Blockchain Distributed Ledger

Coursework 2

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1 High Level Design

The contract implements a dice game, where the contract rolls a dice. If it rolls 1-3 **Player A** wins, 4-6 **Player B** wins.

First player to enter the game is **Player A**, the second player to enter is **Player B**. To ensure pseudo randomness a Cryptographic Commitment Scheme is used.

1.1 Enter Game and Commitment stage

The players first join the game by enter_game(bytes32 userhash) function, through which they have to enter a commitment.

The players needs to put in at-least 4 ether in-order to player. 3 ether to play the game and 1 ether for other expenses that might incur, gas prices. Most of it will be refunded. Think of this as deposit to fund the gas prices that might happen at certain stage of the game.

A Commitment is done in the form of a sha256 hash, the format of this hash should be

```
SHA256( address | secret | secret_number )
```

Where,

address this is the address of the wallet

secret is some salt 32 byte string

secret_number is the number the player wants to be added to the seed.

Once, both player have joined the game, the game can proceed. If first player wants to back-out (and the 2nd player has not entered the game), they have the option to do so by calling player_A_back_out()

Why is the joining and commitment stage the same function?

In a object oriented programming language, this would be a design that should be desirable, for solidity we need to think about gas efficiency. Designing multiple functions that need to be called in my opinion is a waste of gas, even if gas charges are minute, this adds up to incur heavy costs. We must avoid, unnecessary gas cost when writing solidity.

Can the Player B send the same hash as Player A?

Yes, they can, but **Player B** would not able to verify their hash as, address of the sender is used in the calculation. Which unless both players have the same address, or there is a hash collision with the input, it is impossible for this to happen.

There are still few flaws in this, which I will discuss in the security part of this.

1.2 Reveal stage

In this stage, the players have to reveal their secret that they used to calculate the hash. They do that by inputting the secret in the reveal(bytes32_secret,uint256 _secret_number) function.

Here even if either of the player wanted to change their input, it's impossible to do as even one byte of change in the input will change the entire hash.

Once, the player reveal their secret and secret_number the number is used as part of the seed calculation.

What if One of the Player backs out?

There is request_timeout() feature, once a sufficient amount of time has passed since the player's commit time. They have the option to back out of the game and get a refund. The other player can do so as well.

In the future, they might a penalising mechanism (as there should be consequences for stalling) which punished the other player for stalling, did not implement because of lack of time.

Is the hash secure?

Well, depends, can it be reversed? Yes theoretically, but the security of hash functions depends on how long it will theoretically take to bruteforce. As, I request a 64 byte secret (32 byte secret nonce and 32 byte secret number), they will need to brute force a 2^{8*64} bits. Which takes almost as long as the age of the universe.

1.3 Game start

Once, both players have revealed the secret we can start the game.

The secret_numbers from the players are xor'ed and now in combination with the future blockhash, this is now the seed used for the PRNG.

1.3.1 A little bit about the PRNG

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permuted_congruential_generator

Permuted Congruential Generator is one of the modern PRNGs used, it's got a order of 2^63 which means PRNG needs to called 2^64 times for the numbers to repeat. PRNG is used to give a sort of randomness where the output is not obvious with the seed. The reason why I choose to make this function public is for them to verify this function actually gives random numbers from 1-6.

1.3.2 Back to Game Start

Once, the PRNG returns a random number from 1 to 6. We calculate the index by (number-1)//3 This will return either 0 or 1. Which indicates 0-2 is 0 or Player A, We get the address of winner or loser, we then take money from the loser and then give the winner money they won.

We also give the **Player** who called the function some constant value compensation for gas price. The idea is to split the gas price between the player. I couldn't figure out how to exactly figure out how to get the computation cost, so I just gave a constant value. This could changed in the future.

1.4 Withdraw

The Players can now claim their winnings or loses, this function is made to be reentrancy safe. This function cannot be called by players currently playing the game, because that would introduce a big flaw.

1.5 Miscellaneous Functions

Player A Backing out

This function let's Player A back out of the game if they wanted to

Timeout function

If one of the player does not reveal after 10 minutes have past, this function can be called to end the game and get a refund

Random verify

You can input a seed and verify the output is psuedo random.

1.6 Questions about Design

Who pays for the reward of the winner?*

The loser of the game pays for the reward of the game, it is only fair as it's not feasible for the contract to pay for winner's winning. The balance of the players in the contract are updated to reflect this.

How is the reward sent to the winner?

There is <code>withdraw()</code> function, that can be called by anyone as long as they are not playing in the game. The reward has to be withdrawn instead of sent after the game ended as it would introduce a major flaw if you sent it directly from the function.

How is the player guaranteed not to cheat?

The whole Commitment scheme is one of the methods to guarantee that this is random if both Players play honestly. Ways the players could cheat are avoided:

- 1. Knowing what the secret of the other player is before committing, hence picking a number that would be biased towards the adversary winning. This is eliminated by Future blockhash being used. This still doesn't completely eliminate the pseudo randomness.
- 2. Inputting the same hash as the other player is avoided, as the player address is used as one of the fields for the hashing.
 - The commitment scheme basically guarantees that once the player has picked a value and committed, they cannot change their value in the reveal phase. Which is essentially the best source of randomness for the PRNG. Some Security fault will be discussed in later section.

What data type/structures did you use and why?

Structs for Player: This is a perfect way to encapsulate data related to a Player Maps: Hashmaps are very useful way, i used this to store the map address to Struct, this makes the map quite memory heavy but this is vital for mapping player address to their corresponding structs.

Address array of size 2 for players: this is useful to identify player A and B, it is made constant to save memory and gas. As Vectors (or Extensible arrays in solidity) are not gas efficient or memory efficient.

uint256: several places this is used, this data type is critical

byte 32 is used to store the hashes of the commitment, as it is a good way to represent them.

2 Gas Evaluation

2.1 Contract Deployment

Everything is in units as gas prices change but the computation remain largely the same in solidity.

Deployed Contract

Transaction hash:

0xcc21f674deb8f20eefed006966e36f5d9b70a4d3eb6175aa430a011d72df8c62

- Gas: 2233031 units
- Deployment address: 0xCEd315B49B2084B78391bfe0fa1AB29Fe04De8Fc
 This is heaviest cost of them, incurred by the owner of the contract. Initialising all the Struct and Hashmaps is memory heavy, as well as getting all the functions

2.2 Player incurred Gas costs

Enter game

Calling enter game by both players on average

• Gas: 120318 units

Filling the Structs with values is a heavy operation and having the hash of the function be an argument.

There is a slight difference in gas units between both players.

Reveal

Calling reveal by both players on average

Gas: 62775 units
 Nothing much, this is pretty standard and fair between the players.

Start game

Calling start_game

• Gas: 133024 units

This is going to be a heavy operation so the Player who call this function gets

rewarded some wei in compensation and the other Player's balance is subtracted to reflect this.

Withdraw

Calling Withdraw

• Gas: 37989 units

The biggest issue in my contract in terms of gas efficiency is that there is a lot of type casting from uint64 to uint8 or uint64 to uint128 this is very intensive for computation, but in-order for me implement my prng step, I need to sacrifice this.

Miscellaneous functions

Timeout

2.3 Improvement techniques

I removed some functions that may be unnecessary and made some things more in-line. I made myself use only one hashmap. I restricted the player array to only size 2 instead of a Vector.

I also tried using smaller uints wherever necessary, and also try not to store anything unnecessary.

3 Security Evaluation

Most of the attacks have been explained in the lectures, I will not go over what they mean, I will just say if it is possible or not.

3.1 Minor flaw

Player A has a disadvantage in the first commitment stage as, Player B can look at Player A's hash and could get the value and take it into account for their calculation.

3.2 Choosing not to play flaw

The biggest flaw in the code is that once the either of the Player has revealed their secret in the reveal stage. The other Player can view the evm memory and see what the random_value is set to, this can help the second player deduce if they should reveal the number or not, as they can somewhat deduce if it is biased towards theirs or the other players side.

The future blockhash is used to mitigate this, but this can be exploited by a miner to bring the results more favourable to them.

3.3 Griefing

As I am doing a pull over push pattern, I don't think griefing attacks is possible. As I don't use send()

3.4 Reentrancy

This attack does not happen in my contract, as I do reset all the values related to the address once the game is completed and the withdraw() function uses the safe transfer() method to send money to the address.

3.5 Front-running

This attack also does not happen in my contract.

3.6 Underflow/Overflows

Whenever there is a underflow/overflow operation, Solidity usually reverts the transaction. I've had some issues with this during the PRNG part, the casting it to bigger numbers were my solution to this, but I am sure there's a more gas efficient way to do it. There might also be overflows if someone puts 2^256 wei into the contract, but this shouldn't ever happen as the number of eth in the network converges to a value lower than this.

4 Trade off

Certainly, gas/computation steps heavy due to wanting to make sure this contract is secure. There are several small details or choices I had to take to Using the commitment scheme is very heavy on the gas, but this is is vital to keep the game pseudo random.

My contract also isn't very Gas fair, as Player A incurs slightly more cost than Player B by some order of 10^4 s units.

5 Analysis of fellow student's code

5.1 High level view of my fellow student code

In my fellow student's code, the first step is call the deposit() function and deposit some money into the contract, the contract stores the deposit mapping it to the address. Once you've done that, you call the join function to join the game. After which you call the commit() function to commit a hash, after that you call the reveal function to

reveal, finally decide function which would generate a random number and decide the winner.

Additionally, he had a random bias removal function because the rngs he implement was favoured towards one player (due to modulo 6 bias) was very negligible amount ($\frac{4}{2^{64}}$), but it's a waste of gas to have this function, in my opinion. this bias would not even be noticeable. I commend him for thinking about this detail it, but it felt pointless to me.

5.2 Vulnerabilities discovered

There was a vulnerability in my friend's random number generator, in-order for him to eliminate bias,

```
function random(uint seed) public pure returns(uint) {
    uint biasBound = (-6) % 6;
    uint rand = 1;
    uint count = 0;
    while (true) {
        if (rand >= biasBound) {
            break;
        }
        rand = uint(keccak256(abi.encodePacked(seed, count)));
        count += 1;
    }
    return rand % 6;
}
```

uint biasBound = (-6) % 6; is a bug in solidity, as a negative uint doesn't do 2s compliment. This would error in solidity or just give 0 (I don't quite remember what the behaviour was).

Some other issues include

```
balances[winner] += winnings
```

Which paid the winnings in wei instead of ether.

I also mentioned Player B being able to input the same hash in the commitment scheme and just waiting for the other player to reveal.

After pointing these out, my friend did fix the issues.

6 Testing

For anyone, who want to test the code, here's a python script that will encode the player address, secret and number offline, and generates the hash. I used this to generate values for testing.

```
from hashlib import sha256
def pad(a : bytes):
    return b'' \times 00'' \times (32-len(a)) + a
def generate_hash(address : bytes, secret : bytes, number : int ):
   a = pad(address)
   b = pad(secret)
   c = number.to_bytes(32,"big")
    return sha256(a+b+c).hexdigest()
address = "DFB302F606c7E8EDE75453DaFdb41862D41F058B"
address = bytes.fromhex(address)
secret = b"this_is_super_secret"
number = 42
print("Player A : ", "0x"+generate_hash(address, secret, number))
print("Secret :" , "0x"+pad(secret).hex())
print("Number :" , number)
address = "ec432F4595EaD9ab0a374C5fB8E842dAD50BaAA6"
address = bytes.fromhex(address)
secret = b"is_this_super_secret"
number = 0x1337deadbeef
print("Player B : ", "0x" + generate_hash(address, secret, number))
print("Secret :" , "0x"+pad(secret).hex())
print("Number :" , number)
```

7 Transaction history

Contract Creation



Player A enters the game with 5 ether:

Player B enters the game with 5 ether:

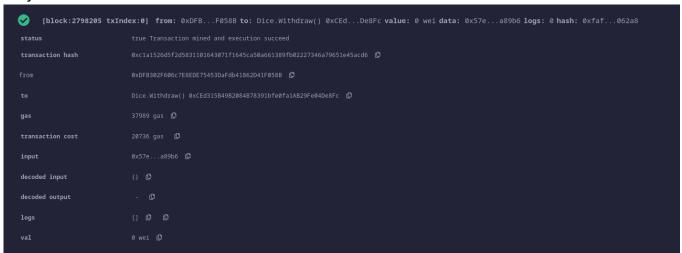
Player B reveals their secret:

```
| Status | True Transaction mined and execution succeed | Prom. | (Nec42) | Prom. | (Nec42) | Nec42) | Nec42)
```

Player A reveals their secret:

Player A starts the game and we see Player B won been emitted:

Player A withdraws:



Player B Withdraws:

8 Code

```
pragma solidity ^0.8.13;
contract Dice {
   address owner;
    address [2] public players;
   uint256 DECAY = 300000 * 2;
   bool game_started = false;
    uint256 random_value = 0;
    struct Player {
       bytes32 solutionHash;
       uint commitTime;
       uint256 deposit;
       bool revealed;
    mapping(address => Player) public comm;
    uint64 state = 0x4d595df4d0f33173;
    uint64 multiplier = 6364136223846793005;
    uint64 increment = 1442695040888963407;
```

```
event Player_entered(address ad);
   event Player_winner(address ad);
   constructor() {
       owner = msg.sender;
    function enter_game(bytes32 userhash) public payable {
        require(msg.value >= 4 ether, "Need 4 ether to play the game");
        require(!game_started,"A game is already in session");
        require(comm[msg.sender].commitTime == 0, "You have already
Commited");
       if (players[0] == address(0)){
        players[0] = payable(msg.sender);
        else {
            players[1] = payable(msg.sender);
           game_started = true;
        comm[msg.sender].commitTime = block.timestamp;
        comm[msg.sender].solutionHash = userhash;
        comm[msg.sender].revealed = false;
        comm[msg.sender].deposit += msg.value;
        emit Player_entered(msg.sender);
```

```
function reveal(bytes32 _secret,uint256 _secret_number) public
onlyPlayers_and_game_start {
        require(!comm[msg.sender].revealed, "You have already revealed your
answer");
        bytes memory input = abi.encode(msg.sender,_secret,_secret_number);
        bytes32 solutionHash = sha256(input);
        require(solutionHash==comm[msg.sender].solutionHash,"Hashes do not
match! Try again!");
        comm[msg.sender].revealed = true;
        random_value ^= _secret_number;
    function start_game() public onlyPlayers_and_game_start {
        require(comm[players[0]].revealed && comm[players[1]].revealed, "One
of the players have not revealed!");
        uint256 blockHashNow = uint256(blockhash(block.number-1));
        uint64 seed = uint64( (random_value^blockHashNow));
        uint8 lucky_number = random(seed);
        uint8 index = (lucky_number-1)/3; // ranges from 0 - 5, 0-2 returns
```

```
address winner = players[index];
       address loser = players[(index+1)%players.length];
       uint256 money_won_or_lost = ((lucky_number-1)%3 + 1)* ( 1 ether);
       comm[winner].deposit += money_won_or_lost;
        comm[winner].deposit -= 70 * 10000 gwei; // charge the player for
        comm[loser].deposit -= money_won_or_lost;
        comm[loser].deposit -= 70 * 10000 gwei; // charge player for gas
        comm[msg.sender].deposit += 140 * 10000 gwei;
       restart();
       emit Player_winner(winner);
   function Withdraw() public {
        require(players[0] != msg.sender || players[1] != msg.sender,
"Cannot withdraw if you are one of the player, back out first!");
       uint256 b = comm[msg.sender].deposit;
       comm[msg.sender].deposit = 0;
       payable(msg.sender).transfer(b);
   function player_A_back_out() public{
```

```
require(!game_started, "Both player's have enter the game,
backout unless there is a timedout");
        require(players[0] == msg.sender);
        reset(msg.sender);
        players[0] = address(0);
    function request_timeout() public onlyPlayers_and_game_start {
        require(comm[msg.sender].commitTime + DECAY < block.timestamp );</pre>
        restart();
    function owner_timeout() public onlyOwner{
        restart();
    function restart() private {
        reset(players[0]);
        reset(players[1]);
        players[0] = address(0);
        players[1] = address(0);
        game_started = false;
        random_value = 0;
    function reset(address a) private{
        comm[a].solutionHash = bytes32(0);
        comm[a].commitTime = 0;
        comm[a].revealed = false;
```

```
function rotr32(uint32 x, uint8 r) private pure returns(uint32) {
        uint32 y = uint32((x << ((32-r) & 31)));
        return x \gg r \mid y;
    function pcg64() private returns(uint32) {
        uint64 x = state;
        uint8 count = uint8(state>>59);
        state = uint64(uint(x) * uint(multiplier) + uint(increment));
        x ^= x >> 18;
       return rotr32(uint32(x>>27),count);
    function random(uint64 seed) public returns(uint8) {
        state = seed+increment;
        for(uint16 i=0; i<2; i++){
        pcg64();
        return uint8 (pcg64()%6 + 1);
    function getPlayer() public view returns(string memory){
        require(players[0] == msg.sender || players[1] == msg.sender, "You
are not playing the game");
       if (players[0]==msg.sender){
            return "Hello, Player A!";
        else {
            return "Hello, Player B!";
```

```
modifier onlyOwner {
  require(msg.sender == owner);
    ;
}
modifier onlyPlayers_and_game_start {
  require(msg.sender == players[0] || msg.sender == players[1]);
  require(game_started);
    _;
}
```