Smart Contract Security Audit Report

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1 PasswordStore Security Audit

1.1 1. [High Severity] Sensitive Data Exposure: On-Chain Storage of Passwords

1.1.1 Description

The PasswordStore contract stores user passwords in the private variable PasswordStore::s_password. While declared private in Solidity, all on-chain data is inherently transparent and publicly accessible via node RPC, blockchain explorers, or direct storage inspection.

This directly violates the intended privacy and confidentiality of the stored password — anyone can extract the plaintext password from contract storage without needing to call the PasswordStore::getPassword() function, which is protected by an ownership check.

1.1.2 Impact

• **Privacy Violation:** Passwords stored on-chain are retrievable by anyone, compromising the protocol's functional promise of confidentiality.

- Loss of Trust: Storing sensitive data in plaintext on-chain can erode user trust, especially for privacy-preserving applications.
- Data Leakage: Sensitive data may remain permanently exposed on-chain, creating irreversibility in confidentiality breaches.

1.1.3 Proof of Concept

The following steps demonstrate how any user can retrieve the password directly from blockchain storage, bypassing Solidity-level visibility restrictions.

1.1.3.1 Steps

1. Start a local blockchain:

make anvil

2. Deploy the contract:

make deploy

3. Read storage directly:

cast storage <CONTRACT_ADDRESS> 1 --rpc-url http://127.0.0.1:8545

Example output:

4. Parse the password:

Output:

myPassword

1.1.4 Recommended Mitigation

1. Off-chain Encryption:

- Encrypt passwords off-chain using user-controlled keys.
- Store ciphertext on-chain instead of plaintext.

2. Store Hashes Instead:

- Store a hash commitment (e.g., keccak256(password)) instead of the password.
- Use hash comparison or zero-knowledge proofs to verify knowledge without revealing the password.

3. Remove getPassword():

• Eliminate this retrieval function to prevent unintended data exposure.

1.2 2. [High Severity] Lack of Access Control on setPassword()

1.2.1 Description

The PasswordStore::setPassword() function is declared external but lacks any access control. Despite NatSpec implying that only the contract owner should update the password, no restriction is enforced.

```
function setPassword(string memory newPassword) external {
    s_password = newPassword;
    emit SetNetPassword();
}
```

1.2.2 Impact

- Confidentiality Violation: Any user can overwrite the password.
- Integrity Risk: Unauthorized users can hijack the password.
- Loss of Control: Owner loses exclusive control of sensitive data.

1.2.3 Proof of Concept

The following test verifies that any user can overwrite the password.

```
function test_anyone_can_set_password(address randomAddress) public {
   vm.assume(randomAddress != owner && randomAddress != address(0));
   vm.prank(randomAddress);
   string memory expectedPassword = "MyNewPassword";
   passwordStore.setPassword(expectedPassword);

   vm.prank(owner);
   string memory actualPassword = passwordStore.getPassword();
   assertEq(actualPassword, expectedPassword);
}
```

1.2.3.1 Code Example

1.2.4 Recommended Mitigation

1. Introduce Access Control Modifier:

```
modifier onlyOwner() {
    if (msg.sender != s_owner) {
        revert PasswordStore__NotOwner();
    }
    _;
}

function setPassword(string memory newPassword) external onlyOwner {
    s_password = newPassword;
```

```
emit SetNetPassword();
}
```

2. Alternative:

• Integrate OpenZeppelin's Ownable contract for standardized ownership control.

1.3 3. [Low Severity] Incorrect NatSpec on getPassword()

1.3.1 Description

The NatSpec for getPassword() incorrectly documents a parameter that does not exist:

```
/*
  * @notice This allows only the owner to retrieve the password.
  * @param newPassword The new password to set.
  */
function getPassword() external view returns (string memory) {
    if (msg.sender != s_owner) {
        revert PasswordStore__NotOwner();
    }
    return s_password;
}
```

1.3.2 Impact

- **Documentation Inaccuracy:** Misleading for developers, auditors, and automated documentation tools.
- Maintainability Risk: Increases the chance of misinterpretation of the function's purpose.

1.3.3 Recommended Mitigation

1. Correct NatSpec Documentation:

```
/**
 * @notice Returns the current password. Only callable by the owner.
 * @return The stored password.
 */
function getPassword() external onlyOwner view returns (string memory) {
   return s_password;
}
```

2. Consistency in Access Control:

• Apply the onlyOwner modifier to ensure consistent access patterns.

1.4 Conclusion

The PasswordStore contract demonstrates critical issues related to on-chain data privacy and access control. To align with best practices:

- Avoid storing sensitive data directly on-chain.
- Enforce strict access control on state-mutating functions.
- Ensure documentation accurately reflects function behavior.

Addressing these findings will significantly improve the contract's security posture and robustness against misuse or attacks.

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