Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself
A Security Summit campaign to increase awareness among tax professionals
The risk is real; payroll providers are prime targets for identity thieves

Cybercriminal tactics constantly evolve

Data loss can occur so many ways:

- Burglar steals office computers
- Cybercriminal breaches your systems using phishing and malware schemes
- Disgruntled employees steals client info
- Dispose of old devices without erasing data
Data Theft Tactics

• Phishing emails, text or calls
  — Pose as trusted organizations
  — Embed links to fake websites
  — Use malware-infected attachments

• Risks of opening phishing scams
  — Account take-overs (Banks, IRS e-Services, Tax Software)
  — Computer breaches

• Educate employees on scams/risks
Emerging Scams

- Phishing emails posing as IRS e-Services
- Phishing emails posing as new clients
- **Spoofing emails to payroll personnel requesting all employee Forms W-2**
- Remote takeover of tax preparer computers
- Variations constantly emerge
- Know your clients; know your employees
W-2 Scam

- Form W-2/SSN Data Theft: Information for Businesses and Payroll Services Providers
- Email dataloss@irs.gov to notify the IRS of a W-2 data loss
- To report receiving the W-2 phishing email:
  - Email to phishing@irs.gov.
Steps to Protect Client Data

• Read Publication 4557, Safeguarding Taxpayer Data
• Review current security measures
• Create a security plan
  — Use top-notch software security
  — Educate all employees
  — Use strong passwords
  — Secure Wi-Fi
  — Encrypt PII emails
  — Backup files
Plan Ahead for Data Loss

- Create a reaction plan for data theft
  - Call IRS Stakeholder Liaison (found on IRS.gov)
  - Notify your State Tax Agency
- Review Federal Trade Commission’s “Business Center” to assist businesses with data losses
  - Notify police
  - Notify businesses
  - Notify clients
W – 4 Withholding

- “Paycheck Checkup” campaign.
- Employers and payroll service providers were encouraged to implement the changes in February.
- Withholding/W-4 Outreach Products
- IRS.gov Tax Withholding Landing Page:
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- Paycheck Checkup Resources @Your Fingertips
- Frequently Asked Questions:
- www.irs.gov
  - Withholding Calculator
  - Withholding Tables
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