

Microsoft offers bounties for novel hacker tactics

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Customers get a look at products at Microsoft's pop-up store on October 26, 2012 in New York. Microsoft on Wednesday posted bounties of up to \$100,000 for "truly novel" ways to hack the latest version of its Windows software for powering computers.

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"For the first time ever, Microsoft is offering direct cash payouts in exchange for reporting certain types of vulnerabilities and exploitation techniques," the US software titan said in a blog post.

"We are making this shift in order to learn about these issues earlier and to increase the win-win between Microsoft's customers and the security [researcher](#) community."

The bounty program will launch with three categories of 'wanted' hacker tricks on June 26, the same day Microsoft is to preview a tweaked version of its operating system referred to as Windows Blue but officially called Windows 8.1.

A [Mitigation](#) Bypass Bounty will pay up to \$100,000 for "truly novel exploitation techniques" targeting Windows 8.1 and as much as \$50,000 for ways to defend against [hacker attacks](#) that qualify for rewards.

Microsoft said that, for a month, it will pay as much as \$11,000 for critical vulnerabilities exposed in the version of Internet Explorer browser software tailored for Windows 8.1.

Details were available online at microsoft.com/bountyprograms .

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