practices

- 1. [fixed] contracts/nDistributor.sol: L599: Duplicate check. The check on L599 is already done in the called dntInterface modifier. Checking again uses unnecessary gas.
- 2. (all): Lack of code linter and/or fixer. It is recommended a linter is used to ensure consistent indentation and syntax structure.
- 3. [fixed] Using two variables for the distributor in LiquidStaking is redundant. Use a single variable of type NDistributor and cast it to an address if needed like this address(distr).
- 4. [ack] NSBY inherits from Ownable and AccessControl. Since AccessControl provides a superset of the features of Ownable, consider using just AccessControl. Update: the team responded that "We have decided to keep Ownable for the comfort and simplicity".
- 5. [mitigated] Almost all functions are declared as public, even if they are not called from within the contract. Declare functions as external by default instead. **Update:** the file LiquidStaking.sol has fixed most of this with a leftover on the function getLpTokens. However, other contracts: nSBY.sol and nDistributor.sol has not been not updated.
- 6. Some contract variables use the default visibility. Consider explicitly declaring all visibilities to avoid potentially surprising defaults.
- 7. [fixed] Consider removing access control logic from view functions since everything on chain is public anyway and can be retrieved with web3 API calls (see LiquidStaking.getStakers).
- 8. [fixed] Remove commented out code:
  - .nDistributor.sol:L445-451: inside the function removeTransferDnt
  - . LiquidStaking.sol:L192-222: The commented function user\_reward
  - . LiquidStaking.sol:L339-343,L345-350: Inside the function claimDapp
  - . LiquidStaking.sol:L372-378: Inside the modifier calcReward
  - . LiquidStaking.sol:L462: Inside the function claim
- 9. [fixed] The re-audit commit 15f9daf8f introduces the LiquidStaking.sol:findMean function as part of the new design to calculate the reward. There is space for improvement on the function itself:
  - 1. The function findMean naming should be findMedium. The function returns the medium instead of the average.
  - 2. In L177, the uMax can be set as type(uint).max instead of the hardcoded value for better readability. Otherwise, please provide a comment describing the value itself.
  - 3. In L183, the min should be set to type(uint).max without -1. Though unlikely to happen, if the array has the value of type(uint).max, this function will return a wrong value.
  - 4. The implementation could use the bubble sort algorithm to save some gas costs without complicating the code. In a typical bubble sort, it loops  $(n^2) / 2$  times instead of the current implementation of n \* (2 \* n). The main difference is to swap the value instead of forming a new array. See example: <u>link</u>.
- 10. [fixed] Please remove the commented code in nDistributor.sol:L378-380 (inside the issueTransferDnt function).
- 11. (re-audit commit b11a660) In LiquidStaking.sol:L380-383 (inside stake(...) function), instead of try-catch + revert, a simple call without try-catch will do the same since the current implementation reverts on all cases.

# **Appendix**

### File Signatures

The following are the SHA-256 hashes of the reviewed files. A file with a different SHA-256 hash has been modified, intentionally or otherwise, after the security review. You are cautioned that a different SHA-256 hash could be (but is not necessarily) an indication of a changed condition or potential vulnerability that was not within the scope of the review.

#### Contracts

## Changelog

- 2022-06-24 Initial report
- 2022-07-12 re-audit report
- 2022-07-22 re-audit 2 / final report

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