Decentralised Supply Chain Reputation: A Privacy and Self-Sovereign Identity Perspective

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# Supply Chain Use-Case

- Supply chain is the interconnected journey that raw materials, components and goods take before their sale to customers (McKinsey & Company)
- Supply chain management is a large area of study
- Significant complexity

Controlling the processes and movement of goods involves
policies and methods



### **Problem Context & Motivation**



- Supply chain vulnerabilities
  - Fragmented trust, data silos, regulatory gaps
  - Leading to blind spots and compliance risks





- Core challenge
  - Achieving end-to-end accountability while balancing transparency and privacy
  - Social sustainability concerns
  - Inconsistent quality assurance
  - Inadequate interoperability across systems and compliance registries



### Research Objectives and Contributions

#### • Objectives

- How does the literature address trade offs in transparency vs. privacy?
- To what extent do these works integrate decentralisation for identity verification/audits?
- How are compliance records/incentives embedded for accountability?
- Contributions
  - Identify gaps in supply chain reputation system design
  - Examine alignment with digital identity verification
  - Analyse SSI requirements integration
  - Investigate compliance records integration

# Methodology



#### Systematic Review

Period: January 2022 - January 2025 Language: English only

**Selection Process** 

**Initial pool**: 1,437 documents After screening: 21 studies selected **Tool used**: Rayyan systematic review platform

#### **Analysis Framework**

Blockchain technology adoption Supply chain issues addressed Proposed solutions Reputation system roles

Identification



### Transparency vs. Privacy



- Approaches in the literature
  - Consortium blockchains with weighted scoring
  - Smart contracts for objective feedback
  - IoT integration linking physical to digital
  - **Hybrid approaches** combining blockchain + hardware security
- Limitations/Challenges
  - Oversimplified scoring e.g binary/weighted, ignores compliance
  - Partial centralisation of trusted authorities
  - Interoperability barriers e.g IoT/blockchain data silos.



## Digital Identity in Supply Chain



- Approaches in the literature
  - **QR codes** for product authentication
  - Federated identities with IoT integration
  - Immutable records for traceability
- Limitations/challenges
  - Limited scoring methods (credential authorities)
  - Fragmented interoperability (No cross system collaboration standards.
  - Inadequacy in privacy controls (user control, minimal disclosure).



## Compliance and accountability in Supply Chain Surrey

- Approaches in the literature
  - IoT sensor validation with smart contracts
  - Game-theoretic models for fraud mitigation
  - Blockchain integration for traceability
  - Cross-chain frameworks for interoperability
- Limitations/Challenges
  - No proactive compliance incentives (tokenised rewards)
  - Limited real-time penalty enforcement
  - Poor integration with industry standards and legal frameworks



### **Domains Covered**



Domain	Technology	Key Contribution
Agriculture	Blockchain + IoT/RFID	Cost-efficient traceability
Pharmaceutical	Ethereum + QR codes	Anti-counterfeit authentication
Transportation	Consortium blockchain	Tamper-proof supplier ratings
Manufacturing/Logistics	Permissioned BC + digital twins	Physical-digital alignment
Energy/Electronics	Blockchain HSM + trust algorithms	Dynamic security frameworks
Cross-Domain	ZKP + MPC	Privacy-preserving compliance

 Description
 Part Description

# **Privacy Principles Incorporated**



(GDPR, SSI & Proposed Principles)

Privacy Principles	Fulfillment
Integrity, Confidentiality/Security	19/21
Transparency	18/21
Accuracy	14/21
Storage control	11/21
Persistence	7/21
	6/21
Interoperability	6/21
	5/21
Purpose limitation	4/21
	3/21
Existence	2/21
Portability	0
Lawfulness/Fairness	0
Recovery	0

## Gaps Identified



#### **1.** Reputation System Limitations

- Oversimplified scoring: Binary or limited-factor models
- Centralisation paradox: Blockchain systems still relying on trusted authorities
- Compliance blind spots: Missing certification and regulatory metrics

#### 2. Digital Identity Fragmentation

- Interoperability failures: No cross-system standards
- Privacy vs transparency conflicts unresolved
- SSI integration gaps: Limited user-centric designs

#### 3. Accountability Mechanisms

- Passive detection focus: Lack of proactive compliance incentives
- Legal framework disconnect: Poor integration with enforceable regulations
- Scalability challenges: Multi-tier global supply chain complexity



### Conclusion

- Decentralised transformative potential enables transparency but gaps in privacy/accountability persist.
- Work is ongoing to address some of the gaps identified in this study

Key Contribution:

- First systematic review linking SSI, privacy, and decentralised SC reputation.
  - Roadmap for resilient, user-centric Industry 4.0 supply chains.



#### Thank you for your attention

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