IRS Warns Tax Professionals of New e-Services Email Scam

To maximize awareness, the Ohio Department of Taxation is sharing this message from the IRS warning of a new e-Services e-mail scam that targets tax professionals. Please visit https://www.irs.gov/ for additional information.

Partners,

Late last week (11-4-2016), the Internal Revenue Service warned tax professionals of a new phishing e-mail scheme in which cybercriminals mimic IRS e-services e-mails. The e-mail attempts to trick recipients into clicking on a bogus link which requests them to enter their username and password. The subject line for the suspect e-mail is “Security Awareness for Tax Professionals.” The “From” line is “Your e-Services Team” and it has both an IRS logo and an e-services logo that hyperlinks to a URL verified as a phishing site. After clicking the link, the recipient is directed to a spoofed e-services registration page to enter in their login information. After entering in the username and password, the tax professional has unknowingly given the fraudsters their unique e-services login information as well as other additional personal data.

Tax professionals are encouraged to be on the lookout for these scams and never enter their unique e-services login information without going through the IRS’ website. Tax professionals who receive a suspicious e-mail should send it as an attachment to mailto:Phishing@irs.gov and then delete it. Recipients should not click on any links.

The IRS urges all tax preparers to take the following steps:
• Always use robust security software
• Use encryption software to protect taxpayer data
• Use strong passwords and change them often
• Learn to recognize phishing emails attempting to steal data
• Never click on links or download attachments from suspicious emails
• Beware of any communications claiming to be the IRS that are outside normal channels

Tax Professionals should review Protect Your Clients, Protect Yourself on the IRS’ website for various steps you can take to protect your customers’ information and your business.