

George Chidziwisano
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EDUCATION

- 2018 – Present: PhD Student in Information and Media Studies
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Media and Information
Michigan State University
- Advisor: Susan Wyche PhD
- 2016 – 2018: MA Human Computer Interaction specializing in ICTD
Department of Media and Information
Michigan State University
- 2015: BSc in Computer Science and Physics
Chancellor College
University of Malawi

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2016 – Present: Research Assistant
Michigan State University
Department of Information and Media
- 2014 – 2015: Network Administrator
e-Communications Research Group (eCRG)
University of Malawi
- 2013 – 2014: Introduction to e-commerce Course Instructor
ABMA Certificate Short Courses
Chancellor College, Malawi
- 2013 – 2014: Web Developer & Researcher
ABMA Certificate Short Courses
Chancellor College, Malawi
- 2011 – 2012: Maranatha High School Teacher during Holiday
Teaching high school students physics and chemistry

PUBLICATIONS:

- 2018: Wyche, S., **Chidziwisano, G.**, Uwimbabazi, F. and Simiyu, N. 2018. "Defamiliarizing the Domestic: Exploring "M-Kopa Solar" Use and Sustainable Practices in Rural Kenyan Households," First ACM conference on Computing & Sustainable Societies (COMPASS'18)
- 2018: **Chidziwisano G.**, Wyche S. 2018 M-Kulinda: Using Sensor Based Technology Probes to Explore Domestic Security in Rural Kenya *ACM SIGCHI Conf. (CHI '18)*.

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2018: **Chidziwisano G.**, Exploring Potentials of Sensor-Based Technologies in Rural Kenyan Homes *HCIXB Symposium at CHI'18*.

SELECTED SOFTWARE & HARDWARE PRODUCTS

2018: Digital Financial System for Self-Help Groups in Kenya
I designed and developed an electronic system for managing transactions in self-help groups. The system allows group members to deposit their contributions to the group account, request loans as well as track how group funds are being managed. After an evaluation with users in Kenya it was established that the system is a great tool for improving trust, transparency and accountability in self- help groups.

2017: Sensor Based Home Security System for Rural Africa
I designed and developed a sensor-based system for home monitoring as a research product. The product senses motion in a particular environment and then send a message to the owner. I deployed research product in rural Kenya. I tested the system with 20 participants in rural Kenya and I am planning to scale it up. I also wrote a paper on the data collected and it was accepted for presentation and publication at CHI 2018. I also used this project for my master's thesis.

2016: PaMsika Mobile App
PaMsika allows users to obtain information about different products and services offered on the market right on their mobile phones. This application also allows the users of the application to be given the direction to the shop from their current position using GPS.

2015: Internet Independent Source of Information
The software contains a digital library consisting of local and international information in different categories such as education, health, agriculture, cultural and other social information that the public can use. This eliminates the cost of using the Internet by providing digital libraries in the tele-centers using internet independent networks.

2015: Malawi TV White Space Database
The Malawi TV White Space Database is a system that tracks and controls areas available channels in the TV band across Malawi. The system finds areas in Malawi where these channels are available so that they can be used for providing internet access in rural Malawi.

2014: Zanyengo App
The mobile app allows rural farmers access weather information through their mobile phones

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2018: Exploring the role of technology in Self-Help Groups in Kenya
Funded by National Science Foundation
Principal Researcher
- 2017: Use of sensor-based technologies for agriculture and domestic security in rural Kenya.
Funded by National Science Foundation
Principal Researcher
- 2016: Sustainability of Kenya's MKopa Pay as You Go Energy System by Michigan State University
Funded by National Science Foundation
Research Assistant
- Local Innovations in Rural Kenya and their Sustainability by Michigan State University
Funded by National Science Foundation
Research Assistant
- 2015: Pilot Project on Internet Independent Links for Disaster Preparedness in Malawi by Malawi Government and the University of Malawi
System Developer
- Television White Space (TVWS) for Internet Access in Rural Malawi by Microsoft Research Group, University of Malawi and Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority
Network Administrator
- 2013: Use of Mobile Phones Among Malawian Farmers by Michigan State University and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)
Web Developer and Research Assistant
- 2013: TVWS for Internet Access in Rural Malawi Pilot Phase by University of Malawi, ICTP and Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority
Research Student

AWARDS

- 2018: MSU Council of Graduate Students Award
- 2017: MSU Council of Graduate Students Award

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2016: Facebook & Google Sponsored Malawi TNM Smart Challenge Finalist

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2017: Computer Science and Engineering Department
University of Michigan
Presenter on use of sensor based technologies for agriculture and domestic security in Kenya

2016: World Usability Day
Michigan State University
Presenter on Sustainable Development: Insights from Design Research in Rural Kenya.

2015: IST Africa Annual General Conference
Lilongwe, Malawi
Presenter on Television Whitespace for Internet Access in rural Malawi.

2015 National Symposium on Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Lilongwe, Malawi
Presenter on Internet Independent Source of Source of Information for accessing weather information in rural areas.

LEADERSHIP

2015: NetSoft Malawi Co-founder
In 2015 I co-founded a software and networking company called NetSoft Malawi. Netsoft is a reliable provider of technological and innovative solutions that increases access and usage of information and communication technology which drive the social-economic growth of people in Malawi. The company has experts in developing software in ecommerce, education, agriculture, health and environmental management. I co-founded NetSoft because I believe that, increased access and usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) brings about social and economic benefits to the people because technology brings about efficiency and effectiveness in people's businesses and lives. The company also provide website development, website management, website hosting, and domain registration.

2014: e-CRG Labs Student Leader
University of Malawi

2013: Computer Science Society Vice President

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University of Malawi

Earth Sciences Society Vice President
University of Malawi