

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Engineering Research and Reports
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JERR_120622
Title of the Manuscript:	Smart Contracts Management: The Interplay of Data Privacy and Blockchain for Secure and Efficient Real Estate Transactions
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write few sentences regarding the importance this manuscript for scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? Minimum 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The presents significant contributions to the scientific community, particularly within the realms of blockchain technology and real estate transactions. By addressing the integration of blockchain with smart contracts, the study not only advances the theoretical framework but also provides practical solutions to contemporary challenges in data privacy and regulatory compliance.</p> <p>I find this manuscript to be of high importance due to its comprehensive approach in balancing the benefits of blockchain technology with robust data privacy practices, a critical area of concern in modern digital transactions. The manuscript's methodical analysis, from feasibility studies using synthetic transaction data to regulatory compliance mapping, highlights its depth and relevance.</p> <p>However, while the manuscript is thorough in its examination of technical solutions such as permissioned blockchains and zero-knowledge proofs, the complexity of these solutions may limit broader adoption without significant educational and technological advancements. Nonetheless, the recommendations provided—such as the development of specialized training programs and collaboration on regulatory frameworks—offer actionable pathways to mitigate these challenges, underscoring the manuscript's practical utility and foresight.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The current title of the article, "Smart Contracts Management: The Interplay of Data Privacy and Blockchain for Secure and Efficient Real Estate Transactions," effectively conveys the central themes and focus of the manuscript. However, it could be refined for clarity and impact.</p> <p>An alternative title that captures the essence of the study while emphasizing its key components could be:</p> <p>"Enhancing Real Estate Transactions with Blockchain: Balancing Smart Contracts and Data Privacy"</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The digital transformation of the real estate industry is significantly influenced by blockchain technology and smart contracts, which promise enhanced efficiency, transparency, and security in transactions. This study develops a secure and efficient smart contract management protocol that balances blockchain benefits with robust data privacy practices. Using descriptive analytics of Ethereum blockchain transaction data, feasibility studies with synthetic data, and regulatory compliance analysis, the findings reveal that while smart contracts can automate processes and reduce intermediary reliance, data privacy and regulatory challenges persist. Higher privacy features in smart contracts are associated with increased execution costs, indicating a trade-off between privacy and cost efficiency. The integration of permissioned blockchains and zero-knowledge proofs presents a promising solution, though their complexity limits broader adoption. Recommendations include developing specialized training programs, collaborating on regulatory frameworks, investing in advanced cryptographic research, and implementing strategies to overcome adoption barriers. These efforts will contribute to the digital transformation of asset management, fostering innovation and enhancing the overall efficiency of real estate transactions.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The manuscript's structure is generally appropriate, with clear subsections covering the introduction, literature review, methodology, results and discussion, and conclusion and recommendations. However, refining the sections for better clarity and flow could enhance readability, such as organizing the literature review thematically and ensuring the methodology is detailed for reproducibility. Overall, the structured approach effectively supports the study's progression and highlights its significant findings.</p>	

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<p>Please write few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? Minimum 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness and technical soundness through its comprehensive approach to integrating blockchain technology and smart contracts in real estate transactions. The use of descriptive analytics on Ethereum blockchain data, combined with feasibility studies and regulatory compliance analysis, provides a well-rounded and methodologically rigorous examination of the topic. The inclusion of advanced cryptographic techniques such as zero-knowledge proofs and permissioned blockchains shows a deep understanding of the technical challenges and potential solutions in balancing privacy and efficiency. Furthermore, the study's findings are clearly supported by empirical data, making the conclusions and recommendations credible and relevant to the field.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form. =</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript appear to be both sufficient and recent, covering a range of relevant sources on blockchain technology, smart contracts, data privacy, and their applications in real estate. The inclusion of diverse references such as academic journal articles, industry reports, and regulatory documents suggests a thorough literature review.</p> <p>However, to ensure the references are comprehensive and up-to-date, the inclusion of a few additional recent studies could further strengthen the manuscript. Here are some suggestions:</p> <p>Recent Advances in Blockchain Technology: Include references that discuss the latest advancements in blockchain technology and smart contracts, such as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Zheng, Z., Xie, S., Dai, H., Chen, X., & Wang, H. (2017). An overview of blockchain technology: Architecture, consensus, and future trends. In Proceedings of the IEEE International Congress on Big Data (pp. 557-564). IEEE. https://doi.org/10.1109/BigDataCongress.2017.85</p> <p>Data Privacy and Blockchain: Incorporate recent studies that focus on data privacy solutions in blockchain systems:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Conti, M., Kumar, E. S., Lal, C., & Ruj, S. (2018). A survey on security and privacy issues of Bitcoin. IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials, 20(4), 3416-3452. https://doi.org/10.1109/COMST.2018.2842460</p> <p>Regulatory Compliance and Blockchain: Reference works that address the regulatory landscape for blockchain technology:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mougayar, W. (2016). The Business Blockchain: Promise, Practice, and the Application of the Next Internet Technology. Wiley.</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article are generally suitable for scholarly communication. The manuscript is written in a formal academic tone, which is appropriate for its intended audience.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>		

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

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