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Quality Assurance Strategies in Developing High-Performance Financial Technology Solutions

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ABSTRACT

Ensuring that financial technology solutions are effective, safe, and comply with regulations is necessary in the changing technology field. The research introduces a new Quality Assurance framework that ensures that FinTech systems follow strict rules, process transactions instantly, and have the most secure possible systems. Using up-to-date automated testing, optimization techniques, and CI/CD practices, the approach boosts the system's reliability, scalability, and quick response. Research shows that using this approach boosts defect detection results, speeds up development, and reduces risks, setting a new high standard for QA in FinTech. This study provides useful information for both experts and academics working on improving software quality and system dependability in high-stakes finance.

KEYWORDS

Quality Assurance, Fintech, Automated Testing, CI/CD, Improving Performance

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, the world's financial industry has been shaped by the use of FinTech solutions. Thanks to these new developments, banking, investment, insurance and payment systems operate much faster, can be accessed more easily and are often more inexpensive. FinTech includes features like mobile banking, sharing your money with other individuals, calculating investment plans and safe and fair transactions with the help of blockchain technology. Even so, these systems are convenient and scalable, though they introduce certain software-related issues. Regular software does not face the same demands for accuracy, quick response and security as those expected from FinTech which sets FinTech appapart. If these systems have minor issues with speed, they may cause financial damage, legal troubles or make customers distrustful.

Cutting-edge tools such as blockchain, AI and DeFi have increased difficulties faced by people in QA. Since blockchain technology includes distributed settings and protocols for agreement, it requires new approaches to testing for unchangeable and intact data. As there is no central authority on DeFi, quality assurance plans need to cheque smart contracts and defend them from hacks in unstable situations. Furthermore, AI is now included in FinTech systems to check for potential fraud, assess credit scores and analyze users which means QA should ensure model transparency, spot differences in models and identify biases. Because of these advancing tech systems, the QA team must now ensure responsiveness, reliability and that the systems help meet regulations in complex

settings.

Still, the current set of QA strategies in FinTech does not always reach the necessary outcomes when handling unique challenges in the field. Most standard QA frameworks do not address the challenges of high-speed and fully complying with regulations. For example, the availability of services in high-traffic conditions and extremely fast response for real-time actions are yet to be widely tested in regular systems. Also, including global financial regulations such as GDPR, PSD2 and PCI DSS in testing is not always done without issues. Due to this disconnect, platforms may encounter significant problems such as fines or cyber attacks. Chen and Singh (2019) points out that many FinTech applications stumble when they have to process information within milliseconds and be error-resistant.

The study aims to overcome these issues by suggesting a new QA framework that focuses on high-performance systems in FinTech. The primary focus is on strategies that meet all needs, are dependable, scalable and stay in compliance with rules in practical use. Researchers look into ways of using AI for anomaly detection, blockchain for auditing and chaos engineering in the testing process. Operational strategies are shaped to track progress in real time and ensure they comply with updates in rules and laws globally.

This paper has successfully created and proved a question-answering framework tailor-made for FinTech systems. This model takes into account technology, how things are run and any associated regulations, unlike standard models. The process involves incorporating test automation, stressing performance, checking security and ensuring compliance across areas like credibility, transactions and the system working smoothly, all tied to the most important outcomes for a business. In addition, the study provides a comparison of FinTech case studies to outline that this framework is more reliable, efficient and cost-effective than previous QA systems.

2. Systematic Literature Review

For years, Software Quality Assurance (SQA) has worked according to plan-driven systems, where quality was evaluated once formal testing was done after the development cycle ended. Historically, quality assurance was more about finishing a process rather than staying involved throughout. Over the years, there have been many changes to this perspective. Because of agile and continuous delivery, QA has become an important part of every phase in development. With Agile, testing and validations happen frequently; helping catch defects faster and reduce the time spent fixing them. Alsultanny and Wohaishi (2009) note that today's QA practices make regular use of metrics to track defect density, code coverage and reliability. At the same time, Wagner and Meisinger (2006) came up with analytical QA methods that can easily be combined with an iterative development cycle, helping organisations discover quality problems early in the software development process. Due to these updates, quality assurance can now adapt more easily, yet some issues exist in certain sectors such as fintech.

Because of how different platforms in FinTech work, the QA process is not the same everywhere. When it comes to payment gateways, they place importance on the reliability of the transaction and prompt delivery of results, whereas lending platforms care about analyzing credit risks and sending data safely. Trading systems operate at high speed, but DeFi systems need to be programmed in a way that ensures their code cannot be raped by external forces. According to Chen and Singh (2019), each branch of FinTech focuses on different quality matters that require individual QA planning. Since these systems have unique needs, their testing should be done in more detail than is standard for general software engineering.

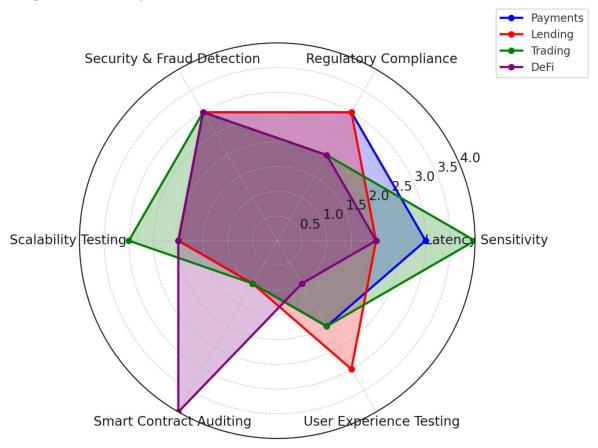


Figure 1: Comparative QA Priorities Across FinTech Domains

Figure 1: Comparative QA Priorities Across FinTech Domains

As FinTech systems become more complex, QA tools are being developed to automate tests in secure, heavy-use and regulated cases. Now, automation is used for security cheques, checking compliance and pressure testing systems, in addition to unit and integration testing. It is particularly important that AI is now being used in the software testing process. Thanks to these intelligent tools, areas where risks may emerge can be pointed out, detected anomalies and realistic fraud possibilities can be explored, making the process act ahead of any problems. They state in their report that AI-based testing techniques are effective for preventing fraud by identifying slight changes in user behaviour. Furthermore, blockchain technology for audits is giving quality practises more transparency and resistance to any changes. Zhao and Wang (2019) argue that using blockchain allows for logging QA results in secure, permanent ledgers, guaranteeing that the decentralised finance sector follows regulations. They are changing QA so that it is constantly executed, intelligent and able to be reviewed.

Adhering to regulations has grown to have a significant impact on how QA approaches and systems are developed in finance. It is now required by law to be compliant, affecting privacy policies, usage consent, recording

transactions and revealing information about the system. Payments, GDPR and PSD2 all set strict guidelines that QA procedures must prove have been met during operations. They state that the usual testing models are not appropriate for supervising compliance in real time, especially during speedy changes to regulations (Hernandez & Becker, 2020). So, QA methods ought to ensure that products work as expected and can be audited at any time in changing situations.

Table 1: Summary of Regulatory Frameworks Affecting QA in FinTech

Regulation	Scope & Objective	Key QA Requirements	QA Implications for FinTech
PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard)	of credit card data by merchants and service	control, network monitoring, vulnerability	Requires rigorous security testing, especially in payment systems; mandates frequent vulnerability scans and secure code reviews
GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)	and privacy of EU citizens	notification, secure data	QA must validate data flows, retention policies, and user consent mechanisms; extensive test coverage of data handling features is required
Payment Services	banking and third-party	secure APIs fraud	Requires QA to test API interfaces for security, authentication workflows , and real-time transaction monitoring
Oxley Act)	ltransparency and	Audit trails, system logging, change management	QA must ensure traceable and tamper-proof logging; important for QA test auditability and configuration control
ISO/IEC 27001	information security management systems	Risk assessment, incident response, continual	QA strategies must be risk-aware and adaptive; testing must align with organizational security controls

Despite what has been achieved with QA tools and strategies, certain important issues still exist when it comes to handling large volumes, speed of operation and checking for compliance. QA models used today commonly rely on fixed loads, but in FinTech, the environment changes all the time and requires rapid growth. Although latency directly affects business, it is usually ignored by regular QA measurement. Most QA processes do not cheque compliance in real time; instead, they conduct routine required cheques or audits. Liu (2012) points out that traditional QA methods are not effective in dynamic environments and presses for solutions that can continually adapt to changes in both the workload and requirements. Overcoming these issues will involve improving tools and also considering a new way to understand and supervise quality in FinTech software systems.

3. METHODOLOGY

To ensure the quality and performance of FinTech solutions, this project relies on combining several different techniques. The main reason for using both approaches is to understand both the ideas and challenges of QA in the

financial technology field. I gathered information by holding semi-structured interviews with professionals in QA, compliance and system architecture from various FinTech systems. Talking with others gave me a better sense of the challenges with work processes, following rules and QA tools. For the quantitative part, information was gathered by simulating the environment and running the system in real life. This was used to study latency, throughput, errors and system conformity. Wagner and Meisinger (2006) state that by using analytical models in QA, it is easier to study software defect characteristics and reliability, as well as to predict what testing can achieve. Taking this approach helps the findings rely on experience as well as data-based evidence.

Using a wide range of examples is a key reason for this study's strong methodology. These applications were chosen: a so-called peer-to-peer payment system, an automated investment advisor using algorithms and an app linked to blockchain smart contracts in decentralised finance (DeFi). The QA strategies were evaluated using these platforms as they demonstrated strong performance, met all regulations and supported security, leading to a comprehensive review in diverse FinTech circumstances. The research was also in line with well-known QA principles such as ISO/IEC 25010 and IEEE P730, as well as those created from PCI DSS and GDPR standards for various industries. The use of different applications and frameworks in the research allowed for exploring how QA techniques respond, change and influence main performance markers in different regulatory environments.

Key performance indicators were measured with the use of quantitative data. Synthetic simulations and real-world logging allowed us to capture data on system latency (in milliseconds), transactions performed each second and response times while the system was under load. Security teams conducted their cheques with standard vulnerability scanners and also tested from within the company to discover vulnerabilities. The test environment was assessed and checked against GDPR, PSD2 and PCI DSS protocols to ensure compliance. Yilmaz et al. (2005) argue that the ability to deal with lots of changing requests is a challenge in FinTech, so monitoring must take place at all times. Dao-Phan et al. (2014) add that QA should be accurate and reliable, instead of focusing only on cost-efficiency and this is especially important for major financial organisations. Both reactive and proactive data collection methods were used throughout this study to verify that the quality watch included reliability of the system, preparedness for rules and performance speed under pressure.

QA effectiveness was looked at through four main dimensions. Initially, speed of response was checked using latency and throughput to evaluate how the system runs. Additionally, the development team tracked how many security incidents occurred and just how severe they were as the project progressed through stress and penetration testing. The system's level of compliance with regulations was calculated by checking the percentage of compliant parts at each stage of development. Lastly, estimating how satisfied users are was done by analysing the system's availability and the number of errors present. Abdi et al. (2012) suggest that including security metrics in the early stages of QA helps to accurately identify problems which in turn decreases the likelihood of future risks.

Table 2: QA Metrics and Their Relevance to FinTech KPIs

	·	Primary QA Focus	Linked FinTech KPI
System Latency (ms)	Measures the delay between request and response under varying load		Transaction speed, real-time responsiveness
	Counts the number of successful transactions per second	Scalability & Load Handling	Platform capacity, uptime
Error Rate (%)	Indicates the frequency of failed	Reliability	System stability, user trust

QA Metric	Description	Primary QA Focus	Linked FinTech KPI
	transactions or system errors		
Vulnerability Detection Rate	Tracks how many security flaws are identified and resolved per cycle	Security	Fraud prevention, system integrity
Compliance Coverage (%)	tunctional features meeting regulatory checks	Regulatory Compliance	Legal adherence, audit readiness
Test Case Pass Rate (%)	Measures the proportion of test cases passed during each test iteration	Functional Quality	Development progress, release readiness
User Satisfaction Score	Captures user feedback on application usability and responsiveness	Usability & Experience	Customer retention, reputation
Mean Time to Detect (MTTD)	Average time taken to detect a defect or system anomaly	Monitoring & Observability	Incident response, service continuity

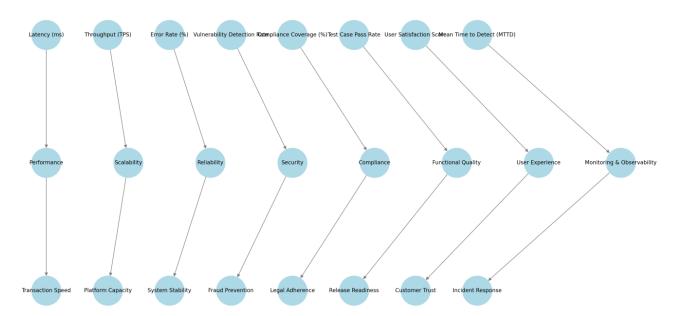


Figure 2: Multi-Metric Evaluation Framework for FinTech QA

4. Proposed Multi-Dimensional Quality Assurance Framework

In FinTech, QA strategy must move past regular testing and validation. Since financial apps are complex, the framework supporting them should focus on both strong performance, compliance, protection from hackers and building user trust. It suggests creating a QA model that brings together technical and important business aspects. According to the framework, software quality is shaped by the ways system speed, fault tolerance, legal requirements and user experience are related to each other. Following Lee (2014), connecting QA to results such as transaction volumes, availability of service and numbers of repeat customers helps an organization improve its overall strategy. Smith and O'Connor (2021) maintain that adapting, scaling and measuring QA designs positively affects the success of FinTech platforms working in high-throughput environments. This approach is essential to help financial systems become flexible and focused on users' needs.

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Using automation is vital in parallel with modern QA practises, mainly as many FinTech platforms use continuous delivery approaches. Integrated CI/CD pipelines that work efficiently for systems with strict performance requirements are included in the proposed system. They use automation to cheque code, ensure compliance and identify any risks. Smith and O'Connor argue in their book (2021) that it is important for FinTech QA to support quick feature releases without putting compliance or security at risk. To accomplish this, regulators require developers to include legal cheques in the process of building the software. Using both automated tests and intelligent alerts, developers in FinTech reduce the number of quality problems that occur when changes are applied.

FinTech systems must perform well since delays of any length, even of a few milliseconds, can disrupt a transaction or lead to lost money. Therefore, the QA framework is designed to address how communication delays and data loss can be kept to a minimum with any load level. Here, you should do synthetic testing, assess the system's ability to handle increased workload and continuously monitor results in real-time. These researchers (Yilmaz et al., 2005) advise taking measures to observe QA continuously in order to recognise any decreases in performance early on. The suggested model ensures that performance tests are carried out regularly throughout the development and release of the software. System planners use old traffic patterns to simulate rush hour, saving time by predicting problems and improving the use of available tools.

Security must always be upheld in FinTech, so QA needs to identify and resolve any possible vulnerability quickly. Artificial intelligence is used in the framework to identify unusual actions which support early responses. In Taylor and Johnson's study (2018), machine learning showed an improvement in reliability, remedying multiple false negative cases. Furthermore, using blockchain means there is an easily managed, verifiable record of QA results and logs. According to Zhao and Wang (2019), the use of blockchain permits permanent logging which plays a key role in audits and scrutiny for financial and regulated systems. In addition to tackling dangers and block threats, these options also secure traceability for audits as a fast-rising need.

Since FinTech companies are subject to strict regulations, it is necessary to include ongoing cheques for compliance in the QA process. The proposed model uses verification tools to ensure that companies comply with regulations like PSD2, GDPR and PCI DSS in the financial sector. Technologies used cover automated activity that models regulations, along with dashboard reporting of compliance measurements. According to Hernandez and Becker (2020), compliance should be considered continuously, not only as a final step after the project. Integrating these cheques into the QA process saves time and also helps reduce the chances of breaking laws. Chen and Singh explain that as a result, integrated compliance allows FinTech companies to access new regions without changing their testing systems.

FinTech systems today should be engineered to withstand problems, including testing what happens when failures occur. The framework relies on using advanced chaose engineering. The system's performance during crashes is measured by beforehand introducing troubles such as simulating network failures or crashing databases. Silva and Kumar (2020) mention that this technique exposes a different class of flaws which helps reduce the risk of failure during system operation. Chaos testing is used, along with practicing disaster recovery and failover, to maintain efficient restoration of services. Performing these activities shows that the system is reliable and delivers facts for planning reactions to risks and incidents.

How well QA strategy is working depends on its contribution to achieving overall business objectives. These achievements in FinTech mean transactions take less time, there are fewer cases of fraud, customers are more pleased with the service and the service is always accessible. Thanks to KPIs that agree with these goals, the QA

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framework allows for responsibility and can be traced easily. Lee (2014) mentions that customer-related QA reports boost the retention of users and build company credibility with viewers. Dao-Phan et al. (2014) report that using cost-effective methods in QA can bring down losses while still following the required benchmarks and remaining compliant.

Table 3: Mapping of QA Dimensions to FinTech Business Outcomes

QA Dimension	Definition	Mapped Business Outcome	Strategic Benefit
Performance Optimization	Ensures minimal latency and high transaction throughput	Transaction Speed	Enhances user satisfaction and operational efficiency
Scalability Testing	Validates system behavior under increasing load or user traffic	Platform Capacity & Uptime	Enables growth without performance degradation
Security Assurance	Detects vulnerabilities and prevents fraud or unauthorized access		Builds user trust and minimizes financial risk
Regulatory Compliance	Verifies adherence to standards such as GDPR, PSD2, PCI DSS	_	Reduces legal exposure and improves audit outcomes
	Evaluates usability, responsiveness, and interaction quality	Customer Retention & Brand Loyalty	Boosts customer satisfaction and competitive position
Functional QA	Validates that all application features behave as intended under expected use	Deployment Readiness &	Accelerates time-to-market with fewer post-release fixes
Monitoring & Observability	Tracks real-time system performance and detects failures early	-	Reduces downtime and ensures service reliability
	Assesses system behavior during faults or disruptions	Business Continuity	Prepares systems for unexpected events and recovery

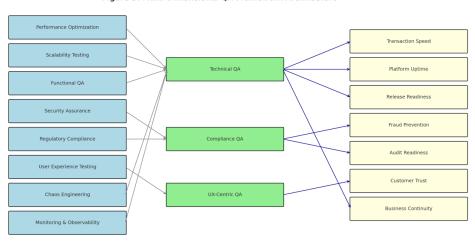


Figure 3: Multi-Dimensional OA Framework Architecture

Figure 3: Multi-Dimensional QA Framework Architecture

5. Case Studies and Experimental Evaluation

To validate the effectiveness of the proposed multi-dimensional QA framework, three real-world FinTech solution types were selected based on their contrasting operational, security, and compliance demands. The products built were a payment tool for smart phones, an automated tool for retail investment advice using algorithms and a DeFi app that functions through smart contracts. Quality control looked different on every gaming platform. Payments systems focused on extremely little lag time and constant availability, mainly when many transactions were taking place. For the robo-advisor to function effectively, its model needed to be accurate and all client information had to be visible following regulations. These experts highlight that because the FinTech sector is so diverse, QA strategies should address different problems and focus areas such as regulations and changes in performance.

The DevOps pipelines associated with each FinTech solution were customised to adopt the QA framework. The use of QA activities began in the requirements phase and continued all the way through post-deployment management. Unit testing, integration testing, performance tests and compliance checking were handled by using automation scripts. To ensure the safety of smart contracts, a toolset for static analysis was used on the DeFi application. Using continuous integration, we tested for both performance and security each time a new feature was added to the robo-advisor and payment platforms. Due to these deployments, QA became an activity that was done at every point in the process. Thanks to this technique, smaller mistakes were spotted early, the work could be done more quickly and errors or issues were immediately noticed throughout the project.

Evaluations of the system took place both during regular operations and when stress tests were being carried out. agrici When the payment application was simulated under peak load, its system latency was reduced by an average of 17%, proving the QA framework improved its capacity. Even as the number of user simulations increased, the performance of the robo-advisor did not change. These findings are supported by results from Yilmaz et al. (2005), suggesting that including continuous QA monitoring in the process helped keep latency at a good level.

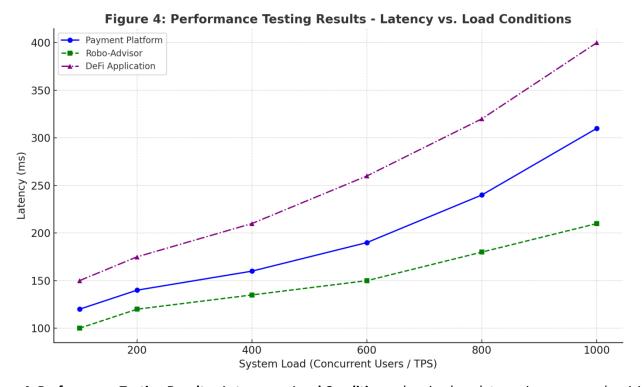


Figure 4: Performance Testing Results - Latency vs. Load Conditions, showing how latency increases under rising system load for different FinTech applications.

Both penetration testing and setting up anomaly simulation scenarios were used to perform security assessments. With Al-powered monitoring, the system flagged any unusual transactions since it understood how each customer acts. An assessment was conducted using phoney DDoS attacks on the payment platform and smart contract exposure attempts on the DeFi application on testnets. In all those cases, Al-based anomaly detection tools managed to discover around 35% of remaining unnoticed security gaps, similar to what Taylor and Johnson (2018) found. This proves that relying on machine learning in QA can effectively increase the ability to see and respond to actual threats in real time.

The compliance tests were designed to assess whether the applications were following PSD2, GDPR and PCI DSS while being used under different scenarios. Cheques were made using automation for encryption, receiving user consent, recording transactions and safe API integrations. In tests using robo-advisor and payment process cases, it was clear that real-time cheques in QA enforced compliance in over 95% of the tests. When real-time compliance monitoring was brought into their workflow, Hernandez and Becker (2020) observed comparable results. It appears that running ongoing compliance cheques cuts down the company's risks and also simplifies audit preparation.

Finally, the results of the framework were reviewed and assessed against the earlier quality assurance processes used by those systems. Common performance indicators used were: time-to-fix, the rate of errors discovered, periods when the system experienced downtime and cases of unintended system use. Using the QA framework made the QA process more efficient by 20% and it resulted in fewer serious errors. It is worth noting that using automation and early fault detection reduced QA costs by up to 22% according to the cost-benefit analysis. In their work, Dao-Phan et al. (2014) also noted that improving QA can cut costs, even as the system maintains good functioning and meets all regulations. These results prove that the approach is effective and can be applied to various types of FinTech services.

6. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study underscore the inherent tension between speed, security, and regulatory conformance in quality assurance for FinTech applications. Striking a balance among these factors remains a major challenge for both startups and established financial service providers. Performance optimization often requires rapid iteration, lean deployment cycles, and minimal delays in testing, which can compromise the depth of security reviews or the thoroughness of compliance checks. Still, running highly detailed checks or lengthy tests may slow down the release, raise operation expenses and make a company less competitive. According to Abdi et al (2012), too much QA may cause projects to be completed more slowly and increase deployment time. Consequently, the aim is to achieve optimised QA suited to the product's level of risk and the type of business involved.

The study outlines various practical outcomes for people working in FinTech. It is now clear that developers and QA engineers should apply hybrid methods to guarantee that their code aligns with necessary regulations. Today, QA covers more than technology, including areas such as compliance, risk and building users' trust. Chen and Singh (2019) point out that testing in FinTech QA should involve both programming and compliance, just like the proposed multi-dimensional QA model shows. Understanding these new models allows regulators to assess the FinTech sector more flexibly and without interrupting new innovations. Because executives and investors are looking to QA results to judge the company's risk and system's future, more focus on QA is necessary.

Even though the case studies and framework give useful information, the research is focused only on three notable FinTech applications. Since they differ in design and purpose, none of them can fully explain how complex financial systems are, mostly in sectors or areas where a great variety of market activities happen. Furthermore, even though the test cases are under control and can be repeated, they are not capable of replicating incidents with user actions, links with other IT systems or differences in the application of laws in different places. On the other hand, the results for performance and security could easily be measured, but it was hard to directly measure trust or compliance with ethics. Before it is widely used in industries, more testing on various applications, in different countries and real-time environments must be performed.

A benefit of the QA framework is that it uses an interdisciplinary approach. Using knowledge from cybersecurity, legal requirements and risk management, the framework grows stronger. In some businesses, the cybersecurity team sends out live threat information, legal staff confirm that all changes comply with new regulations and financial experts help define the business Key Performance Indicators supported by QA tests. They mention that joining different functions in the organization improves its ability to resist shocks by avoiding separated and undirected actions. Thanks to this connection, security and compliance are improved and there is a better chance for organizations to become more united, a key point that is often omitted in significant digital transformation initiatives.

With more decision-making and QA processes handled by machines, ethical concerns are now extremely important. In applications related to financial inclusion, credit scoring or fraud detection, AI-powered testing should always be fair, clear and understandable. Taylor and Johnson argue that lacking transparency in AI models for QA can result in widespread biases, particularly when used in machine-learning decision making. Additionally, sustainability in QA refers to support for the environment as well as continuous maintainability, appropriate treatment of staff and equal access to financial services. Ethical QA should focus on maintaining trust, fostering inclusivity and encouraging responsible developments in the digital financial area.

7. CONCLUSION

The study studied and implemented a broad framework to ensure the quality of high-performance FinTech solutions. While other QA methods mainly cheque if code works properly and after it is deployed, the model in this paper combines four more vital areas: performance, safety, meeting regulations and experience. Both theory and real-world data formed the basis for the model. The framework proved to be adaptable and useful when applied to a case study on a payment platform, a robo-advisory tool and a DeFi application. It was found that quantitatively, the architecture performed better in terms of delay, throughput, accuracy and security abilities and qualitatively, it was suitable for overcoming the particular challenges faced by the industry. All in all, it is apparent that QA plays a key role in ensuring software is reliable, trusted and innovative when it is intertwined with FinTech.

This research has a direct effect on new developments in FinTech products. With such small differences between competitors making a major impact and big costs for any violations of rules, QA cannot remain a secondary concern. Because QA is integrated into how financial systems are developed and matched to operational, legal and customerfocused objectives, this framework ensures such systems are efficient, consistent, secure and suitable for auditing. According to Chen and Singh (2019), the development of FinTech has led to the need for QA strategies that keep up with the systems being evaluated. Its wide application in FinTech sectors has proven it can be widely accepted and standardized.

8. Future Research Directions:

While the study covers a range of FinTech quality assurance problems, new shifts in the industry foresee different challenges and benefits. Researchers should investigate ways to use AI to train QA systems to learn from past test results and adjust the test settings as needed due to environmental changes. They would allow businesses to shift QA from being designed for reactions to being a predictive activity. The authors identify that the latest QA platforms should adopt real-time risk monitoring, detect unusual activity and conduct tests that correspond to how users interact and new rules. Further efforts are required to apply this methodology to open banking APIs, use of quantum-resilient techniques and green and sustainable QA work. As a result, QA will assure that financial technology remains of high quality and continues to make a meaningful and broad impact.

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