



Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Division of Taxation

ADV 2022-35
Security Summit

ADVISORY FOR TAXPAYERS AND TAX PROFESSIONALS
November 28, 2022

National Tax Security Awareness Week

Security Summit partners warn of cyber-criminal activity

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, the Internal Revenue Service, and other partners in the Security Summit remind taxpayers and tax professionals of the importance of protecting financial and tax information.

With the holidays and tax season approaching, it is important to take extra steps to protect your information, especially online. The increased online activity of the coming months can pose a heightened risk of fraud. Criminals use the holiday season to steal financial information. Identity thieves trick people into sharing their personal information by email, text message, and online. This information can be used to try to file fraudulent tax returns to steal refunds.

This week is the annual Summit partners' National Tax Security Awareness Week. To help protect taxpayers and tax professionals from fraud and identity theft, the Security Summit is producing a week-long series of educational materials and events. The effort will include a November 29 webinar titled [Deeper Dive Into Emerging Cyber Crimes and Crypto Tax Compliance](#), special informational graphics, and a social media effort on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube at [@IRSTaxSecurity](#), [@IRSnews](#) and #TaxSecurity on Twitter.

Please see below for National Tax Security Awareness Week 2022 highlights from the Security Summit partners:

HIGHLIGHTS

Cyber Monday: Protect personal and financial information online

The IRS and the [Security Summit](#) partners remind people to take these basic steps when shopping online:

- Use security software for computers and mobile phones – and keep it updated.
- Make sure anti-virus software for computers has a feature to stop malware, and that there is a firewall enabled that can prevent intrusions.
- Use strong and unique passwords for all accounts.
- Use multi-factor authentication whenever possible.
- Shop only secure websites; look for the "https" in web addresses and the padlock icon; avoid shopping on unsecured and public Wi-Fi in places like coffee shops, malls, or restaurants.

Tax professionals should review their security protocols

As identity thieves continue targeting tax professionals, the IRS and the Summit partners urge practitioners to review the ["Taxes-Security-Together" Checklist](#), including:

- Deploy basic security measures.
- Use multi-factor authentication to protect tax software accounts.

- Create a Virtual Private Network if working remotely.
- Create a written data security plan as required by federal law.
- Know about phishing and phone scams.
- Create data security and data theft recovery plans.

Get an Identity Protection PIN

Taxpayers who can verify their identities online may opt into the IRS IP PIN program – a tool taxpayers can use to protect themselves – and their tax refunds. Here's what taxpayers need to know:

- The Identity Protection PIN or IP PIN is a six-digit code known only to the individual and the IRS. It provides another layer of protection for taxpayers' Social Security numbers on tax returns.
- Use the Get an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) tool at [IRS.gov/ippin](https://irs.gov/ippin) to immediately get an IP PIN.
- Never share the IP PIN with anyone but a trusted tax provider.

Businesses should watch out for tax-related scams and implement safeguards

Most cyberattacks are aimed at small businesses with fewer than 100 employees. Some details from this segment include:

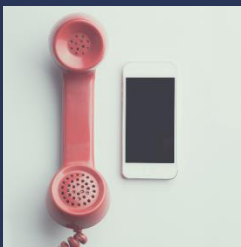
- Learn about best security practices for small businesses.
- IRS continues protective masking of sensitive information on business transcripts.
- A Business Identity Theft Affidavit, Form 14039-B, is available for businesses to report theft to the IRS.
- Beware of various scams, especially the W-2 scam that attempts to steal employee income information.
- Check out the "Business" section on IRS's [Identity Theft Central](https://irs.gov/identity-theft-central).

Earlier this year, the [Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself](#) campaign encouraged tax professionals to focus on fundamentals and to watch out for emerging vulnerabilities for those practitioners using cloud-based services for their practice.

ABOUT THE SECURITY SUMMIT

The Security Summit consists of the IRS, state tax agencies, and the tax community - including tax preparation firms, software developers, processors of payroll and tax financial products, tax professional organizations, and financial institutions. Partners in the Security Summit help protect taxpayers from identity theft and refund fraud. See <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/security-summit> for more details.

Tax Tip Line



Do you have information about wrongdoing involving Rhode Island state taxes?

Rhode Island Division of Taxation's Special Investigation Unit staffers follow up on all tips. You can choose to leave your name and contact information or remain anonymous.

[401-574-TIPS \(8477\)](tel:4015748477)

[Report Online](#)

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, part of the Rhode Island Department of Revenue, is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. For more information, contact the Division of Taxation at (401) 574-8829 or see <https://tax.ri.gov/about-us/contact-us>.