International Research Journal on Advanced Engineering Hub (IRJAEH)
e ISSN: 2584-2137
Vol. 03 Issue: 05 May 2025
Page No: 2441 - 2444
https://irjaeh.com
https://doi.org/10.47392/IRJAEH.2025.0362

Secure and Transparent Vaccine Supply Management through Blockchain

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Abstract
With global health crises like COVID-19, making sure vaccines are safe and traceable has become very important. Blockchain technology offers a strong solution to improve vaccine supply management and stop the spread of fake vaccines. It does this by creating secure, unchangeable, and decentralized records. This paper explores how blockchain can track every step of a vaccine's journey from production to delivery. Technologies like Ethereum, smart contracts, cloud storage, and QR codes are used to make the process more efficient and transparent. Smart contracts help ensure that only approved vaccines move forward, and QR codes allow people to check if a vaccine is real. Cloud systems also help monitor storage conditions like temperature. Although blockchain has many benefits, there are still challenges like privacy issues, scalability, and legal regulations. The project looks at possible solutions to these problems, aiming to build a secure, reliable, and global system for managing vaccines.

Keywords: *Blockchain technology, vaccine supply chain, vaccine traceability, smart contracts, QR code verification, cloud integration, counterfeit prevention, cold chain monitoring, decentralized ledger, public health security.*

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Vaccination is one of the most effective public health interventions, playing a critical role in preventing infectious diseases and ensuring population health. However, the logistics surrounding vaccine distribution are complex, involving multiple actors including manufacturers, transportation networks, storage facilities, healthcare providers, and patients. Ensuring that vaccines are delivered safely, securely, and on time requires accurate coordination, stringent environmental controls (particularly for temperature-sensitive vaccines), and robust authentication mechanisms. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the systemic weaknesses of traditional supply chain systems [2]. Counterfeit vaccines infiltrated markets, cold chain failures led to spoilage, and the lack of real-time tracking made it difficult to pinpoint inefficiencies and ensure accountability. These issues called for the implementation of secure, transparent, and traceable vaccine management frameworks capable of operating at scale [1][3].

1.2 The Role of Emerging Technologies

Blockchain technology, known for its decentralized and immutable data storage, offers a transformative solution to these challenges. By ensuring data integrity and enabling transparent, tamper-proof records, blockchain can replace error-prone, siloed databases and manual documentation processes currently used in vaccine supply chains. Each block in the blockchain stores transactions with a cryptographic hash, timestamp, and a link to the previous block, forming an unalterable history of data changes. Moreover, mobile platforms particularly those based on Android offer widespread accessibility, especially in low-resource and rural settings. Android's global reach allows stakeholders

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at every level of the vaccine chain to interact with the system through intuitive user interfaces, minimizing technological barriers [4].

1.3 Motivation and Scope

While blockchain systems for pharmaceutical tracking have been proposed, few address the integration of blockchain with real-time mobile applications that are usable by end-users such as hospital staff and vaccine recipients. Furthermore, many proposed systems overlook compliance automation, environmental monitoring, and decentralized user management. This research aims to address these gaps by designing and implementing a Blockchain and Android-based Vaccine Supply Chain Management System that enables:

- Real-time vaccine tracking and verification
- Automated enforcement of compliance conditions (e.g., delivery deadlines, cold chain adherence)
- End-user interaction through a mobile interface
- Fraud prevention and digital certification
- Secure, scalable, and transparent data sharing across stakeholders

2. Related Work

The use of blockchain technology in healthcare and supply chain management has seen increasing attention in both academic literature and industry applications [7]. This interest is primarily driven by blockchain's ability to provide transparency, traceability, immutability, and decentralized data sharing attributes critically needed in pharmaceutical logistics, especially during public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1 Healthcare Supply Chains

Several studies have explored blockchain-based systems to tackle vulnerabilities in medical supply chains. For instance, the MediLedger Project has demonstrated the practical feasibility of blockchain for pharmaceutical traceability, allowing companies to verify the authenticity of drugs at every stage of their lifecycle. Similarly, platforms like IBM's Blockchain Transparent Supply have enabled end-to-end visibility for food and medicine logistics, preventing counterfeit entries and improving regulatory compliance. Yong et al. (2020) proposed an intelligent blockchain framework for safe vaccine supervision, which emphasized real-time tracking and monitoring of storage conditions. Their system highlighted the effectiveness of blockchain in reducing human error and facilitating automatic record validation. Likewise, Rastegar et al. (2021) developed an optimization model for equitable vaccine distribution, illustrating the importance of technology in supporting healthcare equity during pandemics.

2.2 Smart Contracts and Compliance Automation

Smart contracts self-executing scripts stored on the blockchain have emerged as a key tool in automating compliance in supply chain systems. These contracts can enforce rules such as delivery deadlines, temperature thresholds, and access permissions, without the need for human intervention [5]. In the context of vaccine logistics, smart contracts have been used to automatically trigger penalties for transport delays or to validate the environmental integrity of storage conditions (Cui et al., 2021).

2.3 Limitations of Current Systems

Despite these advancements, existing solutions often fall short in several areas:

- **Lack of mobile accessibility:** Many blockchain-based systems are not integrated with mobile interfaces, limiting accessibility for frontline workers and end-users.
- **Poor interoperability:** Centralized healthcare databases and manual record-keeping remain prevalent, leading to fragmented data and information silos.
- **Limited user-centric design:** Few systems cater to all stakeholders from manufacturers to beneficiaries using a single, unified platform.
- **Neglect of beneficiary engagement:** Most frameworks do not empower patients to verify vaccine authenticity or access vaccination certificates easily.

This paper proposes a novel system that addresses these gaps by combining blockchain's robust backend capabilities with a user-friendly Android interface, bringing decentralized, transparent vaccine tracking to a wider audience.

3. Proposed System

The Blockchain-Based Vaccine Supply Chain

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Management System ensures the secure, transparent, and efficient management of vaccines from manufacturing to administration. Here's a more detailed breakdown of the architecture and how each component functions [6].

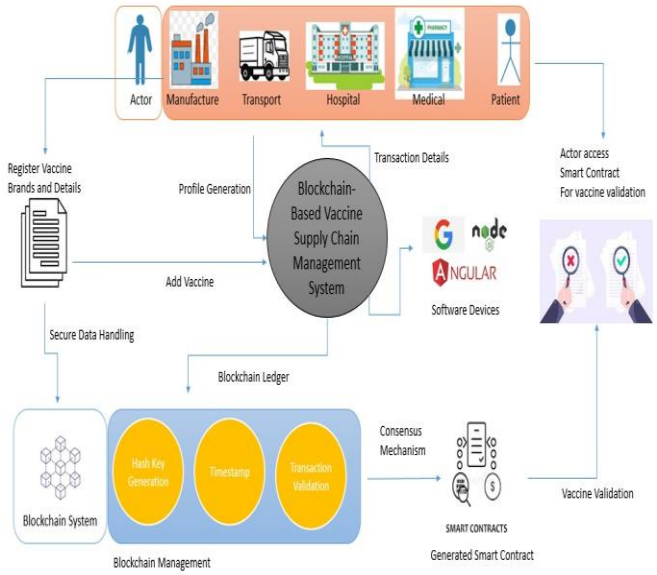

Figure 1 Propose a Blockchain-Based Vaccine Supply Chain Management System

Figure 1 shows Propose a Blockchain-Based Vaccine Supply Chain Management System, in such a way that all vaccines from production to administration are secure and transparent with full originality. The supply chain will involve multiple actors, such as manufacturers, transport companies, hospitals, medical facilities, and patients, who will participate in the journey of the vaccine. At the production level, information on the vaccines is recorded on the blockchain, and therefore, each batch will have a unique identification. Each batch will thus have their brand name, batch number, and other information relating to their production [9]. These profiles are consequently stored in a blockchain ledger and ensure that every transaction is validated through a consensus mechanism with a timestamp to provide for an immutable audit trail. Other critical blockchain operations include hash key generation, transaction validation, and timestamping that ensure safe handling of data and prevention of tampering [8]. The smart contracts associated with a blockchain perform critical functions such as automated vaccine validation. These smart contracts contain pre-programmed conditions that would be read to validate the legitimacy of vaccines; therefore, authorized actors, such as hospitals or pharmacies, would gain access to real-time data regarding the authenticity of vaccine batches before their use. Other technologies to support software are Node.js and Angular, which provide front-end functionality as well as back-end functionality, allowing for friendly user interfaces of the various actors in interacting with the system. Since the system is decentralized, it is safe and transparent when tracing vaccine movement up the supply chain so that unverified vaccines do not reach the patients. In this respect, blockchain can set a trustworthy vaccine distribution process by enhancing accountability as well as prohibition of the distribution of counterfeit vaccines.

Conclusion

The integration of blockchain with Android-based mobile platforms offers a robust framework for transforming vaccine supply chains into secure, transparent, and efficient systems. The proposed solution not only improves traceability and compliance but also promotes inclusivity by enabling mobile access for all stakeholders. Future work includes exploring scalability solutions, enhanced data privacy mechanisms, and real-world pilot implementations in collaboration with public health agencies [10].

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