

Decentralized Voting Systems: Improving Election Security Through Blockchain Technology

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ABSTRACT

Systems for electronic voting, or "e-voting," have become a contemporary way to increase the effectiveness, safety, and accessibility of electoral procedures. However, there are significant issues with security, trust, and transparency with conventional electronic voting methods. This paper investigates how these issues might be resolved and election security improved by using blockchain technology, which is decentralized, immutable, and transparent. By doing away with the need for middlemen, a decentralized blockchain-based electronic voting system lowers expenses while maintaining the validity and verifiability of votes. Compared to conventional voting techniques, decentralization offers a more efficient and cost-effective solution, fostering greater voter confidence and participation. Additionally, recent advancements in decentralized blockchain systems, involving smart contract functionality and cryptographic security mechanisms, further strengthen the credibility of decentralized voting systems. By reviewing existing literature and analyzing real-world applications, this paper demonstrates the prospects of blockchain-powered decentralized e-voting to revolutionize electoral systems, making them more secure, inclusive, and resistant to fraud. The findings underscore the necessity of continued research and development to overcome implementation challenges and establish decentralized blockchain as the cornerstone for future democratic elections.

Keywords: Electronic Voting, E-voting, Blockchain, E-government, Verifiable Voting, Decentralized Voting System, Election Security, Smart Contracts, Cryptographic Security, Voting Integrity, Election Fraud Prevention, Immutable Ledger, Digital Democracy, Voter Confidence, Blockchain-based Voting, Election Transparency, Cost-effective Voting, Voter Participation.

INTRODUCTION

Elections serve as an essential component of democracies, ensuring involvement of citizens in governance and decision-making processes. Election integrity and fairness are critical to maintaining public trust in democratic institutions. With technological advancements, increasingly, people want to use technological advances to improve electoral processes. A promising way to improve accessibility, simplify elections, and lessen administrative workloads is through digital voting systems. Nevertheless, the acceptance of such systems presents several challenges, including worries about safety, openness, and trustworthiness, this needs to be taken care of to guarantee the credibility of the election procedure [1].

Blockchain technology, supported by decentralized structure of interconnected nodes, provides a promising framework for reliable and open electronic voting (e-voting) systems. Each node in a blockchain a distributed ledger copy is kept on file by the network containing the complete history of transactions. The lack of a centralized authority guarantees that no one organization controls the entire system, enhancing security thus lowering the possibility of manipulation. Transactions, including votes, are validated through consensus mechanisms, making blockchain a suitable and reliable framework for e-voting [2] by leveraging smart contracts, blockchain-based voting platforms can further automate processes, ensuring election integrity thus lowering the possibility of fraud.

A decentralized blockchain-based voting mechanism introduces significant advantages, including efficiency, safety, and visibility in electoral processes. Voting by eligible voters is made safe and secure using encrypted methods, which are immutably recorded within the framework of blockchain ledger. Eliminating intermediaries improve the voting process and cut expenses while fostering accessibility and inclusivity. for all voters, including those with disabilities [3] While there are challenges in implementation, blockchain-based elections could be revolutionized by electronic voting technologies, which guarantee a safe and verifiable process that upholds democratic values.

Historically, electronic voting machines (EVMs) were introduced in the 1990s to address traditional voting issues and accelerate the vote-counting process. Despite their advantages, EVMs have faced security concerns regarding their vulnerability to manipulation [2]. Blockchain-powered voting platforms provide a modern alternative by offering an open, safe and effective election environment [4] These platforms aim to reduce costs associated with manual vote tallying, expedite ballot counting, and enhance voter participation through remote voting capabilities.

This study aims to review and examine how e-voting systems function and why blockchain technology represents the most viable solution for enhancing their security and reliability. Additionally, it explores the mechanisms of decentralized systems in e-voting, highlighting how blockchain can improve election security, increase transparency, and preserve the voting process's integrity. By addressing the challenges and potential solutions, this study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on the future of secure digital elections.

LITERATURE REVIEW

To explore the potential of blockchain in electronic voting systems, a review of existing literature was conducted, focusing on how blockchain enhances transparency, security, and decentralization. **Table 1** shows the key studies related to blockchain-based e-voting systems, summarizing their main focus and specific details.

Table 1: Summary Of Literature Review

Reference	Year	Main Focus	Specific Detail About Paper
Benny, A., Kumar, A. A., Basit, A., Cherian, B., & Kharat, A.	2020	Blockchain-based E-voting System	Discusses blockchain technology's application to improve security and transparency in electronic voting systems.
Bibave, A., Patil, A., Dighe, V., Patil, A., & Khalate, P.	2023	Decentralized E-voting Application using Blockchain	Focuses on creating a decentralized application for electronic voting utilizing blockchain for transparency and security.
Chafiq, T., Azmi, R., & Mohammed, O.	2024	Blockchain-based Electronic Voting Systems: A Study in Morocco	Provides an example of a blockchain-based e-voting system in Morocco, highlighting its implementation and security

			features.
Deviani, R.	2023	Verifiable Decentralized Mechanism for Digital Voting System based on Blockchain	Introduces a verifiable decentralized mechanism for voting using blockchain to ensure accuracy and prevent fraud.
Hardwick, F. S., Gioulis, A., Akram, R. N., & Markantonakis, K.	2018	E-Voting with Blockchain	Proposes a mechanism for electronic voting based on blockchain that ensures decentralization and voter privacy.
Mehboob Khan, K., Arshad, J., & Khan, M. M.	2018	Secure Digital Voting System based on Blockchain Technology	Focuses on a secure digital voting system powered by blockchain to prevent manipulation and ensure transparency.
Messias, J., Pahari, V., Chandrasekaran, B., Gummadi, K. P., & Loiseau, P.	2023	Understanding Blockchain Governance	Analyzes decentralized voting for amending DeFi smart contracts and its implications for governance.
Mukherjee, A., Majumdar, S., Kolya, A. K., & Nandi, S.	2023	Privacy-Preserving Blockchain-based E-voting System	Proposes a privacy-preserving approach to e-voting using blockchain, ensuring voter anonymity.
Narendra Kumar, B., Ramesh, M. P., Anitha, Y., Sushmitha, P., & Dixitha, V.	2024	A Dispersed Voting Mechanism Employing Blockchain	Describes A method of decentralized voting utilizing blockchain for transparency and security.
Ohize, H. O., Onumanyi, A. J., Umar, B. U., et al.	2025	Blockchain Techniques for Safe Electronic Voting	An overview of issues, solutions, and architectures of securing e-voting systems using blockchain technology.
Prashant Kumbharkar, Samruddha Pawtekar, Sharayu Javeer, & Pranav Abhale	2024	Blockchain-based E-voting Systems	Focuses on enhancing security, transparency, and trust in e-voting using blockchain technology.

Raskar, A.	2023	Decentralized Voting System Using Blockchain	Proposes a decentralized system for voting powered by blockchain for secure, transparent elections.
Sanjeeva, P., Sathwik, M. S., Prasad, G. S., et al.	2023	Automated Online Voting System with Decentralization	Introduces a blockchain-based automated voting system that decentralizes the procedure of voting to ensure transparency.
Shevtekar Assistant Professor, S., & Sathe Student, M.	2023	Decentralized E-Voting Systems Based on Blockchain	Examines the framework of decentralized e-voting systems using blockchain technology for secure voting.
Shiwal, P.	2023	Decentralized E-Blockchain-Powered Voting System	Explores The blockchain's application in creating a decentralized e-voting system, focusing on safety and transparency.
Singh, I., Kaur, A., Agarwal, P., & Idrees, S. M.	2024	Enhancing Safety and Openness in Online Voting	Discusses blockchain's potential to enhance the security, transparency, and decentralization of online voting systems.
Sujatha, B., Ganesh, Y., Leelavathy, N., et al.	2024	Blockchain-Powered E-Voting	Focuses on secure voter authentication and election automation through blockchain-powered e-voting systems.

Many studies emphasize how blockchain technology functions in decentralizing voting to ensure transparency and prevent fraud. Benny et al. (2020) and Mukherjee et al. (2023) demonstrate how blockchain’s immutable nature secures votes and reduces fraud. Additionally, Hardwick et al. (2018) and Singh et al. (2024) highlight the privacy-preserving capabilities of blockchain, ensuring voter anonymity while maintaining election integrity.

Real-world case studies further illustrate blockchain’s potential. Chafiq et al. (2024) report on blockchain-based voting in Morocco, showcasing its scalability in national elections. Raskar (2023) also discusses decentralized systems that improve transparency and voter confidence.

Furthermore, studies like those by Sanjeeva et al. (2023) and Prashant Kumbharkar et al. (2024) explore the automation of blockchain-based voting systems, which enhance efficiency and trust by removing central authorities and automating vote counting.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain, particularly in scalability, voter verification, and security. Ohize et al. (2025) identify these barriers and stress the need for further research on overcoming them.

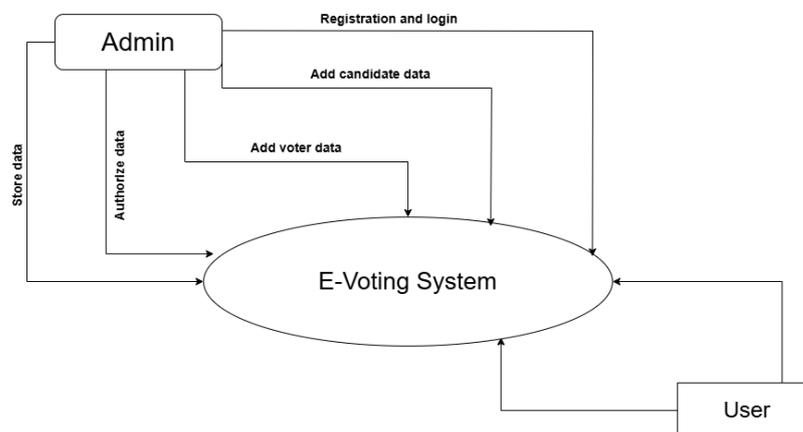
Building on these insights, my research aims to address these challenges, focusing on optimizing blockchain for scalability, accessibility, and improved voter authentication.

METHODOLOGY

Utilizing a method of qualitative inquiry, this study evaluates case studies, previous research, and real-world implementations of decentralized blockchain-based voting systems. A systematic review of peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, and technical reports is conducted to evaluate the effectiveness, security, and feasibility of the blockchain technology in e-voting. Key components such as decentralization, cryptographic security, smart contracts, and consensus mechanisms are examined to understand their role in enhancing election integrity. Comparative analysis is performed between conventional voting techniques, electronic voting systems, and blockchain-based solutions to highlight the benefits and difficulties related to decentralization in voting. The findings provide insights into how blockchain technology can address security vulnerabilities and improve transparency in electoral processes while identifying potential implementation barriers and areas for future research.

THE FUNCTIONING OF AN ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM

The Fig.1 illustrates The design of the electronic voting system [5]It consists of two primary actors: the



Admin along with the **User**. The system guarantees safety and seamless interaction between these roles through the following processes:

Fig. 1: E-Voting System Architecture

- **Admin Role:** The admin bears the responsibility of overseeing the voting process. This includes tasks such as adding candidates, verifying voters, and overseeing the voting session to ensure its integrity.
- **User Role:** The user engages with the system to cast votes. They must be authenticated before they can proceed with voting. The system records and processes their votes securely.
- **E-Voting System:** This core system acts as an intermediary between the admin and users. It provides functionalities Voters, for example authentication, vote submission, and result compilation.

BLOCKCHAIN-BASED E-VOTING PROCESS FLOW:

The flowchart Fig.2 illustrates an electronic voting system based on blockchain designed in order to improve security, openness, and trust in electoral processes. Each component is essential to maintaining the integrity of the election.

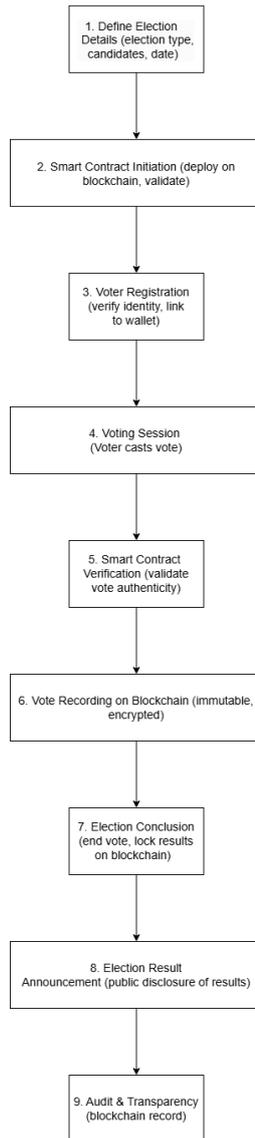


Fig. 2: Blockchain-Based E-Voting Process Flow

1. Define Election Details

The election process begins with defining key parameters such as election type, candidate selection, and voting date. This step establishes the framework within which the election will operate. Election administrators ensure that rules are clearly outlined, including eligibility criteria and voting procedures.

2. Smart Contract Initiation

Once election details are finalized, a smart contract is deployed on the blockchain. This contract automates the electoral procedure by enforcing predefined rules, such as Assuring that each voter can cast only A single vote. Smart contracts enhance security by eliminating human intervention and making the election process tamper-proof.

3. Voter Registration

Voters must register before participating in the election. Identity verification is performed using government-issued IDs, biometrics, or cryptographic keys linked to digital wallets. This step ensures that only eligible voters participate while maintaining anonymity and preventing voter fraud.

4. Voting Session

During the voting session, registered voters cast the votes without risk. Through a blockchain-based platform. Votes are encrypted to maintain privacy and are immediately sent to the blockchain. The blockchain's decentralized structure prevents unauthorized modifications and guarantees that every vote is accurately recorded.

5. Smart Contract Verification

After a vote is submitted, the smart contract verifies its authenticity. It guarantees the vote comes from a registered voter and adheres to election rules. This automated verification process eliminates fraud, such as duplicate voting or unauthorized access, enhancing the credibility of the election.

6. Vote Recording on Blockchain

Once verified, the vote is permanently documented on the blockchain. This step ensures immutability, meaning votes cannot be changed, deleted, or manipulated. Encryption techniques protect voter confidentiality while preserving transparency. The decentralized ledger guarantees that no one authority is capable of tamper with results.

7. Election Conclusion

At the end of the voting period, the smart contract locks the results, preventing further votes from being cast. This automated process ensures that the final tally is accurate and unchangeable. The election is formally concluded, securing all votes on the blockchain for future reference.

8. Election Result Announcement

Once voting ends, the results are publicly disclosed. Since blockchain records all votes transparently and immutably, stakeholders able to independently confirm the outcome. This increases faith in the election system and reduces disputes regarding the validity of results.

9. Audit & Transparency

A key advantage of blockchain-based e-voting is its auditability. Since votes remain permanently stored on the blockchain, independent audits can be conducted at any time. Election data can be accessed and verified without compromising voter anonymity, ensuring long-term openness and confidence in the system.

This structured approach, as shown in Figure 3, highlights the potential of blockchain technology to transform voting by enhancing safety, transparency, and effectiveness in electoral processes.

DECENTRALIZED E-VOTING IN BLOCKCHAIN

Fig.3 illustrates the decentralized operation of an electronic voting system. Unlike conventional techniques for voting that depend on a centralized authority to store and manage votes, A decentralized electronic voting platform leverages utilizing blockchain technology to improve reliability, honesty, efficiency and trust. By distributing vote records across multiple verification nodes, the system becomes highly resistant to fraud, manipulation, and cyberattacks, ensuring a more secure and reliable electoral process.

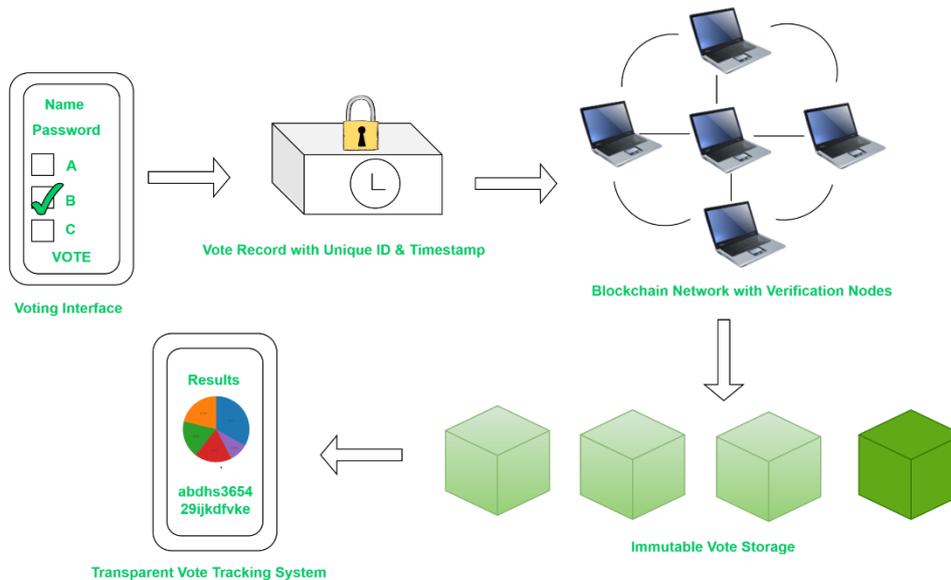


Fig. 3: Decentralized E-Voting in Blockchain

Explanation of the Diagram Components:

1. Voting Interface (User Authentication & Vote Casting)

- Voter's log into a secure **voting interface** using their credentials (e.g., name and password).
- They select their candidate and confirm their vote.
- Voting is **digitally signed** using digital encryption methods for ensuring authenticity.
- The Voting is then recorded along with an exclusive identification (**Transaction ID**) and **timestamp**.

2. Vote Record with Unique ID & Timestamp

- Once a voter casts a vote, it is converted into a **transaction** with a distinct identification and timestamp.
- The ballot is encrypted and sent to a **secure digital ballot box**, which prevents tampering before voting is verified.
- The unique ID ensures that every vote is taken into account only once and is able to tracked transparently.

3. Distributed Ledger with Validation Nodes

The vote transaction is broadcasted to multiple **verification nodes in a Blockchain Ecosystem**.

- Each node verifies the vote's authenticity using consensus mechanisms (e.g., **Proof of Work (PoW) or Proof of Stake (PoS) Consensus Mechanisms**)
- Since blockchain is decentralized, no central authority controls the system, ensuring a **tamper-proof** voting process.

4. Immutable Vote Storage (Blockchain Ledger)

- Once authenticated, the vote is stored in **blocks** on the **immutable blockchain ledger**.
- The blockchain guarantees that votes cannot be **altered, deleted, or manipulated** once recorded.
- This transparency enhances the protection and authenticity of the election.

5. Transparent Vote Tracking System (Result Verification)

- Voters receive a **transaction ID** as a **receipt**, allowing them to verify their vote.
- The system aggregates vote safely and displays election results in an **open** and auditable manner.
- Since the blockchain ledger is public (or permissioned in private blockchain elections), any authorized entity can verify election results independently.

Advantages of Blockchain-Based Decentralized Voting

- **Tamper-Proof:** Once recorded, votes cannot be altered.
- **Transparency:** Every vote is stored on a **public ledger**, ensuring fairness.
- **Eliminates Intermediaries:** Reduces election costs and administrative burdens.
- **Enhanced Security:** Cryptographic encryption prevents fraud and cyberattacks.
- **Voter Verification:** Every voter gets a transaction ID as proof of voting.

KEY FINDINGS

1. **Strengthened Security:** Blockchain-powered voting systems significantly bolster election security through the use of decentralization, cryptographic techniques, and an unchangeable ledger technology. These mechanisms safeguard against fraud, cyber threats, and vote tampering.
2. **Openness and Verifiability:** Every vote captured on the blockchain remains accessible for independent verification, fostering transparency and reducing electoral disputes while enhancing public trust.
3. **Minimized Dependence on Intermediaries:** Removing the reliance on centralized authorities and third-party intermediaries leads to cost reduction, improved efficiency, and decreased human errors, ensuring a more streamlined voting process.
4. **Privacy Protection:** Advanced cryptographic solutions, including Zero-knowledge assertions and homomorphic encryption, help maintain voter privacy while maintaining the integrity of the election.

5. **Scalability Limitations:** Despite its advantages, blockchain-based voting faces hurdles related to scalability, network congestion, and high energy consumption, which must be addressed for large-scale implementation.
6. **Practical Implementations:** Several real-world pilot projects demonstrate the feasibility of blockchain voting, highlighting its potential for national elections and secure remote voting.

RESULTS

This study establishes that blockchain technology effectively overcomes key challenges associated with both traditional and electronic voting systems. A comparative evaluation of various voting methods reveals that blockchain enhances security, transparency, and operational efficiency. Additionally, smart contracts automate election processes, reducing errors and minimizing fraudulent activities. However, the study also emphasizes areas requiring further improvements, such as voter authentication techniques, blockchain scalability, and compliance with electoral regulations.

CONCLUSION & FUTURE RESEARCH CONSIDERATIONS

Blockchain-powered voting represents a groundbreaking advancement in electoral processes, fostering enhanced security, transparency, and reliability. The decentralized nature of blockchain, coupled with cryptographic safeguards and smart contracts, eliminates vulnerabilities in conventional voting mechanisms. Despite existing concerns regarding scalability and regulatory acceptance, continuous technological progress and research efforts will contribute to refining blockchain-based election models. The findings of this study highlight the need for collaborative efforts among governments, technology experts, and policymakers to establish a scalable and universally accepted framework for blockchain-based voting. As digital governance continues to evolve, blockchain voting holds immense potential to revolutionize democratic elections by making them more secure, accessible, and fraud resistant.

1. **Advancing Scalability Solutions:** Exploring hybrid blockchain architectures, such as public-private models, to improve scalability.
2. **Quantum-Secure Cryptography:** Investigating cryptographic protocols resistant to quantum computing threats to future-proof blockchain voting systems.
3. **Large-Scale Deployment Analysis:** Conducting real-world pilot studies to assess feasibility, voter engagement, and system adaptability.

Ethical and Legal Challenges

1. **Regulatory Compliance:** Addressing legal and policy-related challenges to facilitate the integration of blockchain voting in official electoral processes.
2. **Ensuring Inclusivity:** Developing systems that cater to all voter demographics, including individuals in remote or underserved regions.
3. **Cybersecurity and Identity Protection:** Strengthening measures against identity fraud and digital threats to safeguard voter privacy.

Implementation Strategies and Recommendations

1. **Enhancing User Experience:** Designing intuitive and user-friendly voting interfaces to encourage public adoption.

2. **Government and Institutional Collaboration:** Partnering with election commissions and regulatory bodies to integrate blockchain voting within existing frameworks.
3. **Global Standardization:** Establishing internationally recognized security and privacy protocols for blockchain-based voting.

This research provides a comprehensive examination of decentralized voting using blockchain technology, highlighting its advantages and challenges. Future studies should focus on overcoming technical, ethical, and regulatory barriers to enable the broad implementation of blockchain in electoral systems.

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