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AuthentiScan: Implementation of Blockchain-Based QR System for Fake Product Detection

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ABSTRACT: Counterfeit products have become a widespread problem, affecting industries such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, and consumer goods. These fake products not only lead to financial losses for manufacturers but also pose serious risks to consumer safety. Existing anti-counterfeit methods, such as QR codes, holograms, and RFID tags, are prone to tampering and duplication, making them unreliable in preventing fraud. Blockchain technology provides a potential solution by offering a decentralized, transparent, and tamper-proof system for product verification.

This paper explores the development of a blockchain-based fake product identification system that utilizes Ethereum smart contracts to securely record product ownership and transaction history. The system enables manufacturers to register products, sellers to authenticate transactions, and consumers to verify authenticity using a public blockchain ledger. Unlike traditional methods that rely on centralized databases, this approach ensures data immutability and trustless verification.

The implementation is carried out using Solidity for smart contract development, Truffle and Ganache for testing, Web3.js for blockchain interactions, and Metamask for secure transaction authentication. The proposed system is evaluated in terms of security, efficiency, and scalability, demonstrating its potential as a reliable alternative to conventional counterfeit detection techniques.

KEYWORDS: Blockchain, Ethereum, Smart Contracts, Fake Product Detection, Supply Chain Security, Web3.js, Decentralized Authentication

I. INTRODUCTION

The Counterfeit products have become a major concern across various industries, including pharmaceuticals, electronics, fashion, and automotive components. The rapid growth of counterfeit goods in global markets has led to financial losses for businesses [Kshetri, 2018] [2], compromised brand reputation, and serious safety hazards for consumers. Despite advancements in anti-counterfeit measures such as holograms, RFID tags, and QR codes, these methods remain vulnerable to tampering, duplication, and data manipulation [Chaudhary et al., 2022] [3]. Centralized authentication systems, which store product verification records in databases controlled by manufacturers or third-party agencies, introduce security risks such as data breaches and unauthorized modifications.

Blockchain technology provides an alternative approach by offering a secure, decentralized, and tamper-proof ledger for product authentication. Unlike traditional databases, blockchain records transactions in a way that ensures immutability and transparency, making it nearly impossible for counterfeiters to alter or forge product data [Wang et al., 2020] [1]. Ethereum, a widely used blockchain platform, allows the development of smart contracts, which are self-executing programs that enforce rules and transactions without intermediaries[Lokesh et al., 2021] [4]. By integrating smart contracts into a product verification system, manufacturers can register authentic products on the blockchain, sellers can verify ownership, and consumers can check product authenticity in real time.

This research focuses on developing a blockchain-based fake product identification system that eliminates the need for centralized authorities and third-party verification services. The proposed system records product registration, transactions, and ownership history on the Ethereum blockchain, ensuring end-to-end transparency. The smart contract is implemented using Solidity, while Truffle and Ganache are used for testing and deployment. The system also integrates Web3.js and Metamask, enabling seamless blockchain interaction through a user-friendly web interface.





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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Blockchain Technology in Counterfeit Prevention

Blockchain has emerged as a promising solution for counterfeit detection due to its decentralized, transparent, and tamper-proof nature [Kshetri, 2018] [2]. Unlike traditional authentication systems that rely on centralized databases, blockchain ensures that once a product's details are recorded, they cannot be altered or manipulated[Wang et al., 2020] [1].

Several studies highlight blockchain's effectiveness in supply chain security. Kumar and Mehra (2024) demonstrated that blockchain enhances traceability in pharmaceuticals and electronics, reducing counterfeit risks by maintaining an immutable product ledger [Nabli et al., 2024] [7]. Similarly, Lokesh et al. (2021) explored how smart contracts automate verification, preventing unauthorized alterations and ensuring product authenticity in real-time. These findings reinforce blockchain's potential as a trust-enhancing mechanism in counterfeit detection.

Despite its advantages, blockchain faces certain adoption barriers, including regulatory uncertainties, computational costs, and network scalability [Saraswathi et al., 2024] [6]. Studies by Saraswathi et al. (2024) emphasize the importance of privacy-preserving blockchain models, addressing concerns related to data security while maintaining transparency[12].

2.2 Ethical and Legal Considerations

While blockchain enhances security, its immutable nature presents challenges in error correction and data privacy[Ciurel, 2024] [6]. Ciurel (2024) argues that transparency must be balanced with confidentiality to protect sensitive business information. European regulations, such as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), impose constraints on blockchain adoption, as data recorded on a public ledger cannot be modified or erased [Kaygin, 2023] [9].

Additionally, blockchain's energy-intensive consensus mechanisms, particularly Proof-of-Work (PoW), raise environmental concerns [Djemaa et al., 2024] [10]. Djemaa et al. (2024) advocate for transitioning to Proof-of-Stake (PoS) models, which significantly reduce energy consumption and improve sustainability. Addressing these challenges is essential for fostering trust and ensuring widespread adoption.

2.3 Integration of IoT for Enhanced Counterfeit Detection

The Internet of Things (IoT) plays a crucial role in counterfeit prevention by enabling real-time tracking and monitoring of products. IoT devices, such as RFID tags and smart sensors, collect and transmit product data, which is then stored on the blockchain for verification.

Sanghavi et al. (2024) demonstrated that IoT-integrated blockchain networks enhance supply chain visibility, ensuring product integrity throughout storage and transportation. Similarly, Pandey and Litoriya (2021) explored IoT-based tamper detection mechanisms, where unauthorized modifications trigger alerts recorded on the blockchain. These studies highlight the synergy between IoT and blockchain in strengthening counterfeit prevention systems.

However, IoT integration presents computational challenges due to high data volumes and connectivity issues. Future research should focus on optimizing lightweight blockchain models that support IoT scalability without compromising security.

2.4 Blockchain Adoption in Supply Chain Management

For blockchain to be widely adopted, seamless integration with existing supply chain frameworks is essential. Djemaa et al. (2025) highlighted how blockchain's compatibility with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems enhances operational efficiency, reducing redundancy and improving transparency.

Anita et al. (2022) proposed standardized blockchain protocols to improve interoperability between different supply chain platforms. Such standardization would make blockchain solutions more practical for global enterprises, enhancing their ability to combat counterfeit goods across industries.





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Despite these advantages, blockchain's high implementation costs and technical complexity remain barriers to adoption, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Saraswathi and Suresh (2024) suggest that government incentives and industry collaborations could help lower adoption costs and accelerate blockchain deployment.

2.5 Challenges in Blockchain-Based Counterfeit Detection

While blockchain offers a secure and transparent solution for counterfeit prevention, several challenges limit its large-scale adoption:

- 1. Scalability Issues Public blockchains, such as Ethereum, experience high transaction fees and slow processing times due to network congestion. Researchers advocate for Layer 2 scaling solutions, such as rollups and sharding, to improve efficiency.
- 2. Regulatory Uncertainties Many countries lack clear regulations on blockchain implementation, making legal compliance complex for businesses.
- 3. Cost of Implementation High computational and storage costs prevent smaller organizations from adopting blockchain-based counterfeit detection systems.
- 4. User Accessibility Existing blockchain verification interfaces are often complex and technical, limiting adoption among non-technical users.

To overcome these barriers, research should focus on cost-effective, scalable, and regulatory-compliant blockchain models tailored for counterfeit detection.

2.6 Future Directions and Emerging Technologies

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) with blockchain offers exciting possibilities for counterfeit detection. AI-powered anomaly detection algorithms can analyze blockchain transaction patterns, identifying suspicious activities related to counterfeit product distribution.

Subramaniam et al. (2024) explored hybrid AI-blockchain models, where predictive analytics enhance fraud detection in supply chains. Similarly, Priyanka and Parveen (2024) emphasized the need for continuous algorithm refinement, ensuring that AI models remain adaptive to emerging counterfeiting tactics.

Another promising advancement is the use of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) for product authentication. NFTs provide unique digital certificates for physical goods, preventing duplication and ensuring authenticity. Researchers suggest that future counterfeit detection systems could leverage NFT-based product passports, offering consumers an additional layer of verification.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 System Architecture

The proposed blockchain-based fake product identification system is designed to provide a secure, decentralized, and tamper-proof mechanism for product authentication [Kshetri, 2018] [2]. The system ensures that every product's details, from manufacturing to final ownership, are stored immutably on the Ethereum blockchain, preventing unauthorized modifications or counterfeiting [Wang et al., 2020] [1].

The system consists of three primary entities:

- 1. Manufacturers Responsible for registering genuine products on the blockchain.
- 2. Sellers Authenticate and sell registered products, ensuring traceability.
- 3. Consumers Verify product authenticity using a blockchain-based interface.

The interaction between these entities is facilitated through Ethereum smart contracts, which govern product registration, sales transactions, and verification requests [Lokesh et al., 2021] [4]. The system is implemented using Solidity for smart contracts, Truffle and Ganache for development and testing, Web3.js for blockchain interaction, and Metamask for secure transaction signing [Pandey & Litoriya, 2021] [5].





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Fig. 3.1 System Architecture

3.2 Blockchain-Based Product Authentication Model

The proposed model follows a three-step authentication process:

- 1. Product Registration A manufacturer adds a product to the blockchain, assigning it a unique serial number (SN). The smart contract ensures that each SN is unique and immutable.
- 2. Ownership Transfer When a product is sold to a seller or consumer, the smart contract updates the ownership record on the blockchain. This ensures end-to-end traceability.
- 3. Consumer Verification A consumer can verify a product's authenticity by querying the blockchain using the SN. If the SN exists and matches the blockchain record, the product is genuine.

To ensure security and efficiency, all transactions require cryptographic signatures using Metamask wallets, preventing unauthorized modifications.



Fig. 3.2 Product Authentication Model

3.3 Smart Contract Implementation

The system is powered by Solidity-based smart contracts, which automate product authentication without relying on intermediaries. The main functionalities of the smart contract include:

- addProduct(bytes32 _productSN, bytes32 _productName, bytes32 _productBrand) Registers a new product on the blockchain with a unique serial number (SN).
- transferOwnership(bytes32 _productSN, address _newOwner) Updates the product's ownership when sold.
- verifyProduct(bytes32 _productSN) public view returns (bool)
- Checks if the product exists on the blockchain and returns true if it is authentic.

3.4 Frontend and Web3.js Integration

To make the system user-friendly, a web-based interface is developed using HTML, JavaScript, and Web3.js. The Web3.js library allows interaction between the frontend application and the Ethereum blockchain, enabling users to:

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- Register new products
- Transfer ownership
- Verify product authenticity

The verification process works as follows:

- 1. The consumer enters the product serial number into the verification field.
- 2. The Web3.js script queries the Ethereum blockchain via a smart contract function.
- 3. If the product is registered and authentic, the system displays a "Verified" status.





3.5 Deployment and Testing

- To test the system in a controlled environment, the following development and testing tools are used:
 - Truffle Framework For compiling and deploying smart contracts.
 - Ganache A local blockchain simulator for testing transactions.
 - Metamask A browser extension for securely signing Ethereum transactions.

The deployment process includes:

- 1. Compiling the smart contract using the Truffle CLI:
 - truffle compile
- 2. Deploying the contract to a local test network (Ganache): truffle migrate --network development
- 3. Testing functionalities using automated scripts and real transaction simulations.

IV. RESULT & DISCUSSION

4.1 Overview

The blockchain-based fake product identification system was successfully implemented and tested across multiple user roles: manufacturer, seller, and consumer. The system's front-end interface, integrated with Web3.js and Metamask, allowed seamless interaction with the Ethereum blockchain for product registration, ownership transfer, and authentication verification.

The following section provides a comprehensive evaluation of the system's functionality, showcasing the actual interface outputs and analyzing the impact of blockchain on product authenticity verification.

4.2 Manufacturer Dashboard: Product Registration

4.2.1 Interface and Functionality

Upon accessing the Manufacturer Panel, the user is required to authenticate via Metamask to ensure secure identity verification. Once logged in, the manufacturer can register a new product by entering:

- ✓ Product Name
- ✓ Brand Name
- ✓ Unique Serial Number (SN)

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After entering these details and clicking the "Register Product" button, the system triggers a blockchain transaction, storing the product details in the immutable ledger [Wang et al., 2020] [1].



Fig. 4.2.1 Interface/ Dashboard

4.2.2 Observed Results

The transaction is processed in real-time, and a confirmation message is displayed: "Product successfully registered on blockchain. Transaction Hash: 0x123abc..."

Additionally, querying the blockchain for the registered product confirms the successful write operation, demonstrating the tamper-proof nature of blockchain-based registration.



Fig. 4.2.2 Add Product [Manufacturer]

Key Findings:

- The product data remains immutable once recorded [Kshetri, 2018] [2]
- Each transaction is time-stamped and stored on-chain [Subramaniam & Verma, 2024] [11].
- The manufacturer retains ownership until a valid transfer request is initiated[Chaudhary et al., 2022] [3].

4.3 Seller Dashboard: Ownership Transfer

4.3.1 Interface and Functionality

The seller panel allows authorized users to claim product ownership from manufacturers and transfer ownership to customers upon sale.

The seller must:

- ✓ Select the Product Serial Number (SN) from the blockchain registry.
- \checkmark Enter the new owner's Ethereum wallet address.
- \checkmark Confirm the transfer by signing a Metamask transaction.





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Fig. 4.3.1 Seller Interface

4.3.2 Observed Results

After executing the transferOwnership() function, the smart contract updates the ownership, and the new owner is reflected on-chain.

A real-time transaction confirmation is displayed:

"Ownership successfully transferred to Wallet: 0x789xyz..."

To verify the transfer, a blockchain query shows the updated owner's Ethereum address stored against the product SN. Key Findings:

- Ownership cannot be altered arbitrarily—only the registered owner can initiate a transfer.
- Each transaction generates a unique hash, ensuring complete traceability.
- The system successfully prevents fraudulent resale, as every transfer is cryptographically signed.

4.4 Consumer Panel: Product Verification

4.4.1 Interface and Functionality

The most critical feature for end-users is the product authenticity check, allowing consumers to verify whether a purchased item is genuine or counterfeit.

Consumers enter the Product Serial Number (SN) into the system's verification page. The system then queries the blockchain using Web3.js to check if the serial number exists.



Fig. 4.4.1 Consumer Interface

4.4.2 Observed Results

Case 1: Authentic Product

If the serial number is found on the blockchain, the system confirms authenticity and displays:

"Product is Authentic. Registered by BrandX."

Current Owner: 0x789xyz (Seller's Wallet Address)

Transaction History: View on Blockchain Explorer

This assures the buyer that the product is registered, owned, and sold through legitimate channels.





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Case 2: Counterfeit Product

If the serial number does not exist in the blockchain ledger, the system instantly flags it as counterfeit: "Warning! No record found. This product may be counterfeit."

| | Choose Another - Siv12345 prg | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | Or shop an image to scan Boarsueire camera draeth | |
| | 8v12545 | |
| Process on | | |
| Consumer Code | | |
| 80 | | |
| Ged Procket Shieur | | |
| Is the product sold to cuns | sumer is fake or not? | |
| Product Verification Result | | |
| Genuine Product | | |
| | | |

Fig. 4.4.2 Product Verification

Key Findings:

- The verification process occurs in real-time, with blockchain queries taking less than 3 seconds.
- Counterfeit detection is 100% accurate, as only registered products exist in the system.
- Consumers gain a trustworthy verification tool, improving brand protection.

4.5 Performance Evaluation

To assess the system's efficiency, key performance metrics were analyzed:

Table 4.5 Performance Evaluation

| Metric | Observed Value | Remarks |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Transaction Time | 3-5 seconds per operation | Efficient execution with minimal delay |
| Gas Fee (Ethereum) | 0.0005 - 0.002 ETH | Varies based on blockchain network traffic |
| Storage Immutability | 100% Tamper-proof | Data cannot be altered once recorded |
| Fraud Detection Rate | 100% (on registered items) | No false positives in blockchain queries |

These results confirm that blockchain-based authentication is both feasible and highly secure, ensuring reliable counterfeit detection.

4.6 Comparative Discussion

Traditional anti-counterfeit systems rely on centralized databases, which are susceptible to hacking, data manipulation, and unauthorized access. This blockchain-based approach offers several advantages:

Table 4.6 Comparison between tradition system and blockchain system

| Feature | Traditional Systems | Proposed Blockchain System |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Data Storage | Centralized Database | Decentralized Blockchain |
| Tamper-proof | No | Yes |
| Ownership Traceability | Limited | Full Ownership History |
| Consumer Verification | Requires Database Access | Publicly Verifiable on Blockchain |
| Security | Susceptible to Hacking | Cryptographically Secure |

The proposed system eliminates single points of failure, making it resistant to fraud and data tampering.





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V. FUTURE WORK & CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion

The proliferation of counterfeit products poses a severe challenge to industries ranging from pharmaceuticals to luxury goods. Traditional anti-counterfeiting mechanisms such as QR codes, RFID tags, and centralized databases suffer from vulnerabilities, including data tampering, replication, and dependency on trusted third parties. This study introduced a blockchain-based fake product identification system that leverages Ethereum smart contracts to establish a decentralized, tamper-proof authentication mechanism.

The system was successfully implemented using Solidity for smart contract development, Truffle and Ganache for local deployment, Web3.js for frontend interaction, and Metamask for secure transaction signing. The evaluation demonstrated that the system provides real-time, immutable product verification, preventing counterfeit goods from entering the supply chain. Comparative analysis with traditional methods revealed that blockchain enhances security, ensures transparency, and reduces reliance on intermediaries.

Performance testing confirmed that product verification remains fast even with increasing data loads, while product registration and ownership transfer require gas fee optimizations to improve cost efficiency. Security evaluations further validated that the smart contract-based model prevents unauthorized modifications and ensures role-based access control, mitigating risks associated with centralized authentication systems.

Despite its effectiveness, the system faces challenges such as Ethereum gas fees, user adoption barriers, and regulatory compliance complexities. Addressing these limitations requires further research into cost-efficient deployment models, user-friendly interfaces, and integration with legal frameworks.

5.2 Future Scope

While the blockchain-based counterfeit detection system provides a robust solution for product authentication, there are several areas for future improvement and expansion.

5.2.1 AI-Powered Fraud Detection

Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the blockchain system can significantly enhance fraud detection capabilities. AI models can analyze transaction patterns, detect anomalies, and predict counterfeit activities, further strengthening supply chain security.

5.2.2 NFT-Based Product Ownership

The adoption of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) can offer an additional layer of authentication by providing a unique digital identity for each product. NFT-based authentication allows consumers to verify ownership and authenticity through blockchain-based certificates, preventing counterfeiting even in luxury and high-value goods markets.

5.2.3 IoT Integration for Real-Time Monitoring

Combining blockchain with Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and RFID technology can enable real-time tracking of product movement, ensuring that items are stored and transported securely. IoT devices can record temperature, humidity, and location data, which can be logged onto the blockchain to verify that a product has been handled properly.

5.2.4 Layer 2 Solutions for Cost Optimization

Deploying the system on Ethereum Layer 2 solutions such as Polygon, Arbitrum, or Optimism can significantly reduce transaction costs and improve scalability. By processing transactions off-chain while maintaining Ethereum's security, Layer 2 networks provide a cost-effective alternative for large-scale counterfeit prevention.

5.2.5 Cross-Industry Adoption and Standardization

For blockchain-based counterfeit detection to be widely adopted, global standardization of authentication protocols is required. Future research should focus on developing cross-industry frameworks that allow businesses across different sectors to integrate blockchain authentication seamlessly. Collaboration between governments, regulatory bodies, and industry leaders can facilitate the widespread implementation of blockchain in counterfeit prevention.





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5.3 Final Remarks

This study demonstrated that blockchain technology provides a secure, transparent, and decentralized method for counterfeit detection. By leveraging Ethereum smart contracts and Web3.js-based frontend interactions, the system eliminates manual verification dependencies and enhances consumer trust through tamper-proof product authentication. Although challenges such as gas fees, scalability, and regulatory barriers remain, ongoing advancements in AI, NFTs, IoT, and Layer 2 solutions will further optimize blockchain-based authentication mechanisms. With continued research and industry collaboration, blockchain has the potential to revolutionize supply chain security, reduce financial losses from counterfeiting, and protect consumers from fraudulent products.

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