What does it take to run a bug bounty program?

Typical problems and practical solutions
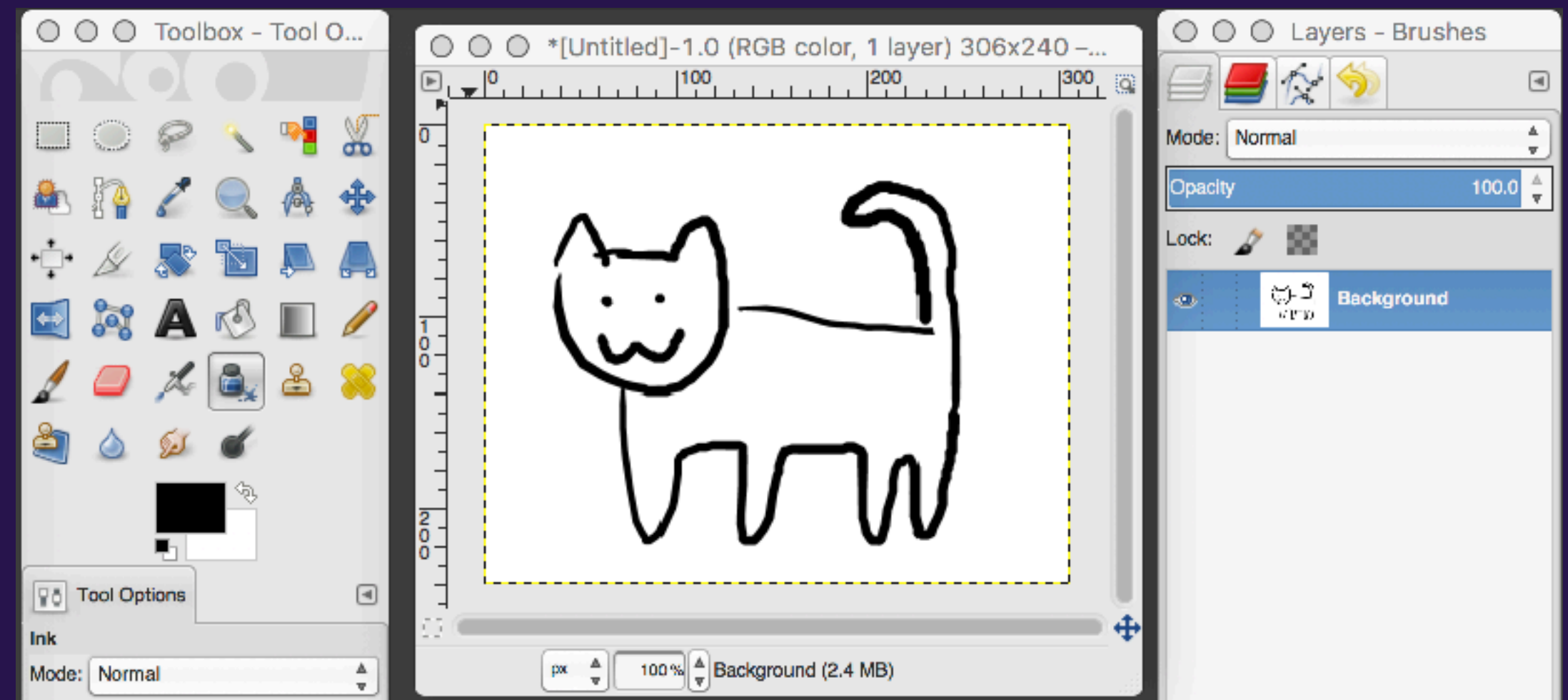
ANTON BLACK | GRADUATE SECURITY ENGINEER | TWITTER.COM/NOQRY

Wait, who are you¿

Was software engineer,
now at least 50% cyber

Arteest™

"

"You should run a bug bounty!"

— everyone, probably

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Generally considered a Good Idea

Google	Reddit	Facebook	Microsoft
Apple	Valve	Fitbit	Mastercard
Netgear	Avast	DigitalOcean	Android

(and others)

Agenda

1) Bug bounty considered beneficial

2) Challenges and mitigations

3) Summary

A FORMAL PROGRAM WHERE:

WANTED
WHITE-HAT HACKERS
TO IMPROVE PRODUCT SECURITY
VISIT BUGCROWD.COM/ATLASSIAN

$$$ REWARD

1. Researchers tell you about security bugs in your software

2. You pay them for their efforts

People will attack your software anyway

A bounty lets it happen on your own terms

Tap into international talent

Bounty hunters can work anywhere in the world

Tap into specialist talent

Bounty hunters often specialize in some platform, tool, or framework

Meet security standards

Certifications ask for "vulnerability testing", "penetration testing"

More secure products

Your products have measurably fewer bugs

👍

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BUT THERE ARE CHALLENGES

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Choosing a platform

- **Use an existing bug bounty platform** (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

- Or roll your own

You don't have experience with bug bounties.

- Limit initial reports

- Make a shared chatroom/forum for bounty staff to ask each other for help

When should we increase the bounty?

Pull data from your platform:

- # critical bugs found in the last 90 days

- Flow rate (is the dev team overwhelmed?)

- Remaining bounty budget (can you afford it?)

Our payout calculator

- Total Allowable FY19 Average Daily Spend: $XXX.XX
- Current Average Daily Spend: $XXX.XX
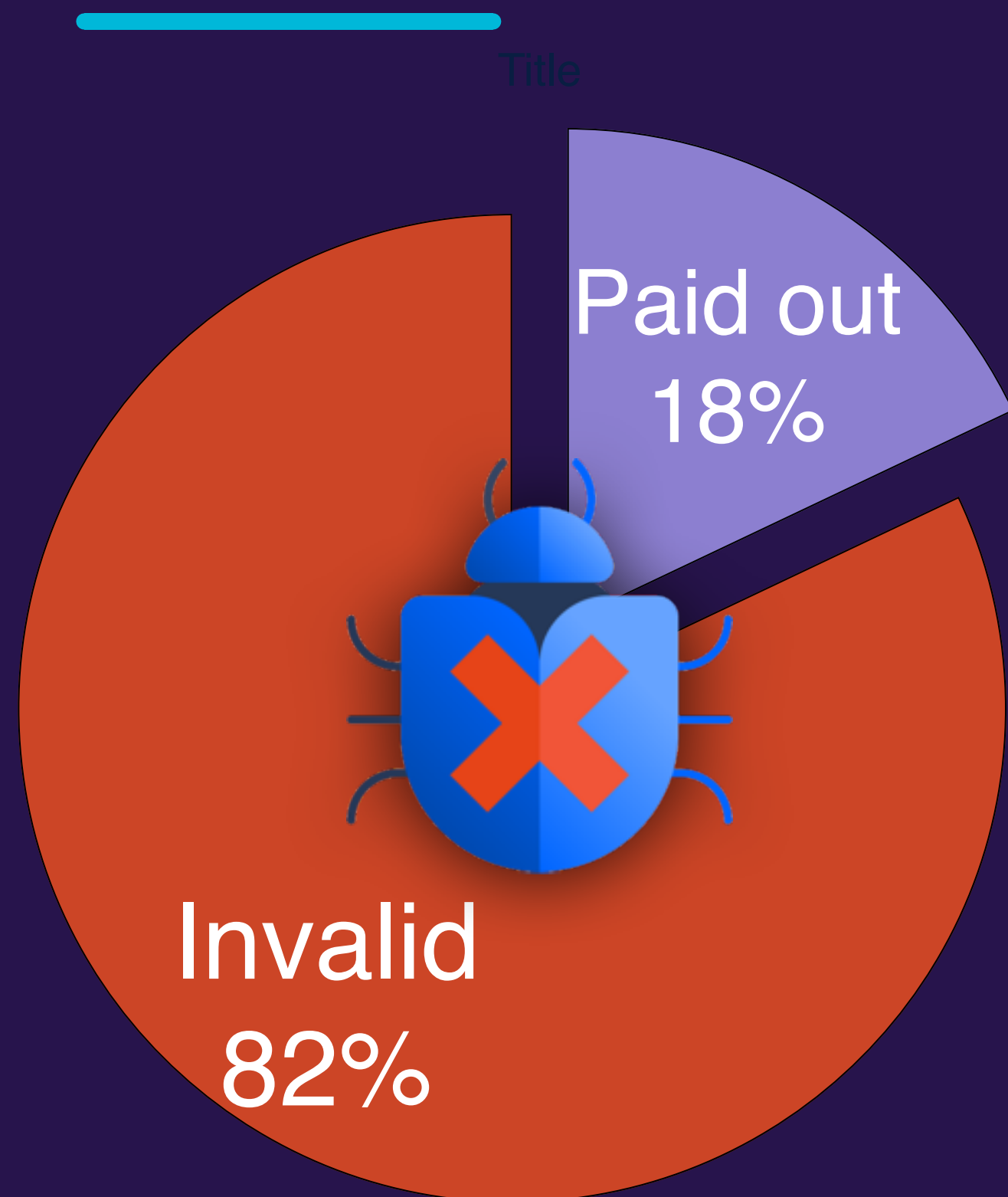- Projected Daily Spend Remaining: $XXX.XX
- Days into the budget period: XXX

Product 1
- 0 critical issues in the last 90 days
- {0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1} Issues per Month
  - Slope: 0.17, Intercept: -0.27
- 0.08 Average SLA Violations per week
- 2:1 (Created:Resolved this Quarter)
- 6: Current Issue Severity Metric

Product 2
- 0 critical issues in the last 90 days
- {4, 0, 4, 8, 4, 3} Issues per Month
  - Slope: 0.31, Intercept: 2.73
- 0.08 Average SLA Violations per week
- 15:14 (Created:Resolved this Quarter)
- 30: Current Issue Severity Metric

A huge proportion of all incoming bug reports are invalid.

Title

Paid out
18%

Invalid
82%

FY18 bug reports

- Choose a bounty platform which offers filtering services

- Bounty briefing page is your first line of defence

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Communication fatigue

- Use standard responses

- Check bonus content for more ideas and situations

e.g. Bug resolved

Hi <researcher>,
Thank you for your report to our bug bounty program.

The issue has been fixed by the development team and should reach production soon.

If you can still reproduce the issue in 2 weeks from today, please let us know and we can investigate further.

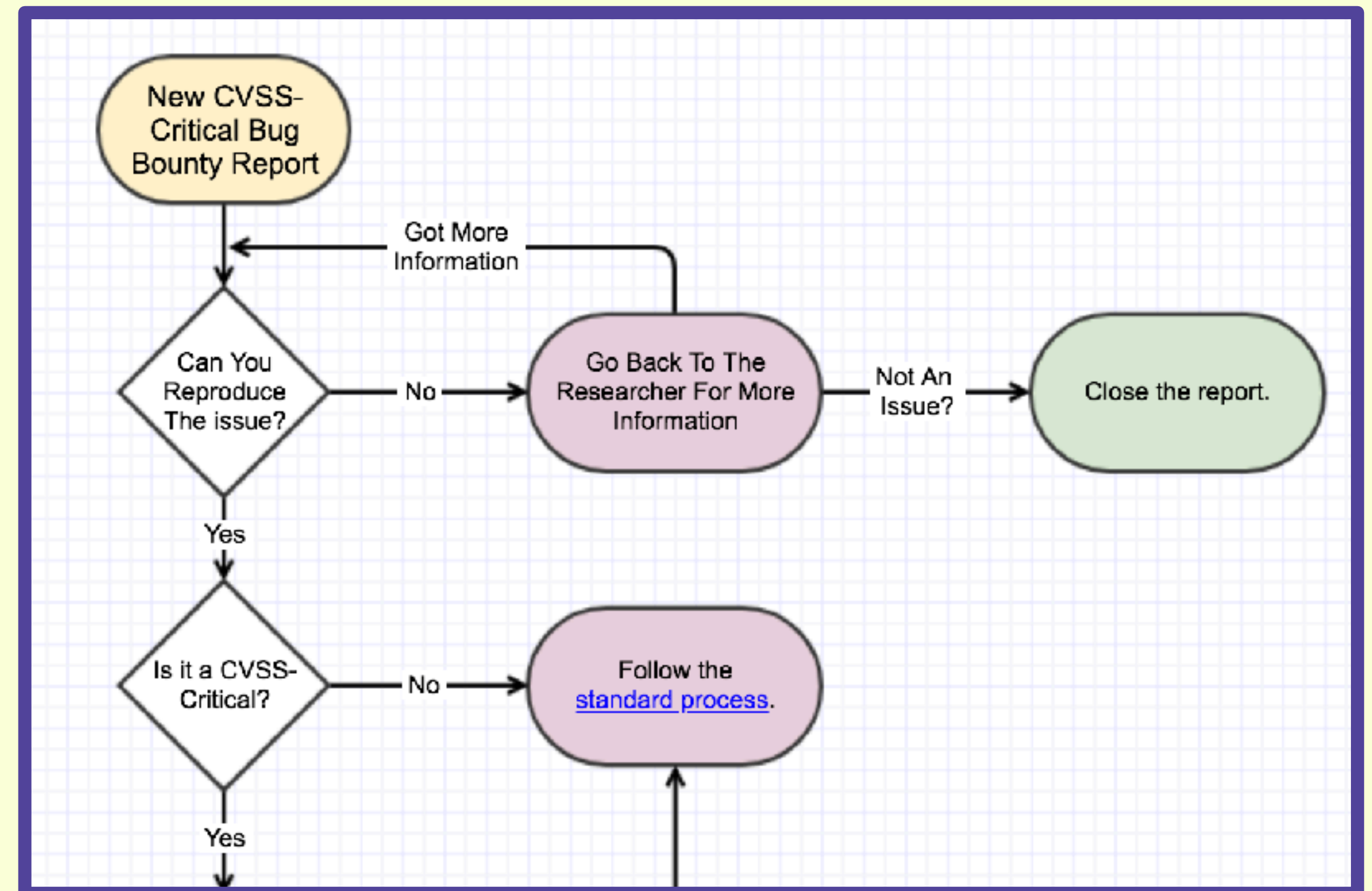Thank you for your continued efforts toward our bug bounty program.

Atlassian
Program of the Year
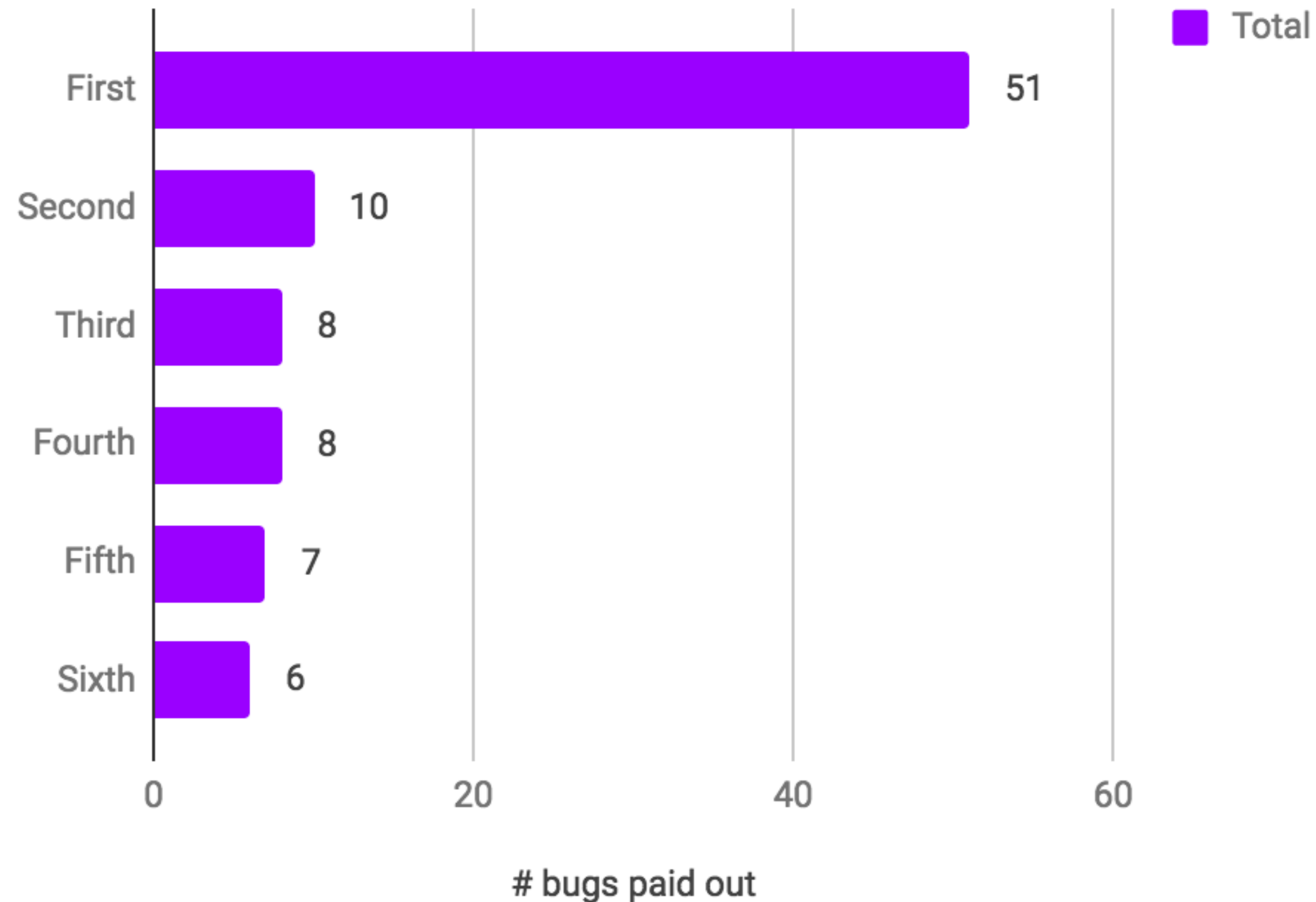Bugcrowd Buggies 2018

Decision fatigue

- Make a shared page for procedures and protocols

- Every time you have to make a judgement call, update the docs to cover it

- **FLOWCHARTS** 👌

e.g. "How do you handle a Critical bug?"

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You're dependent on a small group of researchers.

bugs reported by top six researchers

	Total
First	51
Second	10
Third	8
Fourth	8
Fifth	7
Sixth	6

bugs paid out

- Increasing the bounty ≠ more researchers

- Advertise and hold hacking events

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Boring, repetitive admin tasks

- Choose a platform with an API

- *Make the robots do it for you*

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Run a bug bounty!

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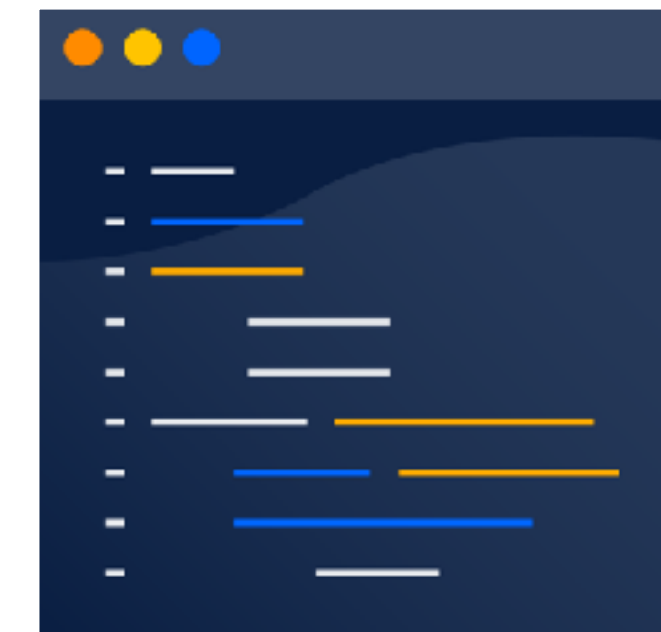
$$$ REWARD

Choosing your platform:

Filtering services
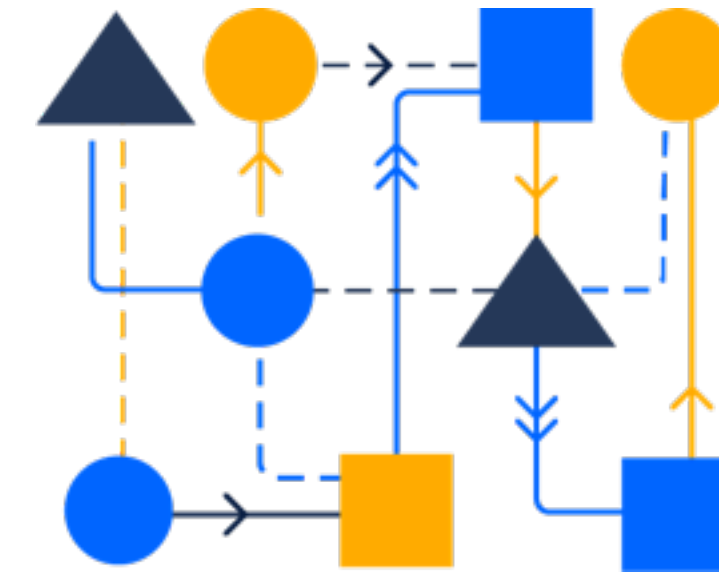
Reports + stats

Control via API

Preventing problems:

Start small

Use filtering Services

Document procedures

Pull data to inform decisions

Advertise

Automate!

Atlassian's bounty program: bugcrowd.com/atlassian

For more, check out the bonus content

Or forward cat pictures to twitter.com/noqry