

SMART CONTRACT AUDIT REPORT

for

ELEMENT FINANCE

Prepared By: Shuxiao Wang

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Contact

For more information about this document and its contents, please contact PeckShield Inc.

Name	Shuxiao Wang
Phone	+86 173 6454 5338
Email	contact@peckshield.com

Contents

1	Intr	oduction	4
	1.1	About Element Finance	4
	1.2	About PeckShield	5
	1.3	Methodology	5
	1.4	Disclaimer	6
2	Find	dings	10
	2.1	Summary	10
	2.2	Key Findings	11
3	Det	ailed Results	12
	3.1	${\sf safeTransfer()/safeTransferFrom()/safeApprove()} \ \ {\sf Replacement} \ \ \ldots \ \ldots \ \ldots$	12
	3.2	Non-Compliant ERC20 Implementation Of Tranche And InterestToken	14
	3.3	Improved mint() Logic in UserProxy	16
	3.4	Suggested Addition of recoverERC20() in UserProxy	17
	3.5	Suggested Use of Differentiating Event Names	18
4	Con	clusion	20
Re	eferer	nces	21

1 Introduction

Given the opportunity to review the design document and related smart contract source code of the **Element Finance** protocol, we outline in this report our systematic approach to evaluate potential security issues in the smart contract implementation, expose possible semantic inconsistencies between smart contract code and design document, and provide additional suggestions or recommendations for improvement. Our results show that the given version of smart contract can be further improved due to the presence of several issues. This document outlines our audit results.

1.1 About Element Finance

Element Finance aims to bring high fixed yield rates to the DeFi market with a focus on BTC, ETH, and USDC. The fixed yield is collateralized by variable yield positions and the higher rates offered as fixed yield are driven and maintained by various market forces. Specifically, Element takes a novel approach to fixed yield, splitting the principal and interest of existing yield positions into separate, fungible tokens which are designed to be traded or staked in various AMMs. It also improves capital efficiency by allowing users to sell their principal as a fixed yield position, further leveraging or increasing exposure to interest without liquidation risk. In other words, users can gain more by simply staking their unused LP tokens or principal and then realizing trading fees as additional revenue.

The basic information of Element Finance is as follows:

Table 1.1: Basic Information of Element Finance

Item	Description
Issuer	Element Finance
Website	https://element.fi/
Туре	Ethereum Smart Contract
Platform	Solidity
Audit Method	Whitebox
Latest Audit Report	April 14, 2021

In the following, we show the Git repository of reviewed files and the commit hash value used in this audit. Note the audited repository contains a number of sub-directories (e.g., balancer-core-v2) and this audit relies on the correctness and safety of the associated balancer-core-v2 protocol, which is not part of this audit.

• https://github.com/element-fi/elf-contracts.git (eed3695)

And this is the commit ID after all fixes for the issues found in the audit have been checked in:

• https://github.com/element-fi/elf-contracts.git (39194a5)

1.2 About PeckShield

PeckShield Inc. [9] is a leading blockchain security company with the goal of elevating the security, privacy, and usability of current blockchain ecosystems by offering top-notch, industry-leading services and products (including the service of smart contract auditing). We are reachable at Telegram (https://t.me/peckshield), Twitter (http://twitter.com/peckshield), or Email (contact@peckshield.com).

High Critical High Medium

High Medium

Low

Medium Low

High Medium

Low

High Medium

Low

Likelihood

Table 1.2: Vulnerability Severity Classification

1.3 Methodology

To standardize the evaluation, we define the following terminology based on OWASP Risk Rating Methodology [8]:

- <u>Likelihood</u> represents how likely a particular vulnerability is to be uncovered and exploited in the wild;
- Impact measures the technical loss and business damage of a successful attack;

Severity demonstrates the overall criticality of the risk.

Likelihood and impact are categorized into three ratings: *H*, *M* and *L*, i.e., *high*, *medium* and *low* respectively. Severity is determined by likelihood and impact and can be classified into four categories accordingly, i.e., *Critical*, *High*, *Medium*, *Low* shown in Table 1.2.

To evaluate the risk, we go through a list of check items and each would be labeled with a severity category. For one check item, if our tool or analysis does not identify any issue, the contract is considered safe regarding the check item. For any discovered issue, we might further deploy contracts on our private testnet and run tests to confirm the findings. If necessary, we would additionally build a PoC to demonstrate the possibility of exploitation. The concrete list of check items is shown in Table 1.3.

In particular, we perform the audit according to the following procedure:

- <u>Basic Coding Bugs</u>: We first statically analyze given smart contracts with our proprietary static code analyzer for known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) all the issues found by our tool.
- <u>Semantic Consistency Checks</u>: We then manually check the logic of implemented smart contracts and compare with the description in the white paper.
- Advanced DeFi Scrutiny: We further review business logics, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.
- Additional Recommendations: We also provide additional suggestions regarding the coding and development of smart contracts from the perspective of proven programming practices.

To better describe each issue we identified, we categorize the findings with Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE-699) [7], which is a community-developed list of software weakness types to better delineate and organize weaknesses around concepts frequently encountered in software development. Though some categories used in CWE-699 may not be relevant in smart contracts, we use the CWE categories in Table 1.4 to classify our findings.

1.4 Disclaimer

Note that this security audit is not designed to replace functional tests required before any software release, and does not give any warranties on finding all possible security issues of the given smart contract(s) or blockchain software, i.e., the evaluation result does not guarantee the nonexistence of any further findings of security issues. As one audit-based assessment cannot be considered comprehensive, we always recommend proceeding with several independent audits and a public bug

Table 1.3: The Full List of Check Items

Category	Check Item
	Constructor Mismatch
	Ownership Takeover
	Redundant Fallback Function
	Overflows & Underflows
	Reentrancy
	Money-Giving Bug
	Blackhole
	Unauthorized Self-Destruct
Basic Coding Bugs	Revert DoS
Dasic Couling Dugs	Unchecked External Call
	Gasless Send
	Send Instead Of Transfer
	Costly Loop
	(Unsafe) Use Of Untrusted Libraries
	(Unsafe) Use Of Predictable Variables
	Transaction Ordering Dependence
	Deprecated Uses
Semantic Consistency Checks	Semantic Consistency Checks
	Business Logics Review
	Functionality Checks
	Authentication Management
	Access Control & Authorization
	Oracle Security
Advanced DeFi Scrutiny	Digital Asset Escrow
ravancea Ber i Geraemi,	Kill-Switch Mechanism
	Operation Trails & Event Generation
	ERC20 Idiosyncrasies Handling
	Frontend-Contract Integration
	Deployment Consistency
	Holistic Risk Management
	Avoiding Use of Variadic Byte Array
	Using Fixed Compiler Version
Additional Recommendations	Making Visibility Level Explicit
	Making Type Inference Explicit
	Adhering To Function Declaration Strictly
	Following Other Best Practices

Table 1.4: Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) Classifications Used in This Audit

Category	Summary
Configuration	Weaknesses in this category are typically introduced during
	the configuration of the software.
Data Processing Issues	Weaknesses in this category are typically found in functional-
	ity that processes data.
Numeric Errors	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper calcula-
	tion or conversion of numbers.
Security Features	Weaknesses in this category are concerned with topics like
	authentication, access control, confidentiality, cryptography,
	and privilege management. (Software security is not security
	software.)
Time and State	Weaknesses in this category are related to the improper man-
	agement of time and state in an environment that supports
	simultaneous or near-simultaneous computation by multiple
	systems, processes, or threads.
Error Conditions,	Weaknesses in this category include weaknesses that occur if
Return Values,	a function does not generate the correct return/status code,
Status Codes	or if the application does not handle all possible return/status
	codes that could be generated by a function.
Resource Management	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper manage-
	ment of system resources.
Behavioral Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to unexpected behav-
	iors from code that an application uses.
Business Logic	Weaknesses in this category identify some of the underlying
	problems that commonly allow attackers to manipulate the
	business logic of an application. Errors in business logic can
	be devastating to an entire application.
Initialization and Cleanup	Weaknesses in this category occur in behaviors that are used
A	for initialization and breakdown.
Arguments and Parameters	Weaknesses in this category are related to improper use of
Evenuesian legues	arguments or parameters within function calls.
Expression Issues	Weaknesses in this category are related to incorrectly written
Cadina Duantia	expressions within code.
Coding Practices	Weaknesses in this category are related to coding practices that are deemed unsafe and increase the chances that an ex-
	ploitable vulnerability will be present in the application. They
	may not directly introduce a vulnerability, but indicate the
	product has not been carefully developed or maintained.

bounty program to ensure the security of smart contract(s). Last but not least, this security audit should not be used as investment advice.



2 | Findings

2.1 Summary

Here is a summary of our findings after analyzing the Element Finance implementation. During the first phase of our audit, we study the smart contract source code and run our in-house static code analyzer through the codebase. The purpose here is to statically identify known coding bugs, and then manually verify (reject or confirm) issues reported by our tool. We further manually review business logics, examine system operations, and place DeFi-related aspects under scrutiny to uncover possible pitfalls and/or bugs.

Severity	# of Findings
Critical	0
High	0
Medium	1
Low	2
Informational	2
Total	5

We have so far identified a list of potential issues: some of them involve subtle corner cases that might not be previously thought of, while others refer to unusual interactions among multiple contracts. For each uncovered issue, we have therefore developed test cases for reasoning, reproduction, and/or verification. After further analysis and internal discussion, we determined a few issues of varying severities need to be brought up and paid more attention to, which are categorized in the above table. More information can be found in the next subsection, and the detailed discussions of each of them are in Section 3.

2.2 Key Findings

Overall, these smart contracts are well-designed and engineered, though the implementation can be improved by resolving the identified issues (shown in Table 2.1), including 1 medium-severity vulnerability, 2 low-severity vulnerabilities, and 2 informational recommendations.

ID Severity Title Category **Status** PVE-001 Medium safeTransfer()/safeApprove() Coding Practices Resolved **PVE-002** Non-Compliant ERC20 Implementation Fixed Low **Business Logic** Of Tranche And InterestToken PVE-003 Low Improved mint() Logic in UserProxy Fixed Business Logic PVE-004 Suggested Addition of recoverERC20() Resolved Informational Business Logic in UserProxy Error Conditions, Return **PVE-005** Informational Suggested Use of Differentiating Event Resolved Values, Status Codes **Names**

Table 2.1: Key Element Finance Audit Findings

Beside the identified issues, we emphasize that for any user-facing applications and services, it is always important to develop necessary risk-control mechanisms and make contingency plans, which may need to be exercised before the mainnet deployment. The risk-control mechanisms should kick in at the very moment when the contracts are being deployed on mainnet. Please refer to Section 3 for details.

3 Detailed Results

3.1 safeTransfer()/safeTransferFrom()/safeApprove() Replacement

• ID: PVE-001

Severity: MediumLikelihood: Medium

• Impact: Medium

• Target: Multiple Contracts

• Category: Coding Practices [4]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-1126 [1]

Description

Though there is a standardized ERC-20 specification, many token contracts may not strictly follow the specification or have additional functionalities beyond the specification. In this section, we examine the transferFrom() routine and possible idiosyncrasies from current widely-used token contracts.

In particular, we use the popular stablecoin, i.e., USDT, as our example. We show the related code snippet below. Specifically, the transferFrom() routine does not have a return value defined and implemented. However, the IERC20 interface has defined the transferFrom() interface with a bool return value. As a result, the call to transferFrom() may expect a return value. With the lack of return value of USDT's transferFrom(), the call will be unfortunately reverted.

```
171
         function transferFrom(address from, address to, uint value) public
             onlyPayloadSize(3 * 32) {
172
             var allowance = allowed[ from][msg.sender];
174
             // Check is not needed because sub(_allowance, _value) will already throw if
                this condition is not met
175
             // if (_value > _allowance) throw;
177
             uint fee = ( value.mul(basisPointsRate)).div(10000);
178
             if (fee > maximumFee) {
179
                 fee = maximumFee;
180
181
             if (_allowance < MAX_UINT) {</pre>
```

```
182
                 allowed[ from][msg.sender] = allowance.sub( value);
183
             }
184
             uint sendAmount = value.sub(fee);
185
             balances[ from] = balances[ from].sub( value);
186
             balances [ to] = balances [ to].add(sendAmount);
187
             if (fee > 0) {
188
                 balances [owner] = balances [owner].add(fee);
189
                 Transfer ( from, owner, fee);
190
191
             Transfer(_from, _to, sendAmount);
192
```

Listing 3.1: USDT::transferFrom()

Because of that, a normal call to transferFrom() is suggested to use the safe version, i.e., safeTransferFrom(), In essence, it is a wrapper around ERC20 operations that may either throw on failure or return false without reverts. Moreover, the safe version also supports tokens that return no value (and instead revert or throw on failure). Note that non-reverting calls are assumed to be successful. Similarly, there is a safe version of approve()/transfer() as well, i.e., safeApprove()/safeTransfer().

In current implementation, if we examine the WrappedPosition::deposit() routine that is designed to deposit tokens into the Wrapped Position contract from the participating user. To accommodate the specific idiosyncrasy, there is a need to user safeTransferFrom(), instead of transferFrom() (line 86).

```
74
        /// @notice Entry point to deposit tokens into the Wrapped Position contract
75
                    Transfers tokens on behalf of caller so the caller must set
76
        ///
                    allowance on the contract prior to call.
77
        /// @param _amount The amount of underlying tokens to deposit
78
        /// @param _destination The address to mint to
79
        /// @return Returns the number of Wrapped Position tokens minted
80
        function deposit (address destination, uint256 amount)
81
            external
82
            override
83
            returns (uint256)
84
85
            // Send tokens to the proxy
86
            token.transferFrom(msg.sender, address(this), _amount);
87
            // Calls our internal deposit function
88
            (uint256 \text{ shares},) = deposit();
89
            // Mint them internal ERC20 tokens corresponding to the deposit
90
            mint( destination, shares);
91
            return shares;
92
```

Listing 3.2: WrappedPosition::deposit()

In the meantime, we also suggest to use the safe-version of transfer()/transferFrom() in other related routines, including Tranche::deposit(), UserProxy::mint(), YVaultAssetProxy::reserveDeposit

(), and reserveWithdraw().

Recommendation Accommodate the above-mentioned idiosyncrasy about ERC20-related approve()/transfer()/transferFrom().

Status The team has confirmed that the Element protocol is designed not to support ERC20 tokens that are non-standard and do not revert on transfer from.

3.2 Non-Compliant ERC20 Implementation Of Tranche And InterestToken

ID: PVE-002Severity: LowLikelihood: Low

• Impact: Low

Target: Multiple ContractsCategory: Business Logic [5]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [3]

Description

The Element protocol takes a novel approach to meet the fixed yield goal by splitting the principal and interest of existing yield positions into separate, fungible tokens. These fungible tokens can then be traded or staked in various AMMs. Naturally, we examine the list of API functions defined by the ERC20 specification and validate whether there exist any inconsistency or incompatibility in the implementation or the inherent business logic of both principal and interest tokens.

Our analysis shows that the current implementation does not strictly follow the ERC20 specification and may cause unnecessary incompatibility issue. Both principal and interest tokens are inherited from the ERC20Permit contract, which somehow does not define or maintain the totalSupply of respective tokens. To elaborate, we show below the code snippet from ERC20Permit.

```
171
    abstract contract ERC20Permit is IERC20Permit {
         // --- ERC20 Data ---
172
173
         string public name;
174
         string public override symbol;
175
         uint8 public override decimals;
177
         mapping(address => uint256) public override balanceOf;
178
         mapping(address => mapping(address => uint256)) public override allowance;
179
         mapping(address => uint256) public override nonces;
181
         // --- EIP712 niceties ---
182
         // solhint-disable-next-line var-name-mixedcase
183
         bytes32 public override DOMAIN SEPARATOR;
184
         // bytes32 public constant PERMIT_TYPEHASH = keccak256("Permit(address owner,address
             spender,uint256 value,uint256 nonce,uint256 deadline)");
```

Table 3.1: Basic View-Only Functions Defined in The ERC20 Specification

Item	Description	Status
nama()	name() Is declared as a public view function	
name()	Returns a string, for example "Tether USD"	✓
symbol()	Is declared as a public view function	✓
Syllibol()	Returns the symbol by which the token contract should be known, for	✓
	example "USDT". It is usually 3 or 4 characters in length	
decimals()	Is declared as a public view function	✓
uecimais()	Returns decimals, which refers to how divisible a token can be, from 0	✓
	(not at all divisible) to 18 (pretty much continuous) and even higher if	
	required	
totalSupply()	Is declared as a public view function	X
totalSupply()	Returns the number of total supplied tokens, including the total minted	X
	tokens (minus the total burned tokens) ever since the deployment	
balanceOf()	Is declared as a public view function	✓
balanceO1()	Anyone can query any address' balance, as all data on the blockchain is	✓
	public	
allowance()	Is declared as a public view function	1
anowance()	Returns the amount which the spender is still allowed to withdraw from	✓
	the owner	

```
185
         bytes32
186
              public constant PERMIT TYPEHASH = 0
                  \times 6e71edae12b1b97f4d1f60370fef10105fa2faae0126114a169c64845d6126c9\ ;
188
         constructor(string memory name_, string memory symbol_) {
189
              name = name ;
190
              symbol = symbol_;
191
              decimals = 18;
193
              balanceOf[\,address\,(0)\,]\,\,=\,\,type\,(\,uint\,256\,)\,.\,max\,;
194
              balanceOf[address(this)] = type(uint256).max;
196
              DOMAIN SEPARATOR = keccak256 (
197
                  abi.encode(
198
                       keccak256 (
199
                            \verb"EIP712Domain(string name, string version, \verb"uint256" chainId", address" \\
                                verifyingContract)"
200
201
                       keccak256(bytes(name)),
202
                       keccak256 (bytes("1")),
203
                        _getChainId(),
204
                       address(this)
205
206
```

```
207 }
```

```
Listing 3.3: USDT::transferFrom()
```

Moreover, it comes to our attention that the constructor() routine has two special addresses initialized with the type(uint256).max balance (lines 193-194). It is suggested to better clarify the purpose of these two addresses as they cause unnecessary inconsistency, i.e., the balance sum of all possible accounts is not the same as the commonly-conceived totalSupply.

Recommendation Be consistent with the widely adopted ERC20 specification in both principal and interest token contracts.

Status This issue has been fixed in this commit: 3c93d9a.

3.3 Improved mint() Logic in UserProxy

• ID: PVE-003

• Severity: Low

• Likelihood: Low

• Impact: Low

• Target: UserProxy

• Category: Business Logic [5]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [3]

Description

To facilitate user on-boarding, the Element Finance protocol has a convenience UserProxy to consolidate actions needed to create interest or principal tokens to one call and further hold user allowances for asset transfers. While examining the UserProxy contract, we notice a possible improvement on current implementation.

To elaborate, we show below its mint() function. This function is designed to mint a principal and interest token pair from either underlying token or ETH and then return the tokens to the caller. It comes to our attention that if the underlying token is not ETH (in the else-branch at lines 136-141), we need to add the following requirement to ensure that the calling user will not accidentally send ETH: require(msg.value ==0, "Incorrect amount provided"). Note the accidentally sent ETH may be locked in the UserProxy contract. The only way to uncover is to perform the selfdestruct operation via deprecate(), which seems an overkill.

```
function mint(

uint256 _amount,

IERC20 _underlying,

uint256 _expiration,

address _position,

PermitData[] calldata _permitCallData

) external payable notFrozen() preApproval(_permitCallData) {
```

```
126
             // If the underlying token matches this predefined 'ETH token'
             // then we create weth for the user and go from there
127
             if (address( underlying) == ETH CONSTANT) {
128
129
                 // Check that the amount matches the amount provided
130
                 require(msg.value == amount, "Incorrect amount provided");
131
                 // Create weth from the provided eth
132
                 weth.deposit{ value: msg.value }();
133
                 weth.transfer(address( position), amount);
134
                 // Proceed to internal minting steps
135
                 _mint( _expiration , _ position );
136
             } else {
137
                 // Move the user's funds to the wrapped position contract
138
                  underlying.transferFrom(msg.sender, address( position), amount);
139
                 \ensuremath{//} Proceed to internal minting steps
                 _mint(_expiration, _position);
140
141
             }
142
```

Listing 3.4: UserProxy::mint()

Recommendation Improve the mint() logic to prevent accidentally sent assets from being locked in the UserProxy contract.

Status This issue has been fixed in this commit: 3c93d9a.

3.4 Suggested Addition of recoverERC20() in UserProxy

• ID: PVE-004

• Severity: Informational

Likelihood: N/A

Impact: N/A

Target: UserProxy

• Category: Business Logic [5]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-841 [3]

Description

By design, the Element Finance protocol has developed a number of contracts that hold various types of assets. From past experience with current popular DeFi protocols, e.g., YFI/Curve, we notice that there is always non-trivial possibilities that non-related tokens may be accidentally sent to the pool contract(s). To avoid unnecessary loss of Element users, we suggest to add necessary support of rescuing tokens accidentally sent to the contract. This is a design choice for the benefit of protocol users.

Recommendation Add the support of rescuing tokens accidentally sent to the contract. An example addition is shown below:

```
function recoverERC20(address _token, uint256 _amount) external onlyOwner {
    IERC20(_token).safeTransfer(owner(), _amount);
    emit Recovered(_token, _amount);
}
```

Listing 3.5: UserProxy::recoverERC20()

Status The team is aware of this issue and considers the expectation that the governance will rescue funds "both exposes it to liability and is un-scalable."

3.5 Suggested Use of Differentiating Event Names

• ID: PVE-005

• Severity: Informational

• Likelihood: N/A

Impact: N/A

• Target: ConvergentPoolFactory

• Category: Status Codes [6]

• CWE subcategory: CWE-391 [2]

Description

In Ethereum, the event is an indispensable part of a contract and is mainly used to record a variety of runtime dynamics. In particular, when an event is emitted, it stores the arguments passed in transaction logs and these logs are made accessible to external analytics and reporting tools. Events can be emitted in a number of scenarios. One particular case is when system-wide parameters or settings are being changed. Another case is when tokens are being minted, transferred, or burned.

In the following, we show the create() routine from the ConvergentPoolFactory contract. This routine is designed to deploy a new ConvergentPool instance and then register the new instance. It comes to our attention that the _register() call (line 63) in essence emits an event of PoolRegistered (pool) where the pool is the new deployed instance address. Interestingly, the constructor of ConvergentCurvePool automatically registers the new pool via the vault.registerPool(IVault.PoolSpecialization .TWO_TOKEN), which emits another event in the following form: emit PoolRegistered(poolId), where poolId denotes the assigned pool ID in byte32. These two events come with the same name, but with different parameters. To avoid unnecessary confusion, it is suggested to use self-differentiating event names.

```
function create(

address _ underlying ,

address _ bond ,

uint256 _ expiration ,

uint256 _ unitSeconds ,

uint256 _ percentFee ,

string memory name ,
```

```
47
             string memory symbol
48
        ) external returns (address) {
49
            address pool = address(
50
                 new ConvergentCurvePool(
51
                     IERC20(_underlying),
52
                     IERC20 (bond),
53
                      expiration,
54
                      unitSeconds,
55
                     vault,
                     _{
m percentFee} ,
56
57
                     percentFeeGov,
58
                     governance,
59
                      name,
60
                      symbol
61
62
            );
63
             register(pool);
64
            return pool;
65
```

Listing 3.6: ConvergentPoolFactory::create()

```
118
         function registerPool(PoolSpecialization specialization)
119
             external
120
             override
121
             nonReentrant
122
             noEmergencyPeriod
123
             returns (bytes32)
124
125
             // Use _totalPools as the Pool ID nonce. uint80 assumes there will never be more
                  than than 2**80 Pools.
126
             bytes32 poolId = toPoolId(msg.sender, specialization, uint80(poolNonce.current
                 ()));
127
             require(! isPoolRegistered[poolId], "INVALID_POOL_ID"); // Should never happen
128
             _poolNonce.increment();
129
130
             _isPoolRegistered[poolId] = true;
131
132
             emit PoolRegistered(poolId);
133
             return poolld;
134
```

Listing 3.7: PoolRegistry :: registerPool ()

Recommendation Revise the above events by properly choosing different names as they encode different information.

Status Since these events are emitted by different contract addresses in different contexts, the team considers that they are still distinguishable and plans to leave it as is.

4 Conclusion

In this audit, we have analyzed the Element Finance design and implementation. The system presents a unique offering in bringing high fixed yield rates to the DeFi market. Specifically, it enables fixed yield by splitting the principal and interest of existing yield positions into separate, fungible tokens which are designed to be traded or staked in various AMMs. The current code base is well organized and those identified issues are promptly confirmed and addressed.

Meanwhile, we need to emphasize that Solidity-based smart contracts as a whole are still in an early, but exciting stage of development. To improve this report, we greatly appreciate any constructive feedbacks or suggestions, on our methodology, audit findings, or potential gaps in scope/coverage.



References

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