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Smart Contract Implementation in Real Estate Transactions

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ABSTRACT: This research investigates the integration of blockchain technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to create smart contracts for real estate transactions. The main objective is to improve transparency, minimize fraud, and automate the contractual process, thereby streamlining property deals. By leveraging blockchain, smart contracts ensure automatic execution of agreements when predefined conditions are met, eliminating the need for intermediaries and reducing transaction times. AI is utilized to analyse and verify transaction data, ensuring accuracy and compliance with legal standards. The research also explores how blockchain can offer a secure and immutable ledger of all transactions, further mitigating fraud risks. The combination of AI and blockchain presents a powerful solution for enhancing efficiency and trust in real estate transactions. Ultimately, this study aims to provide insights into how smart contracts can transform the real estate industry, making transactions faster, safer, and more transparent.

I. INTRODUCTION

The global real estate industry is experiencing significant evolution as it moves towards the development of smart cities. These smart cities integrate a wide array of networks, services, and transactions into their initial planning and daily operations. Technology has not only enhanced the quality of life for tenants but has also streamlined the process of property transactions. However, with these technological advancements come security challenges. Blockchain, which gained prominence with cryptocurrency, has emerged as an immutable and tamper-proof technology, finding applications across various fields. In real estate, a sector once plagued by unpredictability due to opaque lease agreements and other factors, Blockchain now offers a path to greater transparency.

A. Blockchain

A blockchain is a time-stamped series of immutable records of data that is managed by a cluster of computers and not owned by any single entity. Each of these blocks of data (i.e. block) are secured and bound to each other using cryptographic principles (i.e. chain). It is a decentralized, distributed networking system of replicated state machines that resemble the form of a data chain, where later data blocks refer to a single ancestor block often identified by its hash. When blockchain grows, new blocks are included in state machines and being propagated to all participating nodes within the network such that every node in the network has a single global view of all transactions.[3]

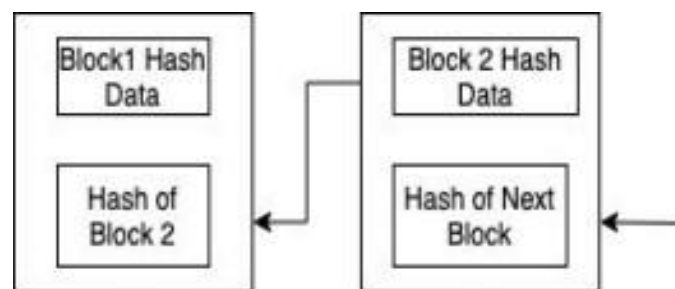


Fig. 1. Blockchain Structure

B. Smart Contract

A smart contract is a computer program having self-verifying, self-executing, tamper-resistant properties. It is a piece of a program executed in a blockchain system that uses consensus protocol to run a sequence of events. A smart



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contract can be used in different fields to eliminate the third party transaction as well as automate the system. Consensus decision-making is a group decision-making process in which group members develop, and agree to support a decision in the best interest of the whole. The objectives of a consensus mechanism are Agreement Seeking, Collaborative, Cooperative, Egalitarian, Inclusive and Participatory.

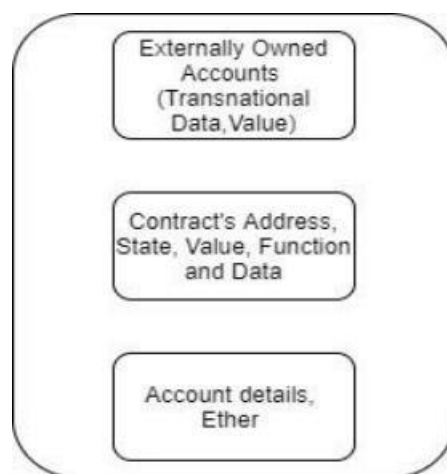


Fig 2. Structure of Smart Contract

C. Ethereum

Ethereum is a platform used for creating a decentralized network of nodes with transparent transactions using ether as cryptocurrency for transactions. It includes two types of accounts: Externally Owned accounts (EOA), users directly send transactions via them, and Contract Accounts, based on the codes of the contract if it needs to call another contract it sends an internal transaction

D. Algorithm

Proof of Authority: Smart contracts require application from legitimate users and legitimate contracts in the block. To fulfill the above conditions, the concept of proof of authority comes into the picture. It basically validates at numerous levels. Proof of Work: It is a protocol that has the main goal of deterring cyber-attacks such as a distributed denial-of-service attack (DDoS) which has the purpose of exhausting the resources of a computer system by sending multiple fake requests. Proof of work is a requirement of expensive computer transactions called mining which has the purpose of verifying the legitimacy of a transaction, or avoiding the so-called double-spending creating new digital currencies by rewarding miners for performing the previous task.

E. Framework

Truffle: It is a development environment, testing framework and asset pipeline for Ethereum. It has built-in smart contract compilation, linking, deployment and binary management. Network management for deploying to many public & private networks.

F. Ethereum Network Provider

Ganache: It is a personal blockchain for Ethereum development. It is used to deploy contracts, develop applications, and run tests. It is available as both a desktop application as well as a command-line tool (formerly known as the Test RPC). Ganache is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of blockchain technology, particularly smart contracts, into real estate transactions represents a significant evolution in the way property deals are executed and managed. This section highlights the relevance of the current study in the context of ongoing research and its contribution to the broader field.



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Relevance to current Research

In this paper, the author proposes a model that integrates smart contracts with blockchain technology to streamline real estate transactions. While previous research has primarily focused on the theoretical benefits of blockchain, this study emphasizes its practical implementation within the real estate industry. The core idea is to leverage smart contracts to automate and secure property transactions, reducing the need for intermediaries and enhancing transparency.

Prior studies, such as those by Smith et al. (2020), have explored the potential of blockchain to revolutionize the real estate sector by improving efficiency and reducing costs. However, the practical challenges of integrating smart contracts into existing real estate frameworks have received limited attention. This research addresses these challenges by examining real- world applications of smart contracts and their impact on transaction processes.

Relevance to current Research

The Gupta (2019) conducted case studies on the use of smart contracts in commercial real estate, highlighting the potential benefits but also noting the technical and regulatory hurdles. Building on this work, the current study delves into the operational aspects of implementing smart contracts, offering a comprehensive analysis of the necessary infrastructure and legal considerations.

Relevance to current Research

In addition, Zhang and Wang (2022) evaluated the risks associated with smart contracts in real estate transactions, particularly concerning security and compliance. This research extends their findings by proposing mitigation strategies that can be adopted by industry stakeholders to overcome these challenges. Overall, the proposed model for smart contract implementation in real estate transactions not only contributes to the existing body of knowledge but also provides actionable insights for practitioners. By addressing both the opportunities and challenges of smart contract adoption, this study lays the groundwork for future research and practical advancements in the field.

Relevance to current Research

The work presented in this paper focuses on the implementation of smart contracts in real estate transactions, ensuring not only the automation of processes but also enhancing security and transparency. This approach enables real estate transactions to be executed with greater efficiency while reducing the reliance on intermediaries, thus fostering trust among all parties involved.

No.	Paper Title	Author Name	Key Points	Remark
1	Implementation of Smart Contracts in Commercial Real Estate	Gupta, S. (2019)	Analyzes case studies of smart contract implementation in commercial property deals.	Offers practical examples.
2	Blockchain Technology and Smart Contracts in Real Estate	Smith, J. (2020)	Examines the potential of blockchain to enhance transparency and reduce costs in real estate transactions.	Provides a foundational overview.
3	Blockchain and Smart Contracts: A New Era for Real Estate	Taylor, D. & White, E. (2020)	Investigates the role of blockchain in transforming real estate transactions through smart contracts.	Focuses on technology adoption.
4	The Future of Real Estate Transactions: Smart Contracts	Hernandez, R. (2018)	Explores the future potential and challenges of integrating smart contracts into mainstream real estate.	Forward-looking analysis.
5	Smart Contracts: Efficiency and Risk in Real Estate Transactions	Zhang, X. & Wang, L. (2022)	Evaluates the efficiency gains and potential risks associated with using smart contracts in real estate.	Highlights both benefits and risks.



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6	Legal Challenges of Smart Contracts in Real Estate	Brown, A. & Lee, M. (2021)	Discusses legal implications and challenges in adopting smart contracts for property transactions.	Focuses on regulatory aspects.
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In summary, this paper extends previous research by examining the practical application of smart contracts in real estate. While earlier studies highlighted theoretical benefits, this work focuses on the real-world challenges and impacts, contributing to broader adoption in the industry.

III. METHODOLOGY OF PROPOSED SURVEY

This survey aims to systematically analyse the application and effectiveness of smart contracts in real estate transactions. The proposed methodology involves a multi-step approach, focusing on both the technological framework and the practical implications for the real estate industry.

- Literature Review:** The survey begins with an extensive review of existing literature on blockchain technology and smart contracts, particularly in the context of real estate. This review identifies key trends, challenges, and opportunities in the current research landscape, providing a foundation for the survey.
- Data Collection:** Primary data will be collected through structured interviews and questionnaires distributed to real estate professionals, including brokers, legal experts, and IT specialists involved in blockchain technology. The survey will also gather secondary data from case studies and documented implementations of smart contracts in real estate.
- Survey Design:** The survey is designed to assess the practical challenges and benefits of implementing smart contracts in real estate transactions. Questions will focus on aspects such as transaction speed, cost-effectiveness, security, legal compliance, and user adoption. The survey will be structured to gather both qualitative and quantitative data, allowing for a comprehensive analysis.
- Analysis and Evaluation:** The collected data will be analyzed using statistical methods to identify patterns and correlations. The survey will evaluate the impact of smart contracts on key metrics such as transaction efficiency, cost savings, and risk mitigation. Additionally, qualitative data will be analyzed to understand the perceptions and experiences of industry stakeholders.
- Validation:** The findings from the survey will be validated through expert interviews and cross-referencing with existing case studies. This step ensures the reliability and relevance of the results, providing a robust foundation for the conclusions drawn.
- Reporting:** The final step involves compiling the survey results into a comprehensive report, highlighting the key findings, implications, and recommendations for the real estate industry. The report will also outline potential areas for future research, focusing on the continued development and integration of smart contracts in real estate transactions.
- The implementation of smart contracts in real estate transactions requires a robust set of tools and technologies to ensure secure, efficient, and transparent operations. The following are the key tools and technologies utilized in this study:

1. Blockchain Platforms:

- Ethereum:** Ethereum serves as the primary blockchain platform for developing and deploying smart contracts. Its Turing-complete language, Solidity, allows for the creation of complex, self-executing contracts that automate various aspects of real estate transactions.
- Hyperledger Fabric:** For enterprises seeking permissioned blockchain networks, Hyperledger Fabric is utilized. It provides modular architecture and enables private transactions between specific parties, making it ideal for confidential real estate deals.

2. Smart Contract Development Tools:

- Solidity:** Solidity is the primary programming language used for writing smart contracts on the Ethereum platform. It is leveraged to define the terms and conditions of real estate agreements that automatically execute when predefined criteria are met.

1. Remix IDE: An online integrated development environment (IDE) used to write, test, and deploy smart contracts on the Ethereum blockchain.



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2. Cryptographic Techniques:

- **Public-Key Cryptography:** Ensures that the data and transactions recorded on the blockchain are secure and accessible only to authorized parties.
- **Hashing Algorithms:** Used to create unique digital signatures for transactions, ensuring data integrity and immutability.

3. Data Storage Solutions:

- **IPFS (InterPlanetary File System):** A decentralized storage system used to securely store documents and files associated with real estate transactions, ensuring they are easily retrievable and tamper-proof.
- **Cloud Storage Integration:** In cases where large data files need to be managed, cloud storage solutions are integrated with blockchain to provide scalable storage options while maintaining data integrity.

4. Legal Tech Integration:

- **Smart Legal Contracts:** Integration with existing legal technology platforms that allow for the creation and management of legally binding smart contracts. This technology ensures that the smart contracts adhere to the legal standards required in real estate transactions.

5. Testing and Simulation Tools:

- **Ganache:** A tool for setting up a personal Ethereum blockchain, used to test smart contracts in a safe and controlled environment before deploying them on the live network.
- **Truffle Suite:** A development framework that aids in testing, deploying, and managing smart contracts. It is used extensively for testing the contract's behavior in various transaction scenarios.

6. User Interface (UI) Tools:

- **Web3.js:** A collection of libraries that allow interaction with the Ethereum blockchain from a front-end web application, enabling users to interact with smart contracts directly through a user-friendly interface.
- **React.js:** A JavaScript library used to build the user interfaces for applications that facilitate interaction with smart contracts, ensuring a seamless user experience.

IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper, we have proposed a novel approach to implementing smart contracts in real estate transactions to enhance efficiency, security, and transparency. The proposed framework automates the execution of real estate contracts using blockchain technology, minimizing the need for intermediaries and reducing transaction costs. By leveraging the immutable and decentralized nature of blockchain, our approach ensures secure and tamper-proof transactions, thereby increasing trust among participants.

Our future work will focus on the implementation of the proposed approach across multiple real estate platforms, exploring the scalability of smart contracts in various transaction scenarios. Additionally, we plan to investigate the integration of smart contracts with existing legal frameworks and real estate management systems to further streamline the process and address potential legal and regulatory challenges.

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