Modern Blockchains and Next-Generation Internet Architectures: Opportunities and Synergies

Markus Legner 2024-05-16



A brief history of Mysten Labs and Sui



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Why are current networking solutions insufficient?



Distributed

systems

fundamentally

depend on

reliable global connectivity

Blockchain nodes are globally distributed

The Internet is insecure and attacks can cause severe damage

Centralized networking solutions contradict decentralization

 \rightarrow Build on a secure public network infrastructure

How we (want to) protect critical communication

Need

High availability required for communication between validators and for client access.

Existing solutions

Protections include cryptographic signatures, filtering, and rate-limiting.

Ideal setup

Use a networking layer that provides **secure routing** and **availability guarantees**.

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Enter SCION: A next-generation Internet with built-in security

SCION: A next-generation Internet with built-in security

Strong security properties and high performance

- Replaces BGP (routing) and IP (forwarding)
- Secure routing protocol prevents attacks
- Faster recovery after network failures
- Allows hosts to select from multiple available paths
- Often provides **lower latency** than the Internet

Global production deployment

- In production use in Swiss financial, healthcare, and energy sectors
- New redundant global network created by Mysten Labs with its partners



Mysten Labs

Networking setup with SCION at a Sui validator



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Can SCION in turn benefit from blockchains?



Blockchains have come a long way...

	Bitcoin	Sui
Sustainability	Wasteful proof of work	Efficient delegated proof of stake
	1 tx ~ 1 person flying Zurich–Lisbon	1 tx ~ traditional financial transaction
Programmability	Limited Bitcoin script	Ergonomic and Turing-complete smart-contract language
Speed	Finality in minutes-hours	Sub-second finality
	5–10 transactions per second	> 1000 transactions per second
Cost	>1USD per transaction	< 0.1 cent per transaction

Sui could perform control-plane tasks for SCION

SCION has a **clean separation of control and data plane**

- Packet-carried forwarding state
- Forwarding information can be distributed out-of-band

Sui enables **digital assets for network resources**

- Compose, transfer, and coordinate assets
- Assets for forwarding information, keys, bandwidth reservations
- Fast and cheap transactions enable real-time applications
- Directly integrated **financial settlement**
- Challenge: how to connect physical resources to on-chain assets

Hummingbird: A Flexible and Lightweight Inter-Domain Bandwidth-Reservation System. Giuliari et al. 2023. <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.09959</u>

Current efforts, next steps, and further research



Thank You

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