

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION

**DTI e-Security News — Taxes and Banks****TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT**

Tax season is upon us and the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) alerts taxpayers of Phishing and Phone Scams from the “Dirty Dozen” list, the IRS’ list of the worst tax-related scams found in the past year. Phishing emails and Phone Scams are common ways thieves attempt to steal your information to commit Identity theft.

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security Number (SSN) to file a tax return in your name in order to claim a fraudulent refund.

You may not know the identity theft has occurred until you efile your return and discover that a return already has been filed using your SSN. Or, you may receive a letter from the IRS identifying a suspicious return using your SSN. The IRS established a workgroup for addressing issues related to scams. Visit the [Security Summit Initiative](#) link for more information.

ONLINE BANKING

If you are expecting a refund from the State and/or the IRS, you are likely to use direct deposit to your account.

Here are some tips on how to keep your banking information guarded:

- ◆ Login directly to your financial institution’s website instead of clicking the links in emails
- ◆ Check your accounts on a regular basis
- ◆ Change your password habitually
- ◆ Access your accounts from locations which are secured
- ◆ Protect your computer with Antivirus software
- ◆ Check for and use encryption

**TAX TIME****GUARD AGAINST PHISHING E-MAILS AND PHONE SCAMS...**

Here are some ways you can be proactive in protecting yourself against Identity Theft from phishing and phone scams:

- ◆ **Start with the source**—don’t treat public computers like your personal computer.
- ◆ **Connect with wisdom**—when using mobile devices, don’t use public Wi-Fi to access banking or other sensitive information.
- ◆ **Don’t make it easy**—create usernames and passwords which are not easy to guess.
- ◆ **Think twice**—don’t click on links or open attachments in emails.
- ◆ **Beware of phone scams.**
- ◆ **Visit the [IRS site](#)** for more information and tax tips.

**Questions or comments?**Email us at eSecurity@state.de.usVisit the DTI [eSecurity website](#) for previous issues of[eSecurity Newsletters](#)**SECURITY - Now ...more than ever!**

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