

# Yearn v2 Vaults

# Security Assessment

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## Prepared For:

Daniel Lehnberg | Yearn Finance daniel.lehnberg@protonmail.com

## Prepared By:

Gustavo Grieco | *Trail of Bits* gustavo.grieco@trailofbits.com

Mike Martel | *Trail of Bits* mike.martel@trailofbits.com

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# **Executive Summary**

From April 12 to April 30, 2021, Yearn Finance engaged Trail of Bits to review the security of the Yearn v2 Vaults. Trail of Bits conducted this assessment over six person-weeks, with two engineers working from commit <u>f8a5f1d4</u> on the v1.0.0-audit.0 branch of the yearn-vaults repository, as well as from PR 273, at the request of the Yearn Finance team.

During the first week, we focused on gaining an understanding of the codebase and started to review the vault contract for the most common Vyper and Solidity flaws. During the second week, we primarily assessed the interactions between the vault and strategies, looking for flaws that would allow an attacker to bypass access controls or disrupt or abuse the contracts in unexpected ways. We dedicated the final week to a review of the system properties using our tools, in addition to an audit of the BaseWrapper, yToken, AffiliateToken, and Registry contracts.

Our review resulted in 19 findings ranging from high to informational severity, primarily involving missing or incorrect input validation. The most severe issues include the ability of a strategy owner to manipulate a debt ratio using a flash loan (TOB-YEARN-007), the risk of unexpected withdrawal blockages (<u>TOB-YEARN-010</u>), inconsistencies in debt calculations (TOB-YEARN-011), and a lack of consistency checks on upgrades to the Registry in the yToken contract (TOB-YEARN-012).

The interactions with ERC20 tokens are another area of concern; in particular, the value of decimals from ERC20 tokens should be carefully checked in Vyper (TOB-YEARN-005). Additionally, the use of deflationary or inflationary tokens can have unintended effects on the internal bookkeeping of the vault (TOB-YEARN-017). Finally, the name, symbol, and decimals values of the yToken contract can change during its lifetime, disrupting third-party interactions with it (TOB-YEARN-013).

Other issues stem from privileged users' and governance's ability to perform the privileged operations of changing important parameters of the vault and upgrading the strategies. Because of a lack of validation, these changes can lead to errors (TOB-YEARN-002, TOB-YEARN-004, TOB-YEARN-008, TOB-YEARN-009).

In addition to the security findings, we identified code quality issues not related to any particular vulnerability, which are discussed in Appendix C. Appendix D contains recommendations on interacting with arbitrary ERC20 tokens, which we would suggest reviewing before deploying any new vault. Finally, <u>Appendix E</u> details the expected security and correctness properties that we assumed to be true during this audit.

Although the code was battle-tested after a period of use by numerous actors, we still found high-severity issues that could be exploited by privileged users or result from a mistake in a transaction produced by a governance action. The use of Vyper is another area of concern, since its compiler is still in beta; as such, Yearn Finance should carefully review the security advisories, open issues, and current language limitations. To reduce the possibility of incorrect upgrades and the use of invalid parameters in the contracts, we

recommend introducing additional checks and developing a detailed specification on how to perform these critical actions. Finally, the strategy contracts and their integrations with the vault might lead to vulnerabilities; however, these contracts were out of the scope of this review.

Trail of Bits recommends addressing the findings identified in this report and subsequently performing another security review that includes the actual strategies in use to ensure that there are no further issues.

After the audit, Trail of Bits reviewed fixes for the issues identified in this report. The details of this review are provided in Appendix F.

# Project Dashboard

# **Application Summary**

Name	Yearn v2 Vaults
Versions	f8a5f1d4, <u>PR 273</u>
Types	Vyper, Solidity
Platform	Ethereum

# **Engagement Summary**

Dates	April 12-April 30, 2021
Method	Full knowledge
Consultants Engaged	2
Level of Effort	6 person-weeks

# **Vulnerability Summary**

Total High-Severity Issues	4	
Total Medium-Severity Issues	4	
Total Low-Severity Issues	7	
Total Informational-Severity Issues	4	
Total	19	

# **Category Breakdown**

Data Validation	11	
Access Controls	2	• •
Undefined Behavior	2	
Timing	2	
Arithmetic	1	
Error Reporting	1	
Total	19	

# Code Maturity Evaluation

In the table below, we review the maturity of the codebase and the likelihood of future issues. We rate the maturity of each area of control from strong to weak, or missing, and briefly explain our reasoning.

Category Name	Description
Access Controls	<b>Satisfactory.</b> There were appropriate access controls on privileged operations performed by certain users and contracts. However, it was still possible for unauthorized users to successfully call a function that should be callable only by the strategies or governance (TOB-YEARN-004).
Arithmetic	<b>Moderate.</b> The contracts used safe arithmetic. No overflows were possible in areas where these functions were not used. However, certain arithmetic operations in corner cases could produce unexpected results (TOB-YEARN-003, TOB-YEARN-015).
Assembly Use	<b>Satisfactory.</b> The contracts used assembly only to implement EIP-1167 and to obtain the chain ID value. Note that in Solidity versions greater than 0.8, block.chainid should be used instead (Appendix C).
Centralization	<b>Satisfactory.</b> While the protocol relied on an owner to correctly deploy the initial contracts, privileged operations were handled either by special users (management) or through governance.
Contract Upgradeability	<b>Weak.</b> Each contract's upgradeability mechanisms allowed governance to change important parameters of the contract; however, updates to these values can be error-prone due to a lack of validation (TOB-YEARN-002, TOB-YEARN-004, TOB-YEARN-008).
Function Composition	<b>Satisfactory.</b> While most of the functions and contracts were organized and scoped appropriately, some of the functions were too long. Additionally, the interdependency of the vault and strategies during reporting and withdrawal operations is unclear.
Front-Running	<b>Moderate.</b> We identified several opportunities for users or strategy owners to take advantage of unconfirmed transactions through front-running (TOB-YEARN-019).
Monitoring	<b>Satisfactory.</b> The events produced by the smart contract code were capable of monitoring on-chain activity.
Specification	<b>Satisfactory.</b> Yearn Finance provided some documentation describing the functionality of the protocol and listing system

	invariants. However, there was no formal specification available to review.
Testing & Verification	<b>Satisfactory.</b> The contracts included a sufficient number of unit tests and a small number of more advanced testing techniques such as fuzzing. However, there is room for improvement in the test coverage, as described in <a href="Appendix C">Appendix C</a> . Specifically, additional integration tests would provide full coverage of complex contract interactions.

# **Engagement Goals**

We sought to answer the following questions:

- Do the system components have appropriate access controls?
- Is it possible to manipulate the system by front-running transactions?
- Is it possible for participants to steal or lose tokens or shares?
- Are there any circumstances under which arithmetic errors can affect the system?
- Can participants perform denial-of-service or phishing attacks against any of the system components?
- Can flash loans negatively affect the system's operation?
- Does the arithmetic for liquidations and shutdown bookkeeping hold?

Issues in the deployed strategies were outside the scope of this assessment.

# Coverage

The engagement focused on the following components:

- **Vault contract:** This contract holds an underlying token and allows users to interact with the Yearn Finance ecosystem through strategies connected to the vault. Vaults can have an unlimited number of strategies. Through a manual and automated review, we assessed the soundness of the arithmetic, the accuracy of the bookkeeping operations, and the access controls that ensure that the functionality can be invoked only by the appropriate core contracts. Additionally, we focused on the vault's interactions with other components of the ecosystem, as the vault's behavior largely depends on properties beyond its control.
- BaseStrategy abstract contract: This contract implements all of the functionalities required in interactions with the vault contract. This contract should be inherited, and the abstract methods should be implemented such that the strategy performs as expected. We conducted a manual and automated review of operations that could result in unexpected behavior during interactions with the vault contract. We also looked for instances in which privileged operations could be problematic. Finally, we focused on understanding how the behavior of a strategy could impact system integrity.
- yToken, AffiliateToken, and BaseWrapper contracts: These contracts define an ERC20-standard token used to deposit, hold, and withdraw user shares from a vault. Using a manual and automated review, we assessed the conformance of the tokens with ERC20 standards, ensuring that the tokens would not allow for undefined or unexpected behavior; we also reviewed the contracts' interactions with the vault API.
- **Registry:** This contract stores pointers to all current and former versions of the deployed vaults. Using primarily manual techniques, we looked for instances in which privileged operations were not appropriately protected and checked the correctness of vault releases.
- Access controls: Many parts of the system exposed privileged functionalities that should be invoked only by other system contracts. We reviewed these functionalities to ensure that they could be triggered only by the intended components and did not contain unnecessary privileges that could be abused.
- **Arithmetic:** We reviewed the calculations for logical inconsistencies, rounding issues, and scenarios in which reverts caused by overflows could disrupt the use of the protocol.

Deployed strategies and off-chain code components were outside the scope of this			
assessment.			

# Automated Testing and Verification

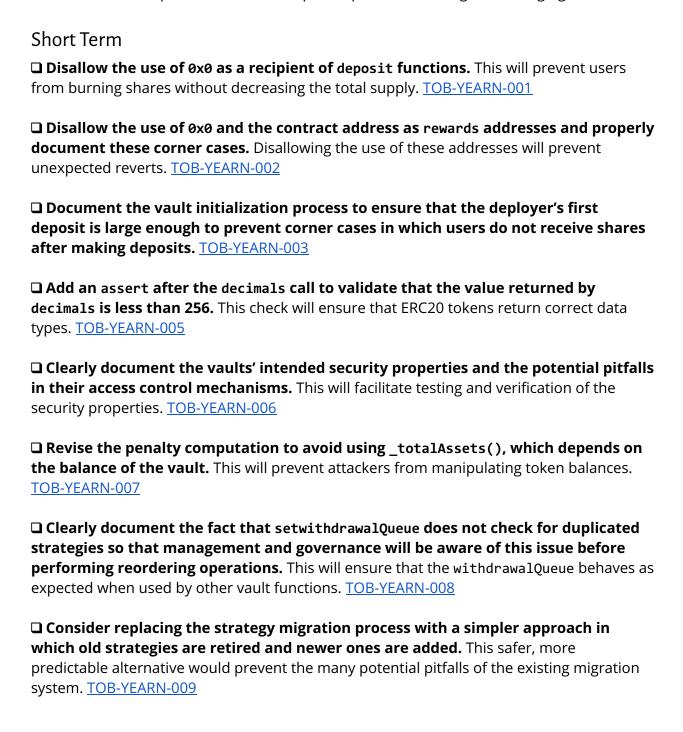
Trail of Bits used automated testing techniques—specifically <a href="Echidna"><u>Echidna</u></a>, a smart contract fuzzer—to enhance coverage of certain areas of the vault contracts. Echidna can rapidly test security properties via malicious, coverage-guided test case generation. We used Echidna to test the expected system properties, simulating interactions between a user, a strategy, and the vault.

We developed and implemented nine Echidna properties related to the vault contract:

Property	Result
If the preconditions are met, a vault deposit operation should never revert.	PASSED
If the preconditions are met, a withdrawal from a vault should never revert.	PASSED
totalDebt is less than or equal to totalAssets().	PASSED
The debtRatio of each strategy is less than or equal to the debtRatio of the vault.	PASSED
The debtRatio of the vault is less than or equal to MAX_BPS.	PASSED
For all strategies, if the vault is initialized, a call to creditAvailable will never revert.	PASSED
For all strategies, if the vault is initialized, a call to expectedReturn will never revert.	PASSED
If the vault is initialized, a call to pricePerShare will never revert.	PASSED
If the vault is initialized, a call to maxAvailableShares will never revert.	PASSED

# **Recommendations Summary**

This section aggregates all the recommendations made during the engagement. Short-term recommendations address the immediate causes of issues. Long-term recommendations pertain to the development process and long-term design goals.



☐ Clearly document withdrawal-related properties to make users of the vaults aware of them. This will ensure that users have confidence in the vaults. <a href="https://document.org/related-properties">TOB-YEARN-010</a>
☐ Modify the behavior of debtOutstanding to account for the total vault debt. That way, the debt of a given strategy will be correct regardless of whether it is calculated by debtOutstanding or creditAvailable. TOB-YEARN-011
□ Clearly document the expected process for updating a vault registry and consider adding more consistency checks or forcing a cache rebuild. Taking these steps will increase users' confidence that the registry will operate as anticipated after an update. <a href="https://document.nc/increase">TOB-YEARN-012</a>
□ Develop clear documentation for users and third-party contracts on the behavior of the name, symbol, and decimals functions. This will ensure that other contracts and off-chain systems behave as expected in the event of an ERC20 property change.  TOB-YEARN-013
☐ Document the expected behavior of strategies when reporting losses to vaults, including the timelines for repaying excess debt. This will assure users that the strategies are acting within expected parameters. <a href="TOB-YEARN-014">TOB-YEARN-014</a>
☐ Ensure that when the performance fee or strategy queue is changed, the contract checks that neither the vault performanceFee nor any strategy-specific performanceFee exceeds the limit of 100% of the total fee amount. Otherwise, strategies may be unable to report back to the vault, which could impact user confidence. TOB-YEARN-015
☐ Either add a minimum requirement for management fees or clearly document the corner case in which these fees can be eliminated to make sure that it is not inadvertently triggered. This will ensure that appropriate fees are paid. TOB-YEARN-016
☐ Clearly document how vaults work to inform users that they are not designed to use certain ERC20 tokens. That way, in the event that a vault is created with an inappropriate token, users will be able to make informed investment decisions.  TOB-YEARN-017
☐ Do not merge PR 273 without making further changes and performing another review. These steps will ensure that the new code does not introduce any security or correctness issues. TOB-YEARN-018
☐ Review the incentives created by pricing and reporting mechanisms as well as the governance control structures to ensure that opportunities for front-running are

understood and documented. This review can inform future efforts to develop new features and can help mitigate potential pitfalls. TOB-YEARN-0019

# Long Term ☐ Review the list of global invariants to make sure there is no way to break them. This will also ensure that the contracts' behavior is known to developers and integrators and that they work as expected. <u>TOB-YEARN-001</u>, <u>TOB-YEARN-002</u>, <u>TOB-YEARN-003</u> Review the access controls of every function and make sure that the **documentation is correct and complete.** That way, developers will be able to detect cases in which necessary access controls are not enforced. TOB-YEARN-004 ☐ Ensure that all external data used in a Vyper contract is validated so that type mismatches will be prevented or appropriately handled. This will prevent unexpected issues, especially when interoperating with Solidity-based contracts. TOB-YEARN-005 ☐ Ensure that the mechanisms for accessing contract functionalities are sound, complete, and compliant with the defined security properties. That way, the properties will be testable and verifiable. TOB-YEARN-006 ☐ Review the specification on incentives and penalties to make sure that they do not depend on variables that can be manipulated by users. This will help identify potential issues in the code. TOB-YEARN-007 ☐ Review the security and correctness properties and use Echidna or Manticore to test them. TOB-YEARN-008 ☐ Review the current vault functionality to identify high-risk operations and simplify its use as much as possible. <u>TOB-YEARN-009</u> ☐ Review how the system invariants affect the usability of the contract and properly document corner cases so that users will know what to expect if a contract **interaction is blocked.** This will increase user confidence in the system. TOB-YEARN-010 ☐ Clarify the expected properties of a vault's debt-related behavior; for example, consider requiring that the total debt of a vault remain below the amount warranted by its debtRatio. Additionally, document these properties to inform users of the potential variance in vault risk management parameters. TOB-YEARN-011 Review the proper way for governance to update critical values, and document related corner cases to make sure that users will know what to expect when they

<b>manage their contracts.</b> This will prevent governance from making costly or difficult-to-repair mistakes. <u>TOB-YEARN-012</u>
□ Consider introducing additional logic into the vault contract to enable clawbacks of excess debt at the time that losses are reported. This will provide a mechanism for enforcing vault debt and risk properties and could inspire user confidence in the system.  TOB-YEARN-014
☐ Ensure that all contract invariants are documented and enforced in the code where possible to mitigate any issues. This will simplify the testing and verification of properties. TOB-YEARN-015
☐ Ensure that assets flow from users to strategies and privileged users as expected so that fees will be paid when necessary. This will prevent actors in the system from depriving other actors of the fees owed to them. <a href="TOB-YEARN-0016">TOB-YEARN-0016</a>
☐ Review the <u>Token Integration Checklist</u> and implement its recommendations to make sure that ERC20 tokens used by the vault behave as expected. <u>TOB-YEARN-013</u> , <u>TOB-YEARN-017</u>
☐ Document assumptions and invariants that can influence vault behavior and thoroughly test mechanisms that may have unintended effects, such as locking profits. This will increase confidence in the mechanisms and help prevent the introduction of new vulnerabilities. TOB-YEARN-0018
☐ Carefully monitor the blockchain to detect front-running attempts and to identify the most problematic front-running scenarios. <a href="TOB-YEARN-0019">TOB-YEARN-0019</a>

# Findings Summary

#	Title	Туре	Severity
1	Shares are indirectly transferable to 0x0	Data Validation	Low
2	Use of zero or contract address as rewards address can block fee computations	Data Validation	Low
3	Division rounding may affect issuance of shares	Arithmetic	Medium
4	revokeStrategy function can be error-prone	Undefined Behavior	Low
5	Vault initialize function does not validate ERC20 decimals	Data Validation	Informational
6	Vault deposits can bypass guest list deposit limits	Access Controls	Informational
7	Strategy owner can reduce or bypass loss penalty	Data Validation	High
8	setWithdrawalQueue allows for duplicated strategies	Data Validation	Low
9	Strategy migrations can be problematic and should be avoided	Access Controls	High
10	Large withdrawals can block other users from making withdrawals	Error Reporting	Medium
11	Current debt calculations can differ depending on context	Data Validation	Medium
12	Registry cache is not verified when registry address is updated	Data Validation	High
13	name, symbol, and decimals functions can change during the lifetime of yToken	Undefined Behavior	Medium

14	A strategy declaring a loss can keep excess debt	Data Validation	Informational
15	Performance fees can exceed 100%	Data Validation	Informational
16	Management fees can be avoided	Timing	Low
17	Vault should not use inflationary or deflationary ERC20 tokens	Data Validation	High
18	PR 273 introduces multiple issues	Data Validation	Low
19	Front-running opportunities	Timing	Low

# 1. Shares are indirectly transferable to oxo

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-001

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

Users can bypass the transfer protections to send shares to the 0x0 address, burning them.

Users can deposit funds into the Yearn vaults to obtain shares. The shares are ERC20 compatible and can be transferred freely, except to the address of the contract or the 0x0 address:

```
@internal
def _transfer(sender: address, receiver: address, amount: uint256):
    # See note on `transfer()`.
    # Protect people from accidentally sending their shares to bad places
    assert not (receiver in [self, ZERO_ADDRESS])
    self.balanceOf[sender] -= amount
    self.balanceOf[receiver] += amount
    log Transfer(sender, receiver, amount)
@external
def transfer(receiver: address, amount: uint256) -> bool:
    self. transfer(msg.sender, receiver, amount)
    return True
```

Figure 1.1: A transfer implementation without comments

However, shares can be transferred to the 0x0 address during the initial deposit if the recipient is specified as 0x0:

```
def _issueSharesForAmount(to: address, amount: uint256) -> uint256:
    # Issues `amount` Vault shares to `to`.
    # Shares must be issued prior to taking on new collateral, or
    # calculation will be wrong. This means that only *trusted* tokens
    # (with no capability for exploitative behavior) can be used.
    shares: uint256 = 0
    # HACK: Saves 2 SLOADs (~4000 gas)
    totalSupply: uint256 = self.totalSupply
     if totalSupply > 0:
         # Mint amount of shares based on what the Vault is managing overall
         # NOTE: if sqrt(token.totalSupply()) > 1e39, this could potentially revert
        precisionFactor: uint256 = self.precisionFactor
         shares = precisionFactor * amount * totalSupply / self. totalAssets() /
precisionFactor
    else:
         # No existing shares, so mint 1:1
         shares = amount
     # Mint new shares
```

```
self.totalSupply = totalSupply + shares
     self.balanceOf[to] += shares
     log Transfer(ZERO_ADDRESS, to, shares)
     return shares
@external
@nonreentrant("withdraw")
def deposit(_amount: uint256 = MAX_UINT256, recipient: address = msg.sender) -> uint256:
   # Issue new shares (needs to be done before taking deposit to be accurate)
   # Shares are issued to recipient (may be different from msg.sender)
   # See @dev note, above.
   shares: uint256 = self._issueSharesForAmount(recipient, amount)
   # Tokens are transferred from msg.sender (may be different from _recipient)
   self.erc20_safe_transferFrom(self.token.address, msg.sender, self, amount)
   return shares # Just in case someone wants them
```

Figure 1.2: Part of the deposit implementation without comments

This corner case allows a user to emit a Transfer event that looks like a deposit (because the sender of the event is 0x0) but also looks like a burn (because the destination is 0x0).

### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve deposits funds into a vault using 0x0 as the recipient, effectively burning shares. However, the total supply is not updated, and events that look like a burn are emitted, which could cause unexpected behavior in off-chain components.

#### Recommendations

Short term, disallow the use of 0x0 as a recipient of deposit functions.

Long term, review the list of global invariants to make sure there is no way to break them.

# 2. Use of zero or contract address as rewards address can block fee computations

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-002

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

If governance tries to disable the payment of rewards by setting the recipient's address to 0x0 or the address of the contract, it can block the fee computation.

Users can deposit funds into the Yearn vaults to obtain shares. The shares are ERC20 compatible and can be transferred freely, except to the address of the contract or the 0x0 address:

```
@internal
def _transfer(sender: address, receiver: address, amount: uint256):
   # See note on `transfer()`.
   # Protect people from accidentally sending their shares to bad places
   assert not (receiver in [self, ZERO ADDRESS])
   self.balanceOf[sender] -= amount
   self.balanceOf[receiver] += amount
   log Transfer(sender, receiver, amount)
@external
def transfer(receiver: address, amount: uint256) -> bool:
   self._transfer(msg.sender, receiver, amount)
   return True
```

*Figure 2.1: A transfer implementation without comments* 

Certain important operations in the vault, such as the computation of fees, can trigger a transfer of shares:

```
def _assessFees(strategy: address, gain: uint256) -> uint256:
   # Issue new shares to cover fees
   # NOTE: In effect, this reduces overall share price by the combined fee
   # NOTE: may throw if Vault.totalAssets() > 1e64, or not called for more than a year
       # NOTE: Governance earns any dust leftover from flooring math above
       if self.balanceOf[self] > 0:
           self._transfer(self, self.rewards, self.balanceOf[self])
   return total_fee
```

Figure 2.2: Part of the assessFees implementation

Governance can set the self.rewards address using setRewards:

```
@external
def setRewards(rewards: address):
   @notice
       Changes the rewards address. Any distributed rewards
       will cease flowing to the old address and begin flowing
       to this address once the change is in effect.
       This will not change any Strategy reports in progress, only
       new reports made after this change goes into effect.
       This may only be called by governance.
   @param rewards The address to use for collecting rewards.
   assert msg.sender == self.governance
   self.rewards = rewards
   log UpdateRewards(rewards)
```

Figure 2.3: Part of the deposit implementation without comments

However, governance can set the reward address to any address, including 0x0 or the address of the contract.

### **Exploit Scenario**

Governance decides to disable the payment of rewards and sets the reward address to either the 0x0 address or that of the contract. As a result, when the contract tries to transfer rewards to the rewards address, the fee computation will revert, preventing the vault from working properly.

#### **Recommendations**

Short term, disallow the use of 0x0 and the contract address as rewards addresses and properly document these corner cases.

Long term, review the list of global invariants to make sure there is no way to break them.

# 3. Division rounding may affect issuance of shares

Severity: Medium Difficulty: High

Type: Arithmetic Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-003

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

Users might not receive shares in exchange for their deposits if the total asset amount is manipulated by another user through a large "donation."

The \_issueSharesForAmount function calculates the amount of shares to be issued:

```
@internal
def _issueSharesForAmount(to: address, amount: uint256) -> uint256:
    # Issues `amount` Vault shares to `to`.
    # Shares must be issued prior to taking on new collateral, or
    # calculation will be wrong. This means that only *trusted* tokens
    # (with no capability for exploitative behavior) can be used.
    shares: uint256 = 0
    # HACK: Saves 2 SLOADs (~4000 gas)
    totalSupply: uint256 = self.totalSupply
    if totalSupply > 0:
        # Mint amount of shares based on what the Vault is managing overall
        # NOTE: if sqrt(token.totalSupply()) > 1e39, this could potentially revert
        precisionFactor: uint256 = self.precisionFactor
        shares = precisionFactor * amount * totalSupply / self._totalAssets() /
precisionFactor
    else:
        # No existing shares, so mint 1:1
        shares = amount
    # Mint new shares
    self.totalSupply = totalSupply + shares
    self.balanceOf[to] += shares
    log Transfer(ZERO ADDRESS, to, shares)
     return shares
```

Figure 3.1: A transfer implementation without comments

Essentially, the number of shares that a user will receive depends on the total supply, the total amount of assets, and the amount of deposited assets. The total asset amount is computed by the following code:

```
@view
@internal
def _totalAssets() -> uint256:
    # See note on `totalAssets()`.
    return self.token.balanceOf(self) + self.totalDebt
```

Figure 3.2: A revokeStrategy implementation without comments

However, if a user makes a large "donation" to the vault, increasing the total supply, other users may not receive shares after making deposits.

### **Exploit Scenario**

- 1. Alice deploys a Yearn vault. She makes a minimal initial deposit to obtain one unit of shares, so the totalSupply is one.
- 2. Eve wants to block Alice's vault, so she transfers a large number of tokens to the vault address, increasing the totalAssets value without increasing the totalSupply.
- 3. A user calls deposit in order to obtain shares. Because his deposit is smaller than Eve's, he does not receive any shares, even though the transaction succeeds. As a result, the vault has more totalAssets, but the same number of shares (one).

If more users deposit small amounts, they will not receive any shares in return. The problem will get worse until a user with enough money makes a large deposit.

#### Recommendations

Short term, document the vault initialization process to ensure that the deployer's first deposit is large enough to prevent corner cases in which users do not receive shares after making deposits.

Long term, review the list of global invariants to make sure there is no way to break them.

# 4. revokeStrategy function can be error-prone

Severity: Low Difficulty: Low

Type: Undefined Behavior Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-004

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

The function to revoke strategies may cause errors because of issues in its implementation and documentation.

Yearn vaults require strategies to generate yields. A strategy can be added or removed and, in certain cases, revoked:

```
@external
def revokeStrategy(strategy: address = msg.sender):
   assert msg.sender in [strategy, self.governance, self.guardian]
   self._revokeStrategy(strategy)
@internal
def _revokeStrategy(strategy: address):
   self.debtRatio -= self.strategies[strategy].debtRatio
   self.strategies[strategy].debtRatio = 0
   log StrategyRevoked(strategy)
```

Figure 4.1: A revokeStrategy implementation without comments

The revokeStrategy implementation has three issues:

- Any address, even that of a non-strategy sender, can successfully call it. While this call should not cause a state change, a StrategyRevoke event with an unexpected value will be emitted.
- It does not remove the revoked strategy from the withdrawal queue. While this is intended behavior, it should be clearly explained in the documentation so that callers will not forget to remove strategies if necessary.
- The documentation incorrectly states that a strategy "will only revoke itself during emergency shutdown." In actuality, a strategy can do that only in "emergency exit mode "

#### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve repeatedly calls revokeStrategy with different addresses to generate confusing events. Users notice the events and, in a panic, sell their shares, thinking that all the vault's strategies were suddenly revoked.

#### Recommendations

**Short Term** 

- Prevent senders that are not strategies from calling revokeStrategy.
- Clearly define when a revoked strategy should be removed from the withdrawal queue.
- Correct the part of the documentation that details when a strategy can revoke itself.

Long term, review the access controls of every function and make sure that the documentation is correct and complete.

## 5. Vault initialize function does not validate ERC20 decimals

Severity: Informational Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-005

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

The function to initialize a vault uses the decimals function from the ERC20 interface. A vault needs to be initialized with a proper precision factor, which depends directly on the number of decimals a token reports.

```
self.decimals = DetailedERC20(token).decimals()
if self.decimals < 18:</pre>
 self.precisionFactor = 10 ** (18 - self.decimals)
  self.precisionFactor = 1
```

Figure 5.1: The part of the initialize function that sets the precision factor based on decimals

However, the decimals value returns a uint8. Because this is not a data type native to Vyper, the value will be stored as uint256.

### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve creates an ERC20 token that returns a decimals value greater than 255. Functions that depend on this value and external integrations that expect the value to be within the range of uint8 may exhibit unexpected or undefined behavior.

#### Recommendations

Short term, add an assert after the decimals call to validate that the value returned by decimals is less than 256.

Long term, ensure that all external data used in a Vyper contract is validated so that type mismatches will be prevented or appropriately handled.

#### References

• Vyperlang/vyper advisory, VVE-2020-0001: Interfaces returning integer types less than 256 bits can be manipulated if uint256 is used

# 6. Vault deposits can bypass guest list deposit limits

Severity: Informational Difficulty: Low

Type: Access Controls Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-006

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

A user can easily bypass the deposit limits defined by the guest list by making multiple

When a user of a vault contract calls the deposit function, a check ensures that the user is authorized to make a deposit of the given amount.

```
# Ensure deposit is permitted by guest list
if self.guestList.address != ZERO ADDRESS:
   assert self.guestList.authorized(msg.sender, amount)
```

Figure 6.1: The part of the vault deposit function that uses guestList.authorized

However, the user's GuestList function is only a view function and will not necessarily update deposit limits between the user's successive calls to deposit.

```
interface GuestList:
   def authorized(guest: address, amount: uint256) -> bool: view
```

Figure 6.2: The GuestList interface definition

This may allow a user to make successive deposits at or below the deposit limit, a practice that may contravene the intended security properties.

### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve wants to deposit 100 tokens into a vault, but the vault's GuestList has set a deposit limit of 50 tokens on her address. By calling the deposit function twice with 50 tokens each time, Eve is able to deposit 100 tokens.

#### Recommendations

Short term, clearly document the vaults' intended security properties and the potential pitfalls in their access control mechanisms.

Long term, ensure that the mechanisms for accessing contract functionalities are sound, complete, and compliant with the defined security properties.

# 7. Strategy owner can reduce or bypass loss penalty

Severity: High Difficulty: Medium

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-007

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

The vaults penalize strategies that report losses, but a strategy owner can reduce or bypass a penalty using a flash loan.

The strategy owner should call report on his or her strategies, which will then call the report function in the vault specifying gains and losses:

```
@external
def report(gain: uint256, loss: uint256, _debtPayment: uint256) -> uint256:
   # Only approved strategies can call this function
   assert self.strategies[msg.sender].activation > 0
   # No lying about total available to withdraw!
   assert self.token.balanceOf(msg.sender) >= gain + debtPayment
   # We have a loss to report, do it before the rest of the calculations
   if loss > 0:
       self._reportLoss(msg.sender, loss)
```

Figure 7.1: The header of the report function in the vault

If a strategy reports losses, its debt ratio should be reduced. The following formula calculates the amount of that reduction:

```
@internal
def _reportLoss(strategy: address, loss: uint256):
    # Loss can only be up the amount of debt issued to strategy
    totalDebt: uint256 = self.strategies[strategy].totalDebt
    assert totalDebt >= loss
    self.strategies[strategy].totalLoss += loss
    self.strategies[strategy].totalDebt = totalDebt - loss
    self.totalDebt -= loss
    # Also, make sure we reduce our trust with the strategy by the same amount
    debtRatio: uint256 = self.strategies[strategy].debtRatio
    precisionFactor: uint256 = self.precisionFactor
    ratio_change: uint256 = min(precisionFactor * loss * MAX_BPS / self._totalAssets() /
precisionFactor, debtRatio)
    self.strategies[strategy].debtRatio -= ratio_change
    self.debtRatio -= ratio_change
```

Figure 7.2: The \_reportLoss function

The computation of the debt ratio change depends on the total asset amount, which is calculated using the balance of the vault. However, a strategy owner can temporarily increase this value by making a series of calls to do the following in a single transaction:

- 1. Take out a flash loan
- 2. Make a deposit
- 3. Call report
- 4. Make a withdrawal
- 5. Repay the flash loan

Since the value of \_totalAssets() will increase (without exceeding the deposit limit), the ratio change amount can be reduced, even to zero, allowing the user to avoid the debt change.

### **Exploit Scenario**

Alice is a user interested in investing in a vault. Eve owns a strategy in that vault. An audit of Eve's strategy finds that it works as expected, but it is very risky. Eve calls report to disclose her losses but uses a flash loan to exploit the reportLoss function, avoiding the debt penalty.

Alice checks the debt ratio of Eve's strategy and finds it satisfactory. She decides to buy shares, but because Eve manipulated the debt ratio, she underestimates the risk.

#### **Recommendations**

Short term, revise the penalty computation to avoid using \_totalAssets(), which depends on the balance of the vault.

Long term, review the specification on incentives and penalties to make sure that they do not depend on variables that can be manipulated by users. Use Echidna or Manticore to test them.

# 8. setWithdrawalQueue allows for duplicated strategies

Severity: Low Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-008

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

The function to set the order of the withdrawal queue does not check for duplicated strategies, which can force a vault into an invalid state.

Once strategies have been added to a vault, they will automatically be included in the withdrawal queue.

```
@external
def addStrategy(
   strategy: address,
    debtRatio: uint256,
   minDebtPerHarvest: uint256,
    maxDebtPerHarvest: uint256,
    performanceFee: uint256,
):
    log StrategyAdded(strategy, debtRatio, minDebtPerHarvest, maxDebtPerHarvest,
performanceFee)
    # Update Vault parameters
    self.debtRatio += debtRatio
    # Add strategy to the end of the withdrawal queue
    self.withdrawalQueue[MAXIMUM_STRATEGIES - 1] = strategy
    self._organizeWithdrawalQueue()
```

Figure 8.1: Part of the addStrategy function

The vault's management or governance can reorder a queue using the setWithdrawalQueue function:

```
@external
def setWithdrawalQueue(queue: address[MAXIMUM_STRATEGIES]):
   assert msg.sender in [self.management, self.governance]
   # HACK: Temporary until Vyper adds support for Dynamic arrays
   for i in range(MAXIMUM_STRATEGIES):
       if queue[i] == ZERO_ADDRESS and self.withdrawalQueue[i] == ZERO_ADDRESS:
       assert self.strategies[queue[i]].activation > 0
        self.withdrawalQueue[i] = queue[i]
    log UpdateWithdrawalQueue(queue)
```

Figure 8.2: The setWithdrawalQueue function

However, this function does not check whether the elements in the queue are duplicated, which would break an important invariant of the vault.

### **Exploit Scenario**

Alice is the manager of a vault. During a call to setWithdrawalQueue, she includes the same strategy twice by mistake. As a result, users trying to withdraw their shares could experience unexpected reverts, since the duplicated strategy will cause the strategy's debt to decrease by more than the expected amount.

#### Recommendations

Short term, clearly document the fact that setWithdrawalQueue does not check for duplicated strategies so that management and governance will be aware of this issue before performing reordering operations.

Long term, review the security and correctness properties and use Echidna or Manticore to test them.

# 9. Strategy migrations can be problematic and should be avoided

Severity: High Difficulty: High

Type: Access Controls Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-009

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

If they are not performed manually, strategy migrations can have serious effects on the security and correctness of the vaults. It is best to disallow them and to instead force strategies to be re-added.

Governance can trigger a strategy migration using the following function:

```
@external
def migrateStrategy(oldVersion: address, newVersion: address):
   @notice
       Migrates a Strategy, including all assets from `oldVersion` to
        `newVersion`.
       This may only be called by governance.
   @dev
       Strategy must successfully migrate all capital and positions to new
       Strategy, or else this will upset the balance of the Vault.
       The new Strategy should be "empty" e.g. have no prior commitments to
       this Vault, otherwise it could have issues.
   @param oldVersion The existing Strategy to migrate from.
   @param newVersion The new Strategy to migrate to.
   assert msg.sender == self.governance
   assert newVersion != ZERO ADDRESS
   assert self.strategies[oldVersion].activation > 0
   assert self.strategies[newVersion].activation == 0
   strategy: StrategyParams = self.strategies[oldVersion]
   Strategy(oldVersion).migrate(newVersion)
   log StrategyMigrated(oldVersion, newVersion)
   for idx in range(MAXIMUM STRATEGIES):
        if self.withdrawalQueue[idx] == oldVersion:
           self.withdrawalQueue[idx] = newVersion
            return # Don't need to reorder anything because we swapped
```

Figure 9.1: Part of the migrateStrategy function in a vault

As the documentation states, governance should carefully perform the migration process to make sure that all assets are migrated to a new address and that the address has never interacted with the vault. If either of these conditions is not met, the vault can enter an invalid state.

Also note that governance can manually trigger a migration on a strategy itself instead of using a function in the vault:

```
function migrate(address _newStrategy) external {
  require(msg.sender == address(vault) || msg.sender == governance());
   require(BaseStrategy(_newStrategy).vault() == vault);
  prepareMigration(_newStrategy);
  SafeERC20.safeTransfer(want, _newStrategy, want.balanceOf(address(this)));
```

Figure 9.2: The migrate function in the base strategy

However, it is unclear why governance is able to call migrate outside of the vault context, as updates to vault values may not occur as intended, resulting in an incoherent vault state.

### **Exploit Scenario**

A strategy is migrated to a newer version. However, because some of the invariants are not checked, the vault enters an invalid state. As a result, all the strategies have to be removed, and the vault should be redeployed.

#### **Recommendations**

Short term, consider replacing the strategy migration process with a simpler approach in which old strategies are retired and newer ones are added.

Long term, review the current vault functionality to identify high-risk operations and simplify its use as much as possible.

# 10. Large withdrawals can block other users from making withdrawals

Severity: Medium Difficulty: Low

Type: Error Reporting Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-010

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

When a user calls the withdraw function, the amount withdrawn is determined using the total number of free tokens in the vault and the amount of total Debt of each strategy in the withdrawalQueue.

```
for strategy in self.withdrawalQueue:
   if strategy == ZERO ADDRESS:
       break
    vault balance: uint256 = self.token.balanceOf(self)
   if value <= vault balance:</pre>
       break
    amountNeeded: uint256 = value - vault_balance
    amountNeeded = min(amountNeeded, self.strategies[strategy].totalDebt)
    if amountNeeded == 0:
        continue
    loss: uint256 = Strategy(strategy).withdraw(amountNeeded)
    withdrawn: uint256 = self.token.balanceOf(self) - vault balance
```

Figure 10.1: Part of the vault's withdrawal function detailing the maximum withdrawal amount for each strategy

Since the vault can contain more assets than a user can withdraw, a large withdrawal can block other vault users from making subsequent withdrawals.

#### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve makes a large withdrawal from a vault, draining the available tokens from the vault and the strategies in the withdrawalQueue. Other users of the vault panic because they cannot retrieve funds.

#### **Recommendations**

Short term, clearly document withdrawal-related properties to make users of the vaults aware of them.

Long term, review how the system invariants affect the usability of the contract and properly document corner cases so that users will know what to expect if a contract interaction is blocked.

# 11. Current debt calculations can differ depending on context

Severity: Medium Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-011

Target: Vault.vy

### Description

The vault extends credit to a strategy based on both the debtRatio of the strategy and the number of available excess tokens (as determined by the vault's debtRatio).

```
# Start with debt limit left for the Strategy
available: uint256 = strategy debtLimit - strategy totalDebt
# Adjust by the global debt limit left
available = min(available, vault debtLimit - vault totalDebt)
# Can only borrow up to what the contract has in reserve
# NOTE: Running near 100% is discouraged
available = min(available, self.token.balanceOf(self))
```

Figure 11.1: The part of the vault's \_creditAvaiLabLe function that calculates the loan amount for a strategy

A strategy can use the debtOutstanding function to calculate the number of excess tokens it has in order to pay down excess debt. However, the function does not take into account the current state of the vault. Instead, it uses only the strategy-specific debtRatio.

```
strategy_totalDebt: uint256 = self.strategies[strategy].totalDebt
if self.emergencyShutdown:
   return strategy totalDebt
elif strategy_totalDebt <= strategy_debtLimit:</pre>
   return 0
    return strategy_totalDebt - strategy_debtLimit
```

Figure 11.2: The part of the vault's debtOutstanding function that calculates the amount of debt a strategy can repay if its debt has exceeded its debtLimit

The two calculations return different answers on how much credit a strategy should have. As a result, a strategy may be able to maintain an excessive amount of debt relative to its debtRatio, and the vault may extend more debt to the strategy than warranted by the total debtRatio.

#### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve observes that a vault has extended more debt to a strategy than stated as a result of the strategy's underestimating its debt payments. Eve is able to avoid incurring a loss on a withdrawal, as she withdraws funds from an overextended strategy rather than encountering a strategy with a pending loss later in the withdrawalQueue. Her withdrawal is fulfilled by the strategy with excess debt but no current losses.

#### Recommendations

Short term, modify the behavior of debtOutstanding to account for the total vault debt. That way, the debt of a given strategy will be correct regardless of whether it is calculated by debtOutstanding or creditAvailable.

Long term, clarify the expected properties of a vault's debt-related behavior; for example, consider requiring that the total debt of a vault remain below the amount warranted by its debtRatio. Additionally, document these properties to inform users of the potential variance in vault risk management parameters.

# 12. Registry cache is not verified when registry address is updated

Severity: High Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-012

Target: BaseWrapper.sol

# Description

Updates to the registry address made by a wrapper contract will not be properly applied to the old registry cache. This can cause the contract to produce outdated results.

Wrapper contracts contain a registry pointer that determines the latest vault version. This version information is essential to computations of values such as total assets and the execution of operations such as deposits and withdrawals. To reduce the computational costs of operations that loop over the list of vaults, the wrapper provides a vault cache:

```
function allVaults() public virtual view returns (VaultAPI[] memory) {
    uint256 cache_length = _cachedVaults.length;
    uint256 num vaults = registry.numVaults(address(token));
    // Use cached
    if (cache length == num vaults) {
        return _cachedVaults;
    VaultAPI[] memory vaults = new VaultAPI[](num_vaults);
    for (uint256 vault_id = 0; vault_id < cache_length; vault_id++) {</pre>
        vaults[vault_id] = _cachedVaults[vault_id];
    for (uint256 vault id = cache length; vault id < num vaults; vault id++) {</pre>
        vaults[vault id] = VaultAPI(registry.vaults(address(token), vault id));
    return vaults;
function _updateVaultCache(VaultAPI[] memory vaults) internal {
    // NOTE: even though `registry` is update-able by Yearn, the intended behavior
            is that any future upgrades to the registry will replay the version
    //
             history so that this cached value does not get out of date.
    if (vaults.length > _cachedVaults.length) {
       _cachedVaults = vaults;
    }
}
```

Figure 12.1: The allVaults and \_updateVaultCache functions

This cache is used when the vaults are accessed to prevent iterations over that list. The registry pointer can also be updated by the wrapper governance:

```
function setRegistry(address _registry) external {
   require(msg.sender == registry.governance());
```

```
// In case you want to override the registry instead of re-deploying
   registry = RegistryAPI(_registry);
   // Make sure there's no change in governance
   // NOTE: Also avoid bricking the wrapper from setting a bad registry
   require(msg.sender == registry.governance());
}
```

Figure 12.2: The setRegistry function

However, when the registry is updated, there is no check that the updated registry is consistent with the previous one; nor is the current cache recreated.

#### **Exploit Scenario**

The governance of the wrapper contract updates the registry address to one that is not consistent with the current cache. This causes unexpected results when users ask for the total amount of assets or call the deposit or withdrawal functions.

#### Recommendations

Short term, clearly document the expected process for updating a vault registry and consider adding more consistency checks or forcing a cache rebuild.

Long term, review the proper way for governance to update critical values, and document related corner cases to make sure that users will know what to expect when they manage their contracts.

# 13. name, symbol, and decimals functions can change during the lifetime of yToken

Severity: Medium Difficulty: Medium

Type: Undefined Behavior Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-013

Target: yToken.sol

# Description

The yToken contract allows users to update the values used by ERC20 functions (such as name, symbol, and decimals), which can produce unexpected behavior in Yearn vaults and third-party contracts.

The yToken contract adheres to the ERC20 standard when defining the name, symbol, and decimals functions:

```
function name() external view returns (string memory) {
   VaultAPI _bestVault = bestVault();
   return _bestVault.name();
}
function symbol() external view returns (string memory) {
   VaultAPI bestVault = bestVault();
   return _bestVault.symbol();
function decimals() external view returns (uint256) {
   VaultAPI bestVault = bestVault();
   return _bestVault.decimals();
}
```

Figure 13.1: The implementation of the name, symbol, and decimals functions in the BaseWrapper contract

It is very unlikely that users will expect these values to change over time, as that possibility is not mentioned in the ERC20 standard. If governance updates these values during the lifetime of the yToken contract, or if they are changed because of registry updates, it can lead to unexpected results.

For instance, when a vault is initialized with an ERC20 token, the name, symbol, and decimals values are fetched and saved in vault state variables. After that, they are not expected to change:

```
@external
def initialize(
    token: address,
    governance: address,
   rewards: address,
    nameOverride: String[64],
    symbolOverride: String[32],
    guardian: address = msg.sender,
```

```
):
   assert self.activation == 0 # dev: no devops199
   self.token = ERC20(token)
   if nameOverride == "":
      self.name = concat(DetailedERC20(token).symbol(), " yVault")
   else:
       self.name = nameOverride
   if symbolOverride == "":
       self.symbol = concat("yv", DetailedERC20(token).symbol())
   else:
       self.symbol = symbolOverride
   self.decimals = DetailedERC20(token).decimals()
   if self.decimals < 18:</pre>
    self.precisionFactor = 10 ** (18 - self.decimals)
   else:
     self.precisionFactor = 1
```

Figure 13.2: Part of the vault initialization function

If the decimals value changes, the vault should force a computation of the precision factor. Otherwise, the results of token deposits and withdrawals may be invalid.

## **Exploit Scenario**

Alice deploys a yToken contract and deposits funds into it. Her token is used to initialize another Yearn vault. When the value of decimals in her yToken contract is updated, the value is not updated in the corresponding vault, leading to unexpected results.

#### Recommendations

Short term, develop clear documentation for users and third-party contracts on this unexpected property.

Long term, review the Token Integration Checklist and implement its recommendations to make sure that ERC20 tokens used by the vault behave as expected.

# 14. A strategy declaring a loss can keep excess debt

Severity: Informational Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-014

Target: Vault.vy

#### Description

Strategies are extended credit by the vault and can declare a gain or loss when reporting results. If a strategy declares a gain, the strategy must have a token balance of at least the amount of the gain, as the funds will be redistributed by the vault. However, if it incurs a loss and its credit is clawed back, the vault contract will not require it to repay its debt.

```
assert self.token.balanceOf(msg.sender) >= gain + debtPayment
# We have a loss to report, do it before the rest of the calculations
if loss > 0:
   self._reportLoss(msg.sender, loss)
```

Figure 14.1: Part of the vault's reporting function, including initial conditions for token balances and subsequent loss-reporting logic

As a result, a strategy may have access to more debt than the adjustment in reportLoss entitles it to, and it may be able to avoid repayment until a subsequent reporting period. There is no logic in the vault contract itself to force a clawing back of the debt.

# **Exploit Scenario**

Eve observes that a strategy has declared a loss and has more debt from the vault than it should. If this strategy appears earlier in the withdrawalQueue, Eve will be able to withdraw more funds from the strategy than she otherwise could.

#### Recommendations

Short term, document the expected behavior of strategies when reporting losses to vaults, including the timelines for repaying excess debt.

Long term, consider introducing additional logic into the vault contract to enable clawbacks of excess debt at the time that losses are reported.

# 15. Performance fees can exceed 100%

Severity: Informational Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-015

Target: Vault.vy

#### Description

When a vault is created, a vault-wide performance fee is set; a performance fee is also set for each strategy when it is added to the vault. The vault contract assumes that the sum of the vault performance fee and the performance fee of a given strategy will be at most 100%.

```
if total fee > gain:
   total fee = gain
    # if total performance fee is greater than 100% then this will cause an underflow
   management_fee = gain - performance_fee - strategist_fee
```

Figure 15.1: The part of the vault's \_assessFees function that depends on a maximum performance fee

The maximum performance fee is correctly validated in the addStrategy function.

```
assert performanceFee <= MAX BPS - self.performanceFee
```

Figure 15.2: The part of the vault's addStrategy function that validates the fee limit

However, if governance sets the performanceFee of the vault after the vault has been initialized and a strategy has been added, it will be able to set the performance fee above the 100% limit. As a result, functions like assessFees will revert when a strategy calls report.

```
assert fee <= MAX BPS
self.performanceFee = fee
```

Figure 15.3: Part of the vault's setPerformanceFee function

#### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve is able to modify the performanceFee of a vault and sets it such that a strategy has a fee greater than 100%. Until the fee is corrected, all report calls made by that strategy will revert, disrupting the vault behavior.

#### Recommendations

Short term, ensure that when the performance fee or strategy queue is changed, the contract checks that neither the vault performanceFee nor any strategy-specific performanceFee exceeds the limit of 100%.

Long term, ensure that all contract invariants are documented and enforced in the code where possible to mitigate these types of issues.

# 16. Management fees can be avoided

Severity: Low Difficulty: High

Type: Timing Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-0016

Target: Vault.vy

# Description

If a strategy owner can take out credit, use it to turn a profit, and then repay the debt in the same block, the management fee will be eliminated.

The management fee directly depends on two factors: the amount of total debt and the time between the calls to the report function (which affects the lastReport variable).

```
management_fee: uint256 = (
   precisionFactor *
        (self.strategies[strategy].totalDebt - Strategy(strategy).delegatedAssets())
       * (block.timestamp - self.strategies[strategy].lastReport)
       * self.managementFee
   / MAX_BPS
   / SECS_PER_YEAR
   / precisionFactor
)
```

Figure 16.1: The computation of the management fee in the assessFees function

However, if a strategy can take out credit, generate gains, and repay its debt in a single transaction, the management fee for those calls will be eliminated.

## **Exploit Scenario**

Alice, the owner of a strategy, generates a profit by taking out credit and repaying it to the vault in a single transaction. As a result, the management fee is set to zero.

#### Recommendations

Short term, either add a minimum requirement for management fees or clearly document this corner case to make sure that it is not inadvertently triggered.

Long term, ensure that assets flow from users to strategies and privileged users as expected so that fees will be paid when necessary.

# 17. Vaults should not use inflationary or deflationary ERC20 tokens

Severity: High Difficulty: High

Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-017

Target: Vault.vy

# Description

If a vault uses an ERC20 token that is inflationary, is deflationary, or has any kind of dynamic supply or balance, the internal bookkeeping of the vault may be severely affected.

The vault contract was not designed for tokens that can suddenly change the value returned by balanceOf or can transfer an unexpected number of tokens. When a user makes a deposit, the balance of the contract and the number of the tokens deposited are used in several operations:

```
@external
@nonreentrant("withdraw")
def deposit( amount: uint256 = MAX UINT256, recipient: address = msg.sender) -> uint256:
   # If amount not specified, transfer the full token balance,
   # up to deposit limit
   if amount == MAX UINT256:
       amount = min(
           self.depositLimit - self._totalAssets(),
           self.token.balanceOf(msg.sender),
   else:
       # Ensure deposit limit is respected
       assert self._totalAssets() + amount <= self.depositLimit</pre>
   # Issue new shares (needs to be done before taking deposit to be accurate)
   # Shares are issued to recipient (may be different from msg.sender)
   # See @dev note, above.
   shares: uint256 = self._issueSharesForAmount(recipient, amount)
   # Tokens are transferred from msg.sender (may be different from _recipient)
   self.erc20_safe_transferFrom(self.token.address, msg.sender, self, amount)
    return shares # Just in case someone wants them
```

Figure 17.1: Part of the vault's deposit function

The vault will check that a deposit does not exceed the deposit limit. The deposit function also assumes that the same set of tokens is transferred and received, which is not always the case when inflationary tokens are used.

The following widely used ERC20 tokens can cause issues:

• The Tether token can charge a fee for each transfer, meaning that users will receive fewer tokens than expected. Currently, this fee is set to zero, but if it is increased, Tether will become a deflationary token.

• Ampleforth executes daily rebases on contracts or increases the total supply (and therefore the balance of each user) so that its expected price will be pegged to USD

# **Exploit Scenario**

Alice deploys a vault and initializes it to use a token that has a dynamic supply. Users perform deposits and withdrawals. At some point, there is an error in the bookkeeping, so users do not receive the expected number of tokens for their shares.

#### Recommendations

Short term, clearly document this behavior to inform users that vaults are not designed to use the abovementioned types of ERC20 tokens.

Long term, review the <u>Token Integration Checklist</u> and implement its recommendations to make sure that ERC20 tokens used by the vault behave as expected.

# 18. PR 273 introduces multiple issues

Severity: Low Difficulty: High

Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-0018 Type: Data Validation

Target: Vault.vy

# Description

The Yearn Finance team asked Trail of Bits to review changes introduced in pull request 273. We uncovered several issues in our review.

The first issue involves the locked profit calculation, which occurred after the lastReport timestamp was updated to the current block.timestamp. As a result, calls to the new calculateLockedProfit function always returned the total lockedProfit amount without any degradation over time. This issue was resolved in a subsequent commit.

The second issue also relates to locked profits; if they are not fully dispensed before a call to the report function, locked profits can be carried forward for significantly longer periods than anticipated.

Finally, the withdraw function can trigger an issue if a strategy reports gains and, during the locked profit degradation period, reports a loss of a similar magnitude. In such cases, a withdrawal will trigger the loss-reporting process, which will modify the value of totalAssets. However, \_shareValue is also called from withdraw; if a strategy reports a significant loss, the existing locked profits may cause an underflow in the freeFunds calculation, in which case any withdrawal executed by a user will revert.

```
freeFunds: uint256 = self._totalAssets() - self._calculateLockedProfit()
```

Figure 18.1: The computation of freeFunds in \_shareValue, which is called from withdraw

#### **Exploit Scenario**

Eve notices changes in how the lockedProfit amount is carried forward and realizes that because of the underflow in freeFunds, strategies that have incurred significant losses will be unable to report them. Eve withdraws her shares before the losses of these strategies can be realized, negatively affecting other shareholders.

## Recommendations

Short term, do not merge PR 273 without making further changes and performing another review.

Long term, document assumptions and invariants that can influence vault behavior and thoroughly test mechanisms that may have unintended effects, such as locking profits. This will increase confidence in the mechanisms and help prevent the introduction of new vulnerabilities.

# 19. Front-running opportunities

Severity: Low Difficulty: High

Type: Timing Finding ID: TOB-YEARN-0019

Target: Vault.vy

# Description

Several interactions between the vault and strategies create opportunities for transaction front-running.

Consider the following scenario: A vault user withdraws shares before some strategy reports a loss. The user may be penalized if that strategy appears earlier in the withdrawalQueue. However, the user could avoid this loss by withdrawing no more than the number of free tokens in the vault. This would allow the user to extract a higher value per share than warranted.

In another scenario, before a strategy calls report, a strategist or vault user can inject tokens into the vault. Then when report is called, the strategy will be extended credit and will receive a share of the newly injected tokens. If the vault has enough available tokens to compensate for the tokens injected into the strategy during the reporting period, a user will be able to inject additional tokens into it, rebalancing the vault at no cost by withdrawing the initial deposit.

Finally, if a strategy is found to be exploitable or is otherwise susceptible to manipulation during withdrawals, a user will be able to withdraw shares from the vault ahead of governance calls to remove the strategy from the withdrawalQueue.

# **Exploit Scenario**

Eve is able to front-run transactions with vault contracts. She times her withdrawals such that they occur ahead of loss-reporting operations, maximizing her share value and evading the costs of losses.

#### Recommendations

Short term, review the incentives created by pricing and reporting mechanisms as well as the governance control structures to ensure that opportunities for front-running are understood and documented.

Long term, carefully monitor the blockchain to detect front-running attempts.

# A. Vulnerability Classifications

Vulnerability Classes		
Class	Description	
Access Controls	Related to authorization of users and assessment of rights	
Auditing and Logging	Related to auditing of actions or logging of problems	
Authentication	Related to the identification of users	
Configuration	Related to security configurations of servers, devices, or software	
Cryptography	Related to protecting the privacy or integrity of data	
Data Exposure	Related to unintended exposure of sensitive information	
Data Validation	Related to improper reliance on the structure or values of data	
Denial of Service	Related to causing a system failure	
Error Reporting	Related to the reporting of error conditions in a secure fashion	
Patching	Related to keeping software up to date	
Session Management	Related to the identification of authenticated users	
Testing	Related to test methodology or test coverage	
Timing	Related to race conditions, locking, or the order of operations	
Undefined Behavior	Related to undefined behavior triggered by the program	

Severity Categories		
Severity	Description	
Informational	The issue does not pose an immediate risk but is relevant to security best practices or Defense in Depth.	
Undetermined	The extent of the risk was not determined during this engagement.	
Low	The risk is relatively small or is not a risk the customer has indicated is important.	

Medium	Individual users' information is at risk; exploitation could pose reputational, legal, or moderate financial risks to the client.
High	The issue could affect numerous users and have serious reputational, legal, or financial implications for the client.

Difficulty Levels		
Difficulty	Description	
Undetermined	The difficulty of exploitation was not determined during this engagement.	
Low	The flaw is commonly exploited; public tools for its exploitation exist or can be scripted.	
Medium	An attacker must write an exploit or will need in-depth knowledge of a complex system.	
High	An attacker must have privileged insider access to the system, may need to know extremely complex technical details, or must discover other weaknesses to exploit this issue.	

# B. Code Maturity Classifications

Code Maturity Classes		
Category Name	Description	
Access Controls	Related to the authentication and authorization of components	
Arithmetic	Related to the proper use of mathematical operations and semantics	
Assembly Use	Related to the use of inline assembly	
Centralization	Related to the existence of a single point of failure	
Upgradeability	Related to contract upgradeability	
Function Composition	Related to separation of the logic into functions with clear purposes	
Front-Running	Related to resilience against front-running	
Key Management	Related to the existence of proper procedures for key generation, distribution, and access	
Monitoring	Related to use of events and monitoring procedures	
Specification	Related to the expected codebase documentation	
Testing & Verification	Related to the use of testing techniques (unit tests, fuzzing, symbolic execution, etc.)	

Rating Criteria		
Rating	Description	
Strong	The component was reviewed, and no concerns were found.	
Satisfactory	The component had only minor issues.	
Moderate The component had some issues.		
Weak	The component led to multiple issues; more issues might be present.	
Missing	The component was missing.	

Not Applicable	The component is not applicable.
Not Considered	The component was not reviewed.
Further Investigation Required	The component requires further investigation.

# C. Code Quality Recommendations

The following recommendations are not associated with specific vulnerabilities. However, they enhance code readability and may prevent the introduction of vulnerabilities in the future.

#### Vault

• Correct the misleading comment at the end of the withdraw function. This comment implies that there is a withdrawal fee, which is incorrect. This will make the code easier to understand, maintain, and review.

# **BaseStrategy**

• Consider using external instead of public for functions. Multiple functions (isActive, tendTrigger, harvestTrigger, and allVaults) could be declared external instead of public to help users save gas.

#### AffiliateToken

- Consider adding a specific event to the acceptAffiliate function. This function does not emit an event when the affiliate is updated, which would make the contract easier to monitor.
- Consider requiring a non-zero address in setAffiliate. It is expected that an affiliate could always have a non-zero address, so verifying that it is not set to zero can minimize errors in practice.
- \_getChainId should use block.chainid instead of assembly in Solidity 0.8 and **above.** This will minimize the use of inline assembly, which can be error-prone.

#### yToken

- Multiple functions (transfer, approve, transferFrom, increaseAllowance, decreaseAllowance, and permitAll) should be declared external. That way, each function will consume a smaller amount of gas and will behave in a functionally identical manner.
- The transferFrom function should assert that the appropriate allowance is available prior to calling \_transfer and should subsequently call \_withdraw. This will result in gas savings in the event that an appropriate allowance does not already exist.

#### General

- Consider using a consistent pragma statement in Solidity code. This will enable users to understand the active versions of Solidity used in the project.
- Consider expanding functional test coverage to include more edge cases, especially cases that test the invariants highlighted in Appendix E. This will

- further isolate edge cases, which will increase users' confidence in the functionality of each component of the vault system.
- Consider implementing additional multi-step integration tests that involve all of the relevant vault contract types. This will help detect issues stemming from complex chained behavior that is difficult to isolate.

# D. Token Integration Checklist

The following checklist provides recommendations for interactions with arbitrary tokens. Every unchecked item should be justified, and its associated risks, understood. An up-to-date version of the checklist can be found in crytic/building-secure-contracts.

For convenience, all <u>Slither</u> utilities can be run directly on a token address, such as the following:

```
slither-check-erc 0xdac17f958d2ee523a2206206994597c13d831ec7 TetherToken
```

To follow this checklist, use the below output from Slither for the token:

```
- slither-check-erc [target] [contractName] [optional: --erc ERC NUMBER]
- slither [target] --print human-summary
- slither [target] --print contract-summary
- slither-prop . --contract ContractName # requires configuration, and use of Echidna and
Manticore
```

# **General Security Considerations**

- ☐ The contract has a security review. Avoid interacting with contracts that lack a security review. Check the length of the assessment (i.e., the level of effort), the reputation of the security firm, and the number and severity of the findings.
- ☐ You have contacted the developers. You may need to alert their team to an incident. Look for appropriate contacts on blockchain-security-contacts.
- ☐ They have a security mailing list for critical announcements. Their team should advise users (like you!) when critical issues are found or when upgrades occur.

# **ERC Conformity**

Slither includes a utility, <u>slither-check-erc</u>, that reviews the conformance of a token to many related ERC standards. Use slither-check-erc to review the following:

- Transfer and transferFrom return a boolean. Several tokens do not return a boolean on these functions. As a result, their calls in the contract might fail.
- ☐ The name, decimals, and symbol functions are present if used. These functions are optional in the ERC20 standard and may not be present. If they are present, make sure that they cannot change over the lifetime of a token.
- ☐ Decimals returns a uint8. Several tokens incorrectly return a uint256. In such cases, ensure that the value returned is below 255.

	<b>The token mitigates the known ERC20 race condition.</b> The ERC20 standard has a known ERC20 race condition that must be mitigated to prevent attackers from
	stealing tokens.  The token is not an ERC777 token and has no external function call in transfer or transferFrom. External calls in the transfer functions can lead to reentrancies.
	includes a utility, <a href="mailto:slither-prop">slither-prop</a> , that generates unit tests and security properties an discover many common ERC flaws. Use slither-prop to review the following:
	The contract passes all unit tests and security properties from slither-prop. Run the generated unit tests and then check the properties with <a href="Echidna">Echidna</a> and <a href="Manticore">Manticore</a> .
_	, there are certain characteristics that are difficult to identify automatically. Conduct ual review of the following conditions:
	Transfer and transferFrom should not take a fee. Deflationary tokens can lead to unexpected behavior.
	<b>Potential interest earned from the token is taken into account.</b> Some tokens distribute interest to token holders. This interest may be trapped in the contract if not taken into account.
Cont	ract Composition
	<b>The contract avoids unnecessary complexity.</b> The token should be a simple contract; a token with complex code requires a higher standard of review. Use Slither's <a href="https://human-summary">human-summary</a> printer to identify complex code.
	<b>The contract uses SafeMath.</b> Contracts that do not use SafeMath require a higher standard of review. Inspect the contract by hand for SafeMath usage.
	The contract has only a few non-token-related functions. Non-token-related functions increase the likelihood of an issue in the contract. Use Slither's contract-summary printer to broadly review the code used in the contract.
	<b>The token has only one address.</b> Tokens with multiple entry points for balance updates can break internal bookkeeping based on the address (e.g., balances[token_address][msg.sender] may not reflect the actual balance).
) Own	er Privileges
	<b>The token is not upgradeable.</b> Upgradeable contracts may change their rules over time. Use Slither's <a href="https://human-summary">human-summary</a> printer to determine if the contract is upgradeable.
	The owner has limited minting capabilities. Malicious or compromised owners can abuse minting capabilities. Use Slither's <a href="https://www.minting.capabilities">human-summary</a> printer to review minting capabilities, and consider manually reviewing the code.

_	
	<b>The token is not pausable.</b> Malicious or compromised owners can trap contracts relying on pausable tokens. Identify pausable code by hand.
	<b>The owner cannot blacklist the contract.</b> Malicious or compromised owners can trap contracts relying on tokens with a blacklist. Identify blacklisting features by hand.
	The team behind the token is known and can be held responsible for abuse. Contracts with anonymous development teams or teams that reside in legal shelters require a higher standard of review.
Toke	n Scarcity
Reviev condit	vs of token scarcity issues must be executed manually. Check for the following cions:
	<b>The supply is owned by more than a few users.</b> If a few users own most of the tokens, they can influence operations based on the tokens' repartition.
	The total supply is sufficient. Tokens with a low total supply can be easily
	manipulated.
٦	manipulated. <b>The tokens are located in more than a few exchanges.</b> If all the tokens are in one exchange, a compromise of the exchange could compromise the contract relying on the token.
<u> </u>	The tokens are located in more than a few exchanges. If all the tokens are in one exchange, a compromise of the exchange could compromise the contract relying on
	The tokens are located in more than a few exchanges. If all the tokens are in one exchange, a compromise of the exchange could compromise the contract relying on the token.

comprehensive overflow checks in the operation of the token.

# E. Expected Strategy Properties

During this engagement, we reviewed the interactions of the strategies and vaults. We found that a number of system properties (listed below) must hold for all strategies to ensure the correct functioning of the vault. Since the strategy contract under review is only abstract, these properties should be verified before any additional strategy is deployed.

- When calling Strategy.withdraw or Strategy.liquidatePosition, \_liquidatedAmount + \_loss <= \_amountNeeded always holds.
- When calling Strategy.withdraw, the sum of all the tokens received by the vault is less than or equal to strategies[strategy].totalDebt
- strategies[strategy].totalDebt >= delegatedAssets() always holds.
- Vault calls do not cause unexpected reverts.
- A strategy cannot take out a flash loan during a call to report or to any other aspect of the vault code.
- Multiple strategies cannot deposit tokens into the same vault. If a strategy deposits tokens into another strategy's vault, it should not have a circular dependency with any other vaults (e.g., strategy A from vault 1 deposits tokens into vault 2, and strategy B from vault 2 deposits tokens into vault 1).

Breaking any of these properties could cause the vault to exhibit unexpected behavior, with outcomes ranging from low-severity to catastrophic issues.

Additionally, the risk parameters set for both the individual strategies and the vault may not be respected until longer-term convergence occurs. This is especially evident in loss-reporting processes, as strategies may be able to hold excessive amounts of debt, or the vault may extend too much debt to a subset of active strategies. These types of events can upset the risk profile of a vault and affect fund reallocation. To bolster the integrity of the system, we recommend adding mechanisms for clawing back excess debt as well as invariants that will ensure consistency in the vaults' overall risk profile.

# F. Fix Log

After the assessment, the Yearn Finance team implemented fixes for the issues identified in this report. Trail of Bits reviewed each fix, working from two Git revisions (available  $\underline{\text{here}}$ and <u>here</u>).

ID	Title	Severity	Status
01	Shares are indirectly transferable to 0x0	Low	Fixed
02	Use of zero or contract address as rewards address can block fee computations	Low	Fixed
03	Division rounding may affect issuance of shares	Medium	Fixed
04	revokeStrategy function can be error-prone	Low	Fixed
05	Vault initialize function does not validate ERC20 decimals	Informational	Fixed
06	Vault deposits can bypass guest list deposit limits	Informational	Fixed
07	Strategy owner can reduce or bypass loss penalty	High	Fixed
80	setWithdrawalQueue allows for duplicated strategies	Low	Fixed
09	Strategy migrations can be problematic and should be avoided	High	Fixed
10	Large withdrawals can block other users from making withdrawals	Medium	Fixed
11	Current debt calculations can differ depending on context	Medium	Fixed
12	Registry cache is not verified when registry address is updated	High	Fixed
13	name, symbol, and decimals functions can change during the lifetime of yToken	Medium	Fixed
14	A strategy declaring a loss can keep excess debt	Informational	Fixed

15	Performance fees can exceed 100%	Informational	Fixed
16	Management fees can be avoided	Low	Fixed
17	Vault should not use inflationary or deflationary ERC20 tokens	High	Fixed
18	PR 273 introduces multiple issues	Low	Not Fixed
19	Front-running opportunities	Low	Not Fixed

For additional information on each fix, please refer to the detailed fix log on the following page.

# Detailed Fix Log

# Finding 1: Shares are indirectly transferable to 0x0

Fixed. The codebase now checks that neither the contract address nor the 0x0 address is set as the recipient of a deposit.

# Finding 2: Use of zero or contract address as rewards address can block fee computations

Fixed. The codebase now checks that neither the contract address nor the 0x0 address is set as the recipient of a reward payment.

## Finding 3: Division rounding may affect issuance of shares

Fixed. The codebase now checks that the number of shares minted is greater than zero.

# Finding 4: revokeStrategy function can be error-prone

Fixed. The codebase now checks that the revoked strategy has a debtRatio greater than zero.

#### Finding 5: Vault initialize function does not validate ERC20 decimals

Fixed. The codebase now checks that the ERC20 decimal value is less than 256.

# Finding 6: Vault deposits can bypass guest list deposit limits

Fixed. The Yearn Finance team removed the guest list feature.

## Finding 7: Strategy owner can reduce or bypass loss penalty

Fixed. The token balance is no longer used to compute the amount of a debt ratio reduction.

## Finding 8: setWithdrawalQueue allows for duplicated strategies

Fixed. The Yearn Finance team implemented a check for duplicated strategies.

#### Finding 9: Strategy migrations can be problematic and should be avoided

Fixed. Governance no longer has the ability to migrate strategies directly. The Yearn Finance team also expanded the documentation on how to perform this delicate operation.

# Finding 10: Large withdrawals can block other users from making withdrawals

Fixed. Yearn Finance developed additional documentation on the circumstances in which a large withdrawal can block other users from making withdrawals.

## Finding 11: Current debt calculations can differ depending on context

Fixed. Yearn Finance addressed this issue by changing the way in which debt calculations are performed.

## Finding 12: Registry cache is not verified when registry address is updated

Fixed. Yearn Finance developed additional documentation on how the registry should be migrated.

# Finding 13: name, symbol, and decimals functions can change during the lifetime of yToken

Fixed. The codebase was changed to make sure the name, symbol, and decimals values are returned directly by the underlying ERC20 token.

## Finding 14: A strategy declaring a loss can keep excess debt

Fixed. Yearn Finance developed additional documentation on how and when a strategy will repay its debt.

# Finding 15: Performance fees can exceed 100%

Fixed. The Yearn Finance team limited the strategy and governance fees to less than 50% each.

# Finding 16: Management fees can be avoided

Fixed. The codebase now checks that \_assessFees is not called twice within the same block.

# Finding 17: Vault should not use inflationary or deflationary ERC20 tokens

Fixed. The Yearn Finance team developed additional documentation on the use of inflationary and deflationary tokens in the vault.

# Finding 18: PR 273 introduces multiple issues

Partially fixed. The Yearn Finance team partially fixed this issue by implementing a proper locked profit calculation. However, the fix could cause a zero-division revert, which would need to be handled appropriately.

## **Finding 19: Front-running opportunities**

Not fixed. Yearn Finance stated the following:

Broadly, it is not reasonable that Yearn can respond to any and all issues resulting from exploits of external integrations via connected strategies. The Vault and BaseStrategy integration was designed, tested and audited in order to prevent internal issues as much as possible, but there is still inherent risk for depositors in using the Vaults product.

There might be some scenarios where a loss is incurred, and some lucky withdrawers notice that and take advantage of it by front running the loss and withdrawing. By placing a strategy with a potential loss at the front of the queue, the withdraw logic will fully push that loss onto the withdrawer, which should prevent this sort of front running of the loss. This feature does not block withdrawals, as this loss is opt in, and there might be scenarios where depositors might want to withdraw at some loss.

The "free balance" in the Vault that is uninvested is available for withdrawing first, so there is some ability to bypass the loss by withdrawing only from the free

balance even in this situation. We do have the ability to shut down deposits into the Vault if the issue is truly severe, so there is a limit to how much withdrawers can benefit from this.

There are several things that are possible in theory as mentioned, however we have carefully considered these issues and designed passive or active mitigations for them as best as we could. To the best of our knowledge, there does not seem to be a general way to avoid these issues, so we have made these calls restricted to bonded Keep3rs (managed by our DevOps team), which use private mempools to avoid significant frontrunning potential and manipulation as much as possible. We also monitor for abuse of these mitigations and actively work on improving them over time.