

Treasury Proposal: Anti-Scam Bounty Top-up

Proponent: 14id3ENXVkJ34Q51AfWDGcMHA1EbGu8obF8QJLEUkzAB8KVh (michalis)

Beneficiary: 13UVJyLnbVp9RBZYFwHYxa6GPKJ2SqkGg4Mo7jG7uLAbPkt8

This is the account of the bounty, created after the activation and funding of the bounty, and controlled by the Anti-Scam General Curator account

(151fSxLtpjaBRLGoo1DQB8n8ERLNR6ZduBnmjzpypegJQp9), an anonymous proxy controlled by the curators.

Date: 28.07.2022

Requested allocation: 16000 DOT

Short description: A top-up for the Anti-Scam Bounty, which involves several tasks that aim to protect the community from scams, both proactively and reactively.

Purpose of the proposal

The [Anti-Scam Bounty](#) aims to incentivise the community, both individuals and organizations, to fight against scams and protect users from falling for them. We believe that anti-scam response should be a community endeavour and this is what this bounty, the first to make use of child bounties on Polkadot, has managed to do.

The bounty expanded on the previous community initiative targeting scam sites that was ongoing for several months **by adding new tasks that aim to create a holistic solution that addresses the problem from several aspects, while bringing awareness to the community, and educating users of both the problems and the efforts to address them.**

The tasks of the bounty utilise mostly off-chain tools and processes, but it is the goal of this initiative to evolve to bring as much of that as possible on-chain. These tasks came from feedback from the community and the experience garnered from the current initiative.

There have been several changes done to the bounty, as well as the individual tasks, in the four months that it's been active, after discussing with the implementers and the curators, with the goal to fine-tune processes and rewards, but also to move closer to achieving its long-term evolution goals, which are:

- To move it on-chain as much as possible. The concept of how this can be achieved is a WIP but some initial thoughts include:
 - Making the Anti-Scam team an on-chain collective (details below)

- Using remarks to log on-chain the proof of the work the implementers are doing. Subsequently we could use the RMRK platform or the Uniques pallet to pair these actions with NFTs.
- Use IPFS to decentralise the storage of data that accompanies the tasks, like screenshots of scam sites.
- To have it being driven and coordinated exclusively by the community.
- To become an anti-scam umbrella over the broader Polkadot ecosystem, covering parachains, other relay chains and projects.

All of the changes have been logged in the [Polkasassembly post of the bounty](#), the [bounty proposal](#), and the individual task proposals. But the most important are:

- The proponent of this bounty (michalis) has taken a step back from the active curation of the bounty and has assumed the role of backup curator, like Raul Romanutti. He's been replaced by Alina Zlobinskaya, a member of the W3F Anti-Scam Team.
- Although the bounty is managed by the curators, it is now overseen by the newly-formed Polkadot Anti-Scam Team, which also consists of several community members, rather than solely by W3F.
- The rewards of the bounty are now denominated in USD with a price of \$20 per DOT and they are calculated based on the [EMA7](#) on the day the bounties are opened. This significantly increased the DOT rewards to make them relevant in the current conditions and also allow the participants better financial scheduling. At the same time though, it's the reason the bounty ran out of funds sooner than initially expected.

Short-term goals

Have all tasks of the bounty completed and/or active by the end of September 2022:

- These include the creation of the Anti-Scam dashboard (Task 3) that will act both as **a hub of information for all anti-scam activities, but also as a more efficient way for the submissions of [Task 1](#) initially and others down the line.** (initial designs can be found at the end of the document)

Task 1 is the main task of the bounty that incentivises community members to find and take down scam sites that target Polkadot or Kusama stakeholders, the continuation of the previous community initiative.

The dashboard initially aims to simplify the submission and curation process of Task 1, which currently utilises a spreadsheet, as well as provide better visualization of the submissions and takedowns. But it is our goal that it

evolves to encompass and visualize all aspects of the Anti-Scam initiatives.

- Have organizations join the bounty: Since the initial bounty proposal it's been our intention to invite organizations that specialize in this field to join the bounty, starting with Task 1. The simplification of the submission process and the visualization tools provided by the dashboard will make this possible and there are a couple of companies that have already expressed interest. From there we can include them in other tasks moving forward.
- Post and promote the first Anti-Scam blog post that will detail all the initiatives of our ecosystem in the fight against scams, since their inception more than a year ago.
- Have the Polkadot Anti-Scam Team join the Polkadot Alliance (once active) as a Fellow. This could potentially expand the bounty with additional tasks related with the Alliance's goals. For this purpose **we've added 1000 DOT to the requested allocation** to account for the necessary deposit to join the Alliance. Although we hope that the Anti-Scam Team will be nominated by the Founders of the Alliance (so no deposit will be needed), we should account for the possibility that won't be the case.

Medium-term goals

- Transform the Polkadot Anti-Scam Team into an on-chain collective, using the upcoming collectives pallet. This will be the first step into moving the tasks of the bounty and all the anti-scam initiatives on-chain.
- Replace all W3F and Parity members of the General Curator with community members.

Achievements

For the tasks currently ongoing we have the following accomplishments:

Task 1: Detection and takedown of scam/phishing sites

At the time of writing and since the beginning of the task in March 2022, the implementers of this task have **submitted 4026** sites, of which **3339 (82.9%) are eligible and taken down** (aggregates sheet in [this spreadsheet](#)). These are 3331 potential ways for losses for stakeholders that no longer threaten our community.

Additionally they have added to the [phishing repo](#) thousands more sites they've found that don't target our ecosystem, as a service to the broader industry. Since this initiative started in April 2021 (in its previous form), the phishing repo has gone from a couple hundred entries to almost 11,500!

Task 2b: Database of DNS registrars

To date, implementers have put together a [list of 18 DNS registrars and hosting providers](#) and the best ways to report a site for takedown, helping implementers of Task 1 to take down scam sites faster and more efficiently.

Task 11: Maintenance of phishing repo

Since April, the implementers of Task 1 are also maintaining the phishing repo. They are ensuring that the repo is curated properly and new PRs are reviewed and merged quickly.

Spending analysis

All the details of each child bounty opened, with the amounts spent, have been posted on Polkasassembly, and a detailed breakdown can be found on [this spreadsheet](#). These can be cross-checked with the remaining balance (and activity) in the bounty's account:

[13UVJyLnbVp9RBZYFwHYxa6GPKJ2SqkGg4Mo7jG7uLAbPkT8](#)

A summary of the spendings is as follows (in June the rewards for all tasks were denominated in USD):

Total funds spent: 5874.58 DOT

Remaining funds: 1625.40 DOT

Task 1: Phishing sites takedowns

This is the flagship of the bounty, and the first one to commence, that has received the lion's share of the rewards.

March 2022: 1026.55 DOT

April 2022: 1405.58 DOT

May 2022: 689.75 DOT

June 2022: 2227.72 DOT

Total: 5323.61 DOT

Task 2b: DNS registrars database

This is a one-off task where the implementer used their know-how to put together a [list of DNS registrars](#) and the best way to contact them, for sites takedowns.

Total reward: 100.17 DOT

Task 10: General curators' reward

This is a recurring task to reward the community members of the General Curator of the bounty for their efforts.

March, April 2022: 54 DOT

May 2022: 50 DOT
June 2022: 142.72 DOT
Total: 246.72 DOT

Task 11: Phishing repo maintenance

This is a recurring task that was added after the initial proposal to reward community members that maintain the phishing repo.

April 2022: 60 DOT
May 2022: 30 DOT
June 2022: 114.08 DOT
Total: 204.08 DOT

Budget request

Considering the costs of the tasks after the denomination in USD under the current conditions and the effectiveness of the bounty so far, plus the potential to need 1000 DOT for deposit for the Polkadot Alliance, we request a top-up of **16000 DOT**. A higher amount would probably be more reasonable, to give us a longer runway, but we want to first complete our short-term goals, especially the first one.

Contact Information

Mark Crince: markcrince@gmail.com
Abdulbasit Sadiq: sadiqbasit782@gmail.com
Alina Zlobinskaya: alina@web3.foundation
Michalis Fragkiadakis: michalis@web3.foundation
Raul Romanutti: raul@justopensource.io

Appendix: Dashboard initial mockups

Login with account

 Sign message



Paradox - KSM

HqRcfhH8VXMhuCk5JXe28WMgDDuW9MVDVNofe1nnTcefVZn

Kusama



from `http://localhost:3000/`

bytes

PASSWORD FOR THIS ACCOUNT

☐ Remember my password for the next 15 minutes

Sign the message

Cancel

Submit scam sites

URLs

Please enter
urls one per
line

www.paranodes.io
www.astar.de
www.helloworld.org

Import URLs to
Workbench

Save selected to
Draft

Submit selected to
Git repository

Edit/Finalize submissions

3 URLs were parsed and applied.

1/	Original	http://www.paranodes.io	Urlscan Link	https://urlscan.io/result/077519f0-db8b-4886-a0fc-10e657f20c54/	Remove
	Proof				Edit
	Status	Not Saved			Submit
	Notes	Urlscan: Submission successful			
2/	Original	http://www.astar.de	Urlscan Link	https://urlscan.io/result/f6cfaea3-ccae-45f4-80a3-62fe3a6d3e94/	Remove
	Proof				Edit
	Status	Not Saved			Submit
	Notes	Urlscan: Submission successful			
3/	Original	http://www.helloworld.org	Urlscan Link	https://urlscan.io/result/29482150-5fe5-48df-a480-2d68f281b57d/	Remove
	Proof				Edit
	Status	Not Saved			Submit
	Notes	Urlscan: Submission successful			

Dashboard initial designs

Anti scam bounty							
Overview							
Implementers	Date	Github Report	Domain	URL scan link	Taken down	Confirmed	
 Leslie Alexander	9/23/16	Elasticsearch	skycloud.com	http://www.iselectrics.com	Yes		
 Devon Lane	5/19/12	NET CoreCLR	supercpu.com	http://www.warephase.com	No		
 Brooklyn Simmons	10/6/13	Compatibility Checker	mypersonaluniverse.com	http://www.toughzap.com	Yes		
 Guy Hawkins	3/4/16	Pandas	cloudfactory.com	http://www.groovestreet.com	No		
 Cody Fisher	2/11/12	Home Assistant	servermachines.com	http://www.zotware.com	Yes		
 Theresa Webb	1/28/17	Microsoft TypeScript	itcreations.com	http://www.statholdings.com	Yes		
 Kathryn Murphy	9/4/12	Arm Mbed OS	skysilk.com	http://www.donware.com	No		

Submissions

150+



Profile



Home

Implementers	Date/Time	Github	Domain	URL Scan	
Cody Fisher	Dec 30, 2019 07:52	PR 1411	getconnected.com	www.dialpad.com	
Devon Lane	Dec 4, 2019 21:42	PR 1411	cloudfactory.com	www.epay.com	
Eleanor Pena	Dec 7, 2019 23:26	PR 1411	servermachines.com	www.clari.com	
Robert Fox	Dec 30, 2019 05:18	PR 1411	easywaytostar.com	www.duetto.com	
Courtney Henry	Dec 4, 2019 21:42	PR 1411	easywaytostar.com	www.kapost.com	
Bessie Cooper	Feb 2, 2019 19:28	PR 1411	cloudfactory.com	www.duetto.com	
Esther Howard	Feb 2, 2019 19:28	PR 1411	supercpu.com	www.appdynamic.com	
Albert Flores	Mar 20, 2019 23:14	PR 1411	skysilk.com	www.fullstory.io	
Wade Warren	Dec 30, 2019 07:52	PR 1411	cloudfactory.com	www.lightblend.com	
Kristin Watson	Dec 30, 2019 05:18	PR 1411	mypersonaluniverse.com	www.fuze.com	
Arlene McCoy	Dec 30, 2019 07:52	PR 1411	skycloud.com	www.infor.us	
Marvin McKinney	Mar 20, 2019 23:14	PR 1411	itcreations.com	www.epay.com	
Jenny Wilson	Feb 2, 2019 19:28	PR 1411	itcreations.com	www.fuze.com	
Darlene Robertson	Dec 30, 2019 07:52	PR 1411	itcreations.com	www.epay.com	
Ralph Edwards	Dec 30, 2019 05:18	PR 1411	skysilk.com	skysilk.com	