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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.: IJAR-57736**

**Title: Digital Evidence Acquisition Following Mining and Network Attacks in a Private Blockchain**

**Recommendation:**

- Accept as it is .....
- Accept after minor revision...yes.....**
- Accept after major revision .....
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		Y		
Techn. Quality		Y		
Clarity		Y		
Significance		y		

**Reviewer's ID: JPR-Dr.Shaweta Sachdeva**

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

1. The manuscript addresses an important and emerging area of blockchain forensics, particularly focusing on evidence acquisition in private blockchain environments, which adds relevance and novelty to the study.
2. The paper provides a well-structured discussion on mining and network attacks in Hyperledger Fabric and clearly explains the significance of forensic evidence acquisition after cyberattacks.
3. The proposed dual evidence acquisition models (post-mortem and live acquisition) are practically useful and demonstrate a systematic forensic investigation methodology.
4. The inclusion of Hyperledger Explorer and REST API-based live evidence collection strengthens the practical applicability of the research.
5. The literature review is comprehensive; however, it can be improved by including more recent studies related to AI-driven blockchain attack detection and automated forensic frameworks.
6. The authors should improve the clarity and consistency of the writing style, as several grammatical and formatting issues are present throughout the manuscript.
7. Some references appear inconsistently formatted, and citation style should be carefully revised according to the journal guidelines.
8. The methodology section is detailed, but a clearer explanation of the experimental configuration and attack simulation parameters would improve reproducibility.
9. The manuscript would benefit from including architectural diagrams or workflow illustrations with higher resolution and clearer labeling for better understanding.
10. The attack simulation currently focuses mainly on DoS flooding attacks. Including additional experimental validation for Sybil, Eclipse, or selfish mining attacks would strengthen the contribution.
11. The discussion section should provide a comparative analysis with existing blockchain forensic frameworks to better highlight the advantages and limitations of the proposed approach.
12. Quantitative evaluation metrics such as acquisition time, storage overhead, response latency, or forensic accuracy could further improve the scientific rigor of the study.

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13. The paper successfully highlights the importance of chain-of-custody preservation and integrity verification using SHA-256 hashing, which enhances the forensic credibility of the work.
14. Future work may also consider integrating machine learning or anomaly detection techniques for automated forensic evidence identification in blockchain systems.
15. Overall, the manuscript presents a meaningful contribution to the field of blockchain digital forensics and can be considered for publication after minor to moderate revisions.