



Nibiru

Smart Contract Security Assessment

July 3, 2023

Prepared for:

Unique Divine

Nibiru

Prepared by:

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About Zellic

Zellic was founded in 2020 by a team of blockchain specialists with more than a decade of combined industry experience. We are leading experts in smart contracts and Web3 development, cryptography, web security, and reverse engineering. Before Zellic, we founded perfect blue, the top competitive hacking team in the world. Since then, our team has won countless cybersecurity contests and blockchain security events.

Zellic aims to treat clients on a case-by-case basis and to consider their individual, unique concerns and business needs. Our goal is to see the long-term success of our partners rather than simply provide a list of present security issues. Similarly, we strive to adapt to our partners' timelines and to be as available as possible. To keep up with our latest endeavors and research, check out our website zellic.io or follow @zellic_io on Twitter. If you are interested in partnering with Zellic, please contact us at hello@zellic.io.



1 Executive Summary

Zellic conducted a security assessment for Nibiru from May 15th to June 12th, 2023. During this engagement, Zellic reviewed Nibiru's code for security vulnerabilities, design issues, and general weaknesses in security posture.

1.1 Goals of the Assessment

In a security assessment, goals are framed in terms of questions that we wish to answer. These questions are agreed upon through close communication between Zellic and the client. In this assessment, we sought to answer the following questions:

- Are calculations implemented correctly?
- Could an attacker manipulate the AMM (automated market maker) price?
- Could an attacker extract more funds than they are owed?

1.2 Non-goals and Limitations

We did not assess the following areas that were outside the scope of this engagement:

- Problems relating to the front-end components and infrastructure of the project
- Problems due to improper key custody or off-chain access control
- Issues stemming from code or infrastructure outside of the assessment scope

Due to the time-boxed nature of security assessments in general, there are limitations in the coverage an assessment can provide.

1.3 Results

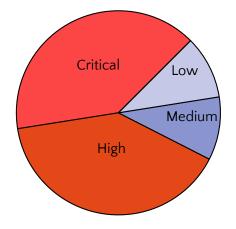
During our assessment on the scoped Nibiru modules, we discovered 10 findings. Four critical issues were found. Four were of high impact, one was of medium impact, and one was of low impact.

Additionally, Zellic recorded its notes and observations from the assessment for Nibiru's benefit in the Discussion section (4) at the end of the document.

Nibiru

Breakdown of Finding Impacts

Impact Level	Count
Critical	4
High	4
Medium	1
Low	1
Informational	0



2 Introduction

2.1 About Nibiru

Nibiru is a sovereign proof-of-stake blockchain, open-source platform, and member of a family of interconnected blockchains that comprise the Cosmos Ecosystem.

Nibiru unifies leveraged derivatives trading, spot trading, staking, and bonded liquidity provision into a seamless user experience, enabling users of over 40 blockchains to trade with leverage using a suite of composable decentralized applications.

2.2 Methodology

During a security assessment, Zellic works through standard phases of security auditing including both automated testing and manual review. These processes can vary significantly per engagement, but the majority of the time is spent on a thorough manual review of the entire scope.

Alongside a variety of tools and analyzers used on an as-needed basis, Zellic focuses primarily on the following classes of security and reliability issues:

Basic coding mistakes. Many critical vulnerabilities in the past have been caused by simple, surface-level mistakes that could have easily been caught ahead of time by code review. Depending on the engagement, we may also employ sophisticated analyzers such as model checkers, theorem provers, fuzzers, and so on as necessary. We also perform a cursory review of the code to familiarize ourselves with the contracts.

Business logic errors. Business logic is the heart of any smart contract application. We examine the specifications and designs for inconsistencies, flaws, and weaknesses that create opportunities for abuse. For example, these include problems like unrealistic tokenomics or dangerous arbitrage opportunities. To the best of our abilities, time permitting, we also review the contract logic to ensure that the code implements the expected functionality as specified in the platform's design documents.

Integration risks. Several well-known exploits have not been the result of any bug within the contract itself; rather, they are an unintended consequence of the contract's interaction with the broader DeFi ecosystem. Time permitting, we review the contracts' external interactions and summarize the associated risks: for example, flash loan attacks, oracle price manipulation, MEV/sandwich attacks, and so on.

Code maturity. We look for potential improvements in the code base in general. We look for violations of industry best practices and guidelines and code quality stan-

dards. We also provide suggestions for possible optimizations, such as gas optimization, upgradeability weaknesses, centralization risks, and so on.

For each finding, Zellic assigns it an impact rating based on its severity and likelihood. There is no hard-and-fast formula for calculating a finding's impact. Instead, we assign it on a case-by-case basis based on our judgment and experience. Both the severity and likelihood of an issue affect its impact. For instance, a highly severe issue's impact may be attenuated by a low likelihood. We assign the following impact ratings (ordered by importance): Critical, High, Medium, Low, and Informational.

Zellic organizes its reports such that the most important findings come first in the document, rather than being strictly ordered on impact alone. Thus, we may sometimes emphasize an "Informational" finding higher than a "Low" finding. The key distinction is that although certain findings may have the same impact rating, their *importance* may differ. This varies based on various soft factors, like our clients' threat models, their business needs, and so on. We aim to provide useful and actionable advice to our partners considering their long-term goals, rather than a simple list of security issues at present.

2.3 Scope

The engagement involved a review of the following targets:

Nibiru Modules

Repository https://github.com/NibiruChain/nibiru

Version nibiru: 24b8a7c8137115c4e5d556f38235fdc4ef5f655d

Programs • NibiruChain

cw-nibiru

Type Cosmos

Platforms Cosmos-SDK, CosmosWasm

2.4 Project Overview

Zellic was contracted to perform a security assessment with two consultants for a total of six person-weeks. The assessment was conducted over the course of four calendar weeks.

Nibiru

Contact Information

The following project manager was associated with the engagement:

Chad McDonald, Engagement Manager chad@zellic.io

The following consultants were engaged to conduct the assessment:

Raj Agarwal, EngineerWilliam Bowling, Engineerraj@zellic.iovakzz@zellic.io

2.5 Project Timeline

The key dates of the engagement are detailed below.

May 16, 2023 Kick-off call
May 16, 2023 Start of primary review period
June 12, 2023 End of primary review period
July 10, 2023 Closing call

3 Detailed Findings

3.1 Margin ratio not checked when removing collateral

• Target: x/perp/v2/keeper/margin.go

• Category: Coding Mistakes

• **Likelihood**: High

• Severity: Critical

• Impact: Critical

Description

When removing margin from a position using RemoveMargin, there is a check to ensure that there is enough free collateral:

```
func (k Keeper) RemoveMargin(
   ctx sdk.Context, pair asset.Pair, traderAddr sdk.AccAddress,
   marginToRemove sdk.Coin,
) (res *v2types.MsgRemoveMarginResponse, err error) {
   market, err := k.Markets.Get(ctx, pair)
   if err # nil {
       return nil, fmt.Errorf("%w: %s", types.ErrPairNotFound, pair)
   amm, err := k.AMMs.Get(ctx, pair)
   if err # nil {
       return nil, fmt.Errorf("%w: %s", types.ErrPairNotFound, pair)
   if marginToRemove.Denom # amm.Pair.QuoteDenom() {
       return nil, fmt.Errorf("invalid margin denom: %s",
   marginToRemove.Denom)
   position, err = k.Positions.Get(ctx, collections.Join(pair,
   traderAddr))
   if err # nil {
       return nil, err
```

```
spotNotional, err := PositionNotionalSpot(amm, position)
if err ≠ nil {
    return nil, err
}
twapNotional, err := k.PositionNotionalTWAP(ctx, position,
market.TwapLookbackWindow)
if err # nil {
    return nil, err
minPositionNotional := sdk.MinDec(spotNotional, twapNotional)
fundingPayment := FundingPayment(position,
market.LatestCumulativePremiumFraction)
remainingMargin := position.Margin.Sub(fundingPayment)
unrealizedPnl := UnrealizedPnl(position, minPositionNotional)
if unrealizedPnl.IsNegative() {
    remainingMargin = remainingMargin.Add(unrealizedPnl)
}
if remainingMargin.LT(marginToRemove.Amount.ToDec()) {
    return nil, types.ErrFailedRemoveMarginCanCauseBadDebt.Wrapf(
        "not enough free collateral to remove margin; remainingMargin
%s, marginToRemove %s", remainingMargin, marginToRemove,
if err = k.Withdraw(ctx, market, traderAddr, marginToRemove.Amount);
err # nil {
    return nil, err
}
```

The issue is that there is no check to ensure that the new margin ratio of the position is valid and that it is not underwater.

Impact

This allows someone to open a new position and then immediately remove 99.99% of the margin while effectively allowing them to have infinite leverage.

Recommendations

There should be a check on the margin ratio, similar to afterPositionUpdate, to ensure that it is not too low:

```
var preferredPositionNotional sdk.Dec
  if positionResp.Position.Size_.IsPositive() {
     preferredPositionNotional = sdk.MaxDec(spotNotional,
     twapNotional)
} else {
    preferredPositionNotional = sdk.MinDec(spotNotional,
     twapNotional)
}

marginRatio := MarginRatio(*positionResp.Position,
    preferredPositionNotional, market.LatestCumulativePremiumFraction)
  if marginRatio.LT(market.MaintenanceMarginRatio) {
        return v2types.ErrMarginRatioTooLow
}
```

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and a fix was implemented in commit ffad80c2.

3.2 AMM price manipulation using openReversePosition

• Target: x/perp/v2/keeper

• Category: Coding Mistakes

• Likelihood: High

• **Severity**: Critical

• Impact: Critical

Description

The Nibiru perp module allows users to open reverse positions to decrease the margin, effectively shrinking the position size. A user can open a buy position and then immediately open a reverse position of the same size. Since currentPositionNotional is fractionally larger than notionalToDecreaseBy, it is possible to enter the decreasePo stion flow as follows:

```
if currentPositionNotional.GT(notionalToDecreaseBy) {
    // position reduction
    return k.decreasePosition(
        ctx,
        market,
        amm,
        currentPosition,
        notionalToDecreaseBy,
        baseAmtLimit,
        /* skipFluctuationLimitCheck */ false,
```

This leaves the position with a zero size. Further in afterPositionUpdate, the position is not saved due to the following check:

```
func (k Keeper) afterPositionUpdate(
    ctx sdk.Context,
    market v2types.Market,
    amm v2types.AMM,
    traderAddr sdk.AccAddress,
    positionResp v2types.PositionResp,
) (err error) {
    [...]
    if !positionResp.Position.Size_.IsZero() {
        k.Positions.Insert(ctx, collections.Join(market.Pair, traderAddr), *positionResp.Position)
    }
}
```

However, the AMM is still updated in decreasePosition as though the position was saved.

```
func (k Keeper) decreasePosition(
   ctx sdk.Context,
    market v2types.Market,
    amm v2types.AMM,
    currentPosition v2types.Position,
    decreasedNotional sdk.Dec,
    baseAmtLimit sdk.Dec,
    skipFluctuationLimitCheck bool,
) (updatedAMM *v2types.AMM, positionResp *v2types.PositionResp, err error)
    updatedAMM, baseAssetDeltaAbs, err := k.SwapQuoteAsset(
        ctx,
        market,
        amm,
        dir,
        decreasedNotional,
        baseAmtLimit,
```

Impact

An attacker could repeatedly open and close positions to manipulate the AMM price. They could then liquidate strong positions to make a profit.

Recommendations

It appears that the afterPositionUpdate function does not update a position with size zero because it assumes that it has already been deleted — for example in closePositionEntirely:

```
positionResp.ExchangedNotionalValue = exchangedNotionalValue
  positionResp.Position = &v2types.Position{
    TraderAddress: currentPosition.TraderAddress,
    Pair: currentPosition.Pair,
    Size_: sdk.ZeroDec(),
    Margin: sdk.ZeroDec(),
    OpenNotional: sdk.ZeroDec(),
```

```
LatestCumulativePremiumFraction:

market.LatestCumulativePremiumFraction,

LastUpdatedBlockNumber: ctx.BlockHeight(),

}

err = k.Positions.Delete(ctx, collections.Join(currentPosition.Pair, trader))
```

Instead, a flag could be added to the PositionResp type to avoid updating a position after it has been deleted.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and fixes were implemented in the following commits:

- ffad80c2
- d47861fd

3.3 The sender is not checked for Wasm messages

• Target: x/wasm/binding/exec.go

• Category: Coding Mistakes

• Likelihood: High

• Severity: Critical

• Impact: Critical

Description

The CosmosWasm module has been enabled to allow developers to deploy smart contracts on Nibiru. To allow these contracts to interact with the chain, a custom executor has been written that will intercept and execute the appropriate custom calls:

```
type OpenPosition struct {
    Sender string `json:"sender"`
    Pair string `json:"pair"`
    IsLong bool
                  `json:"is_long"\
    QuoteAmount sdk.Int `json:"quote_amount"\
    Leverage sdk.Dec 'json:"leverage"
    BaseAmountLimit sdk.Int 'json: "base_amount_limit" \
}
func (messenger *CustomWasmExecutor) DispatchMsg(
    ctx sdk.Context,
    contractAddr sdk.AccAddress,
    contractIBCPortID string,
    wasmMsg wasmvmtypes.CosmosMsg,
) (events []sdk.Event, data [][]byte, err error) {
    if wasmMsg.Custom ≠ nil {
        var contractExecuteMsg BindingExecuteMsgWrapper
        if err := json.Unmarshal(wasmMsg.Custom, &contractExecuteMsg);
            return events, data, sdkerrors.Wrapf(err, "wasmMsg: %s",
    wasmMsg.Custom)
        }
        switch {
        case contractExecuteMsg.ExecuteMsg.OpenPosition # nil:
            cwMsg := contractExecuteMsg.ExecuteMsg.OpenPosition
```

```
_, err = messenger.Perp.OpenPosition(cwMsg, ctx)
return events, data, err
...
```

These can then be called from a Cosmos contract:

```
#[cw_serde]
#[cw_custom]
pub struct NibiruExecuteMsg {
    pub route: NibiruRoute,
    pub msg: ExecuteMsg,
}
pub fn open_position(
    sender: String,
    pair: String,
    is_long: bool,
    quote_amount: Uint128,
    leverage: Decimal,
    base_amount_limit: Uint128,
) 
ightarrow CosmosMsg<NibiruExecuteMsg> {
    NibiruExecuteMsg {
        route: NibiruRoute::Perp,
        msg: ExecuteMsg::OpenPosition {
            sender,
            pair,
            is_long,
            quote_amount,
            leverage,
            base_amount_limit,
        },
    .into()
```

The issue is that there is no validation on the value of sender; it can be set to an arbitrary account and end up being sent straight to the message handler:

```
func (exec *ExecutorPerp) OpenPosition(
    cwMsg *cw_struct.OpenPosition, ctx sdk.Context,
) (
    sdkResp *perpv2types.MsgOpenPositionResponse, err error,
) {
    if cwMsg == nil {
        return sdkResp, wasmvmtypes.InvalidRequest{Err: "null open
    position msg"}
    pair, err := asset.TryNewPair(cwMsg.Pair)
    if err # nil {
        return sdkResp, err
    var side perpv2types.Direction
    if cwMsg.IsLong {
        side = perpv2types.Direction_LONG
    } else {
        side = perpv2types.Direction_SHORT
    sdkMsg := &perpv2types.MsgOpenPosition{
        Sender: cwMsg.Sender,
        Pair: pair,
        Side: side,
        QuoteAssetAmount: cwMsg.QuoteAmount,
        Leverage: cwMsg.Leverage,
        BaseAssetAmountLimit: cwMsg.BaseAmountLimit,
    }
    goCtx := sdk.WrapSDKContext(ctx)
    return exec.MsgServer().OpenPosition(goCtx, sdkMsg)
```

Impact

This allows a CosmosWasm contract to execute the OpenPosition, ClosePosition, Add Margin, and RemoveMargin operations on behalf of any user.

Recommendations

The sender should not be able to be arbitrarily set; it should be the address of the contract that is executing the message. If the sender needs to be configurable, only a whitelisted or trusted contract should be able to do it and that contract should have the appropriate checks to ensure the sender is set to the correct value.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and fixes were implemented in the following commits:

- bb898ae9
- 75041c3d

3.4 Wasm bindings do not validate messages

• Target: x/wasm/binding/exec.go

• Category: Coding Mistakes

• Likelihood: High

• **Severity**: Critical

• Impact: Critical

Description

It was found that the Wasm bindings use messages directly after they are unmarshalled without calling ValidateBasic. The messages are directly passed to the handlers and crucial checks are skipped.

```
func (messenger *CustomWasmExecutor) DispatchMsg(
   ctx sdk.Context,
   contractAddr sdk.AccAddress,
   contractIBCPortID string,
   wasmMsg wasmvmtypes.CosmosMsg,
) (events []sdk.Event, data [][]byte, err error) {
   if wasmMsg.Custom ≠ nil {
       var contractExecuteMsg BindingExecuteMsgWrapper
       if err := json.Unmarshal(wasmMsg.Custom, &contractExecuteMsg);
   err ≠ nil {
           return events, data, sdkerrors.Wrapf(err, "wasmMsg: %s",
   wasmMsg.Custom)
       }
       switch {
        case contractExecuteMsg.ExecuteMsg.OpenPosition ≠ nil:
            cwMsg := contractExecuteMsg.ExecuteMsg.OpenPosition
            _, err = messenger.Perp.OpenPosition(cwMsg, ctx)
```

Any checks that the handlers rely on ValidateBasic for are skipped and can be exploited if the respective checks are not present in the handlers.

Impact

The following are the examples of messages that can be exploited:

For one, ExecuteMsg.AddMargin does not check if the margin denom is the same

- as the pair denom. This could allow incorrect collateral to be used.
- Another is that ExecuteMsg.RemoveMargin does not check that the amount to remove is positive, allowing the margin of a position to be increased without transferring any funds from the user. The inflated marging could then be withrawn to drain the VaultModuleAccount and PerpEFModuleAccount pools.

Recommendations

After creating each sdkMsg, the ValidateBasic() should be called on each before they are passed to the MsgServer in the executor.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and fixes were implemented in the following commits:

- ba58517e
- da51fdf0

3.5 Incorrect TWAP calculation

• Target: x/oracle/keeper/keeper.go

• Category: Coding Mistakes • Seve

• Likelihood: High

Severity: HighImpact: High

Description

The oracle module uses the calcTwap to compute the TWAP (time-weighted average price). Here, the maximum of snapshots[0].TimestampMs and ctx.BlockTime().UnixMilli() - twapLookBack is used as firstTimeStamp.

```
func (k Keeper) calcTwap(ctx sdk.Context, snapshots []types.PriceSnapshot)
    (price sdk.Dec, err error) {
    [...]
    firstTimeStamp := ctx.BlockTime().UnixMilli() - twapLookBack
    cumulativePrice := sdk.ZeroDec()

    firstTimeStamp = math.MaxInt64(snapshots[0].TimestampMs,
        firstTimeStamp)
    [...]
        nextTimeStampMs = snapshots[i+1].TimestampMs
    }

    price := s.Price.MulInt64(nextTimestampMs - timestampStart)
```

This is not sound as it is possible for the price to be negative if timestampStart is greater than nextTimestampMs.

Impact

If timestampStart is greater than nextTimestampMs, the resulting TWAP data will be incorrect. However, this is not an issue currently since the caller for calcTwap only includes snapshots starting from ctx.BlockTime().UnixMilli() - twapLookBack.

Recommendations

Ideally, firstTimeStamp should always just be equal to the timestamp of the first snapshot.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and a fix was implemented in commit 53487734.

3.6 Panic in EndBlock hooks will halt the chain

• Target: x/inflation, x/oracle

Category: Coding Mistakes
 Likelihood: High
 Severity: High
 Impact: High

Description

When executing a transaction, Cosmos automatically handles any panics that may occur with the default recovery middleware (see runtx_middleware), but this is not the case for anything that runs within an EndBlock or BeginBlock hook. In these cases it is vital that there are no panics and that all errors are handled correctly; otherwise, it will result in a chain halt as all the validators will panic and crash.

The following locations are all reachable from an EndBlock or BeginBlock (AfterEpoch End is called from a BeginBlock):

- x/inflation/keeper/hooks.go#L64-L64
- x/oracle/keeper/slash.go#L52-L52
- x/oracle/keeper/update_exchange_rates.go#L80-L80
- x/oracle/keeper/reward.go#L71-L71
- x/oracle/keeper/reward.go#L60-L60
- x/oracle/keeper/ballot.go#L69-L69
- x/oracle/types/ballot.go#L111-L111

Impact

If any of these error conditions are met, there will be a chain halt as all the validators will crash.

Recommendations

The panics should be replaced with the appropriate error handling for each case and either log the error or fail gracefully.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and fixes were implemented in the following commits:

23

- 73d9bfd4
- 85859f2b

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3.7 The ReserveSnapshots are never updated

• Target: x/perp/v2/module/abci.go

• Category: Coding Mistakes

• Likelihood: High

• Severity: High

• Impact: High

Description

The perp module has an EndBlocker, which is designed to create a snapshot of the AMM in order to calculate the TWAP prices:

The issue is that the EndBlocker is not hooked up and is never called.

Impact

The ReserveSnapshots are never updated and so anything relying on it (such as CalcT wap) will be using whatever values were set during genesis.

Recommendations

The EndBlocker should be called from the perp module's EndBlock:

```
func (am AppModule) EndBlock(ctx sdk.Context, _ abci.RequestEndBlock)
   []abci.ValidatorUpdate {
   EndBlocker(ctx, am.keeper)
   return []abci.ValidatorUpdate{}
}
```

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and a fix was implemented in commit 7144cc96.

3.8 Distributing zero coins causes chain halt

• Target: x/oracle/keeper/hooks.go

• Category: Coding Mistakes • Severity: High

• Likelihood: High • Impact: High

Description

The oracle module uses an AfterEpochEnd hook, which allocates rewards for validators. This hook is inside the BeginBlocker.

```
func (h Hooks) AfterEpochEnd(ctx sdk.Context, epochIdentifier string, _
   uint64) {
       [...]
       balances := h.bankKeeper.GetAllBalances(ctx,
   account.GetAddress())
       for _, balance := range balances {
           validatorFees
    i= balance.Amount.ToDec().Mul(params.ValidatorFeeRatio).TruncateInt()
            rest := balance.Amount.Sub(validatorFees)
            totalValidatorFees = append(totalValidatorFees,
   sdk.NewCoin(balance.Denom, validatorFees))
            totalRest = append(totalRest, sdk.NewCoin(balance.Denom,
   rest))
       [ ... ]
       err = h.k.AllocateRewards(
           perptypes.FeePoolModuleAccount,
           totalValidatorFees,
       if err ≠ nil {
           panic(err)
```

The issue here is that validatorFees could be zero for very small positions. This means AllocateRewards could be called with one or more coins with a zero amount.

Impact

The AllocateRewards function in turn calls bankKeeper.SendCoinsFromModuleToModule, which will fail if any of the coins have a nonpositive amount.

```
func (coins Coins) Validate() error {
    [...]
    if err := ValidateDenom(coins[0].Denom); err ≠ nil {
        return err
    }
    if !coins[0].IsPositive() {
        return fmt.Errorf("coin %s amount is not positive", coins[0])
    }
}
```

Since the AfterEpochEnd hook is inside the BeginBlocker, this will cause the chain to halt.

Recommendations

If the final value of totalValidatorFees is not greater than zero then the call to h.k.Al locateRewards should not be made.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and a fix was implemented in commit c430556a.

3.9 Large rewardSpread due to miscalculation

• Target: x/oracle/types/ballot.go

Category: Coding Mistakes
 Likelihood: Medium
 Severity: High
 Impact: Medium

Description

The oracle module uses the rewardSpread to check if the price data from the validator is within an acceptable range from the chosen price.

```
func Tally(ballots types.ExchangeRateBallots, rewardBand sdk.Dec,
    validatorPerformances types.ValidatorPerformances) sdk.Dec {
    sort.Sort(ballots)

    weightedMedian := ballots.WeightedMedianWithAssertion()
    standardDeviation := ballots.StandardDeviation(weightedMedian)
    rewardSpread := weightedMedian.Mul(rewardBand.QuoInt64(2))

if standardDeviation.GT(rewardSpread) {
    rewardSpread = standardDeviation
```

```
sum := sdk.ZeroDec()
  for _, v := range pb {
    deviation := v.ExchangeRate.Sub(median)
    sum = sum.Add(deviation.Mul(deviation))
}
```

The standard deviation for the ballots is used directly as the rewardSpread if it is greater than the calculated rewardSpread.

```
if standardDeviation.GT(rewardSpread) {
    rewardSpread = standardDeviation
```

The StandardDeviation function, however, does not ignore negative votes. This could allow a malicious validator to submit abstaining votes with very large negative values and increase the rewardSpread.

Impact

Two malicious validators could collude to repeatedly submit prices outside the acceptable price band. They can do this without being slashed due to rewardSpread having a very high value. If eventually the attacker succeeds in publishing an invalid price, they could profit by liquidating strong postions through the perp module.

Recommendations

Abstained votes should be ignored when calculating the standard deviation for the ballots.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and a fix was implemented in commit 908571f0.

3.10 Iterating over maps is nondeterministic

Target: x/oracle/keeper

• Category: Coding Mistakes • **Severity**: High • Impact: Low

Likelihood: Low

Description

It is vitally important that any calculations done by the chain are deterministic and can be reproduced by every validator so that the state of the network can be agreed upon. One source of nondeterminism in Go is iterating over maps: the specification states, "The iteration order over maps is not specified and is not guaranteed to be the same from one iteration to the next" (https://go.dev/ref/spec#RangeClause).

The removeInvalidBallots and countVotesAndUpdateExchangeRates functions are both called from an EndBlocker and iterate over a map:

```
func (k Keeper) removeInvalidBallots(
   ctx sdk.Context,
   pairBallotsMap map[asset.Pair]types.ExchangeRateBallots,
) (map[asset.Pair]types.ExchangeRateBallots, set.Set[asset.Pair]) {
   whitelistedPairs := set.New(k.GetWhitelistedPairs(ctx)...)
   totalBondedPower
    sdk.TokensToConsensusPower(k.StakingKeeper.TotalBondedTokens(ctx),
   k.StakingKeeper.PowerReduction(ctx))
   thresholdVotingPower
    = k.VoteThreshold(ctx).MulInt64(totalBondedPower).RoundInt()
    minVoters := k.MinVoters(ctx)
    for pair, ballots := range pairBallotsMap {
        if _, exists := whitelistedPairs[pair]; !exists {
           delete(pairBallotsMap, pair)
           continue
       }
```

```
if !isPassingVoteThreshold(ballots, thresholdVotingPower,
    minVoters) {
            delete(whitelistedPairs, pair)
            delete(pairBallotsMap, pair)
            continue
    }
    return pairBallotsMap, whitelistedPairs
}
func (k Keeper) countVotesAndUpdateExchangeRates(
    ctx sdk.Context,
    pairBallotsMap map[asset.Pair]types.ExchangeRateBallots,
    validatorPerformances types.ValidatorPerformances,
) {
    rewardBand := k.RewardBand(ctx)
    for pair, ballots := range pairBallotsMap {
        exchangeRate := Tally(ballots, rewardBand, validatorPerformances)
        k.SetPrice(ctx, pair, exchangeRate)
        ctx.EventManager().EmitEvent(
            sdk.NewEvent(types.EventTypeExchangeRateUpdate,
                sdk.NewAttribute(types.AttributeKeyPair, pair.String()),
                sdk.NewAttribute(types.AttributeKeyExchangeRate,
    exchangeRate.String()),
            ),
        )
    }
}
```

Impact

Currently, the operations that are performed in k.SetPrice end up being the same regardless of the order it is called, so it is unlikely to cause a chain halt. However, a simple unrelated change to a keeper in the future could cause this issue to occur as the order that the pairs are processed can be different.

Recommendations

Instead of iterating over the map, the function should iterate over a sorted list of keys.

```
func (k Keeper) countVotesAndUpdateExchangeRates(
    ctx sdk.Context,
    pairBallotsMap map[asset.Pair]types.ExchangeRateBallots,
    validatorPerformances types.ValidatorPerformances,
) {
    rewardBand := k.RewardBand(ctx)
    keys := make([]string, 0, len(pairBallotsMap))
    for key := range pairBallotsMap {
        keys = append(keys, key.String())
    sort.Strings(keys)
    for _, key := range keys {
        pair := asset.MustNewPair(key)
        ballots := pairBallotsMap[pair]
        exchangeRate := Tally(ballots, rewardBand, validatorPerformances)
        k.SetPrice(ctx, pair, exchangeRate)
        ctx.EventManager().EmitEvent(
            sdk.NewEvent(types.EventTypeExchangeRateUpdate,
                sdk.NewAttribute(types.AttributeKeyPair, pair.String()),
                sdk.NewAttribute(types.AttributeKeyExchangeRate,
    exchangeRate.String()),
            ),
        )
    }
}
```

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by Nibiru, and a fix was implemented in commit 3482a22d.

4 Discussion

The purpose of this section is to document miscellaneous observations that we made during the assessment.

4.1 Logic of change_admin is inconsistent with instantiate

When instantiating the CosmosWasm contracts, the admin is set up and also added as a member:

```
#[entry_point]
pub fn instantiate( eps: DepsMut, _env: Env, _info: MessageInfo,
    msg: InitMsg) \rightarrow StdResult<Response> {
    let whitelist = Whitelist {
        members: vec![msg.admin.clone()].into_iter().collect(),
        admin: msg.admin,
    };
    WHITELIST.save(deps.storage, &whitelist)?;
    Ok(Response::default())
}
```

But when change_admin is called, the new admin is removed from the member list (and the old admin is kept as a member):

Consider changing the logic so that change_admin does not affect the member list (which can be done in a separate call to add_member or remove_member) or to make it match the instantiate method so that the admin becomes a member.

5 Threat Model

This provides a full threat model description for various functions. As time permitted, we analyzed each function in the smart contracts and created a written threat model for some critical functions. A threat model documents a given function's externally controllable inputs and how an attacker could leverage each input to cause harm.

Not all functions in the audit scope may have been modeled. The absence of a threat model in this section does not necessarily suggest that a function is safe.

5.1 Module: x/oracle

Message: AggregateExchangeRatePrevote

The AggregateExchangeRatePrevote handler is responsible for submitting an aggregate exchange rate prevote, which is part of the commit-reveal scheme used by the oracle module to reduce the risk of centralization and of free riders.

The parameters that are controllable by the user are

- Hash This is the hash of the exchange rates that will be revealed in the aggregate exchange rate vote, which is calculated as the hex string of SHA256("{salt}:({pair},{exchange_rate})| ... |({pair},{exchange_rate}):{voter}").
- Feeder This is the address of the price feeder that is submitting the aggregate exchange rate prevote. This address must have signed the message.
- Validator This is the address of the validator that is submitting the aggregate exchange rate prevote. This may be the same as the Feeder address if there is no delegation.

Before recording the prevote, the Feeder is checked to ensure that it is the same as the Validator or that the Validator has delegated to the Feeder. The Validator is also checked to ensure that it is a valid bonded validator

Message: MsgAggregateExchangeRateVote

The MsgAggregateExchangeRateVote handler is responsible for submitting an aggregate exchange rate vote, which must match a previously submitted aggregate exchange rate prevote.

The parameters that are controllable by the user are

• Salt — This is the salt used to generate the aggregate vote hash; it must be a

- string of length 1 to 4.
- ExchangeRates These are the exchange rates to vote on; they must be a string of exchange rate tuples in the format of ({pair}, {exchange_rate})| ... |({pair}, {exchange_rate}), for example (nibi:usd, 100)|(btc:usd, 200000).
- Feeder This is the address of the feeder that is submitting the vote. This must be a valid address and the signer of the message.
- Validator This is the validator address to submit the vote for. This must be a valid address.

Before recording the vote, the Feeder is checked to ensure that it is the same as the Validator or that the Validator has delegated to the Feeder. The Validator is also checked to ensure that it is a valid bonded validator. Then the prevote is checked to ensure that it exists and that the recorded hash matches the hash generated from the parameters. Finally, the exchange rates are parsed and checked to ensure that they are valid.

Message: MsgDelegateFeedConsent

The MsgDelegateFeedConsent handler is responsible for delegating oracle voting rights to another address.

The parameters that are controllable by the user are

- Operator This is the validator address to delegate oracle voting rights from.
- Delegate This is the address to delegate oracle voting rights to.

The Operator must have signed the message and also be a validator. The Delegate must be a valid address. Once called, the Delegate will be able to vote on oracle votes on behalf of the Operator.

Hook: SlashAndResetMissCounters

The SlashAndResetMissCounters hook is called every SlashWindow blocks. It iterates through all validators that were recorded as missing votes in the previous SlashWindow blocks and checks if they missed more than MinValidPerWindow of the votes. If so, it slashes the validator and resets their miss counter to zero.

Hook: UpdateExchangeRates

The UpdateExchangeRates hook is called every VotePeriod blocks and is responsible for updating the exchange rates based on all the votes that have been cast from the validators. The basic flow is

1. Reset the current exchange rates by removing them all from the store.

- 2. Split the votes into ballots by pair, removing any votes from nonbonded or jailed validators, any non-whitelisted pairs, pairs with less than the minimum number of votes, or pairs that have less than the voting power threshold.
- 3. For each valid pair, tally up the votes and find the weighted median exchange rate and record the validators that voted for an exchange rate that was within the reward band, and then update the exchange rate.
- 4. Count up the validators who missed the vote and increase the appropriate miss counters.
- 5. Distribute rewards to the validators that voted for an exchange rate that was within the reward band.
- 6. Clear previous prevotes and all votes from the store.

5.2 Module: x/perp/v2

Message: AddMargin

The AddMargin handler is responsible for adding collateral to an existing position to increase the margin ratio.

The parameters that are controllable by the user are

- pair This is the pair of the open position to add collateral to; it is checked to
 ensure that it is valid, that there is an open position, and there is a market and
 an AMM for it.
- marginToAdd This is the amount of coins to add to the position; it is checked
 to ensure that the amount is positive and that the denom is the same as the
 specified pair.

When adding margin, any outstanding funding payment is realized and the position LatestCumulativePremiumFraction is updated to match the market's value.

Message: MsgClosePosition

The MsgClosePosition handler is responsible for closing an existing position and returning any remaining margin back to the user, or it realizes any bad debt if there is any.

The only parameter that is controllable by the user is the pair, which is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is an open position, a market, and an AMM for the pair.

Message: MsgMultiLiquidate

The MsgMultiLiquidate handler is responsible for liquidating underwater positions. It can be called by anyone with a list of trader and pair mappings and will attempt to partially or fully liquidate each position.

The parameter that is controllable by the user is

• liquidationRequests — This is an array consisting of groups of a trader address and a pair. Each address and pair is validated to ensure they are well-formed.

When liquidating multiple positions, the transaction will fail if all the liquidations are unsuccessful, but it will return a success if there is at least one valid liquidation.

For each position, the margin ratio is checked, and if it is greater than the market's specified MaintenanceMarginRatio, then the liquidation fails with LiquidationFailedE vent_POSITION_HEALTHY. Otherwise, if the spot margin ratio is greater or equal to the market's LiquidationFeeRatio (there is enough margin to pay the liquidation fee), a partial liquidation is performed by reducing the size to the market's PartialLiquidationRatio. If there is not enough margin to pay the liquidation fee, then a full liquidation is performed and the position is closed out.

Message: MsgOpenPosition

The MsgOpenPosition handler is responsible for creating a new long or short position on a specified pair as well as increasing or decreasing an existing position. The parameters that a user can control are

- pair This is the pair to open or modify the position on. It is checked to ensure
 that the format is valid, that an enabled market exists for it, and that there is an
 AMM for it.
- dir This is the direction the user is taking and must be either Direction_SHORT or Direction_LONG.
- quoteAssetAmt This is the amount of quote asset to open a position with; it must be greater than zero.
- Leverage This is the leverage to open a position with; it must be positive and not greater than the market's MaxLeverage setting.
- baseAmtLimit This is the minimum base asset amount to open a position with; it must not be negative.

Message: MsgRemoveMargin

The MsgRemoveMargin handler is responsible for removing collateral from an existing position and decreasing the margin ratio.

The parameters that are controllable by the user are

- pair This is the pair of the open position to remove collateral. It is checked to
 ensure that it is valid and that there is an open position, a market, and an AMM
 for it
- margin This is the amount of coins to remove from the position. It is checked
 to ensure that the amount is positive and that the denom is the same as the
 specified pair.

When removing margin, any outstanding funding payment is realized and the position's LatestCumulativePremiumFraction is updated to match the market's value. The method does not check the margin ratio, which allows you to remove the majority of the collateral (see 3.1).

5.3 Module: x/wasm

Message: ExecuteMsg.AddMargin

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for a collateral to be added to an existing position. The parameters that a user can control are

- Sender This is the account holding the position. There are no checks (see 3.3).
- Pair This is the pair of the position to be closed. It is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is an open position, a market, and an AMM for the pair.
- Margin This is the amount of collateral to add to the position. There are no checks on the amount or the denom to ensure it matches the pair (see 3.4).

The flow is then the same as the regular AddMargin transaction; see 5.2.

Message: ExecuteMsg.ClosePosition

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for a position to be closed. The parameters that a user can control are

- Sender This is the account holding the position; there are no checks (see 3.3).
- Pair This is the pair of the position to be closed. It is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is an open position, a market, and an AMM for the pair.

The flow is then the same as the regular ClosePosition transaction; see 5.2.

Message: ExecuteMsg.CreateMarket

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows a new pool to be created for a specific pair.

The contractAddr address is checked to ensure that it is contained within the set of sudo contracts defined in the x/sudo module.

The parameters that a user can control are

- Pair This is the pair of the market to be created. It is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is no existing market for it.
- PegMult This is the peg multiplier to set for the market; it must be greater than zero.
- SqrtDepth This is the square root of the depth multiplier to set for the market; it must be greater than zero.
- MarketParams
 - PriceFluctuationLimitRatio: This is the percentage that a single open or close position can alter the reserve amounts; it must be between 0 and 1.
 - MaintenanceMarginRatio: This is the minimum margin ratio that a user must maintain on this market.; it must be between 0 and 1.
 - MaxLeverage: This is the maximum leverage a user is able to be taken on this market; it must be greater than zero.
 - LatestCumulativePremiumFraction: This is the latest cumulative premium fraction for a given pair.
 - ExchangeFeeRatio: This is the percentage of the notional given to the exchange when trading; it must be between 0 and 1.
 - EcosystemFundFeeRatio: This is the percentage of the notional transferred to the ecosystem fund when trading; it must be between 0 and 1.
 - LiquidationFeeRatio: This is the percentage of liquidated position that will be given as a reward. Half of the liquidation fee is given to the liquidator, and the other half is given to the ecosystem fund, it must be between 0 and 1.
 - PartialLiquidationRatio: This is the portion of the position size we try to liquidate if the available margin is higher than the liquidation fee; it must be between 0 and 1.
 - FundingRateEpochId: This specifies the interval on which the funding rate is updated.
 - TwapLookbackWindow: This is the amount of time to look back for TWAP calculations.

Message: ExecuteMsg.DepthShift

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for the swap invariant of an AMM pool to be updated, after making sure there is enough money in the PerpEFModule fund to pay for it. These funds get send to the vault to pay for a

trader's new net margin.

The contractAddr address is checked to ensure that it is contained within the set of sudo contracts defined in the x/sudo module.

The parameters that a user can control are

- Pair This is the pair of the AMM to update the peg multiplier for. It is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is an AMM for it.
- DepthMult This is the new depth multiplier to set for the AMM; it must be greater than zero.

Message: ExecuteMsg.EditOracleParams

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for the oracle parameters to be edited.

The contractAddr address is checked to ensure that it is contained within the set of sudo contracts defined in the x/sudo module.

The parameters that a user can control are

- VotePeriod This is the number of blocks during which voting takes place.
- VoteThreshold This is the minimum proportion of votes that must be received for a ballot to pass.
- RewardBand This is a maxium divergence that a price vote can have from the weighted median in the ballot. If a vote lies within the valid range defined by $\mu := \text{weightedMedian}$, validRange $:= \mu \pm (\mu * \text{rewardBand} / 2)$, then rewards are added to the validator performance.
- Whitelist This is the set of whitelisted markets, or asset pairs, for the module

 for example, ["unibi:uusd", "ubtc:uusd"].
- SlashFraction This is the proportion of an oracle's stake that gets slashed for failing a voting period.
- SlashWindow This is the number of voting periods that specify a "slash window".
- MinValidPerWindow This is the minimum number of valid votes per window that a validator must submit to avoid being slashed.
- TwapLookbackWindow This is the amount of time to look back for TWAP calculations.
- MinVoters This is the minimum number of voters (i.e., oracle validators) per pair for it to be considered a passing ballot.
- ValidatorFeeRatio This is the validator fee ratio that is given to validators every epoch.

The oracle Params has a Validate method, but it does not seem to be called. Ideally, SetOracleParams should check this after merging the new params with the existing ones.

Message: ExecuteMsg.InsuranceFundWithdraw

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for the insurance fund to be withdrawn from.

The contractAddr address is checked to ensure that it is contained within the set of sudo contracts defined in the x/sudo module.

The parameters that a user can control are

- Amount This is the amount of nUSD to withdraw from the insurance fund; it
 must be greater than zero.
- To This is the address to send the withdrawn nUSD to; it must be a valid address.

Message: ExecuteMsg.OpenPosition

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for a new position to be opened. The parameters that a user can control are

- Sender This is the account to open a position on. There are no checks (see 3.3).
- Pair This is the pair to open or modify the position on. It is checked to ensure that the format is valid, that an enabled market exists for it, and that there is an AMM for it.
- IsLong This is a boolean indicating the direction the user is taking.
- QuoteAmount This is the amount of quote asset to open a position with; it must not be zero.
- Leverage This is the leverage to open a position with; it must not be zero and not greater than the market's MaxLeverage setting.
- BaseAmountLimit This is the minimum base asset amount to open a position with; it must not be negative.

After the sdkMsg is created, there is no call to ValidateBasic (which automatically happens for regular Cosmos transactions), so a lot of vital checks (such as negative numbers) are missed. See the related finding at 3.4.

The flow is then the same as the regular OpenPosition transaction; see 5.2.

Message: ExecuteMsg.PegShift

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for the peg multiplier of an AMM pool to be updated after making sure there is enough money in the PerpEFModule fund to pay for it. These funds get sent to the vault to pay for a trader's new net margin.

The contractAddr address is checked to ensure that it is contained within the set of sudo contracts defined in the x/sudo module.

The parameters that a user can control are

- Pair This is the pair of the AMM to update the peg multiplier for. It is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is an AMM for it.
- PegMult This is the new peg multiplier to set for the AMM; it must be greater than zero.

Message: ExecuteMsg.RemoveMargin

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for a collateral to be removed from an existing position. The parameters that a user can control are

- Sender This is the account holding the position; there are no checks (see 3.3).
- Pair This is the pair of the position to remove margin from. It is checked to
 ensure that it is valid and that there is an open position, a market, and an AMM
 for the pair.
- Margin This is the amount of collateral to remove from the position; there are no checks on the amount.

After the sdkMsg is created, there is no call to ValidateBasic (which automatically happens for regular Cosmos transactions), so a lot of vital checks (such as negative numbers) are missed. In this case, a negative margin can be specified when it ends up being added to the position margin without transferring any funds from the user; see the related finding at 3.4.

The flow is then the same as the regular AddMargin transaction; see 5.2.

Message: ExecuteMsg.SetMarketEnabled

This message can be sent via a CosmosWasm contract and allows for a market to be enabled or disabled.

The contractAddr address is checked to ensure that it is contained within the set of sudo contracts defined in the x/sudo module.

The parameters that a user can control are

- Pair This is the pair of the market to enable or disable. It is checked to ensure that it is valid and that there is a market for it.
- Enabled This is the new enabled state to set for the market.

5.4 Module: bindings-perp

This CosmosWasm module is a simple wrapper to allow other contracts (or using nib id tx wasm execute) to execute messages against the Nibiru perp module. There are no checks on any of the messages; they are simply passed through and handled by the custom Wasm executor (see 5.3 for more details).

The entry points are

- ExecuteMsg::OpenPosition with controllable parameters sender, pair, is_lon g, quote_amount, leverage, and base_amount_limit
- ExecuteMsg::ClosePosition with controllable parameters sender and pair
- ExecuteMsg:: AddMargin with controllable parameters sender, pair, and margin
- ExecuteMsg::RemoveMargin with controllable parameters sender, pair, and margin
- ExecuteMsg::MultiLiquidate with controllable parameters pair and liquidations
- ExecuteMsg::DonateToInsuranceFund with controllable parameters sender and donation
- ExecuteMsg::NoOp with no parameters

5.5 Module: controller

This CosmosWasm module is used to execute privileged messages in the Nibiru perp module (see 5.3 for more details), which can only be executed if the contract has been added to the sudo module. This module also maintains a whitelist of addresses that are allowed to execute the messages in this contract as well as the address of the current admin.

The InsuranceFundWithdraw, SetMarketEnabled, and EditOracleParams messages are simple wrappers that first check if the sender is a member of the whitelist, and if so, they forward the message.

The AddMember, RemoveMember, and ChangeAdmin messages are used to update the whitelist and admin of this module and can only be performed by the current admin. For each message the new address is first validated, then the members list is updated or the admin is changed. When the admin is changed, the new admin is removed from the

list of members.

The entry points are

- ExecuteMsg::InsuranceFundWithdraw with controllable parameters amount and to
- ExecuteMsg::SetMarketEnabled with controllable parameters pair and enable
- ExecuteMsg::EditOracleParams with controllable parameters vote_period, vote_threshold, reward_band, whitelist, slash_fraction, slash_window, min_valid_per_window, twap_lookback_window, min_voters, and validator_fee_ratio
- ExecuteMsg::AddMember with controllable parameter address
- ExecuteMsg::RemoveMember with controllable parameter address
- ExecuteMsg::ChangeAdmin with controllable parameter address

5.6 Module: shifter

This CosmosWasm module is used to execute privileged messages in the Nibiru perp module (see 5.3 for more details), which can only be executed if the contract has been added to the sudo module. This module also maintains a whitelist of addresses that are allowed to execute the messages in this contract as well as the address of the current admin.

The DepthShift and PegShift messages are simple wrappers that first check if the sender is a member of the whitelist, and if so, they forward the message.

The AddMember, RemoveMember, and ChangeAdmin messages are used to update the whitelist and admin of this module and can only be performed by the current admin. For each message the new address is first validated, then the members list is updated or the admin is changed. When the admin is changed, the new admin is removed from the list of members

The entry points are

- ExecuteMsg::DepthShift with controllable parameters pair and depth_mult
- ExecuteMsg::PegShift with controllable parameters pair and peg_mult
- ExecuteMsg::AddMember with controllable parameter address
- ExecuteMsg::RemoveMember with controllable parameter address
- ExecuteMsg::ChangeAdmin with controllable parameter address

6 Audit Results

At the time of our audit, the audited code was not deployed to mainnet.

During our assessment on the scoped Nibiru modules, we discovered 10 findings. Four critical issues were found. Four were of high impact, one was of medium impact, and one was of low impact. Nibiru acknowledged all findings and implemented fixes.

6.1 Disclaimer

This assessment does not provide any warranties about finding all possible issues within its scope; in other words, the evaluation results do not guarantee the absence of any subsequent issues. Zellic, of course, also cannot make guarantees about any code added to the project after the audit version of our assessment. Furthermore, because a single assessment can never be considered comprehensive, we always recommend multiple independent assessments paired with a bug bounty program.

For each finding, Zellic provides a recommended solution. All code samples in these recommendations are intended to convey how an issue may be resolved (i.e., the idea), but they may not be tested or functional code.

Finally, the contents of this assessment report are for informational purposes only; do not construe any information in this report as legal, tax, investment, or financial advice. Nothing contained in this report constitutes a solicitation or endorsement of a project by Zellic.