

WASIU AJAO

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Software developer specializing in cryptography, zero-knowledge proofs, smart contract and blockchain protocol engineering. Experienced in Rust, Solidity, and Cairo, with contributions spanning Ethereum, Solana, Starknet, and Polkadot ecosystems. Passionate about building privacy-preserving, scalable applications and mentoring developers through advocacy and education.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Contributed to zero-knowledge systems for Panther Protocol and Starknet open-source projects.
- Selected as a Polkadot Africa Developer Advocate to onboard regional builders to Polkadot 2.0.
- Served as Teaching Assistant for Starknet Foundation Basecamp, mentoring developers in Cairo.
- Recognized as OnlyDust Fellow for excellence in Web3 open-source development.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Programming Languages: Rust, Solidity, Python, JavaScript (ES6+), TypeScript, Go, Noir
- Frameworks & Libraries: Anchor, React, ExpressJS, TailwindCSS, Prisma ORM, Fastify
- Development Tools: Docker, Nix, Unix-systems, Git / GitHub / GitLab, Foundry/Hardhat
- Blockchain & Cryptography: Smart Contracts, zk-SNARKs, Ethereum and Solana Development, Polkadot SDK

- Software Development: Backend Engineering, API Design, Microservices, Security, Databases with SQL and NoSQL
- Collaboration & Methodologies: Open-Source Contributions, Technical Documentation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Developer Advocate – Polkadot Africa

October 2025 – Present | Remote

- Engaged with the African developer community to promote the Polkadot ecosystem and onboard new builders to Polkadot Hub and Polkadot SDK.
- Organized and mentored at regional hackathons and meetups, guiding teams on rEVM, PVM, and cross-chain smart contract development.
- Created developer-focused content, including tutorials, workshops, and technical documentation to simplify onboarding to Polkadot 2.0.
- Collaborated with global advocacy teams to align educational initiatives with Polkadot's open-source development roadmap.

Teaching Assistant – Starknet Foundation Basecamp

August 2025 – September 2025 | Remote

- Assisted instructors in mentoring developers through the Starknet Basecamp program, focusing on Cairo smart contracts and ZK-powered applications.
- Provided one-on-one support to participants in understanding Starknet architecture, account abstraction, and zero-knowledge proofs.
- Reviewed assignments, debugged Cairo code, and guided students through practical projects involving on-chain proof verification.
- Helped enhance learning resources and ensure smooth technical delivery across multiple learning cohorts.

ZK and Smart Contract Developer – Modulo Labs

June 2025 – Present | Remote

- Supporting the **Panther Protocol** team by ensuring reliable protocol operations, assisting users, and resolving on-chain and ZK-related issues.
- Designing, implementing, and testing **zero-knowledge circuits** in **Noir** and **Circom**, with hands-on work across multiple ZK frameworks.
- Contributed to the Solidity smart contract codebase, implementing features, fixing bugs, and improving maintainability.
- Applied advanced blockchain engineering and **ZK** system design practices under the mentorship of senior engineers in the **ZK** space.

Open Source Fellow – OnlyDust

April 2025 – Present | Remote

- Promoted to OnlyDust Fellow in recognition of consistent, high-quality contributions across multiple blockchain and Web3 open-source projects.

- Completed quests involving feature implementation, bug fixes, and documentation improvements, directly enhancing project functionality and user experience.
- Collaborated closely with maintainers and core developers to review code, discuss architecture, and refine development practices.
- Strengthened expertise in Git workflows, open-source collaboration, and community-driven development within the blockchain ecosystem.
- Leveraged fellowship opportunities to expand professional networks and engage in high-impact projects across diverse ecosystems.

Open Source Contributor – Privacy, Scaling & Exploration

Dec 2024 – Present | Remote

- Wrote technical documentation and tests to enhance project maintainability.
- Improved user experience on the Good First Issue site by developing a search bar and integrating efficient issue search functionality.

FullStack Intern (TypeScript and Python) – CodeTree

Jan 2025 – April 2025 | Remote

- Contributed to building and customizing internal tools and e-commerce solutions using platforms like Shopify and Retool.
- Used TypeScript and Python to extend no-code platforms, automate workflows, and create reusable components.
- Collaborated closely with cross-functional teams to translate client needs into scalable product features.
- Gained hands-on experience in integrating APIs, managing state, and debugging user-facing applications.

Open Source Contributor – RustCrypto

Dec 2024 – Jan 2025 | Remote

- Implemented the MD6 hash function in Rust, optimizing for performance and security. Developed a Rust implementation of the MD6 cryptographic hash function, ensuring correctness, efficiency, and security compliance. Optimized memory usage and computational performance to meet cryptographic standards.
- Contributed to cryptographic libraries, improving hashing, ciphers, and digital signatures. Enhanced existing RustCrypto libraries by fixing vulnerabilities, improving efficiency, and adding new cryptographic functionalities. Worked on various primitives, including symmetric encryption, hashing algorithms, and digital signature schemes.
- Wrote documentation and tests to ensure correctness and safety in cryptographic primitives. Designed and executed comprehensive unit and integration tests to validate cryptographic implementations. Documented API usage and security considerations to ensure best practices and prevent common pitfalls in cryptographic development.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics

University of Ilorin, Ilorin

Nov 2019 – Aug 2024

- Conducted final-year research on: **“Natural Vibration Analysis of Axially Functionally Graded Tapered Rayleigh Beams Resting on a Bi-Parametric Elastic Foundation.”**

PROJECTS

- [Obscura](#) – Shielded Pool on Starknet: Developed a privacy-focused shielded pool using Noir-based ZK proofs (Ultrahonk) and Cairo smart contracts for confidential transactions.
- [Sukura](#) – Privacy-Focused Mixer: Built a transaction mixer using Groth16 zkSNARKs and Solana smart contracts for anonymous payments.
- [ZK Word Mastermind Game](#): Created a two-player ZK game with Starknet integration for private guess verification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Open-Source Contributions:** Actively contribute to cryptographic and blockchain projects.
- **Technical Writing:** Writes documentation for various open-source projects.
- **Certifications & Workshops:** Engaged in blockchain security and cryptographic research communities.