Blockchain and Smart Contracts: Relevance of Security Facts and Myths to Industrial Control

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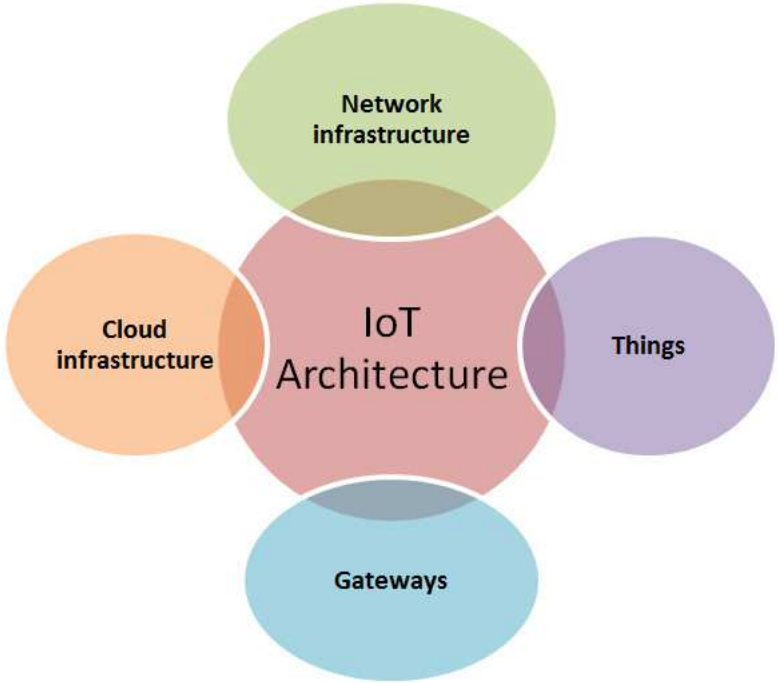
IoT, SCADA, CPS Devices



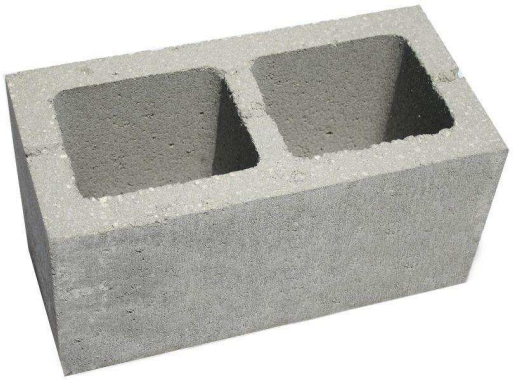
- Devices have intelligence, networking, sensing, storage,
- Low cost, no upgrades, security an after thought,
- Control actuators,
- Limited to no human supervision,
- Vulnerable to tampering, insider threats, network exploitation,
- Documented use in DDoS, sabotage, infrastructure attacks.

What IS a Blockchain?

- A convenient way to get people to throw money at you.

What DEFINES a Blockchain?

- ☐ Original blockchain was a distributed trustless mechanism for timestamping files.[1]
- ☐ True blockchains are distributed.
- ☐ True blockchains are decentralized.
- ☐ True blockchains are trustless.
- ☐ True blockchains are immutable (theoretically).



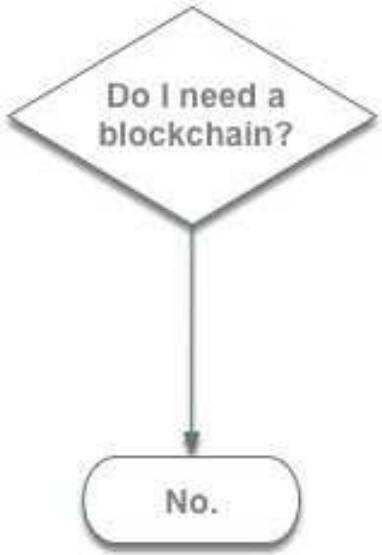
OR

[1] S. Haber, W.S. Stornetta, "How to time-stamp a digital document," In Journal of Cryptology, vol 3, no 2, pages 99-111, 1991.

Blockchain hype

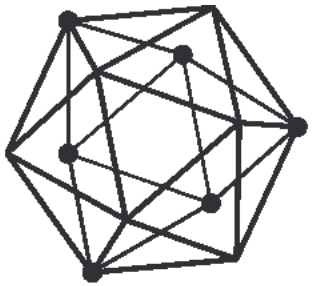
- Distributed ledger built from signed transactions,
- Security assured by the network,
- Data perfectly secure,
- Provides transparency,
- Provides global access,
- Smart contracts provide secure program execution.

Blockchain anti-hype



- Blockchain is just a git,
- Can not include any authorization,
- Only good for buying drugs and money laundering,
- Ethereum did rollback and hard fork after massive theft.

Promising Blockchains



HYPERLEDGER

- Hosted by the Linux Foundation,
- Focus on standardization,
- Modular blockchain,
- Modular mining algorithms.

https://www.hyperledger.org/

Scrybe: Blockchain Ledger for Clinical Trials

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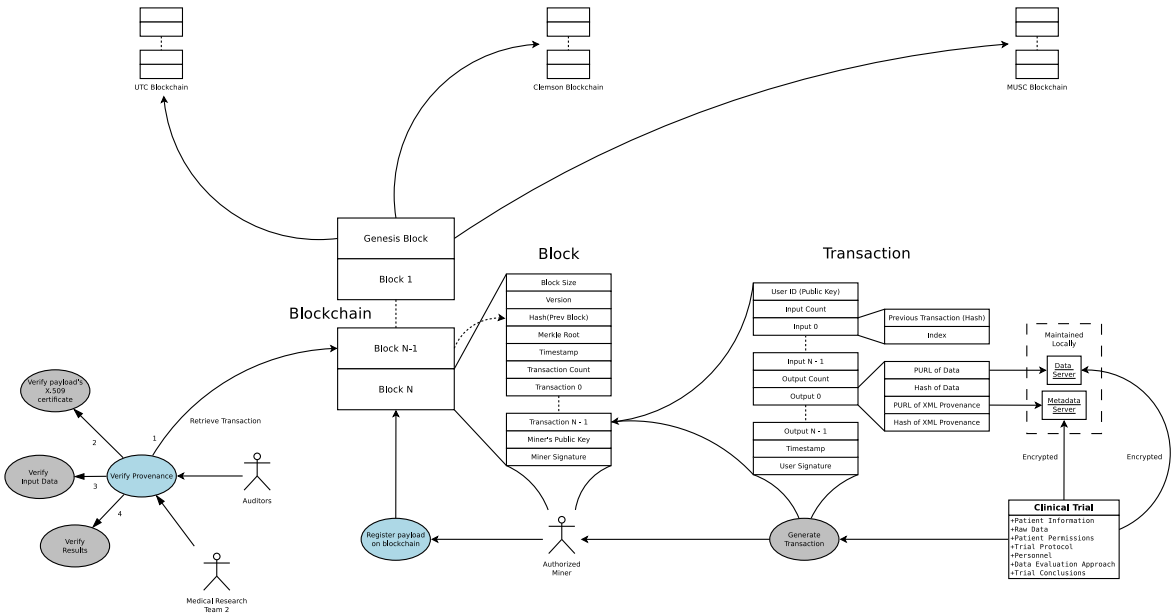


Use-Cases

1. Clinical trials are registered on the blockchain.
   a) Patient information and permissions are collected and stored on a local server controlled by the medical institution.
   b) A transaction is created from non-sensitive metadata, a hash of the data on the secure server, and permanent universal resource locators (PURLs) pointing to the data.
   c) The transaction is signed and submitted to the miners.
   d) Miners add the transaction to a block.
   e) The mined block is added to the blockchain.
   f) The mined block is broadcast to the other miners for verification.

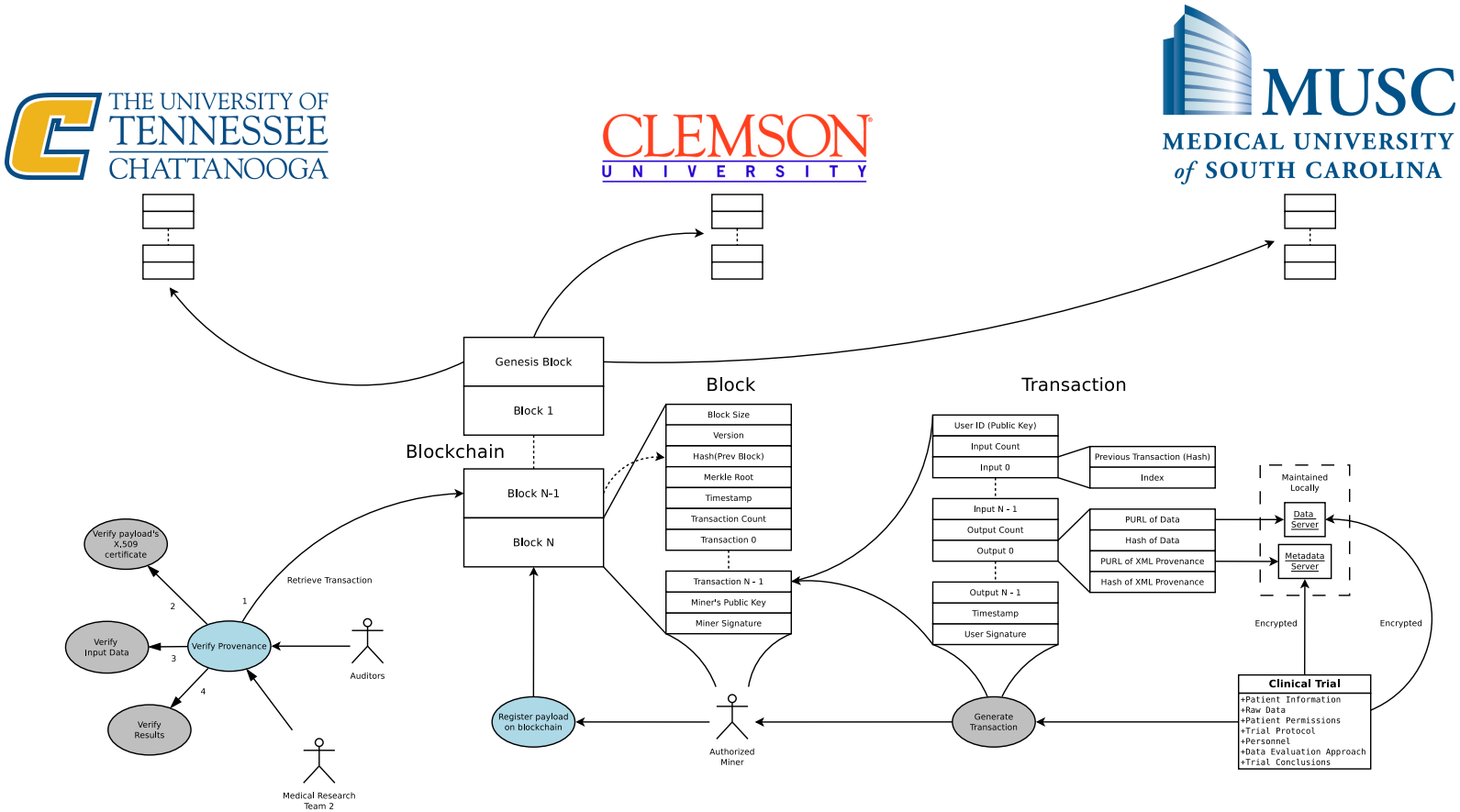
   g) Raw data are collected and stored locally on the secure data server.
   h) Additional non-sensitive metadata are stored on the secure local server controlled by the medical institution.
   i) A transaction is generated using the hashes of the data and metadata with PURLs pointing to the original data on the secure server.
   j) Steps (c) through (f) are repeated, and the transaction generated in (b) is referenced as the input.

2. Auditors and Researchers access the findings of other research teams.
   a) Transactions containing hashes and signatures needed to verify clinical trial data for non-repudiation and integrity are retrieved from the blockchain.
   b) The metadata and raw data are retrieved by authorized users from the medical institution.
   c) The signatures are verified.

Advantages

1. Lightweight mining (LWM) uses fewer resources and less energy than traditional mining techniques.
2. With at least one trustworthy miner our LWM algorithm guarantees:
   a) Non-repudiation
   b) Data integrity
   c) Trust is not dependent on local policies
   d) Data will eventually be added to the blockchain
   e) Data will always be available
3. Adding a third party (such as the Food and Drug Administration) will guarantee there is at least one trustworthy miner at all times.
4. Storing data locally allows medical institutions to control access to their data and certify conformance to HIPAA regulations.

Scrybe: Blockchain Ledger for Clinical Trials



Flawed Blockchains

- Any private blockchain that isn't checked in to the main chain,
- Testnet blockchains,
- Blockchains with weak mining algorithms,
- Blockchains with broken consensus algorithms,
- Blockchains with centralized authorities,
- Blockchains promising to solve all your problems.

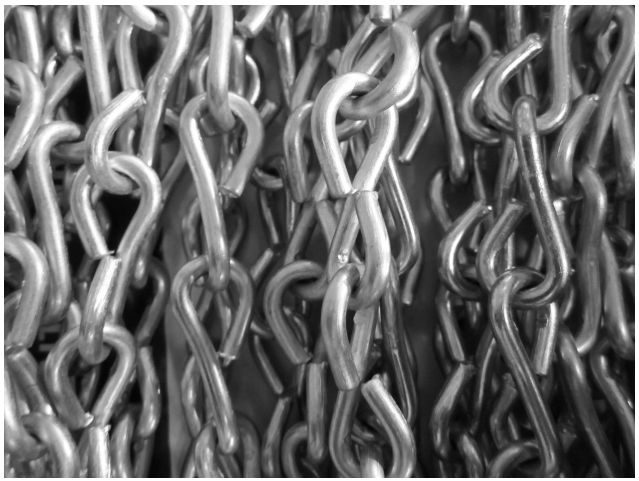
Transparency

- **Blockchain == global transparency and perfect security**
  - You decide what data is in the chain,
  - Signed hashes of transactions necessary, reveals nothing,
  - Add other information as needed to support reliable audit,
  - Store data mainly off-chain, access controlled, hash guarantees security,
  - Our project works with clinical trial data, stores HIPAA information consistent with HIPAA,
  - Blockchain provides audit capability consistent with FDA.

Efficiency

- Proof of work == inefficient, bad for environment,
  - Random search for nonces that give right hash,
- Proof of stake == users with most controls systems,
  - Lets system predict miners for next round,
- Our system has *light weight mining*,
  - Applying for IP protection, efficient random choice,
  - Provides same or better security.

Sidechains



- BTC, Ethereum Blockchains have global name space,
- IoT data either globally shared or private,
- Lightning and other extensions defining sidechains,
- Provides not quite same security,
- Partitions global system into regions with trusted data sharing,
- Might fight BGP route injection to partition net, which has attacked mining pools.

Smart contracts

- Currently only inputs data from blockchain,
- Same program runs on each miner,
- Race conditions leveraged to steal millions of USD,
- Need to interface with side-chains, allow efficient resource use,
- Need verifiable contracts without exploits.

Open problems

- Lots of privacy enhanced alt-coins,
- Not convinced that alt-coins really are secure and private. *Side-channels.*
- Lots of exploits in wallets lead to theft,
- Lots of fake wallets distributed leading to theft,
- *Mining* has many alternatives. Security and efficiency trade-offs need more study,
- *Mining malware* is wide-spread, but for BTC mining you really need ASICs. Not a good use of infected zombies,
- Applications other than currency are probably a better fit,

Blockchain Checklist

- ☐ Is it truly decentralized?
  - How many nodes are currently participating?
- ☐ Is it leveraging existing blockchain technology?
  - Will it be limited by existing blockchain technology?
- ☐ How expensive is the mining algorithm?
  - Will it limit scalability?
  - Will it be broken in a year?
- ☐ Are there any centralized authorities?
  - Can they be trusted? – No.

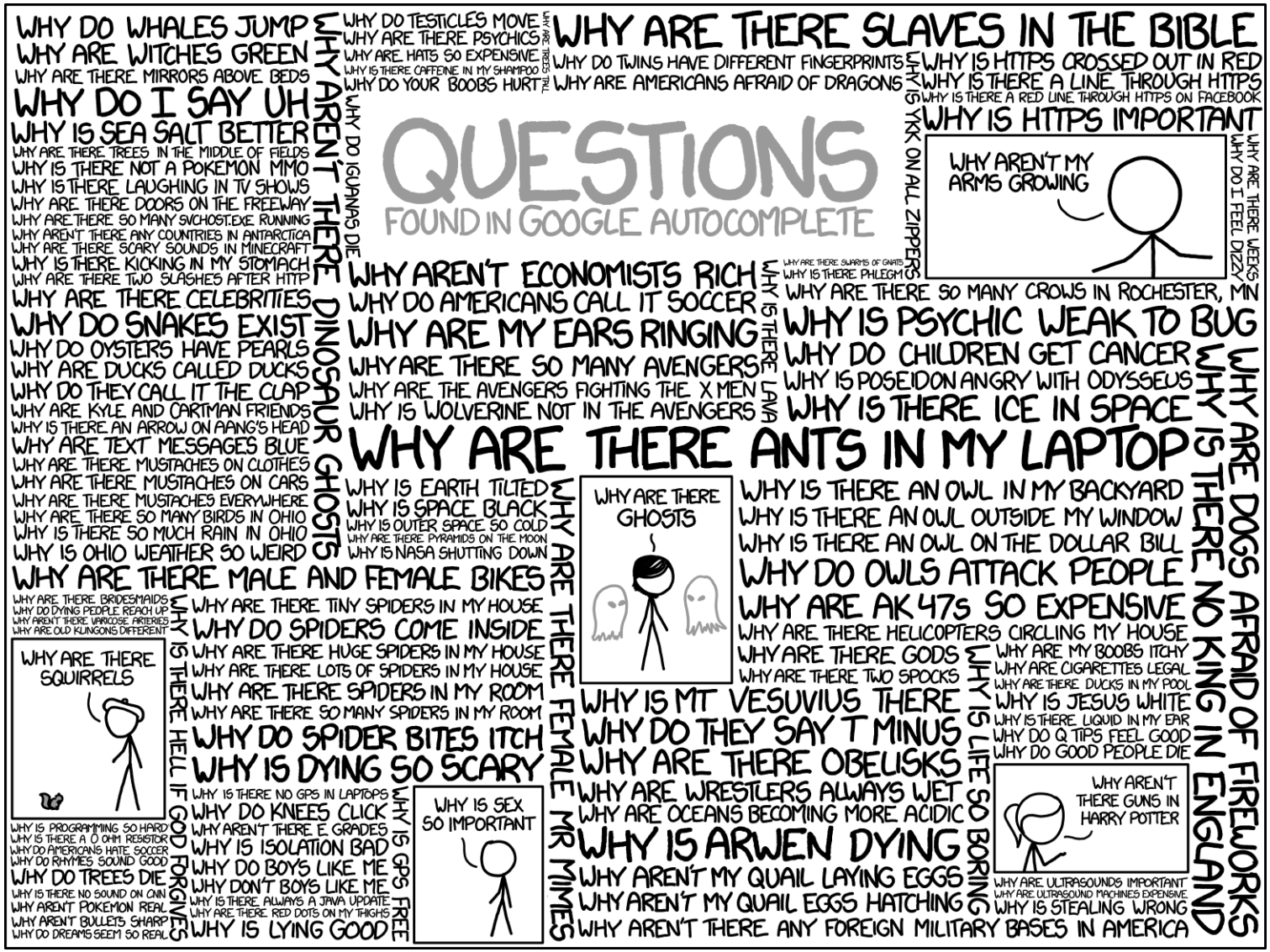
If you don't believe it or don't get it, I don't have the time to try to convince you, sorry.

– Satoshi Nakmoto

Summary

- Blockchain not a perfect solution,
- Blockchain's distributed security model has potential for SCADA and IoT,
- Modifications of smart contracts good for avoiding small intrusions and some insider threats,
- Distributed audit trail is a great application. We are working with a medical school on this.
- Side-chains can make more efficient. Provide right amount of transparency.

Questions?



https://xkcd.com/1256