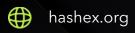


# Asterizm

smart contracts preliminary audit report for internal use only

March 2023





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# 1. Disclaimer

This is a limited report on our findings based on our analysis, in accordance with good industry practice at the date of this report, in relation to cybersecurity vulnerabilities and issues in the framework and algorithms based on smart contracts, the details of which are set out in this report. In order to get a full view of our analysis, it is crucial for you to read the full report. While we have done our best in conducting our analysis and producing this report, it is important to note that you should not rely on this report and cannot claim against us on the basis of what it says or doesn't say, or how we produced it, and it is important for you to conduct your own independent investigations before making any decisions. We go into more detail on this in the disclaimer below – please make sure to read it in full.

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# 2. Overview

HashEx was commissioned by the Asterizm team to perform an audit of their smart contract. The audit was conducted between 13/03/2023 and 18/03/2023.

The purpose of this audit was to achieve the following:

- Identify potential security issues with smart contracts
- Formally check the logic behind given smart contracts.

Information in this report should be used for understanding the risk exposure of smart contracts, and as a guide to improving the security posture of smart contracts by remediating the issues that were identified.

The code is available at <u>@Asterizm-Layer/asterizm-contracts</u> GitHub repository and was audited after the commit <u>a8d4c2</u>.

**Update.** A recheck was done after the commit <u>206378</u>.

**Update 2.** A second recheck was done after the commit <u>663972c</u>.

**Update 3.** A third recheck was done after the commit <u>a6d1e5e</u>.

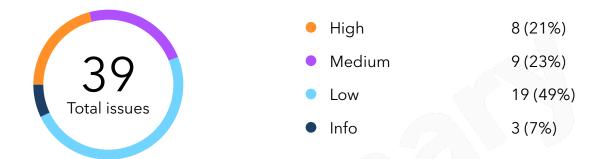
# 2.1 Summary

Project name	Asterizm
URL	https://asterizm.io/
Platform	Ethereum
Language	Solidity

# 2.2 Contracts

Name	Address
AsterizmClient	
Asterizmlnitializer	
AsterizmNonce	
AsterizmTranslator	
Claimer	
GasSender	
MultichainToken	

# 3. Found issues



# C1. AsterizmClient

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C1-01	<ul><li>High</li></ul>	txld not incremented on sending outbound message	
C1-02	High	Lack of documentation on implementation risks	Ø Acknowledged
C1-03	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Unused function	
C1-04	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Unclear purpose of encryption mechanics	Acknowledged
C1-05	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Lack of checks for transferHash and txId	
C1-06	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Risky authorization mechanics	
C1-07	Low	Side effect variable update	
C1-08	Low	Not used onlyAdmin access modifier	
C1-09	Low	Meaningless onlyTrustedTransfer check	Acknowledged
C1-10	Low	Unnecessary access modificator	

C1-11	Low	Lack of events	
C1-12	Low	Gas optimization	
C1-13	<ul><li>Info</li></ul>	Possibility to turn off cross-chain validation	② Open

# C2. AsterizmInitializer

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C2-01	<ul><li>High</li></ul>	No duplicate transaction id check	
C2-02	<ul><li>High</li></ul>	Cross client messages are allowed	
C2-03	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Discrepancy in nonce calculation	
C2-04	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Different nonce incrementation logic for inbound and outbound messages	
C2-05	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	The receive success flag is set even if the client failed to execute the message	
C2-06	Low	Lack of reentrancy checks	
C2-07	<ul><li>Info</li></ul>	Typos	

# C3. AsterizmNonce

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C3-01	Low	Lack of events	

# C4. AsterizmTranslator

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C4-01	<ul><li>High</li></ul>	Dangerous authorisation mechanics	
C4-02	<ul><li>High</li></ul>	High centralization	
C4-03	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	Duplicate nonce calculation	
C4-04	• Low	Possibility of removing local chain id from the list of chains	
C4-05	Low	Ability to change local chain id	
C4-06	Low	Lack of events	

# C5. Claimer

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C5-01	Low	Gas optimization	A Partially fixed

# C6. GasSender

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C6-01	Low	Token transfer results are not checked	⊗ Resolved
C6-02	Low	Gas optimizations	Acknowledged
C6-03	Low	Discrepancy in outbound and inbound message format	Ø Acknowledged
C6-04	Low	Lack of reentrancy checks	

# C7. MultichainToken

ID	Severity	Title	Status
C7-01	<ul><li>High</li></ul>	No check for the reuse of cross-chain transfer	
C7-02	High	Open mint for the owner	
C7-03	<ul><li>Medium</li></ul>	isEncoded parameter is always false	
C7-04	Low	No revert message	
C7-05	Low	Gas optimization	
C7-06	Low	Lack of events	A Partially fixed
C7-07	• Info	Unused parameters	

## 4. Contracts

## C1. Asterizm Client

# Overview

An abstract contract with internal methods for sending and receiving messages. Should be inherited by the client's contract.

#### Issues

# C1-01 txld not incremented on sending outbound message

High

Resolved

The function initAsterizmTransfer() does not increment txld. Calling this function several times will result in messages will be sent with the same txId.

#### Recommendation

Increment the txId when sending the outbound message with the initAsterizmTransfer() function.

# C1-02 Lack of documentation on implementation risks

High

Acknowledged

The contract is supposed to be inherited by the client's implementation. These implementations may involve security risks such as unauthorized calls. For example, a client implements receive function which allows calling an external contract with arbitrary data if the contract gets the corresponding cross-chain message. In such a case an attacker would be able to call any other contract functions with privilege restrictions for the client's implementation contact. An example of such a call may be a transfer of approved tokens to the client's implementation contract from a user to an attacker's address.

#### Recommendation

Add NatSpec documentation for the contract and its function describing possible security complications in implementation details.

#### C1-03 Unused function

Resolved

The contract doesn't use the function \_validTransferHash() anywhere. It should be used in functions \_initAsterizmTransferInternal(), asterizmIzReceive(), and asterizmClReceive() to check the incoming transferHash parameter.

#### C1-04 Unclear purpose of encryption mechanics

Medium

Acknowledged

The documentation provided in the repository says that to send an encrypted message a client needs to call <code>\_generateSendingEvent()</code> passing a destination address and a payload to be executed on the destination chain. Then the client application will pick up this event, encode the payload and execute <code>\_sendMessage()</code> function to propagate the encoded message to the destination chain. The first step reveals all information about the payload. An attacker can listen for the same event as the client application and he will know the value of the encoded payload passed to the <code>\_sendMessage()</code> function.

It should be also noted that no decryption mechanisms are implemented in the smart contract on receiving messages in the destination chain.

#### Recommendation

Change the encryption mechanism so that unencrypted messages won't appear on the public chain before decryption.

#### C1-05 Lack of checks for transferHash and txld

Medium

Resolved

Parameters txId and transferHash for an Asterizm transfer can be any value, even non-valid.

The contract BaseAsterizmClient should set these values by itself using the global variable txld

and the function **buildTransferHash()**.

#### Recommendation

Add missing checks.

#### C1-06 Risky authorization mechanics

Medium

Resolved

The contract has a onlyTrustedSrcAddress() modifier which works as a whitelist for addresses in ClasterizmReceiveRequestDto message.

```
modifier onlyTrustedSrcAddress(uint64 _chainId, address _address) {
    if (trustedAddressCount > 0) {
        require(trustedSrcAddresses[_chainId] == _address, "BaseAsterizmClient: wrong
source address");
    }
    _;
}
```

It only checks if the list of trusted addresses has one element or more. If the owner accidentally deletes the last address in the whitelist, the modifier will allow all addresses.

#### Recommendation

If no addresses added to the whitelist the modifier should fail.

## C1-07 Side effect variable update

Low

Resolved

**setExecutedOutboundTransfer()** modifier sets **successReceive** to **true** as a side effect. Side effects may lead to unexpected bugs when changing the contract's code.

# C1-08 Not used onlyAdmin access modifier

Low

Resolved

The modifier onlyAdmin() is not used anywhere in the contract. There is no documentation on how it should be used in the inherited contracts as well.

#### C1-09 Meaningless onlyTrustedTransfer check

Low

Acknowledged

The function <u>\_asterizmReceiveEncoded()</u> called when an inbound message is received and checks that the Initializer has processed this message. But the function can only be called by the Initializer.

The onlyTrustedTransfer() modifier checks, if the hash is valid via calling the Initializer.

```
modifier onlyTrustedTransfer(bytes32 _transferHash) {
    require(initializerLib.validIncomeTransferHash(_transferHash),
"BaseAsterizmClient: transfer hash is invalid");
    _;
}
```

#### Recommendation

Make all necessary checks in the AsterizmInitializer contract.

#### C1-10 Unnecessary access modificator

Low⊘ Resolved

Low

Low

Resolved

Resolved

Private functions \_setLocalChainId(), \_setInitializer(), \_setUseForceOrder(), \_setDisableHashValidation() have onlyOwner access modificators. Having a modificator in a private function is considered a bad practice which may lead to unexpected bugs when modifying the code of the smart contract later.

#### C1-11 Lack of events

The function setIsEncoded(), setForceOrdered(), addAdmin(), removeAdmin(), setInitializer(), asterismReceive() don't emit events, which complicates the tracking of important changes off-chain.

#### C1-12 Gas optimization

There is no need for the **initializer** global variable. The global variable **initializerLib** can replace it

# C1-13 Possibility to turn off cross-chain validation

Info① Open

The contract has the possibility to be configured with turned-off validation for messages.

```
constructor(IInitializerSender _initializerLib, bool _useForceOrder, bool
_disableHashValidation) {
    _setInitializer(_initializerLib);
    _setLocalChainId(initializerLib.getLocalChainId());
    _setUseForceOrder(_useForceOrder);
    _setDisableHashValidation(_disableHashValidation);
}
```

With a turned-off hash validation, the contracts do not enforce that the same message is executed in the destination chain as in the source chain, so the owner of the client contract has the possibility to execute arbitrary messages.

## C2. AsterizmInitializer

#### Overview

Gets messages from the client's contract and passes them to the AsterizmTranslator contract. Handles nonces of the cross-chain messages.

#### Issues

#### C2-01 No duplicate transaction id check



The functions receivePayload() and receiveEncodedPayload() don't check if the transaction id passed to them was already used. This may lead to possible duplication of the transactions in the destination chain if a relayer accidentally sends a transaction twice.

#### Recommendation

Check if the transaction id has already been processed.

## C2-02 Cross client messages are allowed



The AstermizmInitializer contract can be used with several client implementations of the AsterismClient.

```
modifier onlyClient() {
    if (!availableForAllClients) {
        require(clients[msg.sender].exists, "AsterizmInitializer: only client");
    }
    _;
}
```

If any of these clients have privileged access provided for the AsterizmInitializer contract, other clients can form transactions to be executed on it with privileged rights from the AsterizmInitializer contract.

The vulnerability can be accessed through the function **send()**. A client can send any payload to any destination address in any chain id.

```
function send(uint64 _dstChainId, address _destination, uint _transactionId, bool
_isEncoded, bool _forceOrdered, bytes calldata _payload) external payable onlyClient {
    __isEncoded ? require(isEncSendAvailable, "AsterizmInitializer: encode transfer is
unavailable") : require(isDecSendAvailable, "AsterizmInitializer: decode transfer is
unavailable");
    uint nonce = outboundNonce.increaseNonce(_dstChainId,
abi.encodePacked(msg.sender));
    translatorLibrary.send{value: msg.value}(msg.sender, nonce, _dstChainId,
_destination, _transactionId, _isEncoded, _forceOrdered,
clients[msg.sender].shouldCheckFee, _payload);
}
```

For example, the AstermizmInitializer contract has two clients: one that forwards any message. Another client is a cross-chain token that has a mint() function accessible only by the AsterizmIntializer contract. An attacker calling the first client may pass the token address for the destination address and execute its mint() function passing malicious parameters.

#### Recommendation

Remove the possibility of having multiple clients for one AsterizmInitializer contract or document the proper usage of the multiple clients explicitly describing all potential risks.

## C2-03 Discrepancy in nonce calculation

Medium



In the function send() the nonce is calculated for the sender's address value.

But in the receivePayload() and receiveEncodedPayload() it's calculated for the destination and application address.

#### Recommendation

Unify nonce calculation in the contract.

# C2-04 Different nonce incrementation logic for inbound and outbound messages

Medium ⊘ Resolved

The function **send()** increases outbound nonce every time it is called.

But the functions receivePayload() and receiveEncodedPayload() increase inbound nonce only when the parameter \_isEncoded = true is passed to the function.

In case some application changes its parameter **forceOrdered** from false to true that it passes to the AsterizmInitializer contract through **send()** function, functions **receivePayload()** and **receiveEncodedPayload()** will revert because the contracts **ToutboundNonce** and **inboundNonce** 

will have different nonce parameters and the call of the function increaseNonceWithValidation() will always revert. To fix this, the application will need to set the parameter forceOrdered back to the false value

#### Recommendation

Unify nonce incrementation logic or if this is the intended behavior handled off-chain document it explicitly.

# C2-05 The receive success flag is set even if the client ● Medium ⊘ Resolved failed to execute the message

The function receivePayload() sets the flag sendedTransfers[\_dto.transferHash].successOutgoing to true even if the transaction execution fails in the client.

```
function receivePayload(IzReceivePayloadRequestDto calldata _dto) external
onlyTranslator {
        require(!blockAddresses[_dto.dstAddress], "AsterizmInitializer: target address is
blocked");
        if (_dto.forceOrder) {
            require(
                inboundNonce.increaseNonceWithValidation(_dto.srcChainId,
abi.encodePacked(_dto.srcAddress, _dto.dstAddress), _dto.nonce) == _dto.nonce,
                "AsterizmInitializer: wrong nonce"
            );
        }
        require(_dto.dstAddress != address(this) && _dto.dstAddress != msg.sender,
"AsterizmInitializer: wrong destination address");
        ClAsterizmReceiveRequestDto memory dto = _buildClAsterizmReceiveRequestDto(
            _dto.srcChainId, _dto.srcAddress, _dto.dstChainId,
            _dto.dstAddress, _dto.nonce, _dto.txId, _dto.transferHash, _dto.payload
        );
        sendedTransfers[_dto.transferHash].successIncome = true;
        try IClientReceiverContract(_dto.dstAddress).asterizmIzReceive{gas: _dto.gasLimit}
```

#### Recommendation

Update the flag in the try section of the function.

## C2-06 Lack of reentrancy checks

The function retryPayload() emits an event after calling the external contract and therefore is susceptible to reentrancy.

#### Recommendation

We recommend adding **nonReentrant** modifier from the OpenZepplin's ReentrancyGuard library.

#### Update

The function retryPayload() was deleted in the update, but in the update the function receivePayload() does not follow checks effects interactions pattern and has no reentrancy guard protection.

## C2-07 Typos

Typos reduce the code's readability. There is a typo in the function name:

There is typo in a mapping name: sendedTransfers.

#### C3. AsterizmNonce

validOutgoingTarnsferHash();

## Overview

A helper contract to store and manipulate nonces for specified keys.

#### Issues

#### C3-01 Lack of events

The function **setManipulator()**, **setOwner()**, **forceSetNonce()** don't emit events, which complicates the tracking of important changes off-chain.

Resolved

Resolved

Info

Low

## C4. AsterizmTranslator

#### Overview

Receives messages from the AsterizmInitializer contract and emits an event to be processed by a relayer to be executed on the destination chain. Has privileged functions for the relayer to execute inbound messages.

#### Issues

#### C4-01 Dangerous authorisation mechanics

Functions translateMessage() and translateEncodedMessage() are open to everyone if the global variable isLock is false. In this case, anyone can pass any message to client's application.

```
modifier onlyRelayer() {
    if (isLock) {
        require(relayer == msg.sender, "Translator: only relayer");
    }
    _;
}
```

The owner of the contract can change the variable **isLock** which may impose significant risks for the client's contracts.

#### Recommendation

Remove the lock functionality or make the **isLock** variable immutable.

## C4-02 High centralization

All inbound messages to be executed on the destination chain can be executed by a relayer contract.

```
function translateMessage(uint _gasLimit, bytes calldata _payload) external
onlyRelayer {
        baseTranslateMessage(_gasLimit, _payload, false);
    }

function translateEncodedMessage(uint _gasLimit, bytes calldata _payload) external
onlyRelayer {
        baseTranslateMessage(_gasLimit, _payload, true);
}
```

If the private key of the relayer contract is compromised, the attacker can pass any data to clients in the destination chain without any transactions sent in the source chain.

#### Update

After the update to execute a cross-chain message, the message needs to be approved by a relayer and a client contract.

## C4-03 Duplicate nonce calculation

The function **send()** called by the AsterizmInitializer increases outbound nonce:

Another outbound nonce is already increased in the AsterizmInitializer contract:

```
}
```

With a lack of documentation, it's hard to say whether it's a desired behavior.

#### Recommendation

Document the usage of the nonces explicitly.

# C4-04 Possibility of removing local chain id from the list of chains

Low 🕜 Resolved

In the function removeChainById(), there is no check that the localChainId global variable isn't equal to the \_chainId function argument.

```
function removeChainById(uint64 _chainId) external onlyOwner {
    delete chainsMap[_chainId];
}
```

#### Recommendation

Add a missing check to avoid accidentally removing localChainId of the list of chains.

## C4-05 Ability to change local chain id

Low

Resolved

The function **setLocalChainId()** should be deleted, and the variable **localChainId** should be set in the constructor.

#### C4-06 Lack of events

Low

Resolved

The functions setLocalChainId(), removeChainById(), addChains(), addChain(), setIsLock(), setEndpoint() don't emit events, which complicates the tracking of important changes off-chain.

# C5. Claimer

#### Overview

A helper contract to call multichain token's **crossChainTransfer()** function in batch with different parameters.

#### Issues

#### C5-01 Gas optimization



- 1. Global variables multichainToken and multichainTokenAddress can be immutable.
- 2. No need for the global variable multichainTokenAddress.
- 3. In the function claim() global variable multichainToken is read multiple times.

# C6. GasSender

## Overview

Implementation of the AsterizmClient which sends stable coins to another chain to be converted to a native currency.

#### Issues

#### C6-01 Token transfer results are not checked



The boolean value which is returned by the ERC20 token's **transfer()** function is not checked. We recommend using SafeERC20 library to handle all token transfers.

#### C6-02 Gas optimizations

includes automatic overflow checks.

Import of OpenZeppelin's SafeMath library is unnecessary. Solidity version 0.8 is used which

Low

Low

C6-03 Discrepancy in outbound and inbound message format

Low✓ Acknowledged

Acknowledged

Payload format for the inbound and outbound messages is different. The format for outbound message payload is address[], uint[], address, uint8. The inbound payload format is address, uint, address, uint, uint

## C6-04 Lack of reentrancy checks

The function asterismReceive() doesn't implement the check effects interactions pattern and makes a call to an external address which opens the possibility of reentrancy. We recommend adding a mutex with OpenZeppelin's ReentrancyGuard library.

## C7. MultichainToken

## Overview

ERC20 token. Implementation of AsterizmClient for cross-chain token transfers.

## Issues

## C7-01 No check for the reuse of cross-chain transfer

High < ∅</p>

Resolved

Resolved

The encoded cross-chain transfer is done in two steps. At first, a user stores data for transfer in the contract with the crossChainEncodedTransferFirstStep() function.

function crossChainEncodedTransferFirstStep(uint64 destChain, address from, address

```
to, uint amount, address target) public {
    uint transferId = ++transactionId;
    require(!transfers[transferId].exists, "MultichainToken: transaction already
exists");
    transfers[transferId].exists = true;
    transfers[transferId].destChain = destChain;
    transfers[transferId].from = from;
    transfers[transferId].to = to;
    transfers[transferId].amount = amount;
    transfers[transferId].target = target;
    emit CrossChainTransferReceived(transferId, destChain, from, to, amount,
transferId, target);
}
```

Then the owner of the contract calls the function <code>crossChainEncodedTransferSecondStep()</code> to burn tokens from the user and emit an event for the cross-chain transfer. This function sets the <code>transfers[transferId].exists = false</code> but never checks if <code>transfers[transferId].exists</code> is true before the execution. This allows multiple execution of the same transfer.

#### Recommendation

Check if transfers[transferId].exists is true before the execution of the function.

## C7-02 Open mint for the owner



The owner of the contract has a possibility to mint any number of tokens. The function asterismReceive() which effectively mints tokens to a specified address can be called by the owner or initializer contracts.

```
modifier onlyVerifiedSender {
    require(msg.sender == owner || msg.sender == initializer, "MultichainToken: only
verified sender");
    _;
}

function asterismReceive(uint64 _srcChainId, address _srcAddress, uint _nonce, uint
_transactionId, bytes calldata _payload) public onlyVerifiedSender {
    (address dstAddress, uint amount) = abi.decode(_payload, (address, uint));
```

```
_creditTo(dstAddress, amount);
}

function _creditTo(address _toAddress, uint _amount) internal virtual returns(uint) {
    _mint(_toAddress, _amount);
    return _amount;
}
```

#### C7-03 isEncoded parameter is always false

Medium 🕢 Resolved

The contract has functions to send encoded messages, but the parameter **isEncoded** is never set to true.

#### Recommendation

Update the code to send the encoded messages with the isEncoded parameter set to true.

#### C7-04 No revert message

🕨 Low 🔣 R

Resolved

In the function setOwner(), there is no revert message in the require statement

## C7-05 Gas optimization

Low

Resolved

- 1. Global variables initializerLib and initializer can be immutable
- 2. The contract doesn't use the global variable transfersCounter anywhere
- 3. The global variable **initializer** can be deleted and replaced with the **initializerLib** variable
- 4. In the function crossChainEncodedTransferSecondStep(), the contract can delete the structure transfers[id] at the end

#### C7-06 Lack of events

LowPartially fixed

The functions setPool(), setOwner(), crossChainTransfer(), asterismReceive() don't emit events, which complicates the tracking of important changes off-chain.

## C7-07 Unused parameters

■ Info
Ø Resolved

The contract doesn't use the information a user sent to the crossChainEncodedTransferFirstStep() function (to and amount). Instead, it uses the data that the owner passes.

# 5. Conclusion

8 high, 9 medium, 19 low severity issues were found during the audit. 7 high, 8 medium, 14 low issues were resolved in the update.

The audited contracts are highly dependent on privileged accounts. Users using the project have to trust that the privileged accounts are properly secured.

We would like to emphasize the importance of thorough auditing of any contracts that inherit from the BaseAsterizmClient. While the library itself has been designed with security in mind, it is still possible to introduce vulnerabilities or misconfigurations when implementing inherited contracts. In particular, when setting up parameters in the inherited contracts, it is crucial to ensure that they are configured correctly and securely. Failing to do so could potentially expose the contract to various attack vectors and vulnerabilities.

# Appendix A. Issues' severity classification

• **Critical.** Issues that may cause an unlimited loss of funds or entirely break the contract workflow. Malicious code (including malicious modification of libraries) is also treated as a critical severity issue. These issues must be fixed before deployments or fixed in already running projects as soon as possible.

- **High.** Issues that may lead to a limited loss of funds, break interaction with users, or other contracts under specific conditions. Also, issues in a smart contract, that allow a privileged account the ability to steal or block other users' funds.
- Medium. Issues that do not lead to a loss of funds directly, but break the contract logic.
   May lead to failures in contracts operation.
- **Low.** Issues that are of a non-optimal code character, for instance, gas optimization tips, unused variables, errors in messages.
- **Informational.** Issues that do not impact the contract operation. Usually, informational severity issues are related to code best practices, e.g. style guide.

# **Appendix B. List of examined issue types**

- Business logic overview
- Functionality checks
- Following best practices
- Access control and authorization
- Reentrancy attacks
- Front-run attacks
- DoS with (unexpected) revert
- DoS with block gas limit
- Transaction-ordering dependence
- ERC/BEP and other standards violation
- Unchecked math
- Implicit visibility levels
- Excessive gas usage
- Timestamp dependence
- Forcibly sending ether to a contract
- Weak sources of randomness
- Shadowing state variables
- Usage of deprecated code

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