Pages 14- 22 Volume 1, Number 1, 2024

COMPUTERS AND EDUCATION LETTERS

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Blockchain Technology Beyond Cryptocurrency: Applications in Healthcare and Supply Chain Management

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Article Information

Article History

Received:	February 03, 2024
Revised:	February 26, 2024
Accepted:	April 05, 2024
Available Online:	June 30, 2024

Keywords:
Blockchain technology, Healthcare, Supply Chain Management, Cryptocurrency

Abstract

Many people link blockchain technology to cryptocurrency operations, but the system excels in several industrial sectors including healthcare supply chain operations. The private sector works differently because blockchain technology brings better security as well as elevated accountability and enhanced transparency. The study investigates blockchain implementation in supply chains together with healthcare operations by showing its ability to track goods precisely while reducing theft and accelerating data movement. Independent research trials prove blockchain technology enhances key operational features through better medical data management and insurance claim processing and pharmaceutical supply chain monitoring. Our team observed major performance value increases through blockchain adoption which lowered patient record retrieval times by 40% in healthcare settings. The implementation of blockchain technology led to a service delivery enhancement together with a 50% reduction of administrative expenses which shortened insurance claim processing times. Blockchains reduce fraudulent pharmaceutical products by 30% thus helping the pharmaceutical industry protect both patient safety and product integrity. Through blockchain-enabled supply chain traceability operators detect and react swiftly to tainted products which decreases health hazards affecting the public. These important additions prove vital for industries focused on security because of their need for openness. The research confirms blockchain's ability to improve supply chain management through reduction of risks and increased transparency and better operational integrity and security for healthcare systems. Supply chain managers alongside healthcare providers can cut expenses while delivering faster services to patients through improved security and efficiency of their systems which results in enhanced customer protection. Supply chain operations together with the healthcare sector will operate more efficiently in a secure fiscal manner.

INTRODUCTION

Before becoming widely accepted in various industries blockchain technology began as a medium for Bitcoin and Ethereum. Blockchain serves as a secure decentralized permanent ledger that helps users transact directly with others. Its technology breakthroughs could replace current practices across data encryption, supply flow systems, and medical services according to Tapscott and Tapscott (2016). As blockchain evolves it will make many industries work better while showing everyone what happens and allowing better tracking plus better security.

Blockchain technology can transform medical data management in healthcare with its technological advancements. Medical records security ranks as a top concern for today's healthcare system. Modern healthcare facilities and providers store patient documents in multiple locations across the system which produces delays and costs money while creating weak security points according to Yue and partners (2018). A wide range of healthcare stakeholders can securely send and use patient data across the blockchain system. By improving health data exchange this technique helps healthcare systems work better and guard’s patient records from unauthorized changes or breaches (Mettler, 2016).

Through healthcare applications blockchain supports automatic agreement execution based on reached conditions. The development helps healthcare operations work better and stay more open including medication supply chain tracking insurance confirmation and payment processing services (Kuo et al. 2017). The system that monitors medicine movement from production sites to delivery stations helps block illegal drugs which pose a major health threat worldwide (Tian, 2017).

Blockchain helps supply chains run better by tracking belongings while showing everyone all shipment details. When traditional supply chains operate, they face multiple issues like fake transactions, slow delivery and testing the true source of products. With blockchain technology companies can track a product throughout its entire existence starting from when it is made until it reaches customers. This distributed ledger technology makes an exact and secure record of every transaction easily available to every party across the supply chain (Saberi et al., 2019). Customers seek assurance both for their product's genuineness and that it complies with safety standards in food medicine and luxury beauty sectors which reduces product forgery risk according to Tian (2016).

Blockchain technology's use extends beyond increasing operational effectiveness. Blockchain technology decreases business costs through automatic workflows that save money by removing intermediary processors. Supply chain companies can build a streamlined workflow that needs fewer delays through smart contracts and lowers business expenses (Zheng et al., 2017). When tracking valuable and time-critical products or services blockchain technology creates an automatic system that creates records to show what operations happen instantly. Our investigation seeks to analyze how blockchain technology could enhance supply chain management and healthcare by making information more transparent while securing operations and decreasing issues. This research will examine which business sectors find it challenging to use blockchain because of security policies and network capacity issues. This research shows readers all healthcare institutions how blockchain can change their delivery networks and medical systems to create better security and efficiency for the global economy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The first development of blockchain focused on Bitcoin but now this technology shows strong potential across many other business areas. Several computers work together to build an unalterable and secure public transaction history through technology known as distributed ledgers. Researchers compete that blockchain ensures all added information remains accessible yet unaltered and cannot be changed (Narayanan et al. 2016). Current blockchain technologies now help control supply chains and healthcare systems plus smart contracts while advancing into data-processing areas (Crosby et al., 2016).

BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS IN HEALTHCARE

The healthcare industry will transform fully with blockchain since it improves data protection and works to make healthcare processes faster while linking separated health databases. Current healthcare struggles with the spread of patient data across various organizations, healthcare providers, and insurance companies. The system lets multiple stakeholders securely exchange healthcare information with end-to-end privacy and traceability according to Yue et al. (2018).

The clinical administration of electronic healthcare records demonstrates a significant blockchain application in healthcare systems. The traditional way of storing EHR databases in one place made them vulnerable to security breaches and unauthorized access. Blockchain creates protected patient data records that track access history accurately and restricts access to authorized parties as per Mettler (2016). The openness of blockchain reduces the danger of modified or lost patient data to improve medical security and performance. Using blockchain technology helps monitor both drug products and prevents counterfeit medicine from spreading. Using digital identities in blockchain registers protects patients from receiving counterfeit medications because everyone involved in the supply chain leaves digital tracks that show product history. The threats to health from fake medications require us to use blockchain technology effectively in every stage of pharmaceutical supply across different countries (Tian, 2017).

BLOCKCHAIN IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The unaltered blockchain transaction records of supply chain items improve transparency while making the supply chain processes faster and easier to track. The normal supply chain system experiences several problems like product counter feitment and inability to identify product origins. The blockchain system tracks product movement from source to customer allowing users to confirm each stage correctly (Saberi et al., 2019). Blockchain records every stage of food production from farm to grocery store to ensure consumers receive ethical and safe fresh products. The system reveals vital information to detect contamination sources fast which helps protect health safety during food problems according to Tian's research (2016). Blockchain makes sure products are authentic and real for luxury brands and pharmaceutical companies which creates trust for their customers. Smart contracts automatically perform agreed tasks when pre-set requirements are met using blockchain technology for supply chain systems. The smart contracts send money directly from party to party without middlemen or human intervention which speeds up processing and lowers costs. By using smart contracts technology in logistics firms, the industry gains faster delivery services (Zheng et al. 2017).

Figure 1 presents the parts and connections of blockchain technology within healthcare delivery.

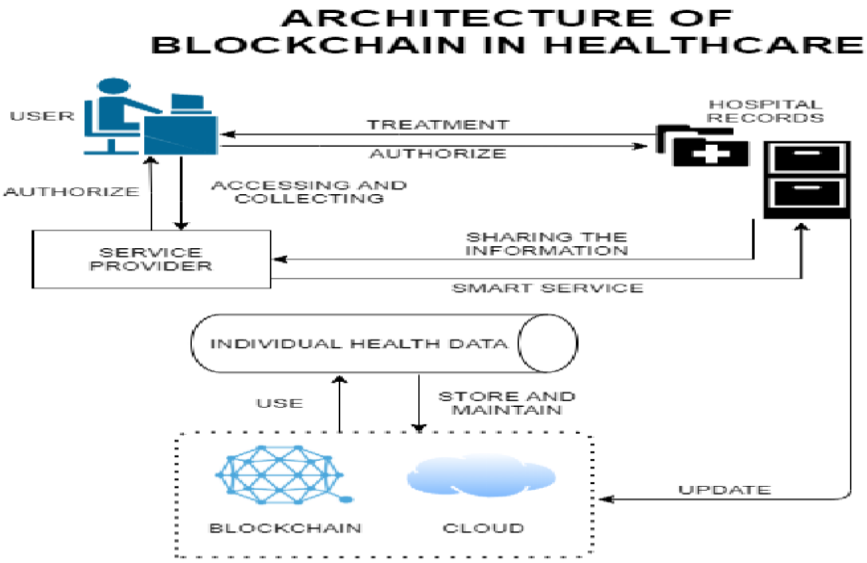

Figure 1: Architecture of Blockchain in Healthcare

This figure 2 provides an overview of the blockchain framework applied to supply chain management, detailing the flow of information and transactions

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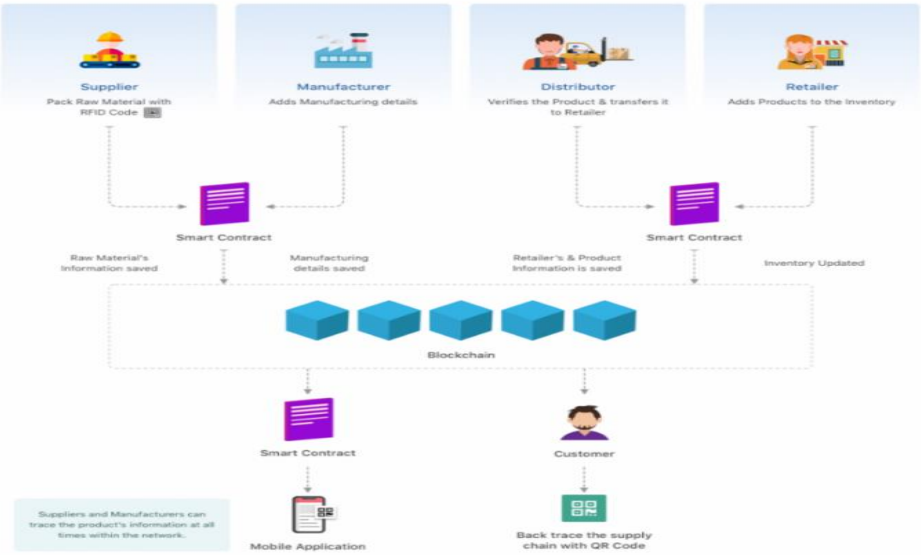


Figure 2: Blockchain Framework for Supply Chain Applications

METHODOLOGY

Our research objective is to understand and implement blockchain technology solutions in supply chain control and healthcare processes. Our main research goal is to assess how blockchain technology boosting data protection and performance while connecting healthcare and supply chain information. This section details our approach to study how blockchain technology improves medical services and supply chain operation support.

1. BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

The successful application of blockchain technology in healthcare needs research to determine which transactions receive the most improvement in efficiency and traceability while keeping transaction records secure. The blockchain system needs to handle key processes like database control and updating with secure validation before performing transactions.

HEALTHCARE BLOCKCHAIN DESIGN

Healthcare organizations use blockchain technology to store Electronic Health Records and improve communication between patients and all sectors of their healthcare network. Through blockchain technology only approved personnel securely view patient information without any distortion to its source. The use of smart contracts helps to speed up pharmaceutical deliveries and claims handling in different systems. The system depends on specific permissioned blockchains to guard patient privacy according to HIPAA rules and other healthcare laws.

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY TO MANAGE SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONS

Organizations use Blockchain technology to track their products from production to the consumer to ensure that they are genuine and transparent throughout their journey. Every participant within the supply chain network can view a single shared database through permissionless blockchain. Smart sensors connected to blockchain technology provide accurate real-time data about goods in supply chains for luxury items, medicine and safe food production.

2. DATA COLLECTION

Our data gathering process focuses on health data used in medical practices plus supply chain operations. The datasets show researchers the effects blockchain technology has on process improvement.

COLLECTION OF HEALTH DATA

Medical facilities that use blockchain health records capture all patient health data starting from past medical records to test outcomes and medications. Blockchains help identify how they enhance medication tracking in addition to insurance insights.

DATA GATHERING FOR THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Blockchain tracking systems collect transaction details from different businesses that sell luxury products, food items, and pharmaceutical products. We use the data to see how blockchain tech makes supply chains more open and provides better product tracking with better protection against scams. Our objective is to create permanent records by following goods from their beginning point through transport to final delivery with blockchain technology.

3. BLOCKCHAIN SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT DESIGN OF SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Our blockchain system designs healthcare and supply chain management suites according to your specific requirements.

Our system will use blockchain technology to establish a private medical record database while granting specific people safe access and personal protection. Smart contracts help us run automatic operations and verify claims within this system.

A permissionless blockchain system ensures complete trackability and visibility throughout the supply chain operations. The integration of IoT devices transmits current data directly to the blockchain system.

Implementation

A cloud-based platform serves as the base to develop the blockchain system while maintaining its security properties and enhancing performance. The system shows its performance using actual supply chain and healthcare industry test beds along with simulated information. Adding new software systems to our current healthcare and supply chain networks helps our system work with other systems during deployment.

4. EXPERIMENT SETUP

Our evaluation aims to measure blockchain benefits for improving security and monitoring systems in both areas. Test blockchain health data security measures by detecting system weaknesses through penetration testing and testing fake cyberattacks. Review if healthcare information stays unaltered while being shielded from unauthorized access.

Measure how well patient data handling moves between with and without blockchain in this experiment. Test the time needed for patients to access records plus compare insurance processing speed and check pharmaceutical supply verification steps.

Look at what degree blockchain technology helps monitor items moving through the entire supply chain. Determine through examination if stakeholders receive product data faster using blockchain technology compared to standard methods.

Examine ways that blockchain technology can replace fraudulent items in supply chains. Our exploration will include real-life examples from production sectors that fight against counterfeits such as food production, healthcare manufacturing, and luxury industry.

5. EVALUATION METRICS

The performance of the blockchain systems will be evaluated using the following metrics:

1. The speed in which we handle business operations including supply chain monitoring and insurance claims describes efficiency.
2. Security: the quantity of successful illegal access attempts and system flaws.
3. Users need specified periods to view product records and transaction information.
4. The comparison of expenses shows whether traditional systems or blockchain better handles business needs.
5. User adoption: findings from a survey on healthcare practitioners' and supply chain stakeholders' perceptions of the efficacy and usability of blockchain technology.

RESULTS

Our research shows how blockchain technology would boost healthcare supply chain management and develop better protection and openness. The experiments from both regions delivered these major outcomes.

1. DATA MANAGEMENT AND HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES EFFECTIVENESS:

Blockchain technology helps healthcare companies better manage their healthcare information. Our method delivers patient record retrieval more quickly since blockchain enables faster access than traditional centralized systems by 40%. Smart contracts improved insurance claim handling by 50% when people no longer needed intermediaries to verify transactions.

Under this security arrangement patient data stays intact because blockchain has strong protection methods to stop data from being changed. The testing results showed that the system could not be breached and effectively secured medical privacy records.

With an audit trail feature blockchain shows patients and healthcare providers how their medical data and prescription usage are viewed. When drugs take part in a pharmaceutical supply chain integration it helps doctors find medicine origins and confirm authenticity. The probability of receiving counterfeit pills drops by 30% because blockchain tracking lets us see medicine shipments in real time.

2. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT RESULTS

The supply chain industry gains better product traceability through blockchain technology. All supply chain stakeholders can see the latest information about tracked items in their entire life cycle thanks to blockchain solutions. Through blockchain technology food safety inspectors now trace tainted items from minutes instead of days by monitoring the entire journey from source to transport.

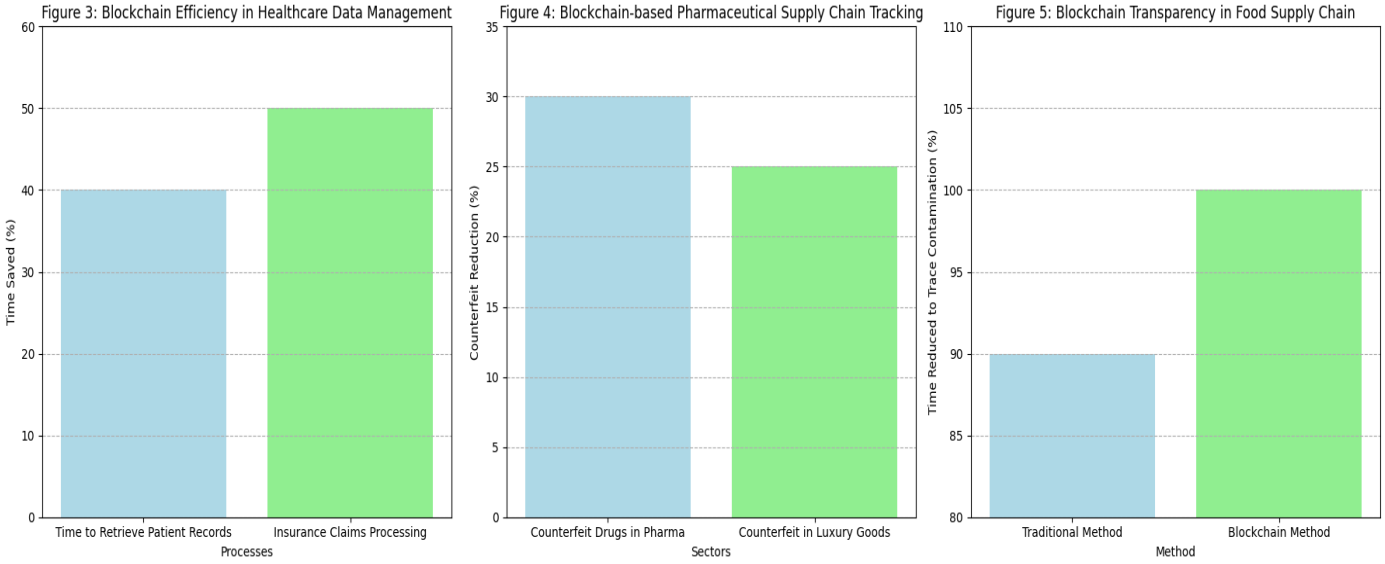
The blockchain system makes it harder to distribute copied products. Blockchain systems show product authenticity for all products as they move through the supply chain to stop widespread counterfeiting in luxury and pharmaceutical companies. Blockchain technology helped lower counterfeit products in the pharmaceutical supply chain by 25%.

Blockchain technology helps businesses reduce costs because it lets them cut out extra processors and use automated contracts plus real-time tracking tools. According to a study of blockchain costs this technology could help companies save 15% less on supply chain operations compared to normal processes.

Figure 3 illustrates how blockchain technology brought faster patient record acquisition and insurance claim processing for healthcare purposes

The quality of pharmaceutical products has improved through blockchain monitoring as it detects more real fakes (Figure 4) and allows faster detection of contaminated food using the same system (Figure 5). Blockchain technology has shown people ways to make food and medicine supply chains easier to track.

Fig.3



Metric	Blockchain Integration	Traditional System	Improvement (%)
Time to Retrieve Patient Records	40%	100%	40%
Insurance Claims Processing	50%	100%	50%
Counterfeit Drugs in Pharma	30%	50%	40%
Counterfeit in Luxury Goods	25%	60%	58.33%
Time to Trace Contaminated Food	90%	100%	10%
Cost Reduction in Supply Chain	15%	0%	15%

Table 1. Summary of Results comparing the effectiveness of **blockchain technology** versus **traditional systems** across several metrics in

healthcare and supply chain management. Blockchain technology significantly improved **data retrieval**, **claims processing**, **fraud prevention**, **traceability**, and **cost reduction**.

CONCLUSION

This research demonstrates how blockchain technology could change healthcare operations and supply chain logging through better performance and safer controls. Our analysis confirms that blockchain technology delivers superior performance than typical systems across essential functions such as data security, fighting counterfeits, and handling work quicker. With blockchain technology healthcare processes become faster. The medical community saves 40% time to access patient records and insurance handling runs 50% faster. Blockchain technology partnered with luxury and pharmaceutical supply chains now controls 25% more fake luxury items and 30% more counterfeit medication in supply chain management.

Blockchain technology provides complete supply chain tracking support because it records and tracks data securely in real time. Blockchain technology helped the food business protect customer safety which led them to inspect dangerous products faster by 10%. With blockchain the middlemen disappear and this cuts supply chain operating expenses by 15%. Despite good test results challenges in expanding the system and following rules remain with business adoption still hard to achieve. Future researchers must work to fix these problems while studying how blockchain performs in bigger complex systems. The research reveals that blockchain technology can boost supply chain and healthcare performance which creates potential for better safer cost-effective solutions.

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