



Methods and Techniques of Smart Contract Security

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1

Learning Objectives

1. Brief Technical Review of Blockchain Mechanics
2. Types of attacks on blockchain network
3. How such attacks can be exploited.
4. Familiar with the key concepts of smart contract.
5. What specific audit elements to review and examine during a course of an IT audit?
6. Recognize the cybersecurity risks of smart contracts, and what controls can be implemented to minimize the risks from the use of smart contracts.

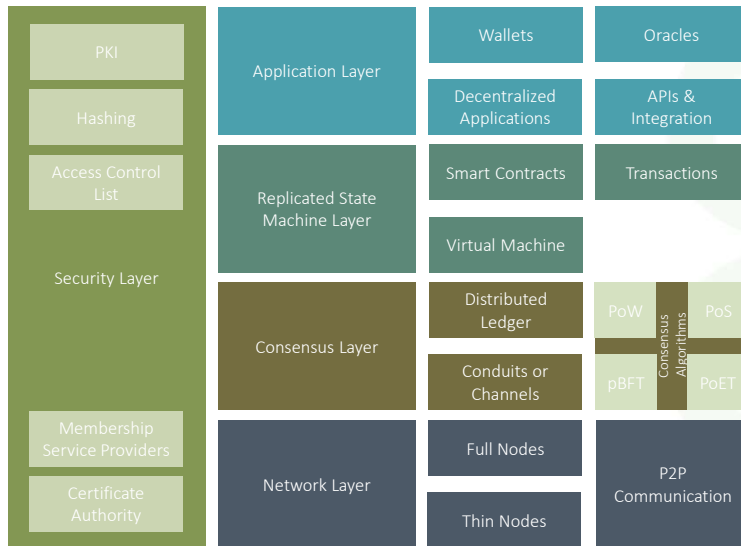
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2

2

Generic Blockchain Reference Architecture



- From ISACA Blockchain Framework and Guide: (<https://www.isaca.org/bookstore/bookstore-misc-digital/wbfg>)
- Provide a common language to frame discussion around different blockchain designs and implementation.

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What is a Smart Contract

- Is a computer program that prescribes its conditions and outcomes.
- Associated with 2nd generation blockchain and later.
- Stays dormant until called by a transaction.
- Transactions performed are written onto the distributed ledger.



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```

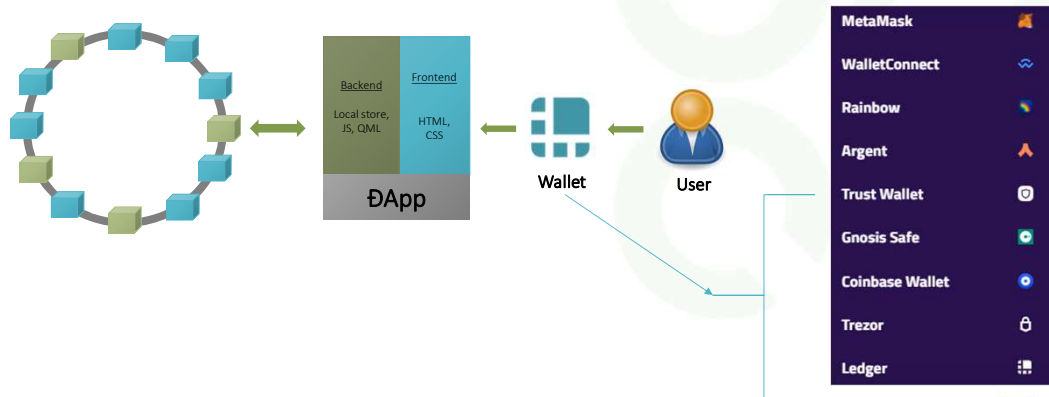
1 pragma solidity ^0.4.24;
2
3 contract Messenger {
4     address owner;
5     string[] messages;
6     uint256 balance;
7
8     constructor() public {
9         owner = msg.sender;
10    }
11
12    function add(string newMessage) public {
13        require(msg.sender == owner);
14        messages.push(newMessage);
15    }
16
17    function count() view public returns(uint){
18        return messages.length;
19    }
20
21    function getMessages(uint index) view public returns(string){
22        return messages[index];
23    }
24
25    function GetBalance() public constant returns(uint256){
26        return this.balance;
27    }
28
29    function deposit() payable {}
30 }

```

4

Decentralized Applications (DApps) and User Interaction (Ethereum)

- DApps are blockchain-enabled applications/websites
- Rely on smart contracts for logic processing.



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Types of Wallet

- Hot Wallets**
 - Web wallets
 - Browser wallets
 - Desktop/Mobile wallets
- Cold Wallets**
 - Hardware wallets
 - Paper wallets



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Types of Attacks

7

Blockchain Attacks

Network

- 51% Attack (PoW) or Casper (PoS)
- Eclipse Attack
- Denial of Service Attack
- Sybil Attack
- Routing Attack

Node

- Cryptojacking Attack
- Remote Manager Exploit (miner exploit)
- Theft/Seizure

User

- Scams
- Phishing
- Web Search
- SIM Swap

Smart Contract

- Access control
- Default Visibility
- Reentrancy
- Integer Over/Underflow
- Unchecked Return
- Timestamp Manipulation
- Bad Randomness
- Front Running
- Denial of Services
- Oracle manipulation

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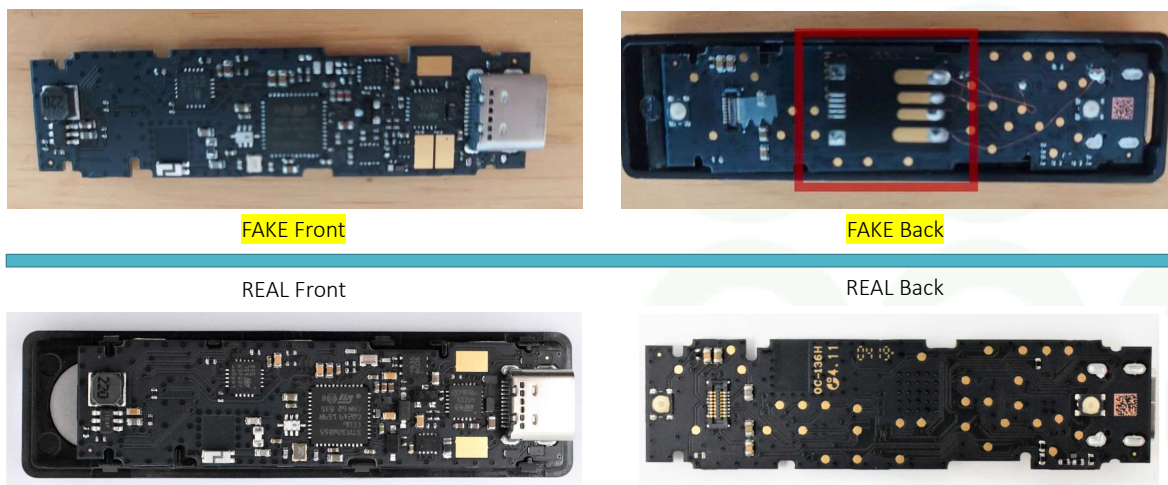
8

User Attacks - Metamask

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User Attacks - Ledger



From Reddit

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10

10

Key Properties of a Smart Contract

11

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Turing Completeness



```
pragma solidity ^0.4.8;

contract Victim {
    uint256 balance;

    // return the victim contract's balance
    function GetBalance() public constant returns(uint256){
        return this.balance;
    }

    // this function sends 0.05 ether when it is call.
    function withdraw() {
        uint transferAmt = 0.05 ether;
        if (!msg.sender.call.value(transferAmt)()) throw;
    }

    function deposit() payable {}
}
```

12

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Immutability

- Cannot be changed.
- Cannot be disabled.
- Cannot be removed.
- May be self-destruct if preprogrammed.



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13

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Immutability - Example

Contract 0x7a250d5630B4dF539739dF2C5d4bAc659F2488D

Sponsored by: Etherbase - The ETH Hardfork Network Featured on Times Square. JOIN THE BIGGEST ICO OF 2021

Contract Overview: Uniswap V2: Router 2

Balance: 0 Ether
Ether Value: 50.00
Token: \$179.82

More Info: My Name Tag: Not Available, login to update
Contract Creator: 0xdc33eac255e39940d... at bn tx4c1580a766c5b67c2...

STAKE ETH2.0 FOR FREE ON ABYSS FINANCE

Transactions: Internal Txns, ERC20 Token Txns, ERC721 Token Txns, Contract, Events, Analytics, Comments

17 Latest 25 from a total of 38,352,400 transactions
(> More than 25 Pending Txns)

Txn Hash	Method	Block	Age	From	To	Value	Txn Fee
0x02e9a648cac9e6409...	Swap Exact ETH F...	(pending)	3 secs ago	0x17ab2173b051153a...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	1.4143 Ether	(pending)
0x67e97ef7b6d567c6d...	Swap ETH For Etc...	(pending)	3 secs ago	0x5d3a412e2020e204...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0.00821679983325989 Ether	(pending)
0xe343ab1a195d3cc94...	Add Liquidity ET...	(pending)	3 secs ago	0xe0d3a5963b070ad...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	(pending)
0xc229a69f7699a14325...	Swap Exact Token...	(pending)	3 secs ago	0xa8f0722a2ea271c41...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	(pending)
0x46873e96a08929ac3...	Swap Exact ETH F...	(pending)	3 secs ago	0x53c5b593a3e03014...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0.001 Ether	(pending)
0xc3a878a008a02ae23...	Swap Exact ETH F...	(pending)	3 secs ago	0x62e7874b15cd15c95...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0.03 Ether	(pending)
0x4512519595921db84...	Swap Exact Token...	(pending)	6 secs ago	0x6489557e44613674...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	(pending)
0xc42020baee58c6027...	Remove Liquidity...	(pending)	6 secs ago	0xd69a8a3a72a9634e...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	(pending)
0x8a6ed8a0c2b143ef...	Swap Exact Token...	(pending)	6 secs ago	0x99c4878e0780c448...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	(pending)
0x0dc091cd21f532aa4...	Swap Exact Token...	(pending)	6 secs ago	0x548e1ba130a027336...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	(pending)
0x8498530e7a87e5b0b...	Swap Exact ETH F...	(pending)	6 secs ago	0x43c0c6730c49363500...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	1 Ether	(pending)

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14

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract (unique to Ethereum)

Self-Destruct – Special Case

```
pragma solidity ^0.5.0;

contract Destruct_demo{
    address owner;

    constructor () public {
        owner = msg.sender;
    }

    function deposit() public payable {
        require(msg.value > 0.1 ether);
    }

    function kill_it() public {
        require(msg.sender == owner);
        selfdestruct(msg.sender);
    }
}
```

- Preprogrammed
- One-time event
- Does not remove transaction history.
- Return any values in the contract back to the contract owner when called.
- Any value sent to self-destructed contract is lost forever.

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15

15

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract (unique to Ethereum)

Self-Destruct – Example Details

The screenshot shows the Etherscan interface for a transaction on the Ropsten Testnet. The transaction hash is 0xe2f196008de0f6eddc346d44e45b4c0329829e2597fe418daf14eb6a5ae72d. The status is 'Success'. The transaction occurred 1 minute ago (May-18-2019 07:35:18 PM +UTC). The 'From' field shows the sender's address, and the 'To' field shows the contract address 0x27805173fc4276fda7b3ae6771d190a0af12. The value is 0 Ether (\$0.00). The transaction fee is 0.000013351 Ether (\$0.000000). The transaction details show a 'TRANSFER' of 1 Ether from the sender to the contract, followed by a 'SELF DESTRUCT' of the contract. An inset window shows the contract details for 0x27805173fc4276fda7b3ae6771d190a0af12, indicating it is a contract with a balance of 0 Ether and no name tag.

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16

16

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Visibility

The left screenshot shows the Etherscan interface for a contract at address 0x3b7a1e7718797a67851467866b2bC5959. The contract overview shows a balance of 0 ETH and a 'Not Available' name tag. The right screenshot shows the contract source code for the same address, with a 'Trusted' label in red text.

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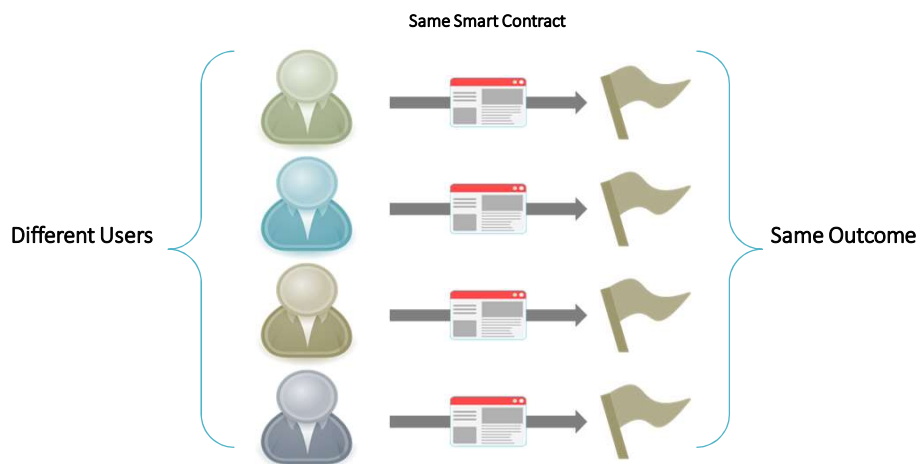


17

17

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Deterministic



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18

18

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Atomic



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19

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Atomic - Example

Address: 0x5d442b59328c1E387806EBfAEb57a5A298E

Sponsored: Choose Tron/TRC20, Zero USDOT withdrawal Fee on Gate.io! Trade today!

Overview

Balance: 0 Ether

Ether Value: \$0.00

Token: 50.00

More Info

My Name Tag: Not Available, login to update

Buy crypto with 0% fee on credit/debit card for your first 30 days

Transactions

Internal Txns

ERC20 Token Txns

Loans

Analytics

Comments

17 Latest 17 from a total of 17 transactions

Txn Hash	Method	Block	Age	From	To	Value	Txn Fee
0x07138653859423a2d...	Transfer	10879346	249 days 23 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	0xb35b549ebc43ba062f...	50.523685364780583 Ether	0.0002
0x4e0cd57d5d4e0cd79e...	Swap Exact Token...	10879344	249 days 23 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	0.1321912
0xa1e32363f9e61b8f17...	Approve	10879340	249 days 23 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Uniswap Protocol: LRF fa...	0 Ether	0.0049868
0x29e5d35a74240a8ba...	Claim	10879338	249 days 23 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Uniswap: Token Distributor	0 Ether	0.0041966
0x8f8d8f5c785544beeb...	Transfer	10879336	250 days ago	0xb35b549ebc43ba062f...	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	47.841151854701288 Ether	0.0002
0x402350aeb02050799...	Transfer	10879331	250 days 1 min ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	0xb35b549ebc43ba062f...	47.669551054701288 Ether	0.0002
0xb35b549ebc43ba062f...	Transfer	10879325	250 days 2 mins ago	0x852362487e6da10b...	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	47.894551854701288 Ether	0.0002
0xb35b549ebc43ba062f...	Transfer	10663175	283 days 4 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	0x559995e052c1927f...	304.876700167706121 Ether	0.002562
0xa055eac558058f494a...	Transfer	10663167	283 days 4 hrs ago	0xa0330ac0031a0c3d1...	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	141.6133050961427 Ether	0.002562
0x0d55e7137e6e52b487...	Remove Liquidity	10663144	283 days 4 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	0.0020714
0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Remove Liquidity	10663144	283 days 4 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	0.0004462
0x0f1a50ca164053a348...	Remove Liquidity	10663144	283 days 4 hrs ago	0x5d442b59328c1e387...	Uniswap V2: Router 2	0 Ether	0.0011832

Additional Info

Status: Fail (1840032 Block Confirmations)

Transaction Fee: 0.028954028 Ether (\$05.54)

Gas Info: 234.874 Gas Used From 314.308 Gas Limit @ 0.00000122 Ether (122 Gwei)

Nonce: 5 (in the position 112)

[See more details](#)

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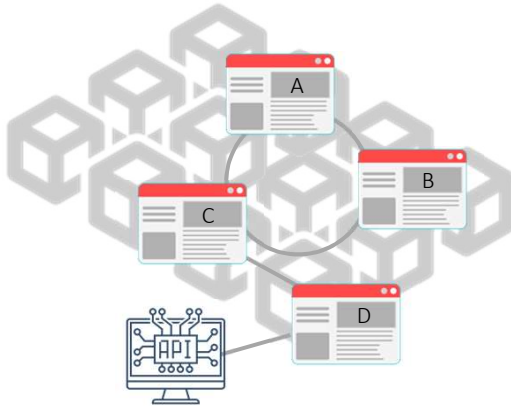
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20

20

Key Characteristics of Smart Contract

Interaction with Other Interfaces



```

160 // This contract setup the owner.
161 // This contract provides inheritance to the main contract.
162 contract FromParent {
163     address payable public owner;
164     address payable public beneficiary = address(0); // Set beneficiary to null
165
166     constructor() public { // Set at start of deployment
167         owner = msg.sender; // Set the owner of contract
168     }
169 }
170
171 // This is the Donations contract
172 // The contract does the following:
173 // 1. Initializes the contract with a donation limit to be collected and a beneficiary. Similar to gofund me.
174 // 2. Users donate to the contract. Donation must be at least 1 ether.
175 // 3. Track donations until the donation limit has been reached, or terminate if at least 10% has been collected
176 // 4. Send 90% of the donations to the beneficiary
177 // 5. Owner gets 10% of the contract donation
178
179 // This contract inherits from the FromParent contract.
180 contract Donations is FromParent {
181     using SafeMath for uint;
182
183     mapping (address => uint) private balances; // Track the donate amount from the user
184
185     bool private hasBeneficiary = false; // Set no beneficiary selected
186     bool private lastLimit = false; // Set default for reaching donation limit flag
187     bool private stopped = false; // Set default circuit breaker/ emergency stop flag
188     bool private lock = false; // Safeguard against reentrancy
189
190     string public emergencyTxt = "Emergency circuit breaker is NOT ACTIVE"; // Track emergency circuit breaker status
191     string public lockTxt = "Lock is NOT ACTIVE"; // Track lock status
192
193     uint public targetAmt; // Track donation limit to be sought
194     uint public donationAmt; // Track current donation so far.
195     uint public oldDonationAmt; // Track donation amount before withdraw payout
196     uint public oldBalance; // Track the balance before withdraw payout
197     uint public newBalance; // Track the balance after withdraw payout
198
199     uint private round_expired; // Track time to expire round
200     uint private escrowAmt; // Track the escrow amount from the beneficiary
201     uint private beneficiaryAmt; // Tracks the beneficiary amount from the total donations

```

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21

21

Smart Contract Audit Considerations

22

Smart Contract Audit Considerations

1. Understand the technology.
2. Identify risk and appropriate controls to mitigate risk to an acceptable level.
 - *Administrative*
 - *Operational*
 - *Technical*
3. Achieve and monitor ongoing compliance effectively.



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23

23

Administrative Audit Considerations

24

Administrative: Audit Considerations for Buyer and Seller



- Financially stable/viable, experienced, and knowledgeable
- Collusions, misconduct and manipulations
- Number of parties
- Conflicts of interest
- Able to deliver on the promises

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25

25

Administrative: Audit Considerations from External Factors



- Regulators
- Herstatt (settlement) risk
- Privacy
- Platform dependencies:
 - *Development/Ongoing Support*
 - *Security issues*
 - *Speed of transactions*
 - *Cost of transactions*
 - *Scalability*

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26

26

Administrative: Audit Considerations for the Smart Contract



- Accurately represents the promises of the smart contract
- Clear agreement addressing non-operational issues
- Escrow or not?
- Security audit performed?

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27

27

Operational Audit Considerations

28

Operational: Availability of Third-Party Security Audit Report

Security Issues

This section relates our investigation into security issues. It is meant to highlight whenever we found specific issues but also mention what vulnerability classes they belong to, if relevant.

Minority Token Holder can single-handedly win a Vote ✓ Acknowledged

An malicious investor can manipulate the voting if the investor at least owns one third of the shares. To manipulate the voting, the malicious investor sets up a new proposal (e.g. to transfer the ownership) by calling `executeProposal()` at least with a very short voting period. After voting for their own proposal the malicious investor burns their token and calls `transfer()`. The vote is evaluated by

```
186 if ( (_totalSupply() > property.totalSupply() / 2) {
```

ShareholderDAO.sol

The totalSupply now dropped due to the burn to only two thirds from the initial supply but still there are valid votes with a voting power of one third of the initial supply, which now is a majority. Thus, the vote would pass.

Likelihood: Medium
Impact: Medium

Addressed: [redacted] explained that the implications are minor. A DAO vote is suggestions that [redacted] and/or the platform management company will try to take. Furthermore, ShareholderDAO has no real power (i.e. it can't move funds, modify state, etc.).

Locked tokens ✓ Acknowledged

If tokens especially DAO are accidentally sent to the following contracts and not via the correct function, the tokens will be locked:

- TokenDate
- TokenandProperty
- DividendDistributingToken
- Exchange
- LoanEscrow
- PaymentLayer

Note: ETH and token can be forced into any contract and be locked there if a "lock" function exists. If contracts are not supposed to handle process Ether or token transfers, [redacted] does not further report this kind of locked tokens. But [redacted] reports locked token or locked ETH for contracts which are supposed to handle process tokens or Ether in some way.

Likelihood: Medium
Impact: Medium

Acknowledged: [redacted] acknowledged the issue and [redacted] wants to prevent this on UI level because this is the responsibility to use their system.

Unintentional call to `renounceOwnership()` could block LandRegistry ✓ Acknowledged

The [redacted] contract `LandRegistry` inherits from the `Devault` contract and therefore contains the function `renounceOwnership()`. This function can be called by the existing owner to renounce his ownership and leave the contract without any owner. Any accidental call to this function from the current owner would leave the `LandRegistry` contract without any owner. Then, no more properties could be tokenized or untokenized.

Likelihood: Low
Impact: Medium

Acknowledged: [redacted] acknowledged the issue and plans to update the `LandRegistry` via its proxy if this issue arises.

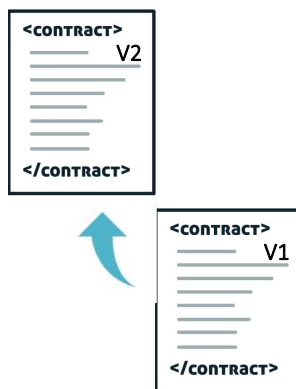
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29

29

Operational: Upgrade of Smart Contract



The Challenge

1. Deploy a new version of the contract at a new contract address.
2. Manually migrate all states from the old one contract to the new one.
3. Update all contracts that interacted with the old contract to use the address of the new one.
4. Reach out to all your users and convince them to start using the new deployment
5. Handle both contracts being used simultaneously, as users are slow to migrate.

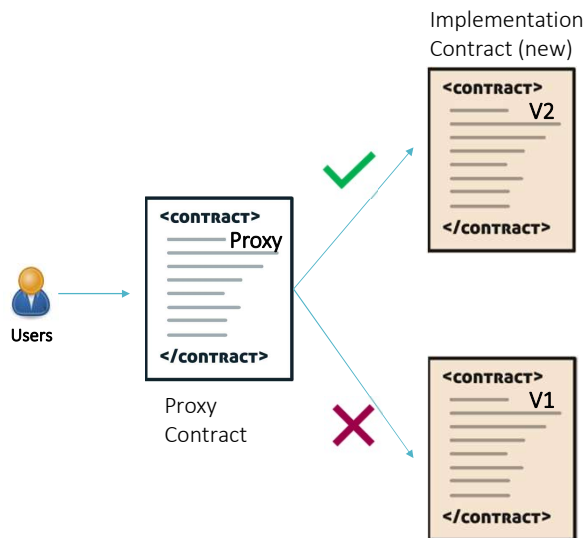
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30

30

Operational: Usage of Proxy Contract



A Better Way

1. Users always interact with the Proxy contract.
2. Deploy a new version of the contract to the Implementation contract.
3. Use delegate call allowing the code to be executed in the context of the caller (proxy), not of the callee (implementation).
4. Allowing for prior states to be maintained vs. migrated.
5. Eliminate the dual-maintenance cycle needed until all users migrated.

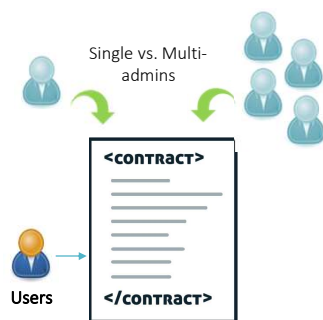
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31

31

Operational: Contract Management – Who Has Control?



- The contract owner must maintain access to the smart contract and critical core functions such as fund transfer, pause deposits, and other contract's emergency circuit breaker mechanisms.
- Implement through either single admin or multi-admin design.
 - Govern the management of the smart contracts
 - Offer redundancy and protection against lost/obsolete keys
 - Safeguard against actions from rogue admin.

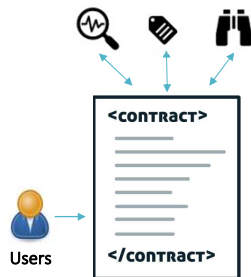
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32

Operational: Usage of Oracles



- Software oracles extract online information from various sources and transmit the data to the blockchain.
- Hardware oracles obtain data from hardware devices such as barcode scanners, temperature and humidity sensors and relay such data to the blockchain.
- Minimize the Oracle Problem:
 - *Use multiple oracles to ensure accuracy of data supplied.*
 - *Implement the use of correctness check in the computed data.*

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33

Manual Analysis

34

Common Vulnerabilities

1. Check the known vulnerabilities.
2. Argument values should be checked.
3. Solidity operates using integers. For better precision, perform multiplication operation first before division.
4. Verify the ordering of calls when there are multiple contracts with layered inheritance.
5. For crowdsale, verify if hardcap is reachable.
6. Inline assembly should be used very carefully if used at all.
7. Pay attention to modularity. Sometimes it is better to split contract's logic into several contracts. For example, it is not a good idea to have token and crowdsale logic in one contract.
8. It is a bad practice to modify commonly used libraries, such as OpenZeppelin. If one is used in the project, you should check, whether it is added via npm. If it is not, then check, what version is used and whether it is modified.

35

Standard-specific Issues

ERC20

1. If the token does not have a single way to counteract the ERC20 approve issue, we recommend the developer to warn users about that vulnerability and to add functions increaseApproval() and decreaseApproval().
2. Sometimes the developer decides to reject zero token transfers. This is an issue since ERC20 token standard states that "Transfers of 0 values MUST be treated as normal transfers and fire the Transfer event".
3. When token contract creates new tokens, it SHOULD fire Transfer event with the _from address equal to 0x0.

ERC223

1. The auditor should verify that all token receiving contracts have implemented tokenFallback function.
2. Also one should ensure that all the token sending contracts are resistant to reentrancy vulnerability.

36

Code Logic

1. Check the known vulnerabilities.
2. Argument values should be checked.
3. Solidity operates using integers. For better precision, perform multiplication operation first before division.
4. Verify the ordering of calls when there are multiple contracts with layered inheritance.
5. For crowdsale, verify if hardcap is reachable.
6. Inline assembly should be used very carefully if used at all.
7. Pay attention to modularity. Sometimes it is better to split contract's logic into several contracts. For example, it is not a good idea to have token and crowdsale logic in one contract.
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37

37

Technical Audit Considerations

38

Security Considerations for Security Audit

What – Why – How to Mitigate



[Access Control](#)



[Default Visibility](#)



[Reentrancy](#)



[Integer Over/Underflow](#)



[Unchecked Return](#)



[Timestamp Manipulation](#)



[Bad Randomness](#)



[Front Running](#)



[Denial of Services](#)



[Short Address](#)

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39

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Access Control (anti-pattern)

Is an attack that seizes ownership of a contract from its rightful owner.

- Incorrect usage or lack of constructor to initialize ownership.
- Failure to check for ownership prior to execute key functions.

```
1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract OwnerWallet {
4     address public owner;
5
6     function initWallet() public {
7         owner = msg.sender;
8     }
9
10    // Fallback. Collect ether.
11    function () payable {}
12
13    function withdraw() public {
14        msg.sender.transfer(this.balance);
15    }
16 }
```

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40

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Access Control (mitigation)

- Properly initialized to maintain contract ownership.
- Require contract owner check before any allowing any execution intended for the contract owner.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract OwnerWallet {
4     address public owner;
5
6     // constructor to initialize ownership
7     function OwnerWallet() public {
8         owner = msg.sender;
9     }
10
11     // Fallback. Collect ether.
12     function () payable {}
13
14     function withdraw() public {
15         require(msg.sender == owner);
16         msg.sender.transfer(this.balance);
17     }
18 }

```

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41

41

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Default Visibility (anti-pattern)

Misuse of visibility modifiers expose certain functions for manipulation by other contracts.

-
- No visibility identifier stated.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract HashForEther {
4
5     function withdrawWinnings() {
6         // Winner if the last 8 hex characters of the address are 0
7         require(uint32(msg.sender) == 0);
8         _sendWinnings();
9     }
10
11     function _sendWinnings() {
12         msg.sender.transfer(this.balance);
13     }
14 }

```

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42

42

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Default Visibility (mitigation)

- Explicitly state the visibility identifier.
- Use the correct visibility identifiers:
 - *Public* (visible to everyone; is the default if not specified)
 - *Private* (visible for only the current contract)
 - *Internal* (can be called inside the current contract)
 - *External* (can be called from other contracts and transactions)

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract HashForEther {
4
5     function withdrawWinnings() public {
6         // Winner if the last 8 hex characters of the address are 0
7         require(uint32(msg.sender) == 0);
8         _sendWinnings();
9     }
10
11     function _sendWinnings() private internal {
12         msg.sender.transfer(this.balance);
13     }
14 }

```

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43

43

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Reentrancy (anti-pattern)

Is a classic attack that takes over control flow of a contract and manipulate the data to prevent the correct updating of state.

- Making external calls

```

1 // INSECURE
2 mapping (address => uint) private userBalances;
3
4 function withdrawBalance() public {
5     uint amountToWithdraw = userBalances[msg.sender];
6     require(msg.sender.call.value(amountToWithdraw)());
7     // At this point, the caller's code is executed, and
8     // can call withdrawBalance again
9     userBalances[msg.sender] = 0;
10 }
11
12 // INSECURE
13 mapping (address => uint) private userBalances;
14
15 function transfer(address to, uint amount) {
16     if (userBalances[msg.sender] >= amount) {
17         userBalances[to] += amount;
18         userBalances[msg.sender] -= amount;
19     }
20 }
21
22 function withdrawBalance() public {
23     uint amountToWithdraw = userBalances[msg.sender];
24     // At this point, the caller's code is executed,
25     // and can call transfer()
26     require(msg.sender.call.value(amountToWithdraw)());
27     userBalances[msg.sender] = 0;
28 }

```

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44

44

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Reentrancy (mitigation)

- Finish all internal work (e.g., state changes) first and only then calling the external function.
- Use `send()` instead of `call.value()()`.

```

1 mapping (address => uint) private userBalances;
2
3 function withdrawBalance() public {
4     uint amountToWithdraw = userBalances[msg.sender];
5     userBalances[msg.sender] = 0;
6     require(msg.sender.call.value(amountToWithdraw));
7     // The user's balance is already 0, so future
8     // invocations won't withdraw anything
9 }

```

45

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Integer Overflow & Underflow (anti-pattern)

Occurs when an operation is performed that requires a fixed-size variable to store a number (or piece of data) that is outside the range of the variable's data type.

- An unsigned integer gets incremented above its maximum value (overflow)
- An unsigned integer gets decremented below zero (underflow)

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.15;
2
3 contract Overflow {
4     uint private sellerBalance=0;
5
6     function add(uint value) returns (bool){
7         sellerBalance += value; // possible overflow
8
9         // possible auditor assert
10        // assert(sellerBalance >= value);
11    }
12 }

```

46

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Integer Overflow & Underflow (mitigation)

- Use SafeMath library
- Check both storage and calculated variables for valid condition.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.15;
2
3 library SafeMath {
4     function add(uint256 a, uint256 b) internal constant returns
5         (uint256) {
6         uint256 c = a + b;
7         assert(c >= a);
8         return c;
9     }
10 }
11 contract Overflow {
12     uint private sellerBalance=0;
13
14     function safe_add(uint value) returns (bool) {
15         require(value + sellerBalance >= sellerBalance);
16         sellerBalance += value;
17     }
18 }

```

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47

47

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Unchecked Return Values (anti-pattern)

Failure to verify low-level function state after call may result in incorrect variable states.

- Low-level functions are call(), callcode(), delegatecall() and send().
- Level-level calls return boolean false when fail instead of a roll-back.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract UncheckedSendValue {
4     uint weileft;
5     uint balance;
6     mapping(address => uint256) public balances;
7
8     function deposit () public payable {
9         balances[msg.sender] += msg.value;
10    }
11
12    function withdraw (uint _amount) public {
13        require(balances[msg.sender] >= _amount);
14        weileft -= _amount;
15        msg.sender.send(_amount);
16    }
17
18    function GetBalance() public constant returns(uint){
19        return this.balance;
20    }
21 }

```

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48

48

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Unchecked Return Values (mitigation)

- Check the return value of send() to see if it completes successfully.
- If it doesn't, then throw an exception so all the state is rolled back.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract UncheckedSendValue {
4     uint weileft;
5     uint balance;
6     mapping(address => uint256) public balances;
7
8     function deposit () public payable {
9         balances[msg.sender] += msg.value;
10    }
11
12    function withdraw (uint _amount) public {
13        require(balances[msg.sender] >= _amount);
14        if (msg.sender.send(_amount))
15            weileft -= _amount;
16        else throw;
17    }
18
19    function GetBalance() public constant returns(uint){
20        return this.balance;
21    }
22 }

```

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Timestamp Manipulation (anti-pattern)

Misuse of block.timestamp function by miners.

-
- Miners can set their time to any period in the future.
 - If mined time is within 15 minutes, the block will be accepted on the network.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract TimestampManipulation {
4     uint time_counter;
5     uint max_counter = 1521763200;
6
7     function play() public {
8         require(now > 1521763200 && neverPlayed == true);
9         neverPlayed = false;
10        msg.sender.transfer(1500 ether);
11    }
12 }

```

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Timestamp Manipulation (mitigation)

- Do not relying on the time as advertised.
- Use external initiator to track time.

```
1 const contract = web3.eth.contract(contractAbi);
2 const contractInstance = contract.at(contractAddress);
3
4 contractInstance.timer('time_counterjs');
5 // send current time value
6   time_counterjs +=1;
7   });
```

```
1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract TimestampManipulation {
4   address public owner;
5   uint time_counter;
6   uint max_counter = 1521763200;
7
8   function TimestampManipulation() public {
9     owner = msg.sender;
10  }
11
12  function play() public {
13    require(time_counter > max_counter && neverPlayed == true);
14    neverPlayed = false;
15    msg.sender.transfer(1500 ether);
16  }
17
18  // Using an external initiator such as a JS
19  // function to trigger at some intervals
20  function timer(currenttime_count) public {
21    require(msg.sender == owner);
22    time_counter = currenttime_count;
23  }
24
25 }
```

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51

51

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Bad Randomness (anti-pattern)

Poor implementation of pseudo-random number generator

- Private variables are set via a transaction at some point in time and are visible on the blockchain.
- Block variables such as block.timestamp, block.coinbase, block.number can be manipulated by miners.

```
1 uint256 constant private salt = block.timestamp;
2
3 function random(uint Max) constant private returns (uint256 result){
4   //get the best seed for randomness
5   uint256 x = salt * 100/Max;
6   uint256 y = salt * block.number/(salt % 5) ;
7   uint256 seed = block.number/3 + (salt % 300) + Last_Payout + y;
8   uint256 h = uint256(block.blockhash(seed));
9
10  return uint256((h / x)) % Max + 1; //random number between 1 and Max
11 }
```

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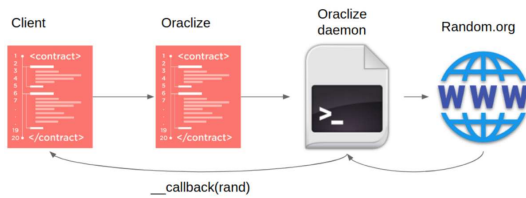


52

52

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Bad Randomness (mitigation)



- Use random seed from a random oracle such as Oraclize
- Use a random seed from a future block hash

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53

53

Security Considerations for Security Audit

Front Running (anti-pattern)

Pay higher gas fees to have copied transactions mined more quickly to preempt the original solution.

- Attacker watches the pool of pending transactions for the winning transaction.
- Attacker submits his bet with higher gas price to beat out the winning transaction.

```

1 pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
2
3 contract FindThisHash {
4     bytes32 constant public hash =
5         0xb5b97fafd9855e9b41f74dfb6c38f5951141f9a3ecd7f44d5479b630ee
6         0a;
7
8     function FindingThisHash(address _owner) public payable {}
9     // constructor() public payable {} // load with ether
10
11     function solve(string solution) public {
12         // If you can find the pre-image of the hash, receive 1000
13         ether
14         require(hash == sha3(solution));
15         msg.sender.transfer(1000 ether);
16     }
17 }
  
```

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54

54

Security Considerations for Security Audit

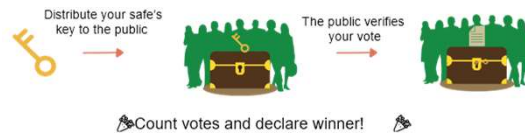
Front Running (mitigation)

- Usage of commit-reveal approach (RandDAO)

1. Commit



2. Reveal



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Security Considerations for Security Audit

There will always be new Unknowns

- Smart contracts → emerging
- Coding language ≠ stable
- There will be new classes of vulnerabilities
- Developers and auditors need to stay on their feet!



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56

Best Practices for Smart Contracts

- Maintain control
- Be aware of smart contract properties
- Prepare for failure (circuit breaker)
- Rollout carefully (rate limiting, max usage, correctness checks)
- Keep contracts simple
- Stay up to date (refactoring, latest compiler)



Follow Occam's razor

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57

Final Words

- The effectiveness of the security of the blockchain is highly dependent on the auditor's understanding of the mechanisms for both the blockchain platform and the underlying smart contracts.
- It is important to consider the complete design of the blockchain application and all interconnected parts.
- Smart contracts have limitations, therefore, third-party audit and security reviews are paramount to bring perspective.
- Transparency, expert reviews, user testing and use of automated security tools are mechanisms to minimize vulnerabilities.

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58

58



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Tuan Phan, CISSP, PMP, CBSP, Security+, SSBB
Founder

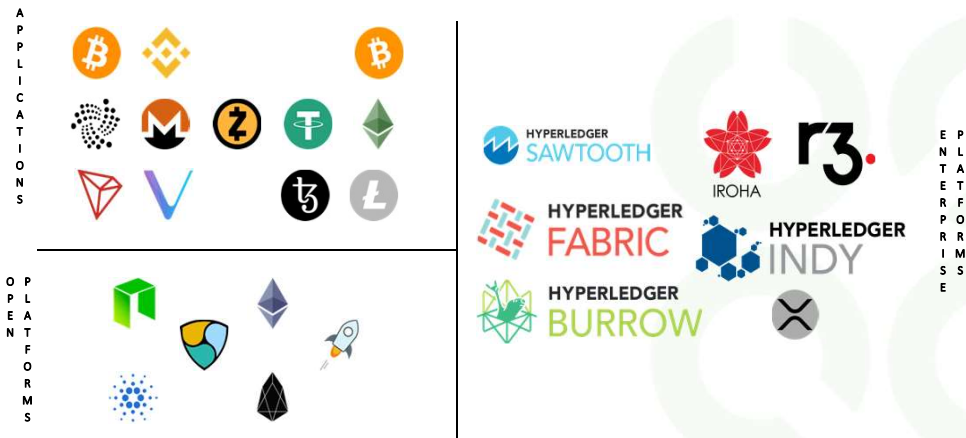
@ChainOpSec
[LinkedIn.com/in/tuanphan/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tuanphan/)
github.com/tuanp703
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59

Brief Blockchain Primer

60

Blockchain Platforms



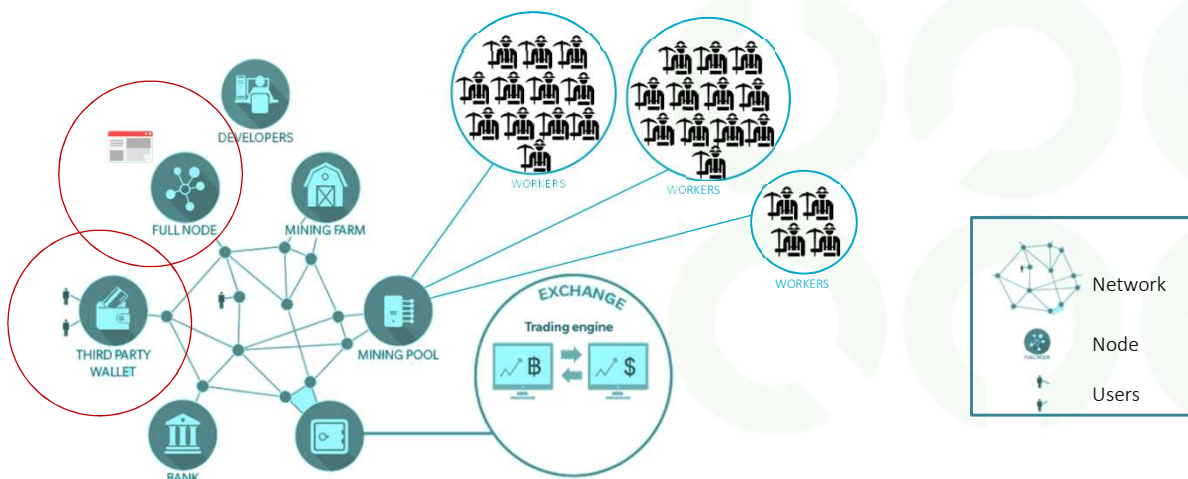
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61

61

Typical Blockchain Network



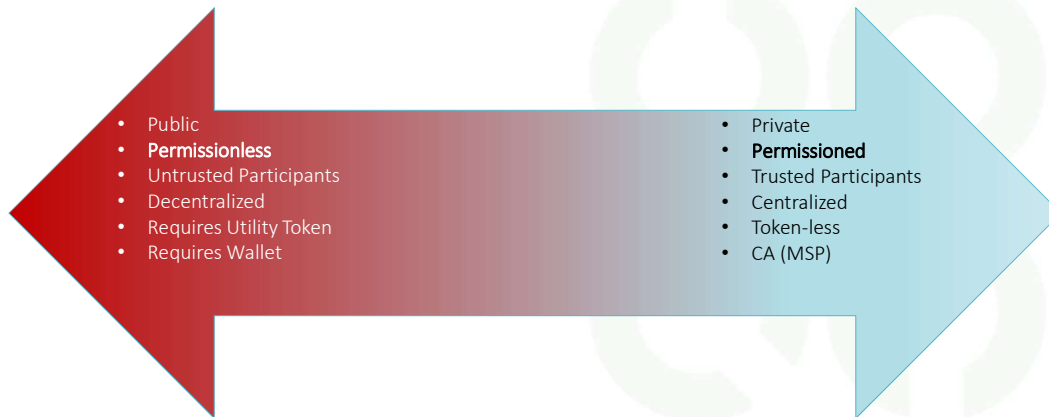
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62

62

Deployment Models of Blockchain



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63

63

Four Core Characteristics of Blockchain

Shared Ledger

- History of all transactions
- Append-only with immutable past
- Distributed and replicated

Cryptography

- Integrity of ledger
- Authenticity of transactions (user wallet)
- Privacy of transactions
- Identity of participants (user address)

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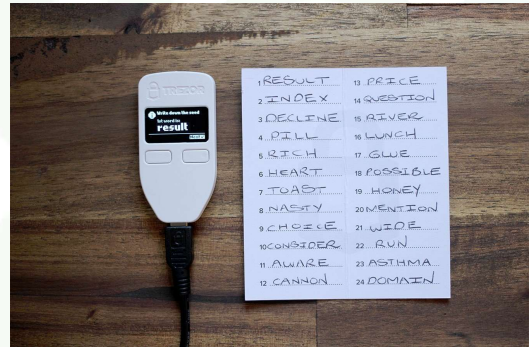


64

64

User Wallets

- Serves as the primary interface for the user to the blockchain
 - Ethereum wallet address →
0x47faAD405C3338112A02CE7fDfBF13d1d229F1B3
 - Bitcoin wallet address →
bc1qxy2kgdygjrztzq2n0yrf2493p83kkfjhx0wih
- Is the container for private keys and as the system for managing these keys.
- Controls access to a user's money, manages keys and addresses, tracks user balance, creates and signs transactions, and interacts with contracts.
- Modern wallets use seed words to generate the private keys based on a defined standard (BIP39).



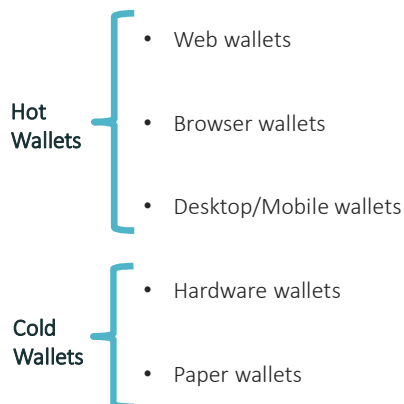
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65

Types of Wallet



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66

66

Four Core Characteristics of Blockchain (2nd Gen and later)

Shared Ledger

- History of all transactions
- Append-only with immutable past
- Distributed and replicated

Cryptography

- Integrity of ledger
- Authenticity of transactions
- Privacy of transactions
- Identity of participants

Trust Model

- Consensus protocol
- Transaction validation
- Tolerate disruption

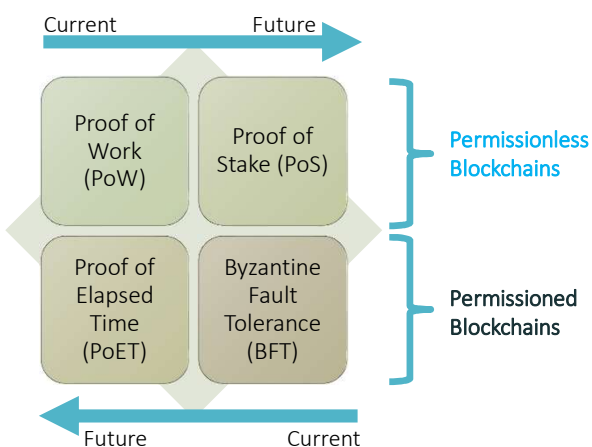
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67

67

Consensus Protocols and Outlook



- Consensus participants seek the chance to create and append the block to the digital ledger.

Use specialty hardware (ASIC miners), GPU and electricity.

Use locked investments to win a chance proportion to the investment.

Use hardened chip to determine the block author from designated decision nodes.

Use a majority voting scheme from designated decision nodes.

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68

68

Four Core Characteristics of Blockchain (2nd Gen and later)

Shared Ledger

- History of all transactions
- Append-only with immutable past
- Distributed and replicated

Cryptography

- Integrity of ledger
- Authenticity of transactions
- Privacy of transactions
- Identity of participants

Trust Model

- Consensus protocol
- Transaction validation
- Tolerate disruption

Smart Contract

- Logic embedded in the ledger
- Executed together with transactions

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69

69

Test Your Knowledge (True or False)

1. Smart contracts exist in 1st and 2nd generation blockchain.
2. In a permissioned blockchain the participants are known to the blockchain operator.
3. Decentralized applications depend on smart contracts for the business logic.
4. The shared ledger is distributed across nodes.
5. Cold wallets are more risky than hot wallets.
6. Private blockchains are generally more centralized.
7. Transaction outcomes can be different (e.g., random likelihood) for every users interacting with the same smart contract.
8. All conditions for a given transaction in a smart contract must be met in order to complete and record the transaction.
9. Access control is critical to maintain ownership of a smart contract.
10. Reentrancy exists because contract states are not properly set prior to making external calls.

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70

70

Answer to Test Your Knowledge

1. False: Smart contracts exist in 1st and 2nd generation blockchain.
2. True: In a permissioned blockchain the participants are known to the blockchain operator.
3. True: Decentralized applications depend on smart contracts for the business logic.
4. True: The shared ledger is distributed across nodes.
5. False: Cold wallets are more risky than hot wallets.
6. True: Private blockchains are generally more centralized.
7. False: Transaction outcomes can be different (e.g., random likelihood) for every users interacting with the same smart contract.
8. True: All conditions for a given transaction in a smart contract must be met in order to complete and record the transaction.
9. True: Access control is critical to maintain ownership of a smart contract.
10. True: Reentrancy exists because contract states are not properly set prior to making external calls.

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71

71

How do I get Hands-on Experience?

72

Programming Smart Contracts

Ethereum

- [Solidity](#) via an IDE ([Remix IDE](#), [EthFiddle](#))
- Wallet with some test currencies
- Local development environment or web-based at Remix (<https://remix.ethereum.org/>)
- Connection to the actual blockchain network, local or testnet

Hyperledger Fabric

- [Go/JavaScript](#) (popular for permissioned blockchains) via an IDE (HLFV Composer, VSCode or similar editors)
- Local development environment or IBM Bluemix Console (<https://cloud.ibm.com/login>)
- Connection to the actual blockchain network, local or testnet