BLOCKCHAIN BASED SECURE FILE SHARING SYSTEM WITH END - TO - END ENCRYPTION (E2EE)

A PROJECT REPORT

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report titled **"BLOCKCHAIN BASED SECURE FILE SHARING SYSTEM WITH END-TO-END ENCRYPTION(E2EE)"**, for the project is bonafide work of **"HARIHARASUDHAN B (821721104021), ARUNKUMAR R (821721104008), NARESH R (821721104034), KABILAN C (821721104023)"** Who carried out the work under my supervision, for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering. Certified further that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the work reported here does not form part of any thesis or dissertation on the basis of which a degree or an award was conferred on an earlier occasion.

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ABSTRACT

In an era where data breaches and unauthorized access to confidential files are escalating at an alarming rate, the need for secure digital communication is more critical than ever. Traditional file-sharing systems, which typically rely on centralized servers, are vulnerable to cyber-attacks, server failures, and privacy violations. This project introduces a Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System integrated with End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) to offer a robust, decentralized, and highly secure alternative to conventional methods. The proposed system ensures that files are encrypted at the sender's end and can only be decrypted by the intended recipient, thereby guaranteeing confidentiality and eliminating the risk of interception during transmission.

Blockchain technology is utilized to store immutable records of file-sharing transactions, where only metadata and SHA-256 hashes of the files are recorded—ensuring data integrity without exposing the actual content. By removing the dependency on centralized storage, this system significantly reduces the attack surface for potential threats. The architecture comprises modules for user authentication, file encryption, blockchain transaction handling, secure file retrieval, and system auditing. Together, these components establish a transparent and tamper-proof environment for secure data exchange.

This solution is particularly valuable in domains that handle sensitive information, such as legal services, healthcare, finance, and governmental operations. It not only strengthens data privacy but also empowers users with greater control over their digital assets.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected digital world, the exchange of data is constant and often involves sensitive personal, professional, or financial information. As organizations and individuals increasingly rely on digital platforms for communication and file sharing, the threat landscape has expanded significantly. Cyberattacks, data breaches, and unauthorized access have become common, exposing vulnerabilities in traditional, centralized file-sharing systems. These systems, though convenient, depend heavily on trusted intermediaries and central servers, making them prime targets for malicious actors and single points of failure.

This project introduces a **Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System integrated with End-to-End Encryption (E2EE)**, designed to address these critical security challenges. The goal is to provide a decentralized, transparent, and tamper-resistant platform for secure data exchange. By using blockchain technology, the system records each file-sharing event on an immutable digital ledger, where the integrity of the transaction is ensured through cryptographic hashing (SHA-256). Instead of storing the file itself on the blockchain, only the hash and associated metadata are preserved, thereby protecting the actual content from exposure.

Simultaneously, end-to-end encryption ensures that the file is encrypted on the sender's device and can only be decrypted by the intended recipient. This means that even if data is intercepted during transmission, it remains unreadable to unauthorized parties. The combination of these two technologies eliminates reliance on centralized authorities, enhances user privacy, and strengthens the overall security posture of the file-sharing process.

This system is particularly relevant in sensitive sectors such as healthcare, legal services, corporate communications, and government operations—where data confidentiality is paramount. By enabling a more secure and decentralized method for digital file transfer, the proposed solution sets a new standard in privacy-focused data sharing for the modern digital age.

1.1 OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

The increasing reliance on digital platforms for communication and collaboration has made data sharing an essential aspect of modern workflows. However, this digital dependency comes with growing concerns around data security, unauthorized access, and privacy breaches. Traditional file-sharing systems typically involve centralized servers, which present a single point of failure and are highly susceptible to hacking, data leaks, and insider threats. To address these challenges, this project proposes the development of a **Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System with End-to-End Encryption (E2EE)**—a secure, decentralized platform designed to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and accessibility of shared data.

At the core of this system lies **blockchain technology**, which ensures that all file-sharing transactions are recorded on an immutable, transparent ledger. Rather than storing actual file content on the blockchain, the system stores only metadata and **SHA-256 hashes**, ensuring file integrity without exposing sensitive information. Simultaneously, the system employs end-to-end encryption to ensure that files are encrypted on the sender's device and can only be decrypted by the intended recipient, thereby preventing unauthorized access even during data transmission.

The architecture includes five key modules: user authentication, file encryption, blockchain transaction management, secure file sharing and retrieval, and audit logging. These modules work in tandem to offer a robust solution that not only secures data but also promotes user accountability and transparency through verifiable transaction records.

This project finds significant relevance in sectors such as healthcare, legal, education, finance, and government, where the need for secure and confidential communication is paramount.

1.2 The Importance of Secure File Sharing in the Digital Age

In the era of digital transformation, the exchange of electronic files is integral to both personal and professional activities. From sharing business documents and medical records to legal files and personal media, vast volumes of sensitive data are transferred online daily. However, traditional file-sharing methods such as email attachments, cloud storage services, and messaging platforms often fall short in ensuring full-scale data privacy and protection. These systems are largely centralized, relying on trusted intermediaries to store and manage user data. This creates a single point of failure and opens up vulnerabilities to cyberattacks, data breaches, and unauthorized surveillance. As data privacy regulations become stricter and user awareness grows, there is an urgent demand for solutions that can offer privacy, authenticity, and resilience against tampering. Secure file-sharing systems must now go beyond basic password protection and SSL encryption, incorporating stronger, more adaptable technologies to safeguard information at every stage of transmission and storage. Against this backdrop, blockchain and end-to-end encryption emerge as powerful tools for reshaping how secure digital communication is managed, offering a new paradigm that eliminates central dependency and enhances data confidentiality.

1.3 Blockchain and End-to-End Encryption: A Game-Changing Combination

Blockchain technology has revolutionized the way digital trust is established, providing a decentralized, immutable ledger for recording transactions and actions without relying on centralized servers. When integrated with end-to-end encryption (E2EE), which ensures that data is encrypted at the source and only decrypted by the intended recipient, the result is a file-sharing system that is both secure and private. Blockchain adds a layer of verifiability and transparency—recording transaction metadata such as

sender, recipient, and file hash—without exposing actual file content. At the same time, E2EE guarantees that even if data is intercepted during transmission, it remains inaccessible to unauthorized entities.

1.4 TECHNOLOGY USED

1.4.1 Blockchain Technology

Blockchain is a decentralized digital ledger that records transactions across multiple nodes in a network. Unlike traditional centralized databases, Blockchain's distributed nature ensures that no single entity has full control over the data, making it highly resistant to tampering and unauthorized modifications. Each transaction is grouped into blocks, which are cryptographically linked to previous blocks, forming a chain that is immutable and transparent. This immutability guarantees that once data—such as file-sharing records or cryptographic hashes—is written to the blockchain, it cannot be altered or deleted without detection. In this project, blockchain technology is used to securely store metadata and SHA-256 hashes of shared files, ensuring integrity and traceability without exposing the actual content. This provides a trustworthy record of all file-sharing activities that can be audited and verified by authorized participants, increasing accountability and security. Furthermore, blockchain eliminates the need for centralized storage servers, reducing risks associated with single points of failure and external attacks. Its decentralized consensus mechanisms enhance system resilience and make the platform inherently secure and transparent, which is critical for sensitive data transactions.

1.4.2 End-to-End Encryption (E2EE)

End-to-End Encryption is a cryptographic method that secures data by encrypting it on the sender's device and ensuring it can only be decrypted by the intended recipient's device. This means that data remains encrypted throughout its entire transmission journey, preventing intermediaries, including servers or potential attackers, from

accessing the plaintext content. E2EE relies on strong encryption algorithms, such as AES or RSA, to convert readable data into cipher text that can only be unlocked with a corresponding decryption key held by the recipient. In the context of this file-sharing system, E2EE protects files from unauthorized access during transfer, ensuring confidentiality and privacy even if the communication channel is compromised. This technology empowers users with full control over their data, as only the sender and receiver possess the keys necessary to unlock the content. By integrating E2EE with blockchain, the system combines confidentiality with data integrity, providing a comprehensive security framework. The use of E2EE is especially vital for sensitive sectors like healthcare, finance, and legal services, where privacy breaches can have severe consequences.

1.5 OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project is to design and develop a highly secure, decentralized file- sharing system that overcomes the limitations of traditional, centralized platforms. By integrating blockchain technology with end-to-end encryption (E2EE), the system aims to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of shared files while eliminating reliance on vulnerable central servers. A key goal is to create a transparent and tamper-proof mechanism for recording file transactions by storing only metadata and SHA-256 hashes on the blockchain. This approach preserves the integrity of data without compromising user privacy or exposing actual file contents.

Moreover, the project intends to develop a modular architecture with clearly defined components such as file encryption, blockchain transaction handling, secure file sharing and retrieval, and audit logging. This modularity facilitates easier maintenance, scalability, and future enhancements. The system should also support a user-friendly interface to encourage adoption without compromising security. Finally, the project aspires to demonstrate the practical applicability of combining blockchain and E2EE in real-world scenarios where secure and private file sharing is essential—such as healthcare, finance, legal, and governmental sectors. Through this, the system will contribute to advancing

data privacy standards and provide a foundation for secure digital communication in an increasingly interconnected and data-driven world.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The scope of this Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System with End-to-End Encryption encompasses the development and deployment of a decentralized platform that prioritizes data security, privacy, and integrity during file exchange. This system is designed to cater to individuals and organizations that require a robust mechanism for sharing sensitive or confidential files without relying on traditional centralized servers, which are prone to vulnerabilities such as data breaches and unauthorized access. The project focuses on securely encrypting files on the sender's device and ensuring only the intended recipient can decrypt and access the content, thus maintaining strict confidentiality throughout the file transmission process.

Within its scope, the project covers several critical components including user authentication to verify identities, file encryption and decryption to protect data confidentiality, blockchain-based recording of file transaction metadata and SHA-256 file hashes to ensure immutability and transparency, as well as secure file sharing and retrieval mechanisms. The system also includes audit and monitoring modules that provide traceability and accountability by maintaining logs of all transactions and activities.

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1 Title: *Blockchain-Based Secure Data Sharing for Internet of Things (IoT)*

Author(s): Y. Zhang, L. Wang, and M. Chen

Year: 2021

In recent years, data sharing has become a critical component of various digital infrastructures, especially in IoT and cloud-based environments. The research by Zhang et al. (2021) addresses the limitations of centralized file-sharing systems, such as data breaches and single points of failure, by proposing a blockchain-based secure data sharing framework. Their system utilizes a decentralized blockchain ledger to record transactions and verify data integrity, ensuring that each operation is traceable and immutable. The architecture incorporates attribute-based encryption to allow only authorized parties to access specific data sets. This selective sharing mechanism enhances privacy and supports fine-grained access control.

One of the core strengths of their approach is its resistance to insider threats and external attacks, as data is neither stored in plain text nor controlled by a single authority. However, their system still relies on off-chain data storage, raising concerns about data availability and synchronization. To improve security, the authors integrate smart contracts to automate the verification of access permissions and eliminate the need for intermediaries. Experimental results indicate that the proposed model provides improved performance in terms of latency and throughput when compared to conventional cloud systems.

This work significantly contributes to the foundation of secure, decentralized file-sharing systems. It directly supports the concept behind our proposed system, which integrates

blockchain with End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) for greater data confidentiality. However, while their study focuses more on IoT environments, our project emphasizes secure human-to-human file sharing, particularly for sensitive data like legal documents, medical records, and corporate files. We extend the concepts by incorporating E2EE at the user level and a comprehensive audit module, making the system more robust and trustworthy for personal and enterprise use cases.

2.2 Title: *A Secure and Scalable Blockchain-Based File Sharing Architecture*

Author(s): R. Mehta, T. Singh, and V. Goyal

Year: 2020

Mehta et al. (2020) present a scalable blockchain architecture for secure file sharing across distributed environments. Their model combines InterPlanetary File System (IPFS) for decentralized storage and Ethereum smart contracts to manage access control. The use of IPFS ensures that large files are stored off-chain, reducing the load on the blockchain and enhancing scalability. Each file uploaded is hashed and the hash is stored on the blockchain to ensure integrity and immutability.

The access control mechanism relies on smart contracts that allow file owners to define permissions for specific users. When a user requests access, the smart contract verifies their identity and checks permissions before granting access. Encryption is used to ensure confidentiality, but the model lacks true end-to-end encryption—data is decrypted by intermediaries in some scenarios. Despite this limitation, the architecture proves effective in maintaining decentralized control and ensuring traceability of file transactions.

2.3 Title: End-to-End Encrypted Data Sharing with Blockchain for Secure Cloud Storage

Author(s): H. Liu, F. Zhang, and B. Li

Year: 2022

Liu et al. (2022) explore a dual-layer security model for secure cloud storage that combines blockchain and end-to-end encryption. Their approach ensures data confidentiality and auditability by encrypting files at the user end before uploading and recording metadata and file hashes on a blockchain. The architecture includes decentralized access control mechanisms using public/private key infrastructure (PKI), ensuring only the intended recipient can decrypt and access the file.

What distinguishes their approach is the focus on maintaining both data privacy and ownership. Blockchain serves as a transparent ledger for transactions, while E2EE ensures data confidentiality, even from storage providers. The system also supports secure key exchange through elliptic curve cryptography, enhancing both speed and security.

Their work aligns closely with our project, reinforcing the viability of combining blockchain and E2EE for secure file sharing. However, their implementation is cloud-specific and assumes third-party cloud infrastructure. In contrast, our system is designed to be self-sufficient and infrastructure-agnostic, relying entirely on user-side encryption and a blockchain-managed record system without involving centralized cloud vendors.

2.4 Title: Blockchain-Enabled Data Integrity and Access Management for Secure File Sharing

Author(s): M. Kaur and D. Patel

Year: 2023

Kaur and Patel (2023) propose a blockchain-driven model to address data integrity and access management in enterprise file sharing. Their system architecture separates the data layer (actual files) and the control layer (blockchain) to ensure efficient handling of large datasets. Blockchain records the SHA-256 hashes of files and access metadata, which provides traceable, tamper-proof records for audit and compliance.

Access is controlled via a role-based permission system encoded into smart contracts. The system also includes an alert mechanism that notifies users of any unauthorized access attempts or modifications, significantly improving transparency and accountability. Although encryption is mentioned, the system does not use true end-to-end encryption—data is accessible to the system administrator, which poses a privacy risk.

Our project improves upon this by implementing strict E2EE where only sender and recipient can decrypt files. Moreover, we integrate an audit and monitoring module that logs and tracks all file-related actions while maintaining privacy. This literature supports the critical importance of blockchain for access logging and highlights areas where E2EE must be emphasized for greater privacy and autonomy in file-sharing applications.

2.5 Title: Decentralized File Sharing with Blockchain and IPFS

Author(s): L. Fernandez, M. Ali, and S. Roy

Year: 2021

Fernandez et al. (2021) propose a decentralized file-sharing architecture that integrates Blockchain and InterPlanetary File System (IPFS) to overcome traditional file-sharing limitations. Their system leverages IPFS for distributed file storage and Ethereum

blockchain for maintaining transaction records and ensuring file integrity. Each uploaded file is divided into chunks, stored across multiple nodes in IPFS, and its corresponding hash is stored on the blockchain, ensuring data traceability and non-repudiation.

The study highlights the benefits of decentralization—resilience to single-point failures and reduced data tampering risks. Smart contracts are employed to handle user authentication, access rights, and download logs. While the design addresses security through blockchain, it lacks strong encryption between sender and receiver. The system's data confidentiality is dependent on IPFS content-based addressing, which may expose file hashes if not encrypted externally.

This study contributes to understanding how distributed systems can handle secure file storage, but it lacks native E2EE, which our project addresses directly. Our proposed work not only decentralizes storage and logs transactions but also ensures confidentiality from end to end, even from the storage provider, offering a more complete security solution.

2.6 Title: Secure Data Transmission Using Blockchain and Hybrid Cryptography

Author(s): P. Nair, R. Sridhar, and J. Thomas

Year: 2022

In their research, Nair et al. (2022) introduce a secure data transmission model that utilizes blockchain for data integrity and hybrid cryptography for data protection. The hybrid approach involves the combination of symmetric and asymmetric encryption methods to optimize performance and security. Data is encrypted with a symmetric key, which is then secured using the recipient’s public key, ensuring only the intended recipient can decrypt the content.

Blockchain is used to timestamp and store transaction metadata and file hashes, ensuring integrity and non-repudiation. The model is evaluated for use in government and defense sectors where data confidentiality is critical. Results show that the hybrid encryption scheme reduces overhead while maintaining a strong security posture.

Although the focus is on secure data transmission, their architecture lacks a clear modular implementation or user-oriented interface for file sharing. Our project extends this concept by combining blockchain, end-to-end encryption, and a modular design, making it more applicable to wider domains such as legal, healthcare, and education sectors, where both usability and security are critical.

2.7 Title: A Blockchain-Based Framework for Confidential File Exchange

Author(s): K. Das and A. Mukherjee

Year: 2023

Das and Mukherjee (2023) present a blockchain-based framework specifically designed for confidential file exchange among multiple users. The framework introduces a permissioned blockchain network where nodes are authenticated before participating in the file-sharing process. Files are first encrypted using AES-256, and their hashes, along with transaction details, are stored on the blockchain to ensure transparency and immutability.

One notable feature is the use of digital signatures for verifying sender identity and ensuring message authenticity. This adds a legal layer of accountability to every transaction. Moreover, their system includes an access control list (ACL) stored on-chain to manage file access rights dynamically.

Despite its strengths, the system lacks integration of a full end-to-end encryption model where file decryption is entirely confined to the recipient's end device. Our project

addresses this by ensuring that files are encrypted and decrypted solely by the endpoints, thus eliminating any intermediary decryption or exposure. Additionally, our system introduces an audit and monitoring module to log every interaction, enhancing traceability and security further.

2.8 Title: Smart Contracts for Secure Information Sharing in Blockchain Systems

Author(s): V. Rajan, K. Subramaniam, and L. Rao

Year: 2020

Rajan et al. (2020) explore the use of smart contracts in blockchain systems to automate and secure the sharing of sensitive information. Their work demonstrates how smart contracts can be programmed to manage permissions, user authentication, and transaction conditions without the need for centralized control. They implement a prototype using Ethereum, where each file sharing action triggers a smart contract that checks for appropriate user rights and logs the action immutably.

This system brings transparency and trust to digital transactions, especially in sectors like legal documentation and healthcare where file access must be carefully monitored. However, the authors rely heavily on external APIs for encryption and decryption, which introduces dependency risks and potential attack vectors. The absence of integrated end-to-end encryption means data could still be vulnerable during transmission or at rest before encryption is applied.

Our project differs significantly by embedding end-to-end encryption as a core layer, ensuring files are only decrypted by the intended recipient. We also simplify permission control within our audit and monitoring module, avoiding excessive reliance on third-party APIs.

2.9 Title: Privacy-Preserving Blockchain Architecture for Cloud File Sharing

Author(s): N. Bhattacharya, S. Ghosh, and R. Roy

Year: 2021

Bhattacharya et al. (2021) propose a blockchain-based privacy-preserving architecture for cloud-based file sharing. Their solution focuses on providing access control, traceability, and data integrity while outsourcing storage to third-party cloud providers. Using attribute-based encryption (ABE), the system ensures that only users with specific attributes can access certain files, thereby supporting flexible access policies.

The blockchain ledger records file hashes and encrypted metadata, enhancing transparency and allowing users to track any unauthorized access attempts. However, the solution is tightly coupled with cloud providers, making it less suitable for environments where external trust cannot be assumed. Furthermore, their model requires complex key management and user attribute updates, which can become a bottleneck in dynamic systems.

While the study validates blockchain's potential in secure file exchange, our project moves a step further by adopting a decentralized storage model that eliminates dependency on external clouds. Combined with simple yet robust end-to-end encryption and SHA-256 hash tracking, our system is more adaptable to personal, organizational, and governmental use cases.

2.10 Title: Combining Blockchain and Cryptography for Trustworthy File Exchange

Author(s): A. Chatterjee and H. Bose

Year: 2022

Chatterjee and Bose (2022) propose a system that integrates blockchain with advanced cryptographic schemes to ensure trustworthy file exchange between untrusted parties. The framework applies homomorphic encryption for data manipulation without decryption, a zero-knowledge proof mechanism to confirm user identities, and blockchain to log all file sharing events securely.

While the design offers high security and theoretical privacy, it is computationally intensive and not optimized for real-world deployment due to the overhead of homomorphic encryption and ZKPs. Moreover, the system lacks modular flexibility, limiting its adaptability across diverse sectors like academia or law.

This paper is instrumental in highlighting the cutting-edge integration of cryptography with blockchain, yet it reveals the trade-off between security and usability. Our project maintains a balance by using proven, efficient cryptographic techniques such as AES and RSA, while ensuring usability through a user-friendly interface, modular architecture, and complete E2EE implementation.

CHAPTER 3
SYSTEM ANALYSIS

3.1 EXISTING SYSTEM

Current file-sharing systems primarily rely on centralized servers or cloud storage providers to facilitate the exchange of files between users. Popular platforms such as Dropbox, Google Drive, and Microsoft One Drive offer convenience and ease of use but come with inherent security limitations. These centralized systems store actual file data on servers owned and controlled by third-party service providers, which creates a single point of failure and exposes data to risks like hacking, insider threats, data leaks, and unauthorized access. Even though many providers implement encryption, the files are often decrypted on the server side, making them vulnerable if the server is compromised. Additionally, centralized platforms rely heavily on user trust, as service providers have access to user data and could potentially misuse or disclose it.

Some existing systems incorporate encryption, but typically at rest or in transit, rather than true end-to-end encryption (E2EE). This means that while data might be encrypted during upload or download, the server itself can access unencrypted files, undermining full privacy. Moreover, existing solutions often lack comprehensive transparency and auditability of file-sharing transactions, which are critical for sensitive environments where accountability is necessary.

Blockchain-based file sharing solutions have emerged to address some of these issues by decentralizing data records and ensuring immutability and transparency. However, many blockchain implementations store actual file data on-chain or rely on off-chain storage with complex access controls, which can introduce performance bottlenecks and complicate key management.

In summary, the existing systems either compromise on decentralization, security, or usability. They do not fully guarantee that files remain confidential and tamper-proof from sender to recipient without intermediaries having access. This highlights the need for a solution that integrates blockchain for decentralized transaction logging with robust end-to-end encryption to protect file content throughout its lifecycle, which is the gap this project aims to fill.

3.2 DISADVANTAGE OF EXISTING SYSTEM

- Centralized Storage Vulnerabilities: Most existing systems store files on centralized servers, creating single points of failure that are susceptible to hacking, data breaches, and insider threats.
- Limited End-to-End Encryption: Many platforms encrypt data only during transit or at rest but decrypt it on the server side, which exposes files to potential unauthorized access.
- Lack of Transparency and Auditability: Traditional file-sharing systems do not provide transparent and tamper-proof logs of file transactions, making it difficult to verify or audit data access and sharing history.
- Dependency on Trusted Third Parties: Users must trust service providers to protect their data, which can lead to privacy concerns and potential misuse or unauthorized sharing of sensitive information.
- Scalability and Performance Issues in Blockchain Solutions: Some blockchain-based solutions store large files on-chain, leading to performance bottlenecks, high storage costs, and scalability challenges.
- Complex Key Management and Access Control: Existing decentralized systems often struggle with managing encryption keys and securely controlling access, complicating usability and potentially weakening security.

3.3 PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system introduces a secure and decentralized file-sharing platform that leverages the strengths of blockchain technology combined with robust end-to-end encryption (E2EE) to address the limitations of traditional file-sharing methods. Unlike existing centralized solutions, this system ensures that sensitive files are encrypted on the sender's device before transmission, guaranteeing that only the intended recipient can decrypt and access the data. This approach eliminates the risk of unauthorized access during transit or on any intermediary servers, providing complete data confidentiality.

To enhance transparency and data integrity, the system records only the SHA-256 hash of each file along with transaction metadata on a blockchain ledger. This immutable record ensures that every file-sharing event is securely logged and verifiable, preventing tampering or fraud. Since the actual file content is never stored on the blockchain, the system avoids scalability issues and protects user privacy.

The architecture includes several core modules: a User Authentication Module to verify identities and prevent unauthorized usage; a File Encryption Module to handle secure encryption and decryption on user devices; a Blockchain Transaction Module to manage the storage of metadata and hashes; and a File Sharing and Retrieval Module that facilitates secure file transfer between users. Additionally, an Audit and Monitoring Module provides real-time tracking of activities for accountability and troubleshooting.

3.4 ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSED SYSTEM

- **Enhanced Data Privacy**: Files are encrypted on the sender's device and only decrypt able by the intended recipient, ensuring complete confidentiality throughout transmission.

- **Decentralized and Tamper-Proof Records**: Blockchain stores immutable hashes and metadata of file transactions, providing transparent and tamper-resistant logs without exposing actual file content.
- **Elimination of Single Points of Failure**: By removing reliance on centralized servers, the system reduces vulnerabilities to server hacks, data breaches, and insider attacks.
- **File Integrity Verification**: SHA-256 hashes stored on the blockchain allow recipients to verify the authenticity and integrity of files, ensuring data has not been altered.
- **Robust User Authentication**: The system ensures that only authorized users can share or access files, preventing unauthorized data access and strengthening security.
- **Scalability and Privacy Preservation**: Storing only metadata and hashes on-chain avoids blockchain bloat, maintaining system scalability while protecting user privacy by not storing actual files on the blockchain.

CHAPTER 4
SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

4.1 HARDWARE REQUIREMENT:-

- PROCESS: INTEL® CORE™ I9-14900K 3.20 GHZ
- RAM: 16 GB
- HARD DISK: 1 TB

4.2 SOFTWARE REQUIREMENT:-

- FRONT END - HTML, CSS
- BACK END - PYTHON
- FRAMEWORK - FLASK

4.3 SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION

FRONTEND

FIGURE 4.1

HYPERTEXT MARKUP LANGUAGE

INTRODUCTION TO HTML

HTML, which stands for Hypertext Markup Language, is the standard markup language for creating web pages. It provides the structure for web documents by using a system of tags and attributes to define elements within the page. These elements can include headings, paragraphs, images, links, forms, and more.

WORKING PROCESS

HTML documents are text files that contain a series of elements enclosed in angle brackets (< >). These elements are organized in a hierarchical structure, with the <html> element at the top, followed by <head> and <body> elements. The <head> section typically contains meta-information about the document, such as its title and links to external resources like style sheets and scripts. The <body> section contains the content visible to the user.

Within the <body> section, elements like <p> for paragraphs, <h1> to <h6> for headings, <img> for images, and <a> for links are used to create the desired layout and functionality of the webpage. Attributes can be added to these elements to provide additional information or modify their behavior. Once an HTML document is created, it can be viewed in a web browser, which interprets the HTML code and displays the content according to the specified structure and formatting. Additionally, HTML can be enhanced with the use of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) for styling and JavaScript for interactivity, allowing for more dynamic and visually appealing web pages.

CASCADING STYLE SHEETS

INTRODUCTION TO CSS

CSS, short for Cascading Style Sheets, is a style sheet language used to describe the presentation of a document written in HTML or XML. It controls the layout,

formatting, and appearance of web pages, allowing developers to define the visual aspects such as colors, fonts, spacing, and positioning**.**

Working Process

CSS works by targeting HTML elements and applying styling rules to them. These rules consist of selectors that identify which elements to style and declarations that specify the styling properties and values. Selectors can target elements based on their tag names, classes, IDs, attributes, or even their relationship with other elements in the document. Once selected, CSS properties such as color, font-size, margin, padding, and border can be applied to change the appearance of the elements.

CSS can be applied to HTML documents in three ways: inline styles, internal styles, and external style sheets. Inline styles are applied directly within the HTML tags using the "style" attribute, internal styles are defined within the <style> element in the head section of the HTML document, and external style sheets are separate CSS files linked to the HTML document using the <link> element. When a web browser renders an HTML document, it interprets the CSS rules and applies the specified styles to the corresponding elements, resulting in the desired visual presentation of the webpage. CSS also supports various features such as inheritance, specificity, and cascading, which enable developers to efficiently manage and organize their styles across multiple pages or components. In summary, CSS plays a crucial role in web development by allowing developers to control the appearance and layout of web pages, thus enhancing the user experience and creating visually appealing websites.

5.2 BACKEND PYTHON

PYTHON TECHNOLOGY:

Python is an interpreter, high-level, general-purpose programming language. It supports multiple programming paradigms, including procedural, object-oriented, and

functional programming. **Python** is often described as a "batteries included" language due to its comprehensive standard library.

PYTHON PROGRAMING LANGUAGE:

Python is a multi-paradigm programming language. Object-oriented programming and structured programming are fully supported, and many of its features support functional programming and aspect-oriented programming (including by Meta programming and met objects (magic methods)). Many other paradigms are supported via extensions, including design by contract and logic programming.

Python packages with a wide range of functionality, including:

- Easy to Learn and Use
- Expressive Language
- Interpreted Language
- Cross-platform Language
- Free and Open Source
- Object-Oriented Language
- Extensible
- Large Standard Library
- GUI Programming Support
- Integrated

Python uses dynamic typing and a combination of reference counting and a cycle-detecting garbage collector for memory management. It also features dynamic name resolution (late binding), which binds method and variable names during program execution.

Rather than having all of its functionality built into its core, Python was designed to be highly extensible. This compact modularity has made it particularly popular as a

means of adding programmable interfaces to existing applications. Van Rossum's vision of a small core language with a large standard library and easily extensible interpreter stemmed from his frustrations with ABC, which espoused the opposite approach.

Python is meant to be an easily readable language. Its formatting is visually uncluttered, and it often uses English keywords where other languages use punctuation. Unlike many other languages, it does not use curly brackets to delimit blocks, and semicolons after statements are optional. It has fewer syntactic exceptions and special cases than C or Pascal.

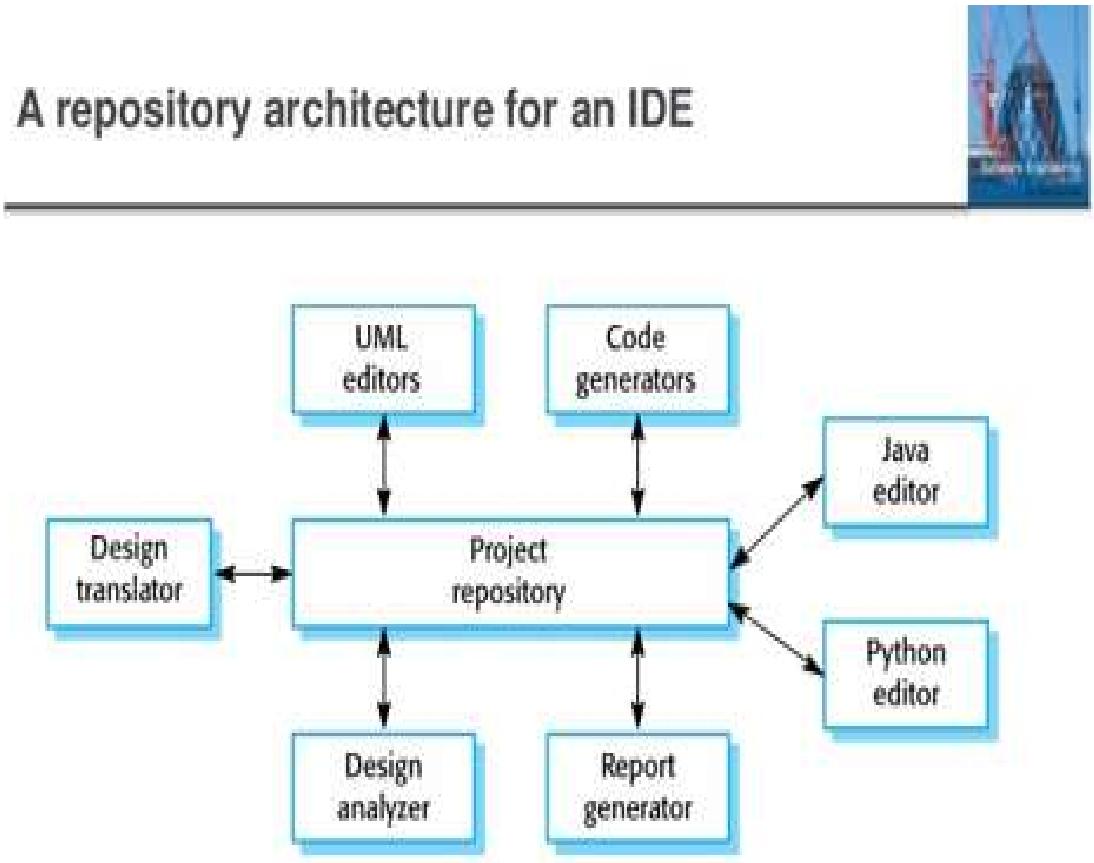


FIGURE 4.2

Python strives for a simpler, less-cluttered syntax and grammar while giving developers a choice in their coding methodology. In contrast to Perl's "there is more than one way to do it" motto, Python embraces a "there should be one and preferably only one obvious way to do it" design philosophy. Alex Martelli, a Fellow at the Python Software Foundation and Python book author, writes that "To describe something as 'clever' is not considered a compliment in the Python culture."

Python's developers strive to avoid premature optimization, and reject patches to non-critical parts of the Python reference implementation that would offer marginal increases in speed at the cost of clarity. When speed is important, a Python programmer can move time-critical functions to extension modules written in languages such as C, or use PyPy, a just-in-time compiler. Python is also available, which translates a Python script into C and makes direct C-level API calls into the Python interpreter.

An important goal of Python's developers is keeping it fun to use. This is reflected in the language's name a tribute to the British comedy group Monty Python and in occasionally playful approaches to tutorials and reference materials, such as examples that refer to spam and eggs (from a famous Monty Python sketch) instead of the standard foo and bar.

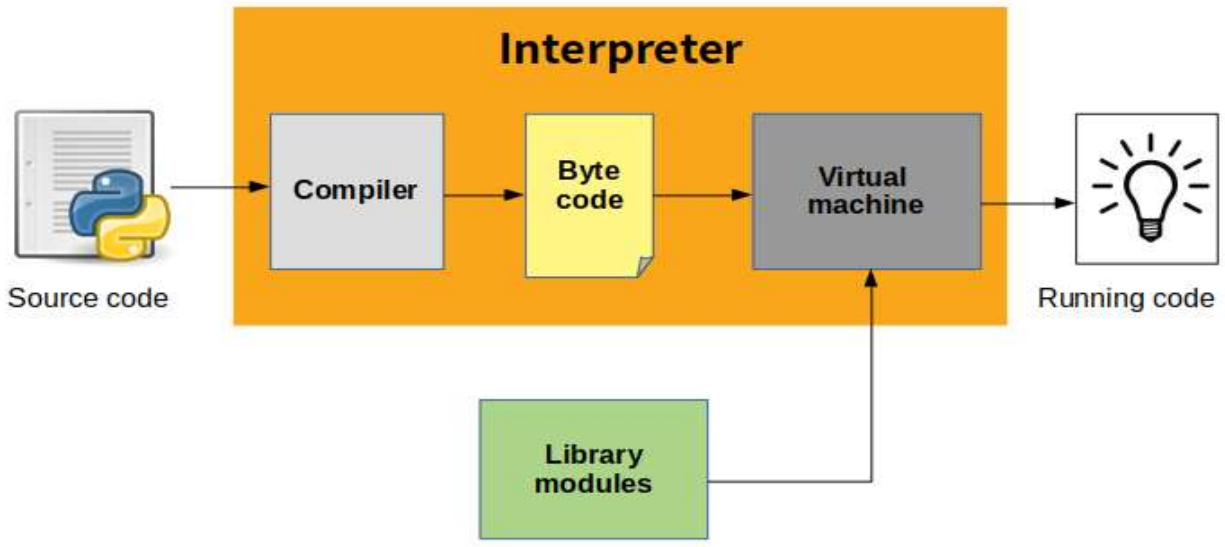


FIGURE 4.2

THE PYTHON PLATFORM:

The platform module in Python is used to access the underlying platform's data, such as, hardware, operating system, and interpreter version information. The platform module includes tools to see the platform's hardware, operating system, and interpreter version information where the program is running.

There are four functions for getting information about the current Python interpreter. python_version() and python_version_tuple() return different forms of the interpreter version with major, minor, and patch level components. python_compiler() reports on the compiler used to build the interpreter. And python_build() gives a version string for the build of the interpreter.

Platform() returns string containing a general purpose platform identifier. The function accepts two optional Boolean arguments. If aliased is true, the names in the return value are converted from a formal name to their more common form. When terse is true, returns a minimal value with some parts dropped.

WHAT DOES PYTHON TECHNOLOGY DO?

Python is quite popular among programmers, but the practice shows that business owners are also Python development believers and for good reason. Software developers love it for its straightforward syntax and reputation as one of the easiest programming languages to learn. Business owners or CTOs appreciate the fact that there's a framework for pretty much anything – from web apps to machine learning.

Moreover, it is not just a language but more a technology platform that has come together through a gigantic collaboration from thousands of individual professional developers forming a huge and peculiar community of aficionados.

So what are the tangible benefits the language brings to those who decided to use it as a core technology? Below you will find just some of those reasons.

PRODUCTIVITY AND SPEED

It is a widespread theory within development circles that developing Python applications is approximately up to 10 times faster than developing the same application in Java or C/C++. The impressive benefit in terms of time saving can be explained by the clean object-oriented design, enhanced process control capabilities, and strong integration and text processing capacities. Moreover, its own unit testing framework contributes substantially to its speed and productivity.

PYTHON IS POPULAR FOR WEB APPS

Web development shows no signs of slowing down, so technologies for rapid and productive web development still prevail within the market. Along with JavaScript and Ruby, Python, with its most popular web framework Django, has great support for building web apps and is rather popular within the web development community.

OPEN-SOURCE AND FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

As stated on the official website, it is developed under an OSI-approved open source license, making it freely usable and distributable. Additionally, the development is driven by the community, actively participating and organizing conference, meet-ups, hackathons, etc. fostering friendliness and knowledge-sharing.

PYTHON IS QUICK TO LEARN

It is said that the language is relatively simple so you can get pretty quick results without actually wasting too much time on constant improvements and digging into the complex engineering insights of the technology. Even though Python programmers are really in high demand these days, its friendliness and attractiveness only help to increase number of those eager to master this programming language.

BROAD APPLICATION

It is used for the broadest spectrum of activities and applications for nearly all possible industries. It ranges from simple automation tasks to gaming, web development, and even complex enterprise systems. These are the areas where this technology is still the king with no or little competence:

- Machine learning as it has a plethora of libraries implementing machine learning algorithms.
- Web development as it provides back end for a website or an app.
- Cloud computing as Python is also known to be among one of the most popular cloud-enabled languages even used by Google in numerous enterprise-level software apps.
- Scripting.
- Desktop GUI applications.

PYTHON COMPILER

The Python compiler package is a tool for analyzing Python source code and generating Python bytecode. The compiler contains libraries to generate an abstract syntax tree from Python source code and to generate Python bytecode from the tree.

The compiler package is a Python source to bytecode translator written in Python. It uses the built-in parser and standard parser module to generate a concrete syntax tree. This tree is used to generate an abstract syntax tree (AST) and then Python bytecode.

The full functionality of the package duplicates the built-in compiler provided with the Python interpreter. It is intended to match its behavior almost exactly. Why implement another compiler that does the same thing? The package is useful for a variety of purposes. It can be modified more easily than the built-in compiler. The AST it generates is useful for analyzing Python source code.

The basic interface

The top-level of the package defines four functions. If you import compiler, you will get these functions and a collection of modules contained in the package.

compiler.parse(buf)

Returns an abstract syntax tree for the Python source code in buf. The function raises Syntax Error if there is an error in the source code. The return value is a compiler.ast. Module instance that contains the tree.

compiler.parseFile(path)

Return an abstract syntax tree for the Python source code in the file specified by path. It is equivalent to parse(open(path).read()).

LIMITATIONS

There are some problems with the error checking of the compiler package. The interpreter detects syntax errors in two distinct phases. One set of errors is detected by the interpreter's parser, the other set by the compiler. The compiler package relies on the interpreter's parser, so it get the first phases of error checking for free. It implements the second phase itself, and that implementation is incomplete. For example, the compiler package does not raise an error if a name appears more than once in an argument list: def f(x, x): ...

A future version of the compiler should fix these problems.

PYTHON ABSTRACT SYNTAX

The compiler.ast module defines an abstract syntax for Python. In the abstract syntax tree, each node represents a syntactic construct. The root of the tree is Module object.

The abstract syntax offers a higher level interface to parsed Python source code. The parser module and the compiler written in C for the Python interpreter use a

concrete syntax tree. The concrete syntax is tied closely to the grammar description used for the Python parser. Instead of a single node for a construct, there are often several levels of nested nodes that are introduced by Python's precedence rules.

The abstract syntax tree is created by the compiler.transformer module. The transformer relies on the built-in Python parser to generate a concrete syntax tree. It generates an abstract syntax tree from the concrete tree.

The transformer module was created by Greg Stein and Bill Tutt for an experimental Python-to-C compiler. The current version contains a number of modifications and improvements, but the basic form of the abstract syntax and of the transformer are due to Stein and Tutt.

AST NODES

The compiler.ast module is generated from a text file that describes each node type and its elements. Each node type is represented as a class that inherits from the abstract base class compiler.ast.Node and defines a set of named attributes for child nodes.

class compiler.ast.Node

The Node instances are created automatically by the parser generator. The recommended interface for specific Node instances is to use the public attributes to access child nodes. A public attribute may be bound to a single node or to a sequence of nodes, depending on the Node type. For example, the bases attribute of the Class node, is bound to a list of base class nodes, and the doc attribute is bound to a single node.

Each Node instance has a lineno attribute which may be None. XXX Not sure what the rules are for which nodes will have a useful lineno.

All Node objects offer the following methods:

getChildren()

Returns a flattened list of the child nodes and objects in the order they occur. Specifically, the order of the nodes is the order in which they appear in the Python grammar. Not all of the children are Node instances. The names of functions and classes, for example, are plain strings.

getChildNodes()

Returns a flattened list of the child nodes in the order they occur. This method is like getChildren(), except that it only returns those children that are Node instances.

The While node has three attributes: test, body, and else_. (If the natural name for an attribute is also a Python reserved word, it can't be used as an attribute name. An underscore is appended to the word to make it a legal identifier, hence else_ instead of else.)

The if statement is more complicated because it can include several tests.

The If node only defines two attributes: tests and else_. The tests attribute is a sequence of test expression, consequent body pairs. There is one pair for each if/elif clause. The first element of the pair is the test expression. The second elements is a Stmt node that contains the code to execute if the test is true.

The getChildren() method of If returns a flat list of child nodes. If there are three if/elif clauses and no else clause, then getChildren() will return a list of six elements: the first test expression, the first Stmt, the second text expression, etc.

The following table lists each of the Node subclasses defined in compiler.ast and each of the public attributes available on their instances. The values of most of the attributes are themselves Node instances or sequences of instances. When the value is something other than an instance, the type is noted in the comment. The attributes are listed in the order in which they are returned by getChildren() and getChildNodes().

DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTS:

Most Python implementations (including CPython) include a read–eval–print loop (REPL), permitting them to function as a command line interpreter for which the user enters statements sequentially and receives results immediately.

Other shells, including IDLE and IPython, add further abilities such as auto-completion, session state retention and syntax highlighting.

IMPLEMENTATIONS

Reference implementation

CPython is the reference implementation of Python. It is written in C, meeting the C89 standard with several select C99 features. It compiles Python programs into an intermediate bytecode which is then executed by its virtual machine. CPython is distributed with a large standard library written in a mixture of C and native Python. It is available for many platforms, including Windows and most modern Unix-like systems. Platform portability was one of its earliest priorities.

Other implementations

PyPy is a fast, compliant interpreter of Python 2.7 and 3.5. Its just-in-time compiler brings a significant speed improvement over CPython but several libraries written in C cannot be used with it.

Stackless Python is a significant fork of CPython that implements microthreads; it does not use the C memory stack, thus allowing massively concurrent programs. PyPy also has a stackless version.

MicroPython and CircuitPython are Python 3 variants optimized for microcontrollers. This includes Lego Mindstorms EV3.

RustPython is a Python 3 interpreter written in Rust.

Unsupported implementations

Other just-in-time Python compilers have been developed, but are now unsupported:

Google began a project named Unladen Swallow in 2009, with the aim of speeding up the Python interpreter five-fold by using the LLVM, and of improving its multithreading ability to scale to thousands of cores, while ordinary implementations suffer from the global interpreter lock.

Psyco is a just-in-time specialising compiler that integrates with CPython and transforms bytecode to machine code at runtime. The emitted code is specialized for certain data types and is faster than standard Python code.

In 2005, Nokia released a Python interpreter for the Series 60 mobile phones named PyS60. It includes many of the modules from the CPython implementations and some additional modules to integrate with the Symbian operating system. The project has been kept up-to-date to run on all variants of the S60 platform, and several third-party modules are available. The Nokia N900 also supports Python with GTK widget libraries, enabling programs to be written and run on the target device.

Cross-compilers to other languages

There are several compilers to high-level object languages, with either unrestricted Python, a restricted subset of Python, or a language similar to Python as the source language:

- Jython enables the use of the Java class library from a Python program.
- IronPython follows a similar approach in order to run Python programs on the .NET Common Language Runtime.
- The RPython language can be compiled to C, and is used to build the PyPy interpreter of Python.
- Pyjs compiles Python to JavaScript.
- Cython compiles Python to C and C++.
- Numba uses LLVM to compile Python to machine code.
- Pythran compiles Python to C++.

- Somewhat dated Pyrex (latest release in 2010) and Shed Skin (latest release in 2013) compile to C and C++ respectively.
- Google's Grumpy compiles Python to Go.
- MyHDL compiles Python to VHDL.
- Nuitka compiles Python into C++.

PERFORMANCE

A performance comparison of various Python implementations on a non-numerical (combinatorial) workload was presented at EuroSciPy '13.

API DOCUMENTATION GENERATORS

Python API documentation generators include:

- Sphinx
- Epydoc
- HeaderDoc
- Pydoc

USES

Python has been successfully embedded in many software products as a scripting language, including in finite element method software such as Abaqus, 3D parametric modeler like FreeCAD, 3D animation packages such as 3ds Max, Blender, Cinema 4D, Lightwave, Houdini, Maya, modo, MotionBuilder, Softimage, the visual effects compositor Nuke, 2D imaging programs like GIMP, Inkscape, Scribus and Paint Shop Pro, and musical notation programs like scorewriter and capella. GNU Debugger uses Python as a pretty printer to show complex structures such as C++ containers. Esri promotes Python as the best choice for writing scripts in ArcGIS. It has also been used in several video games, and has been adopted as first of the three available programming languages in Google App Engine, the other two being Java and Go.

Python is commonly used in artificial intelligence projects with the help of libraries like TensorFlow, Keras and Scikit-learn. As a scripting language with modular architecture, simple syntax and rich text processing tools, Python is often used for natural language processing.

Many operating systems include Python as a standard component. It ships with most Linux distributions, AmigaOS 4, FreeBSD (as a package), NetBSD, OpenBSD (as a package) and macOS and can be used from the command line (terminal). Many Linux distributions use installers written in Python: Ubuntu uses the Ubiquity installer, while Red Hat Linux and Fedora use the Anaconda installer. Gentoo Linux uses Python in its package management system, Portage.

Python is used extensively in the information security industry, including in exploit development.

Most of the Sugar software for the One Laptop per Child XO, now developed at Sugar Labs, is written in Python. The Raspberry Pi single-board computer project has adopted Python as its main user-programming language.

LibreOffice includes Python, and intends to replace Java with Python. Its Python Scripting Provider is a core feature since Version 4.0 from 7 February 2013.

PANDAS

In computer programming, pandas is a software library written for the Python programming language for data manipulation and analysis. In particular, it offers data structures and operations for manipulating numerical tables and time series. It is free software released under the three-clause BSD license. The name is derived from the term "panel data", an econometrics term for data sets that include observations over multiple time periods for the same individuals.

Library features

- Data Frame object for data manipulation with integrated indexing.

- Tools for reading and writing data between in-memory data structures and different file formats.
- Data alignment and integrated handling of missing data.
- Reshaping and pivoting of data sets.
- Label-based slicing, fancy indexing, and sub setting of large data sets.
- Data structure column insertion and deletion.
- Group by engine allowing split-apply-combine operations on data sets.
- Data set merging and joining.
- Hierarchical axis indexing to work with high-dimensional data in a lower-dimensional data structure.
- Time series-functionality: Date range generation and frequency conversion, moving window statistics, moving window linear regressions, date shifting and lagging.

CHAPTER 5
SYSTEM DESIGN

5.1 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

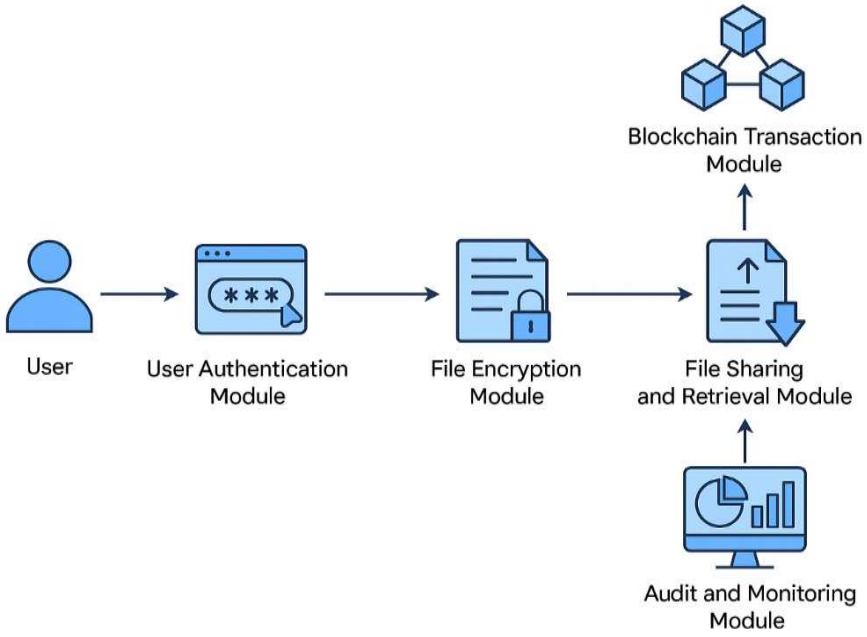


FIGURE 5.1

EXPLAINATION

The architecture of the proposed Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System is designed to ensure secure, transparent, and decentralized file transactions through a combination of client-side encryption and blockchain technology. At the core, the system comprises multiple interconnected modules working together seamlessly. The process begins at the user's device, where the **User Authentication Module** verifies the identity of the sender and recipient, ensuring that only authorized users gain access to the platform. Once authenticated, the **File Encryption Module** encrypts the file locally using strong cryptographic algorithms before it leaves the sender's device, implementing true end-to-

end encryption. The encrypted file is then transmitted to the recipient through a secure communication channel managed by the **File Sharing and Retrieval Module**, which handles sending, receiving, and temporary storage if needed, while ensuring confidentiality during transit.

Simultaneously, the system's **Blockchain Transaction Module** records the SHA-256 hash of the encrypted file along with transaction metadata—such as timestamps, sender, and recipient information—on the blockchain ledger. This immutable ledger acts as a transparent and tamper-proof log that confirms the file's integrity and the legitimacy of the transaction without storing the actual file data on-chain, preserving privacy and scalability. To monitor the overall system health and maintain accountability, the **Audit and Monitoring Module** continuously tracks all activities and transactions, enabling administrators and users to verify file-sharing events and detect any anomalies. This layered architecture eliminates the need for a centralized server, mitigating risks associated with traditional file-sharing systems, and provides a highly secure environment where data confidentiality, integrity, and user trust are paramount.

CHAPTER 6
MODULE DESCRIPTION

6.1 LIST OF MODULES

- ✓ User Authentication Module
- ✓ File Encryption Module
- ✓ Blockchain Transaction Module
- ✓ File Sharing and Retrieval Module
- ✓ Audit and Monitoring Module

6.2 MODULES DESCRIPTION

User Authentication Module

This module ensures that only authorized users can access the file-sharing platform. It manages user registration, login, and identity verification using secure authentication methods such as passwords, biometrics, or multi-factor authentication. By validating users before granting access, it prevents unauthorized entry, protecting sensitive data from malicious actors. The module integrates seamlessly with other system components to maintain a secure environment throughout the file-sharing process.

File Encryption Module

The File Encryption Module handles encryption and decryption of files on the user's device using strong cryptographic algorithms. It encrypts files before transmission, ensuring only the intended recipient, who possesses the correct decryption key, can access the content. This module implements true end-to-end encryption, preventing intermediaries or servers from reading the files. It plays a critical role in maintaining data confidentiality and protecting files against unauthorized access during sharing.

Blockchain Transaction Module

This module records file transaction details on the blockchain, storing only the SHA-256 hash of the encrypted file and metadata like timestamps and user IDs. By leveraging Blockchain's decentralized and immutable ledger, it guarantees transparency, data integrity, and tamper-proof records of all file-sharing activities. It avoids storing actual files on-chain, thereby enhancing scalability and privacy while providing verifiable proof of each transaction.

File Sharing and Retrieval Module

This module manages secure transmission and retrieval of encrypted files between users. It facilitates the upload and download of files, ensuring data remains encrypted during transit and storage. The module handles file routing, temporary storage if necessary, and ensures seamless interaction between sender and recipient while preserving confidentiality and integrity.

Audit and Monitoring Module

The Audit and Monitoring Module tracks all system activities and file transactions to maintain accountability and detect anomalies. It generates logs for user actions, transaction history, and system performance, enabling administrators and users to audit and verify activities. This module strengthens security by providing transparency and supports troubleshooting and compliance requirements.

CHAPTER 7
VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Verification and validation are critical processes in the development of the Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System with End-to-End Encryption. Verification ensures that the system is built correctly according to design specifications, while validation confirms that the system meets the intended user requirements and functions as expected in real-world scenarios. Together, these processes help identify and rectify defects early, improve system reliability, and ensure the final product delivers secure, efficient, and user-friendly file sharing. Rigorous testing of both the blockchain components and encryption modules is essential to guarantee data integrity, privacy, and overall system security.

7.2 PROCESS IN PROPOSED SYSTEM

The verification and validation process in the proposed system includes multiple phases: unit testing, integration testing, and system testing. Each module, such as User Authentication and File Encryption, undergoes unit testing to confirm individual functionality. Integration testing ensures that modules like the Blockchain Transaction and File Sharing modules communicate and work together smoothly. System testing validates end-to-end workflows, such as secure file encryption, transmission, blockchain logging, and decryption by the recipient. Additionally, performance tests evaluate response times and scalability, while security testing focuses on vulnerability assessments and penetration testing to ensure the system resists unauthorized access and data breaches. User acceptance testing further validates usability and functionality in realistic environments, confirming that the system meets all security and operational requirements.

- **User Authentication:** The process begins with authenticating the user. Only verified users can proceed further, ensuring unauthorized individuals are blocked from accessing the system.
- **File Encryption:** Once authenticated, the sender's device encrypts the file locally using strong end-to-end encryption. This step ensures that the file remains confidential throughout transmission.
- **File Transmission:** The encrypted file is securely transmitted to the recipient through the system's communication channel, preventing interception or tampering during transit.
- **Blockchain Transaction:** Simultaneously, the system records the SHA-256 hash of the encrypted file along with relevant metadata (such as sender and timestamp) on the blockchain. This immutable ledger entry guarantees the integrity and authenticity of the transaction without exposing actual file content.
- **File Reception and Decryption:** The recipient receives the encrypted file and uses the appropriate decryption key to decrypt the content locally, maintaining end-to-end confidentiality.
- **Integrity Verification:** After decryption, the recipient verifies the file's integrity by comparing the hash of the received file against the hash stored on the blockchain. This step ensures the file has not been altered or corrupted.
- **Access Decision:** If the integrity check passes, the recipient is granted access to the file. Otherwise, the file is rejected, safeguarding the system against tampered or compromised files.
- **Failure Handling:** If authentication fails initially, the user is denied access immediately to prevent any unauthorized attempts.

CHAPTER 8

CONCLUSION & FUTURE WORK

8.1 CONCLUSION

The Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System with End-to-End Encryption addresses the critical need for secure, private, and reliable file sharing in today's digital landscape. By combining Blockchain's decentralized and immutable ledger with robust end-to-end encryption, the system ensures that files remain confidential, tamper-proof, and accessible only to authorized users. This approach effectively eliminates the vulnerabilities associated with traditional centralized file-sharing platforms, such as data breaches, unauthorized access, and single points of failure.

The use of SHA-256 hashing on the blockchain provides a trustworthy mechanism to verify file integrity and transaction authenticity without exposing sensitive data. The modular architecture, including authentication, encryption, blockchain transaction management, and audit modules, works cohesively to deliver a seamless and secure user experience. Moreover, the system's transparency and auditability foster greater trust among users while maintaining privacy. Overall, the proposed system enhances data security and user confidence in sharing sensitive information digitally. It paves the way for more resilient, decentralized file-sharing solutions that can adapt to evolving cybersecurity challenges. Future enhancements could include integration with smart contracts, scalability improvements, and advanced access controls, further strengthening its utility across various industries requiring secure data exchange.

8.2 FUTURE WORK

While the current Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System with End-to-End Encryption provides a strong foundation for secure and decentralized file sharing, there are several avenues for future enhancement. One promising direction is integrating **smart**

contracts to automate access control, payment processing, and permissions management, enabling more flexible and programmable file-sharing workflows. This would reduce manual intervention and increase system efficiency.

Scalability improvements are another critical area. As user numbers and file volumes grow, optimizing blockchain storage and transaction speeds—possibly through layer-2 solutions or off-chain storage techniques—will be essential to maintain performance without compromising security or decentralization.

Advanced **access control mechanisms** using role-based or attribute-based encryption could provide finer granularity in sharing files with multiple recipients while safeguarding privacy. Additionally, incorporating **zero-knowledge proofs** or other privacy-preserving cryptographic techniques can enhance confidentiality by allowing verification without revealing sensitive data.

Lastly, expanding the system's compatibility with various platforms, including mobile devices and enterprise environments, would increase its adoption potential. Continuous security audits, usability improvements, and compliance with evolving data protection regulations will also be vital to ensure long-term reliability and trustworthiness of the system.

APPENDIX 1
SOURCECODE

```
import os

from flask import Flask, request, render_template, redirect, url_for, flash, send_file, session

from werkzeug.security import generate_password_hash, check_password_hash

import sqlite3

from cryptography.fernet import Fernet

from cryptography.hazmat.primitives import hashes

from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.kdf.pbkdf2 import PBKDF2HMAC

from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.asymmetric import rsa, padding

from cryptography.hazmat.primitives import serialization

from cryptography.hazmat.backends import default_backend

import base64

import datetime

import io

from cryptography.fernet import InvalidToken


app = Flask(__name__)
```

```
app.secret_key = os.urandom(24)
ENCRYPTION_DATA_FILE = 'encryption.data'


# Database initialization
def init_db():
    with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
        c = conn.cursor()
        c.execute('''CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS users (
            id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
            username TEXT UNIQUE NOT NULL,
            password TEXT NOT NULL,
            encryption_key BLOB NOT NULL,
            public_key BLOB NOT NULL,
            private_key BLOB NOT NULL
        )''')
        c.execute('''CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS messages (
            id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
            sender_id INTEGER,
            receiver_id INTEGER,
            content TEXT,
            timestamp DATETIME,
```

```
            FOREIGN KEY (sender_id) REFERENCES users(id),
            FOREIGN KEY (receiver_id) REFERENCES users(id)
        )''')
        c.execute('''CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS files (
            id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
            filename TEXT NOT NULL,
            offset INTEGER NOT NULL,
            length INTEGER NOT NULL,
            owner_id INTEGER,
            shared_with_id INTEGER,
            file_key BLOB NOT NULL,
            timestamp DATETIME,
            FOREIGN KEY (owner_id) REFERENCES users(id),
            FOREIGN KEY (shared_with_id) REFERENCES users(id)
        )''')
        conn.commit()

# Generate encryption key from password
def generate_encryption_key(password: str, salt: bytes) -> bytes:
    kdf = PBKDF2HMAC(
        algorithm=hashes.SHA256(),
```

```
        length=32,
        salt=salt,
        iterations=100000,
    )
    key = base64.urlsafe_b64encode(kdf.derive(password.encode()))
    return key

# Generate RSA key pair
def generate_rsa_key_pair():
    private_key = rsa.generate_private_key(
        public_exponent=65537,
        key_size=2048,
        backend=default_backend()
    )
    public_key = private_key.public_key()
    return private_key, public_key

# Serialize keys for storage
def serialize_public_key(public_key):
    return public_key.public_bytes(
        encoding=serialization.Encoding.PEM,
```

```
        format=serialization.PublicFormat.SubjectPublicKeyInfo
    )

def serialize_private_key(private_key):
    return private_key.private_bytes(
        encoding=serialization.Encoding.PEM,
        format=serialization.PrivateFormat.PKCS8,
        encryption_algorithm=serialization.NoEncryption()
    )

# Deserialize keys from storage
def deserialize_public_key(public_key_bytes):
    return serialization.load_pem_public_key(public_key_bytes, backend=default_backend())

def deserialize_private_key(private_key_bytes):
    return serialization.load_pem_private_key(private_key_bytes, password=None, backend=default_backend())

# Encrypt file
def encrypt_file(file_data: bytes, key: bytes) -> bytes:
```

```
    f = Fernet(key)
    return f.encrypt(file_data)

# Decrypt file
def decrypt_file(encrypted_data: bytes, key: bytes) -> bytes:
    f = Fernet(key)
    return f.decrypt(encrypted_data)

# Append encrypted data to encryption.data and return offset and length
def store_encrypted_data(encrypted_data: bytes) -> tuple:
    with open(ENCRYPTION_DATA_FILE, 'ab') as f:
        offset = f.tell()
        f.write(encrypted_data)
        length = len(encrypted_data)
    return offset, length

# Read encrypted data from encryption.data using offset and length
def read_encrypted_data(offset: int, length: int) -> bytes:
    with open(ENCRYPTION_DATA_FILE, 'rb') as f:
        f.seek(offset)
        return f.read(length)
```

```
@app.route('/')
def index():
    if 'user_id' in session:
        return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))
    return render_template('index.html')

@app.route('/register', methods=['GET', 'POST'])
def register():
    if request.method == 'POST':
        username = request.form['username']
        password = request.form['password']
        salt = os.urandom(32)
        encryption_key = generate_encryption_key(password, salt)

        # Generate RSA key pair
        private_key, public_key = generate_rsa_key_pair()
        public_key_bytes = serialize_public_key(public_key)

        # Encrypt private key with user's encryption key
        f = Fernet(encryption_key)
```

```
        private_key_bytes = serialize_private_key(private_key)
        encrypted_private_key = f.encrypt(private_key_bytes)

        with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
            c = conn.cursor()
            try:
                c.execute('INSERT INTO users (username, password, encryption_key, public_key, private_key) VALUES (?, ?, ?, ?, ?)',
                          (username, generate_password_hash(password), salt, public_key_bytes, encrypted_private_key))
                conn.commit()
                flash('Registration successful! Please log in.')
                return redirect(url_for('login'))
            except sqlite3.IntegrityError:
                flash('Username already exists!')

    return render_template('register.html')

@app.route('/login', methods=['GET', 'POST'])
def login():
    if request.method == 'POST':
```

```
        username = request.form['username']
        password = request.form['password']

        with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
            c = conn.cursor()
            c.execute('SELECT id, password, encryption_key FROM users WHERE username = ?', (username,))
            user = c.fetchone()

            if user and check_password_hash(user[1], password):
                session['user_id'] = user[0]
                session['username'] = username
                session['encryption_key'] = generate_encryption_key(password, user[2])
                flash('Login successful!')
                return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))
            flash('Invalid credentials!')

    return render_template('login.html')

@app.route('/dashboard')
```

```
def dashboard():
    if 'user_id' not in session:
        return redirect(url_for('login'))

    with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
        c = conn.cursor()
        # Get messages
        c.execute('''SELECT m.content, u.username, m.timestamp
                     FROM messages m
                     JOIN users u ON m.sender_id = u.id
                     WHERE m.receiver_id = ?
                     ORDER BY m.timestamp DESC''', (session['user_id'],))
        messages = c.fetchall()

        # Get shared files
        c.execute('''SELECT f.id, f.filename, u.username, f.timestamp
                     FROM files f
                     JOIN users u ON f.owner_id = u.id
                     WHERE f.shared_with_id = ?
                     ORDER BY f.timestamp DESC''', (session['user_id'],))
        files = c.fetchall()
```

```
        # Get users for sharing
        c.execute('SELECT id, username FROM users WHERE id != ?', (session['user_id'],))
        users = c.fetchall()

    return render_template('dashboard.html', messages=messages, files=files, users=users)

@app.route('/send_message', methods=['POST'])
def send_message():
    if 'user_id' not in session:
        return redirect(url_for('login'))

    receiver_id = request.form['receiver_id']
    content = request.form['content']

    with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
        c = conn.cursor()
        c.execute('INSERT INTO messages (sender_id, receiver_id, content, timestamp) VALUES (?, ?, ?, ?)',
```

```
            (session['user_id'], receiver_id, content,
datetime.datetime.now()))
        conn.commit()

    flash('Message sent!')
    return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))

@app.route('/upload', methods=['POST'])
def upload():
    if 'user_id' not in session:
        return redirect(url_for('login'))

    file = request.files['file']
    shared_with_id = request.form['shared_with_id']

    if file:
        filename = file.filename
        file_data = file.read()

        # Generate a file-specific key
        file_key = Fernet.generate_key()
```

```
        # Encrypt file with file-specific key
        encrypted_data = encrypt_file(file_data, file_key)

        # Store encrypted data in encryption.data
        offset, length = store_encrypted_data(encrypted_data)

        # Get recipient's public key
        with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
            c = conn.cursor()
            c.execute('SELECT public_key FROM users WHERE id = ?', (shared_with_id,))
            recipient = c.fetchone()
            if not recipient:
                flash('Recipient not found!')
                return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))
            public_key_bytes = recipient[0]

        # Encrypt file key with recipient's public key
        public_key = deserialize_public_key(public_key_bytes)
        encrypted_file_key = public_key.encrypt(
```

```
            file_key,
            padding.OAEP(
                mgf=padding.MGF1(algorithm=hashes.SHA256()),
                algorithm=hashes.SHA256(),
                label=None
            )
        )

        # Store file metadata in database
        with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
            c = conn.cursor()
            c.execute('INSERT INTO files (filename, offset, length, owner_id, shared_with_id, file_key, timestamp) VALUES (?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?)',
                      (filename, offset, length, session['user_id'], shared_with_id, encrypted_file_key, datetime.datetime.now()))
            conn.commit()

        flash('File uploaded and shared!')

    return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))
```

```
@app.route('/download/<int:file_id>')
def download(file_id):
    if 'user_id' not in session:
        return redirect(url_for('login'))

    with sqlite3.connect('database.db') as conn:
        c = conn.cursor()
        c.execute('SELECT filename, offset, length, file_key, private_key FROM users u JOIN files f ON u.id = f.shared_with_id WHERE f.id = ? AND f.shared_with_id = ?',
                  (file_id, session['user_id']))
        file = c.fetchone()

        if file:
            filename, offset, length, encrypted_file_key, encrypted_private_key = file
            # Read encrypted data from encryption.data
            encrypted_data = read_encrypted_data(offset, length)

            try:
                # Decrypt private key with user's encryption key
```

```
f = Fernet(session['encryption_key'])
private_key_bytes = f.decrypt(encrypted_private_key)
private_key = deserialize_private_key(private_key_bytes)

# Decrypt file key with private key
file_key = private_key.decrypt(
    encrypted_file_key,
    padding.OAEP(
        mgf=padding.MGF1(algorithm=hashes.SHA256()),
        algorithm=hashes.SHA256(),
        label=None
    )
)

# Decrypt file with file-specific key
decrypted_data = decrypt_file(encrypted_data, file_key)

# Return decrypted file as download
return send_file(
    io.BytesIO(decrypted_data),
    download_name=filename,
```

```
                as_attachment=True
            )
        except InvalidToken:
            flash('Decryption failed: Invalid key or corrupted file!')
            return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))
        except Exception as e:
            flash(f'Decryption failed: {str(e)}')
            return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))

    flash('File not found or access denied!')
    return redirect(url_for('dashboard'))

@app.route('/logout')
def logout():
    session.pop('user_id', None)
    session.pop('username', None)
    session.pop('encryption_key', None)
    flash('Logged out successfully!')
    return redirect(url_for('login'))
```

APPENDIX 2

SCREENSHOTS

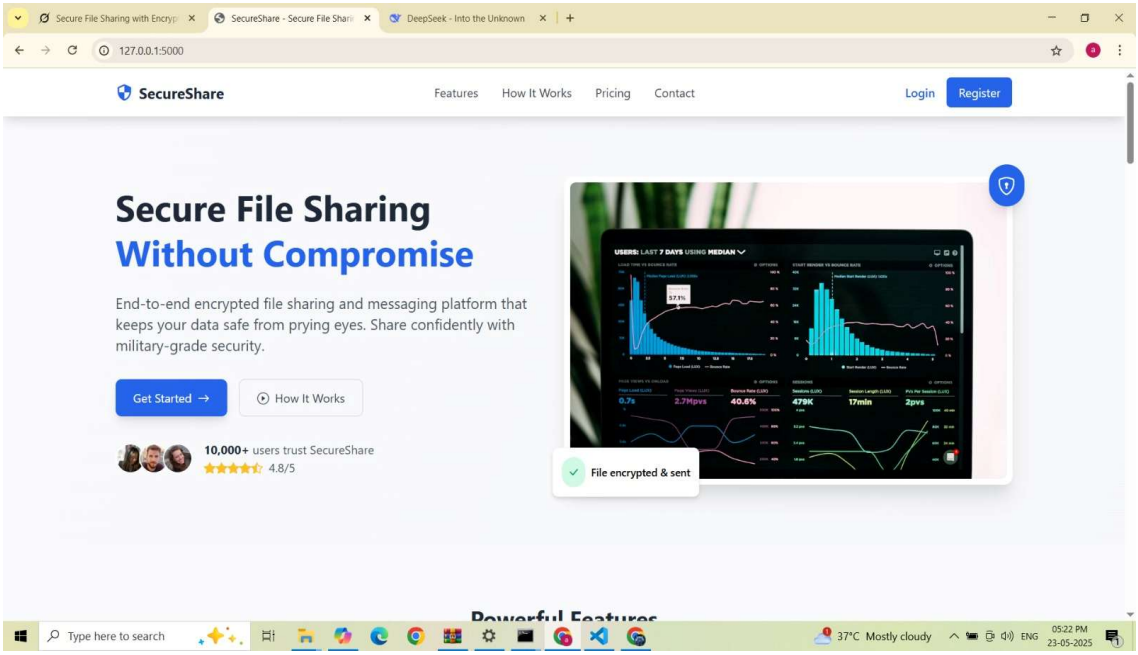
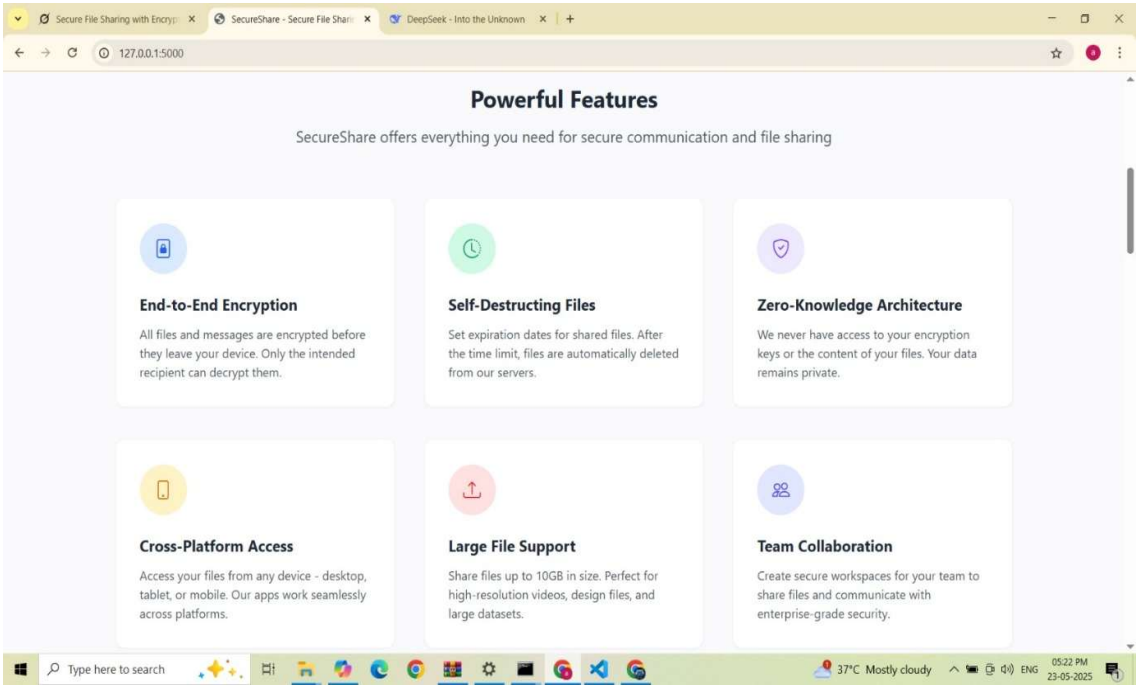


FIGURE S1



FIGUTE S2

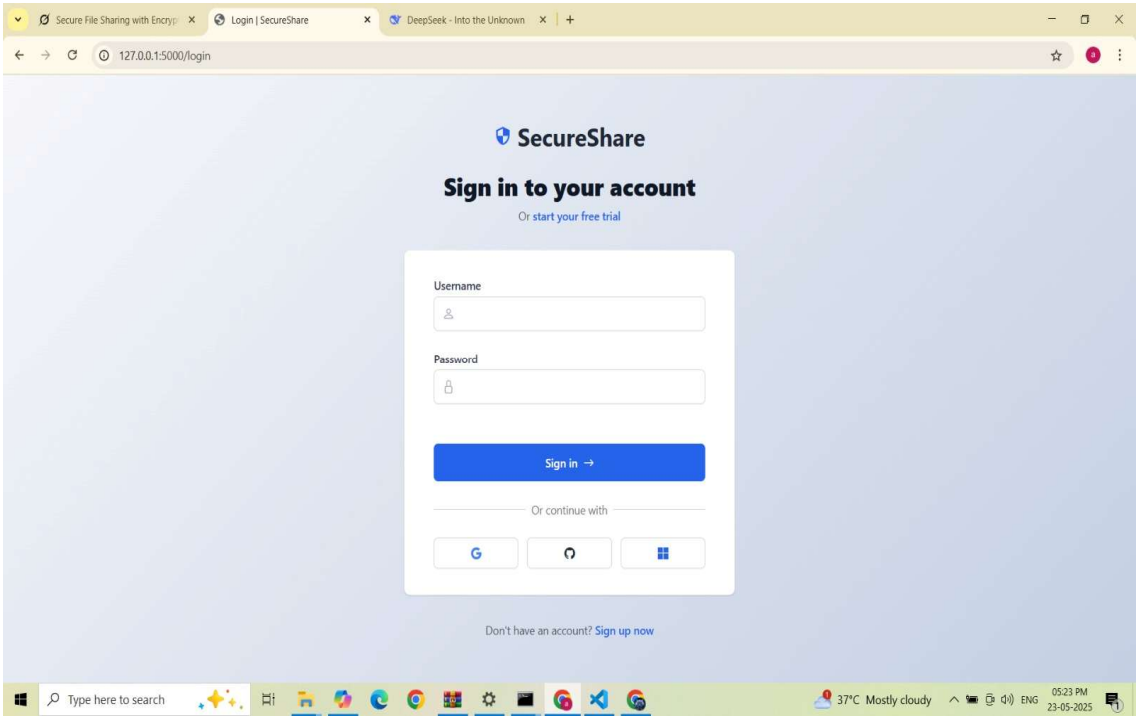


FIGURE S3

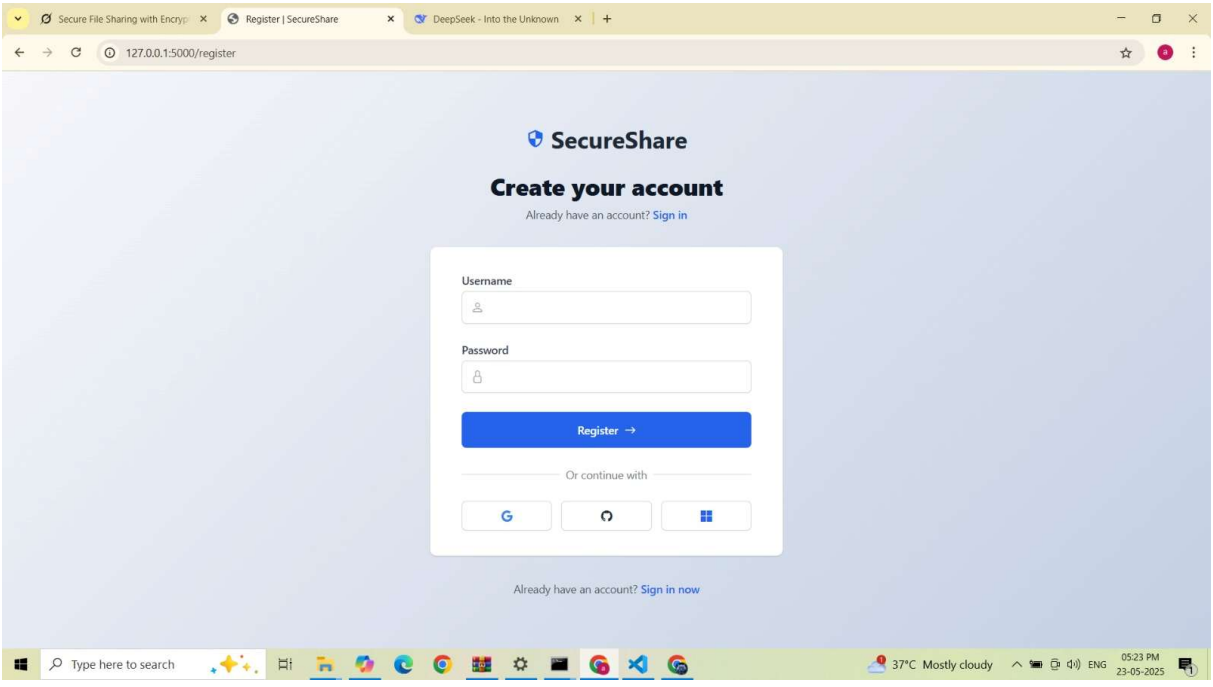


FIGURE S4

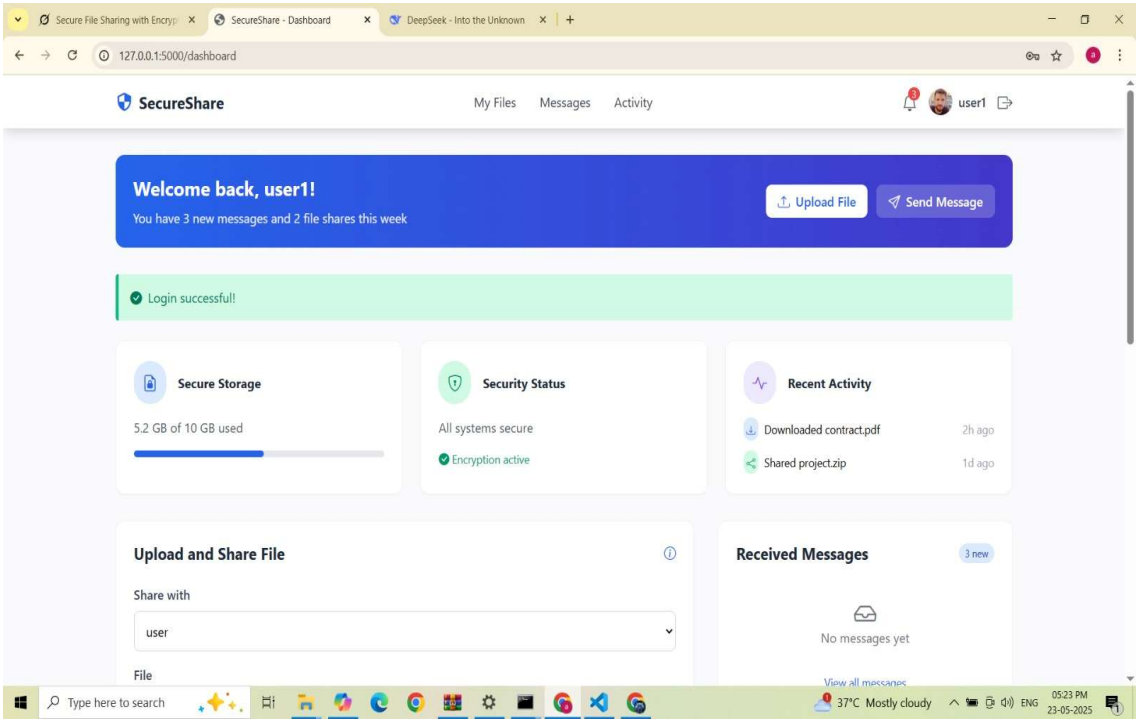


FIGURE S5

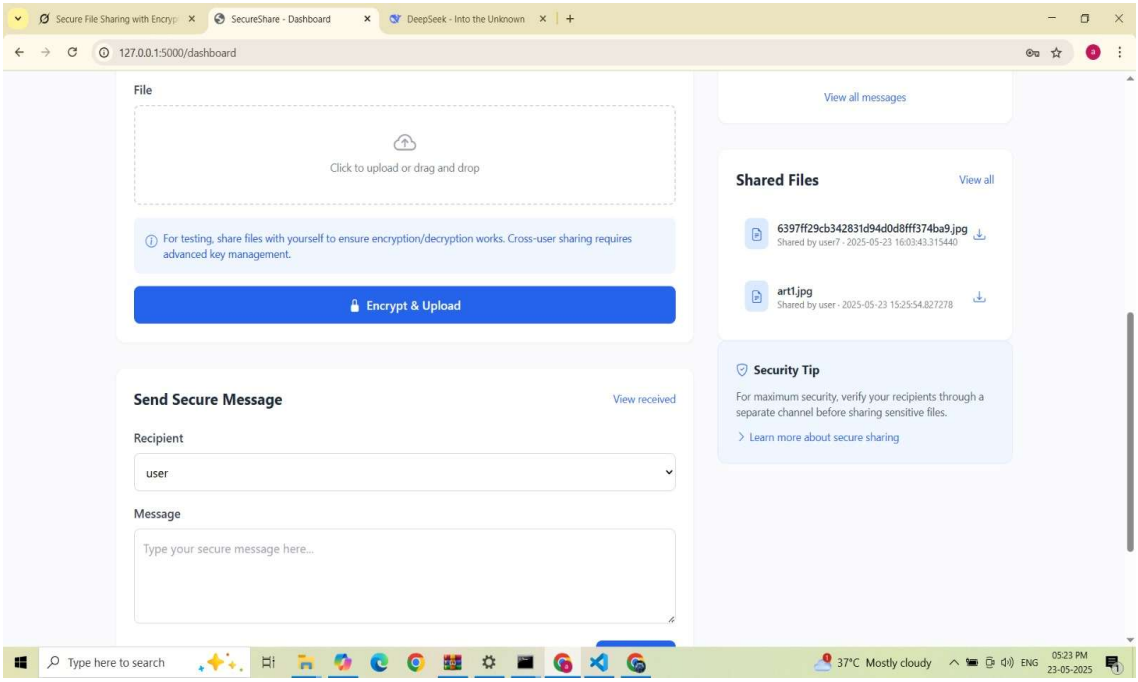


FIGURE S6

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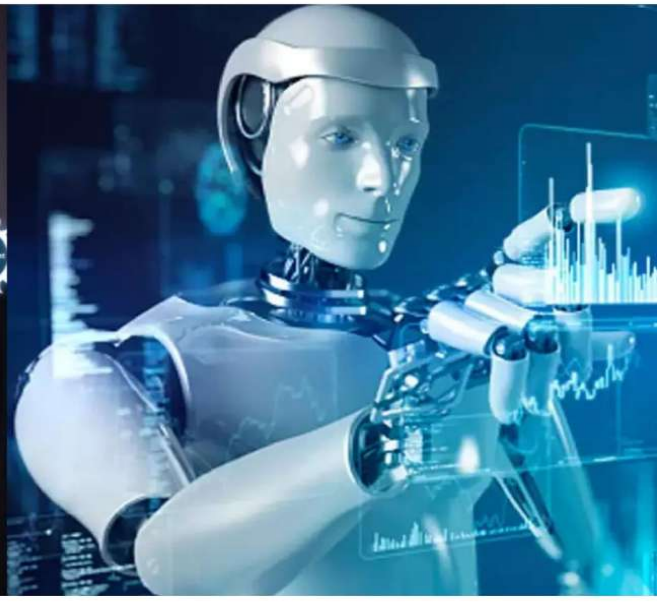

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Blockchain based Secure File Sharing System with End-To-End Encryption and Decentralized Access Control

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ABSTRACT: With growing concerns about data privacy and unauthorized access, secure file sharing has become a vital need in today's digital world. This project presents a Blockchain-Based Secure File Sharing System with End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) that addresses vulnerabilities found in centralized file-sharing systems. The proposed system leverages blockchain to create immutable and verifiable transaction records, while E2EE ensures that file content remains confidential from sender to receiver. By decentralizing control and introducing robust cryptographic protections, this system enhances security, ensures integrity, and provides auditability in file exchange processes.

KEYWORDS: Blockchain, Python, End-to-End Encryption (E2EE), SHA-256, Secure File Sharing, Cryptography, Decentralization, Immutable Ledger

I. INTRODUCTION

File sharing over digital platforms is common in various sectors such as healthcare, finance, legal services, and education. However, most traditional systems are centralized, making them prone to breaches, data leaks, and server failures. To mitigate these risks, our project combines blockchain technology and E2EE, allowing files to be shared securely without intermediaries. Blockchain logs file transactions securely, while E2EE ensures that only the intended recipient can decrypt the data, thereby achieving confidentiality and integrity. In centralized systems, data is typically stored on a single or few centralized servers managed by third-party service providers. These centralized architectures pose several risks including but not limited to single points of failure, high vulnerability to cyberattacks, and loss of data control by users. Any breach in the central server can potentially compromise the confidentiality of thousands of user files. Additionally, centralized entities often have access to the content of stored files, raising serious concerns about privacy, surveillance, and unauthorized data use. Our system revolutionizes this model by decentralizing file-sharing operations. Blockchain technology ensures that every file transaction, including uploads, downloads, and access events, is recorded immutably on a distributed ledger. This means that even if a participant tries to alter a transaction record or access history, the attempt can be immediately detected and traced. Each transaction is secured with SHA-256 cryptographic hashing, allowing recipients to verify file integrity upon receipt.

II. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The system consists of five primary components: **User Authentication, File Encryption, Blockchain Logging, Secure Transfer, and Audit Monitoring**.

A. Local File Encryption and Authentication

- Users register and log in using secure password-based authentication.
- Files are encrypted on the sender's device using AES-256.
- RSA public/private key pairs are used for secure key exchange.
- Only the recipient can decrypt the file using their private key.

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Process	Tools/Methods	Purpose	Location
Authentication	Flask, SQLite3	Secure user access	Web Interface
Encryption	Python, Fernet	Encrypt file before sending	User Device
Key Management	RSA, Cryptography	Secure key exchange	Server/User

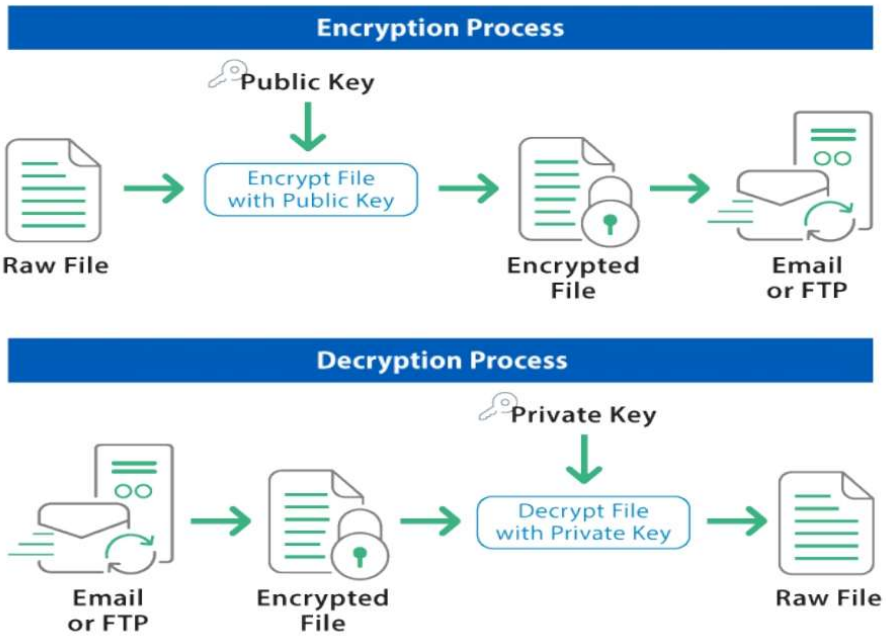

Figure1.1 Encryption/Decryption

B. Blockchain Metadata Logging

- SHA-256 is used to generate a hash of the encrypted file.
- Metadata such as sender, receiver, and timestamp is stored on a private blockchain.
- Ensures tamper-resistant audit logs and proof of data integrity.

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Component	Purpose	Technology Used
Hash Generator	Verify file integrity	SHA-256
Blockchain Node	Store metadata and hash	Python Blockchain
Logger Module	Record transaction details	Custom Blockchain

C. File Sharing and Retrieval

- Encrypted files are transmitted via secure channels.
- Recipients decrypt files locally with their RSA private key.
- Flask-based dashboard enables file uploads/downloads and history logs.

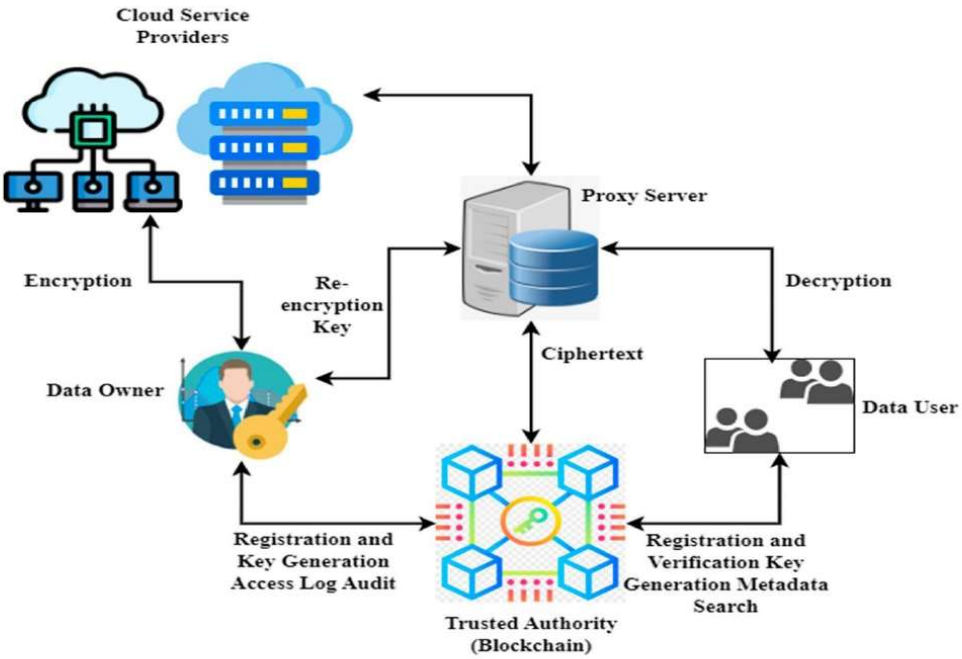

Figure 1.2 Data Secure

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III. RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The system was implemented and tested using Python (Flask), SQLite, and cryptography libraries. Extensive testing was conducted to evaluate encryption performance, access control, data integrity, and overall system robustness.

A. Performance Comparison

Metric	Legacy Cloud Sharing	Proposed System	Improvement
Encryption Time	Moderate	Fast (AES-based)	Secure with high speed
Decryption Success	Not Always Reliable	100% (Key-bound access)	Improved access control
Data Integrity Check	Manual or Limited	Auto (SHA-256 Hash Match)	Tamper detection enabled
Storage Privacy	Cloud-stored plain files	Encrypted & segregated	End-to-end confidentiality
Auditability	None	Full blockchain log	Transparent transactions

B. Observations

- The system maintained complete **end-to-end confidentiality**, ensuring only intended recipients could decrypt shared files.
- **Blockchain-based logging** provided tamper-proof records of every transaction, enhancing transparency and trust.
- Integrity verification using **SHA-256 hashes** successfully detected any alterations in the file during transmission.
- **Unauthorized access attempts** were effectively blocked through RSA-based key validation.
- The system operated with low latency and **fast encryption/decryption times**, offering both security and efficiency.
- Users found the interface **simple and intuitive**, making secure file sharing accessible even for non-technical users.

C. Testing Environment

- **Hardware:** Intel Core i5, 16 GB RAM
- **Backend:** Python 3.11 with Flask
- **Frontend:** HTML + CSS
- **Database:** SQLite
- **Cryptographic Libraries:** cryptography, hashlib
- **Testing Tools:** Postman (API), custom CLI scripts for benchmarking

IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

This project successfully demonstrates that secure, decentralized file sharing is achievable using a combination of blockchain and E2EE. The proposed system eliminates common vulnerabilities associated with centralized platforms, including data leaks, unauthorized access, and trust dependency on intermediaries.

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The system is modular, scalable, and transparent. It enhances security through full user-side encryption, secure key exchange, and immutable transaction logging.

Future Enhancements:

- Integration with Smart Contracts: Automate permissions and access logging.
- Decentralized File Storage (e.g., IPFS): For storing encrypted files securely off-chain.
- Multi-Factor Authentication: Add biometric or OTP-based login mechanisms.
- Mobile App Version: Extend access to smartphones and tablets.
- Zero-Knowledge Proofs: Enable verification without revealing file content.

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