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Blockchain Based Student Council Election Portal

Professor Kusumlata Pawar, Asmi Santosh Wayare, Pooja Krishnakant Chavan
Dept of Computer Engineering
Alard College of Engineering and Management Pune, India

Abstract- The focus of this project is to make a secure and transparent voting system at college level. Even though paper based voting was a traditional approach and is being used for centuries, but still as we are facing the challenges during the overall voting process which includes, security risk, lack of transparency, human errors and privacy concerns. So, to overcome this limitations and vulnerabilities we came up with the idea of a blockchain based voting system. It is in high demand due to the immutability, transparency and decentralized solutions. The objective of this paper is to incorporate blockchain technology to construct a secure, tamper-proof elections at college level. It will also help developers to build and deploy smart contracts. The use of smart contracts guarantees the accuracy and provides fast voting result and makes counting procedures protected against fraudulent actions. This technology supports peer-to-peer decentralized network in which all the transactions are stored in blocks. To sum up, the proposed system will shorter the time for voting process while offering security and authentication and it also dwindles the expenses as there is no need to print ballots.

Index Terms- blockchain, smart contracts, decentralized, secure, transparency, immutable

I. INTRODUCTION

Elections are a vital component of democratic systems, allowing individuals to voice their opinions and select representatives in a fair and transparent manner. However, traditional election processes, especially in educational institutions like colleges and universities, are often subject to inefficiencies, human errors, and security concerns. Student council elections, in particular, require systems that are not only easy to use but also capable of maintaining the integrity of the voting process.

In recent years, the concept of decentralized technologies has garnered significant attention across various sectors, including finance, healthcare, and governance.

Blockchain technology, with its secure, transparent, and immutable nature, is now being explored for a wide range of applications. One such promising application is used in electoral systems, particularly in enhancing the integrity and efficiency of voting processes. Elections, whether at national, organizational, or institutional levels, play a crucial role in decision-making and democratic governance. However, traditional voting systems are often plagued by issues such as voter fraud, manipulation of results, lack of transparency, and time-consuming processes.

The Student Council Election Portal using Blockchain aims to address these challenges by leveraging blockchain's decentralized, tamper resistant infrastructure to create a more reliable and secure voting system. This project explores the application of blockchain technology to conduct student council elections at the institutional level, providing an innovative solution that ensures transparency, security, and fairness in the voting process.

The portal is designed to serve both the administrative side and the voter side. For administrators, the system allows the management of candidates, including adding, updating, and removing candidates as necessary. On the voter side, students can securely register, view candidates, and cast their votes. Blockchain technology ensures that once a vote is cast, it is recorded on an immutable ledger that is distributed across multiple nodes, preventing any possibility of tampering or unauthorized changes to the results

Furthermore, the use of blockchain in this election portal promotes trust among participants, as the system is transparent by design. Voters and candidates alike can view election processes and outcomes without compromising data security. This also eliminates the need for third-party verification, as the blockchain network itself guarantees the integrity of the results.

The project also emphasizes scalability and flexibility, making it adaptable for larger electoral bodies or even different types of elections within the institution. As student bodies often engage in frequent elections, the proposed system will streamline the entire process, reducing administrative burden and enhancing the experience for all participants.

In this paper, we discuss the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Student Council Election Portal using Blockchain technology. We highlight the system's key features, including security, transparency, and ease of use, as well as its potential implications for broader use in institutional governance. The research also provides a comparative analysis of blockchain-based voting systems versus traditional methods, emphasizing the transformative role of decentralized technologies in democratic processes.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several studies have been conducted on the development of secure online voting systems using various technologies and approaches. The system proposed by [1] presents an online voting application for Android devices that integrates facial recognition technology to verify the voter's identity, in combination with OTP (One-Time Password) verification. This enhances the security of voter authentication. Similarly, [2] introduced an online voting system that utilizes personal identification numbers (PIN), biometric images, and steganography for secure authentication. The system also incorporates the SHA256 algorithm to ensure the integrity of biometric images, adding another layer of protection.

Another approach, proposed by [3], integrates the voting system with India's AADHAR identification system. By linking voter fingerprints to their AADHAR data, the system eliminates the possibility of proxy voting, providing a highly secure method for voter identification. Additionally, [4] developed an online voting system for students, where users register by submitting personal information that is verified against a database. Once authenticated, they are issued credentials to log in and cast their vote, offering a convenient solution for student elections.

In contrast, [5] focused on a university e-voting system in Kenya, utilizing the RSA encryption standard and a public-key E-Voting protocol for voter authentication. This system is designed to ensure the reliability and security of voter identity, addressing concerns about the integrity and accuracy of election processes. Another approach, proposed by [6] is the online voting system using cloud- based hybrid blockchain technology eradicates the flaws that persist in the existing voting system, and it is carried out in three phases: the registration phase, vote casting phase and vote counting phase.

The purpose of [7] online voting system is to provide a convenient platform for voters to exercise their democratic right without hassles. The system seeks to eliminate the need for standing in queues and using paper ballots, EVM machines that may be challenging to locate a specific candidate. In [8] paper is trying to address whether blockchain can be used to build an efficient e-voting system, also, this research has specified four blockchain technologies with their features and limitations.

In contrast, [9] this study presents an extensive review of the existing research on e-voting systems that rely on blockchain technology. The study investigates a range of key research concerns, including the benefits, challenges, and impacts of such systems, together with technologies and implementations, and an identification of future directions of research in this domain. In [10] This paper tried to explore the factors that influence the adoption of such systems in a university environment. In [11] it has implemented and tested a sample e-voting application as a smart contract for the Ethereum network using the blockchain technology through wallets and the Solidity language.

The novelty of [12] paper is that it tackles the limitations of electronic voting systems found in the literature, including cost, identity management, and scalability problems. Its purpose is to provide key elements for organizations on how to design their proper electronic voting system based on blockchain technology. Additionally, [13] paper proposes a system that ensures high reliability by applying enterprise blockchain technology to electronic voting, securing the secret ballot.

III. PROPOSED METHOD

The proposed method for developing the Student Council Election Portal using blockchain technology involves several key components: system architecture, technology stack, and a detailed description of the functionalities and processes that will ensure a secure and transparent voting experience.

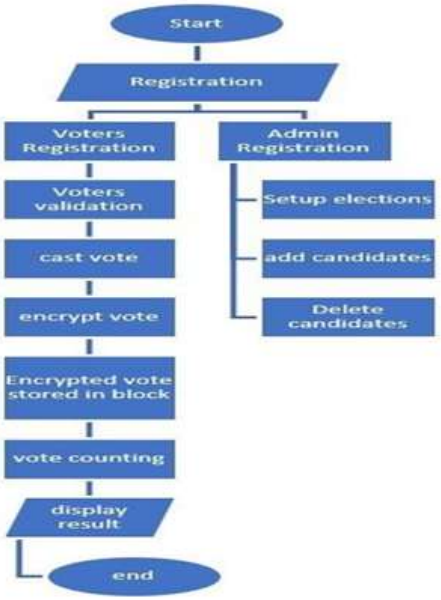

Fig. 1 Flowchart of college voting system

1. System Architecture

The architecture of the proposed system is designed to facilitate a seamless interaction between voters, candidates, and administrators. It will be a decentralized application (DApp) that leverages blockchain's inherent properties of immutability and transparency. The architecture consists of the following layers:

User Interface Layer

The User Interface layer serves as the front-facing component of the system, allowing users to interact with the platform in an intuitive and user-friendly manner. This layer is developed using React.js, a modern JavaScript library for building responsive web applications. It caters to different types of users, including administrators and voters, by providing role-based access to the system's functionalities.

- **For Voters:** The interface allows voters to sign up, view the list of candidates, cast their votes, and verify that their votes have been securely recorded on the blockchain. The UI ensures that the voting process is streamlined and simple, enhancing user experience while ensuring security and anonymity.
- **For Administrators:** Administrators can access the interface to manage the election process. This includes adding, updating, or removing candidates, overseeing the voting process, and monitoring the election's progress in real-time. The UI provides a dashboard with visual indicators, such as the number of votes cast and the election's status.

Fig. 2 Login Page

Blockchain Layer

At the core of the system is the Blockchain Layer, which ensures the integrity, transparency, and security of the election process. This layer is responsible for recording and verifying votes, as well as storing other essential election-related data. The blockchain is a decentralized, distributed ledger, where each transaction (or vote) is permanently recorded across multiple nodes, making it immutable and tamper-resistant.

- **Smart Contracts:** The system leverages smart contracts—self-executing contracts with the terms of the election directly written into lines of code. These smart contracts automate key election processes, such as:
- **Candidate Registration:** Administrators can add and manage candidates via smart contracts. Once registered, candidates are listed on the voter interface.
- **Vote Casting:** When a voter casts their vote, the smart contract ensures that the vote is recorded on the blockchain. The contract also enforces voting rules, such as allowing each voter to vote only once.
- **Vote Counting:** The smart contract automatically counts the votes as they are cast and ensures that the results cannot be tampered with.

Data Storage Layer

While the blockchain is used for storing crucial and sensitive data such as votes, there are additional data requirements that can be managed more efficiently outside the blockchain to optimize performance and reduce costs. This is where the Data Storage Layer comes into play.

- **Blockchain Storage:** All critical voting related data, such as cast votes and candidate information, is stored on the blockchain. Since storing large amounts of data on the blockchain can be costly and slow, only essential, security- sensitive information is kept here.
- **Off-chain Storage:** Non-sensitive data, such as user profiles, voter registration details, and election metadata (e.g., election dates and administrative logs), can be stored in a traditional database such as MongoDB. This enables the system to balance performance and cost- effectiveness without compromising security.
- **Voter Information:** Although voter identities are anonymized when votes are cast, certain user data like names, email addresses, and login credentials may need to be stored off-chain. This data is stored in a secure, encrypted manner in the database.
- **Election Metadata:** Administrative data related to the setup and management of the election, such as election configuration, start and end times, and general logs, can also be stored off-chain for quick access by administrators.

Technology Stack

The following technologies will be employed in the development of the Student Council Election Portal:

- **Frontend:** React.js will be used for building the user interface due to its efficiency and component-based

architecture, which allows for a responsive and dynamic user experience.

- **Backend:** Node.js will handle server-side logic, while Express.js will facilitate the creation of APIs that communicate between the frontend and blockchain.
- **Blockchain:** Ethereum will be selected as the blockchain platform for deploying smart contracts, due to its robust ecosystem and established capabilities in supporting dApps.
- **Smart Contracts:** The logic for candidate registration and vote management will be implemented using Solidity, enabling automated and transparent execution of election rules.

Functionality and Processes

The following functionalities will be implemented to ensure a comprehensive election process:

- **User Registration:** Users will be able to sign up as voters or administrators. Voter registrations will be linked to unique identifiers, ensuring each voter has a single, verifiable identity.
- **Candidate Registration:** Administrators will have the ability to register candidates through the portal. This process will also be governed by smart contracts to maintain fairness.
- **Voting Mechanism:** Voters will cast their votes through a secure interface. Each vote will be encrypted and recorded on the blockchain, ensuring anonymity and preventing tampering.
- **Vote Counting:** The counting process will be automated via smart contracts, providing immediate results post- election while ensuring that all votes are accounted for without the possibility of alteration.
- **Auditability:** The system will allow for external audits by providing verifiable records on the blockchain, enhancing trust among participants.

IV. CONCLUSION

The integration of blockchain technology into the student council election process offers a transparent, secure, and efficient solution to common voting challenges. By leveraging the decentralized nature of blockchain, this portal minimizes risks of data manipulation, ensures voter anonymity, and provides a tamper-resistant record of all transactions. The system enhances trust and integrity, addressing concerns about fairness in elections.

Additionally, the use of smart contracts automates key processes, such as vote counting and candidate management, making the platform both reliable and scalable. This approach not only optimizes the election process for educational institutions but also serves as a blueprint for wider adoption in similar scenarios requiring transparent decision-making.

In conclusion, this research highlights the potential of blockchain to revolutionize traditional voting systems, paving the way for a more secure and trustworthy electoral framework. Future improvements can explore enhanced scalability, additional features such as real-time monitoring, and potential applications in larger elections beyond student councils.

Future Scope

The future scope of a student council election portal using blockchain technology is vast, as it can transform traditional voting systems by ensuring greater security, transparency, and efficiency. Blockchain's decentralized nature prevents tampering and fraud, fostering trust among students and administration.

In the future, such portals could be expanded to include larger institutional elections, integrate advanced cryptographic techniques for enhanced privacy, and offer real-time result verification. Additionally, the use of smart contracts could automate processes, reducing the need for human intervention and further improving the accuracy and fairness of elections.

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