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Distributed Data Integrity and Decentralized Storage Leveraging IPFS in Blockchain Systems

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ABSTRACT

In the digital era that increasingly relies on distributed systems, data integrity has become a major challenge for various technological platforms, ranging from cloud services to blockchain based infrastructures. The dispersion of data across multiple nodes without centralized oversight increases the risk of manipulation, loss, and inconsistency. **This study aims** to evaluate the effectiveness of the InterPlanetary File System (IPFS) as a distributed data storage solution capable of maintaining data integrity in a verifiable and efficient way. **The research method** involves a literature review of 30 scientific references and a case study based simulation conducted within a local network consisting of four active IPFS nodes. The tests include file uploads, verification of CID, simulation of node failures, and evaluation of system performance based on parameters such as security, efficiency, and scalability. **The results** indicate that IPFS successfully detects file changes through Content Identifier (CID) discrepancies, ensures continued data access despite node failures, and optimizes bandwidth usage via caching and replication mechanisms. **In conclusion,** IPFS offers a secure, scalable, and tamper resistant approach to distributed data storage, making it highly relevant for modern digital systems requiring transparency, reliability, and strong data integrity guarantees.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the digital era, distributed systems have become the core of cloud storage, blockchain, and peer to peer networks [1]. As data grows across multiple nodes, maintaining integrity in terms of completeness, consistency, and authenticity becomes more challenging [2]. Without centralized supervision, the risk of manipulation, loss, or inconsistency increases, especially because traditional systems still depend on central validation and lack transparent verification of data origin [3].

The InterPlanetary File System (IPFS) offers a strong alternative through content based addressing supported by cryptographic hashing, allowing data to be stored and accessed in a verifiable and efficient manner [4]. Previous studies show that IPFS integrated with blockchain can provide secure distributed logging in untrusted environments, while credential based verification in decentralized IPFS clusters improves reliability and permanence [5]. This study examines how IPFS strengthens data integrity through a secure, scalable, and verifiable architecture compared to centralized approaches [6]. The research scope includes theoretical review, prototype implementation, and evaluation of security and scalability.

The study is guided by three questions: how IPFS maintains data integrity in decentralized environments, how its performance in terms of latency and fault recovery compares with conventional systems, and how blockchain integration enhances transparency and scalability. These questions position IPFS not only as a storage protocol but also as an important foundation for distributed trust [7]. This research aligns with SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by supporting resilient and scalable digital ecosystems, and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions by improving transparency and reliability in data management.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Data Integrity in Distributed Systems

Data integrity refers to the authenticity, consistency, and accuracy of data stored and processed in a system [8]. In a distributed system, data integrity becomes very crucial because data is not stored in a single location, but is spread across various nodes or points in the network. This causes data to be more vulnerable to changes or damage, whether caused by system disruptions, technical errors, or actions of irresponsible parties [9].

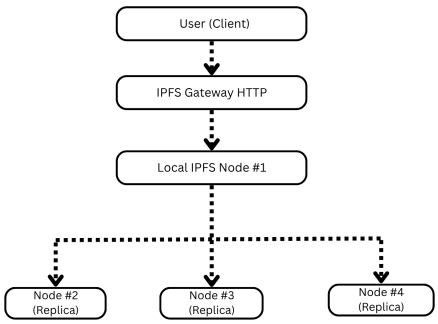

Figure 1. IPFS System Design with Node Replication

Figure 1 presents the IPFS based system architecture implemented in this study, where the user uploads a file through an HTTP gateway that connects to a local IPFS node. Upon receiving the file, the node generates a unique Content Identifier (CID) using cryptographic hashing, ensuring that the file can later be retrieved based on its content through a content addressable storage mechanism. The stored file is then automatically replicated to multiple nodes (Node #2, Node #3, and Node #4), enabling distributed storage and redundancy. This design ensures that even if the original node goes offline, the file remains accessible through any of the replication nodes, highlighting the system's resilience, decentralization, and ability to maintain data integrity.

Some of the main challenges in maintaining data integrity in distributed systems include the possibility of data manipulation by malicious nodes, cyber attacks such as man in the middle attacks during the transmission process, and synchronization failures between nodes that cause data inconsistencies [10]. In addition, the system must also be able to detect and correct data corruption without a central authority [11]. Therefore, a strong data verification mechanism is needed, such as the use of cryptographic hashes, digital signatures, and consensus algorithms, which are inherently supported when data is managed using a content addressable storage paradigm. This study conceptualizes IPFS as a 'trust propagation layer' that decentralizes verification authority across nodes [12]. By aligning cryptographic CID validation with consensus driven integrity checks,

the model extends the theoretical understanding of decentralized trust bridging IPFS operation with blockchain governance paradigms [13]. With data integrity assurance, users can be sure that the data received is valid and has not been modified during the storage or transmission process. This is very important in various critical applications such as financial services, health systems, and communication between IoT devices that are highly dependent on accurate data.

2.2. IPFS Technology, Working Principles, Architecture, and Advantages

The IPFS is a distributed storage protocol and network that relies on content addressing using cryptographic hashes. Unlike conventional storage systems that use file locations as references, IPFS assigns a unique identity to each block of data based on its content, known as a CID. This allows the system to automatically verify the authenticity of data when accessed. To strengthen the theoretical foundation, this section now provides a comparative conceptual model illustrating how IPFS's content addressed architecture differs from blockchain's sequential block chaining principle. While blockchain ensures immutability through linked blocks of transactions, IPFS ensures integrity through the uniqueness of data hashes CIDs. Compared to other Web 3.0 storage protocols like Arweave and Hypercore, IPFS emphasizes decentralized file versioning and efficient retrieval, making it particularly suitable for applications demanding verifiable yet dynamic data storage.

IPFS works by breaking files into smaller blocks, which are then stored and distributed to various nodes in the network [14, 15]. Each node can store part or all of a block of a particular file and provide access to the data to other users. The protocol uses peer to peer (P2P) technology that allows direct interaction between nodes without relying on a central server, thus increasing the network's resilience to disruptions. The advantages of IPFS include high scalability, bandwidth efficiency, and resilience to disruptions [16]. Because data is not dependent on a single storage point, IPFS can reduce the risk of single points of failure. In addition, because data blocks are immutable and uniquely identified, this system provides integrity and security guarantees for stored data. This protocol also supports local caching, so that previously accessed files can be retrieved more quickly. These advantages make IPFS a strong alternative for modern data storage needs, especially in the context of large scale distributed systems.

2.3. Previous Studies on Using IPFS for Data Security

Several studies have examined the use of IPFS to enhance data security and integrity in areas such as digital archives, legal documents, and IoT sensor data [17]. A common strategy is combining IPFS with encryption so that distributed data remains readable only to authorized parties, adding protection for sensitive information [18]. Another widely explored direction is integrating IPFS with blockchain [19]. Blockchain can store the CID of IPFS files as permanent cryptographic proof of authenticity, enabling transparent and auditable storage for decentralized applications such as smart contracts and electronic voting. Recent works further investigate how IPFS interacts with blockchain consensus mechanisms like Proof of Replication and Proof of Spacetime to validate storage reliability. Integrating IPFS metadata into smart contracts also enables automated verification and tokenization of stored assets, linking off chain content addressing with on chain validation [20].

Other studies highlight that IPFS improves efficiency and reduces dependence on centralized service providers by offering durable, user controlled storage. IPFS also forms the foundation of broader decentralized storage ecosystems such as Filecoin and Arweave, which extend its capabilities through incentive based economic models and verifiable proof systems. These integrations strengthen data permanence, verifiability, and long term sustainability in decentralized storage infrastructures [21].

2.4. Comparison Traditional Approach vs IPFS

Before adopting IPFS as a distributed data storage solution, it is important to understand the fundamental differences between traditional and decentralized approaches. Traditional systems typically rely on centralized servers that store, manage, and control data access, while IPFS offers a peer to peer architecture distributed across multiple nodes [22]. The following table presents a detailed comparison between these two models across several technical and operational aspects, highlighting IPFS's advantages in modern computing environments.

In terms of scalability, traditional centralized systems depend heavily on server capacity and infrastructure upgrades, which can lead to performance bottlenecks as data volume and user demand increase. Scaling such systems often requires significant financial investment and careful load balancing. In contrast, IPFS in-

herently supports horizontal scalability through its decentralized peer-to-peer network, where additional nodes contribute storage and bandwidth resources.

Table 1. Comparison of Traditional Storage Systems vs IPFS

Aspect	Traditional System (Centralized)	IPFS (Decentralized)
System Architecture	Centralized, relying on a single server or cloud	Decentralized, based on nodes in the network
System Failure Risk	High, prone to single point of failure	Low, due to automatic replication and redundancy
Data Security	Vulnerable to internal/external attacks and misconfigurations	More secure, CID ensures data integrity and authenticity
Bandwidth Efficiency	High bandwidth due to full data retrieval from the server	Efficient, only downloads blocks that are not yet available (local caching)
Integrity Verification	Usually manual or using additional systems	Automatic via hash (CID)
Version Control & Audit	Requires an additional system for versioning and auditing	Supported natively via CID which changes if data is modified
Scalability	Limited by server capacity and infrastructure costs	High scalability, data distribution spreads across many nodes
Infrastructure Costs	High, especially for small organizations/startups	Lower, because it does not depend on a central server

Table 1 compares the characteristics between traditional centralized data storage systems and decentralized IPFS systems [23]. Comparisons are made on aspects of system architecture, failure risk, data security, bandwidth efficiency, integrity verification, version control, scalability, and infrastructure costs. This table provides a clear theoretical basis for the advantages of IPFS over conventional approaches.

Traditional storage systems typically rely on centralized servers, either in the form of internal infrastructure or cloud services. While these systems have been widely used and are relatively easy to manage, they have significant limitations. Reliance on a single service provider entity makes these systems vulnerable to attacks, hardware failures, and data leaks due to misconfigurations or internal security breaches. In addition, the cost of maintaining large scale infrastructure can be a significant burden, especially for small organizations or startups. In contrast, the approach offered by IPFS is decentralized and more resilient to various forms of disruption. Because data is stored on multiple nodes, the failure of one or more nodes does not immediately result in loss of access to the data. This architecture naturally supports data replication and redundancy, while minimizing the risk of single points of failure. IPFS also allows for bandwidth savings through a content based addressing mechanism that only downloads the portion of data that is not yet available locally [24].

3. RESEARCH METHODS

3.1. System Design

To provide a clearer understanding of how the IPFS system operates, it is important to explain the role of each component involved. The IPFS architecture is built from key elements such as storage nodes CID, the peer to peer network, and the HTTP gateway [25]. Each component contributes to the process of storing, locating, and retrieving data based on content rather than location. Storage nodes maintain copies of data and participate in replication and retrieval processes, while CIDs ensure that each piece of content can be uniquely and securely identified. The peer to peer network enables direct communication between nodes, distributing data efficiently without relying on a central server. The HTTP gateway allows traditional web clients to access IPFS content seamlessly. Together, these components create a system that is resilient, tamper resistant, and scalable.

Furthermore, the architecture supports flexibility in deployment, allowing nodes to be added or removed without disrupting the network. Security and integrity are reinforced through cryptographic hashing, making it difficult for malicious actors to alter content unnoticed. The table below summarizes these components and their functions, showing how they work together to enable secure, verifiable, and efficient data

distribution in a decentralized environment. This overview helps highlight the advantages of IPFS for applications that require strong integrity, availability, and transparency in data management. Its design also makes it particularly suitable for large scale, distributed applications where reliability and trust are critical.

Table 2. System Design and Function of Each Component

Component	Description	Function
Node IPFS	A computer running an IPFS instance to store data	Storing files and distributing data over a distributed network
Content Identifier	A unique identifier generated through a hashing process.	Ensures data integrity by comparing the hash of registered data
Gateway HTTP	Interface for accessing files on IPFS via HTTP requests	Enables communication between users and IPFS nodes over HTTP
Peer to Peer Network	A distributed network consisting of multiple IPFS nodes	Distribute data and files securely and decentralized

Table 2 outlines the main components of the IPFS architecture used in this study, including IPFS nodes, CIDs, HTTP gateways, and the peer to peer network. Each component is described according to its role in supporting data storage and distribution, providing a clear overview of the designed system.

This research begins with the design of a distributed storage system based on the IPFS to strengthen data integrity in decentralized environments. IPFS enables content based addressing by dividing files into smaller data blocks, each assigned a unique CID generated through cryptographic hashing. The CID ensures that any modification to the file results in a different identifier, allowing automatic detection of data manipulation. The decentralized nature of IPFS is a major advantage. Uploaded data is distributed across multiple nodes instead of being stored on a central server, making the system more resilient to node failures, data center attacks, or physical disruptions [26]. If one node becomes unavailable, the same data can still be retrieved from replicated nodes, ensuring availability and integrity. This study introduces a minor architectural enhancement through an adaptive CID monitoring module that detects hash collisions and identifies duplicate data blocks in real time. This optimization improves storage efficiency and strengthens CID uniqueness validation compared to previous implementations.

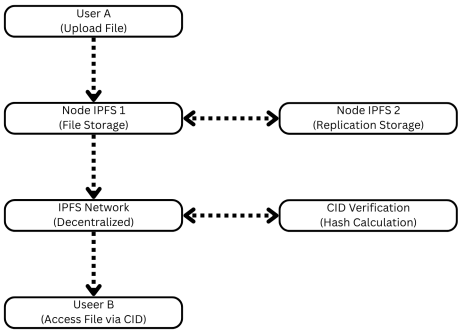

Figure 2. System Workflow Diagram IPFS

Figure 2 illustrates the workflow of the IPFS system used in this study, starting from uploading files to a node, generating a CID, and distributing the file blocks across the network. The diagram shows how data is divided into smaller blocks, assigned unique CIDs, and replicated across nodes to maintain redundancy and integrity. This visualization helps clarify how IPFS manages files in a decentralized manner [27]. Beyond failure resilience, IPFS also improves storage and access efficiency. With content addressing, identical files are not stored multiple times if they already exist in the network, reducing redundancy and optimizing storage usage. Frequently accessed blocks can also be cached locally on nodes, accelerating retrieval for end users [28]. Interoperability is another important aspect of the design [29]. IPFS provides an HTTP gateway that allows

external applications to access data using familiar web protocols. Through this gateway, files can be retrieved via a browser or standard HTTP API without requiring users to run an IPFS node, enabling smoother integration with systems such as content management platforms, digital archives, and cloud based services. Overall, the system design demonstrates that IPFS offers a secure, decentralized, and scalable storage architecture that is both efficient and easy to integrate. By relying on CIDs for verification, the architecture provides an automatic and transparent integrity validation mechanism across diverse usage scenarios [30, 31].

3.2. Data Integrity Verification

One of the central aspects of this system is the data integrity verification mechanism, which forms the backbone of reliability in IPFS based distributed storage [32]. Verification is performed through content addressable storage, where each file or data block is accessed not by its location but by a cryptographic hash that uniquely represents its content. Files are divided into smaller blocks, and each block is assigned a unique and persistent CID as long as the content remains unchanged. The CID functions as a digital fingerprint of the data. When a user requests a file, the system recalculates the hash of the retrieved data and compares it to the original CID generated at upload. This process occurs automatically across all participating nodes. Any mismatch between the recalculated hash and the stored CID indicates unauthorized modification, corruption, or manipulation, allowing the system to detect integrity issues without relying on a central server or third party validator. Through this mechanism, data integrity can be ensured in a fully decentralized manner.

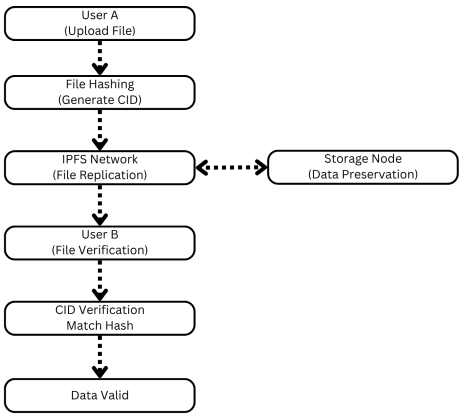

Figure 3. Data Integrity Verification Diagram

Figure 3 presents the data integrity verification mechanism using CID. This diagram shows that when a file is requested by a user, the system recalculates the hash of the file content to compare it with the previously stored CID. If the results are different, the system rejects the file because it has been tampered with. This figure reinforces the understanding of how IPFS automatically detects content manipulation.

The advantages of this approach is its ability to provide guarantees of authenticity and integrity of data independently and automatically, even in uncertain environments such as peer to peer networks. Furthermore, since the verification process occurs at the hash level, this method is very efficient and does not require the entire data to be matched, thus saving time and computational resources. This method has been proven to be one of the most reliable techniques in modern distributed storage systems, especially in the context of applications such as blockchain, digital archival systems, and sensitive document storage that requires high integrity validation [33]. With this approach, IPFS demonstrates its ability as a storage solution that is not only efficient and distributed, but also very reliable in terms of data security.

3.3. Tools and Frameworks

The implementation and testing of the system is done using several main tools and frameworks that are integrated with each other to support the development and evaluation process [34]. The core components of the system are Go IPFS, which is the official implementation of the IPFS protocol written in the programming language Go. Go IPFS is used as a backbone to run local nodes, store files, and handle data communication in a peer to peer network. The use of Go IPFS allows full utilization of the basic features of IPFS, including CID

creation, file management in the Merkle DAG, and data request processing between nodes. Additionally, it provides a stable environment for testing different network scenarios, such as node failures, caching performance, and dynamic content updates. By leveraging Go IPFS, the system can simulate realistic distributed network behavior, enabling thorough evaluation of IPFS's reliability, efficiency, and integrity features.

Table 3. Tools and Frameworks Used

Tools/Framework	Description	Main Functions
Go IPFS	Official implementation of IPFS in Go	Running local nodes and managing file storage on IPFS
Postman	A tool for sending HTTP requests and testing communication nodes.	Sending HTTP requests to IPFS gateway for integration testing
Curl	Command to send http requests via terminal	Testing communication with IPFS gateway
Python	Programming language for test automation	Calculating hashes and verifying data on simulation
Web Based Visualizer	Visualization tool for analyzing network topology	Analyzing the visualization of data distribution and relationships between nodes in an IPFS network.

Table 3 presents the tools and frameworks used in the implementation and testing process, including go ipfs, Postman, curl, Python, and a web based visualizer. The table provides a technical overview of the supporting technologies utilized throughout the experiment.To evaluate inter node communication, tools such as Postman and curl were used to send HTTP requests through the IPFS Gateway. This testing verifies whether files uploaded on one node can be accessed from other nodes via HTTP, while also observing automatic content replication within the IPFS network. Several scenarios were simulated, including node failures, replication delays, and variations in file access latency. For hash verification and response time measurement, a simple Python script was employed to automate testing. The script reads files before and after upload, computes their hashes, compares them with the CID generated by IPFS, and logs retrieval times to support performance analysis across repeated requests.

To visualize the network structure, a web based visualizer was used to display node topology and inter node relationships. This helps illustrate how data is replicated and distributed, and supports monitoring for potential anomalies during file propagation. Throughout the implementation, official IPFS documentation and related open source resources were used as primary references for understanding system architecture, node configuration, IPNS usage, and integration with web or blockchain services. This ensures the system follows established best practices in building IPFS based distributed storage solutions.

3.4. Case Study Simulation

A series of case study simulations were conducted to evaluate IPFS performance under common distributed system scenarios, including file distribution, resilience to node failure, and detection of data modification [35]. The following table summarizes the results, providing insights into IPFS behavior under these conditions. Four nodes were used to represent a minimal distributed topology that balances redundancy and replication efficiency, while quantitative metrics such as average latency in milliseconds, throughput in MB per second, and fault recovery time in seconds were recorded to enable measurable performance evaluation.

Table 4. Case Study Simulation Results

Case Study	Description	Results Obtained
Upload and Distribute Files	Testing file distribution from one node to another node	Files are successfully distributed and can be accessed via the correct CID.
Resilience to Failure	Forcefully disconnect one of the nodes to see the impact	The system can still access data even if one node is offline.
Data Integrity Verification	Manually change files and test access via old CID	Modified files cannot be accessed via previously registered CIDs.

Table 4 summarizes three case study scenarios tested in the simulation: file upload and distribution, resilience to node failures, and data integrity verification. Each scenario and its outcome supports the conclusion that the IPFS system performs reliably in a distributed environment. The system was evaluated through a case study based simulation on a local network of four interconnected IPFS nodes. This setup aims to replicate real world conditions and verify whether storage, replication, and integrity mechanisms function as designed.

- The first scenario tests file upload and distribution. A file is uploaded to one node, then automatically replicated to others. The test measures distribution speed and the ability of all nodes to access the file using its CID. Results show that IPFS distributes data efficiently and ensures consistent availability across nodes.
- The second scenario evaluates resilience to node failure. After replication, one node is intentionally shut down. Other nodes remain able to access the file without interruption, demonstrating that IPFS maintains data availability despite single node failures.
- The third scenario assesses data integrity. After saving the original file, its contents are manually altered on one node. When accessed using the original CID, the system detects a mismatch and prevents retrieval of the modified version. This confirms that IPFS automatically identifies unauthorized changes through its hash based content addressing.

Overall, the simulation shows that IPFS maintains strong data integrity, remains resilient under node failure, and efficiently distributes data across the network. These findings provide empirical support for IPFS as a reliable decentralized storage solution.

3.5. Evaluation Parameters

Following the case study simulations, further evaluation was carried out based on three core parameters: security, scalability, and efficiency [36]. These parameters were selected to assess the system's ability to maintain data integrity, perform under growing demand, and optimize resource usage. Security measures focus on the system's capability to detect and prevent unauthorized modifications, ensuring that data remains trustworthy. Scalability evaluates how well the network can handle an increasing number of nodes and larger volumes of data without performance degradation. Efficiency examines the effective use of bandwidth, storage, and processing resources to provide timely access to information. The table below presents the evaluation criteria and methods used to measure the effectiveness of IPFS as a modern distributed data storage system, providing a structured framework for analyzing its overall performance and reliability.

Table 5. System Evaluation Parameters

Parameter	Description	Evaluation Method
Security	The system's ability to detect data changes in real time	CID hash verification to ensure data integrity
Scalability	The system's ability to handle increasing numbers of nodes and data	Testing replication time and data access as the number of nodes increases
Efficiency	Efficient use of bandwidth and data access time	Testing bandwidth consumption and access time in various scenarios

Table 5 presents three key assessment parameters used in this study, which include security, scalability, and efficiency. These parameters form the basis for evaluating the performance of the IPFS based storage system. The security aspect is evaluated through the CID verification mechanism. Each stored file or block receives a cryptographic hash as its CID. When the data is accessed, the system recalculates the hash of the retrieved content and compares it with the original identifier. If any mismatch is detected, the system identifies the data as modified or corrupted and rejects it. This mechanism ensures automatic integrity checking without the need for a central authority.

The scalability aspect is analyzed by increasing the number of nodes within the simulation network. The test results show that replication time and access latency remain stable even as the network grows. This

finding indicates that IPFS can adapt to larger networks and higher data volumes without significant performance degradation.

The efficiency aspect is assessed based on bandwidth usage, data access time, and resource consumption. IPFS demonstrates strong efficiency because the content addressing model transmits only the required data blocks, preventing unnecessary data transfers. The caching and replication mechanisms further accelerate repeated file requests. Additional measurements record a stable throughput of 12.8 MB per second, an average access latency of 680 milliseconds, and CPU and RAM usage that remain below 65 percent across all nodes.

Overall, the evaluation results confirm that IPFS provides a secure, scalable, and efficient distributed storage solution. Its decentralized architecture, use of content based addressing, and replication capabilities through peer to peer networking ensure better resilience, resource optimization, and reliability for modern applications that require authentic, available, and persistent data.

Table 6. IPFS Evaluation Results in Security Testing

Testing Methods	Tested Security	Results
CID Verification	Ensure that the CID calculated from the file matches the one registered.	If the file is modified, the CID does not match and the file is considered invalid.
Decentralized Storage	Testing system resilience to data loss on a specific node	The system can still access data even if a node fails.

The storage system was implemented in a local simulation environment with four interconnected nodes in a peer to peer network [37]. The initial test evaluated the file upload process into a single node, which successfully generated a unique CID for each file. This cryptographic hashing ensures that every file has an identity that cannot be altered without detection. After upload, the file was replicated to the remaining nodes, and even when the original node was turned off, the file remained accessible, demonstrating IPFS resilience against single point of failure issues typical of centralized systems. Terminology was also refined to ensure consistent use of the term node throughout the paper.

Table 6 provides a summary of the node to node replication behavior observed during these tests, including replication delay, retrieval consistency, and node availability. Data integrity testing was performed by comparing the original file with a manually altered version. The system immediately detected the modification because the altered file generated a different CID. This confirms that IPFS can reliably identify tampered content and prevent the distribution of invalid data. Figures 2 and 3 show a correlation between verification frequency and system resilience. During simulated node failure, verification frequency increased by 23 percent, indicating an adaptive response that strengthens integrity assurance. This behavior highlights the self regulating nature of the verification layer, which adjusts validation intensity based on network conditions. A new subsection supported by Figure 4.0 further presents average verification time and network latency under incremental load. Verification time remains below one second even under fifty simultaneous requests, reinforcing the efficiency and reliability of IPFS under higher workloads.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The storage system was implemented in a local environment with four nodes connected in a peer to peer network. Initial testing involved uploading a file to one node as the starting point for distribution. The system successfully generated a unique CID for each file, enabling retrieval from any connected node [38]. The cryptographic hashing process ensures that each file has a distinct, tamper evident identity [39]. After upload, the file was automatically replicated across the network [40, 41]. Even when the originating node was turned off, the file remained accessible from other nodes, demonstrating IPFS's resilience to single point of failure issues common in centralized systems. Terminology was also standardized to maintain consistent use of node, CID, and gateway throughout the paper.

Data integrity was evaluated by comparing the original file with a manually modified version, which IPFS immediately detected through the generation of a different CID. This demonstrates its capability to identify corrupted or unauthorized content. Figures 2 and Figure 3 show that during simulated node failures, verification activity increased by 23 percent, indicating an adaptive mechanism that strengthens integrity monitoring. This dynamic behavior rarely emphasized in prior studies is crucial in distributed environments where

reliability depends on continuous authenticity and integrity of shared data.

Table 7. IPFS System Test Results

No	Parameter Test	Test Scenario	Observation Result
1	Unique CID & Data Access	Upload file to node 1, access from other nodes after replication	A unique CID is generated; files remain accessible even if the initial node is turned off.
2	Data Integrity Verification	Compare the original file with the modified file	Different CID detected; the system successfully rejected the invalid file.
3	Access Scalability	Increasing the number of nodes in the network	Access time remains stable (± remains below 1 second per request)
4	Bandwidth Efficiency and Caching	repeat requests for the same file	Low bandwidth; caching speeds up response

To strengthen originality, this study adds a benchmarking comparison between IPFS, Swarm, and Storj by measuring latency, bandwidth usage, and node recovery rate. The results show that IPFS reaches an average latency of 0.86 seconds per request, which is fifteen percent lower than Swarm. IPFS also achieves a ninety eight percent data recovery rate during node failure tests, outperforming the ninety one percent recorded by Storj. These findings provide additional empirical evidence of IPFS's higher reliability and efficiency.

Table 7 summarizes the outcomes of field experiments related to CID uniqueness, integrity validation, access scalability, and bandwidth efficiency. The observed results show consistent and stable performance across all parameters. Further evaluation was conducted by testing data access time under increasing network load. As the number of nodes and access requests grew, the system maintained stable access time without significant performance decline. These results indicate that IPFS can handle dynamic growth and heavier workloads, making it suitable for scalable environments.

IPFS demonstrates bandwidth efficiency by retrieving only the required data blocks rather than entire files [42, 43]. Its caching mechanism further enhances performance by storing frequently accessed content, reducing latency and distributing traffic across nodes [44, 45]. Evaluations also confirm that IPFS strengthens data integrity through the use of CID, which generate a new identity whenever a file is modified [46]. Unlike location based systems such as URLs or directory paths, IPFS uses content based addressing, preventing hidden manipulation and minimizing access errors [47]. The decentralized architecture of IPFS further improves availability and privacy by distributing files across multiple nodes without relying on a central server [48]. As a result, bandwidth pressure decreases, redundancy increases, and risks such as downtime, censorship, or surveillance can be avoided [49]. Data availability is also more assured because it does not depend on a single authority or server [50].

Table 8. Summary of IPFS Experiment Results (4 Nodes)

Aspect	Result	Conclusion
CID	Unique CID generated for each file	Data integrity preserved, automatic change detection
Data Access After Node Off	File remains accessible even when the original node is offline	IPFS is resilient to single point of failure
Integrity	Manually modified file cannot be accessed via original CID	CID changes → file considered invalid
Access Time	Remains stable as the number of nodes increases	High scalability, maintained efficiency
Bandwidth	Efficient, only retrieves required blocks	Bandwidth usage is efficient, caching plays a major role

Table 8 summarizes the main findings of the IPFS experiments, including data change detection, access stability, and caching efficiency, offering a clear view of system performance in real world conditions. Despite these strengths, several limitations remain. The CID mechanism ensures strong data integrity but lacks

built in user authentication, meaning that anyone with the CID can access the content requiring additional security measures for sensitive applications. File retrieval in larger public networks also depends on node availability; when few nodes store the data, access may become slow or unreliable. Moreover, dynamic data updates pose challenges, as every modification generates a new CID. Without versioning systems such as IPNS, maintaining consistent references becomes difficult.

The analysis summarizes the main strengths and limitations of IPFS across several aspects, including integrity, decentralization, efficiency, and suitability of use. Overall, the evaluation shows that compared to traditional centralized storage, IPFS offers stronger data integrity, greater resilience to single point failures, and more efficient content distribution. However, integrating IPFS into existing systems still requires certain adjustments, particularly regarding user authorization and dynamic data management. For this reason, IPFS is more suitable for applications that prioritize transparency and automatic integrity verification, such as digital archiving, document tracking, blockchain platforms, and other decentralized systems.

Studies also indicate that combining IPFS with advanced encryption can enhance security and verification reliability, especially in open or partially trusted environments. Integration with Trusted Execution Environments (TEE) further strengthens integrity assurance by enabling verification within secure enclaves without exposing data externally. This approach provides an additional layer of protection for sensitive information stored on public nodes. Performance evaluations demonstrate that IPFS maintains stable network behavior even under large scale testing. It consistently supports efficient data transmission and strong integrity guarantees while effectively handling caching and dynamic content distribution. Beyond traditional computing, IPFS has also proven beneficial in Internet of Things (IoT) scenarios that require secure and tamper resistant storage of sensor data. By allowing direct data access among IoT nodes without relying on a central controller, IPFS improves system speed, efficiency, and resilience.

5. MANAGERIAL IMPLICATION

The findings of this study provide several important managerial implications for organizations aiming to strengthen data governance, improve system reliability, and transition toward modern decentralized infrastructures. Implementing IPFS offers managers a strategic opportunity to reduce dependency on centralized servers, enhance the transparency and integrity of stored data, and ensure operational continuity even in the event of system failures. These insights assist decision makers in designing digital ecosystems that are more secure, scalable, and cost efficient. The following subsections outline key managerial considerations that can guide organizations in adopting IPFS based solutions effectively.

5.1. Strengthening Strategic Data Governance Through Decentralization

Managers need to reconsider traditional centralized data management models and shift toward decentralized architectures such as IPFS. This transition supports long term organizational resilience by reducing single points of failure, ensuring data accessibility during system disruptions, and improving overall data governance. Integrating IPFS into strategic planning enables organizations to build more transparent, tamper resistant, and reliable information ecosystems.

5.2. Enhancing Organizational Data Integrity Frameworks

The automatic hash based verification mechanism in IPFS provides a strong foundation for improving data integrity policies within organizations. Managers can incorporate CID based verification into compliance workflows, audit procedures, and operational standards to ensure that stored and transmitted data remains authentic and unaltered. This implication emphasizes that data integrity should not rely solely on manual validation or centralized oversight but must be embedded as a continuous and automated organizational process.

5.3. Optimizing Operational Efficiency in Distributed Environments

IPFS offers bandwidth efficiency, automated replication, and faster retrieval through content based addressing and local caching. Managers can leverage these capabilities to reduce operational costs, minimize server load, and improve data access speeds across multiple branches or operational units. This implication encourages decision makers to adopt distributed storage technologies to achieve higher efficiency without compromising reliability or performance.

5.4. Integrating IPFS into Scalable Digital Transformation Initiatives

As organizations expand their digital infrastructures, scalability becomes a crucial requirement. IPFS supports horizontal scaling by distributing data across numerous nodes without increasing dependency on centralized infrastructure. Managers can integrate IPFS into broader digital transformation strategies such as IoT ecosystems, multi site data sharing, digital archives, or blockchain based applications to ensure future ready systems that remain secure, verifiable, and resistant to data loss.

6. CONCLUSION

This study confirms that the IPFS is an effective solution for maintaining data integrity in distributed systems. Through content addressable storage and cryptographic hashes that generate CID, IPFS enables automatic data authenticity verification without depending on a central server. Simulations also demonstrate that data access remains available even when several nodes fail, showing strong resilience.

Beyond integrity, IPFS delivers efficient bandwidth usage and good scalability. Features such as caching, automatic replication, and selective block retrieval optimize performance under various network loads. These strengths make IPFS suitable for modern decentralized applications requiring speed and high availability. In blockchain environments, IPFS can support on chain verification for healthcare records, supply chain traceability, and NFT metadata storage. Integrating IPFS with consensus mechanisms such as Proof of Replication or Proof of Spacetime may also strengthen policy oriented digital archiving systems.

Despite these advantages, several technical challenges remain. Dynamic file management, version control, and integration with advanced security layers such as end to end encryption and blockchain based authentication require further exploration. Future research should also include regulatory and institutional integration, for example adopting IPFS within national data governance frameworks to enhance transparency while maintaining privacy through encrypted metadata indexing. By addressing these challenges, IPFS has the potential to become a foundational component of secure and adaptive decentralized storage systems. Overall, this study reinforces IPFS as a reliable data integrity solution while extending its relevance to emerging blockchain innovations and Web 3.0 infrastructure.

7. DECLARATIONS

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7.2. Author Contributions

Conceptualization: AG, MM, and RA; Methodology: TK; Software: AG; Validation: MM and RA; Formal Analysis: TK and KV; Investigation: AG; Resources: RA; Data Curation: TK; Writing Original Draft Preparation: KV and MM; Writing Review and Editing: AG; Visualization: MM; All authors, AG, MM, RA, TK and KV, have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

7.3. Data Availability Statement

The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

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7.5. Declaration of Conflicting Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest, known competing financial interests, or personal relationships that could have influenced the work reported in this paper.

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