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A quick scan of recent news from the cryptoverse reveals a common thread. Of the companies dying from overexposure this crypto winter, those that are centralized are proving the most sensitive to frostbite.

BlockFi and Celsius are the obvious examples. Both companies essentially operate as crypto banks, with all the trappings and infrastructure of centralized TradFi. Celsius looks destined to succumb to the elements, while BlockFi appears to have found a benefactor with plenty of money and a warm place by the FTX fire.

Today brought more news of centralization's failures — this time, it's failed endpoints. Yesterday Ankr, a core piece of Web3 infrastructure, lost its mooring as it was revealed that hackers had successfully attacked Ankr's gateways to the Polygon and Fantom blockchains.

Ankr claims to be a decentralized and distributed cloud computing platform that hosts node endpoints for various blockchains. Ankr's endpoints allow users to access proof-of-stake blockchains, like Polygon and — after the Merge — Ethereum.

Although many offer a platform for distributed node hosting, the actual RPC endpoints are very centralized and provide a broad attack vector for hackers looking to exploit the chains supported by Ankr.

This most recent hack initiated popup windows where users were asked to share their seed phrase. Web3 veterans should know never to share a seed phase, ever, but these kinds of attacks can catch rookies unprepared. It's not yet known the extent of the damage brought by the centralized failure point, but regardless the calls for decentralized endpoint infrastructure grow louder and louder. We can't build a decentralized internet if all of our anchors are in one boat.

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