

Covid-19: Digital Signature Impact on Higher Education Motivation Performance

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ABSTRACT

At present, the process of validating documents for certain purposes cannot be done face-to-face because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, this research aims to maximize the existence of smart digital signature technology that guarantees its safety and validity without having to meet face to face. Encrypted digital signatures with RSA-SHA256 with cloud storage features that can share documents. The waterfall method for building systems, the collection of data generated for analysis by observation, and online questionnaires using Google Form. Based on the characteristics of the system, the satisfaction factor analysis of the system with the Slovin formula processed by the SUS score resulted in a score of $95 > 70$. The final result of this study is that the digital signature system has a significant impact on increasing motivation to facilitate authorization and secure documents.

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I. Introduction

Coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) is spreading so fast that it has even become a global pandemic affecting developing countries with limited resources [1]. Most developing countries assume that they will face more challenges than developed countries in overcoming the spread of Covid-19 in their regions, which causes developing countries to potentially become the epicenter of a pandemic, including Indonesia [2]. The Covid-19 case in Indonesia on March 2, 2020, has confirmed two Covid-19 cases. Then on March 29, 2020, it continued to increase to 1,285 cases in 30 provinces. According to data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, five provinces with the highest Covid-19 cases were Jakarta (675), Banten (106), West Java (149), Central Java (63), and East Java (90) [3]. The increasing incidence of such cases and has spread globally, the WHO set Covid-19 as a pandemic [4].

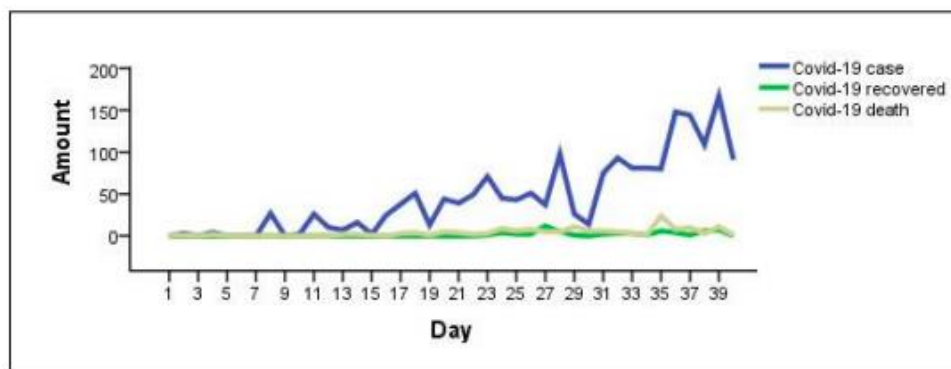


Fig. 1. Covid-19 status

Figure 1 shows the Covid-19 graph of Jakarta that has increased. Since March 3, 2020, cases in Jakarta have averaged 45.25 Covid-19 cases confirmed every day. So the average number of patients who must be recovered is 1.50, which is lower than the average death rate of 3.80 cases. Thus, the proportion of deaths in Jakarta Covid-19 cases is 8.4% higher than those cured by 3.3% [5]. Of the many cases, this has made several companies to higher education affected in terms of economics, social activities, and management [6]. This pandemic Covid-19 has a significant impact on the world cycle of higher education in terms of staff performance. Industry 4.0 is the era of smart systems that are used for flexible production lines throughout the information, for example, created by the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), or other digital technologies [7][8]. Transformation era 4.0 on a particular website is in line with what is needed to face the problem [9][10]. This pandemic situation allows for the innovative use of technology that can bridge the education gap during this Covid-19 [11][12].

This incident did not rule out the possibility of technology playing a role in the management of this pandemic Covid-19 to help not only in terms of health but the technology industry 4.0 virtually [13][14]. One solution that will be discussed in this paper is the use of digital signatures with SHA-256 as a form of Work From Home (WFH) support in this pandemic Covid-19 with the aim of activities of the academic community of higher education to continue to run effectively. Digital signatures are an essential type of authentication on public keys in widely used cryptography [15] by using public and private keys to encrypt and decrypt [16]. Utilization of cloud storage is at war also crucial in the cloud ecosystem, where now many are using cloud storage because it can be considered significant data integrity [17].

II. Method

In making digital signature systems using the SDLC waterfall method by using the waterfall model, all processes are divided into several stages, and this certainly makes the process of making the system very clear so that it can produce an effective and efficient system when there is a Covid-19 pandemic [18][19]. In the illustration in Figure 1 of the seven stages of SDLC Waterfall, the process of making the system begins with a systematic analysis of the needs of tertiary education invalidating important documents, followed by the process of sending documents to the procedure for storing copies of documents after all authorizations are analyzed which will produce a plan to make the system as needed. From the plans that have been made, there will emerge a lower need for the system to be designed such as embedding features of a digital signature system with SHA-256 encryption, making a cloud storage design so that authentic documents can be stored on the internet and can be accessed by anyone without having to send mail by manual means, as well as the design in terms of security where documents are protected with irreversible protection[20][21][22].

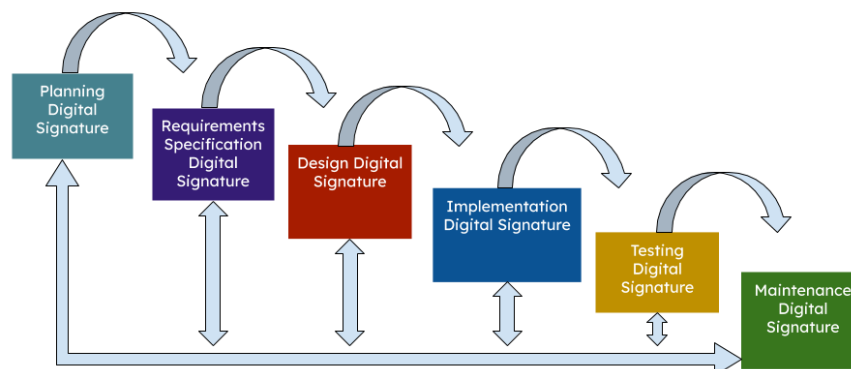


Fig. 2. Methods of Waterfall Digital Signature System

After we know about the needs that must be made next is to develop the design into a digital signature system design, starting from the user interface design, user experience so that it can

produce a user-friendly experience for users, design data structures that support cloud storage and digital signatures[23][24]. The design of programming algorithms for document encryption, automatically generating pdfs, document sharing features, sending documents via email, to irreversible security features. Next design is the process of implementing the design into the PHP programming language with the MVC concept to meet the needs of the backend in processing algorithms and high security, as well as for the database part of researchers using PostgreSQL, followed by the frontend using Javascript, HTML, Bootstrap CSS[25][26]. After the system has been successfully built, a testing phase is needed to find out if the system is running as planned, at this stage the system is released to the user to get feedback so that further development can be done. Moreover, the last is the maintenance stage, where at this stage, researchers respond to user feedback by making improvements and additions according to what they expect [27][28][29].

After the system has been released and tested by some users, the researcher then evaluates the digital signature system. It starts with gathering information about the number of staff in higher education[30]. To support Work From Home activities due to Covid-19, this research collects data by survey method in the form of an online questionnaire using Google Form. Followed by finding the number of samples of staff population information from the population data that can be, the total staff population currently reaches 148 people, the next stage of the data we will manage again to find out the number of samples that are appropriate for SUS. If calculated using the Slovin formula[31].

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where n is the total number of samples sought, N = number of general population, e = error tolerance limit.

From the calculations that have been done, we get the right number of staff samples, the next step of the data will be used to find the SUS (System Usability Scale) so that researchers know how well the system is implemented. System Usability Scale (SUS) is a self-administered statement instrument that is often used to evaluate its usefulness in terms of product and user interface [36]. The following formula looks for the overall value of SUS:

$$X = \frac{(((R1) + (R2) + (R3) + (R4) + (R5) + (R6) + (R7) + (R8) + (R9) + (R10)) * 2,5) * N}{N}$$

X is the total SUS score, where N is the number of staff, and R1 to R10 is the respondent's statement variable from the whole questionnaire given. At the evaluation stage, researchers used the SUS questionnaire with a five-point Likert scale. Start from the respondent, the staff was asked to provide a subjective assessment of the Digital Signature system of the ten-question items with statements between "Strongly disagree," "Disagree," "Neutral," "Agree," and "Strongly Agree," which respectively -The answer of each item is variable R1 to R10. When Covid-19, the questionnaire was distributed to all samples, namely the staff of the University of Rahardja, through Google's online form. Finally, the respondents will state so that the results of the overall SUS Score will be obtained based on the acquisition of the average individual SUS score[32].

III. Result

After getting information about the staff population at the college. Researchers performed calculations using the Slovin formula. The initial step taken was to enter the staff population into the variable N = 148, and the error tolerance limit of 1%, so that the required number of staff samples was as follows:

$$n = \frac{148}{1 + 148.(0,01)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{148}{2,48}$$

$$n = 59,67 \rightarrow 60$$

After knowing the exact number of samples, the SUS questionnaire in the form of an online google form was given to staff respondents, and the respondents gave statements with values based on a Likert scale. Moreover, the results of the respondent's statement are included in the Likert scale table, which will later be used as a variable in the SUS formula.

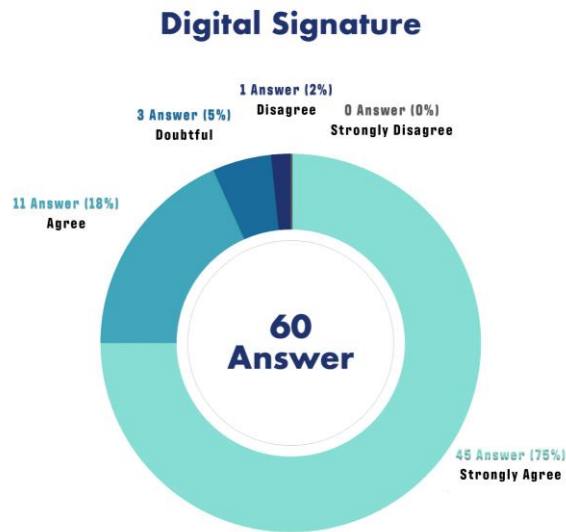


Fig. 3. Likert scale respondent results

Based on the Doughnut chart on figure 3, 75% of staff respondents gave statements with a 5 point Likert scale, 18% with 4 points, 5% with 3 points, and 2% with 2 points. From the information we get, we enter into the R1-R10 variable to find out the total SUS:

$$X = \frac{((R1) + (R2) + (R3) + (R4) + (R5) + (R6) + (R7) + (R8) + (R9) + (R10)) * 2,5 * N}{N}$$

$$X = \frac{((5) + (5) + (2) + (3) + (3) + (4) + (4) + (5) + (5) + (5)) * 2,5 * 60}{60}$$

$$X = \frac{5700}{60} = 95,0$$

From the questionnaire distributed to the entire population, they are then calculating using the SUS Suspension formula, resulting in X as the SUS score. The results determine that the average SUS staff score was 95.0, which SUS score is a global subjective assessment of the aspects of usability like efficient, effective, and user satisfaction with the system used.

Table 1. SUS digital signature score categories

Category	Requirement	Result
Not Acceptable	<50	x
Acceptable	>70	✓
Net Promoter	>82	✓
Detractor	<67	x

SUS score will indicate the level of user satisfaction with the system if the SUS score achieved > 70 and can be said to be in the Acceptable category [37].

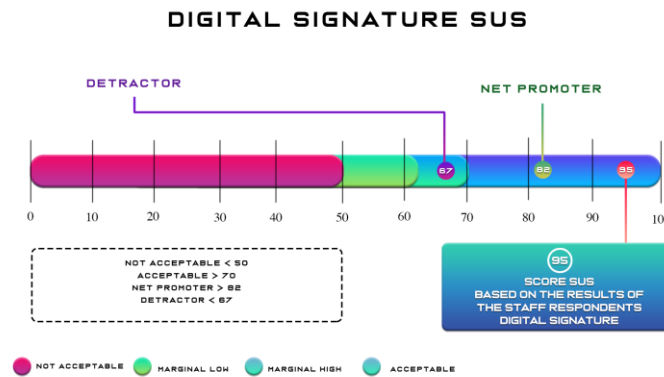


Fig. 4.SUS Digital Signature score results

The results of the figure 4 calculation we can get a digital signature system SUS score of 95.0, this can be stated that the system falls into the Acceptable category. Then there is a requirement that the system can be called a Net Promoter if the SUS score reaches > 82, And this also shows that the digital signature system has the potential to be a promoter so that the impact on the number of users will continue to increase during the Covid-19 pandemic. As for the detractor category, it means that it can cause a significant reduction; this does not affect the digital signature system because the score exceeds > 67 [33]. The final results of the SUS score table above show the acquisition of a positive and significant impact on the system created because the number of users will continue to increase in the future. After all, it has benefits in the pandemic Covid-19 period [34]. The results of this survey are also a motivation for higher education to continue to carry out academic activities in the Covid-19 pandemic [35][36].

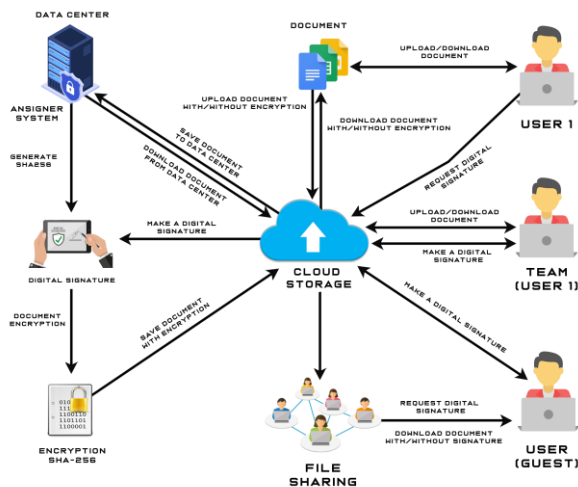


Fig. 5. Signature Cloud Storage Digital Architecture

The picture figure 5 is the workflow of the Digital Signature system, and User 1 has the right to download and upload documents into the system, both encrypted and unencrypted. The document that has been uploaded can be entered into the cloud storage service, where all files that have entered or exited will enter the data center so that it can be monitored by the system so that it is well distributed. This system implements SHA-256 encryption for digital signatures so that each document that has been signed has a unique document identity wherein the data encryption process regarding who signs, the time of authorization, and also about the location and IP address will be entered. Every document that has been embedded with encryption will be irreversible, which means the document cannot be modified after it is signed. This is useful to avoid falsification of documents and other crimes. After the encryption stage is completed, the signed documents will be stored in cloud storage integrated with the data center within the AN Signer system.

For other users such as team members or users outside the system or guests can receive messages in the form of documents that have been signed through the Digital Signature system by utilizing the file-sharing feature, this certainly makes it easy for users to send important documents without having to print or conduct meetings to facilitate work when the Covid-19 pandemic. Every user has the right to sign documents. User 1, who has registered with the system, can, of course, make a signature request to anyone by utilizing file-sharing by only sending documents via email so the digital signature process can be easily carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic [37] Signed documents can be stored by the intended party and also stored in cloud storage.

IV. Conclusion

In this study, SHA-256 is applied as an encryption system embedded in a digital signature for authorization, verification of validity & protecting documents to avoid crime such as modification and so because it is irreversible, which means it cannot be returned to its original form. Besides, the cloud storage feature was added to support the Covid-19 period in storing documents that already have digital signatures to make it more secure and for ease of sharing documents with other users. From the results of the analysis using the SUS score shows that the digital signature system is in the Acceptable category with a score of $95 > 70$ to help the Covid-19 period.

In the results of the above study, the Covid-19 pandemic did not allow for a meeting, but there was an important document that required authorization to make tertiary education management difficult in that regard. With a website based digital signature system that supports cloud storage services for document sharing with ease of accessibility for users and can validate documents securely using an encrypted digital signature when Covid-19. When this digital signature system is considered easy to use, the implication is that the head of staff of higher education will use this application to support the academic performance of the Covid-19 period is an important document.

It is hoped that future work digital signatures can be developed with more sophisticated security technology, namely the blockchain so that future researchers can have a significant impact on subsequent papers.

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