Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

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Research Interest

My research interest is in human-centered cybersecurity, with a focus on identifying design principles that make theoretical advances workable in practice. Currently, I work on authentication and cryptographic key, examining how users manage their keys.

Education

Ph.D. Computer Science — Spring 2025 – Summer 2028
University of Tennessee, Knoxville — *GPA: 3.67/4.00*
- Advisor: Dr. Scott Ruoti

M.Sc. Advanced Computer Science — Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2024
Newcastle University, United Kingdom — *Distinction (GPA: 4.00/4.00)*
- Advisor: Professor Thomas Groß
- *Thesis: Beyond the Group Chat: Unveiling Security and Privacy Perceptions Across Cultures*

B.Sc. Computer Science — March 2018 – June 2021
Fountain University, Osogbo. — *First Class Honours (GPA: 3.79/4.00)*
- Advisor: Dr. Lawal Mohammed

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant — Jan 2025 – Present
Usable Security and Engineering Research Laboratory (USER Lab) — *United States*
- Designing and deploying user studies
- Building data collection pipelines
- Analyzing datasets and synthesizing findings

Administrative Assistant — Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2022
Kaduna State University — *Nigeria*
- Coordinated complaints and appeals, recieved incoming mails and dispatched outgoing mails.

Information Technology Helpdesk Intern — Mar. 2019 – Aug. 2019
Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation — *Nigeria*
- Served as the primary technical support contact for a network of over 100 computer users, resolving an average of 5 queries per day

Skills

Programming and Databases	Python, SQL, PostgreSQL
APIs and integration	GitHub REST & GraphQL APIs
Platforms	Docker, macOS, Windows
Security and Analysis Tools	SonarQube, OpenSSL, Wireshark, NVivo, G*Power
Languages	English, Nupe, Yoruba

Honors, Scholarships and Awards (Total: ~ $147,185)

– **Travel Grant**   2024
Summer School on Real-World Crypto and Privacy, Vodice, Croatia $1,185

– **Chevening Scholarship**   2023–2024
Newcastle University, United Kingdom   ~$60,000

– **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship**   2023
M.Sc. financial technology, University of Stirling, United Kingdom   ~$60,000 (Declined)

– **100% Scholarship**   2022
M.Sc. Computer Engineering, Kadir Has University, Turkey $12,000 (Declined)

– **AIT Partial Scholarship**   2022
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand $14,000 (Declined)

– **Most Outstanding Student Award**   2019
College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Fountain University, Osogbo, Nigeria

Unpublished Papers

[1] **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, Clay Shubert, John Sadik, Scott Ruoti. *TLS Client Authentication in the Wild.* Manuscript in preparation.

[2] **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, B. Abdulsalami (2023). *Software Defect Prediction Using Machine Learning Approach: A Contemporary Review.* TechRxiv Preprint. `https://doi.org/10.36227/techrxiv.23648907.v1`

Affiliations

- **Member**, Society for Multidisciplinary and Advanced Research Techniques in Africa
- **Graduate Student Member**, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- **Member**, IEEE Computer Society
- **Member**, IEEE Young Professionals

Voluntary Experiences

Tennessee Extension Volunteer, 4-H Camps   August 2025
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
- Assisting project groups and ensuring event safety.

Last updated: August 24, 2025