

bugcrowd

# PROTECTING TAX PAYER DATA WITH BUGCROWD

TaxSlayer's private bug bounty program pays for itself in the first month

## Security at TaxSlayer

Based out of Augusta, Georgia, TaxSlayer, a leading tax preparation and financial technology company, offers the ability for millions of Americans to electronically file their taxes. The company successfully completed more than 10 million state and federal e-filed tax returns in 2018 and processed \$12 billion in refunds. TaxSlayer is highest rated for ease of use, speed of filing, best value and most trusted according to the 2017-18 American Online Tax Satisfaction Survey. Customers rate TaxSlayer's TrustScore is an 8.5 out of 10 on Trustpilot. Given the nature of their business, having security built into its software is paramount.

“After learning what Bugcrowd could do for us, it was a match made in heaven.”

## Ease of Use & Cost Effectiveness

While TaxSlayer wanted to employ the expertise of independent, unbiased researchers outside of the organization for breadth and depth of testing, they also wanted the flexibility to tailor their testing pool based on specific skill sets.

Private bug bounty programs allow organizations to harness the power of the Elite Crowd – diversity of skill and perspective at scale – in a more controlled environment. At Bugcrowd, only those researchers who have a proven track record, those who have proven their skill and trustworthiness receive invitations to private programs. Private programs can be scoped or built around a customer's testing needs and parameters. A private program can also meet requirements around background checking, ID verification or even location.

Bugcrowd provides TaxSlayer with access to Elite whitehat hackers around the world who test the front- and back-end functionality of TaxSlayer's professional and individual tax preparation products. With help from Bugcrowd, TaxSlayer offers a secure and reliable product for the millions of Americans that use its service.



**Launched:** 2017

**Type:** Private Bug Bounty

**Scope:** TaxSlayer websites

**Rewards:** N/A

**Vulnerabilities Rewarded:** 89

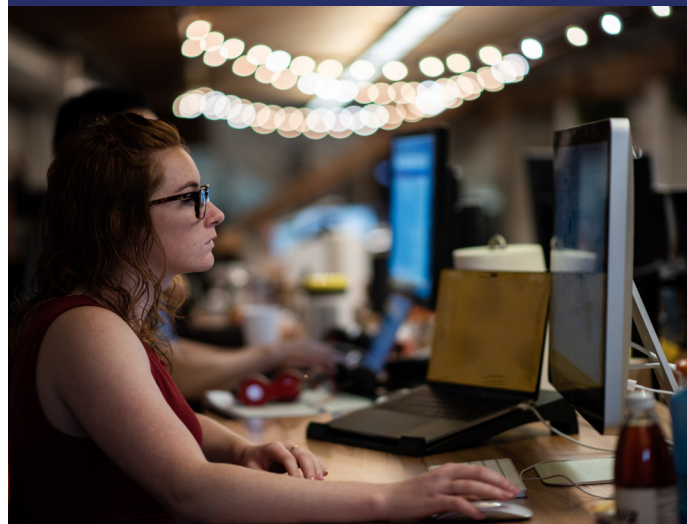
**Average Payout:** \$827.77

**Average Priority:** 2.88

**Paid Out:** \$41,000

“In the tax preparation software industry, we deal with highly sensitive data for a large number of individuals. You can pretty much learn anything you want to know about an individual from their tax return. And because of that, we need to make sure the data stays completely secure, which starts with making sure the applications we're developing are secure as well.”

**Michael Blache**  
CISO, TaxSlayer



For TaxSlayer, implementing a bug bounty program with Bugcrowd was a no brainer, freeing up internal resources and demonstrating a return on investment immediately.

## The Program Paid for Itself

Prior to running a bug bounty program with Bugcrowd, TaxSlayer lacked visibility. While they were using a variety of application security testing solutions, they worried vulnerabilities were falling through the cracks. Implementing a bug bounty program with Bugcrowd provided the visibility TaxSlayer needed to quickly find critical vulnerabilities.

## More Secure Coding

TaxSlayer not only uses the vulnerability information to remediate vulnerabilities, the company has used it as a training tool for the security and development teams. Bugcrowd hackers provide a lot of detail about how to replicate the bugs and the remediation steps and resources include details on how to avoid the vulnerability in the future. TaxSlayer uses this information to train their internal teams.

## The Bugcrowd Advantage

Bugcrowd simplifies and streamlines vulnerability disclosure and remediation. With the largest, most experienced team for managed crowdsourced security programs Bugcrowd has 4x more experience managing bug bounty programs than the competitor.

- An all-in-one platform for simplified vulnerability reporting and solution management.
- Comprehensive onboarding for each program: Program briefs, with scope, rewards and rules/regulations drive great accurate, actionable submissions with less noise.
- Expert triaging: Eliminates clean-up work for the internal security for faster risk reduction.

Over the course of its program, TaxSlayer has been able to maintain strong engagement across targets.



**89** vulnerabilities rewarded



**2.88\*** average priority



**\$41,000** total paid out

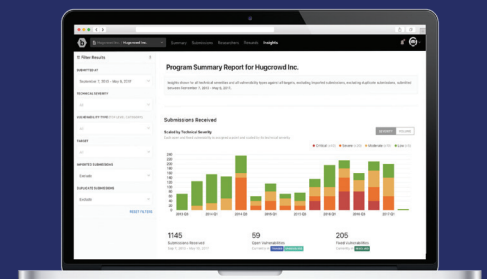
\*average priority is based off a scale of 1, being the highest, to 5 being the lowest.

“I would recommend Bugcrowd because of the ease-of-use of the platform and cost effectiveness. We were able to stand up a crowdsourced program in less than a month, at a fraction of the cost it would have taken for us to hire internal resources to do that type of application security testing.”

“About a month after we started our program, we had a P1 vulnerability come in. If we had not been informed about it and it had been exploited in the wild, it could have been very damaging to the company. The program, just from that one vulnerability, paid for itself.”

“The vulnerability information we receive from the program has proven to be a valuable tool in training our internal employees on what to look for, and how to use the tools associated with doing application security testing.”

**Michael Blache**  
CISO, TaxSlayer



Learn why hundreds of companies have turned to Bugcrowd:  
[www.bugcrowd.com/get-started](http://www.bugcrowd.com/get-started)

