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# E-VOTING SYSTEM USING BLOCKCHAIN

A PROJECT REPORT

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

OF

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY
IN

**APPLIED MATHEMATICS**

SUBMITTED BY:

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We, Sparsh Bansal (2k21/MC/161), Sudhakar Pal(2k21/MC/162) and Utkarsh pandey (2k21/MC/172) students of B.Tech (Department of Applied Mathematics),hereby declare that the project Dissertation titled “E-voting system using Blockchain” which is submitted by us to the Department of Applied Mathematics, Delhi Technological University, Delhi in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of degree of Bachelor of Technology, is original and not copied from any source without proper citation. This work has not previously formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma Associateship, Fellowship or other similar title or recognition.

Place: Delhi
Date:

Sparsh Bansal (2k21/MC/161)
Sudhakar Pal (2k21/MC/162)
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## CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the Project Dissertation titled “E-voting system using Blockchain” which is submitted by Sparsh Bansal (2k21/MC/161), Sudhakar Pal(2k21/MC/162) and Utkarsh Pandey (2k21/MC/172), Department of Applied Mathematics, Delhi Technological University, Delhi in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Technology, is a record of the project work carried out by the students under my supervision. To the best of my knowledge this work has not been submitted in part or full for any Degree or Diploma to this University or elsewhere.

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| Place: Delhi | Prof. Dinesh Dhar |
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## ABSTRACT

Keywords: E-Voting, Ethereum, Blockchain, Smart Contracts, Solidity

This project focuses on addressing challenges associated with election voting systems, particularly vulnerabilities in the existing legal framework. It introduces an innovative E-voting model designed to mitigate these issues. A primary concern in traditional election systems is the risk of large-scale vote manipulation due to a single point of failure. For electronic voting systems to be widely adopted in modern elections, they must meet high standards of reliability, accuracy, security, and accessibility. However, skepticism surrounding the potential risks of computerized voting systems has hindered their widespread implementation.

Blockchain technology has emerged as a promising solution to overcome these challenges. With its decentralized infrastructure and end-to-end verification capabilities, blockchain offers a robust foundation for electronic voting. Its transparency and cryptographic security mechanisms significantly enhance the reliability and integrity of voting processes, positioning blockchain as a transformative technology for modern elections.

In this project, we designed and evaluated a prototype E-voting application built using blockchain technology. By leveraging the Ethereum network, we implemented smart contracts using the Solidity programming language and integrated digital wallets. This approach ensures a secure, transparent, and tamper-proof electronic voting system, paving the way for a more reliable and trustable voting process.

# Contents

# CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION TO BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain technology, often referred to as the backbone of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, has emerged as one of the most transformative innovations of the 21st century. Beyond its role in enabling decentralized digital currencies, blockchain is reshaping industries such as finance, supply chain, healthcare, and governance by providing a secure, transparent, and decentralized method of recording transactions and data.

Blockchain was first conceptualized in 2008 by an anonymous entity or individual known as "Satoshi Nakamoto." It was introduced to support Bitcoin, a decentralized digital currency designed to eliminate the need for intermediaries like banks. As blockchain evolved, its applications extended beyond cryptocurrencies. Ethereum, launched in 2015, introduced smart contracts, allowing automated and self-executing agreements. This marked the beginning of blockchain's second generation. The current, third-generation blockchain technologies address issues like scalability, interoperability, and energy efficiency, paving the way for mass adoption across industries.

3 Blockchain is a decentralized and distributed ledger that records transactions across a network of computers, referred to as nodes. Unlike traditional centralized databases, 4 blockchain ensures that no single entity has control over the entire system, enhancing transparency and security.

Blockchain technology represents a significant paradigm shift, acting as a revolutionary force that is reshaping industries and systems in profound ways. Initially developed to underpin cryptocurrencies, with Bitcoin being a prime example, blockchain has evolved far beyond its original purpose to become a transformative innovation with wide-ranging applications.

At its core, blockchain functions as a decentralized ledger—a network of interconnected nodes bound by cryptographic protocols. This decentralized design eliminates the need for a central authority, marking a departure from traditional centralized systems. Instead, it promotes a model of trust distributed across multiple participants, fostering greater transparency, resilience, and a more democratic approach to managing data.

What makes blockchain particularly compelling is its capacity to provide a transparent and unalterable record of transactions. By linking each block securely to the previous one, it creates a chain of data that cannot be tampered with or altered. This ensures data integrity and introduces a new standard of accountability, where every transaction is permanently recorded in a secure and verifiable digital ledger.

DECENTRALISED STRUCTURE OF BLOCKCHAIN

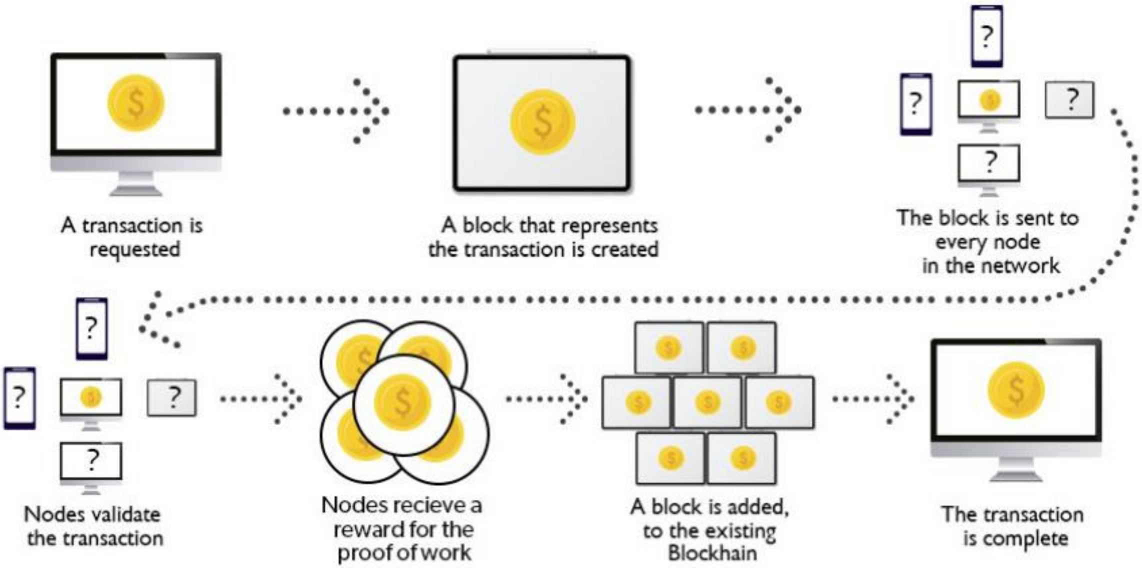
## Key Features of Blockchain

1. **Decentralization:** Data is distributed across multiple nodes, eliminating the risks associated with a single point of failure.
2. **Immutability:** Once added to the blockchain, data cannot be altered, ensuring integrity and trust.
3. **Transparency:** Blockchain provides participants with access to transaction records, enhancing accountability while allowing customization for privacy in permissioned systems.
4. **Consensus Mechanisms:** Blockchain uses algorithms to validate transactions. Popular mechanisms include:
   - **Proof of Work (PoW):** Solving computational puzzles to validate transactions.
   - **Proof of Stake (PoS):** Selecting validators based on the amount staked in the network.
   - **Delegated Proof of Stake (DPoS):** Electing representatives to validate transactions.

5. **Smart Contracts:** Self-executing agreements encoded within the blockchain, automating processes without intermediaries.

## Types of Blockchain

1. **Public Blockchain:**
   - Accessible to everyone.
   - Highly decentralized, ensuring transparency and security.
   - Examples: Bitcoin, Ethereum.
2. **Private Blockchain:**
   - Access is restricted to specific participants.
   - Prioritizes privacy over decentralization.
   - Examples: Hyperledger, R3 Corda.
3. **Consortium Blockchain:**
   - Governed collaboratively by multiple organizations.
   - Ideal for industries like banking and logistics.
   - Example: IBM Food Trust.
4. **Hybrid Blockchain:**
   - Combines public and private blockchain features.
   - Provides flexibility for specific applications.
   - Example: XinFin’s XDC Network.


A transaction is requested
A block that represents the transaction is created
The block is sent to every node in the network
Nodes validate the transaction
Nodes recieve a reward for the proof of work
A block is added, to the existing Blockchain
The transaction is complete

BASIC STRUCTURE OF WORKING OF BLOCKCHAIN

# CHAPTER 2 : SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE AND METHODOLOGY

Blockchain has the potential to revolutionize voting systems by improving transparency, security, and accessibility while reducing fraud and administrative costs. The envisioned system harnesses the distinct capabilities of blockchain technology to ensure voter privacy, maintain the integrity of ballots, and enable full verifiability throughout the voting process.

The system architecture includes the following key components:

1. **Voter Registration & Identity Verification**: Voter identities are securely verified using digital IDs stored on the blockchain. These Ids include the details such as identity, eligibility and registration status. Blockchain will verify the id without revealing any personal details.
2. **Voting interface** : voters would interact with the blockchain based voting system via a secure voting application, the interface would be simple and user friendly.
3. **Ballot Creation** : Election officials would create the ballot and would store them on the blockchain, ensuring that each ballot must be encrypted.
4. **Voting**: voters would submit their ballots using the interface.
5. **Tallying** : Blockchain Network would automatically count the votes , and results would be declared publicly ensuring that the identities remain anonymous.
6. **Verification** : voters can independently verify the integrity of election by inspecting the blockchain, ensuring the accuracy of results and confirming that no tampering has occurred.

## Detailed Methodology for Addressing Voting Challenges with Blockchain

Although blockchain based voting system is promising , but Its implementation requires a structured approach as follows:

Important Stakeholders:

1. Registration Authority (RA): Authenticates identities and allocates distinct addresses.
2. Election Authority (EA): Oversees the voting procedure and counts the votes.
3. Voters: You and all individuals who are eligible to cast a vote..
4. Candidates: Individuals competing for your vote.

Technical Components:

- **Blockchain**: A decentralized ledger that functions as a public record, storing all voting information securely.
- **Smart Contracts**: Autonomous programs that control and automate the voting process.
- **Cryptographic Keys**: A pair of public (PubKi) and private (PriK) keys used for secure voter identification and ballot submission.

Here's a structured approach for building an e-voting system:

**1. Infrastructure and Blockchain Selection:**

- **Choosing a Blockchain**: Select a blockchain platform that meets the specific needs of the voting system, considering scalability and the type of consensus required. Options like Ethereum or custom blockchains might be suitable based on these factors.
- **Network Setup**: Establish the network infrastructure, including nodes for validators, voters, and potentially auditors or election oversight entities.

**2. Identity Management:**

- **Voter Registration**: Set up a secure registration process to authenticate eligible voters and assign them unique digital identities. This can involve KYC (Know Your Customer) processes to validate voter eligibility.
- **Cryptographic Key Generation**: Provide voters with cryptographic keys (public and private) for secure authentication and vote encryption.

**3. Ballot Creation and Voting:**

- **Ballot Creation**: Design an intuitive interface where voters can securely access their ballots. Customize ballot templates based on different elections or available options.
- **Vote Casting**: Enable voters to submit their votes through the platform. Ensure that votes are encrypted with the voter's private key before being recorded on the blockchain.

**4. Blockchain Integration:**

- **Smart Contracts**: Develop smart contracts that automate and regulate the voting process, including vote validation and tallying.
- **Recording Votes**: Store the encrypted votes as blockchain transactions, leveraging the immutability of the blockchain to prevent tampering or deletion.

### 5. Consensus Mechanism:

- **Consensus Protocol**: Choose an appropriate consensus mechanism (e.g., Proof of Authority, Proof of Stake) that meets the needs of the voting system in terms of decentralization, speed, and security.
- **Validator Management**: Establish a group of trusted validators responsible for verifying transactions to maintain the integrity of the system.

### 6. Auditing and Transparency:

- **Public Access**: Allow public access to the blockchain for independent auditing and verification. Voter anonymity should be maintained through encryption while ensuring transparency.
- **Audit Trails**: Keep detailed logs and audit trails, enabling auditors or oversight bodies to validate the process's integrity.

### 7. Result Calculation and Announcement:

- **Vote Tallying**: Develop algorithms or smart contracts that securely count and aggregate votes while preserving voter anonymity.
- **Results Declaration**: After the voting period ends, calculate and announce the results based on the votes stored on the blockchain.

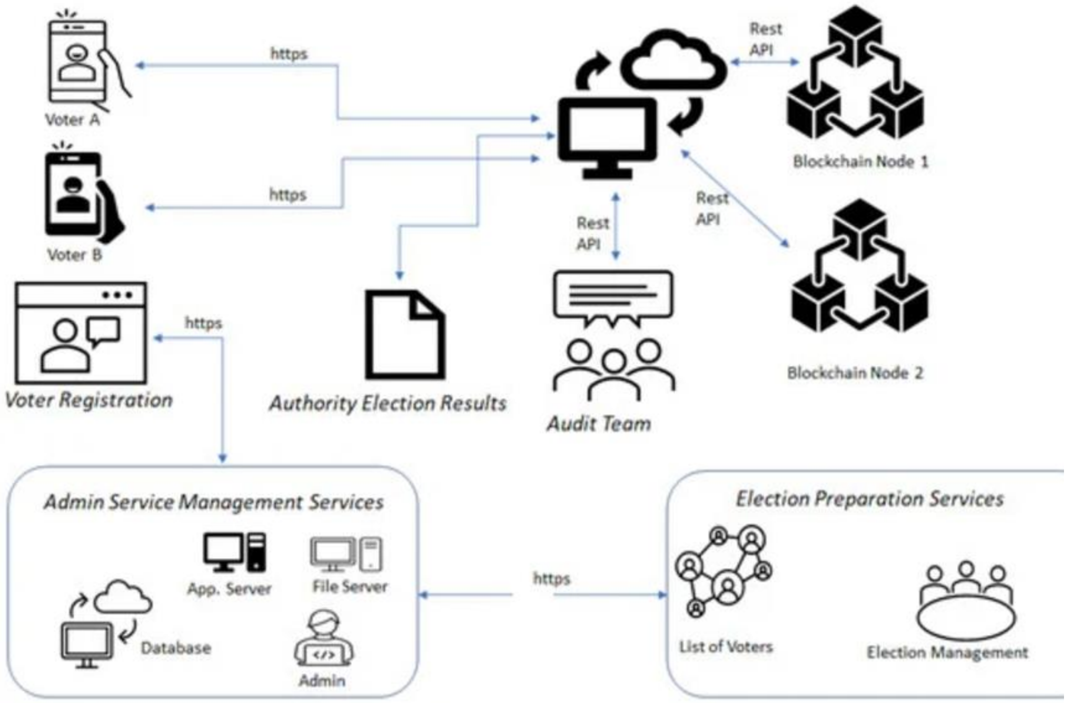
### 8. Post-Election Processes:

- **Dispute Resolution**: Establish clear procedures for resolving any disputes, using blockchain's transparency to address discrepancies openly.
- **Post-Election Audits**: Conduct audits after the election to ensure the system's fairness and verify the accuracy of the results.

### Key Technical Features:

- **Cryptographic Signatures**: Guarantee that only authorized voters can participate and help prevent multiple votes from being cast by the same individual.

- **End-to-End Encryption**: Safeguards voter privacy by concealing both their identity and voting choices.
- **Decentralized Architecture**: Removes the risk of a single point of failure, enhancing the system's resilience against manipulation.
- **Smart Contracts**: Automate essential processes, minimize human errors, and enforce compliance with voting rules.



**BLOCKCHAIN IN E-VOTING**

## Role of Smart Contracts in the Proposed System

Smart contracts are digital agreements embedded within a blockchain, designed to automatically execute specific actions based on predefined conditions. These contracts eliminate the need for intermediaries by self-executing and ensuring transparency and security, all while reducing the risk of human error or manipulation.

Use of Smart Contracts in Electoral Voting:

1. **Automation of Election Procedures:** Smart contracts streamline essential processes, such as voter registration, ballot creation, and vote casting, reducing the need for manual involvement and improving efficiency.
2. **Enforcement of Election Rules**: They ensure that all election rules, including eligibility checks and voting deadlines, are followed automatically, ensuring fairness and consistency throughout the process.
3. **Vote Verification:** Smart contracts validate each vote by confirming voter eligibility and preventing multiple votes from the same individual, ensuring the integrity of the election.
4. **Transparency and Security:** By recording every action on the blockchain, smart contracts guarantee transparency and ensure that voting data remains tamper-proof, providing an auditable and secure system.
5. **Instant Vote Counting and Result Declaration**: They can automatically tally votes and compute results, enabling faster and more accurate election outcomes without the need for manual counting.
6. **Auditability:** Smart contracts make it easy to verify the election process by allowing independent audits of the blockchain data, ensuring that the results can be trusted and are free from manipulation.

Smart contracts streamline the voting process by automating tasks, improving efficiency and reducing manual errors. They enhance security by ensuring immutable, encrypted votes, protecting voter privacy. By cutting costs and eliminating human intervention, they offer faster results and low-cost auditing. Additionally, smart contracts increase transparency and trust by removing intermediaries, ensuring the integrity of the election process.

## BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF BLOCKCHAIN IN E-VOTING

### Benefits of Using Blockchain in E-Voting:

1. **Enhanced Security**: Blockchain ensures votes are securely recorded and immutable, preventing tampering and fraud.
2. **Transparency**: All actions are recorded on the blockchain, allowing for full visibility and independent auditing of the election process.
3. **Anonymity and Privacy**: Voter identities and votes are encrypted, ensuring privacy while maintaining transparency of the election.
4. **Tamper-Proof**: The decentralized nature of blockchain makes it resistant to hacking or manipulation, ensuring the integrity of votes.
5. **Cost Reduction**: By automating processes and reducing the need for intermediaries, blockchain can lower election administration costs.
6. **Faster Results**: Blockchain enables real-time vote tallying and result declaration, speeding up the election process.

### Challenges of Using Blockchain in E-Voting:

1. **Scalability**: Blockchain can struggle to handle large volumes of transactions, which might be an issue in elections with millions of voters.
2. **Voter Accessibility**: Not all voters are familiar with blockchain technology, which could limit accessibility and participation.
3. **Regulatory Concerns**: Governments and regulators may be hesitant to adopt blockchain due to concerns about legal frameworks and the lack of global standards.
4. **Security Risks**: While blockchain is secure, vulnerabilities in the implementation or the systems around it, such as wallets or nodes, could still pose risks.
5. **Cost of Implementation**: Setting up the infrastructure for a blockchain-based voting system could be expensive and time-consuming.
6. **Lack of Trust in Technology**: Some individuals or groups may distrust blockchain or the idea of digital voting, fearing its complexity or perceived risks.

# CHAPTER 03 : GOALS

## SCALABILITY:

Scalability in e-voting system can be achieved by :

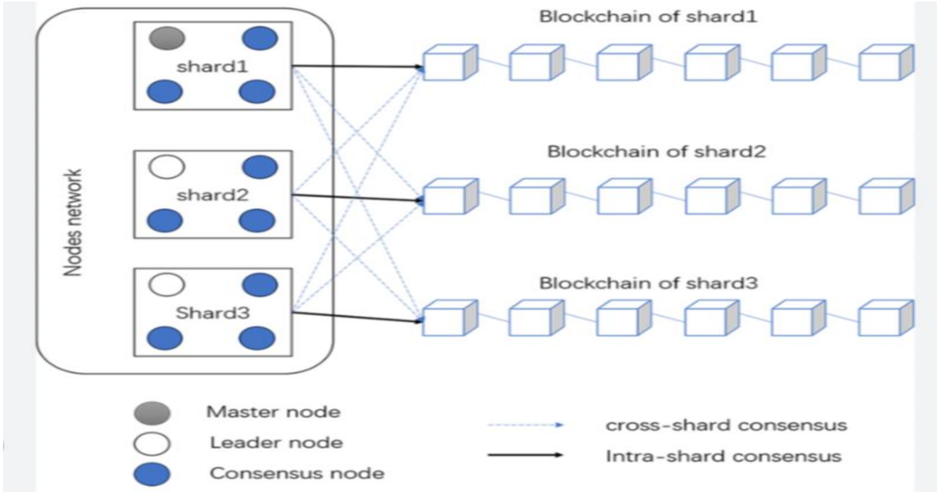
1. Sharding
2. Layer 2 Scaling Solutions (State Channels)

5

Sharding is a technique where the blockchain network is divided into smaller, independent segments known as shards. Each shard can independently process transactions and execute smart contracts, allowing for greater parallel processing, helps in handling multiple Transactions.

Sharding reduces the burden on individual nodes. This results in improved efficiency and throughput across the system.

However, ensuring security in a sharded environment requires careful management, particularly in preventing issues like double-spending between shards. Effective cross-shard communication and robust consensus mechanisms are crucial for maintaining the integrity and functionality of the network.



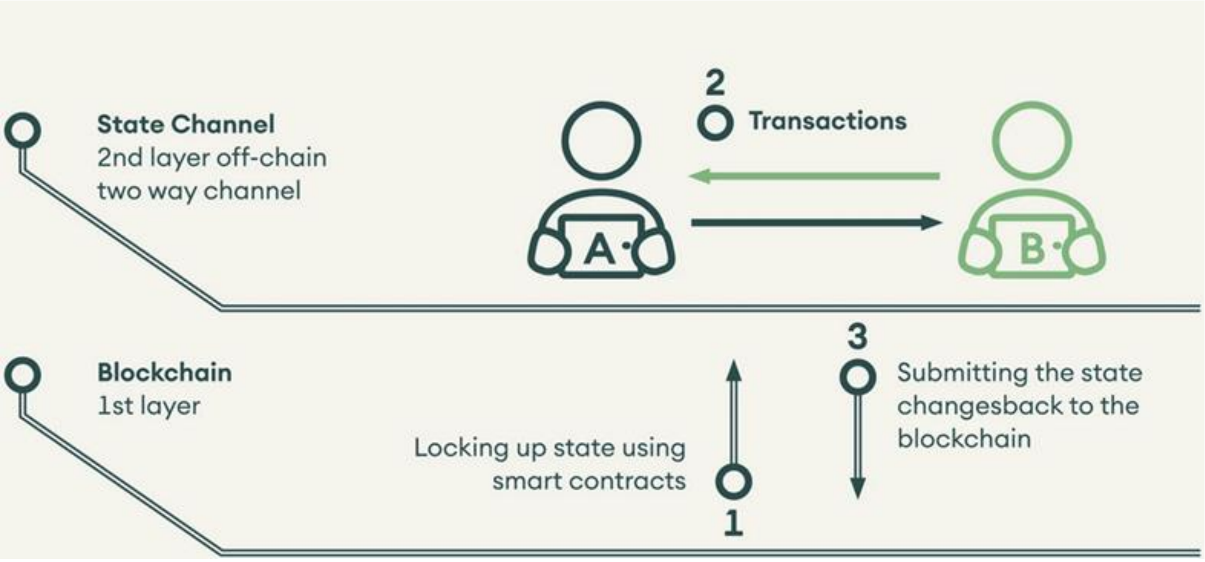
**Sharding in Blockchain**

## Layer 2 Scaling Solutions (State Channels):

Layer 2 scaling solutions, such as state channels, enable transactions to be conducted off-chain, allowing participants to exchange multiple transactions without recording each one on the main blockchain. Only the final outcome is submitted to the blockchain, reducing congestion and enhancing scalability.

State channels facilitate fast and low-cost transactions by eliminating the need for on-chain validation for each individual interaction. This approach alleviates the strain on the main blockchain, resulting in quicker transaction confirmations and improved system throughput.

Security is ensured through smart contracts that govern the state channels, ensuring participants follow the agreed-upon conditions. However, effective dispute resolution mechanisms are essential to address any potential conflicts.



**Overview of how state Channels work**

**Decentralization Using PoA and PoS Consensus Algorithms:**

**1. Proof of Stake (PoS):**

- Mechanism: In PoS, validators are selected based on the amount of cryptocurrency they hold and are willing to "stake" as collateral. The more tokens a participant has staked, the higher their chances of being chosen to validate and create new blocks.

- Decentralization Impact: PoS promotes decentralization by reducing reliance on extensive computational power, as seen in Proof of Work. It distributes influence based on the stake participants have in the network, minimizing the risk of centralization among a few powerful entities. Additionally, PoS reduces the environmental cost associated with mining.
- In E-Voting: In an e-voting system, PoS could allow stakeholders (such as voters or trusted validators) to participate in the consensus process, based on their stake or reputation in the voting community. This enables a more democratized decision-making process.

**2. Proof of Authority (PoA):**

- Mechanism: PoA uses a set of trusted validators—individuals or organizations with established credibility—to validate transactions and create new blocks. These validators are known entities within the network and are accountable for their actions.
- Decentralization Impact: While PoA improves efficiency and security by granting validation authority to trusted validators, it may reduce decentralization since a select group of entities holds the power to validate transactions. However, this approach enhances trust and speed.
- In E-Voting: PoA can support decentralization in e-voting by allowing trusted organizations, such as government bodies or election committees, to act as validators. This approach ensures accountability and faster processing while maintaining a level of trust within the system.

## Considerations for E-Voting Using Consensus Algorithms:

- **Balancing Decentralization and Security:** Both PoS and PoA provide advantages for e-voting systems. However, it is important to strike a balance between decentralization, scalability, and security. While PoA may prioritize efficiency and known validators, concerns about centralization could arise if the authority of validators is not properly distributed.
- **Voter Participation:** It is crucial to establish mechanisms that ensure fair and inclusive participation of voters or stakeholders in the voting process, upholding democratic principles and transparency.

Implementing these consensus algorithms in e-voting systems requires careful planning to meet the system's specific needs, maintaining the right balance between decentralization, security, and efficiency, while safeguarding the integrity of the voting process.

**Implementing Proof of Authority (PoA) in E-Voting:**

1. **Validator Selection:**
   - **Identification and Verification:** Validators are trusted and well-known entities selected based on their expertise, authority, or reputation in the electoral process, such as government bodies or election committees.
   - **Authority and Accountability:** Validators are responsible for validating transactions and ensuring the blockchain's integrity, maintaining transparency and accountability in the voting process.
2. **Network Setup:**
   - **Blockchain Platform Selection:** Choose a blockchain platform that supports PoA, such as Ethereum with tools like Clique.
   - **Setting Up Authorities:** Designate specific validator nodes responsible for creating blocks and validating transactions on the blockchain.
3. **Governance and Consensus:**
   - **Block Creation:** Validators take turns creating blocks in a sequence or round-robin manner based on the consensus rules.
   - **Block Validation:** Validators validate transactions and blocks, and consensus is achieved when a majority of validators agree on the validity of a block.
   - **Block Finality:** Once validated, blocks are immutable, preserving the integrity of the voting data.
4. **Voting Process:**
   - **Voter Authentication:** Implement a secure voter authentication process to ensure only eligible voters can cast their votes.
   - **Ballot Casting:** Voters cast encrypted votes through a user-friendly interface that records them on the blockchain as transactions.
   - **Transaction Validation:** Validators ensure that votes are legitimate and conform to the voting rules.
5. **Result Tabulation and Transparency:**
   - **Vote Counting:** Validators aggregate votes recorded on the blockchain to determine election results.
   - **Transparency:** The blockchain ensures transparency, allowing the public to audit the process, while individual votes remain encrypted and anonymous.
6. **Security and Integrity:**
   - **Immutable Record:** The blockchain maintains an immutable record of all votes, preventing manipulation or tampering with voting data.
   - **Security Measures:** Implement robust encryption, secure communication, and access controls to safeguard the integrity of the system.

7. **Post-Voting Processes:**
   - **Result Declaration:** Once the voting concludes, the results are computed and published on the blockchain.
   - **Dispute Resolution:** Establish procedures to resolve any disputes or challenges using the transparency and traceability provided by the blockchain.

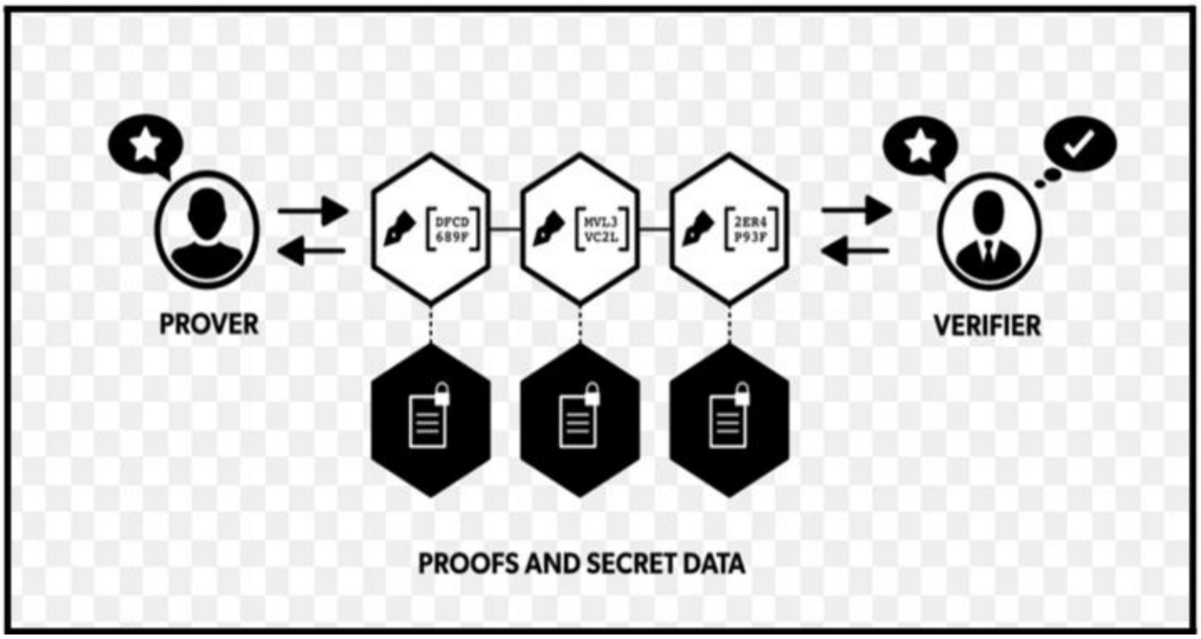
Implementing PoA in an e-voting system requires a carefully designed infrastructure, governance protocols, and strong security measures. By selecting reputable validators and ensuring blockchain transparency, PoA helps to build trust and maintain the integrity of the voting process.

## PRIVACY

## Implementing Zero-Knowledge Proofs in Online E-voting Systems for enhanced Privacy.

### Concept of Zero-Knowledge Proofs:

- Zero-Knowledge Proofs (ZKPs) allow voters to prove their vote is legitimate without revealing their identity or vote choice.
- Privacy Enhancement: ZKPs ensure that the election remains confidential, protecting voter anonymity.
- Proof without Disclosure: ZKPs enable voters to prove they meet voting requirements (e.g., being eligible) without revealing personal details.
- Integrity Protection: ZKPs confirm the validity of the vote without exposing the actual content, ensuring the election's integrity.
- Efficient and Secure: ZKPs provide a secure method for verifying votes while keeping the process transparent and tamper-proof.



**Overview of how ZKP protocols work**

## Implementing ZKPs in E-Voting

1. Voter Registration: Voters register using their digital identity and generate cryptographic keys: a public key (PubKi) and a private key (PriK).
2. Ballot Creation: Voters encrypt their selection with their private key (PriK), making the vote unreadable to others.
3. Casting the Vote: The encrypted vote is submitted to the blockchain along with a Zero-Knowledge Proof (ZKP).
4. ZKP Verification: The ZKP proves the following:
   - The voter is registered and eligible to vote.
   - The voter has not cast multiple votes.
   - The voter has not shared their vote.
   - The vote has not been altered.
5. Vote Counting: After verification, the encrypted vote is added to the blockchain and counted during the tallying process.

Benefits of Using ZKPs in E-Voting:

- Improved Voter Privacy: ZKPs protect the voter's identity and choice, minimizing the risks of coercion, vote-buying, and profiling.

- Transparency: The blockchain provides a public and auditable record of the voting process.
- Efficiency: ZKPs can be computationally efficient, allowing for faster verification and vote counting.
- Fraud Prevention: ZKPs reduce the risk of fraud, including preventing double voting and vote tampering.

## Popular ZKP Protocols:

- Schnorr Signatures: Enables proof of knowledge of the private key without revealing it, often used for identity verification.
- ZK-SNARKs: A protocol that creates compact proofs that are easy to verify, ideal for applications like e-voting.
- ZK-STARKs: A protocol that enables anyone to verify the proof, enhancing transparency and auditability.

## Challenges and Considerations:

- **Computational Demands:** The process of generating and verifying Zero-Knowledge Proofs (ZKPs) can be resource-intensive, demanding careful optimization and efficient implementation strategies.
- **Security Concerns:** If ZKPs are implemented improperly or if the underlying cryptographic components are flawed, they could be susceptible to attacks, jeopardizing system security.
- **Risk of Privacy Leaks:** Although ZKPs aim to conceal the specific information being proven, some protocols may inadvertently expose partial details, necessitating thorough analysis and mitigation measures.
- **Standardization and Compatibility:** With multiple ZKP protocols in existence, ensuring standardization and compatibility across different platforms is essential for enabling widespread adoption and effective integration into various applications.

## CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The incorporation of blockchain technology into eVoting represents a significant leap forward in strengthening democratic processes. Blockchain's core characteristics—decentralization, transparency, and security—serve as the foundation for the eVoting framework. To address scalability, sharding was utilized, enhancing performance without sacrificing efficiency. Zero-Knowledge Proofs played a key role in safeguarding voter privacy while ensuring the integrity of the voting process. Additionally, the use of Proof of Authority and Proof of Stake consensus algorithms reinforced the system’s trustworthiness and democratic principles.

These design elements directly addressed the key objectives of scalability, decentralization, and privacy, culminating in a robust, scalable, and privacy-oriented eVoting system. By combining blockchain technology with advanced eVoting algorithms, the system promises a more secure, transparent, and inclusive approach to democracy, fostering a renewed trust in electoral systems.

Looking ahead, the insights from this report lay the groundwork for future research focused on real-world prototyping. Areas for further exploration include enhancing privacy features, optimizing scalability solutions, and refining consensus mechanisms to improve the overall functionality and security of blockchain-based e-Voting systems.

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