

Prysm Security Assessment October 6, 2020

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Executive Summary

From September 8 through October 2, 2020, the Ethereum Foundation and Prysmatic Labs engaged Trail of Bits to review the security of Prysm. Trail of Bits conducted this assessment over the course of 8 person-weeks with three engineers working from <u>245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d</u> from the Prysm repository.

During the first week, Trail of Bits familiarized ourselves with the codebase build and test systems, investigated fuzzing targets, and ran the existing fuzzers with no crashes. We ran automated tools to produce jumping off points for investigation including, but not limited to, <u>gosec</u>, <u>errcheck</u>, <u>ineffassign</u>, <u>semgrep</u>, and the unit tests with the race detector enabled.

Week two included shadowing investigation, arithmetic operation and overflow checks, and manual review of the slashing code. We also inspected the results from the previous weeks' tools with deeper scrutiny.

Week three Trail of Bits continued assessing the slashing and slashing protection code. We began mapping Eth2.0 specs against the project and manual code reading of the beacon-chain/core package. Finally, week three encompassed manual checks for best Go practices and known libraries whose misuse could produce bugs.

During the fourth week, we continued to review the Eth2.0 specification, looking for areas where Prysm may have diverged. We focused on the p2p and sync packages for potential denial of service attacks. Finally, we revisited the copy-on-write mechanism used for beacon-chain states.

Our efforts resulted in 26 findings ranging from high to informational severity. The single high-severity issue describes a failure scenario that causes a user's raw password to be logged (TOB-PRYSM-008). A few interesting medium-severity issues include missed deposits due to a premature loop exit (TOB-PRYSM-015) and preserving genesis state even on method failure (TOB-PRYSM-011).

In addition to our findings, there is an appendix (<u>C. Code Quality Recommendations</u>) that addresses issues that have not produced bugs, but are of concern.

Overall, the Prysm project can improve by focusing on best Go practices and tools to support them in order to remove risk of logic errors. We recommend extending the test suite to include more failing cases and develop more fuzzers to improve coverage of multiple scenarios.

Project Dashboard

Application Summary

Name	Prysm
Version	245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d
Туре	Go
Platforms	POSIX

Engagement Summary

Dates	September 8 - October 2, 2020	
Method	Whitebox	
Consultants Engaged	3	
Level of Effort	8 person-weeks	

Vulnerability Summary

Total High-Severity Issues	1	
Total Medium-Severity Issues		•••••
Total Low-Severity Issues	7	
Total Informational-Severity Issues	7	
Total Undetermined-Severity Issues	1	
Total	26	

Category Breakdown

Access Controls	2	
Auditing and Logging	1	
Cryptography	1	
Data Validation	5	
Denial of Service	5	
Documentation	1	
Error Reporting	4	
Patching	2	••

Timing	2	••
Undefined Behavior	3	
Tota	26	

Category Name	Description		
Access Controls	Weak. Higher severity issues related to improper handling of password management ranging from brute force vulnerability to plaintext password logging in rare circumstances. File and directory permissions were also not validated.		
Arithmetic	Strong. Unit tests and existing fuzzers were run with arithmetic operations instrumented to check for overflow. No issues were found.		
Assembly Use	Not Applicable.		
Centralization	Satisfactory. Some concerns relating to operational practices such as committed bytecode (<u>TOB-PRYSM-022</u>). Additionally the consequences of raw password logging (<u>TOB-PRYSM-008</u>) and premature deposit exit (<u>TOB-PRYSM-015</u>) can cause issues but not system-wide.		
Upgradeability	Not Applicable.		
Function Composition	Moderate. The separation of responsibilities on an architecture level was clearly defined. However, on a more granular level the code was inconsistent in how DRY principle was intended. Concerning examples noted in the code quality section include single use functions defined in odd scopes that confused readability.		
Front-Running	Further Investigation Required. Front-running opportunities could arise by deviating from the spec or by adhering to it (i.e., if the specification itself was flawed). No opportunities of the former kind were noted. Further investigation would be required for the latter.		
Monitoring	Not Considered.		
Specification	Satisfactory. With the exception of some operating system exceptions on the build documentation, the architectural diagrams and intended product purpose were well specified.		
Testing & Verification	Moderate. When run against certain undocumented operating systems, the build failed. Additionally, on successful build, the eth1 chain had starting issues during the end-to-end tests. The fuzzers ran successfully and finally, there were a few common memory leaks in the tests.		

Code Maturity Evaluation

Engagement Goals

The engagement was scoped to provide a security assessment of the beacon node, slashing, the validator client, and the beacon-chain/core package.

Specifically, we sought to answer the following questions:

- Is there a divergence in the code from the intended Eth2.0 specifications?
- Is the core beacon-node code vulnerable to consensus faults or other critical problems such as arithmetic overflows?
- Are there any logic errors in the block processing path from the moment a block is received in the beacon node and processed by the blockchain package?
- Does the slasher implementation contain flawed assumptions or risk false positives?
- What risk of denial-of-service attacks exist in the p2p and/or sync packages?

Coverage

Alignment with Eth2.0 Specifications. Through a manual investigation of the core components and their intent to ensure they aligned with the Eth2.0 specifications as read.

beacon-chain/core. Began with automated analysis tools such as gosec, ineffassign, errcheck, and go vet to surface any common Go issues. Continued with extensive manual code reading for logic validation and specific checks for Go issues, including concurrency behavior and shadowing issues.

Beacon Node. Automated analysis tools such as gosec, ineffassign, errcheck, and go vet to surface any common Go issues. Manually reviewed.

Block Processing. Subject to static analysis by gosec, errcheck, ineffassign, shadow, and semgrep (under various configurations). Unit tests verified to pass. Unit tests run: with Go's race detector enabled, with all uses of recover disabled, and with arithmetic operations instrumented to check for overflow. Fuzzed using existing fuzzers, but with arithmetic operations instrumented to check for overflow. Manually reviewed.

Concurrency. Using automated analysis tools such as go test -race and gosec, we discovered locations that had the potential to contain concurrency bugs. We then dove deeper into those scenarios for manual analysis to validate the assumptions made. Additionally, we investigated every goroutine that was created to ensure Go best practices in use of concurrency.

Slashing. Subject to static analysis by gosec, errcheck, ineffassign, shadow, and semgrep (under various configurations). Unit tests verified to pass. Unit tests run: with Go's race detector enabled, with all uses of recover disabled, and with arithmetic operations instrumented to check for overflow. Manually reviewed.

Validator Client. Automated analysis tools such as gosec, ineffassign, errcheck, and go vet to surface any common Go issues. Manually reviewed.

Dependencies. Checked for currency using go-mod-outdated. Checked for outstanding CVEs using nancy.

Recommendations Summary

This section aggregates all the recommendations made during the engagement. Short-term recommendations address the immediate causes of issues. Long-term recommendations pertain to the development process and long-term design goals.

Short term

□ Adjust the return statements in Figures 1.1 through 1.4 to return an appropriate error. This will prevent callers from assuming that returned values are computed without error. <u>TOB-PRYSM-001</u>

Protect access to the featureConfig global variable with a <u>RWMutex</u> and have featureconfig.Get return a copy of the Flags struct rather than a pointer to it. This will eliminate a data race that could lead to undefined behavior or data corruption. <u>TOB-PRYSM-002</u>

Adjust the loop beginning in Figure 3.1 to use defer span.End(), as the official OpenCensus documentation suggests. This will eliminate a Context leak that could lead to denial-of-service conditions. Consider adopting this pattern in beacon-chain/sync/pending_blocks_queue.go, as well. <u>TOB-PRYSM-003</u>

□ **Eliminate the use of variable shadowing in Figures 4.1 and 4.2.** This will help ensure that the code produces correct results, and will improve the code's readability. <u>TOB-PRYSM-004</u>

□ Adjust the declaration of sync.Service so that chainStarted uses an atomic data type rather than a bool. This will stop the Go race detector from producing reports concerning chainStarted, potentially enabling legitimate races to be found. TOB-PRYSM-005

Document the operating systems that are explicitly supported to run these tests. This will ensure users set up their own environment that matches a known good state and don't try to run the tests locally in an unsupported environment. <u>TOB-PRYSM-007</u>

□ Remove any logging of passwords to replace it with a failure to access or similar. <u>TOB-PRYSM-008</u>

□ **Update dependencies to the latest version wherever possible.** Verify that all unit tests pass following such updates. Using out-of-date dependencies could mean critical bug fixes are missed. <u>TOB-PRYSM-009</u>

Upgrade to the most recent versions of libp2p/go-libp2p-kad-dht (v0.10.0) and k8s.io/apimachinery (v11.0.0). Doing so will eliminate reliance on vulnerable code. TOB-PRYSM-010

□ Store the result of the call to ProcessPreGenesisDeposits in a local variable, and use it to set s.preGenesisState only if err is not nil. This will prevent previous work reflected in s.preGenesisState from being thrown away. <u>TOB-PRYSM-011</u>

□ **Consider adding a call to snappy.DecodedLen in kv.decode, similar to the one in ssz.SszNetworkEncoder.DecodeGossip.** This will provide defense in depth should an attacker find a way to write data into a beacon node's key-value store. <u>TOB-PRYSM-012</u>

□ **Move the use of recover from hashutil.HashProto to TestHashProtoFuzz.** Verify that the error is a nil-pointer dereference. These steps will help ensure that this particular use of recover does not unintentionally suppress errors. <u>TOB-PRYSM-013</u>

□ Adjust the implementation of goodFetcher.HeaderByNumber so that it returns an error when g.backend.Blockchain().CurrentHeader() is nil. This will eliminate a nil-pointer dereference that currently exists in the TestLatestMainchainInfo_OK test. TOB-PRYSM-014

□ If a depositor's public key cannot be processed, skip over it and continue processing the remaining deposits. This will eliminate a bug that currently allows valid deposits to be ignored. <u>TOB-PRYSM-015</u>

□ Set a Committees struct's Seed when inserting proposer indices into the cache. This will eliminate a bug that currently makes the struct unretrievable. <u>TOB-PRYSM-016</u>

□ When inserting a shuffled list into the cache, add it to an existing Committees struct if one already exists with the relevant seed. This will eliminate a bug that currently causes a node to build Committees structs unnessarily. <u>TOB-PRYSM-017</u>

□ Refactor BeaconProposerIndex, UpdateProposerIndicesInCache, and precomputeProposerIndices so that the work done to compute the active validator indices and the proposer index for one slot is not duplicated. Be careful to avoid introducing data races involving the presence of data in the cache in the process. These steps will improve the overall efficiency of the cache. <u>TOB-PRYSM-018</u>

□ Adjust SlotSignature so that it uses DOMAIN_SELECTION_PROOF for selection proofs, rather than DOMAIN_BEACON_ATTESTER. This will bring the code in-line with the Eth 2.0 current specification. <u>TOB-PRYSM-019</u>

□ Adjust the AncestorRoot's for loop condition so that it accounts for i not within the range of f.store.nodes's indices. This will eliminate potential "index out of range" errors that could be used for denial of service. <u>TOB-PRYSM-020</u>

□ **Implement the on_tick method from the Eth 2.0 specification.** This will eliminate a discrepancy that currently exists between the Eth 2.0 specification and Prysm's implementation of it. <u>TOB-PRYSM-021</u>

□ **Read in the bytecode for deposits only from the** <u>bytecode.bin</u> **file that currently stores it.** Update pipelines so that only automation changes this value and it is never expected to be edited directly by developers. We also recommend putting in a git pre-commit hook to prevent developers from committing to this file. <u>TOB-PRYSM-022</u>

D When using os.MkdirAll, check all directories in the path and validate their owner and permissions before performing operations on them. This will help avoid situations where sensitive information is written to a pre-existing attacker-controlled path. <u>TOB-PRYSM-023</u>

□ Validate that all file handlers are closed to avoid putting undue stress on the garbage collector. <u>TOB-PRYSM-024</u>

D Limit the number of password guesses a user can attempt by implementing an exponential backoff strategy on password acceptance timing. <u>TOB-PRYSM-025</u>

□ Adjust ancestor so that if s.forkChoiceStore.AncestorRoot returns a "node index out of range" error, beaconDB is queried. This will eliminate a bug that can cause ancestor to incorrectly return an error. <u>TOB-PRYSM-026</u>

Long term

□ **Ensure that unit tests are written for each of their "<u>sad</u>" (i.e., failing) paths.** This will help to expose functions that do not properly report errors. <u>TOB-PRYSM-001</u>

Regularly run your unit tests with Go's race detector enabled. Doing so can help reveal similar bugs in the future. <u>TOB-PRYSM-002</u>, <u>TOB-PRYSM-005</u>

□ **Ensure that the defer span.End() pattern is used where span is involved.** This will help prevent denial-of-service conditions. <u>TOB-PRYSM-003</u>

□ **Regularly run Go's** <u>shadow</u> **tool over your codebase.** These bugs are flagged by shadow, and regularly running shadow could reveal similar ones. <u>TOB-PRYSM-004</u>

□ **Regularly run** <u>ineffassign</u> over the codebase as a part of a pre-commit action. All results should either be explicitly underscored or used. <u>TOB-PRYSM-006</u>

□ Include a Dockerfile of install and setup against a base image that can consistently run the end to end tests independent of operating system or local dependencies. This instills confidence from the community in the open source project. <u>TOB-PRYSM-007</u>

□ Validate that any engagements with passwords are closely monitored and restricted. Consider using Vault for management of sensitive information. <u>TOB-PRYSM-008</u>

D Regularly run <u>go-mod-outdated</u> over the codebase to help ensure that the project stays up to date with its dependencies. <u>TOB-PRYSM-009</u>

Regularly run <u>nancy</u> over the codebase to reveal vulnerable dependencies. <u>TOB-PRYSM-010</u>

Whenever an error could be returned, avoid assigning to a field before first checking for an error. Such practice could result in unintentional state modifications. <u>TOB-PRYSM-011</u>

Protect calls related to serialization/deserialization with additional error checks.
 Such functions are a common source of vulnerabilities and deserve elevated scrutiny.
 <u>TOB-PRYSM-012</u>

□ **Regularly run your unit tests with all uses of recover disabled.** Verify that all panics that would have been recovered are expected. These steps will help ensure that Prysm's uses of recover, generally, do not unintentionally suppress errors. <u>TOB-PRYSM-013</u>, <u>TOB-PRYSM-014</u>

Be wary of returning from inside of a loop on an error condition. Such a practice is a frequent source of errors. <u>TOB-PRYSM-015</u>

□ **Regularly run Go's** <u>shadow</u> **tool over your codebase.** This bug is due, in part, to variable shadowing in a unit test. Regularly running Go's shadow can help to reveal such problems. <u>TOB-PRYSM-016</u>

□ **Consider ways that the cache code may be consolidated.** This bug is, in part, the result of a discrepancy in how the cache handled proposer indices vs. shuffled indices. Consolidating that code might have prevented this bug. Furthermore, you may want to include other types of data in the cache in the future. Consolidating the cache code could help to facilitate such extensions. <u>TOB-PRYSM-017</u>

□ As new types of data are added to the cache, avoid duplicating computations across functions that update the cache and their callers. This will help maintain the cache's effectiveness. <u>TOB-PRYSM-018</u>

D When reviewing PRs, consider not only the code in the PR, but other code to which similar changes should be applied. This issue appears to be the result of an incomplete fix. A more expansive approach to PR review could help to prevent similar situations. TOB-PRYSM-019

 Consider developing a fuzzer for AncestorRoot or one of its predecessors in the call graph. Fuzzing might have caught this bug, and could catch similar bugs in the future. <u>TOB-PRYSM-020</u>

□ **Maintain a mapping of Eth 2.0 function to their corresponding implementations in Prysm.** This will make it easier for developers to understand how Prysm implements the specification. It will also help to identify gaps in the implementation. <u>TOB-PRYSM-021</u>

□ Remove any manual processes required for releasing code and automate for consistency and reliability purposes. <u>TOB-PRYSM-022</u>

Enumerate files and directories for their expected permissions overall, and build validation to ensure appropriate permissions are applied before creation and upon use. Ideally, this validation should be centrally defined and used throughout the applications as a whole. <u>TOB-PRYSM-023</u>

□ Standardize idiomatic Go practices such as proper handling of response bodies. <u>TOB-PRYSM-024</u> □ Implement monitoring surrounding excessively high password guess frequency against an account and consider locking it until the user can validate their identity. <u>TOB-PRYSM-025</u>

□ Require additional review of functions whose implementations do not obviously match the specification. For example, as can be seen from Figure 26.1, Prysm's ancestor does not directly correspond to the specification's get_ancestor, though they are meant to achieve the same functionality. Functions such as ancestor warrant additional scrutiny. <u>TOB-PRYSM-026</u>

Findings Summary

#	Title	Туре	Severity
1	Failure to propagate errors in beacon-chain	Error Reporting	Low
2	Data race in featureconfig	Timing	Low
3	<u>Context leak in validator client</u>	Denial of Service	Medium
4	Variable shadowing in beacon-chain history regeneration code	Undefined Behavior	Medium
5	Data race in beacon-chain syncing code	Timing	Informational
6	Failure to error check could cause undefined behavior	Error Reporting	Informational
7	Improvements needed to Bazel end-to-end testing documentation	Documentation	Informational
8	Raw password logged	Auditing and Logging	High
9	Dependencies are out of date	Patching	Informational
10	Code relies on two dependencies with OSS advisories	Patching	Low
11	Overwrite of powchain.Service.preGenesisState even when deposits cannot be processed	Denial of Service	Medium
12	Excessive memory usage by snappy.Decode	Denial of Service	Informational
13	Improper use of recover in hashutil.HashProto	Error Reporting	Informational

14	Improper use of recover in powchain.Service	Error Reporting	Low
15	<u>Premature loop exit causes validator</u> <u>deposits to be missed</u>	Data Validation	Medium
16	<u>Proposer indices cannot be retrieved</u> from cache	Data Validation	Medium
17	<u>Shuffled list is not added to cache if</u> <u>proposer indices are present</u>	Data Validation	Informational
18	Inefficiencies surrounding use of cache	Data Validation	Informational
19	<u>Wrong domain used in</u> helpers.SlotSignature	Cryptography	Medium
20	Wrong loop exit condition in store.ForkChoice.AncestorRoot	Denial of Service	Medium
21	Handler on_tick unimplemented	Undefined Behavior	Undetermined
22	Hardcoded contract bytecode	Data Validation	Medium
23	Files and directories created with os.MkdirAll and ioutil.WriteFile are not ensured to have correct permissions	Access Controls	Low
24	Response body not closed in tests	Denial of Service	Low
25	Password guesses should be limited to prevent brute force	Access Controls	Medium
26	Premature exit under certain conditions in blockchain.Service.ancestor	Undefined Behavior	Medium

1. Failure to propagate errors in beacon-chain

Severity: Low Type: Error Reporting Target: beacon-chain Difficulty: Undetermined Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-001

Description

Many locations within the beacon-chain subdirectory fail to return applicable errors and instead return a nil error value. Failing to report errors can hide an ongoing attack, or make it difficult to discover the source of an error.

Examples where errors are not propagated appear in Figures 1.1 through 1.4.

```
func UpdateProposerIndicesInCache(state *stateTrie.BeaconState, epoch uint64) error {
    indices, err := ActiveValidatorIndices(state, epoch)
    if err != nil {
        return nil
    }
```

Figure 1.1: beacon-chain/core/helpers/committee.go#L349-L353.

func ComputeForkDigest(version []byte, genesisValidatorsRoot []byte) ([4]byte, error) {
 dataRoot, err := computeForkDataRoot(version, genesisValidatorsRoot)
 if err != nil {
 return [4]byte{}, nil
 }

Figure 1.2: beacon-chain/core/helpers/signing_root.go#L246-L250.

```
func ComputeProposerIndex(bState *stateTrie.BeaconState, activeIndices []uint64, seed
[32]byte) (uint64, error) {
    ...
    v, err := bState.ValidatorAtIndexReadOnly(candidateIndex)
    if err != nil {
        return 0, nil
    }
```

Figure 1.3: beacon-chain/core/helpers/validators.go#L232-L254.

Figure 1.4: beacon-chain/db/kv/regen_historical_states.go#L217-L232.

Exploit Scenario

Eve discovers an exploitable bug in the Prysm's beacon-chain implementation and attempts to exploit it on Alice's machine. Because errors are not properly reported, Alice is initially unaware that an attack is occuring. Once she becomes aware, she is unable to determine the source of the errors.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust the return statements in Figures 1.1 through 1.4 to return an appropriate error. This will prevent callers from assuming that returned values are computed without error.

Long term, as new functions are added to the code base, ensure that unit tests are written for each of their "<u>sad</u>" (i.e., failing) paths. This will help to expose functions that do not properly report errors.

2. Data race in featureconfig

Severity: Low Type: Timing Target: shared/featureconfig/config.go Difficulty: High Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-002

Description

The featureconfig package contains a global variable featureConfig (with a capital 'C') that points to a Flags struct. This variable is modified in some threads and read in others with no synchronization. Unsynchronized, concurrent access to shared resources can lead to undefined behavior and possibly data corruption.

The featureConfig variable is set by calling Init, InitWithReset, or the "reset" function returned by InitWithReset. The variable is read by calling featureconfig.Get (Figure 2.1). An example where featureconfig.Get is called from a separate thread appears in Figure 2.2. A second example appears in Figures 2.3 through 2.5.

```
// Get retrieves feature config.
func Get() *Flags {
      if featureConfig == nil {
              return &Flags{}
       }
       return featureConfig
}
// Init sets the global config equal to the config that is passed in.
func Init(c *Flags) {
      featureConfig = c
}
// InitWithReset sets the global config and returns function that is used to reset
configuration.
func InitWithReset(c *Flags) func() {
       resetFunc := func() {
              Init(&Flags{})
       }
       Init(c)
       return resetFunc
}
```



```
func Now() time.Time {
    if featureconfig.Get().EnableRoughtime {
        return time.Now().Add(offset)
    }
```

Figure 2.2: shared/roughtime/roughtime.go#L45-L117.

```
func (s *Service) Start() {
    ...
    runutil.RunEvery(s.ctx, syncMetricsInterval, s.updateMetrics)
}
```

Figure 2.3: beacon-chain/sync/service.go#L144-L162.

Figure 2.4: shared/runutil/every.go#L15-L31.

```
func (s *Service) updateMetrics() {
    ...
    if featureconfig.Get().DisableDynamicCommitteeSubnets {
        Sizerra 2.5.1
        List ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1 ( = 1
```

Figure 2.5: beacon-chain/sync/metrics.go#L83-L97.

Exploit Scenario

Eve finds a way to exploit the race in Figures 2.1 through 2.5 to cause data corruption. Eve carries out the attack on Alice's machine, causing Alice to suffer data loss.

Recommendation

Short term, protect access to the featureConfig global variable with a <u>RWMutex</u> and have featureconfig.Get return a copy of the Flags struct rather than a pointer to it. This will eliminate a data race that could lead to undefined behavior or data corruption.

Long term, regularly run your unit tests with Go's race detector enabled. Doing so can help reveal similar bugs in the future.

References

- Introducing the Go Race Detector
- Data Race Detector

3. Context leak in validator client

Severity: Medium Type: Denial of Service Target: validator/client/runner.go Difficulty: Low Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-003

Description

The function Validator.run allocates a Span but does not call End on it along all control-flow paths. Thus, its associated Context can be leaked. An attacker could exploit this leak for denial of service.

The allocation appears in Figure 3.1. Code paths that do not call End include those in Figure 3.2 and 3.3.







```
allRoles, err := v.RolesAt(ctx, slot)
if err != nil {
    log.WithError(err).Error("Could not get validator roles")
    continue
}
Figure 3.3: validator/client/runner.go#L125-L129.
```

OpenCensus's <u>official documentation</u> recommends using the following pattern:

ctx, span := trace.StartSpan(ctx, "cache.Get")
defer span.End()

This pattern is not adhered to in the above code. Based on Slack discussion, choosing not to adhere to this pattern may have led to other bugs in beacon-chain/sync/pending_blocks_queue.go, as well.

Exploit Scenario

Eve discovers a code path that exercises the loop beginning in Figure 3.1 repeatedly. Eve uses this code path to cause denial-of-service conditions in targeted nodes.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust the loop beginning in Figure 3.1 to use defer span.End(), as the official OpenCensus documentation suggests. This will eliminate a Context leak that could lead to denial-of-service conditions. Consider adopting this pattern in beacon-chain/sync/pending_blocks_queue.go, as well.

Long term, as new code that uses Spans is added to the codebase, ensure that the defer span.End() pattern is used. This will help prevent denial-of-service conditions.

4. Variable shadowing in beacon-chain history regeneration code

Severity: MediumDifficulty: UndeterminedType: Undefined BehaviorFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-004Target: beacon-chain/db/kv/regen_historical_states.go

Description

In two locations in regen_historical_states.go, a local variable declaration shadows another declaration. The affected code appears to at best perform unnecessary work.

The code in question appears in Figures 4.1 and 4.2. In Figure 4.1, the local variable currentState shadows another variable of the same name. Following the if statement with condition "lastArchivedSlot > 0," currentState will refer to a copy of the genesis state. This appears unintentional. Under certain conditions, that copy of the genesis state could be passed to regenHistoricalStateProcessSlots, resulting in unnecessary work.

```
func (kv *Store) regenHistoricalStates(ctx context.Context) error {
       genesisState, err := kv.GenesisState(ctx)
       if err != nil {
              return err
       }
       currentState := genesisState.Copy()
       startSlot := genesisState.Slot()
       lastArchivedSlot, err := kv.LastArchivedSlot(ctx)
       if err != nil {
              return err
       }
       if lastArchivedSlot > 0 {
              archivedIndexStart := lastArchivedSlot - 1
              archivedRoot := kv.ArchivedPointRoot(ctx, archivedIndexStart)
              currentState, err := kv.State(ctx, archivedRoot)
              if err != nil {
                     return err
              }
              startSlot = currentState.Slot()
       }
       for slot := lastArchivedSlot; slot <= lastSavedBlockArchivedSlot; slot++ {</pre>
              targetSlot := startSlot + slotsPerArchivedPoint
              filter := filters.NewFilter().SetStartSlot(startSlot +
1).SetEndSlot(targetSlot)
              blocks, err := kv.Blocks(ctx, filter)
              if err != nil {
                     return err
              }
              // Replay blocks and replay slots if necessary.
              if len(blocks) > 0 {
                     . . .
              }
              if targetSlot > currentState.Slot() {
```

Figure 4.1: beacon-chain/db/kv/regen_historical_states.go#L26-L113.

In Figure 4.2, the local variable state shadows a function argument. The local variable is initialized with a value returned by transition.ProcessSlot. In this case, there does not appear to be a problem, since transition.ProcessSlot returns either nil or the state passed to it. Nonetheless, the shadowing should be eliminated so that it does not break if transition.ProcessSlot's behavior changes.

```
func regenHistoricalStateProcessSlots(ctx context.Context, state *stateTrie.BeaconState,
slot uint64) (*stateTrie.BeaconState, error) {
       ctx, span := trace.StartSpan(ctx, "BeaconDB.regenHistoricalStateProcessSlots")
       defer span.End()
       if state == nil {
              return nil, errors.New("state can't be nil")
       }
       if state.Slot() > slot {
              err := fmt.Errorf("expected state.slot %d < slot %d", state.Slot(), slot)</pre>
              return nil, err
       }
       if state.Slot() == slot {
              return state, nil
       }
       for state.Slot() < slot {</pre>
              state, err := transition.ProcessSlot(ctx, state)
              if err != nil {
                      return nil, errors.Wrap(err, "could not process slot")
              }
              if transition.CanProcessEpoch(state) {
                      state, err = transition.ProcessEpochPrecompute(ctx, state)
                      if err != nil {
                             return nil, errors.Wrap(err, "could not process epoch with
optimizations")
                      }
              if err := state.SetSlot(state.Slot() + 1); err != nil {
                      return nil, err
              }
       }
       return state, nil
}
```

Figure 4.2: beacon-chain/db/kv/regen_historical_states.go#L165-L194.

Exploit Scenario

Alice runs a slasher that is unable to identify slashable offenses because its associated beacon node cannot properly reconstruct the beacon chain's history.

Recommendation

Short term, eliminate the use of variable shadowing in Figures 4.1 and 4.2. This will help ensure that the code produces correct results, and will improve the code's readability.

Long term, regularly run Go's <u>shadow</u> tool over your codebase. These bugs are flagged by shadow, and regularly running shadow could reveal similar ones.

5. Data race in beacon-chain syncing code

Severity: InformationalDifficulty: Not applicableType: TimingFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-005Target: beacon-chain/sync/service.go, beacon-chain/sync/subscriber.go

Description

The beacon-chain sync.Service sets a flag chainStarted to indicate that no more subscription requests should be issued. Access to this flag is unsynchronized.

The flag is set in Figure 5.1, and read in Figure 5.2. The race concerning this flag appears to be innocuous. Nonetheless, eliminating the race by using an <u>atomic</u> data type should add minimal overhead. Moreover, it would eliminate noise produced by the Go race detector, potentially allowing legitimate races to be discovered.

Figure 5.1: beacon-chain/sync/service.go#L229-L253.

```
func (s *Service) subscribeDynamicWithSubnets(
       topicFormat string,
       validate pubsub.ValidatorEx,
       handle subHandler,
) {
       . . .
       go func() {
             for {
                      select {
                      case <-s.ctx.Done():</pre>
                             ticker.Done()
                              return
                      case currentSlot := <-ticker.C():</pre>
                             if s.chainStarted && s.initialSync.Syncing() {
                                    continue
                              }
                              . . .
                      }
```

Figure 5.2: beacon-chain/sync/subscriber.go#L228-L275.

Exploit Scenario

Alice is a Prysm developer tasked with identifying data races. Alice misses a legitimate data race because it is hidden among innocuous races such as the one in Figures 5.1 and 5.2.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust the declaration of sync.Service so that chainStarted uses an atomic data type rather than a bool. This will stop the Go race detector from producing reports concerning chainStarted, potentially enabling legitimate races to be found.

Long term, regularly run your unit tests with Go's race detector enabled. Doing so can help reveal similar bugs in the future.

References

- Introducing the Go Race Detector
- Data Race Detector

6. Failure to error check could cause undefined behavior

Severity: Low Type: Error Reporting Target: multiple locations Difficulty: Undetermined Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-006

Description

Throughout the codebase, there are multiple locations where a returned error value goes unchecked before using the (possibly nil) associated result. One such instance of this (shown in figure 6.1) may cause a validator to fail to acknowledge an error and could cause cascading undefined behavior. These errors should be checked for a failure state before using the function results.

```
uAtts, err = vs.filterAttestationsForBlockInclusion(ctx, latestState, uAtts)
atts = append(atts, uAtts...)
```

Figure 6.1: beacon-chain/rpc/validator/proposer.go#L692.

Appendix D is the output of filtering <u>ineffassign</u> with the command in figure 6.2. However, there isn't a particularly good reason to leave ineffectual assignments in test code.

```
ineffassign ./... | grep -v "test" | sed -E "s;.*src([^:]+):([0-9]+):[^ ]+ (.*);\3 |
$GITHUB_URL\1#L\2;"
```

Figure 6.2.

Exploit Scenario

An error in filterAttestationsForBlockInclusion will result in uAtts being nil. Go will panic attempting to append the explosion of nil on the next line.

Recommendation

In the short term, items in the appendix should be manually checked and fixed. This is especially important for err values.

Long term, regularly run <u>ineffassign</u> over the codebase as a part of a pre-commit action. All results should either be explicitly underscored or used.

7. Improvements needed to Bazel end-to-end testing documentation

Severity: Informational Type: Documentation Target: bazel test on Mac OS Catalina Difficulty: Not applicable Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-007

Description

A difference between Mac OS Catalina and linux caused the error in Figure 7.1 when running the end-to-end tests using Bazel. This error caused an inability to run the tests locally on a Mac.

```
=== RUN TestEndToEnd_Slashing_MinimalConfig
TestEndToEnd_Slashing_MinimalConfig: endtoend_test.go:36: Shard index: 0
TestEndToEnd_Slashing_MinimalConfig: endtoend_test.go:37: Starting time: 2020-09-15
18:59:19.377007 +0000 UTC m=+87.985860479
TestEndToEnd_Slashing_MinimalConfig: endtoend_test.go:38: Log Path:
/private/var/tmp/_bazel_johanna/8795d77cc667fd99d49d6319fba8c083/sandbox/darwin-sandbox/267/
execroot/prysm/bazel-out/darwin-fastbuild/testlogs/endtoend/go_default_test/test.outputs
TestEndToEnd_Slashing_MinimalConfig: eth1.go:73: mining log not found, this means the
eth1 chain had issues starting: bufio.Scanner: token too long
---- FAIL: TestEndToEnd_Slashing_MinimalConfig (2.01s)
```

Figure 7.1 end-to-end test error message

Recommendation

Short term, document the operating systems that are explicitly supported to run these tests. This will ensure users set up their own environment that matches a known good state and don't try to run the tests locally in an unsupported environment.

Long term, include a Dockerfile of install and setup against a base image that can consistently run the end to end tests independent of operating system or local dependencies. This instills confidence from the community in the open source project.

8. Raw password logged

Severity: High Type: Auditing and Logging Target: tools/sendDepositTx/sendDeposits.go Difficulty: Medium Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-008

Description

Within the main function of sendDeposits, the rawPassword is loaded from a text file for use on the keystore and on failure, logs the rawPassword.

```
// Load from keystore
store := prysmKeyStore.NewKeystore(prysmKeystorePath)
rawPassword := loadTextFromFile(passwordFile)
prefix := params.BeaconConfig().ValidatorPrivkeyFileName
validatorKeys, err = store.GetKeys(prysmKeystorePath, prefix, rawPassword, false /*
warnOnFail */)
if err != nil {
    log.WithField("path", prysmKeystorePath).WithField("password",
rawPassword).Errorf("Could not get keys: %v", err)
}
```

Figure 8.1: sendDepositTx/sendDeposits.go#L179-L186.

Exploit Scenario

Bob is a Prysm user sending a deposit. store.GetKeys fails causing a log containing the rawPassword from the password textfile to be emitted. Eve has access to the logs and retrieves Bob's password.

Recommendation

Short term, remove any logging of passwords to replace it with a failure to access or similar.

Long term, validate that any engagements with passwords are closely monitored and restricted. Consider using Vault for management of sensitive information.

9. Dependencies are out of date

Severity: Informational Type: Patching Target: Various Difficulty: Undetermined Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-009

Description

Updated versions of many of Prysm's dependencies are available. Since silent bug fixes are common, the dependencies should be reviewed and updated wherever possible.

Dependencies that can be updated appear in Table 9.1. Assuming <u>semantic versioning</u> is followed, many of the updates are bug fixes (highlighted).

Dependency	Version currently in use	Latest version available
<pre>contrib.go.opencensus.io /exporter/jaeger</pre>	v0.2.0	v0.2.1
github.com/aristanetwork s/goarista	v0.0.0-20200521140103- 6c3304613b30	v0.0.0-20200812190859-4 cb0e71f3c0e
github.com/bazelbuild/bu ildtools	v0.0.0-20200528175155- f4e8394f069d	v0.0.0-20200925145723-e 6efbf6df90b
github.com/bazelbuild/ru les_go	v0.23.2	v0.24.3
github.com/btcsuite/btcd	v0.20.1-beta	v0.21.0-beta
github.com/cloudflare/ro ughtime	v0.0.0-20200205191924- a69ef1dab727	v0.0.0-20200911173848-e b42b5b8e068
github.com/emicklei/dot	v0.11.0	v0.14.0
github.com/ethereum/go-e thereum	v0.0.0-20200626171358- a933315235ec	v0.0.0-20200922100503-3 794d0d7ca25
github.com/fsnotify/fsno tify	v1.4.7	v1.4.9
github.com/gofrs/flock	v0.7.1	v0.8.0
github.com/golang/gddo	v0.0.0-20200528160355- 8d077c1d8f4c	v0.0.0-20200831202555-7 21e228c7686
<pre>github.com/golang/mock</pre>	v1.4.3	v1.4.4

<pre>github.com/golang/snappy</pre>	v0.0.1	v0.0.2
github.com/google/gofuzz	v1.1.0	v1.2.0
<pre>github.com/google/uuid</pre>	v1.1.1	v1.1.2
<pre>github.com/grpc-ecosyste m/go-grpc-middleware</pre>	v1.2.0	v1.2.2
github.com/grpc-ecosyste m/grpc-gateway	v1.14.6	v1.15.0
github.com/herumi/bls-et h-go-binary	v0.0.0-20200722032157- 41fc56eba7b4	v0.0.0-20200923072303-3 2b29e5d8cbf
<pre>github.com/kr/pretty</pre>	v0.2.0	v0.2.1
github.com/libp2p/go-lib p2p	v0.10.2	v0.11.0
github.com/libp2p/go-lib p2p-circuit	v0.3.1	v0.4.0
github.com/libp2p/go-lib p2p-core	v0.6.1	v0.7.0
github.com/libp2p/go-lib p2p-kad-dht	v0.8.3	v0.10.0
github.com/libp2p/go-lib p2p-pubsub	v0.3.3	v0.3.5
github.com/libp2p/go-lib p2p-swarm	v0.2.8	v0.3.1
github.com/manifoldco/pr omptui	v0.7.0	v0.8.0
github.com/minio/highway hash	v1.0.0	v1.0.1
github.com/multiformats/ go-multiaddr	v0.2.2	v0.3.1
github.com/multiformats/ go-multiaddr-net	v0.1.5	v0.2.0
<pre>github.com/pborman/uuid</pre>	v1.2.0	v1.2.1

github.com/prysmaticlabs /ethereumapis	v0.0.0-20200827165051- 58ccb36e36b9	v0.0.0-20200923224139-6 4c46fb1b0fa
github.com/schollz/progr essbar/v3	v3.3.4	v3.5.1
github.com/sirupsen/logr us	v1.6.0	v1.7.0
github.com/wealdtech/eth 2-signer-api	v1.3.0	v1.5.2
github.com/wealdtech/go- eth2-util	v1.5.0	v1.6.0
github.com/wealdtech/go- eth2-wallet	v1.12.0	v1.14.0
github.com/wealdtech/go- eth2-wallet-types/v2	v2.6.0	v2.7.0
<pre>go.etcd.io/bbolt</pre>	v1.3.4	v1.3.5
golang.org/x/crypto	v0.0.0-20200728195943- 123391ffb6de	v0.0.0-20200820211705-5 c72a883971a
golang.org/x/exp	v0.0.0-20200513190911- 00229845015e	v0.0.0-20200924195034-c 827fd4f18b9
<pre>golang.org/x/tools</pre>	v0.0.0-20200528185414- 6be401e3f76e	v0.0.0-20200928112810-4 2b62fc93869
google.golang.org/genpro to	v0.0.0-20200730144737- 007c33dbd381	v0.0.0-20200925023002-c 2d885f95484
google.golang.org/grpc	v1.29.1	v1.32.0
k8s.io/api	v0.18.3	v0.19.2
k8s.io/apimachinery	v0.18.3	v0.19.2
k8s.io/client-go	v0.18.3	v11.0.0+incompatible

Table 9.1: Dependencies for which updates are available.

Exploit Scenario

Eve learns of a vulnerability in an old version of a Prysm dependency and uses it to exploit Alice's Prysm installation.

Recommendation

Short term, update dependencies to the latest version wherever possible. Verify that all unit tests pass following such updates. Using out-of-date dependencies could mean critical bug fixes are missed.

Long term, regularly run <u>go-mod-outdated</u> over the codebase to help ensure that the project stays up to date with its dependencies.

10. Code relies on two dependencies with OSS advisories

Severity: Low Difficulty: High Type: Patching Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-010 Target: tools/{bootnode-query/main.go, cluster-pk-manager/server/watchtower.go, deployContract/deployContract.go}

Description

By depending on etcd@3.3.10, the bootnode-query tool is potentially vulnerable to <u>CVE-2018-17142</u>, <u>CVE-2018-17143</u>, <u>CVE-2018-17846</u>, <u>CVE-2018-17847</u>, and <u>CVE-2018-17848</u>. By depending on golang.org/x/net v0.0.0-20170114055629-f2499483f923, the cluster-pk-manager and deployContract tools are potentially vulnerable to <u>CVE-2020-15114</u>, <u>CVE-2020-15115</u>, and <u>CVE-2020-15136</u>.

The dependency chain leading to etcd@3.3.10 appears in Figure 10.1. The dependency chain leading to golang.org/x/net v0.0.0-20170114055629-f2499483f923 appears in Figure 10.2.

```
github.com/coreos/etcd@v3.3.10+incompatible
github.com/spf13/viper@v1.3.2
github.com/spf13/cobra@v0.0.5
github.com/dgraph-io/badger@v1.6.1
github.com/ipfs/go-ds-badger@v0.2.3
github.com/libp2p/go-libp2p-peerstore@v0.2.6
github.com/libp2p/go-libp2p-kad-dht@v0.8.3
```

Figure 10.1: Dependency chain leading to etcd@3.3.10.

golang.org/x/net@v0.0.0-20170114055629-f2499483f923 k8s.io/kube-openapi@v0.0.0-20200410145947-61e04a5be9a6 k8s.io/apimachinery@v0.18.3

Figure 10.2: Dependency chain leading to golang.org/x/net v0.0.0-20170114055629-f2499483f923.

We've given this finding low severity since it affects only Prysm's "tools," and not its core components (i.e., the beacon node, validator, or slasher).

Exploit Scenario

Alice, a Prysm developer, regularly uses Prsym tools. Eve uses vulnerabilities in those tools to exploit Alice's machine.

Recommendation

Short term, upgrade to the most recent versions of libp2p/go-libp2p-kad-dht (v0.10.0) and k8s.io/apimachinery (v11.0.0). Doing so will eliminate reliance on vulnerable code.

Long term, regularly run <u>nancy</u> over the codebase to reveal vulnerable dependencies.
11. Overwrite of **powchain.Service.preGenesisState** even when deposits cannot be processed

Severity: Medium Type: Denial of Service Target: beacon-chain/powchain/deposit.go

Difficulty: High Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-011

Description

If an error occurs processing Eth 1.0 deposits, the powchain service's preGenesisState field may be overwritten with nil, throwing away previous work.

The relevant code appears in Figure 11.1 and 11.2. Note that following the call to ProcessPreGenesisDeposits, s.preGenesisState is set even if err is not nil. Further note that there are several paths through ProcessPreGenesisDeposits where nil is returned in conjunction with an error.

```
func (s *Service) processDeposit(eth1Data *ethpb.Eth1Data, deposit *ethpb.Deposit) error {
    var err error
    if err := s.preGenesisState.SetEth1Data(eth1Data); err != nil {
        return err
    }
    s.preGenesisState, err = blocks.ProcessPreGenesisDeposits(context.Background(),
s.preGenesisState, []*ethpb.Deposit{deposit})
    return err
}
```

Figure 11.1: beacon-chain/powchain/deposit.go#L10-L17.

```
func ProcessPreGenesisDeposits(
       ctx context.Context,
       beaconState *stateTrie.BeaconState,
      deposits []*ethpb.Deposit,
) (*stateTrie.BeaconState, error) {
       var err error
       beaconState, err = ProcessDeposits(ctx, beaconState, &ethpb.SignedBeaconBlock{
              Block: &ethpb.BeaconBlock{Body: &ethpb.BeaconBlockBody{Deposits: deposits}}})
       if err != nil {
              return nil, errors.Wrap(err, "could not process deposit")
       }
       for _, deposit := range deposits {
              pubkey := deposit.Data.PublicKey
              index, ok := beaconState.ValidatorIndexByPubkey(bytesutil.ToBytes48(pubkey))
              if !ok {
                     return beaconState, nil
              }
              balance, err := beaconState.BalanceAtIndex(index)
              if err != nil {
                     return nil, err
              }
              validator, err := beaconState.ValidatorAtIndex(index)
              if err != nil {
                     return nil, err
              }
```

Figure 11.2: beacon-chain/core/blocks/deposit.go#L22-L58.

Exploit Scenario

Eve sends traffic to exercise one of the highlighted paths in Figure 11.2 just prior to the launch of Eth 2.0. This puts Prysm nodes into an invalid state, making them unable to participate in the launch.

Recommendation

Short term, store the result of the call to ProcessPreGenesisDeposits in a local variable, and use it to set s.preGenesisState only if err is not nil. This will prevent previous work reflected in s.preGenesisState from being thrown away.

Long term, whenever an error could be returned, avoid assigning to a field before first checking for an error. Such practice could result in unintentional state modifications.

12. Excessive memory usage by snappy.Decode

Severity: Informational Type: Denial of Service Target: beacon-chain/db/kv/encoding.go Difficulty: High Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-012

Description

Prysm beacon nodes limit the maximum size of data they will snappy.Decode when the data is received via gossip (Figure 12.1). However, they do not exercise the same precautions in regard to data read from the key-value store (Figure 12.2). Exercising such precautions would provide defense in depth.

```
func (e SszNetworkEncoder) DecodeGossip(b []byte, to interface{}) error {
    size, err := snappy.DecodedLen(b)
    if uint64(size) > MaxGossipSize {
        return errors.Errorf("gossip message exceeds max gossip size: %d bytes > %d
bytes", size, MaxGossipSize)
    }
    b, err = snappy.Decode(nil /*dst*/, b)
    if err != nil {
        return err
    }
    return e.doDecode(b, to)
}
```

Figure 12.1: beacon-chain/p2p/encoder/ssz.go#L89-L99.

```
func decode(ctx context.Context, data []byte, dst proto.Message) error {
    ctx, span := trace.StartSpan(ctx, "BeaconDB.decode")
    defer span.End()
    data, err := snappy.Decode(nil, data)
    if err != nil {
        return err
    }
    if isSSZStorageFormat(dst) {
        return dst.(fastssz.Unmarshaler).UnmarshalSSZ(data)
    }
    return proto.Unmarshal(data, dst)
}
```

Figure 12.2: beacon-chain/db/kv/encoding.go#L16-L28.

Exploit Scenario

Eve finds a way to store data of her choosing in a beacon node's key-value store. Eve writes a malicious payload to the store of Alice's node. When the node tries to decode the payload, it exhausts its memory and crashes.

Recommendation

Short term, consider adding a call to snappy.DecodedLen in kv.decode, similar to the one in ssz.SszNetworkEncoder.DecodeGossip. This will provide defense in depth should an attacker find a way to write data into a beacon node's key-value store.

Long term, protect calls related to serialization/deserialization with additional error checks. Such functions are a common source of vulnerabilities and deserve elevated scrutiny.

13. Improper use of recover in hashutil.HashProto

Severity: Informational Type: Error Reporting Target: shared/hashutil/hash.go Difficulty: Not applicable Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-013

Description

The code and comments in hashutil.HashProto suggest the only way a panic can occur is through a nil-pointer dereference (Figures 13.1 and 13.2). This assumption appears invalid, since many other error types seem just as plausible.

```
var ErrNilProto = errors.New("cannot hash a nil protobuf message")
Figure 13.1: shared/hashutil/hash.go#L20.
```

```
func HashProto(msg proto.Message) (result [32]byte, err error) {
    // Hashing a proto with nil pointers will cause a panic in the unsafe
    // proto.Marshal library.
    defer func() {
        if r := recover(); r != nil {
            err = ErrNilProto
        }
    }()
```

Figure 13.2: shared/hashutil/hash.go#L106-L113.

It appears that the use of recover in Figure 13.2 may have been added to deal with panics caused by TestHashProtoFuzz. Putting that use of recover directly in TestHashProtoFuzz would reduce its likelihood of unintentionally suppressing errors.

```
func TestHashProtoFuzz(t *testing.T) {
    f := fuzz.New().NilChance(.2)
    for i := 0; i < 1000; i++ {
        msg := &pb.AddressBook{}
        f.Fuzz(msg)
        _, err := hashutil.HashProto(msg)
        _ = err
    }
}</pre>
```

Figure 13.2: shared/hashutil/hash_test.go#L72-L81.

Exploit Scenario

Eve discovers a bug in hashutil.HashProto, and attempts to exploit it in Alice's Prysm installation. Such attempts can fail, so Eve tries repeatedly, relying on the fact that the hashutil.HashProto incorrectly reports her attempts as nil-pointer dereferences.

Recommendation

Short term, move the use of recover from hashutil.HashProto to TestHashProtoFuzz. Verify that the error is a nil-pointer dereference. These steps will help ensure that this particular use of recover does not unintentionally suppress errors.

Long term, regularly run your unit tests with all uses of recover disabled. Verify that all panics that would have been recovered are expected. These steps will help ensure that Prysm's uses of recover, generally, do not unintentionally suppress errors.

14. Improper use of recover in powchain.Service

Severity: LowDifficulty: UndeterminedType: Error ReportingFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-014Target: beacon-chain/powchain/service.go, beacon-chain/powchain/service_test.go

Description

The powchain service uses recover to handle panics that could occur in Service.handleETH1FollowDistance. This use of recover is hiding a nil-pointer dereference that currently exists in the TestLatestMainchainInfo_OK test.

Go-ethereum's core.BlockChain.GetHeaderByNumber method does not return an error, but merely returns nil under abnormal conditions. This can cause the goodFetcher.HeaderByNumber to return nil, nil (Figures 14.1 through 14.3).

```
func (g *goodFetcher) HeaderByNumber(ctx context.Context, number *big.Int)
(*gethTypes.Header, error) {
    if g.backend == nil {
        return &gethTypes.Header{
            Number: big.NewInt(15),
            Time: 150,
            }, nil
    }
    if number == nil {
            return g.backend.Blockchain().CurrentHeader(), nil
    }
    return g.backend.Blockchain().GetHeaderByNumber(number.Uint64()), nil
}
```

Figure 14.1: beacon-chain/powchain/service_test.go#L90-L101.

```
// GetHeaderByNumber retrieves a block header from the database by number,
// caching it (associated with its hash) if found.
func (bc *BlockChain) GetHeaderByNumber(number uint64) *types.Header {
        return bc.hc.GetHeaderByNumber(number)
}
```

Figure 14.2: go-ethereum/core/blockchain.go#L2426-L2430.

```
// GetHeaderByNumber retrieves a block header from the database by number,
// caching it (associated with its hash) if found.
func (hc *HeaderChain) GetHeaderByNumber(number uint64) *types.Header {
    hash := rawdb.ReadCanonicalHash(hc.chainDb, number)
    if hash == (common.Hash{}) {
        return nil
    }
    return hc.GetHeader(hash, number)
}
```

```
Figure 14.3: go-ethereum/core/headerchain.go#L461-L469.
```

A return of nil, nil from goodFetcher.HeaderByNumber causes a nil-pointer dereference in the TestLatestMainchainInfo_OK test (Figures 14.4 through 14.6). The nil

header is passed to s.headerCache.AddHeader. The nil-pointer dereference results when s.headerCache.AddHeader tries to fetch header's Number field.

```
header, err := s.eth1DataFetcher.HeaderByNumber(ctx, height)
if err != nil {
    return [32]byte{}, errors.Wrap(err, fmt.Sprintf("could not query header with
height %d", height.Uint64()))
}
if err := s.headerCache.AddHeader(header); err != nil {
```

Figure 14.4: beacon-chain/powchain/block_reader.go#L51-L55.

```
func (b *headerCache) AddHeader(hdr *gethTypes.Header) error {
    b.lock.Lock()
    defer b.lock.Unlock()
    hInfo := headerToHeaderInfo(hdr)
```

Figure 14.5: beacon-chain/powchain/block_cache.go#L150-L154.

```
func headerToHeaderInfo(hdr *gethTypes.Header) *headerInfo {
    return &headerInfo{
        Hash: hdr.Hash(),
        Number: new(big.Int).Set(hdr.Number),
        Time: hdr.Time,
    }
}
```

Figure 14.6: beacon-chain/powchain/block_cache.go#L48-L54.

Finally, the nil-pointer dereference is suppressed by the use of safelyHandlePanic() inside powchain.Service.handleETH1FollowDistance (Figures 14.7 through 14.10).

```
func TestLatestMainchainInfo_OK(t *testing.T) {
    ...
    go func() {
        web3Service.run(web3Service.ctx.Done())
```

Figure 14.7: beacon-chain/powchain/block_reader_test.go#L29-L52.

```
func (s *Service) run(done <-chan struct{}) {
    ...
    for {
        select {
            ...
            case <-s.headTicker.C:
            ...
            s.handleETH1FollowDistance()
</pre>
```

Figure 14.8: beacon-chain/powchain/service.go#L679-L701.

func (s *Service) handleETH1FollowDistance() {
 defer safelyHandlePanic()

Figure 14.9: beacon-chain/powchain/service.go#L608-L609.

Figure 14.10: beacon-chain/powchain/service.go#L596-L606.

Exploit Scenario

The powchain service is unable to fetch data it requires. The error goes unnoticed because it is suppressed by safelyHandlePanic. The powchain service continues in an invalid state.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust the implementation of goodFetcher.HeaderByNumber so that it returns an error when g.backend.Blockchain().CurrentHeader() is nil. This will eliminate a nil-pointer dereference that currently exists in the TestLatestMainchainInfo_OK test.

Long term, regularly run your unit tests with all uses of recover disabled. Verify that all panics that would have been recovered are expected. These steps will help ensure that Prysm's uses of recover, generally, do not unintentionally suppress errors.

15. Premature loop exit causes validator deposits to be missed

Severity: Medium Type: Data Validation Target: beacon-chain/core/blocks/deposit.go Difficulty: High Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-015

Description

The ProcessPreGenesisDeposits processes Eth 1.0 deposits in preparation for the Eth 2.0 mainnet launch. If a depositor's public key cannot be processed, then the function returns the result of processing all deposits up to that point. Thus, deposits after that point are lost.

The code in question appears in Figure 15.1. The function loops over a sequence of deposits. Work performed by the function is accumulated in a beaconState variable. If the function ValidatorIndexByPubkey returns an error (e.g., because the depositor's public key could not be found), then beaconState is returned as is. Deposits that would have been processed after that point are dropped.

```
func ProcessPreGenesisDeposits(
       ctx context.Context.
       beaconState *stateTrie.BeaconState,
      deposits []*ethpb.Deposit,
) (*stateTrie.BeaconState, error) {
       var err error
       beaconState, err = ProcessDeposits(ctx, beaconState, &ethpb.SignedBeaconBlock{
             Block: &ethpb.BeaconBlock{Body: &ethpb.BeaconBlockBody{Deposits: deposits}}})
       if err != nil {
              return nil, errors.Wrap(err, "could not process deposit")
       }
       for _, deposit := range deposits {
              pubkey := deposit.Data.PublicKey
              index, ok := beaconState.ValidatorIndexByPubkey(bytesutil.ToBytes48(pubkey))
              if !ok {
                     return beaconState, nil
              balance, err := beaconState.BalanceAtIndex(index)
              if err != nil {
                     return nil, err
              }
              validator, err := beaconState.ValidatorAtIndex(index)
              if err != nil {
                     return nil, err
              }
              validator.EffectiveBalance =
mathutil.Min(balance-balance%params.BeaconConfig().EffectiveBalanceIncrement,
params.BeaconConfig().MaxEffectiveBalance)
              if validator.EffectiveBalance ==
                     params.BeaconConfig().MaxEffectiveBalance {
                     validator.ActivationEligibilityEpoch = 0
                     validator.ActivationEpoch = 0
              }
              if err := beaconState.UpdateValidatorAtIndex(index, validator); err != nil {
                     return nil, err
              }
       }
```

```
return beaconState, nil
```

Figure 15.1: beacon-chain/core/blocks/deposit.go#L22-L58.

Exploit Scenario

}

Alice submits an Eth 1.0 deposit in order to become a validator. Eve arranges for her bogus public key to be processed before Alice's deposit. Alice's deposit is ignored.

Recommendation

Short term, if a depositor's public key cannot be processed, skip over it and continue processing the remaining deposits. This will eliminate a bug that currently allows valid deposits to be ignored.

Long term, be wary of returning from inside of a loop on an error condition. Such a practice is a frequent source of errors.

16. Proposer indices cannot be retrieved from cache

Severity: MediumDifficulty: LowType: Data ValidationFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-016Target: beacon-chain/cache/committee.go, beacon-chain/cache/committee_test.go

Description

Committees structs are cached using their Seed field as a key (Figure 16.1). Proposer indices are inserted into the cache in Committees structs with the Seed field unset. As such, they are unretrievable.

```
// Committees defines the shuffled committees seed.
type Committees struct {
    CommitteeCount uint64
    Seed [32]byte
    ShuffledIndices []uint64
    SortedIndices []uint64
    ProposerIndices []uint64
}
```

Figure 16.1: beacon-chain/cache/committee.go#L35-L42.

Figure 16.2 shows what happens when a set of a proposer indices cannot be found in the cache. A new Committees struct is created to contain the proposer indices, but its Seed field is not set.

```
// AddProposerIndicesList updates the committee shuffled list with proposer indices.
func (c *CommitteeCache) AddProposerIndicesList(seed [32]byte, indices []uint64) error {
    c.lock.Lock()
    defer c.lock.Unlock()
    obj, exists, err := c.CommitteeCache.GetByKey(key(seed))
    if err != nil {
        return err
    }
    if !exists {
        committees := &CommitteeCache.Add(committees); err != nil {
            return err
        }
    }
```

Figure 16.2: beacon-chain/cache/committee.go#L118-L131.

There is a unit test for AddProposerIndicesList, but it contains an error. The indices local variable is overwritten with nil while verifying that those indices are not already in the cache. Consequently, nil is inserted into the cache. Later, nil is retrieved from the cache (as a result of this bug) and stored in the received local variable. The local variables received and indices are compared and they match (they are both nil), and the test passes.

func TestCommitteeCache_AddProposerIndicesList(t *testing.T) {

```
cache := NewCommitteesCache()
seed := [32]byte{'A'}
indices := []uint64{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}
indices, err := cache.ProposerIndices(seed)
require.NoError(t, err)
if indices != nil {
    t.Error("Expected committee count not to exist in empty cache")
}
require.NoError(t, cache.AddProposerIndicesList(seed, indices))
received, err := cache.ProposerIndices(seed)
require.NoError(t, err)
assert.DeepEqual(t, received, indices)
```

Figure 16.3: beacon-chain/cache/committee_test.go#L90-L104.

Exploit Scenario

Alice runs a Prysm node. Alice's node wastes work maintaining a cache unnecessarily. This combined with other factors makes her node unable to keep up with the network. Alice's node is slashed as a result.

Recommendation

Short term, set a Committees struct's Seed when inserting proposer indices into the cache. This will eliminate a bug that currently makes the struct unretrievable.

Long term, regularly run Go's <u>shadow</u> tool over your codebase. This bug is due, in part, to variable shadowing in a unit test. Regularly running Go's shadow can help to reveal such problems.

17. Shuffled list is not added to cache if proposer indices are present

Severity: InformationalDifficulty: UndeterminedType: Data ValidationFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-017Target: beacon-chain/cache/committee.go, beacon-chain/core/helpers/committee.go

Description

Attempting to insert a shuffled list into the cache after a set of proposer indices with the same seed fails. This wastes work and is inconsistent with how proposer indices are inserted into the cache.

The relevant code appears in Figure 17.1 and 17.2. UpdateCommitteeCache is called to add a shuffled list to the cache. It builds a Committees struct and calls AddCommitteeShuffledList to add it to the cache. AddCommitteeShuffledList does so using AddIfNotPresent. Thus, if a Committees struct was already present with the same seed, say because proposer indices with that seed were already inserted, then the shuffled list would not be inserted.

Figure 17.1: beacon-chain/core/helpers/committee.go#L307-L342.

```
// AddCommitteeShuffledList adds Committee shuffled list object to the cache. T
// his method also trims the least recently list if the cache size has ready the max cache
size limit.
func (c *CommitteeCache) AddCommitteeShuffledList(committees *Committees) error {
    c.lock.Lock()
    defer c.lock.Unlock()
    if err := c.CommitteeCache.AddIfNotPresent(committees); err != nil {
        return err
    }
    trim(c.CommitteeCache, maxCommitteeSCacheSize)
    return nil
}
```

Figure 17.2: beacon-chain/cache/committee.go#L105-L116.

This behavior is inconsistent with how proposer indices are inserted into the cache (Figures 17.3 and 17.4). UpdateProposerIndicesInCache is called to insert proposer indices into the cache. UpdateProposerIndicesInCache, in turn, calls AddProposerIndicesList. If a Committees struct with the relevant seed already exists in the cache, then the proposer indices are added to that struct.

```
// UpdateProposerIndicesInCache updates proposer indices entry of the committee cache.
func UpdateProposerIndicesInCache(state *stateTrie.BeaconState, epoch uint64) error {
    ...
    if err := committeeCache.AddProposerIndicesList(seed, proposerIndices); err != nil {
        return err
    }
```

Figure 17.3: beacon-chain/core/helpers/committee.go#L348-L365.

```
// AddProposerIndicesList updates the committee shuffled list with proposer indices.
func (c *CommitteeCache) AddProposerIndicesList(seed [32]byte, indices []uint64) error {
       c.lock.Lock()
       defer c.lock.Unlock()
       obj, exists, err := c.CommitteeCache.GetByKey(key(seed))
       if err != nil {
              return err
       }
       if !exists {
              committees := &Committees{ProposerIndices: indices}
              if err := c.CommitteeCache.Add(committees); err != nil {
                     return err
       } else {
              committees, ok := obj.(*Committees)
              if !ok {
                     return ErrNotCommittee
              committees.ProposerIndices = indices
              if err := c.CommitteeCache.Add(committees); err != nil {
                     return err
              }
       }
```

Figure 17.4: beacon-chain/cache/committee.go#L118-L141.

Currently, this finding does not pose a problem, because proposer indices are inserted into the cache without an associated seed (<u>TOB-PRYSM-016</u>). However, if that bug is fixed in the obvious way, then this bug will become an issue. This can be verified with a minor modification of the test in Figure 16.3.

Exploit Scenario

Alice runs a Prysm node with a patch for TOB-PRYSM-016. Alice's node wastes work computing shuffled lists that it does not insert into the cache. This combined with other factors makes her node unable to keep up with the network. Alice's node is slashed as a result.

Recommendation

Short term, when inserting a shuffled list into the cache, add it to an existing Committees struct if one already exists with the relevant seed. This will eliminate a bug that currently causes a node to build Committees structs unnessarily.

Long term, consider ways that the cache code may be consolidated. This bug is, in part, the result of a discrepancy in how the cache handled proposer indices vs. shuffled indices. Consolidating that code might have prevented this bug. Furthermore, you may want to include other types of data in the cache in the future. Consolidating the cache code could help to facilitate such extensions.

18. Inefficiencies surrounding use of cache

Severity: Informational Type: Data Validation Target: beacon-chain/core/helpers/validators.go Difficulty: Not applicable Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-018

Description

Work is unnecessarily duplicated when inserting items into the cache.

Consider how proposer indices are inserted into the cache (Figures 18.1 through 18.3). The active valid indices are computed for the given epoch. Then, the function UpdateProposerIndicesInCache is called *without the results of the just mentioned computation*. UpdateProposerIndicesInCache recomputes the ActiveValidatorIndices and calls precomputeProposerIndices, which computes the proposer indices for all slots within the epoch. Eventually, control returns to BeaconProposerIndex, which *recomputes the proposer index* for the slot of interest. Thus, work done to compute the active validator indices and the proposer index for one slot is duplicated.

```
func BeaconProposerIndex(state *stateTrie.BeaconState) (uint64, error) {
       proposerIndices, err := committeeCache.ProposerIndices(seed)
       if err != nil {
              return 0, errors.Wrap(err, "could not interface with committee cache")
       }
       if proposerIndices != nil {
              return proposerIndices[state.Slot()%params.BeaconConfig().SlotsPerEpoch], nil
       }
       . . .
       indices, err := ActiveValidatorIndices(state, e)
       if err != nil {
              return 0, errors.Wrap(err, "could not get active indices")
       }
       if err := UpdateProposerIndicesInCache(state, e); err != nil {
              return 0, errors.Wrap(err, "could not update committee cache")
       }
       return ComputeProposerIndex(state, indices, seedWithSlotHash)
}
```

Figure 18.1: beacon-chain/core/helpers/validators.go#L176-L209.

```
func UpdateProposerIndicesInCache(state *stateTrie.BeaconState, epoch uint64) error {
    indices, err := ActiveValidatorIndices(state, epoch)
    if err != nil {
        return nil
    }
    proposerIndices, err := precomputeProposerIndices(state, indices)
    if err != nil {
        return err
    }
```

```
Figure 18.2: beacon-chain/core/helpers/committee.go#L349-L357.
```

```
func precomputeProposerIndices(state *stateTrie.BeaconState, activeIndices []uint64)
([]uint64, error) {
    ...
    for i := uint64(0); i < params.BeaconConfig().SlotsPerEpoch; i++ {
        seedWithSlot := append(seed[:], bytesutil.Bytes8(slot+i)...)
        seedWithSlotHash := hashFunc(seedWithSlot)
        index, err := ComputeProposerIndex(state, activeIndices, seedWithSlotHash)
        if err != nil {
            return nil, err
        }
        proposerIndices[i] = index
    }
}</pre>
```

Figure 18.3: beacon-chain/core/helpers/committee.go#L377-L398.

A similar comment applies to ActiveValidatorIndices and UpdateCommitteeCache.

Recommendation

Short term, refactor BeaconProposerIndex, UpdateProposerIndicesInCache, and precomputeProposerIndices so that the work done to compute the active validator indices and the proposer index for one slot is not duplicated. Be careful to avoid introducing data races involving the presence of data in the cache in the process. These steps will improve the overall efficiency of the cache.

Long term, as new types of data are added to the cache, avoid duplicating computations across functions that update the cache and their callers. This will help maintain the cache's effectiveness.

19. Wrong domain used in helpers.SlotSignature

Severity: Medium Type: Cryptography Target: beacon-chain/core/helpers/attestation.go

Difficulty: Low Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-019

Description

The current Eth 2.0 specification says that selection proofs should be signed using DOMAIN_SELECTION_PROOF. Prysm deviates from the specification by using DOMAIN_BEACON_ATTESTER (Figure 19.1).

// SlotSignature returns the signed signature of the hash tree root of input slot.
//
// Spec pseudocode definition:
// def get_slot_signature(state: BeaconState, slot: Slot, privkey: int) -> BLSSignature:
// domain = get_domain(state, DOMAIN_SELECTION_PROOF, compute_epoch_at_slot(slot))
// signing_root = compute_signing_root(slot, domain)
// return bls.Sign(privkey, signing_root)
func SlotSignature(state *stateTrie.BeaconState, slot uint64, privKey bls.SecretKey)
(bls.Signature, error) {
 d, err := Domain(state.Fork(), CurrentEpoch(state),
 params.BeaconConfig().DomainBeaconAttester, state.GenesisValidatorRoot())

Figure 19.1: beacon-chain/core/helpers/attestation.go#L16-L24.

This discrepancy appears to be the result of an incomplete fix in pull request <u>5604</u>.

Exploit Scenario

Alice runs a Prysm node. Her node is selected for aggregation. Her node produces a selection proof with an invalid signature and is slashed.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust SlotSignature so that it uses DOMAIN_SELECTION_PROOF for selection proofs, rather than DOMAIN_BEACON_ATTESTER. This will bring the code in-line with the Eth 2.0 current specification.

Long term, when reviewing PRs, consider not only the code in the PR, but other code to which similar changes should be applied. This issue appears to be the result of an incomplete fix. A more expansive approach to PR review could help to prevent similar situations.

20. Wrong loop exit condition in **store.ForkChoice.AncestorRoot**

Severity: MediumDifficulty: LowType: Denial of ServiceFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-020Target: beacon-chain/forkchoice/protoarray/store.go

Description

The AncestorRoot function iterates through nodes until it finds one with a slot less than a slot of interest. The loop does not account for the possibility that it could run out of nodes to check.

The definition of AncestorRoot appears in Figure 20.1. Nearby code suggests that f.store.nodes[i].parent could take the value NonExistentNode, which is defined as ^uint64(0). If the loop variable i were to take this value, an "index out of range" error would result. Thus, the the loop condition should be something like:

i < uint64(len(f.store.nodes)) && f.store.nodes[i].slot > slot

```
// AncestorRoot returns the ancestor root of input block root at a given slot.
func (f *ForkChoice) AncestorRoot(ctx context.Context, root [32]byte, slot uint64) ([]byte,
error) {
       i, ok := f.store.nodesIndices[root]
       if !ok {
              return nil, errors.New("node does not exist")
       }
       if i >= uint64(len(f.store.nodes)) {
              return nil, errors.New("node index out of range")
       }
       for f.store.nodes[i].slot > slot {
              if ctx.Err() != nil {
                     return nil, ctx.Err()
              }
              i = f.store.nodes[i].parent
       }
       if i >= uint64(len(f.store.nodes)) {
              return nil, errors.New("node index out of range")
       }
       return f.store.nodes[i].root[:], nil
}
```

Figure 20.1: beacon-chain/forkchoice/protoarray/store.go#L156-L178.

Exploit Scenario

Eve finds a way to call AncestorRoot with an exceedingly small slot value, thereby causing an "index out of range" error. Eve uses the bug to crash Prysm nodes.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust the AncestorRoot's for loop condition so that it accounts for i not within the range of f.store.nodes's indices. This will eliminate potential "index out of range" errors that could be used for denial of service.

Long term, consider developing a fuzzer for AncestorRoot or one of its predecessors in the call graph. Fuzzing might have caught this bug, and could catch similar bugs in the future.

21. Handler on_tick unimplemented

Severity: Undetermined Type: Undefined Behavior Target: beacon node Difficulty: Undetermined Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-021

Description

The Eth 2.0 specification dictates that on_time (Figure 21.1) be called "whenever time > store.time where time is the current Unix time." on_tick does not appear to be implemented in Prysm.

```
def on_tick(store: Store, time: uint64) -> None:
    previous_slot = get_current_slot(store)
    # update store time
    store.time = time
    current_slot = get_current_slot(store)
    # Not a new epoch, return
    if not (current_slot > previous_slot and compute_slots_since_epoch_start(current_slot))
== 0):
        return
    # Update store.justified_checkpoint if a better checkpoint is known
    if store.best_justified_checkpoint.epoch > store.justified_checkpoint.epoch:
        store.justified_checkpoint = store.best_justified_checkpoint
```

Figure 21.1: specs/phase0/fork-choice.md#on_tick.

Note from Figure 21.1 that on_tick updates store.justified_checkpoint to store.best_justified_checkpoint under certain conditions. There is only one function in Prysm that performs such an update: updateHead.updateHead is called in ReceiveAttestationNoPubsub in beacon-chain/blockchain/receive_attestation.go and in ReceiveBlock in beacon-chain/blockchain/receive_block.go, but nowhere else.

```
// Determined the head from the fork choice service and saves its new data
// (head root, head block, and head state) to the local service cache.
func (s *Service) updateHead(ctx context.Context, balances []uint64) error {
    ctx, span := trace.StartSpan(ctx, "blockChain.updateHead")
    defer span.End()
    // To get the proper head update, a node first checks its best justified
    // can become justified. This is designed to prevent bounce attack and
    // ensure head gets its best justified info.
    if s.bestJustifiedCheckpt.Epoch > s.justifiedCheckpt.Epoch {
        s.justifiedCheckpt = s.bestJustifiedCheckpt
        if err := s.cacheJustifiedStateBalances(ctx,
        bytesutil.ToBytes32(s.justifiedCheckpt.Root)); err != nil {
            return err
        }
    }
}
```

Exploit Scenario

Alice runs a Prysm node. Because her node does not implement on_tick, it falls out of sync with other nodes on the network. Alice suffers financial loss as a result.

Recommendation

Short term, implement the on_tick method from the Eth 2.0 specification. This will eliminate a discrepancy that currently exists between the Eth 2.0 specification and Prysm's implementation of it.

Long term, maintain a mapping of Eth 2.0 function to their corresponding implementations in Prysm. This will make it easier for developers to understand how Prysm implements the specification. It will also help to identify gaps in the implementation.

22. Hardcoded contract bytecode

Severity: MediumDifficulty: LowType: Data ValidationFinding ID: TOB-PRYSM-022Target: contracts/deposit-contract/depositContract.go

Description

The compiled bytecode is included in depositContract.go as a variable instead of read in from a machine-only writable file such as bytecode.bin.

Figure 22.1 Use of the DepositContractBin variable (depositContract.go#L32-L42)

Figure 22.2 <u>bytecode.bin</u> that should be used instead of DepositContractBin

Exploit Scenario

Alice is a Prysm developer that accidentally commits a change to the bytecode variable that is used in the deposit contract. Invalid bytecode is used for a deposit which causes the deposits to fail.

Recommendation

Short term, read in the bytecode for deposits only from the <u>bytecode.bin</u> file that currently stores it. Update pipelines so that only automation changes this value and it is never expected to be edited directly by developers. We also recommend putting in a git pre-commit hook to prevent developers from committing to this file.

Long term, remove any manual processes required for releasing code and automate for consistency and reliability purposes.

23. Files and directories created with os.MkdirAll and ioutil.WriteFile are not ensured to have correct permissions

Severity: Low Difficulty: High Type: Access Controls Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-023 Target: tools/genesis-state-gen/main.go, tools/enr-calculator/main.go, tools/interop/export-genesis/main.go, beacon-chain/core/state/interop/write_block_to_disk.go, beacon-chain/core/state/interop/write_state_to_disk.go, validator/accounts/v2/wallet.go, beacon-chain/db/kv/kv.go, validator/db/kv/db.go

Description

The os.MkdirAll function does not enforce permissions on directories already present on the filesystem. Therefore, if an attacker were to pre-populate a directory with overly-permissive permissions, those permissions will not be altered.

Similarly, the ioutil.WriteFile and os.OpenFile functions have the same attributes, but applied to files. If an attacker pre-populates a file with overly-permissive permissions, the permissions will not be changed.

This could lead to an attacker pre-populating a file or directory with overly-permissive permissions, allowing modifications or reading after the program has started.

Exploit Scenario

Eve has local access to a machine where generation of the genesis state occurs. Eve pre-populates directories with overly permissive permissions where prysm will write potentially sensitive values, or perform sensitive operations.

Recommendation

Short term, when using os.MkdirAll, check all directories in the path and validate their owner and permissions before performing operations on them. This will help avoid situations where sensitive information is written to a pre-existing attacker-controlled path.

Long term, enumerate files and directories for their expected permissions overall, and build validation to ensure appropriate permissions are applied before creation and upon use. Ideally, this validation should be centrally defined and used throughout the applications as a whole.

24. Response body not closed in tests

Severity: Low Difficulty: Medium Type: Denial of Service Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-024 Target: shared/prometheus/service_test.go, shared/prometheus/logrus_collector_test.go, endtoend/helpers/helpers.go

Description

Multiple tests within Prysm neglect necessary Go hygiene practices such as closing the response body after an http request. If tests are run on a machine frequently enough, this memory leak could have unintended consequences.

```
func writeURLRespAtPath(url string, filePath string) error {
       resp, err := http.Get(url)
       if err != nil {
             return err
       }
       body, err := ioutil.ReadAll(resp.Body)
       if err != nil {
              return err
       }
       file, err := os.Create(filePath)
       if err != nil {
             return err
       }
       if _, err := file.Write(body); err != nil {
             return err
       }
       return nil
}
```



Exploit Scenario

A Prysm developer is regularly running the tests locally on the same machine they are using to engage with the beacon-chain and make deposits. Rapidly running the tests continually outpaces the garbage collection and an out of memory (OOM) error causes their node to crash.

Recommendation

Short term, validate that all file handlers are closed to avoid putting undue stress on the garbage collector.

Long term, standardize idiomatic Go practices such as proper handling of response bodies.

25. Password guesses should be limited to prevent brute force

Severity: Medium Difficulty: Low Type: Access Controls Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-025 Target: validator/accounts/v2/accounts_deposit.go, validator/keymanager/v2/direct/direct.go

Description

Throughout the codebase, passwords are minimally validated for baseline requirements and are not checked for number of attempts. In a situation like an account deposit, this makes it vulnerable to a brute force attack trying all possible passwords for another user's account.

```
func PasswordPrompt(promptText string, validateFunc func(string) error) (string, error) {
       var responseValid bool
       var response string
      for !responseValid {
              fmt.Printf("%s: ", au.Bold(promptText))
              bytePassword, err := terminal.ReadPassword(int(os.Stdin.Fd()))
              if err != nil {
                     return "", err
              }
              response = strings.TrimRight(string(bytePassword), "\r\n")
              if err := validateFunc(response); err != nil {
                     fmt.Printf("\nEntry not valid: %s\n", au.BrightRed(err))
              } else {
                     fmt.Println("")
                     responseValid = true
              }
       }
       return response, nil
}
```

Figure 25.1 PasswordPrompt doesn't track number of attempts, nor do any of its references track attempts (<u>shared/promptutil/prompt.go#L99-L117</u>).

Exploit Scenario

Eve has a validator's wallet address. She attempts to direct transfer funds into her wallet with their password. She is able to iterate through many guesses for passwords and steals funds.

Recommendation

Short term, limit the number of password guesses a user can attempt by implementing an exponential backoff strategy on password acceptance timing.

Long term, implement monitoring surrounding excessively high password guess frequency against an account and consider locking it until the user can validate their identity.

26. Premature exit under certain conditions in blockchain.Service.ancestor

Severity: Medium Difficulty: Undetermined Type: Undefined Behavior Finding ID: TOB-PRYSM-026 Target: beacon-chain/blockchain/process_block_helpers.go

Description

The function blockchain.Service.ancestor is supposed to find an ancestral root from a given root and slot. The function can incorrectly return an error when the root is not in the service's forkChoiceStore.

The code in question appears in Figure 26.1. If s.forkChoiceStore.HasParent(r) is true, then s.forkChoiceStore.AncestorRoot is called to find the root in forkChoiceStore. AncestorRoot can fail with a "node index out of range" error (recall Figure 20.1). In such a case, the service's beaconDB should be queried, as the root could lie there. Currently, beaconDB is not queried.

```
// ancestor returns the block root of an ancestry block from the input block root.
//
// Spec pseudocode definition:
// def get_ancestor(store: Store, root: Root, slot: Slot) -> Root:
//
    block = store.blocks[root]
//
    if block.slot > slot:
//
        return get_ancestor(store, block.parent_root, slot)
//
    elif block.slot == slot:
//
        return root
//
    else:
//
        # root is older than queried slot, thus a skip slot. Return most recent root prior
to slot
//
         return root
func (s *Service) ancestor(ctx context.Context, root []byte, slot uint64) ([]byte, error) {
       // Get ancestor root from fork choice store instead of recursively looking up blocks
in DB.
       // This is most optimal outcome.
       if s.forkChoiceStore.HasParent(r) {
             return s.forkChoiceStore.AncestorRoot(ctx, r, slot)
       }
       signed, err := s.beaconDB.Block(ctx, r)
       if err != nil {
              return nil, errors.Wrap(err, "could not get ancestor block")
       }
```

Figure 26.1: block_helpers.go#L245-L276.

Exploit Scenario

The above bug in ancestor makes it impossible for Prysm nodes to reach consensus with other Eth 2.0 nodes. A fork in the network results.

Recommendation

Short term, adjust ancestor so that if s.forkChoiceStore.AncestorRoot returns a "node index out of range" error, beaconDB is queried. This will eliminate a bug that can cause ancestor to incorrectly return an error.

Long term, require additional review of functions whose implementations do not obviously match the specification. For example, as can be seen from Figure 26.1, Prysm's ancestor does not directly correspond to the specification's get_ancestor, though they are meant to achieve the same functionality. Functions such as ancestor warrant additional scrutiny.

A. Vulnerability Classifications

Vulnerability Classes		
Class	Description	
Access Controls	Related to authorization of users and assessment of rights	
Auditing and Logging	Related to auditing of actions or logging of problems	
Authentication	Related to the identification of users	
Configuration	Related to security configurations of servers, devices or software	
Cryptography	Related to protecting the privacy or integrity of data	
Data Exposure	Related to unintended exposure of sensitive information	
Data Validation	Related to improper reliance on the structure or values of data	
Denial of Service	Related to causing system failure	
Documentation	Related to documenting or recording use scenarios	
Error Reporting	Related to the reporting of error conditions in a secure fashion	
Patching	Related to keeping software up to date	
Session Management	Related to the identification of authenticated users	
Timing	Related to race conditions, locking or order of operations	
Undefined Behavior	Related to undefined behavior triggered by the program	

Severity Categories	
Severity	Description
Informational	The issue does not pose an immediate risk, but is relevant to security best practices or Defense in Depth
Undetermined	The extent of the risk was not determined during this engagement
Low	The risk is relatively small or is not a risk the customer has indicated is important
Medium	Individual user's information is at risk, exploitation would be bad for

	client's reputation, moderate financial impact, possible legal implications for client
High	Large numbers of users, very bad for client's reputation, or serious legal or financial implications

Difficulty Levels	
Difficulty	Description
Undetermined	The difficulty of exploit was not determined during this engagement
Low	Commonly exploited, public tools exist or can be scripted that exploit this flaw
Medium	Attackers must write an exploit, or need an in-depth knowledge of a complex system
High	The attacker must have privileged insider access to the system, may need to know extremely complex technical details or must discover other weaknesses in order to exploit this issue

Code Maturity Classes	
Category Name	Description
Access Controls	Related to the authentication and authorization of components.
Arithmetic	Related to the proper use of mathematical operations and semantics.
Assembly Use	Related to the use of inline assembly.
Centralization	Related to the existence of a single point of failure.
Upgradeability	Related to contract upgradeability.
Function Composition	Related to separation of the logic into functions with clear purpose.
Front-Running	Related to resilience against front-running.
Key Management	Related to the existence of proper procedures for key generation, distribution, and access.
Monitoring	Related to use of events and monitoring procedures.
Specification	Related to the expected codebase documentation.
Testing & Verification	Related to the use of testing techniques (unit tests, fuzzing, symbolic execution, etc.).

B. Code Maturity Classifications

Rating Criteria	
Rating	Description
Strong	The component was reviewed and no concerns were found.
Satisfactory	The component had only minor issues.
Moderate	The component had some issues.
Weak	The component led to multiple issues; more issues might be present.
Missing	The component was missing.

Not Applicable	The component is not applicable.
Not Considered	The component was not reviewed.
Further Investigation Required	The component requires further investigation.

C. Code Quality Recommendations

The following recommendations are not associated with specific vulnerabilities. However, they enhance code readability and may prevent the introduction of vulnerabilities in the future.

- <u>beacon-chain/gateway/server/main.go#L44</u> and many other locations: Use <u>net.JoinHostPort</u> instead of fmt.Sprintf for IPv6 and future compatibility.
- The Bazel resource file (.bazelrc) insists on an outdated version of Bazel (3.2.0). Since September 2, 2020, version 3.5.0 is available. Consider upgrading to the newer version.
- <u>epoch/precompute/slashing_test.go#L99</u> and several other locations: An improper conversion from an int to a string is performed:

```
t.Run(string(i), func(t *testing.T) {
```

Use fmt.Sprint(...) instead.

• Verify that your implementations satisfy their interfaces using <u>global</u> <u>declarations of the form</u>:

var _ Interface = (*Implementation)(nil)

Such declarations have the additional benefit of alerting readers to which implementations satisfy which interfaces. For instance, one could add the following line to beacon-chain/sync/initial-sync/service.go:

var _ sync.Checker = (*Service)(nil)

- validator/node.go#L55-L64, validator/node/node.go#L338-L349, other locations: Overusing contexts to store values that aren't relevant to their use in concurrency and cancelling patterns breaks the Single Responsibility Principle and muddies the code waters. Instead of storing values for setup on the context getting passed in, consider the <u>WithOption</u> pattern that is idiomatic for Go.
- shared/sliceutil/slice.go#L51, shared/sliceutil/slice.go#L166, shared/sliceutil/slice.go#L272: A condition of the form (X-Y) == 0 appears. Such a condition could be written more simply as X == Y.
- <u>fuzz/BUILD.bazel#L110-L116</u>: The block_fuzz_test incorrectly uses Sigma Prime's block_header corpus. The test should use Sigma Prime's block corpus.

```
go_fuzz_test(
    name = "block_fuzz_test",
    srcs = [
        "block_fuzz.go",
```

```
] + COMMON_SRCS,
corpus = "@sigp_beacon_fuzz_corpora//:current_mainnet_block_header",
    corpus_path =
"external/sigp_beacon_fuzz_corpora/0-11-0/mainnet/block_header",
```

- <u>beacon-chain/core/helpers/slot_epoch.go#L77-L83</u>, <u>slasher/detection/testing/utils.go#L51-L53</u>: The function StartSlot is implemented in two places, once with overflow checking and once without. Consider consolidating the implementations.
- <u>beacon-chain/core/helpers/validators.go#L284</u>: Consider moving ComputeProposerIndexWithValidators to beacon-chain/core/helpers/validators_test.go. The function is marked as deprecated, and beacon-chain/core/helpers/validators_test.go is the only place where it is used. Consider also adding tests to verify that ComputeProposerIndex and ComputeProposerIndexWithValidators produce the same results.
- <u>shared/attestationutil/attestation_utils.go#L157-L171</u>: The function attestationutil.IsValidAttestationIndices implements a complicated algorithm for checking whether an array of indices is sorted. It should be sufficient to check that each index in the array is less than the next.
- <u>beacon-chain/p2p/handshake.go#L29-L143</u>: Convoluted nesting of function definitions makes code unreadable and unnecessarily complex.

D. Ineffectual Assignments

ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/blockchain/head.go#L214 ineffectual assignment to set | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/blockchain/process block.go#L238 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits cache.go#L82 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits_cache.go#L104 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits_cache.go#L116 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits cache.go#L147 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits_cache.go#L157 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits_cache.go#L164 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits_cache.go#L176 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits cache.go#L193 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits_cache.go#L209 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/deposits cache.go#L228 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/pending deposits.go#L33 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/pending deposits.go#L70 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/pending_deposits.go#L94 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/cache/depositcache/pending deposits.go#L132 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/core/epoch/precompute/new.go#L20 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kafka/export wrapper.go#L50 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beacon-

chain/db/kv/archived_point.go#L13 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/archived_point.go#L28 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/archived_point.go#L46 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/archived_point.go#L63 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/blocks.go#L111 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/blocks.go#L230 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/blocks.go#L265 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/blocks.go#L385 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/blocks.go#L452 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/blocks.go#L480 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/deposit_contract.go#L15 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/deposit_contract.go#L30 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/encoding.go#L17 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/encoding.go#L31 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/finalized block roots.go#L163 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/operations.go#L59 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/operations.go#L72 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/powchain.go#L14 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/powchain.go#L29 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beaconchain/db/kv/regen_historical_states.go#L198 ineffectual assignment to ctx | https://github.com/prysmaticlabs/prysm/blob/245c18784eda370ea3218e8704651edad763978d/beacon-

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ineffectual assignment to password	
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or/keymanager/v2/direct/direct.go#L372	