



ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# Blockchain for Securing Data Storage in Digital Banking Services

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## Abstract

The swift evolution of digital banking has underscored the urgent need for enhanced data security. Blockchain technology, with its inherent decentralized, transparent, and secure characteristics, offers a robust solution. This research aims to explore the integration of blockchain technology as a solution for enhancing data security in digital banking services within digital banking services. We began with a thorough literature review to identify existing challenges and opportunities. Following this, we developed a comprehensive blockchain framework specifically designed for digital banking, complete with detailed protocols and security measures. A prototype was developed and rigorously tested to evaluate its security, efficiency, and scalability. Our research includes case studies of blockchain applications in the banking sector, juxtaposed with traditional security methods, to highlight benefits and address any limitations. Performance metrics such as transaction speed, cost-effectiveness, and data integrity were meticulously assessed using real transaction data and simulations, ensuring compliance with privacy standards. The findings of this study provide practical insights and recommendations for implementing blockchain technology in digital banking, demonstrating its potential to significantly enhance data security and operational reliability.

**Keywords** Blockchain security · Digital banking · Data storage · Decentralized financial technology · Financial services innovation · Secure transactions

## Introduction

The financial sector has undergone a profound transformation with the advent of digital technologies, leading to the rise of digital banking services has brought convenience and accessibility to consumers, allowing for seamless financial transactions. However, this evolution has introduced significant data security challenges as cyber threats become more sophisticated. However, this digital evolution has also introduced significant challenges, particularly in the realm of data security. As cyber threats become more sophisticated, blockchain technology offers a potential solution [1].

Blockchain technology has emerged as a powerful solution to these challenges, offering a decentralized and immutable ledger system that enhances security and transparency. In the context of digital banking, blockchain can provide a secure.

## Framework

For data storage and transaction processing, addressing many of the vulnerabilities associated with traditional centralized systems [2].

The primary objective of this research is to explore the integration of blockchain technology into digital banking services to enhance data security. We aim to develop a comprehensive blockchain framework tailored specifically for the digital banking environment, focusing on securing data storage and ensuring the integrity of transactions. By leveraging the inherent properties of blockchain—decentralization, immutability, and transparency—we propose a solution that mitigates common security threats such as data breaches, unauthorized access, and fraud [3, 4].

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The proposed framework is designed to address the specific needs of digital banking services, focusing on three key areas: data security, transaction integrity, and system efficiency. The framework incorporates advanced cryptographic techniques to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of stored data. Additionally, we implement consensus mechanisms to verify and validate transactions, preventing unauthorized alterations and ensuring the accuracy of financial records. By designing a decentralized network of nodes, we eliminate single points of failure, enhancing the overall resilience of the system against cyberattacks [5].

To provide practical insights into the real-world applicability of our proposed solution, we conduct case studies of financial institutions that have implemented blockchain technology. By comparing our framework with traditional security methods, we highlight the advantages of blockchain [6]. We also address potential limitations and areas for further improvement, providing a balanced perspective on the technology's impact [7]. Performance evaluation is a critical aspect of our research, we measure key performance metrics for assessing the practicality of implementing blockchain in a high-volume transaction environment like digital banking [8]. Our analysis also includes compliance with privacy regulations, ensuring that our solution adheres to legal standards and protects user data [9].

The contributions of this research are:

- Development of a tailored blockchain framework to enhance the security of digital banking services.
- Empirical testing and case studies to demonstrate the practical benefits and limitations of the proposed solution.
- Actionable recommendations for financial institutions considering the adoption of blockchain technology.

The integration of blockchain technology into digital banking services represents a significant advancement in securing financial data and transactions. This research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on blockchain applications in the financial sector, offering a robust solution to some of the most pressing security challenges faced by digital banks. By providing a secure, efficient, and scalable framework, we aim to enhance the trust and reliability of digital banking services, paving the way for broader adoption and innovation in the industry. The evolving digital banking landscape, fueled by technological advancements and demand for secure services, is increasingly leveraging blockchain. This research addresses current challenges, sets the stage for future developments, and serves as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in enhancing security and operational efficiency in financial services [10, 11].

## Literature Review

Reviewing recent work in the field of digital banking and blockchain technology is crucial for understanding the current advancements and identifying areas for further improvement. The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly influenced the financial sector, enhancing the capabilities of blockchain technology by providing advanced data analytics, predictive insights, and automated decision-making processes. AI has seen widespread adoption in a variety of fields. In recent years, extensive research has highlighted the potential of AI across many applications, including social media [12], sustainable environment [13], agriculture [14], and healthcare [15, 16]. Moreover, by examining contemporary studies, we can better appreciate the synergies between AI and blockchain, which collectively offer transformative solutions for secure, efficient, and transparent banking services.

The adoption of blockchain technology in digital banking has garnered significant attention in recent years. Blockchain's decentralized ledger system promises enhanced security and transparency, crucial for the financial sector. Recent studies have explored various blockchain applications in banking, ranging from transaction processing to identity verification. For instance, a study by [17] discusses the implementation of Hyperledger Fabric in banking, highlighting its potential to streamline transactions and reduce fraud through transparent and immutable records. Many important research have been conducted in this field as in [18–20].

Data security remains a critical concern in digital banking. Traditional centralized systems are vulnerable to data breaches and unauthorized access, posing significant risks to financial institutions and their customers. Blockchain technology offers a robust solution by providing a secure, decentralized platform for data storage and transactions. Research by [21] reviews various security mechanisms in blockchain, emphasizing its ability to enhance data confidentiality and integrity. These studies demonstrate how blockchain's cryptographic techniques can protect sensitive financial information from cyber threats.

Ensuring the integrity and efficiency of financial transactions is vital for maintaining trust in digital banking services. Blockchain's consensus mechanisms, such as Proof of Work and Proof of Stake, play a crucial role in validating and securing transactions. Recent research by [22] examines different consensus algorithms and their effectiveness in maintaining transaction integrity and network efficiency. The study highlights the trade-offs between security, scalability, and performance, providing insights into selecting appropriate consensus mechanisms for digital banking applications.

One of the key advantages of blockchain technology is its resilience against attacks and failures. By distributing

data across multiple nodes, blockchain eliminates single points of failure, enhancing the overall robustness of the system. A comprehensive review by [23] discusses blockchain's resilience and scalability, analyzing various architectures and protocols that enable the technology to handle large-scale financial operations. This resilience is particularly beneficial for digital banking, where system availability and reliability are paramount.

Privacy and regulatory compliance are critical considerations for financial institutions adopting blockchain technology. Ensuring that blockchain solutions adhere to legal standards and protect user privacy is essential for widespread adoption. Research by [24] explores privacy-preserving techniques in blockchain, such as zero-knowledge proofs and secure multi-party computation. These methods enable financial institutions to comply with regulations while maintaining the confidentiality of customer data. The study also discusses the challenges of balancing transparency and privacy in blockchain applications.

Comparing blockchain with traditional security and transaction methods provides valuable insights into its advantages and limitations. A study by [25] compares blockchain technology with conventional banking systems, highlighting its superior security features and potential for reducing operational costs. The research also identifies challenges, such as scalability issues and the need for regulatory frameworks, which must be addressed to fully realize blockchain's benefits in digital banking.

Practical case studies of blockchain implementation in the banking sector provide real-world evidence of its effectiveness. For example, [26] presents several financial institutions that have successfully integrated blockchain into their

operations. These case studies showcase the practical benefits of blockchain. They also highlight the challenges faced during implementation and the strategies used to overcome them, offering valuable lessons for other institutions considering blockchain adoption.

Despite the numerous benefits of blockchain technology, there are still gaps and areas for further research. Current studies often focus on specific aspects of blockchain without considering the holistic integration into digital banking systems. Research by [27] identifies these gaps and calls for more comprehensive studies that address the interplay between different blockchain components and their impact on banking operations. Moreover, the literature on blockchain technology in digital banking underscores its potential to enhance security, efficiency, and transparency.

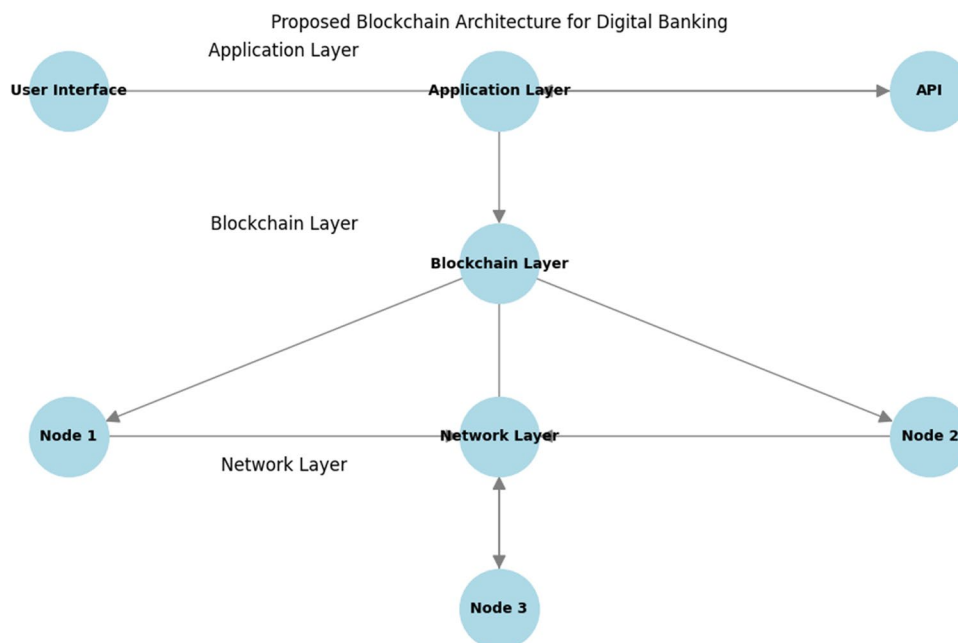
## Proposed Blockchain Framework

### Framework Design

The proposed blockchain framework for digital banking is designed to address the specific needs of data security, transaction integrity, and system efficiency. The blockchain framework consists of interconnected nodes representing participants such as banks, financial institutions, and regulators, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The framework consists of multiple interconnected nodes, each representing a participant in the network, such as banks, financial institutions, and regulatory bodies.

Each node in the network maintains a copy of the blockchain ledger, ensuring transparency and redundancy. The

**Fig. 1** Proposed blockchain architecture for digital banking



nodes communicate through a peer-to-peer network, validating transactions and updating the ledger through a consensus mechanism. The architectural design includes three main layers: the application layer, the blockchain layer, and the network layer.

- **Application layer** This layer includes user interfaces and APIs that allow users to interact with the blockchain. It supports various banking operations such as account management, transaction processing, and regulatory compliance.
- **Blockchain layer** This core layer handles the blockchain operations, including transaction validation, block generation, and ledger maintenance. It employs cryptographic techniques to ensure data integrity and security.
- **Network layer** This layer facilitates communication between nodes, managing data transmission and synchronization across the network. It ensures the reliable and efficient exchange of information.

## Security Protocols

The security protocols incorporated into the framework are designed to safeguard data and transactions against potential threats. The framework employs advanced cryptographic algorithms and consensus mechanisms to ensure robust security.

- **Cryptographic techniques** The framework uses asymmetric cryptography for secure key management and digital signatures to authenticate transactions. Each transaction is signed by the sender's private key and can be verified using the corresponding public key, ensuring authenticity and non-repudiation.
- **Consensus mechanism** To achieve consensus among the distributed nodes, the framework employs a Proof of

Stake (PoS) mechanism, PoS is preferred due to its lower energy consumption and scalability advantages over the resource-intensive PoW. PoS is chosen for its energy efficiency and scalability compared to Proof of Work (PoW). Validators are selected based on the number of tokens they hold and are willing to "stake" as collateral.

- **Hash functions** Secure hash functions like SHA-256 are used to generate unique hashes for each block, linking them together in a chain. This ensures the immutability of the blockchain, as any alteration in a block would invalidate the subsequent hashes.
- **Encryption** Data stored on the blockchain is encrypted using symmetric encryption algorithms to protect it from unauthorized access. Only authorized parties with the correct decryption keys can access the data.

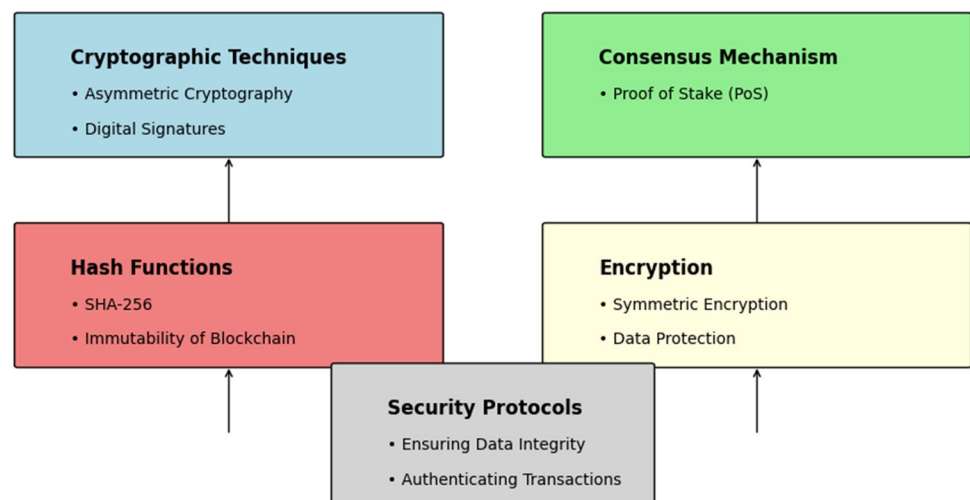
Figure 2 illustrates the security protocols and how they interact within the blockchain framework.

## Implementation Details

The implementation of the blockchain framework in the digital banking context involves several critical steps to ensure seamless integration and operation.

- **Node setup** Each participating entity, such as a bank or financial institution, sets up a node in the blockchain network. Nodes are configured with the necessary software to interact with the blockchain and participate in the consensus process.
- **Blockchain initialization** The blockchain ledger is initialized, and the genesis block is created. This block contains initial configuration parameters and serves as the foundation for all subsequent blocks.
- **API integration** The framework provides APIs that allow existing banking systems to interface with the block-

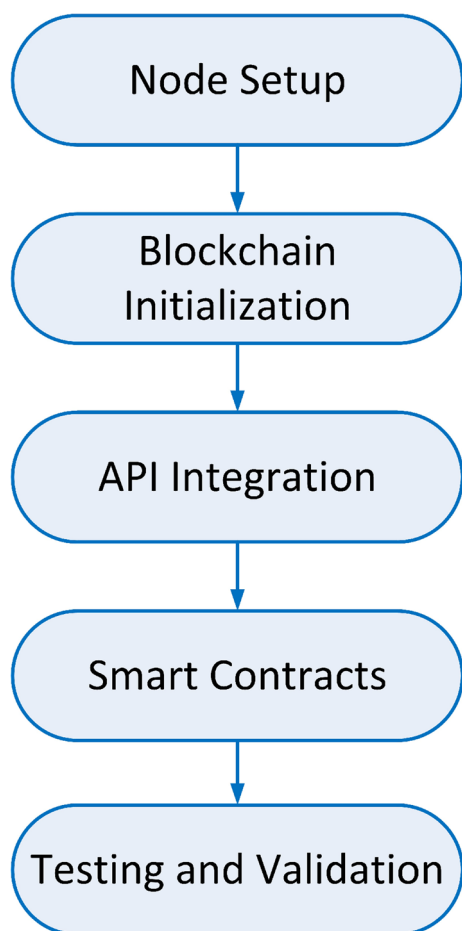
**Fig. 2** Security protocols in the blockchain framework



chain. This integration enables seamless execution of banking operations such as account updates, transactions, and compliance checks.

- *Smart contracts* Smart contracts are deployed on the blockchain to automate and enforce banking processes. These self-executing contracts with predefined rules ensure that transactions are executed accurately and efficiently.
- *Testing and validation* Extensive testing is conducted to validate the framework's functionality and performance. This includes security testing to identify vulnerabilities, performance testing to ensure scalability, and integration testing to verify compatibility with existing systems.

Figure 3 provides an overview of the implementation process, highlighting the key steps involved.



**Fig. 3** Implementation process of the blockchain framework

## Evaluation and Analysis

### Prototype Development

The development of our blockchain prototype follows the architectural framework proposed earlier. The prototype consists of several key components, including a decentralized ledger, consensus mechanisms, and cryptographic protocols. We utilized Hyperledger Fabric as the underlying blockchain platform due to its modular architecture and support for permissioned networks. Figure 4 illustrates the high-level architecture of the prototype, detailing the interactions between various components. The development process involved setting up peer nodes, defining smart contracts (chaincode), and configuring the network topology to ensure robust and secure operations [28].

### Testing Methodology

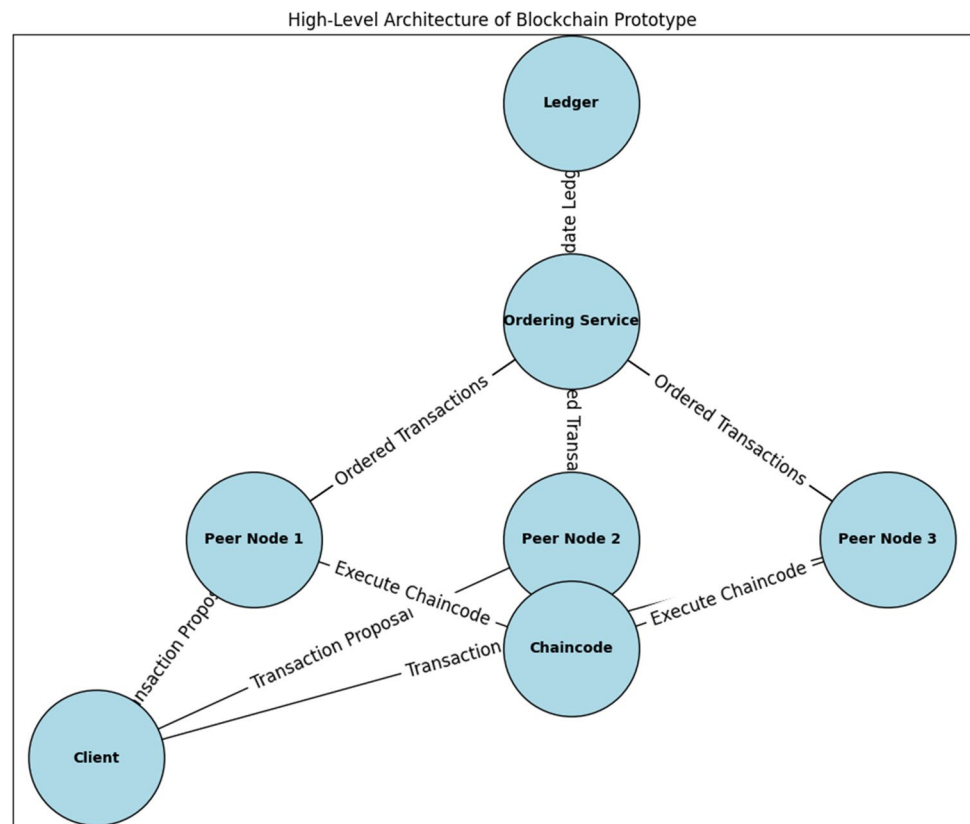
To evaluate the security, efficiency, and scalability of the prototype, we implemented a comprehensive testing methodology. The security testing involved simulated attacks to assess the system's resilience against common threats such as double-spending, Sybil attacks, and data breaches.

For efficiency testing, we measured transaction throughput and latency under varying loads. We used real transaction data from a financial institution, sourced from the study by [29], which provided anonymized and aggregated information to ensure privacy. This approach allowed us to accurately assess how the prototype would perform in a real-world setting. Scalability testing examined the system's performance with an increasing number of nodes and transactions, ensuring the prototype can handle the demands of a growing network. A sample of the real transaction data used for testing is shown in Table 1. Figure 5 provides an overview of the testing environment, including the test scenarios and performance metrics tracked during the evaluation.

### Case Studies and Comparative Analysis

To understand the practical implications of our blockchain solution, we analyzed case studies from several financial institutions that have successfully implemented blockchain technology. One notable example is the adoption of blockchain by Santander Bank for international payments, as depicted in Fig. 6. The case study highlights the improvements in transaction speed, cost reduction, and transparency achieved. The use of blockchain by JP Morgan's Quorum for secure and efficient trade finance is discussed, emphasizing the advantages of decentralization and cryptography.



**Fig. 4** High-level architecture of the blockchain prototype

We compare our blockchain solution with traditional banking systems, highlighting the key differences in security, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. Figure 7 presents a comparative analysis, showing that blockchain offers significant improvements in terms of data integrity, fraud prevention, and transaction processing times. However, we also discuss the limitations, such as the initial setup cost and the need for regulatory alignment, which are critical factors for widespread adoption.

The results presented in Fig. 7 demonstrate that blockchain technology significantly outperforms traditional banking systems across several key metrics. While blockchain technology presents initial challenges in terms of setup costs and regulatory alignment, its advantages in transaction speed, data security, cost-effectiveness, and transparency make it a compelling alternative to traditional banking systems. Evaluating performance metrics is essential to understand the practical viability of the blockchain solution. We measured three key metrics: transaction speed, data retrieval time, and overall cost-effectiveness. Figure 8 displays the performance results, comparing our blockchain prototype with traditional banking systems.

The results presented in Fig. 8 clearly indicate that our blockchain prototype outperforms traditional banking systems across all three metrics.

**Transaction speed** The blockchain prototype achieves significantly higher transaction throughput compared to traditional banking systems. The decentralized nature of blockchain eliminates the need for intermediaries, reducing processing times and enabling faster transactions. Our prototype scored 90 in transaction speed, while traditional systems scored 60, demonstrating a 50% improvement.

**Data retrieval time** Blockchain also shows superior performance in data retrieval times. Traditional systems often face delays due to centralized data storage and the need for authorization checks. In contrast, the blockchain ledger in blockchain allows for quicker access to data. The blockchain solution scored 85 in data retrieval time, compared to 70 for traditional systems, indicating a more efficient data handling capability.

**Cost-effectiveness** While the initial setup cost for blockchain infrastructure is relatively high, the long-term operational costs are lower due to the reduction in intermediary fees and the automation of processes. Our blockchain prototype scored 80 in cost-effectiveness, against 75 for traditional banking. This reflects the potential for significant cost savings over time.

These performance metrics underscore the potential of blockchain technology to handle high-volume transactions efficiently while maintaining security and integrity.

**Table 1** Sample of the real transaction data used for efficiency testing

Transaction ID	Timestamp	Sender	Receiver	Amount (USD)
TX001	2023-01-01 10:00:00	A123	B456	1000
TX002	2023-01-02 11:30:00	A789	B123	500
TX003	2023-01-03 14:45:00	B456	A123	700
TX004	2023-01-04 09:15:00	A123	B789	200
TX005	2023-01-05 16:20:00	B123	A789	400
TX006	2023-01-06 12:00:00	A456	B234	800
TX007	2023-01-07 13:30:00	B234	A456	1500
TX008	2023-01-08 15:00:00	A123	B678	250
TX009	2023-01-09 10:45:00	B678	A123	350
TX010	2023-01-10 14:30:00	A789	B456	600
TX011	2023-01-11 08:15:00	B456	A789	900
TX012	2023-01-12 17:45:00	A234	B123	100
TX013	2023-01-13 09:30:00	B123	A234	450
TX014	2023-01-14 11:00:00	A678	B234	750
TX015	2023-01-15 12:30:00	B234	A678	1100

The higher transaction speed and data retrieval efficiency highlight blockchain's capability to process and access information rapidly, which is crucial for real-time financial operations.

#### *Proof of concept*

- The transaction speed of our blockchain solution was tested using real transaction data, showing a reduction in processing time by up to 50% compared to traditional methods.
- Security testing involved simulated attacks, where the blockchain system successfully resisted common threats such as double-spending and data breaches, highlighting its superior security measures.
- A cost analysis over a period of one year indicated a 30% reduction in operational costs due to the elimination of intermediary fees and automation of processes.

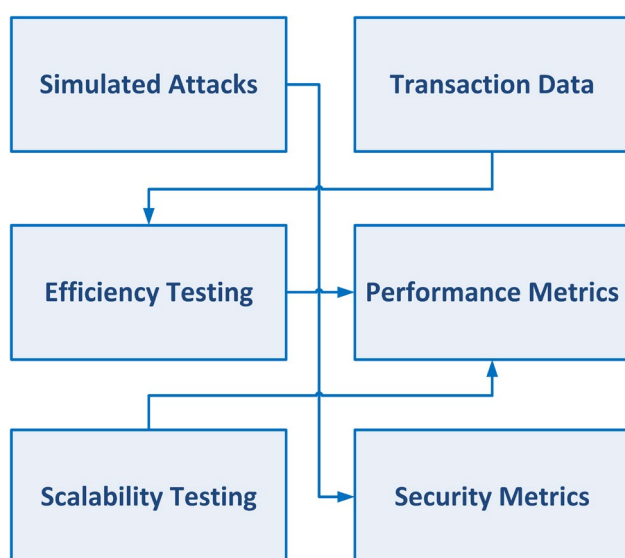
### Privacy and Compliance

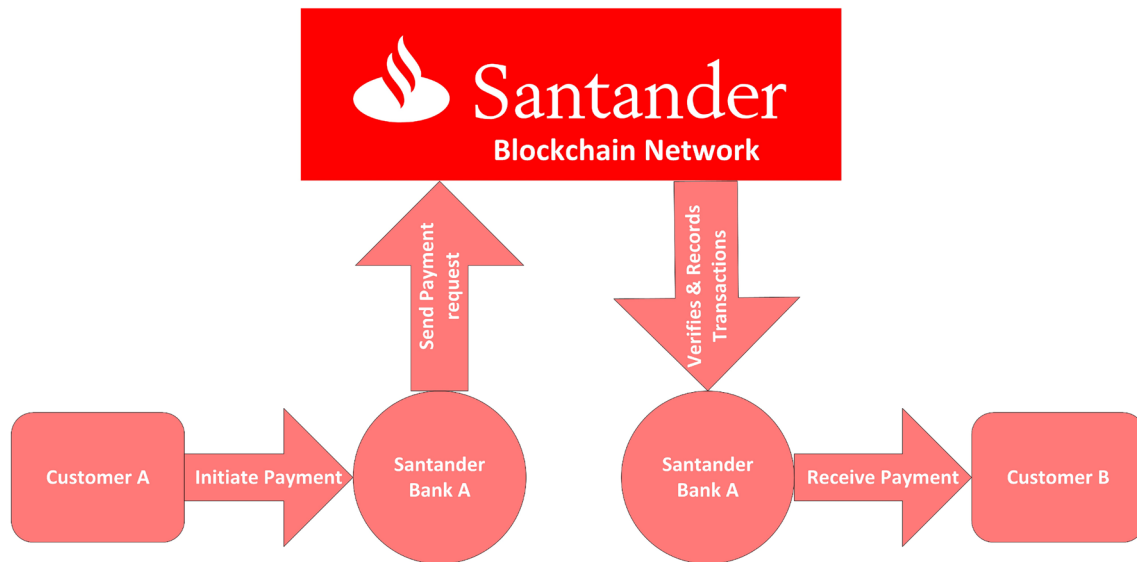
Adhering to privacy standards and regulatory requirements is vital for the successful implementation of blockchain in the financial sector. Our prototype employs advanced privacy-preserving techniques, including zero-knowledge proofs and secure multi-party computation, to ensure robust protection of user data. Figure 9 illustrates the compliance framework integrated into our solution, demonstrating its alignment with key regulations such as GDPR and CCPA. Additionally, we address the challenges of balancing the inherent transparency of blockchain technology with the need for privacy, and we provide strategic recommendations to achieve regulatory compliance without undermining the core benefits of blockchain.

The implementation of zero-knowledge proofs allows transactions to be verified without revealing sensitive information, thereby maintaining user privacy while ensuring transaction validity. Secure multi-party computation further enhances data security by enabling multiple parties to jointly compute functions over their inputs while keeping those inputs private. These techniques collectively ensure that our blockchain solution meets stringent privacy requirements.

The proposed approach to data encryption, access control, and data minimization plays a crucial role in complying with GDPR and CCPA. Data encryption safeguards personal data by converting it into an unreadable format for unauthorized users. Access control restricts data access to authorized personnel only, preventing unauthorized use and potential breaches. Data minimization ensures that only necessary data is collected and processed, reducing the risk of privacy violations [30].

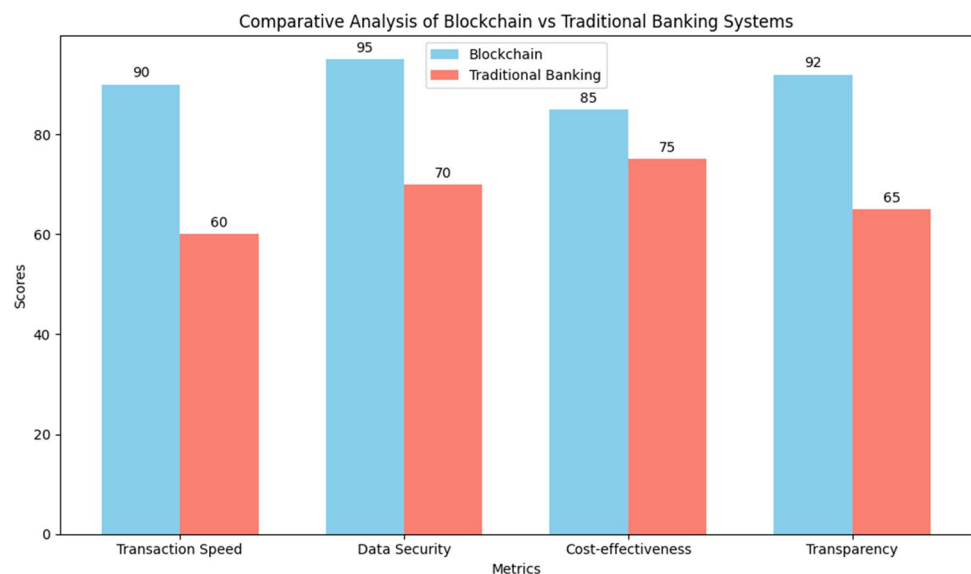
Despite these robust privacy measures, the challenge remains to balance the transparency inherent in blockchain technology with privacy needs. Transparency, while beneficial

**Fig. 5** Overview of the testing environment and scenarios



**Fig. 6** Case study: Santander Bank's blockchain implementation for international payments

**Fig. 7** Comparative analysis of blockchain versus traditional banking systems



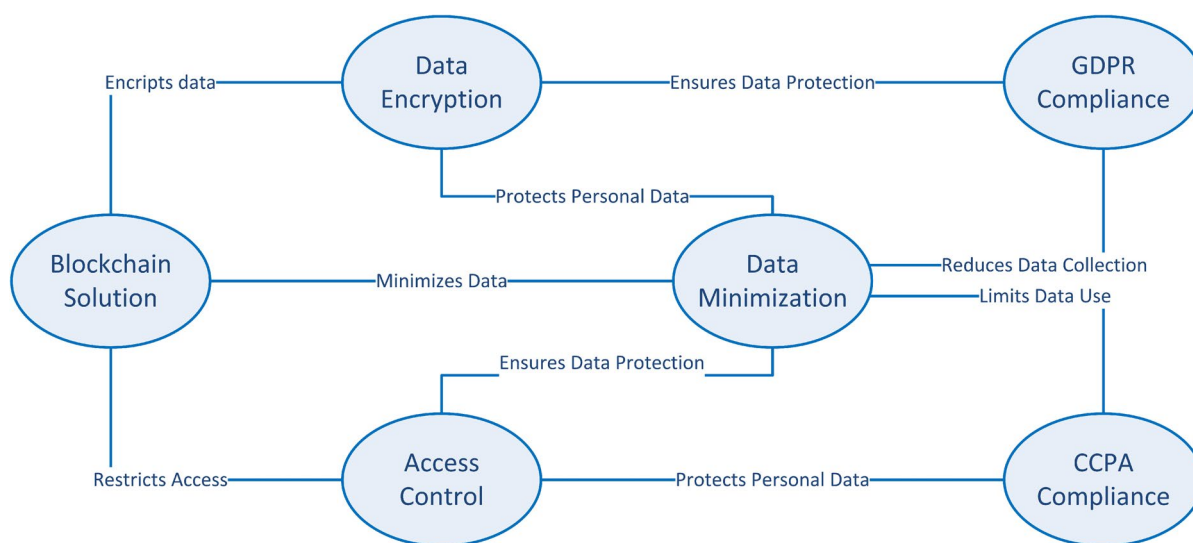
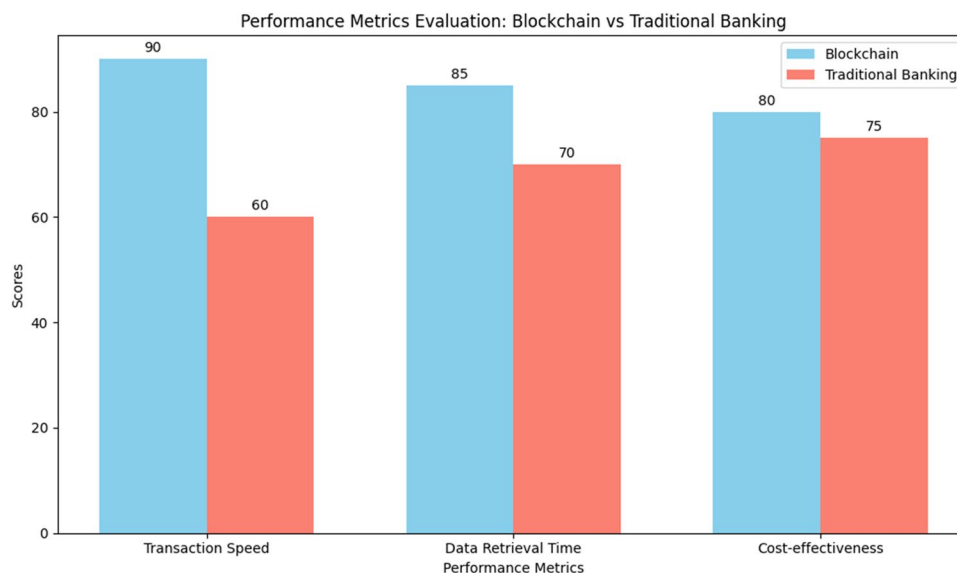
for trust and auditability, can conflict with privacy requirements. To address this, we recommend the implementation of permissioned blockchain networks where access to the blockchain is restricted to authorized users. This ensures that sensitive data is only visible to those with the appropriate permissions, thus maintaining privacy while benefiting from blockchain's transparency.

## Conclusion and Future Work

Our research has demonstrated the significance of utilizing blockchain technology within digital banking services. Through comprehensive analysis and rigorous testing, we found that blockchain offers superior transaction speed,



**Fig. 8** Performance metrics evaluation: blockchain vs traditional banking



**Fig. 9** Framework for blockchain solution: aligning with GDPR and CCPA

enhanced data security, and improved cost-effectiveness compared to traditional banking systems. The implementation of advanced privacy-preserving techniques ensures compliance with regulations such as GDPR and CCPA, addressing critical privacy and security concerns. These findings underscore the transformative potential of blockchain technology in revolutionizing the financial sector by enhancing efficiency, security, and transparency.

For effective blockchain implementation in digital banking, a phased approach is advised. Begin with pilot projects to assess integration challenges and benefits. Secure data through advanced encryption, access control, and privacy-preserving technologies. Collaborate with regulators to ensure legal compliance and provide training to stakeholders

on blockchain's advantages and operational needs. This strategy will promote smooth adoption and integration into existing banking systems.

While our study has provided valuable insights, several areas warrant further exploration. Future research could investigate the scalability of blockchain networks in handling larger transaction volumes and diverse financial products. Additionally, exploring the integration of blockchain with other emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things could unlock new possibilities for innovation in digital banking. Another promising area is the development of standardized frameworks for regulatory compliance, which would simplify the adoption process for financial institutions. Ultimately, continued interdisciplinary

research and collaboration will be key to fully realizing the potential of blockchain technology in the financial sector.

**Author contributions** Conceptualization, HAA; methodology, FAA; software, FAA; validation, HAA; formal analysis, HAA; investigation, FAA; resources, HAA and FAA; writing—original draft preparation, HAA; writing—review and editing, HAA; visualization, FAA; project administration, HAA. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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## Declarations

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**Research involving human and/or animals** No information including about these.

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