

# Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

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## Research Interest

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My research focuses on authentication, cryptographic key management, and usable security. I examine how people manage cryptographic keys in practice and investigate commit signing in Git.

## 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** Jun 2021  
*Fountain University, Osogbo.* First Class Honours  
– 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  
– Design and deploy studies  
– Build data collection pipelines  
– Analyze datasets and synthesize findings
- Administrative Assistant** Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2022  
*Kaduna State University* Nigeria  
– Coordinating student complaints and appeals, and managing documentation and registration processes
- 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

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

## Unpublished Papers

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- [1] **Abubakar Sadiq Shittu**, Clay Shubert, John Sadik, Scott Ruoti. *TLS Client Authentication in the World*. 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, IEEE
- Member, IEEE Computer Society
- Member, IEEE Young Professionals

## Voluntary Experiences

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**Tennessee Extension Volunteer**, 4-H Camps Aug. 2025  
*University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture*

- Assisting project groups, ensuring event safety, and providing leadership at camps

*Last updated: August 24, 2025*