

Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

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Research Interest

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

- 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

- 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)

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

Unpublished Papers

- [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

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

Affiliations

- Member, Society for Multidisciplinary and Advanced Research Techniques in Africa
- Graduate Student Member, IEEE
- Member, IEEE Computer Society
- Member, IEEE Young Professionals

Voluntary Experiences

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