At the request of the Arbitrum Foundation, OpenZeppelin audited Offchain Lab's Stylus SDK.

Summary

Type: Smart Contract Language

Timeline: From 2024-07-08 To 2024-08-09

Languages: Rust

Total Issues: 36 (27 resolved, 1 partially resolved)

Critical Severity Issues: 2 (1 resolved, 1 partially resolved)

High Severity Issues: 2 (2 resolved)

Medium Severity Issues: 10 (7 resolved)

Low Severity Issues: 12 (8 resolved)

Notes & Additional Information: 10 (9 resolved)

Scope

We audited the OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs repository at commit 62bd831.

In scope were the following files:

System Overview

Arbitrum Stylus introduces a paradigm shift in smart contract development by enabling programs to be compiled to WebAssembly (WASM) and deployed on-chain, seamlessly coexisting with traditional smart contracts written in common EVM languages like Solidity. This language-agnostic approach opens up new possibilities for developers, enabling them to use their preferred programming languages while maintaining full ABI compatibility with the Ethereum ecosystem.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Stylus programs is their exceptional performance and cost-effectiveness. These programs are orders of magnitude cheaper and faster to execute than traditional EVM-based smart contracts while also being fully EVM compatible. This breakthrough enables Stylus programs to interact seamlessly with existing Ethereum smart contracts, creating a bridge between the efficiency of WASM and the established Ethereum ecosystem.

Stylus SDK for Rust

This powerful toolkit enables developers to write programs for Arbitrum chains in Rust. Rust's combination of performance, safety, and modern features makes it ideal for developing robust and efficient smart contracts. The Stylus SDK for Rust provides a comprehensive set of tools and abstractions that simplify the process of creating Stylus programs. It offers a familiar development experience for Rust programmers while integrating seamlessly with the Arbitrum ecosystem. Some of the features available in the SDK include:

- Generic, storage-backed Rust types for programming Solidity-equivalent smart contracts with optimal storage caching.
- Simple macros for writing language-agnostic methods and entry points.
- Automatic export of Solidity interfaces for interoperability across programming languages.
- Powerful primitive types backed by the feature-rich Alloy.

Procedural Macros

The Stylus Rust SDK leverages several powerful procedural macros to streamline smart contract development and ensure seamless integration with the EVM ecosystem. These macros automate complex tasks such as trait implementation, method exposure, storage management, and inter-contract communication, allowing developers to write idiomatic Rust code while maintaining full compatibility with contracts made with EVM-compatible languages.

entrypoint

This macro defines the entry point for Stylus execution. It implements the TopLevelStorage

trait and is typically used to annotate the top-level storage struct. This macro sets up the necessary boilerplate for handling incoming calls, parsing calldata, and serializing results. It also manages reentrancy protection, integrating with the Stylus VM's execution model.

external

This macro is used to make methods "external" so that they can be called by other contracts. It implements the Router trait for the annotated impl

block. The macro handles the complexities of ABI encoding and decoding, method selector generation, and integration with the Stylus VM's calling conventions. It also manages purity annotations (pure

- , view
- , payable

) and can infer these based on the method signature if not explicitly specified. This macro can have the #[inherit] attribute to implement inheritance-like behavior, allowing a contract to include methods from parent contracts.

sol_interface

It transforms Solidity interface definitions into Rust structs and methods, enabling seamless interaction with other contracts. The macro handles method generation, type conversion, function selector calculation, and call context management. It supports various call types (pure

- , view
- , and payable

) and accommodates reentrancy concerns. By automating the creation of ABI-compatible Rust code, it simplifies cross-contract communication while maintaining type safety and idiomatic Rust practices. This macro acts as a translator, enabling Rust contracts to integrate with the broader EVM ecosystem.

solidity storage

This attribute macro is applied to Rust structs to enable their use in persistent storage within a smart contract. Each field in the struct must implement the StorageType

trait which ensures EVM storage model compatibility. Applying this macro allows developers to define storage layouts directly in Rust, with the fields mapping to the corresponding storage slots in the EVM. This macro ensures that the storage layout of the Rust structs aligns with that of Solidity, facilitating seamless upgrades and interactions with existing Solidity contracts. It supports nested structs and various storage types like StorageAddress

- , StorageBool
- , and custom types implementing StorageType

sol_storage

This macro enables the definition of Rust structs using Solidity-like syntax. It ensures that the storage layout of these structs is identical to their Solidity counterparts. This macro simplifies the transition from Solidity to Rust by allowing developers to reuse their Solidity type definitions directly in Rust, maintaining compatibility with existing storage layouts. This macro uses solidity storage

macro under the hood.

derive_solidity_error

This macro allows Rust enums to be used for error handling in contract methods. It enables enums to be automatically converted into Solidity-compatible error messages that can be returned by smart contract functions. Under the hood, the macro works by implementing From

for Vec

along with printing code for export-abi

.

derive_erase

This macro automatically implements the Erase

trait for a struct. It generates an erase()

method that calls erase()

on each of the struct's fields. This allows for easy clearing of complex storage structures in Arbitrum Stylus smart contracts, ensuring that all fields are properly erased without manual implementation. The macro cannot implement Erase for types that do not support it, such as mappings.

Core Modules

The following modules are contained within the stylus-sdk

folder to facilitate smart contract development and interaction with the Stylus WASM module:

abi

The abi

module provides functionality for encoding and decoding data according to the Ethereum Application Binary Interface (ABI) specification. It enables a two-way mapping between Solidity and Rust types, allowing for interoperability between Rust and Solidity contracts. The module supports encoding function calls into byte arrays and decoding contract responses back into Rust types. The abi

module also includes utilities to generate method selectors and export Solidity interfaces, treating Vec

as uint8[]

in Solidity and using the Bytes

type for Solidity bytes

. This functionality is essential for communication between Rust-based smart contracts and those written in Solidity.

call

The call

module manages interactions with external contracts by handling the execution context and providing mechanisms for standard and raw contract calls. It allows developers to specify gas limits and call values, and access contract storage. The module includes caching strategies to optimize repeated state access and features for safe execution during re-entrant calls. By managing these aspects, the call

module enables Rust-based contracts to interact with Ethereum contracts, facilitating contract communication and data exchange.

deploy

The deploy

module facilitates the deployment of contracts on the Arbitrum network. It includes functionalities for both standard and raw deployments, offering flexibility and control over the deployment process. The raw.rs

file provides lower-level deployment functions, allowing for more granular control and potentially unsafe operations. This module supports setting deployment parameters, handling the deployment process, and ensuring correct contract initialization.

storage

The storage

module provides a comprehensive framework for managing smart contract storage, featuring abstractions for common data structures like arrays, bytes, maps, and vectors. It supports both basic and complex storage operations through a set of defined traits, ensuring proper data handling and access. The module allows developers to define custom storage logic by implementing the StorageType

trait, enabling more advanced data manipulation while providing persistent storage access in the Rust-based contracts. Stylus contracts run on a virtual machine that shares the same EVM State Trie, allowing access to Ethereum's key-value storage. The module provides types and traits for safe storage access using Rust's borrow checker, preventing unsafe aliasing of storage.

hostio

The hostio

module facilitates interactions between Rust-based smart contracts and the host environment on the Arbitrum blockchain. It provides a set of functions for managing contract state, executing calls, and handling I/O operations via a foreign-function interface to the Stylus WASM VM which ultimately communicates with the core blockchain. The wrap_hostio

macro is a key component of this module, designed to simplify and streamline the process of defining host functions. It wraps low-level host operations in Rust-safe abstractions, automatically generating bindings to interact with the blockchain. Several single-file modules in the Stylus SDK provide typical blockchain interactions extensively using the wrap hostio

module, such as:

- block
- : Provides access to Ethereum block information, including properties like the block number, timestamp, and miner details. It serves as an interface for retrieving data about the current or past blocks on the blockchain.
 - contract
- : Facilitates interactions with other contracts, enabling function calls and access to contract metadata. It allows contracts to perform operations such as balance checks and contract code retrieval.
 - crypto
- : Offers cryptographic functions and utilities, such as hashing algorithms and signature verification.
 - evm
- : Interfaces with the EVM, managing execution resources and logging. It includes utilities to query remaining gas and ink (Stylus-specific compute units), emit logs both in raw and alloy-typed forms, and manage memory growth.
 - msq
- : Handles message-passing operations, providing information about the current transaction, such as the sender, value, and gas. It allows contracts to interact with transaction data and control flow.
 - tx
- : Provides transaction-related functionality, including accessing transaction details like gas price and origin. It enables contracts to work with transaction-specific data and execute transaction-based logic.

Mini Allocator

This allocator is key to the Stylus ecosystem, optimized for wasm32 targets like Arbitrum Stylus. It uses a minimal bump allocator strategy, prioritizing simplicity and efficiency. Notably, mini-alloc never deallocates memory, which is ideal for scenarios with tight binary size constraints where it is acceptable to leak all allocations. This design choice enhances performance, aligning with Stylus' focus on optimizing for blockchain environments where traditional memory management can add unnecessary overhead.

Examples

The Arbitrum Stylus SDK repository contains three example crates of common smart contract designs: erc20

, and single_call

erc20

: Demonstrates an ERC-20 token contract with functionalities like minting, transferring, and checking balances. It includes methods for token transfers and managing allowances.

erc721

: Illustrates an ERC-721 NFT contract implementation, covering minting, transferring, and querying ownership of unique tokens. It also handles token metadata and ensures compatibility with the ERC-721 standard.

· single cal

: Showcases a simple contract for making a single call to another contract, demonstrating inter-contract communication within the Arbitrum environment using the Stylus SDK.

Trust Assumptions

SDK Integrity

: It is assumed that the Stylus SDK itself is free from malicious code, such as backdoors or other vulnerabilities that could circumvent the behavior of the underlying blockchain. The SDK is expected to function as described in its documentation, ensuring that developers can rely on its behavior as intended.

WASM VM and Stylus Module Compliance

: It is assumed that the WASM VM and Stylus module strictly follow the consensus rules as outlined by the core EVM part of Arbitrum. This ensures that the execution within the Stylus environment is consistent with the broader consensus rules governing the Arbitrum network, maintaining the integrity and reliability of smart contract execution.

• Third-Party Dependencies

: Any third-party libraries or dependencies integrated with the Stylus SDK are trusted to be secure and regularly updated to mitigate known vulnerabilities.

· Smart Contract Interfaces

: It is assumed that the ABIs generated by the Stylus SDK for contracts are correct and that smart contracts behave in an expected manner, similar to Solidity contracts. This means that from an external perspective, the contracts should exhibit predictable and standard behavior, ensuring compatibility and reliability for the users interacting with them.

Critical Severity

Storage Layout is Inconsistent with Solidity

The <u>documentation</u> asserts that struct fields in Stylus will map to the same storage slots as in EVM programming languages and that the layout will be identical to <u>Solidity's</u>. This suggests that upgrading from Solidity to Rust should not cause misalignment in storage slots, thereby implying an easy transfer of type definitions.

However, Stylus does not handle inherited storage in the same manner as Solidity. For example, consider the following Solidity code:

contract Parent { bool a = true; bool b = true; } contract Child is Parent { bool c = true; bool d = true; }

In this case, storage slot 0 contains 0x01010101

. In contrast, the equivalent Stylus code uses a borrow

clause that uses a new storage slot and does not pack the state variables, which results in a different storage layout:

```
// Snippet of parent.rs sol storage! { pub struct Parent { bool a; bool b; } }
```

```
// Snippet of lib.rs sol_storage! {
#[entrypoint] struct Child { #[borrow] Parent parent; bool c; bool d; } }
```

[external]

[inherit(Parent)]

impl Child { // ... }

Given the same value set, this results in 0x0101

being in slot 0 and 0x0101

being in slot 1.

This discrepancy is critical for projects using proxy patterns that are migrating from Solidity to Stylus as it could lead to storage layout misalignment, potentially overwriting state variables.

Consider refactoring the [solidity storage

macro](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/storage/mod.rs#L12) to mirror Solidity's behavior. Alternatively, consider updating the documentation to accurately reflect the current behavior and avoid misleading developers.

Update:

Resolved at commits <u>a99d8c5</u> and <u>6e3a62e</u>. Inline documentation has been added to highlight the discrepancy with Solidity storage layout.

Lack of Selector Collision Check in External Macro

One of the functions of the <u>external</u> macro is to automate the exposure of Rust functions within a Stylus smart contract as Ethereum-compatible methods. To achieve this, it analyzes an implementation block, processes each method to generate its selectors, and then uses these selectors to route incoming calls to the appropriate Rust functions.

However, the macro does not validate the uniqueness of these selectors. This oversight can lead to selector collisions, resulting in methods becoming unreachable. In addition, developers can manually set a custom selector for a function using #[selector(id =)]

, potentially duplicating existing selectors intentionally or unintentionally. This vulnerability can be exploited to create malicious contracts, such as honeypots, wherein methods are intentionally made unreachable.

Consider implementing a validation mechanism within this macro to ensure that all selectors are unique, preventing selector collisions and enhancing contract reliability and security. One approach could be to add a #[deny(unreachable patterns)]

statement on the [route

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L274) function to prevent unreachable methods.

Update:

Partially resolved at commits <u>a78decd</u> and <u>0d50c1d</u>. The suggested solution of using #[deny(unreachable patterns)]

is insufficient, as it only checks for unreachable patterns within the specific match statement where it is applied. It does not account for selector collisions with functions from inherited contracts, allowing these conflicts to go undetected. Offchain Labs has added inline documentation to highlight this potential issue, and warnings will also be included on the documentation website. The Offchain Labs team is exploring alternative approaches to implementing inheritance for Stylus.

High Severity

Potential Misuse of sol_interface

Macro

The [sol interface

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L13) macro allows developers to seamlessly call Solidity contracts from Stylus smart contracts using their native interfaces. However, this macro can be easily manipulated to mislead users about the actual state mutability of functions. For example, a malicious user could capitalize the first letter of the view

or pure

keywords, use homoglyphs, or employ other tricks to deceive users into believing that a function is non-mutating even

though the macro treats that function as state-changing. This <u>fallback to treating the function as state-changing</u> occurs if no valid mutability keyword is detected, thereby opening the doors to unintentional errors and hard-to-detect scams.

To mitigate this issue, consider implementing stricter validation within the macro to ensure that only the correct mutability keywords are permitted. This will help prevent both intentional misuse and accidental errors, enhancing the overall security and reliability of the macro.

Update:

Resolved at commit a474666.

Custom Selectors Could Facilitate Proxy Selector Clashing Attack

Stylus allows developers to modify the selector for a given function using the selector

attribute, which can accept either a [string name

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L58) or a [u32 ID

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L57). This feature facilitates changing the name of a function while maintaining the same selector, simulating Solidity overloading capabilities and enabling the creation of language-agnostic contract standards.

However, providing an ID

may result in a function selector that exists in both an implementation contract and its proxy contract. Thus, a user may call a proxy contract function with a selector matching the intended implementation contract function instead, causing unintended code execution and precluding the user from accessing the functionality of the implementation contract. This scenario can occur if an ID

integer is defined in such a way that, when converted to hex, it matches the function selector in the other contract, whether it is the implementation or the proxy.

This vulnerability enables malicious projects to create hard-to-detect backdoors. In contrast to Stylus, Solidity requires finding function signatures with matching selectors before exploiting this vulnerability, which is not trivial. Even if such function signatures are found, they are likely to raise red flags due to nonsensical names in the codebase. In Stylus, this attack is harder to execute when the name

option is used instead of ID

which makes such scams easier to detect.

Custom selectors can also confuse third-party monitoring or indexing services that use function selectors to identify specific functions. These services may rely on standard selectors, which are part of the standards or belong to community databases such as the <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org

Given these risks, reconsider the ID

option and consider accepting only the name

instead. If the benefits of custom selectors do not outweigh the risks, consider removing them entirely.

Update:

Resolved at commit 795d376.

Medium Severity

Function Overriding Does Not Enforce Mutability Rules

In Stylus, when an inheriting contract overrides a base function in its parent, there are no checks to enforce any mutability rules. For example:

· A function that does not modify the state in the parent (e.g., a view

function) can be overridden by one that does so in the child.

· A function marked payable

in the parent can be overridden by a non-payable function in the child, causing the child function to revert upon receiving ETH.

From a developer standpoint, this can lead to unexpected behavior and error-prone contract development since this does not match the rules enforced in <u>Solidity</u>, which mandate stricter mutability enforcement. To align with Solidity's mutability rules and avoid unexpected behavior, consider refactoring the logic in the [external

macro](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L19) by implementing checks on the mutability attributes in parent functions.

Update:

Resolved at commit 1984d8a.

Multiple Interface Definitions in sol interface

Block Repeat Functions

If two or more interface definitions are present in the same sol interface!

block, subsequent interfaces will be expanded to include method definitions from the previous ones. For example:

sol_interface! { interface | Service | function makePayment(address user) payable returns (string); function getConstant() pure returns (bytes32); } interface | Tree { } }

The expanded Rust interface for ITree

will include make payment

and get constant

- , allowing calls to ITree.make_payment
- , for example, in the contract logic. This could allow malicious developers to hide the interface of ITree
- , including functions from previous interface definitions that could then be called on subsequent ones. Moreover, if ITree includes its own legitimate definition of makePayment
- , the code will fail to compile because the implementation block will include two function definitions of the same name.

Consider modifying the [sol_interface

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L13) macro by moving the [method_impls

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L27) declaration inside the [first for

loop](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L29) so that it does not retain tokens from the previous methods during iteration.

Update:

Resolved at commit a64c058.

Contracts Without at Least One Return Type Fail to Compile With export-abi

Feature

The export-abi

feature can be used in the Stylus SDK to generate a Solidity ABI for Stylus contracts using the cargo stylus export-abi command within the contract crate. With this feature, the return statement is skipped in the [#external]

macro so that the [fmt abi

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L345) can be added to the returned router

implementation. However, if the contract does not contain at least one function with an explicit return type (e.g., U256

), the code will fail to compile due to an error in the [type_decls

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L308-L315) token stream which is expanded in [fmt_abi

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L355). This occurs when there are no return types because [types

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L355) is an empty array and type decls

attempts to loop over [].iter()

. Since the compiler cannot infer the expected type from an empty iterator, attempting to access fields like id

on an unknown type (&_

) leads to errors.

Consider including type_decls

within the fmt abi

generation process only when at least one type is available.

Update:

Resolved at commit 31995da.

Unnecessary and Problematic Storage Types in Stylus

The Stylus language supports storage types such as [StorageU1

and Storagel1

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/mod.rs#L115), which are not present in Solidity. These types do not provide any clear benefits within the SDK and fail to work properly with arrays and vectors. The density

function, heavily utilized with arrays and vectors, triggers a division-by-zero error when interacting with these storage types. In addition, types like [StorageBlockHash

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/mod.rs#L588) and [StorageBlockNumber

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/mod.rs#L514) also lack clear utility.

Consider providing detailed explanations of the use cases and relevance of these storage types. If their benefits cannot be demonstrated, it is advisable to remove them to avoid confusion and potential interoperability errors.

Update:

Resolved at commit 3f511fa.

Inefficient Storage of Strings and Bytes

Stylus allows for the use of both strings and dynamically-sized bytes in contract storage. However, the current implementation is notably inefficient for such types. Specifically, the functions for setting (e.g., [extend

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/bytes.rs#L248)) and retrieving (e.g., [get_bytes

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/bytes.rs#L198)) strings or dynamic bytes operate byte-by-byte, which results in a high number of SLOAD

and SSTORE

operations. This inefficiency is especially noticeable with longer strings or byte arrays, leading to significantly increased gas costs.

Consider refactoring storage operations for strings and dynamic bytes to optimize gas usage. Possible approaches include

pre-allocating storage space when appropriate; writing data in full, 32-byte words where possible; and minimizing the number of storage operations.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

Work is ongoing for this issue but needs some additional testing.

Verification Challenges in Contracts May Facilitate Scams

The Stylus SDK allows developers to create smart contracts for Arbitrum chains using the Rust programming language which is then compiled to WASM and deployed alongside Solidity contracts. However, the final WASM output is influenced by several factors, including the Rust version, enabled features, dependencies, and more. These variations make the build process nearly non-deterministic across different operating systems and architectures. This non-determinism complicates contract verification, which is crucial for establishing trust and reliability in the contract. Without consistent build outputs, it becomes challenging to ensure that the deployed WASM accurately reflects the intended contract's code. A malicious actor could exploit this by altering the SDK to compile WASM files that do not function as expected, even if the smart contract code appears to be secure.

Consider standardizing the build process by specifying and enforcing clear guidelines and issuing notifications to developers early in the development cycle (instead of doing it post-deployment). This will streamline contract verification and enhance user trust in the contract's integrity.

Update:

Resolved at commit <u>be51b58</u>. The fix has been made on the cargo-stylus

repository.

Insufficient Test Coverage

The workspace currently contains only a limited number of unit tests for the [abi

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/abi/mod.rs) module and the [mini-alloc

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/tree/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/mini-alloc) crate. The remainder of the codebase lacks unit tests entirely along with any integration tests. This limited test coverage may lead to undetected issues and hinder the verification of code functionality across various modules.

Consider adding a robust test suite that includes comprehensive unit and integration tests for all modules. This will help ensure proper interaction between different parts of the system.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

We are currently working on adding a full suite of unit tests for the SDK as well as other items outlined in issue#148.

Missing receive

and fallback

Functions

The absence of receive

and fallback

functions in Stylus, a language designed to be interoperable with Solidity, can have several significant implications. In Solidity, the receive

function handles direct transfers of ETH to a contract. Without this function, contracts cannot accept plain ETH transfers, thereby limiting ETH transfers to those including data which triggers a specific function call. For example, contracts like [PaymentSplitter

](https://github.com/OpenZeppelin/openzeppelin-contracts/blob/v4.9.6/contracts/finance/PaymentSplitter.sol) will only work for externally owned accounts (EOAs) due to the lack of a receive

function. In addition, many proxy patterns rely on the fallback

function to forward calls to another contract. Without a fallback

function, implementing upgradable contracts or beacon proxy patterns becomes much more complex, requiring alternative mechanisms to delegate calls to other contracts.

Consider implementing receive

and fallback

functions to ensure full compatibility with Solidity contracts. Doing this will help increase code flexibility and support different proxy patterns.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

Implementation underway. Needs further testing. Progress can be tracked on issue#150.

Solidity Interfaces in Stylus Might Mislead Users into Thinking They Match Solidity's Features

The [sol interface

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L13) macro in Stylus smart contracts allows developers to nearly copy and paste Solidity interfaces for seamless contract interactions. However, the current implementation has some potential pitfalls. While it permits elements such as interface inheritance, events, and errors within the interfaces, these are silently ignored, with only the functions being processed. This behavior can lead to confusion and errors, as the contract compiles without issue despite these unsupported elements.

To address this issue, consider documenting the sol interface

macro's current limitations to set appropriate user expectations and implementing checks to revert when unsupported syntax is detected. If feasible, consider including these additional features in future updates as it could enhance the overall code functionality.

Update:

Resolved at commits 821b7f6 and be6306c.

Potential Misuse of Purity Attributes

In Stylus, contract methods can be marked with attributes such as #[view]

- , #[write]
- , and #[pure]

to explicitly define how they interact with the contract state. However, there are two ways malicious users can mislead users or third-party services regarding these attributes:

- Malicious users can use colons in the attribute names, like #[::pure]
- , #[stylus::view]
- , or any other name with colons, tobypass the checks enforced by the external

macro. This allows them to misrepresent the function's intention.

• Functions that do not modify the state, such as #[pure]

and #[view]

methods, can be incorrectly marked with the #[write]

attribute without even requiring colons. The inline documentation of the macro contains this information, but it should be fixed.

To prevent these issues, consider adding proper validations to the external

macro to enforce correct usage of these attributes.

Update:

Resolved at commit d44d94f. The Offchain Labs team removed the mutability specifiers (except #[payable]

), as they can be inferred from the &self

/&mut self

or the absence of self

. This change simplifies the code by leveraging Rust's syntax. Since methods using &self

or those without self

can still modify the state of other contracts—or even their own state if reentrancy is enabled—through external calls, the team has thoroughly documented this behavior in the codebase to inform users.

Low Severity

Unclear Documentation Concerning Call

There are several instances in the documentation and code comments that are unclear or contradictory with respect to the difference between Call::new

and Call:new_in

. For example, Call::new

is given as a simple example to show how to configure gas and value. However, new

is only available with the <u>reentrant flag enabled</u>. The reasoning behind this is unclear since<u>this comment</u> says that new_in

should be used for re-entrant calls. Other confusing comments in the documentation include:

Note too that <u>Call::new_in</u> should be used instead of <u>Call::new</u> since the former provides access to storage. Code that previously compiled with reentrancy disabled may require modification in order to type-check. This is done to ensure storage changes are persisted and that the storage cache is properly managed before calls.

Consider clearly documenting the difference between Call::new

and Call::new in

, and what storage access patterns they represent, and modify code comments accordingly.

Update:

Resolved at commit ba3472f.

Unclear Usage and Documentation For Storage Context During Calls

To set up a calling context with Call::new_in

, the [storage

argument](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/call/context.rs#L60) must implement TopLevelStorage

. The usual pattern to create this implementation is to use the entrypoint

macro, but this is not always desired if there are multiple contracts within a crate. Without TopLevelStorage

, &self

and &mut self

are no longer available, and cumbersome workarounds are required, such as adding an empty implementation for TopLevelStorage

. For example:

unsafe impl TopLevelStorage for Contract {}

Furthermore, it is unclear what the purpose of the storage

argument is when using Call::new in

since the [call

function](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/call/mod.rs#L84) never actually uses this attribute of the call context.

Consider updating the code comments and documentation to clearly describe the purpose of the storage

argument. In addition, consider alternative implementations of the Call::new in

function to accommodate contracts that do not implement the TopLevelStorage

trait.

Update:

Resolved at commit ba3472f.

Misleading Documentation

Throughout the codebase, multiple instances of inaccurate or misleading documentation were identified:

• The inline documentation for the [set

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/mod.rs#L526) function in StorageBlockNumber

is identical to that of the [get

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/mod.rs#L521) method, causing confusion about their distinct functionalities.

• The documentation for the [raw log

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/evm.rs#L27) function advises users to prefer the alloy-typed raw_log

, but it should actually recommend using the [log

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/evm.rs#L39) function instead.

Consider correcting the documentation to align with the code's behavior. This will help improve the clarity and readability of the codebase.

Update:

Resolved at commit dc1e9c5.

Information Leakage in WASM Build

The WASM output of a Stylus contract includes sensitive metadata, such as the username of the individual who compiled the contract and partial paths from the home directory. Although this information does not pose a direct security risk, it can be leveraged by attackers for social engineering or other targeted attacks.

Consider removing or obfuscating such information from production builds to maintain privacy and reduce the potential attack surface. Stripping metadata from the WASM output can help mitigate these risks without impacting the functionality of the deployed contract.

Update:

Resolved at commit 00abf34. The fix has been made on the cargo-stylus

repository.

Inefficient Allocator Fallback in Stylus Contracts

In Stylus contracts, the [mini-alloc

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/tree/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/mini-alloc) allocator module from the SDK is intended to be the standard allocator due to its performance. This module is included in every

example and default template provided by the SDK, ensuring that developers are guided towards using the most efficient option. However, the declaration of the global allocator, which specifies the use of mini-alloc

, can be removed inadvertently. If this happens, the contract defaults to using the allocator from the standard library, which is significantly less efficient. Consequently, contracts deployed using this allocator will be very gas-inefficient.

Consider enforcing mini-alloc

as the default allocator across all Stylus contracts. Changes to the allocator should only be permitted through a deliberate and evident action to avoid unintentional fallback to the less-efficient standard library allocator.

Update:

Resolved at commit 2354799.

Macro Implementations Missing Proper Docstrings

In the stylus-proc

folder, the files that hold the implementations for each macro are missing proper docstrings.

Given the complexity and length of the code, consider adding detailed docstrings. This will make it easier for readers and developers to better understand the inner workings of the codebase while improving the overall code maintainability as well.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

We are looking to refactor our procedural macro implementations to make them more easily testable and easier to understand. This will include better internal documentation of their implementations. Progress may be tracked on issue #151

Misleading Methods in RawDeploy

The [limit revert data

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/deploy/raw.rs#L52) and [skip_revert_data

and size

fields of the RawDeploy

instance. However, these fields are never used in the [deploy

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/deploy/raw.rs#L92) function, rendering these methods redundant. This issue is significant because it misleads developers into believing that they can control the amount of revert data returned, whereas, in reality, these methods have no impact on the deployment's outcome.

Consider removing these methods and fields or modifying the deploy

function to utilize these fields.

Update:

Resolved at commit 6e21166.

Potential Misuse of #[borrow]

Attribute in Storage Fields

The [#[borrow]

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/storage/mod.rs#L30-L55) attribute is used on storage fields to implement the Borrow

and BorrowMut

traits for specific types, facilitating inheritance in Stylus contracts. However, its application can extend to state variables that

do not represent the storage of the parent contract, leading to issues.

The primary concern is the incorrect semantic meaning when #[borrow]

is used on simple types. This attribute is designed for complex types that represent a subset of the contract's storage, not for individual storage slots. Such usage misrepresents the attribute's purpose, misleading developers about the storage layout or contract composition. Furthermore, it generates additional trait implementations that are unnecessary for simple storage types, causing unnecessary code bloat and potentially increasing the contract size without any benefit.

Consider allowing the use of the #[borrow]

attribute exclusively for fields that genuinely represent a subset of a contract's storage. This ensures accurate semantic representation while avoiding misleading code and unnecessary trait implementations.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

Work is ongoing on this issue, and we are searching for a solution that works in Rust. Progress may be tracked on issue #149

Deprecate constant

State Mutability in sol interface

Macro

The sol interface

macro currently allows users to define Solidity interfaces with methods marked as [constant

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L59) for state mutability. However, starting from Solidity version 0.5.0, the constant

keyword for functions is no longer supported and has been replaced by view

and pure

. While the macro internally converts functions with the constant

keyword to pure

, retaining the constant

keyword can be misleading.

To align with the later Solidity versions and avoid incorrect mutability assumptions, consider updating the sol_interface

macro to disallow the use of the constant

keyword for function state mutability. This change will help ensure compatibility with modern Solidity versions and enhance code correctness.

Update:

Resolved at commit e173182.

sol interface

Improper Handling of Function Visibility

In Solidity, it is mandatory to specify the visibility of a function within an<u>interface</u>, and it should always be external

. The [sol_interface

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L13) macro in Stylus, which processes these Solidity interfaces, currently allows users to include methods with incorrect visibility attributes, such as public

, or omit the visibility attribute altogether. This non-compliance with Solidity standards could lead to confusion among developers.

Consider adding validation to ensure that the external

keyword is present in function definitions. This would align with Solidity's interface requirements and prevent potential misunderstanding.

Update:

Resolved at commit 2330ac7.

sol_interface

Lacks Support for Struct and Enum Types

The [sol interface

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/calls/mod.rs#L13) macro is designed to enable developers to seamlessly call Solidity contracts from Stylus smart contracts using their native interfaces. However, it currently does not support struct and enum types, which are commonly used in Solidity. This limitation forces developers to use less readable workarounds, potentially leading to accidental errors and reduced code maintainability.

Consider implementing support for structs and enums. This would significantly enhance developer experience and ensure full compatibility with Solidity interfaces.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

Work has begun on struct support in sol interface!

. More testing is required for release, and enums should be implemented as well. Progress may be tracked on issue#74.

sol storage!

Macro Does Not Support Private State Variables

Private state variables help enforce encapsulation by restricting direct access, ensuring that variables are only modified through controlled functions. This approach minimizes the attack surface and prevents unintended side effects or inconsistencies.

Currently, when using the [sol storage!

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/storage/mod.rs#L170) macro, state variables cannot be set as private, allowing child contracts to access and modify these variables directly. Developers must instead use the [#[solidity_storage]

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/storage/mod.rs#L12) macro, which supports private state variables.

To maintain consistency with #[solidity storage]

, consider enhancing the sol storage!

macro to support private state variables. Alternatively, this limitation should be clearly documented in the official documentation.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

We will consider private state variables for the sol_storage!

macro as part of the work for N-04, tracked by issue#147.

Notes & Additional Information

Naming Issues

Throughout the codebase, multiple instances of elements that could be renamed to better reflect their purpose were identified:

· The [topics

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/evm.rs#L21) parameter in the emit log

function should be renamed to number topics

to better reflect the nature of the value it represents.

• The [#[external]

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/lib.rs#L541) macro, which allows methods to be callable by other methods within the contract or external accounts, should be renamed to #[public]

. The current name might be confused with Solidity's external

visibility, which implies that the function cannot be called from within the contract.

The [#[solidity storage]

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/lib.rs#L67) macro should be renamed to #[persistent_storage]

- , #[storage]
- , or #[state]
- . Instead, the wrapper macro currently named [sol_storage

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/lib.rs#L110) should adopt the name solidity storage

- , as it relates more to Solidity's syntax.
 - · The [types

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/types.rs) module name suggests the existence of multiple types. However, if only Address

is defined, the module should be renamed to AddressType

. Alternatively, if additional common types are expected to be added, consider specifying these to avoid confusion.

Consider addressing these naming issues to improve the readability of the codebase.

Update:

Resolved at commit <u>8d1699f</u>. The Offchain Labs team decided to keep both the sol_storage!

macro and the types

module with the same name. The former aligns with the sol!

macro from alloy, while the latter will include additional types in an upcoming release.

wee_alloc

Crate is Unmaintained and Vulnerable

The wee alloc

crate, a minimal allocator for WebAssembly, is no longer actively maintained, with the last release being over three years ago. Moreover, two of its maintainers have indicated that they do not plan to continue supporting the crate. As a result, several open issues, including memory leaks, remain unresolved.

Even though the crate is not currently used for wasm32

targets, consider switching to a more actively maintained and safer alternative such as [lol_alloc

](https://crates.io/crates/lol_alloc) or the default Rust standard allocator.

Update:

Resolved at commit 80bfcba.

Unstable License URL Reference

The license URL comment at the top of nearly every file in the scope points to a specific branch (stylus

) in the GitHub repository. This branch is not the main branch and may change or be deleted in the future. If the branch name changes or the license is relocated, the current URL references will become invalid, leading to broken links.

Consider updating the license URL to point to a more stable reference, such as a specific commit or tag. Alternatively, consider including a note that the branch name may change. These measures will help ensure that the URL remains functional over time.

Update:

Resolved at commit <u>0a0ace1</u>.

Limited Functionality in sol_storage

Macro

The [sol storage

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/storage/mod.rs#L170) macro currently allows users to define state variables in a Solidity-like syntax within their smart contracts. However, it does not fully replicate Solidity's syntax, notably lacking support for specifying visibility, as well as defining constants and immutables. This limitation prevents things like the automatic generation of getters using the public

keyword and makes it difficult to define constants and immutables as seamlessly as in Solidity.

Consider extending the functionality of the sol storage

macro to support these features. Utilizing the syn solidity

crate could facilitate this enhancement by providing a more comprehensive parsing and handling of Solidity-like syntax.

Update:

Acknowledged, not resolved. The Offchain Labs team stated:

We are considering these additional features for the sol storage!

macro. Progress can be tracked in issue#147.

Lack of Length Accessor for Fixed-Size Arrays

In Solidity, both fixed-size and dynamic arrays support the .length

property, allowing developers to easily determine the size of an array. However, in Stylus, there is no built-in method to access the length of <u>fixed-size arrays</u>. This functionality is available only for dynamic arrays (referred to as vectors in Stylus). This absence of a length accessor for fixed-size arrays may lead to inconsistencies and additional complexity in array management.

Consider implementing a built-in method to access the length of fixed-size arrays in Stylus, similar to the .length

property in Solidity. This enhancement would simplify array handling and reduce the risk of errors.

Update:

Resolved at commit 8ab7650.

Unresolved Link to EagerStorage

The link to [super::EagerStorage

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/storage/traits.rs#L179) in traits.rs

is broken as no item named EagerStorage

exists in the storage

module.

Consider updating or removing the broken link to ensure accurate documentation and avoid confusion for developers.

Update:

Resolved at commit 9b221c8.

Typographical Errors

Throughout the codebase, multiple instances of typographical errors were identified:

[inheritence

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/methods/external.rs#L260) should be inheritance

[occured

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/hostio.rs#L75) should be occurred

Consider fixing the aforementioned typographical errors in order to improve the readability of the codebase.

Update:

Resolved at commit 5052d30.

External Macro Attribute Handling Inconsistency

The external macro currently <u>accepts attributes</u> that are not utilized in its implementation. This can lead to confusion, especially in comparison to the entrypoint macro which <u>throws an error</u> if it receives any attributes.

To ensure consistency and reduce potential confusion, consider adding validation to the external macro implementation to reject any attributes.

Update:

Resolved at commit a1267bf.

Outdated Copyright Year

Outdated copyright years may not reflect recent modifications or ongoing development. Several files within the codebase have outdated copyright years, including the <u>license</u> file. Other examples include:

[tx.rs

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/tx.rs#L1)

• [lib.rs

[(https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-proc/src/lib.rs#L1)

• [block.rs

](https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs/blob/62bd8318c7f3ab5be954cbc264f85bf2ba3f4b06/stylus-sdk/src/block.rs#L1)

Consider updating all outdated copyrights to signal active maintenance and attention to detail.

Update:

Resolved at commit d57458d.

Todo Comments in the Code

During development, having well-described TODO comments will make the process of tracking and solving them easier. Without this information, these comments might age and important information for the security of the system might be forgotten by the time it is released to production. These comments should be tracked in the project's issue backlog and resolved before the system is deployed.

Throughout the codebase, multiple instances of TODO comments were identified:

- Line 31 and Line 270 of external.rs
- Line 279 of proc.rs

Consider removing all instances of TODO comments and instead tracking them in the issues backlog. Alternatively, consider linking each inline TODO comment to the corresponding issues backlog entry.

Update:

Resolved at commit 73dbc1c.

Conclusion

The Stylus SDK allows smart contract developers to build applications for the Arbitrum ecosystem using the Rust language. These Stylus programs are compiled to WebAssembly (WASM) and can be deployed on-chain to run alongside Solidity smart contracts. This innovative approach aims to combine the efficiency of WASM execution with the robustness of programming in Rust, all the while maintaining compatibility with the Ethereum Virtual Machine.

During the security audit of the Stylus SDK, we discovered numerous security issues and also made extensive recommendations for the improvement of the overall design. The project is clearly still under development, having several features that are either non-functional or contain bugs. However, the development team showed a strong commitment to addressing these concerns and we encourage them to continue their efforts. Once all the identified issues are resolved, further improvements are made, and the project reaches a more mature stage, we strongly recommend the team to consider conducting a follow-up audit to ensure comprehensive security.

Despite the current challenges, we see great potential in the Stylus SDK. We look forward to seeing how the project evolves, particularly as the team addresses the identified issues and continues to refine the SDK. We believe that further development of the Stylus SDK could introduce exciting new possibilities to the Arbitrum ecosystem and the broader world of smart contract development.