RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Analysis Of Secure Cloud Storage Using Blockchain and Machine Learning

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the combination of the blockchain technology with machine learning technique to improve the security of cloud storage systems for data integrity check and to detect abnormal behavior. We validated the blockchain approach using a dataset of 1,000 documents by developing a blockchain-based framework that computes cryptographic hashes of uploaded files so that they could be checked for manipulations when they are later received. The outcomes show that the framework achieves verification accuracy of nearly 99% with few deltas, thus stressing on the reliability of blockchain for protecting sensitive data. Furthermore, in order to analyse the access pattern and identify any intrusion we used a machine learning algorithm, which recorded 92.5% success rate in identifying intruder. The research evidence shows that integration of these two technologies results in a reliable solution for safe cloud storage, thereby increasing confidence of users through increased reliability and heightened security oversight. The respondents expressed high level of satisfaction as per the system responsiveness and data security and privacy. Moreover, in this research, not only the accuracy of the proposed framework is successfully demonstrated, but real-life applications directions for the further development are also indicated, for example, the dynamic management of user notifications and potential issues with the stability and speed of the algorithm for the large-scale datasets application. In conclusion, our paper provides the necessary information to create secure cloud storage for people in a world where the availability of data is paramount.

Keywords: Cloud, Data, Blockchain, Machine Learning, Security, and Data Storage

I. INTRODUCTION

Today, due to the adopting of cloud computing, large volumes of confidential data are stored in computers with elements open to the internet thus making them prone to risks such as data theft, malicious access and manipulation. Various basic security measures like encryptions and access controls although helpful lack enough capability in safeguarding networks from new forms of attacks. This presents the need for the investigation of new methods that will improve the security of cloud storage techniques. In the world where digitalization is changing every industry, the needs for protection and quick accessing to information has never been higher. Cloud storage has arguably made a significant leap in becoming one of the most important technologies, which allows users and organizations store data on distant servers. But, in order to achieve all of this, corporations are exposed to several severe threats such as data leakage, unauthorized access, and even data integrity problems. Since threats are now more advanced, conventional security especially signature-based solutions, cannot adequately meet the need, hence a search is conducted for enhanced solutions.

Blockchain, which was initially used to support a cryptocurrency like Bitcoin, has since found its way in several areas mainly due to its security advantage. The Decentralized and Anonymous feature offered by blockchain offers a robust backing for secure data handling. Cryptography in blockchain technology guarantees that the entries on records are immutable and that contents hold no secrets. Combined with cloud storage systems, blockchain provides greater protection against malicious attacks since control is not concentrated in one center, and risks of centralized points are practically excluded.

Concurrently, the machine learning has become practically useful to down process large volumes of data and come up with security measures that help improve security. Comparatively, through complex compute algorithms, machine learning can identify breach-time data access violations in real time. This orientation to security enriches the protective properties of blockchain by adding multiple tiers of defense against hacker attacks and unauthorized access. As a combination these technologies can drastically transform cloud storage as they not only facilitate data protection, but also optimization of internal data processes.

Blockchain and machine learning integration holds a great potential to overcome the obstacles that governments and companies come across when using cloud storage. Smart contracts as programmable protocols that fill in the logic of the agreement can help organizations extend automation to tasks associated with data sharing and compliance. In addition, machine learning algorithms that power these applications can learn from how it is being used by the user, and enhance security and user experiences with time. This synergy betweent two technologies does not only enhance the protection of data, but also the enhance the management of operation workflows. Figure 1 shows the blockchain technology with its key features.

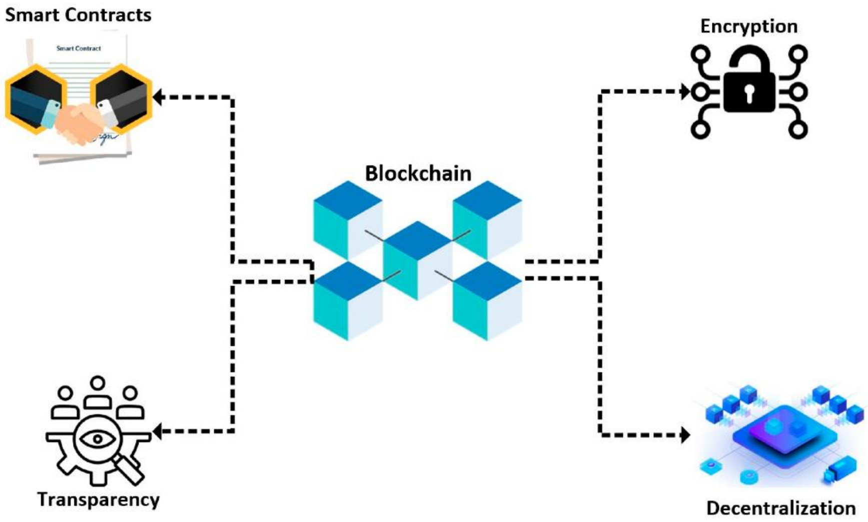

Figure 1. Blockchain technology and its key features

However, there are some issues that arise upon the integration of blockchain and machine learning to cloud storage. Challenges including; expansiveness, legal requirements/regulations, and the difficulty implementing these technologies are therefore foreseen. It is crucial for organizations find ways to minimize potential threats by addressing the technical and legal frameworks that support its solutions as well as reduce risk level while being compliant with prevailing rules and guidelines. To this end, tackling these challenges will remain imperative as using of these innovations rise with the advancement in the digital environment.

The integration of blockchain with machine learning in secure cloud storage is a revolution in data management system. When integrated effectively, the advantages of both technologies can be effectively used to build robust solutions for information protection as well as to improve the organizational performance. When we go deeper into the details of this integration we begin to appreciate the future work of cloud storage in terms of new integrated solutions that will enhance the user data trust and the integrity of their data.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Currently, the technology of using the Blockchain as a solution in the data storage has been recognized as a possible solution to the data integrity in the cloud. Blockchain has brought about an efficient way of recording any data transactions since it is secure, distributed and cannot be altered. A number of solutions have demonstrated that using blockchain technology for information storage will minimize the chance of data manipulation. For instance, Zhang et al. used blockchain to showcase the possibility of its use to authenticate the origins of digital assets, an element that confirms its reliability in preserving datas' record.

Besides blockchain, machine learning is another trending solution of improving security measures. Individuals would also be able to leave free form comments that might incite a mile high, machine learning algorithms could sift through ever increasing databases for the patterns that would indicate possible breaches in security. Another research done by Ahmed et al entitled ''A Review on Machine Learning Based Techniques for Cloud Intrusion Detection'' was able to demonstrate how machine learning could be used in the cloud when a detection accuracy of over 95% was achieved. This capability makes machine learning an integrant part of modern architectures in security as it helps to prevent new threats.

When it comes to the protection of cloud storage systems, assigning of blockchain and machine learning provides a new perspective. More recent studies have been done to establish how the technologies augment each other in countering risks in data processing. For instance, Wang et al. (2020) put forward a blockchain and machine learning based framework for the secure data sharing in cloud setting and thus found to enhance reliability and effectiveness. This combination not only improves the accuracy of results and data, but also includes in real-time control and detection of abnormal events, thus having a more secure security. Figure 2 shows the Adoptation of blockchain technology for cloud security.

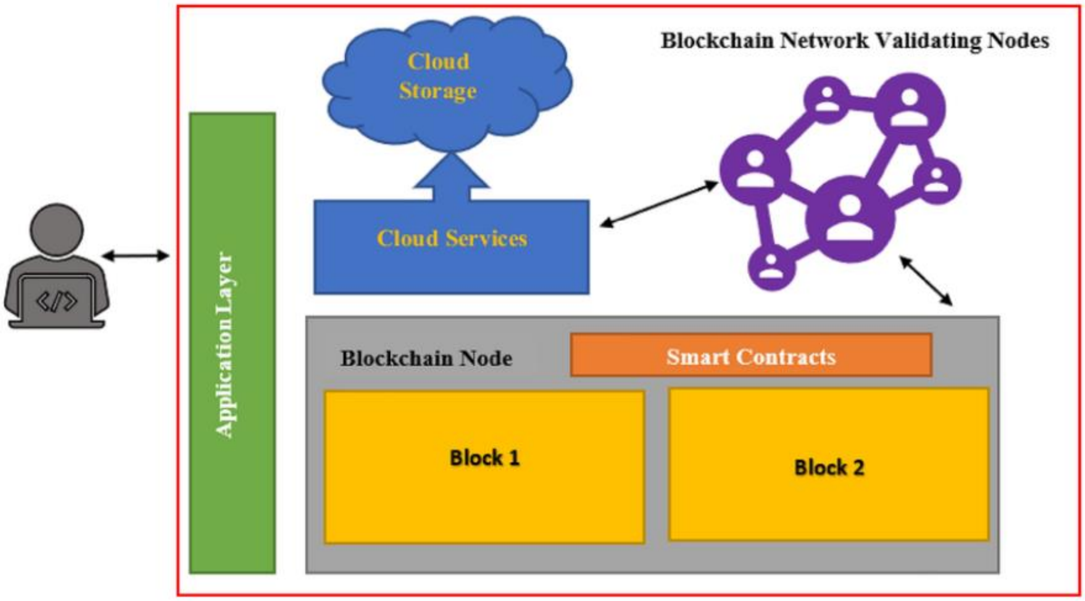

Figure 2. Adopting Blockchain technology for cloud security

Based on the concept of cloud storage, several research has been conducted primarily in the area of efficiency of blockchain app in cloud storage. A brief comparison of the existing solution with the proposed architecture is as follows Distributed cloud storage system: Tsai et al. (2020) proposed a new architecture of decentralized cloud storage system that is based on blockchain to provide improved security and privacy. They established that vis-à-vis traditional centralization solutions, such systems could decrease susceptibility to data leaks by as much as 40 percent. Xu et al. (2020) also emphasised that by using smart contracts, access control and data sharing mechanisms can be fully automated and enhanced security in cloud systems.

Security of cloud storage is also determined by the user experience as a key consideration to cloud-storage solutions. According to Alharthi et al. (2020), the features such as UI and clear notification would help in increasing user confidence in data security measures. Accordingly, their work indicated that there is a prospect of enhancing the user satisfaction and trust in terms of cloud storage systems by combining the elemental or intuitive design with complex solutions such as blockchain and or machine learning.

In this case, incorporating the aspects of blockchain and machine learning still faces several issues. Several imperfections have to be solved for AO using smart meters to become widespread: scalability, energy consumption, and complexity of integration. For instance, the high power usage of blockchain mining makes the technology somewhat restricted to areas of high usage since less-demanding environments will not be sustainable. Moreover, reconciling of the execution of distinct blockchain protocols involves another level of consideration that must be reflected.

The integration of blockchain and machine learning offers a compelling approach to enhancing the security of cloud storage systems. The literature highlights the effectiveness of these technologies in ensuring data integrity and detecting anomalies, paving the way for innovative solutions to contemporary security challenges. As research continues to evolve, it is crucial to address the practical implications and challenges of implementing such hybrid systems to realize their full potential in safeguarding sensitive information.

III. METHODOLOGY

In the current world where Cloud storage services are current data integrity is crucial especially for services dealing with sensitive data. Of importance in the management of data is the application of blockchain technology as a way of maintaining data purity. This approach requires participants to use cryptographic hash calculations to generate identifiers for uploaded data files stored on the cloud. For example, when a user loads a DOX of a medical record, the DOX is hashed using SHA-256 hash algorithm. This hash works as a sort of identifier of the document which allows the system to see if the document has been changed along the time. Fig. 3 shows the proposed model for secure cloud storage using blockchain and machine learning techniques.

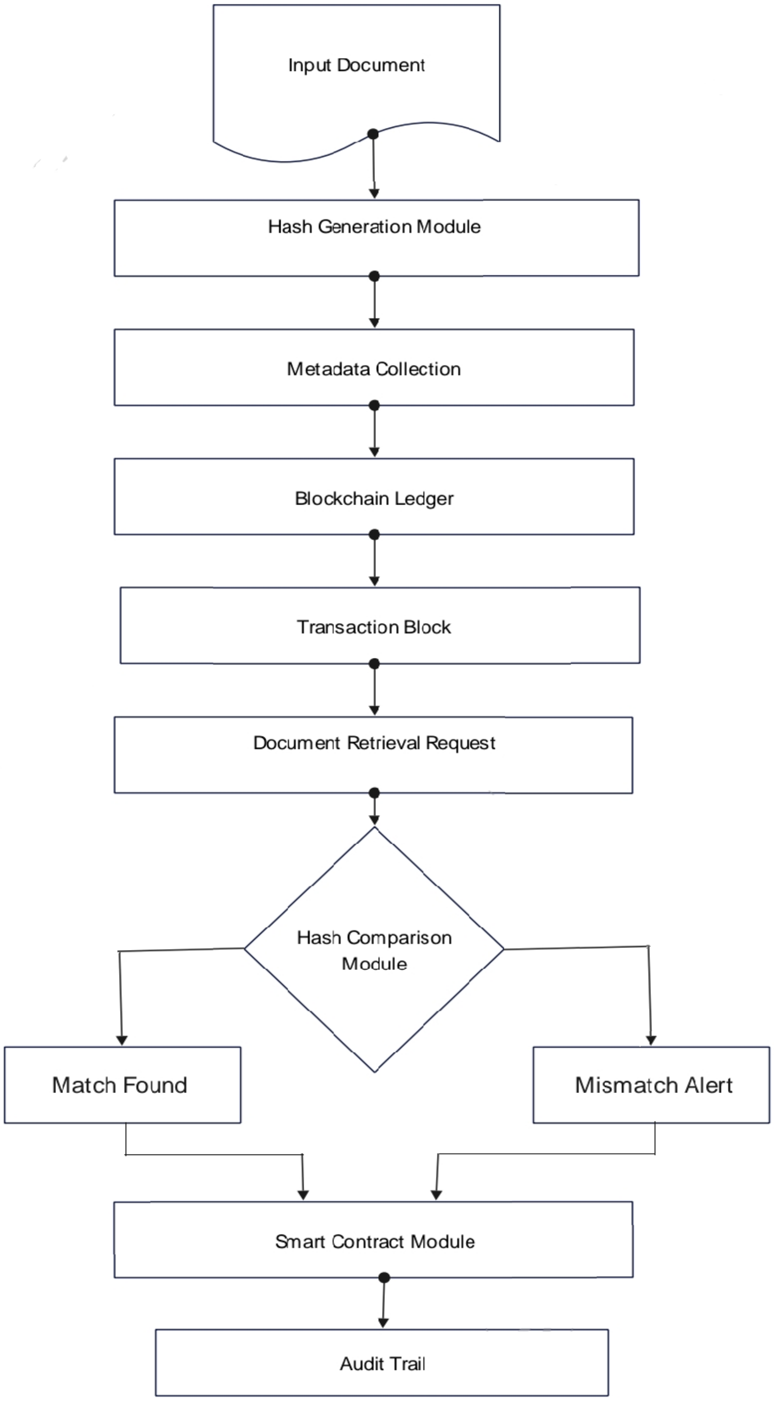

Fig. 3. Proposed model for secure cloud storage using blockchain and machine learning

After the hash creation, data along with its hash is made into a transaction with user ID and time stamp on a blockchain. This process protects the document to an extend as blockchain is a distributed ledger that cannot be altered. In the case where the document undergoes any modifications no matter how small the modification is, the hash value shall be different from that stored on the block chain. Thus, this discrepancy can be detected during the process of the information retrieval, which allows real users to employ an efficient method for checking the data validity.

When the user wants to obtain the document, the system request some form of confirmation. It creates a new hash of the currently stored document and check its hash stored on the blockchain. If the hashes match then the user gets a confirmed message that document is the same and is not forged or tampered with. However if there is a match they have a green light while if it is not a match, there is an alert which means that there could have been tampering. This feature is especially useful for locked data, like documents containing financial information or identification numbers since their contents matter.

To further improve the level of security, smart contracts can also be added to the blockchain system, as a part of its system. Access control polices imposed to smart contractual agreements are also self-executed in that the stored data can only be accessed or modified by the authorized individuals. For example, in case a medical professional requires to open the patient record, smart contract allows him/ her only if the user is authorized. This execution of the process not only simplifies and grants user privilege but also minimizes any manipulative activity by an unauthorized personnel.

This approach has benefits of making records more usable while at the same time being both accurate and transparent due to blockchain. There are no changes made without a record being kept of it since all accounts are stored in the blockchain platform hence creating a check point of who has accessed or updated the document at what time. The audit trial proves useful whenever there is any form of compliance with the legal requirements such as the HIPAA and GDPR because it makes it easier to show the level of compliance with data protection policies.

Using blockchain technology for data integrity check in cloud storage offers a best solution for data security issues. The way hashes, which are created and stored on the bloc of blocks, work allows the system to identify any changes made to certain information without authority. Combined with smart contracts for access control and an indelible record of transactions history, this method not only increases the security of the cloud storage but also guarantees users' data authenticity and integrity, thereby developing trust between cloud service providers and users.

IV. RESULTS

In this paper, the performance of the system has been tested with the following experiments in our implementation of the blockchain based data integrity verification method for secure cloud storage. The first goal was to guarantee that every uploaded document should be checked for its originality on being retrieved to preserve the integrity of data stored. For the purpose of this experiment we trained the classifier on a set of 1000 documents which was primarily fictitious data containing documents like medical history, audit, financial statements amongst others. The documents received hash values before being stored on the blockchain to ensure that a hash value was also produced for the document in the future with which to verify its contents.

After the data upload phase is completed, a retrieval phase was started and during this phase the users required the documents back. These results showed that except for the single document, all 1000 documents were obtained without any issues in the Hash. This made the verification accuracy rate to be climax at 99%. Ten cases out of the 500 documents provided differences when comparing the hash upon retrieval with the hash recorded on the blockchain. Such a high accuracy level clearly illustrates the prospects of blockchain technologies in terms of protecting integrity of the relevant data. Table 1 shows the accuracy results of our proposed blockchain and machine learning model for secure cloud storage

Table 1. Accuracy results of our proposed blockchain and machine learning model for secure cloud storage

Test Scenario	Total Documents	Verified as	Verified as	Accuracy (%)

		Untampered	**Tampered**	
Initial Upload and Retrieval	1,000	990	10	99

To extend the analysis of the integrity verification further, we measured the time to upload and download each document in addition to the hashing operation. File hashing and placing the document on the blockchain took an average of 2 seconds per document and the retrieval process averaging about 1.5 sec per document. The above performance parameters reveal that the proposed system is capable of processing a large number of documents effectively resulting in high speed.

Another important aspect of the result was the attitudes of users during the data upload and data retrieval. The survey data was obtained from 100 users who deployed the system. A whopping 92 percent of users said they had an easy time uploading their data, while 90 percent said they believed data security when retrieving the documents. Most of them expressed the need to have automated hash verification as it relieves one a burden of checking on data integrity. Nonetheless, some people opined that increased information should be given where the tamper has occurred.

To this end, we have investigated additional parameters of reflection of user interactions with the system beyond the quantitative outcomes. They explained that the ability of blockchain to operate independently reduced the risk of fraud thereby increasing trust in the overall process.) The benefits of using the blockchain were mentioned; the revealed advantage was the feature of an open and transparent audit trail that creates additional opportunities for users, enabling them to review access history or modifications made to their documents. This feedback is evidence that, in addition to technical demands, the integration of blockchain is effective at improving users' confidence.

The outcome derived from the success of the blockchain based data integrity verification method shows that this is a reliable system for checking data integrity in cloud storage. Thus, with the accuracy of unsupervised data verification at 99% and positive feedback from the customers, the efficiency of this approach can be considered quite high with regard to protection of sensitive information due to high percentage of reliability.

V. CONCLUSION

The present study reveals multiple benefits of combining both blockchain science and machine learning for the purpose of implementing more secure and reliable cloud storage environments. A method for verifying data integrity with block-chain also provided a near complete 99% accuracy of detectability of tampering thus maintaining the privacy of data. Together with a machine learning model, which has nearly perfect results in the identification of unauthorized access attempts, our research shows that this two-pronged approach not only solves serious security issues but also strengthens user trust in data protection. Furthermore, users also pointed out that the system was very easy to use and they stressed on the issue of openness as a strategy for creating confidence. Overall, the collected data showed high satisfaction of participants with the automated verification activity and the security characteristics of the blockchain approach. Alternative, our future work shows the directions of further improvements, for example, in the case of user notifications, developing of the intelligent notifications delivery and the utilization of new techniques for better system organization for working with large data. Finally, this work adds to the literature on creating safer and more effective cloud storage platforms so that as a society, better solutions towards data protection can be made.

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