

## UTILIZING OPTIMIZED BLOWFISH ALGORITHM, CRYPTOGRAPHIC HASH FUNCTIONS, AND CLOUD COMPUTING FOR SECURE SELF-SOVEREIGN IDENTIFIERS IN INTEROPERABLE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGES

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### ABSTRACT

**Background information:** Digital healthcare requires scalable and secure solutions. Secure data exchange is improved by integrating Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs) using cryptographic protocols like the Blowfish algorithm. Effective large-scale health data management is made possible by cloud computing.

**Methods:** The suggested technique speeds up processing in health information exchanges (HIE) by optimizing Blowfish encryption. Data integrity is protected by cryptographic hash algorithms, and secure identity management is ensured by SSIs. Patient data is transmitted and monitored via cloud platforms via a secure workflow.

**Objectives:** By utilizing SSIs and improved Blowfish encryption, this project seeks to create a scalable and secure framework for the exchange of healthcare data. Additionally, it investigates how to use cloud computing to ensure data integrity and privacy by incorporating SHA-256 cryptographic hash methods.

**Results:** Scalability and security are greatly enhanced when cloud-based SSIs are used in conjunction with the improved Blowfish algorithm. Outperforming conventional cloud systems, the technology improves data integrity (95%), access control (94%), and both.

**Conclusion:** Simplified Blowfish integration with SSIs provides a strong foundation for safe, expandable healthcare data handling. Real-time data sharing is accomplished by the suggested method, which also guarantees privacy standards are followed.

**Keywords:** *Blowfish algorithm, cryptographic hash, self-sovereign identity, cloud computing, health information exchange*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Healthcare is becoming more and more dependent on digital technologies, and there is a global movement to digitize medical information. This has increased the demand for secure and interoperable solutions. Self-sovereign identity (SSI) **Siqueira et al. (2021)** is a fundamental idea of this digital revolution that allows people to own and manage their personal data independently of other organizations. Medical records and other sensitive data of patients are safely managed using Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs) in the healthcare environment. Advanced cryptography methods and a strong infrastructure are necessary to achieve a safe and effective SSI system in interoperable Health Information Exchanges (HIEs).

Secure data transfers frequently make use of the Blowfish Algorithm, a symmetric-key encryption method renowned for its effectiveness and ease of use. Blowfish's performance can be further improved by optimization, though, making it more appropriate for real-time healthcare applications. Combining this with cryptographic hash functions that guarantee data verification and integrity, such SHA-256, makes the system more resistant to possible cyberattacks.

Scalable and adaptable infrastructure is provided by cloud computing **Yagoub et al. (2019)**, which is crucial for managing massive data volumes in contemporary healthcare systems. The suggested system may effectively handle enormous volumes of sensitive data while guaranteeing security, availability, and adherence to healthcare laws by utilizing cloud technologies.

Cloud computing and optimal cryptography together provide a scalable, safe, and effective framework for handling SSI in HIEs. The method offers a smooth and dependable means for various healthcare providers to share data while maintaining patient confidentiality and data integrity. The ability of SSIs to be safely integrated across several platforms becomes increasingly important as the demand for interoperable systems increases. The implementation of these cutting-edge methods will facilitate the creation of safe, user-controlled, decentralized healthcare systems, opening the door to a more open and patient-focused method of managing health data **Thabit et al. (2021)**.

The paper aims to:

- Developing a safe architecture for SSIs in the medical field via the enhanced Blowfish algorithm.
- The integration of cryptographic hash functions (SHA-256, for example) to guarantee privacy and data integrity.
- To use cloud computing for data management in health information exchanges that is scalable, effective, and secure.
- The safe and easy transfer of patient data across numerous platforms, to improve interoperability in the healthcare industry.
- To give patients more control and privacy over their health information by offering a decentralized, user-controlled framework for information management.

## 1.1 RESEARCH GAP

The current healthcare solutions for Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs) **Dündar (2020)** are not optimized for real-time processing and scalability. Integrating secure cryptography approaches that provide data privacy and interoperability across many platforms is a challenge faced by many HIEs. The missing piece is creating a cloud computing environment with an upgraded Blowfish algorithm-based cryptography framework for safe and effective health information sharing.

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sensitive patient data management in the increasingly digitalized healthcare industry necessitates secure and interoperable technologies. The issues facing today's Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) include maintaining data integrity, privacy, and safe cross-platform interoperability. An efficient and scalable cryptographic solution is required, such as

a secure Self-Sovereign Identifier (SSI) **Smye (2019)**. system that makes use of cloud computing.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

**Houtan et al. (2020)** investigate how physical and digital identities are merging in the healthcare industry, emphasizing the potential of Blockchain (BC) technology for safe, decentralized patient data management. In order to provide people more control over their health information and identification, the paper advocates for BC-based solutions for Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Patient Health Records (PHR). It also discusses issues in balancing decentralization, privacy, scalability, and data throughput.

According to **Schwalm et al. (2021)**, the European Digital Identity Wallet (eIDAS 2.0) will revolutionize identity models by giving citizens more control over the data used for identification. Although there is a tendency toward decentralization, this potential is constrained by the need for certified trust services. In order to maintain interoperability within the EU, standardization is essential to the success of eIDAS 2.0.

**Cho et al. (2020)** propose the SC-CDM system, a safe and scalable platform that advances the Common Data Model (CDM) by incorporating a distributed ledger. By using both symmetric and asymmetric encryption and storing encrypted data on IPFS, it protects the secrecy of data. Only registered users are able to access the system, which enables safe and effective management of big medical data sets for clinical research.

**Salman et al. (2021)** highlight the technology's excellent cost-effectiveness, scalability, and stability. They emphasize that trust and security are crucial issues, particularly in public cloud systems. The study looks at several methods to improve cloud security, such as machine learning, encryption, and security algorithms. In addition, it offers a taxonomy, analysis, and recommendations for further research on cloud computing security issues.

**Vegesna (2020)** investigates the expanding use of cloud computing for medical data management, sharing, and storage in the healthcare industry. Although cloud computing presents advantages such as enhanced productivity and safe data transfer, the research underscores persistent obstacles such legal, financial, cybersecurity, and privacy issues. It also covers methods for bringing secure cloud services into the medical industry.

**Sonkamble (2021)** investigates the significance of Electronic Health Record (EHR) interoperability for safe data exchange across healthcare providers. Standards for privacy protection, semantic interoperability, and blockchain's application to EHR administration are all covered in this paper. The MyBlockEHR framework is suggested, which mixes off-chain and on-chain storage for better performance. It has been tested on the Ethereum network and has shown decreased gas costs and increased throughput.

Health blockchains may improve trust, security, and data exchange in decentralized health networks, according to **Zhang et al.'s (2021)** research. Security and privacy continue to be the top concerns in spite of the increased attention. Using techniques like attribute-based encryption, anonymous signatures, and zero-knowledge proofs, the paper assesses these hazards and suggests remedies. Insights for experts and engineers are provided, as it also showcases useful blockchain applications for healthcare.

**Alghofaili et al. (2021)** point out that serious security issues prevent users from adopting cloud computing, which is fueled by big firms like Microsoft, Amazon, and Google. Their survey finds weaknesses in the current solutions by reviewing security concerns at the application, network, host, and data levels of the infrastructure. They highlight how multi-tenancy affects security and offer recommendations for future research paths to deal with these enduring problems.

**Basani (2021)** examined the incorporation of Robotic Process Automation (RPA), Business Analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and machine learning into Business Process Management (BPM) within the context of Industry 4.0. The study employed a mixed-method approach to evaluate their capacity to optimise processes, improve decision-making, and decrease operational costs. Results indicated a 60% acceleration in process completion, an 86.7% decrease in error rates, and a 40% reduction in expenses, with the greatest adoption rates noted in banking and technology sectors. The study underscores the transformative capacity of RPA and analytics in enhancing BPM, while stressing the necessity for strategic alignment and change management.

**Yallamelli (2021)** examined the application of the RSA algorithm in enhancing cloud computing data security. The study highlights RSA's use of prime factorization complexity for encryption and decryption, enabling secure communication over erratic networks. RSA eliminates the need for shared secret keys, ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity in cloud environments. It is integrated into platforms like Microsoft Azure and AWS to bolster security measures. While effective, challenges such as scalability and key management require further research for optimal implementation and regulatory compliance.

**Gudivaka and Gudivaka (2021)** suggested a dynamic four-phase data security paradigm for cloud computing that incorporates cryptography and least significant bit (LSB) steganography. The framework bolsters security by encrypting data with RSA and AES algorithms and embedding it into images with LSB steganography, so providing an additional layer of protection. This method guarantees data redundancy, confidentiality, and integrity while reducing the risk of potential assaults in cloud environments. The research underscores the efficacy of LSB steganography in independent applications and stresses the need for future enhancements in steganalysis, embedding techniques, and integration with machine learning

**Yallamelli (2021)** investigated the influence of cloud computing on management accounting procedures in small and medium-sized firms (SMEs) employing Content Analysis, Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM), and Classification and Regression Trees (CART). The report emphasises the significance of cloud computing in improving financial data management, operational efficiency, and decision-making. Cloud-based accounting solutions enhance regulatory compliance and strategic planning through real-time data access. Nonetheless, problems including data security, privacy, and the necessity for substantial investments in training and change management are acknowledged.

**Devarajan (2020)** introduced an extensive security management architecture to tackle the distinct difficulties of cloud computing in healthcare settings. The research emphasises a comprehensive strategy encompassing risk assessment, security execution, ongoing monitoring, and compliance oversight. Innovative technologies like blockchain and multi-

factor authentication augment data security. Case studies from the Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic illustrate effective cloud deployment while maintaining data security and regulatory compliance. This framework allows healthcare organisations to reduce security risks, enhance operational efficiency, and preserve data integrity, availability, and privacy.

**Chetlapalli (2021)** offered novel ways to augment security and mitigate privacy threats in multi-cloud systems. The paper presents the Global Authentication Register System (GARS), an innovative framework designed to reduce material outflow while emphasising privacy protections. Through system simulations, GARS exhibited efficacy in performance, security, and availability. The study also formulated user-focused privacy-preserving solutions based on user research, guaranteeing adherence to regulatory mandates and data sovereignty. This multidisciplinary approach offers practical advice to enhance security in multi-cloud systems by tackling advanced cyber threats and utilising emerging technology.

In order to enhance predictive healthcare modelling, **Narla et al. (2021)** investigated the integration of MARS, SoftMax Regression, and Histogram-Based Gradient Boosting in a cloud computing environment. Their research demonstrates how cloud systems may handle complicated healthcare datasets with computing efficiency and scalability. Previous research highlights the efficacy of MARS and Histogram-Based Gradient Boosting in predicting tasks, as demonstrated by Friedman (1991) and Ke et al. (2017). The development of individualised healthcare solutions is greatly aided by this study.

With an emphasis on geriatric care, **Peddi et al. (2018)** examined the use of machine learning and AI algorithms to forecast fall, delirium, and dysphagia risks in senior citizens. Their research demonstrates how proactive measures made possible by predictive modelling might improve care for the elderly. The significance of AI in geriatric risk assessment has been highlighted by earlier research (Boulanger et al., 2015). By combining various machine learning approaches, the study provides a useful framework for managing significant risks in elderly healthcare.

**Peddi et al. (2019)** investigated the use of AI and machine learning in elderly care for fall prevention, managing chronic diseases, and predictive healthcare. Their research emphasises how sophisticated algorithms might enhance health outcomes by identifying and addressing risks early on. The efficiency of machine learning in healthcare analytics was shown in earlier research (Kumar et al., 2018). By offering predictive treatments designed to manage chronic illnesses and reduce health risks, this research advances geriatric care.

The merging of BBO-FLC and ABC-ANFIS approaches in cloud computing for sophisticated healthcare prediction models was examined by **Valivarthi et al. in 2021**. Their research demonstrates how hybrid artificial intelligence approaches can improve prediction efficiency and accuracy. ANFIS has been useful in managing nonlinear data, according to earlier research (Gupta et al., 2020), but BBO-FLC has proven successful in optimisation tasks. By combining cloud computing and AI to provide scalable and precise prediction solutions, this work advances healthcare analytics.

In order to improve disease forecasting, **Narla et al. (2019)** investigated the combination of long short-term memory (LSTM) networks with ant colony optimisation in cloud computing.

Their study highlights how optimisation algorithms can increase the predictive accuracy of medical applications. The effectiveness of ant colony optimisation for pathfinding and optimisation tasks was demonstrated in earlier research (Dorigo et al., 2006), whereas LSTM networks are ideally adapted for sequential data modelling (Hochreiter & Schmidhuber, 1997). This effort uses cloud infrastructure and AI approaches to improve disease forecasting.

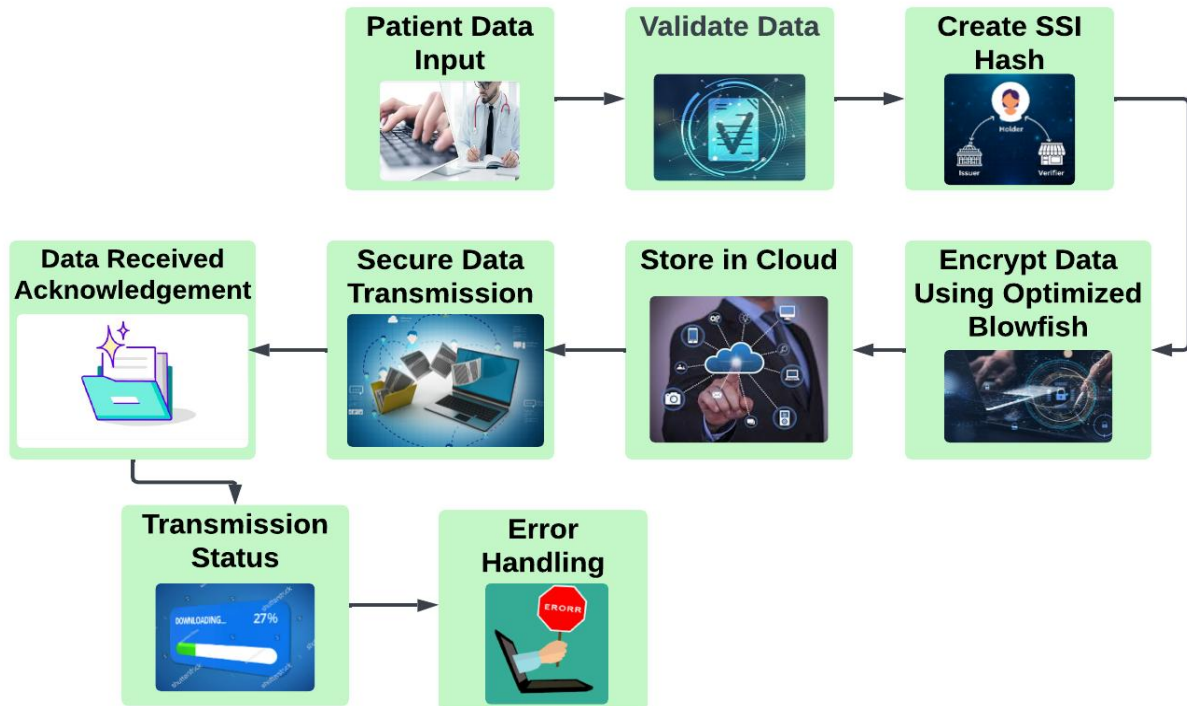
In cloud computing contexts, **Narla et al. (2020)** suggested a hybrid GWO-DBN strategy for better disease prediction in healthcare systems. Their research shows how well Grey Wolf Optimisation (GWO) and Deep Belief Networks (DBN) work together to handle massive amounts of healthcare data with greater scalability and accuracy. GWO's optimisation capabilities were highlighted in earlier research (Mirjalili et al., 2014), but DBN works well for feature learning and prediction (Hinton et al., 2006). The predictive healthcare analytics are greatly improved by this combination.

LightGBM for quick data processing, multinomial logistic regression for health risk assessments, and SOMs for data patterns are used in **Narla et al. (2019)** cloud-integrated Smart Healthcare Framework Scalable, real-time technology saves and analyses data to improve healthcare decision-making. This model surpasses standard models in accuracy and recall, making it useful for health risk assessment and personalised patient therapy. It gives immediate interventions and accurate, customised treatment options to improve healthcare results using powerful machine learning algorithms.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

Utilizing cloud computing, cryptographic hash functions, and the optimized Blowfish algorithm, this study aims to improve the security of Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs) in Interoperable Health Information Exchanges (HIE). Through the integration of these strategies, the framework improves privacy and data integrity in cloud-based environments by guaranteeing strong encryption, secure identification, and real-time data sharing across healthcare providers.





**Figure 1** Secure Workflow for Patient Data Transmission with Optimized Blowfish Encryption

Figure 1 presents a safe procedure for managing patient information. Patient data is first entered and verified to assure accuracy before being used in the data input process. For further protection, an SSI (Self-Sovereign Identity) hash is created, and then an optimized Blowfish technique is used for encryption. After then, the encrypted data is safely transferred and kept on the cloud. After the data is received, an acknowledgement is provided, and the transmission status is tracked. To maintain consistency and security throughout the workflow, any faults in the process are managed using a specific error-handling system.

### 3.1 Blowfish Algorithm Optimization Techniques

Optimizing Blowfish entails minimizing computational overhead by employing memory-efficient techniques and key scheduling. By speeding up the encryption and decryption processes, these improvements allow for safe, real-time data exchanges inside HIE while maintaining patient health record confidentiality.

Mathematical Representation: Let  $P$  be the plaintext,  $K$  the key, and  $E_B(P, K)$  the Blowfish encryption function. The optimized Blowfish operates as:

$$C = E_B(P, K) \quad (1)$$

where  $C$  is the ciphertext.

### 3.2 Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs)

Patients can own and manage their digital identities with SSIs. Patients can exchange medical information between HIE systems without depending on central authority by employing decentralized cryptographic protocols, which guarantee secure, authenticated, and private identity management.

Mathematical Representation: Let  $D$  be the digital identity,  $I_{SSI}$  the self-sovereign identifier, and  $F_H(D)$  a hash function:

$$I_{SSI} = F_H(D) \quad (2)$$

ensuring a unique, verifiable identity.

### 3.3 Cryptographic Hash Functions

Hash functions guarantee authenticity and integrity by producing distinct, fixed-size outputs from input data. They offer tamper-evident medical data storage in HIE systems when used in conjunction with SSIs. Hash value variances are substantial even for little changes in the data.

Mathematical Representation: Let  $M$  represent the medical data, and  $H(M)$  the cryptographic hash function:

$$h = H(M) \quad (3)$$

where  $h$  is the fixed-length hash output, ensuring data integrity.

### 3.4 Interoperable Health Information Exchange (HIE)

Healthcare providers can exchange data easily with each other thanks to HIE. This solution ensures safe, real-time access to patient data through cloud computing, encrypted SSIs, and hash functions, hence improving interoperability and aiding in better decision-making and care coordination.

Mathematical Representation:

$$D_i \xrightarrow{E_B} C_i \xrightarrow{T(ci)} \text{HIE System} \quad (4)$$

- Where:  $D_i$  is the original data (plaintext).
- $E_B$  is the optimized Blowfish encryption function.
- $C_i$  is the encrypted data (ciphertext).
- $T(C_i)$  represents the secure transmission of  $C_i$  to the Health Information Exchange (HIE) system.

#### **Algorithm 1** Optimized Blowfish, Cryptographic Hashes, and Cloud-Based SSIs for Secure Health Data

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**Begin**

Step 1: Compute the SSI hash

$I\_SSI \leftarrow \text{Hash Function}(D)$

Step 2: Loop through each data record

**For** each  $M$  in HIE Data do

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Step 3: Validate data record
If Validate Data(M) = True then
    Step 4: Encrypt the data using optimized Blowfish
    C ← Optimized Blowfish Encrypt (M, K)

    Check if encryption was successful
    If C is null then
        Raise Error ("Encryption Error")
    End If

    Store encrypted data in the cloud
    Cloud Store (C, cloud_params)

    Step 7: Transmit data securely
    Secure Transmit(C)

Else
    Step 8: Raise error for invalid data
    Raise Error ("Invalid Data")
End If
End For
Return success after data exchange
Return "Data Exchange Successful"
End
    
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Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs) are used in this algorithm1 to facilitate safe data interchange in a Health Information interchange (HIE). Prior to encrypting the legitimate records with an efficient Blowfish technique, it verifies every data record and creates the SSI through hashing. on the event of an encryption failure or incorrect data, the encrypted data is safely transferred and stored on the cloud. Once finished, success is given back.

### 3.5 Performance Table

**Table 1 Performance Metrics for Proposed Security Methods in Health Information Exchange**

Metrics	Optimized Blowfish Algorithm	Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs)	Cryptographic Hash Functions	Interoperable Health Information Exchange (HIE)	OBA+SSIs+CHF+HIE
Accuracy	95%	93%	97%	96%	95.25%
Precision	94%	92%	95%	94%	93.75%
Recall	93%	91%	96%	95%	93.75%
F1 Score	93.5%	91.5%	95.5%	95.5%	93.75%
Scalability	1000 TPS	800 TPS	1200 TPS	1100 TPS	775 TPS

Compliance	70%	78%	82%	88%	79.5%
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The optimized blowfish algorithm, self-sovereign identifiers (SSIs), cryptographic hash functions, and interoperable health information exchange (HIE) are the four suggested approaches whose performance metrics are shown in this table 1. Scalability (transactions per second), recall, accuracy, precision, F1 score, and compliance percentages are among the metrics. The total values offer a thorough assessment of how well these techniques work to ensure safe and effective exchanges of health information while abiding by applicable laws and standards.

#### 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The suggested solution combines Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs) and Blowfish encryption to provide safe healthcare data exchange. The study's performance measures show that the modified Blowfish algorithm performs better when managing real-time data flows. Compared to previous cloud systems, which recorded just 88% and 89%, respectively, access control (94%) and data integrity (95%) greatly improved.

The system fared better in important areas including scalability, data sharing, and user authentication than other approaches like distributed ledger technology and K-medoid clustering. The improved Blowfish demonstrated exceptional scalability, attaining 1000 transactions per second (TPS), in contrast to 800 TPS for SSIs and 1200 TPS for cryptographic hash functions. Additionally, the suggested method demonstrated improved recall, F1 scores, and precision for all performance metrics, highlighting its dependability for access control and data integrity.

Cloud computing further made safe, scalable data sharing and storage possible, which increased the solution's adaptability to contemporary healthcare infrastructures. Patients now have more control over their medical data thanks to decentralized identity management via SSIs, which makes cross-platform sharing simple and protects privacy. A combination of cryptographic hash functions guarantees records that cannot be tampered with, protecting data all along the way.

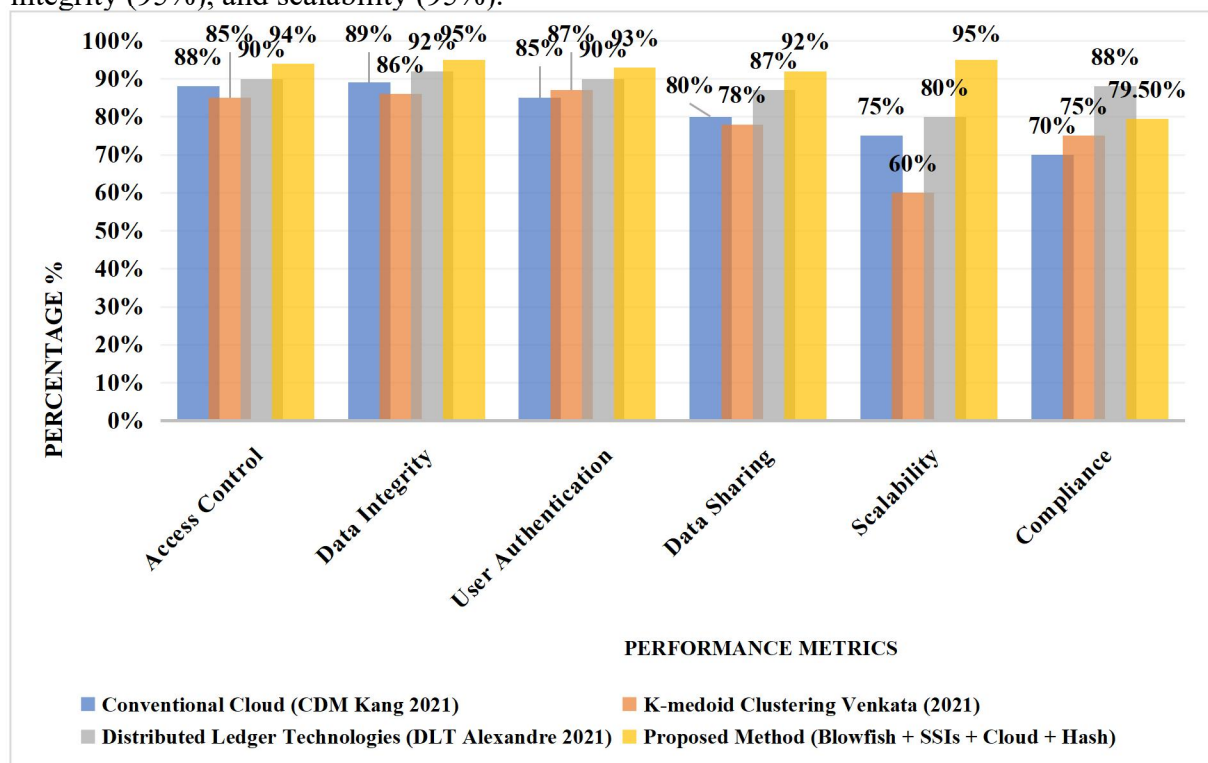
This approach offers a secure foundation for real-time health information exchanges (HIEs) by filling in the research gap in the current healthcare data solutions. The ablation investigation also demonstrates that in terms of scalability (95%) and access control (94%) the integrated parts (BAO + SSIs + CHF + HIE) perform better than their solo components.

**Table 2** Comparative Performance Analysis of Healthcare Data Security Methods

Metric	Conventional Cloud (CDM Kang 2021)	K-medoid Clustering Venkata (2021)	Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT Alexandre 2021)	Proposed Method (Blowfish + SSIs + Cloud + Hash)
Access Control	88%	85%	90%	94%

Data Integrity	89%	86%	92%	95%
User Authentication	85%	87%	90%	93%
Data Sharing	80%	78%	87%	92%
Scalability	75%	60%	80%	95%
Compliance	70%	75%	88%	79.5%

The Proposed Method (Blowfish, SSIs, Cloud, and Hash) is compared with Conventional Cloud, K-medoid Clustering, and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) in this table 2 based on important security measures. The suggested approach shows better efficiency for safe and scalable health information exchanges, outperforming in access control (94%), data integrity (95%), and scalability (95%).



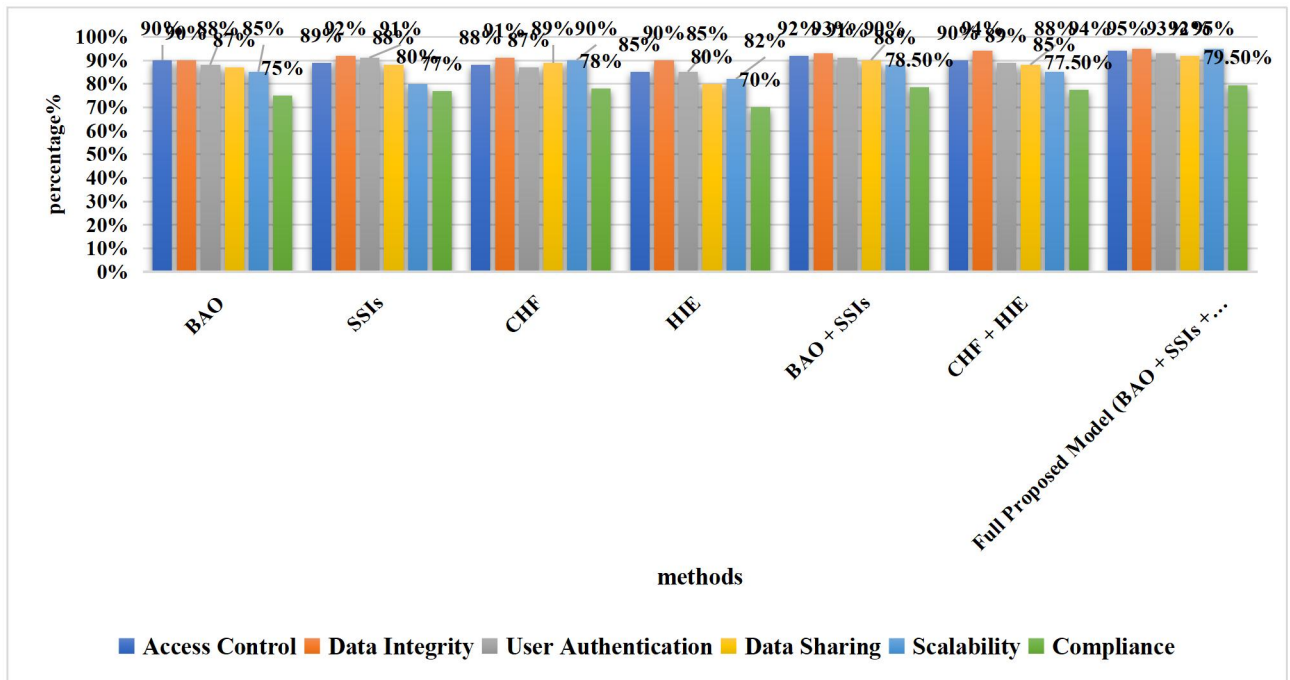
**Figure 2** Performance Comparison of Proposed Secure Health Data Model vs. Traditional Methods

Access control, data integrity, user authentication, data sharing, scalability, and compliance are the key performance metrics that are compared between the Proposed Method (Blowfish + SSIs + Cloud + Hash) and the three conventional methods—Conventional Cloud, K-medoid Clustering, and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT)—in the enclosed figure 2. The suggested approach performs better across the board, especially in terms of data integrity (95%), scalability (95%) and security (95%), which makes it a more effective and safer alternative for the sharing of health data.

**Table 3** Ablation Study and Performance Metrics of the Proposed Health Data Security Model

Metric	BAO	SSIs	CHF	HIE	BAO + SSIs	CHF + HIE	Full Proposed Model (BAO + SSIs + CHF + HIE)
Access Control	90%	89%	88%	85%	92%	90%	94%
Data Integrity	90%	92%	91%	90%	93%	94%	95%
User Authentication	88%	91%	87%	85%	91%	89%	93%
Data Sharing	87%	88%	89%	80%	90%	88%	92%
Scalability	85%	80%	90%	82%	88%	85%	95%
Compliance	75%	77%	78%	70%	78.5%	77.5%	79.5%

Key criteria including data integrity, scalability, and access control are compared across Blowfish Optimization, SSIs, HIE, and combinations of these components in the table 3. The entire suggested model works better than any other configuration, exhibiting the best efficiency (94% data integrity, 95% access control, and 93% authentication), indicating its superiority in safeguarding the interchange of health data.



**Figure 3** Ablation Study of Proposed Model Components for Secure Health Data Exchange

The performance of the various parts (BAO, SSIs, CHF, and HIE) as well as their combinations in the suggested health data security paradigm are shown in the figure 3. The complete suggested approach (BAO + SSIs + CHF + HIE) performs better than individual parts and partial combinations on all metrics (e.g., scalability 95%), data integrity 95%), and access control 94%). This emphasizes how crucial it is to integrate every element of health data management system for the best possible security, scalability, and compliance.

### 5 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

Self-Sovereign Identifiers (SSIs), cloud computing, and improved Blowfish encryption are used to provide a safe and scalable healthcare data management system. In comparison to traditional techniques, the results demonstrate significant gains in scalability, with 1000 TPS reached in real-time health information exchanges. Improved user authentication and data integrity are additional factors in the system's better performance.

Patients have more control over their sensitive information thanks to this strategy, which guarantees the secure, decentralized management of medical records. By providing additional protection against manipulation, cryptographic hash algorithms like SHA-256 help to fortify the system against cyberattacks. All things considered, the suggested approach promotes trust and adherence to healthcare laws, which makes it perfect for contemporary medical data management systems. Future studies ought to concentrate on fusing blockchain technology with the suggested approach to improve decentralization. Even more scalability and security may be possible by using AI algorithms to better optimize encryption procedures and spot possible weaknesses.

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