NotaryNow

Project Proposal

Project Advisor:

Dr. Ammar Haider

Group Members:

Javaria Naveed	19L-1229
Muhammad Usaid	20L-2062
Muhammad Ibtasam	20L-0901

National University Of Computer and Emerging Sciences
Department of Computer Science
Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract

The process of ensuring the authenticity and legal validity of documents through notarization holds immense importance. Notarization, carried out by notary publics, involves verifying the signer's identity and witnessing their signature. However, conventional notarization can be time-intensive and demanding, necessitating an innovative solution. E-notarization emerges as a contemporary remedy, enabling remote and efficient notarization through electronic means. By obviating the need for physical presence, reducing paperwork, and employing secure electronic signatures, e-notarization enhances accessibility, security, and accuracy. Our project aims to achieve several goals, including the creation of an intuitive online platform for e-notarization, ensuring platform security, and expanding notary services reach. The application, built on the MERN Stack, provides seamless experiences for both notaries and clients. Through real-time interactions, meticulous identity verification, and digital seals, the platform ensures user authenticity and ease of use.

1. Introduction

Ensuring that legal documents are authentic and binding under the law is crucial. Notarization can be used in this situation. A notary public authenticates the signer's identity and witnesses the document signing during the notarization process. After confirming the signature's validity and the signer's identity, the notary adds their signature and seal to the document. Hence, the notarization process renders the document enforceable and aids in preventing fraud.

When dealing with several documents, notarization can be a time-consuming operation. It requires logistical planning and demands meticulous attention to detail, especially if any mistakes or discrepancies need fixing. It is essential to ensure that legal documents are legitimate and enforceable.

E-notarization is a possible solution to streamline the notarization procedure and make it less stressful. E-notarization is a cutting-edge and practical approach to notarizing documents electronically without being physically present. It saves time, effort, and money by removing the need to travel to a notary public office, minimizing paperwork, and expediting the procedure. Additionally, E-notarization offers higher security and accuracy because it uses tamper-proof electronic signatures and digital seals. E-notarization makes notarization available to everyone, anytime, anywhere, while preserving the papers' enforceability and legal standing.

2. Goals and Objectives

The primary objective is to create a user-friendly online platform for efficient e-notarization and simplifying the authentication process. Our main objectives include:

- Creating an online application for electronic notarization to streamline the notarization process.
- Making sure that the platform for document authentication and verification is safe.
- Expanding access to notary services across the nation, especially in rural locations.
- Increase transparency and accountability in the notarization process by maintaining track of all notarized documents.
- Enhancing customer experience by speeding up the notarization procedure and decreasing wait times.
- Creating a user-friendly design that is simple to use and understand, especially for non-technical people.

- Promoting the use of digital signatures and minimizing the necessity for printed documents.

3. Scope of the Project

The MERN Stack serves as the foundation for our innovative application, strategically catering to both notaries and clients. Dedicated portals will streamline the account creation and notarization process, ensuring seamless experiences.

Notaries will highlight their availability and service fees, while clients will conveniently schedule appointments post-secure payments. Document uploads precede real-time video interactions, facilitating meticulous identity verification via government ID photo and signature comparison. Clients must present at least two photo IDs, with subsequent mental state assessment and testimony confirming their willful participation.

This comprehensive approach takes around 5 minutes subject to provision of all required forms of identification and answers. The notary will bring up the document (already accessible to the notary) and attach his digital seal to it, authenticating the signer's identity and witnessing the document signing. Stored in ImmuDB, which offers cryptographic verification for tamper-proof storage, our solution ensures document authenticity.

Clients effortlessly access and export notarized documents for external use, cementing our commitment to convenience and security.

Excluded from our project scope are the integration of payment gateways, responsible for managing financial transactions, and the verification of the authenticity of notaries' licenses. These aspects, though essential in the broader context of notarization services, lie beyond the immediate focus of our project. Our project's primary goal is to establish an efficient and secure e-notarization platform, emphasizing accessibility and reliability for the notary users.

4. Initial Study and Work Done so Far

With their features and methods, well-known platforms like DocuSign, Notarize, and NotaryCam have opened the way for digitizing notarization procedures.

E-notarization is now a part of the services offered by DocuSign, a leader in digital transaction management. It streamlines notarization through a user-friendly interface, combining safe document storage with digital signatures [1]. On the other hand, Notarize concentrates on remote real-time notarization. Thanks to a network of licensed notaries, users no longer need to be physically present to begin notarization. Their technology maintains a secure and effective process while ensuring compliance with numerous state standards [2]. NotaryCam stands out due to its focus on worldwide reach. Through live audio and video meetings with notaries from several countries, the technology enables cross-border notarizations. In order to serve a world that is becoming increasingly globalized, their strategy navigates the difficulties of international notarization [3].

Together, these platforms show how E-notarization continues to develop, emphasizing effectiveness, security, and accessibility. The coexistence of well-established businesses and newcomers in this space demonstrates the industry's potential for development and transformation. We have made our search and have yet to witness similar work done in Pakistan. Our project aims at bridging this gap. Our distinctive strategy puts user experience, security, and a smooth transition to a digital notarization era at the forefront.

References

[1]   "DocuSign products," DocuSign, https://www.docusign.com/products/ (accessed Sep. 1,2023)

[2]   "Notarize online. anywhere. anytime.," Notarize, https://www.notarize.com/ (accessed Sep. 1,2023)

[3]   "Online notary public: NotaryCam," NotaryCam Online Notary Public, https://www.notarycam.com/ (accessed Sep, 1, 2023).