

Decentralized Voting System using Blockchain

Kranthi Kiran Reddy¹, Gutha Vijay Kumar¹, Sai Siddu Sirimulla¹, Chanan Singh², Chaithanya Kumar Reddy¹,
Ponnepati Pranay Santosh Reddy¹

¹Computer Science & Engineering Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, India

²Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, India

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Accepted: 25 March 2024

Published: 11 April 2024

Publication Issue :

Volume 11, Issue 2

March-April-2024

Page Number :

211-219

ABSTRACT

This article explores the use and impact of voting using blockchain technology. As a result of mounting worries about the honesty and security of conventional voting methods, especially in the digital era, the study tackles the requirement for an open, impenetrable, and robust method of conducting elections. A decentralized application on a blockchain platform is designed and implemented using the technique, which makes use of smart contracts for voter registration, ballot generation, and vote counting. The viability of blockchain technology in guaranteeing voter anonymity, data integrity, and cryptographic security are important discoveries. Online voting can be done securely and digitally using blockchain technology. It has great potential to reduce costs and increase voter turnout. Using Blockchain we can secure any application and work securely for that application. Therefore, cryptocurrency, healthcare, real estate, etc. Many applications use blockchain technology. *Blockchain technology encrypts votes, preventing any votes from being tampered with. It allows voters to vote for a candidate only once. The system reduces labor costs and counting errors by providing quick access to election results. This article explains solutions to solve the above problems. Our solution is to use an online voting system based on the Ethereum blockchain. That's why we connect surveys to blockchain technology

Keywords : Decentralized, Blockchain, Ethereum, Online Voting.

I. INTRODUCTION

Elections play a role in a society allowing individuals to voice their opinions through the act of voting. It is essential for the election process to be transparent and reliable to uphold its credibility. Voting stands as an

aspect of a country's decision-making procedure with voting systems initiating through provisional ballots. Over time the approach, to voting has continuously evolved with a focus on enhancing security, verifiability, and transparency within the system. Elections have always been of importance in

facilitating choices. With an increasing number of votes being cast in elections people are becoming more aware of the significance of the voting process. Efforts are consistently being made to enhance the efficiency and resilience of the voting system due to its nature. Electronic voting, commonly known as e voting has played a role in this advancement. From its usage involving punched card ballots in the 1960s e voting systems have undergone advancements in adapting to internet technologies

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

A. E Voting System Utilizing Blockchain Technology :

In a study, by Albin Benny, Aparna Ashok Kumar, Abdul Basit, Bettina Cherian and Amol Kharat (2019) the implementation of a voting system using technology is examined for its reliable features. Blockchain, a platform known for managing assets through cryptography to create a transparent record ledger called blocks has traditionally been associated with cryptocurrency transactions like Bitcoin. Is now being utilized in various fields due to its resistance to modifications. By utilizing an Ethereum blockchain the system can process transactions per second addressing concerns about scalability. The transparency provided by blockchain allows for auditing and understanding of elections meeting the requirements of a voting system.[1]

B. Blockchain for Electronic Voting System :

Uzma Jafar, Mohd Juzaidin Ab Aziz and Zarina Shukur (2021) This article delves into the world of technology to thoroughly explore and evaluate the advancements in electronic voting. It begins by elucidating the concept of technology and its various applications highlighting its potential to revolutionize voting systems. Subsequently it scrutinizes existing voting mechanisms highlighting their shortcomings and challenges that compromise their trustworthiness.[2]

C. E Voting, with Blockchain Technology :

In a study conducted by Abhishek Subhash Yadav, Yash Vandesh Urade, Ashish Uttamrao Thombare and Abhijeet Anil Patil in 2020 the authors explore how the decentralized and transparent nature of technology has sparked interest and research into its potential applications across different sectors. Blockchain technology facilitates distributed data storage. Uses encryption to ensure permanent record keeping. This extends beyond transactions to encompass a wide range of data types such as smart contracts and personal information. The introduction of Ethereum further underscored blockchains transformative capabilities in creating software capable of executing predetermined tasks.[3]

D. Innovative Decentralized Remote Voting System :

Titled "Decentralized Remote Voting System," an article by Prof. Santosh Kale, Atulesh Hatmode, Milind Deogade and Vikrant Gudakesh in 2021 signifies an advancement in the process. Leveraging the transparency and immutability of technology this platform aims to enhance the integrity and security of voting systems. Authentication methods like Aadhar Card verification, through OTP or fingerprint scanning offer options to cater to users varying needs thereby promoting inclusivity and accessibility.[4]

E. Exploration of Decentralized Digital Voting

System Using Blockchain Technology : Authored by Patil, Prasad & Rout Dillip & Mohite Sagar (2024). This article discussing voting systems underscores the importance of safeguarding election privacy, integrity, and transparency. Researchers are exploring both decentralized approaches, with systems gaining traction due to their ability to enhance visibility and security. Blockchain technology is particularly intriguing due to its nature ensuring ownership and resilience against failures. It addresses requirements such as confidentiality, integrity and authenticity instilling confidence in voters regarding the electoral process.[5]

F. Decentralized and Automated Online Voting :

System using Blockchain Technology : Sanjeeva, Polepaka & Sathwik, M. & Prasad, G. & Reddy, G. & Sajwan, Vijaylakshmi & Ganesh, Bande. (2023). In a study titled " Automated Online Voting System using Blockchain Technology " researchers delve into the use of technology to establish transparent and secure online voting systems without intermediaries resulting in improved efficiency and cost effectiveness. The research advocates, for leveraging technology to create a transparent online voting system. It proposes a framework utilizing Ethereum blockchain and smart contracts to oversee and safeguard the integrity of the voting process. Simulated voting data will be employed to replicate real world scenarios.[6]

G. Decentralized E-Voting System Using Ethereum Blockchain Technology :

Ahad, Shaik & Sangra, Sarthak & Saini, Jitender & Deepa, (2023). This piece of writing discusses how E Voting systems have evolved to improve and streamline voting methods. Unlike voting methods these innovations aim to boost efficiency while controlling costs. E voting systems usually require users or voters to access a website through a web browser and connect to a server, for verification and authentication. However, relying on databases can lead to security issues such, as data manipulation. This research highlights the importance of implementing e-voting systems utilizing technology, which adopts a decentralized approach to ensure reliability, effectiveness, flexibility and notably transparency. [7]

H. Exploring the Use of Secure E Voting Through Decentralized Blockchain Technology :

In their study, Chaubey, Anushka, Kumar, Anubhav, Pandey, Vikalp, Bhushan, Bharat and Purohit Priyambada discuss the limitations of voting methods, like paper ballots and computerized systems due to inefficiencies and susceptibility to tampering leading to election related conflicts. While electronic voting

was introduced as a solution to some of these challenges it brought about security concerns such as manipulation and compromised voter privacy. The chapter advocates for the adoption of blockchain based voting systems due to their tamper proof nature that ensures security and confidentiality for users. The authors delve into the concepts of technology along with its features and consensus algorithms while highlighting the integration of blockchain with e voting systems to address current issues.[8]

I. Smart & Secure E voting App using blockchain technology :

In another study titled "Smart and Secure E Voting Application using Blockchain Technology" by Khanapure Prof., Mahi Joshi, Amruta Kadam Swarupa Patil, Gayatri Swami and Sakshi Kambale in 2024 discusses how advancements, in technology are revolutionizing voting systems. To address the call, for transparent voting methods our initiative, spearheaded by Mrs. V.M. Khanapure is working on developing a sophisticated and secure E Voting Application that makes use of blockchain technology. Traditional voting systems often encounter issues, like manipulation and deceit which our proposed remedy seeks to tackle through the immutable characteristics of blockchain. Our goal is to establish an effective voting platform by harnessing the transparency and decentralization offered by blockchain technology.[9]

J. Enhanced Security in Digital Voting Systems Through Blockchain Technology :

The integration of technology, into voting (e voting) systems has garnered significant attention for its ability to address security and transparency issues. The decentralized and secure structure of technology offers promising solutions to enhance the integrity of the process. Exploring the connection, between technology and electronic voting has highlighted the importance of safeguarding voter privacy ensuring the integrity of votes and enabling end to end verification. Electronic voting systems based on blockchain are

commonly built using open-source platforms like Multichain and innovative encryption methods.[10]

III. INTRODUCTION TO BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain technology plays a role, in safeguarding the integrity of the voting process by storing and protecting voting data. Through encryption and security measures blockchain ensures that votes remain confidential and tamper proof. This technology makes it incredibly difficult for any unauthorized party to manipulate or alter data once a voter has cast their ballot thus upholding election integrity. Maintaining trust in the system is paramount for both voters and democratic nations.[4]



Traditional voting system



Decentralized voting system

In terms of voting methods electronic voting systems have the potential to enhance voter confidence, engagement, and overall interest in the process from a governmental standpoint. Elections have historically been a cornerstone of decision making with more people recognizing the significance of their vote as participation grows. The selection of representatives for each political governance relies on voting practices.[3]

Traditional paper based voting systems have played a role in fostering trust in the democratic process by ensuring transparency in majority vote selection. They have greatly contributed to strengthening values within structures worldwide. As of 2018 out of than 200 countries 167 are considered democracies while

others fall into categories ranging from flawed democracies to hybrid systems.

Ever since voting systems were introduced the use of ballots has been adopted to enhance trust in institutions, among the public.

Ensuring that voting confidence does not decline is crucial. Based on research it was found that the conventional voting method may not have been completely hygienic leading to concerns regarding fairness, equality, and the true expression of people's intentions, within the realm of governance.

V.Existing System

Throughout history voters have relied on methods, like paper ballots and physical polling stations to engage in the process. Election officials meticulously. Document these votes forming the bedrock of democratic practices that foster civic engagement and a sense of responsibility. However, advancements in technology have introduced voting alternatives. The emergence of automated voting systems is viewed as efficient and convenient. Here are key aspects of these approaches

Challenges & Controversies

Security Concerns: There are investigations into security vulnerabilities in voting machines. Bad actors could potentially sway election outcomes, manipulate results, and compromise system integrity.

Transparency: Unlike paper ballots where voters can physically observe their choices electronic voting methods lack transparency. Ensuring the trustworthiness of the technology is crucial.

Auditability: Storing votes digitally raises challenges in maintaining a trail without compromising voter privacy. How can results be verified securely? **Equity:**

Not everyone has access to technology; individuals, with internet access or digital literacy may face obstacles in voting online.

Electronic Voting Machines: EVMs are utilized in countries to streamline the voting process. People are now able to vote of relying on the old-fashioned paper-based system all thanks, to these devices. The advantages include vote counting, reduced chances of errors and functionalities that enhance the voting experience for individuals with disabilities. However, there are lingering uncertainties, about the reliability and security of EVMs. Critics worry about tampering, cyber-attacks, or system malfunctions.[5]

Drawbacks of the Traditional setup

1. **Transparency Concerns;** Many voting systems lack transparency, making it hard for voters to verify the accuracy of their votes and for monitors to ensure fairness in the process.
2. **Vulnerability, to Fraud;** Both electronic voting machines and paper ballots are susceptible to fraud, manipulation, and cyber-attacks. Without a paper trail or other mechanisms for verifying results this can pose challenges.
3. **Delayed Results;** The time-consuming process of counting paper ballots can lead to delays in announcing election outcomes.
4. **Financial Burden;** The expenses associated with hiring poll workers purchasing voting equipment or paper ballots and securing polling locations contribute to the costs of voting systems.
5. **Centralized Control;** Many traditional voting methods are centralized, giving a group of individuals control. This centralized nature raises concerns about abuse of power or manipulation of the process.
6. **Accessibility Limitations;** Some voting methods make it difficult or impossible for voters to reach designated polling places particularly impacting those, with mobility issues or health concerns. This lack of

accessibility can result in disenfranchisement among groups of voters.

VI. PROPOSED SYSTEM

Utilizing the Ethereum blockchain there's a proposal, for a voting system that aims to revolutionize the process by offering a transparent, secure, and open method for conducting elections. By operating on decentralization principles, it eliminates the need for authority. Ensures that no single entity can manipulate election results.

The technology maintains the integrity and permanence of voting data through contracts on the Ethereum network significantly reducing the possibility of activities. This builds trust and confidence among voters while enhancing transparency in the voting process.[7]

One of the benefits of this approach is its affordability and accessibility. It encourages voters from around the globe to participate promoting diversity and increasing voter turnout. Moreover, its resilience against tampering guarantees results delivered promptly facilitating efficient election outcomes.

In summary this decentralized voting method offers a solution to electoral challenges paving the way, for more fair, transparent, and democratic elections worldwide.

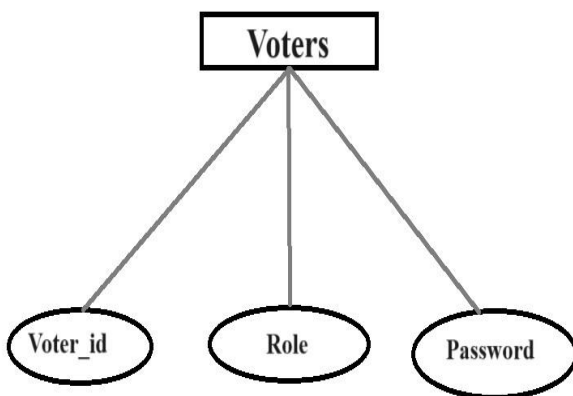
Benefits of the Suggested Approach

1. Decentralization ensures that no single party controls the voting process.
2. Transparency is maintained throughout every stage of voting.
3. This voting system is cost effective tamper resistant. Provides real time results.
4. Voters have the freedom to vote from any location, around the world.

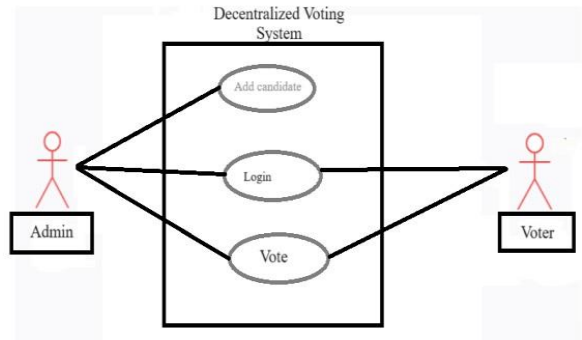
Objectives of the Proposed Research

1. **Security;** The primary aim of the planned system is to ensure the security of election processes with a focus, on delivering election results preventing voter fraud and creating an environment for conducting elections.
2. **Transparency;** The objective of the proposed method is to offer transparency to voters by allowing them to witness every stage of the voting process, including result announcements and vote tallying.
3. **Accessibility;** By eliminating the need for presence at polling stations the proposed approach aims to enhance voter participation by making voting more convenient for all individuals.
4. **Efficiency;** The system aims to enhance the efficiency of the voting process by reducing time and resource requirements for conducting elections. Through automation and elimination of intermediaries significant cost and time savings can be achieved compared to voting systems.
5. **Trust;** By providing a secure mechanism, for vote counting and recording the suggested strategy aims to instill trust in the electoral procedures.

ER Diagram



Use Case Diagram



Designing and implementation of a decentralized voting system

A voting system based on blockchain requires consideration of operational and technological factors. Here is a summary of the steps to follow.

1. **Describe the Requirements:** Provide an explanation of the prerequisites for a voting system, including voter eligibility, authentication processes, ballot creation, voting procedures result tabulation and auditing capabilities.
2. **Select a Blockchain Platform:** Choose a blockchain platform that aligns with the voting requirements. Popular options, like Ethereum, Hyperledger Fabric and EOSIO are often favored. Consider factors such as community support, smart contract compatibility, consensus mechanisms and scalability.[2]
3. **Develop Smart Contracts:** Draft contracts that outline the rules and rationale behind the voting process. Smart contracts manage voter registration, ballot creation, voting processes result calculation and identity verification; ensure these contracts are secure and auditable.
4. **Create Ballots:** Generate ballots on the blockchain for each election or voting event; define candidates or choices, for each contest; ensure transparency and tamper resistance of the ballots; employ techniques to safeguard ballot integrity.
5. **Deployment and Monitoring:** Implement the voting system on your chosen blockchain platform. Monitor its performance during real elections or voting events.
6. **Requirements:** Make sure to watch for any suspicious behavior, on the system. It's safer, than technologies

there. Having a party oversee and confirm transactions is crucial to avoid any legal issues. There isn't one target for an attack. Data stays unchanged; it can't be tampered with.[6]

VII. METHODOLOGY

The proposed project plan consists of two components to be developed over three stages. These components include the implementation of Solidity, for Blockchain backend and the creation of the frontend application. Each component is considered a phase with a focus on integrating and testing these elements in the stage.

Frontend.

During this phase an interactive user interface will be developed for both administrators and users as part of the frontend module. Simultaneously research will be conducted on incorporating Blockchain technology into an application. The frontend module consists primarily of two parts: admin and user modules.

Admin Module.

The admin module comprises five sections.

1. Dashboard; This section will feature charts displaying data related to voters, parties, and other relevant topics. It aims to assist administrators in decision making by providing an overview of the election process.

2. Add Candidate; Administrators can use this tool to add candidates running for office who will then be visible, to users once added. This feature streamlines candidate list maintenance. Ensures that only approved candidates are included on the ballot.

3. Create Election; Administrators can initiate elections using this tool. Users can only cast their votes once the administrator initiates the election.

4. Candidate Details: This component contains a list of all the candidates that administrators have added. If

any inaccurate entries are made, administrators can edit the candidate data to ensure that proper information is presented.[9]

Advantages of Blockchain

Compared to other technologies, it is much safer and efficient. A reliable third party must oversee and verify the transactions to prevent any potential legal problems. No single focal point of assault exists. Data is immutable; it cannot be altered or manipulated.

Module for Users

The front-end component of the voting system aims to offer a user-friendly interface, for both administrators and voters. Here's how the user module functions.

1. Dashboard

The dashboard acts as the hub where users can find information about parties and their candidates. With an easy-to-use layout the dashboard provides a summary of the election process, including dates, candidates, and party platforms. Interactive tools like search filters and sorting options make it simple for users to navigate and locate details empowering them to make informed choices.

2. Voter Registration.

Incorporated in the end is a user registration form that allows individuals to register as voters. Clear instructions help users through the registration steps to ensure that authorized individuals can vote. Security measures like authentication and validation processes are in place to protect the integrity of the voter registration system.

3. Voting Area.

Once registered users can access the voting section through the front-end interface. A dedicated voting page displays candidates and parties for users to

securely make their selections anonymously. User friendly features such, as ballot previews, tooltips and confirmation prompts enhance the voting process while reducing errors.

The results section, on the user interface presents a page displaying the voting results for users to review. Users can access real time updates. Engaging representations like graphs and charts offering them a detailed summary of the election outcomes. The emphasis is on transparency and inclusivity, with explanations of votes received voter participation rates and any pertinent details concerning the election results.

Conclusion

In the changing world of processes, the introduction of decentralized and automated online voting systems powered by Blockchain technology represents a significant moment. This study sheds light on a pathway to a future where trust and transparency intersect transforming how elections are carried out.

By utilizing Ethereum and smart contracts this system eliminates the need, for middlemen making them redundant. The threat of tampering fades replaced by a record that protects the accuracy of results. Our simulated voting data demonstrates the feasibility of this shift. Real world tests are crucial for an assessment.

Security, scalability, and user friendliness—these aspects have been carefully examined, revealing both strengths and areas that require improvement. Looking forward incorporating authentication emerges as a guiding principle. Not does it enhance security measures. It also enhances accessibility ensuring that voting is more inclusive for diverse groups.

Using voting data, we have shown that this significant change is possible. Real world tests are necessary, for a complete evaluation. While we prioritize security,

scalability and user friendliness incorporating authentication methods is vital for improving both security and accessibility thus encouraging inclusivity in the voting process.

As we navigate through an evolving landscape our research aims for a future where decentralized online voting systems are not just a choice but a reliable basis for upholding democratic principles. Despite the controversies around us it's crucial to acknowledge that progress often arises from discussion leading us toward a secure and participatory electoral setting.

In the mindset of obstacles and doubt let's stay dedicated to progressing solutions that empower individuals and fortify institutions. Together we can ensure that technology's potential is utilized to establish an inclusive democracy, for future generations

In today's era where rapid advancements common our research progresses towards a future where decentralized online voting systems stand out. They evolve to not be an option but a reliable foundation that upholds the essence of democracy. Amidst controversies swirling around us lets recall that progress often arises from debate paving the way, towards a more transparent, secure, and participatory electoral environment.

IV. REFERENCES

- [1]. Albin Benny, Aparna Ashok Kumar, Abdul Basit, Bettina Cherian, Amol Kharat (2019) A blockchain based e-voting system.
- [2]. K. Mehboob Khan, Junaid Arshad, Muhammad Mubashir Khan (2021) Secure Digital Voting System Based on B-Chain Technology
- [3]. Jafar.U Aziz , M.J.A , shukur (2021) Blockchain for Electronic Voting System.
- [4]. Abhishek Subash Yadav, Yash Vandesh Urade, Ashish Uttamrao Thombare, Abhijeet Anil

- Patil(2020) E-Voting using blockchain Technology
- [5]. Kale,Prof & Hatmode,Atulesh & Deogade,Milind & Ranjan,Jyoti & Gudakesh,Vikrant.(2021).Decentralized Remote Voting System.
- [6]. Patil ,Prasad & Rout,Dillip & Mohite,Sagar.(2024).A Survey of Decentralized Digital Voting System Using Blockchain Technology.
- [7]. Sanjeeva,Polepaka & Sathwik,M. & Prasad,G. & Reddy, G. & Sajwan,Vijaylakshmi & Ganesh,Bande.(2023).Decentralized and Automated Online voting System using Blockchain Technology.
- [8]. Ahad,Shaik & Sangra,Sarthak & Saini,Jitender & Deepa,R. (2023).Decentralized E-Voting System Using Ethereum Blockchain Technology.
- [9]. Chaubey, Anushka & Kumar,Anubhav & Pandey,Vikalp & Bhushan,Bharat & Purohit,Priyambada. (2023).Leveraging Secured E-Voting Using Decentralized Blockchain Technology.
- [10]. Khanapure, Prof & Mahi,Joshi & Amruta, Kadam & Swarupa, Patil & Gayatri,Swami & Sakshi, Kambale.(2024).Smart and Secure E- Voting Application using Blockchain Technology.International Jouranl of Advanced Research in Science.