

AVA Labs Avalanche SDK Audit Report

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Date of Engagement: August 27th, 2021 - September 14th, 2021

Visit: Halborn.com

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DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

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| 1.1 | Remediation Plan | 09/23/2021 | Gabi Urrutia |

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

1.1 INTRODUCTION

AVA Labs engaged Halborn to conduct a security assessment on their **Avalanche** Software Development Kit beginning on August 27th and ending on September 14th, 2021.

Avalanche SDK is a JavaScript Library for interfacing with the Avalanche Platform. It allows users to issue commands to the Avalanche node APIs.

The security assessment was scoped to the Github repository of Avalanche SDK. An audit of the security risk and implications regarding the changes introduced by the development team at AVA Labs prior to its production release shortly following the assessments deadline.

Though this security audit's outcome is satisfactory, only the most essential aspects were tested and verified to achieve objectives and deliverable set in the scope due to time and resource constraints. It is essential to note the use of the best practices for secure SDK development.

1.2 AUDIT SUMMARY

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

The purpose of this audit to achieve the following:

- Ensure that Avalanche SDK functions are intended.
- Identify potential security issues with the Avalanche SDK.

In summary, Halborn identified few security risks that were addressed by AVA Labs Team.

1.3 TEST APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

Halborn performed a combination of manual and automated security testing to balance efficiency, timeliness, practicality, and accuracy in regard to the scope of the Avalanche SDK. While manual testing is recommended to uncover flaws in logic, process, and implementation; automated testing techniques help enhance coverage of structures and can quickly identify items that do not follow security best practices. The following phases and associated tools were used throughout the term of the audit:

- Research into architecture and purpose.
- Static Analysis of security for scoped SDK, and imported functions. (nodejsscan, Dependency-Check, eslint, LGTM)
- Manual Assessment for discovering security vulnerabilities on codebase.
- Ensuring correctness of the codebase. (jest)
- Dynamic Analysis on SDK functions and data types.
- Property based coverage-guided fuzzing. (jsfuzz)

RISK METHODOLOGY:

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

RISK SCALE - LIKELIHOOD

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

1 - Very unlikely issue will cause an incident.

RISK SCALE - IMPACT

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

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

| CRITICAL | HIGH | MEDIUM | LOW | INFORMATIONAL |
|----------|------|--------|-----|---------------|
|----------|------|--------|-----|---------------|

10 - CRITICAL

9 - 8 - HIGH

7 - 6 - MEDIUM

5 - 4 - LOW

3 - 1 - VERY LOW AND INFORMATIONAL

1.4 SCOPE

IN-SCOPE:

The security assessment was scoped to ava-labs/avalanchejs repository.

Commit ID: 8eddb4d35a0d7e2504aebb60f6812e378e6558c3

OUT-OF-SCOPE:

External libraries.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

IMPACT

2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY & FINDINGS OVERVIEW

| CRITICAL | HIGH | MEDIUM | LOW | INFORMATIONAL |
|----------|------|--------|-----|---------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |

LIKELIHOOD

(HAL-01) (HAL-02)

| SECURITY ANALYSIS | RISK LEVEL | REMEDIATION DATE |
|--|---------------|---------------------|
| UNFILTERED DATA CAN LEAD CROSS-SITE SCRIPTING | Low | SOLVED - 09/22/2021 |
| USE OF UNFILTERED HOST AND PROTOCOL | Low | SOLVED - 09/22/2021 |
| UNUSED VARIABLES | Informational | SOLVED - 09/22/2021 |

FINDINGS & TECH DETAILS

3.1 (HAL-01) UNFILTERED DATA CAN LEAD CROSS-SITE SCRIPTING - LOW

Description:

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks are a type of injection, in which malicious scripts are injected into otherwise benign and trusted websites. XSS attacks occur when an attacker uses a web application to send malicious code, generally in the form of a browser side script, to a different end user. Flaws that allow these attacks to succeed are quite widespread and occur anywhere a web application uses input from a user within the output it generates without validating or encoding it.

During the test, it is seen that there are no input/output filtering on the serialization and deserialization methods. The SDK may deserialize malicious content. There is a possibility to trigger Cross-Site Scripting vulnerability by reflecting deserialized data without filtering.

Code Location:

```
typeof fields["_typeID"] !== "undefined" &&
  fields["_typeID"] !== null
 if (typeof fields["_typeID"] !== "number") {
    throw new TypeIdError(
        typeof fields["_typeID"]
  if (fields["_typeID"] !== this._typeID) {
    throw new TypeIdError(
        fields["_typeID"]
}
if (
  typeof fields["_codecID"] !== "undefined" &&
  fields["_codecID"] !== null
) {
  if (typeof fields["_codecID"] !== "number") {
    throw new CodecIdError(
        typeof fields["_codecID"]
  if (fields["_codecID"] !== this._codecID) {
    throw new CodecIdError(
        fields["_codecID"]
 }
}
```

Risk Level:

Likelihood - 2 <u>Impact - 2</u>

Recommendations:

It is strongly recommended to filter the input and output fields that will be directed to the applications on the SDK. Generally, the process of filtering inputs and outputs is left to developers using the SDK. However, if this filtering is performed primarily on the SDK itself rather than the software using the SDK, this will create less workload for the developers and the usability of the Avalanchejs SDK will increase. Also, DOMPurify the powerful XSS sanitizer library that can be used on all inputs/outputs.

References:

OWASP Cross-Site Scripting DOMPurify

Remediation Plan:

SOLVED: AVA Labs Team solved the issue by including the DOMPurify library to the mentioned serialization/deserialization functions on this report.

Pull Request #343

https://github.com/ava-labs/avalanchejs/pull/343/files

3.2 (HAL-02) USE OF UNFILTERED HOST AND PROTOCOL - LOW

Description:

During the tests, a function called setAddress, which determines the Base URL, was found on the Avalanche SDK. There are a number of variables that determine the address on this function. These variables are as follows: protocol, host and port. Although, the following line looks secure at first sight and concatenates specified protocol with host:

```
Listing 2

1 let url: string = `${protocol}://${host}``
```

it is possible to remove the host variable by appending malicious chars to the protocol variable. For example:

```
Listing 3

1 protocol = 'data:text/html, <script>alert(1) </script>%00';
2 host = 'avax.network';
```

will be converted into the following item:

```
Listing 4

1 url = 'data:text/html, <script>alert(1) </script>%00://avax.network'
;
```

As a result, browsers will parse these URL and malicious content will be triggered.

Additionally, this attack scenario can be achievable with the host parameter and it may lead to possible URL redirects.

```
Listing 5

1 protocol = 'https';
2 host = 'www.avax.network:foobar@malicioussite.com'; // malicious
    part -> :foobar@malicioussite.com
3 url = 'https://www.avax.network:foobar@malicioussite.com';
```

In this attack scenario, the first part www.avax.network which is actual host was used as username. The colon character (:) has been used to specify there will be basic authentication on URL. The foobar string has been used as password. The at sign (@) also specifies the basic authentication to the following site which is malicioussite.com.

However, Avalanche SDK users will specify this url variable on their projects. Therefore, it will not be possible for any user to manipulate the url value.

Code Location:

Risk Level:

Likelihood - 2 Impact - 2

Recommendations:

The variables used on this function must filter characters such as @, :, %, < and > before using the data received from the user. In addition, it is recommended to use the white-listing method for protocol and host variables.

Remediation Plan:

SOLVED: AVA Labs Team solved the issue by removing symbols on host and protocol variables. Also, the whitelisting methodology has been applied to the protocol variable for forcing to use http or https as protocol.

Pull Request #341

https://github.com/ava-labs/avalanchejs/pull/341/files

3.3 (HAL-03) UNUSED VARIABLES - INFORMATIONAL

Description:

Variables that are declared and not used anywhere in the code are most likely an error due to incomplete refactoring. Such variables take up space in the code and can lead to confusion by readers. Unused variables can cause code clutter in the application.

In the static analysis part of the tests performed, it was determined that there were more than one unused variable on the Avalanche SDK.

Code Location:

```
Listing 7: src/apis/avm/api.ts (Lines 1104)

102 sourceChain = bintools.cb58Decode(sourceChain)

103 } else if (!(sourceChain instanceof Buffer)) {

104 srcChain = bintools.cb58Encode(sourceChain)
```

```
Listing 9: src/apis/evm/utxos.ts (Lines 504)

503 if (typeof success === "undefined") {

504 outs = aad.getChangeOutputs()
```

```
Listing 10: src/utils/payload.ts (Lines 46)

44 getTypeID(payload: Buffer): number {
45 let offset: number = 0
46 const size: number = bintools.copyFrom(payload, offset, 4).
```

readUInt32BE(0)

Risk Level:

Likelihood - 1 Impact - 1

Recommendations:

It is recommended to remove unused variables from the code.

Remediation Plan:

SOLVED: AVA Labs Team solved the issue by removing unused variables from the code base.

Pull Request #342

https://github.com/ava-labs/avalanchejs/pull/342/files

FUZZ TESTING

Description:

Fuzzing is a type of automated testing which continuously manipulates inputs to a program to find issues such as panics or bugs. These semirandom data mutations can discover new code coverage that existing unit tests may miss, and uncover edge case bugs which would otherwise go unnoticed. Since fuzzing can reach these edge cases, fuzz testing is particularly valuable for finding security exploits and vulnerabilities. The Halborn team worked in many fuzzing test cases.

4.1 PROPERTY BASED COVERAGE-GUIDED FUZZING

During the fuzzing tests, the Halborn team used the property based fuzzing with jsfuzz tool. Basically, all important functions were tested against crashes. To achieve this, multiple specific test cases were written for multiple .js files. Most important functions on the Avalanche SDK have passed the fuzzing tests.

Example Fuzzing Test Cases:

```
tests > JS fuzz_test2.js > 😭 fuzz
      const avalanchejs = require('avalanche');
      const binTools = avalanchejs.BinTools.getInstance()
      const myNetworkID = 12345
      const avalanche = new avalanchejs.Avalanche("localhost", 9650, "http", myNetworkID)
      const xchain = avalanche.XChain()
      const myKeychain = xchain.keyChain()
      function fuzz(buf) {
              binTools.cb58Decode(buf)
          } catch (e) {
              if (e.message.indexOf('ChecksumError:') !== -1
              || e.message.indexOf('invalid checksum')) {}
              else {
                   throw e;
              }
           fuzz
```

Fuzzing Progress:

```
#73 PULSE
#190 PULSE
#191 PULSE
#191 PULSE
#192 PULSE
#191 PULSE
#192 PULSE
#193 PULSE
#194 PULSE
#195 PULSE
#196 PULSE
#197 PULSE
#197 PULSE
#197 PULSE
#197 PULSE
#197 PULSE
#198 PULSE
#199 PULSE
#
```

Result:

As a result of the fuzzing tests performed at the input points of the SDK, it has been seen that **the application is safe against many fuzzing tests**. During the fuzzing process, **no crash has been happened**.

AUTOMATED TESTING

Description:

Halborn used automated testing techniques to enhance coverage of certain areas of the scoped items. Among the tools used ESLint, NodeJSScan, Jest and LGTM. ESLint tries to statically analyzes the code to quickly find problems related with JavaScript projects. NodeJSScan contains multiple security assessment tools in it such as Dependency-Scan of OWASP. Jest tool is already appended by AVA Labs Team on the project to state if functions working proper. Lastly, LGTM analyzes the entire history of a project, so you can see how your alerts have changed over time, and which specific events or commits had the biggest impact on your code quality. Also, it checks the codebase to find security vulnerabilities. After Halborn verified the codebase in the repository and was able to work on it correctly, all of these tools were run on the all-scoped structures. These tools can statically verify security related issues across the entire codebase.

5.1 ESLint

According to the following screenshots, there could be multiple improvements on the codebase. It has been decided to not to put these issues on the report in details because these issues do not pose any security risk.

These improvements are listed below:

- 1. Removing Unused Variables
- 2. Adding return type to functions
- 3. Changing "any" keyword to specific data type

Figure 1: ESLint Results - 1

26

Figure 2: ESLint Results - 2

```
125:20 warning Generic Object Injection Sink security/detect-object-injection 136:20 warning Generic Object Injection Sink security/detect-object-injection Sink Security/detect-object-
```

/home/ziion/Desktop/clients/AVA/files/avalanchejs/src/index.ts

Figure 3: ESLint Results - 3

5.2 Jest

As a result of the tests carried out with **Jest**, it has been decided the project has average code coverage. Also, completed tests have shown that some functions run slower than others.

```
PASS tests/apis/evm/outputs.test.ts
Inputs
✓ EVMOutput comparator (11 ms)
PASS tests/apis/platformvm/outputs.test.ts
   Outputs
SECPTransferOutput
        CPIransTeroutput✓ SelectOutputClass (22 ms)✓ comparator (1 ms)✓ SECPTransferOutput (16 ms)
PASS tests/apis/avm/types.test.ts
  UnixNow

Does it return the right time? (1 ms)
PASS tests/apis/avm/genesisasset.test.ts
PASS tests/apis/auth/api.test.ts
Auth
PASS tests/apis/avm/genesisdata.test.ts
PASS tests/apis/metrics/api.test.ts
   Metrics
✓ getMetrics (3 ms)
PASS tests/utils/pubsub.test.ts
   PubSub

/ newSet (1 ms)

/ newBloom

/ addAddresses (1 ms)
PASS tests/utils/db.test.ts
DB

/ instantiate singletone (1 ms)
Test Suites: 36 passed, 36 total
Tests: 470 passed, 470 total
Snapshots: 0 total
Time: 150.495 s
Ran all test suites. ___
```

Figure 4: Jest

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5.3 NodeJSScan

As a result of the scans completed with NodeJSScan, many tests were carried out and some issue outputs were produced as a result of these tests. These generated issues were analyzed manually. It has been decided that these issues are not real security vulnerabilities and they do not risk security of the Wallet SDK. As one of the important security assessments of NodeJSScan that is OWASP Dependency-Scan, it is seen that used libraries are safe.



Figure 5: NodeJSScan Results

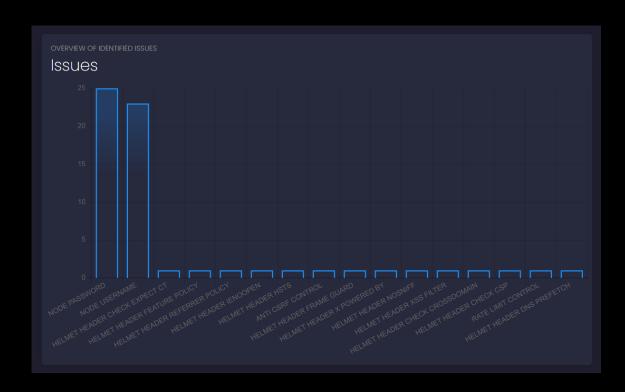


Figure 6: NodeJSScan Results

5.4 LGTM

The project has been security scanned with LGTM and results similar to ESLint outputs have been achieved. As a result of the scans with this tool, no security vulnerabilities were found. During the tests with this tool, only **Unused Variables** findings were reached. The reason for scanning the project publicly with LGTM is that the Github repository is a public repository.

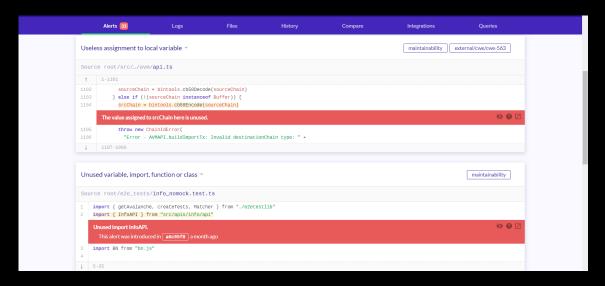


Figure 7: LGTM Scan

Scan results can be accessed via the link below:

Scan Results - LGTM

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING

