

# Ethical Hackers Reduce \$27 Billion in Risk During COVID-19 Vulnerability Surge

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Bugcrowd Releases Annual Report on Humans in Crowdsourcing-Powered Cybersecurity

SAN FRANCISCO – November 16, 2021 – Bugcrowd, the world's first crowdsourced cybersecurity platform for multiple solutions, today released its annual Inside the Mind of a Hacker '21 report, which provides CIOs and CISOs valuable insight on ethical hackers and the economics of security research. New findings indicate a startling shift in the threat landscape with 8 out of 10 ethical hackers recently having identified a vulnerability they had never seen before.

This comprehensive annual study offers an in-depth look at ethical hackers to reveal how they reduce risk, which industries leverage their expertise most, and what organisations are doing to attract high-performing security researchers to their programs. It also indicates the growing geographic disparity in crowdsourced cybersecurity investment, with continental Europe allocating 79% less budget to ethical hacking than North America.

The report analyses survey responses and security research conducted on the Bugcrowd Platform from May 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021, in addition to millions of proprietary data points collected on vulnerabilities from 2,961 security programs. It also features the personal profiles of several ethical hackers who work on the Bugcrowd Platform.

Key takeaways include:

- 91 percent of ethical hackers said that point-in-time testing cannot secure companies year-round.
- 80 percent of ethical hackers found a vulnerability they had not encountered before the pandemic.
- 74 percent of ethical hackers agree vulnerabilities have increased since the onset of COVID-19.
- 71 percent of ethical hackers report they earn more now that most companies work remotely.
- 45 percent of ethical hackers believe lack of scope inhibits the discovery of critical vulnerabilities.
- 27 billion dollars worth of cybercrime was prevented by ethical hackers on the Bugcrowd Platform.

Cybercrime now represents more than one percent of global GDP, costing organizations an estimated \$1 trillion in losses in 2021. Ethical hackers are challenging the powerful forces behind these attacks, enabling companies to continuously secure their digital assets and software development lifecycle (SDLC) with greater efficiencies than traditional approaches.

“The work I do is good for all people—not just for me,” said an ethical hacker from Jordan who is known professionally by his online handle, th3g3nt3lman. “It is about making an impact. I like that I’m securing online services used all around the world and helping people to trust their technology without being scared.”

Ethical hackers are multigenerational and younger than ever. Faced with the worst job market since the Great Depression and disproportionate job loss throughout the pandemic, 54% of Gen Z (born 1997–2012)

report using their skills as digital natives to kick-start ethical hacking careers.

“Hacking has long been maligned by stereotypical depictions of criminals in hoods, when in fact ethical hackers are highly trusted and industrious experts who empower organizations to release secure products to market faster,” said Ashish Gupta, CEO and President, Bugcrowd. “With this report, we are proud to shine a light on the top ethical hackers that CrowdMatch—Bugcrowd’s proprietary recommendation engine—automatically curates for customer programs based on skills, environment, and use cases.”

Readers of this report will better understand how ethical hackers reduce risk for organisations, provide the most significant security return on investment, and accelerate digital transformation. To download a copy of the Inside the Mind of a Hacker '21 report, [click here](#).

To learn more about the Bugcrowd Platform, visit [Bugcrowd.com](https://bugcrowd.com).

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## About Bugcrowd

Bugcrowd is the award-winning crowdsourced cybersecurity platform that evolves with emerging threats to help organisations secure innovation sooner. Bugcrowd sources and deploys the security skills organisations need—when they need them—so they can reduce risk faster with a global network of world-class security researchers and SDLC-integrated services. Top enterprises trust our platform for context-aware vulnerability and risk intelligence that’s backed by expert ingenuity. Based in San Francisco, Bugcrowd enables organisations to rapidly uncover and fix vulnerabilities before they interrupt business. Bugcrowd is backed by Blackbird Ventures, Costanoa Ventures, Industry Ventures, Paladin Capital Group, Rally Ventures, Salesforce Ventures and Triangle Peak Partners. Learn more at [www.bugcrowd.com](https://www.bugcrowd.com).

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