

	State channels	Sidechains [°]	Plasma	Optimistic rollups	Validium	zkRollup
Security						
Liveness assumption (e.g. watch-towers)	Yes	Bonded	Yes	Bonded	No	No
The mass exit assumption	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Quorum of validators can freeze funds	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Quorum of validators can confiscate funds	No	Yes	No	No	Yes ¹	No
Vulnerability to hot-wallet key exploits	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	High	Immune
Vulnerability to crypto-economic attacks	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Immune
Cryptographic primitives	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	New	New
Performance / economics						
Max throughput on ETH 1.0	1..∞ TPS ²	10k+ TPS	1k..9k TPS ²	2k TPS ³	20k+ TPS	2k TPS
Max throughput on ETH 2.0	1..∞ TPS ²	10k+ TPS	1k..9k TPS ²	20k+ TPS	20k+ TPS	20k+ TPS
Capital-efficient	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Separate onchain tx to open new account	Yes	No	No	No	No	No ⁵
Cost of tx	Very low	Low	Very low	Low	Low	Low
Usability						
Withdrawal time	1 confirm.	1 confirm.	1 week ⁴ (?)	1 week ⁴ (?)	1..10 min ⁷	1..10 min ⁷
Time to subjective finality	Instant	N/A (trusted)	1 confirm.	1 confirm.	1..10 min	1..10 min
Client-side verification of subjective finality	Yes	N/A (trusted)	No	No	Yes	Yes
Instant tx confirmations	Full	Bonded	Bonded	Bonded	Bonded	Bonded
Other aspects						
Smart contracts	Limited	Flexible	Limited	Flexible	Flexible	Flexible
EVM-bytecode portable	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Native privacy options	Limited	No	No	No	Full	Full

[°] Some researchers do not consider them to be part of L2 space at all, see <https://twitter.com/gakonst/status/1146793685545304064>

¹ Depends on the implementation of the upgrade mechanism, but usually applies.

² Complex limitations apply.

³ To keep compatibility with EVM throughput must be capped at 300 TPS

⁴ This parameter is configurable, but most researchers consider 1 or 2 weeks to be secure.

⁵ Depends on the implementation. Not needed in zkSync but required in Loopring.

⁷ Can be accelerated with liquidity providers but will make the solution capital-inefficient.

