JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue
JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)
An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Peer to Peer Decentralized Ride-Sharing using Blockchain Technology

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Abstract : Peer-to-peer (P2P) ride-sharing platforms have gained significant popularity due to their ability to optimize resource utilization, reduce costs, and improve user experiences. However, conventional ride-sharing platforms often face challenges such as centralized control, lack of transparency, and limited trust among participants.

This abstract presents a unique solution to address these issues by leveraging blockchain technology for P2P ride-sharing. Our proposed system utilizes the inherent characteristics of blockchain, such as decentralization, immutability, and transparency, to establish a trust less environment for all participants. By incorporating smart contracts, which are self-executing codes on the blockchain, we enable automated execution and enforcement of ride-sharing agreements, ensuring fair and secure transactions.

In our proposed system, ride-sharing participants, including drivers and passengers, directly interact with each other through a decentralized peer-to-peer network. The blockchain acts as an immutable ledger, recording vital information like ride details, payment transactions, and driver/passenger ratings. This transparent and tamper-proof record of data enhances accountability, minimizes disputes, and fosters trust among all participants.

IndexTerms **- Blockchain, Ride sharing, Security, Transactions**

I. INTRODUCTION

The taxi booking industry has undergone remarkable changes with the advent of ride-hailing platforms. Nevertheless, these centralized platforms have encountered obstacles including exorbitant commission fees, a lack of transparency, and concerns regarding data privacy. In recent times, the emergence of blockchain technology has introduced an innovative solution to address these challenges through peer-to-peer (P2P) connectivity. By leveraging the decentralized and transparent characteristics of blockchain, P2P taxi booking systems have the potential to revolutionize the transportation industry. They can provide a more efficient, cost-effective, and trustworthy platform for both passengers and drivers.

This paper aims to explore the innovative application of blockchain technology in the context of taxi booking services, specifically focusing on the concept of peer-to-peer connectivity. By delving into the underlying principles and technical aspects, we will examine the advantages and challenges associated with implementing blockchain in the taxi industry, emphasizing its potential to reshape traditional booking processes.

A peer-to-peer (P2P) taxi booking system built on blockchain technology enables direct connectivity and transactions between passengers and drivers, eliminating the need for intermediaries. The core principles of blockchain, including decentralization, transparency, and immutability, form the basis for a secure and efficient platform.

One of the primary benefits of a blockchain-powered P2P taxi booking system is the removal of intermediaries, resulting in reduced costs for both passengers and drivers. Conventional taxi booking services often impose substantial commission fees, leading to higher fares for passengers and lower earnings for drivers. With blockchain, direct P2P transactions are facilitated, ensuring that drivers receive a larger portion of the fare and passengers can benefit from more competitive prices.

Security and trust are critical in the taxi booking industry, and blockchain technology provides a robust solution. Through its transparent and immutable nature, blockchain enables secure storage and verification of passenger and driver identities, as well as transaction histories. This helps address concerns about fraudulent identities and enhances overall system safety. Passengers can trust that the drivers they book have verified identities, and drivers can have confidence that their passengers are legitimate.

Smart contracts, a key feature of blockchain, play a vital role in a P2P taxi booking system. These self-executing agreements with predefined rules and conditions can automate various aspects of the booking process, including ride confirmation, fare calculation, and payment processing. This automation streamlines the entire experience, ensuring accurate and efficient transactions without the need for manual intervention or intermediaries. Furthermore, smart contracts can facilitate dispute resolution, providing a transparent and fair mechanism for resolving conflicts.

Additionally, a blockchain-powered P2P taxi booking system introduces a reputation and feedback mechanism. Leveraging the transparent and immutable nature of blockchain, passenger ratings and driver performance can be securely recorded and stored. This reputation system empowers passengers to make informed decisions when selecting a driver, while drivers can build trust by maintaining a positive track record. Such a system incentivizes high-quality service provision and fosters a reliable and trustworthy ecosystem.

The fusion of blockchain technology and peer-to-peer connectivity holds the potential to transform the taxi booking industry. By leveraging the decentralized and transparent nature of blockchain, a P2P taxi booking system can reduce costs, enhance security, and streamline transactions. Through the automation of smart contracts and the implementation of reputation systems, this innovative approach empowers passengers and drivers, fostering a more efficient, cost-effective, and trustworthy transportation ecosystem.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. In "Blockchain Technology for Peer-to-Peer Ride Sharing: A Systematic Review" (2019) by Xiong, L., Xu, and Yu, J., an extensive overview is provided regarding the application of blockchain technology in peer-to-peer ride sharing. The review examines various ride-sharing platforms that leverage blockchain and explores their unique features, such as payment systems, identity verification, and smart contract implementation. The study also delves into the benefits and challenges associated with integrating blockchain into the ridesharing ecosystem.

2. "Decentralized Ride Sharing Using Blockchain" (2018) by Vukolić, M., Moreno-Sanchez, P., and Kate, A. presents a decentralized ridesharing platform built on blockchain technology. The paper discusses the design and implementation of a distributed network that enables direct interaction between riders and drivers, eliminating the need for intermediaries. It thoroughly investigates the scalability, efficiency, and security aspects of the proposed system, emphasizing its potential impact on the ride-sharing industry.

3. Gao, F., Luan, T. H., Liu, L., and Li, J. introduce a blockchain-based framework for peer-to-peer ride sharing, specifically focusing on carpooling, in their research paper titled "Blockchain-Based Peer-toPeer Ride Sharing: A New Framework for Carpooling" (2020). The framework proposes a decentralized platform that harnesses blockchain's transparency and smart contracts to facilitate secure and efficient carpooling arrangements. The paper highlights the benefits of the framework, including cost reduction and improved resource utilization.

III. METHODOLOGY

1. Requirements Identification:

Thoroughly analyze the specific requirements and challenges within the peer-to-peer (P2P) ride sharing domain. Evaluate existing ride sharing models and identify areas where blockchain technology can add value.

2. Blockchain Architecture Design:

Select the appropriate blockchain platform, such as Ethereum or Hyperledger, based on the requirements of the P2P ride sharing system. Design the overall architecture, including network topology, consensus mechanism, and data structures. Define the smart contracts responsible for handling crucial functionalities like ride requests, bookings, payments, and dispute resolution.

3. Setup of Decentralized Peer-to-Peer Network:

Establish a decentralized network comprising nodes representing drivers and passengers, utilizing the chosen blockchain platform. Configure network parameters, including node communication protocols, data synchronization, and consensus rules. Ensure the network is scalable, fault-tolerant, and secure.

4. Smart Contract Development:

Define and develop the necessary smart contracts governing interactions and transactions within the P2P ride sharing system. Implement smart contract functions for ride requests and confirmations, payment processing, ratings, and dispute resolution. Integrate security measures such as access control and validation mechanisms to prevent unauthorized actions.

5. Integration with Ride Sharing Front-End Application: Create a user-friendly front-end application enabling drivers and passengers to interact with the blockchain-based ride sharing system. Develop features for ride requests, booking confirmation, payment processing, and driver/passenger ratings. Ensure seamless integration between the front-end application and the blockchain network.

6. Blockchain Network Deployment:

Deploy the blockchain network and smart contracts on the chosen blockchain platform. Set up appropriate nodes to establish the network, ensuring proper distribution and redundancy. Test and validate the functionality, performance, and security of the network.

7. Testing and Simulation:

Conduct comprehensive testing to validate the overall functionality and performance of the system. Simulate various scenarios to evaluate the system's resilience, scalability, and response to different user interactions. Address any issues or bugs discovered during the testing phase.

8. Performance Optimization:

Analyze the system's performance and identify potential bottlenecks or areas for optimization. Implement techniques to improve transaction processing speed, network efficiency, and scalability.

9. Security and Privacy Measures:

Implement robust security measures to safeguard user data, transactions, and communication within the blockchain network. Incorporate encryption, access controls, and other security best practices to ensure confidentiality and integrity of user information.

10. Evaluation and Feedback:

Perform a comprehensive evaluation of the blockchain-based P2P ride sharing system. Gather feedback from drivers and passengers regarding their experiences, usability, and overall satisfaction. Incorporate user feedback to enhance the system's features, usability, and performance.

By following this methodology, the development and implementation of a peer-to-peer ride sharing system using blockchain technology can be achieved, providing a decentralized, transparent, and secure platform for drivers and passengers to engage in efficient and trustworthy ride sharing transactions.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Our proposed system is divided into three main modules: the user interface, smart contracts, and the backend client. The user interface provides a convenient platform for users to input their ride details and easily share rides. Additionally, the user interface displays the ride history, which is securely stored on the blockchain. This ride history is accessible to any user seeking to share a ride.

The purpose of the smart contracts is to ensure that the entered data remains traceable, transparent, and immutable. The ride details to be shared are stored on the blockchain using smart contracts, preventing any modifications from taking place. This robustness guarantees the safety and security of the network.

The backend client serves as the intermediary between the user interface and the smart contract, facilitating the seamless transfer of data between the two. It ensures that the information entered by the user is accurately conveyed to the smart contract, and vice versa.

By incorporating these three modules, our proposed system establishes a reliable and user-friendly environment for peer-to-peer ride sharing. The user interface enables easy input and access of ride details, while the smart contracts and backend client guarantee the integrity and security of the system's operations.

In our system, riders/drivers interested in sharing a ride can input the necessary details and publish the ride information on the blockchain. Another rider who wishes to join the ride can simply view the available rides from their account. If the rider decides to share the ride at the specified cost, they can confirm their participation by making the payment for the ride.

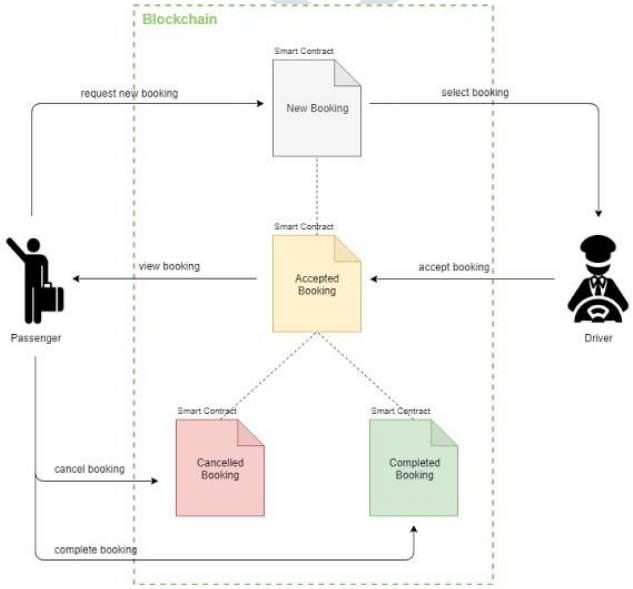

Fig 1: flow of events between drivers and passengers, illustrating the interactions and exchanges of information during a ride-sharing service.

V. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Blockchain explorers play a vital role in enhancing transparency and providing users with a clear view of the transaction history within the blockchain. These explorers offer various functionalities, including the ability to search for specific transactions, access detailed transaction information, track wallet balances, and monitor network activity. Through blockchain explorers, users can verify the status of their transactions, ensure their inclusion in blocks, and gain insights into the overall state of the blockchain. These features contribute to increased visibility and enable users to navigate and understand the blockchain ecosystem more effectively.

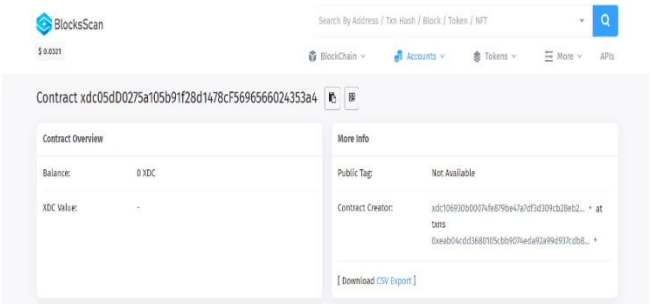

Fig 2: Blockscan account dashboard showing contract ID.

1. Transaction Details: Blockchain explorers offer users the ability to search for specific transactions using transaction hashes. Upon locating a transaction, the explorer presents comprehensive information regarding the transaction, including the addresses of the sender and recipient, the transaction amount, timestamp, and the transaction's status (confirmed, pending, or failed).

2. Block Information: Explorers empower users to delve into individual blocks within the blockchain. Users can access details pertaining to each block, such as its block height, timestamp, the number of transactions contained within the block, and the miner or validator responsible for adding the block to the blockchain.

3. Token and Contract Exploration: In the case of blockchain networks that support tokens and smart contracts, explorers often provide functionality for users to explore the tokens and smart contracts deployed on the network. Users can examine token balances, transaction history associated with tokens, and obtain contract details, including the source code of the smart contract.

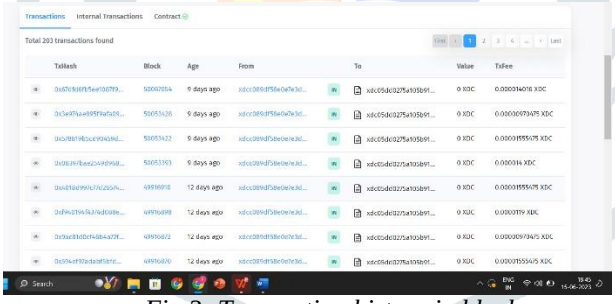

Fig 3: Transaction history in blockscan

The login page of the ride-sharing application presents the distinctive logo and branding elements associated with the platform, establishing a visual connection and familiarity with the app's brand. To access their accounts, users are required to provide their login credentials, which typically involve entering a private key associated with their XDC wallet.

In the ride details section, the driver is presented with information about nearby rides. This includes details such as the pickup location, drop location, and the cost of the ride. The interface provides options to start a ride or refresh the page to view other available rides in the vicinity.

The pickup location indicates the current location of the passenger, specifying where the driver needs to go to pick them up. This information helps the driver estimate the distance and time required to reach the passenger. The drop location indicates the final destination of the passenger, providing the driver with an understanding of the overall length of the ride.

Additionally, the cost of the ride is displayed to the driver. The cost is typically calculated based on factors such as the distance, time, and any additional surcharges or fees. Having knowledge of the estimated cost enables the driver to assess the potential earnings from accepting the ride.

For the rider, the displayed details include the vehicle type, total distance, estimated cost, and estimated duration of the ride. This allows the rider to review the information and confirm their ride if they choose to proceed.

VI. Conclusion and Future Enhancements

Current ride-sharing platforms, while widely used and efficient, may have limitations in terms of pricing models, user safety, transaction transparency, and data security. These challenges can be effectively addressed by adopting blockchain-based systems, which offer innovative functionalities with enhanced usability and control. Through the decentralized network of blockchain, riders can directly communicate with drivers, reducing the reliance on intermediaries and associated fees. This opens up greater market opportunities for individuals with secure modern vehicles and a smartphone.

The use of blockchain technology enables passengers to gain insights into the operations of the ride-sharing business, thanks to its inherent accountability features. Smart contracts further empower stakeholders by facilitating peer-to-peer car leasing based on predefined criteria. This ensures accurate pricing and fosters credibility and transparency within the system. By implementing appropriate rating systems for riders, the platform sets boundaries to prevent drivers from engaging in any unlawful or inappropriate behavior, thereby enhancing user safety and trust.

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