

Security Audit Report for Puffer Protocol

Date: November 27, 2024 Version: 1.0

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Report Manifest

Item	Description
Client	Puffer Finance
Target	Puffer Protocol

Version History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	November 27, 2024	First release

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About BlockSec BlockSec focuses on the security of the blockchain ecosystem and collaborates with leading DeFi projects to secure their products. BlockSec is founded by topnotch security researchers and experienced experts from both academia and industry. They have published multiple blockchain security papers in prestigious conferences, reported several zero-day attacks of DeFi applications, and successfully protected digital assets that are worth more than 14 million dollars by blocking multiple attacks. They can be reached at Email, Twitter and Medium.

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 About Target Contracts

Information	Description
Туре	Smart Contract
Language	Solidity
Approach	Semi-automatic and manual verification

The focus of this audit is on the Puffer Protocol ¹ of Puffer Finance. The Puffer Protocol includes two feature upgrades:

- 1. The validators can now purchase Validator Tickets (VTs) with the pufETH token (previously only ETH is supported).
- 2. The contract PufferRevenueDepositor is added to manage and distribute revenue within the Puffer Protocol ecosystem. It handles the gradual deposit of revenue into the contract PufferVault while also distributing rewards to various stakeholders.

Specifically, only the following contracts in the repository are included in the scope of this audit. Other files are not within the scope of this audit.

- mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositor.sol
- mainnet-contracts/src/PufferVaultV4.sol
- mainnet-contracts/script/DeployRevenueDepositor.s.sol
- mainnet-contracts/src/ValidatorTicket.sol
- mainnet-contracts/script/UpgradeValidatorTicket.s.sol

Project	Version	Commit Hash	
Puffer Protocol	Version 1	e0047f15d950526cc0241b364ea5efd36e27b3d5	
runer Flotocoi	Version 2	209c176d987d95b13b02fdcaa71063f572d55dd1	

1.2 Disclaimer

This audit report does not constitute investment advice or a personal recommendation. It does not consider, and should not be interpreted as considering or having any bearing on, the potential economics of a token, token sale or any other product, service or other asset. Any entity should not rely on this report in any way, including for the purpose of making any decisions to buy or sell any token, product, service or other asset.

This audit report is not an endorsement of any particular project or team, and the report does not guarantee the security of any particular project. This audit does not give any warranties on discovering all security issues of the smart contracts, i.e., the evaluation result does not guarantee the nonexistence of any further findings of security issues. As one audit cannot be considered comprehensive, we always recommend proceeding with independent audits and a public bug bounty program to ensure the security of smart contracts.

¹https://github.com/PufferFinance/puffer-contracts



The scope of this audit is limited to the code mentioned in Section 1.1. Unless explicitly specified, the security of the language itself (e.g., the solidity language), the underlying compiling toolchain and the computing infrastructure are out of the scope.

1.3 Procedure of Auditing

We perform the audit according to the following procedure.

- **Vulnerability Detection** We first scan smart contracts with automatic code analyzers, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) the issues reported by them.
- Semantic Analysis We study the business logic of smart contracts and conduct further investigation on the possible vulnerabilities using an automatic fuzzing tool (developed by our research team). We also manually analyze possible attack scenarios with independent auditors to cross-check the result.
- Recommendation We provide some useful advice to developers from the perspective of good programming practice, including gas optimization, code style, and etc.
 We show the main concrete checkpoints in the following.

1.3.1 Software Security

- * Reentrancy
- * DoS
- * Access control
- Data handling and data flow
- * Exception handling
- * Untrusted external call and control flow
- * Initialization consistency
- * Events operation
- * Error-prone randomness
- * Improper use of the proxy system

1.3.2 DeFi Security

- * Semantic consistency
- * Functionality consistency
- * Permission management
- * Business logic
- * Token operation
- * Emergency mechanism
- * Oracle security
- * Whitelist and blacklist
- * Economic impact
- * Batch transfer



1.3.3 NFT Security

- * Duplicated item
- * Verification of the token receiver
- * Off-chain metadata security

1.3.4 Additional Recommendation

- * Gas optimization
- * Code quality and style



Note The previous checkpoints are the main ones. We may use more checkpoints during the auditing process according to the functionality of the project.

1.4 Security Model

To evaluate the risk, we follow the standards or suggestions that are widely adopted by both industry and academy, including OWASP Risk Rating Methodology ² and Common Weakness Enumeration ³. The overall *severity* of the risk is determined by *likelihood* and *impact*. Specifically, likelihood is used to estimate how likely a particular vulnerability can be uncovered and exploited by an attacker, while impact is used to measure the consequences of a successful exploit.

High High Medium

Low Medium Low

High Low

Likelihood

Table 1.1: Vulnerability Severity Classification

In this report, both likelihood and impact are categorized into two ratings, i.e., *high* and *low* respectively, and their combinations are shown in Table 1.1.

Accordingly, the severity measured in this report are classified into three categories: **High**, **Medium**, **Low**. For the sake of completeness, **Undetermined** is also used to cover circumstances when the risk cannot be well determined.

Furthermore, the status of a discovered item will fall into one of the following four categories:

- Undetermined No response yet.
- Acknowledged The item has been received by the client, but not confirmed yet.

²https://owasp.org/www-community/OWASP_Risk_Rating_Methodology

³https://cwe.mitre.org/



- **Confirmed** The item has been recognized by the client, but not fixed yet.
- **Fixed** The item has been confirmed and fixed by the client.

Chapter 2 Findings

In total, we found **one** potential security issue. Besides, we have **four** recommendations and **four** notes.

- Low Risk: 1

- Recommendation: 4

- Note: 4

ID	Severity	Description	Category	Status
1	Low	Potential precision loss in function getPendingDistributionAmount()	Software Secu- rity	Fixed
2	-	Remove unused state variables	Recommendation	Fixed
3	-	Add checks for constructor parameters	Recommendation	Fixed
4	-	Add checks for parameters in function callTargets()	Recommendation	Fixed
5	-	Refactor for gas optimizations	Recommendation	Fixed
6	-	Potential centralization risks	Note	-
7	-	Discrepancies in exchange rates when purchasing validator tokens	Note	-
8	-	Inconsistency in return values of contract functions	Note	-
9	-	Potential DoS due to Aera Vault configuration changes	Note	-

The details are provided in the following sections.

2.1 Software Security

2.1.1 Potential precision loss in function getPendingDistributionAmount()

Severity Low

Status Fixed in Version 2

Introduced by Version 1

Description In the contract PufferRevenueDepositor, the function

getPendingDistributionAmount() calculates the pending distribution amount to be subtracted from the totalAssets of the contract PufferVault. This calculation uses the proportion of the remaining time within the reward distribution window to determine the appropriate amount.

A loss of precision can occur when the last deposit amount of rewards is small. This can result in a smaller return value of function <code>getPendingDistributionAmount()</code>. In this case, the increase of the exchange rate for <code>pufETH</code> would be slightly higher than expected.

```
function getPendingDistributionAmount() public view returns (uint256) {
   RevenueDepositorStorage storage $ = _getRevenueDepositorStorage();
   uint256 rewardsDistributionWindow = $.rewardsDistributionWindow;
}
```



```
85
         // If the rewards distribution window is not set, return 0 to avoid division by 0
86
         // This also means that the deposits are instant
87
         if (rewardsDistributionWindow == 0) {
             return 0;
88
89
90
         uint256 timePassed = block.timestamp - $.lastDepositTimestamp;
91
92
         uint256 remainingTime = rewardsDistributionWindow - Math.min(timePassed,
             rewardsDistributionWindow);
93
94
         return $.lastDepositAmount * remainingTime / rewardsDistributionWindow;
95
     }
```

Listing 2.1: mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositor.sol

Impact In the case of precision loss, the exchange rate of pufETH may be higher than expected.

Suggestion When calculating the return value in the function getPendingDistributionAmount(), perform rounding up to avoid precision loss.

2.2 Additional Recommendation

2.2.1 Remove unused state variables

Status Fixed in Version 2

Introduced by Version 1

Description In the contract PufferRevenueDepositorStorage, there are unused state variables in the contract PufferRevenueDepositor. Specifically, the fields restakingOperators, rNORewardsBps, and treasureRewardsBps in the struct RevenueDepositorStorage are unused.

```
struct RevenueDepositorStorage {
23
24
          * @notice Restaking operators.
25
          */
26
         EnumerableSet.AddressSet restakingOperators;
27
28
          * Onotice RNO rewards in bps.
29
          */
30
         uint128 rNORewardsBps;
31
         /**
32
          * Onotice Treasury rewards in bps.
33
         */
34
         uint128 treasuryRewardsBps;
35
36
          * @notice Last deposit timestamp.
37
          */
38
         uint48 lastDepositTimestamp;
39
40
          * Onotice Rewards distribution window.
41
```



```
42 uint104 rewardsDistributionWindow;
43 /**
44 * @notice Last deposit amount.
45 */
46 uint104 lastDepositAmount;
47 }
```

Listing 2.2: mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositorStorage.sol

Suggestion Remove the unused state variables.

2.2.2 Add checks for constructor parameters

```
Status Fixed in Version 2 Introduced by Version 1
```

Description In the contract PufferRevenueDepositor, parameters are not checked in the constructor. As the variables are immutable, it is recommended to check the parameters in the constructor.

Likewise, in the contract ValidatorTicket, there is a missing check for the operationsMultisig parameter.

```
57 constructor(address vault, address weth, address aeraVault) {
58     PUFFER_VAULT = PufferVaultV4(payable(vault));
59     AERA_VAULT = IAeraVault(aeraVault);
60     WETH = IWETH(weth);
61     _disableInitializers();
62 }
```

Listing 2.3: mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositor.sol

```
72
     constructor(
73
         address payable guardianModule,
74
         address payable treasury,
75
         address payable pufferVault,
76
         IPufferOracle pufferOracle,
77
         address operationsMultisig
78
     ) {
79
         if (
80
             guardianModule == address(0) || treasury == address(0) || pufferVault == address(0)
81
                || address(pufferOracle) == address(0)
82
         ) {
83
             revert InvalidData();
84
85
         PUFFER_ORACLE = pufferOracle;
86
         GUARDIAN_MODULE = guardianModule;
87
         PUFFER_VAULT = pufferVault;
88
         TREASURY = treasury;
89
         OPERATIONS_MULTISIG = operationsMultisig;
90
         _disableInitializers();
91
     }
```

Listing 2.4: mainnet-contracts/src/ValidatorTicket.sol



Suggestion Add sufficient checks for constructor parameters.

2.2.3 Add checks for parameters in function callTargets()

Status Fixed in Version 2 **Introduced by** Version 1

Description In the function callTargets() of the contract PufferRevenueDepositor, the lengths of the targets and data parameter is not checked.

```
function callTargets(address[] calldata targets, bytes[] calldata data) external restricted {
   for (uint256 i = 0; i < targets.length; ++i) {
        // nosemgrep arbitrary-low-level-call
        (bool success,) = targets[i].call(data[i]);
        require(success, TargetCallFailed());
    }
   l60  }
   l61 }</pre>
```

Listing 2.5: mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositor.sol

Suggestion Add sanity checks to ensure that the lengths of the targets and data are the same.

2.2.4 Refactor for gas optimizations

Status Fixed in Version 2 Introduced by Version 1

Description In the function purchaseValidatorTicket() of the contract ValidatorTicket, the load of the validator ticket storage can be delayed as the function may return early on Line 129. This can help to save the extra gas cost of storage loads.

```
108
      function purchaseValidatorTicket(address recipient)
109
          external
110
          payable
111
          virtual
112
          restricted
113
          returns (uint256 mintedAmount)
114
115
          ValidatorTicket storage $ = _getValidatorTicketStorage();
116
117
          uint256 mintPrice = PUFFER_ORACLE.getValidatorTicketPrice();
118
          mintedAmount = (msg.value * 1 ether) / mintPrice; // * 1 ether is to upscale amount to 18
              decimals
119
120
          // slither-disable-next-line divide-before-multiply
121
          _mint(recipient, mintedAmount);
122
123
          // If we are over the burst threshold, keep everything
          // That means that pufETH holders are not getting any new rewards until it goes under the
124
              threshold
          if (PUFFER_ORACLE.isOverBurstThreshold()) {
125
```



```
126
              // Everything goes to the treasury
127
             TREASURY.sendValue(msg.value);
128
              emit DispersedETH({ treasury: msg.value, guardians: 0, vault: 0 });
129
             return mintedAmount;
130
          }
131
132
          uint256 treasuryAmount = _sendETH(TREASURY, msg.value, $.protocolFeeRate);
133
          uint256 guardiansAmount = _sendETH(GUARDIAN_MODULE, msg.value, $.guardiansFeeRate);
134
          uint256 vaultAmount = msg.value - (treasuryAmount + guardiansAmount);
135
          // The remainder belongs to PufferVault
136
          PUFFER_VAULT.sendValue(vaultAmount);
137
          emit DispersedETH({ treasury: treasuryAmount, guardians: guardiansAmount, vault:
              vaultAmount });
138
      }
```

Listing 2.6: mainnet-contracts/src/ValidatorTicket.sol

Suggestion Refactor the corresponding code segment to reduce gas costs.

2.3 Note

2.3.1 Potential centralization risks

Introduced by Version 1

Description In this upgrade of the Puffer protocol, all the rewards for the entire protocol would be gradually released through the contract PufferRevenueDepositor. The speed of gradual release is controlled by the parameter rewardDistributionWindow, therefore, changing this variable can directly affect the exchange rate of the pufETH.

```
function getPendingDistributionAmount() public view returns (uint256) {
81
         RevenueDepositorStorage storage $ = _getRevenueDepositorStorage();
82
83
         uint256 rewardsDistributionWindow = $.rewardsDistributionWindow;
84
85
         // If the rewards distribution window is not set, return 0 to avoid division by 0
86
         // This also means that the deposits are instant
87
         if (rewardsDistributionWindow == 0) {
88
            return 0;
89
         }
90
91
         uint256 timePassed = block.timestamp - $.lastDepositTimestamp;
92
         uint256 remainingTime = rewardsDistributionWindow - Math.min(timePassed,
             rewardsDistributionWindow);
93
94
         return $.lastDepositAmount * remainingTime / rewardsDistributionWindow;
95
     }
```

Listing 2.7: mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositor.sol

Feedback from the Project We are in the process of decentralization. Recently, we had our TGE, and we are slowly revising the DAO parameters in our protocol. At the moment, our OPS



Multisig has the power to change this parameter, but eventually, it will be a governance decision.

2.3.2 Discrepancies in exchange rates when purchasing validator tokens

Introduced by Version 1

Description The contract ValidatorTicket introduces the functionality that allows users to purchase validator tickets using pufETH. When buying with pufETH tokens, these tokens are burnt which results in an increase in the pufETH exchange rate (Line 295). Although purchasing VTs with either ETH or pufETH results in rewards for pufETH holders through exchange rate increases, the magnitude of the rate change differs between the two methods. The following is an example to illustrate the discrepancy:

Suppose the current exchange rate is 2, and the contract PufferVault holds 200 ETH as the totalAssets, and the total supply ofpufETH is 100. Each VT is priced at 1 ETH.

A user attempts to buy 10 VTs with the following two options:

- Buy with ETH. The rate after the purchase is 210/100 = 2.1
- Buy with pufETH. The rate after the purchase is 200/95 = 2.105, higher than the first option.

This discrepancy stems from the difference in the changes of the total supply of pufETH. While both options provide the same rewards (10 Ether), the second option decreases the total supply of tokens eligible to split rewards, leading to a higher exchange rate than the first one.

```
266
      function _processPurchaseValidatorTicketWithPufETH(address recipient, uint256 vtAmount)
267
          internal
268
          returns (uint256 pufEthUsed)
269
270
          require(recipient != address(0), RecipientIsZeroAddress());
271
272
          uint256 mintPrice = PUFFER_ORACLE.getValidatorTicketPrice();
273
274
          uint256 requiredETH = vtAmount.mulDiv(mintPrice, 1 ether, Math.Rounding.Ceil);
275
276
          pufEthUsed = PufferVaultV3(PUFFER_VAULT).convertToSharesUp(requiredETH);
277
278
          IERC20(PUFFER_VAULT).transferFrom(msg.sender, address(this), pufEthUsed);
279
280
          _mint(recipient, vtAmount);
281
282
          // If we are over the burst threshold, send everything to the treasury
283
          if (PUFFER_ORACLE.isOverBurstThreshold()) {
284
             IERC20(PUFFER_VAULT).transfer(TREASURY, pufEthUsed);
285
             emit DispersedPufETH({ treasury: pufEthUsed, guardians: 0, burned: 0 });
             return pufEthUsed;
286
287
          }
288
289
          ValidatorTicket storage $ = _getValidatorTicketStorage();
290
291
          uint256 treasuryAmount = _sendPufETH(TREASURY, pufEthUsed, $.protocolFeeRate);
292
          uint256 guardiansAmount = _sendPufETH(OPERATIONS_MULTISIG, pufEthUsed, $.guardiansFeeRate);
293
          uint256 burnAmount = pufEthUsed - (treasuryAmount + guardiansAmount);
```



Listing 2.8: mainnet-contracts/src/ValidatorTicket.sol

Feedback from the Project The implementation of this feature serves a strategic purpose in mitigating withdrawal pressure, thereby circumventing the necessity for complex validator provisioning and exit procedures typically associated with liquidity management during withdrawal events.

There exists an inverse relationship between validator quantity, Annual Percentage Yield (APY), and Validator Ticket (VT) pricing. Specifically, as the number of validators increases, both the APY and VT price experience a corresponding decrease. While the price discrepancy becomes more pronounced with larger-scale VT acquisitions, the gradual depreciation in VT pricing renders substantial single purchases economically suboptimal.

A more strategic approach involves implementing a "validate-as-you-go" methodology, wherein smaller, incremental purchases significantly reduce pricing disparities. Although the current framework may present certain challenges for Node Operators (NoOps), it ultimately benefits pufETH token holders. The protocol's success fundamentally depends on maintaining robust liquidity, which is primarily facilitated by pufETH holders. While institutional NoOps typically aim to maximize validator deployment, we have strategically prioritized retail participants and pufETH stakeholders

2.3.3 Inconsistency in return values of contract functions

Introduced by Version 1

Description In the contract ValidatorTicket, the semantics of the return values of the functions purchaseValidatorTicket() and purchaseValidatorTicketWithPufETH() are inconsistent. Specifically, the return value of the function purchaseValidatorTicket() is the **amount of validator tickets purchased**, but the function purchaseValidatorTicketWithPufETH() returns the **total amount of pufETH used**.

Feedback from the Project Yes, this behavior is intentional. The goal is to provide a functionality where users can specify the number of Validator Tickets (VT) they want to purchase, and the system calculates the required amount of ETH accordingly. However, the

purchaseValidatorTicket method is not suitable for this, as it doesn't allow you to determine the exact ETH required at the time of the transaction. Additionally, any off-chain estimations may differ from the actual on-chain requirement, potentially leading to refund scenarios, which add complexity.

On the other hand, the <u>purchaseValidatorTicketWithPufETH</u> method addresses this issue. It allows users to approve a larger amount of pufETH and deduct only what is actually needed.



This ensures smoother processing and avoids the complications of handling refunds. Hence this design choice.

2.3.4 Potential DoS due to Aera Vault configuration changes

Introduced by Version 1

Description In the contract PufferRevenueDepositor, the function withdrawAndDeposit() first withdraws from Aera Vault, with the amount specified as the balance of the Aera Vault. Then, the function deposits the withdrawn tokens to the contract PufferVaultV4.

However, in the contract AeraVaultV2, the function withdraw() would check if the asset holdings of the vault exceeds the amount specified in the parameter. On calculating the holdings of the assets for the vault, if the token is specified as fee token, the fees would be calculated and deducted from the holdings.

Currently, the Aera Vault used by the contract PufferRevenueDepositor is configured with zero fee. If the vault is to be changed or the configuration is changed, there is a potential issue that the funds in the Aera Vault cannot be withdrawn with the function withdrawAndDeposit().

```
138
      function withdrawAndDeposit() external restricted {
139
          AssetValue[] memory assets = new AssetValue[](1);
140
          assets[0] = AssetValue({ asset: IERC20(address(WETH)), value: WETH.balanceOf(address())
141
              AERA_VAULT)) });
142
143
          // Withdraw WETH to this contract
144
          AERA_VAULT.withdraw(assets);
145
146
          _depositRevenue();
147
      }
```

Listing 2.9: mainnet-contracts/src/PufferRevenueDepositor.sol

```
742
      function _checkWithdrawRequest(
743
          IAssetRegistry.AssetInformation[] memory assets,
744
          AssetValue[] memory amounts
745
      ) internal view {
746
          uint256 numAmounts = amounts.length;
747
748
          AssetValue[] memory assetAmounts = _getHoldings(assets);
749
750
          bool isRegistered;
751
          AssetValue memory assetValue;
752
          uint256 assetIndex;
753
754
          for (uint256 i = 0; i < numAmounts;) {</pre>
755
              assetValue = amounts[i];
756
              (isRegistered, assetIndex) =
                  _isAssetRegistered(assetValue.asset, assets);
757
758
759
              if (!isRegistered) {
760
                 revert Aera__AssetIsNotRegistered(assetValue.asset);
```



```
761
              }
762
763
              if (assetAmounts[assetIndex].value < assetValue.value) {</pre>
764
                  revert Aera__AmountExceedsAvailable(
765
                      assetValue.asset,
766
                      assetValue.value,
                      assetAmounts[assetIndex].value
767
768
                  );
769
770
              unchecked {
771
                  i++; // gas savings
772
773
          }
774
      }
```

Listing 2.10: The function from Aera Vault:aera-contracts-public/v2/AeraVaultV2.sol

```
828
      function _getHoldings(IAssetRegistry.AssetInformation[] memory assets)
829
          internal
830
          view
831
          returns (AssetValue[] memory assetAmounts)
832
833
          uint256 numAssets = assets.length;
834
835
          assetAmounts = new AssetValue[](numAssets);
836
          IAssetRegistry.AssetInformation memory assetInfo;
837
838
          for (uint256 i = 0; i < numAssets;) {</pre>
839
              assetInfo = assets[i];
840
              assetAmounts[i] = AssetValue({
841
                  asset: assetInfo.asset,
842
                  value: assetInfo.asset.balanceOf(address(this))
              });
843
844
845
              if (assetInfo.asset == _feeToken) {
846
                  assetAmounts[i].value -=
847
                     Math.min(feeTotal, assetAmounts[i].value);
848
              }
849
850
              unchecked {
851
                  i++; //gas savings
852
              }
853
          }
854
      }
```

Listing 2.11: The function from Aera Vault:aera-contracts-public/v2/AeraVaultV2.sol

Feedback from the Project We can DDoS ourselves by changing the fee to > 0, but we can also change it back to 0, since we are the contract owners (Multisig through the contract PufferRevenuDepositor). Also, by design, our system is not taking anything from the rewards. We are taking a cut on VT sales.

