Blockchain Technology for Electronic Health Records

PROJECT REPORT

Submitted by

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GKM

College of Engineering and Technology

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TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER – 1

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview:

Blockchain In Electronic Health Records

Blockchain technology has the potential to revolutionize various industries, including healthcare, particularly in the context of Electronic Health Records (EHRs). Electronic Health Records are digital versions of patients' medical histories, treatment plans, lab results, and other health-related information. Blockchain can offer several benefits when integrated into EHR systems

A blockchain-based Electronic Health Records (EHR) project aims to enhance healthcare data security, interoperability, and patient control. By utilizing blockchain's decentralized ledger, cryptographic security, and smart contracts, this system ensures immutable and transparent EHR access, fostering trust among healthcare providers and patients, while enabling efficient data sharing and streamlined record management.

1.2 Purpose:

The purpose of implementing blockchain technology in Electronic Health Records (EHR) is to create a secure, transparent, and immutable system for storing, sharing, and managing healthcare data. By utilizing blockchain, the project aims to enhance data integrity, privacy, and interoperability, ensuring that patient information is easily accessible to authorized parties while protecting it from unauthorized access, breaches, or tampering, ultimately improving the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery.

CHAPTER – 2

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1 Existing problem:

The integration of blockchain technology into electronic health records (EHRs) has been hailed as a potential solution to various longstanding issues in healthcare, but it also faces its own set of challenges. One of the most prominent existing problems in implementing blockchain in EHRs is interoperability. Healthcare systems often use diverse EHR platforms, and these systems may not readily communicate with each other due to differences in data formats, standards, and data storage methods. Blockchain, with its decentralized and distributed ledger structure, can address security and privacy concerns, but the lack of standardized protocols for healthcare data on the blockchain hinders seamless interoperability. This interoperability issue can impede the sharing of patient records among healthcare providers, which is a fundamental requirement for delivering comprehensive and timely care. Solving this problem is crucial for maximizing the potential benefits of blockchain in EHRs and realizing a more efficient and patient-centric healthcare ecosystem.

2.2 References:

Research on the Application of Cross-Regional Sharin of Blockchain-Based Electronic Health Records

Published in: 2023 IEEE International Conference on Integrated Circuits and Communication Systems (ICICACS)

Role of Byzantine Fault Tolerance (BFT) in Maintaining Patient Health Records Using Block Chain Technology

Published in: 2020 International Conference on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (ICPS)

Secure Sharing of Health Data Using Hyperledger Fabric Based on Blockchain Technology

Published in: 2020 International Conference on Mainstreaming Block Chain Implementation (ICOMBI)

Applications of Ensuring Security and Privacy Using Block Chain with IoT for Health Record

Published in: 2022 2nd International Conference on Advance Computing and Innovative Technologies in Engineering (ICACITE)

Design Of Medi-Chain: A Blockchain and Cloud Based Health Record System

Published in: 2021 Fourth International Conference on Electrical, Computer and Communication Technologies (ICECCT)

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3177114/&ved=2ahUKEwj8hqXRrpWCAxVMUGwGHVQoDGwQFnoECBgQAQ&usg=AOvVaw07XC5tCerJhjQw9MYhoRE5

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2.3 Problem Statement Definition:

The integration of blockchain technology into electronic health records (EHRs) presents a promising avenue for enhancing the security, accessibility, and interoperability of healthcare data. However, this project seeks to address the following critical problems:

Data Security and Privacy: The current state of EHR systems is plagued by vulnerabilities that expose sensitive patient data to security breaches and unauthorized access. These issues compromise patient privacy and can lead to significant harm if exploited. The project aims to define and implement a blockchain-based solution that ensures the utmost security and privacy for electronic health records.

Data Interoperability: The lack of standardization and interoperability in EHR systems hinders the seamless sharing of health information among healthcare providers, making it challenging to deliver timely and effective patient care. The project seeks to tackle this problem by exploring how blockchain can facilitate data exchange among different healthcare entities while maintaining data integrity and confidentiality.

In summary, this project's primary focus is to leverage blockchain technology to mitigate security vulnerabilities and enhance interoperability within electronic health records, thereby improving the overall quality of patient care while safeguarding their sensitive health information.

CHAPTER – 3

3. IDEATION & PROPOSED SOLUTION

3.1 Empathy Map Canvas:

In the realm of electronic health records (EHR), the integration of blockchain technology introduces a transformative potential that can be best understood through the lens of an "Empathy Map." This tool allows us to delve into the various stakeholders' perspectives involved in the EHR system, shedding light on the profound implications of blockchain.

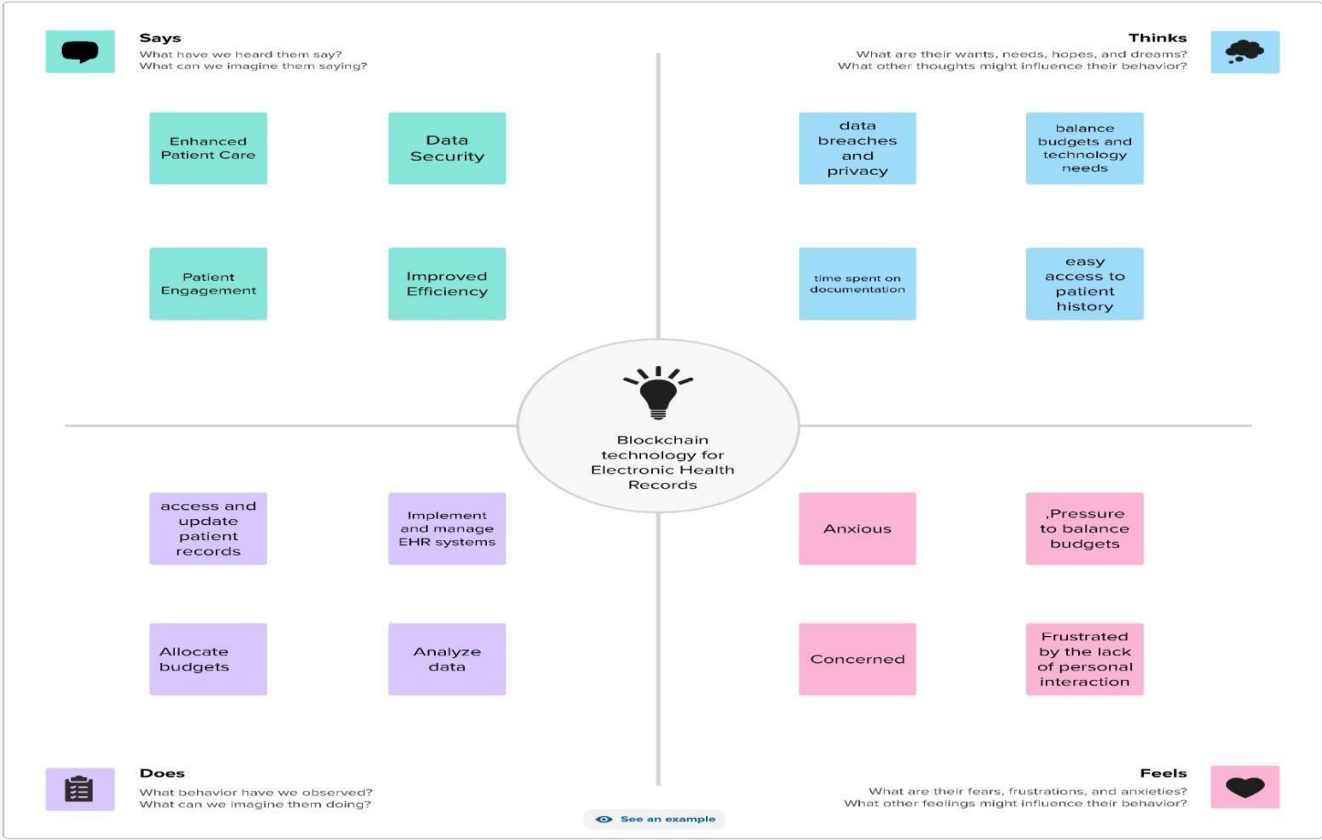
For patients, the integration of blockchain in EHR offers newfound confidence and control over their health data. Empowered by enhanced security and privacy, patients can trust that their sensitive information is protected from unauthorized access, fostering a sense of safety and ownership over their health records.

Healthcare providers, on the other hand, benefit from the blockchain enabled EHR system by streamlining access to accurate patient information. This reduces the administrative burden, enhances care coordination, and ultimately enables them to deliver more efficient and effective healthcare services. The increased transparency and data integrity provided by blockchain cultivate a deeper sense of responsibility and accountability within the healthcare ecosystem.

Administrators and IT professionals also stand to gain from this innovation, as it simplifies data management, reduces costs, and mitigates the risk of data breaches. This, in turn, improves the overall efficiency of healthcare organizations. The empathy map reveals that these stakeholders experience relief and efficiency as they navigate the increasingly complex landscape of healthcare data management.

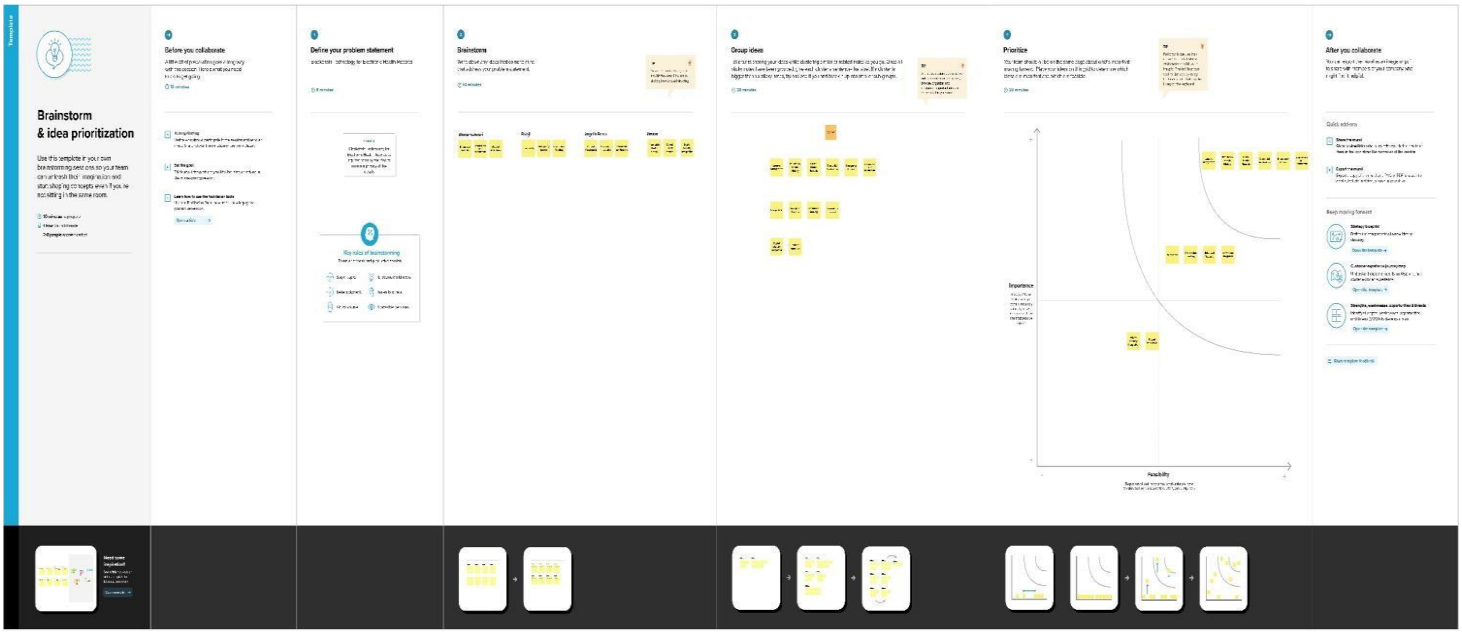
Lastly, regulators and policymakers grapple with the challenge of balancing innovation and compliance. The blockchain integration in EHR systems could potentially simplify the regulatory framework by ensuring data accuracy, enhancing data security, and supporting compliance with healthcare data protection laws. This perspective offers a clearer understanding of the opportunities and dilemmas they face in advancing healthcare technology.

In summary, applying the Empathy Map to the adoption of blockchain technology in electronic health records enables us to appreciate the multi-dimensional impact it has on patients, healthcare providers, administrators, IT professionals, and regulators. By addressing the diverse needs and concerns of these stakeholders, we can further promote the adoption of blockchain in EHR, ultimately improving the quality, security, and efficiency of healthcare services.



3.2 Ideation & Brainstorming:

In the realm of electronic health records (EHRs), the integration of blockchain technology offers a groundbreaking solution to enhance data security, accessibility, and integrity. Our project ideation and brainstorming revolve around leveraging blockchain in EHR systems. By implementing a blockchain-based EHR platform, we aim to establish a secure and tamper-proof ledger for patient records and medical data. This technology ensures that patient information is encrypted and decentralized, reducing the risk of data breaches and unauthorized access. Additionally, it enables patients to have full control over their records, granting permissions for healthcare providers to access specific information as needed, thereby enhancing data privacy and patient consent. Moreover, the immutability of blockchain can prevent data manipulation or fraud, ensuring the authenticity of medical records. Our brainstorming session should focus on developing a roadmap for this project, addressing technical challenges, regulatory compliance, and creating a user-friendly interface to facilitate widespread adoption. By combining blockchain's inherent security and the critical need for reliable EHRs, we can revolutionize the healthcare industry and ultimately improve patient care and safety.



CHAPTER-4

4. REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

4.1 Functional requirements:

Functional analysis for implementing blockchain technology in electronic health records (EHR) systems involves identifying the key requirements and functionalities that the system should possess. Here are some important factors to consider:

1. Data privacy and security: One of the primary motivations for implementing blockchain in EHR systems is to enhance data privacy and security. The blockchain should provide cryptographic mechanisms to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability

of patient health information. It should facilitate secure and auditable access control, protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access or modifications.

2. Interoperability: EHR systems should be able to seamlessly exchange information across multiple healthcare providers, medical institutions, and stakeholders involved in patient care. The blockchain architecture should support standardized data formats and protocols to ensure interoperability, fostering the smooth flow of information between different systems.

3. Immutable and transparent data storage: Blockchain technology offers an immutable ledger that provides a tamper-proof record of all data transactions. EHR systems should leverage this feature to store patient health records in a transparent and auditable manner. Any modifications or additions to the EHR should be recorded on the blockchain, maintaining a complete and verifiable history of the patient's health data.

4. Patient control and consent management: EHR systems should put the patient at the centre of their health information management. Blockchain solutions should incorporate mechanisms for patients to control and manage their consent preferences for data sharing, ensuring that their preferences are respected and enforced across the network.

5. Real-time accessibility and availability: Healthcare providers require immediate access to critical patient health information for timely decision-making. Blockchain-based EHR systems should prioritize real-time accessibility and availability of data to authorized stakeholders, reducing delays and enhancing the efficiency of healthcare operations.

6. Scalability and performance: As healthcare systems generate vast amounts of data, blockchain-based EHR systems should be scalable and capable of handling increased data volumes without compromising performance. The blockchain architecture should support efficient data storage, retrieval, and query mechanisms to meet the demands of the healthcare industry.

7. Auditability and compliance: Regulatory requirements and compliance standards play a crucial role in the healthcare sector. Blockchain should provide a framework for maintaining an audit trail, enabling compliance with regulatory guidelines such as HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) in the United States. The system should facilitate easy auditing and reporting capabilities to ensure transparency and accountability.

8. Integration with existing systems: EHR systems need to integrate with existing healthcare infrastructure, including legacy systems and electronic medical record (EMR) systems. Blockchain technology should support interoperability and compatibility with these systems, allowing for a smooth migration and integration process.

9. Disaster recovery and resiliency: Blockchain technology should provide robust mechanisms for disaster recovery, backup, and restoration of EHR data. The decentralized and distributed nature of blockchain can contribute to the resilience of the system, preventing data loss and ensuring continuity of healthcare services even in the event of infrastructure failures or natural disasters.

10. User-friendly interfaces: Finally, the blockchain-based EHR system should prioritize intuitive and user-friendly interfaces to ensure ease of use for healthcare professionals and patients. The

system should be designed with the end-users in mind, providing a seamless experience and minimizing the learning curve associated with new technologies.

4.2 Non-Functional requirements:

When conducting a non-functional analysis for a blockchain-based electronic health records (EHR) system, it is important to consider various requirements to ensure the system meets the necessary standards and expectations. Here are some key aspects to consider:

1. Security: As EHR data contains sensitive and personal information, security is paramount. The blockchain system should incorporate robust cryptographic algorithms, secure key management, access controls, and audit trails to protect data from unauthorized access, tampering, or breaches.

2. Scalability: Healthcare organizations generate vast amounts of data daily. The blockchain system should be scalable to handle increasing data volumes and transaction loads without compromising performance or causing delays in accessing and updating records.

3. Privacy and Confidentiality: Patient data privacy is crucial. The blockchain system must adhere to privacy regulations, such as HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Confidentiality mechanisms, like encryption and patient consent management, should be implemented to safeguard personal health information shared on the network.

4. Interoperability: Many healthcare providers and systems need to access and exchange EHR data seamlessly. The blockchain system should support interoperability standards, such as HL7 (Health Level

Seven International), to ensure compatibility and smooth sharing of data across different healthcare entities.

5. Reliability and Availability: Healthcare operations require constant and uninterrupted access to patient records. The blockchain system should be designed with fault-tolerant mechanisms, redundancy, and disaster recovery plans to ensure high availability and reliability.

6. Compliance: The system should comply with regulatory requirements, industry standards, and best practices. This includes adhering to data retention policies, data integrity guidelines, and compliance with relevant healthcare laws and regulations specific to the jurisdiction.

7. User Experience: The system should be intuitive and user-friendly for healthcare professionals, patients, and other authorized users. It should have a well-designed interface, provide efficient search and retrieval of records, and allow for easy authentication and authorization processes.

8. Performance: The blockchain system should deliver optimal performance, considering factors like transaction processing speed, data retrieval time, and latency. Performance benchmarks can be set to ensure efficient data handling and smooth system operation.

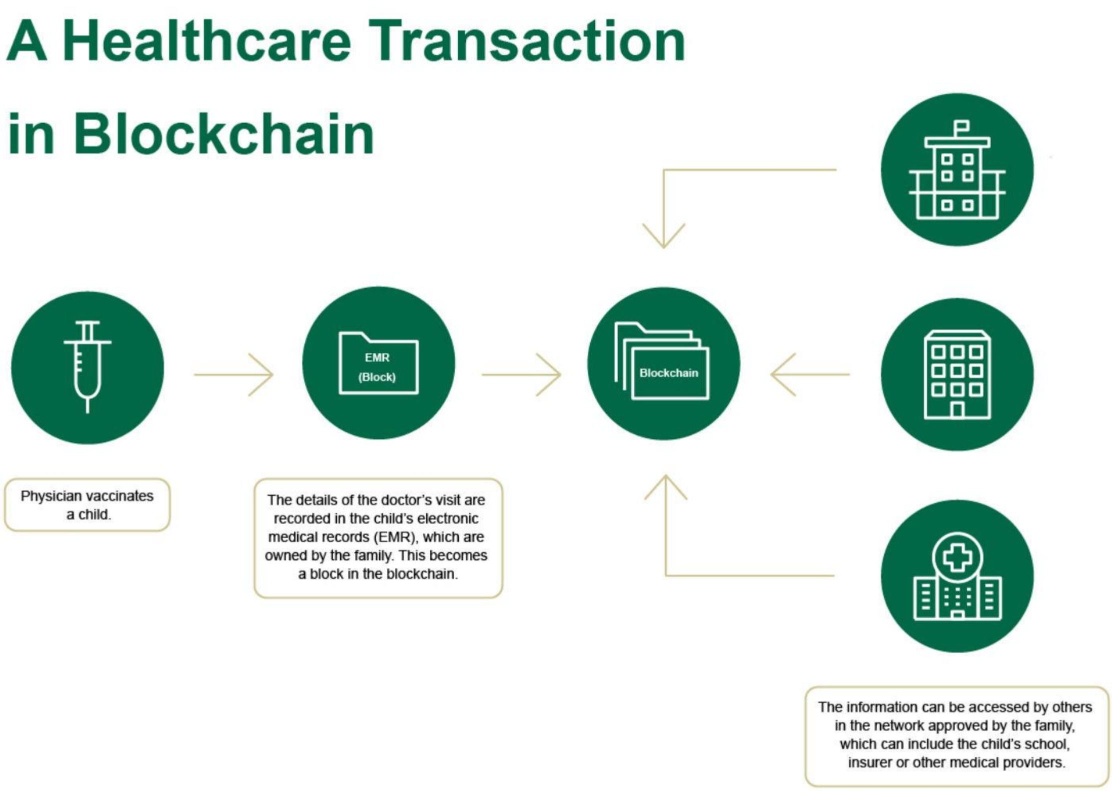
9. Governance and Auditability: The blockchain system should incorporate mechanisms for transparent governance and auditing. This includes tracking changes made to records, monitoring access logs, and ensuring accountability for any actions performed within the system.

10. Compliance with Data Protection Regulations: The blockchain system should comply with applicable data protection laws and regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), to protect individuals' rights and ensure proper handling of personal data.

CHAPTER-5

5. PROJECT DESIGN

5.1 Data flow diagrams & User stories:



User stories:

- ✓ **As a patient,** I want to have my medical records securely stored on the blockchain, so I can access them from anywhere and share them with my healthcare providers easily.

- ✓ **As a healthcare provider,** I want to be able to securely update and access patient records on the blockchain, ensuring that the data is accurate and up-to-date.

- ✓ **As a pharmacist,** I want to verify the authenticity of prescriptions through the blockchain, ensuring that patients receive the correct medications.

- ✓ **As a system administrator,** I want to have tools for managing user access and permissions within the EHR blockchain system to maintain data security and compliance with privacy regulations.

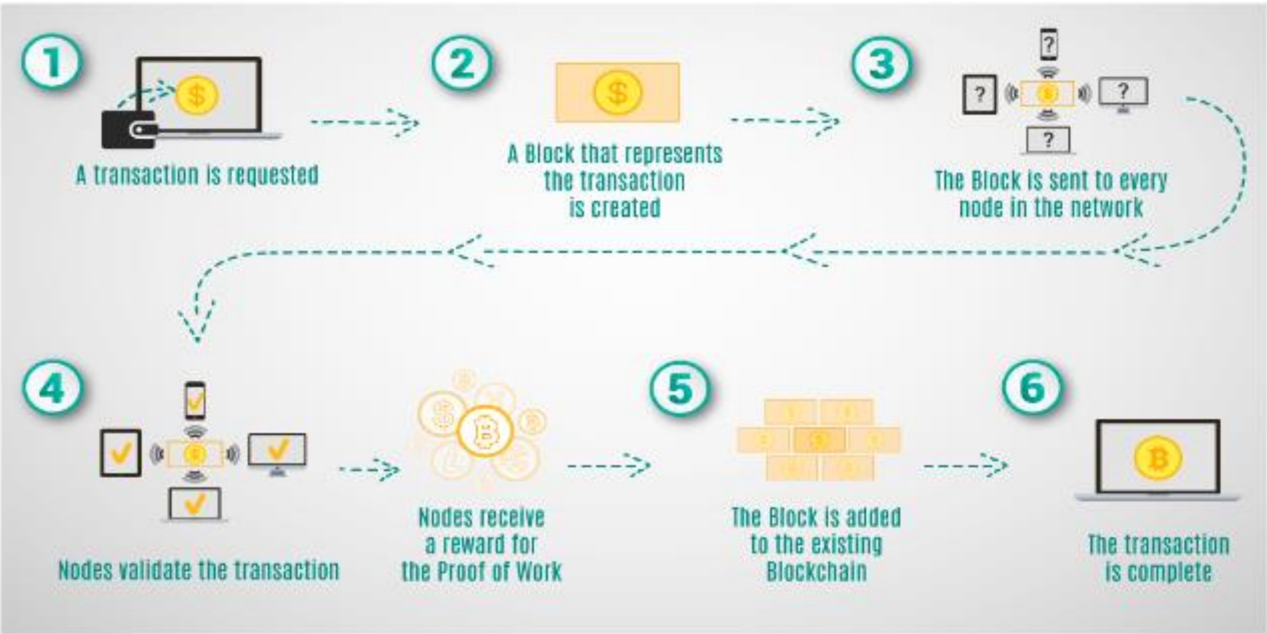
- ✓ **As a patient,** I want to receive notifications when my medical records are accessed or modified, so I can stay informed about my data.

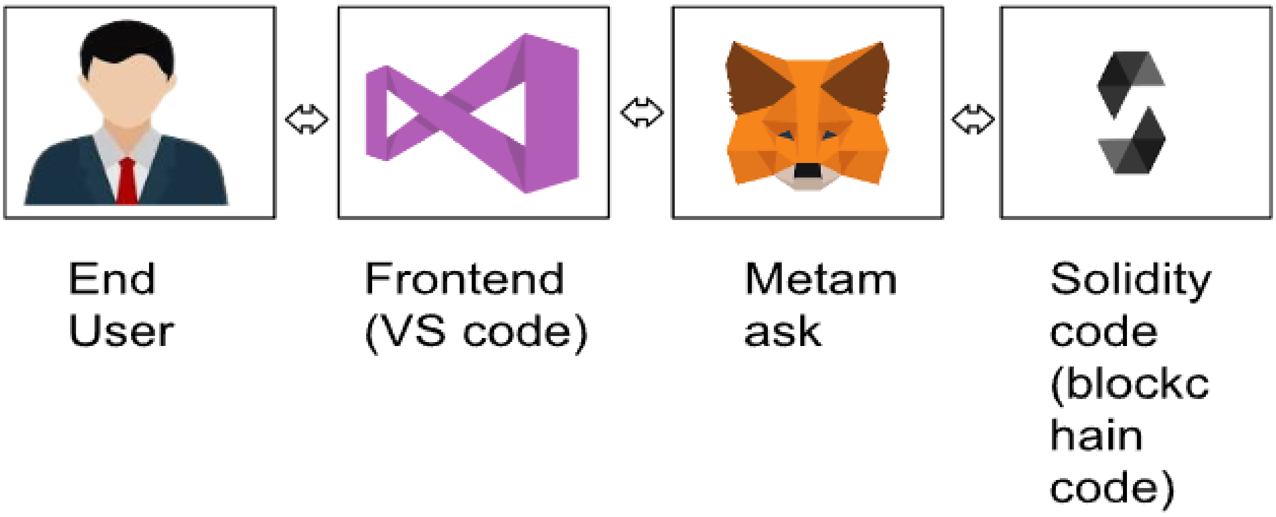
- ✓ **As a healthcare provider,** I want a user-friendly interface for interacting with the blockchain EHR system, making it easy to retrieve patient data and update records efficiently.

CHAPTER-6

6. PROJECT PLANNING & SCHEDULING

6.1 Technical Architecture





6.2 Sprint Planning and Estimation

Sprint Planning involves breaking down the project into smaller, manageable tasks and estimating their effort. Since we are considering blockchain technology for electronic health records, we need to identify the specific features and functionalities we want to include in the sprint.

1. Research blockchain technology: Allocate time for the team to research and understand how blockchain works, particularly in the context of electronic health records.

2. Define requirements: Gather and document the specific requirements for implementing blockchain technology in the healthcare domain. This involves understanding the needs of the users, data security requirements, and compliance regulations.

3. Design blockchain architecture: Collaborate with the development team and architects to design the blockchain architecture that can securely store electronic health records and provide necessary access controls.

4. Develop smart contracts: Smart contracts play a crucial role in governing the interactions within the blockchain network. Allocate time for the development team to code and test smart contracts that ensure data privacy and integrity.

5. Build user interface: Create a user-friendly interface where healthcare providers and patients can access and interact with the blockchain-based electronic health records system.

6. Integrate with existing systems: If there are existing healthcare information systems, allocate time for integrating the blockchain solution with these systems to ensure seamless data exchange.

7. Conduct security testing: Blockchain implementations require rigorous security testing to identify vulnerabilities and ensure data privacy. Set aside time to conduct thorough testing and address any issues.

8. Document and review: Throughout the sprint, ensure that all tasks are properly documented and reviewed by the team to maintain transparency and clarity.

6.3 Sprint Delivery Schedule

Traditional EHR systems are often fragmented and difficult to share across different healthcare providers. As a result, patients often face delays and inefficiencies in accessing their medical records, which can impact their overall care and treatment. Blockchain technology offers a decentralized and secure solution to this problem.

In a blockchain-based EHR system, patient data is stored in a distributed ledger that is accessible to all authorized parties. Each new entry in the ledger is encrypted and linked to previous transactions, creating an immutable and transparent record of all interactions. This ensures that the integrity and security of patient data are maintained throughout the delivery process.

With blockchain, delivery schedules for healthcare services can be streamlined and improved. The decentralized nature of the technology allows for real-time updates and reduces the need for manual coordination between different healthcare providers. This can lead to faster and more efficient delivery of healthcare services, reducing waiting times for patients.

Moreover, blockchain enables patients to have more control and ownership over their health records. They can grant specific permissions to healthcare providers, allowing them to access their records when needed. This not only empowers patients but also enables healthcare providers to make more informed decisions based on comprehensive and up-to-date information.

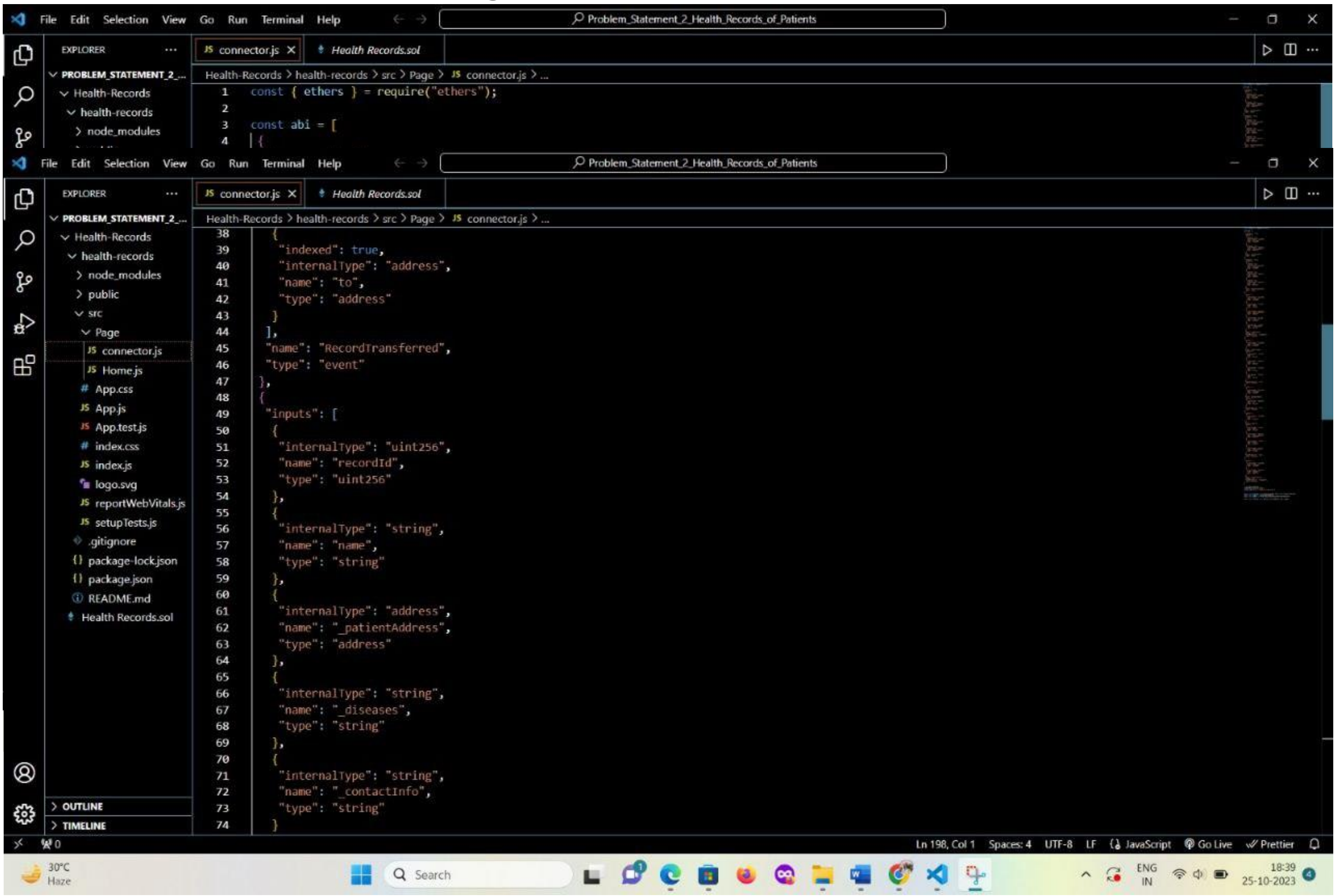
Additionally, blockchain technology enhances data security and privacy. Encryption and decentralized storage of records make it harder for unauthorized individuals to gain access to sensitive patient information. The use of cryptographic techniques ensures that only authorized parties can view and modify the data, maintaining the privacy and integrity of EHRs.

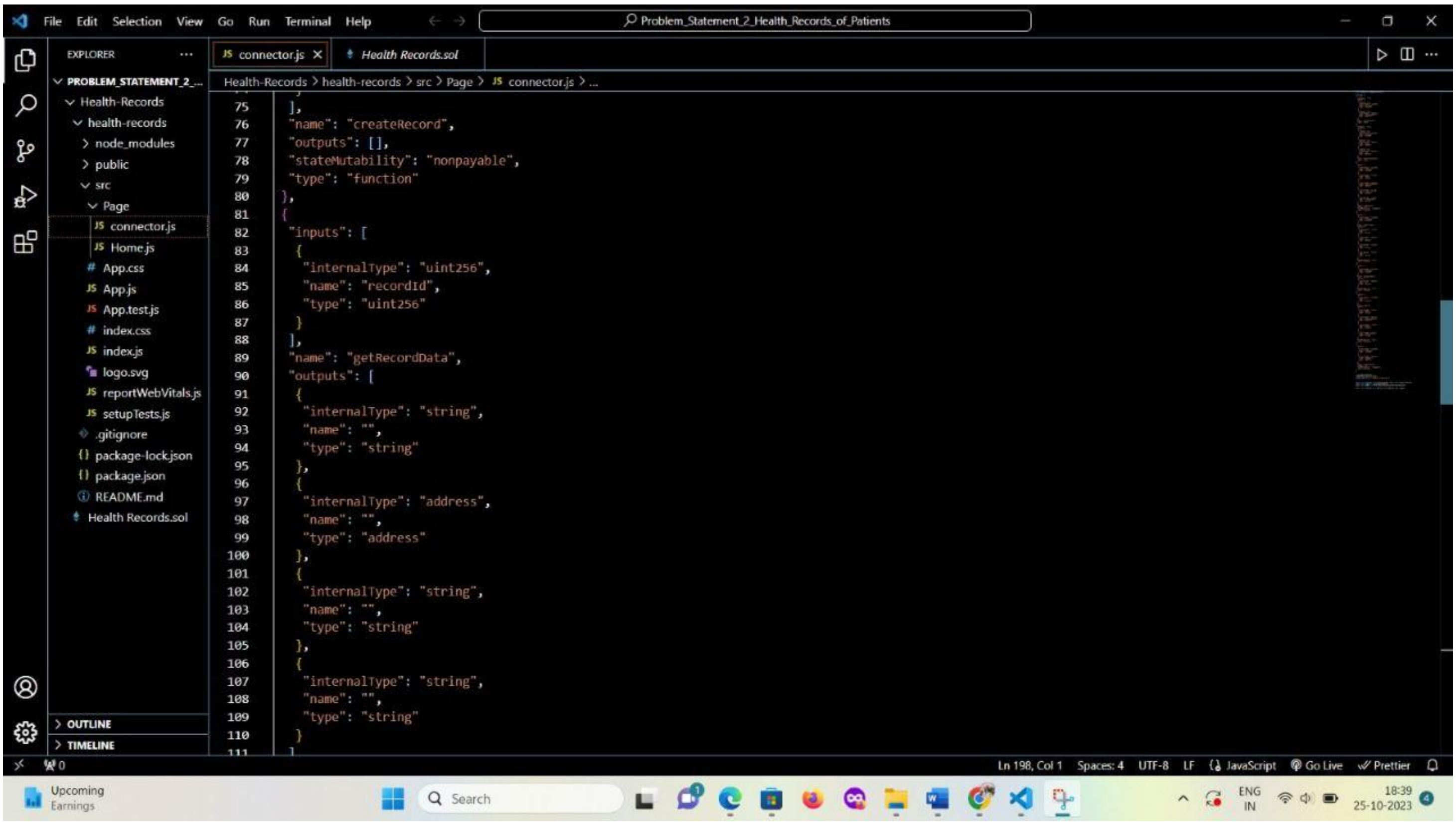
In conclusion, by leveraging blockchain technology for electronic health records, healthcare organizations can improve the delivery schedule of services and enhance patient care. The decentralized and secure nature of blockchain ensures real-time updates, greater data security, and patient empowerment, ultimately leading to more efficient and effective healthcare delivery.

CHAPTER-7

7.CODING AND SOLUTIONS

7.1 Visual Studio Coding:

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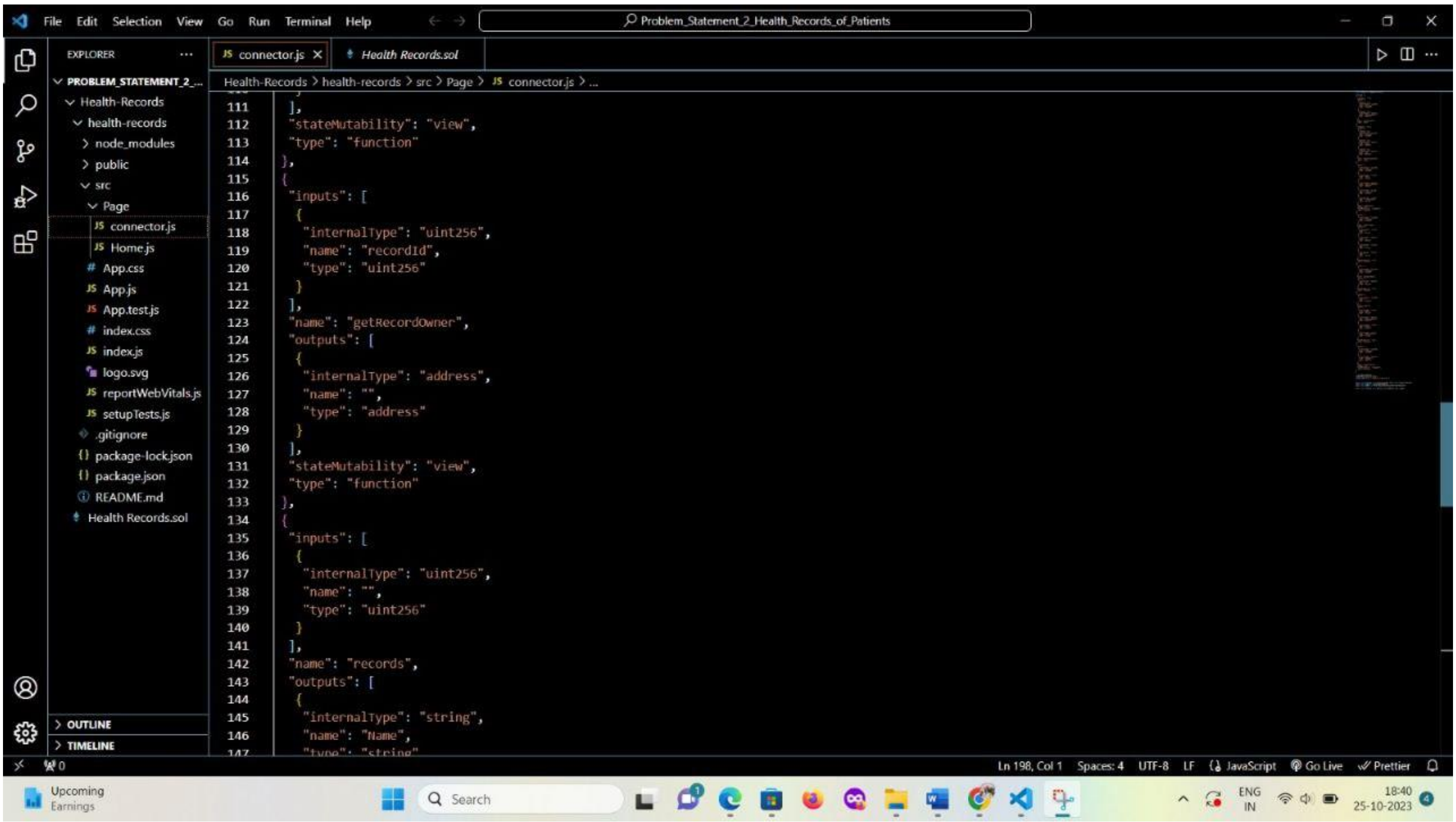
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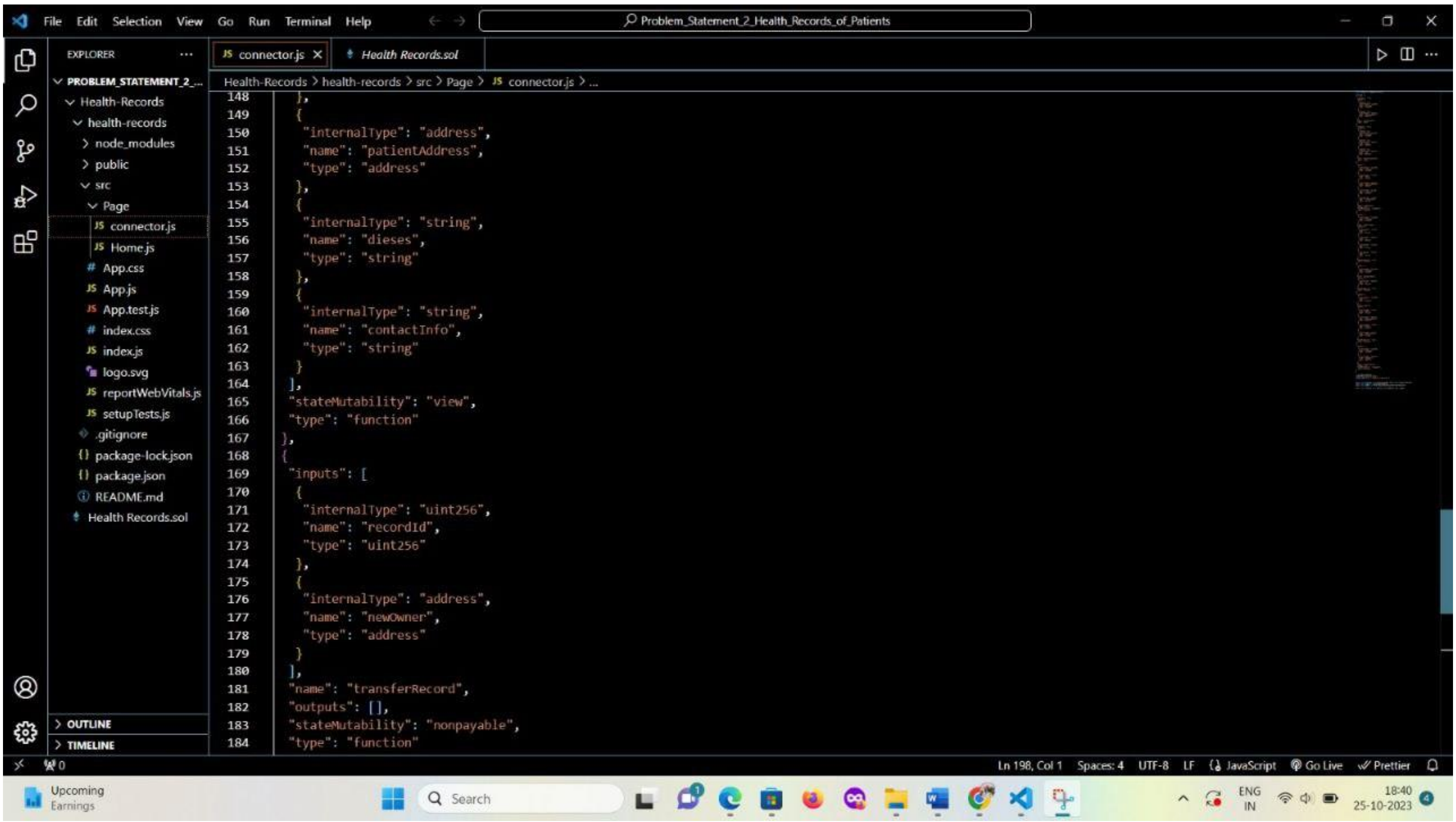
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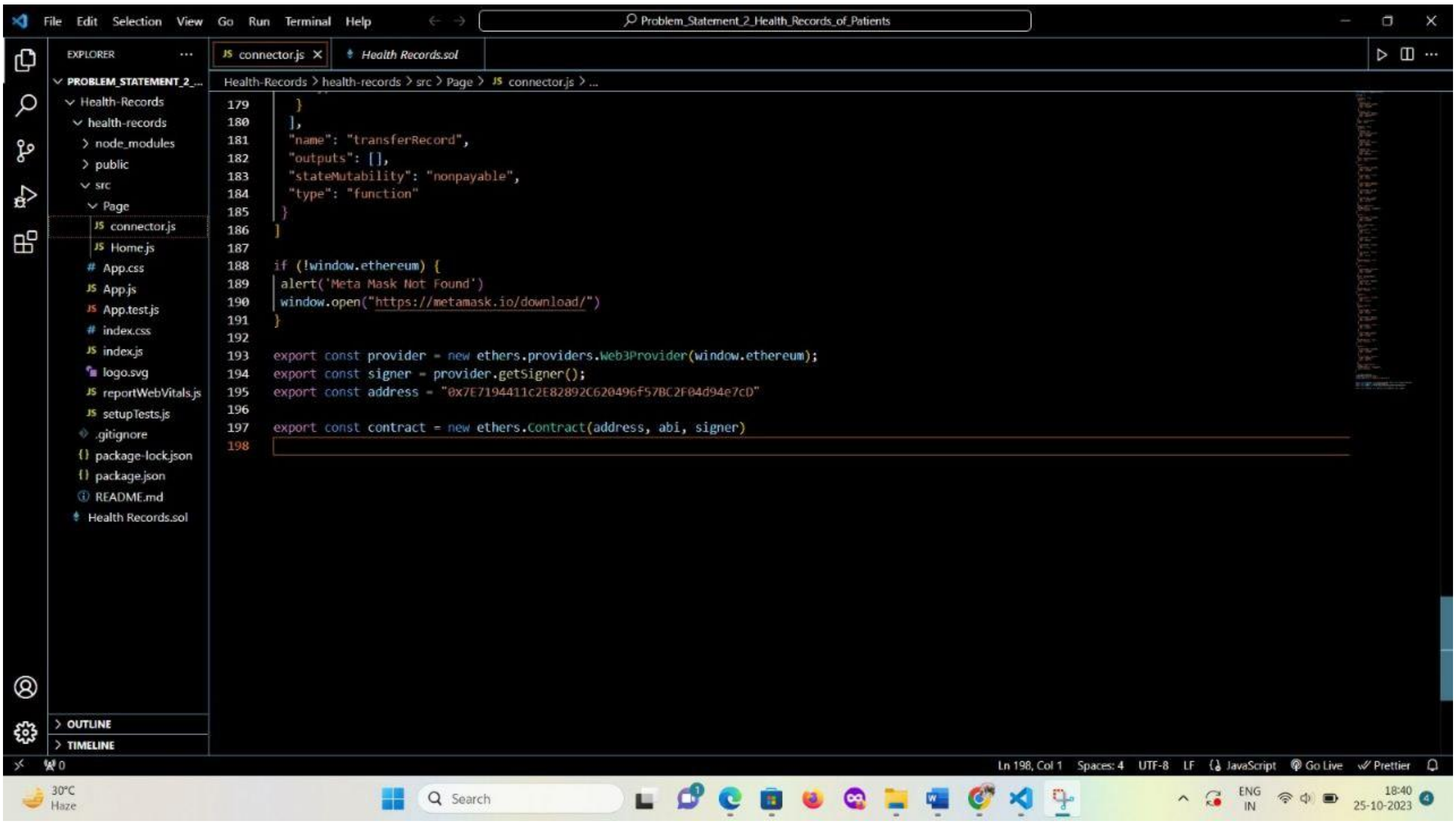
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export const signer = provider.getSigner();
export const address = "0x7E7194411c2E82892C620496f57BC2F04d94e7cD"
export const contract = new ethers.Contract(address, abi, signer)
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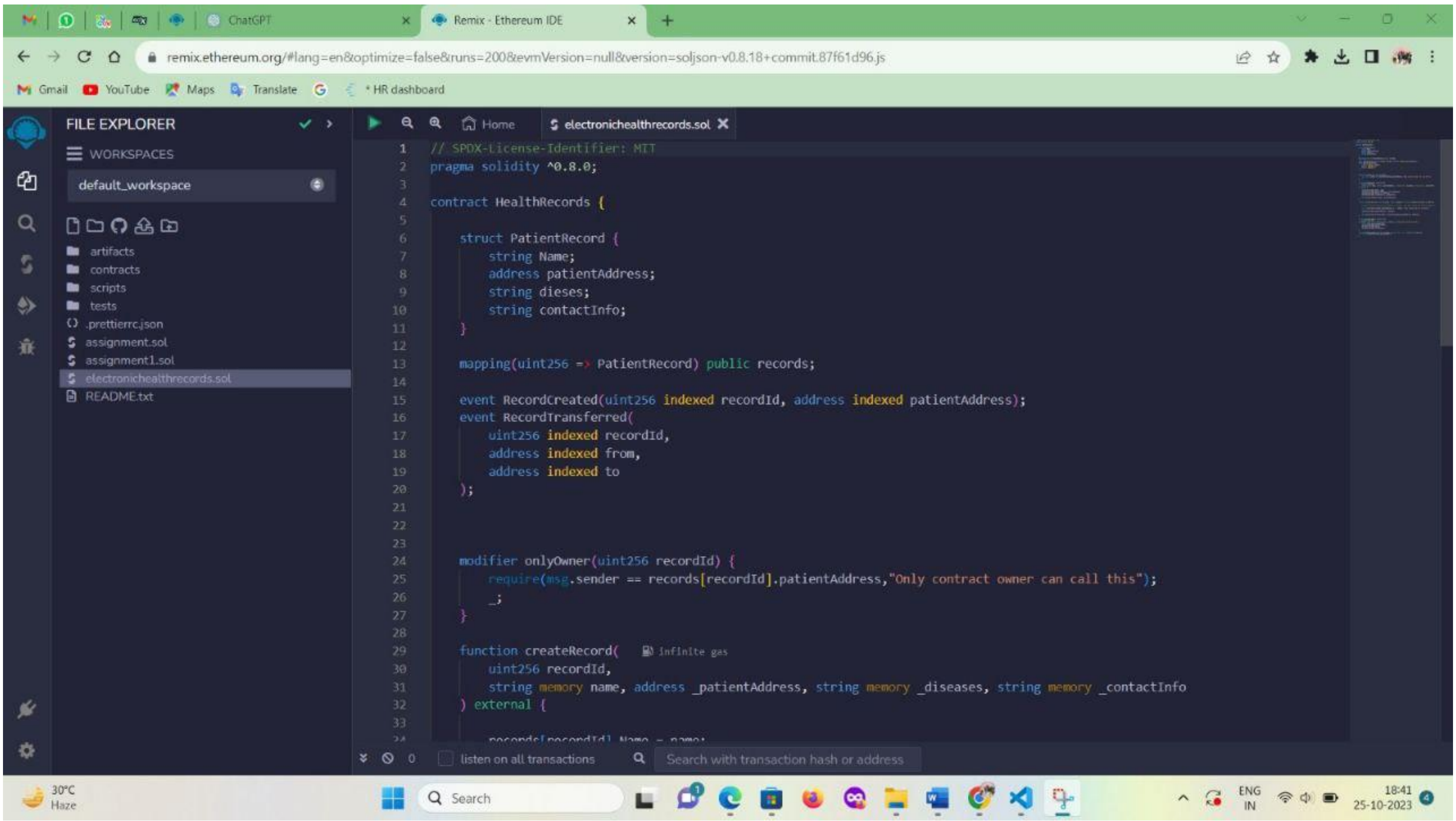
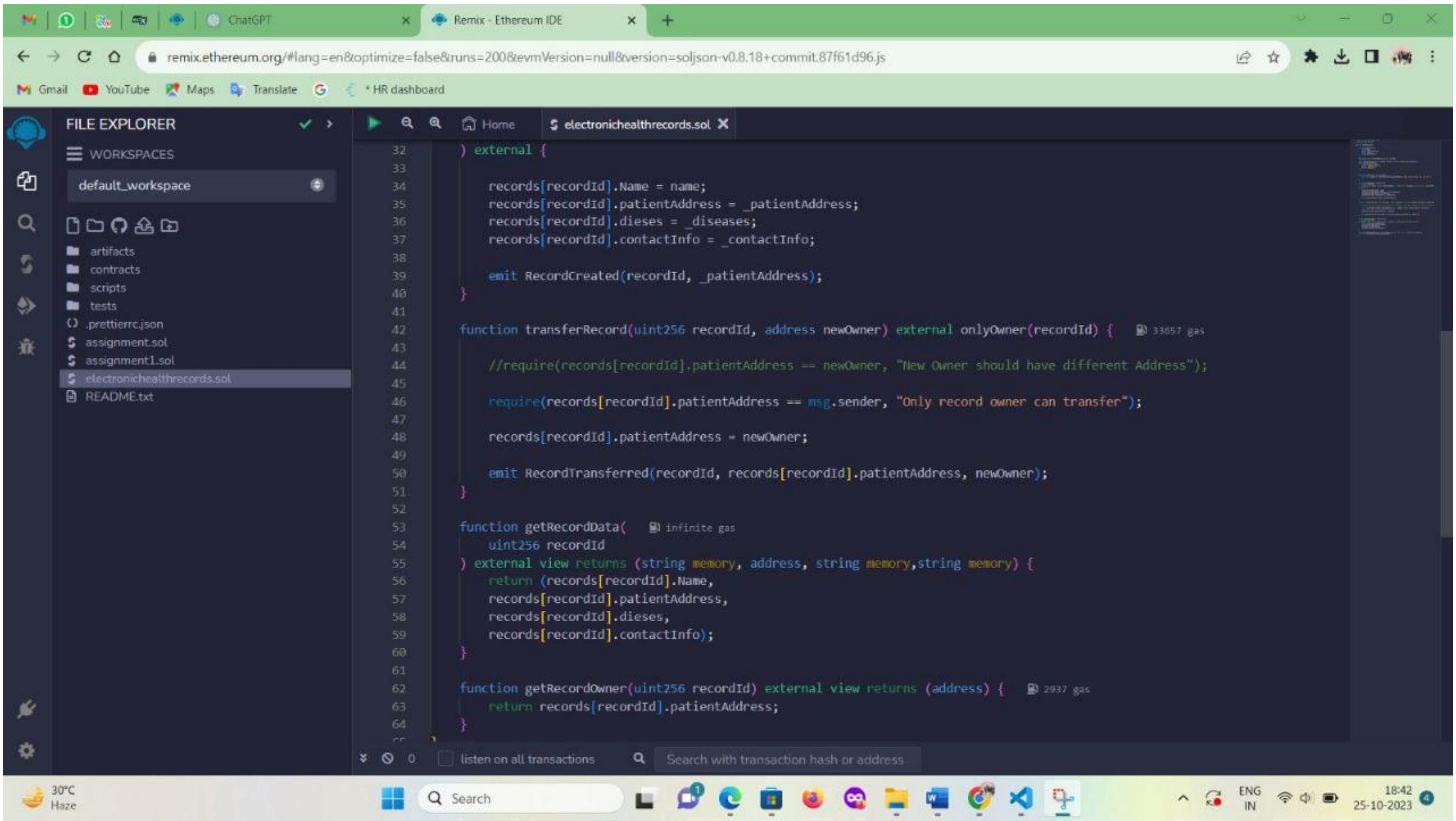
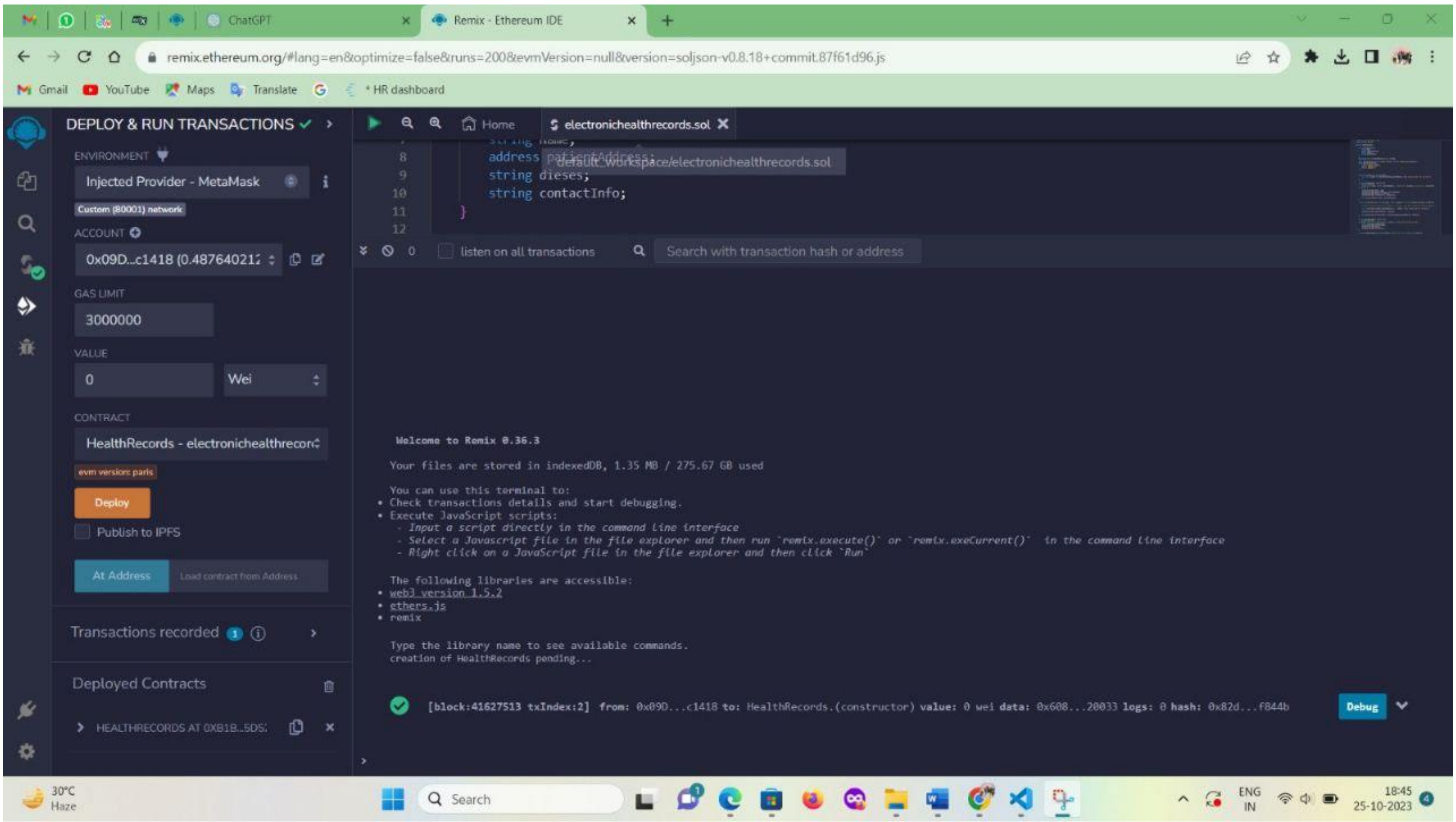
7.2 Remix coding:







CHAPTER-8

8. PERFORMANCE MATRICES

Performance metrics play a crucial role in evaluating the effectiveness of any technology, including blockchain in EHRs. In the context of blockchain-based EHRs, several performance metrics can be measured to assess its performance. These metrics may include:

1. Scalability: Blockchain networks should be capable of handling a large number of transactions per second to accommodate the vast amount of data generated in healthcare settings. Scalability metrics can include the transaction throughput, block size, and network capacity to ensure that the system can efficiently handle the growing demands of EHRs.

2. Security and Privacy: As EHRs contain sensitive patient data, ensuring the security and privacy of the information is paramount. Performance metrics in this area can include measures like data encryption, access control mechanisms, and immutability of records to protect patient privacy and prevent unauthorized access.

3. Interoperability: The interoperability of blockchain-based EHRs refers to the ability to share and exchange patient data seamlessly across different healthcare providers. Performance metrics may involve assessing the compatibility of various blockchain networks and standards that enable data interoperability to achieve a comprehensive and connected healthcare ecosystem.

4. Consensus Mechanism: The consensus mechanism used in blockchain networks determines how transactions are validated and added to the ledger. Performance metrics can include the time taken to reach consensus, energy efficiency, and fault tolerance. It is important that the consensus mechanism is efficient and reliable to maintain the performance of the network.

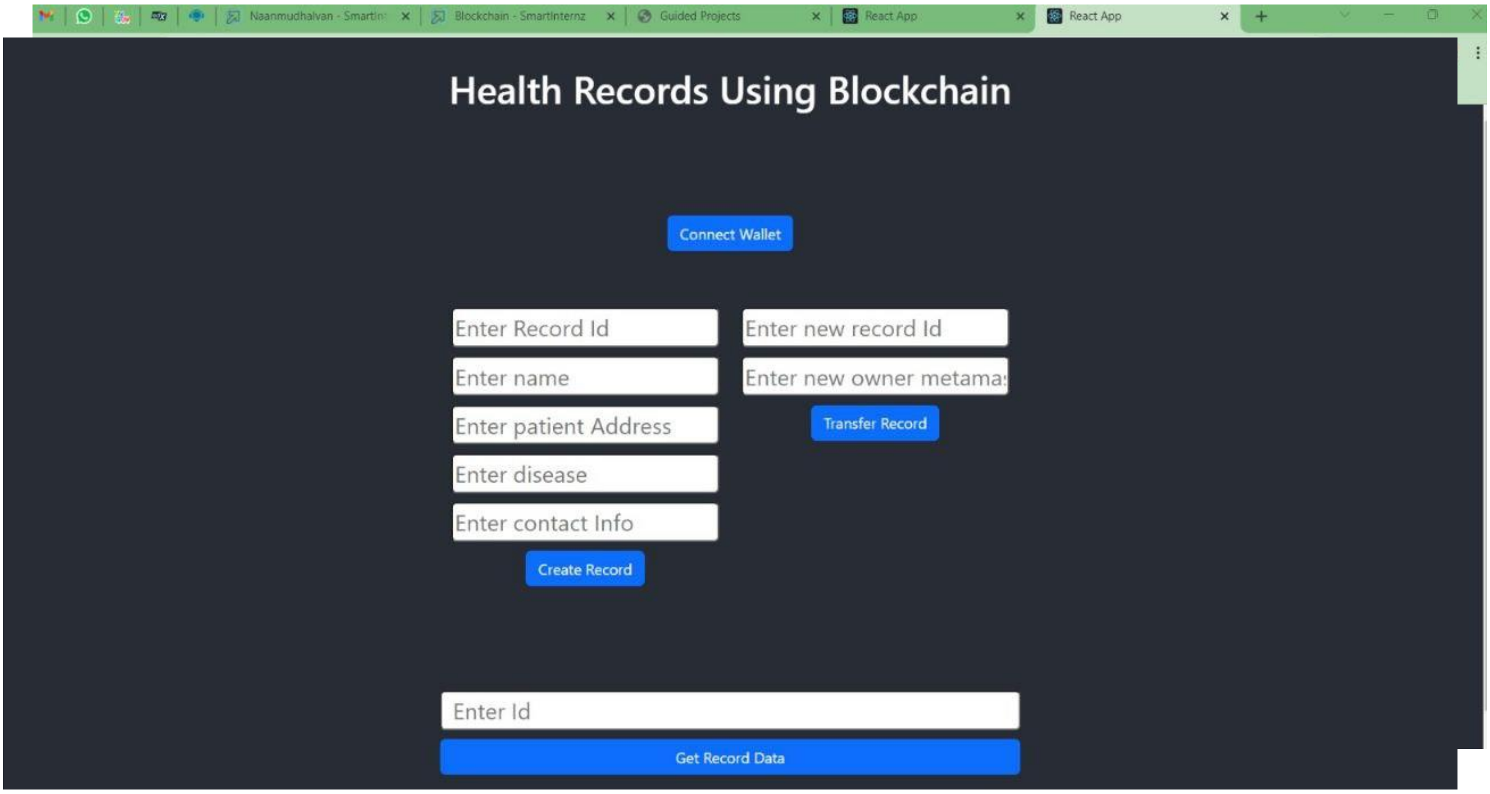
5. User Experience: In addition to technical metrics, the user experience is also crucial for the success of blockchain-based EHRs. Performance metrics in this area can focus on factors such as user interface design, ease of use, and response time to ensure that healthcare professionals can seamlessly interact with the system and access patient records efficiently.

By measuring and optimizing these performance metrics, blockchain technology can provide a robust foundation for electronic health records, enabling secure, interoperable, and efficient healthcare data management.

CHAPTER-9

9.RESULTS

9.1 Output:



CHAPTER-10

10.ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Advantages:

- Security Blockchain offers enhanced security through encryption and distributed ledger Technology.
- Patient data can be stored securely, reducing the risk of data breaches Data Integrity Once Data is recorded on the blockchain, it cannot be altered or deleted, ensuring the integrity of health Records.
- Interoperability Blockchain can improve interoperability between different healthcare systems, making it easier to share and access patient data across different providers.

- Patient Control Patients can have more control over their own health records and grant access to healthcare providers when needed.
- Transparency The distributed nature of the blockchain ensures Transparency and reduces the risk of fraud or errors in health records.

Disadvantages:

- Scalability Blockchain networks can become slow and inefficient as the volume of data grows, making it Challenging to handle the vast amount of data generated by the healthcare industry.
- Complexity Implementing blockchain technology in healthcare requires a deep understanding of the Technology, which can be complex and costly.
- Regulatory Challenges The regulatory environment for healthcare and data privacy can be a significant hurdle to adopting blockchain for EHRs, as compliance with various laws is essential.
- Cost Developing and maintaining a blockchain-based EHR system can be Expensive, which may be a barrier for smaller healthcare providers.
- Data Recovery In case of a lost private key or other access issues, there can be difficulties in recovering Patient records.

In summary, while blockchain has the potential to significantly improve the security and accessibility of electronic health records, it comes with challenges, particularly in terms of scalability, complexity, and Regulatory compliance. Its successful implementation in the healthcare sector requires careful Consideration of these advantages and disadvantages.

CHAPTER-11

11.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, blockchain technology holds great promise for electronic health records (EHRs). Its inherent characteristics, such as immutability, security, and decentralized nature, can address many of the challenges in healthcare data management. Blockchain can enhance data integrity, interoperability, and patient privacy in EHRs. However, its adoption is not without hurdles, including scalability, regulatory concerns, and integration issues. Further research and collaboration are necessary to realize the full potential of blockchain in revolutionizing the healthcare industry and ensuring secure and efficient management of electronic health records.

CHAPTER-12

12.FUTURE SCOPE

The future scope of blockchain technology in electronic health records (EHRs) is promising and can lead to several advancements in healthcare Interoperability Blockchain can facilitate seamless sharing of patient data across different healthcare providers and systems, improving interoperability. Health records from various sources can be securely integrated, providing a comprehensive view of a patient's medical history. Patient Control Patients can have more control over their health data, granting access to specific individuals or organizations through smart contracts. This empowers patients to share their data as needed while maintaining privacy. Data Security Blockchain's robust security measures can help protect EHRs from data breaches and cyberattacks, ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive medical information. Research and Analytics Blockchain can support medical research by providing a secure and transparent platform for sharing de-identified patient data. Researchers can access a vast pool of data for studies while maintaining patient privacy. Reduced Administrative Costs Smart contracts and automation can streamline administrative processes, reducing paperwork and administrative costs in healthcare. Telemedicine Blockchain can enable secure and verifiable telemedicine transactions, allowing for remote consultations and data sharing between patients and healthcare providers. Global Health Records Patients' health records can be accessible globally, which is particularly useful for travellers or in emergencies. This can be facilitated through international blockchain networks. Supply Chain Management Beyond EHRs, blockchain can enhance the traceability of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, ensuring the authenticity and quality of healthcare products. Regulatory Compliance Blockchain can aid in compliance with data protection regulations, such as GDPR and HIPAA, by providing transparent audit trails and consent management. Personalized Medicine The secure and comprehensive patient data available through blockchain can support the development of personalized treatment plans and therapies. Despite these promising future prospects, it's essential to address challenges, including Scalability, standardization, and regulatory frameworks, to realize the full potential of blockchain in EHRs.

13.APPENDIX

- Source Code GitHub: https://github.com/bhuvanabaskaran/Naanmudhalvan-electronic-health-record-in-blockchain/tree/main

- ProjectDemoLink: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ewe0TwnKa1SALc5cCFkI3kQ047hVP_IY/view