

ESTTA Tracking number: **ESTTA1132356**

Filing date: **05/08/2021**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Notice of Opposition

Notice is hereby given that the following party opposes registration of the indicated application.

Opposer Information

Name	Blacks in Technology International Texas Non-Profit Corporation
Granted to Date of previous extension	05/08/2021
Address	12915 FALL MANOR DR. DALLAS, TX 75243 UNITED STATES
Party who filed Extension of time to oppose	Blacks in Technology International
Relationship to party who filed Extension of time to oppose	"Texas Non-Profit Corporation" was added to clarify Blacks in Technology's form of registered business.
Correspondence information	WENDY B. MILLS WB MILLS, PLLC 14275 MIDWAY RD SUITE 130 ADDISON, TX 75001 UNITED STATES Primary Email: wbm@wbmillslaw.com 214-969-5995

Applicant Information

Application No.	90182389	Publication date	03/09/2021
Opposition Filing Date	05/08/2021	Opposition Period Ends	05/08/2021
Applicant	Blacks in Technology LLC 4132 FOXPOINT RIDGE CLEVES, OH 45002 UNITED STATES		

Goods/Services Affected by Opposition

Class 041. First Use: 2016/03/00 First Use In Commerce: 2016/03/00
All goods and services in the class are opposed, namely: Educational services, namely, conducting online and live programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and presentations in the fields of technology and blacks in technology; educational services, namely, providing a website featuring current event news and online non-downloadable articles, audio records, video recordings, podcasts and webcasts in the fields of technology and blacks in technology

Class 042. First Use: 2016/03/00 First Use In Commerce: 2016/03/00

All goods and services in the class are opposed, namely: Computer services, namely, creating an on-line community for blacks in technology who register as users to obtain product and service discounts and special offers and to get information about networking events and scholarships; computer services, namely, creating an on-line community for registered users to participate in discussions, get feedback from their peers, form virtual communities and engage in social networking in the fields of technology and blacks in technology; computer services, namely, hosting on-line web facilities for others for organizing and conducting online meetings, gatherings, and interactive discussions; providing a website featuring news and information about information technology

Grounds for Opposition

The mark is merely descriptive	Trademark Act Section 2(e)(1)
The mark is generic	Trademark Act Sections 1, 2 and 45
Other	Alternatively, if the Board finds this Mark is not generic or merely descriptive, which Opposer denies, the Registration for "Blacks in Technology" is invalid, because Applicant has on information and belief, abandoned its trademark rights, if any, by engaging in naked licensing when it failed to exercise quality control over the Mark for several years; knowingly allowing others to use the mark, even without requiring identification of the Mark as being a Registered Mark. By extension, because the relevant purchasing public associates the Mark, "Blacks in Technology" with "BIT," "BIT" was also abandoned for this same reason.

Related Proceedings	Cancellation Proceeding No. 92076869
---------------------	--------------------------------------

Attachments	Notice of Opposition.pdf(191309 bytes) Ex 1 - specimen showing BIT and Blacks in Technology 90182389.pdf(4894741 bytes)
-------------	--

Signature	/Wendy B. Mills/
Name	WENDY B. MILLS
Date	05/08/2021

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE
TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL,
a Texas Non-Profit Corporation

Opposer,

v.

BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY, LLC

Applicant.

Proceeding No. _____

Mark: BIT
Serial No. 90182389

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION

Opposer Blacks in Technology International (“Opposer”) believes that it will be damaged by the registration of U.S. Trademark Application for the Mark, “BIT”, Serial No. 90182389 (the “Application”) and hereby provides this Notice of Opposition to the registration of same. In support of this Opposition, Opposer alleges as follows:

1. On information and belief, Applicant Blacks in Technology, LLC (“Applicant”) is an Ohio Limited Liability Company with a place of business at 4132 Foxpoint Ridge, Cleves, OH 45002.

2. Opposer is a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, having its business address at 12915 Fall Manor Dr., Dallas, Texas 75243.

3. On April 9, 2021, Opposer filed a Petition to Cancel the related “Blacks in Technology” service mark Registration No. 4,758,593, asserting that it is generic or merely descriptive or has been abandoned through naked licensing.¹

¹ See Cancellation Proceeding No. 92076869.

4. Trademark Registration No.. 4,758,593 lists as its Registrant, Greg Greenlee d/b/a Blacks in Technology, rather than Applicant Blacks in Technology, LLC. However, on information and belief, Applicant and Registrant share the same address listed above.

5. Opposer uses the phrase, “BIT” and “Blacks in Technology” to describe black people who work in technology professions in connection with the services it provides.

6. “BIT” is an *abbreviation, acronym or initialism* for the specific descriptive or generic wording “Blacks in Technology.”²

7. The addition of a generic circle and grid lines is not sufficient to make this abbreviation, acronym or initialism distinctive and as such, Opposer will focus solely on “BIT.”



8.
9. In the Application for “BIT,” Applicant provides as a specimen, a screenshot of its website showing “BIT” alongside “Blacks in Technology,” clearly indicating that BIT stands for Blacks in Technology.³ Therefore, “*a relevant consumer viewing the abbreviation, initialism, or acronym in connection with applicant’s services will recognize it as the equivalent of the merely descriptive [or generic] wording it represents, “Blacks in Technology. ”*”⁴

10. The specific wording “Blacks in Technology” is merely descriptive or generic for both classes of goods and services listed for the Application for “BIT” as follows: **IC 041**

² See TMEP §1209.03(h).

³ See Exhibit 1 for a true and correct copy of the first page of Applicant’s specimen for Application.

⁴ See TMEP §1209.03(h).

“Educational services, namely, conducting online and live programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and presentations in the fields of technology and ***blacks in technology***; educational services, namely, providing a website featuring current event news and online non-downloadable articles, audio records, video recordings, podcasts and webcasts in the fields of technology and ***blacks in technology***.” IC 042”Computer services, namely, creating an on-line community for ***blacks in technology*** who register as users to obtain product and service discounts and special offers and to get information about networking events and scholarships; computer services, namely, creating an on-line community for registered users to participate in discussions, get feedback from their peers, form virtual communities and engage in social networking in the fields of technology and ***blacks in technology***; computer services, namely, hosting on-line web facilities for others for organizing and conducting online meetings, gatherings, and interactive discussions; providing a website featuring news and information about information technology.”⁵ Thus, BIT is merely descriptive or generic, because a relevant consumer viewing the abbreviation, initialism, or acronym in connection with Applicant’s services will recognize it as the equivalent of the merely descriptive [or generic] wording it represents, “Blacks in Technology.”⁶

11. Further, the phrase, “Blacks in *Technology*” is merely descriptive and generic, as it merely describes a quality or characteristic of a specific subset of American society, specifically, black people who work in the technology profession. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) issued an Office Action refusing to register the Mark, Blacks in Technology (the “Mark”) in pertinent part, because it was *merely descriptive* citing the following: “A mark is merely descriptive if it describes an ingredient, quality, characteristic,

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

function, feature, purpose, or use of an applicant's goods and/or services. TMEP §1209.01(b); *see, e.g., DuoProSS Meditech Corp. v. Inviro Med. Devices, Ltd.*, 695 F.3d 1247, 1251, 103 USPQ2d 1753, 1755 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (quoting *In re Oppedahl & Larson LLP*, 373 F.3d 1171, 1173, 71 USPQ2d 1370, 1371 (Fed. Cir. 2004)); *In re Steelbuilding.com*, 415 F.3d 1293, 1297, 75 USPQ2d 1420, 1421 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (citing *Estate of P.D. Beckwith, Inc. v. Comm'r of Patents*, 252 U.S. 538, 543 (1920)).”

12. Registration for “Blacks in Technology” was obtained pursuant to Section 2(f) of the Lanham Act. However, it never actually acquired a secondary meaning and is merely descriptive and generic and as such, is invalid.

13. Also, the Mark was on information and belief used by a third party with respect to substantially the same goods/services described in the Registration prior to Applicant's first date of use in commerce, as demonstrated in Application Serial No. 76429352, filed on July 11, 2002, twelve (12) years before the subject registration was filed, and six years (6) before this Registration claimed first use in January 1, 2008.

14. Alternatively, if the Board finds this Mark is not generic or merely descriptive, which Opposer denies, the Registration for “Blacks in Technology” is invalid, because Applicant has on information and belief, abandoned its trademark rights, if any, by engaging in naked licensing when it failed to exercise quality control over the Mark for several years; knowingly allowing others to use the mark, even without requiring identification of the Mark as being a Registered Mark. By extension, because the relevant purchasing public associates the Mark, “Blacks in Technology” with “BIT,” “BIT” was also abandoned for this same reason.⁷

⁷ See Petition to Cancel in Proceeding No. 92076869.

15. Moreover, on information and belief, Applicant operates a website at

<https://www.blacksintechology.net/>.

16. Moreover, Opposer believes Registration of the Mark “BIT” will result in financial and other injury and damage to Opposer in its business because Applicant will have a false claim of rights to the Mark. Further, Opposer’s continued and legal use of the phrase “BIT” in describing people or issues related to “Blacks in Technology” will be impaired by the registration of “BIT” by Applicant.

17. On or about September 29, 2020, Opposer initiated an action against Applicant alleging unrelated civil claims against Applicant, which is captioned as U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Civil Case No. 3:20-cv-03008 (“Lawsuit”). Thereafter, on or about March 5, 2021, Applicant filed counterclaims against Opposer in the Lawsuit alleging *inter alia* infringement of the Registered service mark, “Blacks in Technology.”

18. To the best of Opposer’s knowledge, the name and address of the current Applicant of the Registration is as follows: Blacks in Technology, LLC, 4132 Foxpoint Ridge, Cleves, OH 45002.

WHEREFORE, for the above-stated reasons, Opposer requests that the Board sustain Opposer’s Opposition and refuse to register “BIT” Application, Serial No. 90182389.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Wendy B. Mills

Wendy B. Mills
Texas Bar No. 24032861
WB Mills, PLLC
14275 Midway Road, Suite 130
Addison, TX 75001
Telephone: (214) 969-5995
Email: wbm@wbmillslaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR OPPOSER

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

The undersigned counsel for Opposer hereby certifies that on May 8, 2021, a copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF OPPOSITION is being electronically filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark Trial and Appeal Board at <http://estta.uspto.gov/>.

/s/ Wendy B. Mills
Wendy B. Mills

September 3, 2020 – <https://www.blacksintechology.net/>



**STOMPING
THE DIVIDE**

Blacks In Technology is a global platform for Black people in technology. We are "Stomping the Divide" by establishing standards for world class technical excellence. BIT serves members through community, media and mentorship. We provide resources, guidance and challenge members to establish new standards of innovation.

ABOUT NONPROFIT CHAPTERS JOBS STORIES BITCON BITVIDS 🔍



BITTechTalk ep. #123 w/ Shola Salako – Founder of BomaLink
BLACKS IN TECH
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Cybersecurity, The New



BITTechTalk ep. 121 w/

GET UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX

→

Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of

Cybersecurity, The New
Black Market

SHIMON BRATHWAITE
AUGUST 6, 2020



BITTechTalk ep. 121 w/
Nadiyah Johnson

BLACKS IN TECH
JUNE 2, 2020

**GET UPDATES IN YOUR
INBOX**



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of
posts, podcasts, and announcements.

BITTechTalk ep. 122
-“Protecting Your Brand”
w/ Letonya Moore

BLACKS IN TECH
JULY 16, 2020



BITTechTalk ep. 120 w/ Mandy
Price – CEO of Kanarys

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 21, 2020

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.

BITTechTalk ep. 122
~“Protecting Your Brand”
w/ Letonya Moore

BLACKS IN TECH
JULY 16, 2020



BITTechTalk ep. 120 w/ Mandy
Price – CEO of Kanarys

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 21, 2020



MITCHELL | HAMLINE
School of Law

13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW
REGISTER BY AUGUST 21

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

NONPROFIT

CHAPTERS

JOBS

STORIES

BITCON

BITVIDS

CONTACT US

POST A JOB

ADVERTISE

SHOP

A Blacks in Technology Production © 2020. All Rights Reserved



 BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY

ABOUTNONPROFITCHAPTERSJOBSTORIESBITCONBITVIDS



BITTechTalk ep. #123 w/ Shola Salako – Founder of BomaLink

BY BLACKS IN TECH
SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2020

In Africa, Boma is the Swahili term for “gathering”. More specifically, in parts of Central Africa, a Boma is a fortified fort or camp, or simply a place for community decision making.

On this episode of the Blacks In Technology BIT Tech Talk podcast, our guest is Shola Salako, Founder of [BomaLink](#), a global business community and professional networking service platform whose mission is to connect all African individuals and companies to real world, global opportunities in Africa.

On this podcast we discuss the following topics:

- His time living in Nigeria
- His humble beginnings in the technology industry,
- His two companies BomaLink and Optimal Business Systems,
- His vision of connecting people of African descent to opportunities in Africa.

- His two companies BomaLink and Optimal Business Systems,
- His vision of connecting people of African descent to opportunities in Africa.

About Shola:



Shola is the Founder and CEO of BomaLink (www.bomalink.com), a global business community and professional networking platform and service that connects members with African opportunities in Africa. He is an expert in the Information Technology consulting industry, having worked on a wide array of customer technology accounts including the US Army, General Motors, Chrysler, spanning multiple industries including the banking, federal government, automotive and application hosting industries.

Mr. Salako is the CEO of Optimal Business Systems, an Information Technology solutions provider firm based in Michigan, USA. With a broad portfolio in enterprise IT systems management software.

Mr. Salako is the CEO of Optimal Business Systems, an Information Technology solutions provider firm based in Michigan, USA. With a broad specialty in enterprise IT systems management, software development, IT consulting, outsourcing and IT staffing, Optimal Business Systems has helped many businesses globally save costs and increase profits while improving business processes and operations through technology innovation (www.obsvirtual.com). As a serial entrepreneur and President/CEO of The Sholes Group, he has founded and currently manages a number of technology-based ventures.

Shola is also the founder and executive director of Agents of Hope, a non-profit/charity organization that focuses on financial literacy and personal empowerment. Agents of Hope is one of his primary outlets for giving back to the community practicing the philosophy of "teaching others to fish" in order to help others attain their desired level of self-reliance. He has executed several charity programs with Agents of Hope in Africa and the USA (www.hopeagents.org).

Mr. Salako attained a Master's degree in Information Systems and Management from the University of Phoenix where he graduated at the top of his class receiving the college's first ever "Student Success Excellence" award. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and holds a number of Information Technology certifications in various systems and applications in the information technology industry.

Shola was born in Buffalo, New York but spent some of his early and formative years in Nigeria, West Africa, where he attended elementary, middle and high school. He lives in Southeastern Michigan with his family. He enjoys playing soccer, tennis and golf.

Listen now:



Listen now:



Do you or someone you know have an interesting journey in tech they would like to share with our audience? BIT is looking for awesome women and men who are engineers, innovators, educators, inventors and entrepreneurs to be the next guest on the BITTechTalk podcast.

Fill out the following [form](#) and submit your/their info now!

GET UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of posts, podcasts, and announcements.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT
NONPROFIT

GET UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of posts, podcasts, and announcements.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.



13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW
REGISTER BY AUGUST 21

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

NONPROFIT

CHAPTERS

JOBS

STORIES

BITCON

BITVIDS

CONTACT US

POST A JOB

ADVERTISE

SHOP

A Blacks in Technology Production © 2020. All Rights Reserved



About

ABOUT

[LEADERSHIP](#)

[ABOUT CHAPTERS](#)

[ADVERTISE WITH BIT](#)

[WRITE FOR US](#)

STOMPING THE DIVIDE

Blacks In Technology LLC is the largest community and media organization that focuses on Black people in the technology industry. Through community-focused activities, events and media, Blacks In Technology (BIT) is "Stomping the Divide" by establishing a blueprint of world-class technical excellence and innovation by providing resources, guidance and issuing a challenge to our members to surpass the high mark and establish new standards of global innovation.

Mission statement

Blacks In Technology is a tech focused community and media organization that is dedicated to increasing the representation and participation of Black people in the technology industry.

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

[NONPROFIT](#)

[CHAPTERS](#)

[JOBS](#)

[STORIES](#)

ABOUT CHAPTERS

ADVERTISE WITH BIT

WRITE FOR US

people in the technology industry. Through community-focused activities, events and media, Blacks In Technology (BIT) is "Stomping the Divide" by establishing a blueprint of world-class technical excellence and innovation by providing resources, guidance and issuing a challenge to our members to surpass the high mark and establish new standards of global innovation.

Mission statement

Blacks In Technology is a tech focused community and media organization that is dedicated to increasing the representation and participation of Black people in the technology industry.



MITCHELL | HAMLINE
School of Law

13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW
REGISTER BY AUGUST 21

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

NONPROFIT

CHAPTERS

JOBS

STORIES

BITCON

BITVIDS

CONTACT US

POST A JOB

ADVERTISE

SHOP

A Blacks in Technology Production © 2020. All Rights Reserved



bit

BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY

ABOUTNONPROFITCHAPTERSJOBSSTORIESBITCONBITVIDS

About Chapters

ABOUT

LEADERSHIP

ABOUT CHAPTERS

ADVERTISE WITH BIT

WRITE FOR US

Blacks In Technology continues to show tremendous growth. BIT is expanding to include member organized chapters throughout the United States.

WHAT IS A LOCAL BIT CHAPTER?

A Local Chapter is a group of BIT members who live or work in a particular locality and who, as a matter of geographic convenience, organize themselves to promote the goals of the Organization cooperatively. It serves as a focal point for its members to share their experiences and provide resources and opportunities in a technology field. Local BIT Chapters offer a number of benefits to its members including:

A Platform for Networking

One of the greatest resources for professional and personal development is to meet with colleagues in the same field. You gain new information on state-of-the-art technology, access to others' experiences and knowledge and you will get the chance to broaden your insights.

Professional Development

Your Chapter meetings and activities allow you to expand your knowledge in the Technology experience & development areas. Chapters bring continuous education opportunities closer to home and provide a bridge between the annual BIT conferences. It is also possible to organize Mentor Programs as a way for the members to grow in their profession.

Exchange of Services and Contributing to BIT as an Organization

Exchange of Services and Contributing to BIT as an Organization

The Local Chapters will give you the possibility to exchange both professional experiences and services, such as reviewing each other's writing and other contributions. It will also act as a greenhouse for new ideas that can be implemented globally by the Organization, and provide BIT with potential new members to the Board of Directors.

A Creative and Stimulating Environment

Design contests, coding event, interactive talks and discussions, and brain-storming exercises are fun and stimulating ways of learning more about Technology and the other members of the Chapter. Local Chapters often organize activities such as tours and site visits to interesting work places. Learning more about Technology issues in these working conditions will often give you good ideas to bring back home.

Don't see your city listed and want to organize a BIT chapter in your hometown? Fill out the following form: <https://goo.gl/forms/5QJab3gQAQnNOnYC3>



13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts
ENROLL NOW

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



**ABOUT
NONPROFIT
CHAPTERS
JOBS
STORIES
BITCON
BITVIDS**

bit

BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY

ABOUTNONPROFITCHAPTERSJOBSSORIESBITCONBITVIDS

Stories

STORIES

CAREER GROWTH

DEVELOPMENT

DEVOPS

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

EVENTS

HARDWARE

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

IT MANAGEMENT

STEM EDUCATION

TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MEDIA TYPES

ARTICLES

PODCASTS

VIDEOS

BITTechTalk ep. #123 w/ Shola Salako – Founder of BomaLink

BLACKS IN TECH
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Cybersecurity, The New Black Market

SHIMON BRATHWAITE
AUGUST 6, 2020

BITTechTalk ep. 122 –“Protecting Your Brand” w/ Letonya Moore

BLACKS IN TECH
JULY 16, 2020

BITTechTalk ep. 121 w/ Nadiyah Johnson

BLACKS IN TECH
JUNE 2, 2020

BITTechTalk ep. 120 w/ Mandy Price – CEO of Kanarys

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 21, 2020

Blacks In Technology Dallas Spring Webinar Series

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 5, 2020

JENSE

IDEAS

Have something you want to write about, or know someone we should bring on our podcast?

LET US KNOW!

Blacks In Technology Dallas Spring Webinar Series

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 5, 2020

Ten Things I Learned In My First Year As A Developer

TAYLOR ROBERTS
MARCH 2, 2020

How We Work: Taylor Roberts, Data Developer

MICHAEL JENKINS

BITTechTalk ep. 119 w/ Afua Bruce

BLACKS IN TECH
FEBRUARY 18, 2020

BIT Dallas Shines a Spotlight on Black Tech Innovation

BLACKS IN TECH
FEBRUARY 7, 2020

OLDER POSTS

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT
NONPROFIT
CHAPTERS
JOBS

bit **BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY**

STOMPING THE DIVIDE

Blacks In Technology is a global platform for Black people in technology. We are "Stomping the Divide" by establishing standards for world class technical excellence. BIT serves members through community, media and mentorship. We provide resources, guidance and challenge members to establish new standards of innovation.

Cybersecurity, The New



BITTechTalk ep. 121 w/

ABOUTNONPROFITCHAPTERSJOBSTORIESBITCONBITVIDS



BITTechTalk ep. #123 w/ Shola Salako – Founder of BomaLink
BLACKS IN TECH
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

GET UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of

Cybersecurity, The New
Black Market

SHIMON BRATHWAITE
AUGUST 6, 2020



BITTechTalk ep. 121 w/
Nadiyah Johnson

BLACKS IN TECH
JUNE 2, 2020

GET UPDATES IN YOUR
INBOX



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of
posts, podcasts, and announcements.

BITTechTalk ep. 122
-“Protecting Your Brand”
w/ Letonya Moore

BLACKS IN TECH
JULY 16, 2020



BITTechTalk ep. 120 w/ Mandy
Price – CEO of Kanarys

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 21, 2020

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.

BITTechTalk ep. 122
–“Protecting Your Brand”
w/ Letonya Moore

BLACKS IN TECH
JULY 16, 2020



BITTechTalk ep. 120 w/ Mandy
Price – CEO of Kanarys

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 21, 2020



MITCHELL | HAMLINE
School of Law

13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW
REGISTER BY AUGUST 21

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

NONPROFIT

CHAPTERS

JOBS

STORIES

BITCON

BITVIDS

CONTACT US

POST A JOB

ADVERTISE

SHOP

A Blacks in Technology Production © 2020. All Rights Reserved



A portrait of Shola Salako, a Black man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. He is smiling and has his arms crossed.

BITTechTalk ep. #123 w/ Shola Salako – Founder of BomaLink

BY BLACKS IN TECH
SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2020

In Africa, Boma is the Swahili term for “gathering”. More specifically, in parts of Central Africa, a Boma is a fortified fort or camp, or simply a place for community decision making.

On this episode of the Blacks In Technology BIT Tech Talk podcast, our guest is Shola Salako, Founder of [BomaLink](#), a global business community and professional networking service platform whose mission is to connect all African individuals and companies to real world, global opportunities in Africa.

On this podcast we discuss the following topics:

- His time living in Nigeria
- His humble beginnings in the technology industry,
- His two companies BomaLink and Optimal Business Systems,
- His vision of connecting people of African descent to opportunities in Africa.

- His two companies BomaLink and Optimal Business Systems,
- His vision of connecting people of African descent to opportunities in Africa.

About Shola:



Shola is the Founder and CEO of BomaLink (www.bomalink.com), a global business community and professional networking platform and service that connects members with African opportunities in Africa. He is an expert in the Information Technology consulting industry, having worked on a wide array of customer technology accounts including the US Army, General Motors, Chrysler, spanning multiple industries including the banking, federal government, automotive and application hosting industries.

Mr. Salako is the CEO of Optimal Business Systems, an Information Technology solutions provider firm based in Michigan, USA. With a broad portfolio in enterprise IT systems management, software

Mr. Salako is the CEO of Optimal Business Systems, an Information Technology solutions provider firm based in Michigan, USA. With a broad specialty in enterprise IT systems management, software development, IT consulting, outsourcing and IT staffing, Optimal Business Systems has helped many businesses globally save costs and increase profits while improving business processes and operations through technology innovation (www.obsvirtual.com). As a serial entrepreneur and President/CEO of The Sholes Group, he has founded and currently manages a number of technology-based ventures.

Shola is also the founder and executive director of Agents of Hope, a non-profit/charity organization that focuses on financial literacy and personal empowerment. Agents of Hope is one of his primary outlets for giving back to the community practicing the philosophy of "teaching others to fish" in order to help others attain their desired level of self-reliance. He has executed several charity programs with Agents of Hope in Africa and the USA (www.hopeagents.org).

Mr. Salako attained a Master's degree in Information Systems and Management from the University of Phoenix where he graduated at the top of his class receiving the college's first ever "Student Success Excellence" award. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and holds a number of Information Technology certifications in various systems and applications in the information technology industry.

Shola was born in Buffalo, New York but spent some of his early and formative years in Nigeria, West Africa, where he attended elementary, middle and high school. He lives in Southeastern Michigan with his family. He enjoys playing soccer, tennis and golf.

Listen now:



Listen now:



Do you or someone you know have an interesting journey in tech they would like to share with our audience? BIT is looking for awesome women and men who are engineers, innovators, educators, inventors and entrepreneurs to be the next guest on the BITTechTalk podcast.

Fill out the following [form](#) and submit your/their info now!

GET UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of posts, podcasts, and announcements.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT
NONPROFIT

GET UPDATES IN YOUR INBOX



Join the list and be emailed a weekly digest of posts, podcasts, and announcements.

MORE EVENTS COMING SOON.



13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW
REGISTER BY AUGUST 21

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

NONPROFIT

CHAPTERS

JOBS

STORIES

BITCON

BITVIDS

CONTACT US

POST A JOB

ADVERTISE

SHOP

A Blacks in Technology Production © 2020. All Rights Reserved



About

ABOUT

[LEADERSHIP](#)

[ABOUT CHAPTERS](#)

[ADVERTISE WITH BIT](#)

[WRITE FOR US](#)

STOMPING THE DIVIDE

Blacks In Technology LLC is the largest community and media organization that focuses on Black people in the technology industry. Through community-focused activities, events and media, Blacks In Technology (BIT) is "Stomping the Divide" by establishing a blueprint of world-class technical excellence and innovation by providing resources, guidance and issuing a challenge to our members to surpass the high mark and establish new standards of global innovation.

Mission statement

Blacks In Technology is a tech focused community and media organization that is dedicated to increasing the representation and participation of Black people in the technology industry.

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

[NONPROFIT](#)

[CHAPTERS](#)

[JOBS](#)

[STORIES](#)

ABOUT CHAPTERS

ADVERTISE WITH BIT

WRITE FOR US

people in the technology industry. Through community-focused activities, events and media, Blacks In Technology (BIT) is "Stomping the Divide" by establishing a blueprint of world-class technical excellence and innovation by providing resources, guidance and issuing a challenge to our members to surpass the high mark and establish new standards of global innovation.

Mission statement

Blacks In Technology is a tech focused community and media organization that is dedicated to increasing the representation and participation of Black people in the technology industry.



MITCHELL | HAMLINE
School of Law

13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW
REGISTER BY AUGUST 21

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT

NONPROFIT

CHAPTERS

JOBS

STORIES

BITCON

BITVIDS

CONTACT US

POST A JOB

ADVERTISE

SHOP

A Blacks in Technology Production © 2020. All Rights Reserved



About Chapters

Blacks In Technology continues to show tremendous growth. BIT is expanding to include member organized chapters throughout the United States.

ABOUT

LEADERSHIP

ABOUT CHAPTERS

ADVERTISE WITH BIT

WRITE FOR US

WHAT IS A LOCAL BIT CHAPTER?

A Local Chapter is a group of BIT members who live or work in a particular locality and who, as a matter of geographic convenience, organize themselves to promote the goals of the Organization cooperatively. It serves as a focal point for its members to share their experiences and provide resources and opportunities in a technology field. Local BIT Chapters offer a number of benefits to its members including:

A Platform for Networking

One of the greatest resources for professional and personal development is to meet with colleagues in the same field. You gain new information on state-of-the-art technology, access to others' experiences and knowledge and you will get the chance to broaden your insights.

Professional Development

Your Chapter meetings and activities allow you to expand your knowledge in the Technology experience & development areas. Chapters bring continuous education opportunities closer to home and provide a bridge between the annual BIT conferences. It is also possible to organize Mentor Programs as a way for the members to grow in their profession.

Exchange of Services and Contributing to BIT as an Organization

Exchange of Services and Contributing to BIT as an Organization

The Local Chapters will give you the possibility to exchange both professional experiences and services, such as reviewing each other's writing and other contributions. It will also act as a greenhouse for new ideas that can be implemented globally by the Organization, and provide BIT with potential new members to the Board of Directors.

A Creative and Stimulating Environment

Design contests, coding event, interactive talks and discussions, and brain-storming exercises are fun and stimulating ways of learning more about Technology and the other members of the Chapter. Local Chapters often organize activities such as tours and site visits to interesting work places. Learning more about Technology issues in these working conditions will often give you good ideas to bring back home.

Don't see your city listed and want to organize a BIT chapter in your hometown? Fill out the following form: <https://goo.gl/forms/5QJab3gQAQnNOnYC3>



13-week, online certificate
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law
taught by national experts

ENROLL NOW

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



**ABOUT
NONPROFIT
CHAPTERS
JOBS
STORIES
BITCON
BITVIDS**

bit

BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY

ABOUTNONPROFITCHAPTERSJOBSSORIESBITCONBITVIDS

Stories

STORIES

CAREER GROWTH

DEVELOPMENT

DEVOPS

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

EVENTS

HARDWARE

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

IT MANAGEMENT

STEM EDUCATION

TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MEDIA TYPES

ARTICLES

PODCASTS

VIDEOS

BITTechTalk ep. #123 w/ Shola Salako – Founder of BomaLink

BLACKS IN TECH
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Cybersecurity, The New Black Market

SHIMON BRATHWAITE
AUGUST 6, 2020

BITTechTalk ep. 122 –“Protecting Your Brand” w/ Letonya Moore

BLACKS IN TECH
JULY 16, 2020

BITTechTalk ep. 121 w/ Nadiyah Johnson

BLACKS IN TECH
JUNE 2, 2020

BITTechTalk ep. 120 w/ Mandy Price – CEO of Kanarys

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 21, 2020

Blacks In Technology Dallas Spring Webinar Series

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 5, 2020

INDEX

IDEAS

Have something you want to write about, or know someone we should bring on our podcast?

LET US KNOW!

Blacks In Technology Dallas Spring Webinar Series

BLACKS IN TECH
APRIL 5, 2020

Ten Things I Learned In My First Year As A Developer

TAYLOR ROBERTS
MARCH 2, 2020

How We Work: Taylor Roberts, Data Developer

MICHAEL JENKINS

BITTechTalk ep. 119 w/ Afua Bruce

BLACKS IN TECH
FEBRUARY 18, 2020

BIT Dallas Shines a Spotlight on Black Tech Innovation

BLACKS IN TECH
FEBRUARY 7, 2020

OLDER POSTS

OUR PARTNERS

O'REILLY®



ABOUT
NONPROFIT
CHAPTERS
JOBS