

SMART CONTRACT AUDIT REPORT

for

Hegic Herge Protocol Upgrade

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PeckShield October 18, 2022

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1 Introduction

Given the opportunity to review the design document and related smart contract source code of the Hegic Herge protocol, we outline in the report our systematic approach to evaluate potential security issues in the smart contract implementation, expose possible semantic inconsistencies between smart contract code and design document, and provide additional suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Our results show that the given version of smart contracts can be further improved due to the presence of several issues related to either security or performance. This document outlines our audit results.

1.1 About Hegic

The Hegic protocol is an on-chain peer-to-pool options trading protocol built on Ethereum. With the protocol, DeFi and crypto users can trade 24/7, cash-settled, various on-chain ETH and WBTC option trading strategies with no KYC or registration required for trading. It provides a valuable instrument to hedge risks and control excessive exposure from market fluctuation and dynamics, therefore presenting a unique contribution to current DeFi ecosystem.

Item Description
Target Hegic Herge Protocol Upgrade
Type EVM Smart Contract
Language Solidity
Audit Method Whitebox
Latest Audit Report October 18, 2022

Table 1.1: Basic Information of Hegic Herge Protocol Upgrade

In the following, we show the Git repository of reviewed files and the commit hash value used in this audit. Please note this audit only covers the contracts/packages/herge sub-directory.

https://github.com/hegic/contracts.git (3a0b690)

And this is the commit ID after all fixes for the issues found in the audit have been checked in:

• https://github.com/hegic/contracts.git (a46c922)

1.2 About PeckShield

PeckShield Inc. [12] is a leading blockchain security company with the goal of elevating the security, privacy, and usability of current blockchain ecosystems by offering top-notch, industry-leading services and products (including the service of smart contract auditing). We are reachable at Telegram (https://t.me/peckshield), Twitter (http://twitter.com/peckshield), or Email (contact@peckshield.com).

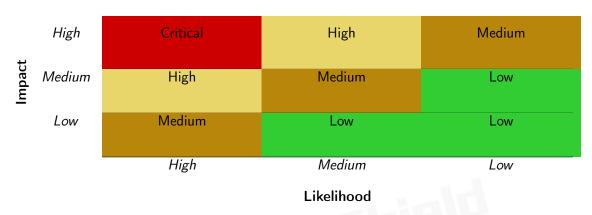


Table 1.2: Vulnerability Severity Classification

1.3 Methodology

To standardize the evaluation, we define the following terminology based on OWASP Risk Rating Methodology [11]:

- <u>Likelihood</u> represents how likely a particular vulnerability is to be uncovered and exploited in the wild;
- Impact measures the technical loss and business damage of a successful attack;
- Severity demonstrates the overall criticality of the risk.

Likelihood and impact are categorized into three ratings: *H*, *M* and *L*, i.e., *high*, *medium* and *low* respectively. Severity is determined by likelihood and impact and can be classified into four categories accordingly, i.e., *Critical*, *High*, *Medium*, *Low* shown in Table 1.2.

To evaluate the risk, we go through a list of check items and each would be labeled with a severity category. For one check item, if our tool or analysis does not identify any issue, the

Table 1.3: The Full List of Check Items

Category	Check Item
	Constructor Mismatch
	Ownership Takeover
	Redundant Fallback Function
	Overflows & Underflows
	Reentrancy
	Money-Giving Bug
	Blackhole
	Unauthorized Self-Destruct
Basic Coding Bugs	Revert DoS
Dasic Couling Dugs	Unchecked External Call
	Gasless Send
	Send Instead Of Transfer
	Costly Loop
	(Unsafe) Use Of Untrusted Libraries
	(Unsafe) Use Of Predictable Variables
	Transaction Ordering Dependence
	Deprecated Uses
Semantic Consistency Checks	Semantic Consistency Checks
	Business Logics Review
	Functionality Checks
	Authentication Management
	Access Control & Authorization
	Oracle Security
Advanced DeFi Scrutiny	Digital Asset Escrow
Advanced Deri Scrutilly	Kill-Switch Mechanism
	Operation Trails & Event Generation
	ERC20 Idiosyncrasies Handling
	Frontend-Contract Integration
	Deployment Consistency
	Holistic Risk Management
	Avoiding Use of Variadic Byte Array
	Using Fixed Compiler Version
Additional Recommendations	Making Visibility Level Explicit
	Making Type Inference Explicit
	Adhering To Function Declaration Strictly
	Following Other Best Practices

contract is considered safe regarding the check item. For any discovered issue, we might further deploy contracts on our private testnet and run tests to confirm the findings. If necessary, we would additionally build a PoC to demonstrate the possibility of exploitation. The concrete list of check items is shown in Table 1.3.

In particular, we perform the audit according to the following procedure:

- <u>Basic Coding Bugs</u>: We first statically analyze given smart contracts with our proprietary static code analyzer for known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) all the issues found by our tool.
- <u>Semantic Consistency Checks</u>: We then manually check the logic of implemented smart contracts and compare with the description in the white paper.
- Advanced DeFi Scrutiny: We further review business logics, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.
- Additional Recommendations: We also provide additional suggestions regarding the coding and development of smart contracts from the perspective of proven programming practices.

To better describe each issue we identified, we categorize the findings with Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE-699) [10], which is a community-developed list of software weakness types to better delineate and organize weaknesses around concepts frequently encountered in software development. Though some categories used in CWE-699 may not be relevant in smart contracts, we use the CWE categories in Table 1.4 to classify our findings.

1.4 Disclaimer

Note that this security audit is not designed to replace functional tests required before any software release, and does not give any warranties on finding all possible security issues of the given smart contract(s) or blockchain software, i.e., the evaluation result does not guarantee the nonexistence of any further findings of security issues. As one audit-based assessment cannot be considered comprehensive, we always recommend proceeding with several independent audits and a public bug bounty program to ensure the security of smart contract(s). Last but not least, this security audit should not be used as investment advice.

Table 1.4: Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) Classifications Used in This Audit

Category	Summary
Configuration	Weaknesses in this category are typically introduced during
	the configuration of the software.
Data Processing Issues	Weaknesses in this category are typically found in functional-
	ity that processes data.
Numeric Errors	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper calcula-
	tion or conversion of numbers.
Security Features	Weaknesses in this category are concerned with topics like
	authentication, access control, confidentiality, cryptography,
	and privilege management. (Software security is not security
	software.)
Time and State	Weaknesses in this category are related to the improper man-
	agement of time and state in an environment that supports
	simultaneous or near-simultaneous computation by multiple
5 C IV	systems, processes, or threads.
Error Conditions,	Weaknesses in this category include weaknesses that occur if
Return Values,	a function does not generate the correct return/status code,
Status Codes	or if the application does not handle all possible return/status
Describe Management	codes that could be generated by a function.
Resource Management	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper manage-
Behavioral Issues	ment of system resources.
Denavioral issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to unexpected behaviors from code that an application uses.
Business Logics	Weaknesses in this category identify some of the underlying
Dusilless Logics	problems that commonly allow attackers to manipulate the
	business logic of an application. Errors in business logic can
	be devastating to an entire application.
Initialization and Cleanup	Weaknesses in this category occur in behaviors that are used
mitialization and Cicanap	for initialization and breakdown.
Arguments and Parameters	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper use of
/ inguinents and i diameters	arguments or parameters within function calls.
Expression Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to incorrectly written
	expressions within code.
Coding Practices	Weaknesses in this category are related to coding practices
3	that are deemed unsafe and increase the chances that an ex-
	ploitable vulnerability will be present in the application. They
	may not directly introduce a vulnerability, but indicate the
	product has not been carefully developed or maintained.

2 | Findings

2.1 Summary

Here is a summary of our findings after analyzing the Hegic Herge protocol implementation. During the first phase of our audit, we study the smart contract source code and run our in-house static code analyzer through the codebase. The purpose here is to statically identify known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) issues reported by our tool. We further manually review business logic, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.

Severity	# of Findings
Critical	0
High	2
Medium	1
Low	1
Informational	2
Total	6

We have so far identified a list of potential issues: some of them involve subtle corner cases that might not be previously thought of, while others refer to unusual interactions among multiple contracts. For each uncovered issue, we have therefore developed test cases for reasoning, reproduction, and/or verification. After further analysis and internal discussion, we determined a few issues of varying severities that need to be brought up and paid more attention to, which are categorized in the above table. More information can be found in the next subsection, and the detailed discussions of each of them are in Section 3.

2.2 Key Findings

Overall, these smart contracts are well-designed and engineered, though the implementation can be improved by resolving the identified issues (shown in Table 2.1), including 2 high-severity vulnerabilities, 1 medium-severity vulnerability, 1 low-severity vulnerability, and 2 informational recommendations.

Title ID Severity Category **Status** PVE-001 Low Possible Costly share from Improper Time and State Fixed Deposit Initialization **PVE-002** High Revisited Logic of CoverPool:: start-Fixed Business Logic NextEpoch() **PVE-003** High Revisited Logic of HegicStrategy:: -Business Logic Fixed create() **PVE-004** Informational Immutable States If Only Set at Con-**Coding Practices** Fixed structor() **PVE-005** Informational Suggested Event Generation for Key Coding Practices Fixed **Operations PVE-006** Medium Trust Issue of Admin Keys Security Features Confirmed

Table 2.1: Key Hegic Herge Protocol Upgrade Audit Findings

Beside the identified issues, we emphasize that for any user-facing applications and services, it is always important to develop necessary risk-control mechanisms and make contingency plans, which may need to be exercised before the mainnet deployment. The risk-control mechanisms should kick in at the very moment when the contracts are being deployed on mainnet. Please refer to Section 3 for details.

3 Detailed Results

3.1 Possible Costly share from Improper Deposit Initialization

• ID: PVE-001

• Severity: Low

Likelihood: Low

• Impact: Medium

• Target: CoverPool

• Category: Time and State [7]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-362 [2]

Description

The CoverPool contract allows users to deposit the supported coverToken token and get in return shares to represent the pool share. While examining the share calculation with the given deposits, we notice an issue that may unnecessarily make the pool share extremely expensive and bring hurdles (or even causes loss) for later depositors.

To elaborate, we show below the related code snippet of the <code>CoverPool</code> contract. The <code>provide()</code> routine is used for participating users to deposit the supported asset. In particular, inside the <code>provide()</code> routine, the internal <code>_provide()</code> routine is called to calculate the <code>share</code> amount of the deposit. The issue occurs when the pool is being initialized under the assumption that the current pool is empty.

```
88
         function provide (uint256 amount, uint256 positionId)
89
             external
90
             override
91
             returns (uint256)
92
93
             if (positionId == 0) {
                 positionId = _nextPositionId++;
94
95
                 _mint(msg.sender, positionId);
96
             }
97
             require(
98
                 _isApprovedOrOwner(msg.sender, positionId),
99
                 "Yuo are has no access to this position"
100
             );
101
             require(
102
                 windowSize > block.timestamp - epoch[currentEpoch].start,
```

```
103
                 "Enterence window is closed"
104
             );
105
             _bufferUnclaimedProfit(positionId);
106
             uint256 shareOfProvide = _provide(positionId, amount);
107
             coverToken.safeTransferFrom(msg.sender, address(this), amount);
108
             // TODO emit Provided(positionId, amount, shareOfProvide, shareOf[positionId],
                 totalShare);
109
             return positionId;
110
        }
111
112
         function _provide(uint256 positionId, uint256 amount)
113
             internal
114
             returns (uint256 shareOfProvide)
115
116
             uint256 totalCoverBalance = coverTokenTotal();
             shareOfProvide = totalCoverBalance > 0
117
118
                 ? (amount * totalShare) / totalCoverBalance
119
                 : amount:
120
             shareOf[positionId] += shareOfProvide;
121
             totalShare += shareOfProvide;
122
```

Listing 3.1: CoverPool::provide()

Specifically, when the pool is being initialized, the shareOfProvide directly takes the value of amount (line 119), which is under control by the malicious actor. As this is the first deposit, the current total share equals the calculated shareOfProvide = totalCoverBalance > 0 ? (amount * totalShare)/totalCoverBalance : amount = 1WEI. With that, the actor can further transfer a huge amount of coverToken token to CoverPool contract with the goal of making the pool share extremely expensive.

An extremely expensive pool share can be very inconvenient to use as a small number of 1WEI may denote a large value. Furthermore, it can lead to precision issue in truncating the computed pool shares for the deposited assets. If truncated to be zero, the deposited assets are essentially considered dust and kept by the pool without returning any pool shares.

This is a known issue that has been mitigated in popular Uniswap. When providing the initial liquidity to the contract (i.e. when totalSupply is 0), the liquidity provider must sacrifice 1000 LP tokens (by sending them to address(0)). By doing so, we can ensure the granularity of the LP tokens is always at least 1000 and the malicious actor is not the sole holder. This approach may bring an additional cost for the initial liquidity provider, but this cost is expected to be low and acceptable.

Recommendation Revise current execution logic of _provide() to defensively calculate the share amount when the pool is being initialized. An alternative solution is to ensure guarded launch that safeguards the first stake to avoid being manipulated.

Status The issue has been addressed by the following commit: 7e9cea0.

3.2 Revisited Logic of CoverPool:: startNextEpoch()

• ID: PVE-002

Severity: HighLikelihood: High

• Impact: High

• Target: CoverPool

• Category: Business Logic [9]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [5]

Description

In the Hegic Herge protocol, the CoverPool contract implements an incentive mechanism that rewards the staking of the supported coverToken token with the profitToken token. In particular, the internal _startNextEpoch() routine called inside the privilege fixProfit() routine is used to settle the last reward epoch and start a new reward epoch. While examining its logic, we observe its current implementation should be improved.

To elaborate, we show below the related code snippet of the CoverPool contract. By design, the epoch[currentEpoch].cumulativePoint records the accumulated rewards per share at the beginning of the currentEpoch epoch and the cumulativeProfit records the latest accumulated rewards per share (i.e., the accumulated rewards per share at the end of the currentEpoch epoch). Inside the _startNextEpoch() routine, the statement of uint256 profitOut = totalShare == 0 ? 0 : ((cumulativeProfit - epoch[currentEpoch].cumulativePoint)* coverTokenTotal())/ ADDITIONAL_DECIMALS (line 307) is designed to calculate the total rewards shared by the total withdrawal in the currentEpoch epoch. Apparently, the current implementation does not meet the requirement. Given this, we suggest to improve the implementation as below: uint256 profitOut = totalShareOut == 0 ? 0 : ((cumulativeProfit - epoch[currentEpoch].cumulativePoint)* totalShareOut)/ ADDITIONAL_DECIMALS (line 307).

Moreover, inside the _startNextEpoch() routine, it comes to our attention that the totalShare is updated (line 314) but the corresponding coverToken balance (i.e., coverTokenTotal()) is not, which will make the pool share expensive and require necessary revision.

```
function fixProfit() external onlyRole(DEFAULT_ADMIN_ROLE) {
287
288
             uint256 profitAmount = profitToken.balanceOf(address(this)) -
                 profitTokenBalance;
289
290
             profitTokenBalance += profitAmount;
291
             cumulativeProfit += (profitAmount * ADDITIONAL_DECIMALS) / totalShare;
292
293
             _startNextEpoch();
294
             emit Profit(currentEpoch, profitAmount);
295
        }
296
297
         function _startNextEpoch() internal {
298
             require(
```

```
299
                 MINIMAL_EPOCH_DURATION <
300
                     block.timestamp - epoch[currentEpoch].start,
301
                 "The epoch is too short to be closed"
302
             );
303
             uint256 totalShareOut = epoch[currentEpoch].totalShareOut;
304
             uint256 coverTokenOut = totalShare == 0
305
306
                 : (totalShareOut * coverTokenTotal()) / totalShare;
307
             uint256 profitOut = totalShare == 0
308
                 ? 0
309
                 : ((cumulativeProfit - epoch[currentEpoch].cumulativePoint) *
310
                     coverTokenTotal()) / ADDITIONAL_DECIMALS;
311
312
             epoch[currentEpoch].coverTokenOut = coverTokenOut;
313
             epoch[currentEpoch].profitTokenOut = profitOut;
314
             totalShare -= epoch[currentEpoch].totalShareOut;
315
316
317
```

Listing 3.2: CoverPool::fixProfit()&&_startNextEpoch()

Recommendation Correct the implementation of the _startNextEpoch() routine as abovementioned.

Status The issue has been addressed by the following commit: 7e9cea0.

3.3 Revisited Logic of HegicStrategy:: create()

• ID: PVE-003

• Severity: High

Likelihood: High

• Impact: High

• Target: HegicStrategy

Category: Business Logic [9]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [5]

Description

In the Hegic Herge protocol, the HegicStrategy contract implements the standard option trading strategy, while some other contracts inheriting from it implement the specific option trading strategies. In particular, the internal _create() routine called inside the create() routine is used to create a new option for the user. While examining its logic, we notice there is an improper implementation that needs to be improved.

To elaborate, we show below the related code snippet of the HegicStrategy contract. Inside the _create() routine, the calculateNegativepnlAndPositivepnl() routine is called (line 128) to calculate the positive PNL and negative PNL for the new option. The first returned value of

the calculateNegativepnlAndPositivepnl() routine is negative PNL and the second returned value is positive PNL. However, inside the _create() routine, we observe its first returned value is used as positive PNL and its second returned value is used as negative PNL, which is the opposite of its implementation. Given this, we suggest to improve the implementation as below: (negativePNL, positivePNL) = calculateNegativepnlAndPositivepnl(amount, period, additional) (line 128).

```
120
         function _create(
121
             uint256 id,
122
             address, /*holder*/
123
             uint256 amount,
124
             uint256 period,
125
             bytes[] calldata additional
126
         ) internal virtual returns (uint32 expiration, uint256 positivePNL, uint256
             negativePNL)
127
128
             (positivePNL, negativePNL) = calculateNegativepnlAndPositivepnl(
129
                 amount,
130
                 period,
131
                 additional
132
             );
133
134
135
136
        function calculateNegativepnlAndPositivepnl(
137
             uint256 amount,
138
             uint256 period,
139
             bytes[] calldata /*additional*/
140
        ) public view virtual override returns (uint128 negativepnl, uint128 positivepnl)
141
142
             negativepnl = _calculateCollateral(amount, period);
143
             positivepnl = _calculateStrategyPremium(amount, period);
144
```

Listing 3.3: HegicStrategy::_create()

Note another routine, i.e., HegicInverseStrategy::_create(), shares the same issue.

Recommendation Correct the implementation of the _create() routine as above-mentioned.

Status The issue has been addressed by the following commits: 7e9cea0 and a46c922.

3.4 Immutable States If Only Set at Constructor()

• ID: PVE-004

• Severity: Informational

• Likelihood: N/A

Impact: N/A

• Target: Multiple Contracts

• Category: Coding Practices [8]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-561 [3]

Description

Since version 0.6.5, Solidity introduces the feature of declaring a state as immutable. An immutable state variable can only be assigned during contract creation, but will remain constant throughout the life-time of a deployed contract. The main benefit of declaring a state as immutable is that reading the state is significantly cheaper than reading from regular storage, since it is not stored in storage anymore. Instead, an immutable state will be directly inserted into the runtime code.

This feature is introduced based on the observation that the reading and writing of storage-based contract states are gas-expensive. Therefore, it is always preferred if we can reduce, if not eliminate, storage reading and writing as much as possible. Those state variables that are written only once are candidates of immutable states under the condition that each fits the pattern, i.e., "a constant, once assigned in the constructor, is read-only during the subsequent operation."

While examining all the state variables defined in the Hegic Herge protocol, we observe there are several variables that need not to be updated dynamically. They can be declared as immutable for gas efficiency.

```
14
        contract OperationalTreasury is
15
            IOperationalTreasury,
16
            AccessControl,
17
            ReentrancyGuard
18
        {
19
20
            ICoverPool public override coverPool;
21
22
            uint256 public maxLockupPeriod;
23
```

Listing 3.4: OperationalTreasury

Recommendation Revisit the state variable definition and make good use of immutable/constant states.

Status The issue has been addressed by the following commit: 7e9cea0.

3.5 Suggested Event Generation for Key Operations

• ID: PVE-005

• Severity: Informational

• Likelihood: N/A

• Impact: N/A

• Target: Multiple Contracts

• Category: Coding Practices [8]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-563 [4]

Description

In Ethereum, the event is an indispensable part of a contract and is mainly used to record a variety of runtime dynamics. In particular, when an event is emitted, it stores the arguments passed in transaction logs and these logs are made accessible to external analytics and reporting tools. Events can be emitted in a number of scenarios. One particular case is when system-wide parameters or settings are being changed. Another case is when tokens are being minted, transferred, or burned.

While examining the events that reflect the protocol dynamics, we notice there are several key operations that lack meaningful events to reflect their changes. In the following, we show several representative routines.

```
function setPricer(IPremiumCalculator value) external onlyRole(DEFAULT_ADMIN_ROLE) {
   pricer = value;
}

function setK(uint256 value) external onlyRole(DEFAULT_ADMIN_ROLE) {
   k = value;
}
```

Listing 3.5: HegicStrategy

With that, we suggest to emit meaningful events for these key operations. Also, the key event information is better indexed. Note each emitted event is represented as a topic that usually consists of the signature (from a keccak256 hash) of the event name and the types (uint256, string, etc.) of its parameters. Each indexed type will be treated like an additional topic. If an argument is not indexed, it will be attached as data (instead of a separate topic). Considering that the key information is typically queried, it is better treated as a topic, hence the need of being indexed.

Recommendation Properly emit the above-mentioned events with accurate information to timely reflect state changes. This is very helpful for external analytics and reporting tools.

Status The issue has been addressed by the following commit: 7e9cea0.

3.6 Trust Issue of Admin Keys

• ID: PVE-006

• Severity: Medium

• Likelihood: Medium

• Impact: Medium

• Target: Multiple Contracts

• Category: Security Features [6]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-287 [1]

Description

In the Hegic Herge protocol, there are a series of privileged accounts that play a critical role in governing and regulating the protocol-wide operations (e.g., configuring various system parameters). In the following, we show the representative functions potentially affected by the privilege of the accounts.

Listing 3.6: HegicInverseStrategy::isPayoffAvailable()

```
190
        function setPricer(IPremiumCalculator value) external onlyRole(DEFAULT_ADMIN_ROLE) {
191
             pricer = value;
192
193
194
        function setLimit(uint256 value) external onlyRole(DEFAULT_ADMIN_ROLE) {
195
            lockedLimit = value;
196
             emit SetLimit(value);
197
198
199
        function setK(uint256 value) external onlyRole(DEFAULT_ADMIN_ROLE) {
200
            k = value;
201
```

Listing 3.7: HegicStrategy

Listing 3.8: CoverPool::setNextEpochChangingPrice()

We emphasize that the privilege assignment is indeed necessary and consistent with the protocol design. However, it is worrisome if the privileged account is a plain EOA account. The multi-sig mechanism could greatly alleviate this concern, though it is still far from perfect. Note that a compromised privileged account would allow the attacker to modify a number of sensitive system parameters, which directly undermines the assumption of the protocol design.

Recommendation Suggest to introduce the multi-sig mechanism to manage all the privileged accounts to mitigate this issue. Additionally, all changes to privileged operations may need to be mediated with necessary timelocks.

Status The issue has been confirmed by the team.



4 Conclusion

In this audit, we have analyzed the design and implementation of Hegic Herge protocol, which is an on-chain peer-to-pool options trading protocol built on Ethereum. With the protocol, DeFi and crypto users can trade 24/7, cash-settled, various on-chain ETH and WBTC options trading strategies with no KYC or registration required for trading. It provides a valuable instrument to hedge risks and control excessive exposure from market fluctuation and dynamics, therefore presenting a unique contribution to current DeFi ecosystem. The current code base is well structured and neatly organized. Those identified issues are promptly confirmed and addressed.

Meanwhile, we need to emphasize that smart contracts as a whole are still in an early, but exciting stage of development. To improve this report, we greatly appreciate any constructive feedbacks or suggestions, on our methodology, audit findings, or potential gaps in scope/coverage.

References

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