The African economy is projected to grow rapidly over the next five years. But in order to drive financial inclusion alongside that growth, big improvements need to be made to the security and resilience of the continent’s financial technologies and infrastructure. The CyLab-Africa initiative, a collaboration between CMU’s CyLab and CMU-Africa, aims to improve the cybersecurity of financial systems in Africa and other emerging economies.

**Goals**

**RESEARCH**
Conduct research to better understand the cybersecurity problems faced in African countries and other emerging economies, as well as potential solutions.

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
Explore ways to supplement existing cybersecurity programs (e.g., CMU-Africa’s degree offerings, CMU CyLab’s picoCTF) and assess opportunities for new programs for both students and professionals.

**ENGAGING WITH ORGANIZATIONS**
Work alongside a variety of organizations from governments to international agencies to better understand the current challenges and bring together the relevant stakeholders needed to improve cybersecurity across the continent.

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**CyLab-Africa Initial Research Thrusts**

**THRUSt 1**
Access cybersecurity risk to financial inclusion

**THRUSt 2**
Develop tools for securing financial infrastructure

**THRUSt 3**
Develop tools for threat intelligence sharing and diagnosis

**THRUSt 4**
Design training program for cybersecurity workforce development

**THRUSt 5**
Support all thrusts with community building and development efforts

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**CMU AFRICA HIGHLIGHTS**

CMU-Africa was established in 2011 through a partnership between Carnegie Mellon and the Government of Rwanda, and offers graduate degrees through its College of Engineering in information technology and electrical and computer engineering with the same standards, curricula and requirements as its Pittsburgh campus. The program has educated more than 300 students representing 21 nationalities on the continent. CMU-Africa is addressing the critical shortage of high quality engineering talent required to accelerate development in Africa—home to the fastest growing workforce in the world.

**CYLAB HIGHLIGHTS**

CyLab was established in 2003 and is CMU’s security and privacy research institute. With physical space in the Collaborative Innovation Center on the Pittsburgh campus and over 130 faculty, CyLab brings together experts from all schools across the University, encompassing the fields of engineering, computer science, public policy, information systems, business, humanities, and social sciences.
## CyLab-Africa Faculty Team

Bridging the ocean to bring together CMU-Africa and CyLab researchers including but not limited to...

### How to Get Involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPPORTUNITY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiative Research Program</td>
<td>• Help drive research in specific targeted areas through invitation-only program events and participation on a steering committee along with CMU faculty and other sponsors. Shared research area initiatives may include Secure Blockchain Initiative, CyLab-Africa Initiative, and Future Enterprise Security Initiative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute-Wide Research Seed</td>
<td>• Guide security and privacy research through participation on a steering committee along with CyLab faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted Research Projects</td>
<td>• Select a research project proposed by CyLab faculty on a topic of mutual interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Sponsor</td>
<td>• Sponsorship of the CyLab program providing paid research internships for undergraduate and graduate students working at CMU under the guidance of CyLab faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branded Sponsorships</td>
<td>• Sponsorship of picoCTF cybersecurity STEM remote learning platform and competition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Sponsorships for seminars held in Pittsburgh or Kigali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Researcher in Pittsburgh or Kigali</td>
<td>• Placement as a visiting research engineer or scientist at CyLab from 6-months to 1-year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Named Fellowship</td>
<td>• Financial fellowship(s) for CMU students in Information Security or Privacy Studies in the name of the Partner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Contact

The CyLab-Africa team is interested in working with other organizations and institutions in the mission of improving financial inclusion in Africa and other developing nations. If you or your institution are interested in getting involved or learning more, please contact:

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## Connect with CyLab-Africa

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