PRIVACY POOLS SMART CONTRACTS SECURITY AUDIT REPORT

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AUDIT OVERVIEW

1.1 PROJECT BRIEF

Title	Description
Client	Privacy Pools
Project name	Privacy Pools v1
Category	Private Transactions
Website	https://privacypools.com/
Repository	https://github.com/ProofOfInnocence/privacy-pools-v1
Initial Commit	e221f0b88e52fb5c214726e765997ef4067793a9
Final Commit	8ab7132877325e27b22053e974b3310d70b860b5
Network	Ethereum
Languages	Solidity, Circom
Lead Auditor	Alexander Mazaletskiy - <u>am@oxor.io</u>
Project Manager	Viktor Mikhailov - <u>viktor@oxor.io</u>

1.2 AUDITED FILES

The following table contains a list of the audited files. The <u>scc</u> tool was used to count the number of lines and assess complexity of the files.

	File	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Code	Complexity
	contracts/ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	45	5	8	32	16%
2	contracts/ETHPrivacyPool.sol	39	4	7	28	18%
	contracts/MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	145	15	16	114	99%
4	contracts/PrivacyPool.sol	138	17	10	111	7%
5	membership-proof/circuits/proofOfInnocence.circom	188	29	45	114	70%
	Total	555	70	86	399	53%

Lines: The total number of lines in each file. This provides a quick overview of the file size and its contents.

Blanks: The count of blank lines in the file.

Comments: This column shows the number of lines that are comments.

Code: The count of lines that actually contain executable code. This metric is essential for understanding how much of the file is dedicated to operational elements rather than comments or whitespace.

Complexity: This column shows the file complexity per line of code. It is calculated by dividing the file's total complexity (an approximation of <u>cyclomatic complexity</u> that estimates logical depth and decision points like loops and conditional branches) by the number of executable lines of code. A higher value suggests greater complexity per line, indicating areas with concentrated logic.

1.3 PROJECT OVERVIEW

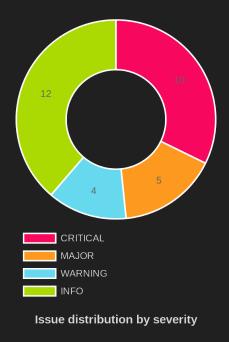
Privacy Pools is an advanced smart contract-based protocol designed to enhance privacy on public blockchains while complying with regulatory frameworks. This project builds on the groundwork laid by Tornado Cash but introduces critical innovations to address specific vulnerabilities associated with earlier privacy protocols. Notably, Tornado Cash facilitated anonymous transactions but struggled with misuse by bad actors, leading to regulatory scrutiny and sanctions. Privacy Pools addresses these issues by allowing users to produce zero-knowledge proofs that demonstrate whether their funds originate from legitimate sources, without revealing their entire transaction history. This mechanism is essential for separating legitimate from non-compliant financial activities.

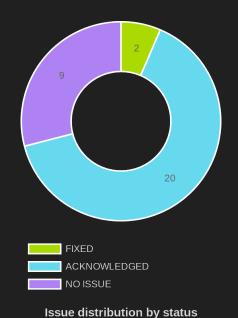
The architecture of Privacy Pools leverages a novel concept where users can prove membership or exclusion from custom-defined sets of transactions, termed "association sets." These sets are constructed to reflect adherence to diverse regulatory standards or community norms, thus enabling a more nuanced approach to transaction validation. By using zero-knowledge proofs, Privacy Pools ensures that users can verify the legality of their transactions without compromising their privacy. This approach not only enhances user trust and safety but also aligns with global regulatory requirements, providing a sustainable solution to the challenge of maintaining privacy in decentralized financial systems.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The table below provides a comprehensive summary of the audit findings, categorizing each by status and severity level. For a detailed description of the severity levels and statuses of findings, see the <u>Findings Classification Reference</u> section.

Severity	TOTAL	NEW	FIXED	ACKNOWLEDGED	NO ISSUE
CRITICAL	10	0	1	3	6
MAJOR	5	0	1	4	0
WARNING	4	0	0	4	0
INFO	12	0	0	9	3
TOTAL	31	0	2	20	9





This table provides an overview of the findings across the audited files, categorized by severity level. The table enables to quickly identify areas that require immediate attention and prioritize remediation efforts accordingly.

File	TOTAL	CRITICAL	MAJOR	WARNING	INFO
contracts/PrivacyPool.sol	15				8
membership-proof/circuits/proofOflnnocence.circom	12	8		0	
contracts/ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	7		2	2	2
contracts/ETHPrivacyPool.sol	4		0		2
contracts/MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	4		0	0	

1.5 CONCLUSION

Despite the identified issues, most of them have been marked as NO ISSUE or ACKNOWLEDGED.

We would like to emphasize that items C-02, C-04, and C-09, which have been marked as NO ISSUE, refer to third-party code where verification takes place. However, the client-provided code is incomplete and not implemented. Most of its functionality is marked as TODO. Items C-03, C-05, M-02, M-03, M-04, and M-05 also have an ACKNOWLEDGED status, but no solutions have been found for them at this time.

It should also be noted that the tests presented in the project do not cover all possible usage scenarios. At the same time, the values of txMerkleRoot and allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot used in the tests coincide. This fact suggests insufficient testing of the project code.

In light of the above, we cannot recommend deploying the project to mainnet. We strongly recommend that all of the listed issues, especially those of CRITICAL and MAJOR severity, be addressed and that the project be re-audited.

FINDINGS REPORT

21 CRITICAL

C-01	A dishonest prover can manipulate the proof in IsNum2 Bits
Severity	CRITICAL
Status	• FIXED

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template IsNum2Bits	19

Description

In the IsNum2Bits circuit, the template should return 1 if the size of the number in bitwise representation is less than n, and 0 otherwise. However, due to the lack of constraints, an attacker can manipulate the output value by altering the information in the expression:

```
out[i] <-- (in >> i) & 1;
```

This ultimately gives the attacker the ability to choose the tree in which to prove their transaction, regardless of whether the transaction is classified as "withdrawal" or "deposit".

```
component isDeposit = IsNum2Bits(240);
isDeposit.in <== publicAmount;

checkTxRecordsRoot.in[0] <== isDeposit.isLower*(allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot -
txRecordsMerkleRoot) + txRecordsMerkleRoot;</pre>
```

This finding was discovered by the independent researcher Lev Soukhanov.

Recommendation

We recommend adding constraints on the value passed by the prover to prevent tampering with the final value.

Update

Client's response

Fixed in commit $\[\underline{8ab7132877325e27b22053e974b3310d70b860b5} \]$.

C-02 Possible bypass of validation through invalid input for membership proof

Severity CRITICAL

Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	120
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	160

Description

It is possible to submit input to the protocol that can bypass all current validations and convince the validator that the membership proof is valid.

For example, the protocol can accept a valid step_in but pass the following dataset as input.

```
"txRecordPathElements": [
 "0x14c12f8a123ec67839b093c9e6a7f4429e690f15bb5dda253bb1c57c3e08b708",
 "5499455416245728767758502084886479424423696064367889023130038198639417800794",
  "2600606430905529428182060339305082646353110793508472649153062931542918209074",
 "11224495635916644180335675565949106569141882748352237685396337327907709534945",
 "2399242030534463392142674970266584742013168677609861039634639961298697064915",
  "13182067204896548373877843501261957052850428877096289097123906067079378150834",
  "7106632500398372645836762576259242192202230138343760620842346283595225511823",
  "17857585024203959071818533000506593455576509792639288560876436361491747801924",
  "17278668323652664881420209773995988768195998574629614593395162463145689805534",
  "209436188287252095316293336871467217491997565239632454977424802439169726471",
 "6509061943359659796226067852175931816441223836265895622135845733346450111408",
  "6520190068409764223804901922836901806344965427489260575428680588368698845875",
  "630132332916246842688588724815186106224110394685542623398451000510712069429",
  "9206039871053115294588634296883085884325447977155589548409410370778004490583",
  "18779153312338976659887621628264397623589151531526416856563780429314827231828",
  "17363895409447993644572750069112567504016430687578426059851649285544630344678",
  "19286143925655010470313606340648478511795716951787385659135295148709476458035",
```

```
"4388129095966650031202114509205416778945646941825467776717149885766859085576",
      "1349852001905976393525917581684850395969195070196158093124360497286644081937",
      "17368552900438243823879346548262086836538128269316713944042307770284532592541",
      "18985880316913054223420119281626297509988828082052104176513061368828929683625",
      "4579408122636409797983594817001151232592120036711857848633386522167572030422",
      "11449953026770181129414594616106672273569253702456243279842657156414101762953"
   1,
    "txRecordPathIndex": 0,
      "21663839004416932945382355908790599225266501822907911457504978515578255421292".
      "21663839004416932945382355908790599225266501822907911457504978515578255421292"
   ],
"14793069448869167018163244265359265004698140403231416118505165104987905632445",
"14793069448869167018163244265359265004698140403231416118505165104987905632445",
"3065659258246033882340361795426780261220662006474317618385752630881570082324",
    "publicAmount": "300000000000000000",
   "outputsStartIndex": 0,
      "3217299130395714092375048112053367579529963253380286404242381776442753918543",
      "10338137275517050404818090901831522193036630945261272796204366916420718187042"
   "inSignature": [
      "5609147781996121559202758336514417651087410452588524961110093556834322927839",
      "7684119861868953362809411662523568231537908702992356876997581542021110158881"
    "inPublicKey": [
      "4309230837725745671052431107707725589237023471362445678307480723432139544372",
      "4309230837725745671052431107707725589237023471362445678307480723432139544372",
   ],
   "inAmount": ["0", "0"],
   "inBlinding": [
      "155030504778121016616625776637504540871481615842940226898405754575560440661".
      "160684339370557899170855270602669397810112520220487561059681779990351273904"
   ],
    "inPathIndices": [0, 0],
   "outputCommitment": [
      "1",
      "55"
```

The transaction set may consist of only one element (the starting deposit) and is labeled as isLastStep = 1, with only inputNullifiers in this list of valid data.

Since the element is labeled isLastStep = 1, the txRecord check in merkleRoot is not performed at #120.

As the UTXO inputs have inAmount = 0, the checks for accInnocentCommitments and merkleProof are skipped at #160.

The constructed Proof will be valid for the validator because the validator knows step_in and step_out, which will be like a hash from inputNullifiers.

Recommendation

We recommend revisiting the logic of using the isLastStep parameter as well as addressing issues related to ignoring merkle root checks.

Update

Client's response

There is a check in #150 to check if input nullifiers have correct inAmounts, So having the above prove just proves that the nullifiers with amount 0 are member of the inclusion but since they have 0 amount, this can't be from any valid withdrawal.

Oxorio's response:

This finding describes the scenario when the nova recursion consists of only 1 element and <code>isLastStep = 1</code>. In terms of the current audited scope, having a call to the special ASP service with specific validations is not a required condition. The main idea of this finding is to initiate a conversation and understand how validation in such a case is expected. We understand that validations can be implemented in the ASP system or in the relayer. However, this is an off-chain part of the protocol and is not included in the audited scope. Additionally, there is a lack of documentation describing how this is expected to work. In the current scope, this finding is valid.

Client's response:

<u>Here</u> is the verification process.

C-03
Limitation of merkle tree for withdrawals in PrivacyPool

Severity CRITICAL

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function transact	69
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	<pre>contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > function _insert</pre>	52

Description

In the transact function of the PrivacyPool contract, there is an insertion of 2 leaves with every deposit and withdrawal to the pool. The merkle tree has a limitation based on the merkle tree depth. For example, with a merkle tree depth of 20, the maximal amount of leaves is $2^{**}20 = 1048576$. Considering that with every deposit and withdrawal, there will be an insertion of 2 leaves, there is a maximal amount of deposits equal to 1048576 / 4 = 262144. If the pool accumulates more than 262144 deposits over time, some users may be unable to withdraw their funds from the pool. Consider the following scenario:

- 1. A pool is deployed with no initial deposits, and the merkle tree depth level is 2**20.
- 2. Over time, users deposit and withdraw their funds, resulting in a total of 262144 + 1 deposits, creating at least 524290 leaves in the merkle tree.
- 3. Subsequently, all users decide to withdraw funds, requiring 524290 leaves for withdrawals. However, due to limitations, only 1048576 524290 = 524286 leaves are available, allowing only 262143 users out of 262145 total deposits to withdraw funds.
- 4. The funds of the last 2 users will be blocked in the pool forever without the possibility to withdraw, as the transact function call will revert in the _insert call with the error message Merkle tree is full. No more leaves can be added.

It's worth noting that there is no validation on the amount of deposit or withdrawal. Therefore, a hacker can exploit this by calling the transact function in a loop with zero amounts, creating an enormous quantity of leaves in the merkle root. This could potentially block funds of users in the protocol, especially on a blockchain with low gas fees.

Recommendation

We recommend adding a minimal deposit amount, defining a maximal quantity of deposits, and reviewing the case when the merkle tree is full.

Update

Client's response

We will add a new function escapeWithdraw which will not add anything to merkle tree.

C-04 User de-anonymization risk
Severity CRITICAL
Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	PrivacyPool	39

Description

In the protocol, the lack of on-chain verification requires the proving party to prove the validity of its input data to establish innocence. The process of proving innocence involves revealing the step_in value, which includes accInnocentCommitments, potentially exposing the user's identity through traceable commitment transactions.

Identity disclosure occurs as follows: the verifier can take all emitted NewCommitment events from the PrivacyPool contract and compute poseidon(commitment, commitmentIndex) to find a hash that matches the value provided by the prover. This way, the funds deposit transaction will be discovered.

Another disclosure is possible if the user requests an allow list through a service, as the circuit checks the validity of nullifiers, essentially disclosing that the requester has knowledge of publicKey and blinding. By doing so, the user is revealing themselves.

Recommendation

We recommend revising the protocol logic to ensure user privacy, as this is one of the main ideas behind the protocol.

Update

Client's response

The first step_in's accInnocentCommitments will always be zeroValue, zeroValue. There is no check for this but this check will be done in the verification. We already do it in relayer.

C-05 Unverified transaction inclusion in **Step (PoI)**Severity **CRITICAL**Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	117

Description

In the Step (PoI) template, the absence of explicit verification for transaction inclusion in both the txRecordsMerkleRoot and allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot compromises the verification process. Although it checks whether the transaction is in either txRecordsMerkleRoot or allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot, an attacker can specify a transaction that is in only one of the tries.

Recommendation

We recommend adding explicit checks to verify transaction inclusion in both tries to ensure the integrity of the verification process.

Update

Client's response

While it is possible that malicious ASP could provide a Merkle tree which is not a subset of a main Merkle tree, this seems to be out of scope of the protocol, as this both a self-evident malicious behavior, and doesn't allow anything than just using an normal ASP that allows every transaction.

Only potentially worrying scenario is a situation in which somehow the whole Merkle tree of an ASP is not checked, leading to covert bypass of the requirements.

C-06 Lack of nullifier uniqueness check in **Step (PoI)**Severity **CRITICAL**Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>proofOfInnocence.circom</u>	template Step (PoI)	32

Description

The Step (PoI) template lacks a nullifier uniqueness check. This allows an attacker to specify identical nullifiers (and hence commitments) as inputs. A corresponding check is present in the <u>Transaction</u> template to prevent this scenario.

For example, let's consider a scenario:

Since there is no check for the inclusion of txRecord in Merkle tries on the last step (when isLastSpet == 1), the attacker can take advantage of this and pass two identical valid commitments to the input, hence the nullifiers.

The step_out in the last step is the hash from the two nullifiers, and since the attacker was able to change one of the nullifiers, they have altered the output parameter that the verifier will use to verify the proof. Such a manipulated proof will be accepted as valid.

Recommendation

We recommend implementing a nullifier uniqueness check within the Step (PoI) circuit to prevent the passage of identical nullifiers.

Update

Client's response

We check if nullifiers match like this.

C-07 Missing output commitment validation in **Step (PoI)**Severity **CRITICAL**Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>proofOfInnocence.circom</u>	template Step (PoI)	32

Description

The Step (PoI) template does not validate outputCommitments, allowing users to pass any value, including those belonging to others.

For example, let us consider a scenario involving an attacker engaged in a sequence of transactions that incorporate illicit funds. In the proof process, they specify as an outputCommitment a transaction from a completely different account with an inAmount of 0 in the penultimate step. At the last step, there is no transaction inclusion check, even as an accInnocentCommitments check. As a result, a hash of two nullifiers will be returned as a step_out associated with a third party commitment.

Recommendation

We recommend introducing checks to validate outputCommitments to enhance system soundness.

Update

Client's response

outputCommitment is hashed with txRecord <u>here</u>, and then it is verified against either txRecordsMerkleRoot or allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot.

C-08 Lack of sums validation in Step (PoI)

Severity CRITICAL

Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	32

Description

In the Step (PoI) template, the absence of the constraint sumIns + publicAmount === sumOuts; compromises transaction integrity. While the inAmount is validated against the UTXO, the publicAmount is left unconstrained, allowing an attacker to insert arbitrary values into these signals.

For example, consider a scenario where the attacker modifies the publicAmount to any chosen value.

The attacker has the ability to set the publicAmount to a value less than 240 bits, causing the system to classify the transaction as a deposit. This allows the txRecordHash to be checked against the allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot instead of the txRecordsMerkleRoot, making it possible for the attacker to prove the current transaction in the wrong set of transactions.

In addition, there is no mechanism in the last step of the recursion to ensure that the transaction is included in the Merkle tries. As a result, the publicAmount can be manipulated to any value without the need to prove inclusion in allowedTxRecordsMerkleRoot.

Recommendation

We recommend implementing checks to ensure the correctness of amounts.

Update

Client's response

This is an already existing transaction, so it is checked in TC-Nova part.

C-09 Partial transaction history acceptance in **Step (PoI)**Severity **CRITICAL**Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	32

Description

In the Step (PoI) template, the prover is given the flexibility to initiate the proof sequence from any transaction within the account history. This provision allows an actor who has deposited illicit funds to selectively start the verification of his transaction history from a mid-point, effectively obfuscating the initial transactions involving the deposit of those illicit funds. As a result, the actor can obscure the origin of the funds from the verifier, thereby claiming innocence in a manner that is contrary to the operational integrity designed into the protocol.

Example:

if the actor's transaction history has a length of 3, he can start the proof with transaction number 2, and hide transaction 1, which was a deposit of illicit funds.

Recommendation

We recommend mandating the provision of a complete transaction history to ensure accountability and traceability within the system.

Update

Client's response

The first step_in's accInnocentCommitments will always be zeroValue, zeroValue. There is no check for this but this check will be done in the verification. We already do it in <u>relayer</u>.

Fees may exceed the amount being sent in PrivacyPool

Severity CRITICAL

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function calculatePublicAmount	76
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function calculatePublicAmount	79
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function calculatePublicAmount	114
ETHPrivacyPool.sol	<pre>contract ETHPrivacyPool.sol > function _processDeposit</pre>	23
ETHPrivacyPool.sol	contract ETHPrivacyPool.sol > function _processWithdraw	35
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit	29
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract ERC20PrivacyPool.sol > function _processWithdraw	41

Description

In the function calculatePublicAmount of the contract PrivacyPool, there is no validation ensuring that _extData.extAmount is greater than _extData.fee. This omission allows for the execution of deposit logic during withdrawals and vice versa.

For example, an attacker (malicious relayer) can potentially steal user funds during withdrawal processes by manipulating the values of _extData.extAmount and _extData.fee to achieve the expected publicAmount, but by changing the sign of _extData.extAmount, which results in the execution of deposit logic instead of withdrawal.

Relayer attack during the withdrawal process:

1. The user wishes to withdraw 0.059 ETH from the pool. According to the circuit logic and smart contract, this amount is reflected as publicAmount = -0.059. To ensure the correct operation of the circuit, the value FIELD_SIZE - publicAmount is used.

```
function calculatePublicAmount(int256 _extAmount, uint256 _fee) public pure returns
(uint256) {
    //...
```

```
return (publicAmount >= 0) ? uint256(publicAmount) : FIELD_SIZE - uint256(-publicAmount);
}
```

1. The user generates a proof.

```
function verifyProof(Proof memory _args) public view returns (bool) {
   if (_args.inputNullifiers.length == 2) {
      return
      verifier2.verifyProof(
        _args.proof,
      [
            uint256(_args.root),
            _args.publicAmount,
            uint256(_args.extDataHash),
            uint256(_args.inputNullifiers[0]),
            uint256(_args.inputNullifiers[1]),
            uint256(_args.outputCommitments[0]),
            uint256(_args.outputCommitments[1])
        ]
      );
    } else {
      revert("unsupported input count");
    }
}
```

1. The calculatePublicAmount function checks the values of _extData.extAmount and extData.fee.

However, this check does not take into account the possibility that _extData.fee may exceed _extData.extAmount.

```
function calculatePublicAmount(int256 _extAmount, uint256 _fee) public pure returns
(uint256) {
    require(_fee < MAX_FEE, "Invalid fee");
    require(_extAmount > -MAX_EXT_AMOUNT && _extAmount < MAX_EXT_AMOUNT, "Invalid ext
amount");
    //...
}</pre>
```

 In the second step, the attacker(relayer) provides the user with an extDataHash generated from extData, where the values of _extData.extAmount = 0 and _extData.fee = 0.059. 2. In the calculatePublicAmount function, the publicAmount value is calculated by subtracting 0.059 from 0. This results in a negative value of -0.059.

```
function calculatePublicAmount(int256 _extAmount, uint256 _fee) public pure returns
(uint256) {
    //...
    int256 publicAmount = _extAmount - int256(_fee);
    //...
}
```

1. The check in the _transact function passes successfully.

```
function _transact(Proof memory _args, ExtData memory _extData) internal nonReentrant {
    //...
    require(_args.publicAmount == calculatePublicAmount(_extData.extAmount, _extData.fee),
"Invalid public amount");
    //...
}
```

1. Since the value of _extData.extAmount is positive, the attacker(relayer) triggers the _processDeposit function to make a deposit.

```
function _processDeposit(ExtData memory _extData) internal override {
   if (_extData.extAmount > 0) {
      require(msg.value == uint256(_extData.extAmount), "Invalid amount");
      require(uint256(_extData.extAmount) <= maximumDepositAmount, "amount is larger than
maximumDepositAmount");
   }
}</pre>
```

- 1. The _processWithdraw function fails to execute, even though the user initiated a withdrawal of 0.059 ETH.
- 2. If the value of _extData.fee is positive, the attacker(relayer) receives a commission of 0.059 ETH to the specified relayer address (which can be any address).

```
function _processWithdraw(Proof memory _args, ExtData memory _extData) internal override {
    //...
    if (_extData.fee > 0) {
        SafeTransferLib.safeTransferETH(_extData.relayer, _extData.fee);
}
```

```
}
}
```

- 1. According to the circuit, the transaction was successfully executed, and the corresponding outputCommitments were added to the Merkle Tree.
- 2. In reality, the attacker(relayer) appropriates the entire amount that the user intended to withdraw.

<u>Here</u> is a proof of concept of this attack.

Recommendation

We recommend revisiting these scenarios and adding validation to ensure that the fee does not exceed the payment amount. This can be done by setting a maximum fee amount (maxFeeAmount) or by adding other conditions to reduce the fee. It is also advisable to move the if operator

```
if (_extData.fee > 0) {
    SafeTransferLib.safeTransferETH(_extData.relayer, _extData.fee);
```

into the statement if (_extData.extAmount < 0) on the line 30.

Update

Client's response

The fix has been implemented in the new major version, which is being prepared for release.

2.2 MAJOR

M-01	Deposit amount logic inconsistency
Severity	MAJOR
Status	• FIXED

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom	template Step (PoI)	114

Description

Since in the PrivacyPool contract the maximum deposit amount is 2^248 - 1 and the circuit treats amounts above 2^240 as a withdrawal, this provokes treating a transaction with an amount greater than 2^240 but less than 2^248 - 1 as a withdrawal while it is a deposit, which is erroneous logic.

Recommendation

We recommend aligning the deposit amount logic between the contract and the circuit to avoid misinterpretation of transaction types and other logic.

Update

Client's response

Fixed in commit <u>8ab7132877325e27b22053e974b3310d70b860b5</u>.

M-02 Replay attack vulnerability in PrivacyPool

Severity MAJOR

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>		

Description

In the PrivacyPool contract, there is a lack of proof uniqueness validation for each specific pool; the token address is not added to the proof. This allows executing replay attacks across pools with identical states, even with the original pools of the Tornado Cash. Consider the following scenario:

- 1. There is a deployment of 2 new pools; one pool has USDC tokens, another one has WETH tokens.
- 2. Alice is the first depositor to the pool; she initiates a deposit to the USDC pool for 100 USDC tokens.
- 3. Alice withdraws her 100 USDC from the USDC pool.
- 4. Alice creates a deposit to the WETH pool for 100 WETH, also like a first depositor.
- 5. Bob takes the withdrawal proof of Alice from the USDC pool and uses it, withdrawing Alice's WETH. Even though Bob wouldn't be able to withdraw the funds to himself, since extDataHash must be the same and there is no way to change the recipient address, Alice will lose a part of her money for the relayer fees. For example, if she has used a fee of 20 USDC tokens with the withdrawal from the USDC pool, Alice will lose 20 WETH tokens with Bob's withdrawal for the relayer fees.

This replay attack can be executed using historic values across all of the pools of the privacy pools protocol or any other protocol, which will be using only amount, pubkey, and blinding in the UTXO structure.

Recommendation

We recommend implementing mechanisms to ensure proof uniqueness and validate poolspecific parameters to prevent replay attacks across pools. This can be done by adding the token address of the pool to the UTXO.

Update

Client's response

Acknowledged, as long as we are doing the first transaction, the states cannot be the same. Additionally, both Tornado and Tornado Nova should be susceptible to this.

M-03	Unchecked transfers in ERC20PrivacyPool
Severity	MAJOR
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	<pre>contract ERC20PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit</pre>	31
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract ERC20PrivacyPool > function _processWithdraw	38

Description

In the functions _processDeposit and _processWithdraw of the ERC20PrivacyPool contract, the SafeERC20 library is not used.

Tokens not compliant with the ERC20 specification could return false from the transfer functions call to indicate the transfer fails, while the calling contract would not notice the failure if the return value is not checked. Checking the return value is a requirement, as written in the EIP-20 specification:

Callers MUST handle false from returns (bool success). Callers MUST NOT assume that false is never returned!

Recommendation

We recommend using the SafeERC20 library implementation from OpenZeppelin and call safeTransfer or safeTransferFrom when transferring ERC20 tokens.

Update

Client's response

Confirmed, we will fix this.

M-04	Actual token received amount isn't checked in ERC20Pr ivacyPool
Severity	MAJOR
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract ERC20PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit	31

Description

In the function _processDeposit of the ERC20PrivacyPool contract, there is no check on how many tokens the contract actually received after the transfer.

Some tokens may charge a transfer fee or, conversely, add some amount to the transfer. Such tokens become a problem for the protocol, as the real amount will be different from the one specified in the transferFrom.

Recommendation

We recommend considering the amount received for the transfer rather than relying on the amount specified in the transferFrom call.

Update

Client's response

Acknowledged, we don't plan to support such tokens.

Oxorio's response

We would like to point out that even the USDT has the option to include the fee in its contract code.

M-05 Shielded transfers are possible in the system

Severity MAJOR

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Description

During communication with the client, it was discovered that shielded transfers should be prohibited in the system, yet they remain possible. In the current implementation, receiving a shielded transfer blocks the ability to prove innocence, as the recipient cannot prove the transaction history of the funds received, which is known only to the sender.

Recommendation

We recommend blocking the possibility to send shielded transfers to ensure the system functions as expected.

Update

Client's response

No need to block shielded transactions, since if they want to provide membership proof, they should be using the protocol appropriate, additionally, in the future case where Pol is implemented for shielded transactions, we can use the same contracts.

2.3 WARNING

W-01	Missing validation of the _maximumDepositAmount in PrivacyPool
Severity	WARNING
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > constructor	64

Description

In the constructor of the PrivacyPool contract, there is no validation of the _maximumDepositAmount variable, and there is no setter function, which will allow changing the variable after the deployment. If the variable is set to a 0 value, all the deposits to the contract will be blocked.

Recommendation

We recommend adding an additional setter for the _maximumDepositAmount function and incorporating validation of the _maximumDepositAmount variable in the constructor.

Update

Client's response

The contract is immutable and has no governance, so we cannot have a setter as we can't have onlyOwner type of access control. Additionally, we see no need to assert _maximumDepositAmount to be non-zero as that case needs a redeployment only and should be handled by the deployers of the contracts.

Missing validations in PrivacyPool,
ERC20PrivacyPool

Severity WARNING

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > constructor	63
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract ERC20PrivacyPool > constructor	24

Description

In the constructor of the PrivacyPool and ERC20PrivacyPool contracts, there is no validation of the _token and _verifier2 contracts for the support of the correct interface, as well as whether these addresses are empty or not. If these addresses are provided incorrectly, there is no function to change their values, so the contracts will have to be redeployed.

Recommendation

We recommend using ERC165Checker for validating the interface support, as well as validating addresses for zero values.

Update

Client's response

These should be checked by the deployers of the contracts.

W-03	Relayer address can be zero in ERC20PrivacyPool, ET HPrivacyPool
Severity	WARNING
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

File	Location	Line
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract ERC20PrivacyPool > function _processWithdraw	42
ETHPrivacyPool.sol	contract ETHPrivacyPool > function _processWithdraw	36

Description

In the functions _processWithdraw of contracts ERC20PrivacyPool, ETHPrivacyPool, there is a check before the withdrawal:

```
require(_extData.recipient != address(0), "Can't withdraw to zero address");
```

However, there is no validation that the relayer address is not zero, allowing burning tokens with the incorrect input. For example, if the user decides to execute a withdrawal by himself, leaving the relayer address as the zero address but specifying the fee value as non-zero, the tokens will be lost.

Recommendation

We recommend adding validation for a zero address.

Update

Client's response

Acknowledged, in the usual operation, all transactions should be executed by relayers for privacy purposes, but if a user chose to leave the field empty they should be able to.

W-04	No minimal value of withdrawal in PrivacyPool
Severity	WARNING
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > constructor	59

Description

In the constructor of contract PrivacyPool, there is no limitation on the minimal value for withdrawal, which exposes risks of the DDoS attack, since any user can create a lot of withdrawal requests to the relayer.

Recommendation

We recommend adding a minimal value for the withdrawal.

Update

Client's response

We will add a new function escapeWithdraw which will not add anything to merkle tree.

2.4 INFO

I-01	Floating pragma, experimental encoder in ETHPrivacyPool, ERC20PrivacyPool, PrivacyPool
Severity	INFO
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol		3
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>		3
ETHPrivacyPool.sol		3

Description

In ETHPrivacyPool, ERC20PrivacyPool, PrivacyPool contracts, there is a redundant declaration of ABIEncoderV2, which is present by default in the compiler starting from version 0.8.0. Additionally, all contracts have a floating pragma.

Recommendation

We recommend removing the redundant declaration of ABIEncoderV2 and specifying the compiler version to a fixed and recent version of the Solidity compiler.

Update

Client's response

I-02	Unused code in proofOfInnocence.circom
Severity	INFO
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom		45
proofOfInnocence.circom		64
proofOfInnocence.circom		123
proofOfInnocence.circom		127
proofOfInnocence.circom		134

Description

In the mentioned locations, there are unused parts of the code.

Recommendation

We recommend removing the unused and commented code to keep the codebase clean.

Update

Client's response

I-03	Usage of old Poseidon in proofOfInnocence.circom
Severity	INFO
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom		66

Description

In proofOfInnocence.circom circuit, the original Poseidon hasher is used, whereas Poseidon 2, a faster and more efficient version, is already available (<u>Poseidon 2</u>).

Recommendation

We recommend updating to Poseidon 2 instead of using the original version of Poseidon.

Update

Client's response

Tornado Nova uses it, thats why we use the same.

I-04 Unused imports in **Step (PoI)**Severity **INFO**Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
proofOfInnocence.circom		7-8

Description

The ProofOfInnocence.circom file includes unused imports for merkleTreeUpdater.circom and keypair.circom, leading to unnecessary code complexity.

Recommendation

We recommend removing the unused imports to simplify the codebase.

Update

Client's response

Inefficient gas usage in MerkleTreeWithHistory

Severity INFO

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > function zeros	109

Description

In the function zeros of contract MerkleTreeWithHistory, the linear search approach is used to return a bytes32 value based on the input index i. A binary search algorithm can significantly optimize gas usage by reducing the average number of comparisons needed to find the corresponding bytes32 value for an index, especially within a sorted structure like the one presented.

Recommendation

We recommend refactoring the zeros function to implement a binary search algorithm. This change would enhance the function's gas efficiency by minimizing the number of conditional checks required to return the corresponding bytes32 value.

Update

Client's response

This function is directly taken from Tornado, so acknowledged.

Use of custom errors for efficiency and improved information in MerkleTreeWithHistory

Severity INFO

Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	<pre>contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > constructor</pre>	27
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	<pre>contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > constructor</pre>	28
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	<pre>contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > function hashLeftRight</pre>	43
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	<pre>contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > function hashLeftRight</pre>	44
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	<pre>contract MerkleTreeWithHistory > function _insert</pre>	54
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function calculatePublicAmount	77
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function calculatePublicAmount	78
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _transact</pre>	109
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _transact</pre>	113
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _transact</pre>	114
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _transact</pre>	115
ETHPrivacyPool.sol	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit</pre>	24
ETHPrivacyPool.sol	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit</pre>	25
ETHPrivacyPool.sol	contract PrivacyPool > function _processWithdraw	31
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit</pre>	28
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _processDeposit</pre>	30
ERC20PrivacyPool.sol	contract PrivacyPool > function _processWithdraw	37

Description

In the mentioned locations, the require function is used to check the correctness of the data, but custom errors can be used instead.

Custom errors from solc 0.8.4 are cheaper than revert strings (cheaper deployment cost and runtime cost when the revert condition is met).

Source:

Starting from Solidity v0.8.4, there is a convenient and gas-efficient way to explain to users why an operation failed through the use of custom errors. Until now, you could already use strings to give more information about failures (e.g., revert("Insufficient funds.");), but they are rather expensive, especially when it comes to deploy cost, and it is difficult to use dynamic information in them.

Recommendation

We recommend using custom errors instead of require.

Update

Client's response

We think require is more readable.

I-07	No need to explicitly initialize variables with default values
Severity	INFO
Status	• NO ISSUE

File	Location	Line
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	contract MerkleTreeWithHistory	23-24
MerkleTreeWithHistory.sol	contract MerkleTreeWithHistory	32
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	<pre>contract PrivacyPool > function _transact</pre>	110
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function _transact	117

Description

In the mentioned locations, variables are assigned a default value.

If a variable is not initialized, it is assumed to have the default value (0 for uint, false for bool, address(0) for address...). Explicitly initializing it with its default value is an antipattern and wastes gas.

Recommendation

We recommend removing the assignment of default values.

Update

Client's response

I think this way is more readable.

1-08 Redundant event emissions in PrivacyPool
Severity INFO
Status • NO ISSUE

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function _transact	123-134

Description

In the function _transact of contract PrivacyPool, the variables _args.inputNullifiers, _args.outputCommitments, and nextIndex are emitted in multiple events within the same transaction. These emissions occur first through individual NewCommitment and NewNullifier events for each input nullifier and output commitment, and subsequently in a collective NewTxRecord event. This redundant emission of variables across different events in the same transaction scope can lead to unnecessary gas consumption and data redundancy on the blockchain.

Recommendation

We recommend optimizing the event emissions to reduce redundancy and potential gas costs. Consider consolidating event logs or reviewing the necessity of emitting the same information through multiple events, particularly when they pertain to the same transaction context. This approach can enhance efficiency and clarity in contract events management.

Client's response

NewTxRecord event is crutial for ASP's and screning, NewCommitment and NewNullifier events are crucial for making a transaction.

1-09	Redundant storage padding in PrivacyPool
Severity	INFO
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool	16

Description

In the contract PrivacyPool, the __gap variable is used for storage padding to prevent storage collisions, typically seen in upgradeable contracts. However, since PrivacyPool is not an upgradeable contract, this padding is unnecessary and may lead to confusion or misinterpretation regarding the contract's design and upgradeability.

Recommendation

We recommend removing the __gap variable to streamline the contract's storage layout, enhancing clarity and reducing potential misunderstandings about its upgradeability.

Update

Client's response

I-10	Complex require logic consumes more gas in Privac yPool
Severity	INFO
Status	• ACKNOWLEDGED

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	contract PrivacyPool > function calculatePublicAmount	78

Description

In the function calculatePublicAmount of contract PrivacyPool, instead of using the && operator in a single require statement to check multiple conditions, it is better to use multiple require statements with 1 condition per require (saving 3 gas per &&).

Recommendation

We recommend using multiple require statements with 1 condition per require.

Update

Client's response

Confirmed, maybe will fix.

```
I-11 Redundant condition in PrivacyPool

Severity INFO

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED
```

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	PrivacyPool > function verifyProof	89

Description

In the function verifyProof of contract PrivacyPool, there is an if (_args.inputNullifiers.length == 2) statement, which is redundant since inputNullifiers is a fixed-size bytes32[2] array, making this condition always true.

```
struct Proof {
    ...
    bytes32[2] inputNullifiers;
    ...
}
```

Recommendation

Remove the redundant condition to improve code clarity, as the array's fixed size makes this check unnecessary.

Update

Client's response

Confirmed, maybe will fix.

Inefficient use of storage in PrivacyPool

Severity INFO

Status • ACKNOWLEDGED

Location

File	Location	Line
<u>PrivacyPool.sol</u>	PrivacyPool > function _transact	123-134

Description

In the function _transact of contract PrivacyPool, the nextIndex storage variable is read from storage multiple times to calculate indices for NewCommitment and NewTxRecord events. Each read operation from storage consumes more gas than reading from the stack. Given that nextIndex is incremented once per transaction (by 2) in _insert, its value does not change during the following execution of _transact, making multiple storage reads unnecessary and gas-inefficient.

Recommendation

We recommend caching nextIndex in a local variable after the _insert function call. This approach involves a single read from storage, followed by subsequent reads from the much cheaper stack for calculating indices in event emissions. This optimization will reduce the function's gas consumption, enhancing overall efficiency.

Update

Client's response

3.1 DISCLAIMER

The audit makes no statements or warranties about the utility of the code, safety of the code, suitability of the business model, investment advice, endorsement of the platform or its products, regulatory regime for the business model, or any other statements about the fitness of the contracts to purpose, or their bug free status. The audit documentation is for discussion purposes only.

At the request of client, Oxorio consents to the public release of this audit report. The information contained in this audit report is provided "as is," without any representations or warranties whatsoever. Oxorio disclaims any responsibility for damages that may arise from or in relation to this audit report. Oxorio retains copyright of this report.

3.2 SECURITY ASSESSMENT MFTHODOLOGY

Oxorio's smart contract audit methodology is designed to ensure the security, reliability, and compliance of smart contracts throughout their development lifecycle. Our process integrates the Smart Contract Security Verification Standard (SCSVS) with our advanced techniques to address complex security challenges. For a detailed look at our approach, please refer to the <u>full version of our methodology</u>. Here is a concise overview of our auditing process:

1. Project Architecture Review

All necessary information about the smart contract is gathered, including its intended functionality and dependencies. This stage sets the foundation by reviewing documentation, business logic, and initial code analysis.

2. Vulnerability Assessment

This phase involves a deep dive into the smart contract's code to identify security vulnerabilities. Rigorous testing and review processes are applied to ensure robustness against potential attacks.

This stage is focused on identifying specific vulnerabilities within the smart contract code. It involves scanning and testing the code for known security weaknesses and patterns that could potentially be exploited by malicious actors.

3. Security Model Evaluation

The smart contract's architecture is assessed to ensure it aligns with security best practices and does not introduce potential vulnerabilities. This includes reviewing how the contract integrates with external systems, its compliance with security best practices, and whether the overall design supports a secure operational environment.

This phase involves a analysis of the project's documentation, the consistency of business logic as documented versus implemented in the code, and any assumptions made during the design and development phases. It assesses if the contract's architectural design adequately addresses potential threats and integrates necessary security controls.

4. Cross-Verification by Multiple Auditors

Typically, the project is assessed by multiple auditors to ensure a diverse range of insights and thorough coverage. Findings from individual auditors are cross-checked to verify accuracy and completeness.

5. Report Consolidation

Findings from all auditors are consolidated into a single, comprehensive audit report. This report outlines potential vulnerabilities, areas for improvement, and an overall assessment of the smart contract's security posture.

6. Reaudit of Revised Submissions

Post-review modifications made by the client are reassessed to ensure that all previously identified issues have been adequately addressed. This stage helps validate the effectiveness of the fixes applied.

7. Final Audit Report Publication

The final version of the audit report is delivered to the client and published on Oxorio's official website. This report includes detailed findings, recommendations for improvement, and an executive summary of the smart contract's security status.

3.3 FINDINGS CLASSIFICATION REFERENCE

3.3.1 Severity Level Reference

The following severity levels were assigned to the issues described in the report:

Title	Description
CRITICAL	Issues that pose immediate and significant risks, potentially leading to asset theft, inaccessible funds, unauthorized transactions, or other substantial financial losses. These vulnerabilities represent serious flaws that could be exploited to compromise or control the entire contract. They require immediate attention and remediation to secure the system and prevent further exploitation.
MAJOR	Issues that could cause a significant failure in the contract's functionality, potentially necessitating manual intervention to modify or replace the contract. These vulnerabilities may result in data corruption, malfunctioning logic, or prolonged downtime, requiring substantial operational changes to restore normal performance. While these issues do not immediately lead to financial losses, they compromise the reliability and security of the contract, demanding prioritized attention and remediation.
WARNING	Issues that might disrupt the contract's intended logic, affecting its correct functioning or making it vulnerable to Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. These problems may result in the unintended triggering of conditions, edge cases, or interactions that could degrade the user experience or impede specific operations. While they do not pose immediate critical risks, they could impact contract reliability and require attention to prevent future vulnerabilities or disruptions.
INFO	Issues that do not impact the security of the project but are reported to the client's team for improvement. They include recommendations related to code quality, gas optimization, and other minor adjustments that could enhance the project's overall performance and maintainability.

3.3.2 Status Level Reference

Based on the feedback received from the client's team regarding the list of findings discovered by the contractor, the following statuses were assigned to the findings:

Title	Description
NEW	Waiting for the project team's feedback.



Title	Description
FIXED	Recommended fixes have been applied to the project code and the identified issue no longer affects the project's security.
ACKNOWLEDGED	The project team is aware of this finding. Recommended fixes for this finding are planned to be made. This finding does not affect the overall security of the project.
NO ISSUE	Finding does not affect the overall security of the project and does not violate the logic of its work.

3.4 ABOUT OXORIO

OXORIO is a blockchain security firm that specializes in smart contracts, zk-SNARK solutions, and security consulting. With a decade of blockchain development and five years in smart contract auditing, our expert team delivers premier security services for projects at any stage of maturity and development.

Since 2021, we've conducted key security audits for notable DeFi projects like Lido, 1Inch, Rarible, and deBridge, prioritizing excellence and long-term client relationships. Our cofounders, recognized by the Ethereum and Web3 Foundations, lead our continuous research to address new threats in the blockchain industry. Committed to the industry's trust and advancement, we contribute significantly to security standards and practices through our research and education work.

Our contacts:

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- ♦ <u>Twitter</u>

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING

