

Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

✉ ashittu@vols.utk.edu ☎ 865-236-7456 🌐 sadiqshittu.github.io 💬 asshittu

Education

Ph.D. Computer Science <i>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</i>	Spring 2025 – Summer 2028 GPA: 3.67/4.00
M.Sc. Advanced Computer Science <i>Newcastle University, United Kingdom</i>	Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2024 Distinction (GPA: 4.00/4.00)
B.Sc. Computer Science <i>Fountain University, Osogbo.</i>	March 2018 – June 2021 First Class Honours (GPA: 4.63/5.00)

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant <i>Usable Security and Engineering Research Laboratory</i> , Led by Dr. Scott Ruoti	Jan 2025 – Present United States
– Designed and deployed user studies on authentication mechanisms and cryptographic key management across diverse contexts; conducted quantitative and qualitative analyses of the resulting datasets [1], [2], [3], [4].	
– Led a longitudinal study with 46 users examining TLS client authentication setup and usage, analyzing user experiences, server logs, 400+ certificate signing requests to identify usability pain points and document security practice gaps [1].	
– Engineered production service integrating GitHub REST and GraphQL APIs with PostgreSQL backend, implementing concurrency controls and rate limit handling to continuously collect over 4 million GitHub user profiles, associated public keys, projects, and over 20 million commit metadata [2].	
Technical and Administrative Assistant <i>Kaduna State University</i>	Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2022 Nigeria
– Served as teaching assistant under Professor Auwal F. Abdussalam as part of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) program in Nigeria.	
Information Technology Helpdesk Intern <i>Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation</i>	Mar. 2019 – Aug. 2019 Nigeria
– Served as the primary technical support contact for a network of over 100 computer users, resolving an average of 5 queries per day	

Manuscripts Under Review and In Preparation

- [1] **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, Clay Shubert, John Sadik, Scott Ruoti. [Title redacted for double-blind review].
- [2] **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, John Sadik, Parker Collier, Farzin Gholamrezae, Scott Ruoti. Manuscript in preparation.
- [3] **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, John Sadik, Scott Ruoti. Manuscript in preparation.
- [4] John Sadik, **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, Scott Ruoti. Manuscript in preparation.

Scholarships and Awards

- **Travel Grant**, *Summer School on Real-World Crypto and Privacy*, Vodice, Croatia 2024
- **Chevening Scholarship**, United Kingdom. ~\$60,000 2023
- **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship** (Declined), United Kingdom. ~\$60,000 2023
- **100% Scholarship** (Declined) – *M.Sc. Computer Engineering*, Kadir Has University, Turkey 2022
- **Most Outstanding Student**, *College of Natural and Applied Sciences*, Fountain University 2019

Skills, Service, and Affiliations

- **Reviewing:** Journal of Cybersecurity, Q1 (SJR), 2025
- **Professional Affiliations:** Member, Society for Multidisciplinary and Advanced Research Techniques in Africa; Graduate Student Member, IEEE; Member, IEEE Computer Society.
- **Volunteering:** Tennessee Extension Volunteer — Assisting project groups and ensuring event safety.
- **Programming & Databases:** Python, C/C++, SQL
- **Development Platforms:** Docker, macOS, Windows
- **Security and Analysis Tools:** SonarQube, OpenSSL, Wireshark, NVivo, G*Power
- **Languages:** English, Nupe, Yoruba