



A STUDY ON CRYPTO IDENTITY SYSTEM

Project Proposal for Creative Component

Abstract

This document gives brief idea on how we can implement Blockchain to secure any person identity system like SSN, so that it can be made more secure and free from identity theft. For the implementation, I have created a Ethereum test net on both Ganache and deployed a smart contract on it to verify that it works.

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INTRODUCTION

What Is Blockchain?

A Blockchain is a decentralized database sometimes called ledger that contains continuously growing lists of records or data, called *BLOCKS*, which are linked and secured using cryptography. Each block typically contains a hash pointer as a link to a previous block, a timestamp and a transaction data.

In a typical Blockchain the entire data is spread out on a bunch of different computers that can be geographically separated, it is called peer to peer network. A typical peer to peer network is a distributed application architecture that partitions the task or workloads between peers. Peers are equally privileged, equipotent participants in the application, they are said to form a peer to peer network of nodes.

Blockchain is immutable, once the data is written to the blockchain, no one can change the contents of the block, even the administrator with highest privileges. This provides the benefits for audit, that this can be proof that the data is not tampered [6].

Why is SSN unsecured?

A Social Security number (SSN) is a nine-digit number issued to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and temporary (working) residents [3].

The number is issued to an individual by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Its primary purpose is to track individuals for Social Security purposes. Then came the IRS, Banks and others who began using SSN for identification purpose [2].

The problem with the SSN is that it is prone to identity theft. A SSN is just a string of digits on a paper card that did the job in 1930, which later got government approval for id purpose in 1972.

Why biometrics can't be used to make it theft prone? A biometrics has its own security issues; also they are not fool proof as there have been many case of biometrics. In one of the referenced article it is said that "Bank of America recently started piloting a biometric system from Samsung that scans the iris to determine person identity. They're not the only company

using biometrics. Wells Fargo and British bank TSB are working on iris scanning for mobile banking as well.”[1][4]

The Problem

The problem associated with SSN is that, it is vulnerable can easily be used for identity theft and since today SSN is linked with Credit cards, loans, bank account etc., so it needs better security features and management of identities so as to make them theft proof. And the best solution today to make it theft proof is to deploy a Cypto Identity system for SSN on a blockchain which will make it secure.

Implementation

Whenever someone wants to apply for SSN, they can store the information required to apply for SSN into the functions created in the smart Contract in the form of Strings and Integer. In the implementation of the Crypto Identity System, I created a smart contract in Solidity, which basically had the functions which can store and retrieve the above mentioned Documents and this code is deployed on the test net I created on Truffle Ganache and check if an asset or currency is transferred into a program “and the program runs this code and at some point it automatically validates a condition and it automatically determines whether the asset should go to one person or back to the other person, or whether it should be immediately refunded to the person who sent it or some combination thereof.

What is smart contract and how it is created?

Smart Contract allows individual to exchange data in trusted conflict free manner without relying on the third party like bank, lawyer or a notary. It is a computer protocol intended to facilitate, verify or enforce the negotiation or performance of a contract. The most prominent smart contract implementation is the ETHEREUM BLOCKCHAIN platform.

Smart contracts help you exchange money, property, shares, or anything of value in a transparent, conflict-free way while avoiding the services of a middleman.

The best way to describe smart contracts is to compare the technology to a vending machine. Ordinarily, you would go to a lawyer or a notary, pay them, and wait while you get the document. With smart contracts, you simply drop an ethereum into the vending machine (i.e. ledger), and your escrow, driver’s license, or whatever drops into your account. More so, smart contracts not only define the rules and penalties around an agreement in the same way that a traditional contract does, but also automatically enforce those obligations[6].

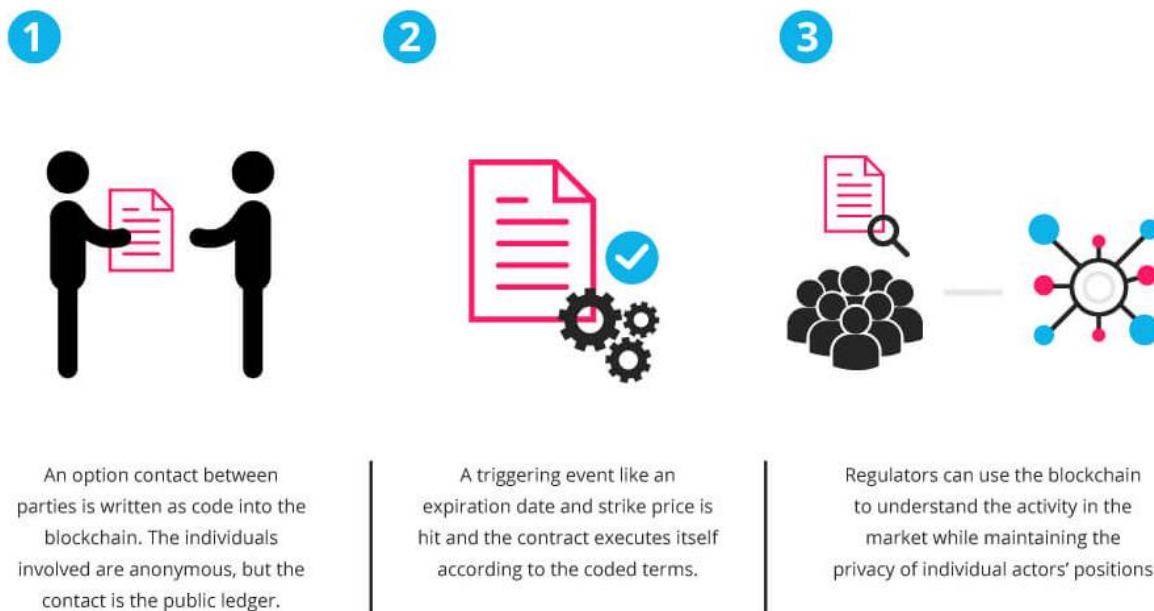


Figure 1

The picture above gives a brief idea on how a contract is working among two individuals in a trusted manner using a ethereum blockchain without the need of a third party[5].

How a Smart Contract is created?

To run on a vast decentralized network, we have to create a smart contract for Ethereum blockchain. Ethereum is special, because it's the first blockchain implementation to have a Turing Complete virtual machine built on top of it. This means that an Ethereum smart contract can (theoretically) be used to accomplish any computational task. In simpler terms, nearly any program can be run on of Ethereum.

The smart contracts are written in a language called SOLIDITY, which is a language that is similar to JavaScript. To write this language, the IDE called REMIX is provided, which is an online ide, that can be opened in any browser [5].

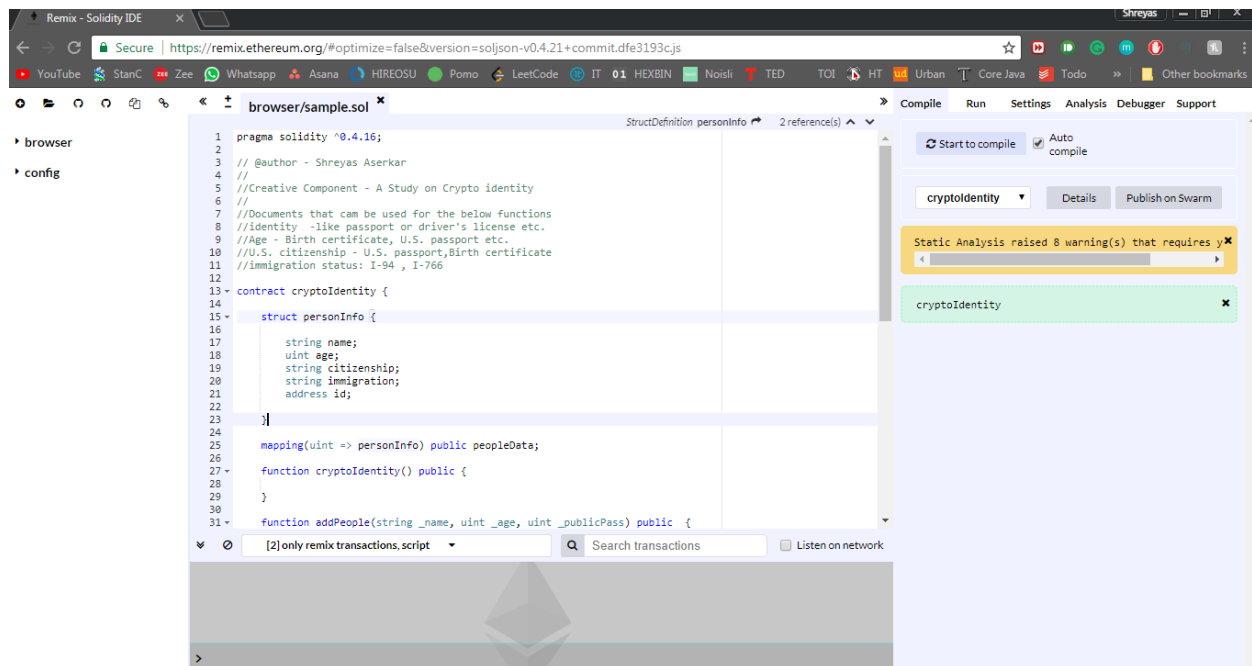


Figure 2, Remix – online compiler for Solidity

The program written in Solidity has extension “.sol” as we can see it is given as “sample.sol” here in the above screen shot. The name “Sample.sol” was later change to “cryptoIdentity.sol” for the program purpose.

Creating a test net on Ganache

To proceed further, we have to follow the below steps :

1. Download “Ganache” and install it on your system. It can be downloaded from the link : <http://truffleframework.com/ganache/> . It is basically a tool which we will be using to create a private blockchain that runs locally.

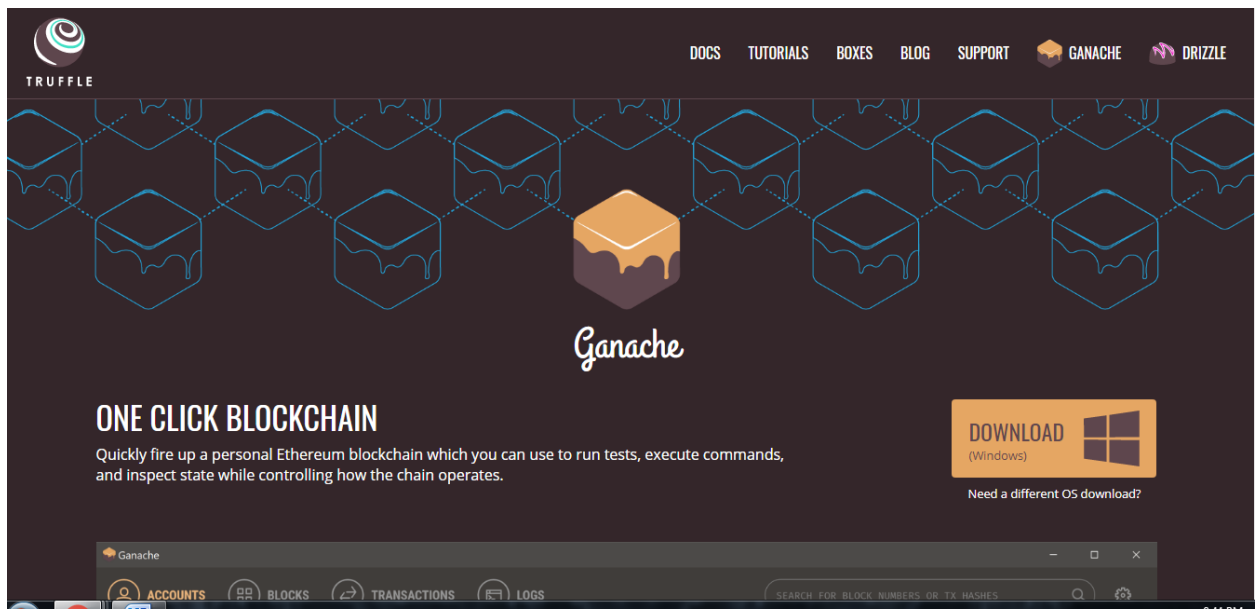


Figure 3

2. Now we have to download the copy of MyEthereum wallet on the system. It can be downloaded from the link : <https://github.com/kvhnuke/etherwallet/releases> .

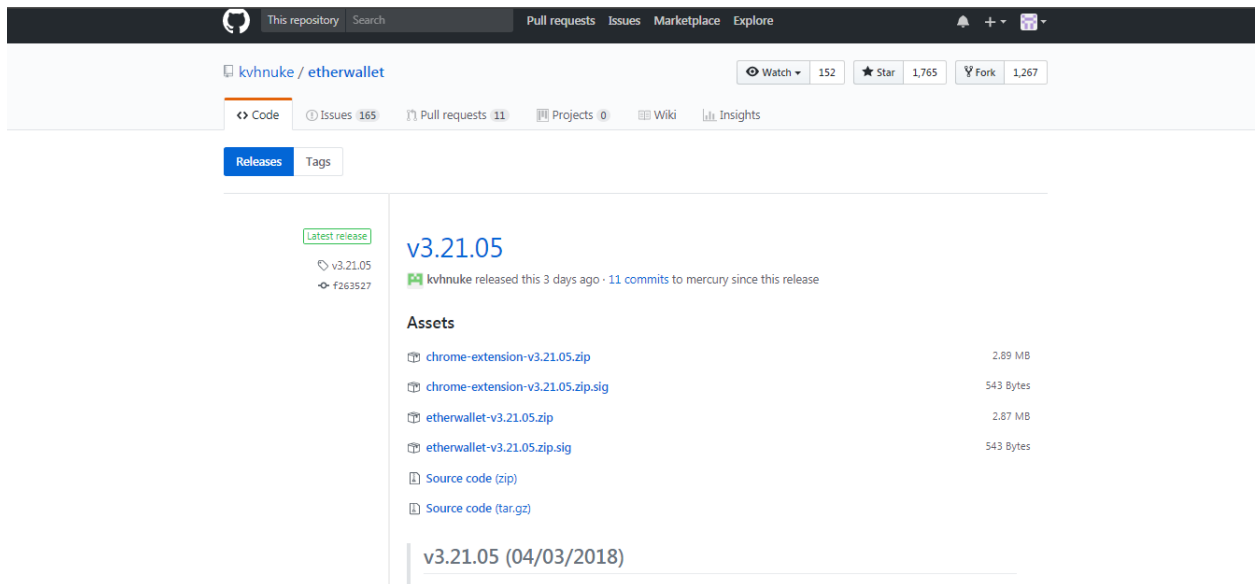


Figure 4

- Now that we have downloaded the Ganache and MyEthereum wallet , we will open the remix which I explained above by going to the URL: <https://remix.ethereum.org>

It will open the screen similar to below snapshot:

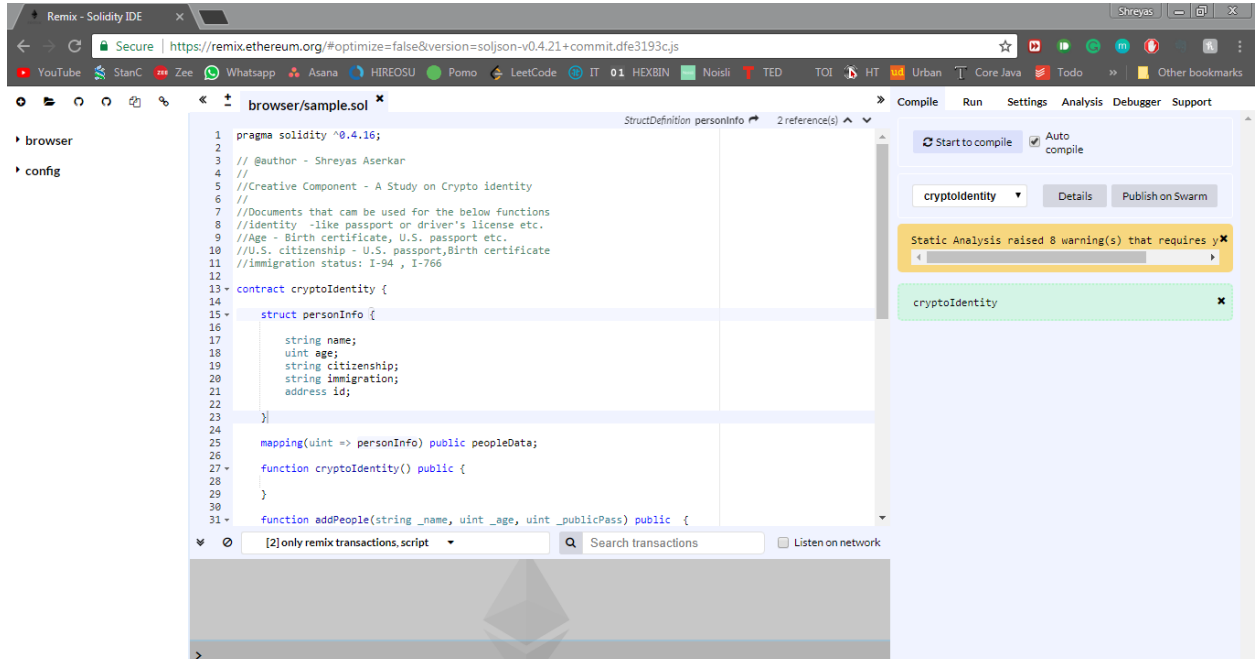


Figure 5

Remix is an online compiler for Solidity language

- Now we have to write out Solidity code into remix and then keep it aside till we use it further.
- Now keeping aside the code we wrote in Remix, open the Ganache.

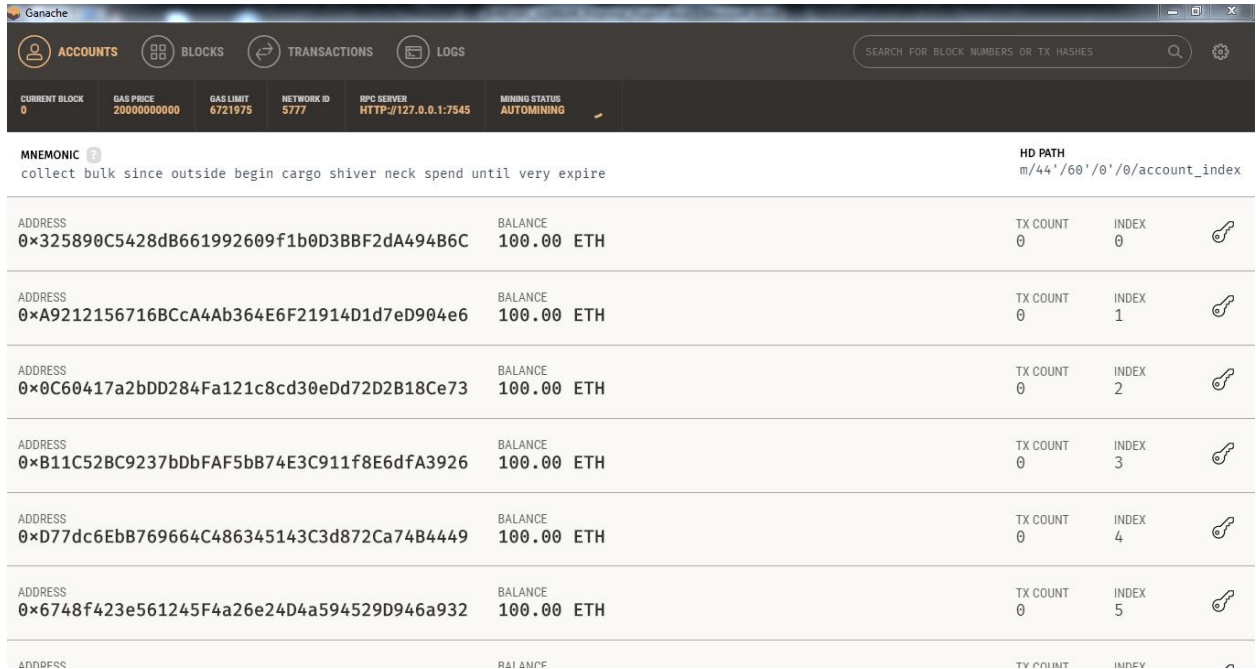


Figure 6

On the top of the screen we see the “RPC server” with the default ip of HTTP://127.0.0.1:7545. This will be needed later.

- Now unzip the Myetheruem wallet and open the “index.html” file in your browser, you will see the following screen like the below snapshot.

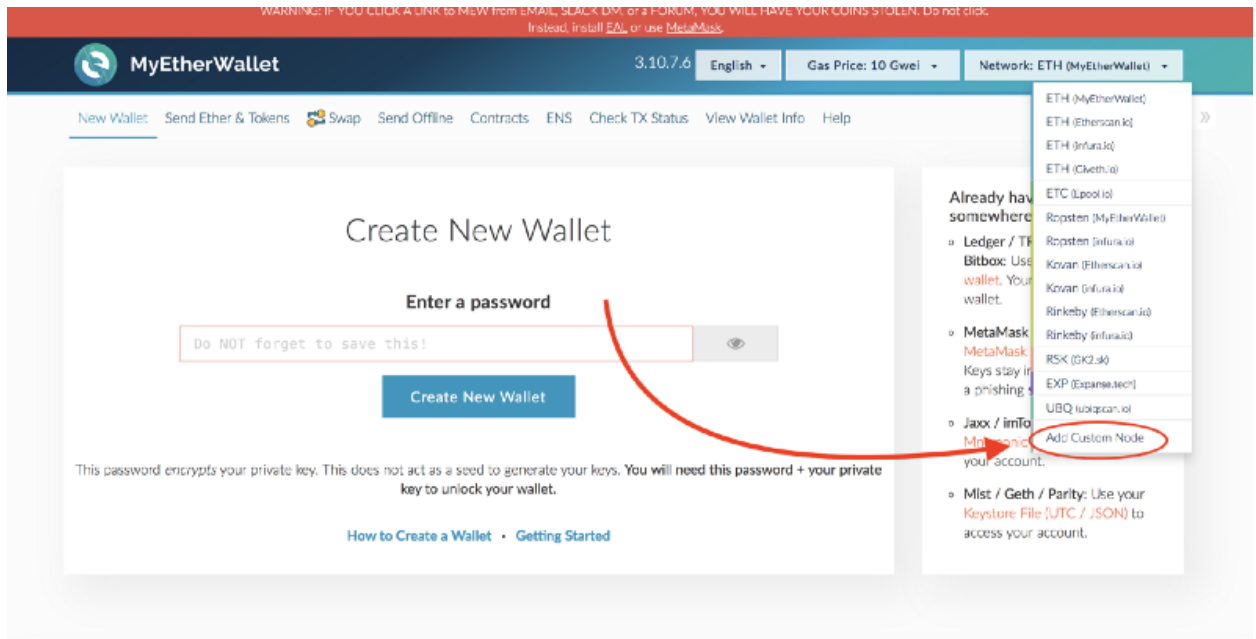


Figure 7

In the rightside corner , we can see that network we need to connect, if we click on it, there will be a dropdown menu. By default it connects to the Main network, so we need to create our own custom network, so that it can connect to our private testnet.

7. Now put your RPC information from the Ganache into the required field and name your test net.

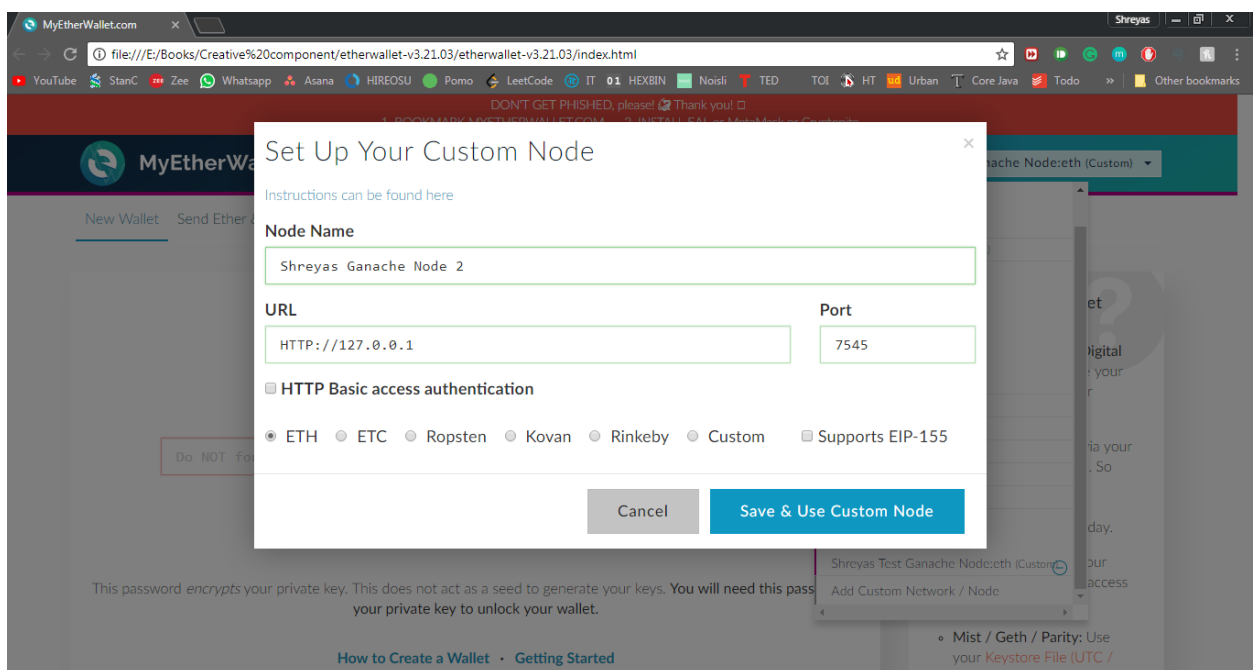


Figure 8

After you enter all the above information , it successfully connects to the test network, just like the below snapshot :

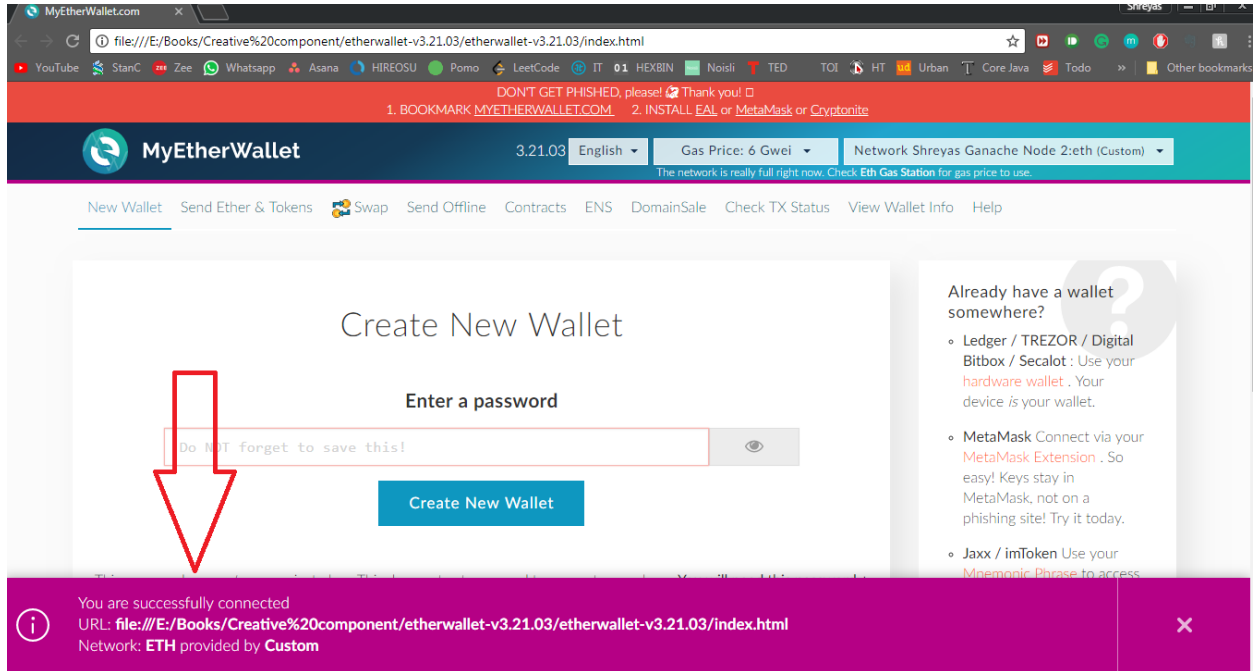


Figure 9

8. Now we have to upload our smart contract to this test net For this we have to choose the option “Contracts” from the below snapshot and further select “Deploy contract”.

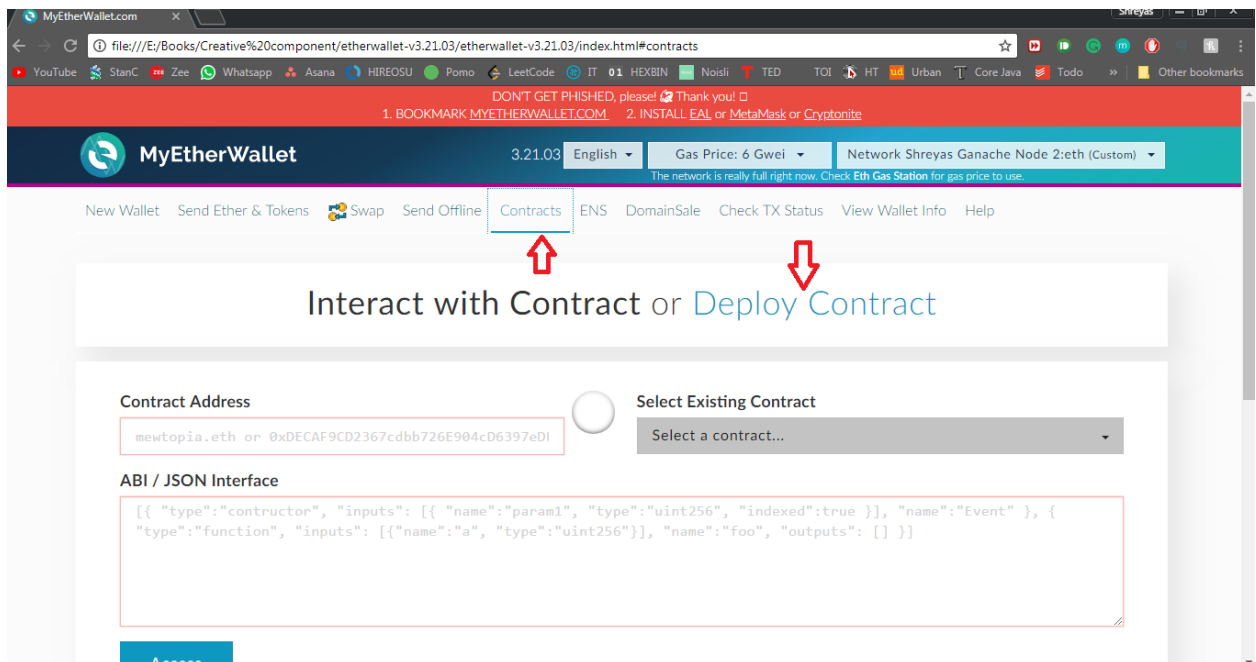


Figure 10

9. Now we have to copy the bytecode from the program we coded in Remix, for this we go to details tab in the right hand side corner of the remix and click on it. Here we will see a lot of background information of the program, here we copy the Bytecode as shown in the below snapshot.

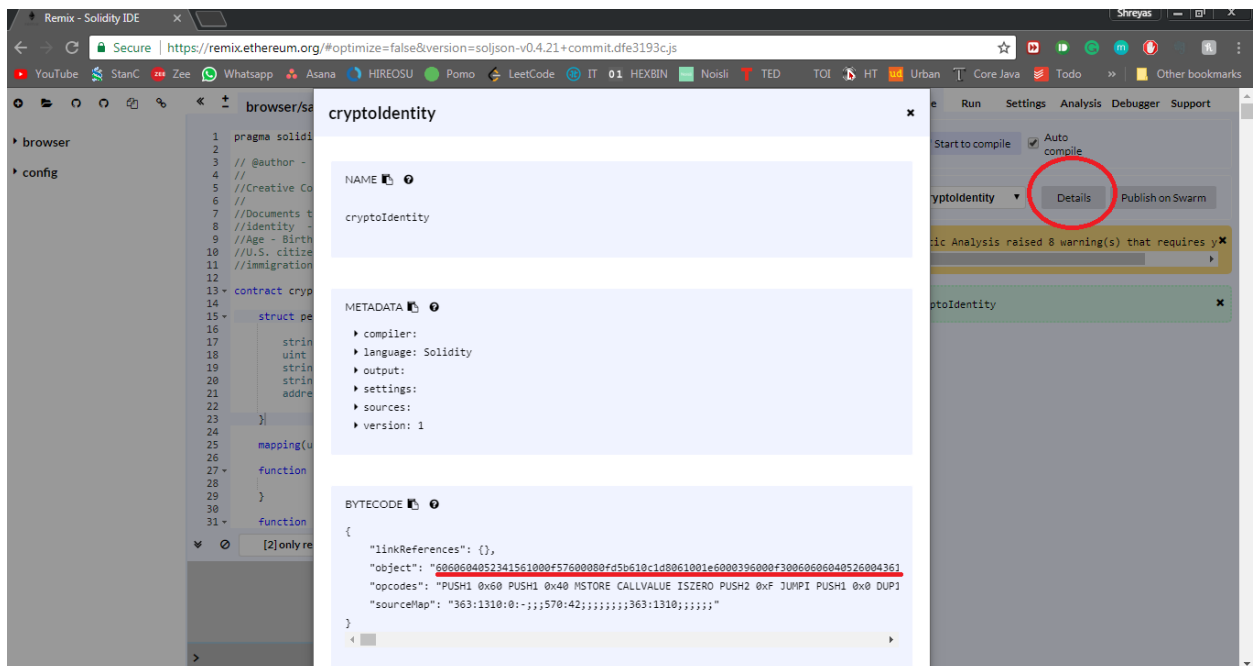


Figure 11

We copy this Bytecode and paste it into the Byte Code section of the “Deploy Contract” in MyEthereum wallet.

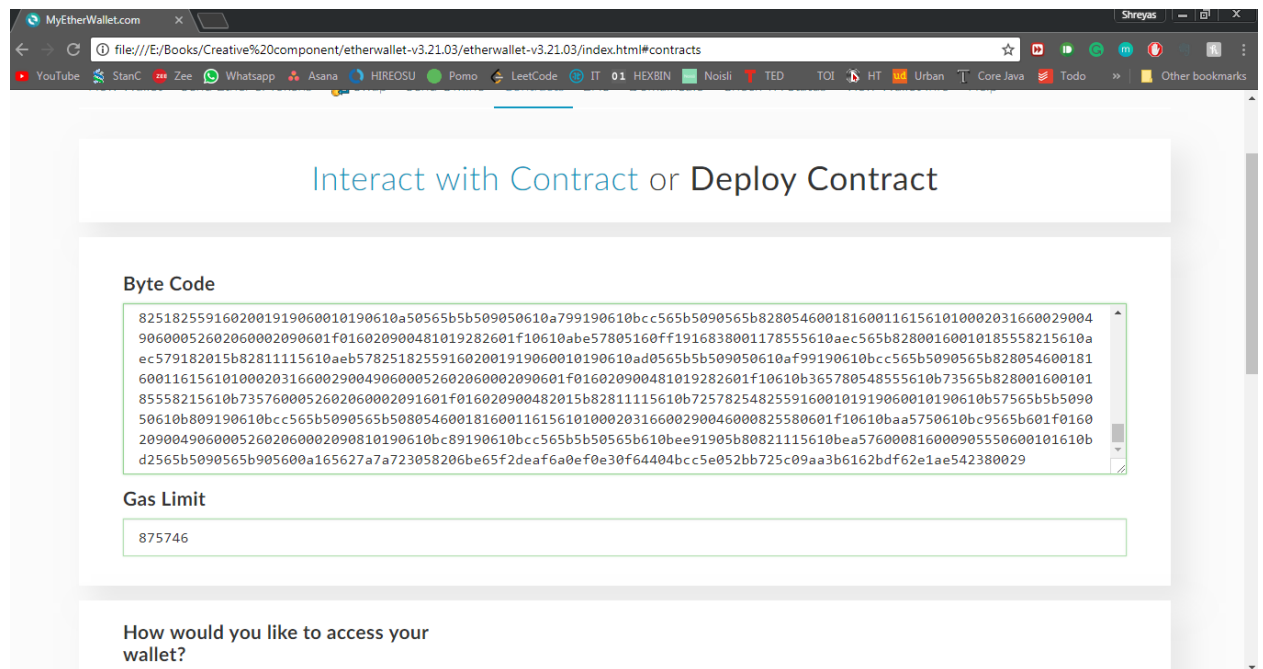


Figure 12

Now if we go down further, we can see that there is an option to choose to access your wallet: MetaMask / Mist, Ledger Wallet, TREZOR, Digital Bitbox, Secalot, Keystore / JSON File , Mnemonic Phrase , Private Key , Parity Phrase. We choose the Private key . Now to provide the private key , We have to go back to Ganache to access the private key.

Ganache gave us 5 addresses that we can use to interact with our private blockchain. To use one of them to upload this contract, we can go back to Ganache and click the key icon for any of the addresses.

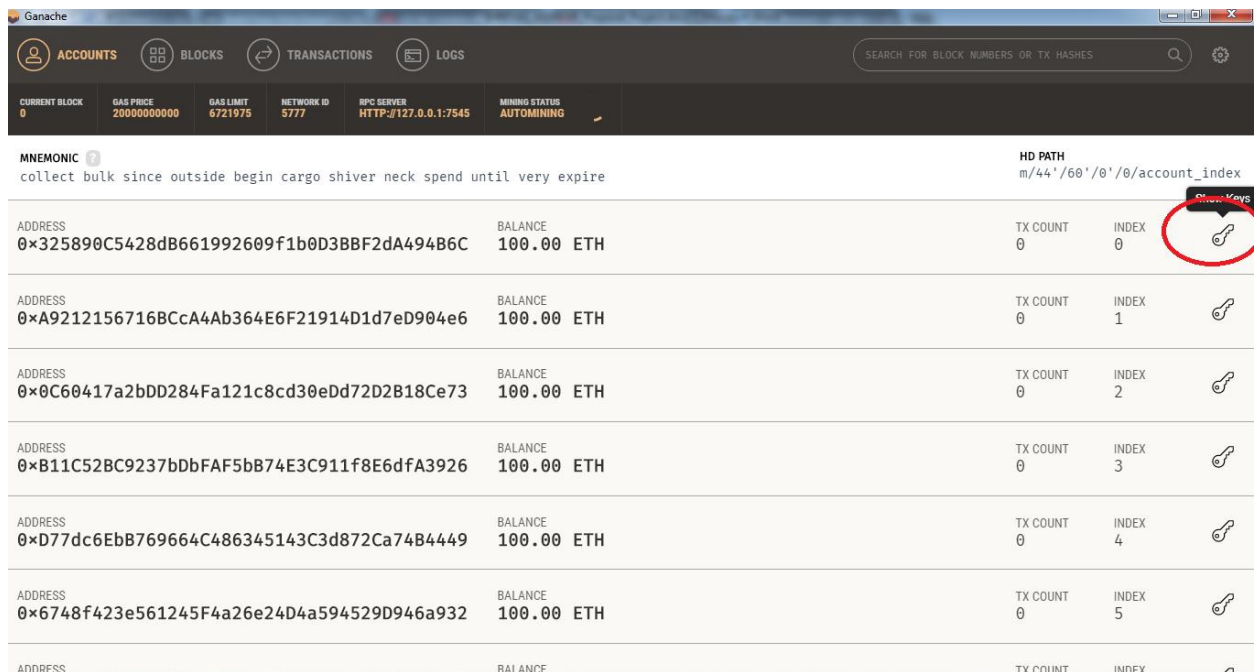


Figure 13

We click on this key to get the private key of the node,

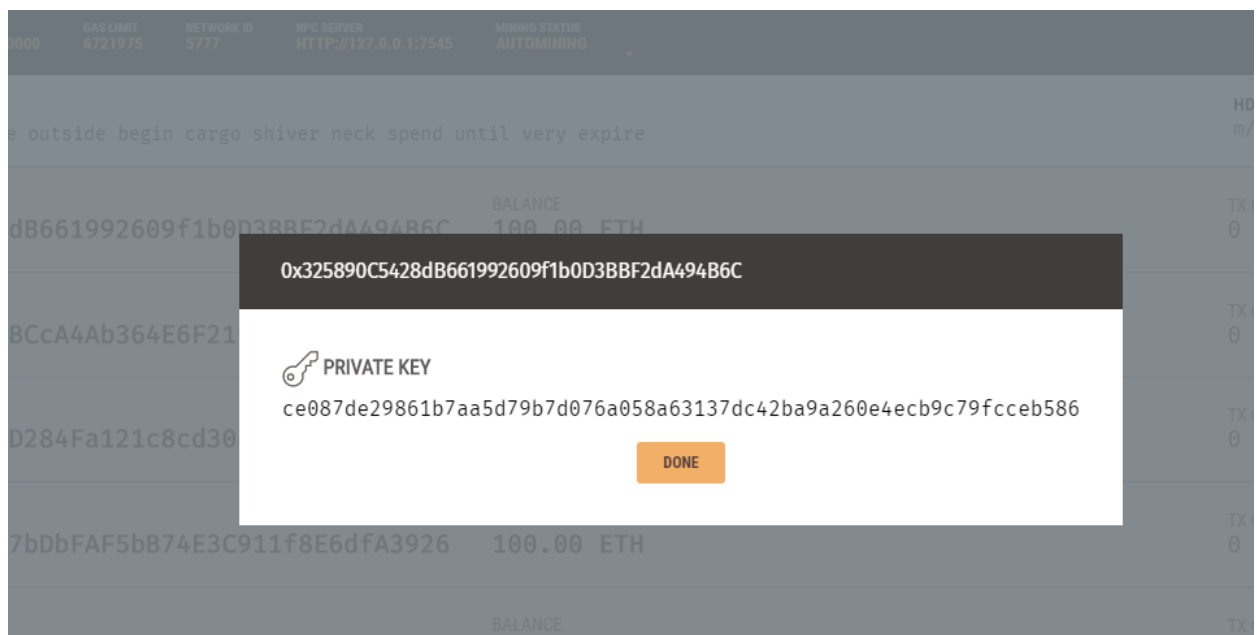


Figure 14

We copy this Private key and paste it into the Private key section in the MyEthereum Wallet and click unlock.

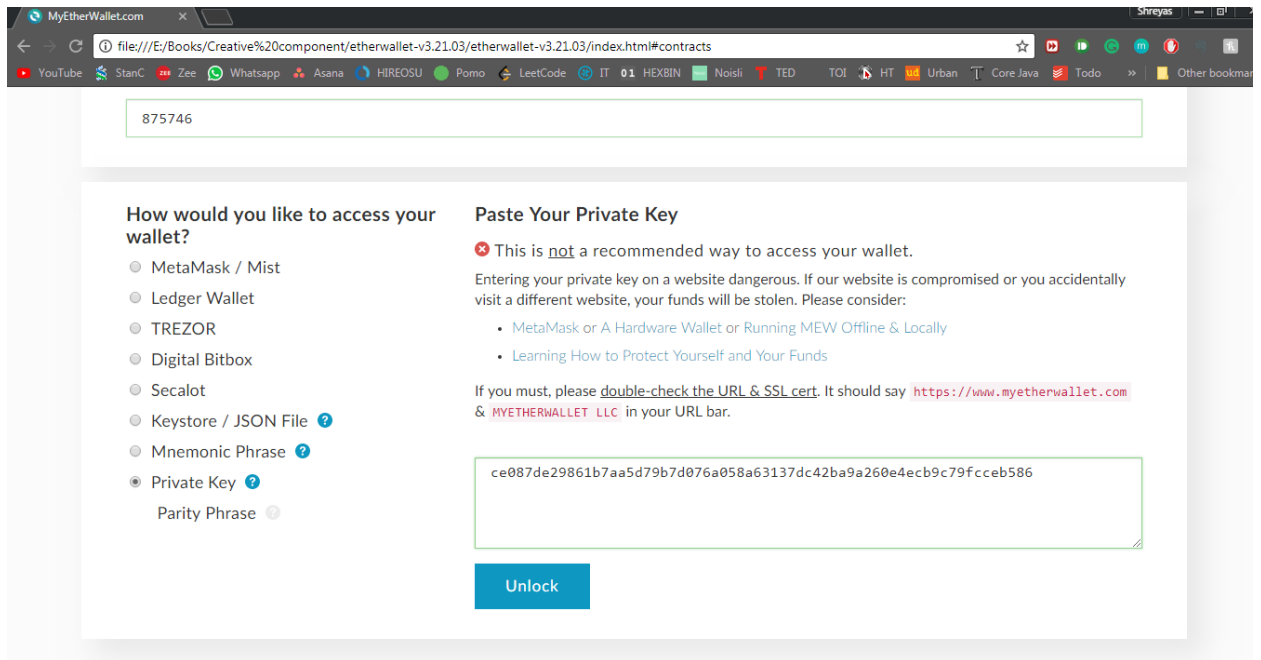


Figure 15

If unlocked successfully, will show the below.

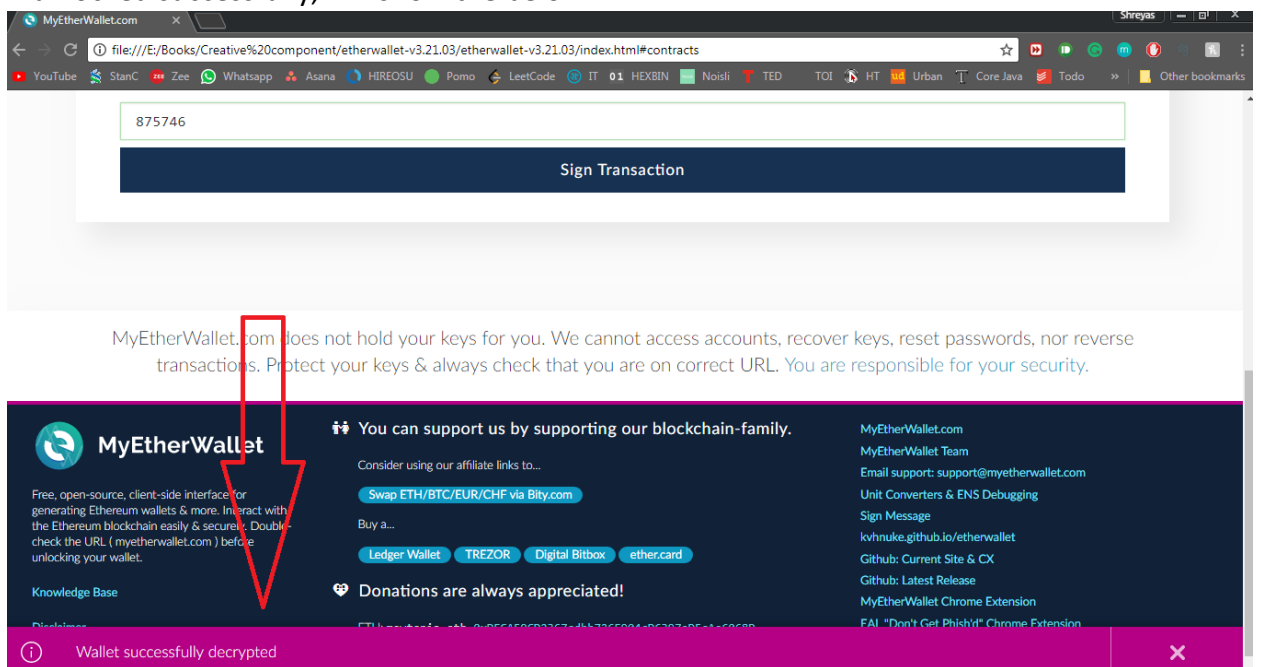


Figure 16

10. Now we Sign the transaction, by clicking on clicking on the “Sign transaction” button and Deploy contract.

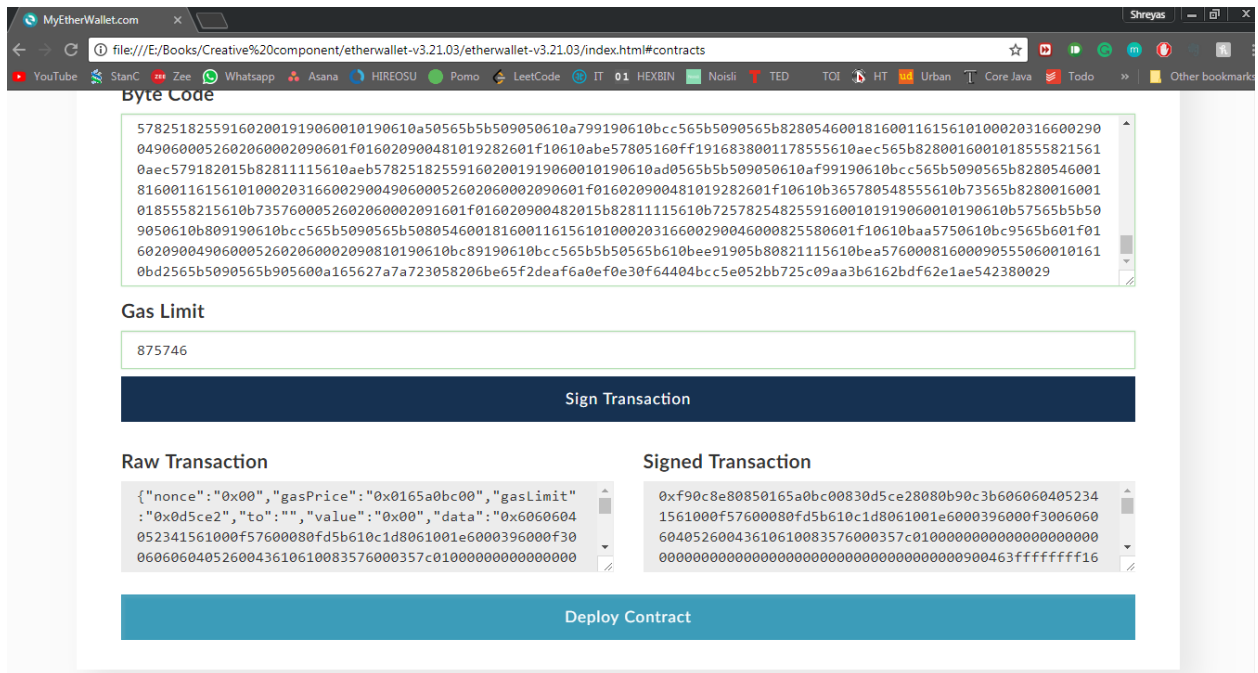


Figure 17

After you deploy the contract, confirm the transaction.

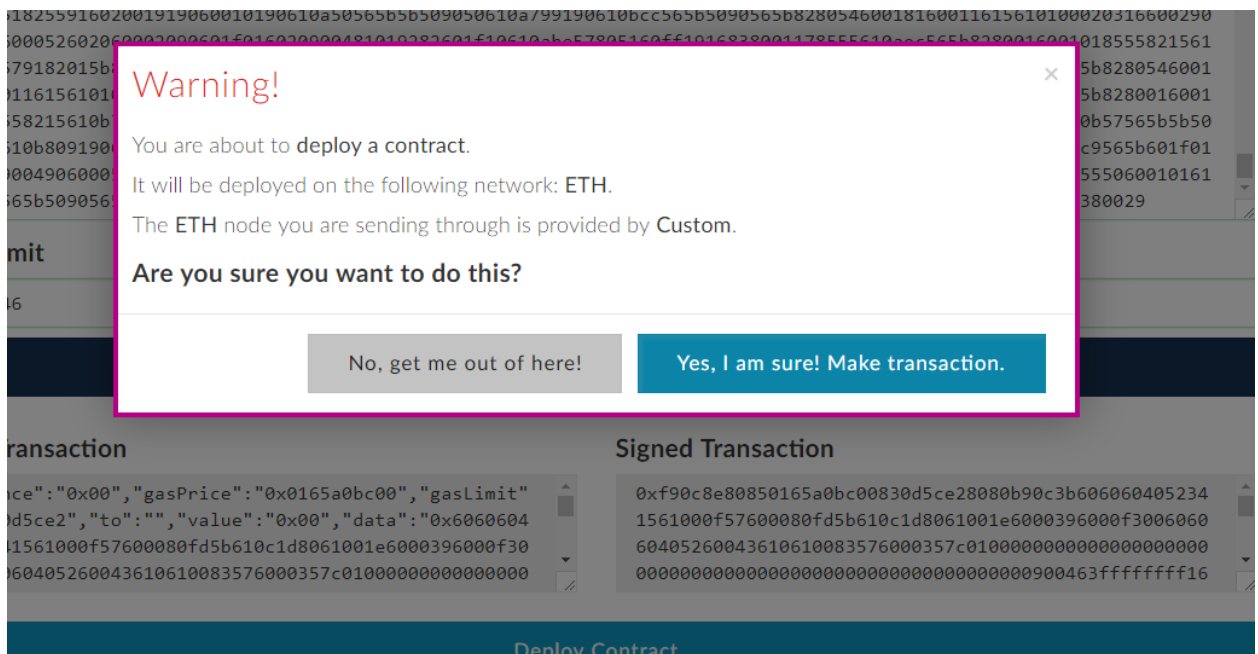


Figure 18

After the contract is deployed successfully, it will show the message that it is transaction is done successfully.

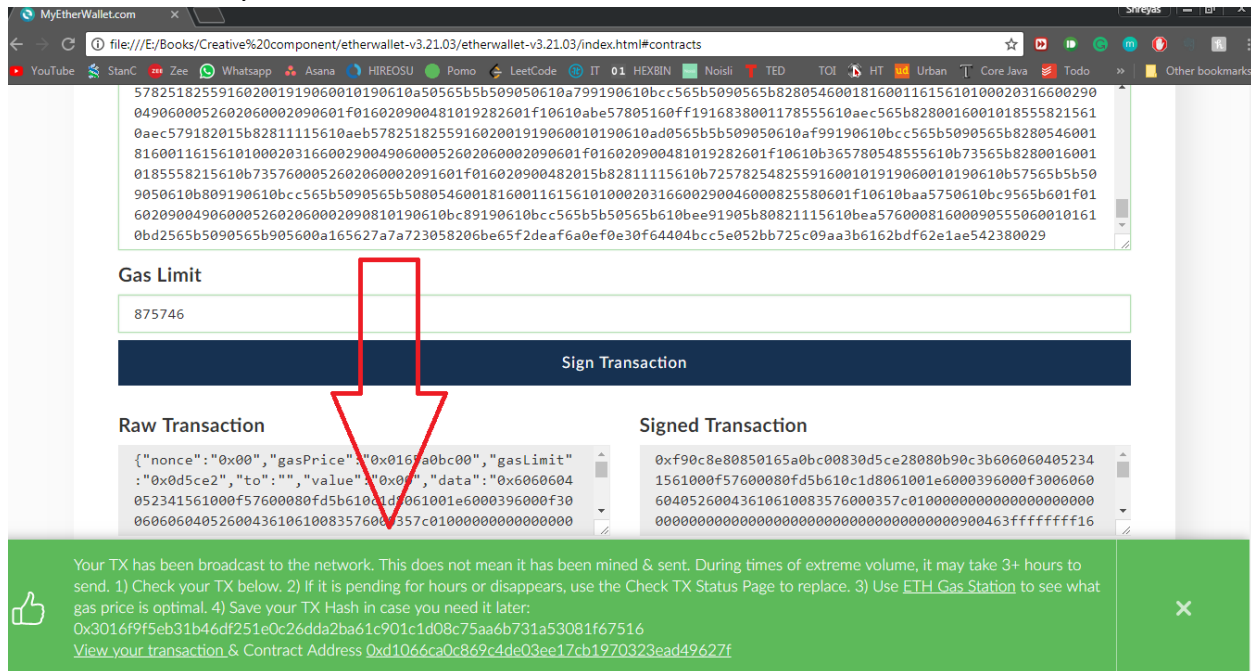


Figure 19

11. Now we go back to Ganache to see if there is any transaction is done.

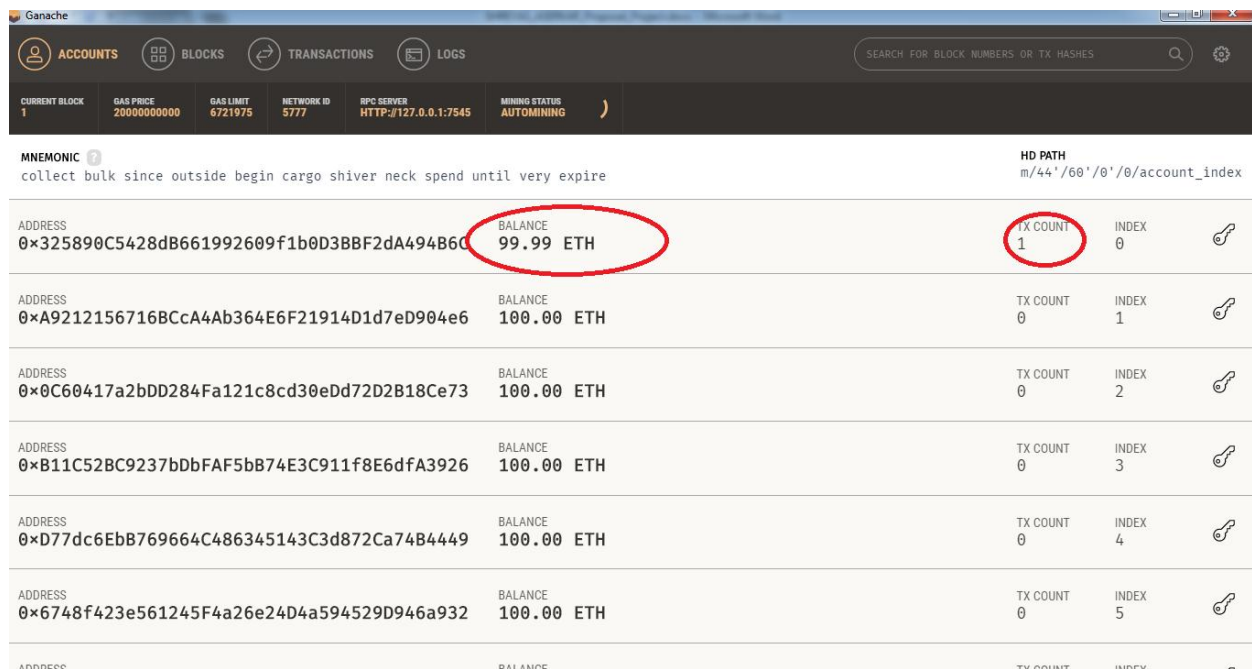


Figure 20

We go to the transaction and check if the transaction is reflecting.

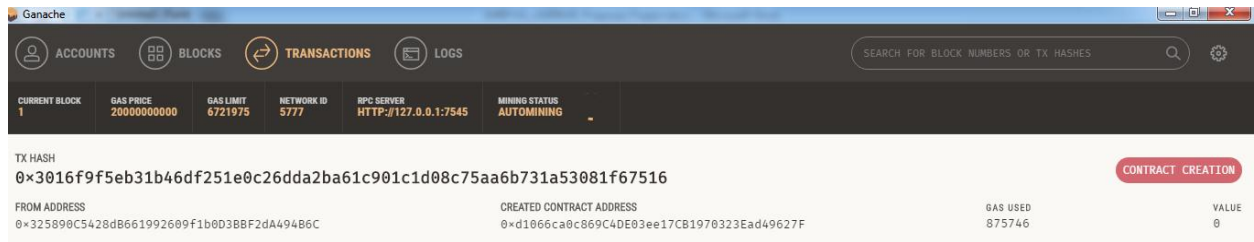


Figure 21

Now we can say that our contract is uploaded to the Private blockchain.

Running Smart Contract on Ganache

Till the previous steps we have uploaded the smart contract to the blockchain. Now we will interact with the contract, for this we will follow the below steps:

1. To interact with the smart contract we deployed in the previous step, We go to MyEthereum Wallet and click on the “Interact with Contract”.

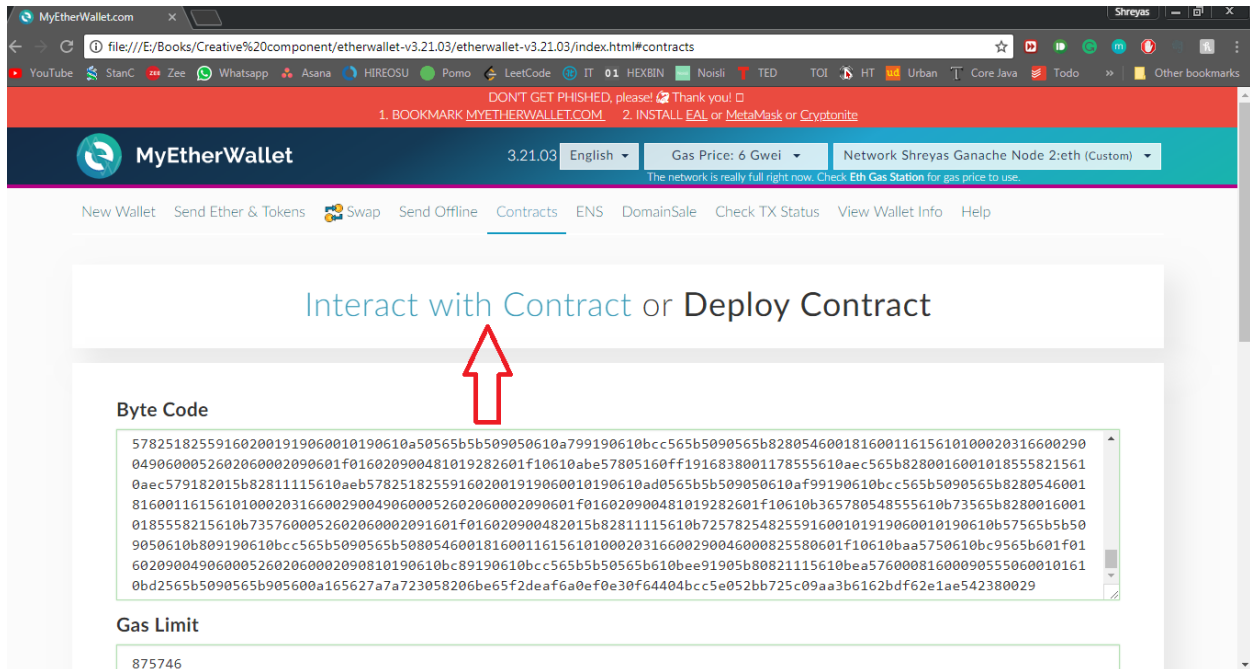


Figure 22

2. Upon clicking the “Interact with contract”, a new page will open up , which will ask for “Contact Address” and “ABI/JSON Interface”. To get both the value , we have to open up Ganache >Transactions , here we will get the Contact Address of the latest block on which we have deployed the contract, below is the screenshot of the Ganache showing the contract address which we need to refer to.

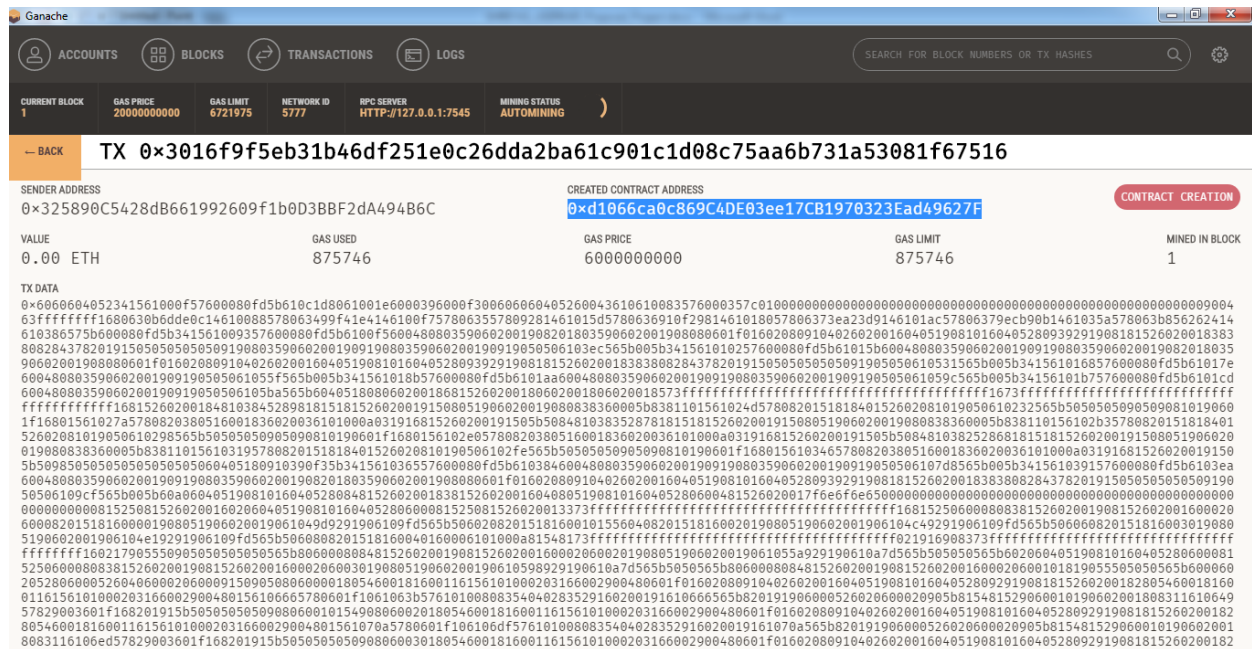


Figure 23

We copy this address and paste it into the “Contact address” section of MyEthereum Wallet. Now to get the “ABI/JSON Interface” we again go back to Remix , click on the Details on the right hand side of the page, and copy the ABI from the details by clicking on the copy button marked in the below snapshot and paste this information into the “ABI/JSON Interface” in MyEthereum Wallet.

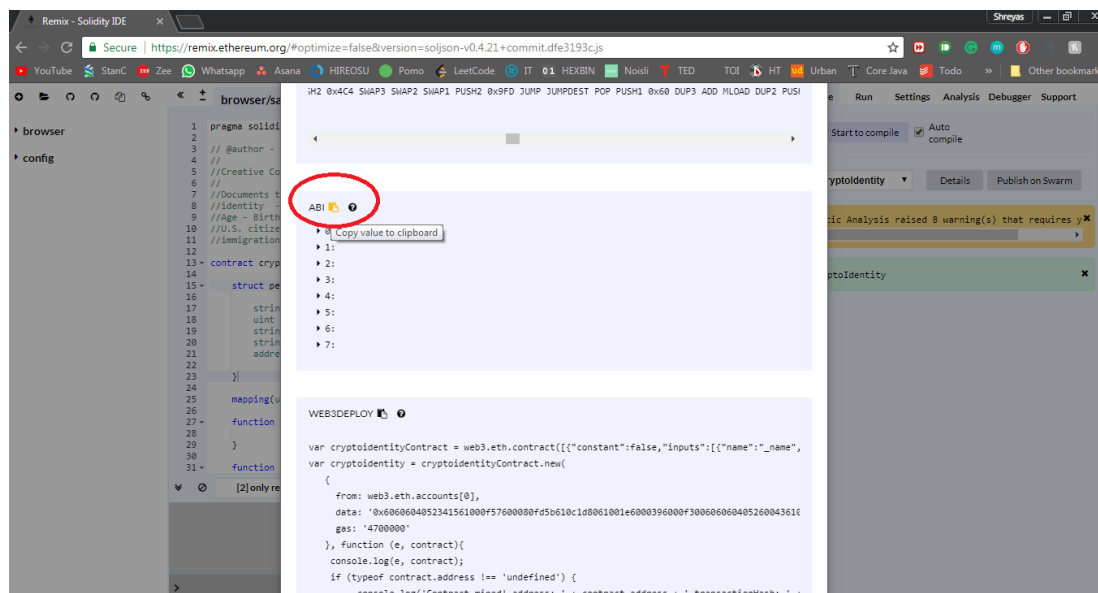


Figure 24

Now we click on the Access button, and now we can see all the functions we coded in the Remix, just like the below snapshot.

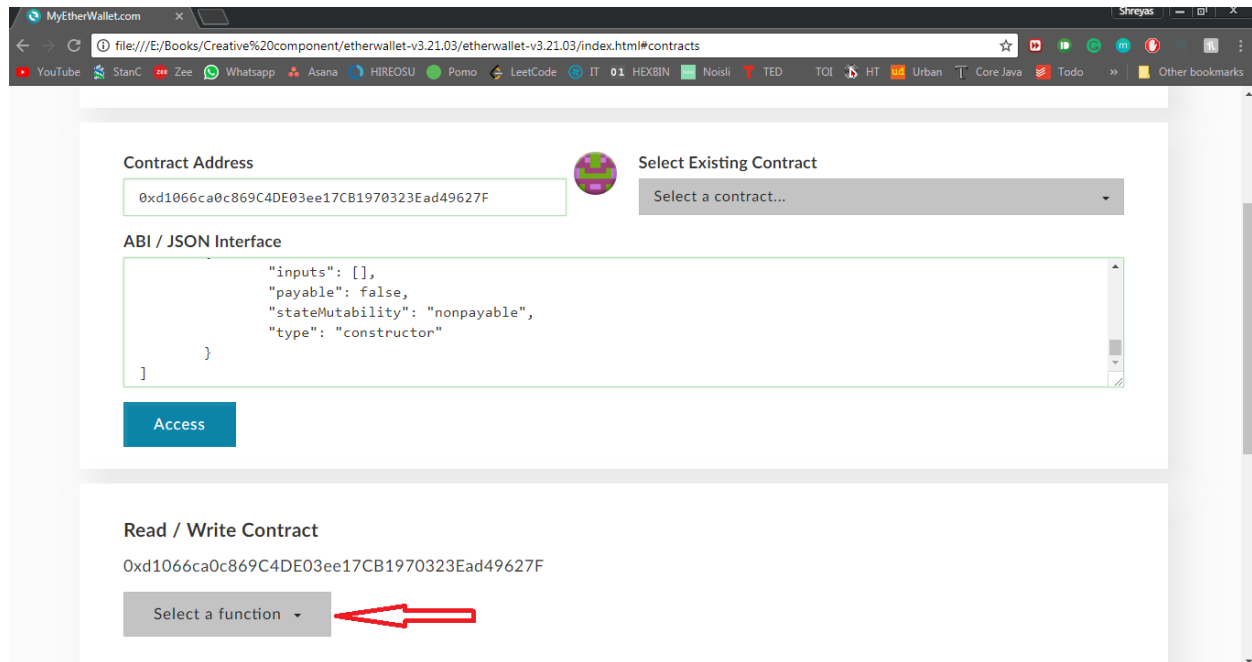


Figure 25

3. Now that we have Interacted with the contract, we will use its functions Like adding Person information, and check that if is deployed to all the blocks and if the transaction is successful.

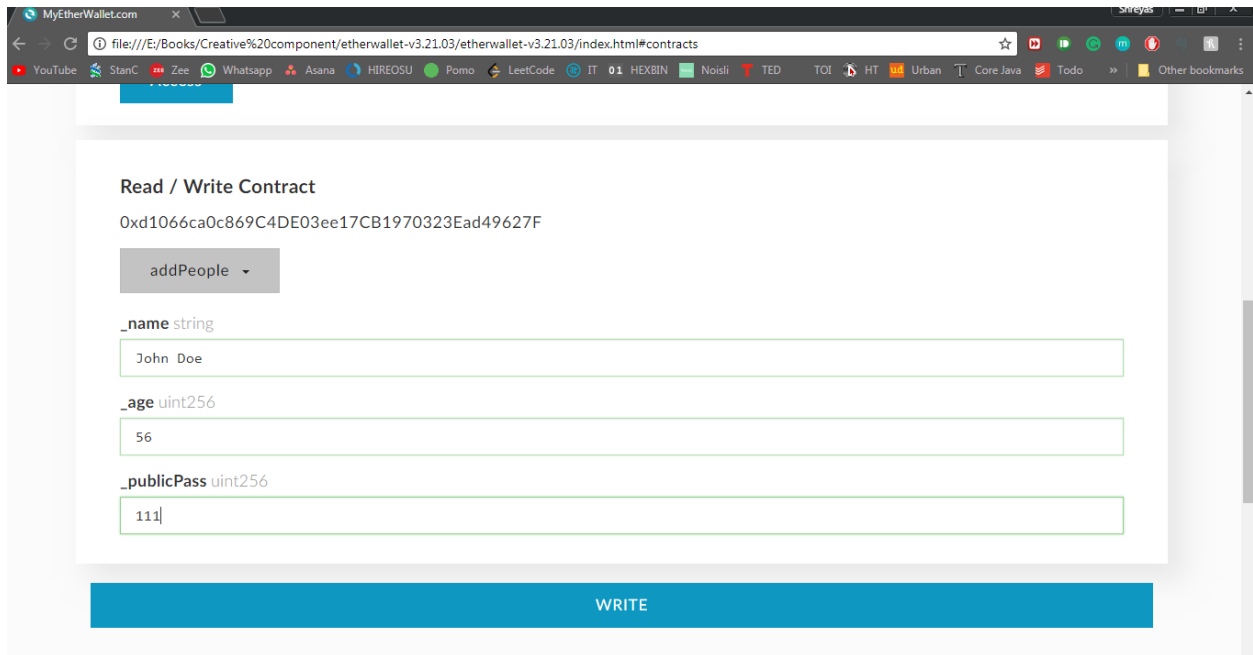


Figure 26

Now if we click on the Write button, it will ask for some amount that you to send in order to generate the transaction, also it by default chooses the gas Limit, which is by default generated, when a contract is created.

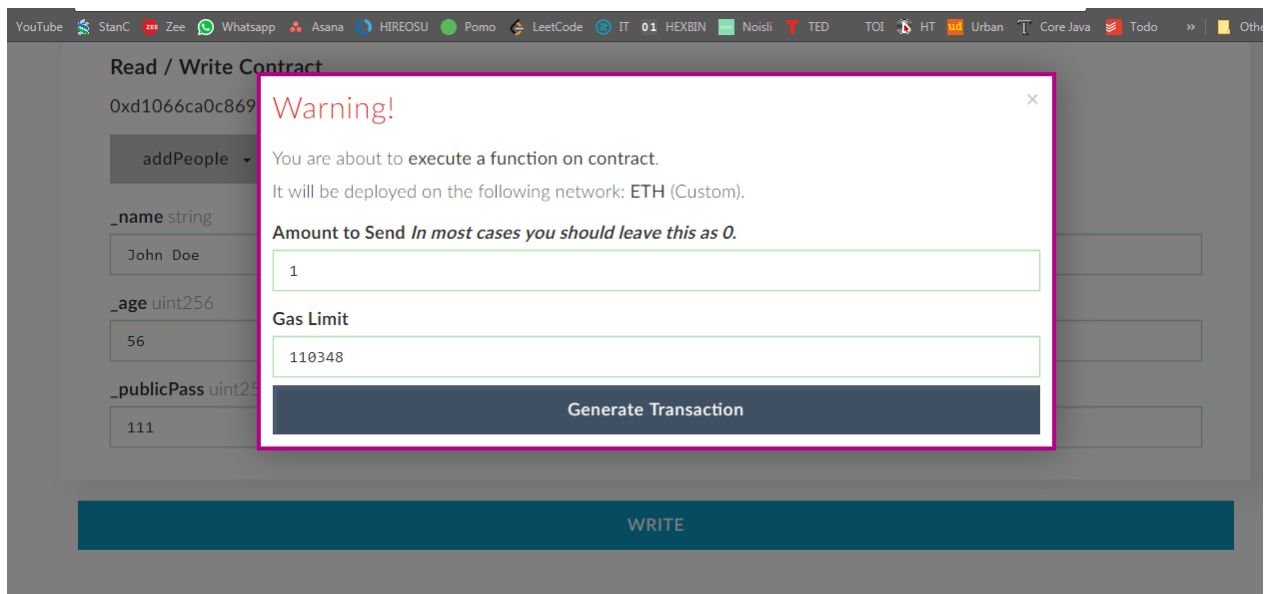


Figure 27

After you click on the “Generate Transaction” the transaction will be generated successfully. The below figure shows that the “addPeople” function transaction was completed successfully. As a new transaction block is added to the blockchain.

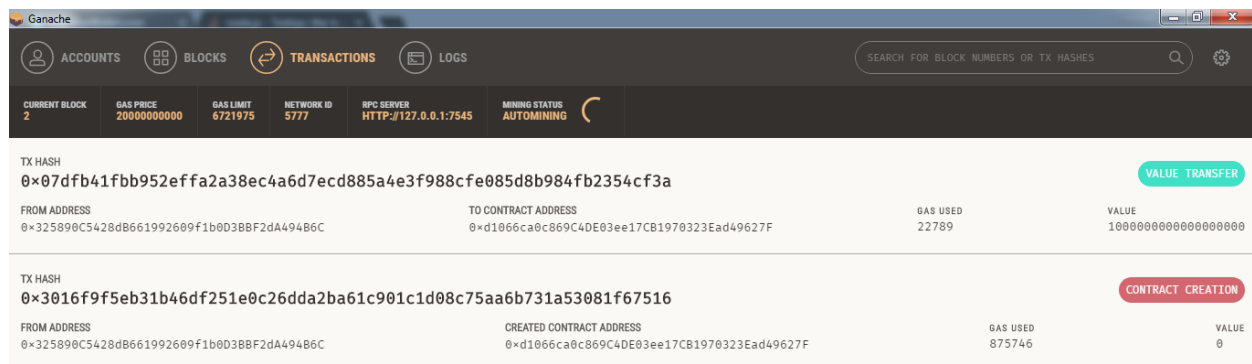


Figure 28

After checking that the transactions are happening successfully, I invoked a few functions and added Identity information associated with each person individually and it worked fine. Below is the transaction blocks that were formed after I performs some functions from the contract.

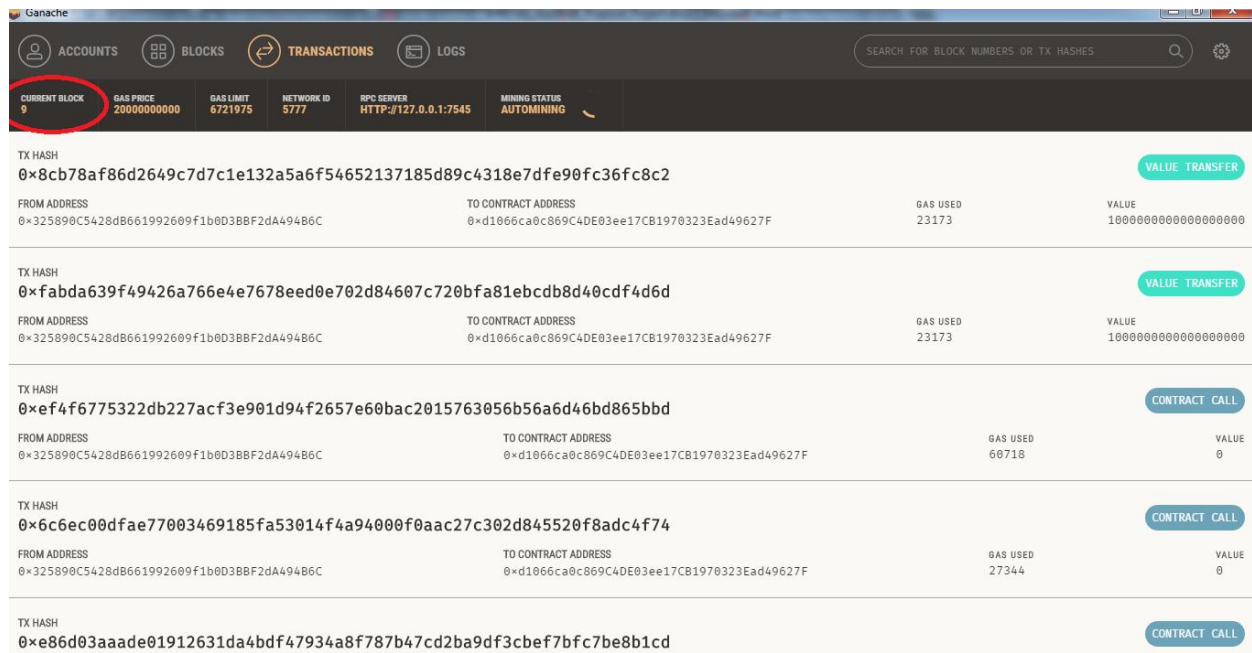


Figure 29

Now we try to check if different user can access each other's data and further change it. For that I associated two different accounts having separate private keys and deployed contract on both of them.

PERSON1:

Read / Write Contract

0xd1066ca0c869C4DE03ee17CB1970323Ead49627F

addPeople ▾

_name string

"Shreyas"

_age uint256

30

_publicPass uint256

1

WRITE

Figure 30

If he tries to use the same function again, it gives an error,

The screenshot shows the MyEtherWallet interface for a contract at address 0xd1066ca0c869C4DE03ee17CB1970323Ead49627F. The contract function 'addPeople' is selected. The form fields are filled with: _name string: "Shreyas", _age uint256: 30, and _publicPass uint256: 1. A red arrow points to the 'WRITE' button. Below the button, a red error message states: 'the tx doesn't have the correct nonce. account has nonce of: 2 tx has nonce of: 1'.

Figure 31

PERSON2:

The screenshot shows the MyEtherWallet interface for a contract at address 0xFE2569914140E693CBa5CbC2bD9f752bEc0885BA. The contract function 'addPeople' is selected. The form fields are filled with: _name string: "Alice", _age uint256: 29, and _publicPass uint256: 2. The 'WRITE' button is visible at the bottom.

Figure 32

The contract were only able to view and modify their data, the other person data is hidden from the other.

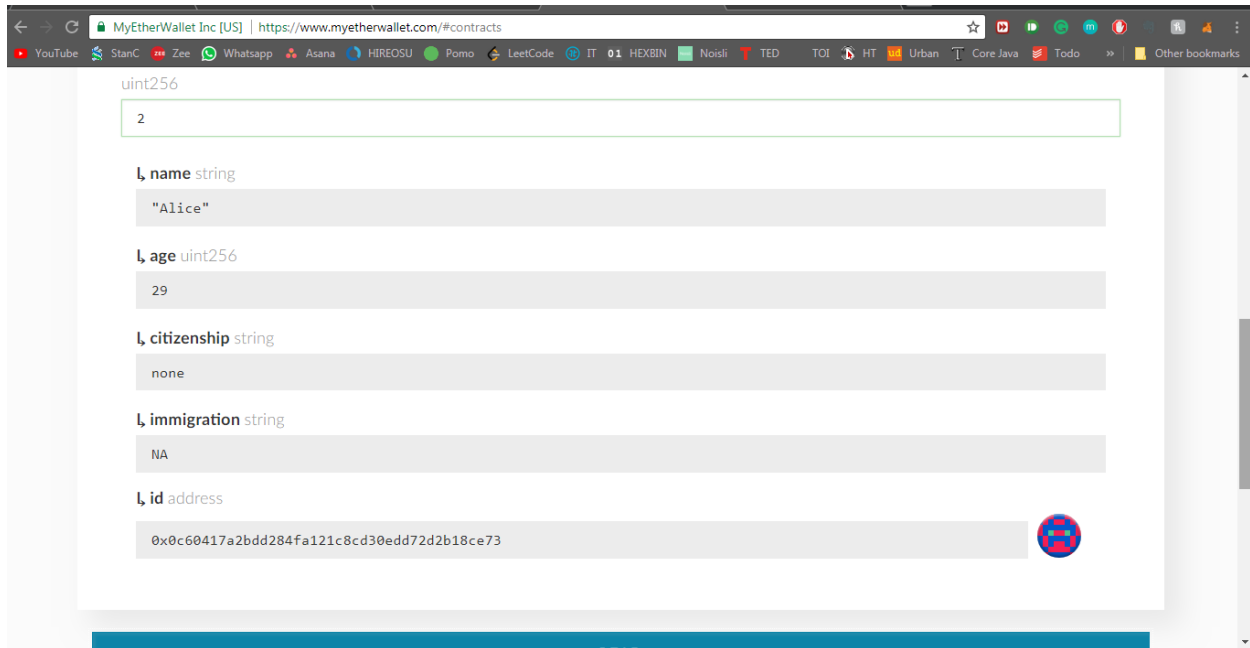


Figure 33

Below is the snapshot, if Alice tries to access Person 1's data.

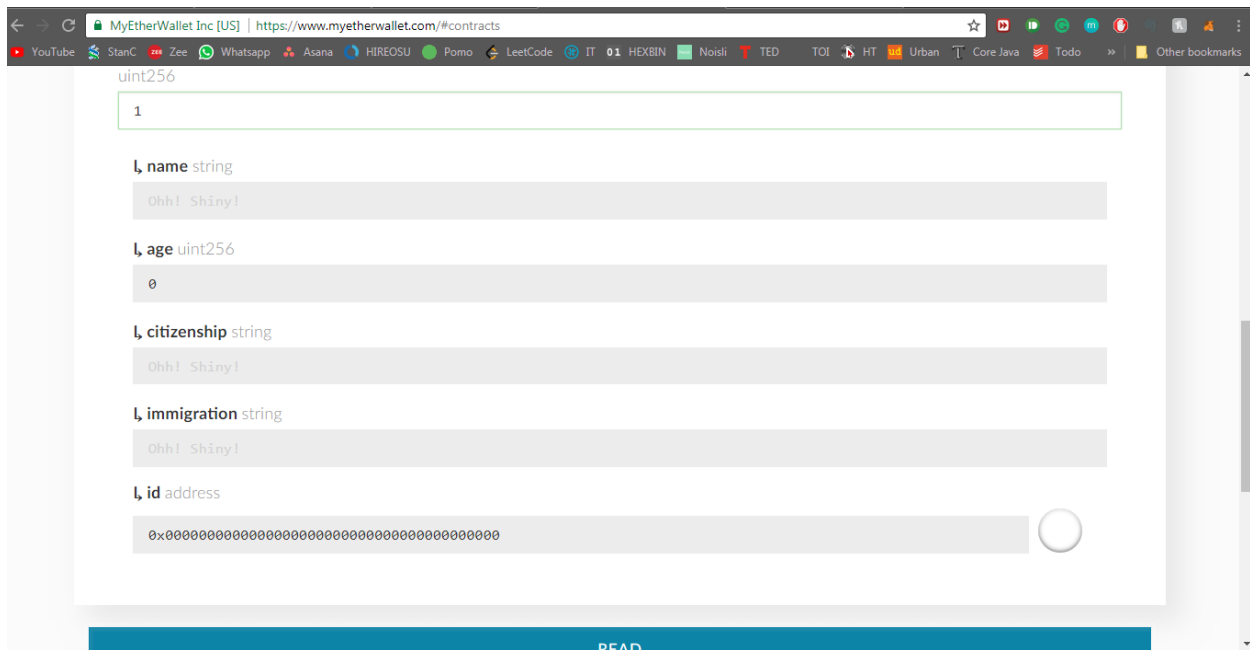


Figure 34

Source Code

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.16;

// @author - Shreyas Aserkar

//

//Creative Component - A Study on Crypto identity

//

//Documents that can be used for the below functions

//identity -like passport or driver's license etc.

//Age - Birth certificate, U.S. passport etc.

//U.S. citizenship - U.S. passport,Birth certificate

//immigration status: I-94 , I-766


contract cryptoidentity {

    struct personInfo {

        string name;

        uint age;

        string citizenship;

        string immigration;

        address id;
```

```

    }

    mapping(uint => personInfo) public peopleData;

    function cryptoidentity() public {

        }

function addPeople(string _name, uint _age, uint _publicPass) public {

    peopleData[_publicPass] = personInfo({

        id: msg.sender,

        name: _name,

        age: _age,

        citizenship: "none",

        immigration: ""

    });

}

function changeAge(uint _publicPass, uint _age) public {

    peopleData[_publicPass].age = _age;

}

function addCitizenshipDocuments(uint _publicPass, string _citizenship) public {

    peopleData[_publicPass].citizenship = _citizenship;

}

function addImmigrationDocuments(uint _publicPass, string _immigration) public {

    peopleData[_publicPass].immigration = _immigration;

}

```

```
function changePublicPass(uint _newPublicPass, uint _oldPublicPass) public {  
    if(msg.sender != peopleData[_oldPublicPass].id) {  
        revert();  
    }  
    peopleData[_newPublicPass] = peopleData[_oldPublicPass];  
    delete peopleData[_oldPublicPass];  
}
```

```
function Fee(uint _publicPass) public {  
    peopleData[_publicPass].immigration = "";  
}  
}
```

Conclusion

Smart contract for Crypto Identity System , focusing on SSN , worked successfully on the Etheruem test net, There is a further scope to deploy the Smart contract on Other test net like MIST and also on mainnet.

References:

- [1]<https://www.theverge.com/2012/9/26/3384416/social-security-numbers-national-ID-identity-theft-nstic>
- [2]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Security_number
- [3]<https://www.happyschools.com/what-is-social-security-number/>
- [4]<https://blog.ipswitch.com/3-reasons-biometrics-are-not-secure>
- [5]www.bitsonblockchain.net
- [6] <https://blockgeeks.com/guides/smart-contracts/>