// HALBORN

Solana Labs Solana v1.11.3 v1.14.1

Solana Program Security Audit

Prepared by: Halborn

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Visit: Halborn.com

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# DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

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1.0	1.0 Remediation Plan		Guillermo Alvarez
1.1 Remediation Plan Review		01/05/2023	Isabel Burruezo
1.2	1.2 Remediation Plan Review		Piotr Cielas
1.3 Remediation Plan Review		01/05/2023	Gabi Urrutia

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# EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

# 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Solana is an open-source project implementing a new, high-performance, permissionless blockchain. Changes in scope affected several modules, the most important ones are briefly described. Sealevel, Solana's parallel smart contracts runtime, is a concurrent transaction processor. Transactions specify their data dependencies upfront, and dynamic memory allocation is explicit. By separating program code from the state it operates on, the runtime is able to choreograph concurrent access. Gulf Stream the transaction forwarding protocol, which is Solana's mempoolless solution for forwarding and storing transactions before processing them. The Gossip Service acts as a gateway to nodes in the control plane. Validators use the service to ensure information is available to all other nodes in a cluster. TPU (Transaction Processing Unit) is the logic of the validator responsible for block production.

Halborn conducted a security audit on the Solana v1.11.3 to v1.14.1 changes beginning on September 19th, 2022 and ending on November 21st, 2022 . The security assessment was scoped to the implementation of the updates up to v1.14.1 provided in the solana GitHub repository. Commit hashes and further details can be found in the **Scope** section of this report.

# 1.2 AUDIT SUMMARY

The team at Halborn was provided nine weeks for the engagement and assigned two full-time security engineers to audit the security of the code in scope . The security engineers are blockchain and smart contract security experts with advanced penetration testing, program hacking, and deep knowledge of multiple blockchain protocols.

The purpose of this audit is to:

- Ensure that program functions operate as intended
- Identify potential security issues with the programs

In summary, Halborn did not identify any security risk affecting the new updates introduced from version 1.11.3 to version 1.14.1. An informational finding was presented and acknowledged by the Solana team.

# 1.3 TEST APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

Halborn performed a combination of a manual review of the source code and automated security testing to balance efficiency, timeliness, practicality, and accuracy in regard to the scope of the program audit. While manual testing is recommended to uncover flaws in business logic, processes, and implementation; automated testing techniques help enhance coverage of programs and can quickly identify items that do not follow security best practices.

The following phases and associated tools were used throughout the term of the audit:

- Research into the architecture, purpose, and use of the platform.
- Manual program source code review to identify business logic issues.
- Mapping out possible attack vectors
- Thorough assessment of safety and usage of critical Rust variables and functions in scope that could led to arithmetic vulnerabilities.
- Finding unsafe Rust code usage (cargo-geiger)
- Scanning dependencies for known vulnerabilities (cargo audit).
- Local runtime testing (solana-test-framework)

# RISK METHODOLOGY:

Vulnerabilities or issues observed by Halborn are ranked based on the risk assessment methodology by measuring the **LIKELIHOOD** of a security incident and the **IMPACT** should an incident occur. This framework works for communicating the characteristics and impacts of technology vulnerabilities.

The quantitative model ensures repeatable and accurate measurement while enabling users to see the underlying vulnerability characteristics that were used to generate the Risk scores. For every vulnerability, a risk level will be calculated on a scale of 5 to 1 with 5 being the highest likelihood or impact.

#### RISK SCALE - LIKELIHOOD

- 5 Almost certain an incident will occur.
- 4 High probability of an incident occurring.
- 3 Potential of a security incident in the long term.
- 2 Low probability of an incident occurring.
- 1 Very unlikely issue will cause an incident.

#### RISK SCALE - IMPACT

- 5 May cause devastating and unrecoverable impact or loss.
- 4 May cause a significant level of impact or loss.
- 3 May cause a partial impact or loss to many.
- 2 May cause temporary impact or loss.
- 1 May cause minimal or un-noticeable impact.

The risk level is then calculated using a sum of these two values, creating a value of 10 to 1 with 10 being the highest level of security risk.

CRITICAL	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	INFORMATIONAL
----------	------	--------	-----	---------------

- 10 CRITICAL
- 9 8 HIGH
- **7 6** MEDIUM
- **5 4** LOW
- 3 1 VERY LOW AND INFORMATIONAL

# 1.4 SCOPE

# Code repositories:

- 1. Solana
- Repository: solana
- Commits v1.11.3-v1.14.1:

start: 9798e8b1f5ba774ff700a2136f7a5531f6f4dfb9end: fd5df1cf25999a50c6c2616340f95c2115b585df

# Out-of-scope:

- third-party libraries and dependencies
- financial-related attacks

IMPACT

# 2. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY & FINDINGS OVERVIEW

CRITICAL	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	INFORMATIONAL
0	0	0	0	1

# LIKELIHOOD

(HAL-01)

SECURITY ANALYSIS	RISK LEVEL	REMEDIATION DATE
(HAL-01) POSSIBLE RUST PANICS DUE TO UNSAFE UNWRAP USAGE	Informational	ACKNOWLEDGED

# FINDINGS & TECH DETAILS

# 3.1 (HAL-01) POSSIBLE RUST PANICS DUE TO UNSAFE UNWRAP USAGE -INFORMATIONAL

#### Description:

The use of helper methods in Rust, such as unwrap, is allowed in dev and testing environment because those methods are supposed to throw an error (also known as panic!) when called on Option::None or a Result which is not Ok. However, keeping unwrap functions in production environment is considered bad practice because they may lead to program crashes, which are usually accompanied by insufficient or misleading error messages.

#### Code Location:

Note: only unwraps introduced by the changes in scope are listed, justified usages such as in tests were excluded.

```
Listing 1
   ./banks-server/src/banks_server.rs:110
                                                  .unwrap();
   ./bucket_map/src/bucket.rs:283
                                          self.index.allocate(

    elem_ix, elem_uid, is_resizing).unwrap();

   ./bucket_map/src/bucket_storage.rs:161
                                                    hdr.as_mut()
./core/src/broadcast_stage/broadcast_utils.rs:36
□ ShredData::capacity(/*merkle_proof_size*/ None).unwrap() as u64;
   ./core/src/broadcast_stage/standard_broadcast_run.rs:72
   ./core/src/broadcast_stage/standard_broadcast_run.rs:101
                                                            let (
./core/src/broadcast_stage/standard_broadcast_run.rs:120 Shredder
::new(slot, parent_slot, reference_tick, self.shred_version)
./core/src/cluster_info_vote_listener.rs:278
                                                .unwrap();
   ./core/src/cluster_info_vote_listener.rs:392 .unwrap()
   ./core/src/cluster_info_vote_listener.rs:396
                                               .unwrap()
   ./core/src/ledger_cleanup_service.rs:98
                                          .unwrap();
```

```
./core/src/ledger_cleanup_service.rs:144
                                                                                        for (i, (slot, meta))

    in blockstore.slot_meta_iterator(0).unwrap().enumerate() {

    ./core/src/ledger_cleanup_service.rs:244
                                                                                                     *blockstore.

    lowest_cleanup_slot.write().unwrap() = lowest_cleanup_slot;

    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:102
                                                                                .unwrap();
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:1717
                                                                               let mut w_replay_stats =

¬ replay_stats.write().unwrap();
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:1718
                                                                                let mut w_replay_progress =

    replay_progress.write().unwrap();

    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2253
                                                                            let mut progress_lock =

¬ progress.write().unwrap();

    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2265
                                                                            let bank = &bank_forks.read()

    .unwrap().get(bank_slot).unwrap();
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2349
                                                                                let bank = &bank_forks.read
./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2427
                                                                                let bank = &bank_forks.read
./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2436
                                                                                    bank_forks.read().unwrap().
→ root(),
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2462
                                                                                               let r_replay_stats
./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2464

¬ r_replay_progress = replay_progress.read().unwrap();

□ r_replay_progress.read().unwrap();

□ r_replay_progress.read().unwrap().unwrap();

□ r_replay_progress.read().unwrap().unwrap();

□ r_replay_progress.read().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap().unwrap()
     ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2533
□ block_metadata_notifier = block_metadata_notifier.read().unwrap();
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2601
                                                                                    let active_bank_slots =

    bank_forks.read().unwrap().active_bank_slots();

    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2612
                                                                                                       .unwrap()
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2614
                                                                                                        .unwrap()
    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:2901
                                                                                                 &bank_forks.read()
./core/src/replay_stage.rs:3127
                                                                                       .get(

    current_leader_slot.unwrap())

    ./core/src/replay_stage.rs:3272
                                                                              .unwrap()
    ./core/src/retransmit_stage.rs:369
                                                                                      .unwrap();
    ./core/src/serve_repair.rs:493
                                                                        let root_bank = self.bank_forks

    .read().unwrap().root_bank();
    ./core/src/serve_repair.rs:599
                                                                          .unwrap()
    ./core/src/serve_repair.rs:1192 slot = meta.parent_slot.unwrap();
    ./core/src/snapshot_packager_service.rs:54
                                                                                            renice_this_thread(
./core/src/system_monitor_service.rs:218 .map(|(label, val)| (

    label.to_string(), val.parse::<u64>().unwrap()))

    ./core/src/system_monitor_service.rs:376
                                                                                             .unwrap();
```

```
./core/src/tpu.rs:125
                            Some(bank_forks.read().unwrap().

    get_vote_only_mode_signal()),
  ./core/src/tpu.rs:170
                           .unwrap();
  ./core/src/tpu.rs:184
                           .unwrap();
  ./core/src/validator.rs:307
                               .unwrap(),
  ./core/src/validator.rs:713
                                 *start_progress.write().unwrap() =
./core/src/validator.rs:1614
                                       let previous_start_process
./core/src/validator.rs:1615
                                       *self.start_progress.write
./core/src/validator.rs:1627
                                                      let slot =
bank_forks.read().unwrap().working_bank().slot();
  ./core/src/validator.rs:1628

    start_progress.write().unwrap() =
  ./core/src/validator.rs:1633
                                              .unwrap();
  ./core/src/validator.rs:1909
                                     let bank = bank_forks.read()
./core/src/validator.rs:1947
                                  *start_progress.write().unwrap()
  ./core/src/verified_vote_packets.rs:112
                                           let vote_account_key
./core/src/verified_vote_packets.rs:225
                                           let slot = vote.

    last_voted_slot().unwrap();
  ./core/src/verified_vote_packets.rs:283

    validator_votes.remove(&smallest_key).unwrap();
  ./core/src/voting_service.rs:52
                                       let rooted_bank =

    bank_forks.read().unwrap().root_bank().clone();
  ./banks-server/src/banks_server.rs:110
                                            .unwrap();
  ./gossip/src/cluster_info.rs:1687
                                        .unwrap();
  ./gossip/src/cluster_info.rs:2565
                                        .unwrap();
  ./gossip/src/cluster_info.rs:2580
                                            Builder::new().name(

    thread_name).spawn(run_consume).unwrap()

  ./ledger/src/bank_forks_utils.rs:149
                                       .unwrap()
  ./ledger/src/bigtable_upload.rs:197
                                       .unwrap()
  ./ledger/src/blockstore.rs:95
                                    .unwrap();
  ./ledger/src/blockstore.rs:100
                                     .unwrap();
  ./ledger/src/shredder.rs:24
                                  .unwrap();
  ./ledger/src/shredder.rs:81
                                  .unwrap();
  ./rpc/src/rpc_service.rs:387
                                 .on_thread_start(move ||

    renice_this_thread(rpc_niceness_adj).unwrap())

  ./rpc/src/rpc_service.rs:485 renice_this_thread(rpc_niceness_adj)
```

```
./rpc/src/rpc_subscriptions.rs:574
                                      let blockstore = Blockstore
./runtime/src/accounts_background_service.rs:248
                                                     ).unwrap();
  ./runtime/src/accounts_db.rs:1713
                                    .unwrap()
  ./runtime/src/accounts_db.rs:1959
                                         .unwrap(),
  ./runtime/src/accounts_db.rs:3376
                                         let mut list =

    slot_stores.write().unwrap();
  ./runtime/src/accounts_index.rs:1361
                                          lock.as_ref().unwrap().

    get_internal(pubkey, |entry| {
  ./runtime/src/bank/sysvar_cache.rs:8
                                          let mut sysvar_cache =

    self.sysvar_cache.write().unwrap();

  ./runtime/src/bank_client.rs:317
                                      .unwrap();
  ./runtime/src/hardened_unpack.rs:341
                                          sender.send(

    entry_path_buf).unwrap();
  ./runtime/src/in_mem_accounts_index.rs:1056
                                                let mut
possible_evictions = self.possible_evictions.write().unwrap();
  ./runtime/src/in_mem_accounts_index.rs:1067
                                                 let map = self.

    map_internal.read().unwrap();

  ./runtime/src/in_mem_accounts_index.rs:1089

    possible_evictions.get_possible_evictions().unwrap()

  ./runtime/src/read_only_accounts_cache.rs:114
                                                let (pubkey,
./runtime/src/snapshot_utils.rs:1572
                                      let open_file = || File::

    open(&snapshot_tar).unwrap();
  ./runtime/src/snapshot_utils.rs:1577
                                              zstd::stream::read
./runtime/src/snapshot_utils.rs:1580
                                              SharedBuffer::new(
./runtime/src/verify_accounts_hash_in_background.rs:45
                                                         *self.

    thread.lock().unwrap() = Some(start());

  ./runtime/src/verify_accounts_hash_in_background.rs:64
                                                        let mut

    lock = self.thread.lock().unwrap();

  ./runtime/src/verify_accounts_hash_in_background.rs:68
                                                        let

    result = lock.take().unwrap().join().unwrap();
```

#### Risk Level:

Likelihood - 1 Impact - 1

#### Recommendation:

It is recommended not to use the unwrap function in the production environment because its use causes panic! and may crash any affected module, program or in the worst case the runtime without verbose error messages. Crashing the system will result in a loss of availability and, in some cases, even private information stored in the state. Some alternatives are possible, such as propagating the error with ? instead of unwrapping, or using the error-chain crate for errors.

## Remediation Plan:

ACKNOWLEDGED: The Solana team acknowledged this issue.

# MANUAL TESTING

In the manual testing phase, the following scenarios were simulated. The scenarios listed below were selected based on the severity of the vulnerabilities Halborn was testing the program for.

# 4.1 LOSS OF FUNDS

#### Description:

Commit 48862c575a1f62f2d010d7568cbe0279b2e51f62 introduced a new Redelegate instruction to the pre-existing Stake program. When a stake account is redelegated, the delegated lamports from the source stake account are transferred to a new stake account. The new instruction was tested to ensure that accounts were properly validated, staked lamports cannot be locked in edge-cases and implemented business logic cannot be bypassed.

#### Results:

```
Executing task: cargo test --package solana-stake-program --lib -- stake_instruction::tests::hal_test_redelegate --nocapture

Compiling solana-stake-program v1.14.1 (/Users/guillermo/halborn/solana-pr-v1.14.1/programs/stake)
Finished test [unoptimized + debuginfo] target(s) in 2.18s
Running unittests src/lib.rs (target/debug/deps/solana_stake_program-934dcf6f164b3c9b)

running 2 tests
To redelegate without staker signature
Is expected result 'InstructionError::MissingRequiredSignature': true
To redelegate without staker signature
Is expected result 'InstructionError::MissingRequiredSignature': true
To redelegate with new invalid vote account
Is expected result 'InstructionError::AccountAlreadyInitialized)': true
To redelegate with new invalid vote account
Is expected result 'InstructionError::AccountAlreadyInitialized)': true
```

No code vulnerabilities were identified.

# 4.2 CONSENSUS

#### Description:

Commit 8d69e8d44772d2c2be77e99cca8b685e2ce4ba66 introduced CompactVoteStateUpdate and CompactUpdateVoteStateSwitch instructions. Several tests were performed to ensure that malicious compacted vote state updates did not have any impact over the consensus mechanism.

#### Results:

No code vulnerabilities were identified.

# 4.3 BUSINESS PROCESS DESIGN

#### Description:

Commit bf225bae738c071bd02ec79ec0b8ddfc1679a766 implements additional restrictions over RentPaying accounts. Before RentPaying accounts could continue as rent paying unless they were resized, in such case they would need to be rent exempt. However, there was still an edge-case that was possible, RentPaying accounts stay as rent paying if they were credited below the rent-exempt threshold. We performed several tests to ensure that the implemented workflow could not be circumvented.

#### Results:

```
halborn/solana-pr-v1.14.1 [ver1.14.1e] » export RUST_LOG=trace && cargo test —package solana-runtime —lib — account_rent_state::tests::hal_test_rent_paying —exact —nocapture Compiling solana-runtime v1.14.1 (/lysers/guillermo/halborn/solana-pr-v1.14.1/runtime)
Finished test [unoptimized + debuginfol target(s) in 3.998
Running unittests src/lib.rs (target/debug/deps/solana_runtime-348aa2a2gecc9a70)
running 1 test
Transition with Account resize and lamports balance change
Is Rent Paying allowed: false
test account_rent_state::tests::hal_test_rent_paying ... ok
test result: ok. 1 passed; 0 failed; 0 ignored; 0 measured; 802 filtered out; finished in 0.00s
```

No code vulnerabilities were identified.

# 4.4 DENIAL OF SERVICE

#### Description:

In pull request 26851 it was identified that the runtime may misidentify stake accounts as newly created accounts and delete them causing the bank to crash. This and similar scenarios we're tested to ensure the fix

resolved the issue.

#### Results:

```
running 1 test
Rent collected from: SnsXTGj4nbyLFFVxVZzQ81vMwRrjjZHXwjxnryxgiuk
Rent not collected from: AKevGDK2kUxtoFvou6RoKgvqGPrWLnR7WHHtih38y7AB
Rent not collected from: B9Vw8R42AwnkTD7FcQdAa8u82ox7WzAaVzkihq9zqgu9
Rent not collected from: FZkBd8BG2NcVFVAnbNkF7ixsYdTA2zjaeoWKmKPtF9ZW
test accounts::tests::halborn_collect_accounts_to_store_not_preserve_rent_epoch ... ok
test result: ok. 1 passed; 0 failed; 0 ignored; 0 measured; 805 filtered out; finished in 0.01s

* Terminal will be reused by tasks, press any key to close it.
```

No code vulnerabilities were identified.

# AUTOMATED TESTING

# 5.1 AUTOMATED ANALYSIS

## Description:

Halborn used automated security scanners to assist with the detection of well-known security issues and vulnerabilities. Among the tools used was cargo-audit, a security scanner for vulnerabilities reported to the Rust-Sec Advisory Database. All vulnerabilities published in https://crates.io are stored in a repository named The RustSec Advisory Database. cargo audit is a human-readable version of the advisory database which performs a scanning on Cargo.lock. Security Detections are only in scope. All vulnerabilities shown here were already disclosed in the above report. However, to better assist the developers maintaining this code, the auditors are including the output with the dependencies tree, and this is included in the cargo audit output to better know the dependencies affected by unmaintained and vulnerable crates.

## Results:

ID	package	Short Description	
RUSTSEC-2020-0071 time		Potential segfault in the time crate	
RUSTSEC-2021-0139	ansi_term	ansi_term is unmaintained	
RUSTSEC-2020-0016	net2	net2 crate has been deprecated	
RUSTSEC-2021-0127	serde_cbor	serde_cbor is unmaintained	

# 5.2 UNSAFE RUST CODE DETECTION

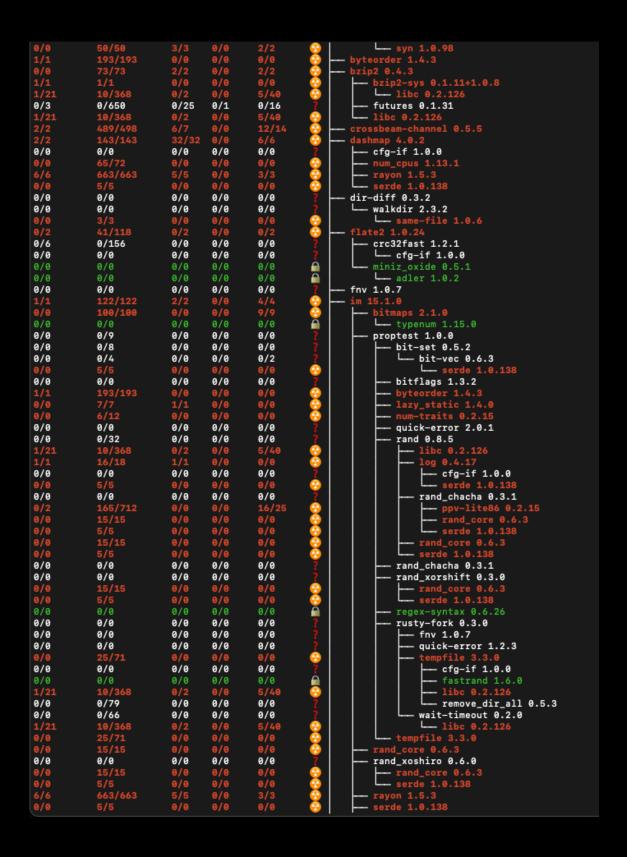
## Description:

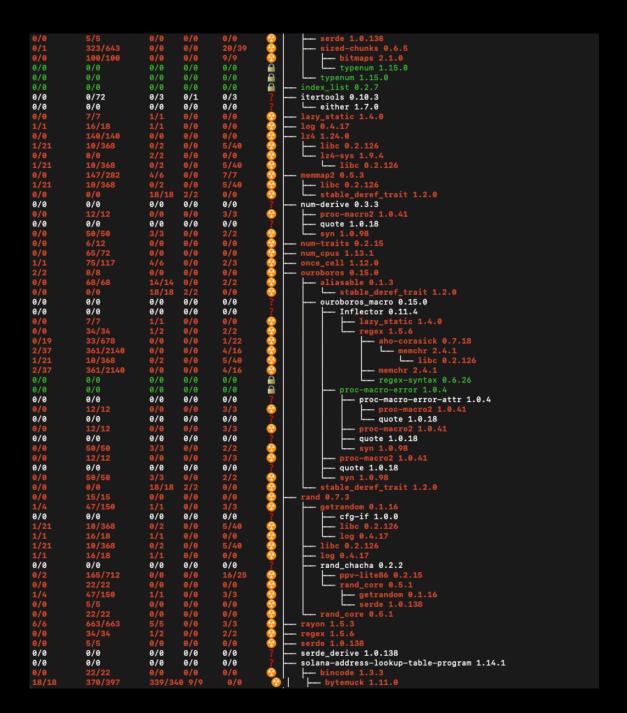
Halborn used automated security scanners to assist with the detection of well-known security issues and vulnerabilities. Among the tools used was cargo-geiger, a security tool that lists statistics related to the usage of unsafe Rust code in a core Rust codebase and all its dependencies.

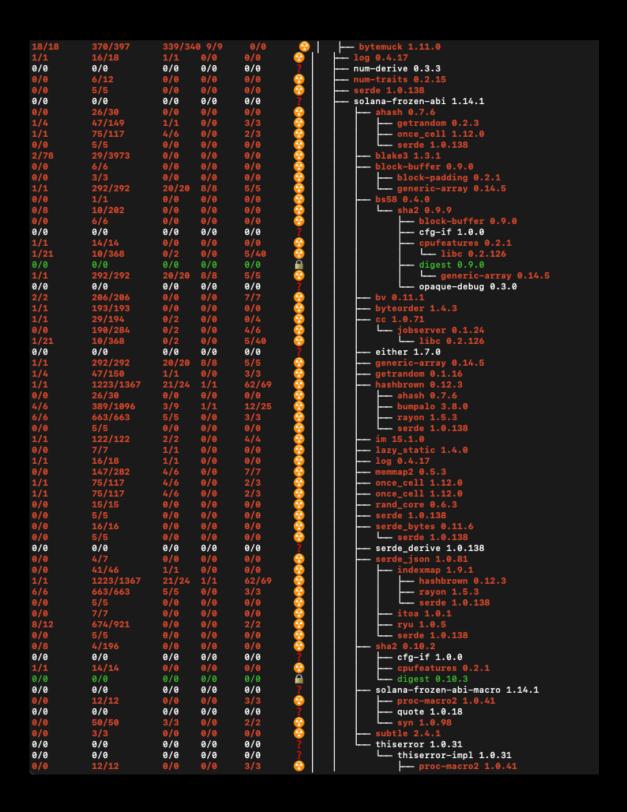
## Results:

Runtime



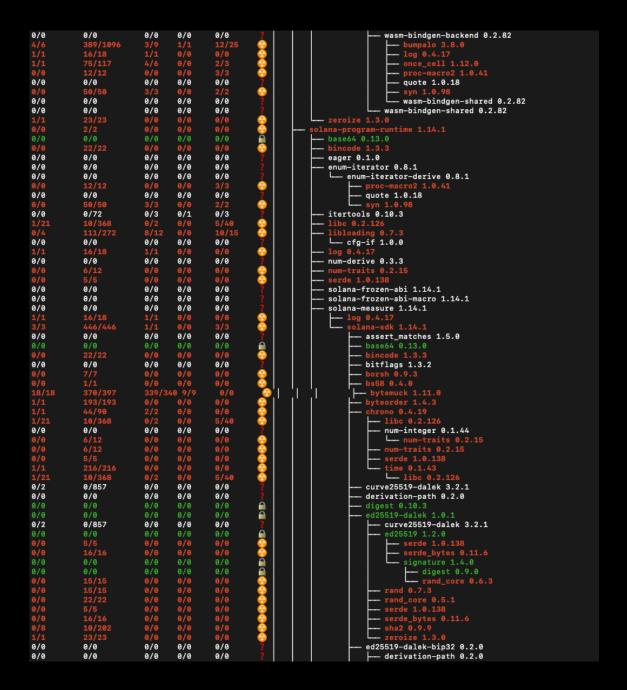


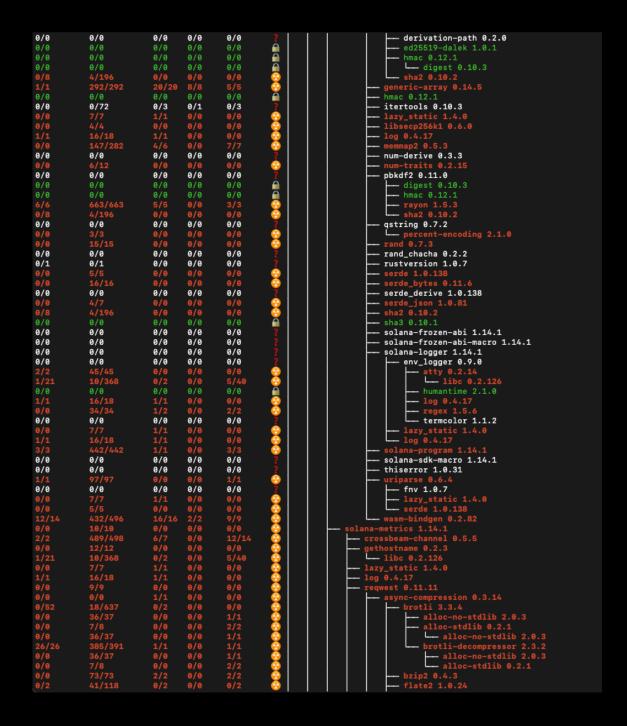


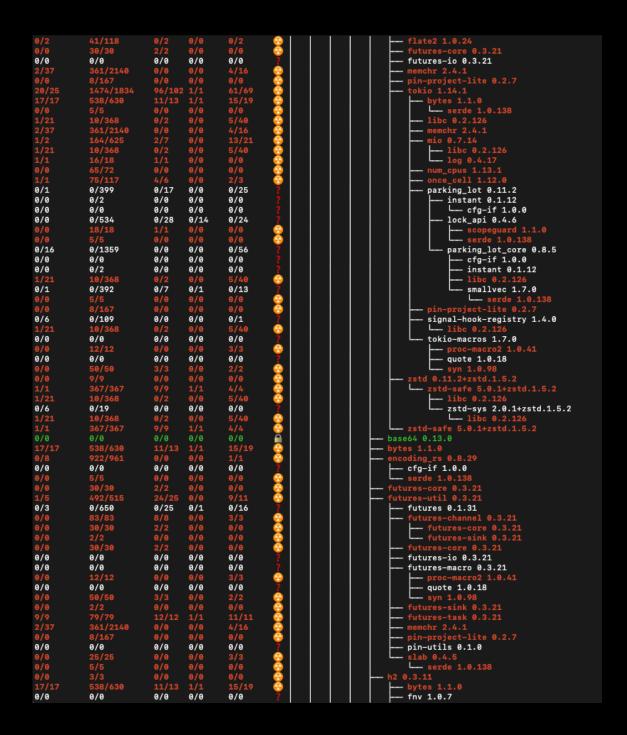


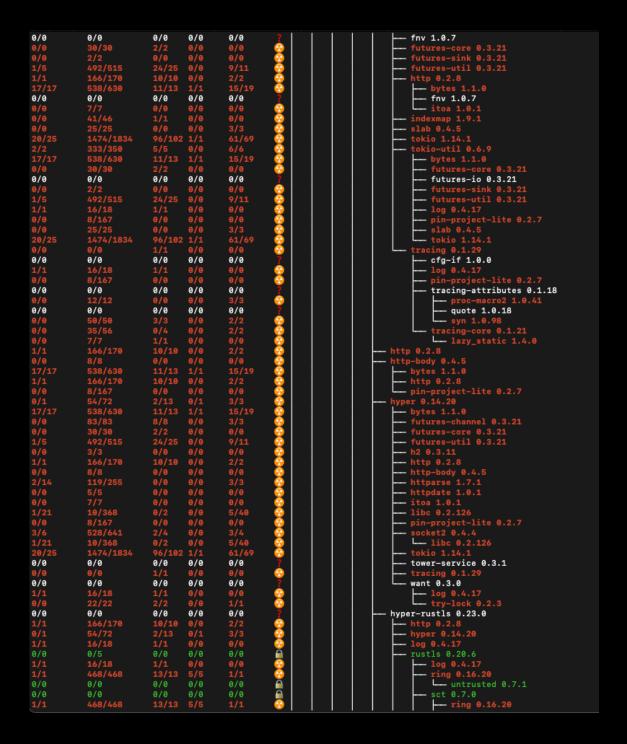


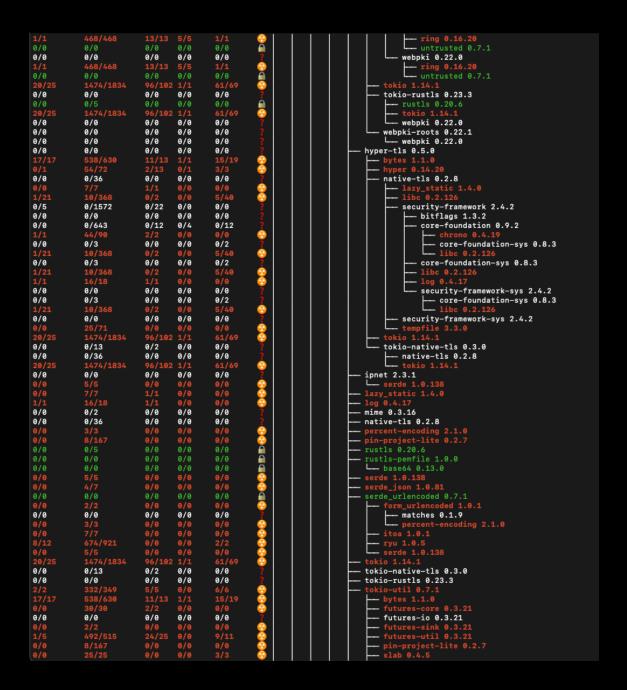


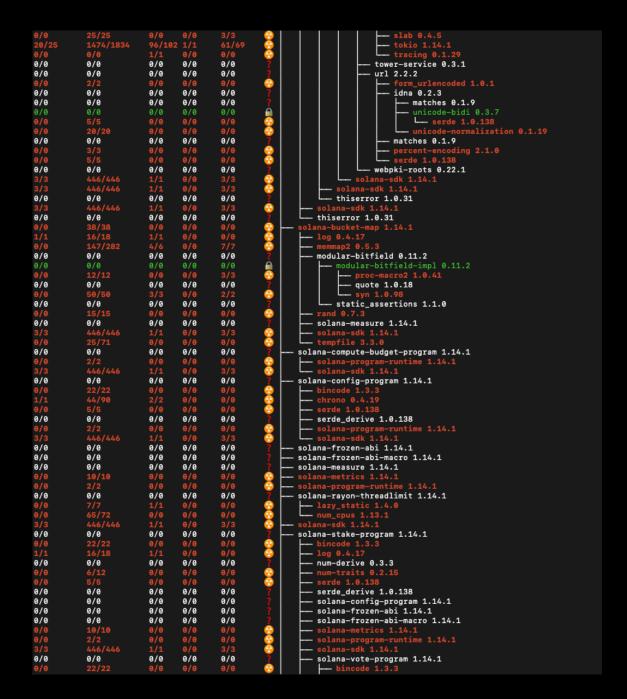


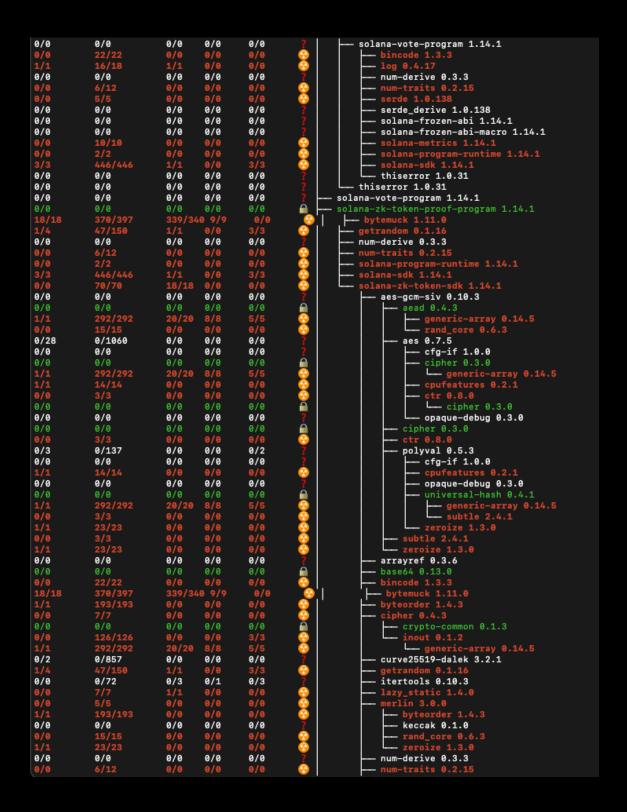














THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING

