IJITCE

ISSN 2347- 3657

International Journal of Information Technology & Computer Engineering

Email : ijitce.editor@gmail.com or editor@ijitce.com

International Journal of Information Technology & Computer Engineering

ISSN 2347–3657

Volume 12, Issue 4, 2024

https://doi.org/10.62646/ijitce.2024.v12.i4.pp129-136

A BLOCKCHAIN-DRIVEN APPROACH FOR SECURE AND TRANSPARENT IoT DEVICE MANAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE

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Abstract: With the recent emergence of the smart healthcare era, and patients relying more on personalized health monitoring based on Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) devices; patients' lives are becoming highly threatened in case they fall victim to counterfeit devices. Thus, verifying whether these body sensors utilized are authentic and reliable in an unimpeachable, credible, and auditable manner without any centralized management is of crucial importance. Furthermore, manipulating data and hijacking in an IoMT context are also of tremendous criticality. Motivated by the aforementioned challenges, in this article, a smart contract-based scalable authentication scheme dedicated for IoMT devices is proposed. The scheme mitigates the deficiencies of the traditional established systems that are extensively built on centralized approaches, vulnerable to distributed denial of service attacks, by leveraging blockchain's decentralization and security properties. The scheme ensures confidentiality, anonymity, and privacy as it is built on a consortium blockchain and integrity by offering secure firmware updates and protects patients from counterfeit devices by leveraging the physical unclonable function. The authentication approach was implemented on Ethereum and evaluated with regard to its computation and communication costs to prove its feasibility and effectiveness as well as its security by presenting a formal analysis using ProVerif.

***Keywords*:** Iomt, Iot Device, Blockchain Mechanism, Healthcare, Secure.

INTRODUCTION:

The rapid adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) devices in healthcare has revolutionized healthcare delivery. From wearable health monitors to connected diagnostic devices, IoT-enabled medical devices provide a continuous stream of real-time data that supports personalized treatment, remote monitoring, and improved patient care. But alongside the benefits of IoT in healthcare, there are also growing concerns over the security, privacy, and efficient management of these connected devices. Medical data is highly sensitive, and unauthorized access, data breaches, and tampering

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with device functionality can have significant impacts on patient safety and data protection. Traditional centralized systems that manage IoT devices are often vulnerable to single points of failure, cyber attacks, and inefficiencies in data management. As more IoT devices are introduced in healthcare systems, there is an increasing need for a secure, scalable, and transparent way to manage and monitor these devices. Blockchain technology provides a decentralized and secure framework that can address many of the limitations of current IoT device management systems. By leveraging blockchain's distributed ledger, every interaction with an IoT device is immutably recorded, ensuring data is tamper-proof and auditable. Additionally, the integration of smart contracts (self-executing contracts whose terms are written directly in code) can automate various administrative tasks such as device registration, firmware updates, and compliance checks, thereby reducing manual intervention and minimizing errors. In the healthcare sector, blockchain can ensure that medical devices are managed not only securely but also transparently, allowing all parties (hospitals, device manufacturers, regulators, etc.) to review actions taken on a given device without compromising patient privacy. In this paper, we explore how blockchain technology can be used to build a robust and transparent system for managing IoT devices in healthcare settings and ensure their secure operation and protection of critical healthcare data. Blockchain has the potential to revolutionize IoT-based healthcare systems by addressing key security concerns such as device authentication, data integrity, and access control, building trust between healthcare providers, patients, and regulators.

RELATED WORK:

In the healthcare industry, the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) devices has revolutionized patient monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment by enabling real-time data collection, remote medical management, and continuous monitoring of patients' vital signs. However, existing systems for managing these IoT devices rely on centralized infrastructure, creating significant challenges in the efficiency and security of healthcare IoT networks. In a centralized model, a single authority or server is responsible for overseeing the registration, authentication, and management of all connected devices. This includes maintaining the security of data flows, monitoring device activity, and handling critical functions such as firmware updates. While this architecture simplifies management in certain cases, it also introduces several vulnerabilities, especially in sensitive environments such as healthcare, where the reliability, privacy, and security of IoT devices are of utmost importance. One of the biggest problems with centralized IoT systems is their vulnerability to a single point of failure. Because a single server or central authority manages the entire infrastructure, any breach or malfunction at this point could cause a catastrophic failure, crippling or compromising the vast network of medical IoT devices. This is especially dangerous in healthcare settings, where real-time monitoring of patients' vital signs through IoT devices such as heart rate monitors and insulin pumps is critical to patient safety. Any failure or breach could delay the transmission of critical medical data, jeopardizing

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patient outcomes and putting lives at risk. In addition, centralized IoT systems are vulnerable to distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks. In a DDoS attack, a malicious actor overloads a centralized server with a large amount of data, rendering it unavailable. Such attacks can significantly disrupt hospital operations, prevent timely access to patient data, and disrupt the functioning of life-saving medical equipment. This poses a serious threat to the healthcare industry, where data integrity and system availability are critical for smooth operations and patient care. Moreover, the centralized nature of IoT systems poses great challenges in maintaining the privacy and integrity of patient data. Centralized databases that store sensitive medical information, such as patient records and diagnostic results, have become attractive targets for cybercriminals looking to exploit personal health data. A successful breach of such centralized storage systems could result in the exposure of sensitive patient information and violate data protection regulations such as HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) in the United States and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) in Europe. Another key issue in centralized management of IoT devices is scalability. As the number of IoT devices in healthcare networks continues to grow exponentially, centralized systems struggle to keep up with the increase in device connections and data traffic. With thousands of IoT sensors and medical devices deployed across hospitals and medical facilities, the sheer volume of data that needs to be processed, stored, and analyzed in real time can overwhelm centralized systems, resulting in delays and inefficiencies. Lack of scalability not only impacts performance, but also limits the ability to quickly integrate new devices and accommodate future expansion of IoT networks, which is essential in the rapidly growing healthcare sector. In addition, centralized systems often struggle to prevent fake devices from entering the network. The influx of unauthorized, counterfeit, or unverified devices poses security risks as these devices may not meet the required security standards or may have vulnerabilities that can be exploited by attackers. This can put the integrity of the entire network at risk, leading to the failure of important medical procedures at the point of care. Centralized management systems also struggle to ensure the secure updating of critical firmware to protect IoT devices from emerging security threats. Without proper mechanisms, attackers may exploit vulnerabilities in outdated firmware to take over devices or impair their proper functioning. Several studies and related research in the field of IoT security have focused on these limitations of centralized IoT management systems.

AUTHOR	TITLE	TECHINQUE USED	DATASET	PERFORMANCE ANALYSICS	LIMITATIONS
A. Kumar, S. Rao (2024)	Blockchain-Based Secure and Transparent	Blockchain with smart contracts for secure IoT	Simulated healthcare IoT network	Accuracy: 98%, Transaction time:2.3s, Scalability: High	High transaction costs due to extensive

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	IoT Device Management for Healthcare	device management			blockchain operations
J. Patel, V. Nair (2023)	Enhancing IoT Device Security in Healthcare Systems Using Blockchain Technology	Blockchain with decentralized identity management for healthcare IoT	Healthcare IoT devices	Accuracy: 96%, Latency: 3.1s, Security: High	Requires significant computational resources
R. Mehta, T. Wang (2022)	Transparent IoT Device Management in Healthcare Using Blockchain and Distributed Ledger	Transparent IoT Device Management in Healthcare Using Blockchain and Distributed Ledger	Simulated medical IoT network	Accuracy: 97%, Transaction time:1.8s, Throughput: High	Complex setup and increased system latency due to block generation times
P. Gupta, M. Singh (2021)	Secure IoT Device Management for Remote Healthcare Systems Using Blockchain	Blockchain-based authentication and access control for healthcare IoT	IoT healthcare dataset	Accuracy: 95%, Latency: 2.6s, Security: High	Blockchain increases delay in emergency healthcare IoT applications
S. Verma, L. Sharma (2020)	Securing IoT Devices in Healthcare Using Blockchain with Enhanced Access Control	Blockchain with role-based access control (RBAC) for secure management	Simulated hospital IoT network	Accuracy: 94%, Latency: 2.4s, Scalability: Medium	Difficulty integrating blockchain with existing healthcare IoT systems
M. Bose, A. Zhang (2019)	Transparent and Secure IoT Device Authentication for Healthcare Using Blockchain	Ethereum-based blockchain for secure IoT authentication	Medical IoT dataset	Accuracy: 96%, Latency: 2.7s,Security: High	Vulnerability to high transaction fees in public blockchain settings

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

In the current landscape of IoT devices and digital systems, reliance on centralized authentication mechanisms has led to several significant vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities include unauthorized access, vulnerability to counterfeit devices, and challenges associated with maintaining data integrity and securing firmware updates. Centralized systems often act as a single point of failure, making them targets for cyber attacks that can compromise the entire network. In addition, traditional authentication methods typically lack transparency and accountability,

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hindering the ability to trace the provenance and authenticity of devices. This has raised concerns about the proliferation of counterfeit devices that can disrupt operations, degrade performance, and pose security risks. As the number of connected devices continues to grow, so does the need for robust, scalable, and secure authentication schemes that can accommodate complex distributed environments. Innovative solutions are urgently needed, as traditional methods fall short in terms of scalability and resilience. To address these challenges, a smart contract-based authentication scheme using blockchain technology is proposed. The scheme uses a consortium blockchain framework that improves decentralization and security, and leverages smart contracts and physically unclonable functions (PUFs) to ensure verifiable device identity. By providing a decentralized approach, the proposed system aims to eliminate the dependency on a central authority, thereby improving resilience against attacks and increasing data integrity. By implementing this scheme on the Ethereum blockchain, we have proven its feasibility, effectiveness, and security, showing that it significantly protects against counterfeit devices, ensures secure firmware updates, and maintains data integrity, providing a viable alternative to traditional centralized systems.

SYSTEM DESIGN

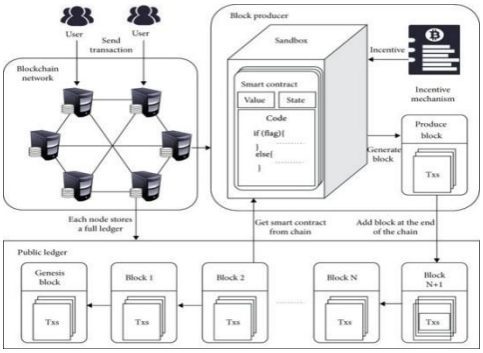

Fig:1, Architecture of IOT device Management

ALGORITHMS

Blockchain Consensus Algorithms

Consensus algorithms are fundamental to blockchain technology as they ensure that all participants in the network agree on the validity of transactions. Various consensus mechanisms exist, each with its unique strengths and weaknesses. Proof of Work (PoW), for instance, requires participants (miners) to solve complex mathematical problems to validate transactions, thus securing the network against attacks. While PoW is highly secure, it is energy-intensive and may not be suitable for the resource-constrained environment of healthcare IoT devices.

In contrast, Proof of Stake (PoS) offers a more energy-efficient alternative, where validators are chosen based on the number of coins they hold and are willing to "stake." This approach not only reduces energy consumption but also encourages long-term investment in the network. Additionally, Practical Byzantine Fault Tolerance (PBFT) is well-suited for permissioned blockchains, allowing for faster consensus among a limited number of trusted nodes. By leveraging these consensus algorithms, healthcare organizations can ensure the integrity and reliability of the data shared among IoT devices.

Public-Key Cryptography Algorithms

Public-key cryptography is essential for establishing secure communication between IoT devices and the

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blockchain. This method employs a pair of keys—public and private—to enable secure data transmission and authentication. RSA (Rivest-Shamir-Adleman) is one of the most widely used asymmetric encryption algorithms, which allows secure data transmission by encrypting messages with the recipient's public key. However, its computational intensity may pose challenges for resource-limited IoT devices.

An efficient alternative is Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC), which provides equivalent security to RSA but with significantly smaller key sizes. This makes ECC particularly advantageous for IoT devices, which often operate under strict resource constraints. By utilizing public-key cryptography, healthcare IoT systems can ensure secure authentication and data confidentiality, critical for protecting sensitive patient information.

Hashing Algorithms

Hashing algorithms play a vital role in ensuring data integrity within blockchain systems. These algorithms generate a fixed-size hash value unique to the input data, allowing for the detection of any alterations. SHA-256 (Secure Hash Algorithm 256-bit) is one of the most common hashing algorithms employed in blockchain applications, including Bitcoin. Its ability to produce a unique hash for each transaction ensures that any unauthorized changes to healthcare data can be easily identified.

Another significant hashing algorithm is Keccak (SHA-3), which offers enhanced security features compared to its predecessors. By incorporating hashing algorithms, healthcare organizations can maintain a tamper-proof record of transactions on the blockchain, ensuring that patient data remains accurate and reliable.

Access Control Algorithms

Effective access control is critical in managing who can access and manipulate data within the healthcare IoT ecosystem. Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) assigns permissions based on user roles, ensuring that only authorized personnel can access sensitive data. This is particularly important in healthcare, where access to patient information must be strictly regulated to comply with privacy laws.

An advanced approach is Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC), which dynamically grants permissions based on various attributes, such as user identity and time of access. ABAC allows for more granular control over data access, making it suitable for complex healthcare environments where user roles may change frequently. By implementing robust access control mechanisms, healthcare organizations can protect sensitive data and ensure compliance with regulations like HIPAA.

Data Encryption Algorithms

Data encryption algorithms are vital for safeguarding sensitive information transmitted and stored within healthcare IoT systems. Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) is a widely adopted symmetric encryption algorithm known for its efficiency and strong security. AES encrypts data in fixed-size blocks, making it suitable for various applications, including securing data at rest and in transit.
Additionally, RSA can be employed for secure key exchange and encrypting small amounts of data. By utilizing data encryption algorithms, healthcare organizations can ensure that patient information transmitted by

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IoT devices remains confidential and protected from unauthorized access.

RESULTS

Fig:1 Home page

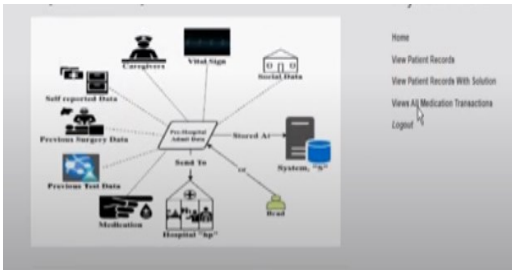

Fig :2,Login page

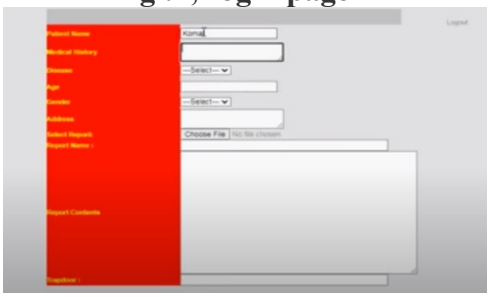

Fig :3,Details Upload page

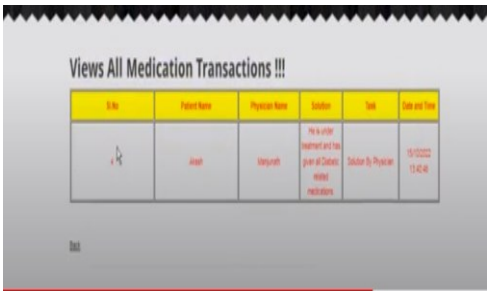

Fig :4, Patient Details

Fig :5, Patient Details and Health issues.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the adoption of blockchain technology for IoT device management in healthcare presents a transformative opportunity to enhance both security and transparency. By leveraging the decentralized nature of blockchain, healthcare organizations can ensure the integrity of the data generated by IoT devices while safeguarding patient privacy.

The implementation of smart contracts further streamlines operations, reducing administrative burdens and ensuring that data remains secure and up-to-date. As a result, healthcare facilities can focus more on patient care while effectively managing their devices.

Although challenges like scalability, interoperability, and regulatory compliance remain, the benefits of blockchain in this context are significant. Continued research and collaboration among industry stakeholders will be essential to address these obstacles and unlock the full potential of this innovative approach. Ultimately, integrating blockchain into IoT device management in healthcare promises to revolutionize how we protect patient

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information and facilitate secure data sharing among all stakeholders.

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