STM JOURNALS

Journal of
Telecommunication, Switching Systems and Networks

ISSN: 2454-6372
Volume 11, Issue 1, 2024
January–April
DOI (Journal): 10.37591/JoTSSN

http://engineeringjournals.stmjournals.in/index.php/JoTSSN/index

Research JoTSSN

# A Decentralized Approach to Online Voting: Leveraging Blockchain Technology

Shamsundar Sadashiv Bhimade[1]*, Avinash Dharmashale[2], Rushikesh Patil[2], Ranjit Lande[2], Bhusan Sarade[2]

***Abstract***

*The increasing need for secure and transparent voting systems has led to the exploration of blockchain technology as a solution for online voting. This paper presents an innovative approach to online voting using blockchain, aiming to enhance the integrity, security, and transparency of the electoral process. Because of the decentralized, tamper-proof ledger that blockchain technology offers, every vote is reliably recorded and unchangeable. This study outlines the design and implementation of an online voting system leveraging blockchain's distributed ledger technology. Key features of the proposed system include voter anonymity, vote immutability, and verifiability, addressing common challenges such as fraud, coercion, and vote manipulation. Through a comprehensive analysis, the paper evaluates the system's performance, scalability, and potential real-world applications. The findings suggest that blockchain-based voting systems can significantly improve the trust and efficiency of elections, though further research and development are necessary to address scalability and accessibility concerns. This paper contributes to the growing body of knowledge on the application of blockchain technology in democratic processes and provides a foundation for future advancements in secure online voting.*

**Keywords**: Majority role, voting rights, citizenship education, online voting system, paperless voting.

## INTRODUCTION

The advent of digital technology has transformed numerous aspects of daily life, including the way societies conduct elections. The electoral process's integrity is frequently compromised by issues like fraud, coercion, and manipulation with traditional voting technologies, whether they are paper-based or electronic. Blockchain technology has surfaced as a potential remedy to improve the security and transparency of online voting systems in response to these problems. The decentralized digital ledger known as blockchain, which powers cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, is a network of computers' transaction log. This technique creates a tamper-proof record by guaranteeing that once a transaction is logged, it cannot be changed or removed. The application of blockchain in online voting systems can address key issues such as vote tampering, multiple voting, and the overall lack of transparency in traditional systems [1].

This study suggests a brand-new online voting method that makes use of blockchain technology to establish a safe and open voting environment. The system is designed to ensure voter anonymity, prevent vote tampering, and provide a verifiable and immutable record of all votes cast. The suggested approach distributes the vote records around several

***Author for Correspondence**
Shamsundar Sadashiv Bhimade
E-mail: sham.bhimade@sknscoe.ac.in

[1]Asstistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SKN Sinhgad College of Engineering, Korti, Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India
[2]UG Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SKN Sinhgad College of Engineering, Korti, Pandharpur, Maharashtra, India

Received Date: May 10, 2024
Accepted Date: May 20, 2024
Published Date: June 02, 2024

**Citation:** Shamsundar Sadashiv Bhimade, Avinash Dharmashale, Rushikesh Patil, Ranjit Lande, Bhusan Sarade. A Decentralized Approach to Online Voting: Leveraging Blockchain Technology. Journal of Telecommunication, Switching Systems and Networks. 2024; 11(1): 1–6p.

 

nodes by taking advantage of blockchain's decentralized structure, which makes it practically impossible for one party to tamper with the results. The objectives of this study are to design and implement a blockchain-based online voting system, evaluate its performance, and assess its potential real-world applications. The proposed system aims to offer a reliable alternative to current voting methods, enhancing public trust in the electoral process. This paper contributes to the growing body of research on the application of blockchain technology in various domains, particularly in improving the security and integrity of democratic processes [2].

Through a comprehensive analysis, the paper explores the benefits and limitations of using blockchain for online voting, addressing concerns such as scalability, accessibility, and user adoption. The findings of this study will provide valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners interested in developing secure and transparent voting systems for the future [3–5].

## EXISTING FRAMEWORK

Traditional online voting systems, while offering the convenience of remote participation and faster vote tallying, have several significant drawbacks that undermine their effectiveness and security. These systems typically rely on centralized databases and conventional encryption methods, which expose them to various vulnerabilities and attacks. Key drawbacks of existing online voting frameworks include:

- *Security vulnerabilities:* Traditional online voting systems are prone to a range of cyber threats, including hacking, malware, and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks. Centralized servers can be compromised, leading to unauthorized access to sensitive voter information and manipulation of election result.
- *Lack of transparency:* Many current online voting systems operate as black boxes, where the processes for casting, recording, and counting votes are not transparent to the public. This lack of transparency can lead to mistrust among voters, who cannot independently verify that their votes have been accurately recorded and counted.
- *Centralization risks:* The centralization of voting infrastructure in traditional online systems creates single points of failure [6]. If the central server or database is breached or experiences technical issues, the entire voting process can be disrupted, potentially invalidating the election.
- *Scalability issues:* Existing online voting systems often struggle with scalability, particularly in large-scale elections. As the number of voters increases, the system may experience performance degradation, slow response times, and increased vulnerability to attacks.
- *Voter anonymity concerns:* Traditional online voting systems face a great deal of difficulty in protecting voter anonymity while upholding the integrity of the voting process [7]. Methods used to protect voter privacy can sometimes be inadequate, leading to the potential for vote tracing and voter coercion.
- *Vote tampering and fraud:* Without robust security measures, traditional online voting systems are susceptible to vote tampering and fraud. Malicious actors can intercept and alter votes during transmission or manipulate the vote tallying process.
- *Limited verifiability:* A lot of the online voting platforms in use today lack tools that allow voters to confirm that their votes were cast and tallied accurately. This lack of verifiability undermines voter confidence in the election results and can lead to disputes and allegations of fraud [8].

Addressing these drawbacks is essential for developing a more secure, transparent, and reliable online voting system. The integration of blockchain technology presents a potential solution, offering enhanced security features, decentralized infrastructure, and improved transparency to overcome the limitations of existing farmwork [9, 11].

## WHAT IS BLOCKCHAIN?

Originally developed under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto by an individual or group, blockchain technology has become a ground-breaking invention with the potential to revolutionize a number of

 

industries. Fundamentally, blockchain is a distributed, decentralized ledger system that guarantees the safe, unbiased, and unchangeable recording of transactions. This technology underpins cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum but extends far beyond digital currencies, offering promising applications in sectors such as finance, supply chain management, healthcare, and more. The decentralized nature of blockchain technology, which permits peer-to-peer transactions and does away with the need for middlemen, is one of its distinguishing characteristics. Each transaction is recorded in a block, which, once verified through consensus mechanisms such as Proof of Work or Proof of Stake, is added to a chain of previous transactions. After that, a network of nodes receives this chain, making sure that each member has an exact duplicate of the ledger. Because changing any information would require the approval of most members of the network, decentralization improves security by making it nearly impossible to tamper with the data [10–12].

Blockchain technology offers a safe, transparent, and effective method of recording and verifying transactions, which has the potential to completely transform a number of industries. Even while there are still issues with scalability and regulatory uncertainties, continued progress and growing use point to a bright future for blockchain applications outside of cryptocurrency. As research and development continue, blockchain's impact on the digital and physical worlds is likely to be profound, driving innovation and fostering new opportunities across the global economy [13].

**Benefits of E-voting system over the Current System**

The transition from traditional voting methods to electronic voting (e-voting) systems presents numerous advantages that address many of the inefficiencies and vulnerabilities inherent in conventional systems. The following are key benefits of e-voting systems over traditional voting frameworks:

- *Enhanced security:* To make voting more secure, e-voting systems can use multi-factor authentication and cutting-edge encryption techniques. These measures help protect against fraud, tampering, and unauthorized access, ensuring the integrity of the election.
- *Improved accessibility:* Voters in remote locations and people with disabilities can cast ballots more easily thanks to e-voting technology. By enabling voting from any location with internet access, e-voting can significantly increase voter participation.
- *Increased efficiency:* The automation of vote casting and counting in e-voting systems reduces the time and labor required to conduct elections. This efficiency leads to quicker tallying of results and a faster announcement of outcomes, which is particularly beneficial in large-scale elections [14].
- *Cost reduction:* Although the initial setup of e-voting infrastructure can be costly, it can lead to long-term savings by reducing the need for physical ballots, polling stations, and extensive manpower. The decrease in operating expenses over time may be significant.
- *Enhanced accuracy:* E-voting systems minimize human errors associated with manual vote counting and processing. Automated systems ensure that each vote is recorded and counted precisely, reducing the risk of inaccuracies and disputes.
- *Improved transparency:* Many e-voting systems can provide real-time monitoring and auditing features that enhance transparency. Voters and officials can track the voting process, which helps build trust in the electoral system by ensuring that votes are cast and counted as intended [15].

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Block diagram of proposed system is shown in Figure 1.

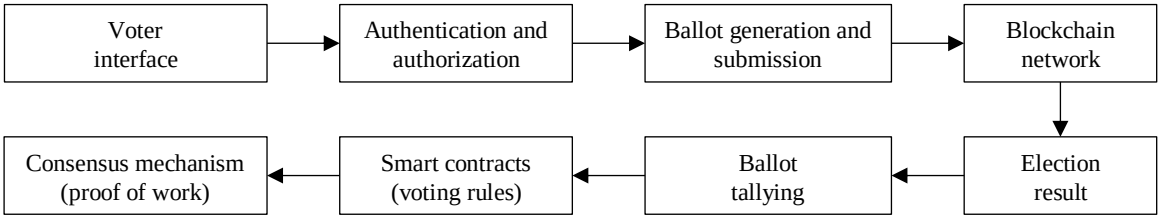


**Figure 1.** System block diagram.

 

## ALGORITHM

Our proposed consensus algorithm is inspired by existing Byzantine Fault Tolerance (BFT) mechanisms, tailored specifically for online voting systems. By adapting and enhancing these established algorithms, we aim to guarantee the validity and integrity of votes recorded on the blockchain, mitigating the risk of fraudulent activities. Building upon established cryptographic techniques, our algorithm incorporates elements of zero-knowledge proofs and homomorphic encryption to ensure secure voter authentication and anonymity. By integrating these proven cryptographic methods, we strive to uphold the privacy of voters and safeguard against coercion or vote manipulation.

While Byzantine Fault Tolerance (BFT) algorithms offer significant benefits for ensuring the integrity and reliability of distributed systems like blockchain-based online voting systems, they also have certain drawbacks, particularly in the context of online voting:

1. *Complexity:* BFT algorithms can be complex to implement and understand, requiring a deep understanding of distributed systems and cryptographic principles. This complexity increases the risk of implementation errors, which could compromise the security and reliability of the online voting system.
2. *Latency:* BFT algorithms often require multiple rounds of message exchanges among nodes to reach consensus on transactions.
3. *Assumption of honest majority:* Many BFT algorithms, including PBFT, operate under the assumption that a two-thirds majority of nodes are honest and non-faulty.
4. *Single point of failure:* In some BFT algorithms, such as PBFT, there is a designated leader or primary node responsible for initiating the consensus process. This introduces a single point of failure, as the system's reliability depends on the integrity of the primary node.
5. *Proof of authority (PoA)* algorithm, the process revolves around a select group of trusted authorities who validate and authenticate the transactions (votes) on the blockchain. Here's how the PoA algorithm typically works in the context of an online voting system.
    i. *Selection of authorities:* The system administrators or a governing body selects a predetermined set of trusted authorities, often referred to as validators or nodes. These authority are usually well-known and reliable institutions, like elected officials, government agencies, and respectable organizations.
    ii. *Authorization:* Every authority has the right to validate transactions on the blockchain and take part in the consensus process. Their reputation, level of experience, and dedication to maintaining the voting process's integrity serve as the foundation for this authority.
    iii. *Vote submission:* Voters submit their votes through the online voting platform, specifying their choices for the candidates.
    iv. *Validation:* The submitted votes are propagated to the network and received by the authorized authorities. These authorities validate the authenticity and correctness of each vote, ensuring that it complies with the rules and regulations of the voting system.
    v. *Consensus:* Once a sufficient number of authorities (often a supermajority) reach a consensus on the validity of the submitted votes, the transactions are confirmed and added to the blockchain as a new block. This agreement is achieved through a deterministic algorithm that considers the votes cast by the authorities.

## RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Comparison of traditional voting, electronic voting, and blockchain-based e-voting is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Comparison of traditional voting, electronic voting, and blockchain-based e-voting.

| Voting systems | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|---|---|
| Traditional voting | Traditional voting systems involve physical ballots cast in person at designated polling stations. This method is well-established and widely understood by the public. Key advantages | • Not easy to access for voters from remote areas.<br>• Costly. |

 

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | include a high level of security due to physical oversight and the tangible nature of paper ballots, which can be manually counted and audited. However, traditional voting is also labor-intensive, time-consuming, and costly due to the need for significant human resources and materials. Furthermore, logistical challenges can arise, such as long waiting times and accessibility issues for voters in remote areas. | • Vulnerable to tampering of voting results or electoral fraud.<br>• Prone to voter threat and intimidation.<br>• Subject to human error. |
| Electronic voting | Electronic voting (e-voting) systems automate the voting process using electronic devices, such as voting machines or online platforms. E-voting can significantly reduce the time and cost associated with elections, streamline the counting process, and provide immediate results. However, electronic systems are susceptible to various security threats, including hacking, software bugs, and hardware malfunctions. The lack of transparency and verifiability in some e-voting systems can also lead to questions about the integrity of the election results. Ensuring voter anonymity while maintaining the accuracy and integrity of votes remains a critical challenge. | • Prone to hacks.<br>• Less transparent than the blockchain-based e-voting system.<br>• Less reliable.<br>• Prone to rejection by technology-agnostic users. |
| Blockchain-based e-voting | Blockchain-based e-voting leverages blockchain technology to address some of the key issues faced by traditional and electronic voting systems.<br>*Advantages:*<br>• *Security:* Blockchain's decentralized nature reduces the risk of centralized attacks, and cryptographic security ensures data integrity.<br>• *Transparency:* All transactions (votes) are visible on the public ledger, allowing for independent verification and audits.<br>• *Immutability:* Once recorded, votes cannot be altered or deleted, preventing tampering.<br>• *Accessibility:* Blockchain-based systems can provide greater accessibility, enabling remote voting and reducing barriers for voters in distant or underserved areas. | • Need for widespread technological infrastructure, ensuring the digital literacy of the electorate, and addressing regulatory and legal issues surrounding digital voting systems.<br>• The scalability of blockchain technology is a concern, as the processing capacity needs to match the high volume of transactions during elections |

## CONCLUSION

The adoption of blockchain technology in online voting systems presents a transformative approach to enhancing the integrity, transparency, and security of elections. Traditional voting systems, while reliable and well-understood, are often resource-intensive and prone to logistical challenges. Electronic voting systems, though more efficient, face significant security vulnerabilities and transparency issues. Online voting platforms built on blockchain technology take advantage of these advantages to overcome these problems. Every vote is safely recorded and unchangeable due to the decentralized and unchangeable nature of blockchain. This enhances the overall security of the voting process, reducing the risk of fraud and external interference. The transparency provided by blockchain allows all transactions (votes) to be visible and verifiable on a public ledger, fostering trust among voters and enabling independent audits.

Blockchain-based online voting systems hold substantial promise for modernizing the electoral process. By combining enhanced security, transparency, and accessibility, blockchain technology has the potential to revolutionize the way elections are conducted, making them more secure, trustworthy, and inclusive. As research and development in this field continue to progress, blockchain-based voting systems may soon become a viable and reliable option for conducting elections in the digital age, paving the way for a more secure and democratic future.

 

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