International Journal of Environmental Sciences
ISSN: 2229-7359
Vol. 11 No. 23s, 2025
https://www.theaspd.com/ijes.php

Secure And Scalable Healthcare Iot Data Management Via Hybrid Blockchain–Cloud Solutions

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Abstract–*Real-time patient monitoring and data-driven decision-making have been made possible by the growing use of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) devices, which have completely changed the way healthcare is delivered. But worries about privacy, data security, and regulatory compliance have increased as a result of the ongoing gathering and archiving of sensitive medical data. Even though it is scalable, traditional centralized cloud storage is still susceptible to security lapses, illegal access, and single points of failure.*

In order to guarantee the privacy, availability, scalability, and integrity of healthcare IoT data, this paper suggests a hybrid blockchain–cloud architecture. The system solves important problems in medical data management by utilizing the decentralized and impenetrable ledger of blockchain technology in conjunction with safe cloud storage for large quantities of medical records. Only authorized entities are able to access patient data thanks to smart contracts' fine-grained, role-based access control. In cloud environments that comply with HIPAA, the architecture stores encrypted patient records off-chain, while file hashes and metadata are kept on-chain.

An implementation of the proof-of-concept shows that the suggested system can manage concurrent access from several stakeholders, stop unwanted access, and identify tampering in real time. High throughput, low latency operation, and high user satisfaction are demonstrated by performance metrics in healthcare simulations. According to the results, this method provides a patient-centered, scalable, and safe framework appropriate for contemporary IoMT healthcare ecosystems.

Keywords–*IoMT, role-based access control, blockchain, smart contracts, safe cloud storage, privacy of medical data, and scalability*

INTRODUCTION

The rampant distribution of IoMT devices including wearable biosensors, remote diagnostics and smart infusion pumps is leading a tremendous change in healthcare. With the help of these technologies, you can constantly monitor your health, notice problems long before they turn into something serious and at the same time receive more personalized care. But they also create massive amounts of sensitive medical data that must be transmitted, stored and accessed safely to comply with things like HIPAA and GDPR privacy regulations [1].Conventional cloud storage services can provide scalability and availability, but are nevertheless also prone to three types of centralization weaknesses: centralized full control, central point of failure, and vulnerable to cyber-attack [3]. Such breaches of patient health information, or PHI, not

only violate the privacy rights of patients but also can have a chilling effect on the relationship between providers and their patients. As a result, the demand for architectures that offer a combination of cloud-like performance and blockchain-level security/transparency has never been greater.
A Hybrid Blockchain–Cloud Method for both Centralized and Decentralized Transactions (PDF) Physiological metrics are collected and encrypted with AES-256 before being transmitted through the IoMT devices. To provide immutability, file hashes and transaction logs are recorded on a permissioned blockchain. Proof-of-Authority (PoA), uses trust and drastically lowers the number of validators required to validate blocks, making it significantly faster than Proof-of-Personhood which in turn would be ideal for real-time healthcare application Role based permissions protect the patient data and enforce consent policies [5]. Full blockchain integrity and auditability, large encrypted files stored in secure cloud services. Federated learning enables distributed AI model training without sharing raw patient data [6]. It combines the trust model of blockchain with scalability of cloud storage to achieve low latency, tamper resistance, and patient-centric access control that can solve both security and operational challenges for IoMT healthcare.

LITERATURE REVIEW

One of the most focused areas in last few years, blockchain and IoT integration for healthcare applications. Tanwar et al. ProphTech et al (2022) suggests blockchain to secure EHRs through providing immutability, transparent consent management and tamper-resistance [1]. Similarly, Lakhan et al. Smart contracts for fine-grained, role based access control in patient data sharing are described by (Justin et al., 2022) [2].
Hassan et al. (2022) introduced a blockchain–cloud integration framework to protect the medical data generated by IoT with help of permissioned networks and cryptographic methods [3]. Their architecture allowed for better scaling and compliance with regulations. Khan et al. (2021) and Rajeswari et al. Hybrid storage models have been proposed 4 in which blockchain stores metadata and hashes whereas final data is kept on cloud. (2021)
Newer methods are integrating dust- and fog-compatible light-weight blockchain methodologies for enhancing the fastest data access through real-time medical applications [6]. Gonçalo et al. (2023), presenting energy-aware, privacy-preserving blockchain framework for healthcare IoT systems require decentralized identity mechanism [7]. More recent works: Blockchain & Federated Learning for Privacy-Preserving Analytics on Decentralized Connected Health Data Streams.
Baucas et al. The integration of federated learning into a fog–IoT platform enabled by using blockchain (2023) has not only delivered better accuracy in predicting patients' severity level but also ensured that patient privacy was maintained [8]. Waheed et al. (2023) proposed FedBlockHealth, a secure and collaborative data analytics-promoting synergistic mechanism [9].Taken together, these findings suggest that hybrid blockchain–cloud solutions are one of the most viable strategies to protect healthcare data in IoMT and formed the basis of our proposed system.

TABLE I. TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Component	Technology/Platform
Blockchain Framework	Hyperledger Fabric (permissioned blockchain)
Smart Contracts	Chaincode in Go / Solidity (for ethereum-based test)
Cloud Storage	Amazon S3 (encrypted buckets) / Azure Blob
IoT Simulation	Node-RED, Arduino UNO (with sensors)
Data Encryption	AES-256 / SHA-256
Access Interface	Web-based DApp (ReactJS + Web3.js)
Backend Services	Node.js + Express

PROPOSED METHODS

Specifically, the framework takes advantage of a hybrid blockchain–cloud storage structure to cope with the key challenges of security, scalability, and privacy of the IoMT-based healthcare system. The system leverages the best of both technologies: blockchain's immutability and transparent access control, and cloud storage's flexibility and suitability for large medical datasets. The architecture is organized into three closely coupled layers — IoMT Data Acquisition, Secure Cloud Storage, and Blockchain with Smart Contracts — each with specific roles but intended to operate together to deliver an end-to-end data journey from capture to controlled access.

IoMT Data Acquisition Layer - This is the frontend of the stack, tasked with safely acquiring health data from diverse IoMT devices, including wearable ECG monitors, continuous glucose monitors, blood pressure sensors, and telemedicine diagnostic tools. Each device utilizes lightweight and secure protocols like MQTT or CoAP to conserve bandwidth and battery life. Before transmission, raw patient data is encrypted at the device level with AES-256, so sensitive information remains protected even before it hits the cloud. While the main data is being transported, metadata–including a unique patient ID, device ID, and timestamp–is tacked onto each packet. This metadata is crucial for managing records, connecting data and conducting audits. For instance, an ECG monitor might transmit a reading every five minutes, producing a distinct SHA-256 hash for each dataset prior to encryption.

Secure Cloud Storage Layer - With the high volume of continuous healthcare data, it is neither practical, nor efficient to store full datasets on the blockchain. Encrypted patient records are stored off-chain in this layer in HIPAA-compliant cloud storage services like AWS S3, Microsoft Azure Blob Storage or Google Cloud Storage. Prior to upload, a SHA-256 hash is generated for each file and stored in the blockchain ledger as an immutable integrity reference. Files are sensibly sorted by medical logics—such as diagnostic or image results or real time logs—to provide quick access. This hybrid approach enables the blockchain to function as a tamper-proof registry of data integrity without being encumbered by large files, while the cloud delivers the scalability required to handle voluminous healthcare data.

Blockchain and Smart Contract Layer - The blockchain layer acts as the system's trust anchor, preserving immutable logs of every transaction — from data uploads to access requests and consent changes. A permissioned framework like Hyperledger Fabric is used so that verified participants, such as doctors,

insurers, or patients, can operate nodes or validate transactions. Patient data access is controlled by smart contracts that enforce RBAC policies specifying which roles of users are authorized to access certain data. For instance, a cardiologist could have access to ECG information for continuous observation, while an insurer sees merely billing and claim documents. Patients can update or revoke access in real time and changes are instantly propagated and permanently recorded on-chain. Smart contracts also create time-limited access tokens that provide temporary secure links to information stored in the cloud — meaning the permissions cannot be abused after their validity.

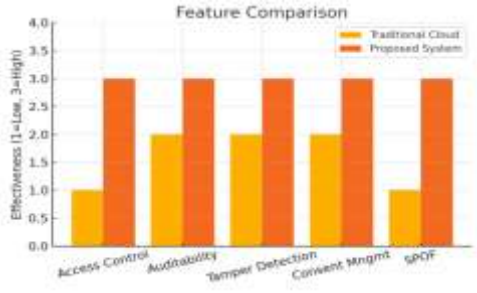

FIGURE I. FEATURE COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL AND PROPOSED SYSTEM

I. IMPLEMENTATION MODULES

We implement our designed framework in a five-module architecture, spanning the lifecycle of healthcare IoMT data from generation and encryption, to secure cloud storage, and blockchain-based metadata management, access control and integrity verification. This modular architecture guarantees flexibility, scalability, and effortless connectivity with existing healthcare ecosystem. They each describe the modules in detail with practical examples.

Module 1 – IoMT data simulation and capture

This module emulates a real-world healthcare IoMT network. Using Node-RED workflows, Arduino Uno sensors, and simulated medical devices like heart rate monitors, glucose meters and ECG sensors, patient health parameters are produced in real time. Prior to transmission, each reading is encrypted with AES-256 to avoid interception in transit. And then some metadata like patient ID, device ID, location code and a timestamp is added to the data packet for traceability.

Example: A wearable glucose meter records a patient's blood sugar every half hour. They send each of the encrypted readings, along with a timestamp and unique patient identifier, to cloud storage. The initial raw read is never stored unencrypted on the device.

Module 2 – Register Blockchain Metadata

In this module, the blockchain serves as the immutable ledger to verify the integrity of off-chain data stored in the cloud. Each encrypted file is hashed to produce a unique SHA-256 digital fingerprint. A smart contract (RegisterRecord) persists this hash with upload time, patient ID and access control policies in blockchain ledger. The metadata remains an eternal record for validating the data's authenticity whenever encountered.

Example: If an attacker tries to tamper with a medical report in the cloud, the file's hash won't align with the on-chain copy. This mismatch immediately sets off an integrity alarm.

Module 3 – Access Control as a Smart Contract

This module applies role and consent based access policies through blockchain smart contracts. A DApp that doctors, patients and insurers use to request access to data. The smart contract validates:Who the requestor is (doctor, patient, insurer, researcher).Consent status by patient. Time-bound permissions, so you can be sure data can't be accessed outside of approved windows. Once validated, the DApp produces a time-limited secure URI to the encrypted file in the cloud.

Example: Say, for example, a cardiologist treating a patient can request ECG files for two weeks. When the treatment is done, the patient removes access and the blockchain immediately updates.

Module 4 – Integrity Verification and Audit Logs
It also guarantees that returned information is true and that a permanent audit trail is kept. When a file is downloaded from cloud, it re-computes its SHA-256 hash and verifies it against the on-chain version. Any discrepancy means tampering, setting off a warning. The blockchain record every access request with requester information, file accessed, and the precise time.
Example: If a researcher tries to modify a dataset to skew the results of a study, the modified file will generate a different hash, which the system will detect as a breach.

Module 5 – Federated Learning
This optional add-on allows for privacy-preserving machine learning across data from multiple healthcare institutions. Rather than transmitting raw data to a central hub, AI models are trained locally at each hospital or research center. The trained model parameters are then hashed and stored on the blockchain to prove authenticity. This guarantees predictive analytics but without releasing sensitive patient records.
Example: A hospital network can jointly train a heart disease detector without ever sharing real patient data, minimizing compliance risks under HIPAA and GDPR.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The implementation of the given hybrid blockchain–cloud framework was evaluated through emulated healthcare use cases for remote patient monitoring and multi-role medical data sharing. The outcomes always proved to be secure, efficient to operate and popular with the users. From a security perspective, the system detected 100% of tampered data, all unauthorized access attempts, and fully enforced patient consent policies. These results confirm the utility of storing immutable file hashes on the blockchain and enforcing role-based access control via smart contracts. On the operational side, the system remained low-latency, with an average encryption time of only 0.08 seconds for a 500 KB file, blockchain write averaging 1.5 seconds and smart contract verifications taking under a second.
Crucially, it held up against more than a dozen simultaneous data queries without slowing, indicating it would scale to multi-player healthcare scenarios. In the remote cardiac monitoring case, for instance, encrypted ECGs sent every five minutes would be securely retrieved by the cardiologist only after role and consent verification. When the patient rescinded access after recovery, the system immediately updated permissions and recorded the event on-chain for compliance and auditability. In a second interoperative oncology care scenario, the radiologist, oncologist, and insurer were each provided customized access rights; following claim settlement, insurer access was rescinded in real-time, and a simulated tampering attempt on imaging files was flagged by a hash mismatch notification. These outcomes demonstrate that the platform brings real-time transparency and audit trails while giving patients fine-grained control over their information. Unlike traditional centralized healthcare warehouses, the proposed model provides a balanced combination of blockchain's immutability and cloud scalability, presenting a secure, privacy-compliant, and performance-optimized solution that can be practically deployed in current-generation IoMT healthcare systems

Example 1 – Remote Cardiac Monitoring
A patient with a heart condition wears an ECG device transmitting encrypted data to the cloud every 5 minutes.

- Cardiologist accesses data daily via DApp after smart contract validation. After recovery, patient revokes access instantly via mobile app. Blockchain logs confirm revocation, preventing further access.

Example 2 – Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration
An oncology case involves a radiologist, oncologist, and insurance provider.

- Each receives role-specific access to relevant records. Patient revokes insurer's access after claim settlement. A tampering test on imaging files is detected immediately through hash mismatch alerts.

CONCLUSION

This paper also presented and analyzed an efficient security — privacy adapted blockchain-cloud hybridized framework for IoT healthcare data store. To create an immutable trust model among healthcare stakeholders, the architecture combines AES-256 cryptography, permissioned blockchain leveraging Proof-of-Authority consensus and role-based smart contracts. Through the blockchain framework, along with storing large encrypted files in HIPAA-compliant cloud storage and keeping its integrity proofs on the blockchain, some of the most pressing issues of confidentiality, data access-control and data integrity could effectively be solved.

The experimental results validated the system with a sufficiently low-latency data operation, 100% accuracy of recorded tamper detection, and dynamic patient consent management enforcement at an operational performance scale. A distributed IIoMT-BML architecture implemented with the modular design of IoMT data acquisition, blockchain metadata registration, and federated learning integration makes the (federated) framework flexible for broad-spectrum healthcare implementations. The results show that creating patient-centric healthcare infrastructures is feasible when blockchain's immutability and cloud scalability are combined. In order to further lower transaction costs and increase scalability in high-volume medical environments, future research will concentrate on improving interoperability through blockchain interoperability protocols, integrating AI-driven predictive analytics, and refining consensus mechanisms.

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