Abubakar Sadiq Shittu

Knoxville, Tennessee, United States

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Research Interest

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

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

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)

[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Unpublished Papers

[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

Programming and Databases	Python, SQL, PostgreSQL
APIs and integration	GitHub REST & GraphQL APIs
Analysis tools	NVivo, G*Power, SonarQube
Platforms	Docker, macOS, Windows
Languages	English, Nupe, Yoruba

Affiliations

– **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

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