EVIDENCE VAULT: BLOCKCHAIN AND IPFS ENHANCED SECURITY SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT: Crime is an illegal activity that is punished by the government, evidence is required to prove the crime. The evidence gained from a crime place is crucial because it serves as proof of the offense. The digitization of evidence is an urgent necessity. In the digital era, the management and integrity of crime evidence present substantial challenges due to risks of tampering and loss of data integrity. Throughout the investigation process, heterogeneous data formats are generated, and the integrity of sensitive data must be maintained as it passes through the various levels of intermediaries that form the Chain of Evidence (CoE). The evidence needs to be tamper-proof and protected against any alterations. To build robust systems with immutability, integrity, and legitimacy, blockchain technology is superior. Using blockchain technology, digital evidence can be transferred between parties without a central authority in a transparent manner. We focused on how blockchain based solutions can help in building a strong secure system. The system is implemented using Ethereum platform to achieve integrity, immutability transparency as well as tampering can be identified by any one at any time. This project explores the integration of blockchain to ensure the authenticity, traceability, and non-repudiation of digital evidence, while employing IPFS to enhance data availability and fault tolerance.

INTRODUCTION

The current project focuses on the essential need of digitizing criminal evidence in the modern digital age, highlighting the importance of preserving the integrity of evidence throughout investigations. The credibility of evidence is seriously compromised by tampering and unlawful access, which has led to the investigation of creative remedies.Conventional approaches to managing evidence have inherent weaknesses that make them prone to manipulation and compromise. The absence of a strong tracking system in the chain of custody procedure gives rise to questions about the veracity of the information provided in court. Furthermore, the laborious and time-consuming document review procedures in conventional methodologies impede the effectiveness of investigations. These limitations need a fundamental change in thinking towards more secure and technologically sophisticated methods. The initiative suggests using blockchain technology to rectify the limitations of conventional approaches. Blockchain is a cryptographic technology that functions as a decentralized and immutable ledger, ensuring safe and transparent recording of transactions. Blockchain does not store all the data in one location, but rather organizes it into blocks of data, each with an own hash code. The blocks are dispersed across numerous computers (nodes), which significantly increases the difficulty of tampering with the data or compromising the whole system. Blockchain has several benefits. Firstly, it is characterized by decentralization, which implies that the data is not held in a single susceptible place. Furthermore, it improves security by storing the data in an encrypted manner that is very resistant to tampering or unauthorized access. Furthermore, it fosters openness by ensuring that all transactions are meticulously

documented and accessible to authorized individuals. Furthermore, it guarantees data immutability, signifying that once an entry is documented in the blockchain, it cannot be readily altered. Ultimately, it exhibits resilience to failures since it is capable of maintaining data even in the event of some nodes being inoperative. The project primarily employs the Ethereum blockchain for its resilient smart contract capability. Smart contracts are contractual agreements that are capable of automatically executing predetermined rules and circumstances. Smart contracts in this context improve the security and transparency of the chain of evidence procedure by enforcing rules pertaining to evidence management. The decentralized structure of Ethereum enhances the overall security and dependability of the suggested system, guaranteeing a credible and tamper-proof setting for criminal evidence.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Crime Evidence Over Blockchain Blockchain is a decentralized digital ledger that stores transaction records across a network of computer systems. It employs a secure method of keeping information, making it very resistant to tampering or unauthorized access. The process of collecting, identifying, assessing, analyzing, conserving, and presenting evidence poses significant challenges in the field of forensics. The decentralized structure of the blockchain allows for forensic evidence to be kept in a private network utilizing the blockchain's nodes in a peer-to-peer network. Furthermore, digital forensics will exhibit enhanced security measures, ensuring a higher level of confidentiality. Additionally, the investigative process will become more apparent to those located across the jurisdictional boundary. During the criminal investigation process, dynamic information is saved on the hot blockchain, while static material like videos are preserved in the cold blockchain. We are using Ethereum principles and executing smart contracts in our project.

A Blockchain Based Forensic System for IoT Sensors using MQTT Protocol Due to the emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT), several IoT end devices have been introduced to the market. However, these devices often suffer from limited computation and storage capabilities. As a result, the lightweight MQTT protocol is often used. Nevertheless, the lightweight nature of IoT sensors using the MQTT protocol renders them susceptible to several malicious attackers, due to their inherent lack of security. Digital forensics is a field that use scientific inquiry to gather evidence of digital crimes and assaults. It may also be used to analyze the methods used by criminals in order to develop more robust defenses against attacks on Internet of Things (IoT) devices. Nevertheless, existing IoT forensic solutions often lack precision and system reliability. This paper proposes a forensic system for IoT sensors that utilizes blockchain technology and the MQTT protocol. The system ensures a comprehensive process from collecting evidence to protecting it, analyzing and categorizing it, and maintaining evidence integrity through federated blockchains. Additionally, the system employs machine learning to assess the severity of harm to the sensor, generating feedback that can be utilized to develop countermeasures against threats and optimize the allocation of monitoring resources.

Blockchain driven Evidence Management System When a recognizable offense like as murder, kidnapping, rape, theft, etc. occurs, the victim or a representative must electronically file a first information report (e-FIR) with the police station. Because the e-FIR database is centralized, there is a risk of the offense's record being hacked and bogus e-FIRs being intentionally recorded. The e-FIR database has significant challenges regarding data openness and integrity. The Indian government initiated the nationwide implementation of the Crime and

Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) in 2009, which serves as a highly effective e-governance system. This article presents a blockchain-based approach for managing both cognizable and non-cognizable complaints. The discussion will focus on the technological and security aspects of blockchain, using real-world examples from past occurrences. The police will submit an electronic First Information Report (e-FIR), which will undergo verification by the authorities. Once the FIR is approved, it will be encoded and securely saved as a hash, along with the timestamp and hash of the subsequent block. The security of blockchain lies in its mechanism that prevents any modifications to the FIR without the presentation of proof of work and the approval of a consensus vote, requiring a majority agreement among the blockchain participants. The hash will be saved in Ethereum smart contracts. The results of our study reveal a compromise between the quantity of transactions included in a single block on the blockchain ledger and the amount of security provided by different hashing algorithms for the offense data.

Two-Level Blockchain System for Digital Crime Evidence Management Digital evidence, including information obtained from closed-circuit television (CCTV) and event data recorders, has significant value in criminal investigations and serves as conclusive evidence during trials. Nevertheless, there are potential hazards associated with storing digital evidence collected during a case investigation on a physical hard disk drive until it is presented in court. Prior research has mostly concentrated on the unified administration of digital evidence inside a centralized system. However, in the event of a cyber assault on the central server, critical operations and investigative data might potentially be compromised. Hence, it is essential to effectively handle digital evidence and investigative data by using blockchain technology inside a decentralized system setting. However, the storage of substantial material, such as evidentiary recordings, in a blockchain leads to an increase in the quantity of data that has to be processed inside a single block before it can be formed. This, in turn, results in a decline in speed. Hence, we suggest implementing a two-tier blockchain architecture that segregates digital evidence into hot and cold blockchains. During the criminal investigation process, dynamic information is saved on the hot blockchain, while static material like videos are preserved in the cold blockchain. In order to assess the system, we conducted measurements on the storage and inquiry processing performance of digital criminal evidence movies, taking into account the varying capabilities inside the two-level blockchain system.

xCRM: Blockchain Interoperable Crime Report Management System By Utilizing Hyperledger Cacti & Private Data Collection (PDC) Bringing criminals to court may be a complex endeavor, particularly when confidential reporter information and sensitive case data are exposed. This procedure may need collaboration with foreign law enforcement agencies, especially if the offender escapes to another country. In order to address this problem, it is essential to implement an interoperable crime management system. This research suggests the implementation of a crime management system that utilizes blockchain technology to enable safe and decentralized communication across several blockchain-based platforms. This system guarantees anonymity, transparency, and immutability. We propose a systematic approach for reporting crimes, managing evidence, conducting forensic testing, facilitating collaboration among investigation agencies, and sharing resources. Our methodology allows individuals to report incidents in two modes: anonymous mode, which enables the submission of information to the police without revealing the identity of the informant, or generate mode, which initiates the creation of a First Information Report (FIR) and subsequent procedures. In order to safeguard the confidentiality of our data, we have used Hyperledger Fabric Private Data Collection (PDC) for every report and

inquiry. The PDC will include the team leader, investigation officer, reporter, and any other pertinent users as members. Interactions will only take place in the designated channel assigned to each report, and any files or supplementary material will be transmitted via the PDC. This system utilizes Hyperledger Cacti to provide interoperability and facilitate inquiry and cooperation with many entities, such as courts, forensics, and special investigative agencies, including those from foreign jurisdictions. This suggested approach is very effective and efficient, significantly improving the performance of blockchain networks.

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE:

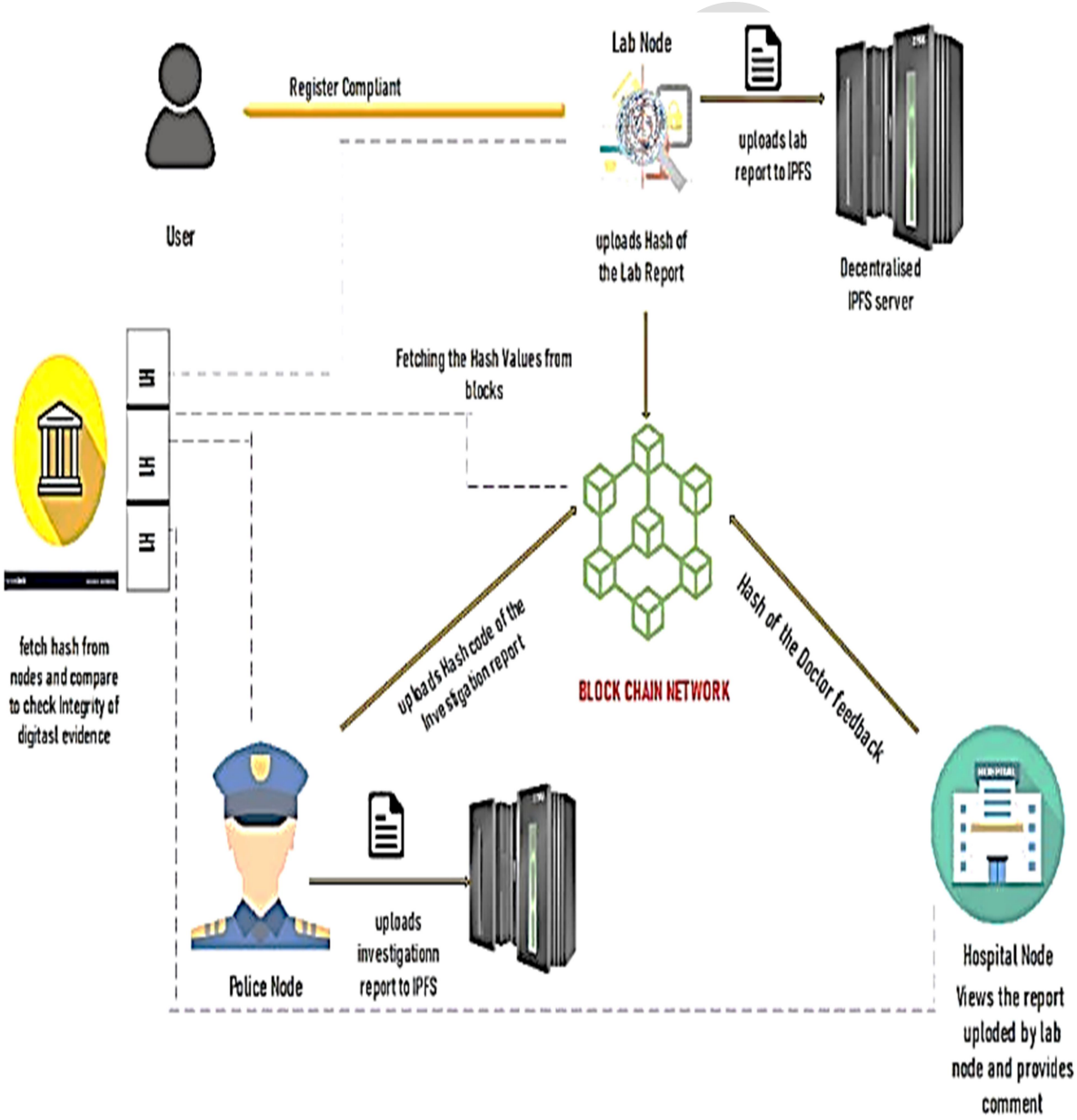

Fig. 1: System Architecture.

DATA FLOW DIAGRAM (DFD):

1. The DFD is also called as bubble chart. It is a simple graphical formalism that can be used to represent a system in terms of input data to the system, various processing carried out on this data, and the output data is generated by this system.
2. The data flow diagram (DFD) is one of the most important modeling tools. It is used to model the system components. These components are the system process, the data used by the process, an external entity that interacts with the system and the information flows in the system.
3. DFD shows how the information moves through the system and how it is modified by a series of transformations. It is a graphical technique that depicts information flow and the transformations that are applied as data moves from input to output.
4. DFD is also known as bubble chart. A DFD may be used to represent a system at any level of abstraction. DFD may be partitioned into levels that represent increasing information flow and functional detail.

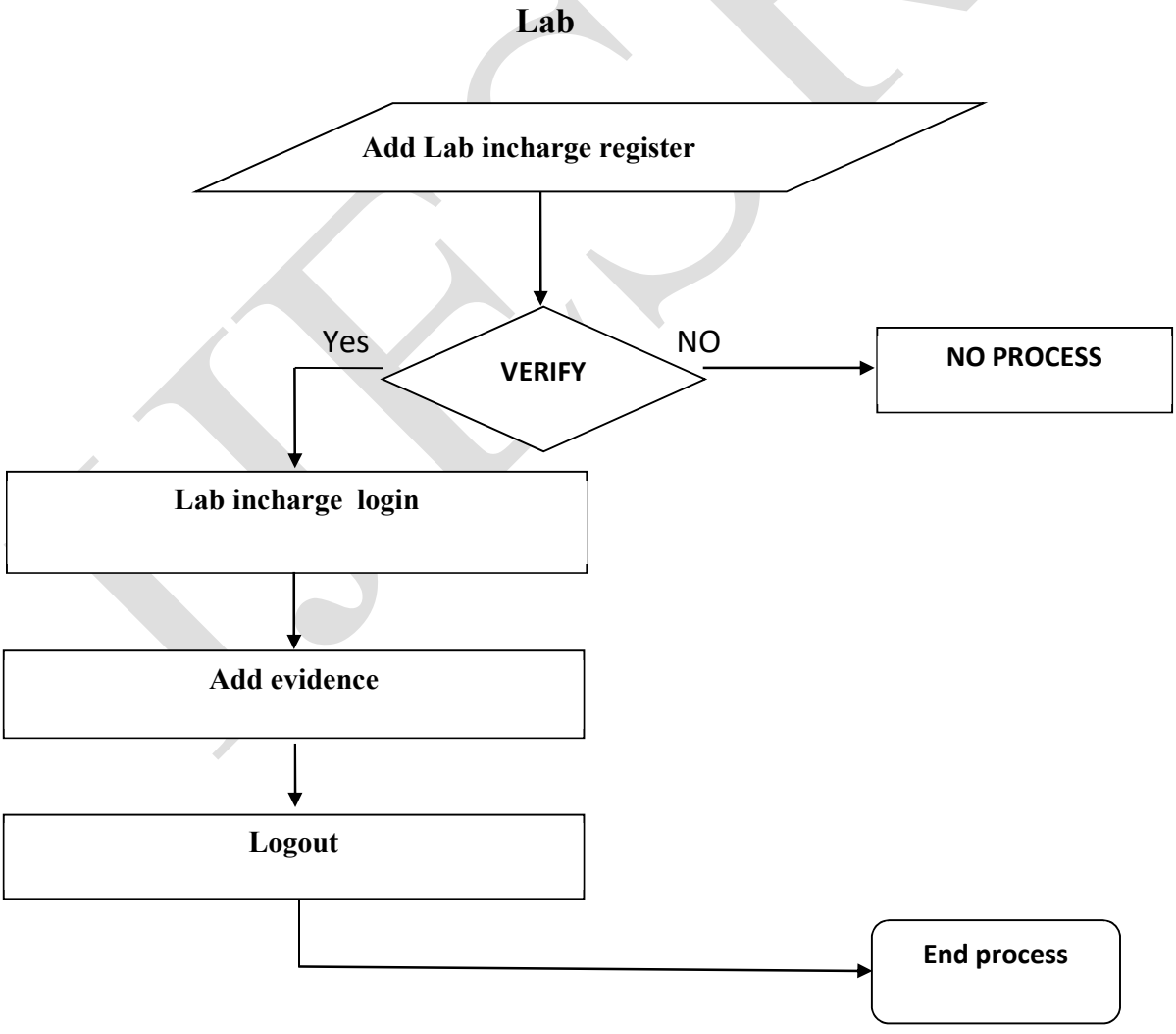

Fig. 2 Dataflow Diagram of Lab.

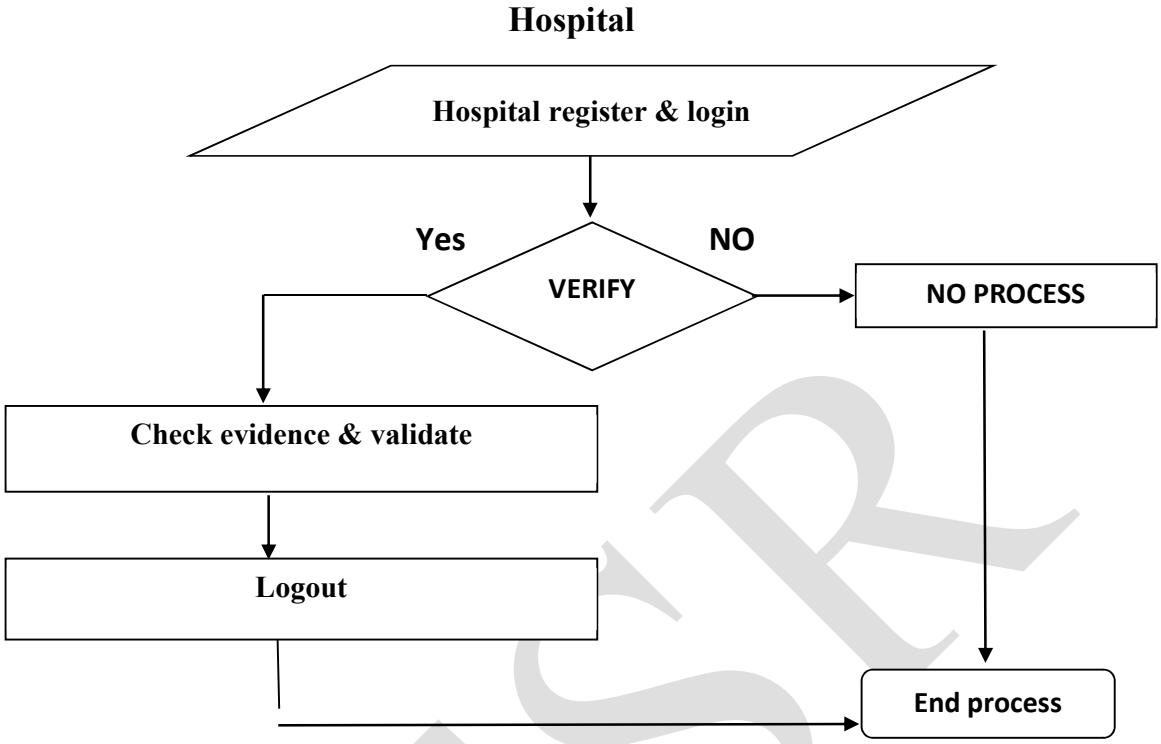

Fig 3 Dataflow Diagram of Court.

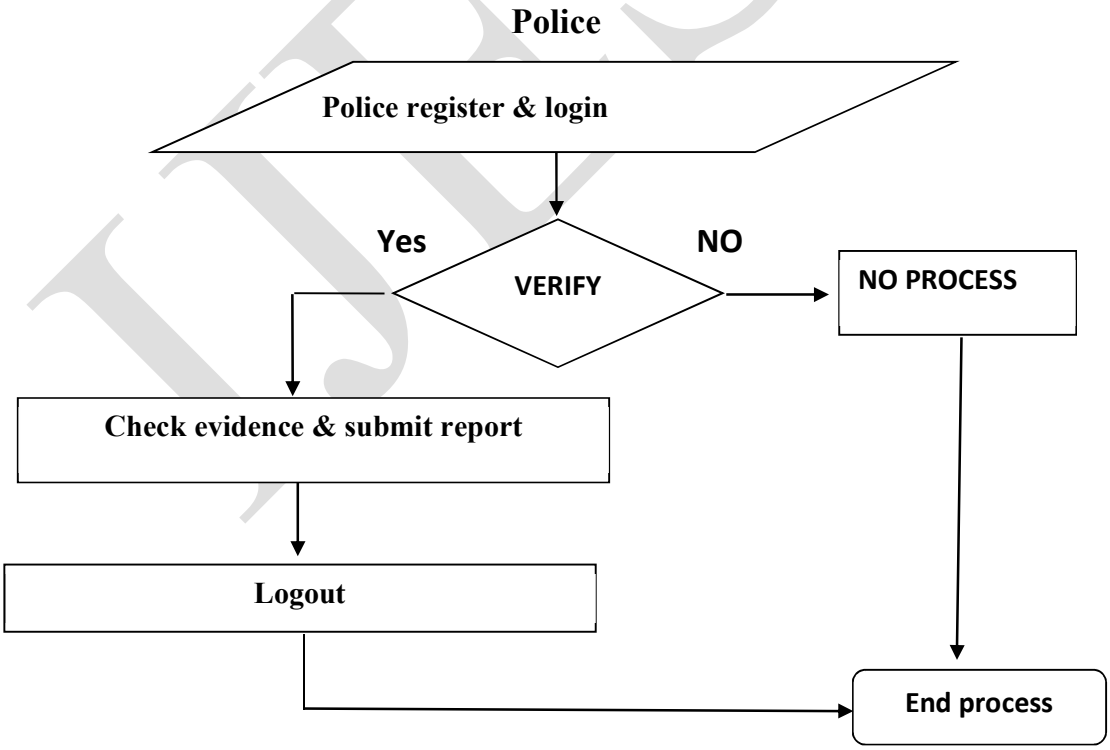

Fig 4 Dataflow Diagram of Police.

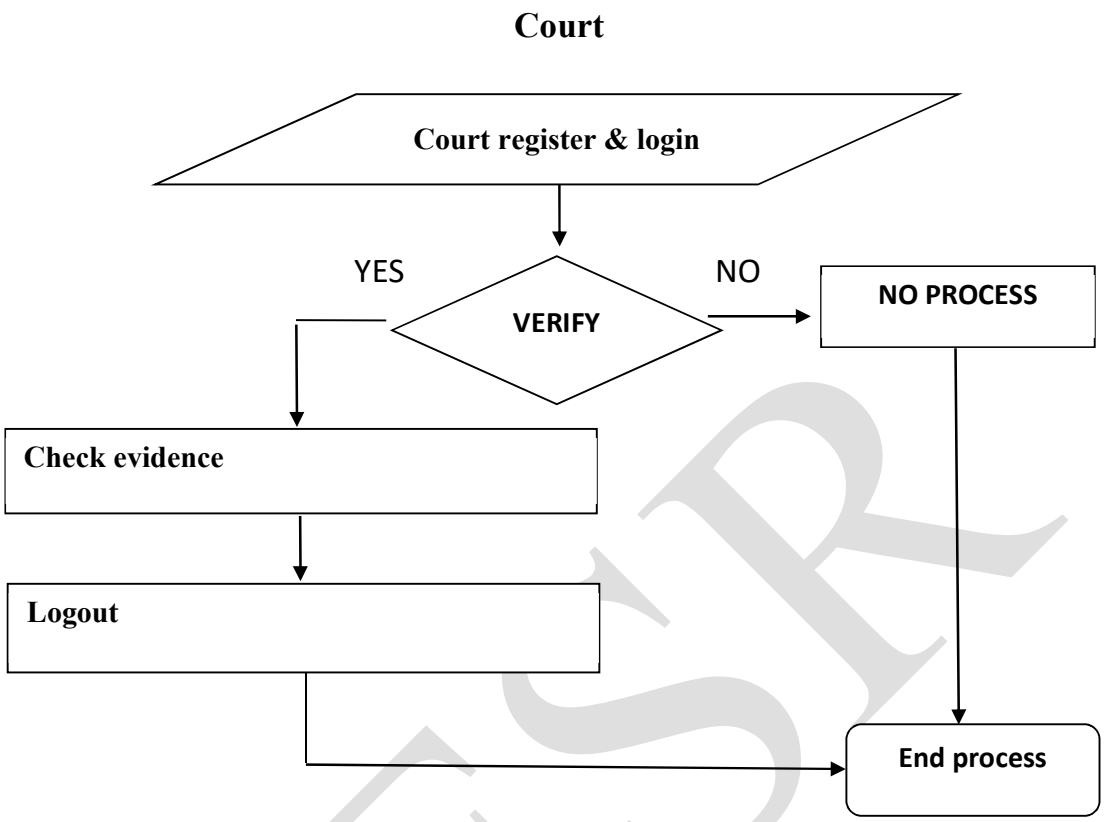

Fig 5 Dataflow Diagram of Court.

SYSTEM TESTING

System testing, also known as system-level tests or system-integration testing, is the assessment that is carried out by a quality assurance (QA) team in order to evaluate the interaction that occurs between the various components of an application within the context of the whole, integrated system or application. The process of ensuring that a program is able to carry out its functions in a manner that is consistent with its original design is known as system testing. A specialized examination of the operation of an application is carried out at this step, which is a kind of testing known as black box testing. It is the responsibility of system testing to guarantee that all forms of user input produce the anticipated outcome across the whole of the program.

TEST CASES:

S.NO	INPUT	If available	If not available
1	Add evidence	Lab incharge can add evidence and sent reports to hospital	There is no process
2	Check evidence & validate	Hospital can check evidence & validate and sent reports to police	There is no process
3	Check evidence & submit report	Police can check evidence & submit report to court	There is no process
4	Check evidence	Court can check evidence	There is no process

OUTPUT SCREENS

Fig. 6. Command prompt installing IPFS server.

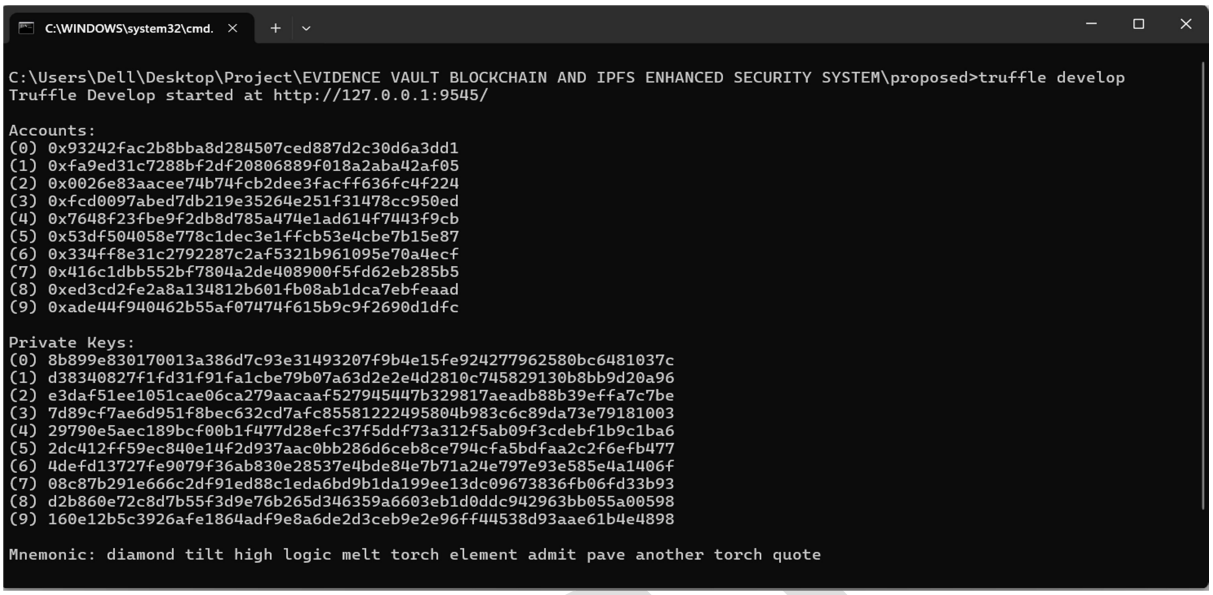

Fig. 7 Command Prompt installing Blockchain server with Private Keys.

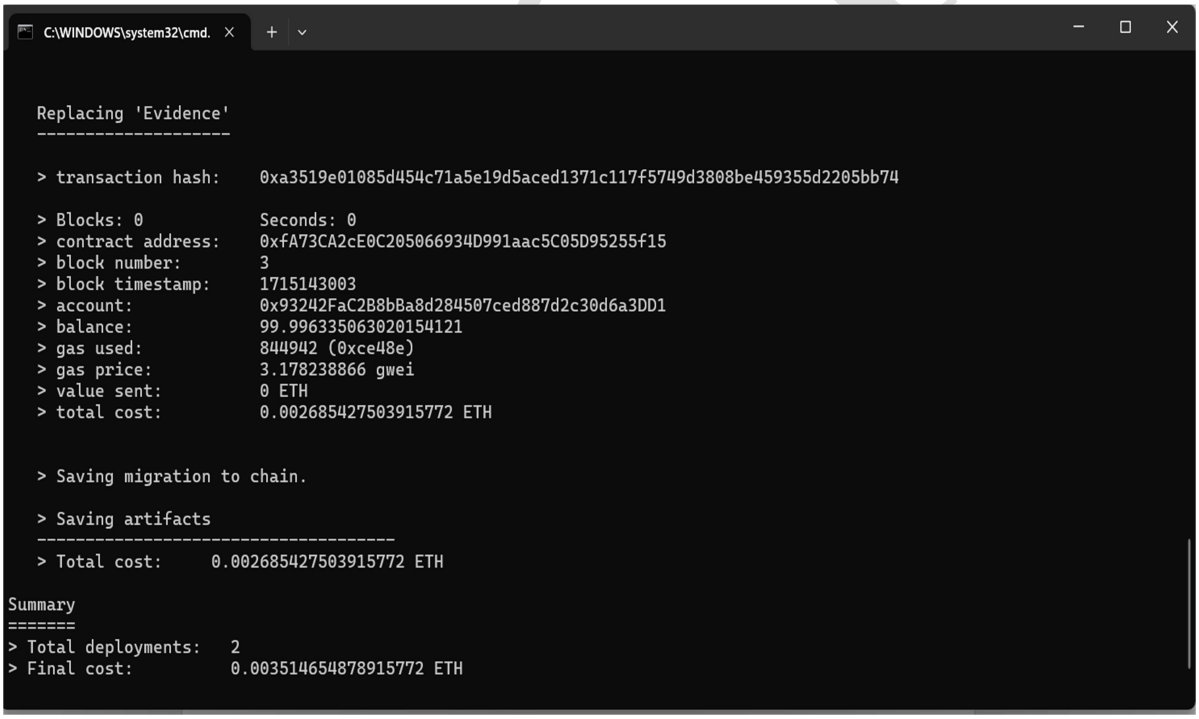

Fig. 8 Deployment of temporary Ethereum cryptocurrency and total cost of a transaction.

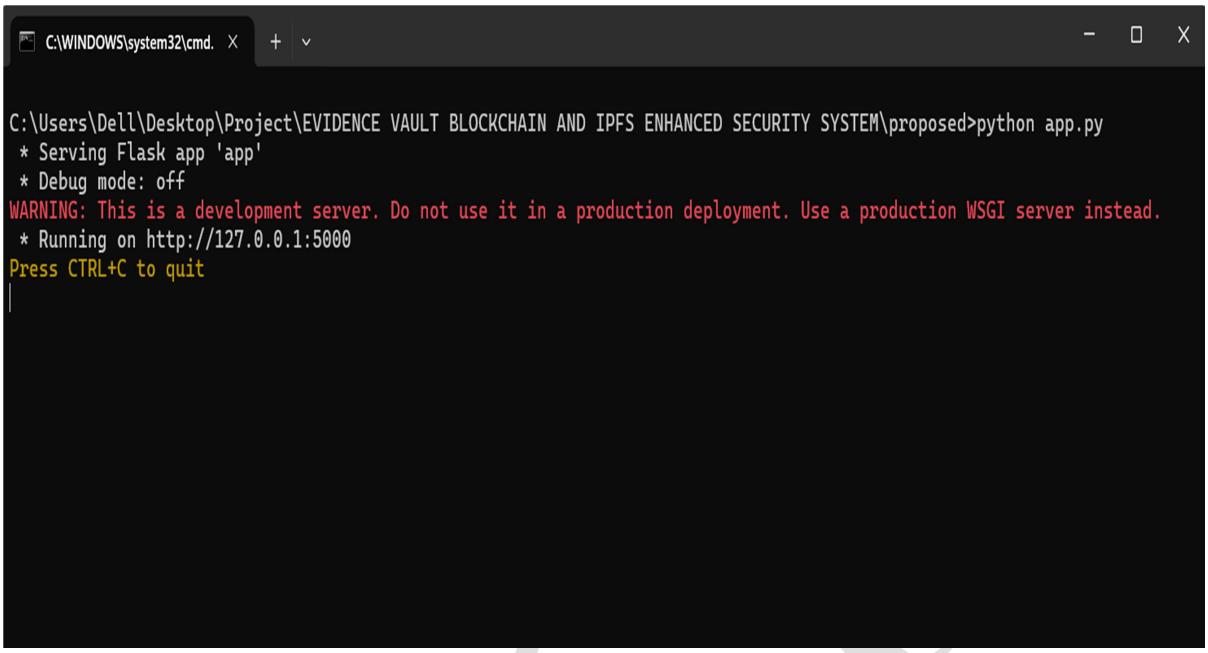

Fig. 9 Deploying the frontend website with a temporary private address.

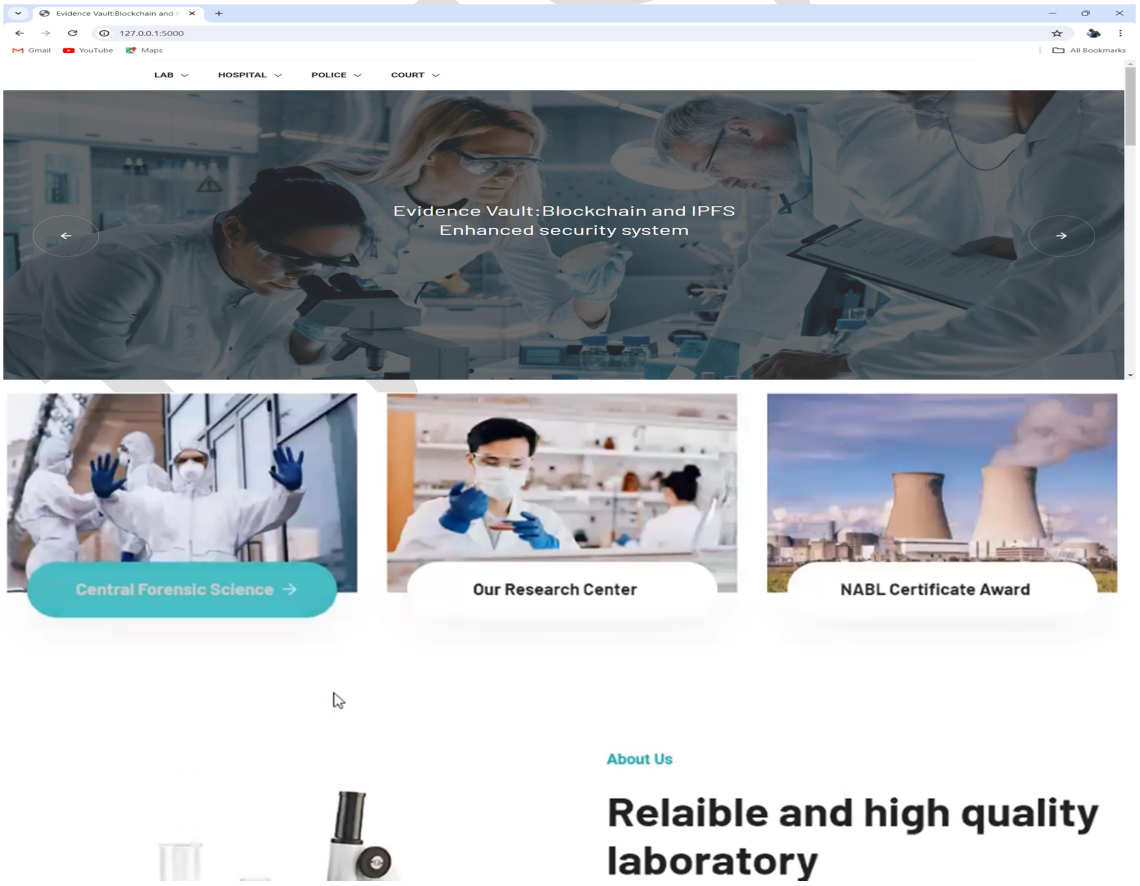

Fig. 10 Overview of the website of the Evidence Vault.

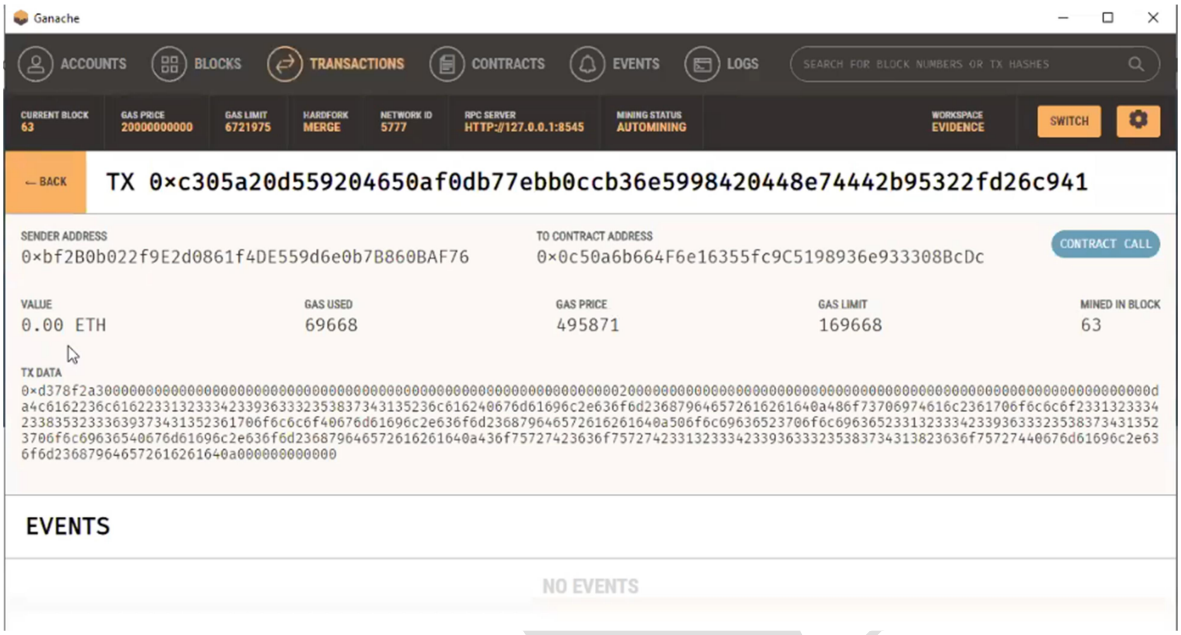

Fig. 11 Ganache application showing the record of transactions made.

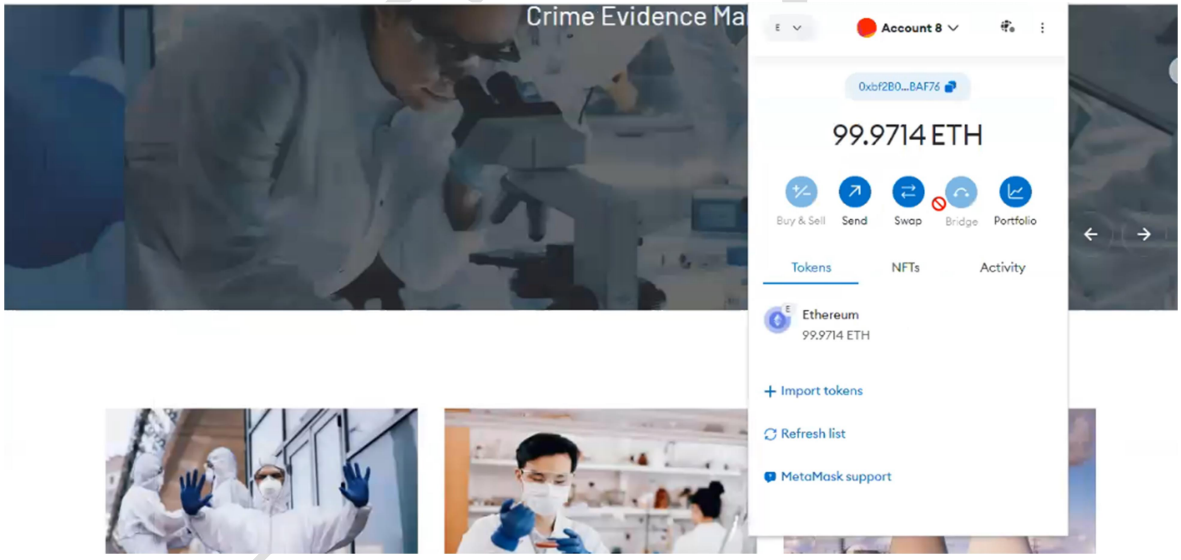

Fig. 12 Meta Mask extension showing the Ethereum cryptocurrency balance.

CONCLUSION

Blockchain technology has improved the security of digitizing criminal evidence. The cryptographic features and unique hash codes provide a strong protection against tampering, guaranteeing the integrity of the data. This blockchain implementation preserved the integrity of the Chain of data by preserving the sequential arrangement of digital data. This feature offers investigators an unmodified and dependable sequence that is essential for maintaining the integrity of the investigation process. The use of blockchain enabled the decentralized and

transparent sharing of digital evidence among all parties concerned. This not only improves productivity but also decreases dependence on a central authority, promoting a more flexible and cooperative investigative atmosphere. The use of smart contracts on the Ethereum blockchain enhanced the transparency of communication protocols. Trust is built in the system by establishing rules and assuring verifiable interactions, eliminating the need for third-party intermediaries and enhancing security and efficiency. The implementation of IPFS has been integrated to provide a safe and distributed storage system for evidence files. This enhances security by using content addressing and hash codes, which in turn ensures a storage solution that is resistant to tampering.

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