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Practice **Advisor**

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Revenue Service. Individuals who believe their identities have been compromised in this, or any other attempt, should review the IRS "Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft," which ...

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The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced earlier this week that a "brute force" hacking attempt has compromised approximately 104,000 taxpayer accounts through the utilization of the "Get Transcript" tool located on IRS.gov. Hackers

utilized information gleaned from black market sources to answer identity

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"These hackers already had access to Social Security numbers, birthdates, and identity verification information like former addresses and phone numbers. They did not steal this information from 'Get Transcript,' they already had it."

Taxpayers whose accounts were compromised will be notified by the Internal Revenue Service. Individuals who believe their identities have been compromised in this, or any other attempt, should review the IRS "Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft," which advises the following course of action:

- 1. File a police report
- 2. File an complaint with the Federal Trade Commission
- 3. Contact one or more trade bureau and request a "fraud alert"
- 4. Close any financial accounts opened without your permission
- 5. Respond immediately to any IRS notice
- 6. Complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit
- 7. Continue to file your tax return, even if by paper.

Taxpayers can look to enrolled agents or CPAs to assist in this process. Enrolled agents are federally licensed tax practitioners who are overseen by the Department of the Treasury. To find an EA near you, visit eatax.org.

Income Tax • IRS • Security

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