

HOW HACKERS SPEND THEIR BOUNTIES

We work with more than 160,000 amazing and talented hackers, and not only do we get to see the results of their technical creativity and expertise, we get to marvel at the ways they make the internet safer and more secure.

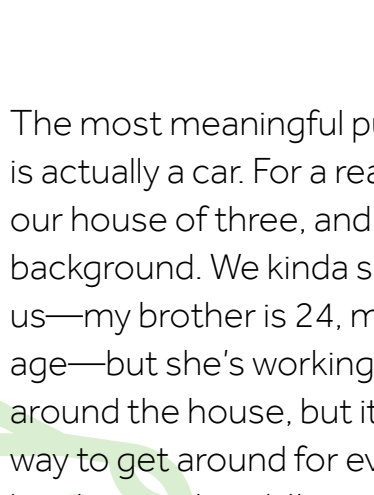
In the past 5 years, our community of hackers has earned more than \$24 million in bounties—and they're on track to earn \$100 million by the end of 2020. But we've often wondered: what are they doing with all of that money?

That money has a lot of impact around the world, and gives these hackers opportunities they might not have otherwise had, from simply going out to a nice dinner to buying their parents a home! In some places, it goes even further: in India, hackers earn up to 15 times more than the average salary of a local software engineer!

To learn more about the impact bounties are having in the lives of our hackers, we sat down with dozens of them at our recent H1-702 live hacking event in Las Vegas. Here's what they shared, in their own words:

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR BOUNTIES?

Hackers only hunt for cash, right? Wrong! Curiosity is an enduring quality across the hacker community, and hackers are motivated by the opportunity to learn new skills, be challenged, have fun, and contribute to a safer internet.



One of the things that I did with my bounty money was helping my parents buy a house when I first came to the U.S., so that's probably the biggest thing I've done with bounty money.

@IBRAM (IBRAM MARZOUK)



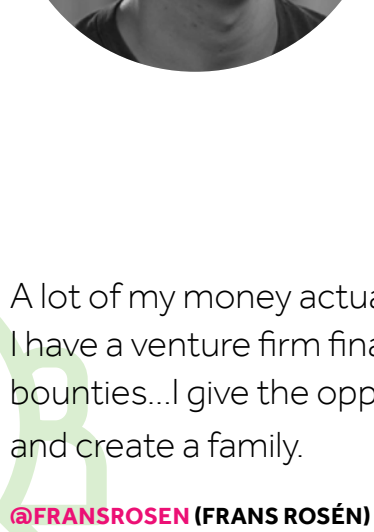
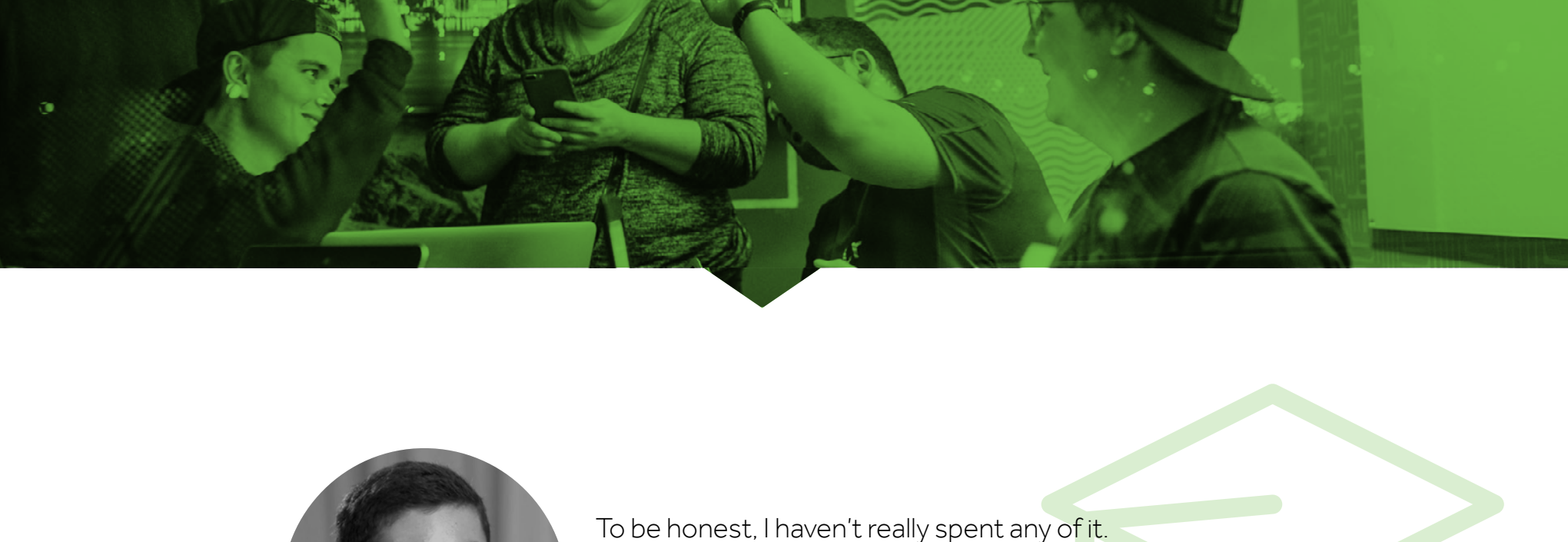
The most meaningful purchase I made with bounty money is actually a car. For a really long time it was just one car in our house of three, and I really don't come from a wealthy background. We kinda shared one car between all of us—my brother is 24, my mom is...I don't want to say her age—but she's working and everyone is working really hard around the house, but it was really an issue trying to find a way to get around for everyone's jobs, so when I got into bug bounty I said, I'm going to get a car that everyone can use and I think it really helped.

@ZLZ (SAM CURRY)



I went to Aruba.

@THEDAWGYG (TOMMY DEVOSS)



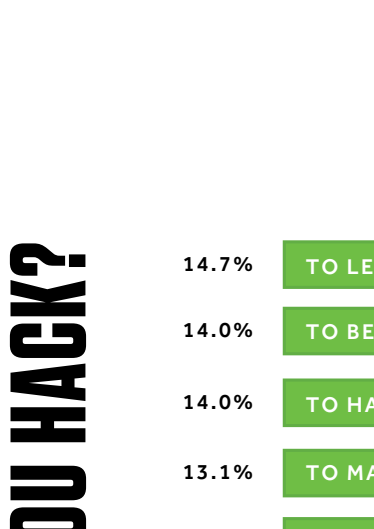
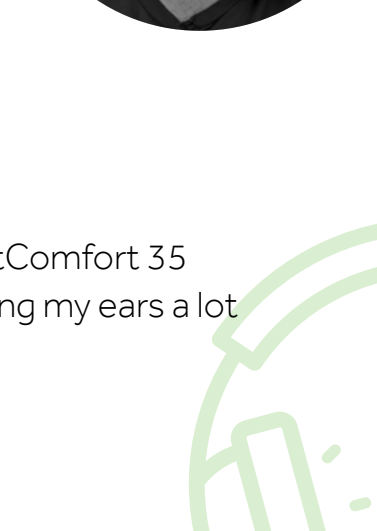
To be honest, I haven't really spent any of it. I'm saving it all for college.

@CABLEJ (JACK CABLE)



A lot of my money actually goes into hiring people. I have a venture firm financing companies through bug bounties...I give the opportunity to people to get work and create a family.

@FRANSROSEN (FRANS ROSÉNI)



Favorite purchase...my Bose QuietComfort 35 Headphones. It's the best. It's saving my ears a lot of frustration.

@SHIEGLES (OLIVIER BEG)



WHY DO YOU HACK?



THE ECONOMICS OF BUG HUNTING

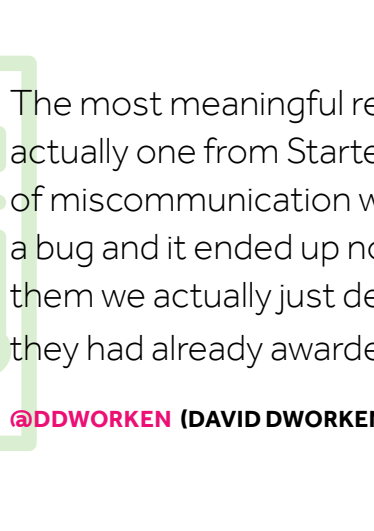
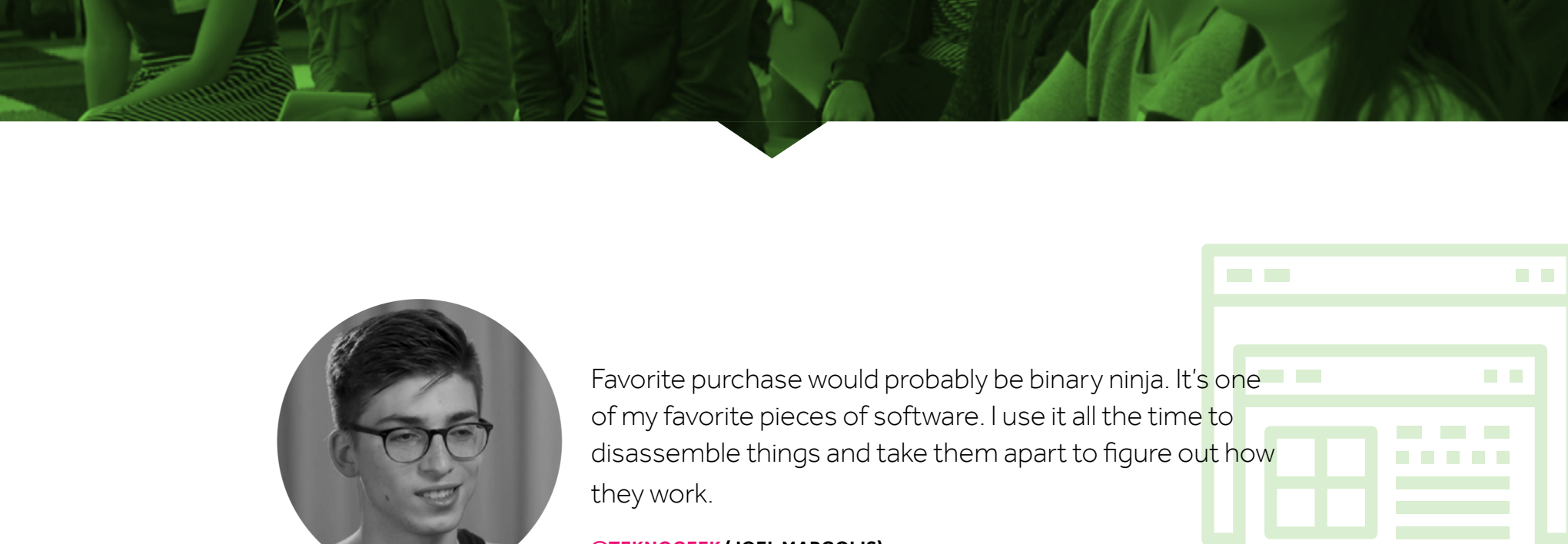
We compared the salaries of software engineers to the bug bounty earnings of top performing hackers in 40 countries. What did we find? Hackers earn, on average, 2.7 times the median salary of a software engineer in their home country. In some countries, it's much, much more!

MULTIPLIER		MULTIPLIER	
India	16.0	United States of America	2.4
Argentina	15.6	Sweden	2.2
Egypt	8.1	Bangladesh	1.8
Hong Kong	7.6	Germany	1.8
Philippines	5.4	Italy	1.7
Latvia	5.2	Netherlands	1.7
Pakistan	4.3	Israel	1.6
Morocco	3.7	Croatia	1.5
China	3.7	Czech Republic	1.5
Belgium	2.7	Spain	1.5
Australia	2.7	Romania	1.2
Poland	2.6	Saudi Arabia	1.2
Canada	2.5		

Figure 2: Median annual wage of a "software engineer" was derived from PayScale for each region. The multiplier was found by dividing the upper range of bounty earners on HackerOne for the region by the median annual wage of a software engineer for the related region.

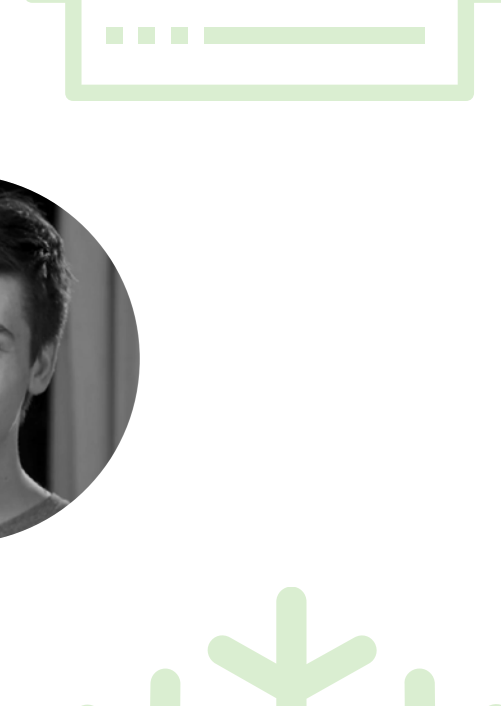
My favorite purchase with my bounty money was my car.

@TRY_TO_HACK (SANTIAGO LOPEZ)



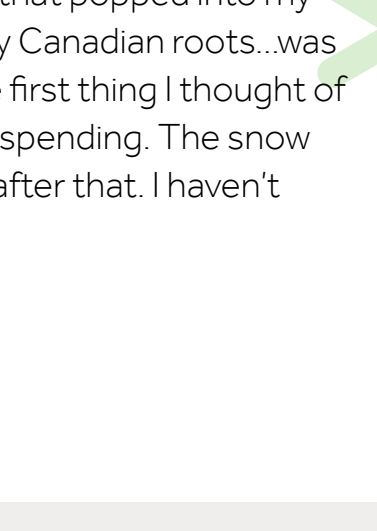
Favorite purchase would probably be binary ninja. It's one of my favorite pieces of software. I use it all the time to disassemble things and take them apart to figure out how they work.

@TEKNOGEEK (JOEL MARGOLIS)



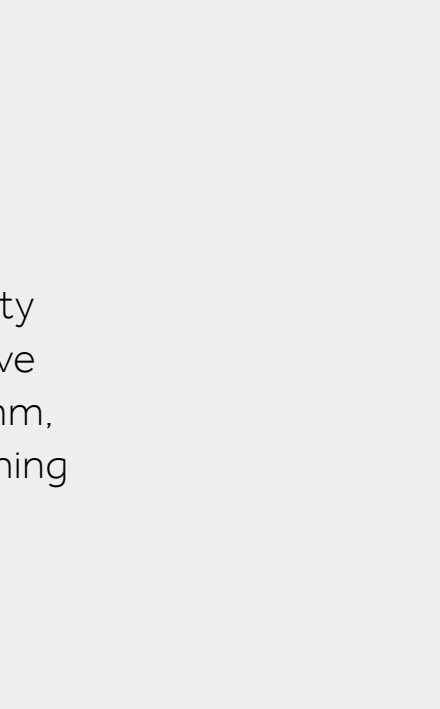
The most meaningful result of a bounty for me was actually one from Starterbox where there was some, out of miscommunication where they thought something was a bug and it ended up not being a bug. So then I talked to them we actually just decided to donate the bounty that they had already awarded to the EFF.

@DDWORKEN (DAVID DWORZEN)



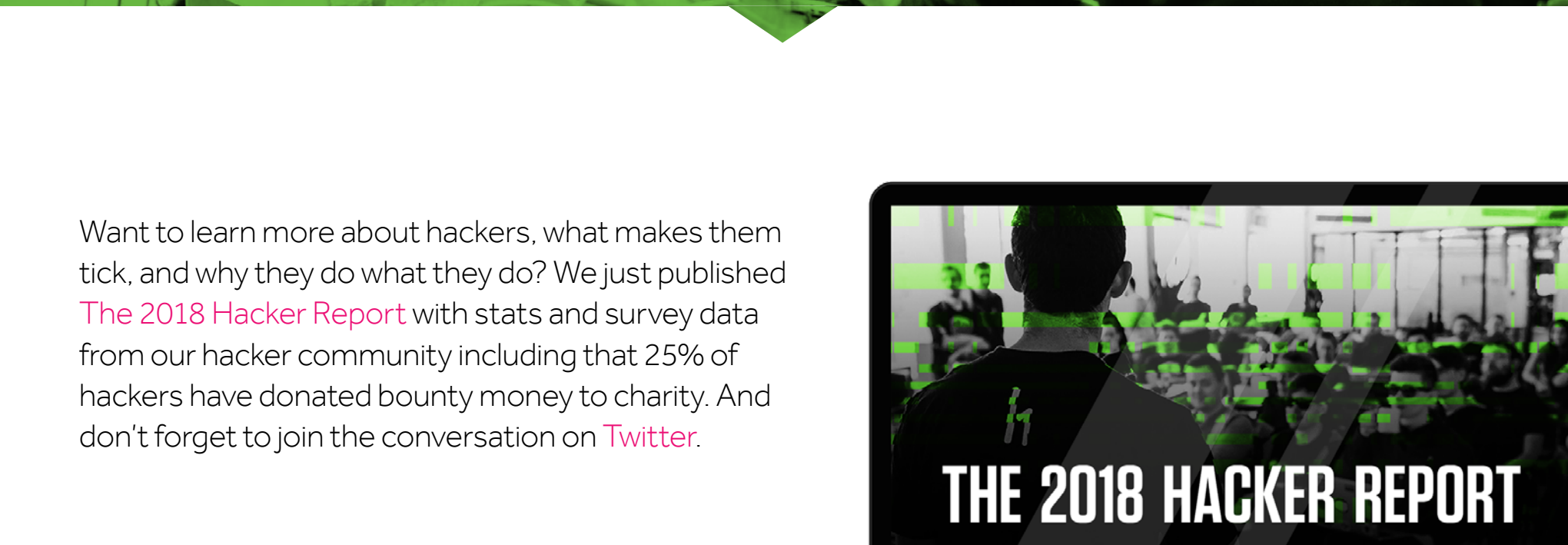
Maybe it's not the most exciting, but the very first most memorable purchase that I made that popped into my head was...this is going to show my Canadian roots...was a snowblower. That's truthfully the first thing I thought of when I thought about bug bounty spending. The snow blower and then maybe the Xbox after that. I haven't spent a lot of it.

@YAWORSK (PETE YAWORSKI)



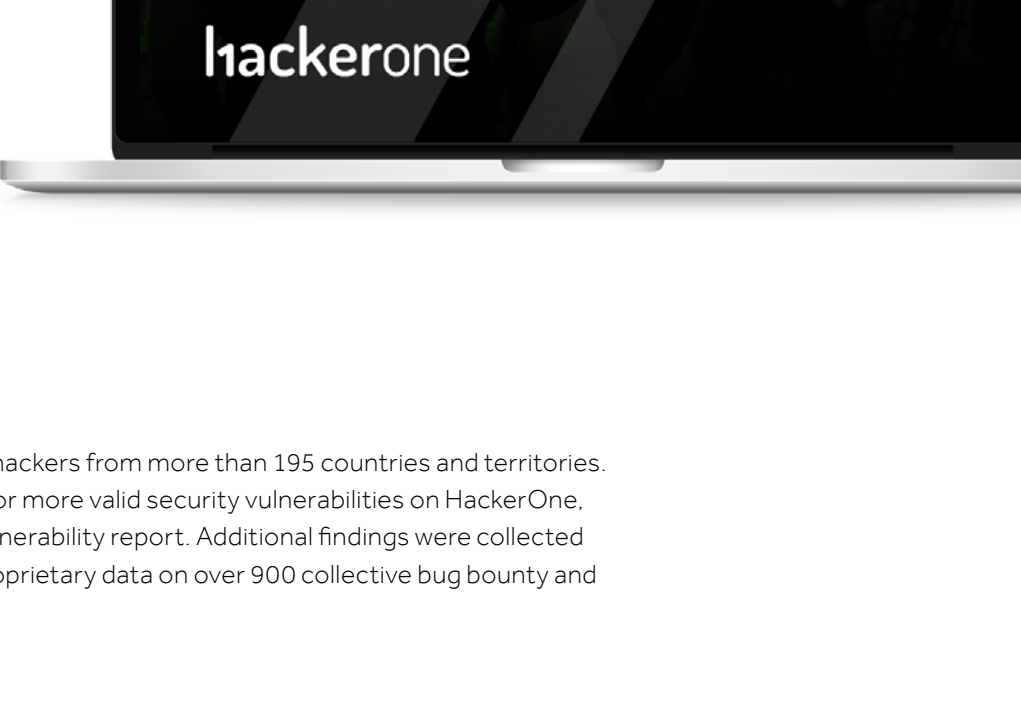
HACKERS DONATING BOUNTIES TO CHARITY

OVER 24% of hackers on HackerOne have donated bounty money to charity organizations like EFF, Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children and local animal shelters. Companies like Qualcomm, Google, and Facebook have "bounty match" promotions, matching any bounties earned that hackers turn donate to a cause.



Want to learn more about what hackers do, what makes them tick, and why they do what they do? We just published [The 2018 Hacker Report](#) with stats and survey data from our hacker community including that 25% of hackers have donated bounty money to charity. And don't forget to join the conversation on [Twitter](#).

[DOWNLOAD FULL REPORT](#)



METHODOLOGY

In December 2017, HackerOne surveyed over 1,700 hackers from more than 195 countries and territories. These individuals have all successfully reported one or more valid security vulnerabilities on HackerOne, as indicated by the organization that received the vulnerability report. Additional findings were collected from the HackerOne platform using HackerOne's proprietary data on over 900 collective bug bounty and vulnerability disclosure programs.

ABOUT HACKERONE

HackerOne is the #1 hacker-powered security platform, helping organizations receive and resolve critical vulnerabilities before they can be exploited. More than 1,000 organizations, including the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. General Service Administration, General Motors, Twitter, GitHub, Nintendo, Panasonic Avionics, Qualcomm, Square, Starbucks, Dropbox and the CERT Coordination Center trust HackerOne to find critical software vulnerabilities. HackerOne customers have resolved over 57,000 vulnerabilities and awarded over \$24M in bug bounties. HackerOne is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in London and the Netherlands.

