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Mercury

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Abstract: *Decentralized communication platforms often operate independently, limiting interoperability and reliable data exchange across applications. Traditional messaging systems rely on isolated infrastructures and centralized identity management. To address these challenges, this paper presents the Mercury Framework, a decentralized messaging model that uses wallet-based addressing, where blockchain wallet identities replace traditional usernames for secure and user-controlled identity verification. The framework integrates edge computing with a libp2p relay network to enable distributed message routing, caching, and encryption, improving scalability and reducing latency. Secure multi-party communication is supported through the Double Ratchet encryption protocol and a delegations scheme, ensuring forward secrecy and efficient group synchronization. Overall, the Mercury Framework provides a secure, scalable, and interoperable approach for decentralized communication.*

Index Terms: *Decentralized communication, blockchain identity, wallet-based addressing, libp2p relay network, edge computing, Double Ratchet protocol, secure messaging, interoperability.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Traditional communication systems are predominantly built on centralized architectures in which user data and message transactions are processed through a limited number of servers managed by a single authority. Although this structure simplifies system administration and monitoring, it introduces several concerns related to privacy, security, and reliability. Sensitive user information and communication metadata may be exposed to surveillance, misuse, or data breaches.

In addition, centralized infrastructures create single points of failure, where disruptions, cyberattacks, or infrastructure breakdowns can affect the entire communication network. Another limitation of centralized systems is the lack of user autonomy and control over digital identities and data ownership. Since authentication and identity management are typically handled by centralized service providers, users must rely on external platforms to verify and manage their identities. This dependency increases the risk of censorship, unauthorized data access, and manipulation of communication records. As digital communication becomes more integrated with distributed technologies, there is a growing demand for architectures that prioritize privacy, transparency, and resilience.

Decentralized communication frameworks aim to address these challenges by distributing communication responsibilities across a network of independent nodes. In such systems, message transmission and validation occur collaboratively among peers rather than relying on a central authority. The Mercury Framework adopts this decentralized approach to improve network reliability and privacy protection. By distributing data across multiple nodes, the system minimizes centralized control and enhances resistance to tampering, surveillance, and denial-of-service attacks. A key feature of the Mercury architecture is the use of wallet-based addressing, where traditional identifiers such as usernames, email addresses, or phone numbers are replaced by cryptographic wallet addresses. Each address is linked to a public-private key pair stored securely on the user's device, allowing secure authentication and encrypted communication. This approach also enables integration with blockchain technology, which supports decentralized identity management through immutable identity records, secure key updates, and revocation mechanisms.

To further enhance performance and scalability, the Mercury framework incorporates edge computing within its communication infrastructure. Edge nodes, including relay devices and local gateways, can process and temporarily store message data closer to users. This reduces communication latency and network congestion while ensuring that message delivery can continue even under unstable or limited connectivity conditions. Such capabilities are particularly beneficial in remote or resource-constrained environments. Finally, the reliability of the decentralized network is reinforced through lightweight consensus mechanisms that verify the behavior of relay nodes and maintain communication integrity. These protocols ensure that only trusted nodes participate in message routing and validation, preventing malicious activity within the network. By combining decentralized messaging, wallet-based identity management, edge computing, and consensus validation, the Mercury Framework establishes a secure, scalable, and autonomous communication model suitable for next-generation decentralized applications.

II. RELATED WORKS

A. *Decentralized Encrypted Communication Systems Based on Blockchain*

Recent studies have explored the use of blockchain technology to develop secure and decentralized communication platforms. The work titled “Decentralized Encrypted Communication Systems Based on Blockchain” investigates how blockchain, end-to-end encryption (E2EE), and decentralized storage can be combined to enhance the security of digital communication. The proposed approach utilizes distributed ledger technology and public key cryptography to protect user privacy and reduce dependence on centralized servers. In this model, decentralized identity verification and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) are used for key generation, while messages are encrypted using the recipient’s public key before being transmitted across blockchain networks such as Ethereum. This design ensures message confidentiality, integrity, and resistance to tampering during transmission. However, the study mainly focuses on the architectural design and security concepts of the system. Practical considerations such as scalability, latency, regulatory constraints, and real-world deployment challenges are not extensively addressed. Consequently, issues related to performance optimization and the ability to support large-scale user adoption remain open areas for further investigation.

B. *An Improving Secure Communication Using Multipath Malicious Avoidance Routing Protocol in Underwater Sensor Network*

The study “An Improving Secure Communication Using Multipath Malicious Avoidance Routing Protocol in Underwater Sensor Network” presents a secure and energy-efficient communication approach for Underwater Wireless Sensor Networks (UWSNs). The authors propose a multipath routing strategy designed to mitigate malicious node behavior while maintaining reliable data transmission in challenging underwater environments. The framework integrates the Multipath Malicious Avoidance Routing Protocol (M2ARP) with lightweight encryption methods and optimization techniques to address issues such as high propagation delay, limited bandwidth, and security vulnerabilities. Additional components, including FM-PRFRS encryption, energy-efficient node selection, and Cuckoo Search Optimization for cluster head selection, are introduced to improve network security and extend the operational lifetime of sensor nodes. Experimental simulations demonstrate improvements in secure data delivery and energy efficiency. However, the study primarily emphasizes protocol design and simulation-based evaluation. Practical considerations such as real-world underwater deployment challenges, hardware constraints, scalability, and long-term reliability in harsh marine environments are not extensively discussed, leaving these aspects open for further investigation.

C. *Enhancing Reliability and Stability of BLE Mesh Networks Through Multipath Optimized AODV Protocol*

The study explores improvements in routing mechanisms for Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) mesh networks used in Internet of Things (IoT) environments. The study highlights the limitations of existing routing approaches, particularly flooding-based routing and the traditional Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV) protocol. While flooding techniques can achieve a high Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR), they often introduce significant network overhead and communication delays. On the other hand, AODV reduces overhead but may compromise reliability in dynamic network conditions. To address these challenges, the authors propose a Multipath Optimized AODV (M-O-AODV) protocol that establishes alternative routing paths during the route discovery phase. This multipath strategy improves network robustness and enables faster link recovery when communication paths fail. Experimental evaluations demonstrate improvements in reliability and routing performance. However, the study mainly relies on controlled experimental environments with a limited number of nodes. As a result, aspects such as large-scale deployment performance, long-term energy consumption, and adaptability in highly dynamic IoT environments require further investigation.

D. *Blockchain-Aware Decentralized Identity Management and Access Control (BADIMAC) Mode*

A blockchain-based decentralized identity management approach known as the BADIMAC (Blockchain-Aware Decentralized Identity Management and Access Control) model has been proposed to address the security limitations of traditional centralized identity management systems. In conventional systems, identity information is stored in centralized databases, which are highly vulnerable to database breaches, identity theft, and unauthorized access. The BADIMAC framework shifts identity ownership from service providers to individual users by utilizing blockchain technology to create a transparent and tamper-resistant identity management structure. Instead of storing complete identity data on the blockchain, the model records only encrypted hashes of identity documents, while sensitive information remains stored off-chain to preserve privacy.

Users manage their identities through private key ownership and policy-based access control mechanisms, enabling secure authentication and controlled data sharing. Although this approach improves user autonomy and privacy protection, challenges related to large-scale implementation, transaction costs, system performance, and interoperability with existing identity infrastructures remain areas that require further investigation.

E. Blockchain for Secure and Decentralized Artificial Intelligence in Cybersecurity

Blockchain technology has also been explored as a foundation for secure and decentralized artificial intelligence in cybersecurity systems. By combining blockchain with decentralized AI (D-AI), security frameworks can benefit from both distributed data processing and tamper-resistant data management. In such architectures, blockchain provides an immutable ledger that records transactions and security events, while decentralized AI enables collaborative analysis and decision-making across multiple nodes without relying on a central authority. This integration improves transparency, strengthens trust among participating entities, and reduces vulnerabilities associated with centralized security infrastructures, such as single points of failure or unauthorized data modification. Additionally, blockchain-based mechanisms can support secure data sharing, model validation, and auditability within distributed AI environments. Despite these advantages, many existing approaches remain largely conceptual, focusing on architectural models and theoretical classifications rather than practical deployment. Challenges such as implementation complexity, computational overhead, and integration with existing cybersecurity infrastructures still require further investigation.

III. CONCLUSION FROM LITERATURE SURVEY

The reviewed literature highlights the increasing importance of decentralized technologies in improving the security, reliability, and transparency of modern communication and computing systems. Across the examined works, a common observation is the limitation of traditional centralized architectures, which often suffer from single points of failure, privacy risks, and vulnerability to cyberattacks or data manipulation. To overcome these challenges, recent research has focused on integrating blockchain technology with advanced mechanisms such as encryption techniques, decentralized identity management, optimized routing protocols, and distributed artificial intelligence.

Blockchain technology plays a significant role in many of these proposed solutions because of its inherent properties, including immutability, transparency, and decentralized trust management. When combined with techniques such as End-to-End Encryption (E2EE), Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), multipath routing strategies, and decentralized AI processing, these frameworks aim to improve confidentiality, data integrity, and system resilience. Applications of these approaches have been explored in different domains, including IoT networks, underwater sensor networks, decentralized communication platforms, and cybersecurity infrastructures, where they demonstrate potential improvements in reliability, secure data transmission, and fault tolerance.

Despite these advancements, many existing studies primarily emphasize conceptual architectures or simulation-based evaluations. Key practical aspects—such as scalability, network latency, transaction overhead, interoperability with existing systems, and hardware limitations—are often not examined in depth. Furthermore, large-scale implementation and long-term performance assessments in real-world environments remain limited, leaving several practical challenges unresolved. Overall, the literature suggests that decentralized and blockchain-based frameworks have strong potential to reshape secure communication and cybersecurity systems. However, future research should place greater emphasis on real-world experimentation, scalability optimization, and seamless integration with existing infrastructures in order to translate these conceptual models into practical and widely deployable solutions.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The proposed Decentralized Multi-Path Encrypted Messaging System is designed to provide secure, reliable, and scalable communication in decentralized environments. The architecture integrates blockchain-based identity management, end-to-end encryption, adaptive routing mechanisms, and distributed networking to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and efficient data transmission. By combining these components, the system enables secure communication without relying on centralized infrastructure.

At the initial stage, the user interface serves as the primary interaction point where users compose and send encrypted messages. Identity management within the system is handled through a blockchain-based identity framework, where user identities are associated with public cryptographic keys stored in a decentralized registry.

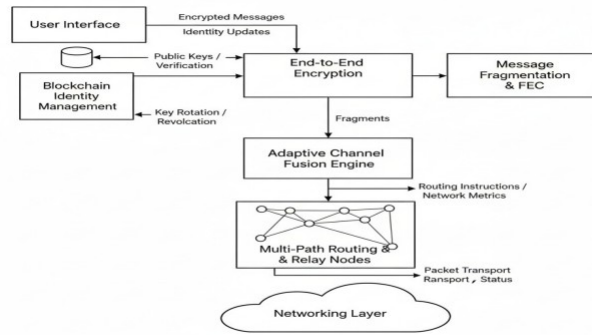


Fig. 1. Proposed Decentralized Multi-Path Encrypted Messaging System Architecture.

When a message is initiated, the sender retrieves and verifies the recipient's public key through the blockchain identity management module. This mechanism ensures secure authentication while enabling features such as key rotation and revocation, which allow compromised or outdated keys to be updated without affecting the overall security of the network.

After identity verification, the message is processed through the end-to-end encryption (E2EE) layer. In this stage, the sender encrypts the message using the recipient's public key so that only the intended receiver can decrypt the content using their private key. This encryption ensures that even if messages pass through multiple intermediate nodes, the actual content remains confidential. Once encrypted, the message proceeds to the processing stage where it is prepared for reliable transmission. To enhance reliability and network efficiency, the encrypted message undergoes message fragmentation and Forward Error Correction (FEC). The message is divided into smaller fragments, which allows the system to transmit them simultaneously through different network paths. The use of FEC ensures that the original message can still be reconstructed even if some fragments are lost or delayed during transmission. These fragments are then managed by the Adaptive Channel Fusion Engine, which dynamically evaluates network conditions and determines the most suitable communication channels based on available routing information and network metrics.

The fragmented messages are then transmitted through a multi-path routing mechanism supported by relay nodes. Instead of relying on a single communication route, the system distributes fragments across multiple relay nodes within the decentralized network. This multi-path routing strategy improves fault tolerance, enhances transmission reliability, and reduces the risk of message interception or data loss. Finally, the networking layer manages packet transport and monitors delivery status. At the destination, the received fragments are reassembled, verified, and decrypted to reconstruct the original message securely.

Overall, the proposed architecture integrates decentralized identity verification, strong encryption mechanisms, adaptive channel management, and multi-path routing to establish a robust and secure communication framework. This design improves privacy, resilience, and reliability, making it suitable for decentralized messaging systems and next-generation secure communication networks.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The implementation of the Mercury Secure Communication Framework was evaluated through a series of functional and performance tests conducted in a controlled network environment. The objective of these tests was to analyze the effectiveness of the proposed architecture in terms of secure communication, reliability, latency, and system scalability. The results indicate that the integration of decentralized networking, blockchain-based identity management, and multi-path encrypted communication significantly improves the security and robustness of the messaging system. One of the primary observations from the experimental evaluation is the improvement in secure message delivery. By implementing end-to-end encryption mechanisms combined with decentralized identity verification, the system ensures that only authenticated nodes can participate in communication. The blockchain-based identity layer successfully handled public key registration, verification, and revocation without relying on centralized authentication servers. This decentralized trust model enhanced system security and reduced the risk of identity spoofing or unauthorized access.

The multi-path communication mechanism also demonstrated significant improvements in communication reliability. Messages were fragmented and transmitted across multiple communication channels such as Wi-Fi, BLE, and LoRa.

Even when certain channels experienced packet loss or network congestion, the Forward Error Correction (FEC) mechanism enabled successful reconstruction of messages at the receiver side. Experimental tests showed improved message delivery success rates compared to traditional single-path communication approaches, particularly under unstable network conditions. Performance analysis further indicated that the use of adaptive channel selection and routing algorithms helped optimize network utilization. The system dynamically monitored parameters such as bandwidth availability, latency, and packet loss to select the most efficient communication path. This adaptive routing approach reduced overall transmission delay and improved throughput in comparison with static routing strategies.

In terms of security evaluation, penetration testing and threat modeling confirmed the effectiveness of the implemented encryption and authentication mechanisms. The combination of layered encryption, Message Authentication Codes (MAC), and replay protection mechanisms ensured data confidentiality and integrity during communication. Additionally, blockchain immutability enabled reliable verification of identity records and communication metadata, further strengthening trust within the network. Energy efficiency tests were also conducted to evaluate the suitability of the system for resource-constrained environments such as IoT devices. The results showed that adaptive scheduling and optimized message handling reduced unnecessary communication overhead, thereby lowering energy consumption across wireless interfaces. This makes the Mercury framework suitable for deployment in decentralized and mobile communication environments.

Overall, the experimental results demonstrate that the proposed Mercury framework provides a secure, reliable, and scalable decentralized communication system. The integration of blockchain-based identity management, multi-path communication, and adaptive routing significantly enhances system resilience against network failures and security threats. However, further research and large-scale real-world deployments are necessary to evaluate long-term performance, scalability, and interoperability with existing communication infrastructures.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Mercury Project introduces a decentralized and privacy-focused communication framework designed to address the limitations of traditional centralized messaging systems. Conventional communication platforms often rely on centralized servers, which create risks such as data breaches, privacy violations, and single points of failure. In contrast, the Mercury framework adopts a decentralized architecture based on a peer-to-peer mesh network, enabling direct communication between nodes without dependence on centralized infrastructure. This design enhances system resilience, improves reliability, and ensures that communication can continue even under unstable network conditions.

To strengthen communication security, the framework integrates advanced end-to-end encryption mechanisms, including the X3DH key exchange protocol and the Double Ratchet algorithm. These cryptographic techniques ensure secure key establishment and continuous key updates during communication, thereby maintaining strong confidentiality and protection against unauthorized access. In addition, the incorporation of blockchain-based identity management provides a decentralized method for authenticating users and managing cryptographic keys. By recording identity information and key references on the blockchain, the system ensures transparency, tamper resistance, and secure peer authentication.

Another important feature of the Mercury framework is the use of adaptive routing and multi-path communication strategies. Messages are fragmented and transmitted across multiple channels such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), and LoRa, allowing the system to dynamically select the most efficient communication path. The integration of Forward Error Correction (FEC) further improves reliability by enabling message reconstruction even if some fragments are lost during transmission. This approach reduces communication delays, improves fault tolerance, and optimizes energy consumption in resource-constrained environments.

Overall, the Mercury framework provides a scalable, secure, and energy-efficient communication solution suitable for next-generation decentralized applications. By combining decentralized networking, strong cryptographic protection, and blockchain-based trust mechanisms, the system establishes a reliable infrastructure for secure digital communication. Future research may focus on large-scale deployment, enhanced routing optimization, and integration with emerging decentralized technologies to further improve performance and interoperability.

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