



# Toward Trusted Blockchain Technology in Healthcare through Security and Privacy

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# Introduction

Overview





“No matter how you look at it, blockchain and healthcare is a match made in heaven.”<sup>1</sup>

Codrin Arsene  
CEO of Digital Authority Partners

# Introduction

## Current Healthcare System <sup>2</sup>



From drug supply chains to health records, everything is managed through the traditional computer and paperwork system.



Lack of reliability due to lack of parity between the parties involved in the data management system



In the healthcare sector, critical patient data and information remains scattered across different departments and systems.

# Introduction

## Current Healthcare System <sup>3</sup>



400,000 deaths.



80% due to miscommunication  
of patient-related data.



Manual documentation by  
filing 20,000 forms with an  
average cost of \$20.

# Introduction

## Current Healthcare System <sup>2</sup>



50% of unreported clinical trials.



Up to 40% of healthcare provider data records are filled up with errors or misleading information.



\$380 Healthcare data breaches cost.



This amount is expected to increase.



# Introduction

## **The impact**

- Human loss
- Financial loss

# Security

## Current Healthcare System <sup>2</sup>

Patients don't have any control over their data

- Identity thefts
- Financial data crimes
- Spamming

Healthcare industry suffers from security

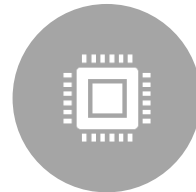
- Security breaches

# Introduction - Solution

## Blockchain can deliver a promising solution



Making data interoperable and providing doctors with real-time access to it.



Incorporate a technology that promises to seal all the loopholes.



Securely sharing data.

# Introduction - Solution

“An open, distributed ledger that can record transactions between two parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent way” (Iansiti and Lakhani) <sup>4</sup>



# Introduction - Solution

“Blockchain technology is considered as a trustless distributed ledger to collect, store, share, analyze, and validate medical data exchange among different stakeholders (such as health care organizations, providers, and patients) “ (Yue and et al.)<sup>5</sup>



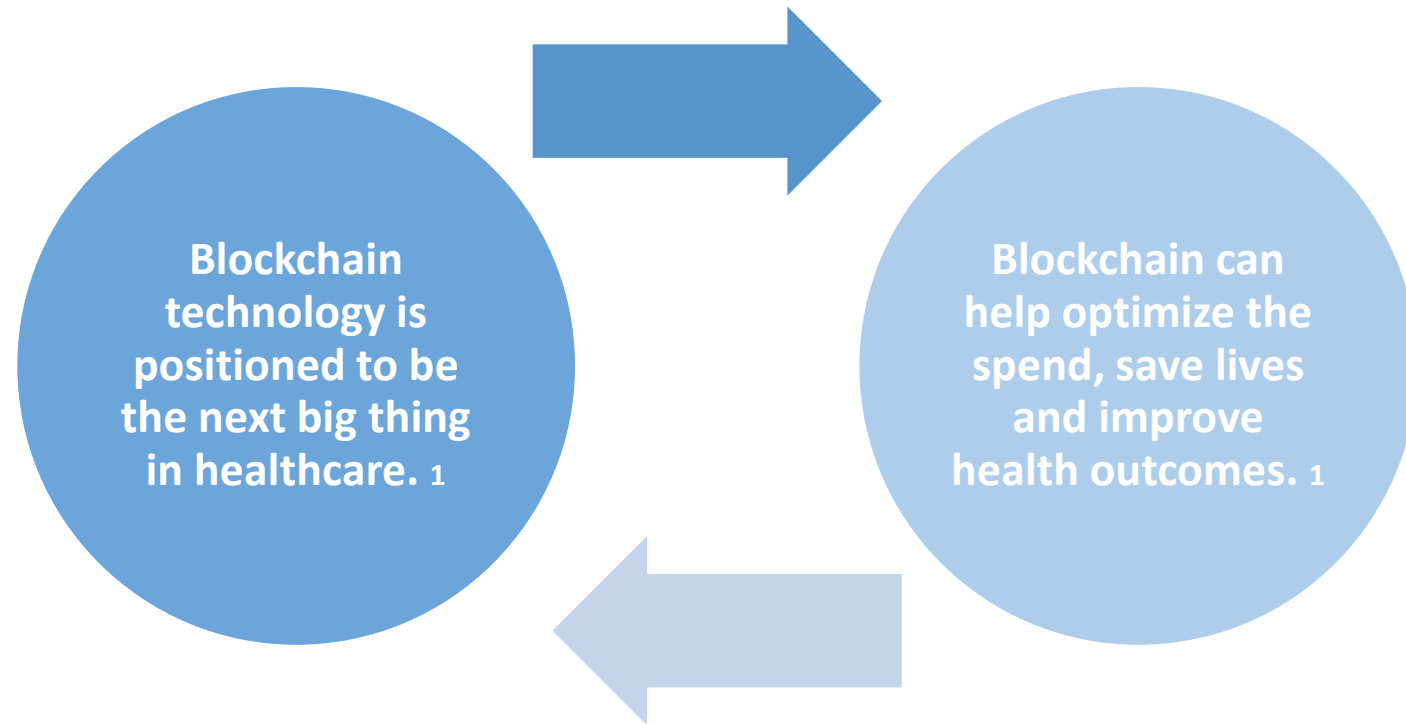
# Blockchain in Healthcare



- 1 in every 5 healthcare organizations use blockchain for information management and patient identity purposes. <sup>2</sup>
- 16% of healthcare executives implement blockchain solution. <sup>3</sup>
- 56% adopt blockchain. <sup>3</sup>

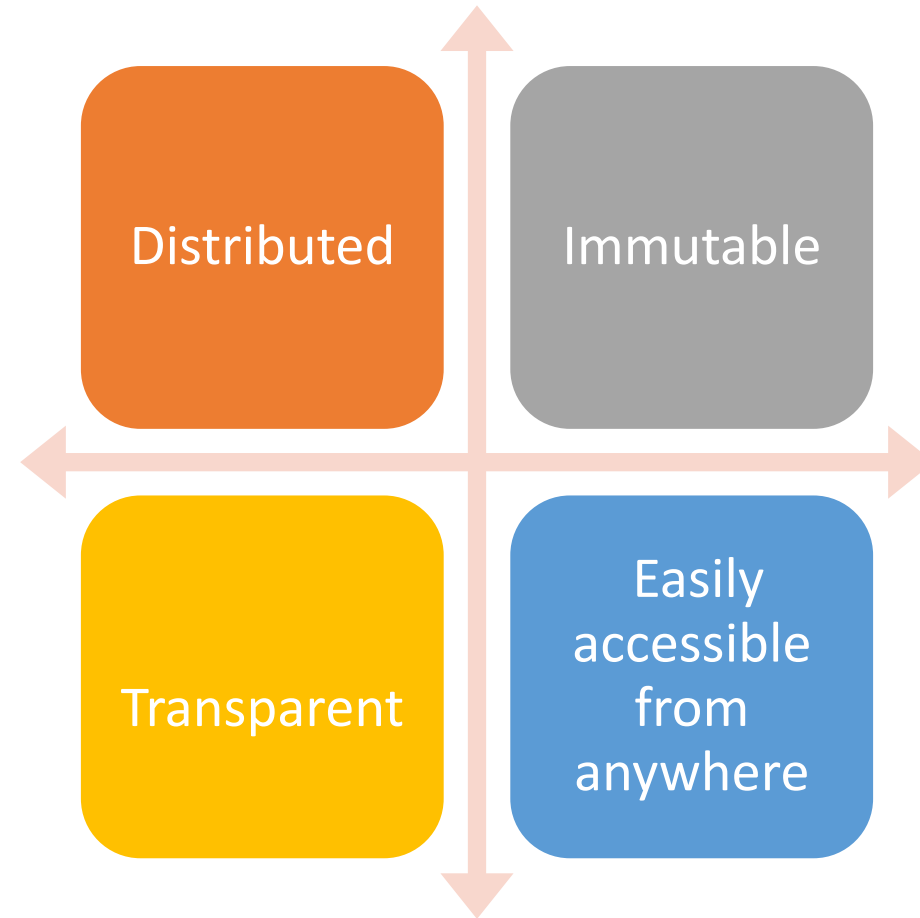
- 55% deploy blockchain for commercial purposes. <sup>2</sup>
- valuation of blockchain jump from \$170 million to \$5.61 billion. <sup>2</sup>

# Blockchain in Healthcare



# Blockchain Features

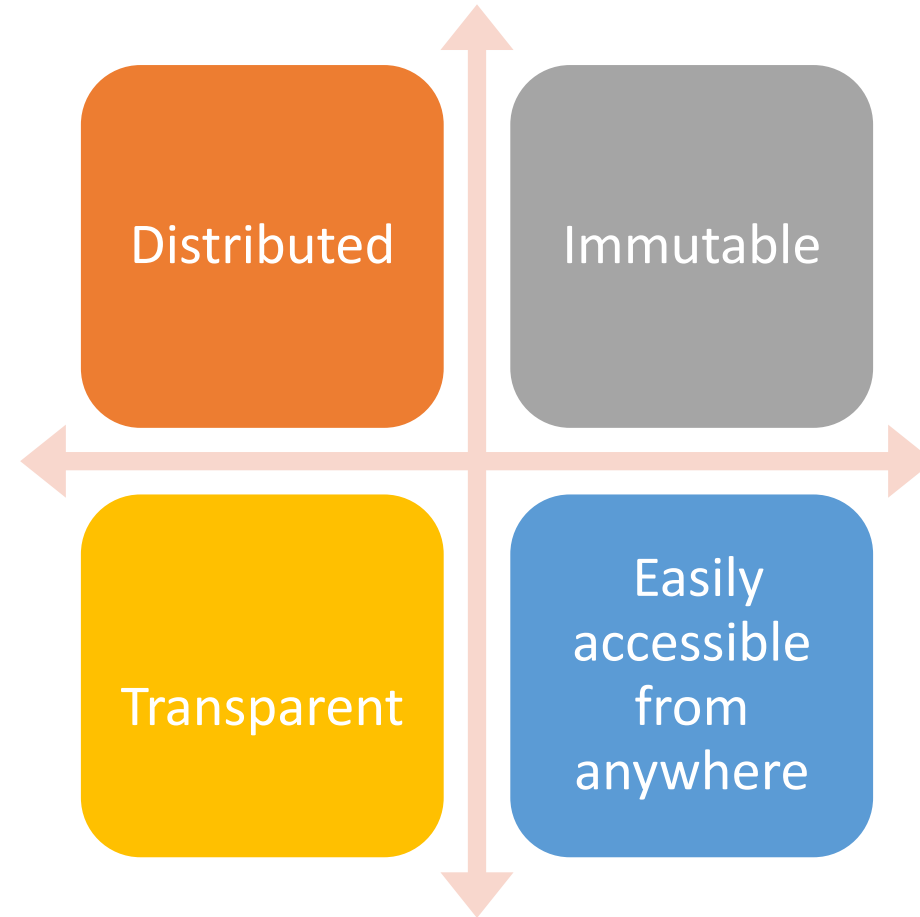
## Blockchain features 6





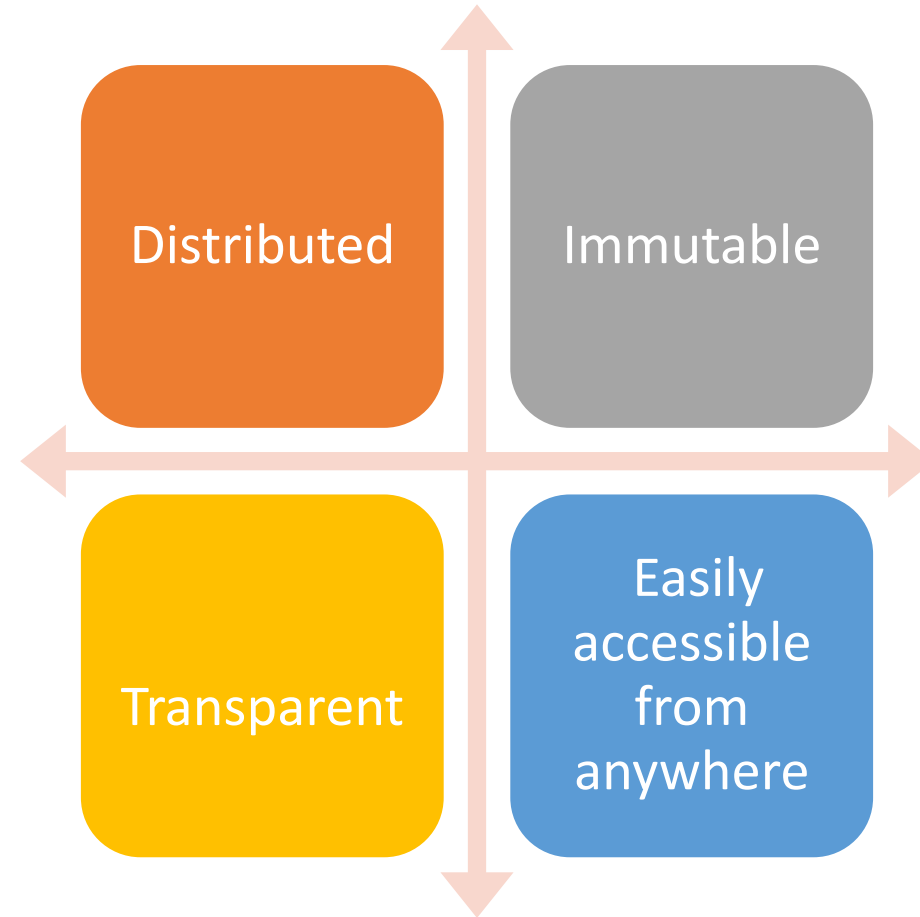
# Blockchain Features

The data can be accessed, monitored, stored, and updated on multiple systems.

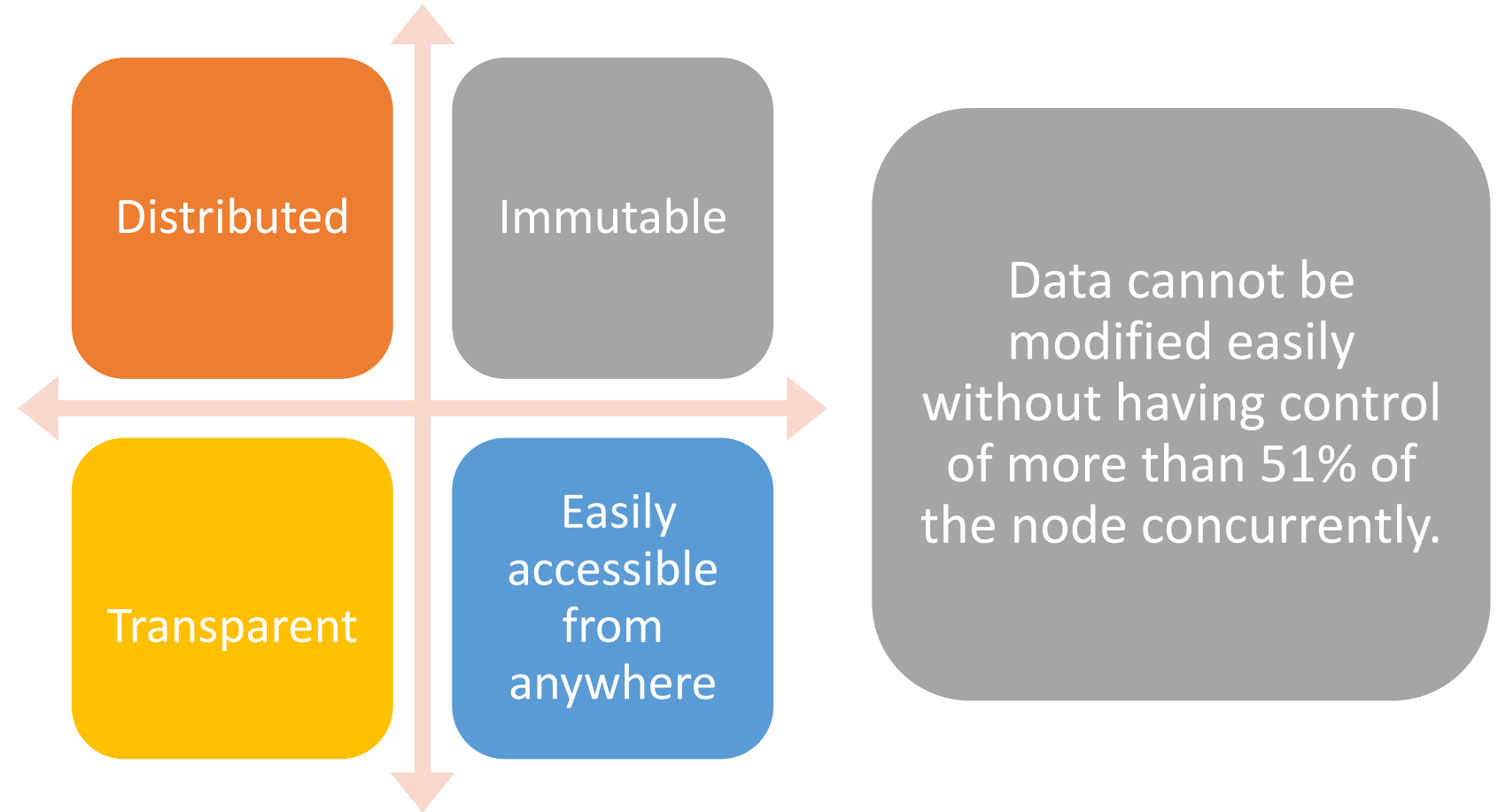


# Blockchain Features

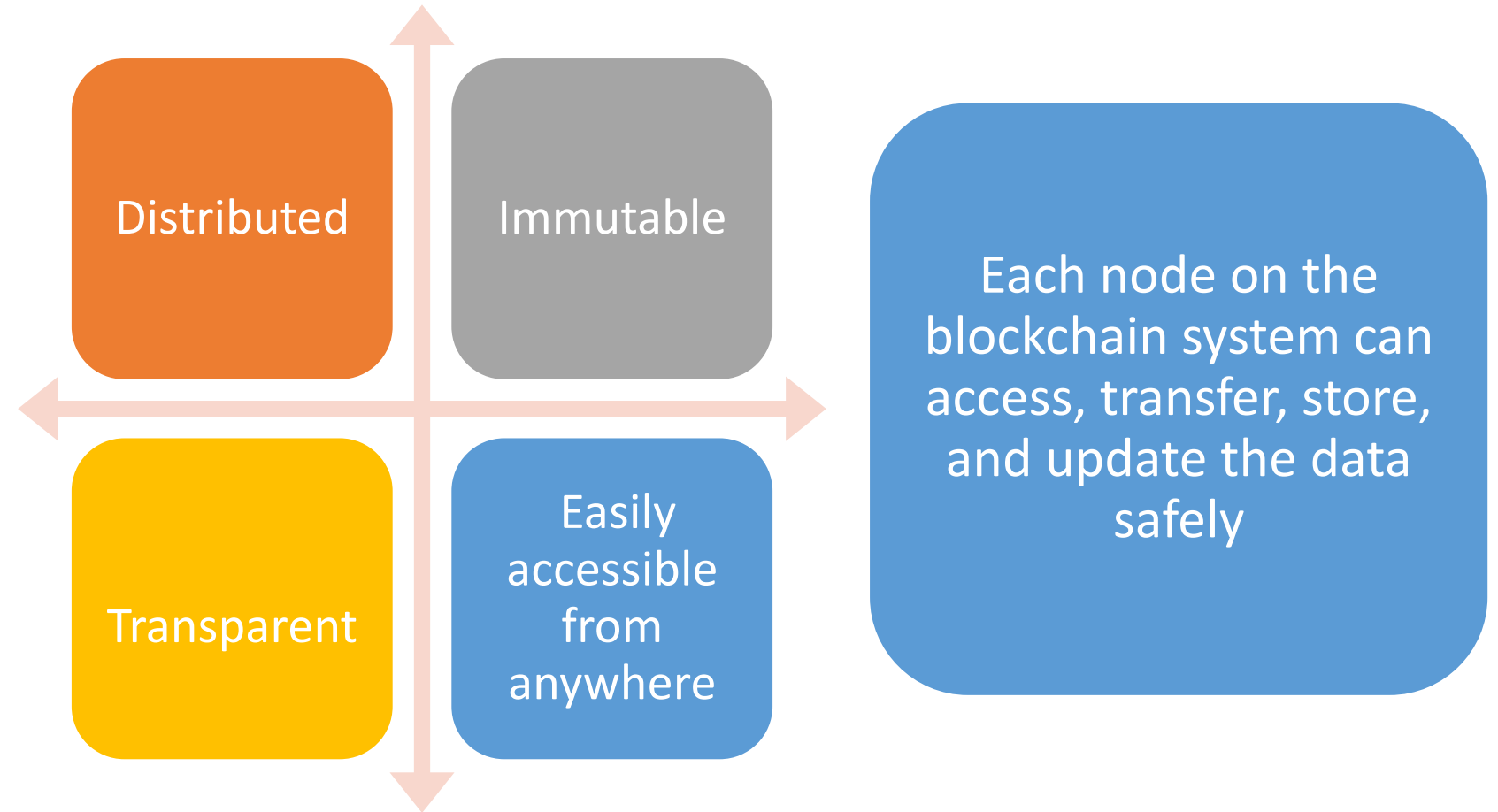
The transparent nature of blockchains could certainly prevent data from being altered or stolen



# Blockchain Features



# Blockchain Features



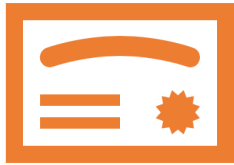
# Blockchain Benefits

**To improve  
healthcare for  
both professionals  
and patients by**

- **Decentralizing patient health history.**
- **Tracking pharmaceuticals.**
- **Improving payment options.**
- **Reduce the time to track down information across systems**

# Blockchain Security

## Why Blockchain is secure <sup>7</sup>



Integrity-based attacks



Controlling who should, and who shouldn't see patient data.



Controlling access duration through encryption is key



# Healthcare Blockchain Applications

Applications and Benefits



# Entities



Hospitals



Insurance  
companies



Patients



Doctors



Suppliers



Researchers



# Applications



Drug  
traceability



Patient data  
management



Clinical trials



Genomic  
Medicine

# Drug Traceability



**Drug fraud is a major problem faced by many pharmaceutical companies <sup>8</sup>**



**According to the Health Research Funding Organization <sup>8</sup>:**

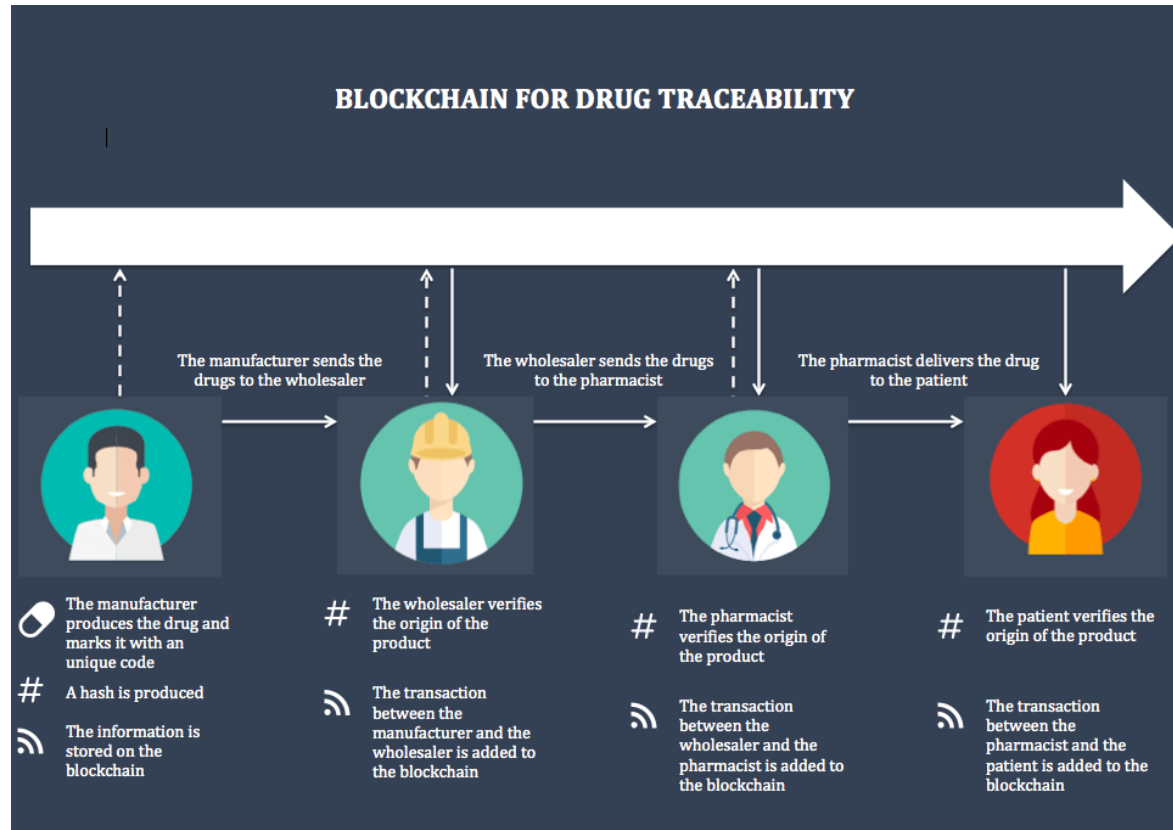
10% to 30% of drugs are fake

it's the underground economy is \$200 billion annually.

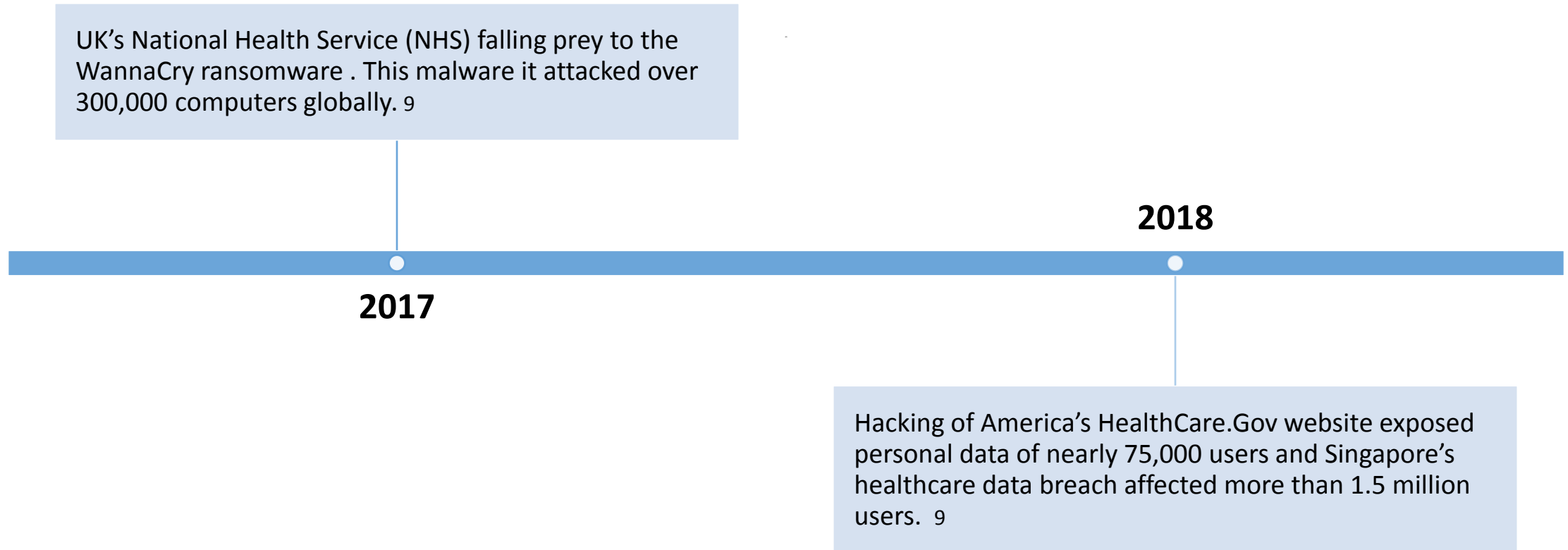
16% of the counterfeit drugs contain the wrong ingredients.

# Drug Traceability

## Blockchain solution in Drug Traceability 8

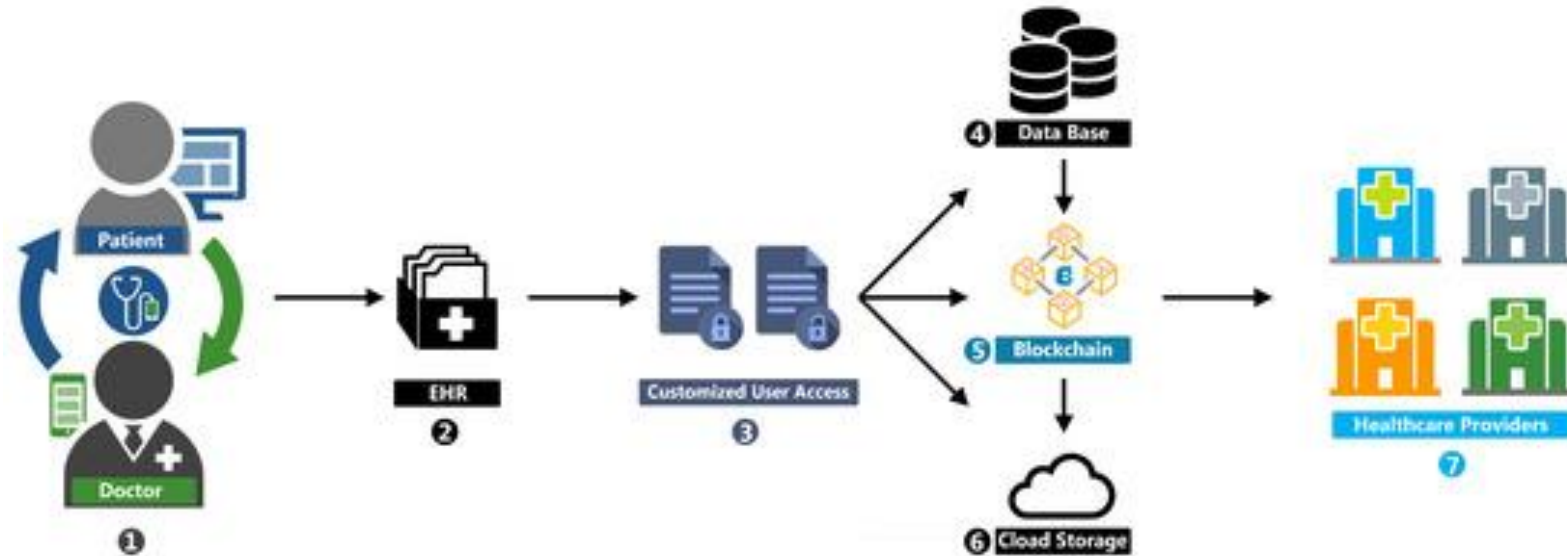


# Patient Data Management



# Patient Data Management

## Blockchain solution in Patient Data Management <sup>10</sup>



# Clinical Trials



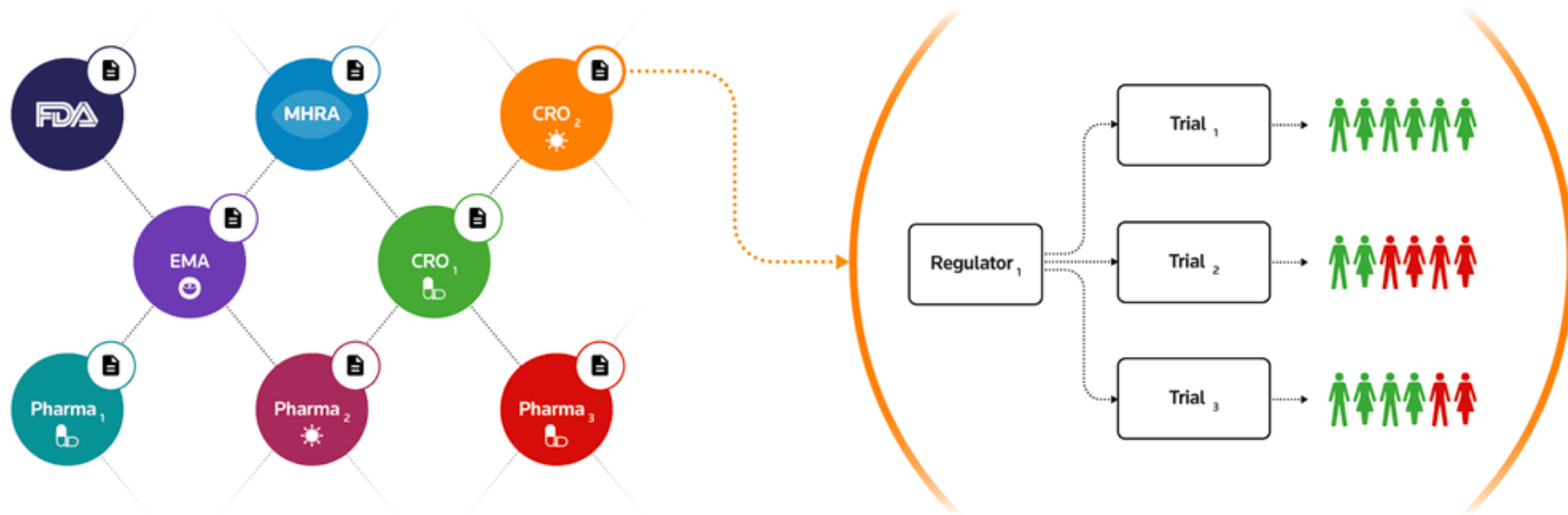
**Researchers often hide or modify their collected data and information in order to change the outcome. <sup>2</sup>**



**In a survey of authors of clinical drug trials, 17% of them reported that they were personally aware of intentional fabrication in research. <sup>11</sup>**

# Clinical Trials

## Blockchain solution in Clinical Trials <sup>12</sup>



# Genomic Medicine

**2018: The Federal Trade Commission announced that they were investigating popular DNA testing companies.** <sup>13</sup>

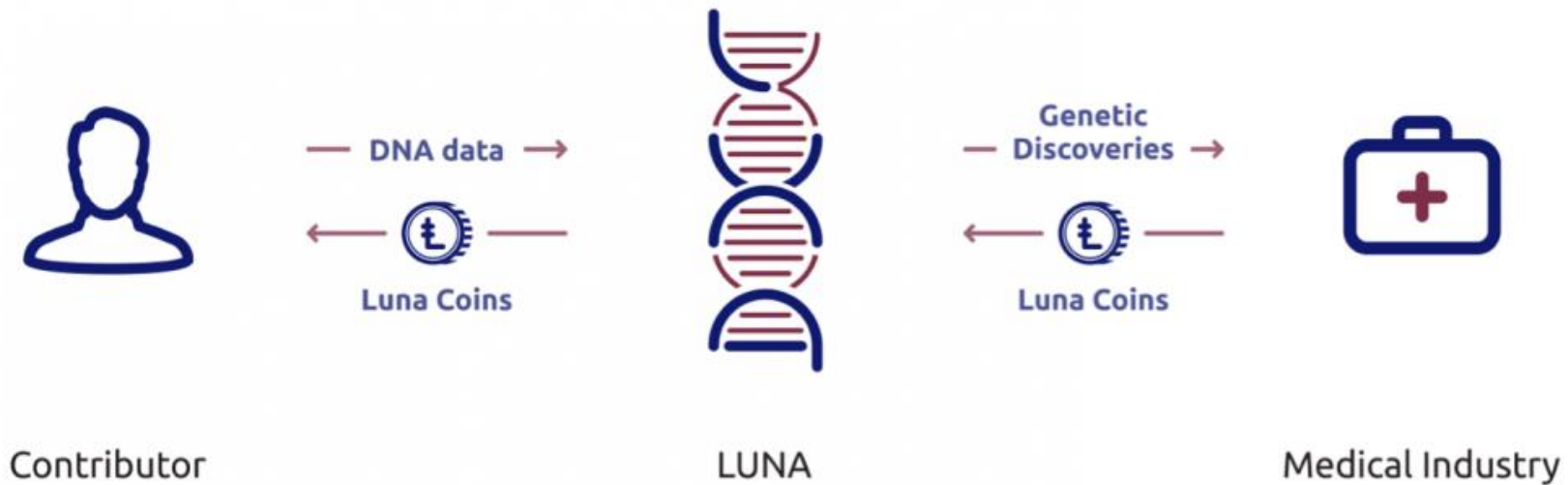
**The investigation stems over concerns on**

- how these types of companies are handling personal information and genetic data
- how they share that data with third parties.



# Genomic Medicine

## Blockchain solution in Genomic Medicine <sup>14</sup>



Source: Luna DNA | <https://www.lunadna.com>



# Healthcare Blockchain Security

Security Aspects



# Genomic Medicine



Decentralization



Authentication



Authorization



Data Integrity



Peer to peer



Cryptographic protocol for communication

# Attacks

“New age security attacks are emerging, which are very sophisticated and can cause huge irreparable damages” <sup>15</sup>

Abilash Soundarajan  
business development strategist at Aruba

# Attacks

“When hundreds of thousands of patients manage access to their health data with a blockchain and billions of dollars in claims payments through a blockchain then there are huge incentives to attack a blockchain.” <sup>16</sup>

Robert Miller

# Security

## Blockchain Security Attacks 16



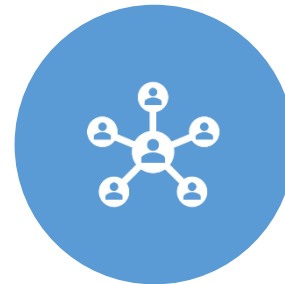
**Consensus algorithm**



**Peer selection algorithm**



**Participants involved (Honest vs Dishonest)**



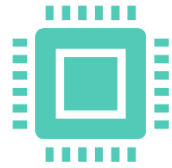
**Broader network cyberattacks**

# Security

## Blockchain Security Attacks 15



Peer-to-peer  
network-based  
attacks



Consensus &  
Ledger-based  
attacks



Smart Contract-  
based attacks



Wallet-based  
attacks

# Peer-to-Peer Network-based Attacks

## Eclipse attack

- Attacking a decentralized network through which an attacker seeks to isolate and attack a specific users. <sup>15</sup>

## Sybil attack

- One person tries to take over the network by creating multiple accounts. <sup>15</sup>



# Consensus Mechanism and Mining-based Attacks

## Selfish mining attack

- Attempts to withhold an effectively validated block from being broadcast to the rest of network. <sup>15</sup>

## Mining malware

- Software programs take over a computer's resources. <sup>15</sup>

## 51% attack

- Group of miners controls at least 51% of the blockchain network. <sup>15</sup>

## Timejack attack

- Attacker manipulate the timestamp. <sup>15</sup>

## Finney attack

- Attacker creates two transactions: one for victim and one for themselves. <sup>15</sup>

# Smart Contract-based Attacks

## The DAO attack

- Decentralized Autonomous Organization was an ambitious feature of Ethereum. A company called Slock started crowdfunding for a project called “The DAO”. The crowdfunding got an overwhelming response, collecting 12.7 million Ether, valued at \$150 million then (\$2 billion today). <sup>15</sup>

# Wallet-based Attack

## Parity Multisig Wallet Attack

- The case of a vulnerability with the parity client wallet hacked by an attacker resulting in holding up of 500,000 Ether (\$77 million today). Wallet contracts are additional logic than can be built on user wallets for regular automated payments. <sup>15</sup>



# Trusted Blockchain Technology

Security Solution



# Trust

“Blockchain technology is beneficial in specific industries where people can’t trust one another.” <sup>17</sup>

Michał Chatłas



# Current security challenges

## **Blockchain's lingering challenges** <sup>7</sup>

- Allowing healthcare professionals to quickly and easily access information.
- Controlling information distribution.
- Entering false data or recording a misdiagnosis.
- Adherence to HIPAA regulations.
- Security Attacks.

# Trust

Trust is context-dependent



In blockchain context

The reputation of the participants.

The security attacks prevention.

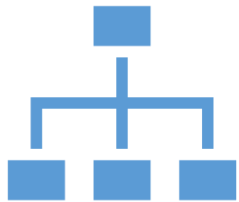
The privacy achievement.

The correct deployment.



Trust = Security + Privacy.

# Trust



Hierarchy of trust.



Global and local trust.



Trust model selection.





# Conclusion

Ongoing work



# Conclusion



Blockchain is the future of the healthcare.



Blockchain offers security and privacy.



Errors in blockchain deployment can be very harmful.



The importance of building the trust layer.



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Thank you

