



269568

4096
EPOCHS

CANCUN

DENCUN

092 / 13 MAR 2024 / ETHEREUM / COMMON

ROOM TO BREATHE.

On 13 March 2024, Ethereum activated Dencun at epoch 269568. Its best-known change was EIP-4844, or proto-danksharding, which introduced temporary data blobs for rollups. These layer-2 networks process transactions away from Ethereum mainnet and publish data back to it. Blobs gave them a dedicated way to make that data available, designed to reduce a major operating cost and help lower fees for their users.

The change concerned data availability, not a new place to execute transactions. Blob contents are not directly readable by the Ethereum Virtual Machine, and blob gas has its own fee market, separate from ordinary execution gas. The minimum window for serving blob sidecars was 4096 epochs, about 18 days. Older data could be retained by other services or individual operators. Dencun did not make all Ethereum transactions free, and savings depended on rollups adopting the new format.

The artwork imagines that extra capacity as a depot with room to work. An orange-jacketed worker stands beside three glowing cyan data crates on a pallet jack, with a bright Ethereum city beyond the open door. The crates turn temporary blob data into cargo; their number is a visual choice, not an exact protocol count. The doorway plaque records the activation epoch, an hourglass tag recalls the availability window, and a star above CANCUN joins the two upgrade names. ROOM TO BREATHE. describes the intended relief, without promising a fixed fee or depicting a real event.

DETAILS IN THE ART

01 The activation plaque

269568 above the doorway is the epoch at which Dencun activated on 13 March 2024. The complete number is visible in the full artwork; the card logo partly covers it.

02 The hourglass tag

4096 EPOCHS points to the minimum blob-sidecar serving window, about 18 days. It does not mean every copy must be deleted at that exact moment.

03 A star over Cancun

The star and CANCUN sticker combine Deneb, the star used for the consensus-layer upgrade, with Cancun, the Devcon 3 city used for the execution-layer upgrade.

04 The cyan data crates

Three luminous crates represent the temporary blob data space introduced by EIP-4844. They are a visual metaphor, not a claim about the number of blobs in every block.

SOURCE & ART NOTE

Sources: Dencun mainnet announcement; Ethereum Dencun overview; EIP-4844 specification; Deneb networking specification. The worker, depot, pallet jack and city are fictional editorial metaphors. ROOM TO BREATHE. is a user-approved editorial caption, not a historical quotation. The four details described here are visible in the approved full artwork.