### **CPA**

## Practice **Advisor**

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The expanded security features offer additional ways to authenticate tax preparers' identities upon account sign in and verification of their E-File Identification Number (EFIN) before electronic filing.

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As part of its collaboration with the IRS, states and industry to combat tax fraud, Intuit Inc. has implemented new security enhancements across its suite of professional tax products, including Intuit

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#### **Intuit Security Enhancements**

For tax year 2015, Intuit has implemented the following security enhancements for its professional tax products, Intuit Tax Online, ProSeries and Lacerte, to further strengthen customer identity authentication and notification:

- Multi-factor authentication: New for tax year 2015, Intuit has implemented multi-factor
  authentication in its professional tax products to help authenticate user identities and help tax
  professionals securely sign into their account. When tax professionals access their account for the
  first time or from a new device, they will automatically be sent a unique, six-digit code to their predesignated, trusted device to be used in combination with their password to access their account.
- E-file Identification Number Requirements: Intuit requires that all Electronic Return Originators (EROs) possess IRS-issued E-File Identification Numbers (EFIN) before e-filing. New tax professional customers must have IRS documentation of EFIN registration on file before they can e-file through Intuit's professional tax products. In addition, Intuit will proactively notify tax preparers who use the company's professional tax software when it appears that their EFIN may have been compromised so they can reinstate their EFIN with the IRS.

### Tips to Help Tax Professionals Fight Fraud

As tax professionals head into the tax season, Intuit offers the following tips to help further protect themselves, their clients and their office:

- **Shred financial records:** Shred all documents that include sensitive client information before throwing it away.
- Restrict access to client files and computers: All computers with sensitive client records should be protected with a strong password. Create a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. Don't use passwords that are generic and easy to guess, like your firm name, the word "password" or a numeric sequence. Paper files should be kept locked and access restricted.

| Beware of phishing scams: Criminals use fraudulent emails and create fake Web sites, to lure  |
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| including protecting their computer and mobile device, creating strong passwords and being aware of phishing scams.   |
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