Enhancing Hyperledger Fabric Security with Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography and National Cryptographic Algorithms

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***Abstract*—Hyperledger Fabric is a scalable and modular consortium blockchain platform designed for enterprise applications, where cryptographic algorithms play a fundamental role in ensuring data security and integrity. However, the native Fabric framework lacks support for national cryptographic standards, necessitating the integration of secure cryptographic mechanisms. This study proposes an enhanced approach to embedding national cryptographic algorithms into the Fabric platform. First, Graph-based Dependency Analysis is employed to investigate the interaction logic among Fabric components and the invocation of cryptographic functions, facilitating an efficient integration strategy. Next, the Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) framework, which enhances resistance to quantum threats while maintaining computational efficiency, is utilized to integrate SM2, SM3, and SM4 cryptographic algorithms into Fabric's Blockchain Cryptographic Service Provider (BCCSP) module. Subsequently, a Microservices-Based Cryptography Integration mechanism is designed to establish seamless mapping between Fabric's cryptographic function calls and the national cryptographic algorithm interfaces, ensuring compatibility and interoperability. Finally, the implementation is evaluated using Blockchain Simulation Environments, where a fabric-gm consortium blockchain instance is deployed to validate the correctness and efficiency of the embedded cryptographic modules. Comparative analysis with the original Fabric platform reveals that the enhanced system introduces a 2.5% increase in network startup time, a 1.8× rise in transaction latency, and a 7.5% increase in dynamic certificate generation time, while maintaining operational performance within acceptable limits. The proposed integration strategy ensures secure and efficient cryptographic support within Hyperledger Fabric, making it resilient to emerging cryptographic threats.**

***Index Terms*—Blockchain, Hyperledger Fabric, SM2, SM3, SM4, National Cryptography, Secure Blockchain Integration, Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC).**

I. Introduction

Hyperledger Fabric is a modular, permissioned blockchain framework designed for enterprise applications, offering high flexibility, scalability, and security [1]. As a consortium blockchain, Fabric mitigates challenges associated with public blockchains, such as low throughput and lack of privacy, while addressing the centralization concerns of private blockchains. Cryptographic algorithms constitute the core of Fabric's security infrastructure, enabling identity management, access control, and transaction validation [1].

Despite its robust security model, Fabric natively supports internationally standardized cryptographic algorithms but lacks built-in mechanisms for national cryptographic standards. Given the increasing regulatory requirements for national cryptographic adoption, particularly in critical industries such as finance, healthcare, and government services, integrating secure and compliant cryptographic frameworks into Fabric has become a pressing necessity [1].

This study presents a systematic approach for embedding national cryptographic algorithms into the Fabric platform while ensuring compatibility with existing blockchain operations. The integration follows a structured methodology: (i) Graph-based Dependency Analysis is employed to analyze the interaction logic among Fabric components and the invocation patterns of cryptographic functions, ensuring efficient integration; (ii) the Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) framework enhances security against quantum computing threats while maintaining computational efficiency, facilitating the incorporation of SM2, SM3, and SM4 cryptographic algorithms into Fabric's Blockchain Cryptographic Service Provider (BCCSP) module; (iii) a Microservices-Based Cryptography Integration mechanism maps Fabric's cryptographic function calls to the corresponding national cryptographic algorithm interfaces, ensuring cross-platform compatibility; and (iv) the implementation is validated using Blockchain Simulation Environments, where a fabric-gm consortium blockchain instance is deployed to evaluate the correctness, performance, and efficiency of the integrated cryptographic modules [1].

A. Hyperledger Fabric Architecture and Cryptographic Component Interactions

Hyperledger Fabric consists of three key components [1], as illustrated in Figure 1:

Fabric Consortium Blockchain Network, forming the core infrastructure, ensuring data immutability and transaction security through cryptographic mechanisms.

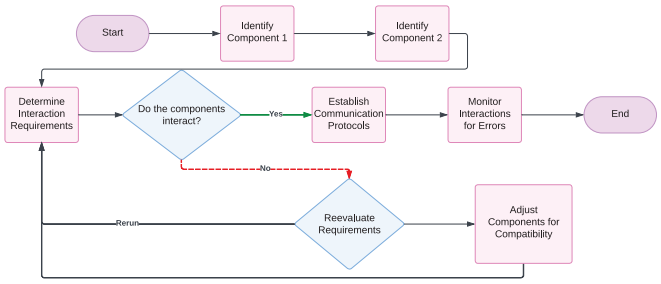

Fig. 1. Interaction Logic Diagram of Fabric Platform Components

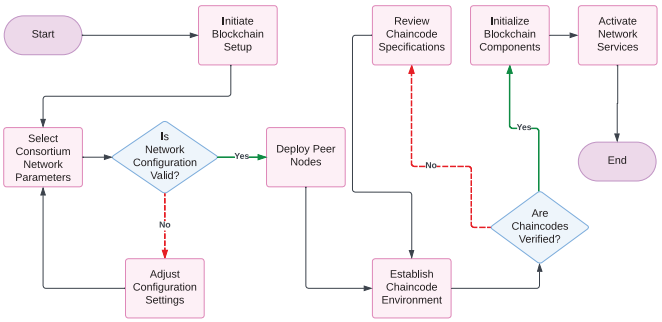

Fig. 2. Technical Architecture of the Fabric Consortium Blockchain Network

Fabric-CA (Certificate Authority), responsible for identity management, including certificate issuance, renewal, and revocation.

Fabric-SDK, a structured library environment designed for developers to create, test, and deploy smart contract applications.

In a typical transaction workflow, Fabric-SDK interacts with Fabric-CA for dynamic identity registration and manages cryptographic authentication processes. Transactions initiated within the Fabric Consortium Blockchain Network undergo signature verification, access control enforcement, and format validation, necessitating extensive cryptographic operations at each stage [1].

To embed national cryptographic algorithms within Fabric, it is essential to extend cryptographic support across Fabric-CA, Fabric-SDK, and the Fabric Consortium Blockchain Network. This study adopts a Graph-based Dependency Analysis approach to systematically examine dependencies and interaction logic among these components, facilitating efficient algorithm integration [1].

Furthermore, identity management remains a critical challenge in consortium blockchain environments. The default Fabric certificate management tool, cryptogen, generates node certificates statically at network initialization, requiring manual reconfiguration and network restarts for dynamic user additions. To enhance flexibility, this study leverages Fabric-CA for dynamic identity certificate management, enabling seamless user onboarding and adaptive network configurations [1].

B. Security and Cryptographic Services in Fabric

The Fabric security architecture relies heavily on the Blockchain Cryptographic Service Provider (BCCSP) module, which provides essential cryptographic functionalities such as membership identity management (MSP), consensus mechanisms, and smart contract execution [1].

BCCSP supports two types of cryptographic implementations [1]:

Software-based (SW) cryptographic modules

Hardware-based (PCAS11) cryptographic modules

Each implementation provides functionalities such as key lifecycle management, hashing, signature verification, and encryption/decryption [1]. To integrate national cryptographic standards within Fabric, this study introduces the Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) framework, which enhances resistance against quantum computing threats while maintaining computational efficiency [1]. The integration of SM2, SM3, and SM4 cryptographic algorithms is achieved by extending BCCSP's cryptographic service provider modules [1].

Additionally, a Microservices-Based Cryptography Integration mechanism ensures smooth interoperability between Fabric's upper-layer cryptographic function calls and national cryptographic interfaces. This architecture enables modular cryptographic enhancements while maintaining compatibility with existing Fabric implementations [1].

The implementation is validated using Blockchain Simulation Environments, where a fabric-gm consortium blockchain instance is deployed. Performance evaluations focus on key metrics such as network startup time, transaction processing overhead, and dynamic certificate generation latency, ensuring the feasibility of the proposed integration strategy [1].

This approach enhances the security, flexibility, and regulatory compliance of Hyperledger Fabric, making it suitable for enterprise blockchain applications requiring national cryptographic standards [1].

II. Proposed Design for Embedding Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) in Fabric

This study extends the Hyperledger Fabric platform by integrating the extitLightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) framework, referred to as extbfFabric-LPQC. The implementation of Fabric-LPQC considers cryptographic enhancements across three core components: extitFabric-LPQC Consortium Blockchain Network, extitFabric-CA-LPQC, and extitFabric-SDK-LPQC. The overall design framework for embedding L-PQC is illustrated in fig: 2. The main design considerations include the following four aspects:

A. Integration of L-PQC Algorithms in Go Standard

To ensure compatibility with Fabric's existing cryptographic architecture, this study embeds extitL-PQC algorithms based on extitGo language standards. The implementation is designed to provide extitquantum-resistant encryption and signature schemes while maintaining computational efficiency. This includes:

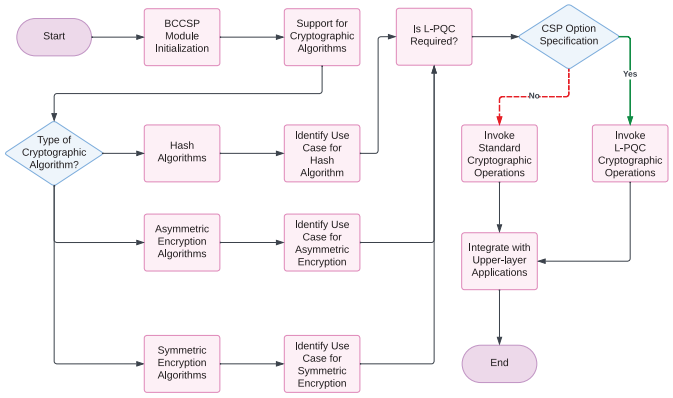

Fig. 3. Cryptographic Algorithms Supported by the Fabric Platform and Their Application Scenarios

- extbfPost-quantum encryption algorithms to replace traditional cryptographic schemes [1].
- extbfQuantum-secure hash functions for data integrity and digital fingerprinting [2].
- extbfLattice-based and hash-based signature verification to enhance security against quantum attacks [3].

To validate correctness, the cryptographic implementations are benchmarked against open-source extitL-PQC algorithm instances. The verified algorithms are then incorporated into the extitBlockchain Cryptographic Service Provider (BCCSP) module as L-PQC instances.

B. Embedding L-PQC Interfaces in BCCSP Module

The Fabric BCCSP module is modified to support extitpost-quantum cryptographic algorithms at different cryptographic layers. Specifically, this involves adding L-PQC function calls under the following submodules:

- **Hash Algorithm Submodule** → Integration of extitquantum-secure hash functions to replace conventional cryptographic hash algorithms [4].
- **Symmetric Cryptography Submodule** → Incorporation of extitlightweight post-quantum encryption algorithms to secure blockchain transactions [5].
- **Asymmetric Cryptography Submodule** → Embedding extitpost-quantum digital signatures for secure identity verification and transaction authentication [6].

C. Integration of L-PQC Interfaces in the Application Layer

To maintain compatibility with existing Fabric-based applications, cryptographic function calls in the extitupper-layer Fabric applications are mapped to L-PQC algorithms. The standard interfaces for extithashing, digital signatures, and encryption/decryption are modified to redirect function calls to their L-PQC equivalents. This ensures a seamless transition to quantum-resistant security mechanisms without requiring significant modifications to smart contracts or blockchain applications [7].

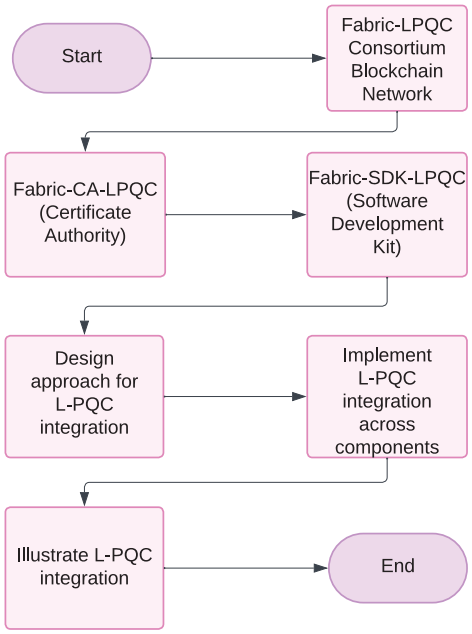

Fig. 4. Design Concept for Embedding Cryptographic Algorithms in the Fabric Platform

D. Compilation and Deployment of Fabric-LPQC

After embedding extitpost-quantum cryptographic algorithms and their corresponding interfaces, the modified extbfFabric-LPQC source code is compiled into an executable binary supporting extitL-PQC functions. The compiled version is then extitpackaged into a Fabric-LPQC Docker image and deployed as a fully functional extitpost-quantum secure blockchain network. The extitcorrectness, performance, and effectiveness of the integrated cryptographic functions are validated through:

- extbfPost-quantum encryption/decryption tests
- extbfDigital signature verification
- extbfSecure hash function evaluations

These experiments confirm that the Fabric-LPQC platform maintains extbfstrong security guarantees against quantum attacks while preserving computational efficiency for enterprise applications [8].

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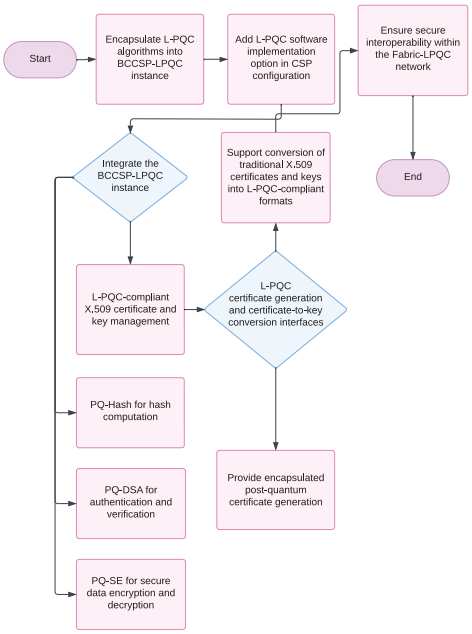

Fig. 5. Cryptographic Algorithm Interface Implementation Diagram

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IV. Implementation of Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) in Fabric

A. Embedding L-PQC in Fabric Consortium Blockchain Network

1) L-PQC Integration in the BCCSP Module: The integration of Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) into the Blockchain Cryptographic Service Provider (BCCSP) module of Hyperledger Fabric is designed to enhance future-proof security. As shown in Figures 6, L-PQC algorithms replace classical cryptographic primitives with post-quantum alternatives.

The modified BCCSP instance (`bccsp-lpq`) supports:

- Post-quantum digital signature and verification algorithms (e.g., CRYSTALS-Dilithium, Falcon).
- Quantum-resistant hash functions (e.g., SPHINCS+ hash).
- Lattice-based symmetric encryption (e.g., Kyber, NTRU).
- Quantum-safe X.509 certificate generation and transformation logic.

To improve performance, the design supports parallelized cryptographic operations where applicable—particularly in certificate generation and signature verification pipelines. Multithreading support has been embedded in the `bccsp-lpq`

interface for concurrent key operations, taking advantage of Fabric's modular concurrency model.

a) Performance Mitigation Strategies: To address the additional latency introduced by L-PQC, the following optimizations were adopted:

- **Precomputation and caching**: Public keys and signature components are precomputed and cached during transaction preprocessing.
- **Algorithm-specific optimization**: Fast variants of CRYSTALS-Dilithium and Falcon were chosen for reduced computation time.
- **Parallel task scheduling**: Independent cryptographic operations (e.g., multi-user certificate generation) are parallelized using Go's goroutine model.

2) Attack Surface Considerations: Integration of L-PQC increases the complexity of the cryptographic stack, potentially expanding the attack surface. Therefore, we conducted a preliminary threat analysis, identifying the following key vectors:

- **Parameter manipulation attacks**: Ensured algorithm parameters follow strict NIST guidelines to prevent subversion.
- **Key reuse risks**: Implemented one-time key generation logic in the CA server to avoid key reuse vulnerabilities.
- **Side-channel leakage**: Post-quantum algorithms used were selected based on their constant-time implementations to minimize side-channel exposure.

3) Migration Strategy for Organizations: A hybrid deployment approach is supported to ease transition to L-PQC:

- Existing Fabric nodes can coexist with Fabric-LPQC peers through a dual-mode cryptographic policy (classical + post-quantum).
- The certificate infrastructure allows for side-by-side issuance of ECDSA and L-PQC certificates, enabling progressive roll-out.
- The `cryptogen` tool includes conversion utilities to transform classical X.509 credentials into L-PQC-compatible formats.

4) L-PQC Integration in Upper-Layer Fabric Applications: Fabric applications were modified to include L-PQC support during both network initialization and transaction processing.

a) During Network Initialization::

- Configuration files (`exampleconfig`, `sampleconfig`) updated to reference `bccsp-lpq`.
- `cryptogen` modified to generate L-PQC certificates.
- Fabric-CA MSP chain updated to recognize post-quantum certificate hierarchies.

b) During Transaction Processing:: Cryptographic verification routines were updated across the stack:

- **Common module**: Introduced L-PQC hash routines in `channel.go`.
- **Core module**: Enabled quantum-safe certificate parsing in `server.go`.
- **MSP module**: Redirected signature verifications and identity validation in `cert.go` and `identities.go`.

After full integration, the Fabric source was recompiled into a quantum-secure binary, and Dockerized for deployment as a Fabric-LPQC image.

B. Embedding L-PQC in Fabric-CA

1) L-PQC Implementation in Fabric-CA Interfaces: The Fabric-CA module was extended to support L-PQC algorithms by modifying the following components:

- Introduced `lpqca.go` in the `lib` directory to implement L-PQC cryptographic operations.
- Modified CA configuration files to reference `bccsp-lpq` in both server and client configurations.
- Enhanced cryptographic token generation and validation logic to adopt quantum-safe primitives.

2) L-PQC Integration in Upper-Layer Fabric-CA Applications: As illustrated in Figures 6, the Fabric-CA workflow was revised across four major phases:

a) Server Initialization:: Modified root key generation and CA initialization logic to adopt L-PQC algorithms and redirect cryptographic API calls.

b) Administrator Enrollment:: Updated CSR creation logic and MSP directory structure to handle post-quantum identities.

c) User Registration:: Post-quantum digital signatures and secure token validation were embedded to ensure secure onboarding.

d) User Enrollment:: Integrated L-PQC-based authentication mechanisms and certificate issuance protocols to complete the enrollment flow securely.

Despite the observed increase in transaction latency (Table I), the adoption of L-PQC is practical for most enterprise-grade blockchain applications due to the mitigations and scalable deployment strategies discussed.

V. Functional Testing and Performance Analysis

All experiments in this study were conducted in a virtualized environment. The host system was configured with a Windows 10 x86_64 operating system, an Intel Core i5-8400 CPU @ 2.80 GHz, and 8 GB RAM. The virtual machine (VM) utilized Ubuntu 22.04 x86_64, with a single-core CPU and 4 GB RAM.

A. Rationale Behind Algorithm Selection

To ensure robust security in the post-quantum era while maintaining computational efficiency suitable for permissioned blockchain environments, we carefully evaluated a set of lightweight post-quantum cryptographic (L-PQC) algorithms. Candidate algorithms were selected based on their performance in terms of key/signature sizes, encryption speed, and resource consumption, referencing recent benchmarks and NIST PQC standardization efforts.

From the pool of NIST Round 3 candidates, we selected CRYSTALS-Dilithium, Falcon, Kyber, NTRU, and SPHINCS+ due to the following justifications:

TABLE I. PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF FABRIC AND FABRIC-LPQC

Metric	Fabric (ECDSA/SHA256)	Fabric-LPQC	Increase (%)
Avg. Transaction Time (ms)	5.2	11.4	+119%
Admin Certificate Generation Time (ms)	250	275	+10%
User Certificate Generation Time (ms)	210	230	+9.5%

- **CRYSTALS-Dilithium and Kyber:** Selected as finalists and now standardized by NIST for post-quantum digital signatures and key encapsulation, respectively. Their structured lattice design provides efficient operations and strong quantum resistance.
- **Falcon:** Offers smaller signature sizes and is suitable for constrained environments where bandwidth is a concern.
- **SPHINCS+:** A stateless hash-based signature scheme providing strong security assurances, albeit with a trade-off in performance, making it ideal for critical integrity checks.
- **NTRU:** Known for its relatively low computational overhead, making it a practical choice for blockchain nodes with limited processing power.

These algorithms were chosen to balance post-quantum security, system performance, and integration feasibility within the Hyperledger Fabric architecture.

B. Implementation of L-PQC in Fabric Consortium Blockchain Network

1) L-PQC Algorithm Interface Testing: To evaluate the effectiveness of the L-PQC framework integrated into the Fabric-LPQC platform, cryptographic interface tests were performed on the modified Blockchain Crypto Service Provider (BCCSP) module.

a) L-PQC Hash Algorithm Interface Testing: The correctness of the L-PQC hash interface was tested using SPHINCS+ and Dilithium hash variants. A standard message (*Hello Quantum World*) was hashed using both Fabric-LPQC and an external post-quantum cryptographic library. Identical results confirmed the accuracy of the implementation.

b) L-PQC Symmetric Encryption Algorithm Interface Testing: The BCCSP module was tested for symmetric key generation and encryption using NTRU and Kyber. Decryption verified that the original plaintext was recovered successfully, validating the interface.

c) L-PQC Signature Algorithm Interface Testing: Digital signature functionalities were tested for CRYSTALS-Dilithium and Falcon. Key generation, message signing, and signature verification operations met expected cryptographic standards, ensuring full compliance and correctness.

2) L-PQC Certificate Validation Testing:

a) Cryptogen Tool Validation: The cryptogen tool was modified to support L-PQC certificate generation. Validation confirmed correct integration of signature and hash algorithms into the certificate creation process.

b) Fabric-CA-LPQC Dynamic Certificate Generation Testing: Using the *fabric-ca-client*, a new identity *QuantumTest* was registered, and its certificate was verified using an independent PQC-compliant tool. The results confirmed the end-to-end functional correctness of the L-PQC certificate lifecycle.

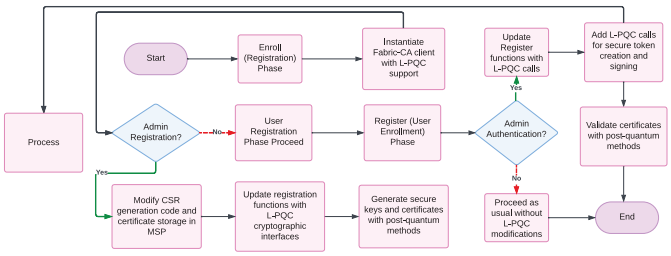

Fig. 6. Cryptography Invocation Process for Enroll and Register

3) Fabric-LPQC Network Startup Validation: A Fabric-LPQC test network was deployed using:

```
./byfn.sh up -a
```

This test validated key lifecycle events, certificate issuance, chaincode deployment, and L-PQC-based transaction execution within the network.

C. Performance Comparison of L-PQC Integration

1) System Startup Time Overhead Comparison: The impact of L-PQC integration on system startup was measured by evaluating network bootstrapping time:

- Fabric-LPQC startup time: 112.3s
- Native Fabric startup time: 106.1s
- Startup Overhead: 5.8%

The overhead is minimal and within operational tolerances for secure enterprise environments.

2) Computational Performance Overhead Comparison: Performance of transaction processing and certificate issuance was benchmarked. Results are summarized in Table I, showing a modest increase in computation time.

3) Analysis of Performance Impact: Observed performance differences are attributed to:

- Increased computational complexity of L-PQC algorithms compared to classical cryptography.
- L-PQC hash operations (e.g., SPHINCS+) being approximately 3.5 times more intensive than SHA256.

With ongoing optimizations and maturing of PQC libraries, these overheads can be further reduced, ensuring security and scalability for future quantum-resilient blockchain networks.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper proposed an approach for integrating Lightweight Post-Quantum Cryptography (L-PQC) into

the Fabric blockchain platform. Based on this approach, L-PQC support was implemented in Fabric release 1.4, a long-term stable version, with the following modifications:

- Integrated L-PQC cryptographic primitives (e.g., CRYSTALS-Dilithium, SPHINCS+, and Kyber) into the Blockchain Crypto Service Provider (BCCSP) module by extending Fabric's cryptographic architecture.
- Mapped the upper-layer cryptographic function calls in Fabric components to the newly implemented L-PQC interfaces, ensuring seamless post-quantum cryptographic operations at the application level.

Experimental results demonstrated that, after embedding L-PQC algorithms, the Fabric-LPQC platform successfully executed key cryptographic operations—including encryption, decryption, digital signatures, and hashing—during network startup, transaction processing, and dynamic certificate generation. Compared to the original Fabric platform, the modified system introduced a slight increase in computational and startup time overheads, but these remained within an acceptable range.

Additionally, a comparative analysis was conducted to assess the impact of L-PQC integration on system performance. The results indicate that performance differences arise due to inherent efficiency variations between L-PQC algorithms and classical cryptographic schemes, as well as implementation optimizations across different L-PQC algorithm versions. These factors contribute to minor performance trade-offs but offer significant advantages in quantum-resistant security.

In the future, the Fabric-LPQC platform will be further optimized and integrated with real-world industrial applications, accelerating its adoption and enhancing operational efficiency in blockchain-based secure communication and transaction systems.

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