# **O**sigma prime

Aurora

# **Rainbow Bridge ETH2 Client**

Version: 2.2

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#### A Vulnerability Severity Classification

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## Introduction

Sigma Prime was commercially engaged to perform a time-boxed security review of the Aurora Rainbow Bridge Eth2 Client. The review focused on the security aspects of both NEAR contracts and off-chain verification Rust programs comprising the Ethereum to NEAR side of the rainbow bridge.

#### Disclaimer

Sigma Prime makes all effort but holds no responsibility for the findings of this security review. Sigma Prime does not provide any guarantees relating to the function of the smart contract. Sigma Prime makes no judgements on, or provides any security review, regarding the underlying business model or the individuals involved in the project.

#### **Document Structure**

The first section provides an overview of the functionality of the Aurora Rainbow Bridge Eth2 Client contained within the scope of the security review. A summary followed by a detailed review of the discovered vulnerabilities is then given which assigns each vulnerability a severity rating (see Vulnerability Severity Classification), an *open/closed/resolved* status and a recommendation. Additionally, findings which do not have direct security implications (but are potentially of interest) are marked as *informational*.

The appendix provides additional documentation, including the severity matrix used to classify vulnerabilities within the Aurora Rainbow Bridge Eth2 Client.

#### Overview

The Aurora Rainbow Bridge contains a bridge between the NEAR blockchain and Ethereum blockchain. The focus of this review was related to the recent Merge upgrade of Ethereum. The upgrade required redesigning the Ethereum light client on NEAR. An Ethereum Beacon Chain Client will now be used to provide new finalised updates to the NEAR blockchain.

The protocol consists of four main components. First is a smart contract implementation of a Beacon Chain light client on the NEAR blockchain. The second component is a relayer which is an off-chain rust program that communicates with a full Beacon Node via RPC.

A limitation of the light client implementation in a NEAR smart contract is that BLS signature verification cannot be done in a single block due to gas limits. To overcome this issue the development team have added two extra components. One is a Sputnik DAO smart contract where each new proposal is a potential light client update. The second component is a validator for Sputnik DAO which will verify the BLS signature off-chain and submit votes on-chain. Any proposal that pass the vote will be forwarded to the on-chain Beacon chain light client implementation.



# Security Assessment Summary

This review was conducted on the files hosted on the repositories rainbow-bridge and eth2-on-near-client-validator. They were assessed at commits 50427ed and 738833b.

The manual code review section of the report is focused on identifying any and all issues/vulnerabilities associated with the business logic implementation of the source code. This includes their internal interactions, intended functionality and correct implementation with respect to the underlying functionality of the NEAR VM (for example, verifying correct storage/memory layout). Additionally, the manual review process focused on all known Rust and NEAR Smart Contract anti-patterns and attack vectors. These include, but are not limited to, the following vectors: panics, front-running, integer overflow/underflow and correct visibility specifiers.

To support this review, the testing team used the following automated testing tools:

- cargo audit: https://crates.io/crates/cargo-audit
- cargo outdated: https://crates.io/crates/cargo-outdated
- clippy: https://github.com/rust-lang/rust-clippy

Output for these automated tools is available upon request.

#### **Findings Summary**

The testing team identified a total of 19 issues during this assessment. Categorised by their severity:

- High: 1 issue.
- Medium: 2 issues.
- Low: 10 issues.
- Informational: 6 issues.



# **Detailed Findings**

This section provides a detailed description of the vulnerabilities identified within the Aurora Rainbow Bridge Eth2 Client. Each vulnerability has a severity classification which is determined from the likelihood and impact of each issue by the matrix given in the Appendix: Vulnerability Severity Classification.

A number of additional properties of the contracts, including gas optimisations, are also described in this section and are labelled as "informational".

Each vulnerability is also assigned a status:

- **Open:** the issue has not been addressed by the project team.
- *Resolved:* the issue was acknowledged by the project team and updates to the affected source code have been made to mitigate the related risk.
- *Closed*: the issue was acknowledged by the project team but no further actions have been taken.



# **Summary of Findings**

ID	Description	Severity	Status
RBE2-01	Skipped Slots Cause Relayer to Stall	High	Resolved
RBE2-02	Relayer Will Submit Potentially Stale Blocks Until Submission Limit Is Reached	Medium	Resolved
RBE2-03	Unbounded State Growth of NEAR eth2-client	Medium	Closed
RBE2-04	Lack of Validation on DAO Proposal Parameters	Low	Resolved
RBE2-05	eth2-client Cannot Update Finality If Beacon Chain Finalisation Period is Skipped	Low	Closed
RBE2-06	eth2-client Cannot Update With Large Finality Gaps Due To Gas Limits	Low	Resolved
RBE2-07	Lack of Polling Delay in Relayer Increases Computational Load	Low	Resolved
RBE2-08	Hand Made Updates Do Not Confirm Number Of Signers	Low	Resolved
RBE2-09	Misguided Mainnet Safety Checks	Low	Closed
RBE2-10	Lack of Client Syncing Status Checks	Low	Resolved
RBE2-11	Relayer Does Not Account for Unfinalised Headers Submission Quota	Low	Resolved
RBE2-12	Missing LightClientUpdate Checks in DAO eth2-validator	Low	Resolved
RBE2-13	Missing LightClientUpdate Checks in eth2-client	Low	Resolved
RBE2-14	Client Initialisation Process	Informational	Resolved
RBE2-15	The Package contract_wrapper Does Not Compile	Informational	Resolved
RBE2-16	Excessive RPC Timeout Configuration	Informational	Resolved
RBE2-17	Potential Subtraction Overflow in <pre>send_hand_made_light_client_update()</pre>	Informational	Resolved
RBE2-18	Centralisation Risks	Informational	Resolved
RBE2-19	Miscellaneous General Comments	Informational	Resolved

RBE2-01	Skipped Slots Cause Relayer to Stall		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2ne	ar-block-relay-rs	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: High	Impact: High	Likelihood: Medium

The NEAR eth2-client may accept an attested execution header into unfinalized\_headers, which the beacon chain later *re-orgs* into a skipped slot.

In such cases, the eth2\_to\_near\_relay function block\_known\_on\_near(slot) returns an Error while processing query data. This error is not handled, but is instead propagated by the calling function get\_last\_slot(), which is searching for the last beacon chain slot submitted to unfinalized\_headers in order to submit a batch of headers up to the current unfinalised head. An inability to discover the last unfinalised beacon slot submitted will cause the eth2\_to\_near\_relay to stall until the finalised slot on NEAR is larger than the last submitted slot.

The root cause of the error is due to the following chain of queries.

- 1. get\_last\_slot() attempts to find the last non-skipped unfinalised slot submitted to the NEAR eth2-client.
- 2. Within, last\_submitted\_slot = self.eth\_client\_contract.get\_last\_submitted\_slot() returns the skipped slot.
- 3. Until the skipped slot becomes finalised on the beacon chain, let slot = max(finalized\_slot, last\_submitted\_slot); also returns the skipped slot.
- 4. In either linear or binary search options, the conditional statement self.block\_known\_on\_near(slot)? will be reached.
- 5. self.block\_known\_on\_near(slot)? queries get\_beacon\_block\_body\_for\_block\_id(&format!("{}", slot) with the skipped slot, which returns an Error.
- 6. This Error case is not handled, and causes block\_known\_on\_near(slot)? to fail.
- 7. This Error case is not handled in the calling function get\_last\_slot(), causing it to fail also.

#### Recommendations

This issue can be mitigated by handling the error case for skipped slots in self.block\_known\_on\_near(slot). Rather than propagating the error, allow get\_last\_slot() to search for the correct last submitted block.

Additionally, only submitting finalised execution headers on-chain mitigates this issue. Only submitting finalised blocks will prevent last\_submitted\_slot from becoming a skip slot.

#### Resolution

The issue if fixed by modifying the search logic to account for skipped slots. Updates can be seen in the following PRs #800 and #832.



RBE2-02	Relayer Will Submit Potentially Stale Blocks Until Submission Limit Is Reached		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2nea	r-block-relay-rs/src/eth2near	_relay.rs
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Medium	Impact: Medium	Likelihood: Medium

eth2\_to\_near\_relay submits the head of the beacon chain from the most recently attested (unfinalised) slot to the NEAR
eth2-client, which gets registered in unfinalized\_headers. Limits are set on the number of unfinalised submissions
from each account to prevent unbounded state growth.

Each submission has the potential to be excluded from the finalised beacon chain in the case of a *re-org*. The relayer will therefore reach its unfinalised block submission quota through its routine operation. No longer will the account be able to submit new blocks or unregister as a submitter to receive its storage deposit refund. If only one relayer is connected to eth2-client, then the Eth2Near side of bridge operation will be stalled until a new relayer can be connected.

One cause of a beacon chain *re-org* is when the head of beacon chain is proposed late, after other validators have already attested to a skip slot. The next proposer will fork the late block (current head) and will create a new head which does not include the late block.

The code which determines which blocks to submit occur in the main run() loop. The following code selects the highest beacon slot by fetching the slot number of the current head through get\_last\_slot\_number(). Each block between the last finalised block on NEAR and the beacon head will then be submitted on-chain.

```
70 let last_eth2_slot_on_eth_chain: u64 =
match self.beacon_rpc_client.get_last_slot_number() {
72     Ok(slot) => slot.as_u64(),
     Err(err) => {
74         warn!(target: "relay", "Fail to get last slot on Eth. Error: {}", err);
         continue;
76     }
;;
```

#### Recommendations

eth2\_to\_near\_relay can be updated to only submit finalised execution headers to the NEAR eth2-client.

A *re-org* of a finalised block breaks the underlying assumptions of the Ethereum consensus. By applying the assumption that finalised blocks will not be *re-orged*, the number of blocks submitted by the relayer will be exactly the number of blocks between the current and previous finalised blocks. Hence, it will remain safely within its submission quota.

#### Resolution

A resolution to this issue has been implemented in commit 2198169. The mitigation implements a configurable variable submit\_only\_finalized\_blocks which, if enabled, will cause last\_eth2\_slot\_on\_eth\_chain to be the last finalised slot of the Beacon Chain rather than the current head.



RBE2-03	Unbounded State Growth of NEAR eth2-client		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/eth2-	-client	
Status	Closed: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Medium	Impact: Medium	Likelihood: Medium

eth2-client processes blocks in three stages:

- 1. Unfinalised execution headers are added to unfinalized\_headers map.
- 2. Once they are finalised, headers are moved from unfinalized\_headers to finalized\_execution\_blocks by tracing their ancestry up to the current finalised head of the beacon. The function only iterates over headers which are finalised, non-canonical headers remain as stale data.
- 3. Blocks are pruned from finalized\_execution\_blocks after a configurable period elapses (i.e. 7 days) and forgotten by the NEAR eth2-client

Detailed in RBE2-02, eth2\_to\_near\_relay is highly likely to submit headers which become stale data in unfinalized\_headers during its routine operation, until it becomes non-functional.

There is no method to remove stale data from unfinalized\_headers in the NEAR eth2-client, so this process implies that the state of the contract can grow indefinitely. Although there are practical limits enforced by the relayer submission quota max\_submitted\_blocks\_by\_account parameter of eth2-client, a new relayer must be added when the former reaches its submission quota in order for the bridge to remain operational. Therefore, this process may continue with unbounded state growth, or halt the operation of the bridge.

Furthermore, because unregister\_submitter() requires a relayer to have zero pending submissions in unfinalized\_headers, a relayer who submits a single non-canonical block will never be able to unregister and recover their storage deposit.

#### Recommendations

One way to mitigate this issue would be to allow stale headers to be pruned from unfinalized\_headers in the NEAR eth2-client contract if they have a block number lower than the current finalised block.

#### Resolution

The development team are aware of the issue and have provided the following comment.

We are aware of this, we didn't implement a clean method API due to multiple reasons:

- Time limits before audit and this task had low priority.
- We can control our relayers to avoid submitting forked blocks.
- The cost of the storage is not too high, so we can just register a new relayer.

RBE2-04	Lack of Validation on DAO Proposal Parameters		
Asset	eth2-to-near-client-validator		
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Medium	Likelihood: Low

In NEAR eth2-client operation mode with a trusted\_signer, the eth2\_to\_near\_relay should not submit a LightClientUpdate to the eth2-client directly. Rather, it creates FunctionCall proposal within SputnikDAO that will call submit\_beacon\_chain\_light\_client\_update() via the DAO as a trusted\_signer (if approved by the DAO eth2-validators). Each DAO eth2-validator must verify the LightClientUpdate off-chain, and vote to approve the FunctionCall proposal.

The DAO eth2-validator off-chain program verifies that the FunctionCall proposal calls submit\_beacon\_chain\_light\_client\_update(). However, it does not verify that the reciever\_id of the proposal, unpacked here, is indeed the NEAR eth2-client contract, nor does it check actions[0].gas or actions[0].deposit parameters.

The impact is rated as medium as the lack of checks would allow a proposal to transfer an uncapped amount of native tokens from the DAO contract to a user defined account. The proposal will be approved by the client validators so long as the function signature and LightClientUpdate are valid. Limited value is intended to be held in the contract in the range of 200 NEAR tokens and thus only rated medium severity. The likelihood is rated as low as the setup will include only one account which may create proposals, that account is controlled by the Aurora team.

#### Recommendations

DAO eth2-validators should reject proposals which:

- 1. do not target the NEAR eth2-client contract
- 2. have a non-zero deposit or
- 3. have an unreasonable gas field.

#### Resolution

Additional checks have been added in PR #4 resolving the issue. Each of the three items listed in Recommendations section have been implemented.

RBE2-05	eth2-client Cannot Update Finality If Beacon Chain Finalisation Period is Skipped		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/eth2-client		
Status	Closed: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Medium	Likelihood: Low

If finalisation does not occur for an entire beacon chain period, upon recieving a finalised LightClientUpdate, the NEAR eth2-client state will have the condition that update\_period == finalized\_period + 2. This causes an assertion failure verifying that a sync comittee period has not been skipped while processing the update. There is no other method to update finality in the NEAR eth2-client, therefore it will halt indefinitely.

The assertion failure occurs in Eth2Client::verify\_finality\_branch, causing submit\_beacon\_chain\_light\_client\_update() to fail:

```
assert!(
334
          update_period == finalized_period || update_period == finalized_period + 1,
           "The acceptable update periods are '{}' and '{}' but got {}",
336
          finalized_period,
338
           finalized_period + 1,
          update_period
      );
340
```

This check is required by the light client implementation because each BeaconState contains only the current\_sync\_committee and the next\_sync\_committee. Thus, the client cannot verify the validity of future sync committees. The client needs to verify the chain of sync committees as they progress, and cannot do so if finalisation is not updated for an entire period without applying data from an intermediate BeaconState within the stalled period.

For these reasons, the specifications also include implementations for a forced update method, which may apply a "best valid" LightClientUpdate. The estimated update may not contain a finalised block but may increment the period and

hence update the current\_sync\_committee and next\_sync\_committee.

This issue is has a very low likelihood due to the requirement of not finalising for an epoch. A beacon chain period is about one day. For finality to not occur, in an entire *period* the Ethereum network will be undergoing considerable stress. Under normal operating conditions finalisation occurs most epochs (approx 6 mins).

#### Recommendations

This issue may be mitigated by allowing manual intervention to update finality from a trusted source, with consideration for constraints detailed in RBE2-06.

#### Resolution

The development team have acknowledged this issue and intend to implement a fix. However, due to the very low likelihood combined with the significant portion of work required to implement a mitigation the patch has been given a low priority.



RBE2-06	eth2-client Cannot Update With Large Finality Gaps Due To Gas Limits		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/eth2-client		
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Medium	Likelihood: Low

There is an unbounded loop in the function update\_finality\_header() which may exceed NEAR gas limits and prevent the NEAR eth2-client from applying finality updates, halting it indefinitely.

The loop iterates through unfinalized\_headers to move them into finalized\_beacon\_blocks.

```
loop {
451
          let num_of_removed_headers = *submitters_update
               .get(&cursor_header.submitter)
453
               .unwrap_or(&o);
           submitters_update.insert(cursor_header.submitter, num_of_removed_headers + 1);
455
457
          self.unfinalized_headers.remove(&cursor_header_hash);
          self.finalized_execution_blocks
459
               .insert(&cursor_header.block_number, &cursor_header_hash);
461
          if cursor_header.parent_hash == self.finalized_beacon_header.execution_block_hash {
463
              break:
465
          }
467
          cursor_header_hash = cursor_header.parent_hash;
469
          cursor_header = self
              .unfinalized_headers
471
              .get(&cursor_header.parent_hash)
               .unwrap_or_else(|| {
                  panic!(
473
                       "Header has unknown parent {:?}. Parent should be submitted first.",
                       cursor_header.parent_hash
475
                   )
              }):
477
      }
```

If finality does not occur in the beacon chain for moderate times, iterating through this loop to update finality may exceed NEAR gas limits. Empirical tests on a local testnet, with a 350 Tgas limit, determine that a gap of 356 slots with no blocks produced and one relayer connected will exceed gas limits applying an update.

Under network conditions where many validators are unavailable and unable to update finality, many slots will be skipped because the proposer is offline. Our estimate of a critical finalisation delay must be adjusted to account for the skipped slots that will not add to the size of the loop:

```
critial_pending_blocks = 365 blocks
slot_time = 12 seconds per slot
fraction_skipped_slots = 0.5
critial_finality_delay = (critical_pending_blocks / fraction_skipped_slots) * slot_time
```

```
time = (356 * 12/0.5) = 8544s = 2.4hr
```



eth2\_to\_near\_relay also imposes a gas limit of 250 Tgas on this transaction sent via the DAO, which will be reached before the NEAR network limit is reached.

#### Recommendations

This issue may be mitigated similarly to RBE2-05, requiring manual intervention by a trusted source to force update the client under certain conditions.

An alternate solution is to modify the finality update processing logic into multiple transactions of smaller sizes.

#### Resolution

The development team have implemented a fix in PR #882 to handle the cases where finality is missing for multiple epochs. This fix arrived after the review period had finished and has not been reviewed.

RBE2-07	Lack of Polling Delay in Relayer Increases Computational Load		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2near	-block-relay-rs	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Low	Likelihood: Low

The main run() loop in the eth2\_to\_near\_relay does not include a delay between iterations (source). This may cause the eth2\_to\_near\_relay to utilize excessive computational resources in its operation.

Specifically, an excessively fast eth2\_to\_near\_relay loop execution cycle may cause unacceptable CPU, RAM, or storage usage or exceed RPC-API rate limits.

#### Recommendations

Include a short delay (0.5 - 12 seconds) between polling, with consideration for the NEAR and Ethereum block production times. The loop execution may finish in multiple locations (L75, L84, and L144), so this should be included for each pathway.

#### Resolution

Configurable sleep delays have been included for each iteration of the run() loop except when transactions have been pushed on-chain in which case there are no delays. The updates have been made in PR #800.

RBE2-08	Hand Made Updates Do Not Confirm Number Of Signers		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2near-block-relay-rs/src/hand_made_finality_light_client_update.rs		
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Medium	Likelihood: Low

If eth2\_to\_near\_relay detects that the NEAR eth2-client is far behind the beacon client finalised head, it must send HandMadeLightClientUpdate to update finality instead of its normal execution methods. These updates aim to reduce the number of execution blocks that need to be iterated over in a single transaction, thereby staying within gas limits, an issue detailed in RBE2-06.

There are no checks by eth2\_to\_near\_relay that at least two-thirds of the sync committee has signed HandMadeLightClientUpdate, therefore it may fail on-chain assertions in the eth2-client upon submission and stall the relayer.

The relayer function HandMadeLightClientUpdate::get\_finality\_light\_client\_update() crafts an update from signature\_slot == attested\_slot + 1 Without checking the sum of sync\_committee\_bits. This result is handled by the calling function, send\_hand\_made\_light\_client\_update(), within a match statement that will send the update to eth2-client via send\_specific\_light\_cleint\_update():

```
match HandMadeFinalityLightClientUpdate::get_finality_light_client_update(
        &self.beacon rpc client.
        attested slot.
        BeaconRPCClient::get_period_for_slot(last_finalized_slot_on_near)
            != BeaconRPCClient::get_period_for_slot(attested_slot),
    ) {
        Ok(light_client_update) => {
            let finality_update_slot = light_client_update
                .finality_update
                .header update
                .beacon_header
                .slot:
            if finality_update_slot <= last_finalized_slot_on_near {</pre>
                info!(target: "relay", "Finality update slot for hand made light client update <= last finality update on near.
                      \hookrightarrow Increment gap for attested slot and skipping light client update.");
                self.current_gap_between_finalized_and_attested_slot += ONE_EPOCH_IN_SLOTS;
                return:
            }
            trace!(target: "relay", "Hand made light client update: {:?}", light_client_update);
            self.send_specific_light_cleint_update(light_client_update);
        }
        Err(err) => {
            debug!(target: "relay", "Error \"{}\" on getting hand made light client update for attested slot={}.", err,
                  \hookrightarrow attested slot);
            self.current_gap_between_finalized_and_attested_slot += 1;
        }
    }
}
```

If the submission via send\_specific\_light\_client\_update() fails because the update lacks the requisite signature threshold, no result is returned and the error is not handled. Therefore, Eth2NearRelay.current\_gap\_between\_finalized\_and\_attested\_slot is not incremented. Because this variable

determines the attested\_slot from which to craft a HandMadeLightClientUpdate, the relayer will repeat the submission cycle with the same failing update and be stalled.

#### Recommendations

eth2\_to\_near\_relay should check that the sum of sync\_committee\_bits on a HandMadeLightClientUpdate is greater than two-thirds of the sync committee, handling the error to avoid sending failing updates to the eth2-client or DAO contract.

Additionally, send\_specific\_light\_cleint\_update() should return a result indicating transaction success or failure.
The calling logic in send\_hand\_made\_light\_client\_update() should handle the error accordingly to account for this
and other possible error cases. In other error cases, such as a timeout, it would not be desirable to increment
current\_gap\_between\_finalized\_and\_attested\_slot.

#### Resolution

The implemented solution iterates through the chain searching for an attested header where the following block (i.e. the signature block) has more than the required number of signatures in the SyncAggregate. This solution ensures that the selected attested header has been signed by a sufficient number of the sync committee members before submission.

The solution is implemented in PR #800 and later patched in PR #833 to account for the case where there is numerous skip lost after an attested header.

RBE2-09	Misguided Mainnet Safety Checks		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/et	h2-client	
Status	Closed: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Low	Likelihood: Low

The safety checks on network argument of init() are intended to prevent a client deployed on the NEAR mainnet network from implementing an insecure configuration with critical security features disabled, while allowing such configurations on NEAR testnet deployments.

It is discouraged to use conditional safety checks as it is possible for misconfigurations to disable these safety checks. Once such example is if the production code was deployed with <a href="mailto:network = "kiln"">network = "kiln"</a> and <a href="mailto:validate\_udpates = false">validate\_udpates = false</a>. It would still run on mainnet but would have critical safety features disabled.

The severity of this issue is rated low, as it would require significant misconfiguration of the init() function. Furthermore, the current setup requires the DAO validator clients to anlayse each LightClientUpdate and vote on their validity before submit\_beacon\_chain\_light\_client\_update() may be called.

#### Recommendations

This issue can be mitigated by removing possibilities for insecure client configurations from the production codebase. The production contract should be assumed to always run on NEAR mainnet. Consider increasing the depth of the tests to account for the mainnet requirements.

Additionally, the network argument would be better named eth\_network to avoid confusion with the NEAR network.

#### Resolution

The development team have opted to instead use feature flags <code>#[cfg(feature = "mainnet")]</code>, which will be included in the <code>default</code> features. This solution still leaves the potential for misconfiguration if the <code>maintnet</code> feature is not enabled during compilation. To address this CI tools are used to ensure that the built <code>.wasm</code> file has been compiled with the <code>mainnet</code> feature enabled by validating the checksum of the bytecode.



RBE2-10	Lack of Client Syncing Status Checks		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2near	-block-relay-rs	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Low	Likelihood: Low

The eth2\_to\_near\_relay connects to user-specified Ethereum consensus and execution client endpoints, as well as a NEAR node, and submits Ethereum data to the NEAR eth2-client contract without validating that the sources are fully synced. This may result in a range of issues, including:

- 1. submitting stale data to the NEAR client
- 2. executing unexpected logic where the NEAR finalised head is ahead of the beacon source
- 3. panics while processing unexpected data

#### Recommendations

This issue can be mitigated by checking the sync status of Ethereum consensus and execution clients upon startup and periodically during operation to avoid relaying stale data to the NEAR eth2-client. The appropriate API endpoints are:

- 1. getSyncingStatus for the Ethereum consensus client
- 2. eth\_syncing for the Ethereum execution client
- 3. Synclnfo for the NEAR client

#### Resolution

A function named is\_syncing() was added for each of the external RPC clients beacon\_rpc\_client.rs, eth1\_rpc\_client.rs and near\_rpc\_client.rs to query respective endpoints.

These are organised into a function wait\_for\_syncronization() which is called near the start of the relayer run() loop. The function sleeps for a specified time if is\_syncing() is true for any of the clients.

RBE2-11	Relayer Does Not Account for Unfinalised Headers Submission Quota		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2near-bl	ock-relay-rs	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Low	Likelihood: Low

The eth2\_to\_near\_relay accepts a configuration parameter max\_submitted\_headers which determines the number of unfinalised headers in a batch. These headers are submitted on-chain to the NEAR eth2-client in a batch transaction via NearContractWrapper::call\_change\_method\_batch(), composed of calls to submit\_execution\_header().

The execution logic of the eth2\_to\_near\_relay does not account for remaining submission quota allocated to the relayer by max\_submitted\_blocks\_by\_account and submitters[relayer] in the eth2-client. This can result in scenarios where the eth2\_to\_near\_relay attempts to send batches of size max\_submitted\_headers that exceed its remaining quota. Exceeding the quota will cause the transaction to fail.

Furthermore, it will repeatedly attempt to send the same failing transaction until some pending unfinalized\_headers are processed as finalised and its remaining quota rises above max\_submitted\_headers.

#### Recommendations

This issue can be mitigated by adding logic to the eth2\_to\_near\_relay that queries the NEAR eth2-client to calculate remaining\_headers, and setting the batch size via min(max\_submitted\_headers, remaining\_headers).

#### Resolution

A resolution was implemented in PR #828 then later made obsolete by PR #882 which removed the vulnerable code.

RBE2-12	Missing LightClientUpdate Checks in DAO eth2-validator		
Asset	eth2-to-near-client-validator		
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Low	Likelihood: Low

The DAO eth2-validator program does not implement, or mistakenly implements, several checks defined in the Ethereum consensus light client specifications. The same checks are also noted in RBE2-13 for another component of the bridge. This allows for potentially invalid light client updates to be submitted by the trusted\_signer to the NEAR eth2-client.

These checks include:

- 1. Verify sync committee has sufficient participants
- 2. Verify slot ordering
- 3. Verify update does not skip a sync committee period

The eth2-validator program applies checks on update proposals in validate\_updates::validate\_light\_client\_update().

The first noted requirement is incorrectly checked by the implementation. The check should be strictly less than MIN\_SYNC\_COMMITTEE\_PARTICIPANTS :

```
if sync_committee_bits_sum <= MIN_SYNC_COMMITTEE_PARTICIPANTS {
    return Err("Invalid sync committee bits sum: {}")?;</pre>
```

The remaining specification requirements are missing from eth2-validator implementation, shown in python below:

```
assert current_slot >= update.signature_slot > update.attested_header.slot >= update.finalized_header.slot
store_period = compute_sync_committee_period_at_slot(store.finalized_header.slot)
update_signature_period = compute_sync_committee_period_at_slot(update.signature_slot)
if is_next_sync_committee_known(store):
    assert update_signature_period in (store_period, store_period + 1)
else:
    assert update_signature_period == store_period
```

#### Recommendations

Modify eth2-validator to make accurate checks on each LightClientUpdate specification requirement, to avoid sending invalid updates to eth2-client via the trusted\_signer.

#### Resolution

The required checks have been added in PR #4. Included in the mitigation is an update to the MIN\_SYNC\_COMMITTEE\_PARTICIPANTS check to use strictly less than <.



Additionally, two checks were added to ensure update.signature\_slot > update.attested\_header.slot and update.attested\_header.slot >= update.finalized\_header.slot.

The new check does not confirm that current\_slot >= update.signature\_slot . However, the impact of not checking current\_slot is negligible as the sync committee aggregate must be signed by two-thirds of the sync committee to be a valid finalised update. Each non-malicious sync committee member will reject blocks which have a slot higher than their internal current\_slot. Therefore, unless two-thirds of the sync committee is malicious it won't be feasible to have an update where the current\_slot is in the future.

Finally, a check was added to ensure that the signature\_slot belongs to either the current finalised period or the next finalised period.



RBE2-13	Missing LightClientUpdate Checks in eth2-client		
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/e	th2-client	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution		
Rating	Severity: Low	Impact: Low	Likelihood: Low

The eth2-client applies several checks before accepting a LightClientUpdate. It does not verify the BLS signature of the sync committee because this is not possible to do on-chain in NEAR at the time of writing. This is a known issue and is currently mitigated by verifying these signatures off-chain with a trusted source.

However, several other checks required by the Ethereum light client specifications are not implemented, or implemented incorrectly by the NEAR eth2-client. The same checks are also noted in RBE2-12 for another component of the bridge.

The missing checks can be seen in the python reference implementation:

```
assert current_slot >= update.signature_slot > update.attested_header.slot >= update.finalized_header.slot
store_period = compute_sync_committee_period_at_slot(store.finalized_header.slot)
update_signature_period = compute_sync_committee_period_at_slot(update.signature_slot)
if is_next_sync_committee_known(store):
    assert update_signature_period in (store_period, store_period + 1)
else:
    assert update signature period == store period
```

The assertion at the top line ensures that update slots do not occur in the future and that they occur in the expected order. The assertions at the bottom, within the if/else blocks conditioned upon is\_next\_sync\_committee\_known(), verify the allowed period of the sync committee signature.

```
The eth2-client applies relevant checks in the function verify_finality_branch(), called within
validate_light_client_update().
```

```
assert!(
    active_header.slot > self.finalized_beacon_header.header.slot,
    "The active header slot number should be higher than the finalized slot"
);
let update_period = compute_sync_committee_period(active_header.slot);
assert!(
    update_period == finalized_period || update_period == finalized_period + 1,
    "The acceptable update periods are '{}' and '{}' but got {}",
    finalized_period,
    finalized_period + 1,
    update_period
);
```

eth2-client does not check the current slot and signature slot. Lack of validation of signature\_slot allows an attacker to use either the current\_sync\_committee or next\_sync\_committee to sign messages, while lack of validation of attested\_header.slot means attested headers may have a lower slot number than the finalised header. In both cases, the attested header needs to be signed by either the current\_sync\_committee or next\_sync\_committee . Thus, the likelihood of this issue is considered low.

#### Recommendations

This issue may be resolved by adding the missing checks.

#### Resolution

The issue is resolved in two PRs, first #804 implements the following checks.

```
require!(
    update.attested_beacon_header.slot
    >= update.finality_update.header_update.beacon_header.slot,
    "The attested header slot should be equal to or higher than the finalized header slot"
);
require!(
    update.signature_slot > update.attested_beacon_header.slot,
    "The signature slot should be higher than the attested header slot"
);
```

Similarly to RBE2-12, the checks do no validate current\_slot. However, this is reasoned to be or negligible security risk.

Furthermore, PR #839 adds a check to ensure the signature\_slot belongs to either the current finalised period or the next finalised period.

RBE2-14	Client Initialisation Process
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/eth2-client
Status	Resolved: See Resolution
Rating	Informational

While RBE2-09 describes an issue related to the inaccurate validation of init() arguments, this issue details problems with the general process and missing validation of several parameters.

The client contract allows any account to initialise it, and initialisation is not conducted atomically with deployment. While this design allows a relay to optionally initialise the client when connecting to it, anybody can frontrun the initialisation with bad parameters.

The client does not verify the merkle proof supporting the first sync committee that it receives, as implemented in the Ethereum specifications, allowing for an arbitrary SyncCommittee to be accepted.

#### Recommendations

This issue can be mitigated by restricting client initialisation to the trusted contract admin role with <code>assert\_self()</code>, thereby preventing relays and other untrusted actors from initialising the client. While this solution hardens and simplifies the client initialisation process overall, it does trivially complicate the process for the contract admin, who must provide the initial client checkpoint without a relay. This solution also accepts that an initialised client may fall out-of-sync until the first relay connects to it.

Consider adding a merkle proof to the init() functions that verify the current\_sync\_committee and next\_sync\_committee exist in the finalized\_beacon\_header. It is possible to use a merkle proof of the BeaconStateRoot inside the BeaconHeader to prove the sync committees are accurate. There is a gas and complexity trade-off for adding these checks on-chain and thus is an optional recommendation.

#### Resolution

A patch has been made to the init() function in PR #795. #[private] macro has been added to the function which ensures that init() can only be called by the current account. It provides the same functionality as assert\_self().

RBE2-15	The Package contract_wrapper Does Not Compile	
Asset	rainbow-bridge/contracts/near2eth/contract_wrapper	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution	
Rating	Informational	

The package contract\_wrapper cannot be compiled independently of other packages in the workspace, generating the following error:

```
error: failed to select a version for the requirement `eth2_hashing = "^0.3.0"`
```

The Cargo.toml of this package specifies  $eth2_hashing = "0.3.0"$ , for which cargo attempts to pull the  $eth2_hashing$  package on crates.io, which is published and maintained by Sigma Prime only up to version 0.2.0 at the time of writing.

Lighthouse implements an unpublished version 0.3.0 of this package, and there is also a local package authored by Aurora in contracts/near/eth2\_hashing implementing version 0.3.0, which has been significantly modified for optimized usage with NEAR contracts. The latter dependency is assumed to be required.

The contract\_wrapper package compiles when the relay package is built due to a dependency patch specified in the relay Cargo.toml file.

#### Recommendations

Minimally, the Cargo.toml of contract\_wrapper should be patched similarly to that of near2eth-block-relay-rs:

```
[patch.crates-io]
eth2_hashing = { git = "https://github.com/aurora-is-near/lighthouse.git", \
  rev = "b624c3fod3c5bc9ea46faa14c9cb2d9oee1e1dec" }
```

For a more robust solution, the modified package dependency should be maintained under a separate name from the parent and managed as its own package.

#### Resolution

The required crates have been patched in commit c308e60.

RBE2-16	Excessive RPC Timeout Configuration
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2near-block-relay-rs
Status	Resolved: See Resolution
Rating	Informational

The BeaconRPCClient configures a uniform blocking timeout of 180 seconds for all calls made to the source (see here). This response timeout period is excessively long for most of the API queries. If any of the queries fail to receive a response, this configuration imposes a longer period before the eth2\_to\_near\_relay loop restarts, potentially stalling the eth2\_to\_near\_relay unduly when an RPC source is intermittently unavailable.

```
/// Creates `BeaconRPCClient` for the given BeaconAPI `endpoint_url`
pub fn new(endpoint_url: &str) -> Self {
    Self {
        endpoint_url: endpoint_url.to_string(),
        client: request::blocking::Client::builder()
        .timeout(Duration::from_secs(180))
        .build()
        .unwrap(),
    }
}
```

Note that a long timeout period is desireable for queries fetching BeaconState.

#### Recommendations

This issue may be mitigated by configuring different timeout periods for each endpoint relative to the data load.

#### Resolution

The issue is resolved in PR #800. The BeaconRPCClient was updated to include two different timeout durations. One duration is for fetching the BeaconState which requires transferring several hundred Mega bytes. The other duration is for all other RPC calls.

These durations are configurable and allow shorter timeouts to be used for smaller RPC calls and longer timeouts for larger RPC calls.

RBE2-17	Potential Subtraction Overflow in send_hand_made_light_client_update()	
Asset	rainbow-bridge/eth2near/eth2near-block-relay-rs	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution	
Rating	Informational	

The eth2\_to\_near\_relay utilises unchecked subtraction to compute the gap between the last finalised slot on the beacon chain and on the near client to conditionally send hand made light client updates when the gap is too large for normal execution (source). Although the last finalised slot is on the beacon chain is expected to be larger or equal to the NEAR client, there are edge cases where the NEAR client may have a larger slot (i.e. if the beacon source is syncing). Such cases can cause the subtraction to overflow and the eth2\_to\_near\_relay may submit an invalid update.

There is a check immediately following the logic above that would effectively prevent such edge cases:

#### Recommendations

This issue can be mitigated by re-ordering the two if blocks referenced above such that a subtraction overflow in send\_light\_client\_updates() is not possible.

#### Resolution

The resolution for this issue can be found in PR #787 Each of the values have been cast to 164 (from u64) thereby preventing negative overflows. Noting that these values are slots fetched via RPC from a trusted sources and will not be large enough to negative overflow an 164.

RBE2-18	Centralisation Risks	
Asset	/*	
Status	Resolved: See Resolution	
Rating	Informational	

The Rainbow Bridge is to act as a decentralised bridge between Ethereum and NEAR. There are some potential centralisation risks associated with the current design that could lead to one or a small number of actors exploiting the bridge for personal gain. If a user can add arbitrary blocks to the on-chain light client they would be able to make fraudulent transactions on the Rainbow Bridge. The risks and their mitigations are outlined in this issue.

NEAR contracts are upgradeable if a full access key is associated with the smart contract account. Allowing the bytecode of the eth2-client contract to be modified would allow arbitrary blocks to be added to storage. To mitigate the upgradeability the eth2-client should not have a full access key associated with this account.

The trusted\_signer can be updated via the function update\_trusted\_signer(). Access control to this function is assert\_self(). Anyone with control of the access key to call this function may set the trusted\_signer to any address. As a trusted\_signer is it possible to submit malicious blocks which do not have valid BLS signatures. Ensure the trusted\_signer is only set the SputnikDAO contract. Furthermore, consider modifying the access control of update\_trusted\_signer() to also be only callable via a timelocked trusted DAO.

The SputnikDAO access control allows groups of users to be specified for different voting functions and creating proposals. Ensure the groups are sufficiently large to avoid centralisation.

Similarly to eth2-client the SputnikDAO contract / trusted\_signer should not have a full access key.

#### Recommendations

Ensure the centralisation risks are understood and avoided where possible.

#### Resolution

The centralization setup is to be solved in the future with the introduction of BLS signatures verification on-chain. On-chain signature verification will provide the same safety guarantees as any light client using the Ethereum network.

The development team have provided the following comments in relation to the current setup.

At the moment, trusted\_signer() is indeed configured to SputnikDAO instance. That DAO has the following groups:

• Validator group consists of 7 hot-wallets. Deployment of validators is distributed on different servers. We don't have any single entity controlling more than 1 key in the group. This group is allowed only to vote for proposals. Voting policy is 5/7.



- Relayer group consists of 1 relayer account. This group is allowed only to create specific proposals to the DAO.
- Council group consists of 7 cold-wallets. We don't have any single entity controlling more than 1 key in the group. This group is allowed to manage SputnikDAO contract, change rules, groups, etc. Voting policy is 4/8.

RBE2-19	Miscellaneous General Comments
Asset	/*
Status	Resolved: See Resolution
Rating	Informational

This section details miscellaneous findings discovered by the testing team that do not have direct security implications:

#### 1. Relay configuration input validation.

The Eth2NearRelay::init() function accepts a Config struct containing several user-specified arguments. Because relayers may be operated by non-expert users, greater degree of validation of these inputs is warranted. Ideally, inputs should be validated at the earliest interface, handled within specialized types, and return helpful error messages upon failure. Specific examples follow:

- (a) beacon\_endpoint, eth1\_endpoint and near\_endpoint are parsed and stored as generic String types, without validation during initialisation that they adhere to URL format, that the source exists, and that it responds with expected data.
- (b) signer\_account\_id, contract\_account\_id, and dao\_contract\_account\_id are handled as generic String types, without validation that they adhere to NEAR AccountId format until downstream processing in NearContractWrapper.
- (c) network, contract\_type, and near\_network\_id are accepted as generic String types, but are better suited by enum types.
- (d) light\_client\_updates\_submission\_frequency\_in\_epochs parameter is accepted and stored as i64 type, but is better suited by an unsigned integer value.

#### 2. DAO validator configuration input validation.

Similarly as above, the arguments accepted in eth2-validator-crate::config::Config are handled as generic String types and should utilize Url, AccountId, and enum with validation where appropriate.

#### 3. Non-idiomatic function and type imports.

- (a) The usage of glob operators \* for import statements throughout parts of the codebase makes it difficult to see what types are in scope and where they are defined. The Rust book specifically discourages this practice.
- (b) Several function and type imports deviate from conventions detailed in the Rust book, whereby the full path of type imports are specified in use statements, but function imports bring the entire parent module within scope, to call with parent\_module::function\_name(). This makes it clear that the function is not defined locally, and concisely hints toward its location.

#### 4. Usage of hardcoded unamed contrants.

Eth2NearRelay::send\_light\_client\_updates() converts a frequency specified in epochs to slots multiplying by unnamed constant 32. The named constant ONE\_EPOCH\_IN\_SLOTS is defined and within scope, which should be used in this operation.

#### 5. Unclear or ambiguous function and variable names.

The naming of functions and variables should optimally convey its intent and effects with concision. Several examples could benefit from renaming, or splitting into separate functions with distinct purposes. Functions and variables names with typos are also reported here, separately from comment typos, as these are more important to highlight.



- (a) block\_hash\_safe() could return a finalized or an unfinalized block.
- (b) gc\_headers() does not indicate its purpose.
- (c) validate\_update::verify\_finality\_proof() verifies both the finality branch and the next sync committee branch (if present); this would be best split into distinct functions.
- (d) eth2near\_relay::send\_specific\_light\_cleint\_update() has a typo.
- (e) BeaconRPCCLient::get\_sync\_comittee\_update\_from\_light\_lient\_update\_json\_str() has a typo.
- (f) unfinalized\_headers can refer to unfinalized execution headers or beacon headers.
- (g) network specifies the Ethereum network to sync to, but is mistaken to specify the NEAR network of deployment.
- (h) submitters is a mapping of registered sumbitter 's to the number of unfinalized blocks they have submitted.
- (i) max\_submitted\_headers refers to the headers batch size that the relay should attempt to submit, and is not coupled to max\_submitted\_blocks\_by\_account in the client.
- (j) light\_client\_updates\_submission\_frequency\_in\_epochs actually specifies a period "N submissions per epoch" (the inverse of frequency).
- (k) sync\_committee\_signature parameter of get\_sync\_committee\_bits() is actually SyncAggregate type.

#### 6. Consistency of directory naming sytle.

rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/eth2\_hashing uses underscores while the rest of the directories in the parent folder use hyphens.

#### 7. Consistency of NEAR capitalization.

Both "NEAR" and "Near" are used to refer to the NEAR network in error messages and comments throughout the codebase. Consistent usage would be preferable.

#### 8. Assertion of invariant can cause panic.

The method ExecutionBlockProof::merkle\_root\_from\_branch() contains an assertion statement on the properties of its inputs, which will cause the eth2\_to\_near\_relay to panic if it is triggered: assert\_eq!(branch.len(), depth, "proof length should equal depth"); Although this assertion should not be triggered based on the inputs that the relayer passes, it is generally bad practice for reusable library code to cause panics. It would be more appropriate to return an error.

#### 9. Code simplifications.

(a) The method chain encoding sync\_committee\_bits into a fixed byte array is expressed as sync\_committee\_signature.clone().sync\_committee\_bits.into\_bytes().into\_vec().as\_slice().try\_into() (see here).

This would be more concisely achieved with

sync\_committee\_signature.sync\_committee\_bits.as\_ssz\_bytes().try\_into().

- (b) Unnecessary call to method copied() both here and here here, as map() works with a reference in both cases.
- (c) The type Option::<SyncCommitteeUpdate>::None (see here) can be simplified as None with the type inferred by the compiler.

#### 10. NEAR optimisations.

The Eth2NearClient contract could benefit from several recommended optimisations for NEAR contracts. More detailed examples of where these recommendations apply have been communicated with the development team and are only generally enumerated here:

(a) Prefer near\_sdk::require() to assert!: the standard assert macro implicitly introduces unnecessary string formatting.



- (b) Prefer near\_sdk::env::panic\_str() to panic! : the standard panic marco implicitly introduces unnecessary string formatting (also applies to expect()).
- (c) Remove #[payable] decorator from methods which do not accept NEAR tokens.
- (d) Optimise selection of near\_sdk::collections data structures based on implementation requirements.

#### 11. Typos in Comments.

- (a) Comments in rainbow-bridge/contracts/near/eth2-utility/src/consensus.rs on line [**198-199**] should be HeaderInfo: 70B and counter: 4B (note the colon).
- (b) "Headerss" (see here).
- (c) Missing colons in what should be "HeaderInfo: 70B" and "counter: 4B" (see here)

#### 12. Unwraps panic without helpful error messages in setup.

- (a) eth2-on-near-client-validator
  - main.rs L28
  - main.rs L37
  - main.rs L54
- (b) rainbow-bridge
  - main.rs L55
  - main.rs L84
  - main.rs L85
  - main.rs L88
  - eth2near\_relay.rs L59
  - init\_contract.rs L21
  - init\_contract.rs L26
  - init\_contract.rs L39
  - init contract.rs L45
  - init\_contract.rs L49
  - init\_contract.rs L52
  - init\_contract.rs L57

#### 13. Rust Security Advisory Vulnerable Crates.

cargo audit is a tool used to check all dependant crates against the Rust Security Advisory. There are two vulnerable dependencies that are flagged by cargo audit.

- time 0.1.44
- chrono 0.4.19

The testing team has concluded that the vulnerable code is not reachable from any of the in scope repositories. Consider updating these crates and those along the dependency tree to the most recent versions to remove the security advisory.

#### 14. Clippy Lints.

The tool clippy provides useful rust lints. Consider applying the following lints found by clippy.

- unneeded return statements
  - get\_last\_slot()
  - linear\_slot\_search()
  - binary\_slot\_search()()
  - get\_last\_submitted\_slot()



- reference to reference i.e. extra & for beacon\_state which is already a pointer.
- reference to 'Vec' rather than slice
- unused import

#### 15. Potential Panics From RPC Responses.

The beacon client is trusted however trust on external resources should be minimised to account for potential bugs and updates. This issue highlights potential panics that may occur if malformed data is received from an RPC call.

These cases may result in index out of bounds errors if the result has insufficient length. Consider adding bounds check to each array or string before indexing.

- Beacon RPC #145
- Beacon RPC #156

These cases may result in a panic when indexing the Value if the key is non-existent. Consider indexing a Value using the function 'get()' and handling the error case.

- Beacon RPC #155
- Beacon RPC #179
- Beacon RPC #217
- Beacon RPC #251
- Beacon RPC #265
- Beacon RPC #273
- Beacon RPC #281
- Beacon RPC #291
- Beacon RPC #308
- Beacon RPC #348
- Beacon RPC #351
- Beacon RPC #387
- Beacon RPC #392
- Eth1 RPC #36

#### **Recommendations**

Ensure that the comments are understood and acknowledged, and consider implementing the suggestions above.

#### Resolution

The development team have implemented the suggestions where it was deemed appropriate and practical.

# Appendix A Vulnerability Severity Classification

This security review classifies vulnerabilities based on their potential impact and likelihood of occurance. The total severity of a vulnerability is derived from these two metrics based on the following matrix.



Table 1: Severity Matrix - How the severity of a vulnerability is given based on the *impact* and the *likelihood* of a vulnerability.

### References

