

Overview:

This post-mortem analysis addresses two key issues that occurred in a recent MakerDAO Executive Spell. The executive spell in question, originally scheduled for October 11, was published on October 16th.

The first issue involved an incorrect distribution of MKR to a delegate, with 34.55 MKR allocated instead of the intended 34.5 MKR. This transfer error occurred on line [723 of the executive spell](#), despite being correctly written in the explanatory note above the line.

The second issue was a miscommunication in the executive summary stating a decrease in WBTC Debt Ceilings instead of the actual change to the gap

(Target Available Debt) parameter. This copy error was missed during the review process and is highlighted in [line 22 of the executive spell copy on GitHub](#).

Both errors were promptly brought to attention after publication by members of the community; AD@Cloaky identified the transfer error in the public Discord, while @rema noticed the summary error on the copy.

In response to these issues, the Technical and Governance teams convened to assess the errors, identify mitigating factors, and recommend process improvements to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Mistakes and Mitigating Factors:

Delegate MKR Allocation Issue:

Mistake: @vigilant received 34.55 MKR instead of the intended 34.5 MKR. The correct amount was specified in both the spell coordination sheet and as a note in the spell code. However, this transfer was the only one with a single decimal place (instead of two), which made it easy to miss during the spell review process. To correct for this error, .05 MKR will be deducted from @vigilant's AD buffer.

Misplaced Description in Executive Summary:

Mistake: The executive summary inaccurately indicated that WBTC Debt Ceilings were being lowered, whereas it was actually the gap (Target Available Debt) parameter that was being decreased. The details section provided the correct information, but the top-level summary was misleading and may have caused confusion among voters who anticipated a different parameter adjustment.

Implemented Preventive Measures:

Updating Review Process

: Governance Facilitators are updating our [Executive Review Checklist](#) to catch similar errors. Additionally, review time will be prioritized to prevent rushing through the checklist.

Payment Sum Listing

: When making multiple payments, provide a sum of the total payments in the coordination sheet. This process will give spell checkers an independent number to verify that all items have been entered correctly before finalizing a spell.

Decimal Precision

: List all items to two decimal places of accuracy in the spell coordination sheet. This will prevent mistakes like the one in the previous spell, where the extra 0.05 MKR was not noticed because the listing was listed to the tenths place. Even when distributing a whole number like 200 MKR, it will be listed in the spell sheet as 200.00 MKR.