

# Collins W. Munyendo, PhD

User Experience (UX), and Security and Privacy Researcher



<https://collinsmunyendo.github.io>



[collinsmunyendo](#)



[cmunyendo@gwu.edu](mailto:cmunyendo@gwu.edu)

## EXPERIENCE

### GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY | GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

August 2020 – May 2025 | Washington, DC

- Conducted mixed-methods studies to enhance authentication, increase password manager adoption, and better support underserved groups.
- Published 15 peer-reviewed papers in leading security and privacy, and human-computer interaction conferences.
- Mentored 8 undergraduate and 3 graduate students in research.

### MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE | VISITING RESEARCHER

May 2023 – August 2024 | Bochum, Germany

- Led a team of 18+ researchers to explore security and privacy practices across nine majority-world countries via interviews with 70 local experts.
- Secured funding of \$15,000 from the Stanford Internet Observatory.

### LEAF GLOBAL FINTECH | SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN

Aug 2018 – December 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda

- Developed a USSD-to-blockchain system to help refugees in Africa securely transfer value across borders during crises.

### TELETRACKING TECHNOLOGIES | SOFTWARE ENGINEER INTERN

May 2018 – August 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda

- Researched and improved patient flow in Rwanda's healthcare system by developing a USSD scheduling app to reduce patient waiting.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Collins W. Munyendo\*, Kentrell Owens\*, Faith Strong, Shaoqi Wang, Adam J. Aviv, Tadayoshi Kohno, and Franziska Roesner. "You Have to Ignore the Dangers": User Perceptions of the Security and Privacy Benefits of WhatsApp Mods. In Proc. IEEE S&P '25. (Acceptance Rate: TBD).
- Jaron Mink, Miranda Wei, Collins W. Munyendo, Kurt Hugenberg, Tadayoshi Kohno, Elissa M. Redmiles, and Gang Wang. It's Trying Too Hard To Look Real: Deepfake Moderation Mistakes and Identity-Based Bias. In Proc. ACM CHI '24. (Acceptance Rate: 26%).
- Collins W. Munyendo, Peter Mayer, and Adam J. Aviv. "I just stopped using one and started using the other": Motivations, Techniques, and Challenges When Switching Password Managers. In Proc. ACM CCS '23. (Acceptance Rate: 20%).
- Collins W. Munyendo, Yasemin Acar, and Adam J. Aviv. "In Eighty Percent of the Cases, I Select the Password for Them": Security and Privacy Challenges, Advice, and Opportunities at Cybercafes in Kenya. In Proc. IEEE S&P '23. (Acceptance Rate: 17%). **Distinguished Paper Award.**
- Collins W. Munyendo, Philipp Markert, Alexandra Nisenoff, Miles Grant, Elena Korkes, Blase Ur, and Adam J. Aviv. "The Same PIN, Just Longer": On the (In)Security of Upgrading PINs from 4 to 6 digits. In Proc. USENIX Security '22. (Acceptance Rate: 18%).
- Collins W. Munyendo, Yasemin Acar, and Adam J. Aviv. "Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures": User Concerns with Mobile Loan Apps in Kenya. In Proc. IEEE S&P '22. (Acceptance Rate: 15%).

## EDUCATION

### GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

PHD IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Aug 2020 – May 2025 | Washington, DC

### CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

M.S. IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Jul 2017 – Dec 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda

### STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY

B.S. IN BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Jul 2012 – May 2016 | Nairobi, Kenya

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

User Experience (UX) • Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) • Security • Privacy

## SELECTED AWARDS

- Google PhD Fellowship (2024).
- New England Computing & Data Science Rising Star (2024).
- Stanford Internet Observatory Research Grant (2024).
- Distinguished Paper Award (Top 1% of papers), IEEE S&P (2023).

## SKILLS

### RESEARCH

**Qualitative:** Interviews • Focus Groups • Participatory Design • Ethnography

**Quantitative:** Surveys • Statistics

### PROGRAMMING

Python • Java • JavaScript • SQL • CSS • HTML • L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X • R • Matlab

## REFERENCES

**Adam J. Aviv**, Associate Professor, George Washington University

✉ [aaviv@gwu.edu](mailto:aaviv@gwu.edu)

**Elissa M. Redmiles**, Assistant Professor, Georgetown University

✉ [elissa.redmiles@georgetown.edu](mailto:elissa.redmiles@georgetown.edu)

**Yixin Zou**, Tenure Track Faculty, Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy

✉ [yixin.zou@mpi-sp.org](mailto:yixin.zou@mpi-sp.org)