Making security work:
Professional participation in the **Build-it, Break-it, Fix-it** Security-minded Programming Contest

We want you!

- Are you are in the software business as a developer or (pen-)tester?

- Do you think that motivating students that writing solid code is important?

- Do you want to advance a science of cybersecurity?

- Would you enjoy finding bugs and vulnerabilities in code as part of a competition?

If the answer is 'yes,' then we want you to participate as a professional "break-it" team during **Build-it, break-it, fix-it** (BIBFI), a security-minded programming contest.

Your participation will be functional and inspirational, helping us identify the best quality student software, and setting a benchmark for student competitors also trying to find bugs.

What is Build-it, Break-it, Fix-it?

Details about the BIBIFI contest are at `https://builditbreakit.org`. Here is a summary:

> Contestants form teams that perform in one of two roles (or both): **build-it teams** aim to build, over a weekend, a software system that is secure, while also aiming for featurefulness and efficiency; **break-it teams** aim to find bugs and vulnerabilities in build-it teams' software. Cash prizes of $4,000 are awarded to the winning teams in each category (build-it and break-it), and $2,500 to the runners-up.

Contestants will be drawn from graduate and undergraduate students at top-50 schools in the US with an interest in security (probably with a CS background).

How can you participate?

Non-student professionals are encouraged to participate as break-it teams, whose aim is to find bugs and vulnerabilities in the software implemented by teams in the build-it round. Problems that professional teams find will be counted against the build-it teams, and will factor in to how prizes are determined for that round.

Why should you participate?

There are several reasons why we hope you, as a professional, will want to participate.

The role of professional teams is crucially important. Part of the goal of BIBIFI is to identify factors that correlate with high-quality software; these might relate to the experience of the builders, the language or framework(s) they use, the process they employ, or one of many other things. But these correlations are only meaningful if we have confidence that break-it teams have shaken out all of the issues in the code. It would be unfortunate to crown a build-it team the winner only because bugs in that team's code stayed hidden from less experienced, student break-it teams. Therefore, having professional teams help find bugs is crucial to more accurately assessing the outcome of the first round, and improving the science that results.

Being a professional team is also fun! Professional teams will accumulate points for problems they find, just as student teams do, and they will appear on the leaderboard with a special "professional" designation. While professional teams will not be eligible for cash prizes, they will be competing for bragging rights against their fellow professional teams, and against student teams.

Show that you, and your company, cares about building security in. All professional team participants will be highlighted and thanked specifically for their cooperation. If they wish, we can also display company logos on the BIBIFI to identify them as providing professional teams. The professional teams with the highest score at the conclusion of the contest will be given special recognition.

How do you sign up?

To participate, please create an account and affiliate with a team at `https://builditbreakit.org`. Then e-mail Michael Hicks, at `mwh@cs.umd.edu`, to say you'd like to participate as a professional team. We will then designate your team in the professional category. Then you simply participate in the contest following the same rules as the students.

> The break-it round is 72 hours, beginning on September 4 (Thursday) at 8pm, and running until September 7 (Sunday) at 8pm.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Michael Hicks at the address above, or call +1–301–405–2710.