# Blackthorn

# Security Review For Ethereum Foundation

Collaborative Audit Prepared For: Ethereum Foundation

Lead Security Expert(s): **Oxadrii** 

0x52

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Date Audited: October 28th - November 2nd

Final Commit: 1d679164e03d73dc7f9a5331b67fd51e7032b104

### Introduction

This repository stores geas implementations of Ethereum's system contracts, such as the ones associated with EIP-7002 and EIP-7251.

# Scope

Repository: https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm

Commit: b5b9f33f6b6e7d80f040226e082f74045ddf2c38

### Contracts:

- src/consolidations
- src/withdrawals
- src/execution\_hash

## Final Commit Hash

https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/commit/ld679164e03d73dc7f9a5331b67fd51e70 32b104

# **Findings**

Each issue has an assigned severity:

- Medium issues are security vulnerabilities that may not be directly exploitable or may require certain conditions in order to be exploited. All major issues should be addressed.
- High issues are directly exploitable security vulnerabilities that need to be fixed.
- Low/Info issues are non-exploitable, informational findings that do not pose a
  security risk or impact the system's integrity. These issues are typically cosmetic or
  related to compliance requirements, and are not considered a priority for
  remediation.

# **Issues Found**

High	Medium	Low/Info
0	1	16

# Issues Not Fixed or Acknowledged

High	Medium	Low/Info
0	0	0

# **Security Experts Dedicated to This Review**

@0xadrii

@0x52

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@merkleplant

# Issue M-1: Incorrect check allows returning the same hash for two different blocks in the ring buffer

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/14

# Summary

An incorrect check on the lower limit of the ring buffer allows users to retrieve the hash of a block that should no longer be accessible. This results in two different blocks returning the same block hash.

### **Root Cause**

In <u>main.eas#L70</u>, a check is performed to validate whether the input requests a block hash prior to the earliest available. The check intends to ensure number - input < BUFLEN, but incorrectly includes an additional +1 to BUFLEN:

This mistake permits querying BUFLEN+1 slots, even though only BUFLEN hashes are stored. Due to how data is stored in the ring buffer, requesting the hash for block.number - 1 and for block.number - 1 - BUFLEN will access the same slot without reverting, causing two different blocks to return the same block hash.

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

# **Impact**

Medium severity. The contract permits querying a block outside the expected range, returning an incorrect block hash instead of reverting as expected.

### PoC

The following Proof of Concept illustrates how querying two different blocks returns the same block hash:

```
function test_FetchLimit() public {
       uint256 start = 8185;
        vm.roll(start);
        // Store hashes for blocks.
        for(uint256 i; i < buflen + 200; i++) {</pre>
           vm.prank(sysaddr);
            (bool ret, bytes memory data) =
            → unit.call(abi.encode(keccak256(abi.encode(i))));
           require(ret, "failed");
           assertEq(data, hex"");
           vm.roll(block.number+1);
        // At block 16382, only blocks from [8191, 16381] should be able to be
        \rightarrow queried.
        vm.roll(16382);
        // However, it is possible to query block 8190, which accesses slot 8190
        (bool ret, bytes memory hash) = unit.call(abi.encode(8190));
        require(ret, "Failed fetching");
        console.logBytes(hash);
        // Which shows the same result as querying 16381, which also accesses slot
        → 8190 (16381%BUFLEN).
```

```
(ret, hash) = unit.call(abi.encode(16381));
  require(ret, "Failed fetching");
  console.logBytes(hash);
}
```

# **Mitigation**

```
;; Check if the input is requesting a block hash before the earliest available
  ;; hash currently. Since we've verfied that input <= number - 1, it's safe to
  ;; check the following:
  ;; number - 1 - input <= BUFLEN, which also equals: number - input < BUFLEN
  dup1
                     ;; [input, input]
- number
                     ;; [number, input, input]
                     ;; [number - input, input]
   sub
                     ;; [buflen, number - input, input]
- push BUFLEN+1
- lt
                     ;; [buflen < number - input, input]
+ push BUFLEN
                     ;; [buflen, input, input]
+ number
                     ;; [number, buflen, input, input]
+ sub
                     ;; [number-buflen, input, input]
+ swap1
                     ;; [input, number-buflen, input]
+ lt
                     ;; [input< number - buflen, input]</pre>
                     ;; [input]
 jumpi @throw
```

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

fixed in <a href="https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/6cae17ba475d23a4cb">https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/6cae17ba475d23a4cb</a> afb99d379e76793954902b

### **Oxadrii**

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-1: Use MSIZE instead of PUSH32

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/17

The protocol team has acknowledged this issue.

# **Summary**

The codebase contains multiple instances where push 32 is used to specify memory size for return operations of 32-byte values.

When returning a single 32-byte value that was just stored to memory, using msize instead would be more gas efficient as it avoids pushing an additional value to the stack. This optimization would save I gas per occurrence.

- <a href="https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/blob/main/sys-asm/src/execution\_hash/main.eas#L83">https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/blob/main/sys-asm/src/execution\_hash/main.eas#L83</a>
- https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/blob/main/sys-asm/src/withdrawals/main.eas#L178
- <a href="https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/blob/main/sys-asm/src/consolidations/main.eas#L183">https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/blob/main/sys-asm/src/consolidations/main.eas#L183</a>

# **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

```
- push 32 ;; [32]
+ msize ;; [32]
```

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

Given the complexity of these contracts already, I am hesitant to rely on the size of the memory for such small savings.

# Issue L-2: Incorrect stack comment in EIP-7251 addresses last 32 bytes of target as target [16:32], instead of target [16:48]

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/16

# Summary

In <u>these stack comments</u> from the consolidation contract, the last 32 bytes of target are labeled as target [16:32]. However, target is a 48-byte value, with the first 16 bytes (target [0:16]) stored in slot 2, and the last 32 bytes (target [16:48]) stored in slot 3. This makes the target references in the stack comments inaccurate.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

Update the comments addressing the last 32 bytes in target from target [16:32] to target [16:48].

# **Discussion**

lightclient

already fixed

**Oxadrii** 

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-3: Incorrect comment in EIP-2935 mentions roots instead of block hashes

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/15

# **Summary**

The withdrawals contract contains the following comment:

This comment is incorrect, as in the context of withdrawals and the ring buffer, "roots" are not read; instead, block hashes are pulled.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

### **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

### PoC

# **Mitigation**

Update the comment to the following:

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

fixed here <a href="https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/24bb38cdeb7e96e">https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/24bb38cdeb7e96e</a> 77d912f241234aa986e4fed32

### **Oxadrii**

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-4: Update counter semantics for optimized gas usage in consolidations and withdrawals

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/13

# **Summary**

The counter variable at slot 1 in the withdrawals and consolidations contract is used to track the number of new requests in the current block. Users adding a new request increase the counter by one, and the sysaddr uses the counter to compute the new excess value and afterwards resets the slot to zero.

In order to optimize the gas usage for the first user of a block adding a new request the counter semantics could be updated to be "off by one" to prevent the user paying the high gas cost of writing to a zero slot. This would change the gas cost for the counter update from 22,100 to only 5,000 (assuming slot is cold).

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

### **Attack Path**

# **Impact**

No response

### PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

The updated semantics can be easily contained in two additional macros used during the sysaddr's execution path. A user's execution path does not need to be updated as the counter is only incremented.

In the skip\_reset code block the following lines can be updated to use a read\_counter macro:

### Could be updated to:

Afterwards, the zeroing of the counter slot needs to be updated from:

```
push SLOT_COUNT  // [count_slot, 0, count]
sstore  // [count]
```

### to:

Note that the change of semantics is solely encapsulated in the macro at which it can be documented. No additional documentation is needed when the macros are used.

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

We will consider this, however it is not likely the current gas semantics will always hold true. So we may add complexity to the contract which will not serve the expected purpose in the future.

# Issue L-5: Incorrect stack comments in withdrawals and consolidations read\_requests code block

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/12

# Summary

Both system contracts contain the following code block in their read\_requests path, see consolidations/main.eas:211-216 and withdrawals/main.eas:206-211:

In both cases the push QUEUE\_TAIL stack comment contains two unaccounted values, head\_idx and head\_idx.

# **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

## **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

## PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

Remove the last two elements of the push QUEUE\_TAIL stack comment.

# **Discussion**

lightclient

 $fixed in $\underline{$https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/5b917941657b1fe52ae} $02e850d12544cfeaae51f$ 

pmerkleplant

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-6: Incorrect stack comment in consolidation's accum\_loop code block

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/11

# Summary

The following code block in <u>consolidations/main.eas:290-297</u> contains faulty stack comments (note that ; ; is updated to // to enable nicer syntax support):

```
// @audit Line with last correct stack comments.
                      // [offset, target[16:32], src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16],
mul
\rightarrow source[0:32], addr, i, ...]
// Shift addr bytes.
swap4
                      // [addr, src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16], source[0:32],

    target[16:32], offset, i, ..]

                      // [96, addr, src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16], source[0:32],
push 12*8
\rightarrow target[16:32], offset, i, ...]
                      // [addr<<96, src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16], source[0:32],
shl

    target[16:32], offset, i, ..]

// Store addr at offset = i*RECORD_SIZE.
                      // [offset, addr<<96, offset, src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16],
dup5
// [offset, src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16], source[0:32],

    target[16:32], i, ..]

// @audit Line with first correct stack comments.
// Store source[0:32] at offset = i*RECORD_SIZE + 20.
swap2
                      // [source[0:32], src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16], target[16:32],
\hookrightarrow offset, i, ...]
```

The stack comment of the swap4 operation should be [addr, target[16:32], src[32:48] ++ tgt[0:16], source[0:32], offset, i, ..]. This error continues until the swap2 operation at which the stack comments are correct again.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

Update the stack comments accordingly.

# **Discussion**

lightclient

already fixed

# Issue L-7: The fake\_expo functionality is unhygienic as it leaves intermediate values on the stack

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/10

# **Summary**

The fake\_expo functionality used in the consolidations and withdrawals function is used to compute the request fee given current excess value. However, the "function" leaves, additionally to the fee value, the intermediate values i, numer, and accum on the stack. These values are not documented in the respective system contracts' stack comments.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

## **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

### PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

In order to document the correct state of the stack in the system contracts the additional values may either be documented in the stack comments or the <code>fake\_expo</code> "function" may <code>pop</code> those values of the stack.

However, no issues were found due to the undocumented trailing stack elements.

## **Discussion**

### lightclient

fixed in https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/d4fed45f2989ac80dd 85e6d016e30842688e1868

### pmerkleplant

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-8: Overflow in fake\_expo leads to spec mismatch

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/9

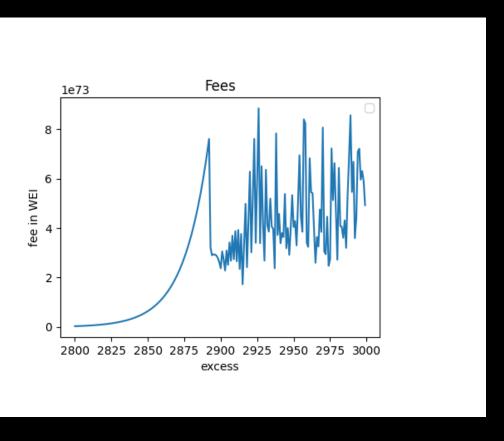
# Summary

The fake\_exponential function used in the consolidations and withdrawals contracts does not conform to the EIP's python specification for values of excess > 2892.

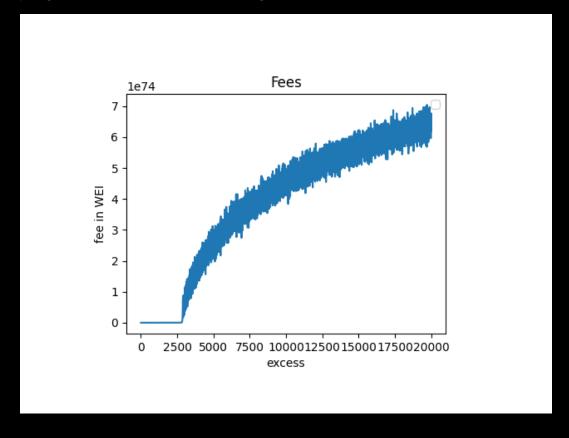
While it is important to note that under current settings it is impossible to reach such a high excess value, it may be possible in the future assuming heavy scalability increases. For more info see EIP-7251, 7002 DoS Analysis.

The issue lies in the fact that the geas implementation uses native uint256 values which overflow for excess > 2892. This breaks an important implicit invariant of the fee mechanism, namely an increasing excess value leads to an increasing fee.

Plotting the resulting fees for excess in the range of [2800, 3000] shows that this invariant is broken:



However, note that the functions behaviour stays reasonable though, ie the fee stays incredibly high and tends to increase long term:



## **Root Cause**

No response

# **Internal pre-conditions**

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

No mitigation necessary.

# Issue L-9: EIP-{7251, 7002} DoS Analysis

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/8

# **Summary**

The consolidations and withdrawals system contracts both incorporate a fee mechanism for requests to prevent spamming. Without the fee mechanism it would be possible to DoS the contracts with requests to prevent honest users' requests from being processed in an adequate amount of time.

Note that while DoS-ing the consolidations contract can only be attributed to griefing, delaying processing of honest withdrawal requests may lead to financial damage for users, and thereby potential financial gains for staking competitors, as validator payouts can be delayed. However, note that "sweeping" validator withdrawals by the consensus layer takes multiple days already anyway.

Both fee mechanisms are based on the <code>fake\_exponential</code> function to increase a requests fee exponentially whenever the amount of requests in a block is higher than the contract's <code>TARGET</code>. Its important to note that fees are only updated <code>after</code> a block, ie fees are constant for the duration of a block.

The consolidations and withdrawals fee mechanisms' differ in the following ways:

- For consolidations, the TARGET requests per block is 1, for withdrawals its 2
- For consolidations, the number of requests processed per block is 1, for withdrawals its 16

In this analysis the following values are used:

- The GAS COST to add a request is underestimated from ~115,000 gas to 100,000 gas
- A block's GAS\_LIMIT, currently sitting at 30MM, is heavily overestimated by 10x to 300MM

In order to most effectively delay honest requests an attacker would want to add as many requests as possible per block to prevent fee updates. The amount of requests possible in a single block is therefore below MAX\_REQUESTS = GAS\_LIMIT / GAS\_COST = 3,000. Assuming an excess value of zero this leads to a total fee of only 3,000 wei,

meaning the cost of the attack is solely the opportunity cost of the waived execution fees and mev rewards for the proposed block.

To process 3,000 requests takes (assuming a block time of 12s):

- For consolidations: MAX\_REQUESTS / 1 = 3,000 blocks, ie 10 hours
- For withdrawals: MAX REQUESTS / 16 = 188 blocks, ie ~0.6 hours

Continuing the attack in the next block is impossible due to the updated fee reaching a value > 2^250. However, this means the attacked contract is still DoSed as honest users cannot add new requests.

For the fee to reach < 1 ETH again it takes:

- For consolidations ~7.6 hours
- For withdrawals ~3.8 hours

To summaries, even with highly beneficial estimations for the attacker, honest user requests cannot reasonably be delayed for longer than 10 hours for consolidations, and ~7.6 hours for withdrawals.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

# **Impact**

No response

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

No response

# **Discussion**

# lightclient

this is useful, thank you. not sure if there is anything further to update here.

# Issue L-10: Comment confuses stack and storage in EIP-{7251, 7002} system contracts

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/7

# Summary

Both contracts zero the excess value if excess == INHIBITOR, see consolidations/main.eas:369-371 and withdrawals/main.eas:378-379.

In order to do so the excess value currently on the stack is dropped and substituted by zero, while the comment states: Drop the excess from storage and use 0..

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

# PoC

No response

# Mitigation

Update the comments to Drop the excess from stack and use 0..

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

fixed in <a href="https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/c2c223b8024808f553">https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/c2c223b8024808f553</a> 089a9c53ad1f1217cd3d64

# Issue L-11: Unnecessary iszero(iszero()) in EIP-{7251, 7002} system contracts

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/6

# **Summary**

In both system contracts the following code block is executed to return the current excess value:

The two iszero opcodes are unnecessary as the jump will only be executed if callvalue != 0 anyway.

# **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

No response

# **Discussion**

lightclient

already fixed

# Issue L-12: Incorrect comment in EIP-{7251, 7002} system contracts

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/5

# **Summary**

In <u>consolidations/main.eas:55-56</u> the comment states: This is the default code path. It will attempt to record a user's request so long as they pay the required fee.. The same comment is in withdrawals/main.eas:60-61.

However, in both contracts there are still two code paths open, one for adding a user request and a second for reading the excess value.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

Move the comment below the next code block which branches the execution to reading the excess value if no calldata is provided.

# **Discussion**

lightclient

already fixed

# Issue L-13: Use foundry's ffi capabilities to compile geas code

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/4

# **Summary**

Foundry offers the vm.ffi() function to call external programs. This functionality can be used to compile the system contracts directly in the tests' setUp() function, enabling the removal of the build-wrapper script.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

# PoC

# **Mitigation**

Implement a Geas. sol library similar to:

The library can then be used in the setUp() functions:

```
function setUp() public {
    vm.etch(addr, Geas.compile("src/execution_hash/main.eas"));
}
```

Afterwards either add ffi = true to the foundry.toml file or run tests with the --ffi flag, eg forge t --ffi.

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

done with

https://github.com/lightclient/geas-ffi https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35

# /commits/76a281763aca2ad495ac9669128fe8f5c31817c2

# pmerkleplant

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-14: Comment is off by one in EIP-2935's ring buffer implementation

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/3

# **Summary**

In <u>execution\_hash/main.eas:52-53</u> the comment states: Check if input is requesting a block hash greater than current block number..

This comment is off by one as the actual check is whether the block hash is greater than current block number - 1.

### **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

# PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

Update the comment to: Check if input is requesting a block hash greater than
current block number - 1.

# **Discussion**

lightclient

already fixed

# Issue L-15: Negate user's calldatasize revert condition in EIP-2935's ring buffer

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/2

# **Summary**

The execution hashes ring buffer implementation has three revert conditions for non-sysaddr callers:

- calldatasize != 32
- calldatasize(0) outside of upper buffer bound
- calldatasize(0) outside of lower buffer bound

While a failure for the last two conditions leads to a jumpi to a reverting code block, the first condition is implemented such that the happy path does the jumpi. Note that this leads to two distinct reverting code blocks in the contract.

In order to optimize the happy path, and reduce bytecode size, the first condition may be negated via sub(calldatasize(), 32) leading to the reverting path doing the jumpi. Note that this also enables removing the second reverting code block leading to a bytecode decrease of 5 bytes.

# **Root Cause**

No response

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

### **Attack Path**

No response

# **Impact**

No response

### PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

- 1. Update the calldatasize check from calldatasize() == 32 to calldatasize() 32
- 2. Update jumpi @load to jumpi @throw
- 3. Remove the load: label for the happy path
- 4. Remove the pop opcode from the throw: label code block. Note that pop-ing a stack value right before reverting is not necessary

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

this is a nice one

done here <a href="https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/d902117908f07dd4f">https://github.com/lightclient/sys-asm/pull/35/commits/d902117908f07dd4f</a> 84fc0f37lb9be94f8f5ba46

### pmerkleplant

Fix confirmed

# Issue L-16: EIP-7002's specification is missing excess inhibitor reset

Source: https://github.com/sherlock-audit/2024-10-ethereum-foundation/issues/1

# **Summary**

At construction the excess value is set to type(uint).max, called *inhibitor*, to indicate the contract is not yet usable. During the first call of the sysaddr, ie at the start of the fork activation block, excess is updated to zero to activate the contract.

The zeroing of the excess value, if and only if excess == type(uint).max, is missing in the EIP's specification.

### **Root Cause**

The EIP's update\_excess\_withdrawal\_requests() function is missing the following lines of code directly after reading the previous\_excess value:

```
# Check if excess needs to be reset to 0 for first iteration after activation
if previous_excess == EXCESS_INHIBITOR:
    previous_excess = 0
```

# Internal pre-conditions

No response

# **External pre-conditions**

No response

# **Attack Path**

# **Impact**

No response

### PoC

No response

# **Mitigation**

Inside EIP-7002, update the update\_excess\_withdrawal\_requests() to:

# **Discussion**

### lightclient

fixed in <a href="https://github.com/ethereum/EIPs/pull/9040/commits/c08f7cbf1a439ee5e94d">https://github.com/ethereum/EIPs/pull/9040/commits/c08f7cbf1a439ee5e94d</a> 2294c2le3c13ac2f514c

### pmerkleplant

Fix confirmed

# **Disclaimers**

Blackthorn does not provide guarantees nor warranties relating to the security of the project.

Usage of all smart contract software is at the respective users' sole risk and is the users' responsibility.