



IRS

IRS

Nationwide

TaxFORUM

# Identity Theft – The Security Summit Initiative





# IRS Strategic Approach

- Multipronged approach based on:
  - Prevention
  - Detection
  - Victim assistance
  - Enforcement.





# Progress Made Against IDT

- Convicted 2,000 IDT criminals
- Enhanced IDT filters and screens
- Limited direct deposit refunds
- Locked deceased taxpayer accounts





# Progress Made Against IDT

- Curtailed fraud by prisoners
- Established External Leads Program
- Worked with pre-paid debit card industry
- Created indicators for taxpayer accounts and the Identity Protection PIN





# Results for CY 2015

- Stopped 4.8 million suspicious returns
- Confirmed 1.4 million returns as IDT
- Protected \$8.7 billion in IDT refunds and \$3.1 billion in other types of fraud
- Closed 700,000 victim assistance cases





# Security Summit Initiative

- Convened March 2015
- IRS, state tax agencies and tax industry working together
  - Authentication Work Group
  - Information Sharing Work Group
  - STAR Work Group





# Security Summit Initiative

- Share data elements from returns
- Enhanced password requirements
- Formalized and improved information sharing
- Aligned cybersecurity framework to federal standards





# Security Summit Initiative

- Information Sharing and Analysis Center Subgroup
- Financial Services Work Group
- Communication & Taxpayer Awareness Group
- Tax Professional Work Group





# Security Summit Successes

- Partner leads identified 36,000 returns with a total \$148 million in refunds; up from 15,000 returns and \$98 million last year
- Rapid Response Team identified and shut down false returns resulting from a preparer breach
- Launched new “Taxes. Security. Together” public awareness campaign





# Security Summit 2017

- Identify additional data elements for individuals and business returns
- Studying ways to enhance validation of EFINs
- Enhance tax pro software passwords
- Expand External Leads to suspicious state refunds





# Security Summit 2017

- Launch Information Sharing & Analysis Center
- Amend charter of Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee
- Enhance collaboration with tax professionals and increase public awareness of data security





# How You Can Help

- Follow recommendations on EFIN reviews
- Educate yourself about cybersecurity and data protection
- Join “Taxes. Security. Together” awareness efforts; share Pub 4524 with clients





IRS

Nationwide

TaxFORUM

# Key Pubs and Websites

- P4524 – Security Awareness for Taxpayers
- P4557 - Safeguarding Taxpayer Data: A Guide for Your Business
- [IRS.gov/TaxesSecurityTogether](https://www.irs.gov/TaxesSecurityTogether)
- [IRS.gov/identitytheft](https://www.irs.gov/identitytheft)

