Back To The Future

Of Software Security

Developing Secure Smart Contracts

Final - OWASP Toronto

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Whoami

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- Previously worked in aerospace, government and finance sectors
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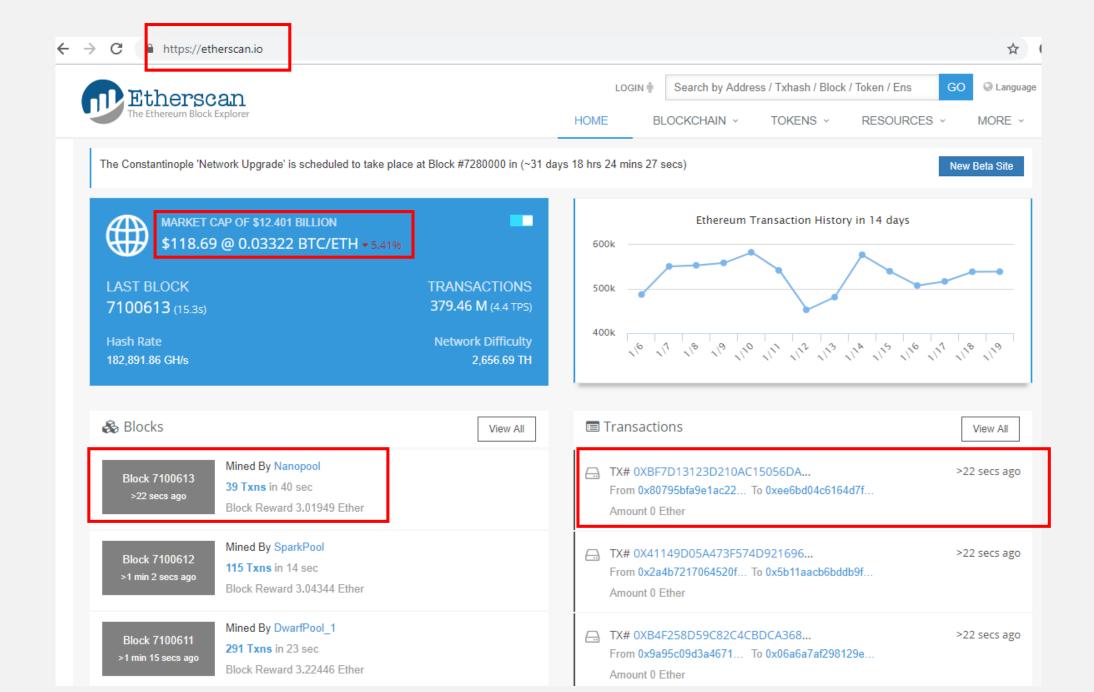
Tonight

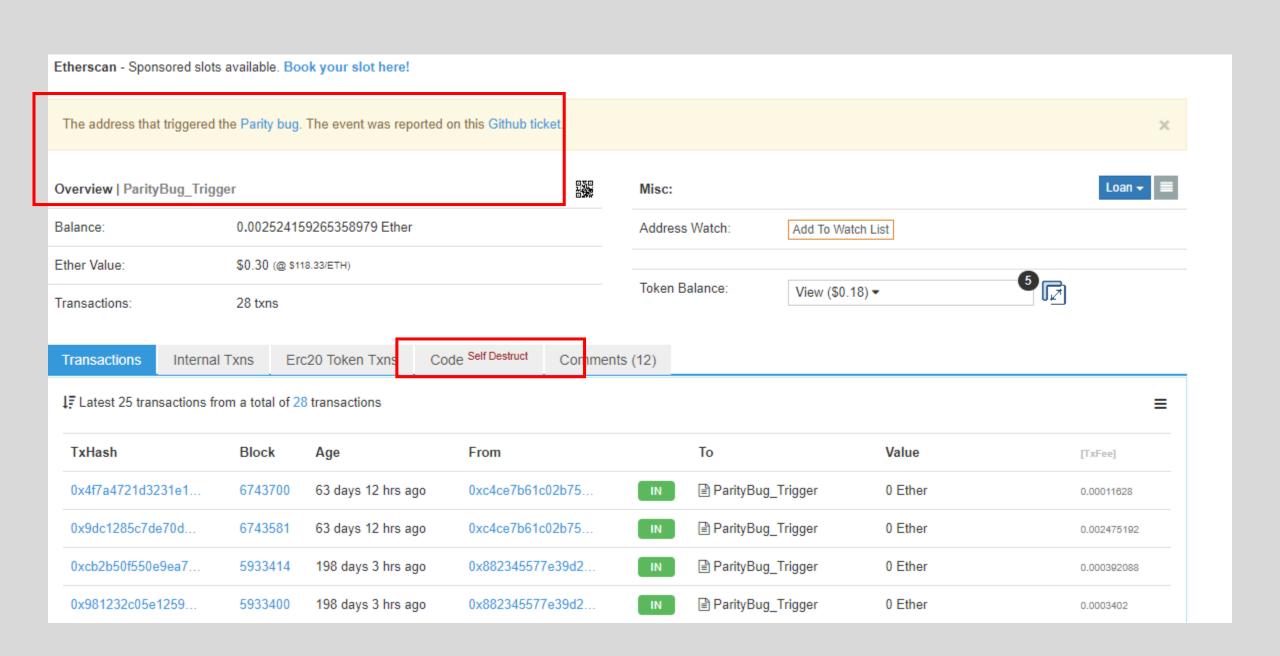
- What is a Smart Contract?
- Ethereum Overview
- Smart Contract Introduction
- Smart Contract Vulnerabilities
- Resources And Capture The Flags

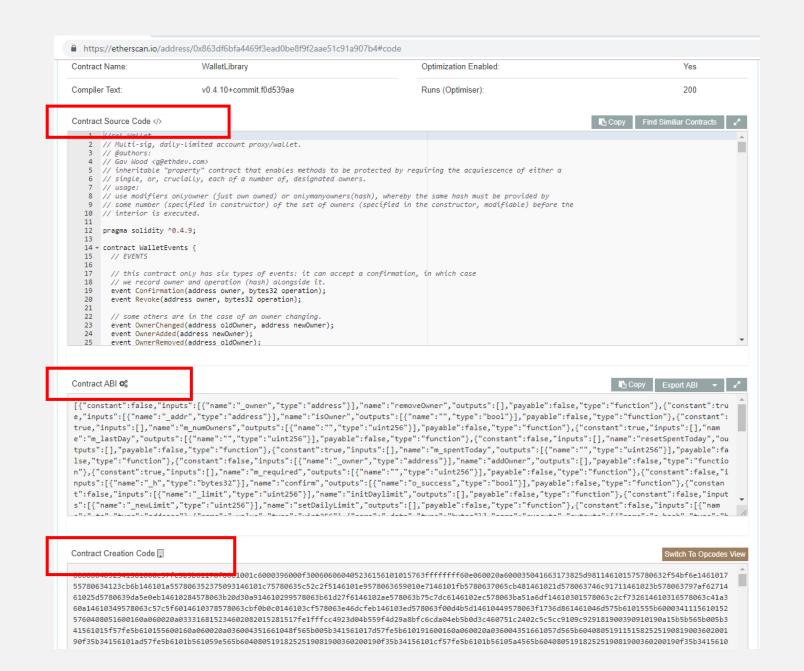
What are Ethereum Smart Contracts?

- Def: A Ethereum Smart Contract is a program that defines a general purpose computation which takes place on a blockchain or distributed ledger
- Term originally coin by Nick Szabo
- The smart contract code facilitates, verifies, and enforces the negotiation or performance of an agreement or transaction.
- While self-verifying, self-executing and tamper resistant smart contracts may contain bugs, from programmer errors to flaws in the compiler & toolchain to the platform itself.

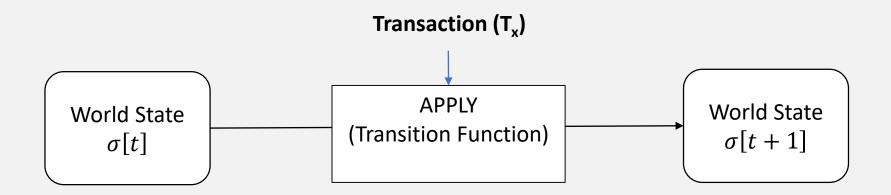
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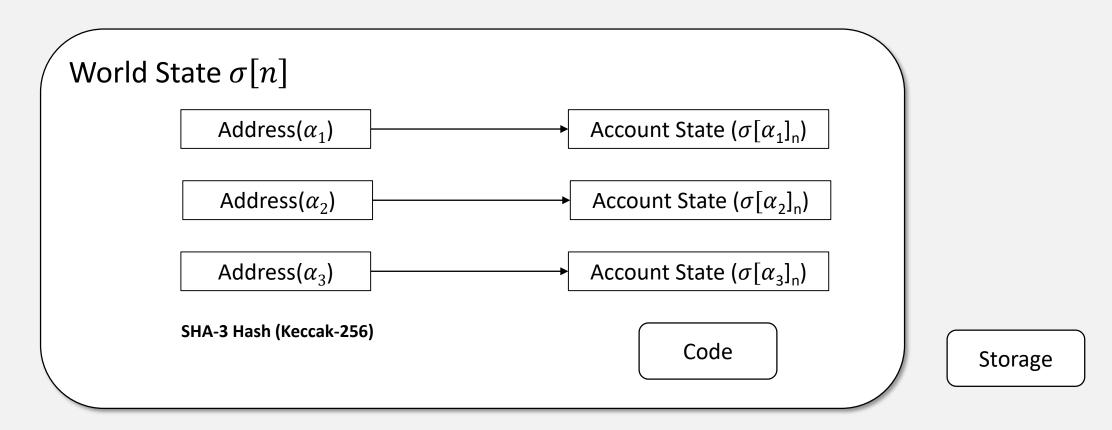
Ethereum is a Transaction Based State Machine



A transaction is a single cryptographically-signed instruction

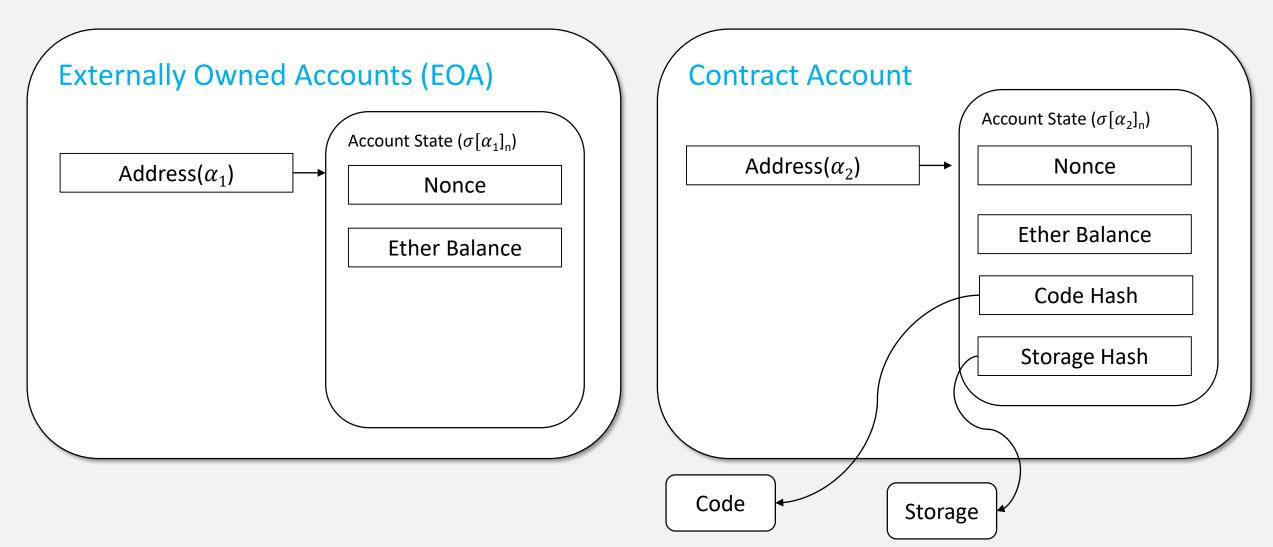
What is a World State (σ) ?

 It is the mapping between addresses and their account state at a given time



What's in an Account?

There's actually two types of accounts



A Word on Addresses

Externally Owned Account (EOA) Address (A)

$$A = B_{96..255}(KEC(PUBKEY(p_r)))$$
 Where p_r is the private key

Contract Accounts Address (A)

$$A = B_{96..255}(KEC(Sender\ Address, Nonce))$$

Account Type Summary

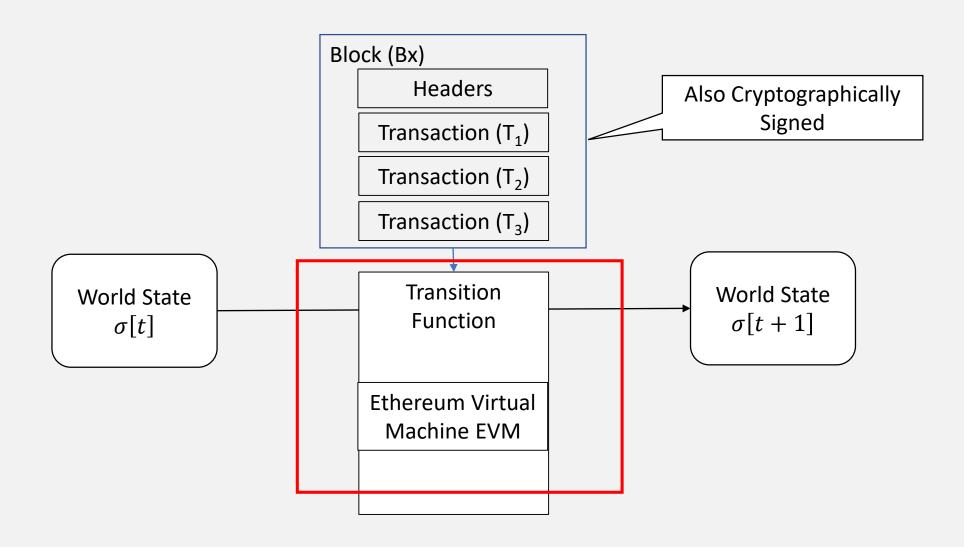
Externally Owned Accounts

- Have a nonce
- Have an Ether balance
- Can send transactions
 - Transfers
 - Messages to Contracts or other EOAs
- Only EOA can initiate transactions

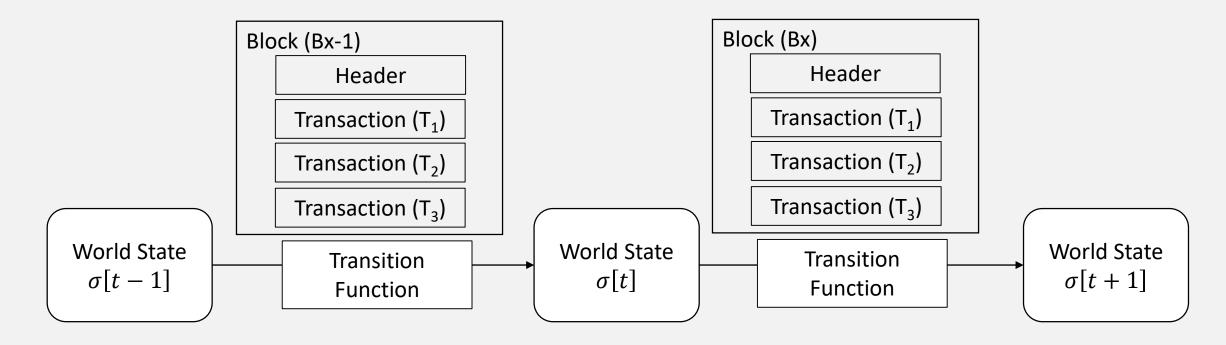
Contract Accounts

- Have a nonce
- Have an Ether balance
- Code hash
- Code execution is triggered by a transaction
- Can call other contracts

Multiple Transactions are Combined in a Block



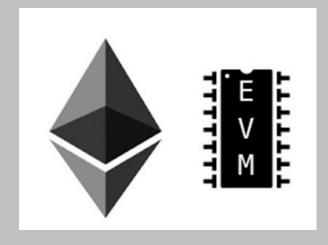
The Sequence of Blocks and World States



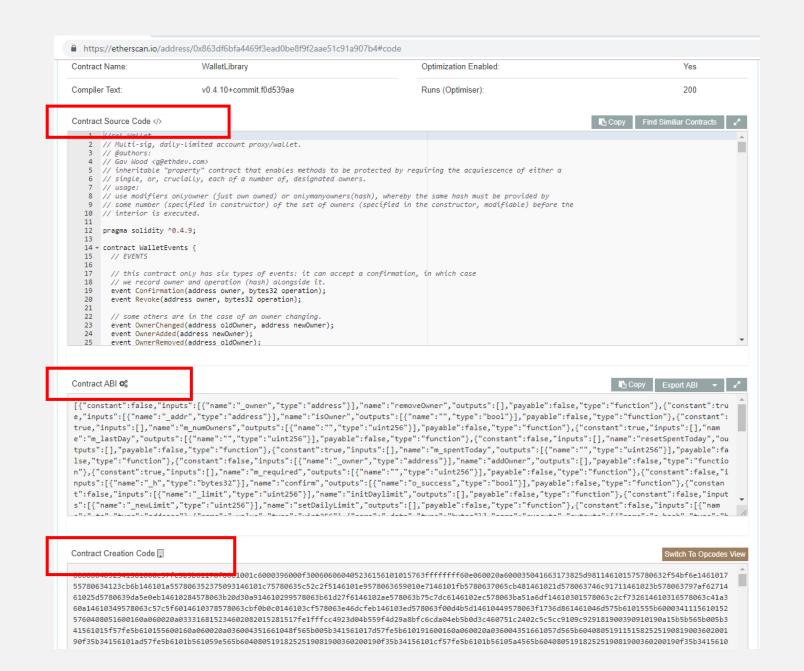
...is the Blockchain!

The Transition Function - Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM)

- Turing complete instruction set 2^8
 Op Codes, Fixed Length)
- 256-bit word machine
- 1024 element stack (of 256 bits each)
- 8-Bit opcodes
- No registers (purely stack based)
- Storage (persistent / per account)
- Memory (volatile)
- It's purpose is run EVM Byte Code (aka Smart Contracts)



0x00	STOP	0	0	Halts execution.
0x01	ADD	2	1	
0X01	ADD	2	1	Addition operation. $\mu'_{s}[0] \equiv \mu_{s}[0] + \mu_{s}[1]$
0x02	MUL	2	1	Multiplication operation.
				$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{s}}'[0] \equiv \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{s}}[0] \times \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{s}}[1]$
0x03	SUB	2	1	Subtraction operation.
				$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{s}}'[0] \equiv \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{s}}[0] - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\mathbf{s}}[1]$
0x04	DIV	2	1	Integer division operation.
				$\mu'_{s}[0] \equiv \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \mu_{s}[1] = 0 \\ [\mu_{s}[0] \div \mu_{s}[1]] & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$
				$\mu_{\mathbf{s}}[0] = \left[\mu_{\mathbf{s}}[0] \div \mu_{\mathbf{s}}[1] \right]$ otherwise
		_		On 1



What are Ethereum Smart Contracts?

- Smart Contracts are very similar to classes in C++ or Java
- All Smart Contracts are bound to an address and have an ether balance associated with them
- Smart Contracts have a constructor (no overloading though)
- Solidity supports inheritance and polymorphism
- Other objected orientated concepts like visibility (private, public), state variables and interfaces also all apply
- Compiled to EVM Bytecode and stored in the world state indexed by code hash
- Contracts can be killed (suicide)
- Usually written in Solidity. But other languages exist ex: LLL

Life Cycle of a Smart Contract

Transaction to Create

Issued by a EOA or another Smart Contract (contracts can create contracts)

Execution Driven by Transactions

- Receive transactions (calls, delegate calls)
- Perform actions
- Functions called from other functions

Suicide or "Freeze"

Every Contract is stored within the world state.

Contract Execution - Everything has a Price!

- Cost is measured in "GAS"
- The unit price of GAS in Ether is defined by the initiator of the transaction.
- Creating a contract costs GAS
- All execution steps cost GAS
- The more complex the execution the greater the cost
- Each transaction is provided a GAS stipend to begin execution
- Each block is subject to the GAS limit of 8 million.
 - Consider an expensive transaction like SSTORE (20000 Gas) means a block can write to store 400 times
 - Ethereum network can process about 25 transactions per second. Though multiple initiatives are underway to greatly increase that

Partial List of GAS costs

Operation Name	Gas Cost	Remark
step	1	default amount per execution cycle
stop	0	free
suicide	0	free
sha3	20	
sload	20	get from permanent storage
sstore	100	put into permanent storage
balance	20	
create	100	contract creation
call	20	initiating a read-only call
memory	1	every additional word when expanding memory
txdata	5	every byte of data or code for a transaction
transaction	500	base fee transaction
contract creation	53000	changed in homestead from 21000

Distributed Applications (dApps) (Simplified)





Contract(s) Backend

Web Gui Front End

An Example dApp - CryptoKitties!

WHO WOULD WIN?

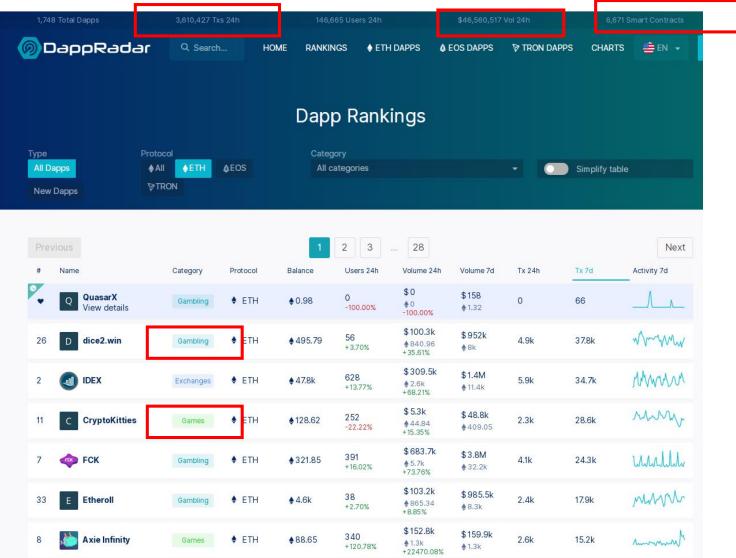


A decentralized network comprising over 25,000 active nodes



A Neopet

A recent Dapp Ranking



Source: http://dappradar.com

Tools – A Sampling

Tool	Descriptions	Comments
Metamask	A Browser Extension for Running dApps	Wallet Integration
Mist	Dedicated Dapp Browser	Wallet Integration
Ganache	Ethereum Personal Blockchain (Now you can have a blockchain too!)	"Ganache is a personal blockchain for Ethereum development you can use to deploy contracts, develop your applications, and run tests"
Truffle	Smart Contract Development Suite	Compile and Deploy Smart Contracts
Remix	IDE	Online
Geth	Ethereum Node Controller (can join main or multiple test and special purpose nets)	geth is the the command line interface for running a full ethereum node implemented in Go.

So, of course, all the past lessons in software security have been applied and Smart Contracts are now bug free...

Thanks for coming out!



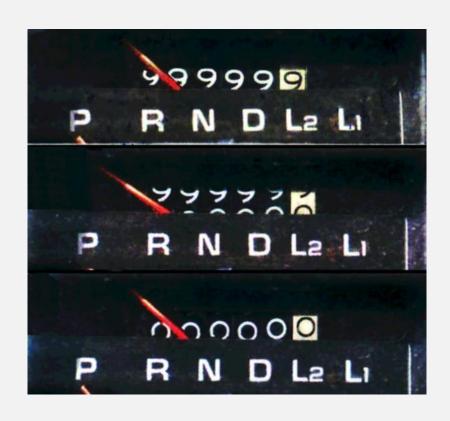
Everything old is new again!

- Integer Underflow / Overflow (SWC-101)
- Unprotected Sensitive Functions (Self-Destruct) (SWC-106)
- Exposed Private Data
- Bad Randomness (SWC-120)
- Re-Entrancy (SWC-107)
- Unsafe Authorization (SWC-115)
- Unsafe Contract Constructors (SWC-115)
- Out-Of-Bounds Write-Anywhere (SWC-124)
- Unprotected Withdrawal

There are currently 29 weakness patterns identified in Smart Contracts:

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integer_overflow

Integer Overflows have been with us...for a long, long time!





Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integer_overflow

Integer Overflow (Simple) - (SWC-101)

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.24;

contract OverflowAdd {
   uint256 private balance = 1;

   function add(uint256 deposit) public {
      balance = balance + deposit;
   }
```

Execution Run #1

balance = 1 add(100) balance = 101

Execution Run #2

balance = 2^256 add(1) balance = 0

Integer Overflow (Simple) - (SWC-101)

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.24;

contract Overflow_Add {
    uint256 private Balance = 1;

function AddSafe(uint256 deposit) public {
    uint256 newBalance = balance + deposit;
    require(newBalance >= deposit, "OVERFLOW DETECTED");
    balance += deposit;
}

balance += deposit;
}

Execution Run #2

Balance = 2^256

AddSafe(1)

Balance = 0 'Exception Thrown
}
```

Integer Overflow (More Complex) - (SWC-101)

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.5;
contract MegaTokenBank{
  mapping(address => uint256) public Ledger;
  uint256 constant PRICE PER TOKEN = 10000;
 function MegaTokenBank(address player) public payable {
   require(msg.value == 1);
 function buy(uint256 numTokens) public payable {
    require(msg.value == numTokens * PRICE PER TOKEN);
   Ledger[msg.sender] += numTokens;
 function sell(uint256 numTokens) public {
    require(balanceOf[msg.sender] >= numTokens);
    Ledger[msg.sender] -= numTokens;
   msg.sender.transfer(numTokens * PRICE PER TOKEN);
```

Problem:

Arithmetic Results in Integer Overflow

Solution

Ensure sanity checks are applied after arithmetic

Consider a library like SafeMath

(Source: https://github.com/OpenZeppelin/openzeppelin-solidity/tree/master/contracts/math)

Source: https://smartcontractsecurity.github.io/SWC-registry/docs/SWC-101

Exposed Private DataThere are no secrets on the blockchain

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.5;

contract SecretHolder {
    uint256 constant MySecretValue=
0xABCDEF1010;

    function GetSecret() public
payable {
        require(msg.sender = owner);
    }
}
```

Problem:

The **World State** is stored in each synced node.

Hence your secret value is available by manual inspection

Unprotected Self-Destruct (SWC-106)

```
contract SuicideMultiTxFeasible {
    uint256 private initialized = 0;
    uint256 public count = 1;
    function init() public {
        initialized = 1;
    function run(uint256 input) {
        if (initialized == 0) {
            return;
        selfdestruct(msg.sender);
```

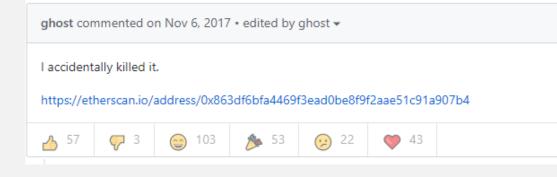
Problem:

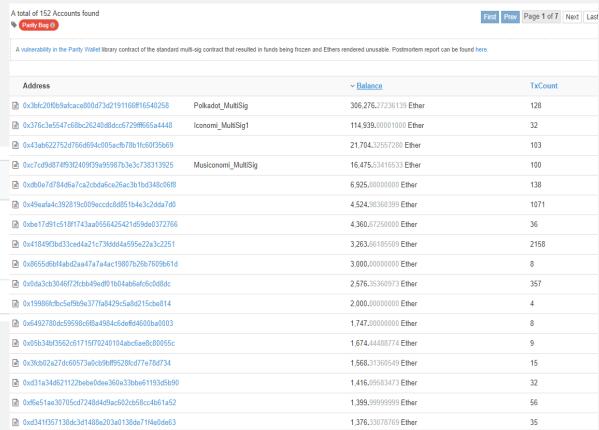
The self-destruct will destroy the contract and freeze any ether attached to the contract address.

Whether it's \$1 dollar or \$150 Million dollars

Unprotected Self-Destruct (SWC-106) - Parity

"anyone can kill your contract #6995" – devops199 https://github.com/paritytech/parity-ethereum/issues/6995





Roughly 150-300 Million remains "Frozen"

Bad Randomness (SWC-120)

On the blockchain nothing is truly random

```
* @source:
https://capturetheether.com/challenges/lotteries/quess-the-
random-number/
 * @author: Steve Marx
 * /
pragma solidity ^0.4.21;
contract GuessTheRandomNumberChallenge {
    uint8 answer;
    function GuessTheRandomNumberChallenge() public payable
        require(msq.value == 1 ether);
uint8(keccak256(block.blockhash(block.number - 1), now));
    function isComplete() public view returns (bool) {
        return address(this).balance == 0;
    function guess (uint8 n) public payable {
        require(msq.value == 1 ether);
        if (n == answer) {
            msg.sender.transfer(2 ether);
```

Problems:

Miners can manipulate block numbers.

PC are far faster than Ethereum and can "run ahead" of the block chain.

Source: https://smartcontractsecurity.github.io/SWC-registry/docs/SWC-120

Bad Randomness (SWC-120)

On the blockchain nothing is truly random

```
// Stage one commit
// Guess the modulo of the blockhash 20 blocks from your guess
    function guess(uint8 guess) public payable {
        require (msq.value == 1 ether);
        commitedGuess = quess;
        commitBlock = block.number;
        quesser = msq.sender;
    function recover() public {
     //This must be called after the guessed block and before
commitBlock+20's blockhash is unrecoverable
     require(block.number > commitBlock + 20 && commitBlock+20
> block.number - 256);
     require (quesser == msq.sender);
     if(uint(blockhash(commitBlock+20)) == commitedGuess){
       msg.sender.transfer(2 ether);
```

Solution:

Only generate the "random" number AFTER the guesses are committed.

This call RANDAO or Commit Pattern.

Source: https://github.com/randao/randao

Re-Entrancy (SWC-107)

```
* @source: http://blockchain.unica.it/projects/ethereum-
survey/attacks.html#simpledao
 * @author: Atzei N., Bartoletti M., Cimoli T
 * Modified by Josselin Feist
 * /
pragma solidity 0.4.24;
contract SimpleDAO {
 mapping (address => uint) public credit;
  function donate(address to) payable public{
   credit[to] += msq.value;
 function withdraw(uint amount) public{
    if (credit[msg.sender]>= amount) {
      require (msq.sender.call.value(amount)()); // Calls Sender Code
      credit[msg.sender] -=amount;
 function queryCredit(address to) view public returns(uint) {
   return credit[to];
```

Problem:

Ether is sent via call on the senders amount() function before it is actually deducted of the balance.

Withdraw can be called over and over again in amount() before the amount is deducted.

Re-Entrancy (SWC-107)

```
function withdraw(uint amount) public{
    if (credit[msg.sender]>= amount) {
        credit[msg.sender]-=amount; // Update Balance First
        require(msg.sender.call.value(amount)()); // Calls Sender
Code
    }
}
function queryCredit(address to) view public returns(uint) {
    return credit[to];
}
```

Solution:

Update value before calling sender contracts code.

Ideally use send() or transfer() as opposed to calling the senders code

The DAO Hack – Re-Entrancy

Contract Internal Transactions :: For Address 0x304a554a310c7e546dfe434669c62820b7d83490						Home / Address / Internal Transactions
A total of 14166 Internal Transactions found						First Prev Page 2 of 284 Next Last
Block	Age	ParentTxHash	Туре	From	То	Value
1720245	950 days 8 hrs ago	✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 ⑤	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 ⑤	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether
		✓ 0xa348da60799bff3 •	call	0xbb9bc244d79812	0x304a554a310c7e	258.056564760381731 Ether

- Abused "split" function of DAO contract
- \$3.6 million Ether stolen
- \$420 million to date
- Due to the way the contract was structured a 27 day hold was in place
- Community majority (89%)
 voted to "Hard Fork" (creating
 the divide between Ether and
 Ether Classic)
- Actors who stole the ether were actively involved in trying to the influence the community to <u>not</u> hard fork

Source: https://etherscan.io

Unsafe Authorization (SWC-115)

```
contract MyContract {
   address owner;
   function MyContract() public {
      owner = msg.sender; // Properly set in constructor
   }
   function sendTo(address receiver, uint amount) public
   require(tx.origin == owner); // Improper Check
   receiver.transfer(amount);
   }
}
```

Problem:

A crafted blockheader with chosen tx.origin may be mined

If the block is "mined" a an actor may take over the contract then.

Unsafe Authorization (SWC-115)

```
contract MyContract {
   address owner;
   function MyContract() public {
      owner = msg.sender; // Properly set in constructor
   }
   function sendTo(address receiver, uint amount) public
   require(msg.sender == owner); // Improper Check
   receiver.transfer(amount);
   }
}
```

Solution:

Use msg.sender to validate who sent the message

Unsafe Contract Constructors (SWC-118)

```
* @source: https://github.com/trailofbits/not-so-smart-
contracts/blob/master/wrong constructor name/incorrect constructor.sol
 * @author: Ben Perez
 * Modified by Gerhard Wagner
pragma solidity 0.4.24;
contract Missing{
    address private owner;
    modifier onlyowner {
        require(msg.sender==owner);
    function missing()
        public
        owner = msg.sender;
    function () payable {}
    function withdraw()
        public
        onlyowner
       owner.transfer(this.balance);
```

Problem:

By mis-spelling the constructor name a default constructor is auto-generated without the expected checks.

Unsafe Contract Constructors (SWC-118)

```
* @source: https://github.com/trailofbits/not-so-smart-
contracts/blob/master/wrong constructor name/incorrect constructor.sol
 * @author: Ben Perez
 * Modified by Gerhard Wagner
pragma solidity 0.4.24;
contract Missing{
    address private owner;
    modifier onlyowner {
        require (msg.sender==owner);
    function missing()
        public
        owner = msq.sender;
    function () payable {}
    function withdraw()
        public
        onlyowner
       owner.transfer(this.balance);
```

Solution:

Making sure the names match in spelling and case. Review output from static analysis tools and compiler.

Out-Of-Bounds Write-Anywhere (SWC-124)

```
function UpdateLedgerAtIndex(uint idx, uint entry) public {
     Ledger[idx] = entry;
}
```

Problem:

Without appropriate bounds check index offsets called directly or arrays will write into nearby storage.

Often this includes over-writing the owner variable potentially changing the owner of the contract or modify other information on the stack.

Will Smart Contract Control Flow Exploitation become a thing? (We haven't seen the first buffer overflow yet).

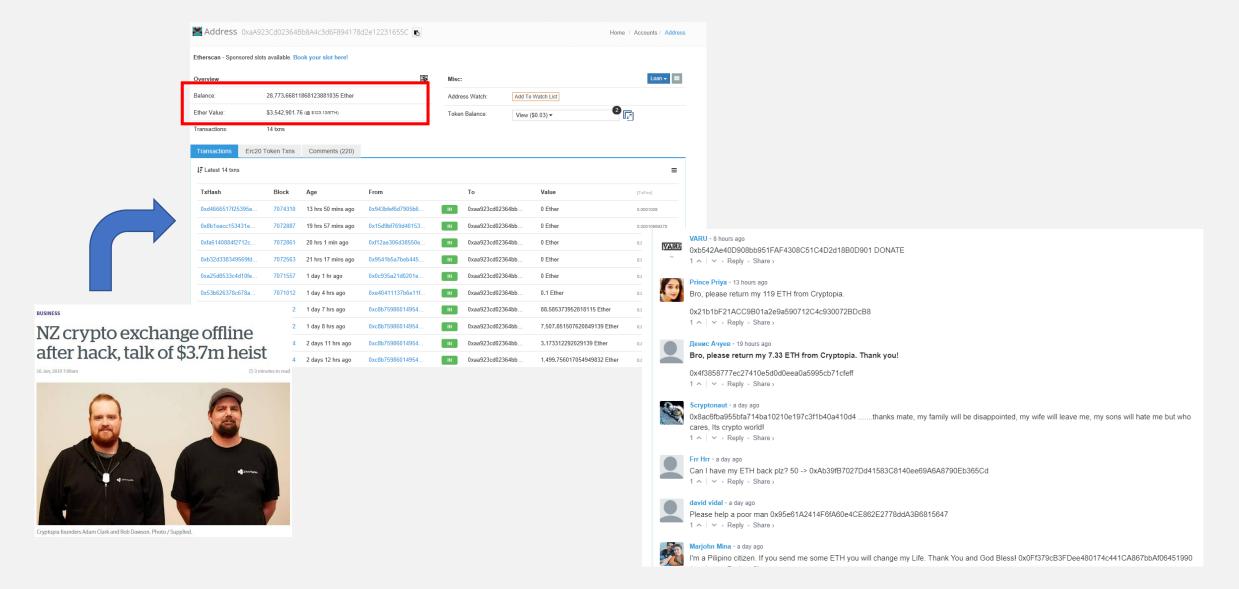
Out-Of-Bounds Write-Anywhere (SWC-124)

```
function UpdateLedgerAtIndex(uint idx, uint entry) public {
    require(idx < Ledger.length);
    Ledger[idx] = entry;
}</pre>
```

Solution:

Ensure adequate bounds checking

And of course, there's exchange hacks!



Honey Pots

Contracts that appear vulnerable but are not

- Just have to send a little bit of Ether in... ©
- Use of anti-disassembly tricks to hinder analysis

Great talk on research to detect such contracts

- Smart Contracts honeypots for profit (and probably fun) Ben Schimdt
- Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lj0J7_a1AVQ

Security Tools

IDE

Remix (online IDE) - https://remix.ethereum.org/

Smart Contract Static Analysis

• Slither - https://github.com/trailofbits/slither

Smart Contract Dynamic Analysis (Symbolic Execution)

- Mithril Classic https://github.com/ConsenSys/mythril-classic
- Manticore https://github.com/trailofbits/manticore

Smart Contract Dynamic Analysis (Fuzzing)

• Echidna - https://github.com/trailofbits/echidna

To The Future

- Smart Contract development is still very new
- Increased use of design patterns in Smart Contract development to address challenges like upgrading
- Educate developers on types of weaknesses
- Better tooling
- Use of standards when implementing Tokens (ERC* series tokens)

References

1) Smart Contract Weakness Classification

https://smartcontractsecurity.github.io/SWC-registry/

2) Trail Of Bits – Not So Smart Contracts

https://github.com/trailofbits/not-so-smart-contracts

3) Smashing Ethereum Smart Contracts for Fun and ACTUAL Profit

https://github.com/b-mueller/smashing-smart-contracts

4) Smart Contract Best Practices

https://consensys.github.io/smart-contract-best-practices/

5) Ethereum Yellow and Beige Papers

Yellow Paper - http://gavwood.com/paper.pdf

Beige Paper - https://github.com/chronaeon/beigepaper

Challenges!

1) Capture The Ether (By Steve Marx @smarx)

https://capturetheether.com/challenges/

2) Security Innovation Blockchain CTF (By Security Innovation)

https://blockchain-ctf.securityinnovation.com/

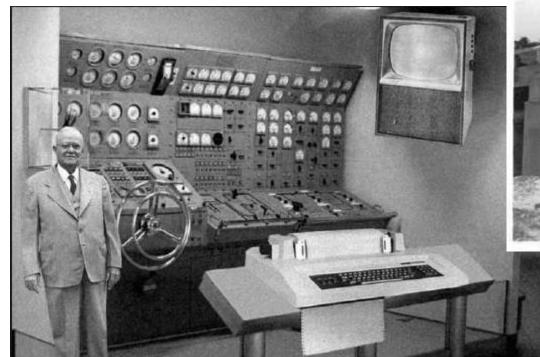
3) EtherNaut CTF (@ZeppelinOrg)

https://ethernaut.zeppelin.solutions/

Thank you!

- Thank you to Judy (@daarkprincess) for bringing the cookies!
- Thank you to OWASP Toronto and George Brown for hosting!
- Thank you to everyone for attending!

Questions?



Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 30 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.



I'm listening...