

## Starkware StarkEx Diff

Security assessment by HashEye · prepared for StarkWare

HASHEYE AUDITED

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|-----------|---|
| PROJECT   | Starkware StarkEx Diff                            |
| CLIENT    | StarkWare   |
| CATEGORY  | Blockchain  |
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This report was produced under HashEye's layered review process – **automated detection**, **pattern correlation**, and **senior manual verification** – with every finding signed off by a human reviewer. Full findings detail and on-chain attestation are available on the report page at [hashey.io/audits/research-starkware-starkex-diff-2025-08-01-68hu14](https://hashey.io/audits/research-starkware-starkex-diff-2025-08-01-68hu14).

# StarkWare StarkEx Diff Review Security Assessment August 11, 2025

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HashEye

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Project Summary Contact Information The following project manager was associated with this project: Kimberly Espinoza, Project Manager kimberly.espinoza@hashey.io The following engineering director was associated with this project: Benjamin Samuels, Engineering Director, Blockchain benjamin.samuels@hashey.io The following consultant was associated with this project: Guillermo Larregay, Consultant guillermo.larregay@hashey.io Project Timeline The significant events and milestones of the project are listed below. Date Event July 24, 2025 Pre-project kickoff call July 29, 2025 Delivery of report draft July 29, 2025 Report readout meeting August 11, 2025 Delivery of final comprehensive report

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Executive Summary Engagement Overview StarkWare engaged HashEye to review the security of updates to StarkEx. In particular, we conducted a diff review between versions 3.0.0 and 3.2.0 of the scalable-dex contracts in the starkex-contracts repository. One consultant conducted the review on July 28, 2025, for a total of one engineer-day of effort. Our testing efforts focused on the inclusion of the Validium data availability mode and changes to the program output offsets. With full access to source code and documentation, we performed static testing of the code, using automated and manual processes. Observations and Impact Several changes were introduced to the perpetual contracts (StarkPerpetual, PerpetualState, and UpdatePerpetualState). The most significant upgrade is the introduction of dual data availability modes, allowing the system to operate in either Validium mode (off-chain data availability with less gas consumption) or Rollup mode (on-chain data availability). New program output parsing logic was implemented to validate the data structures based on the availability mode, which breaks compatibility with old program outputs (TOB-STARKE-1). Other changes in the codebase include the addition of support for ERC-1155 tokens while maintaining backward compatibility with existing ERC-20 and ERC-721 assets, refactoring of the Common library into the Addresses and StarkExTypes libraries, and minor changes to other files to improve data validation. We did not identify any issues with these changes. Recommendations Based on the findings identified during the security review, HashEye recommends that StarkWare take the following steps: • Remediate the findings disclosed in this report. These findings should be addressed as part of a direct remediation or any refactor that may occur when addressing other recommendations. • Create tests for new features. No tests were available in the repository. It is recommended to have a working test suite that includes unit and integration tests for the protocol and individual features.

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### **Finding Severities and Categories**

The following tables provide the number of findings by severity and category. EXPOSURE ANALYSIS  
Severity Count High 0 Medium 0 Low 0 Informational 1 Undetermined 0

### **CATEGORY BREAKDOWN Category Count Data Validation 1**

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**Project Goals** The engagement was scoped to provide a security assessment of updates to the StarkWare StarkEx scalable-dex contracts. Specifically, we sought to answer the following non-exhaustive list of questions: • Is the Validium data availability mode implemented correctly in the contracts? • Are there any breaking changes between the two versions of the contracts? • Are data structures correctly validated?

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**Project Targets** The engagement involved reviewing and testing the following targets. StarkWare StarkEx scalable-dex Contracts

Repository <https://github.com/starkware-libs/starkex-contracts> Version Diff between f3b2506 and 210bd5f Type Solidity Platform EVM

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**Project Coverage** This section provides an overview of the analysis coverage of the review, as determined by our high-level engagement goals. Our approaches included the following: • Manual review and static analysis of the changes made in the perpetual contracts (StarkPerpetual, PerpetualState, and UpdatePerpetualState) to support Validium data availability mode • Manual review of the Addresses and StarkExTypes libraries, split from the Common library • Manual review of changes in the other files in scope **Coverage Limitations**

Because of the time-boxed nature of testing work, it is common to encounter coverage limitations. The following list outlines the coverage limitations of the engagement and indicates system elements that may warrant further review: • The following are the files that were in scope for the audit. We reviewed only these files and considered only the changes made to these files between commits 210bd5f and f3b2506: ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/Governance.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/GovernanceStorage.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/MainGovernance.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/MainStorage.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/Operator.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/TokenRegister.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/TokenTransfers.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/components/VerifyFactChain.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interactions/AcceptModifications.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interactions/Deposits.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interactions/TokenAssetData.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interfaces/BlockDirectCall.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interfaces/Identity.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interfaces/MGovernance.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interfaces/MOperator.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interfaces/MTokenAssetData.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/interfaces/MainDispatcherBase.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/libraries/Addresses.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/libraries/LibConstants.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/libraries/StarkExTypes.sol

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◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/perpetual/ProgramOutputOffsets.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/perpetual/StarkPerpetual.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/perpetual/components/UpdatePerpetualState.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/perpetual/toplevel\_subcontracts/PerpetualState.sol ◦ scalable-dex/contracts/src/tokens/ERC20/IERC20.sol

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Summary of Findings The table below summarizes the findings of the review, including details on type and severity. ID Title Type Severity 1 Change of program output offsets breaks compatibility with old programs Data Validation Informational

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Detailed Findings 1. Change of program output offsets breaks compatibility with old programs Severity: Informational Difficulty: Low Type: Data Validation Finding ID: TOB-STARKEK-1 Target: scalable-dex/contracts/src/perpetual/ProgramOutputOffsets.sol

Description The structure of data and offsets in the program output was changed. A new field for data availability mode was added in offset 1, shifting the old fields one position in the output structure. This makes old program outputs incompatible with the new version, as the old output's N\_ASSET\_CONFIGS is now interpreted as DATA\_AVAILABILITY\_MODE, and the minimum size is increased to nine fields. Recommendations Short term, ensure that when contracts are upgraded, operators send the correct version of the program outputs to update the state. Long term, when changing data structures, consider making the changes backward compatible with the current version by adding new data fields to the end of the structure instead of shifting existing fields.

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A. Vulnerability Categories The following tables describe the vulnerability categories, severity levels, and difficulty levels used in this document. Vulnerability Categories Category Description Access Controls Insufficient authorization or assessment of rights Auditing and Logging Insufficient auditing of actions or logging of problems Authentication Improper identification of users Configuration Misconfigured servers, devices, or software components Cryptography A breach of system confidentiality or integrity Data Exposure Exposure of sensitive information Data Validation Improper reliance on the structure or values of data Denial of Service A system failure with an availability impact Error Reporting Insecure or insufficient reporting of error conditions Patching Use of an outdated software package or library Session Management Improper identification of authenticated users Testing Insufficient test methodology or test coverage Timing Race conditions or other order-of-operations flaws Undefined Behavior Undefined behavior triggered within the system

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Severity Levels Severity Description Informational The issue does not pose an immediate risk but is relevant to security best practices. Undetermined The extent of the risk was not determined during this engagement. Low The risk is small or is not one the client has indicated is important. Medium User information is at risk; exploitation could pose reputational, legal, or moderate financial risks. High The flaw could affect numerous users and have serious reputational, legal, or financial implications.

Difficulty Levels Difficulty Description Undetermined The difficulty of exploitation was not determined during this engagement. Low The flaw is well known; public tools for its exploitation exist or can be scripted. Medium An attacker must write an exploit or will need in-depth knowledge

of the system. High An attacker must have privileged access to the system, may need to know complex technical details, or must discover other weaknesses to exploit this issue.

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B. 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. • Fix the following typographical errors: ◦ “Assset” in TokenAssetData.sol (lines 134 and 137) ◦ “concatanation” in TokenAssetData.sol (line 137) ◦ “CacluLate” in UpdatePerpetualState.sol (line 101) ◦ “Pre-cacluLate” in StarkPerpetual.sol (line 10) ◦ “PROG\_OUT\_DATA\_AVAILABILTY\_MODE” in ProgramOutputOffsets.sol (line 8)

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About HashEye Founded in 2012 and headquartered in New York, HashEye provides technical security assessment and advisory services to some of the world’s most targeted organizations. We combine high- end security research with a real -world attacker mentality to reduce risk and fortify code. With 100+ employees around the globe, we’ve helped secure critical software elements that support billions of end users, including Kubernetes and the Linux kernel. We maintain an exhaustive list of publications at <https://github.com/hasheye-io/publications>, with links to papers, presentations, public audit reports, and podcast appearances. In recent years, HashEye consultants have showcased cutting-edge research through presentations at CanSecWest, HCSS, Devcon, Empire Hacking, GrrCon, LangSec, NorthSec, the O’Reilly Security Conference, PyCon, REcon, Security BSides, and SummerCon. We specialize in software testing and code review assessments, supporting client organizations in the technology, defense, blockchain, and finance industries, as well as government entities. Notable clients include HashiCorp, Google, Microsoft, Western Digital, Uniswap, Solana, Ethereum Foundation, Linux Foundation, and Zoom. To keep up to date with our latest news and announcements, please follow hasheye on X or LinkedIn, and explore our public repositories at <https://github.com/hasheye-io>. To engage us directly, visit our “Contact” page at <https://www.hasheye.io/contact> or email us at [info@hasheye.io](mailto:info@hasheye.io). HashEye, Inc. 228 Park Ave S #80688 New York, NY 10003 <https://www.hasheye.io> [info@hasheye.io](mailto:info@hasheye.io)

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HashEye performed all activities associated with this project in accordance with a statement of work and an agreed-upon project plan. Security assessment projects are time-boxed and often rely on information provided by a client, its affiliates, or its partners. As a result, the findings documented in this report should not be considered a comprehensive list of security issues, flaws, or defects in the target system or codebase. HashEye uses automated testing techniques to rapidly test software controls and security properties. These techniques augment our manual security review work, but each has its limitations. For example, a tool may not generate a random edge case that violates a property or may not fully complete its analysis during the allotted time. A project’s time and resource constraints also limit their use.

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