

Real life example

You've just bought a new smart system for your house which allows you to remotely connect in to just make sure your cookers are turned off etc. Most people will blindly connect them and get on with their lives, but how many of you reading this would connect it and start questioning, "How does this actually work? When I connect to my smart home system what information is this device sending out?". There has to be some sort of data being sent from one device to the other. If you're nodding saying "Yes, this is me!", then you've already begun your journey into becoming a hacker. Question, research, learn, hack.

Bug Bounties / Vulnerability Disclosure Programs

A bug bounty program is an initiative setup to incentivize researchers to spend time looking at their assets to identify vulnerabilities and then responsibly report it to them. Companies set up a policy page detailing the scope you are allowed to poke at and any rewards they may offer. As well as this they also supply rules on what NOT to do and I highly recommend you always follow these rules or you may end up in trouble.

You can find bug bounty programs on platforms such as HackerOne, BugBountyHub, Synack, Intigritti and YesWeHack. However with that said you can also find companies prepared to work with researchers from **simply searching on Google**, for example: (don't forget to check for different countries, don't just search on google.com – try .es etc!)