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Feb. 04, 2016

The tax filing season has just begun, and unfortunately it is off to a bumpy start.

Several computer systems at the IRS went down on Wednesday, affecting E-filing, several professional tools and other systems. The systems were still down as of 6:30 pm. Eastern Time.

The agency made the following comment:

“The IRS experienced a hardware failure this afternoon affecting a number of tax processing systems, which are currently unavailable. Several of our systems are not currently operating, including our modernized e-file system and a number of other related systems. The IRS is currently in the process of making repairs and working to restore normal operations as soon as possible. We anticipate some of the systems will remain unavailable until tomorrow.

The IRS remains in close contact with e-file software transmitters and the tax community during this period.

A number of taxpayer and tax practitioner tools are unavailable. [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) remains available, although a number of the services on the site are not, including Where's My Refund.

Taxpayers can continue to prepare and file their tax returns as they normally would. Taxpayers can continue to send their tax returns to their e-file provider; these companies will hold the tax returns until the IRS resumes accepting

electronic tax returns. Taxpayers who have already filed their tax returns do not

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“IRS teams continued working throughout the night and this morning on the system outage, and many of our tools and applications came back up this morning, including “Where’s My Refund” on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). We are continuing our work and analysis of our return processing system; we hope to have that back up again running at some point today. We will provide a further update later today.

While the e-file system for individual and business returns remains unavailable, the IRS reminds taxpayers they can still prepare and file tax returns as they normally would. Taxpayers can continue to send their tax returns to their e-file provider; these companies will hold the tax returns until the IRS resumes accepting electronic tax returns. Taxpayers who have already filed their tax returns do not need to take any additional action.

In addition, we continue to expect that 9 out of 10 taxpayers will be issued their refunds within 21 days.

The IRS is continuing to examine the underlying cause of the outage yesterday. It’s important to note that at this time this situation appears to be a hardware failure.”

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