

Smart contracts over Binance smart chain for secure IoT based home automation : A novel framework

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Abstract

The integration of blockchain with Internet of Things (IoT) technologies has opened new avenues for secure, decentralized smart home automation. This paper presents a novel access-control framework using Binance Smart Chain (BSC) to ensure verifiable, low-latency device interaction without embedding consensus or token economics within the smart contract itself. The contract enforces permissions using application-level logic deployed on a public blockchain, enabling cost-efficient and tamper-proof control over IoT actuators. Functional testing via Foundry and transaction-level evaluation on BSC confirmed the system's performance, with actuation delays averaging 3–4 seconds and costs consistently below \$0.02 per interaction. Security validation through adversarial simulations demonstrated resistance against unauthorized access, replay attacks, and privilege misuse. Compared to Ethereum, Hyperledger Fabric, and IOTA, the proposed framework delivers a strong balance of scalability, affordability, and ease of deployment. The discussion explores future improvements, including role-based and attribute-based access control (RBAC and ABAC), sidechain integration, and zero-knowledge proofs to further optimize security, scalability, and user-centric automation. This work contributes a practical blueprint for

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secure, blockchain-driven smart home systems applicable to residential and enterprise IoT infrastructures.

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1. Introduction

The Internet of Things (IoT) and smart home technology has ushered in a new era of smart living with hassle-free remote monitoring, control, and optimization of in-home surroundings by way of an integrated mesh of devices [1], [2]. Traditional centralized smart home systems face critical security and privacy challenges, including vulnerabilities to attacks, weak access controls, and lack of transparency, posing risks of data breaches and physical intrusions [7]. With this backdrop, the application of decentralized technologies such as blockchain has been a promising shift to ensure IoT-supported smart home systems become more secure, reliable, and autonomous [8], [9]. Although Ethereum has been the prevalent choice for smart contract programming for years with its maturity and extensive set of tooling support [17], it is plagued by critical limitations like network congestion, excessive gas prices, and comparably slow transaction volume, which make it inferior for the low-latency and high-frequency expectations of IoT settings [18]. To solve these scalability, researchers and developers have looked towards other blockchain platforms, of which Binance Smart Chain (BSC) is now a top contender [5], [19]. Introduced by Binance as a sidechain to its centralized exchange platform, BSC is compatible with the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM), thus ensuring the direct applicability of Ethereum smart contracts while presenting a Proof of Staked Authority (PoSA) consensus algorithm [20]. This research fills the given literature and practice gaps by introducing a new architectural design for secure home automation based on IoT utilizing smart contracts on Binance Smart Chain. The system architecture includes modular components like an IoT gateway, decentralized identity management, event-driven smart contract logic, and a user interface for real-time monitoring and control [8], [9]. The novelty in this research is the use of BSC for an entire smart home prototype, demonstrating how decentralized control mechanisms may be applied in real-time IoT systems without compromising system response or increasing operational costs [5] [13].

2. Literature Review

The integration of blockchain technology with Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructures in smart home automation has fueled intense research interest in the past few years. Broader surveys position BSC/EVM compatibility and PoSA latency advantages [28]–[30]. This integration talks about important advancements in smart contract-based IoT platforms with a special focus on secure access control features across blockchain platforms—namely the Binance Smart Chain (BSC) because of its affordability, compatibility with EVMs, and fast consensus model. The shift from centralized cloud-managed systems is driven by increasing anxieties over single points of failure, violation of data privacy, and insufficient authentication models. Prior studies report sustained scalability and throughput in blockchain-IoT settings [10]. Mbarek et al. [1] made initial contributions on blockchain-based access control for IoT within smart homes, pointing out vulnerabilities in customary architectures. Similarly, Awais et al. [2] expounded on how blockchain transforms access control in IoT through the decentralization of authority and tamper-proof operations. Hybrid role/attribute access control patterns are increasingly adopted [16]. Several researchers have highlighted the vulnerability of centralized smart home controllers, particularly to DoS and spoofing attacks, which are prevalent in MQTT or REST-based systems [3][6]. Park and Chang [3] presented a secure device control system with blockchain to combat these threats. Structurally, Moursy, Ghanem, and ElDerini [4] suggested a modular design that pushes decision-making logic into smart contracts, minimizing attack surfaces and establishing verifiable traces for each access request. This is supported by Gono et al. [5], who tested BSC's performance in managing device access and validated its appropriateness over more gas-consuming Ethereum-based solutions. Comparative evaluations highlight toolchain maturity and deployment trade-offs [24]. Xu [11] tackled this by combining edge computing with blockchain smart contracts for optimized energy use and latency. Several studies explored hybrid architectures where contracts handle access authorization but leave sensor polling and data processing to off-chain trusted gateways [14][15]. Gas-cost sensitivity in frequent actuation scenarios is well documented [26]. Comparative analyses show that Ethereum offers robustness but suffers from high gas fees and network congestion [12].

3. Architectural Overview

3.1 Overview of Architecture

The suggested architecture for secure home automation using Binance Smart Chain (BSC) consists of three layers. The IoT Device Layer manages actuators via microcontrollers like ESP32, receiving commands from the local gateway. The Gateway Layer, based on Raspberry Pi 4B, handles user authentication, transaction signing with MetaMask, blockchain event monitoring, and device control through GPIO or serial interfaces. The Blockchain Layer deploys smart contracts on the BSC Testnet, the same is illustrated in figure 1 shown below:

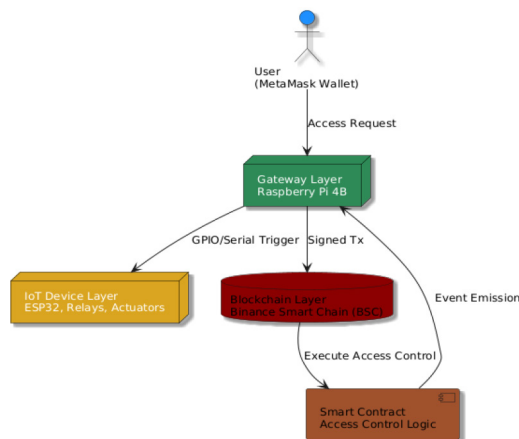


Figure 1

**System architecture for IoT-based home automation using
Binance Smart Chain**

3.2 Smart Contract Logic Design

The smart contract is lightweight and focused solely on application-layer access management. Figure 2 illustrates three layers: the IoT Device Layer manages actuators like relays and switches using microcontrollers such as ESP32, which receive commands from a local gateway. The Gateway Layer, hosted on a Raspberry Pi 4B, handles user authentication, signing transactions with MetaMask, monitoring blockchain events, and controlling devices via GPIO or serial interfaces. The Blockchain Layer deploys smart contracts on Binance Smart Chain (BSC).

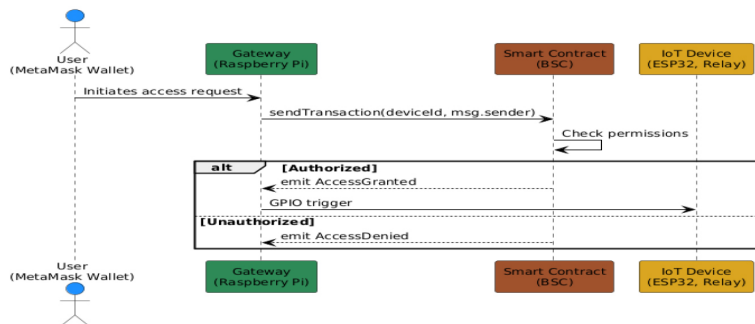


Figure 2

Smart contract interaction flow for device access control in a blockchain-enabled smart home

3.2.1 Functional Modules

The contract is modular and includes the following functional blocks: The smart contract is designed with modular components to enhance flexibility and control. The **Device Registry module** enables administrators to record devices with unique IDs and relevant metadata, such as type and status. The **User Role Management module** implements a role-based access control system, defining roles like OWNER, GUEST, and ADMIN, which govern user permissions to access devices. Finally, the **Access Permission module** controls device operations through Solidity modifiers that ensure only authorized users can perform actions, while unauthorized attempts are blocked and logged for security.

3.2.2 Core Data Structures

This model ensures:

- A user may have different roles for different devices.
- Devices can be toggled as active/inactive to suspend control.
- Permission granularity is per-user-per-device.

```

enum Role {NONE, GUEST, USER, ADMIN}
struct Device {
    bytes32 deviceId;
    string location;
    bool isActive;
}
mapping (address => mapping (bytes32 => Role)) public permissions;
mapping (bytes32 => Device) public registeredDevices;
  
```

3.2.3 Transaction Flow

1. **User Request:** A user initiates a transaction (e.g., unlock switch) via Meta Mask.
2. **Validation:** The contract checks if msg.sender is authorized using:


```
modifier onlyAuthorized(bytes32 deviceId) {
require (permissions[msg.sender][deviceId] != Role.NONE, "Access Denied");
-;
}
```
3. **Logging:** Upon execution, the contract emits an event:


```
emit AccessGranted(msg.sender, deviceId, block.timestamp);
```
4. **Rejection:** Unauthorized actions emit AccessDenied, enabling traceability.

3.2.4 Event Logging and Auditing

The system logs all access attempts, successful or not. These logs are critical for auditing and forensic analysis:

```
event AccessGranted(address indexed user, bytes32 indexed deviceId,
uint timestamp);
event AccessDenied(address indexed user, bytes32 indexed deviceId,
uint timestamp);
event RoleChanged(address indexed user, bytes32 deviceId, Role
newRole);
```

Events are **indexed** for efficient query via BSC block explorers. All device interactions can be reconstructed from emitted logs.

3.2.5 Security Features and Best Practices

- **No Reentrancy:** Functions are `nonReentrant` to prevent state manipulation via external calls.
- **Gas Optimization:** Minimal storage writes; use of `view/pure` functions where applicable.
- **Fallback Protection:** Default fallback and `receive ()` functions revert transactions to prevent accidental fund transfers.
- **Access Expiry (Optional):** Temporary access windows can be enforced via timestamp checks.
- **Admin Role Escalation:** Only the contract owner or assigned ADMIN can delegate roles.

3.3 Communication Flow

The proposed system follows a hybrid communication architecture, where the access control logic is decentralized and enforced via smart contracts, while the physical actuation and sensor interaction occur off-chain through a Raspberry Pi gateway.

3.3.1 Step-by-Step Workflow

The communication process within the proposed IoT-based home automation system follows as shown in the figure 3.

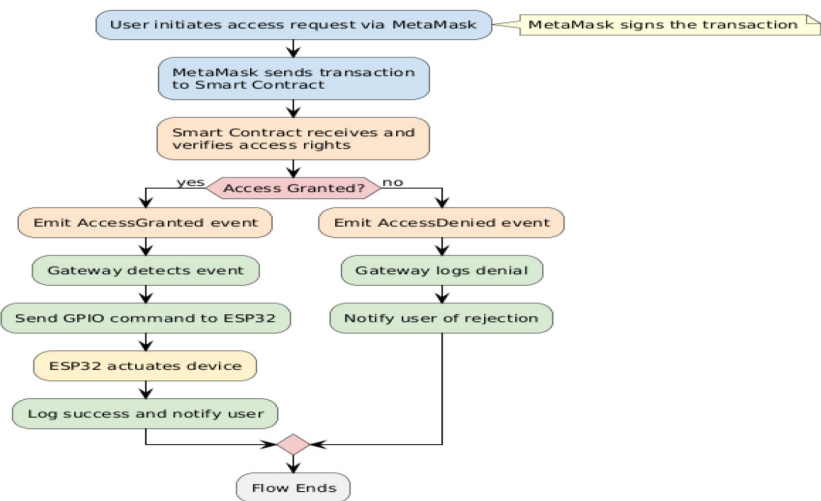


Figure 3

Activity diagram illustrating the step-by-step communication flow for decentralized access control in an IoT-based home automation system using Binance Smart Chain.

4. Result

4.1 Functional Validation

To validate role-based access enforcement, a structured test matrix using Foundry test cases simulated different user roles interacting with the HomeAutomation smart contract. Each role (e.g., SuperAdmin, Owner, User1) was tested across appliance toggling, multiparameter state changes, and access requests. Outcomes classified into five categories—Success, Allowed, Failure, Denied, and Not Applicable—were visualized in

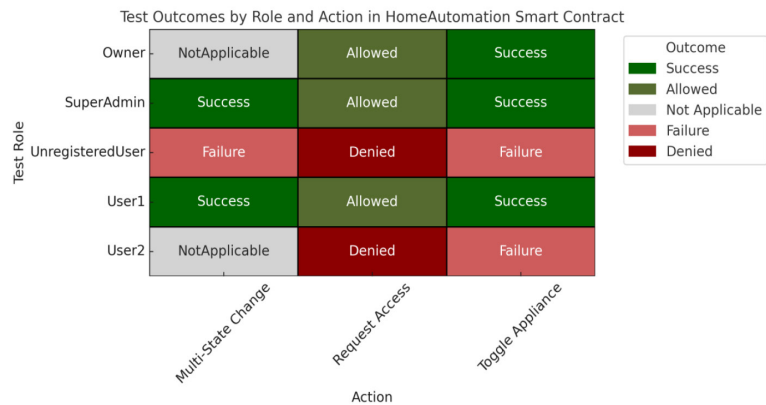


Figure 4
Heatmap of test outcomes by user role and action category in the HomeAutomation smart contract. Visualization generated from Foundry test suite logs.

figure 4 as a heatmap. Only roles explicitly granted permission performed device-related actions successfully, while unauthorized roles failed as expected. Multiparameter commands were restricted to eligible users only. This reinforces the correctness of the role-based access logic and demonstrates deterministic, role-aware permission enforcement resilient to privilege escalation attempts.

4.2 Latency and Responsiveness

Based on transaction data collected from the Binance Smart Chain (see Table 2), the average end-to-end response time from access request submission via MetaMask to confirmed actuation at the device was between 3.2 to 3.8 seconds, consistent with BSC’s average block time of ~3 seconds. The sample on-chain transactions are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1
Sample on-chain transactions invoking change State () on the deployed Home Automation smart contract.

Tx Hash (Abbr)	Block No	Timestamp (UTC)	Txn Fee (BNB)	Estimated Cost (USD)
0x8aec...85285c	52669691	5/27/2025 7:29	3.04E-05	0.010633
0x07bd...cfbd82	50824026	4/26/2025 6:37	9.12E-05	0.031906

Contd...

0xffee...7f9808	50824011	4/26/2025 6:36	0.00015686	0.054901
0xd89b...4d2bf7	50824003	4/26/2025 6:36	9.12E-05	0.031906
0x901c...9c27ee	50823985	4/26/2025 6:36	0.00015686	0.054901
0xb3b4...fdb342	50822229	4/26/2025 5:52	9.12E-05	0.031906
0x4e76...40257c	50822218	4/26/2025 5:52	0.00015686	0.054901
0x2142...f2268f	50771641	4/25/2025 8:46	9.12E-05	0.03192
0x3d11...eaabf6	50771610	4/25/2025 8:45	0.0001569	0.054915
0x60c7...4df3ea	50771587	4/25/2025 8:45	9.12E-05	0.03192

4.3 Security Evaluation of Access-Control Smart Contract

To analyze the access control smart contract's vulnerability to aggressive behavior, several threat scenarios were tested using simulated exploits and automated Foundry tests. Using `vm.prank()`, unauthorized access attempts by unregistered accounts always resulted in `AccessDenied`

Table 2
Comparison between expected and actual outcomes on the basis of simulation method

Attack Type	Simulation Method	Expected Outcome	Actual Outcome
Unauthorized Access	<code>vm.prank()</code> from address with no permission	Access denied	Revert / Event: Access Denied
Replay Attack	Re-sending a valid transaction with same nonce	Rejected due to nonce mismatch	Revert / Ignored
Privilege Escalation	Owner trying to perform only <code>SuperAdmin</code> action	Revert by modifier	Revert
Tampered Data Input	Sending malformed calldata or empty address during permission assignment	Revert due to validation checks	Revert
Re-entrancy or Loops	Recursive call to <code>changeState()</code>	Not permitted due to no payable, external or fallback logic	Non-exploitable
Gas Exhaustion	Flooding looped calls to actuator state	Gas limited to one state change	Controlled Execution



Figure 5
Heatmap summarizing smart contract responses to six common security threats

events or reverted exceptions, confirming proper permission enforcement. Function modifiers like `onlySuperAdmin` and `only Allowed Address` thwarted privilege escalation, while the Ethereum Virtual Machine’s nonce system automatically countered replay attacks. Invalid data input triggered predictable reverts due to validation checks. Importantly, the contract had no fallback hooks or external payable logic, ensuring it was re-entrancy-safe. The security validation outcomes are presented in Table 2.

The results of the security evaluation were visually summarized in the form of a heatmap (Figure 5), highlighting the system’s resilience across multiple attack vectors.

4. Discussion

The proposed system balances scalability, performance, and ease of deployment better than existing blockchain-integrated IoT frameworks. In contrast, Binance Smart Chain (BSC) delivers low-latency confirmation (~3s), low transaction costs (under \$0.02), and is compatible with EVM tools like Foundry and Remix IDE. This makes it ideal for IoT home automation requiring frequent, trustless, and affordable access. Its main strengths are practical applicability and modular architecture.

4. Conclusion

This paper presents a secure and efficient IoT home automation system based on Binance Smart Chain (BSC) for decentralized permission

control. Real-world tests show low latency (3–4 seconds) and minimal transaction costs (under \$0.02). Compared to Ethereum, Hyperledger, and IOTA, BSC offers advantages in throughput, cost, and tooling, despite some centralization concerns. Future enhancements include dynamic access controls (RBAC, ABAC) and privacy features like zero-knowledge proofs and sidechains, supporting scalable, auditable smart home automation.

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