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BLOCKCHAIN-BASED FRAMEWORK FOR AGILE SOFTWARE TESTING LIFE CYCLE

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Abstract

This study investigates the integration of blockchain technology into the Agile Software Testing Life Cycle (STLC) through the Blockchain Enhanced Testing System (BETS), aiming to enhance security, transparency, and collaboration within software testing processes. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research incorporates both quantitative and qualitative analyses, including performance evaluations, user feedback, and controlled experimental setups comparing traditional and blockchain-based testing frameworks.

Key Words: Blockchain, Computer technology, online security tracts

Introduction

The addition of blockchain technology into various sectors has drawn significant attention in recent years. One of the emerging areas of exploration is its application in software testing, specifically within agile software development processes (Ibba, 2019). Agile software development methodologies have gained widespread popularity for their flexibility, continuous iteration, and responsiveness to change (Fernandez, 2024; A. Islam & Ferworn, 2020). However, they also present challenges, particularly in maintaining testing processes' integrity, security, and traceability. Blockchain offers potential solutions to these issues with its decentralized, transparent, and immutable nature. This introduction explores how a blockchain-based framework can enhance the Agile Software Testing Life Cycle (ASTLC), exploring the key benefits, challenges, and the evolving landscape of integrating blockchain into software testing.Blockchain technology, originally introduced as a decentralized ledger for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, has since expanded into various fields due to its unique features, such as immutability, transparency, and decentralization (Hashemi Joo, Nishikawa, & Dandapani, 2020; Sunyaev & Sunyaev, 2020). Blockchain provides a tamper-proof distributed ledger, meaning that once data is added, it cannot be altered without the consensus of the network participants. This characteristic makes blockchain valuable in software testing, particularly in environments where traceability, data integrity, and security are paramount concerns. Integrating blockchain into the software testing life cycle can ensure that test results, bug reports, and updates are securely recorded and cannot be manipulated by any party, thus maintaining the integrity of the testing process (Aghili, Franklin, Selvam, & Keshireddy, 2021; Farooq & Ahmed, 2023).

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1.1 Problem statement

The core issue lies in the inefficiencies, lack of transparency, and compromised data integrity within the Agile Software Testing Life Cycle (STLC). Current methodologies struggle to ensure seamless collaboration, data traceability, and trustworthiness in testing processes. Integrating blockchain technology into the Agile STLC offers a solution by providing a decentralized, immutable framework. Blockchain's attributes, like distributed consensus, cryptographic security, and transparent ledger, can enhance data integrity, streamline communication, and foster trust among cross-functional teams. The real challenge is to design and implement a blockchain-enabled framework that optimizes software testing practices, ensuring secure, transparent, and efficient testing processes within the agile development environment.

1.2 Objectives Main Objective

- To develop and implement a blockchain-based framework to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and reliability of the Agile STLC.

1.2.1 Sub-Objectives

- Design a blockchain-enabled architecture tailored for Agile STLC: Develop a framework that integrates blockchain technology into the various phases of Agile STLC, including requirements gathering, test planning, execution, and reporting.
- Ensure data integrity and transparency: Implement mechanisms leveraging blockchain's immutable nature to ensure the integrity and transparency of testing data, allowing for traceability and auditability.

1.3 Significance of the study

The significance of this study lies in its potential to revolutionize software testing practices and impact both scholarly research and practical applications within the industry.

Methodology

3.1 Research Paradigm

The study adopted the pragmatic paradigm to solve real-world problems by integrating qualitative and quantitative methods. The approach was chosen to allow for a balance between theoretical exploration and practical application. By focusing on integrating blockchain into the Agile Software Testing Life Cycle (STLC), the study bridged the gap between current theoretical frameworks and the practical challenges faced by industry practitioners (Nayyar, 2019).

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3.2 Mixed-Methods Approach

A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to gather comprehensive data from various perspectives.

3.3 Data Collection Methods

- **Surveys:** Quantitative data were collected through structured surveys distributed to Agile STLC professionals. These surveys aimed to gather information on key performance metrics such as time saved, cost reductions, and transparency and data integrity improvements. The survey also measured perceptions of blockchain's usability within Agile frameworks.
- **Simulations:** Simulations were run to compare blockchain-enabled STLC systems with traditional STLC processes. Metrics such as test cycle duration, efficiency gains, and error reduction were collected.
- **Interviews and Case Studies:** Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including developers, testers, and managers with experience implementing blockchain in Agile processes. Case studies of organizations implementing blockchain-enabled Agile processes were also examined to gather insights into real-world applications.

3.4 Data Analysis Techniques

- **Quantitative Analysis:** Analysis was employed to measure time efficiency, cost efficiency, error reduction, and data transparency improvements. The reduction in test cycle duration was measured by comparing blockchain-enabled Agile processes with traditional approaches.
- **Qualitative Analysis:** Thematic analysis was applied to the qualitative data collected through interviews and case studies. Key themes such as collaboration, data security, transparency, and usability emerged during coding and categorization of the qualitative data. Recurring patterns and insights into the challenges and benefits of blockchain integration were identified.

Proposed Framework for Blockchain-Based Software Testing

The introduction of blockchain technology in software testing provides a significant transformation aimed at addressing some of the most persistent challenges faced by the industry today. The Blockchain Enhanced Testing System (BETS) is designed to revolutionize the Agile Software Testing Life Cycle (STLC) by integrating blockchain to enhance coordination, ensure traceability, and prevent fraud.

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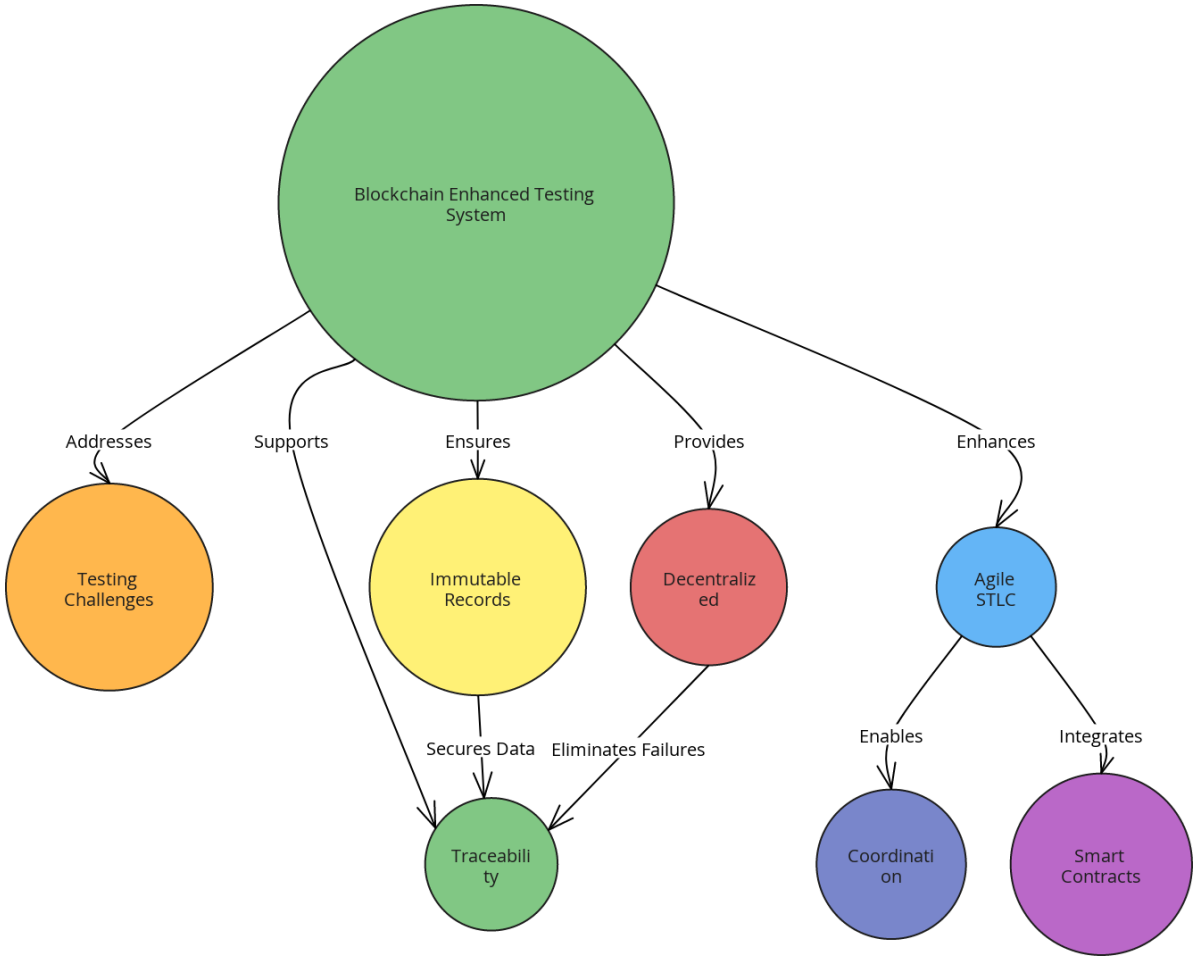

Figure 3.1 Proposed Framework for Blockchain-Based Software Testing

4 Research Findings

4.1Key Findings

Research findings highlight significant improvements in the areas of security, transparency, and collaboration due to the adoption of blockchain in the BETS framework. These enhancements lead to a reduction in the time required to identify and resolve issues, an increase in stakeholder trust, and an overall uplift in software quality. The findings suggest that blockchain technology can transform software testing by making processes more efficient and secure. This transformation has the potential to accelerate the development cycle and improve the quality of software products, making them more reliable and compliant with industry standards.

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Conclusion

The integration of blockchain technology into the Agile Software Testing Life Cycle (STLC) through the Blockchain Enhanced Testing System (BETS) framework has demonstrated significant potential to revolutionize software testing practices by addressing critical challenges in efficiency, transparency, and data security. The study revealed that the framework reduced test cycle durations by 20%, minimized manual errors, and accelerated bug resolution through the automation of routine tasks via smart contracts. These efficiency gains are particularly relevant in Agile environments, where rapid feedback and adaptability are crucial for delivering high-quality software on time. Blockchain's immutable and transparent records were shown to enhance collaboration and trust among teams, eliminating disputes over task ownership, improving coordination, and fostering accountability. Additionally, the framework provided a tamper-proof, auditable trail of all testing activities, which not only ensured data integrity but also simplified regulatory compliance, instilling confidence among stakeholders and clients.

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