Dylint Can Help You Write More Secure Solana Contracts

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Trail of Bits

- We specialize in high-end security technologies, and one of our areas of focus is blockchain.
- We apply real-world research to speed security reviews.
- Tools of ours you might know include:
 - Slither a static analyzer for Solidity
 - Echidna a fuzzer for Ethereum
 - Amarna a static analyzer for Cairo (StarkNet)
 - Tealer a static analyzer for Teal (Algorand)

Overview

- The Sealevel Attacks
- Dylint
- Lints inspired by the Sealevel Attacks
- Try them!

Examples of common exploits unique to the Solana programming model and recommended idioms for avoiding these attacks using the Anchor framework

Anchor

README description:

Anchor is a framework for Solana's Sealevel runtime providing several convenient developer tools for writing smart contracts.

- Anchor has both on-chain and off-chain components:
 - On-chain (e.g., types, traits, macros) to assist in writing Solana programs
 - Off-chain to assist in testing Solana programs

- Today, the repository contains 11 examples.
- Each example has three versions:
 - o insecure: a program exhibiting a vulnerability
 - o secure: a program that mitigates the vulnerability
 - o recommended: "the idiomatic version of secure as encouraged by the anchor framework" @armaniferrante*

* Armani Ferrante is the creator of the Anchor framework.

- 0-signer-authorization
- 1-account-data-matching
- 2-owner-checks
- 3-type-cosplay
- 4-initialization
- 5-arbitrary-cpi

- 6-duplicate-mutable-accounts
- 7-bump-seed-canonicalization
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insecure

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msq!(
        token.amount
   );
   0k(())
```

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.token.owner != &spl_token::ID {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msq!(
        "Your account balance is: {}",
        token.amount
    );
   0k(())
```

insecure

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
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   msq!(
        "Your account balance is: {}",
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```

secure

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
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   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
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        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msq!(
        "Your account balance is: {}"
```

The "insecure" version doesn't check ctx.accounts.token.owner.

The "secure" version does.

insecure

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msg!(
        token.amount
   );
   0k(())
```

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pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.token.owner != &spl_token::ID {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msq!(
        "Your account balance is: {}",
        token.amount
    );
   0k(())
```

insecure

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.token.owner != &spl_token::ID {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
         Your account balance is: {}",
        token.amount
```

```
pub fn log_message(
   ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
       &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msg!(
        "Your account
                       This is not the "owner" of interest.
        token.amount
   );
   0k(())
                                                                );
                                                                0k(())
```

insecure

```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
   let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(
        &ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow()
    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
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```
pub fn log_message(
    ctx: Context<LogMessage>
 -> ProgramResult {
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    )?;
   if ctx.accounts.token.owner != &spl_token::ID {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
   msq!(
        "Your account balance is: {}",
        token.amount
    );
   0k(())
```

Both version versions check the spl_token "owner."

But only the "secure" version checks the solana_program "owner."

```
ctx: Concext< Logmessage
lot token - SplickenAccount ··uppack(
 // solana_program::account_info::AccountInfo
 pub struct AccountInfo<'a> {
    pub key: &'a Pubkey,
    pub is_signer: bool,
    pub is_writable: bool,
    pub lamports: Rc<RefCell<&'a mut u64>>,
    pub data: Rc<RefCell<&'a mut [u8]>>,
    pub owner: &'a Pubkey,
    pub executable: bool,
    pub rent_epoch: Epoch,
```

pub fn lo

```
// spl_token::state::Account
pub struct Account {
   pub mint: Pubkey,
   pub owner: Pubkey,
   pub amount: u64,
   pub delegate: COption<Pubkey>.
   pub state: AccountState,
   pub is_native: COption<u64>,
   pub delegated_amount: u64,
   pub close_authority: COption<Pubkey>,
```

@pencilflip's documentation

- The Sealevel Attacks' documentation is somewhat sparse...
- But @pencilflip wrote a fantastic
 Twitter thread describing them:

3) Checking account ownership

Make sure the passed-in accounts are owned by the correct program.

For example, if your instruction expects a token account, it should be owned by the token program.

Don't do this—this code doesn't check to make sure the token account is owned by the SPL token program, so it could be invalid.

```
let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(&ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow())?;
if ctx.accounts.authority.key != &token.owner {
    return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
}
msg!("Your account balance is: {}", token.amount);
```

Dylint

A tool for running Rust lints from dynamic libraries

Lint

From Wikipedia's Lint (software):

Lint, or a linter, is a static code analysis tool used to flag programming errors, bugs, stylistic errors and suspicious constructs.

- Example Rust compiler lints:
 - unreachable_code, unused_imports, while_true
- Example Clippy* lints:
 - too_many_arguments, from_over_into, redundant_closure

* Rust's de facto linting tool.

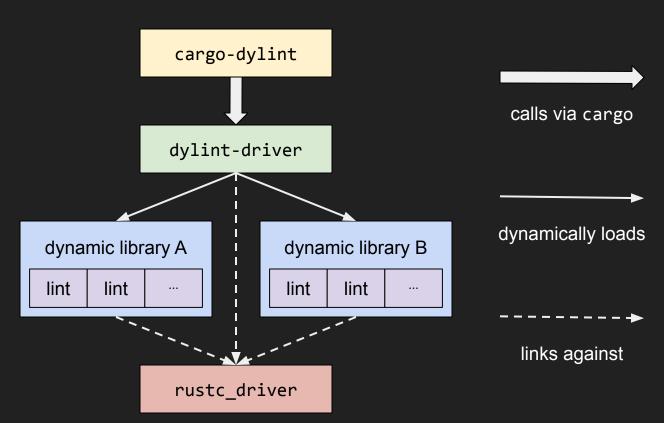
Dylint

- Dylint is similar to Clippy, but...
 - Clippy runs a predetermined, static set of lints.
 - O Dylint runs lints from dynamic libraries named by the user.
- Dylint allows developers to maintain their own personal lint collections.

Clippy cargo-clippy clippy-driver lint lint

rustc_driver

Dylint



- Dylint provides a
 declare_late_lint!
 macro to facilitate writing "one lint libraries."
- A typical Dylint library lib.rs
 has this structure:

```
dylint_linting::declare_late_lint! {
   /// Bad practice documentation
   pub BAD_PRACTICE,
   Warn,
   "bad practice description"
impl LateLintPass<'_> for BadPractice {
   fn check_thing(
       &mut self,
       cx: &LateContext<'_>,
```

Writing a Dylint lint

- Writing a Dylint lint...
 - Is essentially no different than writing a Clippy lint...
 - Is essentially no different than writing a Rust compiler lint.
- In each case, the APIs used (e.g., LateLintPass) are the same.

Lints inspired by the Sealevel Attacks

Status

- 0-signer-authorizationmissing_signer_check
- 1-account-data-matching
 No clear lintable condition
- 2-owner-checksmissing_owner_check
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Example: Missing owner check

Missing owner check: declare_late_lint!

```
dylint_linting::declare_late_lint! {
  /// **What it does:**
      This lint checks that for each account referenced in a program, that there is a
  /// corresponding owner check on that account. Specifically, this means that the owner
  /// field is referenced on that account.
  /// The missing-owner-check vulnerability occurs when a program uses an account, but does
  /// not check that it is owned by the expected program. This could lead to vulnerabilities
  /// where a malicious actor passes in an account owned by program `X` when what was expected
  pub MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
  Warn,
   "using an account without checking if its owner is as expected"
```

```
fn check_fn(
    &mut self,
    cx: &LateContext<'tcx>,
    _: FnKind<'tcx>,
    _: &'tcx FnDecl<'tcx>,
    body: &'tcx Body<'tcx>,
    span: Span,
    _: HirId,
    if !span.from_expansion() {
        let accounts = get_referenced_accounts(cx, body);
        for account_expr in accounts {
            if !contains_owner_use(cx, body, account_expr) {
                span_lint(
                    CX,
                    MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
                    account_expr.span,
                    "this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field",
                );
```

```
2-owner-checks/insecure was insecure
              because it didn't check the
solana_program::account_info::AccountInfo
                   owner field.
```

```
fn check_fn(
    &mut self,
    cx: &LateContext<'tcx>,
    _: FnKind<'tcx>,
    _: &'tcx FnDecl<'tcx>,
    body: &'tcx Body<'tcx>,
    span: Span,
    _: HirId,
    if !span.from_expansion() {
        let accounts = get_referenced_accounts(cx, body);
        for account_expr in accounts {
            if !contains_owner_use(cx, body, account_expr) {
                span_lint(
                    CX,
                    MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
                    account_expr.span,
                    "this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field",
                );
```

```
fn check_fn(
    &mut self,
                                        Called on each function, method, or closure.
    cx: &LateContext<'tcx>,
    _: FnKind<'tcx>,
    _: &'tcx FnDecl<'tcx>,
    body: &'tcx Body<'tcx>,
    span: Span,
    _: HirId,
    if !span.from_expansion() {
        let accounts = get_referenced_accounts(cx, body);
        for account_expr in accounts {
            if !contains_owner_use(cx, body, account_expr) {
                span_lint(
                    CX,
                    MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
                    account_expr.span,
                    "this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field",
                );
```

```
fn check_fn(
   &mut self,
   cx: &LateConte
                   Collects expressions whose type is:
   : FnKind<'tcx
   _: &'tcx FnDec
                   solana_program::account_info::AccountInfo
   body: &'tcx Bo
   span: Span,
   _: HirId,
   if !span.from_expansion() {
       let accounts = get_referenced_accounts(cx, body);
       for account_expr in accounts {
           if !contains_owner_use(cx, body, account_expr) {
               span_lint(
                  CX,
                  MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
                  account_expr.span,
                   "this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field",
               );
```

```
fn check_fn(
    &mut self,
                                            Asks: does the function body contain
    cx: &LateContext<'tcx>,
    _: FnKind<'tcx>,
                                            an expression of the following form?
    _: &'tcx FnDecl<'tcx>,
    body: &'tcx Body<'tcx>,
                                            ⟨account_expr⟩ . owner
    span: Span,
    _: HirId,
    if !span.from_expansion() {
       let accounts = get_referenced_accounts(cx, body);
       for account_expr in accounts {
           if !contains_owner_use(cx, body, account_expr) {
               span_lint(
                   CX,
                   MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
                   account_expr.span,
                   "this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field",
```

```
fn check_fn(
    &mut self,
    cx: &LateContext<'tcx>,
    _: FnKind<'tcx>,
    _: &'tcx FnDecl<'tcx>,
    body: &'tcx Body<'tcx>,
    span: Span,
                                        Emits a warning when the answer is "no."
    _: HirId,
    if !span.from_expansion() {
        let accounts = get_referenced_accounts(cx, body);
        for account_expr in accounts {
            if !contains_owner_use(cx, body, account_expr) {
                span_lint(
                    CX,
                    MISSING_OWNER_CHECK,
                    account_expr.span,
                    "this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field",
                );
```

Output on 2-owner-checks/insecure:

```
warning: this Account struct is used but there is no check on its owner field
 --> src/lib.rs:14:46
           let token = SplTokenAccount::unpack(&ctx.accounts.token.data.borrow())?;
                                              = note: `#[warn(missing_owner_check)]` on by default
```

warning: `owner-checks-insecure` (lib) generated 1 warning

Output on 2-owner-checks/secure:

(Nothing)

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A note on Type cosplay

insecure

```
pub fn update_user(ctx: Context<...>) -> ProgramResult {
    let user = User::try_from_slice(
        &ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()
    ).unwrap();
    if ctx.accounts.user.owner != ctx.program_id {
        return Err(ProgramError::IllegalOwner);
    if user.authority != ctx.accounts.authority.key() {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
    msg!("GM {}", user.authority);
    0k(())
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct User {
   authority: Pubkey,
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct Metadata {
   account: Pubkey,
```

secure

```
pub fn update_user(ctx: Context<...>) -> ProgramResult {
    let user = User::try_from_slice(
        &ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()
    ).unwrap();
    if ctx.accounts.user.owner != ctx.program_id {
        return Err(ProgramError::IllegalOwner);
    if user.authority != ctx.accounts.authority.key() {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
    msg!("GM {}", user.authority);
    0k(())
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct User {
   discriminant: AccountDiscriminant,
   authority: Pubkey,
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct Metadata {
   discriminant: AccountDiscriminant,
```

insecure

```
pub fn update_user(ctx: Context<...>) -> ProgramResult {
    let user = User::try_from_slice(
        &ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()
    ).unwrap();
    if ctx.accounts.user.owner != ctx.program_id {
        return Err(ProgramError::IllegalOwner);
    if user.authority != ctx.accounts.authority.key() {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
    msg!("GM {}", user.authority);
    0k(())
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct User {
   authority: Pubkey,
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct Metadata {
   account: Pubkey,
```

insecure

```
pub fn update_user(ctx: Context<...>) -> ProgramResult {
    let user = User::try_from_slice(
        &ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()
    ).unwrap();
    if ctx.accounts.user.owner != ctx.program_id {
        return Err(ProgramError::IllegalOwner);
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   msg!("GM {}", user.authority);
   0k(())
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct User {
   authority: Pubkey,
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct Metadata {
   account: Pubkey,
```

insecure-anchor

```
pub fn update_user(ctx: Context<...>) -> ProgramResult {
    let user = User::try_from_slice(
        &ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()
    ).unwrap();
    if ctx.accounts.user.owner != ctx.program_id {
        return Err(ProgramError::IllegalOwner);
    if user.authority != ctx.accounts.authority.key() {
        return Err(ProgramError::InvalidAccountData);
    msg!("GM {}", user.authority);
    Ok(())
#[account]
pub struct User {
   authority: Pubkey,
#[derive(BorshSerialize, BorshDeserialize)]
pub struct Metadata {
   account: Pubkey,
```

insecure

insecure-anchor

[-] An attribute for a data structure representing a Solana account. lt { #[account] generates trait implementations for the following traits: AccountSerialize AccountDeserialize • AnchorSerialize • AnchorDeserialize • Clone • Discriminator Owner When implementing account serialization traits the first 8 bytes are reserved for a unique account discriminator, self described by the first 8 bytes of the SHA256 of the account's Rust ident. As a result, any calls to AccountDeserialize's try_deserialize will check this discriminator. If it doesn't match, an invalid account was given, and the account descrialization will exit with an error.

Output on 3-type-cosplay/insecure:

```
warning: type does not have a proper discriminant. It may be indistinguishable when deserialized.
  --> src/lib.rs:12:20
             let user = User::try_from_slice(&ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()).unwrap();
                         \Lambda \Lambda \Lambda \Lambda
   = note: `#[warn(type_cosplay)]` on by default
   = help: add an enum with at least as many variants as there are struct definitions
warning: `type-cosplay-insecure` (lib) generated 1 warning
```

Output on 3-type-cosplay/insecure-anchor:

```
warning: `User` type implements the `Discriminator` trait. If you are attempting to deserialize
         here, you probably want try_deserialize() instead.
 --> src/lib.rs:12:20
            let user = User::try_from_slice(&ctx.accounts.user.data.borrow()).unwrap();
                       = note: `#[warn(type_cosplay)]` on by default
  = help: otherwise, make sure you are accounting for this type's discriminator in your
deserialization function
warning: `type-cosplay-insecure-anchor` (lib) generated 1 warning
```

Try them!

Try them!

1. Install cargo-dylint and dylint-link: cargo install cargo-dylint dylint-link

2. Add the following to your workspace's Cargo. tom1 file:

```
[workspace.metadata.dylint]
libraries = [{
    git = "https://github.com/crytic/solana-lints",
    pattern = "lints/*",
}]
```

3. Run cargo-dylint:
cargo dylint --all

The guys that did the actual work



Victor Wei



Andrew Haberlandt

Solana Lints https://github.com/crytic/solana-lints

Dylint https://github.com/trailofbits/dylint

The Sealevel Attacks https://github.com/coral-xyz/sealevel-attacks

Thank you. Questions?

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