

# Crescite Staking and Escapable Contracts

**Smart Contract Security Audit** 

Prepared by ShellBoxes

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

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# **Document Properties**

Client	Crescite
Version	1.0
Classification	Public

# Scope

Repository	Commit Hash
https://github.com/Crescite/ crescite-token	55e78f2e69eea6a65516c05e87a5f51c9399b3cb

# Re-Audit

Repository	Commit Hash
https://github.com/Crescite/ crescite-token	be5f9121eb5432ef442ddf0a23c172a5280d3552

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# 1 Introduction

Crescite engaged ShellBoxes to conduct a security assessment on the Crescite Staking and Escapable Contracts beginning on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and ending September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. In this report, we detail our methodical approach to evaluate potential security issues associated with the implementation of smart contracts, by exposing possible semantic discrepancies between the smart contract code and design document, and by recommending additional ideas to optimize the existing code. Our findings indicate that the current version of smart contracts can still be enhanced further due to the presence of many security and performance concerns.

This document summarizes the findings of our audit.

#### 1.1 About Crescite

The Crescite Protocol is a Layer 2 built on the open-source XDC Network, allowing for a decentralized, hybrid, interoperable, and liquid network. The Crescite Token is an XRC-20 Token. The token is meant to be used for functional utility within their community platform to grow the ideals of a faith-based blockchain community and further ESG impact across the world.

Issuer	Crescite	
Website	https://www.crescite.org	
Туре	Solidity Smart Contract	
Whitepaper	https://www.crescite.org/_files/ugd/fd64a1_ eeca34ad5f6e4bb68701fceb9b7aeac7.pdf	
Audit Method	Whitebox	

#### 1.2 Approach & Methodology

ShellBoxes used a combination of manual and automated security testing to achieve a balance between efficiency, timeliness, practicability, and correctness within the audit's

scope. While manual testing is advised for identifying problems in logic, procedure, and implementation, automated testing techniques help to expand the coverage of smart contracts and can quickly detect code that does not comply with security best practices.

#### 1.2.1 Risk Methodology

Vulnerabilities or bugs identified by ShellBoxes are ranked using a risk assessment technique that considers both the LIKELIHOOD and IMPACT of a security incident. This framework is effective at conveying the features and consequences of technological vulnerabilities.

Its quantitative paradigm enables repeatable and precise measurement, while also revealing the underlying susceptibility characteristics that were used to calculate the Risk scores. A risk level will be assigned to each vulnerability on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 indicating the greatest possibility or impact.

- Likelihood quantifies the probability of a certain vulnerability being discovered and exploited in the untamed.
- Impact quantifies the technical and economic costs of a successful attack.
- Severity indicates the risk's overall criticality.

Probability and impact are classified into three categories: H, M, and L, which correspond to high, medium, and low, respectively. Severity is determined by probability and impact and is categorized into four levels, namely Critical, High, Medium, and Low.



Likelihood

# 2 Findings Overview

#### 2.1 Summary

The following is a synopsis of our conclusions from our analysis of the Crescite Staking and Escapable Contracts implementation. During the first part of our audit, we examine the smart contract source code and run the codebase via a static code analyzer. The objective here is to find known coding problems statically and then manually check (reject or confirm) issues highlighted by the tool. Additionally, we check business logics, system processes, and DeFi-related components manually to identify potential hazards and/or defects.

#### 2.2 Key Findings

In general, these smart contracts are well-designed and constructed, but their implementation might be improved by addressing the discovered flaws, which include 1 critical-severity, 1 high-severity, 3 medium-severity, 5 low-severity vulnerabilities.

Vulnerabilities	Severity	Status
SHB.1. Missing Storage Gaps in StakingUpgradeable Contract	CRITICAL	Fixed
SHB.2. Insufficient Funds for Staking Rewards	HIGH	Mitigated
SHB.3. Precision Loss in Reward Calculation	MEDIUM	Fixed
SHB.4. Potential DoS Due to Unoptimized Position Removal	MEDIUM	Mitigated
SHB.5. Excessive Power to Owner and _escapeHatch-Caller	MEDIUM	Acknowledged
SHB.6. Missing Decrement of _numberOfStakers on Last Position Close	LOW	Fixed

SHB.7. Missing Return Value Check in ERC20 transfer and transferFrom	LOW	Fixed
SHB.8. Use of send for Transferring Native Tokens	LOW	Fixed
SHB.9. Missing Input Checks in _setToken and _setAPR Functions	LOW	Fixed
SHB.10. Use of Floating Pragma Statement	LOW	Acknowledged

# 3 Finding Details

#### SHB.1 Missing Storage Gaps in Staking Upgradeable Contract

- Severity: CRITICAL - Likelihood: 3

Status: FixedImpact: 3

#### **Description:**

The Staking\_V1 contract inherits from two abstract contracts: StakingUpgradeable and Escapable. The StakingUpgradeable contract lacks storage gaps, which makes the main contract not upgrade-safe. If any variables are added to StakingUpgradeable in a future upgrade, there's a risk of storage collision with variables from the Escapable contract.

The owner might add new state variables to the StakingUpgradeable contract in a future upgrade. This could lead to unintended overwrites of the Escapable contract's storage, potentially denial of service causing loss of funds or other unexpected behaviors.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.1.1: Staking\_V1.sol

```
s contract Staking_V1 is StakingUpgradeable, Escapable, \hookrightarrow AccessControlUpgradeable {
```

#### SHB.1.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
address private _tokenAddress;
uint256 private APR;
uint256 private PRECISION;
uint256 private SECONDS_IN_YEAR;
uint256 private YEAR_1_LIMIT;
uint256 private YEAR 2 LIMIT;
```

```
uint256 private YEARLY_LIMIT;

Counters.Counter private _numberOfStakers;

uint256 public totalStaked;

uint256 public START_DATE;

uint256 public END_DATE;

mapping(address => StakingPosition[]) public stakingPositions;

mapping(address => uint256) public userStakingTotals;

mapping(address => uint256) public userPositionCount;
```

Introduce storage gaps in the StakingUpgradeable contract to ensure safe upgrades in the future. This will prevent potential storage collisions and maintain the integrity of the contract's state. This can be achieved by declaring a private static array after the StakingUpgradeable variables to account for future upgrades.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team resolved the issue by adding storage gaps in the form of a private array called \_\_gap of size 50 to prevent storage collisions.

```
SHB.1.3: StakingUpgradeable.sol

uint256[50] private __gap;
```

#### SHB.2 Insufficient Funds for Staking Rewards

- Severity: HIGH - Likelihood: 2

- Status: Mitigated - Impact: 3

#### **Description:**

The contract does not have mechanisms in place to guarantee that it holds sufficient funds to reward stakers. This means that stakers might not receive their expected rewards if the contract's balance is insufficient.

If the contract becomes popular and attracts a large number of stakers, and the rewards are not adequately funded, early stakers might drain the contract of its funds. Later stakers, despite having staked their tokens, might find that there are no rewards left for them, leading to potential loss and dissatisfaction.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.2.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function calculatePositionRewards(
       uint256 positionAmount,
454
       uint256 positionTimestamp
455
   ) internal view returns (uint256) {
       // calculate the rewards for a year from the position amount
       uint256 rewardsPerYear = wmul(positionAmount, wdiv(wmul(APR,
           → PRECISION), wmul(100, PRECISION)));
459
       // then calculate the rewards per second for this position
460
       uint256 rewardsPerSecond = wdiv(rewardsPerYear, wmul(SECONDS IN YEAR
461
           \hookrightarrow , PRECISION));
462
       // Calculate the time elapsed since the position was opened
463
       uint256 elapsedSeconds = sub(getCurrentOrEndTime(),
           \hookrightarrow positionTimestamp);
465
       // Calculate the rewards based on the elapsed time and rewards per
466
           \hookrightarrow second
       uint256 reward = wmul(rewardsPerSecond, wmul(elapsedSeconds,
467
           \hookrightarrow PRECISION));
468
       // Return the calculated rewards
```

```
return reward;

in }
```

Implement mechanisms to ensure that the contract always has enough funds to reward its stakers. This could be achieved by setting aside a dedicated reward pool, periodic top-ups, or integrating checks that prevent staking if the reward pool is below a certain threshold.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team mitigated the risk by adding a modifier that prevents opening new staking positions when the contract does not have any rewards. Additionally, the team stated that they will be funding the contract with 13.2 billion tokens to cover the maximum amount of rewards distributed over the contract lifetime given the annual staking limits.

#### SHB.2.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
modifier rewardsPoolNotEmpty() {
    uint256 contractBalance = _token.balanceOf(address(this));
    require(contractBalance > 0, "Rewards pool is empty");
    _;
    _;
}
```

#### SHB.2.3: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function stakeTokens(
164
       uint256 amount
165
166
       external
167
       nonReentrant
168
       whenNotPaused
169
       nonZeroAmount(amount)
170
       userBalanceGte(amount)
171
       limitNotReached(amount)
172
       onlyProxy
173
       rewardsPoolNotEmpty
174
```

#### SHB.3 Precision Loss in Reward Calculation

- Severity: MEDIUM - Likelihood: 2

Status: FixedImpact: 2

#### **Description:**

The calculatePositionRewards function in the contract calculates rewards based on the staked position and the time elapsed. However, the current calculation method introduces precision loss. The function first calculates rewardsPerYear, then divides this to get rewardsPerSecond, and finally multiplies by the elapsed seconds. This sequence of operations, especially the division followed by multiplication, leads to a loss of precision.

Stakers with smaller amounts might end up receiving zero rewards due to the precision loss. Over time, and with many stakers, this could lead to a significant amount of rewards not being distributed as intended.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.3.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
462
        // Calculate the time elapsed since the position was opened
463
        uint256 elapsedSeconds = sub(getCurrentOrEndTime(),
464
            \hookrightarrow positionTimestamp);
465
        // Calculate the rewards based on the elapsed time and rewards per
466
           \hookrightarrow second
       uint256 reward = wmul(rewardsPerSecond, wmul(elapsedSeconds,
467
           \hookrightarrow PRECISION));
468
        // Return the calculated rewards
469
        return reward:
470
  }
471
```

To mitigate the precision loss, adjust the calculation sequence. Instead of dividing to get rewardsPerSecond and then multiplying, perform the multiplication first and then divide. This will ensure that the precision is maintained throughout the calculation, ensuring fair reward distribution to all stakers.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team resolved the issue by adjusting the calculation sequence and performing multiplications before divisions.

#### SHB.3.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
uint256 numerator = positionAmount * APR * elapsedSeconds;
472
       uint256 divisor = 100 * SECONDS IN YEAR * PRECISION;
473
474
       require(divisor > 0, "Cannot divide by zero");
475
476
       uint256 rewards = wdiv(numerator, divisor);
477
       // Return the calculated rewards
479
       return rewards;
480
     }
481
```

#### SHB.4 Potential DoS Due to Unoptimized Position Removal

- Severity: MEDIUM - Likelihood:1

Status: MitigatedImpact: 3

#### **Description:**

The removeStakingPosition function in the contract is designed to remove a staking position based on its index. The current implementation shifts all elements to the left after the specified index, which can be highly inefficient and gas-intensive, especially when dealing with a large number of positions. This approach, combined with the fact that these operations are performed directly in storage using the expensive SSTORE and SLOAD opcodes, can lead to prohibitively high gas costs.

A staker with a large number of positions might attempt to close an early position (e.g., at index 0). The function would then loop over the entire array, shifting each element one step to the left. If the positions array length is substantial, the gas cost for this operation could exceed the block gas limit, effectively preventing the staker from ever closing some positions and resulting in a Denial of Service.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.4.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function removeStakingPosition(
       uint256 index,
       StakingPosition[] storage positions
517
   ) private returns (StakingPosition[] storage) {
       require(index < positions.length, "Index out of bounds");</pre>
519
520
       // shift elements to the left (this will delete the item at index)
521
       for (uint i = index; i < positions.length - 1; i++) {
522
         positions[i] = positions[i + 1];
       }
525
       // then remove the last entry
526
       positions.pop();
527
528
       return positions;
529
  }
530
```

#### Recommendation:

To optimize the position removal process:

- 1. Instead of shifting all elements, simply swap the element to be removed with the last element in the array and then pop the last element. This ensures a constant computation time regardless of the array's length.
- 2. Consider working with the array in memory to reduce the gas costs associated with storage operations. After making the necessary modifications in memory, the updated array can then be written back to storage.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team mitigated the risk, by swapping the element to be removed with the last element in the array and then popping the last element. However, the removeStakingPosition function still uses a storage reference to the positions instead of memory then re-

assigns the output to storage once again, which results in a gas overhead to the transaction cost.

#### SHB.5 Excessive Power to Owner and \_escapeHatchCaller

- Severity: MEDIUM - Likelihood:1

Status: Acknowledged
 Impact: 3

#### **Description:**

The contract grants significant control to two entities: the owner and the \_escapeHatch-Caller. The owner has the ability to withdraw all staked and reward tokens from the contract using the withdrawFunds function. Similarly, the \_escapeHatchCaller can withdraw the balance of \_baseTokenAddress, which could be either ERC20 tokens or native tokens, using the escapeHatch function. Such centralized control poses risks to the funds staked by users and can undermine trust in the contract.

The owner or \_escapeHatchCaller could potentially drain the contract of its funds, either due to malicious intent or a compromised account. This would result in loss of funds for all stakers.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.5.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function withdrawFunds() external nonReentrant onlyOwner whenPaused {
    uint256 amount = IERC20(_tokenAddress).balanceOf(address(this));

IERC20(_tokenAddress).transfer(owner(), amount);
    emit WithdrawFunds(owner(), amount);
}
```

#### SHB.5.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
54 function escapeHatch() public onlyEscapeHatchCaller {
```

To mitigate the risks associated with centralized control:

- 1. Implement multi-signature requirements for critical functions like withdrawFunds and escapeHatch. This ensures that multiple trusted parties must approve any significant fund movements.
- 2. Consider introducing time locks or delays for these functions, giving users a window to react if they observe suspicious activity.
- 3. Clearly communicate the roles and responsibilities of the owner and \_escapeHatch-Caller to users, ensuring transparency and building trust.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team acknowledged the issue, stating that the roles will be assigned to a multisig wallet at deployment.

# SHB.6 Missing Decrement of \_numberOfStakers on Last Position Close

- Severity: LOW - Likelihood: 2

- Status: Fixed - Impact: 1

#### **Description:**

The positionClose function allows a staker to close a staking position and claim rewards. While the function correctly updates various counters and totals, it lacks the logic to decrement the \_numberOfStakers when a staker closes their last existing position. This oversight can lead to an inaccurate count of active stakers in the contract.

If multiple stakers close all their positions but the \_numberOfStakers is not decremented accordingly, the contract will report a higher number of active stakers than there actually are. This can mislead other users or external systems relying on this data, potentially affecting decision-making processes based on the number of active stakers.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.6.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

Introduce a check in the positionClose function to determine if the staker is closing their last position. If they are, decrement the \_numberOfStakers counter. This ensures that the counter accurately reflects the number of active stakers at all times.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team resolved the issue by adding the missing check.

#### SHB.6.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
if (userPositionCount[user] == 0) {
   _numberOfStakers.decrement();
}
```

# SHB.7 Missing Return Value Check in ERC20 transfer and transferFrom

- Severity: LOW - Likelihood:1

Status: FixedImpact: 2

#### **Description:**

The contract uses the transfer and transferFrom methods of the ERC20 standard without checking their return values. According to the ERC20 standard, these methods should return a boolean value indicating success or failure. Ignoring these return values can lead to undetected failures in token transfers.

#### **Exploit Scenario:**

If a token transfer fails but the contract continues its execution without detecting the failure, it can lead to unintended consequences. For instance, a user might not receive their

expected tokens, yet the contract behaves as if the transfer was successful. This can result in discrepancies in balances and potential loss of funds.

#### Files Affected:

```
SHB.7.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

164 IERC20(_tokenAddress).transferFrom(user, address(this), amount);

SHB.7.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

279 IERC20(_tokenAddress).transfer(user, add(position.amount, rewards));

SHB.7.3: StakingUpgradeable.sol

264 IERC20(_tokenAddress).transfer(user, add(amountToUnstake, rewards));

SHB.7.4: StakingUpgradeable.sol

307 IERC20(_tokenAddress).transfer(user, amountToTransfer);

SHB.7.5: StakingUpgradeable.sol

312 IERC20(_tokenAddress).transfer(user, rewards);

SHB.7.6: StakingUpgradeable.sol

313 IERC20(_tokenAddress).transfer(owner(), amount);
```

#### Recommendation:

To ensure safe and consistent interactions with ERC20 tokens, implement the use of SafeERC20 library, which provides wrappers around the standard ERC20 functions and automatically checks their return values. This will ensure that any failed token transfers are immediately detected and handled appropriately.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team resolved the issue by implementing the use of the SafeERC20Upgradeable library.

#### SHB.8 Use of send for Transferring Native Tokens

Severity: LOW
 Likelihood:1

Status: FixedImpact: 2

#### **Description:**

The contract uses the send method to transfer native tokens. The send method forwards only 2,300 gas to the receiving contract, which might not be sufficient for more complex operations. If there are any changes in Ethereum's opcodes or gas costs in the future, this limited gas amount can lead to unexpected failures in the transfer.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.8.1: Escapable.sol

```
if (!payable(to).send(amount)) {
    revert('Escapable: Send failed');
}
```

#### Recommendation:

Replace the use of send with the call method for transferring ether, as call forwards all available gas by default. This ensures that the receiving contract has sufficient gas to execute its operations. Additionally, always check the return value of the transfer to handle any potential failures.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team resolved the issue by performing native token transfers using call instead of send.

#### SHB.8.2: Escapable.sol

```
104 // send ETH
```

```
(bool success, ) = payable(to).call{value: amount}("");
(incomplete incomplete inco
```

### SHB.9 Missing Input Checks in \_setToken and \_setAPR Functions

- Severity: LOW - Likelihood:1

Status: FixedImpact: 2

#### **Description:**

The \_setToken and \_setAPR functions allow the owner to set the token address and the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) respectively. However, these functions lack input validation checks. Without proper checks, there's a risk of setting invalid or unintended values.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.9.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function _setToken(address tokenAddress) internal onlyOwner {
    _tokenAddress = tokenAddress;
    _tokenAddress = tokenAddress = tokenAddress;
    _tokenAddress = tokenAddress =
```

#### SHB.9.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function _setAPR(uint apr) internal onlyOwner {
APR = apr;
}
```

Introduce input validation checks in both functions:

- 1. For <u>setToken</u>, ensure that the provided address is not the zero address.
- 2. For \_setAPR, consider setting upper and lower bounds to prevent extreme values.

By implementing these checks, the contract can prevent potential errors and maintain its integrity.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team resolved the issue by implementing a safety check on the \_setToken and \_setAPR arguments.

#### SHB.9.3: StakingUpgradeable.sol

#### SHB.9.4: StakingUpgradeable.sol

#### SHB.10 Use of Floating Pragma Statement

Severity: LOW
 Likelihood:1

Status: Acknowledged
 Impact: 1

#### **Description:**

The contract uses a floating pragma statement, which indicates that it can be compiled with any Solidity compiler version from 0.8.17 (inclusive) up to, but not including, version 0.9.0. While this provides flexibility, it can also introduce risks if the contract is compiled with a newer compiler version that contains breaking changes or unexpected behaviors.

#### Files Affected:

#### SHB.10.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
1 // SPDX-License-Identifier: UNLICENSED
```

pragma solidity ^0.8.17;

#### SHB.10.2: Escapable.sol

```
1 // SPDX-License-Identifier: UNLICENSED
```

pragma solidity ^0.8.17;

#### SHB.10.3: Staking\_V1.sol

```
1 // SPDX-License-Identifier: UNLICENSED
```

pragma solidity ^0.8.17;

#### Recommendation:

Specify a fixed compiler version in the pragma statement to ensure consistent behavior and avoid potential pitfalls introduced by newer compiler versions. For instance, if the contract was tested and audited using Solidity version 0.8.17 for example, then use pragma solidity 0.8.17; to lock in that specific version.

#### **Updates**

The Crescite team acknowledged the issue.

# 4 Best Practices

#### **BP.1** Remove Unnecessary Initializations

#### **Description:**

The contract explicitly initializes the variables totalStaked and rewards with a default value of 0. In Solidity, state variables are automatically initialized to their default values. For uint256, this default is 0. This explicit setting is redundant and can make the code longer without adding any functional benefit. It's recommended to rely on Solidity's default initialization to make the code cleaner and more concise.

#### Files Affected:

# BP.1.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol 87 totalStaked = 0; BP.1.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol 433 uint256 rewards = 0;

#### Status - Fixed

#### BP.2 Optimize Loops for Efficiency

#### **Description:**

The loop iterating over stakingPositions arrays can be optimized for better efficiency. Caching their length into memory reduces the gas cost associated with repeatedly accessing a state variable. Additionally, using pre-increments inside an unchecked block can further reduce gas costs by avoiding overflow checks. Lastly, the loop variable i can be declared without an explicit initialization to 0, as it's the default value for uint256. It's recommended to implement these optimizations to enhance the contract's efficiency and reduce gas consumption.

#### Files Affected:

#### BP.2.1: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
function resetUserPositionTimestamps(address user) internal {
  for (uint256 i = 0; i < stakingPositions[user].length; i++) {
    stakingPositions[user][i].timestamp = block.timestamp;
}
</pre>
```

#### BP.2.2: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
for (uint256 i = 0; i < stakingPositions[user].length; i++) {
    uint256 amount = stakingPositions[user][i].amount;
    uint256 timestamp = stakingPositions[user][i].timestamp;

440

441 rewards = add(rewards, calculatePositionRewards(amount, timestamp));
442 }</pre>
```

#### BP.2.3: StakingUpgradeable.sol

```
for (uint i = index; i < positions.length - 1; i++) {
positions[i] = positions[i + 1];
}</pre>
```

#### Status - Partially Fixed

# 5 Conclusion

In this audit, we examined the design and implementation of Crescite Staking and Escapable Contracts contract and discovered several issues of varying severity. Crescite team addressed 6 issues raised in the initial report and implemented the necessary fixes, while classifying the rest as a risk with low-probability of occurrence. Shellboxes' auditors advised Crescite Team to maintain a high level of vigilance and to keep those findings in mind in order to avoid any future complications.

# 6 Scope Files

# 6.1 Audit

Files	MD5 Hash
contracts/Escapable.sol	eb185aae9753894af9a3a60c9b2a3e8b
contracts/Staking_V1.sol	7c634e11bdadcbe413c3c802e181bb36
contracts/staking/StakingUpgradeable.sol	82666aa2a9c703bdfd808ef5401b562d

# 6.2 Re-Audit

Files	MD5 Hash
contracts/Escapable.sol	90d7e31e362dc88678b3f6c229241a37
contracts/Staking_V1.sol	7c634e11bdadcbe413c3c802e181bb36
contracts/staking/StakingUpgradeable.sol	34af1ee4883dd5e5e1e28a4c04f9e1d3

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