ECE:4890, ECE Senior Design

NFTicket

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Abstract

The ultimate source for all your NFT ticketing needs. We are a team of dedicated professionals who specialize in providing a comprehensive platform for the transfer, creation, and viewing of NFT tickets. Our platform makes it easy and simple to manage your upcoming events.

Introduction

Digital Ticketing is an industry that is rife with problems. Scalpers billions from event goers, souvenir tickets are gone, and replaced with an email printout with some QR code on it. When transferring some tickets, you bought can be a nightmare, and there is no way to prevent scams from taking place when digital tickets are resold. NFTicket looks to solve these problems by leveraging smart contract on Ethereum, to represent digital tickets as NFTs.

What is an NFT ?

- NFTs, or Non-Fungible Tokens, are unique digital identifiers that are used to certify ownership and authenticity.
- By representing digital tickets in this way, NFTickets allows users to very easily create ticket-gated events, purchase tickets for those event, and transfer tickets to any Ethereum compatible wallet.
- Furthermore, because of the way NFTs work, mechanisms can be put into place to prevent resellers from selling fake or already redeemed tickets, as well as pay royalties back to the original creator on each resell.

Requirements, Constraints and Standards

The constraints we set out to satisfy in our project proposal were as follows:

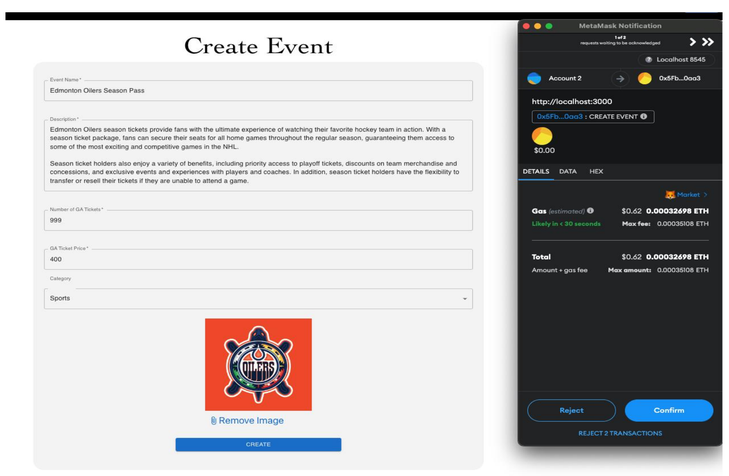
- The system shall be easily used on any web browser.
- The system shall ensure that transactions complete in under 1 minute, at little or no cost to the user.
- The system shall be compatible with any EVM compatible network.
  - To accomplish the first constraint, we created a React app using Material UI, with Firebase hosting and database. These tools are some of the best, and easily work on any browser. Constraints 2 and 3 were met by writing our smart contract in solidity and deploying to Polygon. This ensures that transactions are quick and cheap. Also, we followed ERC standards for tokens, which ensures EVM compatibility.
  - We followed ERC-1155 token standard for our digital tickets. This is different than our original plan to use ERC-721 token standard, and the reason for switching is discussed above. QR code for redemption is ISO 27001 compliant. User wallets are Ethereum accounts, and a user can import any wallet into MetaMask to use with our site.

Analysis of Possible Solutions

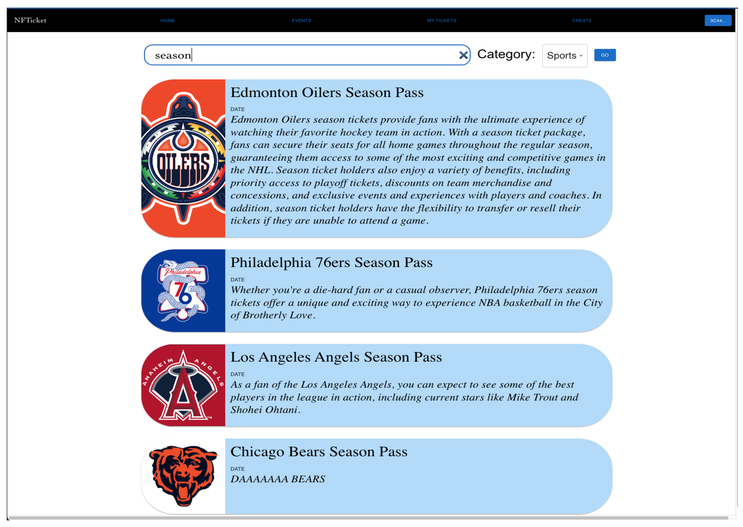
- Initially, we had planned to represent tickets using the ERC-721 standard. After further review, we decided to switch to the ERC-1155 token standard. This is a relatively small change, but it allowed us to mint and transfer multiple tickets at a time and allows for more flexibility in the ticket design going forward. This is because ERC-1155 tokens can be either fungible, or non-fungible, while ERC-721 tokens are strictly non-fungible.
- In smart contracts, there is a trade-off between how much data your contract uses, and how much that contract costs $ to deploy. The same thing goes with transactions. The more data and logic that a smart contract method must process, the more expensive that transaction becomes. However, if no data is stored in the contract, then some of the benefits of its immutability are lost.
- In the end, we stored essential information in the smart contract, such as event and ticket ids, as well as ticket and event owners and ticket redemption status in the contract. The rest of the data, such as the event data, name, description, and other information can be stored in the database. This way, event creators can easily update this information at no cost, while the core event functionality is kept decentralized and immutable with the smart contract.

Design and Implementation

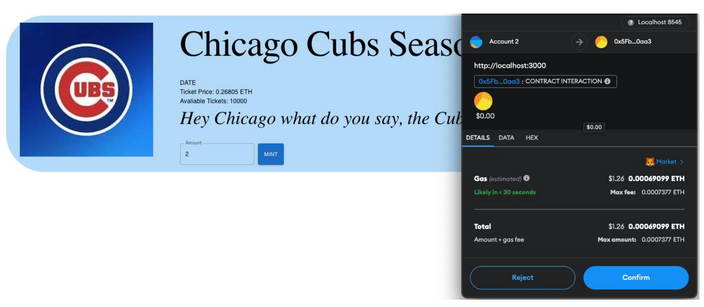
- The initial design concept was much more complex than what we ended up doing. At first, it was expected that we would have an overarching embedded user wallet.
- This was eventually axed in favor of users using a MetaMask wallet, as user owned wallets are the current standard for Ethereum applications, and MetaMask is the most common one. This allowed for a much simpler user interface and gave us more time to focus on more essential features.
- Our final design came about through trial and error, as we learned more and built more, we had to be decisive about was working and what was not. Through this decisiveness we were able to focus on the essential aspects and deliver a simpler, more user-friendly design. While it does not have all the features initially planned and does solve the problem and meets the specification.



This is where users can create Ticket events. The user will be prompted to enter an event name, description, price, category, and available tickets as well as a NFT image. Then MetaMask is then used for the user to confirm the creation of the Ticket, so that it can be purchased by other users.



This is the Events page where users can browse all the available events for purchase. This page also includes an event category filter as well as a search bar to make browsing for tickets as user friendly as possible. In this picture you can see the events are being filtered with the "Sports" category with keyword "season" in the search bar.



When a user clicks on an Event it directs to the Event Page. Here users can mint several tickets, then MetaMask will confirm the purchase and electronically take the money. After purchased the ticket will appear on the user's My Tickets Page.

Testing

- For testing our smart contract, we used Hardhat, which is an Ethereum development environment which includes a locally hosted node. Hardhat lets us write tests in JavaScript, and test on the local Ethereum network.
- For testing our front end, we used Cypress.

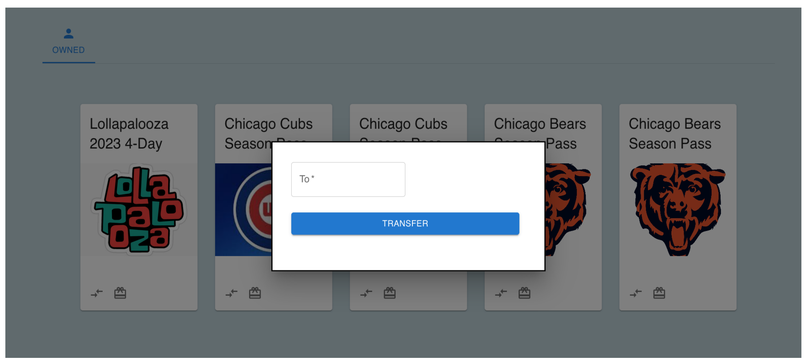
Requirement	Test Type	Test Tool	Test Result
Contract can create events	Unit	Hardhat	Pass
Contract can mint tickets	Unit	Hardhat	Pass
Contract can redeem tickets	Unit	Hardhat	Pass
Contract returns tickets owned by user	Unit	Hardhat	Pass
Contract can transfer tickets	Unit	Hardhat	Pass
Users can create an event	end-to-end	Cypress	Manual Testing Required
Created events should be displayed on events page	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass
Users can search events	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass
Users can filter events	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass
Event page should display event details	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass
User can buy tickets	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass
User can transfer tickets	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass
User can redeem tickets	end-to-end	Cypress	Pass

Project Outcome

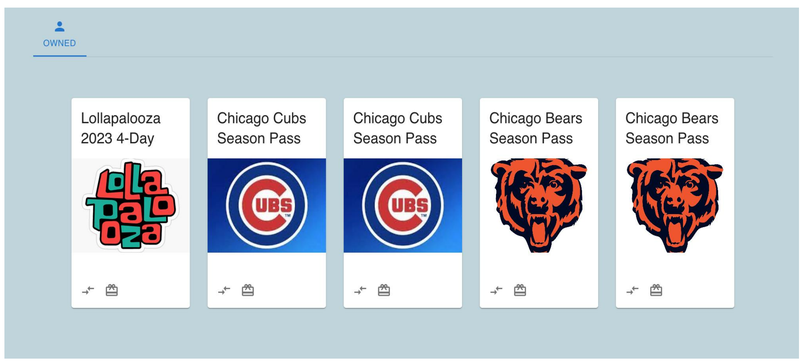
- Overall, the outcome of the project was a success. The core design constraints were met, users can create events, purchase tickets, redeem tickets, and transfer tickets on our website. The event information is stored in a Firebase database, with the smart contract acting as the source of truth, storing low level event information, handling ticket ids, mint, transfer, and redemption.
- We did change from ERC-721 to ERC-1155 token standards to allow for easier batch transfers of tickets, and we ended up using a NoSQL database instead of an SQL database because it made more sense once we started building.
- Unfortunately, we did fall short of our goal to provide a local wallet for the user, instead opting for MetaMask as our wallet provider. This means that users will need to have a MetaMask wallet already to interact with our website. It should be noted, however, that the concept of providing wallets for users with something as simple as a username and password is a new concept in Ethereum, and not very many solutions yet exist for it. Even as we were working on this project, Ethereum ERC-4337 was introduced, providing account abstraction, which aims to solve the same problem that we were trying to solve.
- Because of the lack of Ethereum development experience across the team, Thomas worked on the smart contract and overall design of the project, including back-end hosting and database, as well as front end components. Mark, Tommy, and Jordyn contributed to building the front-end, as well as writing documentation and reports.

Project Management

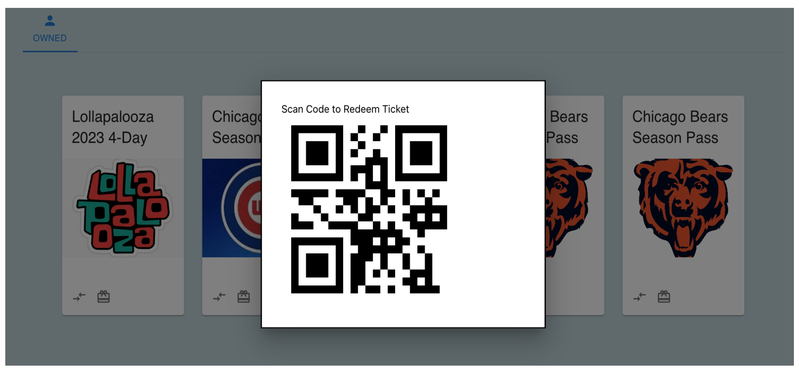
- Planning: we created a detailed project plan and tracked progress and tasks using Jira. This helped us learn how to manage multiple different tasks, and deadlines in a team environment.
- Communication: we communicated regularly and made sure to help each other out. There was a learning curve for everyone, so working together was important to make sure everyone stayed on the same page.
- Risk Management: the team identified potential risks and roadblocks that could affect the project success and took decisive actions to mitigate those risks and keep the project on track.
- Time Management: the team learned how to schedule and prioritize tasks; it was important to prioritize tasks so that nobody was holding anyone else back. If a task needed to be completed before another task could be worked on, we made sure that it was done first.
- Overall, the project management skills and process that we developed were extremely helpful in ensuring the success of the project. These skills helps use to stay organized, focused, and on track throughout the project, and I think will be invaluable going forward in our careers as engineers.



When the Transfer Button is clicked, a text field will display. In this text field to transfer this ticket to a different user, the other user's MetaMask Key must be entered to successfully transfer this ticket to the other account.



Once a user mints/purchases tickets with their MetaMask wallet the number of tickets bought will be displayed to the specific users My Tickets Page. On this page the Users can redeem their tickets or transfer their ticket to another user.



When the redemption button is clicked a QR code will be displayed. When at this event, this QR code can be scanned confirming that you have purchased this ticket for the event.