

# Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

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## Research Interest

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My research examines security from a users perspective, with the goal of identifying design principles that make theoretical advances workable in practice. Currently, my focus is on authentication and cryptographic key management, exploring how users manage their cryptographic keys.

## Education

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- 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: Understanding Users' Perception 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

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- 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

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

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- [1] **Travel Grant** 2024  
*Summer School on Real-World Crypto and Privacy, Vodice, Croatia* \$1,185
- [2] **Chevening Scholarship** 2023–2024  
*Newcastle University, United Kingdom* ~\$60,000

- [3] **Commonwealth Shared Scholarship** 2023  
*M.Sc. financial technology, University of Stirling, United Kingdom*    ~\$60,000 (Declined)
- [4] **100% Scholarship** 2022  
*M.Sc. Computer Engineering, Kadir Has University, Turkey*    \$12,000 (Declined)
- [5] **AIT Partial Scholarship** 2022  
*Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand*    \$14,000 (Declined)
- [6] **Most Outstanding Student Award** 2019  
*College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Fountain University, Osogbo, Nigeria*

## Unpublished Papers

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- [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>

## Skills

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**Tools:** NVivo, Python, G\*Power, SonarQube, Postgresql.  
**Platforms:** Docker, macOS, Windows.  
**Spoken Language:** English, Nupe, Yoruba.

## Affiliations

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- **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

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**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*