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A Survey on: Legal Chain Vault Using Blockchain

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Abstract: *In the face of escalating crime rates accompanying rapid urbanization, traditional criminal record systems face challenges of tampering and inefficiency. The Paper proposes a blockchain-based solution, leveraging the decentralization and immutability of blockchain to create a secure and transparent network for legal records. By utilizing peer-to-peer networks, this system ensures easy accessibility while safeguarding data integrity through the immutability feature of blockchain. The decentralized nature of the blockchain reduces corruption risks, allowing third parties to monitor tamperproof transactions and promoting objectivity in criminal record management. The blockchain-based approach not only enhances transparency and accountability in criminal record keeping but also facilitates timely access to authentic records for law enforcement authorities. The Paper aims to revolutionize record management, making it more efficient, secure, and conducive to effective law enforcement in evolving urban environments.*

Keywords: *Blockchain, Smart Contracts, Decentralized System, Metamask Wallet.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Blockchain functions as a collaborative and unalterable ledger, streamlining the recording of transactions and monitoring assets within a business network. These assets encompass both tangible items like houses, cars, cash, and land, as well as intangible elements such as intellectual property, patents, copyrights, and branding.

Blockchain comprises a digital framework that enables electronic record-keeping, validation, and verification, eliminating the necessity for intermediaries. This technology ensures that data are accessible to all involved parties, making all information transparent and unalterable, effectively preventing any tampering or deletion of records. Blockchain adheres to a set of guiding principles, including governance, accountability, transparency, flexibility, availability, usability, manageability, and sustainability.

Blockchain holds considerable significance as it lies in its pivotal role in the realm of business information management. Rapid and precise information dissemination is crucial for operational efficiency, and blockchain emerges as an ideal solution by offering instantaneous, shared, and entirely transparent data stored on an unalterable ledger accessible exclusively to authorized network participants. Through a blockchain network, diverse facets such as order tracking, payment processing, account management, and production oversight can be seamlessly monitored. The collaborative nature of this technology ensures that all network members possess a unified and unambiguous perspective of each transaction, instilling confidence while unlocking novel efficiencies and opportunities. Blockchain functionalities are operated by recording each transaction as a "block" of data, capturing the movement of assets, whether tangible (such as a product) or intangible (like intellectual property). Within the data block, various information can be documented, including details like who initiated the transaction, what occurred, when it happened, where, how much was involved, and even specific conditions, such as the temperature during a food shipment. These blocks are interconnected sequentially, forming a chain of data that traces the journey of an asset as it changes location or ownership. Importantly, the blocks validate the precise timing and order of transactions, and their secure linkage prevents any tampering or insertion of blocks between existing ones. Benefits of blockchain are operational inefficiencies stemming from redundant record-keeping and reliance on third-party validations demand a transformative shift. Existing record-keeping systems are susceptible to fraud and cyber threats, impeding transparency and hampering data verification. The surge in transaction volumes due to the advent of IoT further exacerbates these challenges. This impediment not only hampers business agility but also erodes the bottom line, necessitating a more effective solution. Enter blockchain.

- 1) **Enhanced Trust:** As part of an exclusive members-only network in blockchain, confidence in the accuracy and timeliness of data is paramount. Confidential blockchain records are selectively shared only with network members explicitly granted access, fostering a heightened sense of trust.
- 2) **Heightened Security:** Blockchain mandates consensus on data accuracy from all network participants, ensuring immutability of validated transactions recorded permanently. Notably, no entity, including system administrators, can delete a transaction, reinforcing the security framework.

- 3) *Increased Efficiencies*: By leveraging a distributed ledger shared among network members, the cumbersome process of time-consuming record reconciliations is eradicated. Additionally, to expedite transactions, predefined rules encapsulated in smart contracts can be stored on the blockchain, facilitating automatic execution.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The Importance of Legal chain Vault in today's digital age, the management and storage of legal records have become increasingly vital for businesses and organizations. The traditional approach of maintaining physical copies of documents in filing cabinets is not only cumbersome but also prone to loss, damage, or theft. This is where Vault for legal records come into play. Vault provide a secure and efficient way to store, manage, and access legal records electronically[1]. In this article, we will delve into the importance of Vault for legal records and explore their benefits and features.

A. *The Evolution of Legal Record Management*

1) *Traditional Paper-Based Systems*

In the past, legal record management relied heavily on paper-based systems. Law firms, government agencies, and businesses had to store vast amounts of documents in physical filing cabinets. Retrieving specific records was time-consuming, often requiring manual searching through hundreds or even thousands of files. Additionally, physical documents were susceptible to damage from fire, floods, or other unforeseen circumstances.

2) *The Rise of Electronic Document Management Systems*

With advancements in technology, electronic document management systems (EDMS) emerged as a more efficient way to handle legal records. EDMS allowed for the digitization of documents, making them easily searchable and accessible. However, without a secure and reliable storage solution, legal records could still be at risk.

B. *What is an Vault?*

An e-vault, or electronic vault, is a secure digital repository designed specifically for the storage and management of legal records[2]. It provides a centralized location where organizations can store, organize, and retrieve their electronic documents securely. Vault offer robust features and encryption protocols to safeguard sensitive information, ensuring compliance with legal.

C. *Benefits of Vault for Legal Records*

1) *Enhanced Security and Privacy*

One of the primary benefits of Vault is the enhanced security and privacy they offer. Vault employ advanced encryption algorithms to protect sensitive legal records from unauthorized access. With role-based access controls, organizations can restrict document access to authorized individuals, ensuring that only those with the appropriate permissions can view, edit, or delete records.

2) *Improved Accessibility and Collaboration*

Vault eliminate the need for physical file cabinets and manual document retrieval. Legal records stored in Vault can be accessed from any location with an internet connection. This enables remote work and facilitates collaboration among team members, regardless of their physical location. Multiple users can simultaneously work on the same document, making collaboration seamless and efficient.

3) *Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity*

In the event of a natural disaster or unforeseen circumstances, physical documents are at risk of being damaged or lost. Vault provide a reliable backup and disaster recovery solution for legal records. By storing documents in multiple secure locations, organizations can ensure business continuity even in the face of adversity[3].

4) *Cost and Space Savings*

Maintaining physical filing cabinets for legal records requires significant space and resources. Vault eliminate the need for physical storage, freeing up valuable office space. Additionally, the costs associated with printing, photocopying, and distributing physical documents are significantly reduced with Vault.

D. Features of Vault

1) Document Indexing and Search Functionality

Vault provide robust document indexing and search functionality, enabling efficient retrieval of specific legal records. Users can tag documents with relevant keywords and metadata, making it easier to locate files based on specific criteria. Advanced search algorithms further enhance the search capabilities, saving time and effort.

2) Version Control and Audit Trails

Legal records often undergo revisions and updates. Vault offer version control features that track changes made to documents, ensuring a clear audit trail. This feature is particularly crucial in legal proceedings where the integrity and accuracy of records are paramount.

3) Integration with Existing Systems

Vault can seamlessly integrate with existing software applications, such as customer relationship management (CRM) systems or case management systems[4]. This allows for a smooth workflow and eliminates the need for manual data entry or duplication of efforts.

4) Compliance and Legal Considerations

a) *Regulatory Compliance:* Organizations handling legal records must comply with various regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or industry-specific standards. Vault provide features and safeguards that help organizations meet these regulatory requirements, including data encryption, access controls, and audit trails.

b) *Electronic Signatures and Authentication:* Vault often include features for electronic signatures and authentication, ensuring the validity and authenticity of legal records. These features streamline the signing process, eliminating the need for physical signatures and allowing for secure and efficient transactions[5].

5) Considerations for Choosing an Vault Provider

a) *Security Measures:* When selecting an e-vault provider, it is crucial to assess their security measures. Look for providers that employ robust encryption protocols, multi-factor authentication, and regular security audits. Additionally, consider the physical security of the data centers where the e-vault is hosted.

b) *Scalability and Flexibility:* Organizations' storage needs can vary over time. Choose an e-vault provider that offers scalable solutions, allowing for the expansion or reduction of storage capacity as required[6]. Additionally, consider the flexibility of the e-vault platform to integrate with existing systems and workflows.

III. OBJECTIVES

1) *Immutability and Security:* Utilize blockchain's inherent properties, such as immutability and cryptographic security, to ensure that legal records stored in the Vault cannot be tampered with or altered. This enhances the integrity and reliability of legal documentation.

2) *Transparency and Accountability:* Leverage the transparent nature of blockchain to provide a clear and auditable trail of changes and access to legal records. This ensures accountability and reduces the risk of unauthorized modifications.

3) *Efficient Record Keeping:* Streamline the process of recording and managing legal records by using blockchain's decentralized and distributed ledger. This eliminates the need for a centralized authority, reducing administrative complexities and enhancing efficiency.

4) *Traceability and Auditability:* Enable easy tracing of the history of legal records, tracking every change or access. This feature aids in audits, investigations, and compliance checks, providing a comprehensive and transparent record of all interactions with the legal documentation.

5) *Smart Contracts for Automation:* Implement smart contracts on the blockchain to automate certain legal processes and enforce predefined rules. This can facilitate faster execution of contracts, reduce manual errors, and enhance overall efficiency in legal transactions.

6) *Access Control and Privacy:* Employ blockchain's cryptographic features to implement robust access controls, ensuring that only authorized individuals or entities have access to specific legal records. This enhances privacy and confidentiality in legal transactions.

- 7) *Cross-Organization Collaboration*: Facilitate secure collaboration and information sharing among different organizations involved in legal processes. Blockchain can provide a shared platform for multiple parties to access and update legal records while maintaining trust and security.
- 8) *Compliance and Regulatory Alignment*: Ensure that the Vault and associated processes comply with legal and regulatory requirements. Blockchain can assist in creating a transparent and auditable environment that aligns with the regulatory standards for legal documentation.
- 9) *Disaster Recovery and Redundancy*: Leverage the distributed nature of blockchain to enhance disaster recovery capabilities. Legal records stored in the Vault can have redundant copies across multiple nodes, reducing the risk of data loss due to technical failures or disasters.

IV. METHODOLOGIES

- 1) *Decentralized and Immutable Ledger*: Blockchain provides a decentralized and distributed ledger where legal records can be stored. Each participant in the network has a copy of the entire blockchain, ensuring redundancy and security. The information stored on the blockchain is immutable, meaning once a record is added, it cannot be altered or deleted. This ensures the integrity of legal documents.
- 2) *Smart Contracts*: Smart contracts are self-executing contracts with the terms of the agreement directly written into code. They automate and enforce the execution of contractual clauses. In the context of legal records, smart contracts can be used to automate various processes, such as contract execution, verification, and compliance.
- 3) *Security and Encryption*: Blockchain networks often use robust cryptographic techniques to secure data. Private and public keys are used to control access to information, ensuring that only authorized parties can view or modify specific records.
- 4) *Timestamping and Versioning*: Blockchain provides a timestamp for each transaction, creating a chronological and verifiable record of events. This feature is crucial in legal contexts, where the timing of events is often significant. Versioning of documents can also be managed efficiently using blockchain, ensuring that the entire history of changes is transparent and accessible.
- 5) *Interoperability*: Blockchain can facilitate interoperability between different systems and parties. This can be particularly useful in legal settings where multiple entities may need access to specific records.

V. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) *Jupyter Notebook*: Jupyter notebook is an open-source application, it is used for scientific computing. The main goal of the Jupyter notebook is to combine equations, visualizations and live code. It provides support for more than 40 programming languages. The name Jupyter is derived from the words Julia, Python and R. Jupyter is mainly built for data science and analytics application, it can be installed using the Python pip command whereas in Anaconda it is installed by default. The data sets such as graphics and charts.
- 2) *Ganache*: Ganache is an open-source tool and is available for free. It is used to create a controlled, user-friendly, and efficient environment for Ethereum developers to build, test, and debug smart contracts and DApps. It's an invaluable tool for Ethereum development, enabling developers to ensure the quality and functionality of their blockchain-based applications before deploying them to the live Ethereum network. Developers can quickly iterate and test their smart contracts, making development more efficient. Ganache offers instant block mining, allowing for near-instant transactions and contract deployments.
- 3) *MetaMask*: MetaMask is a popular Ethereum wallet and browser extension that can be used. MetaMask serves as a digital wallet for participants in the vault for legal records. MetaMask is used to hold and manage their cryptocurrency assets, which may be used for transactions, payments, and smart contract interactions within the supply chain. MetaMask allows users to interact with decentralized applications (DApps) built on the Ethereum blockchain.
- 4) *Ethereum*: Ethereum is a decentralized blockchain platform that can be used in the vault for legal records to bring transparency, efficiency and trust to various processes. Ethereum allows the creation and execution of smart contracts, which are self-executing agreements with predefined rules. In the vault for legal records, smart contracts can automate various processes.
- 5) *Solidity*: Solidity is a programming language specifically designed for writing smart contracts on blockchain platforms, with Ethereum being one of the primary blockchains that Solidity is used for. A smart contract is a self-executing contract where the terms of the agreement are written directly into code.

- 6) *Web Development*: HTML, CSS, and JavaScript: Fundamental web technologies for designing and creating web pages and interactivity. XAMPP (Cross-platform, Apache, MySQL, PHP, Perl) is an open-source web server package that simplifies the setup of a local web development environment by combining Apache, MySQL, PHP, and Perl.

VI. CONCLUSION

The advent of e-vaults has ushered in a transformative era in the realm of legal record management, introducing a paradigm shift marked by heightened security measures, improved accessibility, and collaborative functionalities. Organizations are increasingly recognizing the manifold benefits that come with embracing e-vault solutions, as they offer a streamlined approach to record management processes. This transition not only translates to significant cost reductions but also ensures that organizations remain in lockstep with legal and regulatory requirements. In the face of the legal industry's accelerating digitization, the adoption of e-vaults for managing legal records is swiftly becoming indispensable. For organizations aspiring to achieve heightened efficiency, bolstered productivity, and unwavering compliance, the integration of an e-vault system is paramount in attaining peace of mind in an evolving digital landscape.

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