

Web users reward Palestinian who exposed Facebook flaw

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Palestinian researcher Khalil Shreath, who hacked into Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg's profile, works on a laptop at his home in Yatta, south of the West Bank city of Hebron on August 20, 2013. Shreath said on his blog he found a way for Facebook users to circumvent security and modify a user's timeline.

Internet users have raised more than \$11,000 to reward a Palestinian security researcher [who hacked into Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg's profile](#) to expose a security flaw.

The fundraising campaign on the website GoFundMe raised \$11,035 from 178 people in one day for Khalil Shreatch, and was continuing to take donations after he was denied a "Facebook Bounty."

"I hope this has raised awareness of the importance of independent researchers," said Marc Maiffret, a [security expert](#) at the firm Beyond Trust who led the effort.

"I equally hope it has reminded other researchers that while working with [technology companies](#) can sometimes be frustrating, we can never forget the greater goal; to help the Internet community at large."

While Facebook offers rewards for those who find security holes, the company said Shreatch went too far by posting the information on Zuckerberg's own profile page without getting consent.

Shreatch said on his blog he found a way for a Facebook user to circumvent security and modify another's timeline, even if they were not friends on the network.

He said he took the unusual step of hacking into Zuckerberg's profile after being ignored by the Facebook security team.

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