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compromised

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The IRS says that it recently identified and halted an automated attack upon its Electronic Filing PIN application on its website. IRS.gov. Using personal data stolen elsewhere outside the IRS, identity thieves used malware in an attempt to generate Efile PINs for stolen social security numbers. An E-file pin is used in some instances to electronically file a tax return.

No personal taxpayer data was compromised or disclosed by IRS systems, the agency announced. The IRS says that it is also taking immediate steps to notify affected taxpayers by mail that their personal information was used in an attempt to access the IRS application. The IRS is also protecting their accounts by marking them to protect against tax-related identity theft.

IRS cybersecurity experts are currently assessing the situation, and the IRS is working closely with other agencies and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. The IRS also is sharing information with its Security Summit state and industry partners.

Based on its own review, the IRS says it identified unauthorized attempts involving approximately 464,000 unique SSNs, of which 101,000 SSNs were used to successfully access an E-file PIN.

The incident, involving an automated bot, occurred last month, and the IRS continues to closely monitor the web application.

This incident is not connected or related to last week's outage of IRS tax processing

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