
Quarterly Report

Q2 2023



Nighthawk Apps



Mission

Goals

Deliver high quality, easy-to-use, privacy-preserving apps, dev-tooling framework and high-availability infra for the benefit of Zcash developers, targeting the growth of ZEC usage.

We've shipped the first Shielded-by-Default wallet, maintained a Zcash focussed block explorer, and a reliable light wallet service since 2020.

We take great pride in our collaborative approach, actively seeking feedback from a diverse range of privacy-focused user groups to shape the end-user experience of our products.





Nighthawk Team

Project Lead Aditya Bharadwaj

Platform Engineer Vamsi Krishna

Android Lead Mandeep Bhalothia

iOS Lead Matthew Watt

Mobile Apps QA & Documentation @BostonZcash





Overview

Milestones

- Globally Distributed Infrastructure Milestone

<https://forum.zcashcommunity.com/t/nighthawk-apps-launches-global-zcash-light-client-infrastructure/44768>

- Zcash Block Explorer Testnet Edition Launch

<https://forum.zcashcommunity.com/t/introducing-zcashblockexplorer-com-testnet-edition/44874>





Nighthawk Wallet

Goal: Deliver an easy to use, privacy-preserving shielded wallet

Development

- Finish adopting TCA and Jetpack architectures on our native app offerings for iPhone and Android
- Testing work on upgrades from Sapling Shielded Address to Unified Address

Tasks

- Target Android 14 and iOS 17 platform distribution
- Adopt Parallel Sync as a precursor to DAGSync





Zcash Block Explorer

Goal: Deliver an accurate, no tracker block explorer for ZEC

Development

- Support resolution of V5 transactions and additional info like block miner and transaction type
- Launch Testnet Explorer
- Migrate to support Tor V3

Tasks

- Upgrade instances to cater to increased load
- Migrate backend to new, K8s supporting cloud provider
- Documentation review
<https://nighthawkapps.gitbook.io/zcash-explorer/>





Lightwalletd.com Infra

Goal: Provide a public main-net and test-net Zcash block server

Development

- Write K8s StatefulScripts to automate deployments
- Begin work to set up a globally distributed and highly available light wallet service
- Setup real-time monitoring <https://status.lightwalletd.com>

Tasks

- Audit the scripts for full infra automation
- Diligently monitor, debug issues, and deploy updates to the service for uninterrupted usage by light clients





Thorchain Integration

Goal: Deliver native DEX swaps for Zcash via Thorchain protocol

Milestone 3

- Resume Golang-based Bifrost protocol and chart out Zcash crypto work
- Update pending smoke tests and ancillary code to function with the latest zcashd v5.5.0+

Milestone 4

- Update the TypeScript-based xchain.js wallet for Zcash with ZIP-317 fee support





User Information Requests

Goal: Transparency in law enforcement and government requests

Status

- We have received no requests from any law enforcement or other government agency in any capacity since the inception
- Our no-logging policy continues to be enforced

Update

- Our monthly lightwalletd.com and Zcash Block Explorer warrant canary was replaced with the quarterly report of User Information Requests



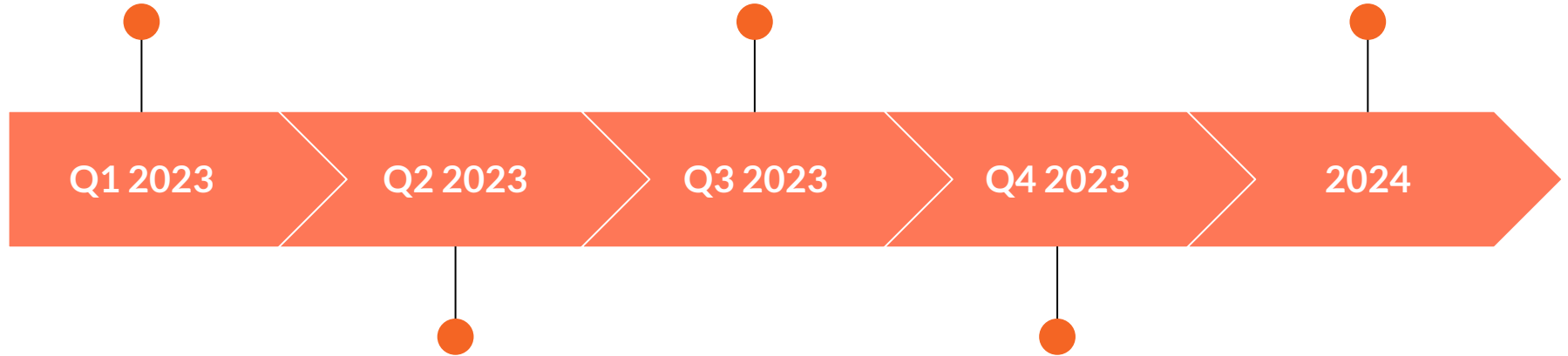
Roadmap Update



Restructured team with partial funding, setup new infra, and resume wallet development

Block Explorer security audit, Launch updated wallets with Unified Address support, and gather feedback

Expand collaborations with partners



Deployed distributed lightwalletd infra, and ZcashBlockExplorer.com on Testnet, Adopt TCA and JetPack Compose architecture for wallets

Marketing trial period, Third-party SDK integrations and wallet security audits



Attention Areas

Caveats to keep in mind with regards to our scope

Mobile Wallet Risks

- ZIP-317 enforcement at the node level and adoption by wallets in the ecosystem to combat dusting/spam attack
- Partial funding affecting limitations in scope & third-party integrations
- There is enough demand from the community to improve Zcash UX, and we need to add a resource
- Zcash integration with Thorchain/Rune protocol is dependent on nodes voting to add ZEC





Next steps

Wallet

Shipping app updates and reviewing alternatives to the MoonPay integration for buying ZEC, following their dropping of Zcash support.

Funding

Financing operations, hardware costs, and new initiatives.

Thorchain

Keeping Thorchain integration PRs updated with upstream changes and Zcash xchain.js wallet adopting ZIP-317 fee calculations.





Other Initiatives

LCWG

Report bugs and improvements, Report mempool attack following Zcon4

Arborist Calls

Participate in ZSA discussions





Note to the community

The Zcash ecosystem currently has several gaps that require substantial efforts and funding from the block rewards is one way to keep consistent funding to teams working on long term grants. To address these gaps, we have a plan to pursue this with the Block Rewards based funding model.

Per the 2023 grant, due to the reduced developer budget, there will be delays in shipping our native apps by 3 months. This is because the lack of funding for Platform Engineering and DevOps will delay the setup of the distributed infrastructure and the open APIs required for continuing Thorchain integration work.

Additionally, the absence of a UX Designer will further exacerbate these delays, as now developers will extend the existing UI framework and plan for the Shielded Messaging Application will need to be dropped.

Despite these challenges, we are committed to working with the community to fill the gaps in the Zcash ecosystem and believe that this plan will allow us to achieve our goals.





Join us in shaping a future where privacy in crypto is not only accessible for all but also indispensable.

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