



USDV

Smart Contract Security Assessment

October 26, 2023

Prepared for:

USDV

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Contents

Ab	out Z	ellic	3		
1	Executive Summary				
	1.1	Goals of the Assessment	4		
	1.2	Non-goals and Limitations	4		
	1.3	Results	5		
2	Introduction				
	2.1	About USDV	6		
	2.2	Methodology	6		
	2.3	Scope	7		
	2.4	Project Overview	8		
	2.5	Project Timeline	8		
3	Deta	iled Findings	9		
	3.1	Inverted authentication logic in VaultManager.setRole	9		
	3.2	Ability to cause reversion on destination chain	11		
	3.3	Inverted authentication logic in VaultManager.rotateMinter	14		
	3.4	Redemption with positive delta fails to update shares	16		
	3.5	The pendingRemint[delta.color] is mistakenly reduced	18		
	3.6	Use of blocking LzApp	20		
	3.7	Arithmetic error in redeem	22		
	3.8	Bypassable minterRemintFee and operatorRemintFee	24		
	3.9	Unimplemented ping function	25		
4	Disc	ussion	26		

	5.1	Disclaimer	27
5 Assessment Results		essment Results	27
	4.2	Enforced color is per chain	26
	4.1	Ability to rotateMinter to 0 address	26

About Zellic

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

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



1 Executive Summary

Zellic conducted a security assessment for LayerZero Labs from September 25th to October 10th, 2023. During this engagement, Zellic reviewed USDV's code for security vulnerabilities, design issues, and general weaknesses in security posture.

The follow up patches were reviewed upto the commit e20bf331

1.1 Goals of the Assessment

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

- Is it possible for a minter to abuse the design to reap more rewards than they should be entitled to?
- Is it possible for a minter to be in a non-remintable state when they are in a deficit?
- Can flash loans lead to unfair coloring for the distributors / TVL aggregators?
- Is the cross-chain messaging secure and sound?
- Is the instant finality guarantee always maintained?

1.2 Non-goals and Limitations

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

- Front-end components
- Infrastructure relating to the project
- Key custody
- MM components

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

The focus of this assessment was the general design and architechture of USDV and its asynchronous cross-chain nature. The review of the implementation was secondary, with majority of the time being spent on the potential abuses of the unique design of the project.



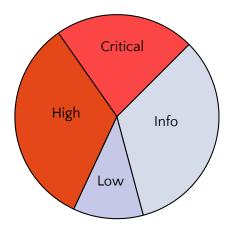
1.3 Results

During our assessment on the scoped USDV contracts, we discovered nine findings. Two critical issues were found. Three were of high impact, one was of low impact, and the remaining findings were informational in nature.

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

Impact Level	Count
Critical	2
High	3
Medium	0
Low	1
Informational	3

Breakdown of Finding Impacts



2 Introduction

2.1 About USDV

USDV is an omnichain stablecoin backed by a basket of whitelisted, highly secure assets such as T-Bills tokens. USDV is fully compatible with the ERC-20 standard and built with a novel coloring algorithm that attributes minters in circulations.

2.2 Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, Zellic provides a list of miscellaneous observations that do not have security impact or are not directly related to the scoped contracts itself. These observations – found in the Discussion (4) section of the document – may include suggestions for improving the codebase, or general recommendations, but do not necessarily convey that we suggest a code change.

2.3 Scope

The engagement involved a review of the following targets:

USDV Contracts

Repository	https://github.com/layerZero-Labs/usdv/
Version	usdv: 2c4196c1c0c1020f1de52d605e837672b6328645
Program	packages/usdv/evm/contracts/contract/**.sol
Туре	Solidity
Platform	EVM-compatible

2.4 Project Overview

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

Contact Information

The following project managers were associated with the engagement:

Jasraj Bedi, Co-founder jazzy@zellic.io

Chad McDonald, Engagement Manager chad@zellic.io

The following consultants were engaged to conduct the assessment:

Jasraj Bedi, Co-founder/Engineer jazzy@zellic.io

Katerina Belotskaia, Engineer kate@zellic.io

Aaron Esau, Engineer aaron@zellic.io

2.5 Project Timeline

The key dates of the engagement are detailed below.

September 25, 2023Start of primary review periodOctober 10, 2023End of primary review period

3 Detailed Findings

3.1 Inverted authentication logic in VaultManager.setRole

- Target: VaultManager
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: High

- Severity: Critical
- Impact: Critical

Description

VaultManager's setRole function configures whether the caller is authorized to call certain functions in the contract.

The setRole function itself performs a check to ensure that the configurer is authorized:



Note that execution reverts if the caller is valid – not if the caller is invalid.

Impact

Any caller — provided they are not authorized to configure roles — may configure roles in the VaultManager.

An attacker could potentially configure a malicious owner address that registers a new asset that mints USDV arbitrarily.

The following test demonstrates the ability to change any role:



Recommendations

Invert the validCaller condition before reverting:



Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs, and a fix was implemented in commit 01d62e74.

3.2 Ability to cause reversion on destination chain

- Target: USDVBase
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: High

- Severity: Critical
- Impact: Critical

Description

It is possible to use the send function to send funds from the source chain to the address 0 on the destination chain. The message will send (i.e., will not revert) on the source side.

On the destination chain, however, when receiving the message — in the _sendAck function after calling _mintBalance, which calls _credit — the execution will revert:



Impact

As of the assessment version, only support for Endpoint V1 has been implemented. In LayerZero's Endpoint V1, message execution is blocking by default. So, a reversion on the destination chain would mean all future message execution would be blocked.

Regardless of the Endpoint version, a reversion on the destination would break the global delta zero invariant since deltas cannot be finalized on the destination chain.

The following proof of concept demonstrates this behavior:

```
event PayloadStored(uint16 srcChainId, bytes srcAddress,
```

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```
address dstAddress, uint64 nonce, bytes payload, bytes reason);
function test_Zellic_sendAddressZero() public {
   uint32 color1 = fixtureMain.mintColors[0];
   uint64 amount = 100;
   mint(fixtureMain, color1, amount, ALICE);
   address usdv = fixtureMain.usdv;
   uint16 toChainId = CHAINID_SIDE_1;
   address sender = ALICE;
   address receiver = address(0);
   bytes memory options = abi.encodePacked(uint16(1), uint(200000)); //
   IOFT.SendParam memory param = IOFT.SendParam({
        to: MsgCodec.addressToBytes32(receiver),
       dstEid: toChainId,
       amountLD: amount,
       minAmountLD: amount
   });
    (uint nativeFee, uint lzTokenFee) = IOFT(usdv).guoteSendFee(param,
    options, false, "");
   MessagingFee memory msgFee = MessagingFee({nativeFee: nativeFee,
   lzTokenFee: lzTokenFee});
   vm.expectEmit(false, false, false, false);
   emit PayloadStored(0, "0x", address(0), 1, "0x", "0x");
   vm.expectEmit(true, true, true, true);
   emit SendOFT(bytes32(0), sender, amount, "");
   hoax(sender);
   IOFT(usdv).send{value: nativeFee}(param, options, msgFee,
   payable(sender), "");
ş
```

Recommendations

Check that the SendParams's to address is nonzero in the send function:



Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs, and a fix was implemented in commit 54f20163.

3.3 Inverted authentication logic in VaultManager.rotateMinter

- Target: VaultManager
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: High

- Severity: High
- Impact: High

Description

The VaultManager contract's rotateMinter function changes the minter address for a given color. Its logic to determine whether the caller is authorized is inverted:

```
/// @dev unregistered color will have addr as 0x0, don't need to check
    color here
function rotateMinter(uint32 _color, address _newAddr) external {
    if (registry.colorToMinter[_color].addr == msg.sender) revert
        Unauthorized();
    registry.colorToMinter[_color].addr = _newAddr;
}
```

Any caller – except the currently configured minter – can change the minter address.

Impact

An attacker can change the minter address for any color and then withdraw its rewards.

The following test demonstrates the ability to change any color's configured minter address:





Additionally, an attacker could change the address from 0 and trick the onlyRegister edColor check into allowing an invalid color.

Recommendations

Invert the following condition:



Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs, and a fix was implemented in commit a4c78050.

3.4 Redemption with positive delta fails to update shares

- Target: VaultManager
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: Medium

- Severity: Low
- Impact: Low

Description

The redeem function allows a user to receive collateral tokens in exchange for USDV.

Judging by the documentation, the USDV tokens of the color that were redeemed, and the vault shares of the color, _self.colorToMinter[_color].shares, should be burned. However, the function will burn the shares of the color for which the value of delta. amount from used will be negative.

If _self.colorStates[_color].delta of the redeemed color is negative or zero, the usdv.redeem function returns an array used, which will contain only one element, Delt a(_redeemedColor, amountInt64), where _redeemedColor is the color of tokens owned by the user and a negative value amountInt64 for redeem.

But if _self.colorStates[_color].delta is positive, the first element of the used array will contain Delta with zero amount for the color of tokens owned by the user but a negative amount for the colors from the _deficits array, for which the shares will be burned instead.

```
function redeem(
    address _token,
    address _receiver,
    uint64 _amount,
    uint32[] calldata _deficits
) external nonReentrant whenNotPaused notZeroAmount(_amount)
    returns (uint amountAfterFee) {
    // burn USDV from msg.sender
    // usdv.burn will burn all surplus then minted
    // only returns negative delta
    Delta[] memory used = usdv.redeem(msg.sender, _amount, _deficits);
    int64 pending = int64(_amount);
    for (uint i = 0; i < used.length; i++) {
        Delta memory delta = used[i];
        if (delta.amount > 0) revert InvalidAmount();
        if (delta.amount < 0) {</pre>
```



Impact

This behavior contradicts the documentation.

Recommendations

Burn shares of the same color as the user owns.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged, and no fix is needed as it aligns with the intended behavior.

3.5 The pendingRemint[delta.color] is mistakenly reduced

- Target: VaultManager
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: High

- Severity: High
- Impact: High

Description

The pendingRemint is used by the remind function to cache the number of shares that should have been burned or minted, but only in cases where delta changes lead to a negative result of the number of vault shares.

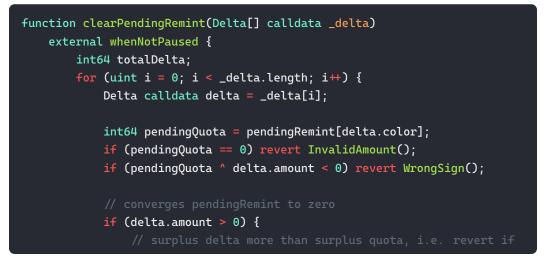
The function clearPendingRemint allows to reset the pendingRemint amount when the number of shares is sufficient. The function accepts the _delta array of Delta structures consisting of values color and signed amount.

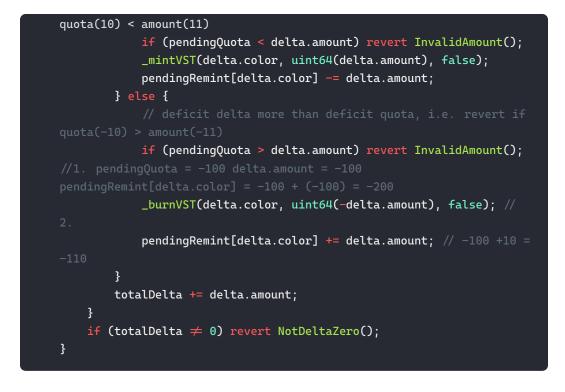
For each color from the _delta array, the function will check that the pendingRemint is not zero, which means it can be cleaned.

The delta.amount is how much the pendingRemint value should be changed for the corresponding delta.color. The delta.amount and pendingRemint[delta.color] can be a positive or negative amount, but it must be of the same sign.

So if delta.amount is positive, the pendingRemint[delta.color] will be decreased by delta.amount and a corresponding amount of shares will be minted. But if the delta. amount is negative, the negative pendingRemint[delta.color] amount will be reduced by it, resulting in the addition of the negative numbers.

For example, if pendingRemint[delta.color] = -100 and delta.amount = -100, the result will be -200 instead of 0.



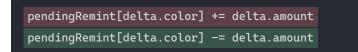


Impact

The pendingRemint[delta.color] amount will be incorrectly reduced for each clearP endingRemint call, and if shares of this color have to be saved for minting in the future, they will be lost until this value is increased to O.

Recommendations

Rather than increasning the stored pendingRemint, decrease it to account for the negative delta:



Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs, and a fix was implemented in commit da8a4201.

3.6 Use of blocking LzApp

- Target: MessagingV1
- Category: Code Maturity
- Likelihood: N/A

- Severity: High
- Impact: High

Description

The MessagingV1 contract inherits the LzApp contract to interact with LayerZero to send and receive cross-chain messages.

MessagingV1 overrides the lzReceive function from LzApp to add the necessary functionality of handling receiving messages.



Impact

Overriding this function provides no additional functionality; that is, MessagingV1 might as well rename _handleLzReceive to _blockingLzReceive as the security checks

of lzReceive will still be performed.

More importantly, LzApp is blocking by default. Any reversion on the destination chain will result in the entire path being blocked — at least, until the OApp owner has the opportunity to intervene. This can happen when USDV is sent to a blacklisted address.

Recommendations

To minimize errors and potential security issues, it is advisable for the application to inherit from NonblockingLzApp and override the _nonblockingLzReceive function in-stead of _blockingLzReceive or lzReceive.

Remediation

The issue with inheriting from LzApp was fixed in commit 03f7e66d.

The issue with overriding the nonblockingLzReceive function was fixed in commit a58fe689.

3.7 Arithmetic error in redeem

- Target: USDVBase
- **Category**: Code Maturity
- Likelihood: N/A

- Severity: Informational
- Impact: Informational

Description

The _burnBalance function subtracts from _totalSupply before the call to _debit has a chance to check the amount for validity:

```
function _burnBalance(address _from, uint64 _targetAmount)
    internal returns (uint32 color) {
    // change balance
    totalSupply_ -= _targetAmount;
    color = _debit(_from, _targetAmount);
    emit Transfer(_from, address(0), _targetAmount);
}
// [...]
function _debit(address _from, uint64 _amount)
    internal notBlacklisted(_from) returns (uint32 color) {
        if (_from == address(0)) revert InvalidUser();
        uint64 balance = userStates[_from].balance;
        if (balance < _amount) revert InsufficientBalance();
        userStates[_from].balance = balance - _amount;
        return userStates[_from].color;
}</pre>
```

Impact

Attempting to redeem an amount greater than the supply results in an arithmetic error instead of an InsufficientBalance() error.

Recommendations

Subtract from totalSupply_after debiting the account so the balance < _amount check executes first.



Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs.



3.8 Bypassable minterRemintFee and operatorRemintFee

- Target: Operator
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: N/A

- Severity: Informational
- Impact: Informational

Description

Note that the fees round down:

```
function getRemintFees(
    address /*_caller*/,
    Delta[] calldata /*deltas*/,
    uint64 _amount
) external view returns (uint64 minterRemintFee,
    uint64 operatorRemintFee) {
    minterRemintFee = (_amount * minterRemintFeeBps) / 10000;
    operatorRemintFee = (_amount * operatorRemintFeeBps) / 10000;
}
```

Impact

If the _amount is low enough, the fee calculation will round down to zero, resulting in no fees being taken when reminting.

In practice, it is unlikely this would be exploited because gas fees can be prohibitively expensive. However, a user may make several smaller transactions (as opposed to one large transaction) to exploit the rounding-down behavior to minimize their fees.

Recommendations

Round up the division and/or consider requiring that both fees are nonzero if the multipliers are also nonzero.

Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs.

3.9 Unimplemented ping function

- Target: VaultManager
- Category: Coding Mistakes
- Likelihood: N/A

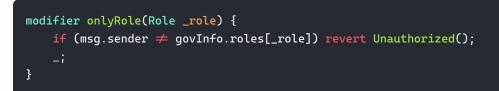
- Severity: Informational
- Impact: Informational

Description

The following function only executes the code in the onlyRole modifier:

function ping() external onlyRole(Role.OPERATOR) {
 // ping operation is done in the onlyOperator modifier
}

However, the comment seems incorrect; the modifier does not contain any code relating to pinging:

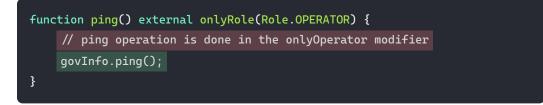


Impact

The operator would not be able to ping without using setFeeBps.

Recommendations

Implement this functionality:



Remediation

This issue has been acknowledged by LayerZero Labs, and a fix was implemented in commit 3723f8f0.

4 Discussion

The purpose of this section is to document miscellaneous observations that we made during the assessment. These discussion notes are not necessarily security related and do not convey that we are suggesting a code change.

4.1 Ability to rotateMinter to 0 address

It is possible to rotateMinter to 0, which would disable minting a certain color indefinitely and prevent rewards from being claimable.

This behavior may or may not be intended; however, if it is intended, note that USDV may still be reminted to the color.

4.2 Enforced color is per chain

The setEnforceColor function enforces a color on the chain it is called on only.

5 Assessment Results

At the time of our assessment, the reviewed code was not deployed to the Ethereum Mainnet.

During our assessment on the scoped USDV contracts, we discovered nine findings. Two critical issues were found. Three were of high impact, one was of low impact, and the remaining findings were informational in nature. LayerZero Labs acknowledged all findings and implemented fixes.

5.1 Disclaimer

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

For each finding, Zellic provides a recommended solution. All code samples in these recommendations are intended to convey how an issue may be resolved (i.e., the idea), but they may not be tested or functional code. These recommendations are not exhaustive, and we encourage our partners to consider them as a starting point for further discussion. We are happy to provide additional guidance and advice as needed.

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