

Blockchain Enabled Smart Contracts for Digital Assets

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Abstract: *The diverse applications and benefits of blockchain technology and smart contracts across various sectors are explored in this overview. Decentralized Finance (DeFi) projects, supply chain management, tokenization of assets, NFT platforms, and identity verification stand out as prominent examples. Smart contracts are lauded for their cost efficiency and security, underpinned by blockchain's cryptographic features that fortify system integrity. Blockchain's global accessibility facilitates cross-border transactions, while decentralized exchanges (DEX) mitigate censorship and counterparty risks, empowering users with asset control. Moreover, blockchain expands investment opportunities through asset tokenization, encompassing diverse classes such as real estate and intellectual property, bolstering security and transparency through immutable ownership records. Oracles play a vital role in integrating real-time data into DeFi ecosystems, informing decision-making by linking off-chain data with blockchain networks. Diverse token standards like ERC-20 and ERC-721 are pivotal, catering to fungible and non-fungible token ecosystems respectively. Lastly, the advantages of proof of stake (PoS) over proof of work (PoW) are highlighted, emphasizing PoS's energy efficiency, transaction throughput, and scalability..*

Keywords: Blockchain, smart contracts, decentralized finance (DeFi), supply chain management, tokenization, NFT platforms, identity verification, cost efficiency, security, global accessibility, decentralized exchanges (DEX), investment opportunities, transparency, oracles, real-time data integration, ERC-20, ERC-721, proof of stake (PoS), proof of work (PoW).

I. INTRODUCTION

Blockchain technology has emerged as a transformative force, revolutionizing the way transactions are conducted and assets are managed in the digital age. At its core, blockchain offers a decentralized and immutable ledger system that ensures transparency, security, and trust in peer-to-peer transactions. Central to this innovation is smart contracts, programmable self-executing contracts that automate the enforcement of predefined terms and conditions without the need for intermediaries. These smart contracts not only streamline processes but also reduce costs and eliminate the potential for human error or manipulation.

In parallel, the rise of digital assets has further reshaped the economic landscape, offering new avenues for value exchange and investment opportunities. Digital assets encompass a wide range of assets, from cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum to tokenized securities and digital representations of physical assets. Their significance lies in their ability to democratize access to financial services, facilitate cross-border transactions, and unlock liquidity in traditionally illiquid markets.

This review paper delves into the intersection of blockchain technology, smart contracts, and digital assets, with a focus on exploring the potential of blockchain-enabled smart contracts in managing and exchanging digital assets. By examining the underlying principles, implementation challenges, real-world applications, and prospects of this technology, the paper aims to provide insights into how blockchain-enabled smart contracts are reshaping the landscape of digital asset management and opening up new possibilities for innovation and disruption in various industries.

II. BLOCK CHAIN BASED TECHNIQUES

This review paper focuses on blockchain-enabled smart contracts for digital assets, a variety of techniques are employed to investigate, develop, and analyze this dynamic intersection of technology and finance. This includes the development of smart contracts and decentralized applications (DApps) using blockchain platforms like Ethereum or Hyperledger Fabric. Additionally, researchers often conduct empirical studies to gather data on the usage and performance of such smart contracts, while also analyzing real-world case studies to understand implementation challenges and outcomes. Security analysis is paramount, involving thorough audits to identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities. Compliance with regulatory frameworks, user experience research, and economic analysis of tokenized ecosystems are also essential components. Lastly, forecasting future trends and developments based on current research and industry trends allows researchers to anticipate the trajectory of blockchain-enabled smart contracts for digital assets. These techniques collectively contribute to a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges within this evolving landscape.

2.1 Proof of Delivery of Digital Assets Using Blockchain and Smart Contracts[1]

This research paper presents a blockchain-based solution for Proof of Delivery (POD) of digital assets, addressing the challenge of securely delivering digital content between parties. The proposed solution utilizes Ethereum smart contracts and the Interplanetary File System (IPFS) to ensure decentralized, trusted, traceable, and secure delivery of digital assets, including digital books, photos, documents, videos, and music. The system involves various entities, including the owner of the digital content, file servers for storing the content, customers purchasing the content, an arbitrator for dispute resolution, and a Smart Contract Attestation Authority (SCAA) to ensure contract compliance. Off-chain communication is facilitated for secure content download, and automatic payment and dispute resolution mechanisms are implemented within the smart

Advantages:

It eliminates intermediaries, providing a decentralized platform for asset exchange, and reducing dependency on centralized authorities.

Disadvantage:

Blockchain networks may face scalability issues during congestion, leading to slower transactions and higher fees.

2.2 A Blockchain and smart contracts-based framework to increase the traceability of built assets [2]

The document discusses key recommendations from the Hackitt Report, emphasizing the necessity of traceability and digital record-keeping in the construction sector. It identifies various failings in roles, regulations, compliance processes, and information quality. The paper proposes leveraging emerging technologies such as blockchain, smart contracts, and IoT to tackle these issues. A framework integrating distributed ledger technology (DLT) and smart contracts is outlined to enhance traceability and digital record-keeping, particularly focusing on maintenance and repair during the building lifecycle. Components of the framework include a National Product Database, a Construction Certification Organization, and an e-marketplace for procurement. Automation through a DAO is suggested to streamline maintenance activities and ensure compliance. Validation with industry practitioners and simulation testing is planned for further development, aiming to overcome implementation barriers.

Advantages:

Enhanced Traceability: Utilizing technologies like blockchain and smart contracts improves the traceability of products, materials, and activities throughout the building lifecycle, facilitating better accountability and transparency.

Improved Record-Keeping: Digital record-keeping enables the seamless tracking of building information from design to maintenance, ensuring easy access to crucial data and facilitating informed decision-making.

Disadvantages:

Implementation Complexity: Integrating emerging technologies like blockchain and smart contracts into existing construction processes may be complex and require significant investment in infrastructure, training, and adaptation.

Technical Challenges: Adoption of new technologies may face technical hurdles such as interoperability issues, data integration challenges, and scalability concerns, potentially hindering seamless implementation.

2.3 Blockchain economic theory: digital asset contracting reduces debt and risk [3]

This study presents a thorough Blockchain Economic Theory of Digital Asset Contracting as a model for explaining the revolutionary impact of blockchain technology on numerous economic aspects. It examines how blockchain-registered digital assets enable quick transactions and new forms of contracting, resulting in novel financial interactions. The article investigates the possible use of blockchain technology to address economic issues such as debt, systemic risk, job outsourcing, entitlement overhang, healthcare cost-outcome discrepancies, and financial inclusion. It explains ideas such as smart contracts, cryptocurrency tokens, and payment channels, emphasizing their importance in debt restructuring and risk management. The article also investigates the formation of new kinds of money and financial interaction patterns enabled by blockchain technology.

Advantages:

Blockchain technology enables fast and efficient transactions, reducing the need for intermediaries and streamlining financial interactions. This efficiency can lead to cost savings and improved productivity.

Disadvantages:

The regulatory landscape surrounding blockchain and cryptocurrencies is still evolving, creating uncertainty for businesses and investors. Regulatory uncertainty can impede investment and innovation in blockchain technology and limit its potential for widespread adoption in regulated industries.

2.4 Applications of Distributed Ledger Technology and Blockchain-enabled Smart Contracts in Construction [4]

This paper presents a systematic review of 153 papers focusing on the application of distributed ledger technology (DLT) and smart contracts in the design, construction, and operation of built assets within the construction sector. Thematic analysis reveals eight key application themes, including information management, payments, procurement, supply chain management, regulations and compliance, construction management and delivery, dispute resolution, and technological systems. The review highlights the transition of research from theoretical insights to proofs-of-concept and case studies, indicating a growing interest in practical applications. Additionally, the paper discusses the socio-technical perspective of DLT and smart contract adoption in construction, emphasizing the need for comprehensive approaches to drive meaningful change. This systematic review serves as a valuable reference for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in the future development of DLT and smart contract applications in construction.

Advantages:

Automation through smart contracts can streamline various processes in construction, such as payments, procurement, and dispute resolution. This efficiency can lead to cost savings, faster project delivery, and improved overall project management.

Disadvantages:

Implementing DLT and smart contracts requires technical expertise and infrastructure. Construction firms may face challenges in understanding and adopting these technologies, especially smaller companies with limited resources and IT capabilities.

2.5 SPChain: A smart and private Blockchain-enabled framework for combining GDPR-Compliant digital assets management with AI models [5]

The abstract discusses the challenges of traditional digital asset management systems, where data processing lacks transparency due to centralized control, while also highlighting the potential of blockchain technology to address these issues with its tamper-resistance and decentralization features. However, the implementation of GDPR principles, such as the Right to Be Forgotten, presents conflicts with blockchain's immutable nature. Additionally, artificial intelligence models are incorporated to enhance accessibility and creativity with digital assets while maintaining GDPR compliance. The paper explores the application of SPChain in digital art management using Hyperledger Fabric for implementation, aiming to benefit stakeholders by securely managing digital assets and ensuring GDPR compliance.

Advantages:

By combining blockchain with a decentralized Interplanetary File System (IPFS), SPChain mitigates the risk of single points of failure (SPOF) associated with centralized data management systems, thus enhancing data security and resilience against potential cyberattacks.

Disadvantages:

Despite its innovative approach, SPChain faces challenges in complying with GDPR principles, such as the Right to Be Forgotten, due to blockchain's immutable nature, which may hinder its adoption in environments with stringent data privacy regulations.

2.6 Towards Blockchain-enabled open architectures for scalable digital Assets platform [6]

The document discusses the challenges and limitations of the current smart contract paradigm in the context of blockchain technology, particularly in decentralized finance (DeFi). It highlights the need for a broader computational paradigm to facilitate seamless interaction between blockchain networks and legacy systems, ensuring openness, trust, and consistency of asset states across heterogeneous systems. The proposed solution involves the introduction of a new computational paradigm that permits the free flow of assets between blockchains and legacy systems, facilitated by a digital twin container mediating between on-chain and off-chain worlds. Additionally, the document addresses the limitations of smart contracts, such as their constrained view of the world and reliance on oracles to interact with external systems, leading to the creation of data and asset silos. It proposes enhancing current architectures to minimize on-chain state information, connect on-chain state with richer off-chain information, and facilitate asset exchange among heterogeneous systems while maintaining consistency.

Advantages:

The proposed approach aims to bridge the gap between blockchain networks and legacy systems, enabling seamless asset flow across heterogeneous systems. This interoperability facilitates greater accessibility and usability of digital assets, potentially expanding their reach and utility.

Disadvantages:

Despite aiming to minimize reliance on oracles for external data access, the document acknowledges their necessity in current smart contract paradigms. Oracles introduce a point of potential vulnerability and centralization, as they are responsible for fetching external data and transmitting it to the blockchain, raising concerns about data integrity and security. Additionally, the accumulation of data on the blockchain due to Oracle interactions may lead to scalability issues over time.

2.7 Blockchain-enabled digital assets tokenization for cyber-physical traceability in E-commerce logistics financing [7]

E-commerce logistics financing (LF) plays a crucial role in supporting small and medium-sized logistics companies (LCs) to remain competitive. However, challenges such as information silos, centralized IT solutions, and opaque information ownership hinder LF adoption in supply chains. To address these issues, this study introduces a blockchain-enabled cyber-physical traceability system for logistics financing, leveraging digital asset tokenization. The system aims to enhance visibility and traceability in both cyber and physical transactions within the supply chain, thereby facilitating operations and minimizing upfront costs. By integrating stakeholder devices with blockchain technology and utilizing tokenization for digital assets, the proposed system enhances information sharing and reliability while maintaining privacy and reducing switching costs. The objectives include proposing the system, utilizing blockchain tokens for traceability, examining design considerations, and demonstrating implementation. The paper reviews relevant literature, discusses system design considerations, presents system development and implementation, and provides an illustrative case study.

Advantages:

The blockchain-enabled cyber-physical traceability system provides increased transparency by leveraging digital asset tokenization. This transparency fosters trust among stakeholders as they can easily verify the authenticity and ownership of digital assets, leading to more efficient and secure transactions.

Disadvantages:

While blockchain technology offers transparency, it also raises privacy concerns due to the immutable nature of the ledger. Participants may hesitate to share sensitive information on a public blockchain, fearing exposure of confidential data to unauthorized parties. This privacy issue can hinder adoption, particularly among stakeholders in highly regulated industries.

2.8 Log-Flock: A blockchain-enabled platform for digital asset valuation and risk assessment in E-commerce logistics financing [8]

The exponential growth of e-commerce in recent years has propelled the logistics industry to the forefront, necessitating the need for logistics companies (LCs) to expand their operational capabilities. However, small and medium-sized LCs often face challenges in obtaining financing due to limited tangible assets, unclear operating capabilities, and a lack of reliable information-sharing mechanisms. To address these issues, this study proposes leveraging the digital assets of LCs for logistics financing through a platform called Log-Flock. This platform integrates the Internet of Things (IoT), cyber-physical systems (CPS), and blockchain technologies to streamline the financing process. By utilizing IoT and CPS, digital assets are generated to represent LCs' operational capabilities, while blockchain ensures transparency and trust in digital asset valuation and risk assessment. The proposed platform aims to reduce financing time and communicate LCs' operating capabilities effectively to financial institutions. Overall, Log-Flock presents a novel approach to logistics financing, harnessing the power of digital assets and blockchain technology to support the growth of small and medium-sized LCs in the e-commerce ecosystem.

Advantages:

The implementation of Log-Flock significantly reduces the time required for logistics financing, providing LCs with quicker access to capital. This streamlined process can help LCs seize business expansion opportunities more efficiently.

Disadvantages:

Developing and implementing a complex platform like Log-Flock may pose technical and logistical challenges. Integration with existing systems, ensuring data security, and managing interoperability issues could require substantial resources and expertise.

2.9 Blockchain and Digital Assets [9]

The introduction traces the historical trajectory of asset exchange from ancient bartering systems to modern financial transactions, emphasizing the pivotal role of trust and intermediaries. It highlights the limitations of traditional intermediaries, which have led to reliance on third parties for transaction management. The advent of blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) offers a decentralized alternative, enabling transparent validation without intermediaries. Section 2 delves into the concept of digital assets, particularly crypto assets or tokens, which are electronically stored, transmitted, and represented by cryptographic tokens. Token modeling, discussed in this section, defines the rules and conditions for transacting digital assets on blockchains. Section 3 explores fungible token standards, starting with basic "Coloured coins" on the Bitcoin blockchain and then focusing on Ethereum-based standards like ERC-20 and its upgrades such as ERC-223 and ERC-621. Finally, Section 4 introduces non-fungible tokens (NFTs) using the ERC-721 specification on the Ethereum blockchain, along with extensions like ERC-994, ERC-998, and ERC-948, showcasing the diverse applications of blockchain-based tokens and their potential to reshape asset exchange and transaction management across various domains.

Advantages:

Blockchain technology decentralizes transaction management, eliminating the need for central authorities and intermediaries. This reduces the risk of manipulation or fraud and enhances transparency and trust in transactions.

2.10 Ethereum Based Smart Contracts for Trade and Finance[10]

The document discusses the application of blockchain technology in trade and finance, focusing on Ethereum-based smart contracts. It highlights the need for transparent and traceable transactions in trade, finance, and supply chain management due to the increase in cyber-attacks and malicious hacking. The paper emphasizes the role of decentralized applications (DApps) in enabling transparent and automatic trade transactions. It also discusses the software requirements for blockchain applications, including the need for open-source software such as Linux or Windows through virtual machines. The document delves into the technical aspects of blockchain, including Ethereum, smart contracts, decentralized applications, tokens, and security features. It also addresses the potential benefits of blockchain in trade finance, such as transparency, traceability, disintermediation, and cost reduction.

Advantages:

Comprehensive Coverage: The methodology provides a comprehensive coverage of the application of blockchain technology in trade and finance, addressing various aspects such as software requirements, potential benefits, challenges, and regional impact.

Technical Detail: The methodology delves into technical aspects of blockchain, including Ethereum, smart contracts, decentralized applications, tokens, and security features, providing a detailed understanding of the technology.

Practical Application: The methodology discusses the practical application of blockchain technology in trade finance, highlighting potential benefits such as transparency, traceability, disintermediation, and cost reduction.

Disadvantages:

Complexity: The technical nature of the methodology may be challenging for readers without a strong background in blockchain technology or finance, potentially limiting accessibility to a broader audience.

Limited Discussion of Limitations: While the methodology addresses challenges and ways to overcome them, it may not fully explore the limitations and potential drawbacks of implementing blockchain technology in trade and finance.

Lack of Empirical Evidence: The methodology may lack empirical evidence or case studies to support the practical application of blockchain technology in trade and finance, potentially limiting the validation of its effectiveness in real-world scenarios.

III. ANALYSIS TABLE

The following table gives the analysis of techniques and methods used in research papers on image processing and identification.

TABLE 1: Analysis of research papers

Sl. No	Paper Title	Techniques	Addressed Issue
1	Proof of Delivery of Digital Assets Using Blockchain and Smart Contracts	Ethereum smart contracts, Interplanetary File System (IPFS)	Secure delivery of digital assets, decentralized platform, automated payment, dispute resolution
2	A Blockchain and smart contracts-based framework to increase the traceability of built assets	B Blockchain, smart contracts, IoT	Traceability, digital record-keeping, compliance, procurement
3	Blockchain economic theory: digital asset contracting reduces debt and risk	Blockchain, smart contracts, crypto-tokens	Debt restructuring, risk management, financial inclusion
4	Applications of Distributed Ledger Technology and Blockchain-enabled Smart Contracts in Construction	Distributed ledger technology (DLT), smart contracts, thematic analysis	Automation, information management, payment, procurement, dispute resolution
5	SPChain: A smart and private Blockchain-enabled framework for combining GDPR-Compliant digital assets	Blockchain, Interplanetary File System (IPFS), artificial intelligence	Privacy, data security, GDPR compliance, NFT trading
6	Towards Blockchain-enabled open architectures for scalable digital	Blockchain, digital twin, container-off-chain data integration	Interoperability, asset flow, data integrity, scalability

	Assets platform		
7	Blockchain-enabled digital assets tokenization for cyber-physical traceability in E-commerce logistics financing	Blockchain, digital asset tokenization, IoT, cyber-physical systems	Transparency, traceability, privacy concerns, logistics financing
8	Log-Flock: A blockchain-enabled platform for digital asset valuation and risk assessment in E-commerce logistics financing	Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), cyber-physical systems, digital asset tokenization	Financing efficiency, transparency, data security
9	Blockchain and Digital Assets	Blockchain, smart contracts, digital asset tokenization, fungible tokens, non-fungible tokens	Decentralization, transparency, environmental concerns
10	Ethereum Based Smart Contracts for Trade and Finance	decentralized applications (DApps) with front-end, blockchain back-end, and middleware components, Hyperledger Fabric and R3 Corda	traceability, disintermediation, cost reduction, and automated trade transactions through smart contracts automating the confirmation of trade documents.
11	Upkeeping digital assets during construction using blockchain technology [10]	Blockchain, Building Information Modeling (BIM), smart contracts	Transparency, automation, standardized information management
12	An exploration of blockchain-enabled smart contracts application in the enterprise[11]	Blockchain, smart contracts, consensus mechanisms	Efficiency, transparency, immutability, legal implications
13	Smart contracts on the blockchain – A bibliometric analysis and review [12]	Blockchain, smart contracts, bibliometric analysis, social network analysis	Research trends, interdisciplinary connections, legal considerations
14	Risks and Opportunities for Systems Using Blockchain and Smart Contracts [13]	Blockchain, smart contracts, digital currency, IoT	Transparency, efficiency, privacy concerns, regulatory compliance
15	Digital building twins and blockchain for performance-based smart contracts [14]	Digital building twins, blockchain-based smart contracts, IoT	Performance-based contracts, transparency, sustainability
16	Decentralized On-Chain Data Access via Smart Contracts in Ethereum Blockchain [15]	Utilization of Merkle-Patricia Trie (MPT) data structure, sequential search methodology, partitioning technique	Increased Data Transparency, Improved Efficiency, Decentralization.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the review on blockchain-enabled smart contracts for digital assets underscores the profound potential of this technology to redefine how we manage, exchange, and transact with digital assets. By leveraging the decentralized and immutable nature of blockchain, smart contracts offer a paradigm shift in terms of security, transparency, and efficiency in transactions. The ability to automate and execute contractual agreements without intermediaries not only reduces costs but also minimizes the risk of fraud and error.

Throughout this review, it has become evident that blockchain-enabled smart contracts have the capacity to streamline various processes across industries, including finance, supply chain management, real estate, and intellectual property rights. However, the realization of this potential is not without its challenges. Scalability issues, interoperability concerns, and the need for standardized regulatory frameworks pose significant obstacles to widespread adoption. Moreover, initiatives aimed at addressing scalability through layer 2 solutions and interoperability through cross-chain

protocols show promise in enhancing the functionality and usability of blockchain-enabled smart contracts. By fostering an environment conducive to innovation and addressing the inherent challenges, we can unlock the full potential of blockchain-enabled smart contracts and usher in a new era of digital asset management and exchange.

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