

How To Decipher A Smart Contract Method Call

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Diving Into The Ethereum VM Part 4

In previous articles of this series we've seen how Solidity represents complex data structures in the EVM storage. But data is useless if there's no way to interact with it. The Smart Contract is the mediator between data and the outside world.

In this article we'll see how Solidity and EVM makes it possible for external programs to call a contract's methods and cause its state to change.

The "external program" is not limited to DApp/JavaScript. Any program that can communicate with an Ethereum node using HTTP RPC can interact with any contract deployed on the blockchain by creating transactions.

Creating a transaction is like making an HTTP request. A web server would accept your HTTP request and make changes to the database. A transaction would be accepted by the network, and the underlying blockchain extended to include the state changes.

Transactions are to Smart Contracts as HTTP requests are to web services.