RUB

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THE FORKING WAY: WHEN TEES MEET CONSENSUS

Annika Wilde, Tim Niklas Gruel, Claudio Soriente, Ghassan Karame

REWIRE

CASA
CYBER SECURITY IN THE AGE OF LARGE-SCALE ADVERSARIES

Across

Gefördert durch
DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

TEEs

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- ✗ I/O controlled by untrusted host
- ✗ No freshness guarantees
- ✗ Forking attacks (rollback & cloning)

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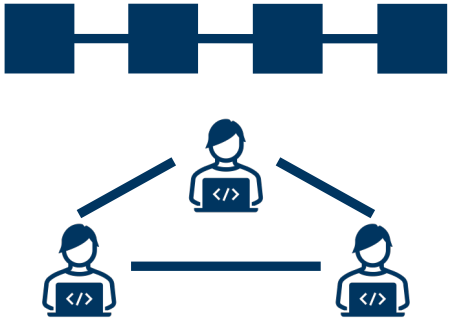

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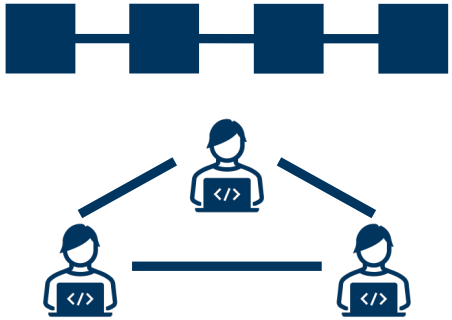

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- ✗ All data must be publicly available

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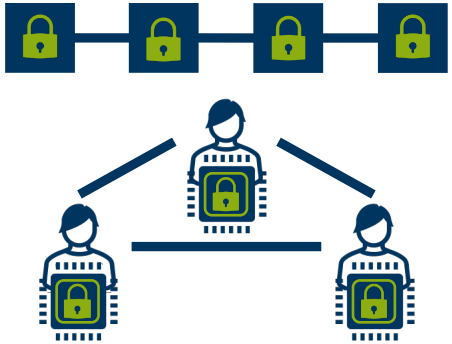

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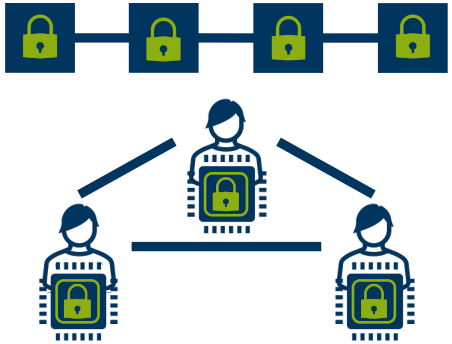

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✓ TEEs provide randomized computing.

✓ TEEs provide confidential computing.

✓ Blockchains provide a total ordering of events.

✓ Blockchains protect against rollback & cloning attacks.

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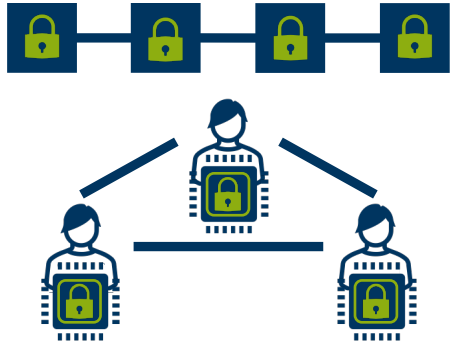

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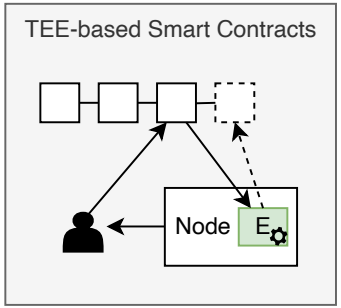

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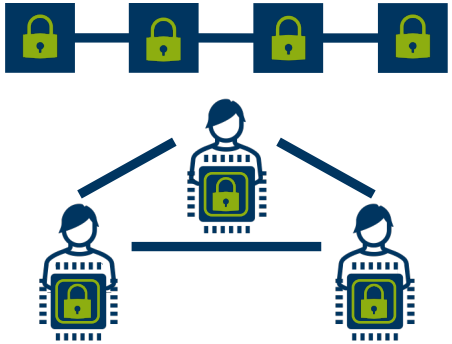

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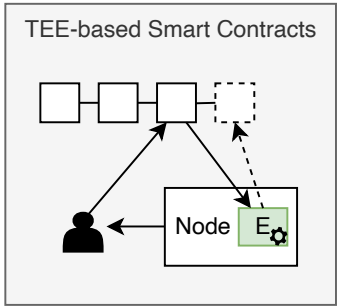

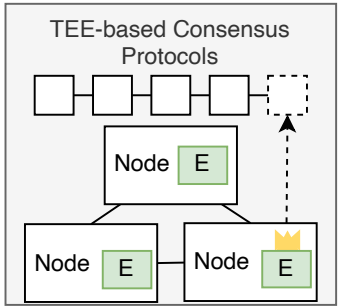

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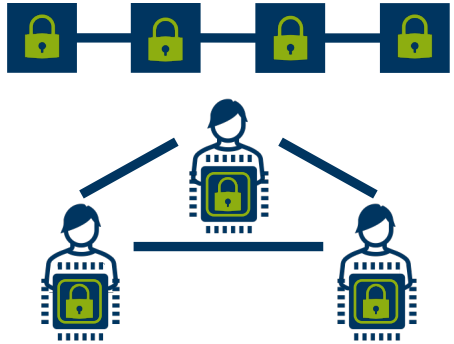

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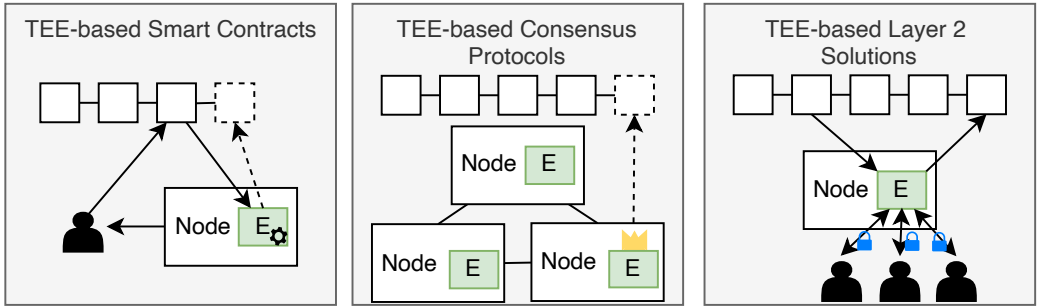

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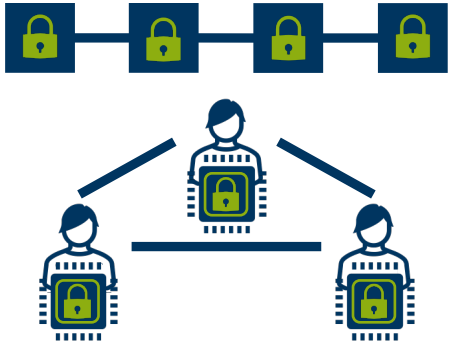

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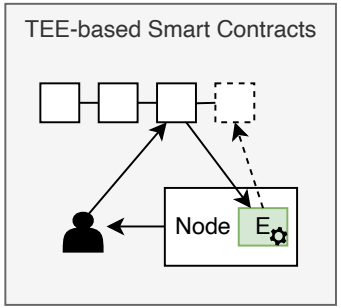

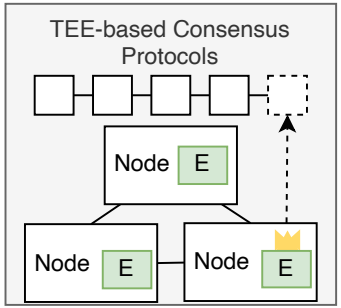

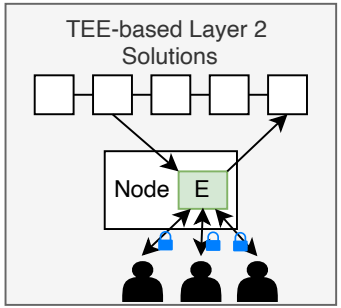

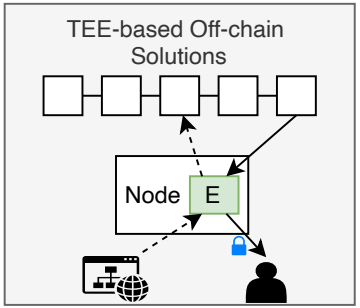

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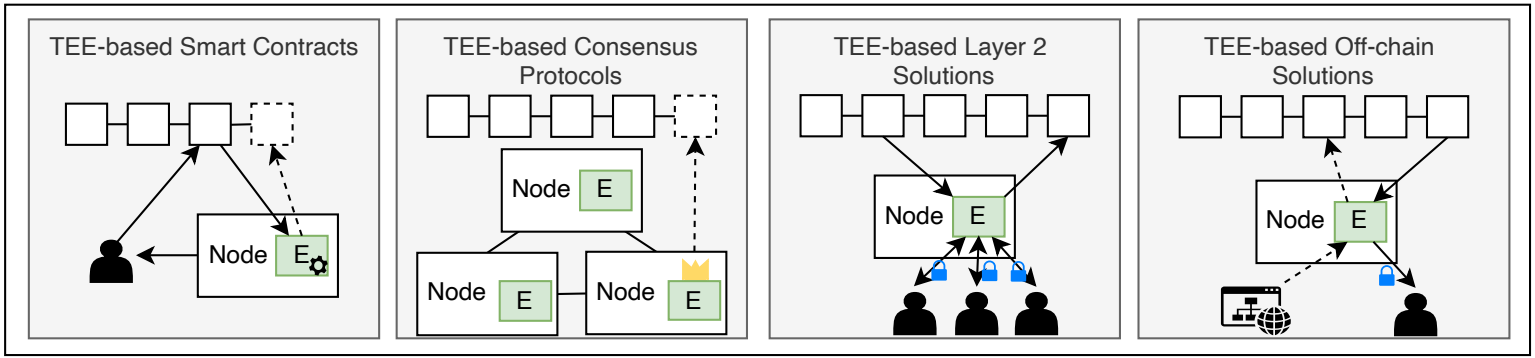
Methodology



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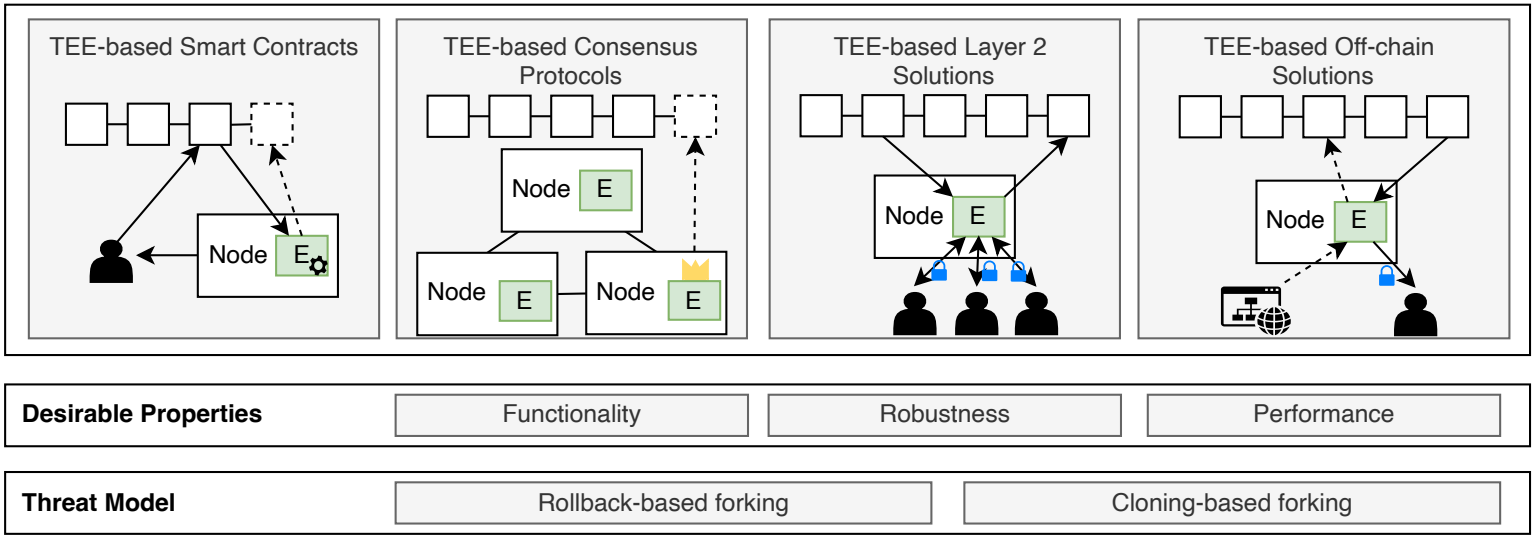
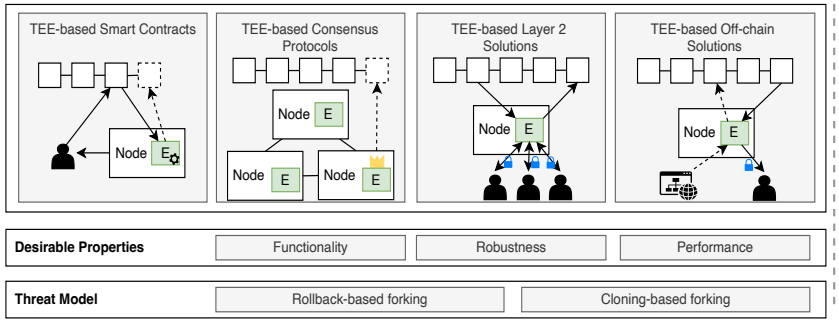


Classification & analysis of 29 TEE-based blockchains

Mitigation Strategies & Pitfalls



Classification of Existing Solutions

- Stateless enclaves
- Ephemeral identities
- Fixed set of clients
- Serialization

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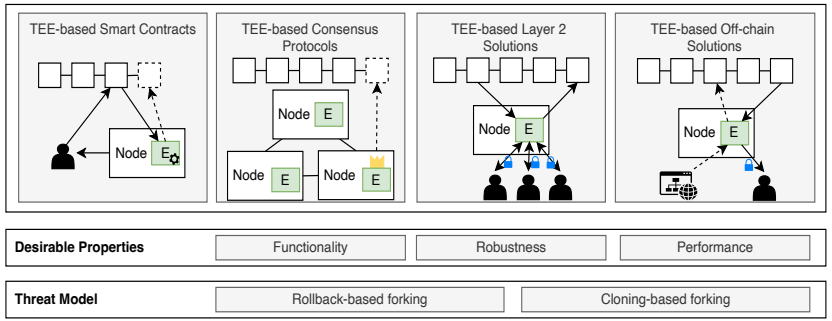

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Limitations of Existing Solutions

- Expressiveness
- Key Management
- Fault tolerance
- Reconfiguration
- Low throughput
- Existential honesty
- Blockchain forks
- Randomized computations

Case study: Phala[1]

- Production-ready Layer 1 blockchain
- Confidential smart contracts

[1] Phala: A Secure Decentralized Cloud Computing Network based on Polkadot, [Online] March 2022

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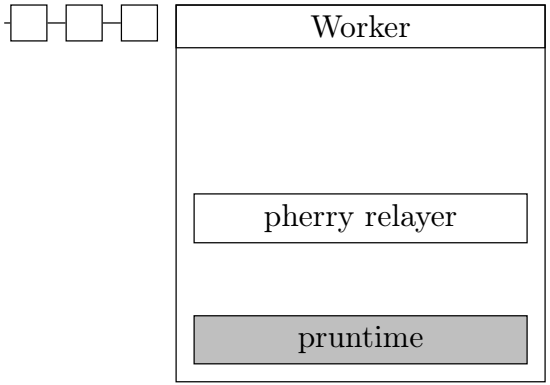

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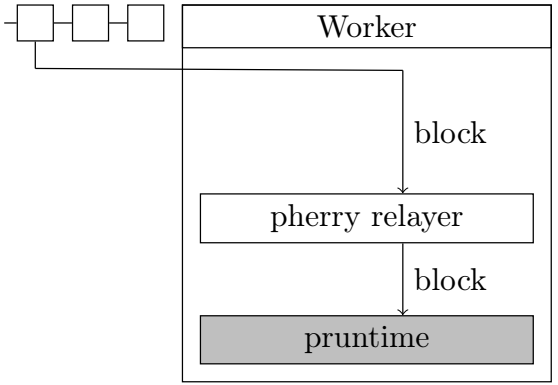

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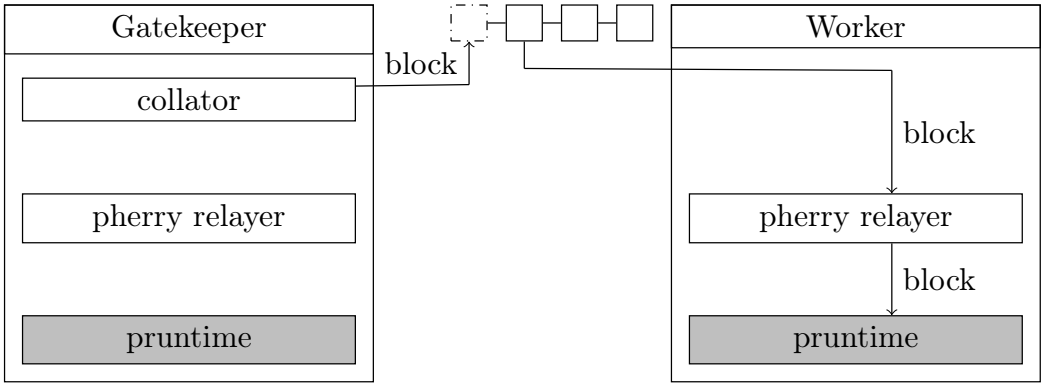

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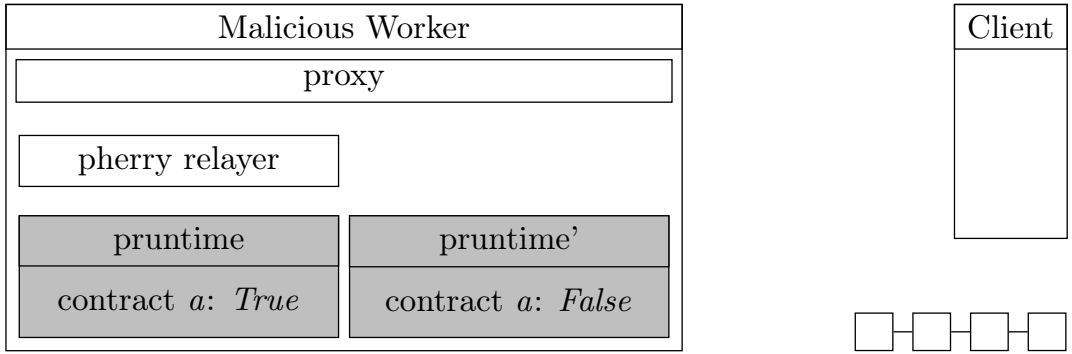
Cloning attack:

1. Malicious worker starts two enclaves and a proxy



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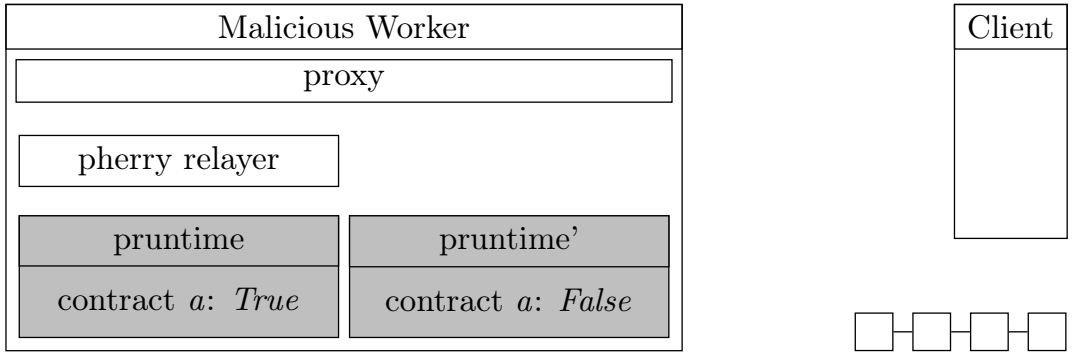

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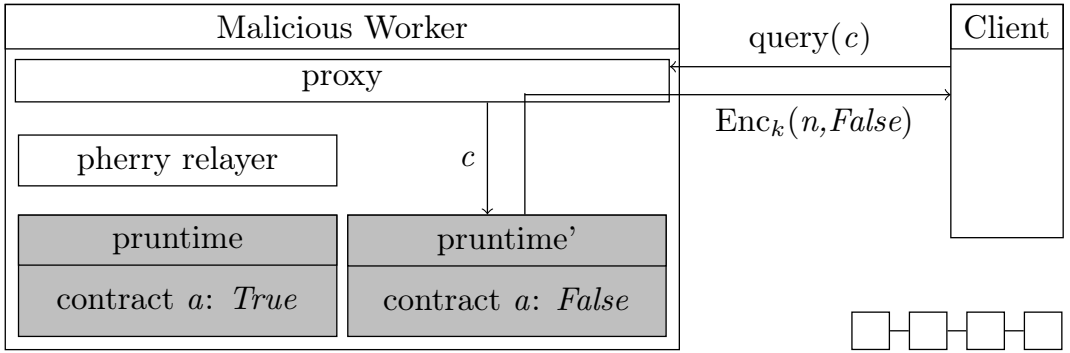
3. Client sends an encrypted request
4. Proxy routes it to the isolated enclave (clone)
5. Clone responds with a stale state



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Countermeasure 1: Heartbeats

- Enclaves regularly issue heartbeat transactions to prove they are alive

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Countermeasure 3: Ephemeral IDs

- Rely on ephemeral IDs to ensure only one enclave instance is active on each node

Project	Forking Mitigations						Limitations							
	Stateless enclaves	Ephemeral identities	Fixed set of clients	Transaction replay	Time-stamping	State on the ledger	Functionality			Robustness				Performance
							L1	L4	L8	L2	L3	L6	L7	L5
TEE-based Smart Contracts														
Azure CCF [47]	✓			✓	✓		✗		✗			✗	✗	✗
CONFIDE [32]					✓				✗			✗	✗	✗
CreDB [52]					✓				⋆			⋆	⋆	⋆
Ekiden [11]						✓			✗			✗	✗	✗
Phala [9]	✓			✓	✓		✗		✗			✗	✓	✗
Secret Network [13]	✓			✓			✗		✗			✓	✗	✗
TEE-based Consensus Protocols														
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MobileCoin [49]	✓						✗							
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TEE-based Layer 2 Solutions														
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Obscuro Mixer [39]	✓	✓					✗			✗				
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Tesseract [43]	✓	✓		✓	✓		✗		✗	✗		✗	✗	✗
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sgxwallet [44]	✓						✗							
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