

# Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

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## Research Interest

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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

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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: 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

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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

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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 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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<b>Programming and Databases</b>	Python, SQL, PostgreSQL
<b>APIs and integration</b>	GitHub REST & GraphQL APIs
<b>Platforms</b>	Docker, macOS, Windows
<b>Security and Analysis Tools</b>	SonarQube, OpenSSL, Wireshark, NVivo, G*Power
<b>Languages</b>	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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<b>Tennessee Extension Volunteer</b> , 4-H Camps	August 2025
<i>University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture</i>	
– Assisting project groups and ensuring event safety.	

*Last updated: August 24, 2025*