



TAX SCAMS AWARENESS TIPS

Tax-related scams are particularly common during the tax season, and have been observed in various forms to include email, short message service (SMS) text messages, social media messages, and phone calls.

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft is common during tax season, and can occur after a malicious actor has accessed a victim's Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Cybercriminals can use these numbers to file a fraudulent tax return and claim any anticipated tax refunds.



VISHING

Phone scams in which malicious actors threaten victims into providing personal and financial information or transferring funds to an account controlled by the actors. Actors commonly threaten victims with arrest, revocation of their driver's license, or other false criminal offenses unless they make immediate payment.



PHISHING

Identity Theft is common during tax season, and can occur after a malicious actor has accessed a victim's Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Cybercriminals can use these numbers to file a fraudulent tax return and claim any anticipated tax refunds.



FAKE CHARITIES

Scammers commonly impersonate charities during tax season by using false organization names that are similar to legitimate charities or organizations. Many of these false charities take advantage of taxpayers by requesting part of their tax refund as a donation. Malicious actors either request a transfer of funds or sensitive financial information from the victim.



Successful tax scams can pose a variety of threats to victims and networks ranging from identity theft or financial fraud, to persistent network access or destruction. Users should verify the sender prior to following a link or opening an attachment, type in the URL to official websites rather than clicking a link provided via email or text message, and refrain from sending personal or sensitive information via unsecure methods such as email, text, or social media websites.