

Axelar

Interchain Token Service

by Ackee Blockchain

13.11.2023



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1. Document Revisions

1.0	Final report	19.4.2023
1.1	Fix review and updates revision	12.5.2023
2.0	Re-audit draft	23.6.2023
2.0	Re-audit final report	26.6.2023
2.1	Fix review	27.6.2023
3.0	Re-audit draft	10.8.2023
3.0	Re-audit final report	11.8.2023
4.0	Re-audit final report	24.10.2023
4.1	Issue adjustment	31.10.2023
<u>5.0</u>	Re-audit final report	13.11.2023



2. Overview

This document presents our findings in reviewed contracts.

2.1. Ackee Blockchain

Ackee Blockchain is an auditing company based in Prague, Czech Republic, specializing in audits and security assessments. Our mission is to build a stronger blockchain community by sharing knowledge – we run free certification courses School of Solana, Summer School of Solidity and teach at the Czech Technical University in Prague. Ackee Blockchain is backed by the largest VC fund focused on blockchain and DeFi in Europe, RockawayX.

2.2. Audit Methodology

- 1. **Technical specification/documentation** a brief overview of the system is requested from the client and the scope of the audit is defined.
- 2. **Tool-based analysis** deep check with automated Solidity analysis tools and <u>Woke</u> is performed.
- 3. **Manual code review** the code is checked line by line for common vulnerabilities, code duplication, best practices and the code architecture is reviewed.
- 4. **Local deployment + hacking** the contracts are deployed locally and we try to attack the system and break it.
- 5. **Unit and fuzz testing** run unit tests to ensure that the system works as expected, potentially write missing unit or fuzz tests.



2.3. Finding classification

A Severity rating of each finding is determined as a synthesis of two sub-ratings: Impact and Likelihood. It ranges from Informational to Critical.

If we have found a scenario in which an issue is exploitable, it will be assigned an impact rating of *High*, *Medium*, or *Low*, based on the direness of the consequences it has on the system. If we haven't found a way, or the issue is only exploitable given a change in configuration (such as deployment scripts, compiler configuration, use of multi-signature wallets for owners, etc.) or given a change in the codebase, then it will be assigned an impact rating of *Warning* or *Info*.

Low to High impact issues also have a Likelihood, which measures the probability of exploitability during runtime.

The full definitions are as follows:

Severity

		Likelihood				
		High	Medium	Low	-	
	High	Critical	High	Medium	-	
	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	-	
Impact	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	-	
	Warning	-	-	-	Warning	
	Info	-	-	-	Info	

Table 1. Severity of findings



Impact

- High Code that activates the issue will lead to undefined or catastrophic consequences for the system.
- Medium Code that activates the issue will result in consequences of serious substance.
- **Low** Code that activates the issue will have outcomes on the system that are either recoverable or don't jeopardize its regular functioning.
- Warning The issue cannot be exploited given the current code and/or configuration (such as deployment scripts, compiler configuration, use of multi-signature wallets for owners, etc.), but could be a security vulnerability if these were to change slightly. If we haven't found a way to exploit the issue given the time constraints, it might be marked as a "Warning" or higher, based on our best estimate of whether it is currently exploitable.
- Info The issue is on the borderline between code quality and security. Examples include insufficient logging for critical operations. Another example is that the issue would be security-related if code or configuration (see above) was to change.

Likelihood

- **High** The issue is exploitable by virtually anyone under virtually any circumstance.
- **Medium** Exploiting the issue currently requires non-trivial preconditions.
- Low Exploiting the issue requires strict preconditions.



2.4. Review team

Member's Name	Position
Štěpán Šonský	Lead Auditor
Lukáš Böhm	Auditor
Michal Převrátil	Auditor
Jan Kalivoda	Auditor
Josef Gattermayer, Ph.D.	Audit Supervisor

2.5. Disclaimer

We've put our best effort to find all vulnerabilities in the system, however our findings shouldn't be considered as a complete list of all existing issues. The statements made in this document should not be interpreted as investment or legal advice, nor should its authors be held accountable for decisions made based on them.



3. Executive Summary

Revision 1.0

Axelar engaged Ackee Blockchain to perform a security review of the Interchain Token Service with a total time donation of 5 engineering days in a period between April 11 and April 19, 2023 and the lead auditor was Štěpán Šonský. The scope of the audit is token linker, which can deploy wrapped versions of existing tokens on multiple chains, and also that the wrapped token being deployed is cross-chain native.

The audit has been performed on the commit 9bb6e07.

We began our review by using static analysis tools, namely <u>Woke</u>. Then we took a deep dive into the codebase and set the following goals:

- · check access controls,
- check correctness of <u>LinkedTokenData</u> operations using <u>Woke fuzzer</u>,
- check cross-chain data integrity (e.g. IDs, decimals...),
- · detect possible reentrancies in the code,
- look for common issues such as data validation.

Upon conducting an in-depth analysis, our examination yielded a total of 8 findings, with the severity levels ranging from Info to Low. Overall, the codebase is incomplete, it contains a lot of "TODO" markers and unused functions (see <u>5.1</u>). Also, there are a lot of code duplications, which can be easily refactored/removed to improve architecture, readability and secure maintainability. Given the current state of the codebase, we don't recommend deployment or public dissemination of the source code until the mentioned issues have been thoroughly addressed.



Ackee Blockchain recommends Axelar:

- · clean the code of unused functions,
- resolve all TODOs, implement missing parts,
- · be aware of potentially malicious token contracts,
- · remove duplicated code,
- · add detailed documentation.

See <u>Revision 1.0</u> for the system overview of the codebase.

Revision 1.1

The review was done on the given commit: c03c4eb with a time donation of 5 engineering days between May 1 and May 12, 2023, and the lead auditor was Štěpán Šonský.

For revision 1.1 we had the following goals:

- review the fixes implemented in response to our previous audit,
- · check the implementation and logic of minting limits,
- evaluate the InterchainToken functions,
- analyze express logic for possible reentrancies and double-spending,
- revisit the previously audited code to ensure its interactions with the new code do not introduce new vulnerabilities.

We began with fix review, comparing codebase differences and analyzing changes and new features. The codebase analysis revealed that most of the issues identified in the previous scope have been effectively addressed, thereby enhancing the overall functionality of the contract. The TODOs from the previous version were found to be satisfactorily resolved, indicating a more mature state of the project. However, we identified a new low severity



issue <u>L2</u>, missing validations, events and duplicated code.

Ackee Blockchain recommends addressing these in the next revision to further enhance the contract's security, functionality and readability.

See <u>Revision 1.1</u> for the review of the updated codebase and additional information we consider essential for the current scope.

Revision 2.0

Axelar engaged Ackee Blockchain to perform a security review of the Interchain Token Service with a total time donation of 10 engineering days in a period between June 12 and June 23, 2023 and the lead auditor was Michal Převrátil.

The scope of the audit was an interchain token service contract with its dependencies. The service contract implements the deployment of token managers responsible for managing different interchain token pairs. All interchain messages are handled by the service contract, which serves as the central point of the whole system. For an additional fee, there is an express receive functionality giving the ability to receive tokens from a relayer at his own risk. The project has been significantly rewritten since the last audit.

The audit was performed on the commit <u>1e40298</u>.

We began our review with deep dive into the service deployment functions. In parallel, we implemented unit tests in the <u>Woke</u> framework to better understand the architecture and to test edge cases of the interchain service setup and token manager deployment. After that, we focused on different token manager implementations and their interactions with the service contract. With the system's core functionality covered, we moved on to libraries and utility contracts. We implemented a fuzz test for an ERC-20 token implementation with the <u>EIP-2612</u> permit extension, which is included in



the project as a dependency. We concluded our review by using static analysis tools, namely <u>Woke</u> and <u>Slither</u>, and by implementing a complex fuzz test verifying the overall system's functionality.

During the review, we paid special attention to:

- checking it is not possible for anyone else to deploy a token manager with a given tokenId except for the original deployer,
- · making sure deployment and flow limit rules cannot be bypassed,
- · looking for access control issues and trust model problems,
- ensuring tokens cannot be stolen from deployed token managers and from relayers responsible for the express receive functionality,
- checking users of the service are appropriately protected from losing their tokens.

Our review resulted in 22 findings, ranging from Info to Critical severity. The most severe one results in tokens stolen from a relayer by calling the express receive function multiple times (see <u>C1</u>).

Ackee Blockchain recommends Axelar:

- fix the <u>C1</u> critical issue together with both medium severity issues <u>M1</u> and M2,
- · clean the code of unused functions,
- add detailed documentation, especially the user-facing documentation properly describing the risks and caveats of the current solution (<u>L4</u>, <u>W15</u>).

See Revision 2.0 for the system overview of the codebase.



Revision 2.1

Axelar engaged Ackee Blockchain to perform a fix review on the commit 3bb6705. Except for fixes reported in the previous revision, the code was significantly refactored, some features were removed while others were added. This review aimed to ensure the fixes were implemented correctly without auditing the new features.

The status of all reported issues was updated and can be found in the findings table. Some issues include client responses.

Revision 3.0

Axelar engaged Ackee Blockchain to perform a security review of the Interchain Token Service with a total time donation of 8 engineering days in a period between July 31 and August 10, 2023 and the lead auditor was Miroslav Škrabal.

The scope of the audit was a pull request from the branch feat/fee-on-transfer-separate to the last audit commit. The pull request merges the changes up to the commit 412dce9 to the audit commit from the previous revision Revision 2.1, i.e. the commit 3bb6705. The pull request mainly introduces many refactorings, however, the architecture from the previous revision remains almost the same. The directories contracts/test and contracts/examples were excluded from the review. A few new contracts were added: NoReEntrancy, Operatable and a new implementation of the TokenManager.

During the review, we mainly focused on the diff against the previous revision of the protocol, which was audited and thus considered secure. We reviewed the codebase holistically and analyzed the changes in the broader context.



The majority of the review was spent on manual auditing. We noticed that the codebase lacks proper unit test coverage for certain contracts and thus we wrote a few unit tests in <u>Woke</u> to ensure the correctness of the implementation. This yielded a few findings, most notably <u>H2</u> which was clearly a result of the missing unit tests. We also used <u>Woke</u> detectors to statically analyze the codebase, mainly to guide the analysis of possible reentrancies.

Because the architecture was mainly unchanged, we followed the high-level objectives as set in the previous revision. Additionally, we paid special attention to:

- · logic regarding fee-on-transfer tokens,
- reentrancies through tokens with hooks,
- front-running of main transaction types (deployment, execute, express call,..),
- · keccak slot addresses as used in the unstructured storage pattern.

Our review resulted in 16 findings, ranging from Info to High severity.

Based on the review we recommend Axelar following these high-level recommendations:

- ensure high test coverage for all contracts (would have prevented <u>H2</u>),
- be careful when using the unstructured storage pattern (would have prevented M3, W18),
- double-check the NatSpec comments when refactoring contracts (would have prevented <u>W20</u>),
- follow the Check-Effect-Interaction pattern (would have prevented M7),
- · carefully test and consider the support of fee-on-transfer tokens (the



logic corresponding to supporting these tokens caused multiple issues),

· address all the reported issues.

Revision 4.0

Axelar engaged Ackee Blockchain to perform a security review of the Interchain Token Service with a total time donation of 8 engineering days in a period between October 9 and October 24, 2023 and the lead auditor was Jan Kalivoda.

The scope was changed multiple times during the time slot of the audit, but all the time it was the difference between the audit commit from the previous revision Revision 3, i.e. the commit 412dce9, and the following commits:

- 14fecc4 First auditing week spent 1-2 MD,
- 04972f9 First auditing week spent 1 MD + time spent on the second auditing week and then left 1 MD on the third week for another incoming commit,
- 3ef1db2 New commit introducing new contracts usage, spent 1 MD.

Changes were mostly fixes from the <u>Revision 3</u> and code refactors for simplicity (e.g. Express Service implementation for ITS). Therefore, most of the time was spent on double-checking the whole codebase and the fix review from the previous revision. However, there were also introduced new contracts that undertook a review. The last commit introduced the usage of a new contract for access control.

We began our review by using static analysis tools, namely <u>Woke</u>. Then we took a deep dive into the codebase and set the following goals:

· ensuring the code refactor does not introduce new vulnerabilities,



- ensuring the deployment with the token registrars is correct,
- · checking if the fixes from previous revisions were implemented correctly,
- otherwise goals remained the same as in the previous revisions.

Our review resulted in 8 findings, ranging from Informational to High severity. Most of the findings are related to the new contracts.

Ackee Blockchain recommends Axelar:

- add documentation for the new code,
- address all the reported issues.

Revision 4.1

We adjusted the severity of M9: Tokens with callbacks can artificially increase cross-chain transfer amount from High to Medium, based on the client's request since in the wider context it affects significantly only specific use cases and not the whole system.

Revision 5.0

Axelar engaged Ackee Blockchain to perform a security review of the Interchain Token Service with a total time donation of 8 engineering days in a period between November 7 and November 14, 2023, and the lead auditor was Štěpán Šonský.

The first day of the audit was spent on the commit e4f9953 and then the final commit 73b91cb (tagged by v1.0.0-beta.2) was delivered by the client. We began our review by using static analysis tools, namely Woke, then we focused on the diff since the last audit revision and then we did a full audit of crucial contracts with most changes - InterchainTokenFactory,

InterchainTokenService and BaseInterchainToken. We also performed a fix



review of the previous revision.

During our code review, we set the following goals:

- · checking fixes from revision 4.0,
- · reviewing all code changes,
- · ensuring delegatecalls cannot be misused,
- ensuring the correct usage of msg.value and gasValue in interchain transfers and calls.
- ensuring that the setup function cannot be called multiple times,
- · checking the express implementation,
- ensuring that the expressExecute function cannot be called multiple times,
- validating the presence and the correctness of the NatSpec documentation,
- and checking for common issues like re-entrancy, access controls and data validations.

The overall code quality and architecture have a high standard, our review resulted in 5 findings, ranging from Informational to Warning severity.

Ackee Blockchain recommends Axelar:

- unify metadata version/prefix implementation,
- · consider using only two-step role transfer,
- fix and finish the NatSpec documentation.



4. Summary of Findings

The following table summarizes the findings we identified during our review.

Unless overridden for purposes of readability, each finding contains:

- a Description,
- an Exploit scenario,
- a Recommendation and if applicable
- a Solution.

There might often be multiple ways to solve or alleviate the issue, with varying requirements regarding the necessary changes to the codebase. In that case, we will try to enumerate them all, clarifying which solves the underlying issue better (albeit possibly only with architectural changes) than others.

	Severity	Reported	Status
L1: Missing validations	Low	<u>1.0</u>	Fixed
W1: Duplicated code	Warning	1.0	No longer valid
W2: Malicious token	Warning	1.0	Acknowledged
registration			
W3: Identical function body	Warning	<u>1.0</u>	Fixed
W4: Unused internal	Warning	<u>1.0</u>	No longer valid
functions			
W5: Usage of solc optimizer	Warning	<u>1.0</u>	Acknowledged
<u>11: Redundant data</u>	Info	<u>1.0</u>	Fixed
validation			
I2: Missing documentation	Info	1.0	Fixed
L2: Expected revert	Low	<u>1.1</u>	No longer valid



	Severity	Reported	Status
L3: Missing validations	Low	1.1	Fixed
W6: Lack of events	Warning	1.1	Partially fixed
W7: Duplicated code	Warning	1.1	No longer valid
H1: Express receive double	High	2.0	Fixed
execution			
M1: Gateway token check	Medium	<u>2.0</u>	Fixed
missing			
M2: toAddress missing	Medium	2.0	Fixed
validation			
<u>L4:</u>	Low	2.0	Fixed
<u>expressReceiveTokenWithData</u>			
spoofed data			
L5: sendHash is not unique	Low	2.0	Fixed
W8: Express receive	Warning	2.0	Fixed
functions can be called bu			
recipient			
<u>W9:</u>	Warning	2.0	Fixed
<u>IInterchainTokenExecutable</u>			
tupo			
W10: Misleading	Warning	2.0	Fixed
<u>TokenManagerNotDeployed</u>			
<u>error name</u>			
W11: LinkerRouter initial	Warning	2.0	Partially fixed
trusted parameters cannot			
<u>be set</u>			



	Severity	Reported	Status
<u>W12:</u>	Warning	2.0	Fixed
PREFIX CANONICAL TOKEN ID			
tupo			
W13: Token manager	Warning	2.0	Fixed
implementations order			
validation			
W14: requiresApproval	Warning	2.0	Fixed
misleading value			
W15: Different decimals not	Warning	<u>2.0</u>	Acknowledged
handled			
	Info	2.0	Fixed
event parameter typo			
14: InterchainToken revert if	Info	2.0	Partially fixed
max approval given			
15: StringToAddress library	Info	2.0	Fixed
unused			
16: Use type(uint256).max for	Info	2.0	Acknowledged
infinite flow limit			
17: Token manager send	Info	2.0	Not fixed
<u>function names</u>			
18: LinkerRouter remote	Info	2.0	Not fixed
addresses normalization			
19: Unused functions and	Info	2.0	Partially fixed
<u>variables</u>			



	Severity	Reported	Status
<u>I10:</u>	Info	<u>2.0</u>	Fixed
InterchainTokenServiceProxy			
unused constructor			
<u>parameter</u>			
111: executeWithToken	Info	<u>2.0</u>	Fixed
redundant modifier			
H2: Wrong variable passed to	High	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
hook			
H3: Tokens with callbacks	High	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
can artificially increase			
<u>cross-chain transfer amount</u>			
M3: Operator slot incorrect	Medium	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
<u>preimage</u>			
M4: Proposed role not	Medium	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
cleared when accepted			
M5: Lack of destination	Medium	<u>3.0</u>	No longer valid
<u>chain validation</u>			
M6: Incorrect accounting of	Medium	<u>3.0</u>	Not fixed
flowIn for fee-on-transfer			
<u>tokens</u>			
M7: Front-running express	Medium	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
execute with copy of			
gateway payload			
M8: Tokens with callbacks	Medium	<u>3.0</u>	Not fixed
can break the flow			
accounting			
L6: Chain name validation	Low	3.0	Fixed



	Severity	Reported	Status
W16: Return of literal instead	Warning	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
of enum			
W17: Manager	Warning	<u>3.0</u>	Not fixed
implementation zero			
address check			
W18: Prefix incorrectly	Warning	<u>3.0</u>	No longer valid
calculated			
W19: Lack of contract	Warning	<u>3.0</u>	Not fixed
<u>prefixes in slot preimages</u>			
W20: Code-comment	Warning	<u>3.0</u>	Not fixed
discrepancy			
I12: Reentrancy lock private	Info	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
<u>113: Typo in function</u>	Info	<u>3.0</u>	Fixed
<u>parameter name</u>			
M9: Tokens with callbacks	Medium	4.0	Fixed
can artificially increase			
<u>cross-chain transfer amount</u>			
W21: Token id can differ on	Warning	<u>4.0</u>	Fixed
the deployment method			
W22: Chain name data	Warning	<u>4.0</u>	Not longer valid
validation			
W23: Possible code injection	Warning	4.0	Not fixed
on deployment on remote			
W24: Change in the enum	Warning	4.0	Acknowledged
order can affect access			
controls			



	Severity	Reported	Status
<u>114: Incorrect inline</u>	Info	4.0	Not fixed
documentation			
<u>115: Ambiguous revert</u>	Info	4.0	Not fixed
message			
<u>116: Code duplication</u>	Info	<u>4.0</u>	Fixed
W25: Hardcoded metadata	Warning	<u>5.0</u>	Reported
version/prefix			
W26: One-step role transfer	Warning	<u>5.0</u>	Reported
W27: Incorrect parent	Warning	<u>5.0</u>	Reported
contract			
W28: A danger of the	Warning	<u>5.0</u>	Reported
interchain service's balance			
drainage			
117: Incorrect or missing	Info	<u>5.0</u>	Reported
<u>documentation</u>			

Table 2. Table of Findings



5. Report revision 1.0

5.1. System Overview

This section contains an outline of the audited contracts. Note that this is meant for understandability purposes and does not replace project documentation.

Contracts

Contracts we find important for better understanding are described in the following section.

InterchainTokenService

InterchainTokenService is the core contract of the protocol. Inhretits from AxelarExecutable, EternalStorage and Upgradable. The contract is used for token registration and deployment on selected chains. Axelar's Create3Deployer contract handles the creation itself. Receiving functions are protected by onlySelf modifier. The contract contains a lot of TODOs, namely these functions are incomplete:

- registerOriginGatewayToken
- registerRemoteGatewayToken
- sendSelf
- callContractWithSelf
- selfSendToken
- selfSendTokenWithData
- sendToken
- _sendTokenWithData



InterchainToken

InterchainToken is not used, inherits from ERC20 and adds 2 functions interchainTransfer and interchainTransferFrom, which aren't implemented.

LinkedTokenData

A library for creating and reading bytes32 tokenData. It uses bitmasks for various flags, e.g. IS_ORIGIN_MASK, IS_GATEWAY_MASK, IS_REMOTE_GATEWAY_MASK.

LinkerRouter

Provides supported token address validations using the validateSender function.

TokenDeployer

Deploys tokens using Create3Deployer

BytecodeServer

BytecodeServer holds the token creation code, which is passed to its constructor.

ERC20BurnableMintable

ERC-20 implementation, which is used for all token deployments. Inherits from ERC20.sol.

Actors

This part describes actors of the system, their roles, and permissions.

Owner

The owner has total control over the supported tokens and associated validations, namely the following privileges in the contracts:



LinkerRouter

- · Add trusted address,
- · remove trusted address,
- · add gateway-supported chains,
- · remove gateway-supported chains.

User

The user (any EOA or contract) can interact with the protocol in following ways:

- · Deploy interchain token,
- · send token,
- · send token with data,
- · register origin token,
- · register origin token and deploy remote tokens,
- · deploy remote tokens.

5.2. Trust Model

The Interchain Token Service inherits the security of Axelar GMP and adds some onlyOwner privileges on top of it. Users can register their own (potentially malicious) token.



L1: Missing validations

Low severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	TokenDeployer	Type:	Data validation

Description

The contract TokenDeployer constructor does not implement any data validation.

```
constructor(address deployer_, address bytecodeServer_, address
tokenImplementation_) { deployer = Create3Deployer(deployer_);
bytecodeServer = bytecodeServer_; tokenImplementation =
tokenImplementation_; thisAddress = ITokenDeployer(this); }
```

Recommendation

Proper data validation is necessary because the contract is always used when deploying new tokens using InterchainTokenService. The most error-resistant is a contract composition with a contract ID function, which is called on a given address and compared with a value saved in the contract. The less strict way to validate contract addresses is to perform a check on whether the given address is a contract or EOA. If a random wrong address is passed inside the constructor by mistake, there is a very low probability that it will point to an existing contract and revert in such a case. The least robust validation is a zero-address check.

Solution (Revision 1.1)

```
Zero-address checks have been added to TokenDeployer constructor.if
(deployer_ == address(0) || bytecodeServer_ == address(0) ||
tokenImplementation_ == address(0)) revert AddressZero();
```





W1: Duplicated code

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Best practices

Description

InterchainTokenService function _giveTokenWithData contains the same code as _giveToken. Code duplications are generally bad practice and could lead to errors during future development.

```
_setTokenMintAmount(tokenId, getTokenMintAmount(tokenId) + amount);
bytes32 tokenData = getTokenData(tokenId);
address tokenAddress = tokenData.getAddress();

if (tokenData.isOrigin() || tokenData.isGateway()) {
    _transfer(tokenAddress, destinationaddress, amount);
} else {
    _mint(tokenAddress, destinationaddress, amount);
}
```

Recommendation

Refactor the code and call _giveToken from _giveTokenWithData to improve the architecture and code readability.

Solution (Revision 1.1)

Functions have been renamed to _transferOrMintWithData and _transferOrMint. The _transferOrMintWithData function calls _transferOrMint to avoid code duplications.



W2: Malicious token registration

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Trust model

Description

Anyone can register their own ERC-20 token implementation to the Interchain Token Service. This feature opens a large variety of potential malicious scenarios, which could affect the protocol's reputation in case it's misused.

Vulnerability scenario

We did not identify any reentrancy scenario using malicious token implementation. However, keep in mind that attackers can be very creative in token development, e.q.:

- The attacker deploys the malicious token.
- The attacker registers the token to the Interchain Token Linker and uses it to deploy to other chains.
- Users transfer the tokens to other chains.
- The attacker rug pulls tokens from the Linker.
- Users are not able to transfer tokens back to the original chain.

Recommendation

Axelar is not primarily responsible for preventing the introduction of malicious tokens within the protocol. However, if such an occurrence were to take place, it could potentially undermine the credibility and trust associated with the protocol. Therefore it's good to be transparent and communicate this potential risk to users.





W3: Identical function body

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Best practices

Description

InterchainTokenService contains two functions _execute and _executeWithToken with identical body.

```
if (!linkerRouter.validateSender(sourceChain, sourceAddress)) return;
// solhint-disable-next-line avoid-low-level-calls
(bool success, ) = address(this).call(payload);
if (!success) revert ExecutionFailed();
```

Recommendation

Call _execute from _executeWithToken.

Solution (Revision 1.1)

The function _executeWithToken calls _execute.



W4: Unused internal functions

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Best practices

Description

InterchainTokenService contains unused internal functions _setTokenMintLimit and _callContractWithToken

Recommendation

Remove all unused code or implement missing logic to utilize these functions.

Solution (Revision 1.1)

Functions _setTokenMintLimit and _callContractWithToken are now used in the code.



W5: Usage of solc optimizer

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	**/*	Туре:	Compiler config

Description

The project uses solc optimizer. Enabling solc optimizer <u>may lead to unexpected bugs</u>.

The Solidity compiler was audited in November 2018, and the audit <u>concluded</u> that the optimizer may not be safe.

Vulnerability scenario

A few months after deployment, a vulnerability is discovered in the optimizer. As a result, it is possible to attack the protocol.

Recommendation

Until the solc optimizer undergoes more stringent security analysis, opt-out using it. This will ensure the protocol is resilient to any existing bugs in the optimizer.



11: Redundant data validation

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Data validation

Description

In the constructor of the <u>InterchainTokenService</u> contract, a redundant check for a zero address is performed.

```
if (gatewayAddress_ == address(0) || gasServiceAddress_ == address(0) ||
linkerRouterAddress_ == address(0))
```

The check for a gatewayAddress_ variable is already performed in the inherited constructor of the contract AxelarExecutable.

```
constructor(address gateway_) {
  if (gateway_ == address(0)) revert InvalidAddress();

gateway = IAxelarGateway(gateway_);
}
```

Recommendation

Remove the redundant check in the <u>InterchainTokenService</u> constructor to save some gas.



12: Missing documentation

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	**/*	Туре:	Best practices

Description

Although the code is realatively simple and easy to read, the project is missing detailed documentation.

Recommendation

We strongly recommend covering the code by NatSpec. High-quality documentation has to be an essential part of any professional project.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The code documentation was significantly improved and can be considered sufficient.



6. Report revision 1.1

6.1. System Overview

Description of improvements and changes in contracts and trust model for revision 1.1.

Contracts

Updates and changes in the contracts' code we find important.

InterchainTokenService

InterchainTokenService contains a lot of refactored and new code, e.g. gateway and remote gateway logic in _sendToken and _sendTokenWithData functions.

There are new features like token mint limits per time interval, express logic and functions like sendSelf or callContractWithSelf. Also, a new security mechanism has been introduced in the function registerSelfAsInterchainToken. It is designed to self-register tokens, which avoids malicious actors from registering tokens and blocking their registration as an origin token in the future.

InterchainToken

Functions interchainTransfer and interchainTransferFrom are now implemented and using common logic from internal function _interchainTransfer.

LinkerRouter

The LinkerRouter has been slightly refactored, with no major changes.



Actors

This part describes changes in actors, their roles, and permissions.

Owner

The owner has now the following new abilities in the system:

- · Register origin gateway token,
- · register remote gateway token.

Interchain Token

Interchain token is a new active actor in the system, it can interact with the InterchainTokenService in the following ways:

- · Register self,
- · set self mint limit,
- · send self,
- · call contract with self.

User

The user (any EOA or contract) can now perform these additional operations:

- Express execute,
- · express execute with token.



L2: Expected revert

Low severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Data validation

Description

The _execute function in InterchainTokenService contract does not revert in case of failed sender validation. This can lead to partial execution and an inconsistent token state and loss of user's funds.

Steps to reproduce the issue:

- 1. executeWithToken in AxelarExecutable gets called.
- 2. validateContractCallAndMint passes and mints tokens.
- 3. _executeWithToken in InterchainTokenService calls _execute.
- 4. Condition if (!linkerRouter.validateSender(sourceChain, sourceAddress)) is met, and the function returns without revert.
- 5. Transaction passes, tokens are minted to the contract, but payload is not executed.

```
if (!linkerRouter.validateSender(sourceChain, sourceAddress)) return;
(bool success, ) = address(this).call(payload);
if (!success) revert ExecutionFailed();
```

Recommendation

Use revert instead of return to avoid partial execution.

```
if (!linkerRouter.validateSender(sourceChain, sourceAddress)) revert
```



SenderValidationFailed();

Update (Revision 2.0)

After a discussion with the client, the impact of this issue was reevaluated from High to Low. The main reason is ERC-20 tokens may be potentially stuck in the service contract, which does not present a significant issue as anyone can already send any ERC-20 tokens to the contract.



L3: Missing validations

Low severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Data validation

Description

The contract InterchainTokenService constructor is missing tokenDeployerAddress_validation.

```
constructor(
    address gatewayAddress_,
    address gasServiceAddress_,
    address linkerRouterAddress_,
    address tokenDeployerAddress_,
    string memory chainName_
) AxelarExecutable(gatewayAddress_) {
    if (gatewayAddress_ == address(0) || gasServiceAddress_ == address
(0) || linkerRouterAddress_ == address(0))
        revert TokenServiceZeroAddress();
    ...
}
```

Recommendation

Add the zero-address check also for tokenDeployerAddress_.

```
if (gatewayAddress_ == address(0) || gasServiceAddress_ == address(0) ||
linkerRouterAddress_ == address(0) || tokenDeployerAddress_ == address(0))
    revert TokenServiceZeroAddress();
```



W6: Lack of events

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	LinkerRouter	Type:	Events

Description

The contract LinkerRouter is missing emits of events when the state changes, namely in functions addTrustedAddress, removeTrustedAddress, addGatewaySupportedChains and removeGatewaySupportedChains. Events are generally useful for monitoring contract activity, tracking changes and triggering off-chain responses.

Recommendation

Add event emits into the mentioned functions



```
emit GatewaySupportedChainsAdded(chainNames);
}

function removeGatewaySupportedChains(string[] calldata chainNames)
external onlyOwner {
    ...
    emit GatewaySupportedChainsRemoved(chainNames);
}
```

Update (Revision 2.0)

The original issue is still valid and there are more state-changing functions missing events. The functions are:

- setFlowLimit in the FlowLimit contract,
- setPaused in the Pausable contract,
- setAdmin in the Adminable contract.

Partial solution (Revision 2.1)

Event emits were added to the LinkerRouter, Adminable and Pausable contracts. However, the FlowLimit contract still does not emit an event of a flow limit change.



W7: Duplicated code

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Best practices

Description

InterchainTokenService contains following duplicated code for validation in functions isOriginToken, isGatewayToken, getGatewayTokenSymbol, isCustomInterchainToken and _sendToken.

```
bytes32 tokenData = getTokenData(tokenId);
if (tokenData == bytes32(0)) revert NotRegistered();
```

Recommendation

Create a separate getter for TokenData including validation.

```
function getValidTokenData(bytes32 tokenId) public view returns (bytes32
tokenData) {
   tokenData = bytes32(getUint(_getTokenDataKey(tokenId)));
   if (tokenData == bytes32(0)) revert NotRegistered();
}
```



7. Report revision 2.0

7.1. System Overview

This section contains an outline of the audited contracts. As the project was significantly rewritten, this section covers all important contracts without references to the previous revision. Note that this is meant for understandability purposes and does not replace project documentation.

Contracts

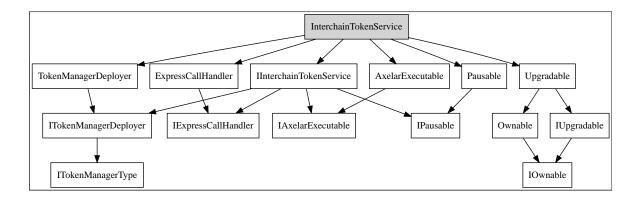
Contracts we find important for better understanding are described in the following section.

InterchainTokenService

This contract is the main entry point for the system. It is responsible for token manager deployments, including remote chain deployments, and interchain communication with service contracts on other chains. The InterchainTokenService contract is deployed behind a proxy, and it references all token manager types used when deploying a new token manager (also behind a proxy).

Users can deploy canonical token managers and custom token managers using the service. For each token address, only one canonical token manager can be deployed. Custom token managers do not have this restriction and can be controlled by anyone. The service contract also offers express receive functions typically called by relayers to provide tokens to a user faster if additional fees are paid. The rest of the functions serve for interactions with token managers.





InterchainToken

InterchainToken is an abstract ERC-20 token contract with <u>EIP-2612</u> (permit) support. It can serve as a base contract for ERC-20 tokens, but it is not required to use it. The InterchainToken contract is a base contract of the TokenManagerCanonical contract.

The contract implements functions for interchain token transfers. However, it is possible to perform interchain transfers directly through token managers.

LinkerRouter

The LinkerRouter contract is responsible for the authorization of cross-chain messages. It defines from which addresses from which chains messages will be accepted. In a typical scenario, the InterchainTokenService contract will be deployed to the same address on different chains. However, deploying it to a different address and setting the given address as an authorized one is still possible. This approach is also needed when adding support for new chains with different lengths of addresses.

TokenManager

The TokenManager abstract contract is a base class for all token manager types. It handles token transfers of an underlying ERC-20 token. It is deployed behind a proxy, and the address of the implementation contract is stored in InterchainTokenService.



The owner of a token manager can set a new owner and configure a token flow limit. The flow limit describes the maximum amount of tokens sent or received in addition to the amount of tokens already received or sent respectively. The absolute value of the subtraction between token inflows and outflows must not exceed the flow limit (if set).

TokenManagerCanonical

TokenManagerCanonical inherits from the InterchainToken abstract contract, and so itself is an ERC-20 token. This token manager type is used when deploying a remote token manager for a local canonical token. However, it can still be used as a custom token manager.

TokenManagerLiquidityPool

The TokenManagerLiquidityPool implementation expects tokens stored in an external contract, a liquidity pool. The liquidity pool address is set during deployment and can be changed by the owner of the token manager.

TokenManagerLockUnlock

TokenManagerLockUnlock is similar to the TokenManagerLiquidityPool contract, but tokens are stored directly in the token manager. This token manager type is used when registering a local canonical token.

TokenManagerMintBurn

The TokenManagerMintBurn token manager type uses mint and burn functions to manage tokens. It expects common signatures of these functions implemented in the underlying token contract and appropriate permissions to call them.

Actors

This part describes actors of the system, their roles, and permissions.



Axelar

The Axelar team is responsible for deployments of the InterchainTokenService contract and its proxies on supported chains. As this contract holds the addresses of all token managers, it is also responsible for token manager implementations and their upgrades. Even though canonical tokens can be registered and remotely deployed by anyone, the admin of the corresponding token managers is set to the InterchainTokenService contract. This means that the Axelar team can set flow limits and an address of a liquidity pool (in the case of TokenManagerLiquidityPool) of canonical tokens. The Axelar team can also pause the InterchainTokenService contract in case of an emergency.

Relayer

For an extra fee, a user of the interchain service can request a relayer to perform an extra receive and lend tokens on the target chain without waiting for the finality on the source chain.

User

A user of the interchain service can register canonical tokens on a chain and deploy corresponding canonical token managers to remote chains. However, these token managers are controlled by the InterchainTokenService contract, and so the user cannot set flow limits or change the address of a liquidity pool. A user can also deploy any number of custom token managers and control them. It is guaranteed that noone else can deploy token managers with the same tokenId on any EVM-compatible chain.

Users of the protocol can send tokens with an optional data message to any supported chain either through a token manager or an ERC-20 token contract directly if it iherits from the InterchainToken contract.



7.2. Trust Model

Users of the protocol have to trust the Axelar infrastructure to perform interchain relayings. In the context of this project, users have to trust the Axelar team to deploy and setup the InterchainTokenService contract and its proxies correctly. Users have to trust ERC-20 tokens on both a source and a destination chain. When interacting with a custom token manager pair, users have to trust the token manager admin to have linked both ERC-20 tokens correctly and that the flow limit will not be abused.



H1: Express receive double execution

High severity issue

Impact:	Medium	Likelihood:	High
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Double
			execution

Description

The functions expressReceiveToken and expressReceiveTokenWithData in the InterchainTokenService contract can be executed multiple times with the same arguments. Both functions transfer a given amount of tokens from a caller to an interchain recipient and overwrite an express receive slot with the address of the caller. Later, when the interchain transfer is relayed, the address stored in the express receive storage slot receives tokens instead of the interchain recipient.

An ability to overwrite the storage slot opens the possibility for an attack when a malicious user interchain transfers tokens with the express receive functionality. A relayer lends tokens on the destination chain while writing his address into the express receive storage slot. The malicious user calls the expressReceiveToken function with the same arguments as the relayer, effectively overwriting the relayer's address with his own. When the interchain transfer is relayed, the malicious user receives tokens instead of the relayer.

Vulnerability scenario

Alice sends 1000 tokens from her first address on the BNB chain to her first address on the Ethereum mainnet. She pays an extra fee to receive her tokens sooner on the Ethereum mainnet using the express receive functionality. Bob is a relayer who calls the expressReceiveToken function with



correct arguments on the Ethereum mainnet, transferring 1000 tokens from his address to Alice's first address. Alice owns another 1000 tokens on her second address on the Ethereum mainnet. She calls the expressReceiveToken function with the same arguments as Bob, transferring 1000 tokens from her second address to her first address. When the interchain transfer is relayed, Alice receives 1000 tokens instead of Bob. Bob loses 1000 tokens while Alice gains 1000 tokens.

See Appendix C for a proof of concept script in the Woke testing framework.

Recommendation

Revert the transaction executing one of the expressReceiveToken and expressReceiveTokenWithData functions if the express receive storage slot already contains a non-zero address.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

After a discussion with the client, the impact was reevaluated to medium, especially because the express receive functionality is intended to be used optionally with smaller amounts of tokens. Because of this, an attacker would not be able to steal a large amount of tokens as an explicit relayer action is required to trigger the vulnerability.

The issue was fixed by reverting the transaction if the express receive storage slot already contains a non-zero address.



M1: Gateway token check missing

Medium severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	High
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Data validation

Description

The registerCanonicalToken function checks if a given ERC-20 token address is already registered at the gateway. In this case, canonical token registration fails to allow the Axelar team to register already supported tokens later. However, this check is missing in the

registerCanonicalTokenAndDeployRemoteCanonicalTokens function, effectively letting anyone bypass the check in the registerCanonicalToken function.

Listing 1. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

Listing 2. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
function registerCanonicalTokenAndDeployRemoteCanonicalTokens(
   address tokenAddress,
   string[] calldata destinationChains,
   uint256[] calldata gasValues
) external payable notPaused returns (bytes32 tokenId) {
   tokenId = getCanonicalTokenId(tokenAddress);
   _deployTokenManager(tokenId, TokenManagerType.LOCK_UNLOCK,
```



Vulnerability scenario

A user registers a canonical token through the

registerCanonicalTokenAndDeployRemoteCanonicalTokens function using the address of an already supported token by the gateway. Now, two canonical token handlers of the same ERC-20 token exist in the Axelar ecosystem. Furthermore, the Axelar team cannot register the canonical token later with possibly different parameters.

Recommendation

Check that the address of a token is not already known to the gateway in the registerCanonicalTokenAndDeployRemoteCanonicalTokens function.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by removing the registerCanonicalTokenAndDeployRemoteCanonicalTokens functionality.



M2: toAddress missing validation

Medium severity issue

Impact:	High	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	AddressBytesUtils	Type:	Data validation

Description

The toAddress function in the AddressBytesUtils library is missing a validation that the number of bytes to be converted to an address is exactly 20. Only the first 20 bytes are taken, or if less than 20 bytes are given, any data stored in memory immediately after the bytesAddress argument are used.

Listing 3. Excerpt from AddressBytesUtils

```
function toAddress(bytes memory bytesAddress) internal pure returns
(address addr) {
    // solhint-disable-next-line no-inline-assembly
    assembly {
        addr := mload(add(bytesAddress, 20))
      }
}
```

Vulnerability scenario

There are multiple vulnerability scenarios corresponding to the toAddress function usages:

 A user of the interchain service mistypes the destination address by inserting less than or more than 20 bytes. Tokens are still transferred on the destination chain, taking the first 20 bytes in memory.

Listing 4. Excerpt from <u>InterchainTokenService</u>

```
function _processSendTokenPayload(string calldata sourceChain,
```



```
bytes calldata payload) internal {
396
            (, bytes32 tokenId, bytes memory destinationAddressBytes,
   uint256 amount, bytes32 sendHash) = abi.decode(
397
                payload,
                (uint256, bytes32, bytes, uint256, bytes32)
398
399
            );
400
            address destinationAddress =
    destinationAddressBytes.toAddress();
            ITokenManager tokenManager =
401
    ITokenManager(getValidTokenManagerAddress(tokenId));
            address expressCaller = _popExpressSendToken(tokenId,
402
    destinationAddress, amount, sendHash);
            if (expressCaller == address(0)) {
403
                amount = tokenManager.giveToken(destinationAddress,
404
    amount);
405
                emit TokenReceived(tokenId, sourceChain,
    destinationAddress, amount, sendHash);
406
            } else {
407
                amount = tokenManager.giveToken(expressCaller, amount);
                emit ExpressExecutionFulfilled(tokenId, destinationAddress,
408
    amount, sendHash, expressCaller);
409
            }
        }
410
```

 A custom token manager deployer mistypes the admin address by inserting less than or more than 20 bytes. The admin address is still set, taking the first 20 bytes in memory.

Listing 5. Excerpt from TokenManager

```
function setup(bytes calldata params) external onlyProxy {
42
           bytes memory adminBytes = abi.decode(params, (bytes));
43
44
           address admin;
45
           // Specifying an empty admin will default to the service being
   the admin. This makes it easy to deploy remote canonical tokens without
   knowing anything about the service address at the destination.
           if (adminBytes.length == 0) {
46
47
               admin_ = address(interchainTokenService);
48
49
               admin_ = adminBytes.toAddress();
```



• A TokenManagerCanonical deployer mistypes the admin address by inserting less than or more than 20 bytes. Tokens are still minted to an address, taking the first 20 bytes in memory.

Listing 6. Excerpt from TokenManagerCanonical

```
32
       function setup(bytes calldata params) internal override {
33
           uint256 mintAmount;
34
           bytes memory admin;
35
           //the first argument is reserved for the admin.
           (admin, name, symbol, decimals, mintAmount) = abi.decode(params,
36
   (bytes, string, string, uint8, uint256));
37
           _setDomainTypeSignatureHash(name);
38
          if (mintAmount > 0) {
               // Not sure why initial mint for an arbitrary admin address
39
  is needed natively.
40
               // Better to keep it simpler I think and it can be done at a
   higher level if needed.
41
               _mint(admin.toAddress(), mintAmount);
42
           }
43
       }
```

Recommendation

Revert the transaction if the number of bytes to be converted to an address is not exactly 20.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by reverting the transaction if the number of bytes is not exactly 20.



L4: expressReceiveTokenWithData spoofed data

Low severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Access controls,
			data validation

Description

The expressReceiveTokenWithData function in the InterchainTokenService contract can be called by anyone with the arguments spoofed. As a consequence, the IInterchainTokenExecutable.exectuteWithInterchainToken callback function can be called with spoofed data.

Listing 7. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

588

IInterchainTokenExecutable(destinationAddress).exectuteWithInterchainTo
ken(sourceChain, sourceAddress, data, tokenId, amount);

Vulnerability scenario

A governance contract implementing the

IInterchainTokenExecutable.exectuteWithInterchainToken callback function is deployed. ERC-20 tokens are used to vote in the contract and authorization based on the sourceChain and sourceAddress parameters is required prior to voting. Because of the possibility of executing the callback function with spoofed data, anyone can vote in someone else's name.

Recommendation

Perform validation that such interchain transfer exists against the gateway or limit the execution of the express receive functions to a limited set of



trusted addresses. If this is not an option, make sure it is clearly visible in the contract source code, in the Github repository and in the documentation that the data passed to the callback function cannot be trusted.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by adding a documentation comment to the expressReceiveTokenWithData function stating:

Use this only if you have detected an outgoing sendToken that matches the parameters passed here.



L5: sendHash is not unique

Low severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Architecture
			design

Description

sendHash used to identify an interchain transfer may not be unique. Currently, the sendHash value is computed from tokenId, block.number and amount:

Listing 8. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
bytes32 sendHash = keccak256(abi.encode(tokenId, block.number,
amount));
```

Listing 9. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
bytes32 sendHash = keccak256(abi.encode(tokenId, block.number,
amount));
```

sendHash is used to compute an express receive slot. However, the tokenId and amount parameters are already incorporated in the slot computation:

Listing 10. Excerpt from <u>ExpressCallHandler</u>

```
slot = uint256(keccak256(abi.encode(PREFIX_EXPRESS_GIVE_TOKEN,
tokenId, destinationAddress, amount, sendHash)));
```

Listing 11. Excerpt from <u>ExpressCallHandler</u>



```
36
                    abi.encode(
37
                         PREFIX_EXPRESS_GIVE_TOKEN_WITH_DATA,
38
                         tokenId,
39
                         sourceChain,
40
                         sourceAddress,
                         destinationAddress,
41
42
                         amount,
43
                         data,
                         sendHash
44
45
                    )
                )
46
47
            );
```

Multiple interchain transactions with the same parameters (tokenId, sourceAddress, destinationaddress, amount) can be included in the same block. More importantly, some layer 2 solutions (e.g. Arbitrum) may report the same block.number for multiple layer 2 blocks.

Accessing block numbers within an Arbitrum smart contract (i.e., block.number in Solidity) will return a value close to (but not necessarily exactly) the L1 block number at which the Sequencer received the transaction.

— Arbitrum documentation

A single Ethereum block could include multiple Arbitrum blocks within it; however, an Arbitrum block cannot span across multiple Ethereum blocks. Thus, any given Arbitrum transaction is associated with exactly one Ethereum block and one Arbitrum block.

— Arbitrum documentation



Vulnerability scenario

A user wants to transfer 2000 tokens from Arbitrum in two transactions with express receive functionality. Both transactions are included in the same Ethereum block. Consequently, the sendHash value is the same for both transactions and the user express receives only the first batch of tokens. The second batch is received after reaching the finality on the source chain.

Recommendation

Define a nonce counter within the InterchainTokenService contract and use it instead of sendHash. The nonce value together with sourceChain will be unique for each interchain transfer.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by using commandId instead of sendHash in the InterchainTokenService contract. commandId is guaranteed to be unique because it is used internally in Axelar gateways to identify an interchain message.



W8: Express receive functions can be called by recipient

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Data validation

Description

Both express receive functions expressReceiveToken and

expressReceiveTokenWithData can be called from the destination address resulting in the express receive amount being computed as zero. This value is later used when overwriting an express receive storage slot and when emitting an event.

Listing 12. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
function expressReceiveToken(bytes32 tokenId, address
236
    destinationAddress, uint256 amount, bytes32 sendHash) external
    notPaused {
237
            address caller = msg.sender;
238
            ITokenManager tokenManager =
    ITokenManager(getValidTokenManagerAddress(tokenId));
239
            IERC20 token = IERC20(tokenManager.tokenAddress());
240
            uint256 balance = token.balanceOf(destinationAddress);
241
            SafeTokenTransferFrom.safeTransferFrom(token, caller,
    destinationAddress, amount);
242
            amount = token.balanceOf(destinationAddress) - balance;
243
            _setExpressSendToken(tokenId, destinationAddress, amount,
    sendHash, caller);
244
            emit ExpressExecuted(tokenId, destinationAddress, amount,
    sendHash, caller);
246
        }
```

Listing 13. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
248 function expressReceiveTokenWithData(
```



```
249
            bytes32 tokenId,
250
            string memory sourceChain,
251
            bytes memory sourceAddress,
252
            address destinationAddress,
253
            uint256 amount,
254
            bytes calldata data,
255
            bytes32 sendHash
256
        ) external notPaused {
257
            address caller = msg.sender;
258
            ITokenManager tokenManager =
    ITokenManager(getValidTokenManagerAddress(tokenId));
259
            IERC20 token = IERC20(tokenManager.tokenAddress());
            uint256 balance = token.balanceOf(destinationAddress);
260
261
            SafeTokenTransferFrom.safeTransferFrom(token, caller,
    destinationAddress, amount);
262
            amount = token.balanceOf(destinationAddress) - balance;
263
            _setExpressSendTokenWithData(tokenId, sourceChain,
    sourceAddress, destinationAddress, amount, data, sendHash, caller);
            _passData(destinationAddress, tokenId, sourceChain,
264
    sourceAddress, amount, data);
            emit ExpressExecutedWithData(tokenId, sourceChain,
265
    sourceAddress, destinationAddress, amount, data, sendHash, caller);
266
        }
```

Recommendation

While there are no security consequences, this is an unexpected edge-case scenario that can cause problems in the future. It is recommended to add a check to ensure that the caller is not the destination address.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by avoiding recomputing amount as a difference between the balance after and before the transfer.



W9: IInterchainTokenExecutable typo

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	IInterchainTokenExecutable	Туре:	Code quality

Description

There is a typo in the IInterchainTokenExecutable callback function name.

Listing 14. Excerpt from <u>IInterchainTokenExecutable</u>

7 function exectuteWithInterchainToken(

Recommendation

Because this typo affects the selector of the function, it is recommended to fix the typo as soon as possible.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The typo was fixed.



W10: Misleading TokenManagerNotDeployed error name

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Logic error

Description

The error TokenManagerNotDeployed is used when checking if a token manager with a given tokenId exists. However, the error is raised only when the token manager exists (the address contains a code), but the tokenId() function returns an unexpected tokenId. When the token manager with a given tokenId is not deployed, execution of the function reverts earlier because of ABI decoding failure.

Listing 15. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
function getValidTokenManagerAddress(bytes32 tokenId) public view
returns (address tokenManagerAddress) {

tokenManagerAddress = getTokenManagerAddress(tokenId);

if (ITokenManagerProxy(tokenManagerAddress).tokenId() !=
tokenId) revert TokenManagerNotDeployed(tokenId);

}
```

Recommendation

Perform the tokenId() external call as a low-level call to be able to raise the user-defined error or rename the error to TokenIdMismatch or a similar name. Note that under normal conditions, it should never happen that a token manager would return an unexpected tokenId.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by renaming the error to TokenManagerDoesNotExist.





W11: LinkerRouter initial trusted parameters cannot be set

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	LinkerRouter	Туре:	Logic error

Description

The parameters trustedChainNames and trustedAddresses in the LinkerRouter constructor cannot be set to non-empty arrays. The reason is that the LinkerRouter contract is expected to be deployed behind a proxy, and the contract's admin is set when deploying the proxy contract. Because setting trusted addresses is an admin-only operation, execution of the constructor fails with non-empty parameters as the admin is the zero address during the implementation contract deployment.

Listing 16. Excerpt from <u>LinkerRouter</u>

```
constructor(address _interchainTokenServiceAddress, string[] memory
  trustedChainNames, string[] memory trustedAddresses) {
23
           if (_interchainTokenServiceAddress == address(0)) revert
   ZeroAddress();
24
           interchainTokenServiceAddress = _interchainTokenServiceAddress;
25
           uint256 length = trustedChainNames.length;
26
           if (length != trustedAddresses.length) revert LengthMismatch();
27
           interchainTokenServiceAddressHash = keccak256(
  bytes(_lowerCase(interchainTokenServiceAddress.toString())));
28
          for (uint256 i; i < length; ++i) {
29
               addTrustedAddress(trustedChainNames[i],
  trustedAddresses[i]);
30
          }
31
       }
```

Listing 17. Excerpt from LinkerRouter

```
function addTrustedAddress(string memory chain, string memory addr)
```



```
public onlyOwner {
52          if (bytes(chain).length == 0) revert ZeroStringLength();
53          if (bytes(addr).length == 0) revert ZeroStringLength();
54          remoteAddressHashes[chain] = keccak256(bytes(_lowerCase(addr)));
55          remoteAddresses[chain] = addr;
56    }
```

Recommendation

Remove the trustedChainNames and trustedAddresses parameters from the LinkerRouter constructor and if needed, set them using the setup function invoked by the proxy without access controls checked.

Partial solution (Revision 2.1)

The parameters were removed from the LinkerRouter constructor and can now be set using the setup function. However, the parameters are still set using the addTrustedAddress function. Because the addTrustedAddress function checks access controls, deployment of LinkerRouterProxy may revert if the configured admin is not the deployer (msg.sender) of the proxy contract.



W12: PREFIX_CANONICAL_TOKEN_ID typo

Impa	act:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Tarc	get:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Code quality

Description

There is a typo in the value of the PREFIX_CANONICAL_TOKEN_ID constant.

Listing 18. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
bytes32 internal constant PREFIX_CANONICAL_TOKEN_ID = keccak256
('its-cacnonical-token-id');
```

Recommendation

Fix the typo as soon as possible as it may cause backward compatibility issues.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The typo was fixed by using a different value (its-standardized-token-id).



W13: Token manager implementations order validation

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Data validation

Description

There is no validation that token manager implementation addresses are passed in the correct/expected order to the InterchainTokenService constructor. Passing the implementations in an incorrect order makes the InterchainTokenService contract dysfunctional and requires a new contract deployment.

Listing 19. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
constructor(
60
           address deployer_,
61
           address bytecodeServer_,
62
63
           address gateway_,
           address gasService_,
64
           address linkerRouter_,
65
66
           address[] memory tokenManagerImplementations,
67
           string memory chainName_
       ) TokenManagerDeployer(deployer_, bytecodeServer_)
68
  AxelarExecutable(gateway_) {
69
           if (linkerRouter_ == address(0) || gasService_ == address(0))
   revert ZeroAddress();
70
           linkerRouter = ILinkerRouter(linkerRouter_);
71
           gasService = IAxelarGasService(gasService_);
72
73
           if (tokenManagerImplementations.length !=
   uint256(type(TokenManagerType).max) + 1) revert LengthMismatch();
74
75
           // use a loop for the zero address checks?
           if (tokenManagerImplementations[
76
   uint256(TokenManagerType.LOCK UNLOCK)] == address(0)) revert
   ZeroAddress();
```



```
77
           implementationLockUnlock = tokenManagerImplementations[
  uint256(TokenManagerType.LOCK_UNLOCK)];
78
           if (tokenManagerImplementations[
   uint256(TokenManagerType.MINT_BURN)] == address(0)) revert
   ZeroAddress();
79
           implementationMintBurn = tokenManagerImplementations[
  uint256(TokenManagerType.MINT_BURN)];
           if (tokenManagerImplementations[
   uint256(TokenManagerType.CANONICAL)] == address(0)) revert
   ZeroAddress();
           implementationCanonical = tokenManagerImplementations[
81
   uint256(TokenManagerType.CANONICAL)];
           if (tokenManagerImplementations[
   uint256(TokenManagerType.LIQUIDITY_POOL)] == address(0)) revert
   ZeroAddress();
83
           implementationLiquidityPool =
   tokenManagerImplementations[uint256(TokenManagerType.LIQUIDITY_POOL)];
```

Recommendation

While the type of a token manager is accessible from the TokenManagerProxy proxy contract, it is helpful to keep the token manager type even in the implementation contract. Store the token manager type in the TokenManager contract and check if the type matches the expected type in the InterchainTokenService constructor.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

Fixed by providing the token manager type in token manager implementations and checking the type in the InterchainTokenService constructor.



W14: requiresApproval misleading value

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	TokenManagerMintBurn	Type:	Logic error

Description

The function requiresApproval defined in the ITokenManager interface may return misleading values in the case of TokenManagerMintBurn. The false value is returned in this case, but the correct value depends on the implementation of an underlying ERC-20 token. Some implementations may require the allowance set when burning tokens, while others may not.

Furthermore, the function is only used in the InterchainToken contract; in this case, the correct value depends on the implementation of the interchain token itself.

Recommendation

Consider moving the requiresApproval function into the InterchainToken contract and making the function virtual, as only this contract uses the function. At the same time, the implementation of this contract may require different values returned.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The requiresApproval function was removed from the ITokenManager interface and a new virtual function tokenManagerRequiresApproval with the same functionality was added to the InterchainToken contract.



W15: Different decimals not handled

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Туре:	Arithmetics, Data
			validation

Description

When registering canonical tokens and deploying remote canonical tokens, it is guaranteed that both token contracts have identical decimals. However, custom token manager pairs may be deployed with different token decimals. The InterchainTokenService contract does not handle different token decimals and token amounts cannot even be recomputed on a backend because token amounts are encoded into generic messages for Axelar General Message Passing. Using custom token manager pairs with different decimals leads to a loss of tokens for a user performing an interchain transfer or to a loss for an admin managing token managers.

Recommendation

Encode source token decimals into a payload sent to a destination chain.

Listing 20. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
bytes memory payload = abi.encode(SELECTOR_SEND_TOKEN, tokenId,
destinationAddress, amount, sendHash);
```

Listing 21. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

2	295	<pre>bytes memory payload = abi.encode(</pre>
2	296	SELECTOR_SEND_TOKEN_WITH_DATA,
2	297	tokenId,
2	298	destinationAddress,
2	299	amount,
3	300	<pre>sourceAddress.toBytes(),</pre>
(



```
301 data,
302 sendHash
303 );
```

On the destination chain, compare decimals decoded from the payload with decimals of the destination token. Either recompute the amount of tokens given to a destination user or revert on different decimals.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The finding was acknowledged by the client with the following comment:

Different decimals for the same token aren't supported. Due to the permissionless nature of the system, there are many ways a user can create invalid links. So, it's not too useful to add onchain checks that increase gas usage.

- Axelar Team



13: IInterchainTokenService event parameter typo

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	IInterchainTokenService	Type:	Code quality

Description

There is a typo in the last parameter of the <code>IInterchainTokenService.TokenSent</code> event.

Listing 22. Excerpt from <u>IInterchainTokenService</u>

event TokenSent(bytes32 tokenId, string destinationChain, bytes destinationAddress, uint256 indexed amount, bytes32 sendHahs);

Recommendation

Fix the typo.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The sendHash parameter was removed from the TokenSent event, so the typo no longer exists.



14: InterchainToken revert if max approval given

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainToken	Туре:	Integer overflow

Description

The InterchainToken transfer functions interchainTransfer and interchainTransferFrom revert on overflow when a sender already has max approval given to the token manager.

Listing 23. Excerpt from <u>InterchainToken</u>

Listing 24. Excerpt from InterchainToken

Recommendation

Do not increase the allowance to the token manager when the allowance is set to type(uint256).max.

Partial solution (Resivision 2.1)

The issue was fixed in the interchainTransfer function by increasing the allowance by an amount that does not overflow. However, the issue is still present in the interchainTransferFrom function.





15: StringToAddress library unused

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	LinkerRouter	Type:	Code quality

Description

The StringToAddress library is imported in the LinkerRouter contract through a using-for directive, but it is never used in the contract.

Listing 25. Excerpt from <u>LinkerRouter</u>

9 using StringToAddress for string;

Recommendation

Remove the using-for directive referencing the StringToAddress library.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The usage of the StringToAddress library was removed from the LinkerRouter contract.



16: Use type(uint256).max for infinite flow limit

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	FlowLimit	Type:	Code quality

Description

The FlowLimit contract uses zero as a value indicating there is no flow limit. However:

- this is against conventions as an infinite allowance is typically expressed using type(uint256).max,
- it is not possible to completely disable a single token manager by setting the flow limit to zero.

Listing 26. Excerpt from FlowLimit

```
function _addFlow(uint256 slotToAdd, uint256 slotToCompare, uint256
flowAmount) internal {
    uint256 flowLimit = getFlowLimit();
    if (flowLimit == 0) return;
```

Recommendation

Consider using type(uint256).max as a special value indicating an infinite flow limit.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The finding was acknowledged by the client with the following comment:

Setting flow limits to uint256 max increases gas cost for all deployments. Using the 0 default is simpler, and we'll document the behaviour so apps set it correctly.



— Axelar Team



17: Token manager send function names

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	TokenManager	Туре:	Code quality

Description

The functions sendToken and callContractWithInterchainToken perform almost the same operation, with the latter also executing a callback with user-defined payload, but the names of the functions are completely different. This is against good coding practices and current conventions in the Axelar ecosystem, where IAxelarExecutable functions are named execute and executeWithToken.

Listing 27. Excerpt from TokenManager

```
55
       function sendToken(string calldata destinationChain, bytes calldata
  destinationAddress, uint256 amount) external payable virtual {
56
           address sender = msg.sender;
57
           amount = _takeToken(sender, amount);
58
           _addFlowOut(amount);
59
           _transmitSendToken(sender, destinationChain, destinationAddress,
   amount);
60
       }
61
       function callContractWithInterchainToken(
62
           string calldata destinationChain,
63
           bytes calldata destinationAddress,
64
65
           uint256 amount,
           bytes calldata data
66
       ) external payable virtual {
67
68
           address sender = msg.sender;
           amount = _takeToken(sender, amount);
69
70
           _addFlowOut(amount);
           _transmitSendTokenWithData(sender, destinationChain,
71
   destinationAddress, amount, data);
72
       }
```



Recommendation

Consider using the same prefix for both function names. For example, consider renaming the second function to sendTokenWithPayload or sendTokenWithData.



18: LinkerRouter remote addresses normalization

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	LinkerRouter	Type:	Code quality

Description

Remote addresses are accepted as a string in the

LinkerRouter.addTrustedAddress function. These addresses are then normalized (lower-cased) and checksummed for comparison purposes using Keccak-256. However, a human-readable version of the address is stored unnormalized.

Listing 28. Excerpt from LinkerRouter

```
function addTrustedAddress(string memory chain, string memory addr)
public onlyOwner {
   if (bytes(chain).length == 0) revert ZeroStringLength();
   if (bytes(addr).length == 0) revert ZeroStringLength();
   remoteAddressHashes[chain] = keccak256(bytes(_lowerCase(addr)));
   remoteAddresses[chain] = addr;
}
```

Recommendation

Consider storing remote addresses in the remoteAddresses mapping normalized, i.e., lower-cased.



19: Unused functions and variables

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	ExpressCallHandler,	Type:	Code quality
	InterchainTokenService,		
	LinkerRouter		

Description

In the ExpressCallHandler contract, both mappings expressGiveToken and expressGiveTokenWithData are unused.

There are multiple unused functions in the InterchainTokenService contract:

- transmitSendTokenWithToken,
- transmitSendTokenWithDataWithToken,
- approveGateway.

The LinkerRouter contract defines the public mapping supportedByGateway and functions addGatewaySupportedChains and removeGatewaySupportedChains to modify the mapping, but values stored in the mapping are not used in the project.

Recommendation

Leaving unused functions and variables in the code is not a good practice. Either remove these functions and variables or implement missing features using them.

Partial solution (Revision 2.1)

All functions and variables except supportedByGateway mapping and addGatewaySupportedChains and removeGatewaySupportedChains functions were



removed from the project.



I10: InterchainTokenServiceProxy unused constructor parameter

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenServiceProxy	Type:	Code quality

Description

There is an unused parameter (setupParams) in the

InterchainTokenServiceProxy Constructor.

Listing 29. Excerpt from InterchainTokenServiceProxy

```
constructor(
8
9
         address implementationAddress,
          address owner,
10
          bytes memory /*setupParams*/
11
12
13
          // Pass the setup through in case the implementation changes in
 the future to override the setup? This avoids changing the proxy bytecode
          FinalProxy(implementationAddress, owner, new bytes(0)) //
  solhint-disable-next-line no-empty-blocks
15
      {}
```

Recommendation

Either remove the parameter or pass it to the FinalProxy constructor.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The parameter was removed from the constructor.



111: _executeWithToken redundant modifier

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService	Type:	Code quality

Description

There is the redundant modifier onlyRemoteService(sourceChain, sourceAddress) used in the InterchainTokenService._executeWithToken function:

Listing 30. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
385
        function _executeWithToken(
            string calldata sourceChain,
386
387
            string calldata sourceAddress,
388
            bytes calldata payload,
            string calldata /*symbol*/,
389
            uint256 /*amount*/
390
        ) internal override onlyRemoteService(sourceChain, sourceAddress) {
391
392
            _execute(sourceChain, sourceAddress, payload);
393
        }
```

The same modifier is already present on the _execute function.

Recommendation

Consider removing the modifier from the <u>executeWithToken</u> function. Also, note that this function should never be executed and it should be safe and a cleaner solution to always revert from the function.

Solution (Revision 2.1)

The _executeWithToken function was removed from the InterchainTokenService contract, using the default AxelarExecutable implementation that does not perform any action.





8. Report revision 2.1

8.1. System Overview

Except for fixes of issues reported in the previous revision, there are a few significant changes:

- TokenManagerCanonical was removed,
- new interchain tokens StandardizedToken, StandardizedTokenLockUnlock and StandardizedTokenMintBurn were added,
- StandardizedTokenProxy was introduced as a proxy for standardized tokens,
- new utility contracts Implementation, Multicall and StandardizedTokenDeployer were added,
- TokenManagerDeployer was significantly simplified,
- register and deploy functions in the InterchainTokenService contract were renamed and modified,
- the InterchainTokenService contract now inherits from Multicall.



9. Report revision 3.0

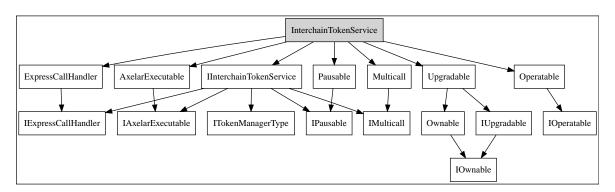
9.1. System Overview

The contracts and architecture remained to a large extent the same as in the previous revision. The main changes are:

- LinkerRouter was renamed to RemoteAddressValidator and received a couple of optimizations,
- new TokenManager for fee-on-transfer tokens was added,
- new utility contracts like Operatable and NoReEntrancy were added,
- a lot of code improvements and optimizations were made.

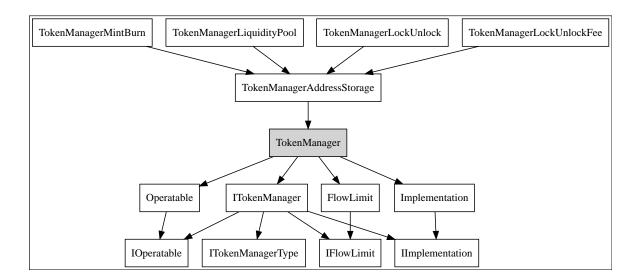
We provide inheritance diagrams for the most important contracts below:

InterchainTokenService

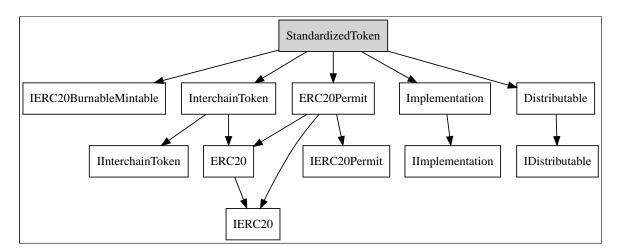


TokenManager





StandardizedToken



Actors

This revision did not introduce new actors.

9.2. Trust Model

This revision did not introduce new trust assumptions. Yet, we would like to point on the following considerations:

• InterchainTokenService is upgradeable,



- InterchainTokenService is pausable and thus the users can be DoSed,
- anyone can perform the express calls (i.e. not only Axelar-operated services) and thus the data cannot be trusted.



H2: Wrong variable passed to hook

High severity issue

Impact:	Medium	Likelihood:	High
Target:	InterchainToken.sol	Type:	Contract logic

Description

The interchainTransferFrom has the following implementation:

Listing 31. Excerpt from InterchainToken

```
uint256 _allowance = allowance[sender][msg.sender];
63
64
65
           if (_allowance != type(uint256).max) {
               _approve(sender, msg.sender, _allowance - amount);
66
           }
67
68
           _beforeInterchainTransfer(msg.sender, destinationChain,
69
   recipient, amount, metadata);
70
           ITokenManager tokenManager_ = tokenManager();
71
72
           tokenManager_.transmitInterchainTransfer{ value: msg.value
   }(sender, destinationChain, recipient, amount, metadata);
```

It can be seen that the function allows msg.sender with sufficient allowance to transfer from sender to a recipient and the destinationChain.

The problematic part is that msg.sender is passed to the

_beforeInterchainTransfer hook instead of the sender variable. The hook can process the data arbitrarily, but the main functionality that it should provide is setting allowance from the entity that provides the tokens to the respective TokenManager:



Listing 32. Excerpt from InterchainToken

- * @notice A method to be overwritten that will be called before an interchain transfer. You can approve the tokenManager here if you need and want to, to allow users for a 1-call transfer in case of a lock-unlock token manager.
- * @param from the sender of the tokens. They need to have approved *msg.sender* before this is called.
- * @param destinationChain the string representation of the destination chain.

In this scenario, the token provider is sender and not msg. sender.

Additionally, if the sender actually gave allowance to the TokenManager (and thus the call passes), then this hook will incorrectly increase the allowance of the msg.sender to the TokenManager, which is not the intended action by the msg.sender.

Most likely, this is a copy-paste error, caused by copying the line from the interchainTransfer function.

Vulnerability scenario

Alice gives allowance to Bob. Bob wants to make an interchain transfer of these tokens. He follows the project's documentation that states that he does not need to give allowance to the manager. However, the call fails on insufficient allowance. Bob loses money on gas and the tokens don't arrive at the destination.

Recommendation

Approve the correct address in the hook.



H3: Tokens with callbacks can artificially increase cross-chain transfer amount

High severity issue

Impact:	High	Likelihood:	Medium
Target:	TokenManagerLiquidityPool.s	Type:	Contract logic
	ol		

Description

The _takeToken function in TokenManagerLiquidityPool has the following implementation:

Listing 33. Excerpt from TokenManagerLiquidityPool

```
function _takeToken(address from, uint256 amount) internal override
78
   noReEntrancy returns (uint256) {
79
           IERC20 token = IERC20(tokenAddress());
80
           address liquidityPool_ = liquidityPool();
           uint256 balance = token.balanceOf(liquidityPool_);
81
82
83
           SafeTokenTransferFrom.safeTransferFrom(token, from,
   liquidityPool_, amount);
84
           // Note: This allows support for fee-on-transfer tokens
85
           return IERC20(token).balanceOf(liquidityPool_) - balance;
```

As can be seen, the function has a reentrancy lock to prevent reentering and repeatedly increasing the balanceOf(liquidityPool_). However, the balanceOf(liquidityPool_) can also be directly increased in the token callback by a deposit to the liquidity pool. As a result, the final return statement IERC20(token).balanceOf(liquidityPool_) - balance can return a higher value than the actual input amount.



Exploit scenario

Alice initiates a cross-chain call, the relevant token supports callbacks. Alice's tokens are transferred to the manager and at this moment her contract is given execution via the token callback. Alice takes her remaining tokens and deposits them into the corresponding liquidity pool. This increases the value returned IERC20(token).balanceOf(liquidityPool_) - balance from the function (and thus the value used in the cross-chain call). After the transaction finishes, Alice creates a new transaction where she withdraws the deposited amount from the liquidity pool (this amount wasn't transferred from her, but was directly deposited). Thus she achieved sending more tokens than she had to lock in the pool.

Recommendation

Because the function supports also the fee-on-transfer tokens it is very hard to propose a solution (as we need to know how high the fee is). The problem is that the attacker can use the feeAmount-1 to increase the value in the same way as described above (i.e., we can't just assert that the returned value is leq than the input amount). But even adding this simple check would limit how much the attacker can manipulate the amount. As such, we recommend considering how important it is to support the fee-on-transfer tokens.



M3: Operator slot incorrect preimage

Medium severity issue

Impact:	High	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	Operatable.sol	Type:	Contract logic

Description

The OPERATOR_SLOT is defined as follows:

Listing 34. Excerpt from Operatable

However, if the keccak function is recomputed with the specified value, a different value is returned:

```
>>> hex(int(keccak256(b"operator").hex(), 16)-1)
'0x46a52cf33029de9f84853745a87af28464c80bf0346df1b32e205fc73319f621'
```

If the function is rerun with the input admin, it returns:

```
>>> hex(int(keccak256(b"admin").hex(), 16)-1)
'0xf23ec0bb4210edd5cba85afd05127efcd2fc6a781bfed49188da1081670b22d7'
```

As can be seen, this is exactly the value used in the contract. This is especially problematic because the <code>operatable</code> contract is supposed to be imported and inherited. If any of the contracts that inherit from <code>operatable</code> also define the <code>admin</code> slot (which is likely as it is a frequent role in contracts), then the <code>operator_slot</code> (or the <code>ADMIN_SLOT</code>) will be overwritten.



Vulnerability scenario

A contract imports the operatable contract and inherits from it. Additionally, it defines an admin role. Firstly, the admin role is stored. Then the operator role is stored.

Then, after a while, the admin calls an admin function, but the call reverts because his slot was overwritten in storage.

Recommendation

Recompute the OPERATOR_SLOT using the correct string.



M4: Proposed role not cleared when accepted

Medium severity issue

Impact:	High	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	Operatabale.sol,	Туре:	Contract logic
	Distributable.sol		

Description

The Operatable and Distributable contracts allow for 2-step transfer of the roles they define. In this process, the new proposed operator/distributor are defined and if the new address accepts this proposal, they get the role.

However, the <u>_set</u> functions do not clear the proposed slots:

Listing 35. Excerpt from Operatable

```
function _setOperator(address operator_) internal {
    assembly {
        sstore(OPERATOR_SLOT, operator_)
    }
    emit OperatorshipTransferred(operator_);
}
```

See the analogical function from OpenZeppelin:

```
function _transferOwnership(address newOwner) internal virtual override {
   delete _pendingOwner;
   super._transferOwnership(newOwner);
}
```

Additionally, both the mentioned contracts contain a function for a direct transfer without the 2-step process. This function does not clear the proposed slot either:



Listing 36. Excerpt from Operatable

```
function transferOperatorship(address operator_) external
  onlyOperator {
    _setOperator(operator_);
}
```

Exploit scenario

Operator A proposes Operator B as the new operator. B is an address controlled by A. Then, after some time A calls transferOperatorship with C as argument. Everyone thinks that C is the new operator and nothing can be changed without his action. However, in a convenient situation B call acceptOperatorship and becomes the operator.

Recommendation

Follow the same pattern as the <a>Ownable2Step from OpenZeppelin.



M5: Lack of destination chain validation

Medium severity issue

Impact:	High	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	InterchainTokenService.sol,	Туре:	Data validation
	RemoteAddressValidator.sol		

Description

The InterchainTokenService contract mediates the cross-chain token transfers. One of the parameters of the transfer is the destination chain. The destination chain is represented as a string. During the transfers, this string isn't validated, i.e. the service does not validate that the destination is actually supported.

The RemoteAddressValidator contains the mapping supportedByGateway, however, this mapping is not read during the transfers.

Vulnerability scenario

A user decides to perform a cross-chain transfer of his tokens to the destination chain D. D is not supported by the gateway. Additionally, the token manager that he uses is of the LOCK/UNLOCK type. As a result, his tokens are locked on the source chain and never arrive at D.

Recommendation

Add the supported chains to the mapping and when a cross-chain transfer is performed, check that the destination chain is supported.



M6: Incorrect accounting of flowIn for fee-ontransfer tokens

Medium severity issue

Impact:	Medium	Likelihood:	Medium
Target:	TokenManagerLiquidityPool.s ol, TokenManagerLockUnlockFee. sol	Type:	Contract logic

Description

The _giveToken functions in TokenManagerLiquidityPool and

TokenManagerLockUnlockFee both end with the following return statement:

Listing 37. Excerpt from TokenManagerLiquidityPool

The expression inside the statement subtracts the balance before the transfer from the current balance, this allows for supporting fee-on-transfer tokens. The result of this return is then added to flowIn.

However, for fee-on-transfer tokens, the amount that is added is smaller than the original amount that arrived in the cross-chain transfer. Thus a small discrepancy in the flow accounting is created.

Exploit scenario

Bob sends a fee-on-transfer token to Alice via a cross-chain call. Suppose, that if the actual transferred amount was added to the current flowIn accounting, then the difference of the flows for the current epoch would



revert. However, since the amount added to flowIn is smaller than the actual transferred amount, the difference of the flows for the current epoch is still within bounds. This means that the call incorrectly passes.

Recommendation

When performing the accounting of incoming flows, use the actual transferred amount incoming from the source chain.



M7: Front-running express execute with copy of gateway payload

Medium severity issue

Impact:	High	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	InterchainTokenProxy.sol	Туре:	Front-running

Description

The InterchainTokenService exposes the expressReceiveTokenWithData function:

Listing 38. Excerpt from InterchainTokenProxy

```
476
        ) external {
            if (gateway.isCommandExecuted(commandId)) revert
477
   AlreadyExecuted(commandId);
478
479
            address caller = msg.sender;
480
            ITokenManager tokenManager =
    ITokenManager(getValidTokenManagerAddress(tokenId));
            IERC20 token = IERC20(tokenManager.tokenAddress());
481
487
483
            SafeTokenTransferFrom.safeTransferFrom(token, caller,
    destinationAddress, amount);
484
485
            _expressExecuteWithInterchainTokenToken(tokenId,
    destinationAddress, sourceChain, sourceAddress, data, amount);
486
487
            _setExpressReceiveTokenWithData(tokenId, sourceChain,
    sourceAddress, destinationAddress, amount, data, commandId, caller);
488
        }
```

There are multiple things to be observed regarding the function:

• it is external without access control,



- it transfers tokens to the destinationAddress,
- it transfers the control to the destinationAddress via the call _expressExecuteWithInterchainTokenToken,
- it sets the corresponding express receive slot on the last line.

From that, it can be seen that the function does not follow the CEI pattern as it transfers the control to the destinationAddress before modifying the storage slot corresponding to the express receive. This leads to an exploit described in the next section.

Exploit scenario

The attack is initiated by a cross-chain token transfer with data from the attacker. This cross-chain transfer has one precondition (which makes this attack low likelihood): the express call transaction and the execute transaction to the gateway on the destination chain (containing the command for the attacker's cross-chain call) end up being in the mempool at the same time. The express call is expected to be much faster than the gateway transaction, however, the precondition could be met for example in the following scenarios: express service downtime or and more likely, the express call transaction is sent with a very low gas price.

The following steps suppose that the precondition is met:

- 1. Attacker observes the mempool and sees that both the relevant transaction are in the mempool. He takes the execute transaction to the gateway and creates a new transaction which copies the payload of the execute transaction to his contract. This contract is the contract to which the cross-chain call is supposed to be made, i.e., the destinationAddress.
- 2. The attacker then bundles these transactions and sends them to Flashbots. The first transaction is the copy transaction, the second one is



the expressExecute one. The transaction to the gateway is no longer relevant.

- 3. Once the expressExecute transaction gets executed, it transfers the tokens to the destinationAddress and at some point, it also transfers the execution to the destinationAddress as explained earlier.
- 4. Once the destinationAddress receives the control, it executes the copied payload from the execute transaction. This payload contains the attacker's cross-chain call. This will trigger the execute function on the InterchainTokenService, which in turn will call _processSendTokenWithDataPayload. This function checks if the corresponding express receive slot is address(0):

Listing 39. Excerpt from InterchainTokenProxu

```
643
                address expressCaller = _popExpressReceiveTokenWithData(
644
                    tokenId,
                    sourceChain,
645
                    sourceAddress,
646
                    destinationAddress,
647
648
                    amount,
649
                    data,
650
                    commandId
651
                );
                if (expressCaller != address(0)) {
652
653
                    amount = tokenManager.giveToken(expressCaller, amount);
654
                    return;
655
                }
            }
656
```

+ 5. However, it was already explained that the slot is set after the call to the destinationAddress. This means that this call will also transfer tokens to the destinationAddress and the attacker will receive the tokens twice.

It was shown that the attacker will receive the tokens twice and that the express service will not be refunded.



Recommendation

Follow the CEI pattern in the expressReceiveTokenWithData function.



M8: Tokens with callbacks can break the flow accounting

Medium severity issue

Impact:	Medium	Likelihood:	Medium
Target:	TokenManagerLiquidityPool.s	Type:	Contract logic
	ol,		
	TokenManagerLockUnlockFee.		
	sol		

Description

The _giveToken functions in TokenManagerLiquidityPool and

TokenManagerLockUnlockFee both end with the following return statement:

Listing 40. Excerpt from TokenManagerLiquidityPool

```
return IERC20(token).balanceOf(to) - balance;
```

The expression inside the statement subtracts the balance before the transfer from the current balance, this allows for supporting fee-on-transfer tokens. The result of this return is then added to flowIn.

To avoid problems with reentering this function via callbacks and increasing the balanceOf(to) a reentrancy lock is used. However, the to balance can also be increased via a direct transfer in the callback. Thus a malicious user can transfer tokens to themselves via a callback and increase their balance (e.g. via transferFrom from a different account to actually increase the balance), this will cause the accounting of flowIn to be incorrect. The amount added to flowIn will be higher than the actual amount from the cross-chain call.



Exploit scenario

Bob sends a fee-on-transfer token to Alice via a cross-chain call. On the destination chain, the corresponding token supports callbacks. This allows Alice to take over the execution and transfer additional tokens to herself. This in turn artificially increases the flowIn accounting. The worst-case effect can be that other users will be DoSed for the current epoch as the difference between the outgoing and incoming flows will be too large.

Recommendation

When performing the accounting of incoming flows, use the actual transferred amount incoming from the source chain.



L6: Chain name validation

Low severity issue

Impact:	Low	Likelihood:	Low
Target:	RemoteAddressValidator.sol	Туре:	Data validation

Description

The RemoteAddressValidator allows for adding and removing supported chains. The chains are added using a string representing the chain name:

Listing 41. Excerpt from RemoteAddressValidator

```
function addGatewaySupportedChains(string[] calldata chainNames)
  external onlyOwner {
   uint256 length = chainNames.length;
   string calldata chainName;
   for (uint256 i; i < length; ++i) {
      chainName = chainNames[i];
      supportedByGateway[chainName] = true;
}</pre>
```

The process is analogical for removing chains.

Neither of the functions recognizes that an empty string was passed in, which can lead to reporting invalid information to outside contracts.

Vulnerability scenario

The problem is more severe in the case of removing the chains. Suppose that a gateway no longer supports a chain and that this information is to be stored in the validator contract. Due to a bug in frontend or deployment script, one of the chain names in the array is passed in as empty.

Because the string is not checked for length, the empty string goes unnoticed. As a result, outside contracts querying the address validator for



the chain status can incorrectly suppose the destination is still supported, although it is not.

Recommendation

Add the length validation to the mentioned functions.



W16: Return of literal instead of enum

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	token-	Type:	Code quality
	manager/implementations/*		

Description

The implementations of the TokenManager have the function implementationType, which returns a literal, see for example TokenManagerLiquidityPool:

Listing 42. Excerpt from TokenManagerLiquidityPool

```
function implementationType() external pure returns (uint256) {
return 3;
}
```

This could become problematic once a new type is added. If it is not added at the end of the enum, then the getters must be modified. Additionally, this approach requires counting the type's position in the enum.

Recommendation

Consider returning the enum value directly; the TokenManagerLiquidityPool case would be handled as return uint256(TokenManagerType.LIQUIDITY_POOL);.



W17: Manager implementation zero address check

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	TokenManagerProxy.sol,	Туре:	Data validation
	InterchainTokenService.sol		

Description

The constructor of TokenManagerProxy,, through a sequence of calls, calls the getImplementation function on the InterchainTokenService:

Listing 43. Excerpt from TokenManagerProxy

```
address impl =
   _getImplementation(IInterchainTokenService(interchainTokenServiceAddress
   _), implementationType_);

(bool success, ) =
   impl.delegatecall(abi.encodeWithSelector(TokenManagerProxy.setup.selecto
   r, params));

if (!success) revert SetupFailed();
```

The getImplementation function is implemented as follows:

Listing 44. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
function getImplementation(uint256 tokenManagerType) external view
returns (address tokenManagerAddress) {

if (tokenManagerType > uint256(type(TokenManagerType).max))
revert InvalidImplementation();

if (TokenManagerType(tokenManagerType) ==
TokenManagerType.LOCK_UNLOCK) {

return implementationLockUnlock;
} else if (TokenManagerType(tokenManagerType) ==
TokenManagerType.MINT_BURN) {

return implementationMintBurn;
```



If a new type is added to the enum but the corresponding type is not added to the else-if chain, then this functions returns address(0).

In the TokenManagerProxy constructor', a delegatecall is done on the retrieved implementation address. However, delegatecall on an account with no code returns true. Thus, the bug goes unnoticed.

Recommendation

Add a zero address check to the constructor of TokenManagerProxy.



W18: Prefix incorrectly calculated

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	ExpressCallHandler.sol	Туре:	Contract logic

Description

The PREFIX_EXPRESS_RECEIVE_TOKEN_WITH_DATA is defined as follows:

Listing 45. Excerpt from <u>ExpressCallHandler</u>

```
// uint256(keccak256('prefix-express-give-token-with-data'));

uint256 internal constant PREFIX_EXPRESS_RECEIVE_TOKEN_WITH_DATA =

0x3e607cc12a253b1d9f677a03d298ad869a90a8ba4bd0fb5739e7d79db7cdeaad;
```

However, if the keccak function is recomputed with the specified value, a different value is returned:

```
>>> hex(int(keccak256(b"prefix-express-give-token-with-data").hex(), 16))
'0x3e607cc12a253b1d9f677a03d298ad869a90a8ba4bd0fb5739e7d79db7cdeaaf'
```

The value in the contract ends with d, and the correct value ends with f.

Recommendation

Redefine the slot to use the correct value.



W19: Lack of contract prefixes in slot preimages

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	**/*	Туре:	Contract logic

Description

A large number of the protocol's contracts use the unstructured storage pattern. A keccak hash of a slot string is computed, and the result is used as a storage address for a given variable. However, the addresses are computed without fully qualifying the relevant variable; see the example:

Listing 46. Excerpt from Operatable

The PROPOSED_OPERATOR_SLOT is defined as keccak256('proposed-operator')) -

1. This is not ideal from the long-term perspective as it increases the probability of a clash if some other contract defines the same slot.

Recommendation

Rather than deriving the string used in keccak just from the variable name, it should be derived from the contract name as well. For example, the PROPOSED_OPERATOR_SLOT could be defined as keccak256('Operatable.proposed-operator')) - 1. This will ensure that a collision can happen only if the slot would be defined again in the same contract and thus the probability of a collision decreases.



W20: Code-comment discrepancy

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	NoReEntrancy.sol,	Type:	Documentation
	InterchainTokenService.sol,		
	TokenManagerProxy.sol,		
	InterchainToken.sol		

Description

The NoreEntrancy contract has the following incorrect NatSpec comment:

Listing 47. Excerpt from NoReEntrancy

```
7 /**
8 * @title Pausable
9 * @notice This contract provides a mechanism to halt the execution of specific functions
10 * if a pause condition is activated.
11 */
12 contract NoReEntrancy is INoReEntrancy {
```

The NatSpec is clearly copied from Pausable.

The deployAndRegisterStandardizedToken function in InterchainTokenService has the following incorrect NatSpec comment:

Listing 48. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
371  /**
372  * @notice Used to deploy a standardized token alongside a
   TokenManager. If the `distributor` is the address of the TokenManager
   (which
373  * can be calculated ahead of time) then a mint/burn TokenManager
   is used. Otherwise a lock/unlcok TokenManager is used.
```



However, the function always deploys the MINT_BURN token manager:

Listing 49. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
__deployTokenManager(tokenId, TokenManagerType.MINT_BURN, abi.encode(msg.sender.toBytes(), tokenAddress));
```

The InterchainToken contract has the following incorrect NatSpec comment:

Listing 50. Excerpt from InterchainToken

```
13 * @dev You can skip the `tokenManagerRequiresApproval()` function altogether if you know what it should return for your token.
```

However, the tokenManagerRequiresApproval() function is not present in the contract, nor the interface.

The TokenManagerProxy contract has the following incorrect NatSpec comment:

Listing 51. Excerpt from TokenManagerProxy

```
10 * @dev This contract is a proxy for token manager contracts. It
  implements ITokenManagerProxy and
11 * inherits from FixedProxy from the gmp sdk repo
12 */
13 contract TokenManagerProxy is ITokenManagerProxy {
```

However, the contract doesn't inherit from the FixedProxy.

Recommendation

Fix all the incorrect comments and ensure that the code matches the developers' expectations.



112: Reentrancy lock private

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	NoReEntrancy.sol	Type:	Code quality

Description

The NoReEntrancy contract provides the logic for reentrancy locks. The lock storage slot is private as it is accessible only through assembly and private functions. However, in certain situations, it is beneficial to have the lock public.

For example, view functions are often not guarded with the lock; as such, the protocols can be reentered through them. This can lead to the infamous read-only reentrancy hacks, e.g., the Curve read-only reentrancy hack.

If the lock is public, the calling contract can read it first and, based on that, decide whether to call the view function or not.

Recommendation

Consider adding a view function for reading the lock.



113: Typo in function parameter name

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService.sol	Туре:	Code quality

Description

The function _sanitizeTokenManagerImplementation has the following parameter:

Listing 52. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
function _sanitizeTokenManagerImplementation(
address[] memory implementaions,

TokenManagerType tokenManagerType
) internal pure returns (address implementation) {
```

The parameter implementaions is mistyped.

Recommendation

Rename the parameter to implementations.



10. Report revision 4.0

10.1. System Overview

The system components and their functionalities were mainly unchanged since the previous revision. Three new contracts and one significant dependency were introduced.

TokenManagerMintBurnFrom

The contract is the same as TokenManagerMintBurn with a difference in the _takeToken function. It uses burnFrom instead of burn and thus requires allowance for amount on from.

StandardizedTokenRegistrar

The contract allows the deployment of standardized tokens. It handles input parameters and calls the Interchain Token Service to deploy the token. It is a single-purpose contract for additional flexibility.

CanonicalTokenRegistrar

Similar to <u>StandardizedTokenRegistrar</u> but handles canonical tokens. It also deploys and registers standardized tokens on the remote.

10.2. Actors

This revision did not introduce new actors.

10.3. Trust Model

This revision did not introduce new trust assumptions.



M9: Tokens with callbacks can artificially increase cross-chain transfer amount

Medium severity issue

Impact:	Medium	Likelihood:	Medium
Target:	TokenManagerLockUnlockFee.	Type:	Contract logic
	sol		

Listing 53. Excerpt from TokenManagerLockUnlockFee._takeToken

Description

The description matches the following issue: <u>H3: Tokens with callbacks can artificially increase cross-chain transfer amount</u>. However, it affects a different contract.

Recommendation

Fix it in the same way as for the TokenManagerLiquidityPool contract.



W21: Token id can differ on the deployment method

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	StandardizedTokenRegistrar.s	Type:	Contract logic
	ol,		
	CanonicalTokenRegistrar.sol		

Listing 54. Excerpt from

StandardizedTokenRegistrar.deployStandardizedToken

```
function deployStandardizedToken(
55
           bytes32 salt,
56
57
           string calldata name,
           string calldata symbol,
58
           uint8 decimals,
59
           uint256 mintAmount,
60
           address distributor
61
       ) external payable {
62
           address sender = msq.sender;
63
           salt = getStandardizedTokenSalt(sender, salt);
64
           bytes32 tokenId = service.getCustomTokenId(address(this), salt);
65
66
           service.deployAndRegisterStandardizedToken(salt, name, symbol,
   decimals, mintAmount, distributor);
```

Listing 55. Excerpt from

$\underline{InterchainTokenService.deployAndRegisterStandardizedToken}$

```
function deployAndRegisterStandardizedToken(
347
348
            bytes32 salt,
349
            string calldata name,
            string calldata symbol,
350
351
            uint8 decimals,
352
            uint256 mintAmount,
            address distributor
353
354
        ) external payable notPaused {
```



```
bytes32 tokenId = getCustomTokenId(msg.sender, salt);

_deployStandardizedToken(tokenId, distributor, name, symbol,
    decimals, mintAmount, msg.sender);
```

Description

We have two options for how to deploy a standardized token. The first one is with the Interchain Token Service and the second is via the new StandardizedTokenRegistrar contract.

Seeing the snippets above, the deployment is almost the same but not entirely if we consider the same input parameters. For the StandardizedTokenRegistrar contract there is a different salt calculation.

```
function getStandardizedTokenSalt(address deployer, bytes32 salt) public
view returns (bytes32) {
    return keccak256(abi.encode(PREFIX_STANDARDIZED_TOKEN_SALT,
    chainNameHash, deployer, salt));
}
```

This intermediate step results in a different token id, depending on the deployment method.

Respectively applies also to the Canonical Token Registrar contract.

Recommendation

Ensure this is intended and if so, document the difference.



W22: Chain name data validation

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	StandardizedTokenRegistrar.s	Type:	Data validation
	ol,		
	CanonicalTokenRegistrar.sol		

Listing 56. Excerpt from <u>StandardizedTokenRegistrar.constructor</u>

```
constructor(address interchainTokenServiceAddress, string memory
  chainName_) {
    if (interchainTokenServiceAddress == address(0)) revert
    ZeroAddress();
    service =
    IInterchainTokenService(interchainTokenServiceAddress);
    chainName = chainName_;
    chainNameHash = keccak256(bytes(chainName_));
}
```

Description

It is possible to pass an empty string or any arbitrary value to the new token deployers. This can affect salt in deployments.

Since the salt is already different from Interchain Token Service (see <u>W21</u>: <u>Token id can differ on the deployment method</u>), it is considered only as a warning.

Recommendation

The Interchain Token Service is fetching the chain name value from the RemoteAddressValidator contract and the contract is handling empty string input. Consider doing it same for token registrars.



W23: Possible code injection on deployment on remote

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	CanonicalTokenRegistrar.sol	Туре:	Code injection

Listing 57. Excerpt from

<u>CanonicalTokenRegistrar.deplouAndRegisterRemoteCanonicalToken</u>

```
40
       function deployAndRegisterRemoteCanonicalToken(bytes32 salt, string
  calldata destinationChain, uint256 gasValue) external payable {
           // This ensures that the token manages has been deployed by this
   address, so it's safe to trust it.
           bytes32 tokenId = service.getCustomTokenId(address(this), salt);
42
43
           IERC20Named token =
   IERC20Named(service.getTokenAddress(tokenId));
44
          // The 3 lines below will revert if the token manager does not
  exist.
           string memory tokenName = token.name();
45
           string memory tokenSymbol = token.symbol();
46
47
           uint8 tokenDecimals = token.decimals();
48
49
           // slither-disable-next-line arbitrary-send-eth
           service.deployAndRegisterRemoteStandardizedToken{ value:
   gasValue }(
51
               salt,
52
               tokenName,
53
               tokenSymbol,
54
               tokenDecimals,
```

Description

Unlike the standardized token, the canonical token can be registered with a custom implementation. Therefore, some functions (decimals, name, ...) can deliver arbitrary values or inject a code. This can be potentially a problem in the deployment on remote (see <u>Listing 57</u>), leading to changed values during execution or doing entirely something different from the context of the



registrar contract.

Recommendation

Ensure this is not an issue, consider removing the external calls.



W24: Change in the enum order can affect access controls

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	**/*	Туре:	Access controls

Description

Currently, the roles for the project are defined followingly:

```
enum Roles {
    DISTRIBUTOR,
    OPERATOR,
    FLOW_LIMITER
}
```

Changing the order (removing an old one and adding another, etc.) changes also roles.

Recommendation

Be extremely aware of this design decision and carefully update roles in the future.



114: Incorrect inline documentation

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	TokenManagerMintBurnFrom.	Type:	Documentation
	sol		

Description

The new TokenManagerMintBurnFrom has incorrect NatSpec comment:

Listing 58. Excerpt from TokenManagerMintBurnFrom

```
11 /**
12 * @title TokenManagerMintBurn
13 * @notice This contract is an implementation of TokenManager that mints
and burns a specific token on behalf of the interchain token service.
14 * @dev This contract extends TokenManagerAddressStorage and provides
implementation for its abstract methods.
15 * It uses the Axelar SDK to safely transfer tokens.
16 */
17 contract TokenManagerMintBurnFrom is TokenManagerMintBurn {
```

The NatSpec is clearly copied from TokenManagerMintBurn.

Recommendation

Fix the incorrect code comment.



115: Ambiguous revert message

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainToken.sol	Туре:	Best practice

Listing 59. Excerpt from InterchainToken.interchainTransferFrom

```
if (_allowance != UINT256_MAX) {
    _approve(sender, msg.sender, _allowance - amount);
}
```

Description

The Interchain Token is decreasing approval on interchain transfer. However, it doesn't check if the allowance is smaller than the amount, so as a result, if the allowance is insufficient, the user gets an underflow error.

Recommendation

Add a require/if statement for better error handling.



I16: Code duplication

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	Operatable.sol,	Type:	Best practice
	Distributable.sol,		
	TokenManager.sol		

Description

The Roles contract provides the _addRole function which already creates an array and adds uint8 element to it. This function can be used for many occurrences in the codebase, where is just one role added.

The same rule applies to the <u>_removeRole</u> function.

Recommendation

Replace the _addRoles (_removeRoles) function with the _addRole (_removeRole) function for cases where only one role is added (removed).



11. Report revision 5.0

11.1. System Overview

Since the previous version, several changes were made to the system. Some interfaces were removed, several components and functions were renamed. The biggest change is the introduction of the InterchainTokenFactory component, which is responsible for creating new interchain tokens, previously known as standardized tokens. Contracts with breaking changes are listed in the following subsections, other contracts contain minor non-breaking changes like renaming and slight refactoring.

InterchainTokenFactory

The contract is responsible for creating new interchain tokens and their corresponding token managers with different token types. It inherits from IInterchainTokenFactory, ITokenManagerType, Multicall to support multi-calls for calling multiple functions in one transaction to save gas, and Upgradable. The deployment of tokens is handled by the InterchainTokenService. The address of new tokens is computed using the salt hash, which is based on the address of the deployer, a chain name, and the salt provided by the user. The deployment is possible both on the current chain and remote chains. The contract also serves as an entry point for registering canonical tokens. Finally, the contract allows to transfer of tokens.

InterchainTokenService

InterchainTokenService is the core contract of the protocol. The contract newly inherits from Create3Address, ExpressExecutorTracker,

InterchainAddressTracker and IInterchainTokenService. It was changed to support the new InterchainTokenFactory and multiple functions were renamed. Additionally, the expressExecute() function was added to support



the express execution of interchain transfers. Functions responsible for interchain transfers and remote contract calls are now marked payable to support paying gas fees for remote transfers. The _setup() function was extended to support more setup parameters. To prevent unauthorized access to the external setup() function, this function is shadowed in the BaseProxy from Axelar's GMP SDK. The execute() function was extended to support express transfers.

BaseInterchainToken

This new contract serves as an example implementation of the interchain token standard. It inherits all the required functions from the ERC20 contract to support the ERC-20 standard. Additionally, it shows the implementation of the IInterchainTokenStandard interface with two additional functions: interchainTransfer() for interchain transfers and interchainTransferFrom() for interchain transfers with an allowance.

InterchainTokenFactoryProxy

A basic proxy contract for the InterchainTokenFactory. It inherits from Proxy, where all proxy functions are defined, and defines the CONTRACT_ID constant to identify the contract and the constructor to set the implementation address along with the owner.

11.2. Actors

This revision did not introduce new actors.

11.3. Trust Model

This revision did not introduce new trust assumptions.



W25: Hardcoded metadata version/prefix

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	Distributable.sol,	Туре:	Best practices
	Operatable.sol		

Listing 60. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
439 uint32 prefix = 0;
```

Listing 61. Excerpt from InterchainTokenService

```
uint32 version;
(version, metadata) = _decodeMetadata(metadata);
if (version > 0) revert InvalidMetadataVersion(version);
```

Description

Version/prefix in metadata is hardcoded to 0 in two places in the code. It can lead to inconsistency while updating the value. Also, the naming inconsistency prefix for encoding and version from decoding is confusing.

Recommendation

Use constant or immutable state variable for the metadata version/prefix and use the same variable naming for encoding/decoding.



W26: One-step role transfer

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	Distributable.sol,	Туре:	Access controls
	Operatable.sol		

Listing 62. Excerpt from <u>Distributable</u>

```
function transferDistributorship(address distributor_) external
  onlyRole(uint8(Roles.DISTRIBUTOR)) {
    _transferRole(msg.sender, distributor_,
    uint8(Roles.DISTRIBUTOR));
}
```

Listing 63. Excerpt from Operatable

```
function transferOperatorship(address operator) external
  onlyRole(uint8(Roles.OPERATOR)) {
    _transferRole(msg.sender, operator, uint8(Roles.OPERATOR));
}
```

Description

The DISTRIBUTOR and OPERATOR roles can be transferred using a one-way process. Therefore the roles can be accidentally transferred to an invalid address, which would cause irreversible loss of control over the role in contracts that extend Distributable or Operatable. However the contracts can be redeployed with different salt, therefore the damage is recoverable.

Recommendation

Always use the two-step role transfer, even if the likelihood of the accident is low.



W27: Incorrect parent contract

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	TokenManagerLockUnlockFee.	Type:	Documentation
	sol		

Description

The TokenManagerLockUnlockFee contract has three parent contracts: TokenManager, ReentrancyGuard and ITokenManagerLockUnlock, however, in the context of the presence of the ITokenManagerLockUnlockFee interface we conclude that the ITokenManagerLockUnlock is used incorrectly. While those interfaces are identical and only differ in the interface name, future changes and consequent discrepancies between these interfaces may cause unexpected results.

Recommendation

We recommend either changing the parent interface from ITokenManagerLockUnlock to ITokenManagerLockUnlockFee, or removing the ITokenManagerLockUnlockFee from the codebase since this interface is identical to ITokenManagerLockUnlock and is not used anywhere else.



W28: A danger of the interchain service's balance drainage

Impact:	Warning	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	InterchainTokenService.sol	Туре:	Documentation

The InterchainTokenService contract allows users to execute interchain

Description

operations and pay gas for these operations. The gas value that the user is willing to pay to a gas service contract is given as an argument to external functions since it simplifies the usage of msg.value in the case of multi-call. More specifically, these functions are deployTokenManager(), deployInterchainToken(), expressExecute(), interchainTransfer(), callContractWithInterchainToken() and transmitInterchainTransfer(). The gas service is then called with the value set to gasValue provided by the user, and the refund address is set to the caller's address. This poses the risk of the drainage of the contract's balance in the case if the contract holds Ether: the user may set the gas value to the contract's balance and the gas service will refund to tx.origin the whole balance of the contract without the gas price

Recommendation

This issue is not critical since the contract does not hold Ether by design, and the unintentional transfers to the contract are a part of the risk according to Axelar's team:

required for the interchain operation. This potential issue may be extended to

utilize the multi-call functionality of the contract and to reuse the msg.value

to bypass potential gas value checks in the called functions.

Ackee Blockchain: InterchainTokenService contract is not supposed to hold any Ether, right? Or is there any chance of



some leftovers? Axelar: It's not expected to. Any amount sent by the user unintentionally to it is considered at risk. While it would be nice to prevent unintentional sends, this was done to keep the multicall simpler.

We recommend explicitly stating in the documentation that the contract is not intended to hold Ether and describe the risks of losing any assets stored in the contract. Such an explicit statement will be helpful for the users of the contract and for the developers who will work on extending the system in the future.



117: Incorrect or missing documentation

Impact:	Info	Likelihood:	N/A
Target:	**/*	Туре:	Documentation

Description

Multiple contracts have either incorrect documentation or no documentation at all. The following functions and contracts are affected: -

```
contracts/executable/InterchainTokenExecutable.sol and
contracts/executable/InterchainTokenExpressExecutable.sol: missing NatSpec
docs. - contracts/interchain-token/InterchainToken.sol::setup(): the
documentation says that mintAmount and mintTo are a part of params, however,
in the code, these parameters are not expected. -
contracts/interfaces/IDistributable.sol::acceptDistributorship(): missing
fromDistributor parameter description. -
contracts/interfaces/IInterchainTokenFactory.sol: missing NatSpec docs. -
contracts/interfaces/IInterchainTokenService.sol: functions
interchainTransfer(), callContractWithInterchainToken() do not have NatSpec
docs. - contracts/interfaces/IOperatable.sol::acceptOperatorship(): missing
fromOperator parameter description. -
contracts/proxies/InterchainTokenServiceProxy.sol::constructor(): missing
setupParams parameter description. - contracts/token-
manager/TokenManagerLiquidityPool.sol:_setup(): the documentation says
that params_ should contain the token address and the liquidity pool address,
however, in the code, the params_ parameter contains additional bytes in the
beginning. - contracts/token-manager/TokenManagerLockUnlock.sol:_setup():
the documentation says that params_ should contain the token address,
however, in the code, the params_ parameter contains additional bytes in the
beginning. - contracts/token-manager/TokenManagerLockUnlockFee.sol:_setup():
the documentation says that params_ should contain the token address,
```



however, in the code, the params_ parameter contains additional bytes in the beginning. - contracts/token-manager/TokenManagerMintBurn.sol:_setup(): the documentation says that params_ should contain the token address, however, in the code, the params_ parameter contains additional bytes in the beginning. - contracts/utils/Distributable.sol::acceptDistributorship(): missinq from Distributor parameter description. contracts/utils/FlowLimit.sol:: setFlowLimit(): missing tokenId parameter description. contracts/utils/InterchainTokenDeployer.sol::deployedAddress(): missing salt parameter description. contracts/utils/Operatable.sol::acceptOperatorship(): missinq fromOperator parameter description. - contracts/InterchainTokenFactory.sol: missing NatSpec docs. - contracts/InterchainTokenService.sol: functions contractCallValue(), expressExecute(), callContractWithInterchainToken(), _setup(), _sanitizeTokenManagerImplementation(), contractCallWithTokenValue(), expressExecuteWithToken(), executeWithToken(), _decodeMetadata() are missing NatSpec docs. contracts/InterchainTokenService.sol::execute(): missinq commandId parameter description. contracts/InterchainTokenService.sol::_processInterchainTransferPayload(): missing expressExecutor and messageType parameters description. contracts/InterchainTokenService.sol::TOKEN_FACTORY_DEPLOYER: a typo, ...was deployed too... should be ...was deployed to....

Recommendation

We strongly recommend covering the code by NatSpec. High-quality documentation has to be an essential part of any professional project.



Appendix A: How to cite

Please cite this document as:

Ackee Blockchain, Axelar: Interchain Token Service, 13.11.2023.



Appendix B: Glossary of terms

The following terms might be used throughout the document:

Superclass/Ancestor of C

A contract that C inherits/derives from.

Subclass/Child of C

A contract that inherits/derives from C.

Syntactic contract

A Solidity contract. May have an inheritance chain, and may be deployed.

Deployed contract

An EVM account with non-zero code. If its source was written in Solidity, it was created through at least one syntactic contract. If that contract had superclasses (parents), it would be composed of multiple syntactic contracts.

Init/initialization function

A non-constructor function that serves as an initializer. Often used in upgradeable contracts.

External entrypoint

A public or external function.

Public/Publicly-accessible function/entrypoint

An external or public function that can be successfully executed by any network account.

Mutating function

A non-view and non-pure function.



Appendix C: Woke outputs

This section presents the outputs of the Woke tool.

C.1. H1 proof of concept

```
def test_express_receive(setup_services):
    service1, service2 = setup_services
    assert isinstance(service1, InterchainTokenService)
    assert isinstance(service2, InterchainTokenService)
    owner = chain1.accounts[0].address
    attacker1 = chain1.accounts[1].address
    attacker2 = chain1.accounts[2].address
    token1 = ERC20MintableBurnable.deploy("Test", "TST", 18, chain=chain1)
    token2 = ERC20MintableBurnable.deploy("Test", "TST", 18, chain=chain2)
    salt = keccak256(b"salt")
    service1.deployCustomTokenManagerMintBurn(salt, bytes(owner), token1)
    service1.deployRemoteCustomTokenManagers(
        salt,
        ["chain2"],
        [ITokenManagerType.TokenManagerType.MINT_BURN],
        [service1.getParamsMintBurn(bytes(owner), token2.address)],
        [0],
    token_id = service1.getCustomTokenId(owner, salt)
    token1.mint(attacker1, 1_000)
    token2.mint(owner, 1_000)
    token2.mint(attacker2, 1_000)
    token_manager1 =
TokenManager(service1.getValidTokenManagerAddress(token_id), chain=chain1)
    token1.approve(token_manager1, 1_000, from_=attacker1)
    send_hash = keccak256(Abi.encode(["bytes32", "uint256", "uint256"],
[token_id, chain1.blocks["pending"].number, 1_000]))
    token2.approve(service2, 1_000, from_=owner)
```



```
service2.expressReceiveToken(token_id, attacker1, 1_000, send_hash,
from_=owner)
   assert token1.balanceOf(attacker1) == 1_000 # has not changed
    assert token2.balanceOf(attacker1) == 1_000 # owner lent attacker1
1 000 tokens
   assert token2.balanceOf(owner) == 0
    assert token2.balanceOf(attacker2) == 1_000 # has not changed
    token2.approve(service2, 1_000, from_=attacker2)
    service2.expressReceiveToken(token_id, attacker1, 1_000, send_hash,
from =attacker2)
   assert token1.balanceOf(attacker1) == 1_000 # has not changed
    assert token2.balanceOf(attacker1) == 2_000 # owner lent attacker1
1_000 tokens, attacker2 lent attacker1 additional 1_000 tokens
    assert token2.balanceOf(owner) == 0
    assert token2.balanceOf(attacker2) == 0 # has not changed
    token_manager1.sendToken("chain2", bytes(attacker1), 1_000,
from =attacker1)
    assert token1.balanceOf(attacker1) == 0
   assert token2.balanceOf(attacker1) == 2_000
    assert token2.balanceOf(owner) == 0
    assert token2.balanceOf(attacker2) == 1_000
```



Thank You

Ackee Blockchain a.s.

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