

Optimism: Safe Extensions

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About Darklinear Solutions

Darklinear Solutions provides unrivaled security for blockchain applications, from the bytecode to the browser. With years of experience in smart contract development and traditional software engineering, we find the bugs that others miss. Learn more at darklinear.com.

Introduction

Optimism is a layer two network that leverages optimistic rollups to enable a cheaper and more efficient way to interact with Ethereum. The network's governance operates Safe multisignature wallets, and the code in the scope of this review is designed to make some of those operations more secure and efficient. This review consists of issues discovered during the course of Cantina's competitive audit for the Optimism Safe Extensions in May 2024.

The findings described below are classified according to Cantina's standards.

Findings Summary

This review ranked #4 of 227 on Cantina.

In addition to the medium-severity vulnerability described in this version of the report, there were seven confirmed low-severity and informational findings. These findings have not yet been made public by the Optimism team, so they have been omitted from this version of the report.

Classification	Finding
Medium risk (M-1)	Liveness is erroneously reset for all owners when LivenessGuard is upgraded or replaced



Findings

M-or: Liveness is erroneously reset for all owners when LivenessGuard is upgraded or replaced

Severity: Medium risk

Context: LivenessGuard.sol#L51

Description: As a means of initializing the lastLive mapping, the constructor of LivenessGuard iterates through the Safe's owners and sets lastLive for each one to block.timestamp. However, this only makes sense the first time it is deployed: when the LivenessGuard needs to be upgraded or replaced in the future, this initialization will refresh the liveness of potentially inactive owners and undermine the functionality of the LivenessModule.

Impact Explanation: The entirety of the LivenessModule and LivenessGuard's combined functionality is aimed at facilitating the efficient removal of inactive owners. This utility is compromised by the fact that the LIVENESS_INTERVAL, an ostensibly immutable value, could be increased without limit as a consequence of normal development and operation.

Likelihood Explanation: This is guaranteed to occur anytime the LivenessGuard is replaced, as long as the constructor remains unchanged.

Proof of Concept: Since a test is not necessary to demonstrate that the LivenessGuard resets lastLive for every owner of the Safe, this proof of concept will walk through what a higher-impact consequence of this vulnerability might look like in practice. But, for reference, below is the constructor code that resets each lastLive value:

```
address[] memory owners = _safe.getOwners();
for (uint256 i = 0; i < owners.length; i++) {
   address owner = owners[i];
   lastLive[owner] = block.timestamp;
   emit OwnerRecorded(owner);
}</pre>
```

Now, consider the following scenario:

- Five owners in a 10-of-12 Safe have been inactive for five months
- The LIVENESS_INTERVAL for this Safe is six months
- The LivenessModule will require a shutdown imminently
- A bug is found in the LivenessGuard, necessitating an urgent replacement
- lastLive is reset for all owners, including the five inactive ones, when the new LivenessGuard is deployed
- The LivenessModule is forced to wait nearly a year in total to remove these owners, initiate a shutdown, and recover the Safe
- This process could repeat infinitely. If the LivenessGuard needed an update or replacement
 every five months during a five year period, for example, its true LIVENESS_INTERVAL would
 be an order of magnitude greater than intended



Recommendation: The LivenessGuard could optionally initialize the mapping with existing values:

```
constructor(Safe _safe, address _prevGuard) {
    SAFE = _safe;
    address[] memory owners = _safe.getOwners();
    for (uint256 i = 0; i < owners.length; i++) {
        address owner = owners[i];

        lastLive[owner] = prevGuard == address(0) ?
            block.timestamp :
            LivenessGuard(_prevGuard).lastLive(owner);
        emit OwnerRecorded(owner);
    }
}</pre>
```

