

# Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

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📄 [asshittu](#)

## Education

### Ph.D. Computer Science

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Spring 2025 – Summer 2028

*GPA: 3.67/4.00*

### M.Sc. Advanced Computer Science

*Newcastle University, United Kingdom*

Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2024

*Distinction (GPA: 4.00/4.00)*

### B.Sc. Computer Science

*Fountain University, Osogbo.*

March 2018 – June 2021

*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*

- Designed and deployed user studies on authentication mechanisms and cryptographic key management across diverse contexts; conducted quantitative and qualitative analyses of the resulting datasets [1], [2], [3], [4].
- Led a longitudinal study with 46 users examining TLS client authentication setup and usage, analyzing user experiences, server logs, 400+ certificate signing requests to identify usability pain points and document security practice gaps [1].
- Engineered production service integrating GitHub REST and GraphQL APIs with PostgreSQL backend, implementing concurrency controls and rate limit handling to continuously collect over 4 million GitHub user profiles, associated public keys, projects, and over 20 million commit metadata [2].

### Technical and Administrative Assistant

Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2022

*Kaduna State University*

*Nigeria*

- Served as teaching assistant under Professor Auwal F. Abdussalam as part of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) program in Nigeria.

### 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

## 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; 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
- **Security and Analysis Tools:** SonarQube, OpenSSL, Wireshark, NVivo, G\*Power
- **Languages:** English, Nupe, Yoruba

*Last updated: November 26, 2025*