

# Phishing—extremely sophisticated

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**Internal Revenue Service**  
United States Department of the Treasury

**Tax Refund**

Get Tax Refund on your VISA or MasterCard

Please enter your Social Security Number and a valid Credit / Debit Card where you want the refund to be made.  
\*See our [Privacy Notice](#) regarding our request for your personal information.

**Social Security Number** ▶  
or IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification  
Number [shown on your tax return.](#)  -  -

**Credit / Debit Card** ▶  
Please enter the following information here:

Name on card:

Card Number:

Expiration Date:  /

Cvv Code:

ATM Card PIN:  [Why is my pin required?](#)

Refund Amount ▶ \$ 134.80

▶ Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished the refund process.

*Look alike IRS webpage*

*asking for YOUR information*

# Phishing—What to Do

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- Advise clients that the IRS never initiates contact via e-mail
- Even after initial contact, the IRS never requests confidential information over e-mail
- Do NOT click on any links/attachments
- Never respond
- Forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov)

# Telephone Scams

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- Calls to taxpayers impersonating IRS personnel
- Callers typically already have some information on the taxpayer
  - Last 4 digits of SSN
  - Information regarding the taxpayers family
- Usually extremely aggressive
  - Threaten taxpayers with jail time, deportation, loss of citizenship, etc.
  - Often indicate that the "sheriff is on the way to your house."
- Recent immigrants and elderly appear to be targeted more often

# Telephone Scams—What to do

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- Like e-mail, the IRS does not initiate contact with phone calls
- Request the name and callback number of the individual
- Hang up
- If provided a badge number, indicate that the number provided lacks digits (they will usually hang up)
- Never provide personal information, credit cards, social security numbers, etc.

# Identity Theft (1 of 2)

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- Subset of a much larger problem
- Rapidly increasing
  - Per TIGTA—1.6M taxpayers effected in first 6 months of 2013; 271k during all of 2010
  - Per TIGTA—IRS paid out over \$5.8B of stolen tax refunds in 2010

# Identity Theft (2 of 2)

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- Warning signs
  - More than one tax return was filed using your SSN;
  - You owe additional tax, refund offset or have had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return;
  - IRS records indicate you received wages from an employer unknown to you