

Rugsafe: A Protocol for Protecting Digital Assets from Rug Pulls

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Abstract

Rugsafe introduces a novel protocol designed to mitigate the risks associated with rug pulls in decentralized finance (DeFi). By leveraging cryptographic primitives and economic incentives, Rugsafe provides a framework that ensures the security and recoverability of assets when fraudulent activities are detected. The protocol revolves around the concept of vaults for rugged tokens, issuance of anticon tokens as receipts, and a mechanism that regulates the supply of the native Rugsafe token in response to the volume of rugged tokens. Rugsafe integrates seamlessly with existing DeFi platforms, offering an additional layer of security without compromising the decentralization principles.

1 Overview

The Rugsafe protocol enables users who hold rugged tokens, denoted as C_r , to deposit these tokens into a specialized vault V_c and receive anticon tokens, C_a , which serve as receipts, \mathcal{R} . The supply of Rugsafe's native token, R , is regulated based on the total value of rugged tokens in existence.

2 Definition of a Rug Pull

A rug pull is a deceptive practice in the cryptocurrency and decentralized finance (DeFi) space, where the creators of a token, referred to as the "rug token," exploit the trust of users to siphon off liquidity and leave the victims holding worthless tokens.

2.1 Mechanism of a Rug Pull

1. **Creation of the Rug Token:** The token creator mints a large supply of a new token, the "rug token." The creator initially provides liquidity by pairing this rug token with another, more liquid token (e.g., ETH, USDC) and deposits both into a liquidity pool.

2. **Attracting Liquidity:** As users begin to deposit their liquid tokens into the liquidity pool, believing in the legitimacy of the rug token, the pool’s liquidity increases. Users typically deposit into the pool to earn trading fees or staking rewards.

3. **Exploitation:** The token creator, who retains a significant portion of the rug token supply, waits until sufficient liquidity has been added by users. The creator then uses their large supply of rug tokens to swap out all the liquid tokens from the pool.

Rug Creator’s Swap = Large Supply of Rug Token \rightarrow Withdrawal of All Liquid Tokens

4. **Outcome for Victims:** After the swap, the liquidity pool is drained of its valuable liquid tokens, leaving the victims holding a large number of rug tokens that are now worthless. The victims are left with an illiquid and devalued asset, while the creator absconds with the liquid tokens.

Victim’s Holding = Rug Token (Now Worthless)

2.2 Impact and Prevention

The practice of rug pulling is highly damaging to the victims, as it results in the loss of their liquid tokens in exchange for a worthless asset. The Rugsafe protocol is designed to prevent such scenarios by introducing mechanisms that ensure tokens minted on the Rugsafe chain are rugproof by default.

Through mechanisms like bonding, claim processes, and community-driven challenge periods, the Rugsafe protocol provides a robust framework to protect users from potential rug pulls. By requiring issuers to post a bond at token issuance and allowing the community to challenge suspected rug pulls, the protocol empowers users to take proactive steps in safeguarding their investments.

By defining and understanding the mechanics of a rug pull, the importance of the Rugsafe protocol’s protective measures becomes clear. The protocol not only mitigates the risk of rug pulls but also creates a safer environment for the development and trading of new tokens within the ecosystem.

2.3 Vault Creation and Anticoin Issuance

When a vault V_c is created for a rugged token C_r , users can deposit C_r into this vault. Upon deposit, the protocol mints an equal amount of C_a tokens, which are credited to the user’s balance. These C_a tokens serve as a new, clean fungible token for the rugged victim, issued 1:1 with the underlying rugged token.

$$C_a = C_r \tag{1}$$

In addition to the 1:1 C_a tokens, the user may also receive a receipt, \mathcal{R} , in the form of a non-fungible token (NFT) or a refungible token (RFT). The 1:1 C_a token acts as a standard fungible token, fully transferable and tradable.

However, the receipt could also be issued as an NFT, representing a unique claim on the deposited rugged tokens. Alternatively, the receipt can be an RFT, where an NFT representing the deposit is held by a contract. The contract then distributes shares of the NFT by issuing a fungible token that serves as representative shares of the underlying NFT.

The type of asset used as the receipt, whether fungible, non-fungible, or refungible, is parameterized at the time of vault creation, with the relationship expressed as:

$$\mathcal{R} = f(C_r, \tau)$$

where τ determines whether the receipt is a fungible token, an NFT, or an RFT. This provides flexibility depending on the specific use case or preferences of the depositor. The vaults are held in a central vault registry, ensuring that all interactions with rugged tokens are tracked and managed within the system. Regardless of the type of receipt issued, depositors always receive the 1:1 C_a tokens as a clean representation of their original rugged tokens.

2.4 Withdrawal Penalty Mechanism

If a user decides to withdraw their original rugged tokens C_r by depositing back their C_a , a penalty is incurred. A portion of the C_a tokens are deducted from the user's balance, and these penalized tokens are distributed among the remaining C_a holders.

$$C_{r,w} = C_{r,d} - P(C_a) \quad (2)$$

Where $P(C_a)$ represents the penalty, which scales according to the amount of C_r originally deposited, d . The penalty mechanism incentivizes holding C_a longer, as the remaining holders benefit from these penalties.

2.5 Supply Regulation Mechanism

The protocol regulates the supply of the native Rugsafe token R based on the total value of all rugged tokens C_r in existence. The supply of the Rugsafe token is inversely related to the sum of the values of these rugged tokens, adjusted logarithmically:

$$R_{\text{supply}} \propto \frac{1}{\log(\sum C_r)} \quad (3)$$

This mechanism ensures that as more tokens are rugged, the supply of R becomes increasingly scarce, potentially enhancing its value and stability within the ecosystem.

In addition to this scarcity mechanism, the native chain introduces emissions of Rugsafe tokens R per block produced, as it operates on the Cosmos SDK framework. This implies that the total supply of R is influenced by two opposing

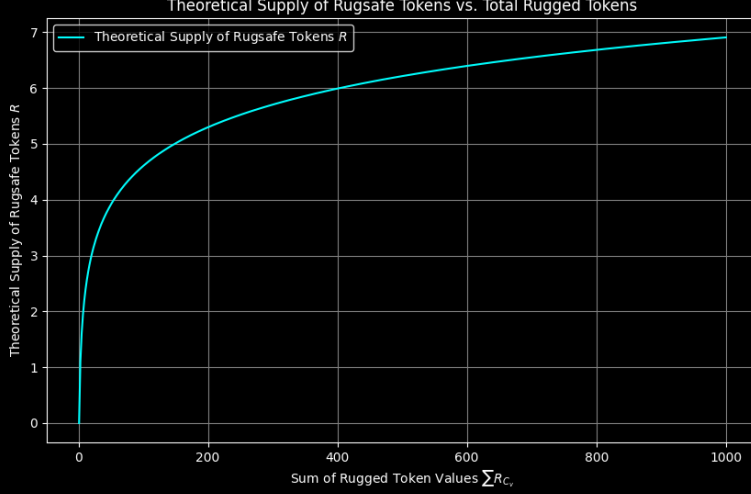


Figure 1: The logarithmic relationship between the theoretical supply of Rugsafe tokens R and the sum of rugged token values $\sum C_r$. This relationship underscores how the supply of R is regulated based on the value of rugged tokens in existence, ensuring stability and scarcity.

forces: the burning of tokens R_β and the minting of new tokens R_{mint} through block emissions.

The rate of token burning is governed by the inverse relationship with the total value of rugged tokens C_r in existence:

$$R_\beta \propto \frac{1}{\log(\sum R_{C_v})}$$

Simultaneously, the protocol continuously mints new tokens at a rate proportional to the number of blocks produced:

$$R_{\text{mint}} = \epsilon \times b$$

where `emission_rate` is a parameter that determines the number of Rugsafe tokens emitted per block.

The net change in the supply of Rugsafe tokens R_{net} over time is the difference between the tokens minted and burned:

$$R_{\text{net}} = R_\epsilon - R_\beta$$

Both the burn rate R_β and the emission rate per block R_ϵ are parameterized and can be adjusted through community governance:

$$R_\beta = f\left(\frac{1}{\log(\sum R_{C_v})}, \beta_{\text{burn}}\right)$$

and to calculate the amount minted, we can take the emission rate per block, multiplied by the amount of blocks considered,

$$R_\beta = g(\epsilon, \text{blocks})$$

This flexibility allows the community to respond to changing market conditions and fine-tune the protocol to achieve the desired balance between token scarcity and availability. By giving the community control over these parameters, the protocol ensures that it can adapt over time, maintaining the health and stability of the Rugsafe ecosystem.

2.6 Anticoin Role and Market Interaction

At the time of vault creation, the protocol mints C_a tokens in a 1:1 ratio with the deposited rugged tokens C_r . These C_a tokens serve as a clean, fungible representation of the rugged tokens, providing users with a new asset that can be freely traded or held. The value of C_a tokens is determined entirely by market forces, m_f , allowing the broader ecosystem to establish their worth relative to other assets.

The C_a tokens function purely as receipts for the deposited rugged tokens and do not undergo any price adjustments or pegging mechanisms. This approach ensures that the protocol remains simple and transparent, with the market dictating the value of C_a based on supply and demand dynamics.

2.7 User Interaction and Ecosystem Signaling

When users deposit rugged tokens C_r into a vault V_c , they receive C_a tokens as a direct and clean representation of their deposited rugged tokens. The relationship between the deposited tokens and the minted C_a tokens is given by:

$$C_a = C_r$$

These C_a tokens function as receipts, representing the ownership and claim on the underlying rugged tokens. The C_a tokens are fungible and can be freely used within the ecosystem, whether for trading, holding, or as collateral in other DeFi applications. The presence of C_a tokens within the market serves as a signal that the user has deposited rugged tokens into the protocol, effectively transforming C_r into a new, market-driven asset.

The market value of C_a tokens is influenced by several factors, including:

1. **Market Supply and Demand:** The value of C_a tokens, P_{C_a} , is determined by the market, where supply and demand dynamics play a crucial role:

$$P_{C_a} = f(S_{C_a}, D_{C_a})$$

As the demand for C_a tokens increases relative to their supply, the market value P_{C_a} will rise, and vice versa.

2. Underlying Value of Rugged Tokens: The value of C_a tokens is also indirectly linked to the perceived value of the underlying rugged tokens C_r . If the market expects that the rugged tokens C_r might regain value in the future, the value of C_a could increase accordingly:

$$P_{C_a} \propto E(P_{C_r})$$

where $E(P_{C_r})$ is the expected future value of the rugged tokens.

3. Liquidity and Utility: The utility of C_a tokens within the ecosystem—such as their use as collateral, in trading pairs, or in yield farming—contributes to their liquidity and market value. The more integrated and useful C_a tokens are within the DeFi space, the higher their market value:

$$P_{C_a} = g(U_{C_a}, L_{C_a})$$

The protocol does not enforce any actions related to burning or altering the supply of C_a tokens. Instead, the focus is on providing a straightforward receipt mechanism that empowers users to manage their assets independently within the ecosystem. This means that C_a tokens remain purely market-driven assets, with their value being dictated by market conditions and the broader DeFi ecosystem.

Users may choose to hold C_a tokens, anticipating a rise in value due to market demand or the recovery of the underlying rugged tokens. Alternatively, they might trade or leverage C_a in other DeFi applications, thereby influencing its liquidity and market presence.

This design choice simplifies the user experience while maintaining the integrity and transparency of the protocol. The absence of enforced mechanisms like burning or minting ensures that the value of C_a tokens is wholly determined by the market, reflecting real-time supply and demand conditions within the ecosystem.

2.8 Opportunities for New Ecosystems

The Rugsafe protocol’s structure introduces significant opportunities for developers and communities associated with rugged tokens C_r . Each rugged token C_r represents an ecosystem that anticipated a specific offering or vision to materialize within the market. The issuance of C_a tokens as a clean, fungible representation of C_r provides these communities with a renewed opportunity to realize their original goals.

By depositing rugged tokens C_r into a vault V_c , the protocol mints C_a tokens in a 1:1 ratio:

$$C_a = C_r$$

These C_a tokens, backed by provable deposits of the original underlying rugged tokens, allow communities to reintroduce their vision to the market under new terms. The C_a tokens can be traded, utilized as collateral, or integrated into new decentralized finance (DeFi) applications, thereby reviving the ecosystem that was initially disrupted.

The presence of C_a tokens in the market not only provides a second chance for these communities but also creates new financial products and services tailored to support the specific needs of rug pull victims. Developers can leverage this mechanism to build applications that cater to these communities, effectively transforming C_r from a symbol of loss into a foundation for new economic activity.

Quantifying the impact, if N is the total number of rugged tokens and M represents the market value of each token, the introduction of C_a creates a new market potential:

$$\text{Market Potential} = \sum_{i=1}^N M_i \cdot C_{a,i}$$

This market potential signifies the total value that can be recaptured or reintroduced into the ecosystem through C_a tokens, providing a substantial incentive for developers and communities to participate in the Rugsafe protocol. The resulting ecosystem could not only restore lost value but also innovate new financial instruments and services, revitalizing the original vision of the rugged projects.

2.9 User Commitment and Signal to the Ecosystem

Depositing C_r into a vault V_c and receiving C_a tokens signals the user's belief that C_r is a rugged token. This action converts the rugged tokens into a new, clean representation within the ecosystem. To demonstrate a stronger commitment to the protocol, users can choose to burn their C_a tokens, effectively removing them from circulation. This act of burning is a significant signal within the ecosystem.

The burning process can be represented as:

$$\text{Signal} = \text{Burn}(C_a)$$

Mathematically, the burning mechanism reduces the circulating supply of C_a tokens, which can be expressed as:

$$C'_a = C_a - B_{C_a}$$

where C'_a is the circulating supply of C_a after the burn, and B_{C_a} is the quantity of C_a tokens burned.

This reduction in supply impacts the overall market dynamics and is reflected in the inverse relationship between the value of the Rugsafe token R and the volume of rugged tokens C_r :

$$R_{\text{supply}} \propto \frac{1}{\log(\sum C_r)}$$

The act of burning C_a tokens strengthens this relationship by increasing the scarcity of C_a and consequently affecting the value of R . The more C_a is burned, the greater the signal of commitment to the protocol, potentially leading to a stronger inverse correlation between the value of R and the total rugged tokens C_r .

$$\frac{\partial R}{\partial C_a} < 0$$

This partial derivative indicates that as the circulating supply of C_a decreases (through burning), the value of R is expected to increase, further solidifying the protocol's stability and the commitment of its participants.

2.10 Rugsafe Vaults as Oracles

Rugsafe vaults act as decentralized oracles, providing reliable data on the existence and volume of rugged tokens. This oracle functionality enables the protocol to adjust the supply of R accurately and in real-time, based on the real-world data collected from the vaults.

2.11 Whale Penalty Mechanism

To prevent large holders (whales) from gaming the system, the penalty for withdrawing rugged tokens C_r scales with the amount of C_a held. This mechanism is inspired by quadratic voting schemes, where the penalty increases progressively as the holder's balance of C_a tokens grows, ensuring fairness and preventing manipulation.

The penalty $P(C_a)$ for withdrawing rugged tokens is mathematically represented as:

$$P(C_a) \propto (H_{C_a})^\lambda$$

where $\lambda > 1$ is a scaling factor that ensures the penalty increases non-linearly with the amount of C_a held.

2.11.1 Impact on Regular Users vs. Whales

For regular users, who typically hold smaller amounts of C_a , the penalty remains relatively low, as the function's exponent λ ensures that the penalty grows slowly with their holdings:

$$P_{\text{regular}}(C_a) = k \cdot (H_{C_a})^\lambda \quad \text{with } \lambda > 1 \quad \text{and } H_{C_a} \text{ small}$$

where k is a proportionality constant. For these users, the impact of the penalty is minimal, allowing them to interact with the protocol without significant costs, thus promoting fairness and inclusivity.

For whales, however, the penalty increases significantly due to their large holdings of C_a . As the amount of C_a held by a whale increases, the penalty grows more steeply:

$$P_{\text{whale}}(C_a) = k \cdot (H_{C_a})^\lambda \quad \text{with } \lambda > 1 \quad \text{and } H_{C_a} \text{ large}$$

This non-linear increase in penalty serves two purposes. First, it deters whales from attempting to manipulate the system by accumulating and withdrawing large amounts of C_r . Second, it ensures that whales, who may also be regular users of the protocol, are subject to the same rules but with penalties that reflect their larger influence on the system.

2.11.2 Equitable System Design

By scaling the penalty non-linearly with the amount of C_a held, as in figure 2, the system remains equitable for all users, regardless of their holdings. Regular users are protected from disproportionate penalties, while whales, whose actions could have a more significant impact on the system, face penalties commensurate with their holdings. This design discourages potential manipulation by large holders and promotes a more balanced and fair ecosystem for all participants.

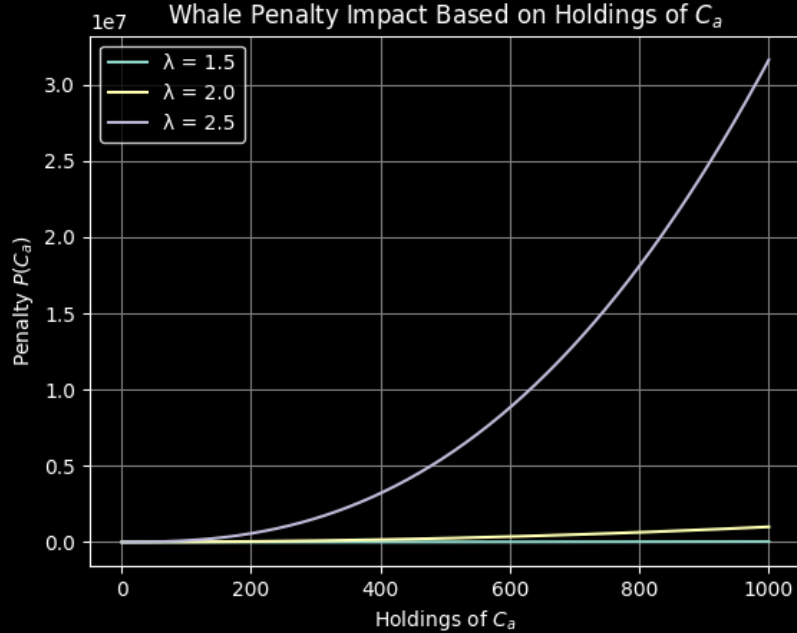


Figure 2: The impact of the whale penalty mechanism based on varying scaling factors λ . As λ increases, the penalty for holding larger amounts of C_a grows exponentially, particularly affecting whales with significant holdings.

2.12 Rugsafe Token Emissions and Parameterized Rewards Mechanism

The Rugsafe protocol introduces a mechanism that incentivizes users to deposit rugged tokens C_r into vaults V_c by providing rewards in the form of Rugsafe tokens R . These vaults, serving as oracles, verify the deposits of specific rugged tokens and trigger emissions of Rugsafe tokens on the main chain.

In addition to receiving C_a , the user is rewarded with an airdrop of Rugsafe tokens R on the main chain. The reward amount, R_ω , for depositing rugged tokens is parameterized at the time of vault creation and is expressed as a function of the value of the deposit:

$$R_\omega = f(C_r, \omega)$$

where ω is a parameter set during vault creation that determines the emission rate tied to the value of the deposited tokens.

Furthermore, the protocol introduces a greater incentive for users who choose to burn their C_a tokens, thereby signaling that they do not intend to redeem their underlying rugged tokens. The reward amount for burning, R_{burn} , is also parameterized at vault creation and is given by:

$$R_{\text{burn}} = g(C_a, \theta) \quad \text{with} \quad g(C_a, \theta) > f(C_r, \omega)$$

where θ is a parameter that sets a higher emission rate for burning C_a , indicating a permanent withdrawal of the rugged tokens from circulation.

Both the deposit and burn reward rates are flexible and can be tailored to the specific needs of the vault or community at the time of creation. This parameterization allows for customization of the incentives to align with the objectives of the protocol and the specific rugged token ecosystem.

This mechanism ensures that users are rewarded for contributing to the stability and security of the Rugsafe ecosystem. By depositing C_r into vaults and potentially burning C_a , users receive Rugsafe tokens, fostering further participation and engagement in the protocol. The difference in reward levels between depositing and burning reflects the varying degrees of commitment to the ecosystem, with greater rewards for those who choose to fully transition away from their rugged tokens.

2.13 Rugproof Mechanism

The Rugsafe chain introduces a novel mechanism that allows users to mint new assets directly on the chain, with the assurance that these assets are rugproof by default. This mechanism is designed to protect users from potential rug pulls by leveraging a bonding system and a community-driven challenge process.

2.13.1 Token Issuance and Bonding Mechanism

At the time of token issuance, the issuer is required to put up a nontrivial percentage $x\%$ of the total issued tokens as a bond:

$$\beta_{\text{issuer}} = x\% \times T_I$$

This bond acts as collateral, ensuring that the issuer has a stake in the integrity of the project. The bond is held in escrow and serves as a safeguard against potential rug pulls.

2.13.2 Claim and Challenge Process

At any point in time, any user can submit a claim against the token issuer, asserting that the project is being rugged. To submit a claim, the user must also put up a bond, β_{claim} , as a guarantee of their claim:

$$\beta_{\text{claim}} = y\% \times T_I$$

where $y\%$ is a parameter that may vary depending on the perceived risk or the specifics of the token.

Upon submitting a claim, a challenge period begins, during which other users can vote on whether the project is indeed rugging. Each vote requires a deposit, δ_{vote} , which can be chosen by the voter, though it may be smaller than the claim bond:

$$\delta_{\text{vote}} \geq z$$

where z is a minimum deposit amount set by the protocol.

2.13.3 Outcome of the Challenge Period

At the conclusion of the challenge period, the following outcomes are possible:

1. **Project Found to Be Rugging:** If the project is found to be rugging, the issuer's bond is slashed by a parameterized percentage, $\alpha\%$, and distributed among all token holders, excluding the issuer:

$$\beta_{\text{slashed}} = \alpha\% \times \beta_{\text{issuer}}$$

The user who successfully claimed the rug pull receives a larger portion of the slashed bond, with the remaining amount distributed among the users who supported the claim.

2. **Claim Found to Be Fraudulent:** If the claim is found to be fraudulent, the claim bond is slashed by a parameterized percentage, $\gamma\%$, and distributed to those who voted against the claim:

$$\beta_{\text{slashed}_{\text{claim}}} = \gamma\% \times \beta_{\text{claim}}$$

This process discourages false claims and encourages honest participation in the challenge process.

2.13.4 Incentives and Protection

This mechanism incentivizes users to carefully consider their actions when minting new assets and making claims. The initial bond posted by the issuer serves as a deterrent against rug pulls, while the challenge process allows the community to actively monitor and vote on the integrity of the project. By requiring bonds for claims and votes, the protocol ensures that participants have a stake in the outcome, reducing the likelihood of frivolous claims or votes.

By implementing this mechanism, the Rugsafe chain offers a robust, community-driven solution to protect users from potential rug pulls before they occur. This not only enhances the security of the ecosystem but also empowers users to take an active role in maintaining the integrity of the projects they support.

3 Closing Remarks

Rugsafe presents a robust mathematical framework designed to protect against rug pulls in the DeFi space. By combining vault mechanisms, anticon issuance, and incentive structures, it ensures a secure environment for digital asset management. The protocol's design not only protects users but also opens up new avenues for development and innovation in the DeFi ecosystem.