Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

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Education

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

Experience

Graduate Research Assistant — Jan 2025 – Present

Usable Security and Engineering Research Laboratory, Led by Dr. Scott Ruoti — *United States*

- Architected a high-throughput data ingestion service integrating GitHub's REST and GraphQL APIs with a PostgreSQL backend; implemented concurrency controls and rate limiting to continuously harvest over 4 million user profiles, associated public keys, and over 20 million commit metadata records [2].
- Spearheaded a longitudinal mixed-methods study on TLS client authentication; triangulated data from feedbacks, server logs, and 400+ certificate signing requests to pinpoint usability failures in security workflows [1].
- Conducted user studies to investigate the prevalence and preferences of security tool adoption [4] and factors deterring the use of existing mechanisms [1], [3], synthesizing findings into actionable design recommendations.

Technical and Administrative Assistant — Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2022

Kaduna State University — *Nigeria*

- Served as the primary technical point of contact for the Exams and Records Unit, diagnosing and resolving hardware, software, and network connectivity issues to ensure operational continuity.
- Managed the flow of incoming and outgoing correspondence, serving as the central hub for student inquiries and official records transfer.

Information Technology Helpdesk Intern — Mar. 2019 – Aug. 2019

Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation — *Nigeria*

- Supported 100+ computer users as the primary technical point of contact, resolving 5+ daily issues.

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 (SMART); 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
- **Analysis:** SonarQube, OpenSSL, Wireshark, NVivo, G*Power
- **Languages:** English, Nupe, Yoruba